SIDWELL Friends

MAGAZINE FALL 2024/WINTER 2025

HUMANS OF SIDWELL

One day. One camera. One school.

PLUS:

ARTISTS IN PAGES
New books about sculptor **George R. Anthonisen ’55** and photographer **Marianne Bernstein ’74** feature retrospectives of their work over decades.

HIGHER CALLING
Rubenstein Guest Artist **María Magdalena Campos-Pons** on art’s role in humanity, the planet, and transcendence.

You Delivered. We're Following Through.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and the success of our landmark **Together We Shine** fundraising campaign, we're now at work to transform the Upton building into an extraordinary new Upper School that will open in 2026. We couldn't have done it without you.

Together, alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and other supporters have contributed **more than $158 million** through the campaign to help Sidwell Friends continue to prepare the next generation of students to create lives of commitment and meaning.

Thank you.

SIDWELL
FRIENDS MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER

Photographer Tim Coburn captures Grayson '35, Ella '25, Taï Taï '35, and Corbin '29 for the Humans of Sidwell Project.

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The School's Guest Artist, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, inspired with a 2024 Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture that emphasized connections among humanity, the planet, and the divine.

From the Editor

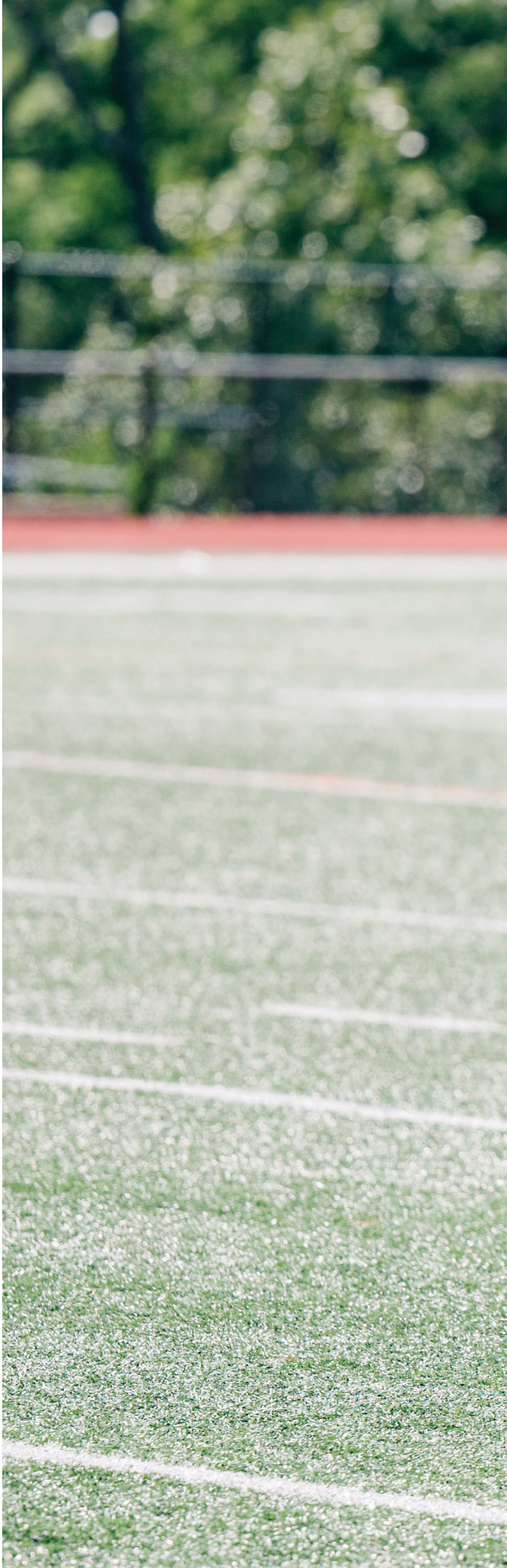
SACHA ZIMMERMAN P ’29

This autumn, Sidwell Friends saw an explosion of arts on campus: from fall plays that embraced wonder and imagination (see “A Magical Month of Theater,” page 16) to holidays like Día de los Muertos and Diwali (see “Day of the Dead,” page 12, and “Triumphant Light,” page 13) that found expression with color, light, traditions, food, and dance. Students were lauded as poets (see “The Write Stuff,” page 6) and pianists (see “Sidwell Pianists Tour Europe,” page 14), and alumni authors invented new worlds and alternate histories (see “Fresh Ink,” page 22). Plus, alum Kahina Haynes ’07, the executive director of the Dance Institute of Washington, brought ballet into the studio in a bid to strip the art form of its exclusivity and make it accessible to everyone (see “Dance for All,” page 88).

The season also welcomed the new Rubenstein Guest Artist to Sidwell Friends’ gallery spaces, classrooms, and community. María Magdalena Campos-Pons, an artistic omnivore who works across mediums such as painting, performance, and photography, is a recent MacArthur Award winner and the subject of major exhibits in museums around the world. In “Beyond the Earthly,” we explore how her Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture was like a lightning bolt to the soul—a meditation on the singular nature of humanity and the potency of human potential (see page 58).

Of course, Sidwell Friends does not lack for artists among its own ranks and, in 2024, two of those artists released major retrospective books. Where photographer Marianne Bernstein ’74 is edgy, sculptor George R. Anthonisen ’55 is classical. But both excel at capturing the depth of reality through portraiture, and both are provocateurs who turn simple subjects into profound statements. In “Art Off the Shelf,” Bernstein and Anthonisen explain the motivations behind their work and the legacies these anthologies capture (see page 40).

Finally, partly inspired by these artists, *Sidwell Friends Magazine* embarked on a portaiture project of its own. In “Humans of Sidwell,” we attempted to capture the infectious spirit of the students who show up to campus every day (see page 26). The result is a cross-section of the School—unique individuals with a dizzying array of interests, aspirations, and backgrounds. And yet, among all the differences, there is a commonality. Call it a vibe. There is an electric thread of smart-and-interesting-and-fun connecting them all to each other and to this School. It’s pretty wonderful to travel among them each day.



Cameron Whitman

ON CAMPUS

Compassion for Fellow Humans

Why nothing is more beautiful than tending to one another.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

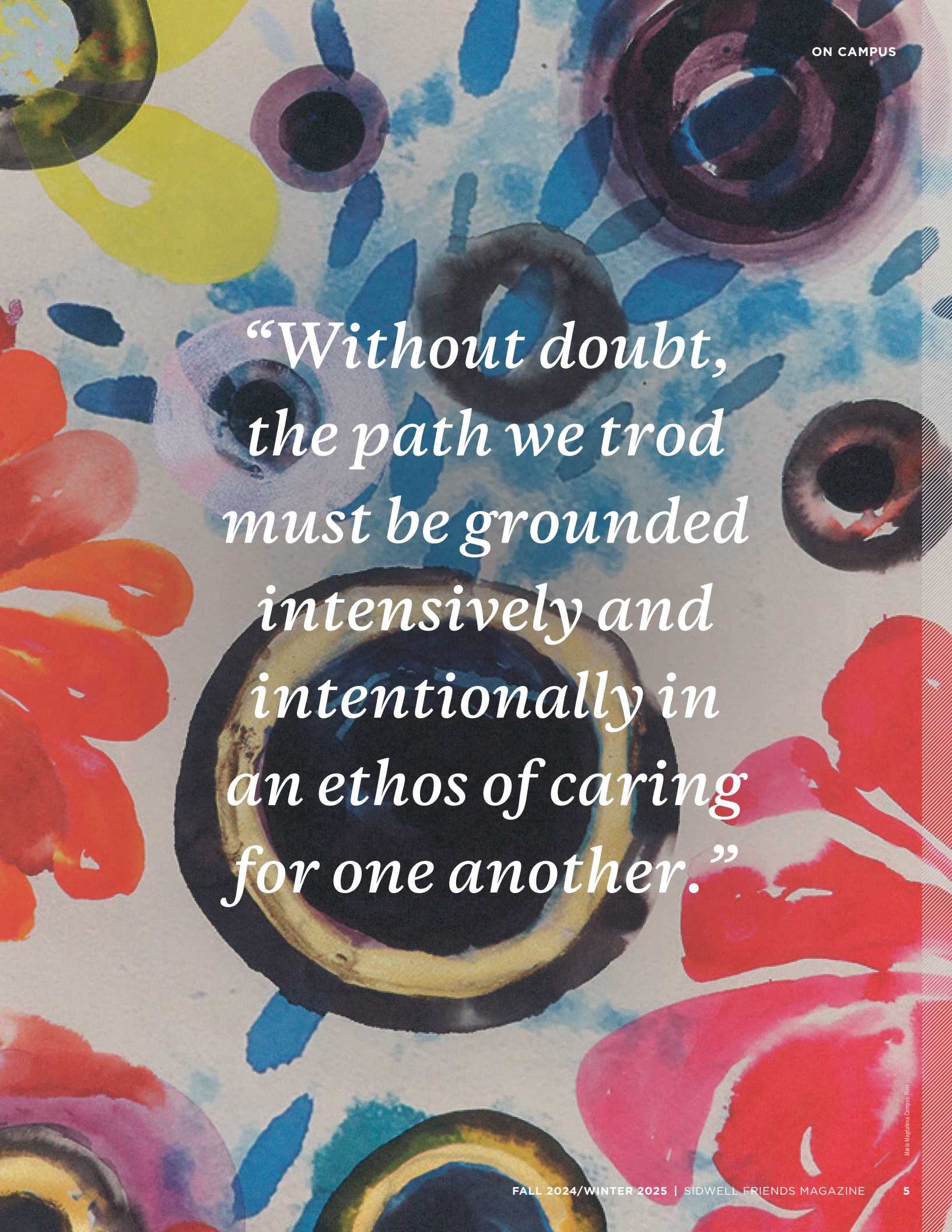
I have never been a fan of New Year's resolutions, but if I were to identify a collective goal for which we might strive, I would find inspiration in María Magdalena Campos-Pons's visit to Sidwell Friends. This year's Rubenstein Lecturer and Guest Artist, Campos-Pons mesmerized and moved her audiences of students, faculty, and long-time friends of the School. A visionary artist, profound thinker, and captivating orator, she spoke with an urgent centeredness, one that demonstrated deep reverence for education and resonated with the School's highest aspirations. Part poet, part priestess, she moved us with her deeply spiritual presence and, above all, her simple and genuine appreciation for human dignity. I have never witnessed a more poignant presentation at Sidwell Friends.

For the first time in the United States, Campos-Pons screened *In the Beginning*, an eight-minute montage of watercolors that, she explained, contains "a bit of melancholy, reflection, and hope." As the piece opens, a lifeless sphere rotates on its axis, spinning alone in a universe of vibrant color. Two-dimensional discs replace the globe and undergo mitosis and meiosis. Cells divide, embryos grow, and human-like figures emerge, energizing the freshly discovered biosphere and introducing new ways of seeing and being. Arms outstretched, these joyful figures reach for light, ache longingly for another's touch, and join hands in an irrepressible Matisse-like dance. Amid the reverie, the once lifeless globe reappears, glowing with fecundity and beauty, hosting the flora and fauna on its verdant and resilient surface.

As it reenacts creation, the work harkens back to a preindustrial, primordial, and perhaps Edenic moment, one in which human relationships and our connection to the Earth had not yet experienced the severe strains we know today. Through her rippling presentation, Campos-Pons invites us not simply to revivify the planet, but to reimagine our politics and reinvent our personhood. "Fragile moments are everywhere on our planet, but I think that the fragility of the moment is because of the potentiality of the moment," she explains. "It is almost like [the time] before a big storm. The rain passes, and the air has a particular smell, and there is a struggle, and we have a new beginning."

A self-described optimist, Campos-Pons argues that although we live in the most fragile of ecosystems, "everything will be alright" provided we embrace the "necessity to revise some rules and rethink some paths" and that we are "courageous in this extraordinary moment." We must, she argues, free ourselves from the artificial and harmful constructs that divide us from one another and alienate us from nature. "We need to stop talking to one another as foreigners," she implores. "We are not foreigners on this planet. We are sons and daughters of this small village—Earth. And we better care for each other." (If you question the validity of her wisdom, I encourage you to look at the beautiful children featured in the "Humans of Sidwell" section of the magazine starting on page 26.)

Without doubt, the path we trod—one beautifully represented in *In the Beginning*—must be grounded intensively and intentionally in an ethos of caring for one another. "Nothing is more beautiful and extraordinary and rich than caring for fellow humans," Campos-Pons remarks. As we begin what will be another year of challenge and possibility, I cannot think of more inspiring words to move us toward hope.



"Without doubt, the path we trod must be grounded intensively and intentionally in an ethos of caring for one another."

María Magdalena Campos-Pons

The Write Stuff

Tara Prakash '25 is named Maryland's first youth poet laureate.

Last spring, the state of Maryland launched its first ever Youth Poet Laureate program and named Sidwell Friends senior **Tara Prakash** as its inaugural poet. Prakash has been writing poetry since she was a child, often with a focus on social justice. Her work has garnered numerous awards and been featured in *Best American High School Writing*, *The Lumiere Review*, and *The Daphne Review*, among other publications.

"I think poetry is powerful," she says. "It can do a lot that other forms of communication can't—like get through to people. It's a really compelling way to communicate about issues that separate people because it transcends those differences." Along those lines, Prakash doesn't just write poetry, she also uses it—and other forms of creative writing—to teach underserved communities about the power of storytelling. She is the founder of the nonprofit Write to Right, which she says provides people with the "tools to advocate for and communicate about the causes and issues they believe in."

Prakash originally started Write to Right as part of her Eagle Project in Scouting, and credits Scout leaders with "showing me the power of agency and taking ownership." She designed a weeklong creative writing workshop for elementary school students and the idea took off from there. She expanded the curriculum so that each workshop builds on the previous one, and added more exercises centered on advocacy. Now, Write to Right can be found in 12 states and four countries, with regular, in-person, and completely free-of-charge workshops.

It is not surprising that Prakash is a Scout given her poetry, which uses a lot of images from nature, from the entirety of the ocean to the minutiae of a tree, and often tackles the passage of time. In "Caged," she writes: "As time hurdles forward, slivers of currants and azures, and bursting ocean ecosystems slip through my grasp." Similarly, in "Our Star": "I find you, find your smiling eyes in the twilight. Time does not apply to the stars."

Prakash

"A lot of people tend to think poetry needs to be obscure and complex in order to be meaningful," Prakash says. "But really, poetry can be straightforward and simple and be just as moving." It is a philosophy Write to Right emphasizes and one that comes directly from Sidwell Friends. "My 6th grade teacher, **Becky Farnum**, instilled this in me: leaning into simplicity and focusing on the message, the core feeling, not the flowery language around it," she says. "Ms. Becky also pushed me to get my work out into the world. I first started submitting in her class and have been doing it ever since. She cultivated my love of language."

Prakash says that a sense of community is the best aspect of becoming the Youth Poet Laureate. "The other writers I've met are so passionate about their craft," she says. "That has been the most exciting part." She meets regularly with youth poet laureates from around the country for monthly "YPL Institutes" that feature guest writers and teach technique. "There's so much energy and imagination in that space, and I always leave feeling refreshed and energized."

Event Horizon

This fall, Sidwell Friends celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first issue of *Horizon*, the school newspaper. Vol. 1 No. 1 came out on October 11, 1974—and students have been writing stories for *Horizon* ever since.

Horizon, Vol. 1 No. 1

Education in an Election Year

A symposium at Sidwell Friends convened heads of schools from around the country to discuss the importance of civil discourse in uncivil times.

The fraught nature of American politics has a long history of creeping into school classrooms, whether it's arguments over the Pledge of Allegiance, book bans, or critical race theory. But where independent schools have often avoided such controversies by carving out their own philosophical niches and value sets, the last decade of presidential election cycles have proved that no school is immune from the ideological volatility and passions of the nation.

To help independent schools navigate this charged landscape, the National Association of Independent Schools, the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, the Friends Council on Education, and Sidwell Friends School co-sponsored an election-year symposium for independent school leaders called Seeking Civility in Uncivil Times: A Conversation About Schools, Pluralism, and Political Discourse. The event took place at Sidwell Friends and welcomed dozens of heads of school from around the country.

Founder and President of Interfaith America **Eboo Patel** opened the event with a keynote address in which he lauded the advancement of pluralism as an ethic central to the United States. Living up to that value means "proactively seeking positive exchanges." For Patel, schools are arenas for intellectual exploration not grandstanding, places for reason not bullying.

A panel discusses civility in schools.

It's a theme that Head of School **Bryan Garman** took up in a breakout session called Fostering a Culture of Civil Discourse and Engagement. "We need to create space for students to develop their own political consciousnesses," he said, noting that such spaces are not "safe spaces, but brave spaces." Garman also drew a distinction between schools and advocacy organizations. "We're here to educate kids," he said. "We're not here to affirm someone's politics. Our job is to help students discover the teacher within."

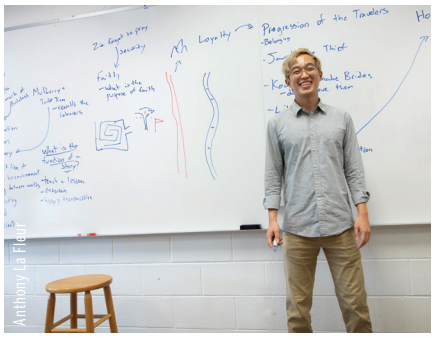
Sidwell Seats the New Asian American Studies Chair

Aaron Hwang will focus on the continent's vast American diaspora through literature and writing.

This year, Sidwell Friends welcomed the School's inaugural chair in Asian American Studies, **Aaron Hwang**, an English teacher and the author of three books on Chinese cultural traditions and mythology. The new position is the third endowed chair in cultural studies funded through Sidwell's *Together We Shine* campaign.

Associate Head of School **Min Kim** says that Hwang's hiring as the third endowed chair creates an opportunity for the three faculty members to develop a new strategic approach to their work that addresses student learning needs and interests at the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools, while also serving as a resource to teachers across the three divisions. Hwang joins fellow faculty members **Silvana Niazi**, the inaugural Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies, which was funded in 2020, and **Jewell Debnam**, the inaugural African and African American Studies chair, which was funded in 2023. Niazi and Debnam both teach in the history department and their classes explore cultural histories, regional studies, and the American experience.

Kim says that while the positions might appear to mirror one another, they each have a clearly delineated mission. Hwang's Asian American Studies position is designed to focus more tightly on the American experience of the hugely diverse Asian diaspora and to study and celebrate the breadth and richness of that experience. He will explore those issues through the lens of literature and writing. "This is a very exciting moment for Asian American writers," says Hwang, "and a lot of young people are doing amazing work.



Hwang

Middle Schoolers perform with Garay's Percussion World in celebration of Latinx-Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Pulse of Latin America

A traveling suitcase and some percussive pandemonium arrive in time for Latinx-Hispanic Heritage Month.

For Spanish-language students across the School as well as Latin American Society members, this fall's Latinx-Hispanic Heritage Month began with a special package. The Latin American Traveling Suitcase is the brainchild of the University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies. The suitcase can be borrowed throughout the year and comes packed to the brim with "artifacts" from the region, bringing a bit of Latin America directly to the students.

A student admires a Latin American Traveling Suitcase artifact.

"I began sharing the Latin American Traveling Suitcase," says Supervía Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies **Silvana Niazi**, "because I wanted to find more ways to bring Latin America into the classroom to open students' understanding of how we can use artifacts as a form of archival evidence to examine topics of interest."

Last year, the suitcase focused on economic artifacts, like national currencies, varieties of corn, and coffee exports. This fall, the traveling suitcase features jewelry, dolls, handmade ornaments, and other examples of craftsmanship from around the region. Students are able to handle a braided grass treasure box from the Caribbean, a floating house model from Brazil, hand-woven textiles from Mayan indigenous communities in Guatemala, and a carved gourd shaker from Peru. The collection also includes postcards, posters, and books on Latin American art.

"Students love holding the artifacts and studying them, while making connections to major themes and topics in our History of Latin America class," says Niazi. "This traveling suitcase also allows students to explore the commodification of art for tourism and the differences between folk art and high art." Teachers can challenge students to describe what they see in the suitcase using their language skills and have them make connections to key themes—like how the diversity of the art reflects the diversity among Latin America's peoples and nations.

The celebration of Latinx-Hispanic Heritage Month 2024 continued in the Middle and Upper School with special assemblies featuring Luis Garay's Percussion World. Garay introduced students to a blend of undulating South American, Caribbean, and African rhythms—on every piece of percussive instrument imaginable, from snare drums to maracas. Garay also invited students onstage, ultimately squeezing 60 kids onto the Caplin Theater stage, where they played the *balafon*, *djembe*, talking drum, congas, bongos, and *timbales* in roaring unison. Meanwhile, Gabriel Guzmán took the Lower Schoolers on a journey through the diversity of Mexico's music and culture using song, games, and movement.

The Dignity of a Backpack

CEO of Comfort Cases Rob Scheer speaks to Middle Schoolers about empathy.

Before their Day of Service, the newest members of the Middle School, the 5th graders, were treated to a discussion with Comfort Cases Founder and CEO **Rob Scheer**. The genesis of the nonprofit Comfort Cases, one of Sidwell Friends' partners, comes from Scheer's own experience in foster care, where children were shuttled between houses with nothing but a garbage bag to carry their personal effects. When Scheer then adopted his own children out of foster care decades later, they too arrived with garbage bags. He was mad—mad enough to do something about it.

"It's a matter of dignity," Scheer said. "Children enter foster care because of choices other people made. They have done nothing wrong." Comfort Cases launched with the simple idea to return dignity to every child in foster care. Each Comfort Case includes a blanket, a stuffed animal, a journal or coloring book, a book to read, toiletries, pajamas, and two pairs of Bomba socks. The initiative has been a massive success with more than a quarter million backpacks delivered across all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico. "Your community is not your zip code," said Scheer. "It is the human race."

Scheer encouraged the Sidwell Friends students to practice empathy, to sit with the new kid, and to call out bad behavior when they see it. "Be the leader that you know you are," he said. "Kids helping kids is how our world is going to get better."

Rob Scheer talks to 5th graders about Comfort Cases.

Carl Van Vechten photographs are on display in the Bernstein Drawing Room.

The Harlem Renaissance Comes to Sidwell

A photography exhibit in Zartman House introduces an iconic era to a new generation.

This fall, Sidwell Friends hosted a photography exhibit and reception featuring works by noted American writer and photographer Carl Van Vechten, a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance. The exhibit, *Representatives: Picturing A New Spirit of Excellence*, will be on display throughout the 2024/25 academic year. It showcases more than 20 black-and-white portraits carefully selected from a collection of 50 photographs depicting African American intellectuals, artists, athletes, and more of the Harlem Renaissance, including W.E.B. DuBois, Lena Horne, Paul Robeson, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ruby Dee.

Van Vechten was among the first mainstream art critics to spotlight the work of Black artists for white audiences. This collection was donated to Sidwell Friends School by the Joyce and George Wein Foundation in 2022, and this is the first time these historic photographs have been shown since then.

The Van Vechten exhibit offers the viewer an opportunity to reflect on the enormous impact the Harlem Renaissance had on U.S. history. The genius that came flooding out of upper Manhattan in the first half of the 20th century changed the course of music, literature, art, and civil rights throughout the nation. The faces peering out of every frame implicitly ask their modern-day audiences to reflect on how to live a life with purpose.

Homecoming Breaks Ground

Revelry, games, great food, and friends were all on hand—so was the start of the new Upper School's construction.

At Homecoming two years ago, Sidwell Friends celebrated and launched the public phase of its landmark $152 million *Together We Shine* campaign. The campaign's centerpiece was its goal to raise the funds to begin construction work for the new Upper School on the Upton Street property.

Want info on the new Upper School? Visit ***sidwell.pub/US*** for the latest updates.

This year, Homecoming marked the results of that massive effort. In October, Head of School **Bryan Garman**, members of the Board of Trustees, volunteer leaders of the fundraising effort, and members of the Sidwell Friends community gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking to celebrate the campaign's success and kickoff the Upton project, which began in June.

"Sidwell Friends is pretty simple," Garman said. "When it comes to time, talent, or resources, those friends who know us best support us most and expect the least recognition in return. There's something really special and Quakerly about that."

The groundbreaking was followed by a dinner behind Zartman House where Garman told the gathered guests more about the extraordinary facility, its low-impact environmental footprint, its connection to nature based on research about successful learning spaces that promote wellness, and its cutting-edge classrooms for the digital age. "To bring people together to celebrate the community that is so essential to this School," said Garman, "and to all pull in one direction to achieve what was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is extraordinary."

Homecoming activities continued throughout the weekend with "A Look at Sidwell Friends Today," a series of presentations that reflect a few of the School's incredible highlights. Several 4th graders explained the importance of their Ethical Leadership Program capstone project. Upper School Principal **Robbie Gross** turned the tables on student journalists and interviewed them about *Horizon*, the School's newspaper. And Upper School students and faculty discussed the physics curriculum and why the fundamental principles that govern the universe intrigue them.

The rest of the afternoon was spent outdoors on a perfect, sunny fall day. Athletic Director **J. Michael Square** held a football skills clinic, varsity teams took to the fields, dozens of school clubs sold sweet treats, the youngest friends made crafts in the Little Fox Zone, alumni reconnected in the Alumni Zone, and the jazz band kept the music alive across campus.

Photos by Cameron Whitman

Self-Care

The Upper School's Mental Wellness Day offered students an opportunity to slow down.

In October, with a bustling course load in progress, and fall sports, rehearsals for the school play, and other clubs and activities in full swing, the Upper School took a morning break and came to a complete stop. It was Mental Wellness Day at Sidwell Friends, which meant that instead of classes in biology and literature, the students explored mindfulness and self-care. "It's a day that incorporates everybody," says Upper School Counselor **Patrice Copeland**, who put together the programming for the day. "And everyone—no matter who they are—can take something from it."

Headlining the event was **Joanna Lohman**, a performance coach and former professional soccer player, who outlined her own identity evolution from the person she thought she was supposed to be into the person she is. In Lohman's case, this initially meant coming out as a gay woman. But it also meant coming out as her own champion and coming out on the other side of a debilitating injury and professional reckoning. "Everyone in this audience will come out," Lohman told the Upper Schoolers. "Coming out is stepping into your own authenticity and power. Coming out is unlocking your own potential."

Lohman talks to Upper Schoolers.

Lohman also redefined personal achievement as something more than ticking off a series of accomplishment boxes. Real achievement, she said, is discovering your true self, even if it contradicts a long-held internal narrative. "You may have to mourn the death of who you thought you would become," Lohman said, "to be who you really are." It was a poignant message for the students to take on board as they spent the rest of the morning in sessions that focused on topics like meditation, radical rest, and resilience. In addition to outside experts like Lohman, the Upper Schoolers themselves led several sessions. "They weren't just who the program was for," said Copeland. "They were part of the message."

Day of the Dead

The Lower School celebrated El Día de los Muertos by creating *calaveritas* (skulls), *alebrijes* (fantastical creatures), *barriletes* (kites), *mariposas monarca* (monarch butterflies), *papel picado* (cut-paper art), and *cempasúchil* (marigolds) to put alongside photos of ancestors added to the community ofrenda.

Photos by Cameron Whitman

Triumphant Light

In November, families, faculty, and staff celebrated Diwali with traditional foods, dances, and *diyas*. Lower Schoolers performed a *dandiya*, an Indian folk dance. Middle Schoolers reflected on the connections between Diwali and the Quaker values of peace, light, and community. And Upper Schoolers danced an up-tempo *bhangra*. There was even a master class in dance, in which students, parents, and staff all came together to enjoy the rhythm of the occasion with an expert *dholi* drummer from Virginia Tech who electrified the crowd. Afterward, everyone feasted on a spread of traditional Indian foods, including a *bhel puri* station. The celebration ended with the community lighting dozens of *diyas* together to symbolize the triumph of light over darkness.

Photos by Cameron Whitman

Sidwell Pianists Tour Europe

Three gifted students from the Middle and Upper Schools won a 2024 competition to perform internationally.

Each year, the International Association for Musically Gifted Children (IAMGC) hosts a piano competition to identify talented young people to perform at acclaimed international venues around the world during the summer. In 2024, three Sidwell Friends students, **Ahana Rao '29** and siblings **Ethan Chang '30** and **Norah Chang '28**, earned spots on the IAMGC tour.

The two Middle Schoolers and one Upper Schooler all study piano under Dr. Bella Oster at the European Academy of Music and Art in Silver Spring, Maryland. Rao described the competition as rigorous. "We had periodic tests every few weeks," she said. "We were graded on our quality of playing based on different aspects, like memorization, articulation, and dynamics." This year, the winners performed in concert halls in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland, and in addition to performing, they were able to take in important cultural sites to round out the experience.

Ethan Chang, who admires Norwegian composer Edward Grieg, said that in Copenhagen the trio visited the Tivoli Gardens, the Hans Christian Andersen–inspired Little Mermaid sculpture, and the iconic Round Tower. In Stockholm, they toured the Vasa Museum, the Viking Museum, the Nobel Prize Museum, and the fish market. In Helsinki, they checked out a Moomin shop ("Moomin" is one of Finland's—and Scandinavia's—most beloved children's characters) and the island fortress of Suomenlinna, a World Heritage Site. Finally, they crossed the Baltic Sea to Tallinn, Estonia, where they saw the Kiek in de Kök tower and the city's town hall.

Still, for these teens, who spend the majority of the year juggling homework with up to two hours of piano practice every day, it was often the smaller moments of the trip that stood out to them. "I really enjoyed going on a boat and playing cards with all my piano friends," says Rao, whose favorite piece is Joseph Haydn's Sonata in D Major. "Everyone is stressed and tense around piano performance time, and it felt like a nice break of relaxation." Then there was the food: "The bread and pastries in Europe were better than anything I'd ever had before," she recalled. For Ethan Chang, the simple pleasures stood out, too: "I liked eating the ice cream we bought at a store and drinking orange juice on a nice warm day in Finland."

Still, the music and the performances were the focus. "My favorite experience was when we went to check

Ahana Rao '29, Ethan Chang '30, Norah Chang '28

out the concert hall in Finland," says Norah Chang, who especially enjoys playing Chopin's ballades and Beethoven's sonatas. "There was a huge billboard that displayed our piano school and the days we were performing, advertising our work to the Finnish people."

All three Sidwell Friends students agree that studying piano benefits other areas of their lives as well, especially the ability to deeply focus. But ultimately what really draws them to the piano is the aesthetic connection music creates between people. "Anyone can appreciate classical music," says Rao. "The piano music I play has no words to go along with it, so anyone in the world can see the beauty in it. In music, there is no language barrier, and that can really bring a community together. It's a universal language that people can use to express themselves and that anyone can comprehend."

Meghan Leavitt

Meghan Leavitt

Lower School Spooktacular

The youngest Sidwellians—along with the young at heart—brought the fun this Halloween.

The Authentic Leader

Executive coaches Tracy Pruzan-Roy ’92 and David Polmer ’94 redefine leadership for a new generation.

Leadership is not about having all the answers; it is about knowing your values, knowing your team, and knowing the right questions to ask. That was the theme of the School’s latest Conversation with Friends event, which featured executive leadership coaches **Tracy Pruzan-Roy ’92** and **David Polmer ’94** in a discussion moderated by Sidwell Friends School trustee **Belinda Nixon P ’17, ’23**, the vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for Internet2.

The first topic the pair of coaches tackled was to dismantle an outdated notion of leadership. Forget the taskmaster, the professional micro-manager, and the top-down institutionalist. Leadership today means having a vision, working toward something greater than yourself, maintaining integrity, and empowering your team. “We’re in a moment of generational shift in leadership,” Polmer said. “Young people want something different, a new type of leadership. They want a new leader for a new day.”

What drives these new leaders is not money or the next promotion but their beliefs and values—that is, their authenticity. In fact, leadership is about who you are regardless of your age or title. If that sounds a lot like the ethical leadership taught at Sidwell Friends, it is no coincidence. “Sidwell makes everyone a leader,” said Polmer. “My practices, beliefs, and values were learned at Sidwell and informed my approach in working with leaders who want to grow.” Pruzan-Roy made a connection between leadership and the self-reflection of a Quaker Meeting. “We have to be quiet within ourselves to hear the needs of the group,” she said. “All voices are respected and heard at Meeting for Worship. And leaders should want all voices to be heard, because great ideas come from everywhere.”

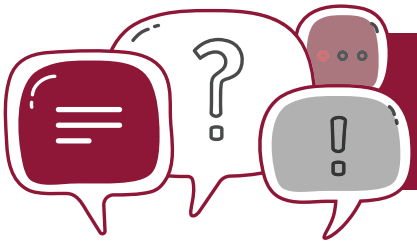
A lot of people see leadership as something practiced in a specific context—a leader in business or politics. “But leadership exists in all contexts,” said Polmer. “You’re a leader because of who you are all the time, with your family, your friends, your colleagues, everyone. You’re defining leadership through your actions every day.” It’s like the old C.S. Lewis adage: “Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.”

Roy, Polmer, Nixon

Pruzan-Roy called herself a recovering “people pleaser.” “As an emerging leader, I thought I had to have all the answers,” she said. “I had a really hard time saying, ‘I don’t know,’ or asking for help.” The idea that asking for help is a weakness was something she said she had to learn to grow out of. She is also in recovery from “imposter syndrome,” the feeling that you are in your position by mistake, that soon your colleagues will discover you aren’t up to the task. For Pruzan-Roy, that led to a fear of speaking up at meetings, a fear that her promotions were undeserved, and a fear that she didn’t belong.

Now Pruzan-Roy silences that inner critic by interrogating that feeling and gathering evidence to prove it wrong. For Polmer, who also once feared being judged, authenticity is the antidote. “If you’re grounded in your purpose,” he said, “fear goes out the window.”

When asked what each would tell the next generation of Sidwell Friends students, Pruzan-Roy emphasized the multitude of trajectories to success. “Fulfillment can be achieved in many different ways,” she said. “It doesn’t have to look a certain way.” Fulfillment isn’t about the right school, the right career path, or the right title. “Know yourself and understand your core values,” added Polmer. “Those values are going to shape the way you become a leader, because leadership comes from the inside out.”



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**.

A Magical Month of Theater

This November saw students creating and performing in two enchanting and fantastical plays: The Middle School's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (this page) and the Upper School's *Peter and the Starcatcher* (opposite page).

Photos by David Dowling

5 QUESTIONS *for* ROBBIE GROSS

The City and the School

THE NEW UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, ROBBIE GROSS, HAS BEEN TEACHING HISTORY AT SIDWELL FRIENDS SINCE 2013, when he was fresh out of grad school after earning a Ph.D. in history. Perhaps that's because his research was about the history of education itself—a topic ripe for practical application. Over the years, Gross became the Upper School's assistant academic dean and then its assistant principal for academic affairs. In 2018, he also published a book, *Public vs. Private: The Early History of School Choice in America*. Now, he says, the best part of being Upper School principal is having a fuller picture of Sidwell Friends as a total ecosystem—one in which high school is like a small city.

1.Did you intend to be a schoolteacher when you went for your Ph.D. in history?

When I studied this interesting field, the history of education, there were many scholars who had been teachers or principals or even superintendents who then went into academia. I'm the reverse. It's much rarer for someone to have studied the history of education and then actually go back into the classroom. But I cared deeply about teaching and, yes, that was my priority rather than research. In college, I started off taking classes toward a teaching certification. Then I took a class in the history of education and fell in love with that subject. But I was always drawn to the classroom, drawn to high school. That's why I was super excited to get my first job out of graduate school at Sidwell Friends, and I haven't left. It has been amazing because I've been able to grow here, learn a lot about the School, and appreciate different ways to help the School. Even now as principal, I'm still teaching. Natalie Randolph [the director of equity, justice, and community at Sidwell Friends] and I teach "Metropolitan Policy and the DMV," which examines DC history and contemporary issues in the region.

2.What's the best part about being principal?

The best part is being able to look at all the remarkable things that happen on a daily basis to make this place function and thrive. As principal, you have windows into each of those different pieces of the School in a way you don't as a teacher and that you don't as assistant principal, a role where I was mostly focused on the academic side. Now I have a much greater insight into the School. I see what the seniors do to help lead their fellow students. I also see what coaches and athletics do for the students, see what our faculty are doing across different departments, what all of the administrators are doing, what our learning support team is doing, what Health Services is doing—a high school is a complicated place and it's incredible to see that come together in a way that I wasn't able to before. I can better see the whole ecosystem and how passionate everybody is about their work here.

3. What does it mean to work at a Quaker school?

I had not worked in or attended a school with a spiritual mission, let alone a Quaker mission, before. Now I see how having that mission helps center the community and helps us focus on values that matter. Quakerism provides us with a common language—among faculty, administration, and students—to talk about what matters for us. It's beautiful to see what happens when the whole community talks about a central theme, a central testimony, and how it can make a difference in helping students get perspective on what they're doing here and why a Quaker education matters. Quakerism has this belief in continuing revelation and it is certainly true for me; I am continually learning here. Sidwell Friends has this dynamic quality, a mix of energy and passion with silence and contemplation. When you marry those two things, that is the secret sauce of this place.

4. What does it mean to be at a school in the nation's capital?

I'm from Baltimore. I've lived in DC, I went to college in St. Louis, I taught high school for a year in Madrid—I've always been fascinated by cities and by urban life. The class I teach with Natalie Randolph is on urban policy. I'm interested in how schools function within a city and the vibrant qualities of cities. When I designed the "Metropolitan Policy and the DMV" class, the first iteration of it was called "The School and the City," a nod to John Dewey's book *The School and Society*, which always inspired me. Part of what attracted me to Sidwell Friends is that it is an urban school. It's a school that has a history and has played an important role in the city. It is a great joy to be a part of that history in a small way.

5. Did you like high school?

One of my mentors in graduate school said something that struck me: *The thing about high school is that the teachers almost always liked their high school experience and that's why they came back; for the students they teach, however, some might like high school but others might not—and that's the challenge*. But that's not true at a place like Sidwell. The students really want to be here; they love the learning; they love their teachers. We don't have that problem. But yes, I had a great high school experience. I had really close relationships with teachers and was involved with all the different parts of the school. In that way, I did always want to become a high school teacher because I know it makes such a big impact—and I love it.

Cameron Whitman

Anthony La Fleur

FALL FOR SPORTS

The Quakers had a dynamic fall season with several tournament showings and a league championship for girls' tennis.

FOOTBALL

The football program finished out a challenging campaign in 2024 against a highly competitive schedule. Going 3–5 on the season, the football team made great strides and development in each game. The season was highlighted by a 49–0 victory on Senior Day.

FIELD HOCKEY

The 2024 field hockey team created a pivotal foundation for a strong future. Highlighted by an 8–0 victory over Jackson-Reed on Homecoming, this season saw a youth movement take hold. All 11 starters on the 2024 roster will be returning for the 2025 campaign, making the future bright for Sidwell Friends field hockey.

VOLLEYBALL

This was a memorable season for Sidwell Friends volleyball. The program made tremendous strides in the fall. With thrilling five-set victories over Maret and School Without Walls, the season was marked by consistent growth, culminating with the team qualifying for the District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) Tournament as the No. 12 seed and making it all the way to the semifinals!

CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country program had another strong showing this fall. The boys' team finished 3rd in the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC). At DCSAAs, the team placed 6th to culminate its season. The girls' team had a great season as well, finishing 5th in the Independent School League (ISL) standings. They rounded out the year with a 6th place finish at DCSAAs.

Photos by Wyatt McConagha '27

GIRLS' SOCCER

The girls' soccer program had a fantastic year, finishing the season as the No. 4 team in DC. Led by a mix of veteran leadership and underclassmen contributions, the team achieved victory this season with a strong defensive unit and an energetic attacking offense. The season finished with a run in the DCSAA Tournament all the way to the championship game. Among the many standouts in the program, **Navi Kawesi-Mukooza '25** will be continuing her playing career at Old Dominion University in the fall.

BOYS' SOCCER

Growth and progress were the key themes this fall. After losing 12 players to graduation the previous season, more than half of the boys this year were playing in their first ever varsity soccer season. The team had their share of successes and challenges, ultimately finishing the season with an 8–12 record. Sidwell Friends boys finished 4th in the conference, winning the first-round tournament game before losing to No. 1 seed Potomac in the semi-final. The skills and experience acquired this year will make the program stronger next year.

GIRLS' TENNIS

The girls' tennis program had another amazing fall schedule of competition. The program defeated Potomac in the ISL Tournament to capture another conference championship. It is the program's fifth consecutive ISL championship.

GOLF

The Quakers had a great season, finishing 2nd in the MAC. The team claimed three of 12 all-league spots, with **Sachin Kundra '27**, **Jackman Grossman '26**, and **Tommy Levy '27** all scoring in the top 12 at the individual stroke-play event that concluded the season. With three returning all-league players and five more returning varsity players, the team looks forward to the challenge of maintaining a top spot in the conference standings next fall.

You can find more sports news at **sidwell.edu/athletics** and on X and Instagram by following **@SFSQuakers.**

FRESH INK

go on a quest

This issue's first two books are must buys for the young adult readers in your lives. From fighting warlords in 1920s China to time-traveling during World War II, both books take readers on an adventure through history. Then for the very youngest readers, there's a look at the diversity of the Jewish people around the world. For the grown-ups, there's a touching book of short stories about survivors, unlikely friendships, and the power of community. Finally, there is the very thoughtful medical history of a very uncomfortable examination.

The Phoenix and the Firebird

Scott Forbes Crawford '96 and Alexis Kossiakoff

Earnshaw Books, 2024

"A bullet-riddled train staggers into a Chinese station in 1920, and Lucy discovers that her father, a Russian officer, has been kidnapped. A mysterious feather guides her into a dangerous realm of magic and monsters to rescue him. But she knows she can't take on the quest alone. With her friend Su, a girl as quick with words as with her fists, the two uncover the terrifying truth: a notorious warlord has seized Lucy's father. Worse, he is about to invade their city. The friends brave the criminal underworld, cross a haunted forest, and outsmart creatures they thought lived only in fairytales. But will their wits and bravery be enough to beat the warlord's army of human soldiers and magical beasts?"

Westfallen

Ann Brashares '85 and Ben Brashares '92

Simon & Schuster, 2024

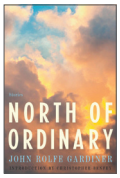
"Henry, Frances, and Lukas are neighbors, and they used to be best friends. But in middle school Frances got emo, Lukas went to private school, and Henry just felt left behind. When they come together again for the funeral of a pet gerbil, the three ex-friends make a mindblowing discovery: a radio, buried in Henry's backyard, that allows them to talk to another group of kids in the same town... in the same backyard... eighty years in the past. The kids in 1944 want to know about the future: Are there laser guns? Flying cars? Jetpacks, at least? Most of all, they want to know about the outcome of the world war their dad and brothers are fighting in. Though Henry is cautious—he's seen movies about what happens when you disrupt the fabric of time—soon the present-day kids are sending their new friends on a mission to rescue a doomed candy store. What harm could that do? But one change leads to another, and when the six friends alter history in the biggest way possible, it's up to them to change it back."

What Jewish Looks Like

Liz Kleinrock '05 and Caroline Kusin Pritchard

HarperCollins, 2024

"There are over fifteen million Jews in the world, which means there are more than fifteen million ways to look and be Jewish. It can look like setting out menorahs on tribal land, adding kimchi to the seder plate, organizing for change, and living out loud. Shining a light on Paralympians and chefs, anthropologists and activists, dancers and dreamers, the individuals in these pages represent a range of identities. But they are threaded together by one unmistakable truth: Their lives, work, and commitment to Jewish values have changed our world for the better. These bold profiles and inspiring everyday stories come together to create a tapestry that beautifully reflects the multifaceted essence of the Jewish people."



North of Ordinary

John Rolfe Gardiner '55

Bellevue Literary Press, 2025

"'You're as likely to be hit twice by lightning on a Monday as see a wood chipper pull a man into its maw.' So begins *North of Ordinary*, John Rolfe Gardner's virtuosic story collection of survivors getting by despite the odds in a shifting world. In these pages, we meet a nervous young apprentice to a weathered tree climber; a dangerously obsessed student at a Southern Bible college; an attractive schemer trying to build an audience for her tiny radio station; an undercover, cross-dressing lawman whose friendship changes the life of a deaf child in a suburban cul-de-sac; and an elderly Black mason whose knowledge of the town's history harbors truths that shake his visitor's foundation. Surprising, touching, and deeply humane, the ten stories of *North of Ordinary* offer an intimate, revelatory look at our fractured society and pull us together through the power of art."

Exposed: The Hidden History of the Pelvic Exam

Wendy Kline '87

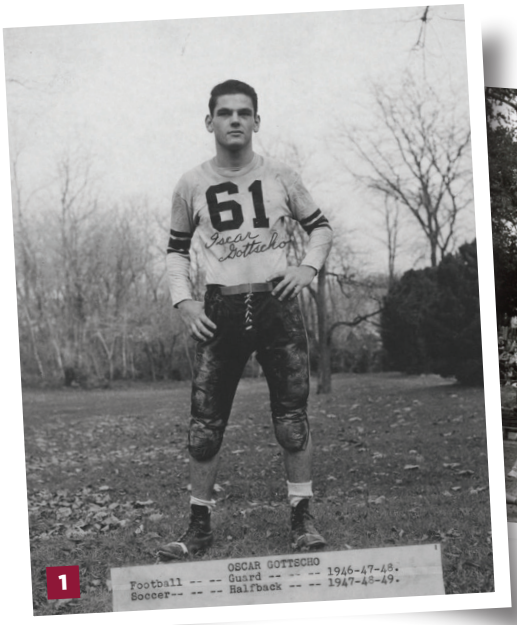
Polity, 2024

"In Exposed, noted historian Wendy Kline uncovers the procedure's fascinating—and often disturbing—history. From gynecological research on enslaved women's bodies to nonconsensual practice on anesthetized patients, the pelvic exam as we know it today carries the burden of its sordid past. Its story is one of pain and pleasure, life-saving discoveries and heartbreaking encounters, questionable procedures and triumphant breakthroughs. Drawing on previously unpublished archival sources, along with interviews with patients, providers, and activists, Kline traces key moments and movements in gynecological history, from the surgeons of the nineteenth century to the OB/GYNs of today."

Home Sweet Homecoming

This year marks the 65th anniversary of a cherished Sidwell Friends tradition.

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH P '29
Photos Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives



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It all began at an Alumni Association board meeting 65 years ago. Mike Gottscho '49, who was a guard on the Sidwell Friends football team for three years, suggested bringing alumni back to campus for a "Home-coming" football game followed by a cocktail party at his house. On October 21, 1960, Sidwell Friends' first Homecoming was held. While the team lost to the Landon School 28-8, the seed was planted. "We hope," observed the *Alumni Bulletin*, "this will become an annual event."

A Homecoming celebration did in fact continue each fall, with the 1964 game being an especially memorable one. With 10 seconds left, Landon was again poised for victory with a 13-7 lead when Steve Page '65 scored a touchdown, and Pete Donovan '66 kicked an extra point that led to a nail-biting 14-13 victory. In the 1967 Homecoming game against St. Albans, one more last-second touchdown yielded another exciting win, 24-20.

Homecoming grew to include the youngest in the community in 1973 when the School marked its 90th anniversary with a special Family Day co-sponsored by the Parents and Alumni Associations. Apple-bobbing, peanut races, strolling musicians, and a picnic brought both current and former families together for a fun-filled fall day.

In 1976, the precursors to one of Homecoming's most enduring traditions began when a garage sale was added to the festivities. Beginning in the 1990s, items leftover from the spring auction were sold in the "Outlet Auction Shoppe," and by 2001 the Next-to-New Sale was born. Through the heroic work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers for 25 years, each Homecoming Weekend the Wannan Gym was filled with gently used clothing, books, jewelry, toys, bikes, furniture, and other items donated by the Sidwell Friends community. Net proceeds benefited student financial aid. In 2019, the beloved event's final year, the sale grossed a whopping $121,500. (The Zartman House receptionist still receives calls at least once a week about whether the sale is back.)

For students, Homecoming is the culmination of Spirit Week. Many students remember the mix of pride and disgust while watching their friends compete in the pie-eating contest (see the back cover for more!), or whether Red or Gray won tug-of-war (except the year the rope broke!). Other traditions have been unsurprisingly short-lived, such as Jell-O wrestling and the Dunk Tank. One year, the varsity football team competed against the varsity field hockey team in an *It's Academic*–style competition. Another time, a students-versus-faculty wheelbarrow race drew the crowds. To this day, the Homecoming Dance in the Upper School dining room still caps off the week.

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With students, alumni, faculty, and parents together on campus, Homecoming Weekend has also been a traditional time to commemorate important milestones for the School community. At the 1980 Homecoming, the cornerstone for the new Wannan Gymnasium was laid, with Beatrice Bulla, Class of 1905, sharing her memories of Thomas Sidwell from when she first enrolled in 1899. Two years later, the Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod Arts Center was dedicated. And then 20 years ago, the Class of 2004 returned to campus to dedicate the scoreboard they raised funds to erect in honor of their classmate, Tyler Rusch, who died shortly before his senior year began.

When Homecoming first began in 1960, no one knew it was going to be one of the last years that the whole school would be together on one campus. It is fitting, then, that the milestone our community celebrates this year with the groundbreaking of the new Upper School building marks the first major step toward bringing the entire school back together again on Wisconsin Avenue.

1. Mike Gottscho ’49

2. Homecoming once centered around a varsity football game (photo circa 1980).

3. Alumni gather in Zartman House for the alumni reception at Homecoming in 1980. (That’s Robert L. Smith in the plaid shirt!)

4. At Homecoming 2004, the Class of ’04 dedicates a new scoreboard in memory of classmate Tyler Rusch ’04, who died shortly before the start of their senior year.

5. Lower Schoolers place the cornerstone of the Wannan Gymnasium at the 1980 Homecoming.

6. For many decades, cheerleaders were a fixture at Homecoming.

7. Homecoming 1991 shows that while the official cheerleading squad eventually ended, cheering on the Quakers never did!

8. The volleyball team plays their last Homecoming game in the Kenworthy Gym in 2009.

HUMANS OF

MAX '35

JACQUELINE '32

LUKE '25

NORA '27

NEL '29

SARAH '29

ARYA '38

LILIANA '35

THEO '29

SIDWELL

Dozens of not-quite-candid pictures freeze a moment in time in the life of the School.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM COBURN

In 2010, photographer Brandon Stanton launched *Humans of New York*, a photoblog and book of spontaneous portraits and interviews collected on the streets of New York City. The website developed a massive following, and the subsequent *Humans of New York* book spent 31 weeks on *The New York Times* best-seller list. Now cities across the planet have created "Humans of" blogs to demonstrate both the wild diversity and common threads among us.

Sidwell Friends Magazine introduced its own version of the phenomenon this fall with professional portrait photographer Tim Coburn. We erected a pop-up portrait studio on both campuses one random day in October and found students wherever we could: The Lower Schoolers assembled in classroom lines; the Middle Schoolers were persuaded to take a detour from their lunch breaks; and the Upper Schoolers stopped by between classes and during free periods. After hundreds of photographs and 30-second interviews, it became clear that the students of Sidwell do indeed capture the humor, poignancy, and beauty of humanity writ large.

There were a few consistent themes. The wetlands, the sand box, and the Fox Den were by far the most popular spots on both campuses. The students we spoke to came from around the world: Brazil, Italy, South Korea, Israel, the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, and China, among other countries, and of course the DC area. Finally, a majority of students we spoke to expressed gratitude for the Sidwell community—their friends, their teachers, "this School." Over the following pages, enjoy some of the results of this project through photographs taken in the moment—with no advanced notice—chronicling individual students on an average day.

I listen to a bunch of punk rock. Recently I've been listening to a lot of Title Fight. There's a whole DC punk scene from a while ago, and bringing it back would be cool."

MISHA '25

"I do martial arts; I'm an orange belt in Krav Maga. I love it. It makes me feel more confident, and I like the instructors a lot. It's good to see empowered women like that."

LIVI '28

ALEX '32

"I'm on student government because I've been here long enough to know what can be better and how to fix it. I am working on a rule that teachers have to give us at least five days advance notice before a test."

AJ '27

WYATT '28

JANE '35

"When I grow up maybe I'll be a blacksmith. Working with iron seems fun and exhilarating."

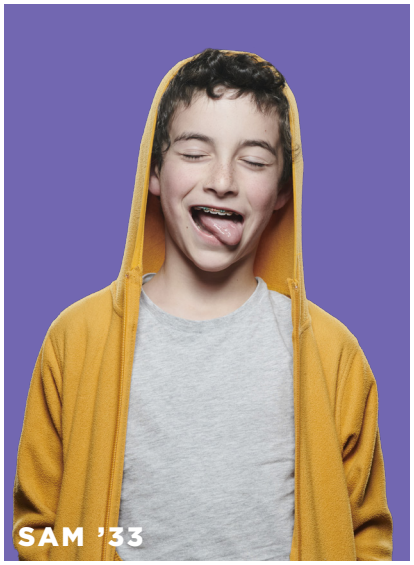
HANS '32

"In student government this year, we established the Quaker House system. We sorted everyone into houses to get them hyped up and so we could get to know people from other grades. I told everyone, 'We're going to Harry Potterfy the School.'"

GABI '25

"I live in Northern Virginia. I like that there's lots and lots of trees there—though not as many as there used to be because they keep building houses. I also like how we get snow sometimes."

YUSEF '30



SAM '33

“I either want to be a comedian or a writer when I grow up. I would write mostly fiction books about fantasy and stuff. Instead of having to write about like one specific topic and keeping it all true, I like to just have my imagination run wild.”

CHARLIE ’33

“I just moved here from China. I’m a competitive dancer. I like competing internationally.”

YUKI ’31

"When I'm 30, I'll be an engineer working abroad in China. I take Chinese here. I love speaking Chinese. I actually went to China this summer doing engineering, and I was like That's what I want to do the rest of my life. I want to continue working with math and languages."

JADA '25

"When I got hurt in sports, photography kept me connected to the community. It allowed me to stay with sports while I was struggling to get back on the field. Sports photography has been my main focus, but I'm open to all kinds of photography. I love wildlife, landscape, anything."

WYATT '27

"My dream is to be surrounded by endless dogs. I have a dog. I actually love him so much, I put his birthday as my locker code. His name is Khush; it means 'happy' in Hindi. He's a golden doodle. On my shirt is half of the words 'best friend' and the other half is on a shirt for Khush."

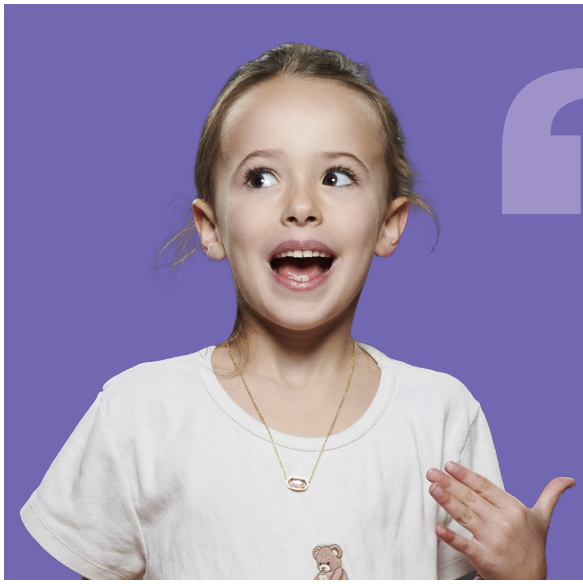
ARI '32

"I like to draw caricatures of people.
Is it to honor them or make fun of them?
Oh, definitely to make fun of them."

JAMES '29

I really want to go to Japan one day, because I like Japanese food and I also really like anime. I want to get more introduced to that culture."

ALMAZ '29



"Eleanor's tree is my favorite spot at school. Eleanor used to take us there so we named it Eleanor. She's in 5th grade now so we can't see her."

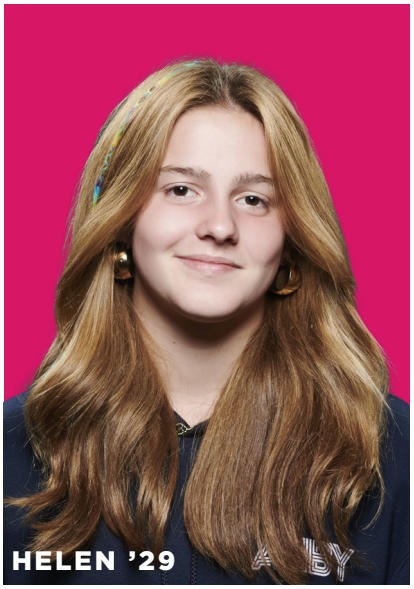
POPPY '36

"I want to be a producer of films and live in Los Angles. Right now, I love *The Bear*. I want to work on really innovative projects like that. Jon Bernthal ['95] went to Sidwell, and he just won an Emmy for that show. His episode was phenomenal; I was on the edge of my seat."

ANNABELLE '25

"In my strangest dream, I dreamt of a purple cityscape. Imagine a futuristic area with a purple filter on it."

KAI '30



HELEN '29

HENRY '29

EMILIE '33

MATIAS '38

"I live in Bowie, Maryland. It takes an hour and 15 minutes to get here. It's worth it. I really love this school. It's my first year here, and this has been a really great experience."

JADAH '28

VIVIAN '26

JAMES '37

KARAN '26

"I had a crazy dream once, when I accidentally shrunk myself, and then when I went to bed, my pillow was giant."

LINA '37

My style: It's queerness, it's neurodivergence, it's punk. I tend to dress in what I'm interested in. This week I've been doing themed outfits based on albums I like. Monday was *Concrete Jungle* by Bad Omens; Tuesday was a mix of *Post Human: Survival Horror* and *Post Human: Next Gen* by Bring Me the Horizon. I try to wear weird complex stuff."

CORVID '25

ART
OFF
THE
SHELF

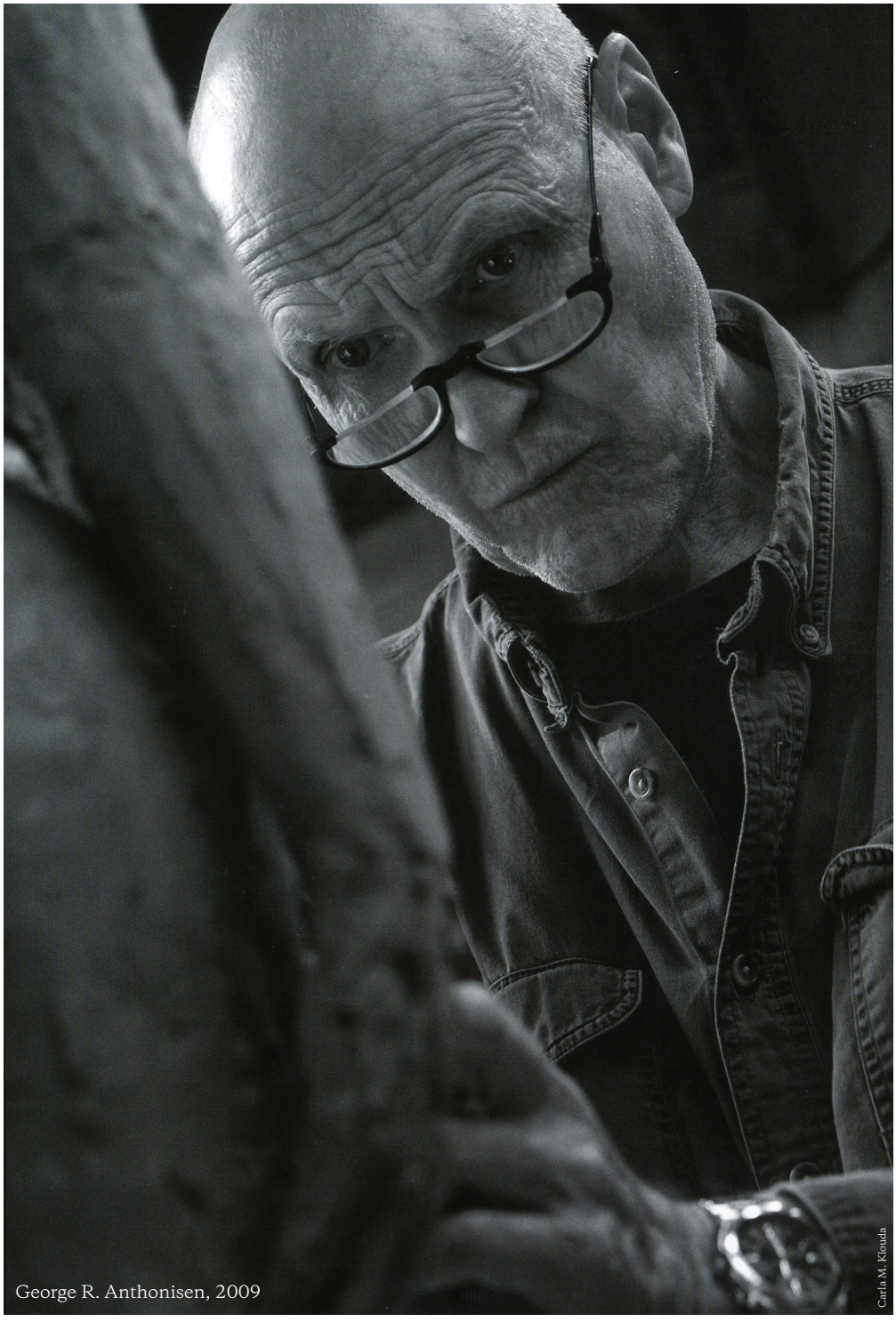
NEW BOOKS CHRONICLE IN IMAGES AND WORDS THE EPIC CAREERS OF TWO RENOWNED ALUMNI ARTISTS, SCULPTOR ***GEORGE R. ANTHONISEN '55*** *AND PHOTOGRAPHER* ***MARIANNE BERNSTEIN '74***.

This year, two Sidwell Friends alumni, George R. Anthonisen '55 and Marianne Bernstein '74, saw the long arc of their careers reach across hundreds of pages in volumes that explore the depths of their work as artists. *Meditations on the Human Condition* showcases Anthonisen's dramatic classical sculptures—from small bas-reliefs to larger-than-life figurative works. *Theatre of the Everyday* juxtaposes Bernstein's images in provocative ways that create new conversations about beauty and connection.

Sidwell Friends Magazine sat down with each of these artists to discuss their lives, their crafts, and their new books, which are themselves works of art. Both are passionate about supporting young people in the arts, staying true to their own voice rather than a paycheck, and pursuing beauty. Over the following pages, you can learn more about Anthonisen and Bernstein in their own words.

Transcripts have been edited for length and clarity.

MONUME



George R. Anthonisen, 2009

Carla M. Klouda

NT MAN

Photos by
Christian Giannelli

FIGURATIVE SCULPTOR GEORGE R. ANTHONISEN '55 HAS BEEN PURSUING A CLASSICAL IDEAL FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS. IN MEDITATIONS ON THE HUMAN CONDITION, *THAT PURSUIT IS DOCUMENTED AND CELEBRATED—AS IS HIS LEGACY.*

George R. Anthonisen '55 is a man out of time. His work is a direct descendent of the sculptural titans of the late-18th-century classical tradition—people like Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French, whose work you've seen dozens of times whether you realize it or not. Saint-Gaudens is responsible for the Adams Memorial in Washington's Rock Creek Park, the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial on Boston Common, and the William Tecumseh Sherman statue in New York's Central Park; while French, among other works, notably created the Lincoln Memorial.

Viewing an original Anthonisen is like seeing a snapshot of the fountain at Dupont Circle or a general astride a horse on the Mall; the echo of the District of Columbia and the National Monuments seeps into every piece, albeit with a contemporary political edge. Anthonisen spent his early childhood in Vermont and New Hampshire, the home of the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park. In 1953, his parents dispatched him to Washington, DC, to enroll at Sidwell Friends for his junior and senior years. Yet, Anthonisen says he did not even discover art until he was an adult—after his time at Sidwell, after two years in the Army, and after three years of college at the University of Vermont. It is like the ghosts of the Beaux-Arts were inside Anthonisen all along, just waiting to be released.

Now with more than six decades of sculptures behind him, a new book, *Meditations on the Human Condition* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024)—part biography, part epic exhibition—captures the sweeping arc of a life devoted to figurative art and creating "marvels of human conception and design."

"AS SOON AS I STARTED FIDDLING WITH CLAY, MY MIND SHOT RIGHT THROUGH TO MY HANDS."

^ ***Raoul Wallenberg I,*** 1998-99
George R. Anthonisen touching up his sculpture in 2023.

‹ ***Conversation,*** 2017-20
Plaster, 17 x 15 x 11 inches
Collection of the artist

ON SIDWELL FRIENDS:

I'm convinced I only got into Sidwell because I played football and played it well. The thing that was so spectacular about Sidwell Friends was all the people. The students were the sons and daughters of spectacular people in terms of their parents working in government in one way or another. But among the kids, there was no sense of that identity. People just talked to each other about this, that, and the other, and it was wonderful. It was just easy to learn from each other. It was wonderful in that regard. I am still the best of friends with my classmates Danny Bernstein '55 and Rob Bresler '55 and many others.

I've certainly been imbibed with Quakerism, too. My work reflects Quaker values. I deplore war. I think of it as absolutely the most stupid human endeavor that exists. You kill Harry, and Harry's brother hates you and his mother hates you. It just doesn't make any sense. It's a horrible business.

ON DISCOVERING ART:

It's a very dramatic story. I was having trouble in college at the University of Vermont, and I was doing the best I could because I knew how important it was. I came in as a business major because I was going to make money and meet interesting people. That was what I thought.

But I wasn't any good at business. I did have an incredible English teacher. I took English and I was lousy at English, but he understood that I had some brains and that I was interested. So I learned a bit about literature and got some history at the same time. I was going along making my way, when in my junior year, I figured out that if you took painting—no homework! I took it and I did well in it. It was sort of easy and fun. I said: "Hey, this works. I got good grades and no homework." So, I signed up for sculpture.

What happened then was just incredible. As soon as I started fiddling with clay, my mind shot right through to my hands. There was no question in my head that this is something I could do. Immediately—really, practically immediately—I told my parents, "I'm meant for this." They said, "George, we'll tell you what: You take pictures of your work, and we will research the path of an artist and how you manage this."

So, I came home with photographs, and they liked what I had done. They had researched art through their colleagues who had a little art knowledge. My father had a brother who was a really good artist, but he died of food poisoning in Paris when he was 23 years old while studying with the painter Georges Braque. There was a certain inkling there about art, but they also knew it was rough going at the beginning. Still, they were open to the idea that people could build from that start and have success.

My parents said to me, "Your older brother, Nick, we supported him through his medical internship and his residency, and then it was up to him to make a living in the field of medicine." They said, "We want to do a similar thing for you." And so, they gave me emotional support and financial support from the get-go. I was able to come to New York City and enroll in the National Academy of Design and meet the professional artists who were teaching there. I began learning about human anatomy and modeling from life. I even studied a cadaver. I did that for four years, so I had a very thorough education in terms of the figure. And that's really thanks to my parents.

I've had help from one person or another all the way through my career. When I think of the successes I've had, it's really payback. There's no sense of grandeur about it. It's a sense of, *My god, I've been helped*.

ON STARTING HIS CAREER:

From that education, I had an understanding that I needed to have new work to show every two years. On top of that, I was good with portraits, so I would pick up portrait commissions along the way. I never got a steady stream of commissions though. But because I didn't, I developed my own body of work, and my own body of work reflected my value structure. That's very different from a lot of monument sculptors. Even Saint-Gaudens and French, who were such giants, did almost all their work by commission. I would love to have seen their work when it was not on commission, because commissions are by nature collaborative.

My commissions were few and far between because representational art was basically in the toilet in the 1960s and '70s. This was the era of conceptual art. How did I fit in? One determining factor in my success was becoming a member of the National Sculpture Society. That's when I got a fellowship to work on the premises at Augustus Saint-Gaudens's studio for four months. That absolutely blew me away because this was somebody who *communicated* with me. I could understand his work. I could see how grand it was in terms of development of form and texture. And I took off from there. The fellowship gave me a confidence I hadn't previously had, and I didn't feel like I had to fit into the moment.

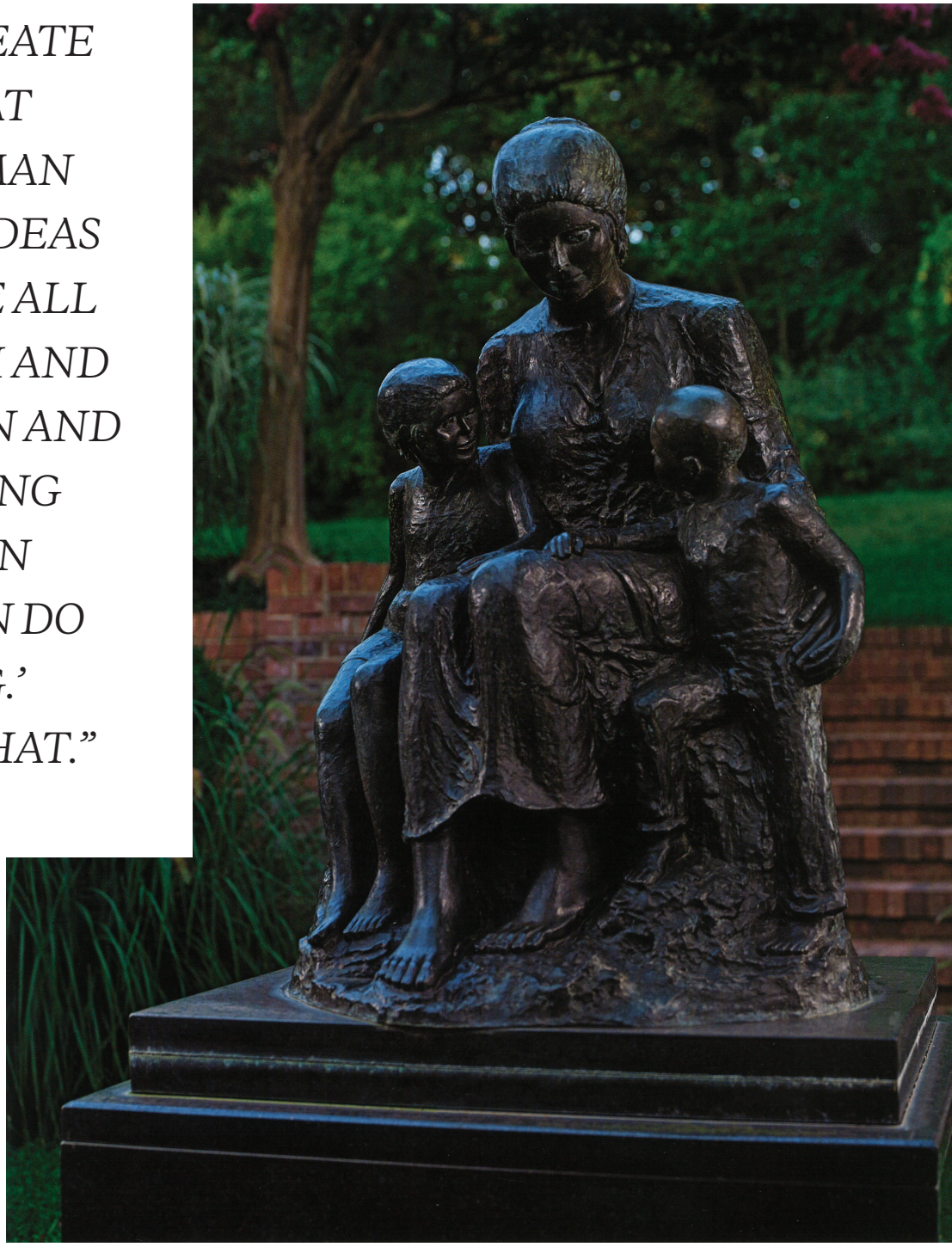
I thought, "If I can create things that have a human interest, ideas that we're all vying with and involved in and are thinking about, then maybe I can do something." And I did that. That was motivating.

One of the guys I went to art school with ended up working at a foundry in upstate New York. He once told me, "You're the only one still doing it." So many people did not have either financial or emotional support. They didn't have those things going for them, and they would fall away from art and do other things instead. I've seen that all through my life. It's just reinforced my good fortune as to where I came from.

ON THE BUSINESS OF ART:

I was doing studio work and trying to do the business of art, which are really diametrically opposed. When you're in your studio, that's one thing. When you're trying to hustle yourself, that's a whole other thing. And it evolved, really, that my wife, Ellen, and I divided this up. Ellen became the businessperson. She knew a lot about art but had never started a business. Yet she was remarkable, because she took it upon herself. She would go to a local library and research art and business—just really took herself through a crash course in the whole concept of art and business. Ellen has really handled publicity and every business aspect—every mailing list, press release, everything that a business does. At openings, Ellen would circulate easily with the people there. But I have a certain kind of intensity. If I'm talking to somebody, she could come over and gently interrupt me and move me on to somebody else—and all with an easy aplomb I didn't have. It is a true partnership.

"I THOUGHT, 'IF I CAN CREATE THINGS THAT HAVE A HUMAN INTEREST, IDEAS THAT WE'RE ALL VYING WITH AND INVOLVED IN AND ARE THINKING ABOUT, THEN MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING.' AND I DID THAT."



Dialogue, 2003-04
Bronze, 29 x 20 x 20 inches. Edition 1/9
Collection of Carol and Louis Della Penna

Dynamic Torso, 1975-76
Bronze, 34 x 25 x 16 inches. Edition 2/3
Collection of Robert L. and Joyce Byers

ON HIS CLASSICAL STYLE:

Henry Duffy, the person in charge of the estate at the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park in Cornish, New Hampshire, told me recently that I am a natural extension of Saint-Gaudens, Rodin, and the [Musée d'Orsay] Hall of French sculptors of that era—Jean-Antoine Houdon and Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux. That's definitely where I come from. The curator of American Sculpture and Painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art gave a lecture at the Michener Museum recently about a show I'm featured in with 70 works of Saint-Gaudens and French. She said their creative lives continue on in my work. (See "Monuments and Myths," at right.)

ON THE BOOK:

The book is beyond anything we could have imagined. It's so necessary for any kind of legacy. And certainly the fact that we have pieces on permanent display at the Berman Museum as well as the Michener Museum helps. But the book has no equal. The book is just an amazing piece. People can understand what it is I've been doing and see the breadth of my work and our lives.

Monuments and Myths

Watch Thayer Tolles, the curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, give a presentation on America as seen through classical sculpture, including that of George Anthonisen.

SELF-

Photos by
Marianne Bernstein ’74

-PORTRAIT

THE PHOTOGRAPHER MARIANNE BERNSTEIN '74 REVEALS FOUR DECADES SPENT CAPTURING DECISIVE MOMENTS IN THEATRE OF THE EVERYDAY.

Throughout her life, Marianne Bernstein '74 has had a knack for peering into difficult places. Sometimes it's an emotionally charged space; sometimes it's more literal, like a dangerous neighborhood abroad. But it is always an arena where she wants to learn. This motif of entering difficult places permeates her photography.

After graduating from college—first at Vassar and then at the University of Michigan—with a degree in English and film, Bernstein worked at a commercial film production company and did some freelance film work, including advertising campaigns with the legendary Maysles Brothers, before committing fully to photography. She started as an assistant to John E. Barrett, who was famous for his work with Jim Henson and photographing the Muppets. There, she earned her chops in commercial work and portraiture as well as a facility with 8x10 cameras, 4x5 cameras, and the renowned Hasselblad, known for its exceptional image quality.

After discovering her own voice and style, Bernstein began to exhibit her work and teach photography to others along the way. Her photographs have been exhibited nationally, and her earlier book, *Tatted*, focused on Philadelphia's tattoo culture, was published in 2009. She was a 2011 finalist for the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and was awarded a 2013 Independence Foundation in the Arts Fellowship. Her latest book is *Theatre of the Everyday* (studio FM milano, 2024), a retrospective of Bernstein's four decades behind the camera.

ON SIDWELL FRIENDS:

I loved photography from the moment I was born. I'm a really visual person. My parents went to the World's Fair in the 1960s, and I asked them to bring me back one of those World's Fair cameras, which I wish I still had. I photographed my family. I was constantly taking pictures from a young age. For my senior project at Sidwell Friends, I did a photography-based slideshow of our class with music. We had a great class, and we had this amazing senior campout on the front lawn; I took lots of pictures from that. I've been taking pictures all along.

ON CREATING HER BOOK:

The book spans 40 years—40 years of me going through my own evolutions. I wasn't sure initially how I could put together 40 years of work. It was all so different. How could I put it together in a way that made any sense? It felt weird to have all these projects and just say, "Here are my photographs." I didn't want to do it in terms of portraits or landscapes, because, to me, they're all part of the same process. I finally realized, everything worked together because, in the end, it's the same person: me. That's why it doesn't really matter that the book jumps in time and space. It's the same person experiencing the world, so of course, it flows—not in a linear way, but in a meaningful way.

There are so many photographs I've taken, but there are only the few that stand out. You have to embrace what Henri Cartier-Bresson called the "decisive moment." Sometimes there's just a moment that happens, and if you're prepared, then you can capture it. There are some images in the book that I love because I couldn't have planned them; they just happened. Each one was there and gone in a second. That's a meaningful kind of photograph. People who have a regular iPhone can do that—and probably have without even realizing they took an amazing photograph.

It can be hard to have faith in yourself as an artist. I know I'm a good photographer. I know how to make a good photograph, but I was still not sure how to make a book work, especially one that is so stream of consciousness. These days, art is overly conceptual. I'm not big on a lot of the photography work I see today. It's all starting to look the same.

People often want to know what a book is about. But I'm not sure photography books need to be about something. Ironically, *Theatre of the Everyday* was a little bit ahead of the curve. There are new books coming out that are similar. Annie Leibovitz has a book out that is literally called *Stream of Consciousness*. It's not that people haven't made stream-of-consciousness books before, but my guess is you will start to see more of it. People are sick of books hammering home a specific ideology or concept.

When I first saw the book, I almost started crying, it was so beautiful. "Beauty" has become a bit of a dirty word. In the art world, it's suspect. I don't agree with that. I think beauty needs to make a comeback—including redefining what is beautiful.

ON THE TITLE:

Every photograph is a self-portrait—whatever you're photographing. That's where the theater part comes in. If you don't act the part in this world, you can really be ostracized; we all have to act a certain part. Photography, at least for me, is getting through that into something that is really real, even for a moment.

I also used to direct theater, and I grew up with a lot of theater. Theater is very much in my cells. I was thinking about how, especially with what's going on in the country right now, mass media and social media are so theatrical. There's so much theater right now in our lives. There's helpful theater, there's toxic theater, and there's healing theater.

THEATRE
OF THE
EVERY-
DAY

Washington, DC (2021)

But theater, the way it's meant to be, is a mirror. Theater allows us to look at ourselves, and look at the world, and understand that we're more similar than different. I feel like it's a more important book now in terms of the importance of providing a kinder, gentler way of looking at oneself and the world.

ON THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

I'm glad people have so much access to cameras. In my book, there are some pictures I took with an iPhone. The quality is so good these days that I'm really happy people have it at their fingertips. The difference between an artist, or someone who's serious about photography, and an ordinary user is that there is a distinction between just snapshots and a photograph that you want to look at for longer than a second. There is also understanding over time of how to look at light, notice the subtlety of light, know when to take out your camera—and know when not to.

When I taught photography, I used to really try to get the students to think about what it was they were photographing, what interested them. All of us have an oeuvre. We have some thread that runs through what we notice. By the end of a course, I will put up each of the students' top 10 most interesting works, and

Chicago, IL (2020)

"EVERY PHOTOGRAPH IS A SELF-PORTRAIT."

New Haven, CT (1993)

they will start to notice there really is a thread in terms of shapes and color and feel. We all have this. If you're serious about something, in the arts especially, you'll start to see your oeuvre after a while.

I also tried to get students to frame their photographs the way you would frame a painting or a work of art, to look at everything as a whole. Somebody can take a picture of a person and there's a building coming out of their head—so really look at it, understand composition without forcing it, change your vantage point. When you look at a lot of people's Instagram feeds, you just don't see that a lot. You don't see photographs composed the way an artist might compose them—in an interesting angle, or interesting light. But that's easily taught, actually. That's the beautiful part about studying photography: learning how to see and visualize.

I want people to think about the moments in their lives that stand out; don't take them for granted, really cherish them. Our phones are an invitation for people. Everyone's got a camera; just think about what it is you notice during the day. It's very empowering to notice little things, even the grapefruit you're eating for breakfast. Really look carefully: It's a creative process that's open to everyone.

ON HER EYES:

One of the reasons I did this book was that I've had some eye trouble. The vitreous lining on my right retina pulled away, a tear that required laser surgery. If the retina had detached, I could have gone blind. A year later, the same thing happened to my left eye. The truth of the matter is that I had a real emergency with my eyes, and I realized, "Wow, I'm a visual person." We can't take our sight for granted. We can't take our health for granted. It became really important for me to acknowledge that and be grateful for the fact that, for all those years, I had eyes to see. There's the theater of the everyday, and there's also the theater of the mind. Probably if you go blind, your life is still theater because your mind is so theatrical. It's all theater.

ON THE NEXT GENERATION:

A lot of students say to me: "Oh, I wish I could become an artist. My parents would kill me." You know what? The world needs you if you are creative. People need to be encouraged.

They need to be encouraged to just be different, to find out who they are, to find their voice, to play music, to really explore those parts of themselves. There's nothing more grounding if you are a creative person than to follow it.

A lot of people don't do what they're scared of. Don't be afraid to fail. This idea of failure—what is that? It's nothing. It is a fallacy if you're giving your best. Sometimes you have to dig down under the surface and hibernate for a while before you can come back up and do something brave.

Embrace the totality of experience: suffering and joy. There's a lot of that in the book. Be open to understanding that we're really on this small planet together. The book is about really seeing, going through surface appearance and really meeting another person, human to human, soul to soul. That's one of the beautiful things about photography. In portrait photography, you can meet a total stranger on the street and connect with them in a really deep way.

Time is such a strange phenomenon. There are 40 years in that book. But to me, it's almost like when someone's dying and their life flashes before their eyes: What are those moments that you remember? The book is like that. I tell people to pay attention to the moments that stand out. For me, I took photographs of those moments because they struck me, and some of them may be the last things I remember.

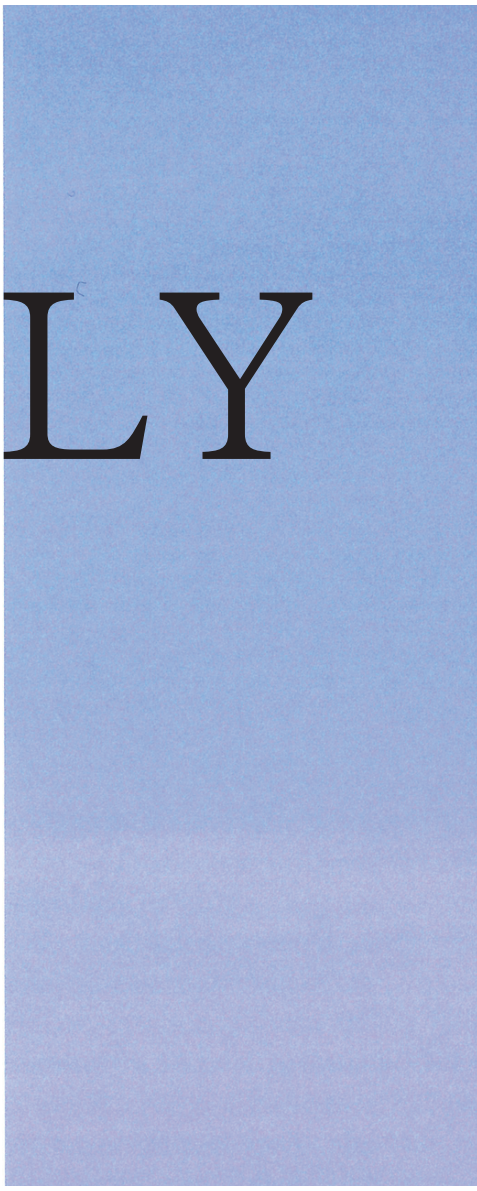
"REALLY LOOK CAREFULLY: IT'S A CREATIVE PROCESS THAT'S OPEN TO EVERYONE."

Washington, DC (2020)

Beyond the EARTHLY

The School's Guest Artist, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, inspired with a 2024 Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture that emphasized connections among humanity, the planet, and the divine.

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN



FeFa, 2012

PLATE 53 *The One That Carried the Fire,* 2011

"Beautiful and paralyzing—that's what it is to be a human."

The arrival of María Magdalena Campos-Pons at Sidwell Friends as the 2024 Rubenstein Guest Artist heralded special workshops with students, new pieces in the Kogod Arts Center gallery, and an evening lecture for the community. But in addition to these artistic engagements, Campos-Pons ushered in something else—something more otherworldly.

"Beautiful and paralyzing—that's what it is to be a human," she told the audience at the Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture at Sidwell Friends in October. The Cuban-born, protean artist whose work flows freely across genres of painting, performance art, sculpture, and photography spoke about the metaphysical themes present in her work. "Every one of us is a spiritual being," she said. "Each one of us is a miracle. The mere presence of people is beautiful. Humanity is both extraordinary and vulnerable."

That vulnerability is evident in her depictions of the fragility of bodies, the precariousness of the planet, and the perpetual looming threat of violence for those who are labeled "different." But as Campos-Pons's pieces further demonstrate, where there is vulnerability there is also room for the exceptional. Campos-Pons, a 2023 MacArthur Award winner, invited the audience to consider life here on Earth as a remarkable opportunity for connection. "We should be courageous and participate in this experience," she said, noting that no one bleeds blue on this planet. "Blood is red for every single man and woman on this little island—Earth. That's why I am not an immigrant, I am an Earthling."

This astrophysical sense of place was on full display when Campos-Pons shared a seven-minute video installation, *In the Beginning*, featuring dozens of original watercolors. A priest from a church in Milan, Italy, commissioned her to create a fresco that reimagines the Book of Genesis, and *In the Beginning* is a product of her research for that fresco. It begins with simple circular shapes that are given a high-tech twist as they molt and morph into one another in an array of hyper-saturated fuchsias, blues, purples, limes, and crimsons. The shapes seem to be cells, seeds, fruits, planets, moons, eyes—and all of these at once. Campos-Pons calls it her "melancholy reflection and hope for planet Earth."

After the video, in a conversation with Dorothy Moss P '25, '27, a former curator at the National Portrait Gallery who brought performance art to that institution by commissioning a piece from Campos-Pons, the pair discussed the national zeitgeist a week out from a tense presidential election in which Americans seemed more divided than ever. "The fragility of the moment is because of the potentiality of a new beginning," she said. "It is a moment of reckoning, a moment of great opportunity, and a moment of the unknown. The curse of being an artist is that we feel so much—and if we are brave enough, it is our responsibility to see, grasp, and tell: The unknown will be defined by what we do."

Dorothy Moss P '25, '27 and María Magdalena Campos-Pons talk at the Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture in October 2024.

PLATE 1 ***Soy Una Fuente (I Am a Fountain),*** 1990

Indeed, Campos-Pons's art and life are defined by action—be it a "radical love" processional connecting Harlem Art Park to Madison Square Park in New York City, or a Day of Art in her hometown of Matanzas, Cuba, in which the city is turned into a laboratory of hands-on art projects. At Sidwell Friends, which she called a "temple of education," Campos-Pons sprang to action in the classroom and spoke to Middle Schoolers who had already studied her art and made their own homages to her work (also on display in the Kogod Arts Center).

"Every student I met opened a new set of questions for me," she said. "They are smart—super smart. I see my work in a different way through their eyes."

Director of Art Exhibitions at Sidwell Friends Aaron Brophy said that Campos-Pons, who goes by "Magda," gave each student her full attention. "While with Eliza Bright's Middle School class in the art gallery," said Brophy, "I found myself slipping back into the role of a student, raising my hand, and waiting to be called on."

Campos-Pons also had a private lunch with some of the School's art faculty and watched an Upper School painting class taught by Catherine Dunn. "Magda exuded a generosity of spirit in all her personal interactions on campus," said Brophy. "Students and faculty were touched by her remarkable ability to be completely present."

"Interactions like this enrich the Sidwell experience exponentially," said Moss. "It was magical to watch the students with her." Moss, who previously worked at the National Portrait Gallery with both Campos-Pons and sculptor Barton Rubenstein '81, whose family launched the guest artist program, was key to bringing Campos-Pons to Sidwell Friends. "Having worked with María Magdalena Campos-Pons and followed her career for the past decade, I knew she would be a perfect fit for Sidwell," said Moss. "Her passion for history, her compassionate approach to artmaking, her activist work with children and educators in Cuba, and her hopeful messages of unity and healing seemed particularly appropriate at this time."

But time is difficult for Campos-Pons to find these days: In addition to the commission in Milan, a traveling retrospective of her work is on exhibit at the Frist in Nashville and will soon open at the Getty in Los Angeles, and she has an upcoming project at the Tate Modern in London. "I didn't think it would be possible to have her this year, but she generously made time to speak with the Sidwell community of parents and students," said Moss. "She enjoyed every minute, especially with the students. She wrote to me that her message to our school community about the experience is 'endless gratitude.'"

"Earth is a little island. Everyone belongs to this island. Take a breath to continue the journey."

The gratitude goes both ways, as Sidwell Friends Head of School Bryan Garman put it: "Even days after Magda left, I reflected on how her words hit so many beautiful notes and how we needed to hear each one right now." In addition to her words, Sidwell Friends is proud to showcase five pieces of Campos-Pons's original work in the Kogod Arts Center gallery: *Island Treasures* (photography), *The Gift* (watercolor), *Containment Thoughts* (watercolor), *December 17, 1999* (photography), and *When We Gather* (video/performance).

With work that has been featured in biennials on five continents, Campos-Pons's art is a lot like her ethnic roots: multicultural. She described herself as a "Caribbean, Nigerian, Chinese, Cuban, Black woman," which makes it easy to understand how she would have a decidedly global—even galactic—perspective on life.

"We need to stop talking to each other like foreigners," she implored the Rubenstein lecture audience. "We are not foreigners to this planet. We all are sons and daughters of Earth, and we better care for each other."

A visibly moved Garman responded to her: "I cannot remember a more beautiful expression of love in this room. Thank you for reminding us that the most important thing is for humans to take care of humans."

Campos-Pons brought the universe itself into the Robert L. Smith Meeting Room that evening, leaving the audience a bit awed—not just through her work but through the sheer depth of her presence. "Earth is a little island," she said. "Everyone belongs to this island. Take a breath to continue the journey."

PLATE 17 ***Red Composition, from the Los Caminos (The Path) series,*** 1997

The Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist Program has been an endowed, flagship program at Sidwell Friends for over four decades. Since its inception, dozens of nationally recognized artists have exhibited at Sidwell Friends and shared their life's work with the community.

The Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist Program

Watch Campos-Pons's full lecture here: **sidwell.pub/magda**

Warrior at Law

Christine Dunn ’91 fights for assault and trauma victims hurt by those in charge.

BY ELLEN RYAN

Dunn in her Washington, DC, office

This year Christine Dunn ’91, a Yale grad who earned her law degree from the University of Virginia, was one of just 15 attorneys among *The National Law Journal*’s Elite Women of the Plaintiffs Bar. In 2023, *Lawyer Monthly* named her Sexual Violence Litigation Lawyer of the Year, and *The National Law Journal* named her a Plaintiffs’ Attorney Trailblazer.

Dunn has devoted her career to this work, pressing civil lawsuits on behalf of everyone from deputy U.S. marshals who experienced race discrimination to children abused by teachers and coaches; from women assaulted by supervisors and strangers to whistleblowers risking their careers to bring fraud and grift to light. Recently, her work was lauded for creating real change in commercial shipping.

In 2019, a student at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy was working toward her commercial shipping license. While at sea through the Sea Year program, where students gain experience on a commercial vessel, her supervisor raped her—and then spent the next two months bunking across the hall from her. The traumatized young woman was afraid to come forward until two years later in an anonymous blog post by “Midshipman-X” that quickly went viral.

Wanting greater accountability, the student turned to Dunn, co-chair of the Sexual Violence, Title IX, and Victims’ Rights Practice Group at the law firm Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight in DC. In 2022, the two sued the shipping company, receiving major media attention and arousing congressional interest. Meanwhile, the government made reforms to Sea Year and imposed dozens of new safety standards on participating shipping companies.

The case settled several months later. As a result of the national attention, Congress soon passed legislation requiring all commercial ships—not just those in the Sea Year program—to institute new safety standards, including cameras outside of staterooms, heavy fines for companies that fail to report sexual violence to law enforcement, and greater protections for victims and witnesses who report assault or harassment.

“It’s the most direct example I’ve seen of one person’s bravery in speaking up resulting in institutional and systemic change,” says Dunn.

It is immersive, emotionally taxing work. Friends say, “‘People must tell you the most awful things that could possibly happen to a person,’” says Dunn with a wry laugh, “and they’re right!”

But the rewards have helped buoy her soul. Rewards like helping victims find justice denied to them in criminal court. And “creating change that helps keep other people safe as well.” And the time a client told Dunn that after retaining her a few months earlier, “This was the first time she had smiled in the four years since she’d been sexually assaulted, because she felt that someone was finally on her side who believed in her and would fight for her.”

Dunn’s career began in private practice, where she represented two families whose children were abused by a counselor in a hotel’s children’s program. Then as a prosecutor at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, she was stunned to realize the number of police and other law enforcers who were involved in sexual assault. With the hard-won cooperation of several victims, she got a county district attorney jailed for preying on teen drug offenders under his control.

> You can't create change unless you're willing to fight the hard fight."

These cases "sparked a passion for helping victims get justice," Dunn recalls. Though her work now is on the civil side—no jail involved, and restitution is primarily monetary, though occasionally victims have reported abusers to medical or other professional boards—the victim's feelings of relief, vindication, and relative peace are substantial.

Not to mention their empowerment. On the criminal justice side, the state and prosecutors decide what happens, how, and when: "Victims feel left out of the process," Dunn explains. Because of the difficulty inherent in sexual assault cases, prosecutors often refuse to bring them. If a criminal case does make it to trial, the legal standard can be tough to meet, especially against a well-funded adversary. By contrast, on the civil side, she says, "Many clients feel empowered just bringing an action."

When they win, and when victory brings about a perpetrator's "retirement," company shutdown, or meaningful reform, both client and attorney can feel that glow and carry that validation. "The law is a really important vehicle for making an impact," says Dunn. "That's what keeps me going."

Sometimes that going is hard. Among themselves, lawyers talk about vicarious trauma—bringing the work home in one's head. Dunn makes a point of taking long walks, escaping into "trashy TV," and spending cheerful time with her daughter, now in her teens.

Many cases involve "terrible things that happen to kids," as Dunn puts it, so part of her responsibility as a mother has extended to careful curation. "It's tempting to wrap her in bubble wrap and never let her out the door," Dunn says of her daughter.

But knowledge is power. "She and I, since she was very young, have had very open conversations about all these things," says Dunn. "I joke that she was the only eight-year-old who knew what 'rape' meant. My hope is that awareness can help to protect her."

And to protect others, too. Dunn has lobbied Congress to pass the Kids Online Safety Act, which would require tech companies to "exercise reasonable care" to prevent their products from inciting depression, sexual exploitation, bullying, harassment, and other harms.

If Dunn could change requirements for the justice system, she'd insist on longer statutes of limitations. According to the think tank Child USA, the average age at which childhood assault survivors come forward is 52. Some states have opened "civil windows," in which civil cases can be brought even after the criminal statute of limitations has passed, and "I'd like to see more of that," says Dunn.

She'd also ask for more trauma-informed training for police, lawyers, and judges to make the system less difficult for victims, who are forced to tell the gory details of their cases over and over. The #MeToo movement has helped: raising awareness, inspiring victims to come forward in solidarity, and tamping down—the tiniest bit—an overwhelming culture of blame and shame.

And, of course, there's the glaring inequity she sees in the extreme difficulty of bringing sexual assault and harassment cases against the military. A 1950 Supreme Court case, *Feres v. United States*, held that the federal government is not liable for injuries sustained by members of the armed forces "incident to" their military service.

"It's fundamentally unfair to servicemembers to not have the same rights to bring claims as civilians, especially when they've given so much to our country," Dunn says. But one appeals court recently ruled that "we 'cannot fathom' how [assault] … could ever be considered an activity 'incident to [military] service.'"

Small victories like that are critical to creating meaningful systemic change and justice for victims—ideals embedded in Dunn at Sidwell Friends. "The values of Quakerism really resonated with me," she wrote recently. "Quakers believe in equality and fighting injustice; they were among the earliest and most vocal opponents of slavery and the unequal treatment of women. I wasn't consciously aware of it at the time, but those values have stuck with me and shaped my career path."

With this grounding, Dunn has always had a solid foundation. "There are glimmers of hope, so I think it's a good moment to bring these fights," she says. "You can't create change unless you're willing to fight the hard fight."

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

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Reconnect with old friends, build new networks, and engage in meaningful experiences at the Black Alumni Summit, themed "Belonging: Owning and Reclaiming Space." Highlights include inspiring speakers and panels, lunch with current students, a cultural outing, reception, and service opportunities. Don't miss this unforgettable weekend of discovery and community!

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REUNION

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MAY 2-3, 2025

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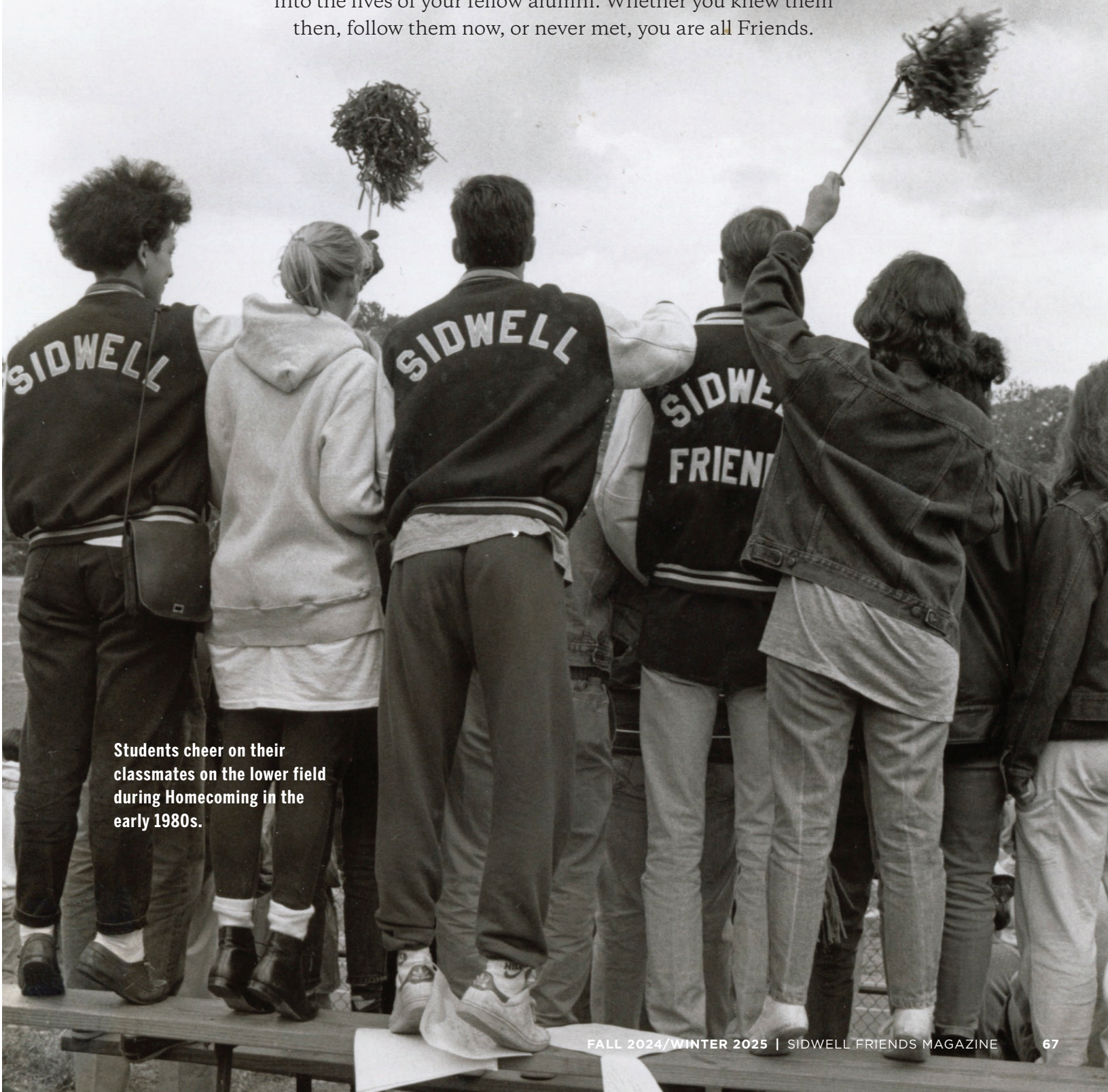
More information and a tentative schedule are available at **sidwell.edu/reunion**.

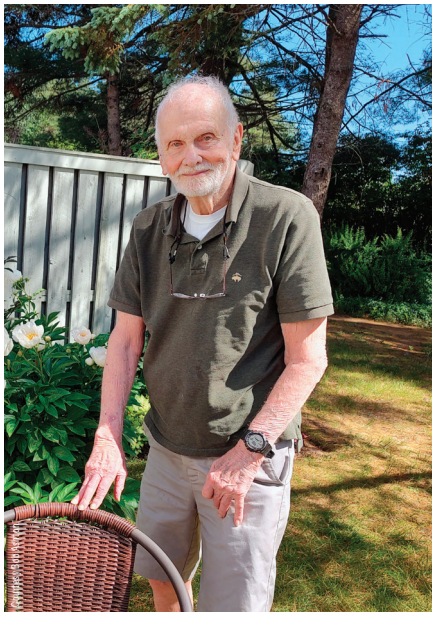
CLASS NOTES

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.



Students cheer on their classmates on the lower field during Homecoming in the early 1980s.

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.



LEFT: Bob Ashton '47 RIGHT: Fletch Waller '52 and Ann Janes-Waller attending Cambridge University.

1944

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

1947

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

BOB ASHTON: "It seems like the whole class lives in Portland, Maine. We live with vicarious thoughts of the School as it existed. I long for a visit, but mobility challenges take over. Fond memories of the school as we experienced it are still alive." (See photo at right.)

1949

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

CHUCK WILSON: "**Rose Bullard Dyrud** and I are trying to find how many of us are still up and around. Please let us know if you are!"

1950

Join us at REUNION

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

ANN TYLER FATHY: "Bonus life. Last December, I had a worsening of scoliosis, which prevented me from continuing my independent living. My friends put me in an assisted-living facility, and I sold my condo. But then as soon as I had money from the sale of my condo, I started to get better and moved back into independent living, this time in a brand new 36-story apartment building four blocks from where I used to live. I also put down money on a 133-day Pole-to-Pole cruise leaving from Fort Lauderdale next January. I never expected this new life, but I am enjoying it and my new living circumstances with Gen Z renters."

1951

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

1952

JANE PAPISH
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FLETCH WALLER: "In late July/early August, Ann Janes-Waller and I were in summer school at Cambridge University, an absolutely stunning experience. We attended two classes a day of ~25 students plus three plenary lectures each day for the 450-some students on campus each week. We lived at Selwyn College, staying in a dorm and taking breakfast and dinner in Selwyn's faux-medieval Great Hall. Students from 32 countries, ranging from undergrads taking courses for credit to old f*$#s like us auditing. By the end of a day of classes, lectures, and conversations with folks from all over the world, one fell into bed exhausted, but so overly stimulated as to be unable to fall asleep. God willing, we'll go again next summer." (See photo above.)

1953

GLORIA GIRTON
ggat58b@orange.fr

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS
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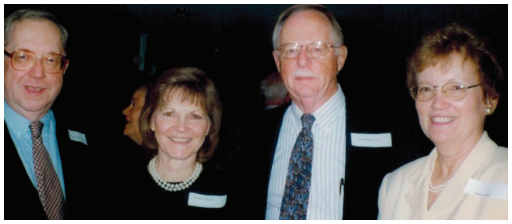
PEGGY ROBISON ESPINOLA: "Happily residing at Jefferson's Ferry, a lifecare community near Stony Brook University on Long Island and much closer to my two children and two grandsons than Sudbury, Massachusetts, where I lived for so many years. Now seeing them is not such a major undertaking. A neighbor across the hall from me and I have organized a postcard-writing campaign directed at voters in swing states, the ones who are likely to vote the way we want them to, *if* they vote. So far, our team of over 25 folks, mostly residents of JF, have mailed out some 1,000 cards. It's a good option for people our age who want to make a difference politically (besides donating money) but who can't deal with texting, auto-dialing, or door-knocking in far places. Helps one sleep at night. Haven't found any Sidwell Friends alums here—yet. Very impressed with what I read about our School, as well as our alumnae, in the magazines I receive."



LEFT: Jane Hough '54 with her husband, Peter **RIGHT:** Twenty years ago, in 2004, the Class of 1954 celebrated its 50th Reunion. **Jane Hough '54** recently found these snaps from the occasion.

JANE HOUGH: "Twenty years ago I hosted the 50th Reunion Dinner for our class at my home—catered by Lebanese Taverna. It seems like just a few years ago that so many of us got together. So let's not let the grass grow under our feet, let's keep moving. Peter and I are now, however, moving more at a snail's pace, but we did get to Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas City this summer. Also, I'm still busy with life. The departure of the hummingbirds is our reality check that another year has passed." (See photo above.)

1955

Join us at REUNION

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN
nahardin@aol.com

JOHN GARDINER: "My new story collection, *North of Ordinary*, will be published by Bellevue Literary Press in January 2025." (See photo below.)

JERRY MORGAN: "I still live (by myself) on the McKenzie River in the foothills of the Cascades on the Western slope, about 40 miles east of Eugene, Oregon. I can't hike anymore, but I can walk for exercise using sticks, and I try to do that five to six days a week. I feel so lucky that I have this nice house in such a beautiful location and that I can still enjoy it, along with the bald eagle who hangs out across the river and the elk and deer who visit. Canning tomatoes these days. Dreamt last night of the old Sidwell Friends high school, before Friends transitioned from modesty to power chic. Best to all classmates and their survivors." (See photo below.)

TOM SIMONS and his wife, Peggy Simons, had a surprisingly busy travel year, considering they both turned 86 in late summer: July to Savannah and Asheville, North Carolina, with son and family; August to Maine for a week with daughter and family; several trips to DC to help out a declining favorite cousin. High point (for Tom) was a week back in Warsaw at a conference celebrating 35 years since Poland's liberation from Communism, where he helped as a U.S. diplomat."

SUSAN TRUITT: "I am all consumed with getting good people elected in the November elections—local, state, and national. I really hope others from '55 are doing the same."

LEFT: John Gardiner '55 builds a child's rocking chair in his woodshop in Unison, Virginia. **RIGHT: Jerry Morgan '55** with granddaughter, Sophia

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshrink9@gmail.com

ARTHUR HILDRETH: "Our oldest granddaughter got married in New Hampshire this summer at an outdoor wedding. It was a wonderful opportunity for children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter to get together. Since the groom's family is French, it was a bilingual ceremony and the weather was perfect."

1958

BOB MYERS
dr.rbmyers@gmail.com

PEGGY PABST BATTIN
battin@utah.edu

ANNETTE EISENBERG STIEFBOLD and husband Ed Bell spent a week in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, in May. They visited the nearby towns of San Jose del Cabo and Todos Santos. Annette especially enjoyed conversations in Spanish with local residents. Although she didn't study Spanish at Sidwell Friends, she is grateful to Latin teacher Mary Corinne Rosebrook for providing an excellent foreign language foundation. (See photo below.)

Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold '58 and husband, Ed Bell, in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

NOTE FROM THE CLASS REP:

The Class of '58 has Zoom meetings every six weeks or so, and there's a good bit of online discussion in between. Recently, there was some generally affectionate reminiscing about Frank Barger, then-principal of the Middle School, to wit:

BOB MYERS: "A lot of us had a special bond with Mr. Barger. He called me 'Sport,' and in 6th grade when I got sent to him over a dozen times for discipline, his opening line was always, 'What have you done now, Sport?'"

JOAN FRIEDMAN SEYMOUR: "Who remembers Mr. Barger and the erasers? No one remembers his throwing erasers to wake up a slumbering student? Luckily, he was in a different century from this Shelton teacher (who was legally charged with throwing books at students)!"

THATCHER MORSE: "I remember Mr. Barger grabbing Larry Aaronson by his shirt and bracing him up against a locker in the hall in Middle School; you'll have to ask Larry what that was about—and his oft-repeated phrase, 'This isn't a threat, it's a promise.'"

STEVE STOVALL: "I can still hear the sound of the slamming body against those lockers. Mr. Barger is the educator I respect the most, including through college. He was our teacher in special math. He actually made it fun. He referred to Pythagoras as Joe Pythagoras. He refereed our 100-pound football games. When we were on defense and the other team was huddling, he gave us coaching tips. Always the teacher. A wonderful man. For laughs: For $5, Kit Barger sold me his old helmet, which had no chin strap. Whenever I was going out for a pass, I would toss it to the ground so it wouldn't slide down over my eyes as I ran. Mr. Barger nicely explained that wasn't a real good idea."

HELENE ROSENFELD FELDMAN: "I know Mr. Barger was strict and also a good math teacher. I never had him. But I do remember him saying, 'This is not a threat, but a promise.' Mr. Barger made the lunchroom announcements every day—it was an oddity if someone else did it. Quite frequently he'd give notice of something we weren't supposed to do, including what the punishment would be if we did it. Then he'd close with, 'That's not a threat, it's a promise.'"

PEGGY PABST BATTIN: "I remember Mr. Barger banging misbehaving boys against the lockers, too—a great rattling sound. It seemed terrifying even to us girls; though as far as I know, it was never done to any of the girls, and we only got to watch—but it's clear that he never hurt anybody. I've always assumed that it was a very effective measure. No Middle School principal could do that anymore, but I thought it was actually a pretty good strategy—a deterrent but with no harm."

JOHN COFFMAN: "I am sure many of us boys remember Mr. Barger and the lockers. It was a shocker to get the treatment."

KIT BARGER: "What great memories! A blast from the past!"

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
ccgpa@ccgpa.com

FROM THE CLASS REP:

"The most significant news is that the class is busily putting together plans for an endowed scholarship for prospective Sidwell Friends students. The Class of 1959 Endowed Fund for Financial Aid is now open for business. The scholarship will be available to students from the DC area. Here are some details: If you wish to pledge, please email Tara Arras ***(arrast@sidwell.edu)*** indicating the amount of your intended pledge, and she will then follow up with a gift agreement for your electronic signature. Professor **Tom Knox** is behind this plan, and he is to be congratulated as this is inspired and will do great good. The thought behind the plan is that we as a class enjoyed our time at Sidwell Friends, profited from it in innumerable ways over the years, and want to allow others to do so as well. *This is a wonderful plan and I encourage those who can to support it.*"

BERNHARD GLAESER reports: "Heide and I spent the summer in Woods Hole on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, until after Labor Day, as usual. We enjoyed beach

life, gardening, art shows, lectures at the Marine Biological Laboratory, jazz, and an open-air music performance featuring the roaring 1960s. We had an enjoyable snack lunch on our lawn with **Matt Walton** and served German-style *kaffee und kuchen* (coffee and pie). Only a few days later, Matt had a stroke, which was not recognized as such for a week or so. His sisters, Bernice and Catherine, made sure that he received the best treatment. Heide and I visited him off Cape in a rehab facility (see photo at right). Woods Hole seems to attract more Sidwellites. **Joe Horning '79** and his wife, Fiona, settled there and became good friends. **Tova Ferro '82** and her daughter, Ava Ferro-Grandfield, took the Martha's Vineyard ferry in to spend the day with us. So far, so good. Stupidly enough, I fell down our staircase—three hours before departure—hurt my back and elbow. I found out that moving by wheelchair is a comfortable way to circumvent Boston-Logan security. Back in Berlin, I enjoyed some relaxing time in a Magnetic Resonance Tomography tube and hope for betterment."

FROM THE CLASS REP:

"By the way, I once managed to get my car stuck in the gravel shore in front of Matt's house. The tow truck was on speed dial, so no problem there."

SUSAN FICKEL KROEGER reports that "nothing is happening here except that we are getting older and enjoying our quiet life. No new grand babies. No travels. Haven't even seen a movie lately. However, my daughter and granddaughter went to the Taylor Swift concert in Amsterdam in June and lived to tell the tale. Also, I have had four essays published so far this year in our local newsletter—the latest one about that concert. So I guess there are a few things happening.

FROM THE CLASS REP:

"Thanks, Susie, there are. Four essays for publication is not easy. However, many of us relate to that message, and my daughters recently flew to London to see Taylor Swift. I was asked what my favorite Taylor Swift song is, and I was struck mute. Oh well, they don't even know Julie London!"

Bernhard Glaeser '59 visits **Matt Walton '59** as he recovered from a stroke.

MARISE RIDDELL REYNOLDS writes: "I have sold my house in Virginia and am moving to Dallas, Texas, in October. While waiting to move, I am spending my time in Taos, New Mexico, to soak up the sun and cooler weather."

DAVE WOOLPERT reports: "I participated in our Quaker Meeting's annual 'paddle down the Merrimack' last Sunday when it was sunny and warm and, although I was whipped after four hours, the beauty of the 'uncivilized' shoreline just above Concord, New Hampshire, was especially enjoyable. We saw two large hawks circling above us, a snowy egret standing on the opposite shore, and a great blue heron waiting for fish nearer to us. Fifty years ago, when I moved to New Hampshire, the river was so polluted that there were no fish and no birds that fed on fish."

FROM THE CLASS REP:

"As you know, I spent four wonderful years in Hanover and would return to New Hampshire on a moment's notice."

CLARK GRIFFITH: "As for me, I'm back on the tennis court after a 'pause,' but I can't seem to find that top spin that kept the ball in the court. I'll get there. Sima and I are lucky to have a grandson, George, in Bethesda. I am still amazed that our daughter, Natalie, settled near Westmoreland Circle, the site of pleasant memories and near Spring Valley (where my old gas station is now a restaurant) only a minute from Millwood Lane."

1960

Join us at REUNION

JODY HUTCHINSON-GRAFF
mjodyh@yahoo.com

1961

BUNNY ROSENFELD
bunnyrosenfeld4200@icloud.com

JUDY MCCABE CONWAY is living outside Cape Town, South Africa, where she is a master gardener and painter. Her two-acre garden won Best Indigenous Garden several years ago. Her husband, Dennis Conway, died several years ago. Judy attended Friends for nine years before she left for boarding school after 10th grade.

LYNN POVICH: "While we now split our life between New York and LA, where our kids and grandkids reside. My husband, Steve Shepard, has just written a book on J.D. Salinger, published September 10. *Salinger's Soul: His Personal and Religious Odyssey* provides a close-up look at how Salinger's private life influenced his famous stories. Salinger is famous for writing *Catcher in the Rye* (which still sells 200,000 copies a year) and for being a recluse in New Hampshire. But most people don't know

SPOTLIGHT

Language Lessons

Carol Carpenter Esteban '61 reflects on the window to the world that studying French and Spanish at Sidwell Friends gave her.

In 1958, I started 9th grade at Sidwell Friends School and had to choose a foreign language. I chose French. It was the international "language of diplomacy" and reminded me of my French neighbors in Chevy Chase.

Our teacher was a petite Frenchwoman named Madame Porte, whom we secretly called Mrs. Door—*porte* meaning door. Her classroom was on the second floor of Zartman House. The teachers' lounge was on the first floor, and we'd peek through the window to see our teachers sitting in armchairs, talking, and smoking.

In my first class with Madame Porte, she entered the room saying a jumble of sounds. She bowed at the teacher's desk and said, "*Bonjour.*" She repeated these strange sounds and asked us to say them. I jotted down what I thought she was saying. But when I looked over my notes that night, I remained mystified. What was this? Maybe I should have studied Latin.

The next day, Madame Porte called on me to repeat the lesson. I was speechless. Ashamed and embarrassed, I shook my head and stayed silent. Some of my classmates were able to repeat the sounds, and I couldn't figure out how. That's when Madame Porte asked us to open our books to the second lesson. Our books! Second lesson! I had never even opened the book. When I did, I discovered Lesson I. *J'entre dans la salle de classe*. ("I enter the classroom.") *Je dis bonjour au professeur*. ("I say good day to the teacher.")

The textbook saved me, and I memorized the conjugation of the verb *être* until I could recite it in my sleep. The next day, I stood beside Madame Porte's desk and conjugated the verb. After that, with the book, the class, and a language lab, I found I could learn French! I could travel to France, use all these words, and people might actually understand me.

I discovered the French way of interpreting the world. I learned that not only people but things were masculine or feminine, and the definite article wasn't just one word (the) but three: le, la, les. I acquired a French mindset. I began with *Je m'appelle Carol*, which means, "I call myself Carol," not "I am Carol." In French, I would have to say, "I have hunger. I have fear." (*J'ai faim. J'ai peur.*) Similarly, when talking about weather, the French say, "It makes cold. It makes nice weather." (*Il fait froid. Il fail beau temps.*)

After I'd been studying French for a semester, Madam Porte marched into my homeroom with a French II student trailing behind her and said, "Tell this boy how to say, 'What are you afraid of.'" I was ready. I slipped into my French mindset and thought, "Of what do you have fear?" *De quoi avez-vous peur?* Madame smiled triumphantly and marched away. I felt sorry for the boy; he hadn't trained himself to think like a French person.

When I was a junior, I could choose among a variety of elective courses. Since I had taught myself to think like a French person, I decided to give Spanish a try. Our Spanish teacher, like Madame Porte, was the real deal. Señora Supervía and her husband were Spanish Civil War refugees.

In class, I felt at home. Spanish was like French! It had masculine and feminine nouns that required different forms of the definite article: *el, la, los.* Check. You introduce yourself by saying, "I call myself Carol." *Yo me llamo Carol.* Check. You say, "I have hunger. I have fear." *Yo tengo hambre. Yo tengo miedo*. Check. Spaniards, like the French, say, "It makes cold. It makes nice weather." *Hace frío. Hace buen tiempo.* Check.

Señora had us memorize both the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish. She played Spanish-language songs, and we learned the lyrics. She'd written *A First Reader in Spanish*, which we used to learn about Spain's past—like how the Moors were Arab Muslims who invaded Spain in 711 A.D. and ruled there until 1492. The Muslims had a huge impact on Spanish culture. They believed in fate and thought it was a sin to try and alter the future, which is reflected in the Spanish language. Señora taught us the common expression "*Ojalá*" comes from an Arabic phrase meaning, "May Allah will it." To acquire a Spanish mindset, I had to learn to live in a tentative world that may or may not exist—the world of the subjunctive, which I learned to use for the future, and also for the possible, unknown, or desirable. "It might rain. I hope so!" *Puede que llueva. ¡Ojalá!* "I'll make dinner when you (may) get here." *Prepararé la cena cuando llegues.* "I want you to go away (even though you might not)." *Quiero que te vayas.*

Señora's enthusiasm extended outside the classroom. She took students to Mexico City each summer. All students took Spanish-language classes in the morning; then the girls went to Spanish dance classes

in the afternoon, while the boys spent time with their Mexican "brothers" from host families. Then in winter, the Mexican students came to Washington and lived with American families. I don't know if any Mexican girls went out with American boys, but some American girls went out with the Mexican boys. I was one of them. In fact, two of us girls ended up marrying Mexican exchange students.

Madame Porte and Señora Supervía are memorable forces. Madame Porte taught me how to learn a foreign language. I loved how French sounded, and I admired the style and sophistication of French women. As for Señora, my classmate Leland Dobbs '61 nominated her for Harvard University's Distinguished Secondary Award in 1965, and she won. Alan Bernstein '59 pledged funds to create the Señora Supervía Endowed Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies. It is now a permanently endowed faculty position in remembrance of this remarkable educator.

about his religious zeal, his landing on D-Day, nor his obsession with young women. This book tells all."

1962

CHETT BREED
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HAPPY 80TH CLASS OF '62!
In September 2024, 11 members of the class of 1962 celebrated their 80th birthdays together in Washington, DC. The main event was a birthday dinner on Saturday night, September 21, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The classmates and eight of their spouses came to Robert's Restaurant in the Shoreham for the birthday celebration. The day before the dinner, the Class of 1962 held a Zoom meeting. (Sixty-two years ago, the Class of 1962 had a dinner dance at the Shoreham their senior year. And one of the classmates got married at the Shoreham Hotel.) Many of the classmates who gathered in Washington, DC, on their birthday weekend visited the National Gallery of Art to see the special exhibit, *Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment*. They finished their weekend with a Sunday brunch at the Shoreham. (See photo below.)

PETER ENEMARK and Meme Lund Enemark: "We now have three grandsons. Dylan Miles Henry Enemark was born April 10 in San Diego—the first child of Daniel and Claire Enemark. Dylan has two cousins in Northern California. They are Luca, 13, and Nico, 9—David and Minji Enemark's two sons. We are trying to stay fit. Meme is doing strength training and Pilates. She is also taking boxing lessons. Peter does strength training and walks 5,000 steps daily. We have both stopped drinking alcohol."

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
margo10022@aol.com

GARTH DOCHERTY: "We are moving. Having spent three winters searching for a home in the South, we ended up buying a condo 30 miles north of where we live now in Iowa. Closer to hospitals and Costco. No worries about cutting the grass, shoveling big snow, and tripping on basement steps. Only problem now? I can't hide from Anne!"

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: "It's hard to imagine but summer in Miami Beach is really great. It's just not as hot as it is in other parts of our country, and the traffic is so much better. There was actually a lot going on this summer, including our granddaughter's 3rd birthday in July. We spent the month of August at our home in Connecticut, which was a wonderful change. I caught up with my friends, shopped, had some good dinners in New York City and saw one

Members of the Class of 1962 celebrate their 80th birthday together.

Broadway show. I hope that next summer we'll be there longer. So, now that fall is officially here, everything is beginning to start up again, and it promises to be a very busy season. The Garden Club and the Orchid Society have some great programs scheduled. I also belong to a Literary Society, which hosts award-winning authors who speak about their lives and the inspiration for their novels. Just as an aside, Miami still has one of the few independent bookstores in the country and the owner of the store invites these authors to speak. I have found the authors to be very interesting and very well spoken. I'm looking forward to the rest of 2024 and hoping it will be wonderful in every way!"

JEANNE PERKINS HOFFERKAMP: "Hi! We have had beautiful fall weather. We're finally getting some rain today. All grandkids are good. Steve's granddaughter, Amelie, who will be 3 in November started preschool! She has really enjoyed it—two hours two days a week. Good for socialization and a short break for his daughter, Katie! My Olivia is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Carina is a sophomore there. Sharon's son, Evan, is already in 5th grade! Steve's scans have been very good, no signs that his pancreatic cancer has popped up anywhere else. I'm busy being an Uber driver to all of our doctors! Hoping all of you are doing as well as can be expected at our age!"

ALISON FEISS KRIVISKEY: "I enjoyed hearing about grandchildren in the last Class Notes, so here is our brag. Our granddaughter is in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Our eldest grandson is a junior at Mass, majoring in mechanical engineering. His younger brother is a first year at American University, majoring in political science. The youngest grandson just started 4th grade. Like all grandparents, we firmly believe that our 'grands' are the best and the brightest. As for my life, my husband, Bruce, and I are enjoying life in the Lathrop Retirement Community in Easthampton, Massachusetts. Lathrop is an affiliate of the Kendal Corporation and is founded on Quaker values. Apparently, I have gone back to the Quaker roots of a Sidwell Friends education. On a different note, my green thumbs and I spend a lot of time with my orchids and my garden. Lately, I have taken the leadership role in creating a large native plant pollinator garden for our community. It has been a great success, both for the creatures it supports and as an educational tool for highlighting the benefits of native plants."

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.

BOB ZWEBEN: "I am still living in Albany, California. This upcoming election makes me anxious—and anxiously awaiting the results. If Trump wins, kiss any notion of a democracy goodbye. Our country, although imperfect, is better than the alternative. I remember the last time Trump/Pence was elected. I was in Paris vacationing with Elaine. I went into our apartment's bedroom in the 8th Arrondissement to give the bad news to Elaine. This year, if Trump/Vance wins, we will be in London. I hope I will have good news to report to Elaine."

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
lbstrait@gmail.com

GEORGE BERNSTEIN: "I have six grandsons. Grandson No. 1 was married in June to his college sweetheart. He is a lawyer with Sidley Austin in Chicago. Grandson No. 2 (his brother) is in Austin working PR for Ford. Grandson No. 3 is starting his sophomore year as an undergraduate at the Stern School of Business at NYU. Grandson No. 4 (his brother) is starting his freshman year at the University of Maryland, College Park. Grandson No. 5 is starting 4th grade at St. George's School here in New Orleans. Grandson No. 6 (his brother) will turn 2 at the end of this month."

SUE MORSE: "News from the West: California has had the hottest summer yet, like the rest of the world. So far, no fire near us. Because of the heat inland, we get a lot of fog, which means a bit of moisture. We do enjoy visitors escaping from the heat! I've been too busy with Quaker Meeting (I'm clerk and newsletter editor), teaching English to new arrivals (most are working in hotels), and trying to get enough exercise (water aerobics and walking). And then there's the grandchild, Gabriel. I commute to San Jose about once a week to help. It's a thrill to watch and share his discoveries! From animals and airplanes to water, and, oops, gravity! Extra highlight: I represented the Morses at the wedding of the youngest daughter of **Michael Morse '62**, with **Thatcher Morse '58** and Annie Morse (Sandy Springs Friends) last month in Salt Lake City. Visited **Peggy Pabst Battin '58**, too. Glad to hear from Friends."

1965

Join us at REUNION

KEN LESURE
ken.lesure@gmail.com

TODD PARNELL: "Despite our advanced age, Betty and I are the proud grandparents of identical twin girls, Lola and Sadie! Too much fun!" (See photo on next page.)

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS
cdematatis@aol.com

1967

STEVE BATZELL
swb.abacus@gmail.com

TONY FARRELL: "On a sunny Saturday in San Francisco, I got to team up with classmate **Hans Carter** in pickleball, a huge honor because Hans is the leader of the city's pickleball community. Every article in the Chronicle on the clash between tennis players and pickleball enthusiasts concerning the use of public courts includes a quote from Hans

LEFT: Todd Parnell '65 with his wife, Betty, and twin granddaughters, Lola and Sadie **Hans Carter '67 and Tony Farrell '67 reunite on the pickleball court. RIGHT: Cheryl Doddy Howard '67** celebrated her 75th birthday with friends and family in Greece.

and often his picture. We had a spirited match and a great time catching up at an alumni event nicely coordinated by the Sidwell Friends team." (See photo above.)

CHERYL DODDY HOWARD celebrated her 75th birthday in Naxos, Greece, at Rotonda on the top of Mt. Zas with 16 family and friends, including sister, **Joanne Doddy Fort '68**, and brother, Hurley Doddy '81. Surrounded by love, laughter, and breathtaking views—it was the perfect way to mark a big milestone year. (See photo above.)

1968

ROLLIE FRYE
rolliefrye@gmail.com

JOHN DENEGRE sends warm greetings to all. He's pleased to report he has encountered someone who can be described as jejune, bibulous, and prone to persiflage. What more can an English major ask for?

1969

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

WILLIE ALLEN-FAIELLA: "I retired from being the rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove (Miami), in March 2023. After an exciting year of travel, our son's wedding, and two bathroom renovations, I went back to work as priest-in-charge of St. Christopher's on Key Biscayne. Our children, Kit and Sophia, are thriving: Kit works for the DC Department of Education, and Sophia just started her final year at Columbia's School of Social Work."

1970

Join us at REUNION

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
mwkrull@me.com

RICHARD MURRAY spent a few weeks in Northern Ireland and Scotland in July with his family and had a chance to visit Stornoway, where his father grew up: "Having heard what a severe place this was, we were amazed at the beauty of the Isle of Lewis. We visited the Calanais Standing Stones, which are reportedly older than Stonehenge." Richard is coming out of retirement and starting as the senior vice president for medical at Perspectum, a spin-out company from Oxford, England, that uses artificial intelligence to extract diagnostic information from MRI scans. This will replace liver (and other) biopsies for many patients who would otherwise need them. "It's a longer commute than San Francisco was, but I'll not be going as often as I might like!" (See photo on next page.)

CHUCK STERNBERG: "My wife, Louise, and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in the Mountains of Western North Carolina. We reside in an active retirement community outside of Asheville. Pickleball rules!"

CHRIS TUFTY: "Margot and I just got back from our first cruise to Alaska on a huge Princess liner! We saw glaciers, went on an old miner's train, hiked around old Gold Rush towns, ate and drank like royalty—and didn't gain any weight! Cheers to all my Sidwell Friends classmates." (See photo on next page.)

1971

BRIAN STEINBACH
brian.steinbach@verizon.net

TOM PLUMB: "I left my job as director of an anti-poverty agency in Vermont to volunteer full time in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. My organization, Hands to Honduras, Inc., has built 76 low-cost shelters, created infrastructure for another 31 shelters, provided two ambulances, electrified five communities, provided water to a dozen communities, provided 764 computers, and built 68 classrooms and kindergartens. I would also like to brag on two of our classmates: **Ken McCauley**, who has funded five kindergartens, and **Brad Clark**, who has funded one. They have made a world of difference. One last note: I married Kenia Maradiaga in 2017, creating a new family along with Maradiaga's then-6-year-old son." (See photos on next page.)

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON
joyce@brastedhouse.com

1973

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

RICH FOLEY and Jan have enjoyed their first five months of grandparenting William Rucker Marrin, the son of their daughter, Paige Foley Marrin. Richard's dad recently passed away but not before a great four-generations picture. (See photo on next page.) Richard and Jan shamelessly admit that they use their Sidwell Friends Ice Cream Scope almost every day. While their grandson went to Nantucket for summer vacation, Richard and Jan went to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (the end bordering Wisconsin), enjoying power-outage corrections and frozen water pipes and other farmhouse repairs."

JEFF MUMFORD: "This has been a nicely busy period where I was able to complete four works this past year, including works commissioned by the Center for Contemporary Composition at the University of Chicago for the Grossman Ensemble, which is in residence there; a new work commissioned by New Music USA, for viola and harp for noted violist Jordan Bak and harpist Ashley Jackson, premiered by them last February at the Phillips Collection; a work for two violins and string orchestra commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress for the String Orchestra of New York City; and a harp concerto requested by Anne-Sophie Bertrand, principal harpist of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony. Deeply honored. As well, this past January I had the distinct privilege of co-curating a concert with Angel Gil-Ordonez and the Post Classical Ensemble (which he directs) presented by them at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theatre as part of their annual 'Amazing Grace' series. Current projects include a work commissioned by Chamber Music America for the DC-based new music ensemble, Balance Campaign, and a double concerto for violin and cello commissioned by the Columbus (Ohio) Symphony. This fall I will have performances of works of mine in Vienna, Frankfurt, New York, Montreal, and Sweden, among other venues. My wife, Donna Coleman, continues to produce stunning paintings, which have been shown on many occasions throughout northern Ohio. Our daughter, Blythe, lives in Atlanta and is working for a nonprofit organization that focuses on environmental justice issues. Her particular area at present is working with historically Black colleges

Thanks to donations from his Class of '71 friends, **Tom Plumb**'s Hands to Honduras was able to create Kinder Brad Clark and Kinder Ken McCauley in Trujillo, Honduras, among the many other structures, improvements, and support the organization spearheads there.

LEFT: Richard Murray '70 visited the Calanais Standing Stones in Scotland. **RIGHT: Chris Tufty '70** with a totem pole

LEFT: Richard Foley '73, H. Thomas Foley, Paige Foley Marrin, and William Rucker Marrin **CENTER:** In front of the future Vermont home of **Matt Gamser '74**, with Mary White **RIGHT: Barky Jones '74** and Sara enjoy hiking near their new home in Maine.

and universities to provide resources to help them become more environmentally sustainable."

1974

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT
lcreutzfeldt@yahoo.com

PAUL MARKUN
pmarkun@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REPS:

"After a great 50th Sidwell Reunion, plans are underway for a future rendezvous. Some classmates are embracing change and moving closer to nature and others are pursuing career and personal passions. In the midst of uncertain times, '74 friends support each other."

KARL BOSTIC: "I am still very disappointed not to have joined in the 50th Reunion. Yet I found some comfort in seeing classmates by Zoom at the Reunion and talking to some a few days later. The reason why I missed the Reunion is the same reason why I am still here in Israel. As a freelance journalist, I have been here since October 9, two days after the war started, covering the war for *PBS NewsHour*. The last normal thing I did before coming here was playing tennis at my club in London. (I still play a little bit of tennis when I can.) I received a call and was on a flight the next day. I have been here since. I have covered a lot of conflicts. Before covering the war here, I worked in Ukraine. It has always had a profound effect on me there and has shaped me because I first lived there following the Kennedy School in what was the last year of Communist rule. I also learned to speak Russian there and some Ukrainian. But this past year goes beyond the pale. Having been exposed to victims and survivors of atrocities and senseless cruelty leaves me shaken every day. I have been spending a lot of time in northern Israel for stories, where there is now no life due to mass evacuations. Sidwell Friends like any community was not perfect, but we were fortunate to have fellow classmates in whom we found lifelong love and respect for who we are. I think of that constantly and of my parents who sacrificed to send me and my sisters there."

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: In a photograph in the last issue of Sidwell Friends Magazine's Class Notes, **Jane Hilton Rapport '74** was misidentified as her sister, Susan **Hilton Labovich '76**. We regret the error.

1975

Join us at REUNION

ALAN DRUMMER
alandrummer@hotmail.com

1976

MARY ANN MCGRAIL
mamcgrail@yahoo.com

BETSY ZEIDMAN
betsyzeidman@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REPS:

"We mourn the passing of our classmates and friends, **Duplain Gant** and **Bennie Williams**. We ask that you hold Duplain and Bennie in the Light. Please post any reflections on the Class of 1976's Facebook page (SFS1976)."

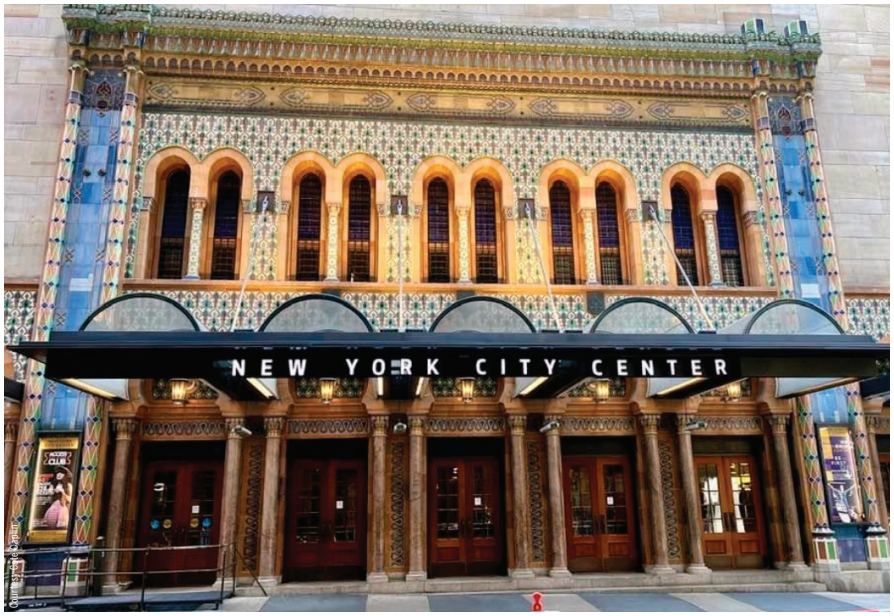
CATE CAPLIN continues to enjoy an inspiring and challenging creative career in Los Angeles. This spring she directed Arthur Miller's classic *A View From the Bridge*, which won a Best Production of the Season and Best Director Award. She also directed Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play*, which also won a Best Director Award, among other awards for the actors and designers of both productions. Meanwhile, Caplin's feature film, *Mating Dance*, just won a Hollywood Best Indie Feature Award, so she is grateful and flying high from this wonderful chapter of artistic fruition on many fronts. Caplin is stretching her wings now to the East Coast, joining as the associate producer of a play, *Fatherland*, moving from the Fountain Theatre in LA to New York City Center for a limited run, with the possibility of moving on from there. If you find yourself in New York and want to see a riveting true

story theatrical production, give her a shout! (See photo on right.)

TIM MAUDLIN: "In the last few years there have been a couple of new academic projects I have embarked on. I am the founder and director of the John Bell Institute for the Foundations of Physics (***JohnBellInstitute.org***) at present, seeking to establish a physical location for workshops and summer schools (hopefully somewhere in Croatia). Anyone interested in understanding what Bell proved might like to listen to my explanation on the *Cartesian Café* podcast with Timothy Nguyen. A few years ago, I also started teaching a compressed class in the master's program at the Universitá della Svizzera Italiana (University of Italian Switzerland) in Lugano, as soon as I finish the spring semester at NYU in May. We then spend the rest of the summer in Europe, mostly in Hvar, Croatia, for anyone who happens to be in the vicinity."

MARY ANN MCGRAIL: "I am an attorney at the Library of Congress and happy to give impromptu tours. I also head the international humanitarian law program for the American Red Cross in the Capital region. I am very happy to be back in touch with a number of you—including **Adrienne Sirken**, **Pam Meyer**, **Kathi Watkins Webb**, **Susan Billington Harper**, **Susan Hilton Labovich**, **Lori Price**, **Charles Dibble**, **Loretta Chi**, **Betsy Zeidman**, **Mary Meigs Thorne**, **Mary Porter**, **Dana Shulman Smith**, **Cate Livingston Fernandez**, and **John Kirkpatrick**. Would love to be back in touch with anyone else, and please ping me if you are coming to DC (***mamcgrail@yahoo.com***). And we are looking for volunteers for the 50th Reunion planning committee; let me or Betsy Zeidman know if you are interested (**betsyzeidman@gmail.com**)."

MAREK "MARK" MIRSKI: "My career spans more than 30-odd years in the academic fields of anesthesiology, neurology, and critical care. My principal faculty position has been at Johns Hopkins Hospital, but I took my family from this area to Hawaii in the late 1990s to develop a Clinical & Academic Neuroscience Center in Honolulu—the first of its kind in the grand Pacific region. I was finally recruited three years later back to Hopkins—ostensibly because they missed me so much! Ha-ha. I have remained there ever since, performing clinical duties as well as engaging in research. I have also had the pleasure of being the anesthesiologist/critical care/rehab physician to some very interesting world figures (kings, presidents, sheikhs), so I have a lot of amusing anecdotes that have accumulated over the years. At the moment, I am gradually reducing my clinical activity to pursue more of my research and following up with commercialization efforts of some of our developed projects. My wife (pediatrician, retired) and I have two grown daughters, Kara (oncologist) and Erin (financial manager), and two lovely grandchildren. We live between Annapolis and Baltimore (Severna Park), and do regularly travel to DC as well as to the Eastern Shore, where we have a place in Ocean City. We also traveled recently to the Falkland Islands, where humans are in the great minority to the penguins! Hope to catch up further, and certainly for the 2026 Reunion. Perhaps meeting at a pub or restaurant later this year or early 2025 would be a great early reunion."



Cate Caplin '76 is an associate producer for this fall's Fatherland off-Broadway at New York City Center.

NINI REDWAY: "I am still living near Sacramento, California, up in the Sierra foothills. I retired from environmental law work with the attorney general's office nine years ago. I cared for my mother, who passed away seven years ago, and now do volunteer work with youth outdoor programs, paint, spend time with friends, and hike with my dog. My husband and I travel and whitewater kayak as much as we can and are just returning from a trip to Norway." (See photos on next page.)

TOM SPORN: "So I departed Durham and Duke after 30 years as a thoracic surgical and forensic pathologist, leaving behind fond memories of that great medical center and wonderful colleagues. Anne and I now live in New Bern, a lovely small town on the river in coastal North Carolina. I am rounding out my career as a forensic pathologist for the state and also teaching East Carolina University medical students and pathology residents. I finally got my knees replaced and am looking forward to racing on my bicycle again. Our greatest joys are the times with our kids, their spouses, and our four grandchildren—be it here, at one of the Carolina beaches, or the family home in Vermont. Wishing good health and happiness to all!"

1977

ADAM STERN
adamcstern@aol.com

1978

PETER MACDONALD
pmacdona@skidmore.edu

ZOE FITZGERALD CARTER: "I'm happy to report that my new album, Before the Machine, was released on June 7 of this year. Inspired by memories of a pre-smart-phone world, the title track explores how technology, and specifically phones, has irrevocably altered our experience of time. The song just took first place in the Corpus Christi Songwriters Contest and the music video has been shown in several international film festivals. Picking up where my last album, Waterlines, left off, Before the Machine includes nine original songs that weave together folk, country, rock, blues, and jazz musical styles. I'll be playing a number of gigs in Northern California in support of the album this fall, but let me know if you have a venue near you (not too big) that you like and/or if you want to throw a house concert—I'm game. Have guitar, will travel! I had the most wonderful time last spring when **Susan English** and I were back in DC at Sidwell's Let Your Life Speak event, and **Miriam Zimmerman** organized a concert at her house in Tacoma Park. It was such a delight to see and perform for classmates including **Bing Shaw**, **Larry Ottinger**, **Barbara Andrews**, and **Serrin Gantt**. I was also so grateful to **Hilary Nelson Jacobs**, **Wendy Parks**, and **Carlos Garcia** and his wife for coming to one of my gigs at the Hotel Cafe in Los Angeles last spring. As an independent musician pursuing music at this stage of life, I've been really touched by the support of so many old Sidwell Friends classmates! If you're curious, you can find my music on the various streaming platforms (under Zoe FitzGerald Carter) or on my website: ***zoecartermusic.com***. In the meantime, I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their lives, and please let me know if you are ever out in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'd love to see you!" (See photo below.)

PAUL CONDRELL: "This year, after 30 years in business, I became a full-time minister at Wilmington Community Evangelical, a Chinese-heritage church in Hockessin, Delaware. After living in flat areas for so long, it has been nice to return to the rolling hills and curvy roads of the mid-Atlantic. Hope to entice our married son to move nearby, with our grandchildren, so we can babysit more often (as FaceTime just isn't the same). Meanwhile our other son, a Chinese major, looks set to follow in our footsteps and take up work in the Far East. Hope to see everyone at our next reunion!" (See photo below.)

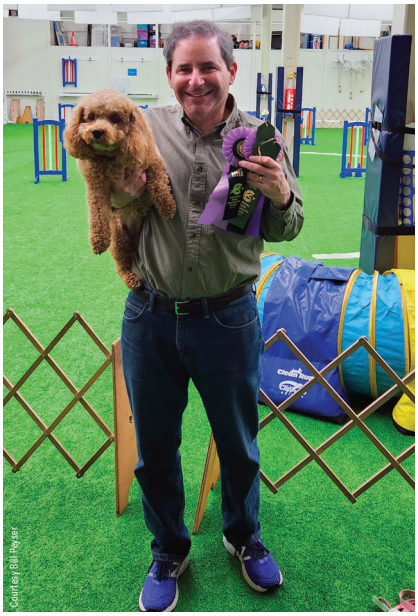
BRANDEL FRANCE DE BRAVO: One of Brandel's poems was selected for inclusion in The Best American Poetry 2024. That poem, originally published in the literary magazine *32 Poems*, is called "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry." The title comes from a book by Jack Kornfield. Brandel's forthcoming book, *Locomotive Cathedral*, will be published by the University of Nebraska Press (Backwaters Press is the imprint) in March 2025.

HILARY NELSON JACOBS: "My son Alex married his love, Betsy, in August in Des Moines, Iowa. Our younger son, Charlie, was his best man. It was a fantastic experience to watch our sons move into their next stages of life, which I guess means that we are also in a new stage of life. Alex and Charlie (and their partners) live 15 minutes from us, so we get to see them regularly. Bob is still writing movies, and I'm still writing my memoir about the gray area of consent in the 1980s. Life is pretty sweet after some tumultuous years, and I don't take that for granted. Sidwell Friends and our class in particular hold a special place in my heart. Please reach out if anyone is in L.A.: ***hilarynelsonjacobs.com***." (See photo on next page.)

HILARY KACSER happily continues, following *Scorched* and *MigrAAAAAnts!* this past year, to collaborate with Helen Hayes Best Emerging Company Winner ExPats Theatre. This time ap-

LEFT: Nini Redway '76 and her husband traveled to Norway. **CENTER: Zoe Carter '78** **RIGHT: Paul Condrell '78** with his family

Courtesy Hilary Jacobs


Courtesy Bill Peyser

LEFT: **Hilary Nelson Jacobs '78**, son Alex, and husband, Bob, at Alex's wedding **RIGHT:** **Bill Peyser '78** with his agility dog, Maple

pearing in and speech-coaching for Marlene, Hilary travels to rehearsal via Florida Avenue, where she is delighted to run into **Peggy Mason**'s mother, who so graciously hosted last year's Reunion attendees.

BILL PEYSER: "I retired in May after a 40-year career in accounting and finance. I most recently served as the CFO for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. I now volunteer for the Financial Crimes Section of the Montgomery County Police Department. As a presenter with the Keeping Seniors Safe program, I give talks on the latest scams and cybercrimes and provide guidance to seniors on how to protect themselves from identity theft and financial crimes. On a lighter note, my dog, Maple, and I train and compete in dog agility." (See photo above.)

KRISHNAN RAJAGOPALAN: "2024 has been a year of transitions both personal and professional. My father passed after 95 wonderful years. I was fortunate to see him almost daily for the last eight—a true blessing. Sumi and I continue to look after my mother who is 87. After 23 years at Heidrick & Struggles and the last seven and a half years as CEO of the firm, I stepped down to turn to the next phase of my professional life. While continuing part-time as CEO Emeritus of the firm, I also spend time giving back as a board member of Noblereach Foundation and Smithsonian Natural History Museum. I also serve as senior advisor to an AI/talent company and as board member to a company in Europe. Our son **Varun Rajagopalan '10** and his wife, Nisha, are in New York and our younger son, **Vikram Rajagopalan '13** is in Florida, and getting together with them is always a blast. Believe it or not, these days I have more free time than ever and would welcome catching up with fellow alums over a coffee or meal if you are in DC."

1979

TED LEWIS
bethesdated@gmail.com

KEENE TAYLOR
keene@tayloragostino.com

1980

Join us at REUNION

WILLIAM RICE
williamrice63@gmail.com

ANNE HALEY: "While in DC a couple of weeks ago to attend the Congressional Black Caucus, I made a call to one **Ana Maria Allen** who met me for dinner and what a fabulous reunion had we!" (See photo below.)

WILLIAM RICE: "This summer I visited Scandinavia for the first time, accompanying my wife and brother-in-law as they took their mother back to her home country of Sweden and taking a side trip to Finland to see my stepbrother. For a transit fan like me, both Stockholm and Helsinki were enchanted places, with beautiful subways and lyrical trams galore. Both towns are very walkable and human-scale, with the larger Swedish city providing a little more bustle and the smaller Finnish burg a quieter pace. I traveled from Stockholm to Helsinki on a ferry that winds through the vast archipelago spreading east from the Swedish coast. The islands' rocks and

Courtesy Giulia Adelfio

Ann Haley

LEFT: The Class of 1979's **Carole Wolf Neuhaus**, **Giulia Adelfio**, and **Jamie Lehrer** happened to be in London at the same time, and so they met for dinner in the West End and had a lovely mini-reunion to discuss plans for the coming years and to catch up on the past four and a half decades. **RIGHT:** **Anne Haley '80** and **Ana Maria Allen '80** have dinner in Washington, DC.

LEFT: William Rice '80 and **Jens Gorne '80** on Jens's boat during William's visit to Stockholm **CENTER: Patti Spady Ross '80** and her daughter, Amanda Ross, at the Paris Olympics **RIGHT: PAinsley Binder '81** and **Leslie Wolf-Creutzfeldt '74** meet up at the New York City Summer With Friends event at Carnegie hall.

evergreens reminded me of the scattered isles of Maine. I put my Maine ocean-swimming experience to use by taking a dip in the refreshingly chilly Baltic Sea—on both sides of it. I also got the chance to see our old classmate **Jens Gorne**, who now lives in the Swedish capital. We met up several times, and I was able to culminate my journey with a magical cruise on his boat off the waterways of Stockholm that he and his partner, Maria Eriksson, were kind enough to offer." (See photo above.)

PATTI SPADY ROSS: "Congratulations to my daughter, Dr. Amanda Ross, on receiving her doctoral degree earlier this year from American University. She represents our family's third generation of AU alumni, after my mother and myself. We celebrated with a quick trip to Paris to enjoy some of the Olympics." (See photo above.)

1981

ANDREW SZANTON
aszanton@rcn.com

VIDISHA DEHEJIA PATEL: "I was recently in DC for the annual Anindya Dehejia '78 internship luncheon. We hold it at Sidwell Friends at the end of the summer so my father and I can have a chance to meet the current interns and learn about their experiences. It also gives the interns a chance to meet and hear from us so they can understand the inspiration behind the internship program. This year I had a lovely surprise. Mrs. Fasanelli was our calculus teacher at Sidwell Friends, and she came to the lunch! I believe she is 94 years old. She walked from her home, which is about a mile from the School and where she has lived since she started teaching at Sidwell Friends. She continues to mentor young people and is a huge supporter of women in math. It was such a joy to see her after so many years. Her memory is as sharp as ever and she continues to be passionate and engaged."

ANDREW SZANTON: "It's a pleasure serving as your 1981 class rep. It's a source of unexpected connection, and new insights. If you feel an interest in exploring what life so far has meant to you, please consider letting me help you with a life memoir."

CHARLIE WATTS: "Relieved and grateful to report that I managed to return home in one piece (at least physically!) after four and half months hiking the Appalachian Trail. The trip was 1,924 miles from Georgia (a section of the trail that **Ethan Nelson** and I hiked as our senior project) to Grafton Notch, Maine. (See photos on next page.) Next September, my wife, Holly Haynes, and I plan to hike the final 200+ miles to Katahdin together. The experience had an everything, everywhere, all-at-once feel to it and I am still encountering its various meanings. Along with the general (and much desired) isolation of walking alone for 90 percent of the day, experiments with Instagram-posting and postcard-writing put me in touch with many Sidwell Friends friends, including **Amalie Moses Reichblum**, **Ethan Nelson**, **Jane McPherson**, **Andrew Szanton**, and all those of you whose encouraging online clicks and comments really did help keep me grounded. If you can manage to scrape together four or five months of free time (!), and a team back home to manage all your other life commitments (!), I highly recommend a long walk on most any trail." (See photos on next page.)

Vidisha Dehejia Patel '81 stands with former Sidwell math teacher Florence Fasanelli P '92.

Courtesy William Rice

Courtesy William Rice

William Rice '80 and **Jens Gorne '80** on **Charlie Watts '81** and **Ethan Nelson '81** hiked nearly 2,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail for their Sidwell Friends senior project. Recently, Watts did it again!

1982

JONATHAN LEVINE
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1983

LINDA GAUS
gaushaus1965@verizon.net

1985

Join us at REUNION

HILARY DAYTON
hcdayton@gmail.com

JENNIFER ZEIDMAN BLOCH: "There was a mini-Class of '85 reunion in New York City in March at the New York Museum of Art and Design to celebrate the opening night of classmate **Sonya Clark**'s fabulous art exhibit!" (See photo on right.)

1986

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

WILLIAM PAO: "Ever wonder what it takes to create a new medicine? In my new book, *Breakthrough: The Quest for Life-Changing Medicines*, come get a privileged look at the stories of innovation behind the development of eight revolutionary medicines that improve—and very often save—our lives. In *Breakthrough*, I celebrate the tireless work of scientists, drug hunters, physicians, and others working hard to discover better treatments. Behind each of these medicines—whether a potentially life-saving new treatment for cancer, or something as commonplace as paracetamol—there stands a cast of characters and a wealth of stories. *Breakthrough*, will be available in the United Kingdom on October 3, 2024, and in the United States on January 14, 2025. In the United States, it's available for pre-order at: ***a.co/d/a0HgoLw***."

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com

WENDY KLINE: "I'm pleased to announce the publication of my fourth book, *Exposed: The Hidden History of the Pelvic Exam*, with Polity Press. (See "Fresh Ink," on page 22.) I'll be speaking about the book in Bloomington, Indiana; Omaha, Nebraska; Detroit, Michigan; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Cincinnati, Ohio, in the near future. Let me know if you're interested in attending one of the events!" (See photo below.)

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

MARY DOWLING's former swimmer and 2024 Olympian, Phoebe Bacon, took 4th in the 200-meter backstroke at the Paris Olympics. She swam for Mary from ages 7 to 13. (See photo on next page.)

Courtesy William Rice

Courtesy Wendy Kline

LEFT: Members of the Class of '85 at classmate Sonya Clark's New York Museum of Art and Design exhibit: **Amanda Lehrer Nash**, **Jennifer Zeidman Bloch**, **Phoebe Stein**, **Sonya Clark**, **Bill Strathmann**, and **Greg Berman** **RIGHT:** **Wendy Kline '87** holds her latest book, Exposed: The Hidden History of the Pelvic Exam, at Morgenstern's bookstore in Bloomington, Indiana.

1990

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META PUTTKAMMER VALENTIC: "I completed several episodes as the unit production manager of the ABC series *9-1-1* starring Angela Bassett. The show creates natural and unnatural disasters—not unlike the current ones we are living through—in Los Angeles every week. It was a challenging, fun, dynamic job. Excited to see the TV and film industry getting back to work after the strikes."

LEFT: Mary Dowling '89 with her former swimmer and 2024 Olympian, Phoebe Bacon **RIGHT: Meta Puttkammer Valentic '90**

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

LEE BOYLE and **Grant Tennille** joined Ellis Turner (retired teacher and administrator) and had dinner together at Mr. Turner's favorite haunt: Guapo's Restaurant in Bethesda. Mr. Turner asked questions about the long-ago rivalry between The Posse (Class of 1991) and the Negative Mickey Mouse Club/Sidwell Security First World (Class of 1990). **Liam Gray '90**, the latter group's de facto historian, was later consulted along with old yearbooks and Liam's personal archive, from which documents were unearthed by his brother **Justin Gray '92** at his home in Chevy Chase. Excited, Mr. Turner expressed that this chapter of Sidwell Friends history ought to be documented, and he encouraged Lee and Liam to write an article for Horizon.

1992

EMILY PASTER
emily.paster@gmail.com

1993

CASEY COLMAN HASSENSTEIN
caseycoleman30@hotmail.com

MAURICIO TSCHERNY: "I recently graduated from American University's School of International Service with a master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution. After an internship at the Public International Law and Policy Group, followed by a summer fellowship at the Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab (PERIL), I am currently an intelligence analyst at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency in Washington, DC. I was thrilled to join Sidwell Friends classmates in Northern California for our friend **Patricia Cogely**'s wedding reception in August." (See photo below.)

Patricia Cogley '93, Diana Zumas '93, Cara Iadarolla '93, Emily Kaiser '93, Mauricio Tscherny '93

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

GILL PACHTER: "A proud member of the Class of '94's international diaspora, I still live in London with my kids and husband and their funny accents. And I still make documentaries for a living. So, in all the inevitable changes that befall the middle-aged, there are still a lot of stills in my life. I love reconnecting with old classmates and urge you to look me up if you set foot on this fair isle."

1995

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MARI PALMER MCDONALD
mari.mcdonald@gmail.com

JOHNISHA MATTHEWS LEVI: "I've been living in Nashville for the past six years as a childless (and cat-less) lady with my husband, Jonathan. For my day job, I work as a nonprofit development professional for a reproductive freedom organization. During the pandemic, I tried my hand at both getting a documentary made and writing a memoir. The documentary went poof due to

LEFT: Jon Bernthal '95 wins the Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for his role on FX's *The Bear*.
RIGHT: Cornelia Griggs '01 signs a copy of The Sky Was Falling.

lack of funds, but my memoir, *Number's Up: Cracking the Code of an American Family*, will be published by University Press of Kentucky in June 2025. I will get to do a few DC events, so would love to see some of you then!"

1996

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1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

1999

LEMA KIKUCHI
lema.kikuchi@gmail.com

WEI KE: "I moved with my family back to Washington, DC, this past August. We will be based in Burleith, just north of Georgetown. Theo, our 5-year-old, and Ethan, our 2-year-old, have also started their new schools this past week—so far not too many tears! I look forward to reconnecting with the Sidwell Friends community!"

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

CORNELIA GRIGGS is thrilled to report that her first book, *The Sky Was Falling*, became a national bestseller in March 2024. The book is a personal account of her experience working in the busiest New York City hospital during the first wave of the COVID pandemic, weaving tales of her patient's struggles and her own trials as a surgeon and a mother during the defining medical crisis of a generation. (See photo above.)

BRENNA MAHONEY and her husband, Bob Rudd, are thrilled to welcome their third child, Levon Miles Rudd. Big sisters Georgina (8) and June (4) are smitten and are already big helpers. (See photo below.)

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

LEFT: Brenna Mahoney '01, with 2-month-old Levon; daughters June and Georgina; and husband, Bob, on top of Paulina Peak near Bend, Oregon **RIGHT: Margaret Wood Kaczmarek '08** has a new baby: Nataly, shown here at 6.5 months old.

2003

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DIANA HEALD: "In October, I'm graduating from the Creative Writing MFA program at Columbia, where I'm also teaching undergraduate nonfiction writing."

2006

JOHN SANDERS
jsanders36@gmail.com

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

DAVID MULLINS is currently living in Cleveland Park and has recently begun pursuing a master's degree in social work at Catholic University. Alongside his studies, he continues to perform magic part-time throughout the DC area, sharing his passion for entertainment with local audiences and corporate clients.

PABLO ROJAS: "My partner Carolina and I welcomed our son Nicolas in September 2024. Mom and baby are happy and healthy. We live in Miami and would love to see friends from Sidwell. If anyone is ever in the area, let me know!"

LEFT: Maura Warner '08 RIGHT: Paige Deckelbaum Girson '11 and **Katie Burke Washabaugh '11** introduce their newborn daughters.

2008

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MARGARET WOOD KACZMAREK: "2024 has been an eventful year. I welcomed my second child into the world in February, got married in June, and thus also became a stepparent." (See photo on previous page.)

MARY LANE: "I am sad to share that my good friend and classmate **Maura Warner** (she/they) died unexpectedly over the summer after many years of treatment-resistant depression. Please hold all the Warners in the Light and think of Maura the next time you read a good fantasy novel, come across some particularly biting satire, or sit at a pottery wheel." (See photo above.)

2009

AJ PARKS
jhpiv13@gmail.com

2010

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KAI ZHENG
kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

2011

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PAIGE DECKELBAUM GIRSON and **KATIE BURKE WASHABAUGH** met up at Katie's new home in Michigan to introduce their daughters—born two days apart! (See photo above.)

2012

SALENA HESS
salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE
jjv2116@columbia.edu

SCARLETT KAO: "I still broadly work in the international affairs space, as I have done for the last three years; though I recently switched jobs within my nonprofit to focus on climate issues. On the non-work front, I attended the Eurovision Song Contest in-person for the second year in a row. I've been catching up with Sidwell Friends folks here and there in the DC area, but I'm still trying to do better. So, if anyone is around, do let me know, it'd be great to meet up."

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA
xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

2014

AVIKAR GOVIL
avikar.govil@gmail.com

2015

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EMILY MILLER
emillerusa@gmail.com

PASCALE BRONDER ASLANER married Samuel Aslaner on June 15 in the picturesque countryside of Normandy, France. Surrounded by cherished friends and family who traveled from around the globe, the couple celebrated their love in a beautiful ceremony filled with joy and heartfelt moments, officiated by Pascale's brother Alec Bronder and with **Kate Maguire** as maid of honor. Pascale and Sam met on their first day at Yale University and have been together ever since their first date to the ROTC Navy Ball in fall 2015. They quickly connected over their love of travel and learning languages, and those passions continued and blossomed into a deep bond that culminated in their enchanting wedding day. Pascale rowed crew at Sidwell Friends, and she taught Sam to erg before he walked on to the varsity lightweight crew team at Yale. Since graduating university in 2019, they have lived in New York City, Charleston, Seattle, and now Bahrain.

Pascale Bronder Aslaner '15 with her new husband Samuel Aslaner

Sam is a U.S. Navy Officer, and Pascale finances renewable energy projects in North America. Sam and Pascale's wedding was a celebratory blending of cultures, including a French croquembouche as the wedding cake, the Turkish *harmandali* dance, and many of Pascale's German and Swiss relatives in attendance. After their wedding, the newlyweds enjoyed a romantic honeymoon in Malta, where they explored the stunning landscapes and rich history of the island. They are now happily settling into married life, eager to embark on this new adventure together." (See photos on previous page.)

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Weston Slaughter '44
October 22, 2024

Tobey Riley '50
October 4, 2023

Frederic Fleisher '51
April 13, 2023

Askold Boretsky '68
July 14, 2024

Donald Miller '76
October 22, 2024

Maura Warner '08
July 2024

Former Faculty and Staff:

Lee Allen MacVaugh P '89
January 17, 2024

Vera Dickey
October 22, 2024

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

—GEORGE FOX

Erin Paige '16 married Jackson Zagurski in Alexandria this fall.

2016

TALHA JILANI
jilani-talha@live.com

ERIN PAIGE married Jackson Zagurski after eight years together. The Zagurskis were married in an intimate, interfaith ceremony in the bride's hometown of Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. In attendance were maid of honor **Caleigh Crawford '16** and **Mo Feldman '16**. Erin continues to work as a software developer for Booz Allen Hamilton, while Jackson flies the F-35C for the Marine Corps. Currently, the couple is living in Hanford, California, with their cat, Archie.

2017

MILAN VIVANCO
vivancomilan@gmail.com

2018

BROOKE HARRINGTON
brooke.leahy.harrington@gmail.com

2019

SOPHIE PEIKIN
Speikin2019@gmail.com

2020

Join us at REUNION

TUNDAA DORJNAMJIM
tdorjnamjim20@gmail.com

SOPHIE SMALL
sophieannsmall0@gmail.com

2021

SAM BJARNSON
sambjarnason21@gmail.com

2022

RASHI MAYA GUPTA
rashigupta704@yahoo.com

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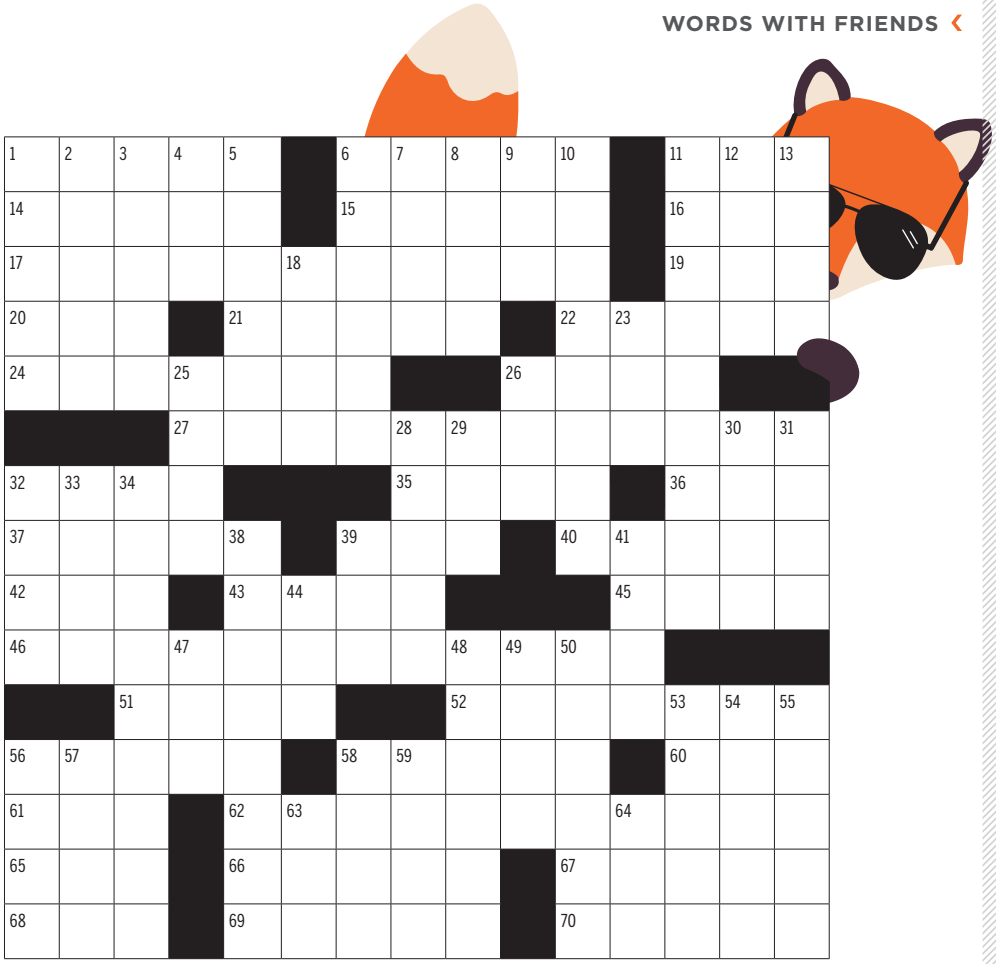
Words with Friends: Hidden Foxes



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

ACROSS

1 Vodka brand, casually
6 Thrown
11 What kindling becomes
14 Go into fight-or-flight
15 Belly button type that only 10% of people have
16 For example
17 Narwhal whereabouts
19 Shoulder enlarger
20 Not me
21 Doves' homes
22 One might be filtered online
24 Ninja's asset
26 Litigant
27 Bad place to be stranded
32 Baja resort, familiarly
35 Famous race loser
36 "How about that!"
37 Up to one's ears
39 Certain furry critter, and a word that can come after the first words in 17-, 27-, 46-, and 62-Across
40 Sweater's spot?
42 Arcing return
43 "Just teasing!"
45 App customer
46 Magical transport for Aladdin
51 Yields to gravity
52 Some night lights
56 "Please, I got this one"
58 Jordan's ancient Rose City
60 Singer/songwriter DiFranco
61 Body spray brand
62 Symbol of inherited wealth
65 21 Savage music genre
66 Like a bar of Dove soap
67 Piano practice piece
68 Private chats on social media, for short
69 More current
70 Movie parts

DOWN

1 Fixes, as a pet
2 Deck filled with wands and cups
3 Perfectly timed
4 Burning
5 Cold spike?
6 Put aloe on, as a burn
7 Journalist Clare Boothe ___
8 Beehive State people
9 Long of "Soul Food"
10 Masterminds
11 Vegetable that can be green, white, or purple
12 ____ paneer (Indian spinach dish)
13 Jekyll's alter ego
18 Beds often found at daycare
23 Nickname shared by two Spice Girls and a Giant
25 Foofaraws
26 Round table title
28 Valerie's role on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
29 Word after pink or stamp
30 Hawaiian goose
31 Beloved
32 Baby whale
33 Nowhere to be found, briefly
34 "You're making slow and steady progress!"
38 Is determined by
39 Writer's online story, slangily
41 Not manual
44 Metric wts.
47 Response to "Are you?"
48 Containing two or more fwords, perhaps
49 Smooth engine sound
50 "Mr Clean Magic ___"
53 First name of Swedish architect Wallenberg
54 Battery terminal
55 Certain triangle ratios
56 Flaky pie crust ingredient
57 Event often printed in bold on a calendar
58 Snow clearer
59 Pop singer Sands whose name sounds like two letters
63 "___ been expecting you"
64 The average American takes 17 of these days a year

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

Dance for ALL

When Kahina Haynes ’07 asked the Middle Schoolers in Danielle Madrid’s movement class what came to mind when they heard the word “ballet,” words like “torture,” “boring,” and “painful” snaked through the dance studio. But Haynes, the executive director of the Dance Institute of Washington (DIW), was undeterred; her goal is to upend that stereotype. Redefining “ballet” as part of a much larger movement tradition is just part of DIW’s mission. The institute also promotes a theory of change that reimagines ballet as something everyone can participate in—which means eliminating socioeconomic barriers to dance classes, destigmatizing ballet as elite, and creating space for a variety of lived experiences. It is also an organization Haynes was meant to lead. Before attending Princeton and Oxford University, Haynes trained as a ballerina with the prestigious Maryland Youth Ballet while she was a student at Sidwell Friends. Now she marries ballet with social intervention at DIW. In the studio at Sidwell, Haynes worked with the Upper School Dance Ensemble (see above) and gave the Middle Schoolers a new way to think about an old art. “Dance has been present at every rebellion, resilience movement, and revolution,” she said. “It is a way of processing the world around you.”

David Dowlinger

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

MAY 16, 2025

sidwell.edu/grandparentsday

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Anthony La Fleur

Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives

The Pies Have It

For more than 30 years, Upper School students have held an annual Homecoming week pie-eating contest. This year, cherry pie and red faces were on the menu.

As the calendar year draws to a close, we send warm holiday wishes to the entire community as we celebrate the traditions that ground us and the new ones we create together. Here's to memories old and new—may your season be as sweet as pie.