

SIDWELL

Friends

MAGAZINE SPRING 2025

STEPPING UP

College athletes on
the transition from
Sidwell Friends to
Division 1 sports.

PLUS

HITTING THE ROAD

How teachers bring the lessons of their professional development journeys back to the classroom.

ANA GASTEYER '85 ON SNL

THE LESSONS OF
COACH DAVID DANZIG '87





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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.



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ON THE COVER

Alice Xu '23 plays in a match for the University of Illinois. Photo courtesy of University of Illinois Athletics.

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From the Editor

SACHA ZIMMERMAN P '29

Spring arrives at Sidwell Friends when the Yacht Rock starts. At my perch in the attic of Zartman House, Bon Jovi, Journey, and Toto songs drift up through my window, where I have a bird's-eye view of the baseball diamond. And even though they are the Boys of Summer, for me, Sidwell's ballplayers—and their attachment to the odd but deeply familiar mix on Spotify's Yacht Rock station—augur the start of spring. The playing field that sat in hibernation all winter is suddenly wildly alive, teeming with athletes and power ballads.

Perhaps buoyed by such uplifting anthems, it's the athletes' spirits that stand out at Sidwell Friends. Across all the sports on offer here, everyone is passionate. Whether it's Middle School wrestling or Upper School varsity field hockey, the sidelines are filled with coaches and teammates cheering, shouting advice, and supporting one another. The kids play every game—and even every practice—like it is their personal Olympics, and they still manage to have a lot of fun doing it. That certainly seems to be the case for sibling divers Desi Amprey '25 and Beau Amprey '28, who are singlehandedly putting Sidwell Friends on the map in their sport (see “Diving In,” page 8).

No wonder so many Sidwell Friends graduates continue to pursue athletics in college. In this issue, alum Zeeshan Aleem '04 takes us into the world of Division 1 college sports, where practice times and expectations surge, where travel becomes a habit, where the competition intensifies, where academics are still a priority, and where over 20 Sidwell Friends alumni currently find themselves. These student athletes demonstrate a remarkable level of discipline and focus—characteristics many trace back to the coaches at Sidwell Friends. Ultimately, Aleem discovers that the lessons these alumni have absorbed from sports apply to every aspect of their lives (see “Stepping Up,” page 40). The kind of student athlete who can play college sports is also the kind of human being who can find success at anything they set their minds to.

David Danzig '87 personifies this. As a Sidwell Friends Upper Schooler, he played point guard on the boys' basketball team and loved every minute of it. After playing two years of basketball in college, he went on to become a human rights advocate—but his love of the sport never left him. In “Living Their Values,” writer Jonathan E. Kaplan explains how a chance meeting with another Sidwell alum led Danzig back to the game (see “The Advocate and the Coach,” page 56). Now he's the head coach of the Pratt Institute basketball team, where he gets to make a difference in students' lives every chance he gets.

From human rights to coaching, the theme is impact. How can you make a dent in the universe? For Sidwell Friends teachers, like Becky Farnum, it happens in the classroom (see “Five Questions For...,” page 20). That's why the School fosters space for faculty to continue to learn and innovate and, yes, impact students. Victoria Tilney McDonough takes us around the world to see the hands-on professional development happening at Sidwell Friends and how teachers translate their experiences into the classroom (see “Travel Lessons,” page 30).

It's all uplifting. It might just put you in the mood for some Yacht Rock. And I have just the person to take us out on a high note: Imagine Ana Gasteyer '85 belting out “Don't Stop Believin'” or “This Is My Fight Song” at the apex of her soprano powers (see Ellen Ryan's “Live From New York,” page 50). Now go out and win the game—or just win the day. ✨



David Danzig

Upper Schoolers perform
The Drowsy Chaperone
in the spring musical.

ON CAMPUS





Aaron Douglas's *Aspects of Negro Life: From Slavery Through Reconstruction*

Good Mornin' Blues

The 4th grade learns American history by learning about a quintessentially American artform.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

This spring I visited our 4th graders, who, thanks to our insightful and imaginative faculty, learned about the blues, perhaps the most important musical form in the United States. Lyle Link, a gifted jazz musician and teacher, introduced the idea for this curricular unit to his colleagues, Edith Zhang '81, Monica Hasan, Neil Fagan, Gemayel Hazard, and Ian Sylvester. All collaborated to create a meaningful learning experience for our students. Music teacher Matthew Stensrud (Mr. S.) was also an eager participant and Jewell Debnam, the Mamadou Guèye Chair in African and African American Studies, consulted on the project.

Teaching students to think critically and across disciplines, Lyle opened his presentation with a showing of an Aaron Douglas (1899–1979) painting, *Aspects of Negro Life: From Slavery Through*

Reconstruction (1934) depicts touchstones of African American history and culture, using color and concentric circles to highlight the prominent roles that law, the written word, and music have played in Black American experiences. The painting provided an effective segue into the presentation's opening question: "What does it mean to feel blue?" "It means you are sad," one student replied eagerly. "You feel down. Maybe a little depressed," observed another.

After introducing this emotional foundation, Lyle offered students a firsthand example of the genre, belting out "Good Mornin' Blues," a Lead Belly classic recorded for Folkways Records in the 1940s. "Good mornin' blues, blues how do you do?" he sang, backed by Mr. S. on the piano. "Good mornin' blues, blues how do you do? I'm doing all right now, good morning," how are

you?" The students responded to his performance with excitement and appreciation, especially because their teacher revealed that he rarely sang and, in doing so, had taken a risk to create an exceptional learning experience for them. In this small act of courage and generosity, Lyle demonstrated the habits we seek to cultivate in our students.

The choice to sing a Lead Belly song was inspired. Born in Louisiana, Huddie "Lead Belly" Leadbetter (1888–1949) became central to Great Depression—era efforts to document folk music in the United States. Recorded extensively by Folkways' Moses Asch and folklorist Alan Lomax, Lead Belly performed classics from the oral tradition (e.g., "John Henry") and authored his own compositions. "Now I tell ya about the blues," he once explained to his audience. "Now everybody have the blues. Sometimes, they

don't know what it is. But when you lay down at night, turn from one side of the bed all night to the other and you can't sleep, what's the matter? Blues has got you."

Having introduced the students to the basics of blues performance, the teachers challenged them to write their own songs in the classic AAB format. One student lamented the sexism she experienced as a chess player:

*Somebody said girls can't play
chess and that made me sad*

*Somebody said girls can't play
chess and that made me sad*

*The worst part was I was better at
chess than them and they were mad*

In "New Day Blues," another student captured an experience we all know well:

*This morning I was stuck in bed
when I heard my mother say*

*This morning I was stuck in bed
when I heard my mother say*

*"Get up child, it's time to
start another day"*

As Lyle explained, the blues have universal appeal because we all feel sad and lonely; we all long to ignore the call to rise and shine. But as the 4th grade learned through a carefully crafted lesson about the hard truths of our history, the blues are deeply rooted in African American experiences. Wrenched from their homelands, separated from their families, subjected to the brutal Middle Passage, and forced to labor in the cruelest of conditions, these Black men, women, and children carried African traditions with them, traditions upon which they built a beautiful, resilient, and resistant culture that thrived in spite of slavery.

After covering "Good Mornin' Blues," Lyle introduced Big Mama Thornton (1926-1984), whose "Hound Dog" Elvis Presley recorded to great acclaim. Without diminishing Presley's talent, students considered

why his version achieved greater fame and commercial success. The conversation opened questions about cultural ownership, economic justice, racism, and gender inequalities, topics the students eagerly addressed.

Sometimes overlooked in a genre dominated by men, blueswomen are essential to this musical tradition and are a focal point in the emerging curriculum. Gertrude "Ma" Rainey (1886-1939), another musician the teachers plan to discuss, was one of the most popular artists of the 1920s, when labels such as Paramount launched the commercial recording industry with country and blues artists. Rainey typically recorded with backing musicians, performing what came to be known as the classic blues with such soloists as Louis Armstrong and Tommy Dorsey.

In providing examples of the genre, Lyle explained that the blues often depict characters on the move, in part because, beginning in the 1910s, thousands of African Americans migrated north to seek economic opportunity and relief from deeply racist social structures. One of Rainey's best-known songs, "Runaway Blues" (1928), further illuminates these familiar themes.

*I'll run away tomorrow, they
don't mean me no good*

*I'll run away tomorrow, they
don't mean me no good*

*I'm gonna run away, have to
leave this neighborhood*

*Ahhh sun gonna shine though,
some day in my backyard*

*Ahhh sun gonna shine though,
some day in my backyard*

I got my man but I had wait so hard

Why teach the blues? Because they matter to our history and how we understand it. The blues are the progeny of African tradition and the dire circumstances the enslaved and oppressed encountered; the blues is a quintessentially American form in which singers move perilously and

painfully through the landscape of human suffering, at once enduring and resisting racist laws and white supremacist lies, affirming a lived experience and the irrepressible efforts of artist and audience to transcend on aesthetic and spiritual levels. Provocative lyrics, soulful vocals, and virtuosic instrumentation illuminate without fail the performer's inner light in the face of concerted efforts to extinguish it.

The blues carry us into turbulent waters that rage between the narrowing shores of freedom and equality, between ideals that, for those who channeled African griots and crossed the River Jordan in their spirituals, for those whose music flowed from sharecropper shacks and juke joints, were tragic in their absence but might, with enough hope and faith, be transformative in their realization.

The blues endure because they embody the particularity of African American experiences that must be remembered before they can be remedied, and because they reckon with the universality of the human condition and the need for liberation, compelling us to name our troubles, wrestle with our demons, and keep on keeping on.

The blues remind us of a cultural and intellectual history that, even as we celebrated Black History Month, could be washed away by rising political tides. Bold and brave, our 4th grade teachers offer a curriculum that honors truth, explores tragedy and triumph, and, after the words of James Weldon Johnson, lifts every voice to sing so that the earth might one day ring with liberty for all.

Many friends have shared that they have lately awakened to find the blues all around their beds. As long as we have teachers who continue to ask our students to learn with love and sing with joy, who ask them to grapple with hard questions and imagine possibilities, we can drive these blues from our heads. ✨

What Does It Mean to Be LGBTQIA+ at Work?

At a Conversation with Friends event, Cat Dawson '04, Hannah Bristol '10, Stephanie Everett '15, and Liz Keeney '72 talk code-switching, authenticity, passing, and progress.



Dawson, Bristol, Everett, Keeney

Whether in the White House, on various theater stages, or at a small liberal-arts college in a red state, navigating LGBTQIA+ issues in the workplace can be both exhausting and invigorating. **Cat Dawson '04, Hannah Bristol '10, Stephanie Everett '15, and Liz Keeney '72** know firsthand when it is safe—or not—to show up as their authentic selves. They also know that bringing one's authentic self to work is a generous form of leadership. At a recent Conversation with Friends event moderated by Dawson, a member of the Board of Trustees and an art historian, the panel discussed intersectional identity, coming out at work, and the value of leading from a place of truth.

For the last 30 years, Keeney has worked in student affairs at Kenyon College. After stretches at Harvard and a few other institutions during the late 1980s and early 1990s—spaces where she did not feel secure coming out—Keeney arrived at Kenyon and knew she had stepped onto a totally different landscape. Ironically, at Kenyon, situated in a small liberal college town in the middle of a very red county with a conservative Christian college down the road, Keeney felt at home. “Lots of my colleagues were out and everything felt different, safe,” she said. “It was a big relief to finally be my true self, out loud and in the open. And the more comfortable I became with myself, the more I could help others who were struggling.”

Still, that comfort often ended at the edge of campus. “Even now, I still sometimes do a ‘What am I wearing?’ check before I go to Kroger,” she said. “But at this stage of life, I definitely give less of a damn about what people think. I feel more and more obliged to be out there for people who are younger or whose situations may be dangerous.” Keeney laughed sardonically before saying that she used to joke she

would be dismissed from jury duty within minutes by uttering five words to describe herself: disabled, Quaker, lesbian, feminist, Ph.D. “It was true 30 years ago,” she said, “and, ridiculously, it’s still true today.”

Bristol, who is just a decade out of college, rarely thinks to be anything other than intentionally and openly herself. A former senior advisor in the White House Office of Public Engagement, Bristol said that being her most authentic self is essential to her work in youth political engagement. “So much of the political environment comes down on kids in ways they don’t often understand or acknowledge,” Bristol said. “Currently, I’m seeing a lot of intentional fracturing of identity—and we must fight against that; advocate for all the letters in LGBTQIA+, in all spaces. We need to speak up for marginalized kids—and adults—who can’t yet speak up for themselves.”

For Everett, being a lesbian can be challenging as an actor, especially in musical theater. She said her identity sometimes conflicts with the role she’s going out for, which causes her to “code switch” to fit in. “I feel safe, but sometimes, for the sake of the job, I have to hide more than I would want to,” she said. “I keep a basket of my old femme clothes under the bed for auditions. Seventy-five percent of being an actor is auditioning. The job is predicated on putting away a lot of myself just to get into the room, but I know that once I get the job, I can be myself.” Everett said she often volunteers to be the “equity deputy,” the person who works with the actors’ union to ensure that certain standards and protections are upheld. She explained that it’s not a job most people want as it comes with lots of paperwork and bureaucracy. “But I gravitate to it,” she said. “I want to make sure my queer siblings are comfortable and have a person they can talk to.”

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.



Throughout the conversation, it was clear these alumni were learning from each other. Bristol said that though she hasn't been in the workforce for that long, one of the best parts of being at the White House during the Biden administration was working with older LGBTQIA+ people. "I remember, when the Respect for Marriage Act was signed into law," she said. "I learned about the people who had risked and sacrificed so much to get where we are, for me and others of my generation to be able to have the life we have." Keeney was one of those gay marriage pioneers and carries the sense memory of fighting for equal rights for LGBTQIA+ couples in the workplace before legal protections became the norm. "There were some very conservative, set-in-their-ways people who made the rules around salaries, tenure, and benefits," she said. "I believe my Quaker inner being—a gift from my years at Sidwell Friends—definitely carried the day in getting those benefits formally changed."

Similarly, Everett expressed hope that such changes will become embedded in the culture as more and more young LGBTQIA+ people see themselves in popular books, television, movies, art, music, and theater. "Look at the huge ripple effect Cynthia Erivo has made as Elphaba in *Wicked*," she said. "Here is a Black, queer woman playing a role that has always been played by a White woman—a Black, queer woman changing the world in a traditional field. I aspire to have that kind of ripple effect."

Bristol agreed. "My hope is that it will get easier and there will be more role models everywhere for young people," she said. "However, with the current political climate, I'm worried that young LGBTQIA+ people may have their freedoms taken away. We need to preserve the gains that have been so hard won."



Bill Nye shakes President Joe Biden's hand before being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on January 4, 2025.

Bill Nye, Medal of Freedom Guy

The Sidwell Friends alum is awarded the nation's highest civilian honor.

In early January, President **Joe Biden GP '12, '17, '19** rang in the New Year by awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 19 Americans, including Sidwell Friends' own **Bill Nye '73**. In a ceremony announcing Nye as "America's science teacher," Biden bestowed the nation's highest civilian honor on the science educator and climate activist alongside 18 other luminaries, including Jane Goodall, Magic Johnson, Bono, Hillary Clinton, Ralph Lauren, and Michael J. Fox. Nye's wildly popular PBS children's show, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, was a 19-time Emmy winner and one of the most watched educational TV shows in the United States in the 1990s. Nye has also written two best-selling books, *Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation* (2014) and *Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World* (2015); was featured in the documentary *Bill Nye: Science Guy* in 2017; and starred in two recent TV series for adults, *Bill Nye Saves the World* and *The End Is Nye*. Early in his career, Nye was a mechanical engineer by day for Boeing, where he invented a hydraulic resonance suppressor tube used on 747 airplanes, and a stand-up comedian by night. Merging his passion for science and performance ultimately made him one of the most consequential voices for environmental stewardship around the world. Currently, he is the CEO of the Planetary Society, a nonprofit dedicated to research and public outreach for astronomy, space exploration, and planetary science.

Lunch Language

New Upper School initiative: Language Tables! Students grab lunch, join a language section, and practice speaking with fellow learners and native speakers.



Grab lunch, pick a flag, and practice your skills.

Diving In

For the first time in Sidwell Friends history, a brother-sister duo placed first at the same championship meet.

Sidwell Friends has had some winning divers over the years, but never siblings and never at the same meet. In February, siblings **Desi Amprey '25** and **Beau Amprey '28** both took first place—in the girls' and boys' categories, respectively—at the DC State Athletic Association Diving Championship. What's more, **Isabel Merideth '27**—a swimmer and now a diver, too—placed second in the girls' diving championship. Desi's win this year rounded out her high school diving career with three first-place diving championships, missing out on a potential fourth due to a broken elbow her sophomore year. The Amprey siblings now join past Sidwell Friends state diving champions **Olivia Grinker '12**, **Bennett Magliato '15**, and **Amanda Blong Schiff '02**.

Desi and Beau started diving the same year—when Desi was 13 and Beau was 9. After six years of gymnastics, which can be tough on the body, Desi wanted to try a new sport. What she remembers most about the transition to diving is that it felt smoother and more weightless than gymnastics, which she describes as faster and more forceful. Meanwhile, Beau, with only

one year of gymnastics under his belt, decided to give diving a try, too. “It was really fun for Beau and me to start learning together,” says Desi. “Diving really clicked for him, and he got better more quickly.” Beau has loved following in his sister's footsteps. “We used to fight a lot,” he says, “but once we started diving and spending so much time together—even coaching each other—we got really close.”

For her first three years at the Upper School, Desi was the only diver on the Sidwell Friends team. This year, she was joined not only by her brother and Merideth but also by a new coach just for diving. **Amanda Leizman**, a former diver at the University of Virginia, was hired as the diving coach under **Meghan Farrell**, the swimming and diving head coach. “I think it must have been tough for Desi to be the only diver on the Sidwell team for three years,” says Farrell. “There was no coach for her, but she wanted to compete for Sidwell and to make a positive impact, which she certainly has.”

The Amprey siblings developed their diving skills at the Dominion Dive Club in Oakton, Virginia, where the pair practices in the water and with “dry-land practices,” which involve trampolines, harnesses, boards, mats, and strengthening and conditioning. Desi's favorite dive is an inward two and a half, which she starts from a backward standing takeoff position before rotating forward and completing two and a half somersaults. Beau enjoys the front two and a half pike, which starts with a jump on the board—facing forward—before executing a front flip and two somersaults.

Although Desi does not plan to dive in college—she may join a club team—she relishes the feeling of



Beau Amprey '28, Desi Amprey '25

being in the air. “Once you take flight, there is this feeling of free fall, of peace,” she says, “and then once the dive is done, you feel the validation and adrenaline of having learned and accomplished something.” Beau does hope to dive in college. He'd like to master the reverse three and a half on the three-meter board—an Olympic-level dive. In the meantime, amid a lot of hard work and discipline, he enjoys the moment when his feet leave the board, when he twists and flips and flies then breaks the water with seeming effortlessness. “Sometimes, even before you have surfaced after a dive, you know you've ripped it,” he says. “There's no better feeling than that.”

With the addition of Leizman as the diving coach, there is energy around expanding the team even though Desi will be graduating in June. “I hope Sidwell will recruit more divers to join the team, like Isabel [Merideth] has,” she says. She adds that she hopes younger girls, especially young Black girls who don't often see Black divers, and other aspiring divers will see how fulfilling it is to join teammates who celebrate each other. “I'm excited to see the team grow and especially how Beau develops as a diver,” says Desi. “We got super close the last few years since we had lots of time in the car to and from practices to talk and bond. We sort of have our own diving language now.”



Desi and Beau Amprey pose poolside before the start of their diving careers.

Jordyn Jackson '26 wins Gatorade DC Player of the Year

The Upper Schooler is the third Quaker in the last four years to take the award.

The Gatorade awards, recognized as the top individual honors in high school sports, are presented annually to top athletes in a dozen sports in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This year, **Jordyn Jackson '26** was named the 2024/25 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year, which celebrates athletic accomplishment, academic achievement, and contribution to the community. Jackson averaged 19.3 points, 6.8 rebounds, and 1.7 assists per game during her junior season while helping the Quakers earn a 27-3 record. Jackson is the fifth Sidwell Friends basketball player to win the Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year honor, joining **Jaydn Donovan '23**, **Kiki Rice '22**, **Taylor Hilton '09**, and **Paula McNamee '93**. Last year, **Acaden Lewis '25** won the boys basketball award. Across all sports, 28 Sidwell Friends athletes have won the award since 1987.



Jackson

Meet the New Middle School Principal

Allen W. Vandegrift will take the reins this fall.

With **Rachel Kane's** departure to become the head of school at Friends Community School in College Park, Maryland, the search has been on to find a new Middle School principal at Sidwell Friends. In February, **Allen W. Vandegrift** accepted the role. A graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, where he majored in education and played club lacrosse, Vandegrift earned his master's degree in independent school leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. His research, which provided resources for independent school leaders to create positive racial climates, was published by the Journal of Ethical Educational Leadership. An experienced educator who is deeply respected by peers and students alike, Vandegrift will join Sidwell Friends from the Montgomery School in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, where he currently serves as head of their middle school. Prior



Vandegrift

to joining Montgomery, Vandegrift worked as assistant director of the middle school at William Penn Charter, the oldest Quaker school in North America. In addition to sitting on the Quaker self-study, heads advisory, and admissions committees, Vandegrift taught visual arts and coached both basketball and lacrosse. "Quaker education has profoundly shaped my life personally and my philosophy as a leader," Vandegrift wrote in his application to Sidwell Friends, noting that he was drawn to Sidwell's "commitment to high academic standards" and to efforts to "create an inclusive and diverse environment." Soon, there will be opportunities for Vandegrift to visit campus so that he can begin to meet students, faculty, and parents. Stay tuned for details.

Author Visit

New York Times best-selling author **James Ponti**—*The Sherlock Society*, *Framed!*, *Vanished!*, and the long-running *City Spies* series—visited the Middle School to speak about his new book: *City Spies, London Calling*.



James Ponti with Middle School students



Katherine Tai '92

Fair Trade

In her 2025 Zeidman Memorial Lecture, Katherine Tai '92 explored the challenges of the US-China economic relationship.

Few Americans have witnessed the dynamics of US-China trade over the past three decades quite like **Katherine Tai '92**, who until January was the U.S. Trade Representative in the Biden Administration. In March, Tai delivered the John Fisher Zeidman '79 Memorial Lecture, becoming the first Sidwell Friends alum and graduate of the School's Chinese Studies Program to join the long list of Zeidman lecturers—a list that stands as a who's who of scholars, diplomats, journalists, and other China watchers.

It was a full-circle moment for the Zeidman family, who in the early 1980s founded the program as well as the memorial lecture, which each year brings experts in Chinese policy and culture to Sidwell Friends. Sidwell was among the first schools in the United States to have a Chinese studies program, Tai noted.

Tai's first visit to China came after her junior year of Upper School in 1991—with a Sidwell Friends summer program. Since then, Tai has maintained a focus on China and its role in the world. Sidwell gave me the gift of "humanizing China," Tai said, "and making real and familiar the relationships between the people of the United States and China, and the countries and the government." After college at Yale, Tai lived in China to teach for two years.

But it was when she graduated from law school at Harvard that the world shifted and opened up a new realm of possibilities for Tai's career. In 2001, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). "There was an enormous sense of possibility and

positivity" vis-à-vis China at that time, Tai said. There was a widespread belief that becoming part of the global trade organization would "lead to economic and political reforms in China."

It did not work out that way. Over the next 10 years, Tai worked in both the private sector and government, ultimately becoming an experienced WTO litigator. She developed and tried cases for the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and eventually became chief counsel for China trade enforcement in 2011. But during that time, the promise of China's entry into the WTO—that free trade would influence human rights, make China more democratic, and lead to deep economic reforms—had collapsed. What's more, she noted, a trio of economists—David Autor, David Dorn, and Gordon Hansons—famously documented that in the first 10 years after China joined the World Trade Organization, there was a loss of 1 million manufacturing jobs in the United States. The economic and political consequences of that "China shock" continue to shape American politics, economics, and society.

As China quickly became the global leader in manufacturing, U.S. manufacturing employment plummeted. At the same time, Tai said, as many had warned, with the loss of domestic manufacturing came the loss of persuasive leverage to advocate for consumer safety, environmental codes, and fair wages. Not only had Chinese domestic policy remained relatively unaffected by the WTO, the United States had lost some of its most effective tools to promote respect for human rights.

But Tai still believed in the promise of trade as an instrument for good—so she got to work. Tai became chief trade counsel and Trade Subcommittee staff director for the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. During that time, she played a pivotal role in the negotiations between congressional Democrats and the first Trump administration, which led to the historic ratification of the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2020. The USMCA, which replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (or NAFTA, signed in the pre-internet age of the early 1990s), specifically aims to benefit North American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses by improving labor standards, environmental protections, and affordable access to medicines.

"Trade has to work within a larger suite of economic and social policies," Tai said. That's why, when she became the 19th U.S. trade representative and a member of President Joe Biden's Cabinet, Tai challenged her agency "to put the U.S. back into USTR." She and her team visited all 50 states during her four years in office as the nation's principal

trade advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson, including hosting United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain in Detroit at a meeting of Asia-Pacific trade ministers to demonstrate the importance of trade policy leaders listening to and hearing the experiences and needs of workers. Tai noted that there is truth in the statement that “Trade wars are class wars,” also the title of a popular book published in 2020. She added that in the past, trade policy in the United States and globally had been formulated without seriously considering the needs and interests of workers.

Acknowledging the trade debates occurring in Washington and around the world, Tai told the audience that she is not fundamentally opposed to tariffs. “It might seem bewildering to some Americans, but for those Americans whose access to the middle class has been diminishing, tariffs are shields of protection,” she said. However, she added, tariffs should be applied where the benefits, including for workers and jobs and industries, are actually achieved and not just empty promises.

As for China, Tai said that its dominance as a manufacturing and export powerhouse remains a challenge not just to the United States but to much of the world. And while she believes that the United States still has economic advantages, she said she expects that trade tensions will continue, and perhaps even escalate. China and the United States “will need to clash,” she said, “before the contours of a new world order begin to take shape.”

The John Fisher Zeidman '79 Chinese Studies Fund advances the study of Chinese language, history, and culture at Sidwell Friends. Since its inception, the program has grown significantly and includes the annual John Fisher Zeidman '79 Memorial Lecture.



Quaker Spirit

The Upper School Chorus practices ahead of the Maryland vs. UCLA women's basketball game. For local fans, it was the first chance to see UCLA's **Kiki Rice '22**, **Kendall Dudley '24**, and **Zania Socka-Nguemen '24** play on the East Coast.



Photos by Cameron Whitman

Globe Trotters

The annual Lower School Heritage Festival gives students and families a chance to showcase their cultural backgrounds—whether they are from around the world or around the corner.

In Memoriam:
Bruce Stewart



Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives

Head of School Bryan Garman shares a tribute to Bruce B. Stewart, Sidwell Friends School's eighth head of school, who died on January 26, 2025. He was 85 years old.

Bruce Stewart, who served Sidwell Friends as head of school from 1998 to 2009, passed away in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he retired to be close to his daughter, Kathleen Stewart Hunt, son-in-law, Peter, and three beloved grandsons. He is also survived by stepdaughters Marney and Lindsay.

Known for his engaging and gregarious nature, Bruce was one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I have known. Determined to let his life speak to Quaker values, he strengthened the School's commitment to diversity, introducing structures and programs that earned the National Association of Independent Schools' (NAIS) Leading Edge Award in Equity and Justice. In addition, he demonstrated remarkable leadership in environmental stewardship, orchestrating a capital campaign that enabled the School to build the first LEED Platinum middle school in the United States. The School honored Bruce's tireless work by naming the building for him and his late wife, Andra Jurist, who was also a brave and beloved presence in the Sidwell Friends community.

Bruce's visionary leadership can be felt throughout our campus. Under his guidance, the strategic plan and capital campaign that supported it enabled the construction of the David P. Pearson '52 Athletic Center, the Robert L. Smith Meeting Room, and the Lower School gym, as well as the renovation of Zartman House, the Kogod Arts Center, and the Lower School Groome Building. Bruce demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing the School's endowment, securing gifts that supported financial aid, faculty salaries, and the popular Venture Grant, Faculty/Staff Education Grant, and Faculty Enrichment Travel Grant professional development programs.

Bruce possessed remarkable courage, moral clarity, and compassion; he moved and motivated us with both his words and deeds. A gifted teacher, he mentored countless students, faculty, Quaker educators, and heads of school throughout the country. He served on the board of directors of the Friends Council on Education, the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, NAIS, and School Year Abroad, where he advocated eloquently for global education.

He continued a service-oriented career in retirement by lending his considerable talent to various nonprofit boards, including that of Chattanooga's Ed Johnson Memorial, which advocates for racial justice. This cause became central to Bruce's life when, after the 1960s lunch counter sit-ins at F.W. Woolworth and Company, he played a prominent role in integrating public schools in Greensboro, North Carolina.

A graduate of Guilford College and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he earned a master's degree, Bruce succeeded long-time Sidwell Friends Head of School Earl Harrison. He arrived in Washington after a highly successful tenure as head at Abington Friends School. He was an extraordinary human being, a truly gracious man with a capacious heart, engaging intellect, generous spirit, and genuine sense of humility. I have never had a better teacher or more loyal friend, and I cannot thank him enough for his mentorship. Those of us who had the honor of knowing and working with Bruce Stewart share deep gratitude for his presence in our lives.

We will miss him dearly.



Photos by Anthony La Fleur

Upper Schoolers learn to make balloon animals, a crucial life skill.

Life Lessons

An Upper School workshop teaches useful skills—from parallel parking to line dancing.

Reciting Virgil's *Aeneid* in Latin or solving complex problems in number theory is impressive, but Latin and math are not much help when it comes to filing taxes, changing a tire, or sewing a button. At the third annual Upper School Life Skills Workshop, students could select from dozens of 30-minute sessions: setting up a tent, tying a bow tie, juggling, knitting, meditating, parallel parking, and booking a vacation, among others.

The workshop originally emerged from student interest in learning about personal finance, doing laundry, and other useful proficiencies. To kick off the event, Upper School students, newly admitted students, and faculty/staff filled the Meeting Room, where Upper School Chinese teacher **Xuan Wang** did a balloon-making demonstration. For newly admitted students, shadowing buddies during Life Skills Day is a more informal way for



An Upper Schooler learns embroidery.

them to meet classmates and get a feel for the sensibility of the Sidwell Friends community. “What I love about these short workshops is that the process of learning is the same as our year-long, in-depth classes, just compressed,” says Upper School Principal **Robbie Gross**. “And they’re fun, hands-on, and experiential.”

At “What Not to Do as a College Undergraduate,” led by Upper School computer science teacher **Martin Suresh**, students were encouraged to take risks, step outside comfort zones, and not be afraid to change their major, living situation, or even college. In the courtyard, Equity, Justice, and Community Director **Natalie Randolph '98** taught an enthusiastic group how to line dance. In the wrestling room, Director of Technology and Computer Science **Darby Thompson** taught the basics of self-defense. And the secret to killer guacamole? Use a mortar and pestle for ingredients—instead of chopping onions and jalapeño peppers—so the oil from the vegetables spreads evenly, according to session leaders Upper School English teacher **Manny Jacquez**, Upper School math teacher **Justin Heiges**, and student members of the Latin American Society.



Upper School Principal Robbie Gross teaches students how to tie a tie.

Lunar New Year

Celebrating the Year of the Wood Snake.

At Sidwell Friends' Lunar New Year, the Year of the Wood Snake was all about celebrating the best of what snakes symbolize—their wisdom, elegance, quiet strength, and their ability to shed their skin and “sweep out the old while sweeping in the new.” Lunar New Year—measured by the lunar calendar, based on moon cycles—is celebrated by several Southeast and East Asian cultures. Traditions vary across and within countries, but similar threads run throughout: rituals for prosperity and to honor ancestors, family time, and magnificent feasts.

At the Lower School, **Mei Li Costa**, an assistant kindergarten teacher, led her students in the Chinese lantern dance, which represents the connection between the past and present. The Lower School assembly also included young musicians on xylophones, a spirited rendition of the GongXi GongXi song by the 4th graders, a parade of handmade paper snakes, shared facts and insights, and a video made by the parents that showcased how Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and other Pan-Asian students and their families celebrate the holiday at home. As part of honoring



Lower Schoolers wear lucky red for Lunar New Year.

more Pan-Asian countries in the Lunar New Year celebration this year, the assembly included the Korean circle dance for the first time. Finally, the event ended with a ceremonial lion dance performed by members of the Shaolin Hung Fut Kung Fu School.

At the Middle School, a trio of performers from Chua Martial Arts focused on the physical and mental practices of kung fu, its history, and the foundational stances—also used in performing the lion dance—which are based on those of various animals like the tiger, snake, crane, and praying mantis. Choosing several volunteers from the audience, Master Chua and his colleagues treated the audience to several

dances that portrayed the various animals. In the Upper School, artist **Stephanie Chang P '29** taught the Chinese-language classes to do traditional paintings. And all three divisions recorded new year's greetings from faculty and students.

The community wrapped up the Lunar celebrations with a weekend gathering spearheaded by the PA and Parents of Asian Students. Families gathered on the DC campus to enjoy student performances, crafts, and food from many Asian cultures. There was even a wish box so attendees could make a wish for the new year and take a wish. “One of the highlights was watching the kids in colorful lion dance costumes dancing together in groups to a fitness song, with the audience standing up, moving along, and joining the fun,” says PAS Upper School Clerk **Yan Xu, P '27**. PAS Co-Clerk **Nima Binara, P '28, '30**, added: “We were delighted to feature performances, food, and activities from Tibet, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, China and beyond, enjoyed by an audience of all backgrounds. Events like this allow our students to learn from one another, and help us foster values like peace, community, and equality which are so vital today.”



Festivities included the Dragon Dance and origami lessons.

True Story

To make equity, justice, and community work for everyone, Sidwell Friends is focusing on active listening, how to have difficult conversations, and creating narratives.

How can a small community, especially one as diverse as Sidwell Friends School, come together and bridge yawning differences that separate people by class, experience, race, values, and more in this time of growing social and political divisiveness? The answer, explains **Natalie Randolph '98**, the School's director of equity, justice, and community (EJC), is to embrace the power of storytelling. "The brain learns through stories, and people make decisions based on their emotions, not on facts" she says. "So, in order to make equity, justice, and community at Sidwell Friends work for everyone, we need to focus on active listening, how to have difficult conversations, and storytelling."

With that in mind, Sidwell Friends has embraced "bridge building" as a theme for its EJC programming. Randolph was inspired by a program called Bridging the Gap, created by Simon Greer, who has been involved in social change work for more than 30 years and is an integral part of Interfaith America, Eboo Patel's nonprofit that aims to promote interfaith cooperation.

In 2020, Oberlin College launched a project called "Bridging the Gap: Dialogue Across Campus in a Time of Political Polarization." It offered a team of 10 Oberlin students the opportunity to build dialogue skills with Greer, who served as the facilitator, and then to apply that practice with students from Spring Arbor University, a conservative evangelical college in Michigan.

"Oberlin and Spring Arbor found great success adapting the Interfaith America program to higher



ed," says Randolph. "One of the guiding principles of Bridging the Gap is for students to develop the skills to truly listen, be heard, understand, and seek common ground without attempting to change the minds of others. So, I thought, why not try it here at Sidwell?"

Although Sidwell Friends School is incredibly diverse, with nearly 60 percent of its student body self-identifying as non-White, Randolph says that the School needs to figure out a better way to have difficult conversations. "We all have our biases, and, despite good intentions, we cannot be competent in everyone's culture," she says. "Sharing stories that show our differences rather than trying to explain our points of view seems like a much more effective way to open minds and better understand where people are coming from."

In June 2024, Sidwell Friends hired a facilitator from Interfaith America to conduct the first Bridging the Gap training with a group of about 20 members of the School community, including administrators, principals, psychologists, and two trustees. Since that initial training, Randolph and Interdivisional School Counselor Dr. **Richard Griffith** have trained 40 parents, 20 students, and

10 more faculty and staff members with the goal of training many more and having this practice become an integral part of the entire community. In addition to several trainings already on the calendar, Randolph and Griffith are securing a date to have students trained in Bridging the Gap present what they learned to other students, adding layer upon layer of knowledge, understanding, and practical application.

The group trainings include partner work, learning how to tell a story, and a lot of intentional listening. Many of the activities begin with prompts. To practice telling a story without communicating a strong opinion, the first prompt might be something like "Is a hotdog a sandwich?" Obviously, this is a benign example, but starting with it helped the trainees become more familiar with the Bridging the Gap practice so they could move onto more heady statements like "Social media has improved communication and connection among people" and "Choosing only to live and spend time with members of your own religious, ethnic, and other identity group is a form of segregation." Statements and prompts like these help the teller of their story explain where they fall in agreement or disagreement.



“This work is never going to be over,” says Randolph. “Change happens slowly, and Bridging the Gap is not a silver bullet. But by knowing why people think what they think and do what they do because they have shared their thoughts through the context of a personal story, we can all learn that although we may not agree, we can respect each other’s points of view. We want to be a school where everyone has the tools to talk about and deal with challenges like COVID or horrific events like the murder of George Floyd.”

The Bridging the Gap program resonated with Randolph, a former science teacher, because she has always been fascinated by the brain and how it works. “It’s interesting that the feeling of belonging activates the same part of the brain as it does for physical pain,” she says. “So, if you don’t belong, it hurts. Belonging, after all, is a survivor’s tool. By sharing our stories and actively listening to those of others, we are activating the parts of the brain that deal with empathy and understanding and it is those qualities that are going to make change.”

King Holiday

This year’s Lower School MLK Assembly was a celebration of song, dance, and storytelling.

Picture this. Mid-program during the Lower School’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, one jaunty 3rd grader steps in front of her preK-4th grade peers in the Dream Choir to conduct a rousing rendition of “We Shall Overcome.” Enthusiasm takes over and the group follows her lead with emphatic windmill arms, twisty hips, jazz hands—and, of course, strong voices that evoke the gravity of the person about whom they are singing. During this year’s honoring of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—celebrated through song, dance, and storytelling—the sense of community was palpable. Parents cheered, faculty and staff helped the program flow with enthusiasm, integrity, and fun, but most importantly, participating students made the assembly sing. The anchor of the program, the Dream Choir, was founded 11 years ago by choir founder and Lower School teacher **Amie Wallace** and is made up of a devoted group of faculty, staff, and students who for the month prior practiced during their recess time. “It warms my heart every year to see the energy and excitement the kids put into this assembly,” said Wallace. “The students revel in getting to know kids in other grades as well as some of their teachers outside the classroom.” Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter**, who smiled as she called the assembly “beautiful chaos,” added that because the students learn about MLK in their classes, the assembly is not only a lively celebration, but also a way to honor and underscore their burgeoning knowledge.



The Lower School Dream Choir

The 2025 Black Alumni Alliance Hosts Its Fourth Summit

The event included a full weekend of activities, including a production of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* and a thought-provoking panel discussion.

There may not have been a more meaningful way to kick off the 2025 Black Alumni Alliance (BAA) Summit than by inviting Black alumni, parents, parents of Black students, current Black students, and Sidwell Friends staff members to attend a Kennedy Center production of *Revelations*, Alvin Ailey's signature work. The production of Ailey's iconic dance kick-started a weekend that included panel discussions, meals, networking, and even a service project for SOME (So Others Might Eat), which for many brought back fond memories of their time at Sidwell Friends.

The event that had the biggest impact on the group, however, was Saturday afternoon's panel discussion, "Belonging: Owning and Reclaiming Space," a conversation about belonging and the various ways alumni can support each other and the School, while finding moments of joy and resistance in troubling times. One of the panelists, **Treva Lindsey '00**, a professor at The Ohio State University and the author, most recently, of *America, Goddam: Violence, Black Women, and the Struggle for Justice*, said she prepared for a conversation that would touch on Sidwell's past, present, and future as it pertained to Black students. "What occurred, however, was far more rewarding," she says, "as we dug into our formative experiences at Sidwell and did not shy away from talking about pain, frustration, or disappointment."



Natalie Randolph '98, Marcus Shaw '95, Rael Nelson James '97

And the conversation has not abated. According to **Rashida Wilson Prioleau '92**, the BAA Advisory Council vice clerk and an attorney at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the panelists have been energized since the summit, brainstorming about how the BAA can have a larger impact. For example, one current student and one young alum said having more frequent and informal engagement between students and alumni through a mentorship program would help foster and expand relationships.

For some alumni who are now current parents, their focus is on helping shape their children's experience at the School. **Robynn Scott-Clayton Nichols '00, P '32, '34**, a PA Parents of Black Students volunteer, brought her 3rd grade daughter, **Ruby '34**, to Saturday's service activity and lunch. "Being among people she knew and didn't as well as people of all ages and generations, Ruby definitely absorbed the sense of community and celebration," says Nichols. "As a current parent, I hope we can cull ideas from all of these Sidwell generations to figure out how to support our current students in ways that maybe we have not before."

For BAA Advisory Council Clerk **Akinyi Sagoe-Moses '11**, the weekend was equal parts emotional and inspiring. She said that the theme of belonging was carefully and intentionally chosen. "Many schools like Sidwell weren't originally designed with people of color in mind," she says, "and yes, some alumni do remember feeling excluded." Through the multi-generational panel conversation, the group discussed how Sidwell Friends can and should be a place where everyone feels unequivocal belonging. Sagoe-Moses says she felt there was a deep commitment to be "friends" in all senses of the word. "There seemed to be a genuine affirmation of Quaker values and education," she says. "The sense of belonging that Quakerism—and Sidwell—instills means that no one should feel inferior, outside, unaffirmed. For many, the BAA Summit weekend felt like a truly safe space to share and to be seen, heard, and valued."



Panelists speak at the Black Alumni Alliance Summit.

Students Stage a Classroom Takeover

The Middle School's Community Workshop Day of Fun saw kids teaching their favorite pastimes to one another.

In February, the Middle School was bursting with energy as students belted out karaoke tunes, competed in a 3x3 basketball tournament, plunked out melodies on the piano, and squeaked their way through some truly odd balloon animals—mostly all while cheering each other on in every corner of the building.

It was all part of the first Community Workshop Day of Fun, an assemblage of events led mostly by students. There were dozens of 45-minute courses on activities as wide-ranging as baking cookies, playing mah-jongg, crafting tiny books, battling at table tennis, drawing 3D objects, guessing mystery candy flavors, creating animal sculptures from recycled materials, and knitting with yarn, among others. The event easily rivaled any college activities fair.

There was a bit of a choose-your-own-adventure vibe about the day as students, who had previously expressed preferences about the sessions they wanted to attend, received their schedules and made

their way to various courses—some of which they may have hoped for and some that were surprises. Each student, from 5th grade through 8th grade, mixed and mingled as they attended their three sessions.

In the Journalism 101 class, the now-5th grade co-founders of the Lower School newspaper, **Tomas Aicardi '32** and **Ben Stern '32**, taught kids from every Middle School grade the basics of the craft, including how to interview people, gather details, and prepare to write a good story. They included tips about unbiased, fact-based reporting and the benefits of open-ended questions.

In the Robotics Drive Challenge session, **Dylan Phillips '29** and **Theo Scoblic '29**, members of the Up Robotics team “FoxBots” out of Bethesda, walked in carrying a bespoke metallic robot complete with fuzzy fox ears. After explaining the basics of robotics competitions, Phillips and Scoblic asked the students around the room to find a partner. With one person operating a remote robotic arm holding a Sharpie and another controlling



Photos by Cameron Whitman

Some Middle Schoolers teach the art of making cupcakes; some learn the art of making cupcakes; everyone eats the cupcakes.

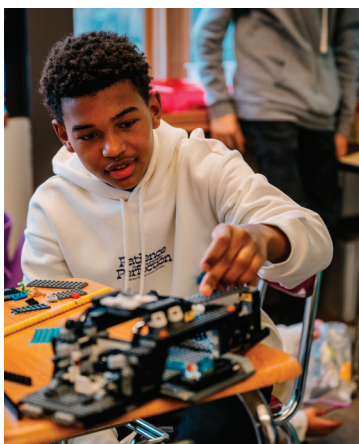
forward momentum and direction, the teams had to drive around the room marking index cards taped to the floor with their unique Sharpie colors. The color with the most marks won. It was a remarkable lesson in cooperation and communication as kids swerved to and fro, lowering the mechanical arm in an effort to hit the target. The rest of the room hovered over the field of play shouting their own advice—“Forward, no back!” “Down, touch down now, no now!”—like proper armchair quarterbacks.

Meanwhile, outside the Middle School near the ga-ga ball pit, screams of delight echoed across campus as kids learned to play jump-rope games with **Eliza Bright**, a Middle School art and drama teacher. There was a timeless quality at work as old-school recess fixtures like double-dutch and jump-the-river were explained to a generation better known for their proclivity at video games than playground games.

Across all the sessions of the day, one commonality stood out: the quality and scope of the lesson-planning by the kids. (One expects such traits from the professionals!) PowerPoint presentations, classroom activities, time for questions—the students had thought of everything.



Middle Schoolers learn to play mah-jongg and tackle souped up Lego projects.





The Art of Teaching

FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, BECKY FARNUM HAS BEEN A CHEERFUL PRESENCE ON SIDWELL FRIENDS' 6TH GRADE HALLWAY. But being a Middle School teacher wasn't always the plan. Farnum first came to education through art. After studying ceramics at the State University of New York at Alfred, Farnum received her master's degree in teaching from Vanderbilt with an eye toward becoming an art teacher. But once she stood in front of a classroom—initially in Nashville public schools—she realized it was teaching itself, not just the subject matter, that engaged her creativity. She has let her imagination and her students' curiosity guide her ever since.

1. Why leave teaching art for teaching 6th grade?

I love art because it's all about process—exploring big questions and thinking and making. More and more, I realized that's what teaching is: helping students explore, think, and ask questions. Teaching is making and creating with students, and I really love that. I've taught almost every subject—art, science, history, English—and whatever it is, I'm helping students use their imaginations to become someone new. If I'm teaching math, I want students to feel like they are thinking like mathematicians; if we're in language arts, I want them to explore writing like a writer or an artist or a historian. It is about that creation with a student; that is the real passion of teaching.

2. What is it about Sidwell Friends that has kept you here for so many years?

After around four years here, I thought it might be fun to explore other schools. But that's when Sidwell asked me to help lead the School's accreditation process, which we do every 10 years. It was a big deal to me, and it was a big deal that they asked

a Middle School teacher. I felt so excited and so invested. The accreditation process allows you to learn about everybody here and how passionate they are. We can be so siloed, and I love connecting with other students, other teachers, other areas, and other ideas. I also love getting to know the families and getting to work with families and watch the kids grow from 6th grade through Upper School. It is such a deep connection at this point. It feels really good to be part of a community and be so invested in that community.

3. What do you like so much about the 6th grade in particular?

What I love about Middle School and especially 6th grade is that the students are not quite little kids but they're not quite big teenagers, either. They're somewhere in between, and every day, every hour, every minute is like a different little moment or micro-stage. You get the tears, the laughter, the "I want to talk to you," and the "Please don't look at me." It takes a lot of flexibility and creativity. I'm always

trying to think of new ways to connect with the kids—sometimes minute to minute! OK, now they won't talk to me. Now they're engaged. Now they're not. They keep you on your toes! It feels like every day is a new adventure, a new puzzle, a new process, something different. It can be exhausting, but I do love throwing myself into it: Alright away we go!

4. You've also been involved in teaching your peers through SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity).

I have been very involved with learning more about how to facilitate conversations, which is its own valuable form of education. I did the SEED workshop, loved it, and trained to be a facilitator. I've also had the chance in the summers to work with SEED and help to train other leaders, which is really exciting. Bringing SEED to Sidwell was fantastic, because it provides that perfect space to get to know people across the divisions—and I get to share that community with other faculty. The focus is very much on equity, justice, and community, and we have a lot of great conversations. But it's often more about just creating the space and time to have conversations

of any kind. Sometimes we get so busy, we forget to do that. My father always said: "It's not quality over quantity. It is quantity. You have to be there. You have to be there on the floor with them playing, growing, learning. You have to show up, and the quality will happen." You have to show up, you have to spend time with the kids, but also with the adults in your community. Out of that grows the quality of the relationships.

5. We would be remiss not to ask about your fabulous rainbow hair...

I had all-blue hair for a long time. When I was ready to let go of the blue phase, my hairdresser asked if she could surprise me, and I was like absolutely! Hair is fun. There is no permanent: It can grow, you can cut it, you can change it. And now it is a rainbow! I get so many positive reactions. People are like, "I love what your hair says," "I love the color," "I love the joy." And the kids give me a lot of positive feedback. I love anything that, again, will facilitate a conversation. Teaching can be exhausting, and little things like color and fun remind me to stay positive and bring energy and joy to the kids.



Grandparents & Special Friends Day

MAY 16, 2025

We are delighted to welcome every generation for a day of special assemblies, service projects, classroom time, and family fun.

sidwell.edu/grandparentsday



WINTER SPORTS WRAP

The Quakers ended the season with major titles across sports, including championships in girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' diving, and long jump.



GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Girls' basketball enjoyed another spectacular season in Head Coach Tamika Dudley's final year at the School. The team finished atop the Independent School League (ISL) regular-season standings and topped Bullis 67-62 to capture the ISL tournament championship. They then defeated St. John's 72-44 in the District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA)

Class AA Girls' Basketball Championships to claim their third state title in four years.

Jordyn Jackson '26 was the game MVP with 27 points. (See also "Jordyn Jackson '26 wins Gatorade DC Player of the Year," page 9.)

BOYS' BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball team overcame injuries to two starters to win the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) title with a 60-50 tournament win over Flint Hill—the Quakers' fourth consecutive conference title. After beating Cardozo and St. John's in the DCSAA Class AA Boys' Basketball Championship Tournament, the Quakers fell to Gonzaga in the final, finishing as runner up after capturing state titles the last three years.

WRESTLING

Sidwell wrestlers had a strong showing at the DCSAA Championships, earning third in the team competition with podium finishes from six grapplers: **Luke Borkowski '25**, **Deegan Joubran '28**, **Griffin**



Photos by Wyatt McConagha '27

Miller '27, Hujja Moshood '28, Lucas Schwinden '26, and Sven Kramer '27. Kramer earned the championship title in the 215-pound weight class. **Emily Klein '25** also placed fourth in the girls' National Prep Tournament, becoming a National Prep All-American.

SWIMMING & DIVING:

The swimming & diving team finished third in the DCSAA championships thanks to a strong overall performance and three outstanding individual titles, including by **Trevor Donley '27**, who beat the field in the 500-yard freestyle event. On the diving side, siblings **Desi Amprey '25** and **Beau Amprey '28** were DCSAA Champions in girls' and boys' diving. For Desi, it was her third consecutive state championship. (See "Diving In," page 8.)

INDOOR TRACK:

The indoor track team's winter showing put the team in good position for the spring outdoor season. Among the notable achievements, **Clayton Gary '25** became the DCSAA champion in the long jump. Additionally, he competed in the New Balance Indoor Track & Field Nationals meet in Boston to end the year. He placed third nationally in the long jump, with a lifetime best jump of 23-10¼, earning him All-American status for the second time.

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



FRESH INK

New Year, New Books



This issue, we showcase two nonfiction books, one that gives a behind-the-scenes peek at transformative medicines and one that demonstrates photography's transformative impact on Italian society. There is also a compilation of poetry that, despite being published recently, has already seen work named to *The Best American Poetry 2024*. Finally, we have three exciting novels: a thriller, a mystery, and a romance. Enjoy!

Locomotive Cathedral

Brandel France de Bravo '78

The Backwaters Press, 2025

Included in *The Best American Poetry 2024*.

"With wit and vulnerability, Brandel France de Bravo explores resilience in the face of climate change and a global pandemic, race, and the concept of a self, all while celebrating the power of breath as 'baptism on repeat.' Whether her inspiration is twelfth-century Buddhist mind-training slogans or the one-footed crow who visits her daily, France de Bravo mines the tension between the human desire for permanence and control, and life's fluid, ungraspable nature. Poem by poem, essay by essay, she builds a temple to the perpetual motion of transformation, the wondrous churn of change and exchange that defines companionship, marriage, and ceding our place on Earth: 'not dying, but molting.'"



Judge Randall and the Identical Twin: A Judge Randall Mystery & Three Judge Randall Shorts

Tony Rogers '58

Bowker, 2024

"After twenty-one years as a judge on the Massachusetts Superior Court, Jim Randall retires and uses his knowledge of the criminal mind to solve crimes. In *Judge Randall and the Identical Twin*, a theft from the Harvard Art Museum leads Jim to the loneliest man he has ever met. Jim questions his objectivity after he finds himself identifying with the man instead of solving the crime."

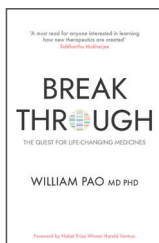


Breakthrough: The Quest for Life-Changing Medicines

Dr. William Pao '86

Oneworld Publications, 2025

"Meet the doctors, scientists, patients, and campaigners tackling the world's worst diseases. We often hear about the dark side of the pharmaceutical industry—from extortionate pricing to the opioid epidemic. But there's another story to be told. Through the story of eight revolutionary treatments, Dr. William Pao cuts to the innovative heart of medical science and celebrates the tireless work of those fighting for better care. 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. The trajectory from the laboratory to the local chemist is rarely a straight line. Eureka moments are few and far between. Drug hunting demands leaps of imagination and lateral thinking, the accumulation of the knowledge and expertise of many, and—nearly always—a hefty dollop of luck. *Breakthrough* documents these journeys and grants a privileged look at the stories behind the medicines that improve—and often save—our lives."

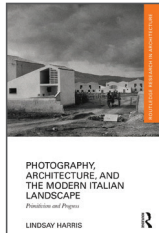


Photography, Architecture, and the Modern Italian Landscape: Primitivism and Progress

Lindsay Harris '96

Routledge, 2024

"The book analyzes architectural photographs taken by Italian cultural figures who helped transform the Italian landscape into what we know today. For example, the book demonstrates that for writers and artists familiar with ancient ideas about civilization in 1910, the Roman countryside exemplified the contradictions inherent in primitivism. On the one hand, their photographs praised the region's primordial beauty, yet their images condemned the crudeness of local living conditions. More broadly, it traces the history of primitivism and photography in Italy to show how cultural leaders' alarm at the nation's pre-modern living conditions, their aspiration to modernize them, and their grasp of photography to catalyze the process helped forge the modern Italian landscape, its monuments, housing, infrastructure, and natural environments. At the same time, it explores a vibrant period in photographic history when the advent of photographic reproduction as a commercial process developed into a medium with its own visual style capable of shaping ideas about modernity."



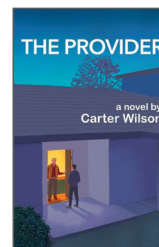
The Provider

Carter Wilson '59

Gatekeeper Press, 2024

"Jake Guarani wonders how he's gotten into being such a bigtime provider. A contractor on Chicago's North Shore making low six figures, he's got a wife who's a stay-at-home mom and a daughter with tutoring, ballet class, and kid soccer. It's hard not to feel taken for granted, the family workhorse."

In his sex life, Jake has always gotten his pleasure from giving women a good time. He's that kind of 'provider,' too. Closing in on forty, he figures it's now or never if he wants to satisfy his curiosity about casual sex with other guys. That's not exactly cheating, is it? Surprise comes when Jake begins to want more than hot motel quickies with a wealthy, old-family Winnetka gentleman. What's going on here? As the song says, 'This can't be love,' right? And if it is, if he's a 'real' bisexual, Jake's nicely put-together world will get turned on its ear."



Cold Feat

Ken LeSure '65

Dark Menace Productions, 2025

"Why would anyone take a shot at Peter Spellman? ... He lives in an affluent suburb of Boston. He's ordinary, in most respects, except that he's in charge of cybersecurity for a small software company that has just landed a vitally important government contract—one that calls for the development of a new weapon against the growing plague of international terrorism."

Or, maybe there's another motive for somebody to kill Peter Spellman. His wife, Diane, is bright and beautiful. She meets a handsome stranger who says he's in town to do business with Peter's company. He sweeps her off her feet and, unbeknownst to Peter, a passionate affair ensues. What does this stranger really want? Is he in love with Diane, or does he see her as an avenue to the company's high-priced technological secrets?

Peter's secure life turns into a topsy-turvy world of death threats and paranoia, of delusion and cold-steel reality. Is there a way out? Peter Spellman's answer is the strangest, most bizarre secret of all!"



“Essential to Mention Thomas Sidwell”

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

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH P '29

Photos Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives

Each spring, students and faculty from all three divisions gather to remember Thomas Sidwell and reflect on the School's history. While the annual Founder's Day tree-planting and disco-dancing have come and gone, we always find time to sing, to listen, and to connect to our past.

The first Founder's Day was held in the spring of 1937, one year after Thomas Sidwell's death. For many decades, the celebration was held on or near his birthday, May 16. Alumni and administrators shared memories of their personal experiences with the School's founder. Choral music was always a highlight of the event, whether sung by the Glee Club or with the entire student body belting out the School song, "Friends Forever."

The Founder's Day speeches typically focused on Thomas Sidwell, but many also echoed the spirit of the times in which they were given. In May 1945, after years of enduring the horrors of World War II, the alumni speaker observed that Thomas and Frances Sidwell "welcomed students from every nation to the school. They would have been very proud of the fifteen nationalities who are represented here

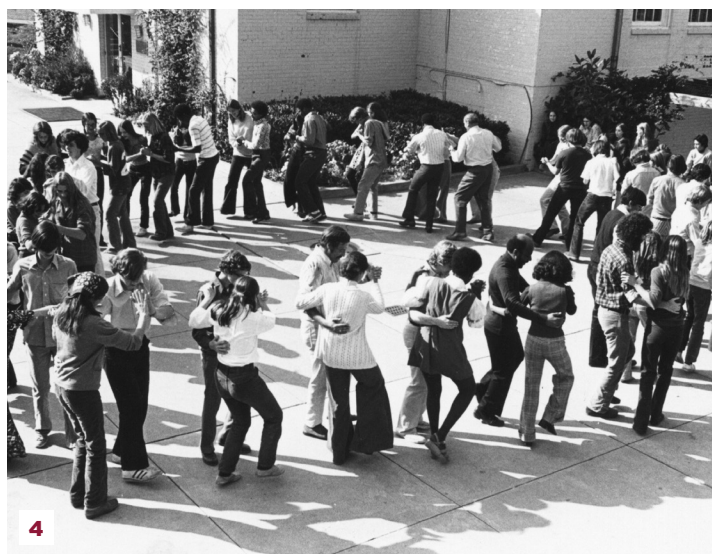
today. They appreciated the rich contribution which each nation has to make to the world and helped us all to make friends with students from both far away and here at home whose backgrounds were different from our own." While students from Japan, Bolivia, Turkey, Korea, and many other countries were indeed part of the School's diverse community, that diversity only went so far; Black students were still notably excluded from attending for another 11 years.

By 1950, with the oldest students too young to have had Thomas Sidwell as their headmaster, the School's origins started to feel more distant. That year, Founder's Day included a special remembrance: over 100 students from across the School participated in pantomimes and tableaux to reenact photographs from the School's earliest years. Some students posed as if they were in a gym class on Eye Street while others danced as students did during May Fest decades earlier. Several dressed as Thomas and Frances Sidwell; others dressed as President Theodore Roosevelt, his wife, and members of the Class of 1907 to reenact the president's address at commencement at the Eye Street



meeting house. The greatest number of student performers were needed for the closing pantomime, which depicted all of the grades moving from the downtown campus to Wisconsin Avenue, ending with all of the students finally consolidated on one campus.

For many years, the senior class planted a tree on campus, inspiring many speeches with tortured metaphors about the School's growth mirroring that of a tree. In 1954, the School added a new tradition: the "Grandchildren" (children of alumni) were called forward to plant their own tree. The tree-planting tradition was a highlight through the 1960s. By then, fewer people had direct connections to Thomas Sidwell. "For many of us here today," observed one student speaker in 1964, "Founder's Day may be little more than a vague term used on the School Calendar. Therefore, it might be more appropriate in celebrating the day if we each thought of ourselves as Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Master Sidwells, so that we can better understand what we are celebrating."



1. In 1957, children of alumni (known as “Grandchildren” at the time), including Jon McBride ’60 and Terry Eakin ’62, plant a tree.

2. In 1957, the Glee Club performs “Friends Forever,” outside the Zavitz Middle School.

3. In 1960, students perform in the new Activities Building (Kenworthy Gymnasium), now the Robert L. Smith Meeting Room.

4. In 1975, students square dance outside of the Goodwin Library on Founder’s Day.

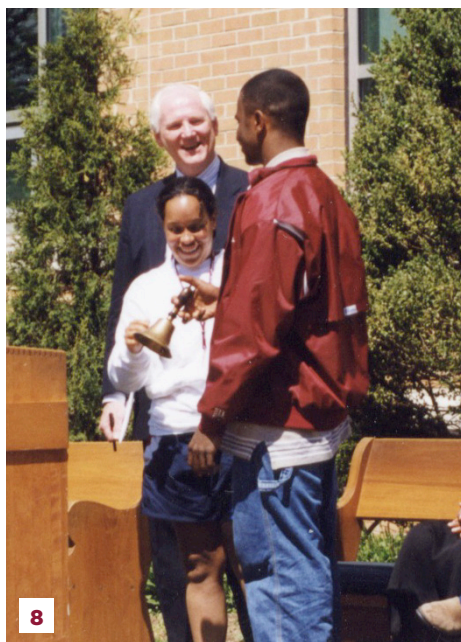
5. In 1981, a student gets her face painted, a Founder’s Day staple for many years.



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6. In 1991, older students hang out with Lower School “buddies,” a tradition since the mid-1980s.

7. In 1999, Upper School music teacher David Merlin-Jones and his jazz ensemble students perform outside the Kogod Arts Center—a gig they still have.

8. In 1999, Bruce Stewart hands over Thomas Sidwell’s bell to students at his first Founder’s Day as head of school.

9. In 2005, Head of School Bruce Stewart, with Middle School Principal Sally Selby and Assistant Principal Nina Koltnow, breaks ground on the new Middle School building, which would eventually bear his name.

10. In 2014, a new Founder’s Day tradition is born when alumni return to campus to share their life experiences since graduation.



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By the late 1960s, the rather formal ceremony had grown a little stale. As she circulated her 1969 planning notes, Zartman House staffer Vera Dickey quipped that her goal was to “intersperse performances in the speeches, so no one will fall asleep.” The following year, Founder’s Day was held at the new Lower School campus for the first time, and more playful activities were finally added to the mix. Students enjoyed four-square, an egg throw, guitars, and folk-singing. The next year, back on the Wisconsin Avenue campus, a “historical panorama” organized by the seniors (“Essential to mention Thomas Sidwell,” read the planning memo) was followed by “Red and Gray Day” races, games, and a tennis tournament. Art activities also made their way into Founder’s Day in the 1970s, including “chalk-ins,” tie-dying, and disco-dancing.

In the 1980s, many of the traditions that are recognizable today became part of the day’s program, including activities for all ages such as sandwich-making for Martha’s Table, paper-crane-folding, and face-painting. It was also around this time that Founder’s Day moved away from Thomas Sidwell’s actual birthday and to the more convenient (though often chillier and rainier) April date. With the oldest students off campus the last month of the year engaging in senior projects, April has become the last opportunity to gather the entire student body together.

Over time, of course, almost no one in the alumni or former faculty body could share direct remembrances of Thomas Sidwell. It was often left to the head of school to teach the assembled students and faculty about the School’s history. In 1997, for example, after a rare throwback performance of “Friends Forever” by the Upper School chorus, Head of School Earl

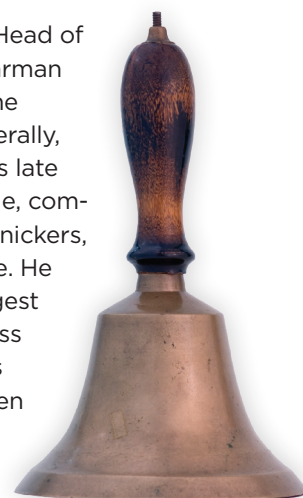
Harrison recounted the history of campus unification, observing, “It was considered a great day for the School when finally operations at 18th and Eye ended and the entire school, Kindergarten through 12th grade, could be together here on Wisconsin Avenue.”

Sometimes the proximity of Thomas Sidwell’s birthday to Earth Day brought environmental stewardship to the foreground. This was perhaps especially true on Founder’s Day 20 years ago when the School celebrated the groundbreaking of what would become the first LEED Platinum K-12 school building in the world. Head of School Bruce Stewart, shovel in hand, broke ground on the Middle School building that would eventually bear his name (see “In Memoriam,” page 12). That year two hydrogen cars were brought to campus, and students planted seeds for the Anacostia Watershed Society to help restore wetlands.

One of the most durable Founder’s Day traditions has been bringing alumni back to campus to speak to the student body. For the first few decades, former students were asked to share their personal mem-

ories of Thomas Sidwell. In 2014, a new tradition began to connect alumni to current students. The event allows Upper School students to hear from alumni from a range of fields and professions about how they “let their lives speak” after graduating from Sidwell Friends. This new Let Your Life Speak Morning tradition is still going strong, with dozens of alumni returning to campus each spring to share their stories.

In recent years, Head of School Bryan Garman has embodied the founder quite literally, by dressing in his late 19th-century style, complete with cap, knickers, and a moustache. He hands our youngest students the brass bell that Thomas Sidwell used when the School was small enough that everyone could easily hear it ring. Now we anticipate a not-too-distant future when his entire School is back together on one campus for more than just a single spring day.



Thomas Sidwell's Bell



Head of School Bryan Garman in full Thomas Sidwell cosplay.

The background of the page is a light blue, textured map. A prominent compass rose is visible in the lower-left quadrant, with its points extending towards the corners. A dashed black line curves from the upper-right towards the center of the page. The title 'TRAVEL LESSONS' is printed in a large, dark blue, sans-serif font, with 'TRAVEL' on the top line and 'LESSONS' on the bottom line.

TRAVEL LESSONS

Each year, a few Sidwell Friends teachers expand their horizons by venturing out of the classroom and hitting the road for a professional development journey. Most recently, faculty have visited the Dominican Republic, China, Austria, and the American South in pursuit of unique opportunities—experiences that will make an impact on their teaching.

BY VICTORIA TILNEY MCDONOUGH



Whether you are roaming 70 miles to another city or 7,000 miles to another country or continent, travel can open the mind and heart in new and surprising ways. That's true for students taking a semester abroad to hone a language skill and immerse themselves in a new culture, or for students taking a Minimester to the Tetons to learn about the effects of climate change on national forests. But the inherent value of travel is also very real for teachers—who can then bring the lessons of their experiences into the classroom.

During the 2005/06 academic year, Bruce Stewart, the beloved head of school who passed away in January, launched the Faculty Enrichment Endowment Fund program with the support of an anonymous alumni family. Now funded exclusively through gifts to the School, the professional development program covers the cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for instructive travel during spring, summer, or winter breaks. The purpose of these travel grants is to create opportunities for teachers and coaches to visit sites in the United States or abroad that relate to their areas of professional expertise and teaching interests at Sidwell Friends. All faculty who have completed a minimum of three years of service at Sidwell Friends School may apply for a grant, which requires a proposal outlining the nature of the travel opportunity being sought and its value to the teaching and learning experience.

“It’s exciting to see faculty members use these travel grants to expand their knowledge and passions,” says Associate Head of School Min Kim. “They return full of new energy.” And what better way to learn—and to teach what you learn—than to soak up a new place and walk on a landscape of unfamiliar colors and textures?

The travel grants were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been in full swing the last two years. Below are just a few of the journeys Sidwell Friends teachers took in 2023 and 2024.



CHINA: MODERNITY STEEPED IN TRADITION

Yuan Angel | 5th/6th Grade Chinese Teacher

Yuan Angel grew up in northern China and worked in Beijing for 10 years but felt she owed her students a deeper knowledge of her country. “My students come to me with such eagerness and passion to learn everything about China,” says Angel. “But I don’t know everything about China, just like a person from the United States or Italy or Iran does not know everything about their country. Every place has many cultures within it.”

For almost two weeks in the summer of 2024, Angel traveled around Beijing and to the province of Yún Nán, 1,600 miles southwest of Beijing, to explore the cultural heritage and diversity of her home country. “I wanted to explore more of China—to see, hear, and then analyze what I learned so I could tell an updated, first-person, more alive truth to my students,” she says. “I teach Chinese, the language, but language is on the surface. Below, there is so much more. Through travel, by experiencing different layers of Chinese culture, I can plant more seeds of

curiosity in my students to help them become more open-minded, passionate, and prepared for lives of dialogue with the rest of the world.”

“I can plant more seeds of curiosity in my students to help them become more open-minded, passionate, and prepared for lives of dialogue with the rest of the world.”

With each destination in China, Angel witnessed the juxtaposition of old and new, traditional and contemporary. In Beijing, she visited the enormous Temple of Heaven, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage site the size of 273 football fields. This staggering temple, a complex comprising dozens of imperial religious buildings, symbolizes the relationship between



the human world and God's world. Angel explains that the site reflects the ancient belief that Heaven is round and the earth is square: The north wall is circular to embody Heaven, while the south wall is square to represent the earth. But the architectural symbolism seen in the massive spatial organization can also be found in the smallest details, like how the temple was built without nails because metal is a destroyer of the elements. "By avoiding the hardness, the violence of metal," says Angel, "the temple was constructed to promote harmony."

In contrast, the very modern Beijing City Library, the world's largest climatized reading space, reinterprets the relationship between the mind, body, and surrounding world to rejuvenate the joy of reading. The architects used a forest motif that seems to bring nature alive inside with wooden, stepped hills, architectural lines reminiscent of the nearby Tonghui River, floating words, and columns that evoke a serpentine sea of ginkgo trees. "China is intensely focused on green energy and pollution control," says Angel. "This library—which opened in 2023—sends that message, as do the 27 subway lines and street after street of available shared bikes."

Away from the big city of Beijing in Yún Nán, Angel was able to immerse herself in the everyday life and unique traditions of the Bái, Yí, Nàxì, and Tibetan ethnicities. "Women in the Bái ethnicity are the leaders and breadwinners of their families, while the husbands stay home to keep house and

raise the children," says Angel, "which is totally different from how I grew up where my father's was the law." Among the Mósuō people in southwestern China, "walking marriages" are the norm. These non-contractual relationships mean that children are raised by a community of mothers and rarely know their fathers.



"Every day of my trip included lessons in cultural tradition, innovation, and diversity," says Angel. "Whether I was engaging in crafts like resist dyeing (a traditional technique to control the flow of dyes on fabric) or tasting local delicacies such as Yúnnán Rose Cake, matsutake mushroom sauce, and Tibetan buffalo, I was deepening my cultural perspectives and fostering a broader appreciation of China's heritage that I can now share with my students."



Photos Courtesy Yuan Angel

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A MARKETPLACE OF NEW IDEAS

Ángela Ballesteros | Lower School Spanish Teacher

One summer afternoon in 2023, Lower School Spanish Teacher Ángela Ballesteros ventured to the ruins of the San Nicolás de Bari Hospital, recognized by UNESCO as the oldest hospital built in the Americas, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Drawn by the carefree chitter-chatter of the pericos de la Española—Hispaniolan parakeets—who are now the ruin’s primary residents, Ballesteros was looking around when an elderly local man, walking by, asked, “Do you want to learn more about San Nicolás?”

It is why she was there after all. Ballesteros had traveled to Santo Domingo on a travel grant to visit street markets—colmados—around the city’s historic district as well as its museums and colonial landmarks. So, she spent two hours talking to the man about the history of the hospital and its



place in the community. At one point, the man glanced at her notebook and in a kind voice said: “Stop taking notes. Be the student. Look around, listen, enjoy, and be inspired.” For Ballesteros, it was a significant moment. “His words were a good reminder to learn from the people, sights, and sounds around you,” she says, “and to steep in your experiences.”

The colmados throbbed with just these kinds of experiences. Ballesteros’s focus was learning firsthand about these street markets with the aim of helping her kindergarten students, in particular for their Food and Marketplace unit, understand that communicating in at least one other language allows people to obtain information, express opinions and feelings with a broader audience, and gain knowledge of different cultures—including their foods. “So many family traditions, customs, and celebrations happen around food,” says Ballesteros. “And those traditions of shopping, cooking, and eating are alive in language. One of my favorite experiences at the colmados was listening to Dominican Spanish expressions and vocabulary, which carries the fingerprints of other languages, including the historical ties with the Indigenous Taíno Arawakan language.”

While absorbing the culture of the markets and documenting social interactions through pictures and videos, Ballesteros started to think about the comprehensible stories she would create for her





students. An anecdote she came up with about a little girl named Marisol who lives with her abuela and shops at the colmados has become a fun and effective way for Ballesteros to teach her students new words and contexts through repetition, storytelling, and games. “In class, I can use actual photos and videos from my trip to bring the colmados alive for my students,” she says. “And a story like Marisol’s is a jumping-off place to teach new words and expand my students’ knowledge around Spanish-speaking cultures, but also to discuss larger topics like what family means, issues around immigration, and the importance of traditions.”

The jovial people in the bustling markets of Santo Domingo even reminded Ballesteros of her curious Lower Schoolers. “The people were so open and friendly,” she says. “They wanted to learn about me as a teacher in America and also to share about their lives and mores. ‘Try this,’ they’d say, handing me a slice of passion fruit, ‘and this,’ smiling over a plate of fresh, tangy guava.” It’s exactly the kind of inquisitive spirit and openness to new experiences that Ballesteros tries to infuse into her classroom. “I want my students to continue to develop curiosity and empathy for how others live,” she says. “I want them to try everything.”



Photos Courtesy Angela Ballesteros





AUSTRIA: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MOVEMENT AND MUSIC

Matthew Stensrud | Lower School Music Teacher

Teachers don't often get a real opportunity to be a student again, to be playful and spontaneous, to let loose in moments of imaginative and immersive play. Lower School Music Teacher Matthew Stensrud was able to do just that at the Orff Institute, Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he studied elemental music and creative movement with some 75 other music teachers from all over the world.

Stensrud had always wanted to attend the Orff Institute's program in dance and music, which has distinguished itself through its contemporary arts practice and a pedagogy that emphasizes creativity. Because the international school concentrates on musical sounds and movement, and attracts people who speak a variety of languages, many of Stensrud's classes focused on nonverbal interactions. A body percussion class, which was taught with no spoken words, explored making patterns to create sound effects on the body. Another class examined games

from around the world and included making sticks from rolled-up newspapers and then rhythmically throwing and catching them from person to person to the beat of traditional Māori music from New Zealand. One of Stensrud's favorite classes asked each music teacher there to start with a tiny seed of an idea and then, working in small groups, to grow that seed into a collaborative song using instruments or body percussion or a story told through mime and movement.

Stensrud explains that he has often used nonverbal interactive teaching with his young students at Sidwell Friends, but his study at Orff provided him with more ideas on how to implement this practice. "We often forget that language is actually a small part of who we are," says Stensrud. "I felt so close to my peers at Orff—many of whom spoke different languages—because we were able to connect through music and movement, joy and laughter, instead of relying solely on words."



"We often forget that language is actually a small part of who we are."



Photos Courtesy Matthew Stensrud

One of the best parts of being in the program was remembering—and experiencing—what it felt like to be a kid again. “You are no longer the teacher, the leader,” he says. “Instead you are the new student among peers whom you do not know. So, you have to push yourself outside your comfort zone, feel that tinge of nervousness as you try new things in front of teachers and classmates.” In one very intense dance class during a heatwave with no air-conditioning, the group had to jump and move and weave quickly through a crowded studio. “And if you collided with someone, you had to lift up that person then move on,” says Stensrud. “Challenging myself while also feeling a sense of unsureness definitely helped me to grow as a dancer, teacher, and human.”

Stensrud is incredibly grateful to Sidwell Friends for the opportunity to learn more as an elementary music and movement teacher. It also didn’t hurt that his program was in the gorgeous city of Salzburg, where he was also able to visit various historical sites like the “very unassuming yellow house” where Mozart was born; the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the castle on the hill with a 360-degree view of the city, and even the gazebo in the park where young Liesl and Rolph in *The Sound of Music* sang “Sixteen Going on Seventeen.”

“A week is a short time,” says Stensrud, “but being at the Orff Institute, with people from many different countries and cultures, definitely gave me the opportunity to stretch, learn, and bring my playful spirit—wonderfully renewed—back into my classroom.”

PASSAGE BOOKED, BAGS PACKED

This year’s travel grants have been announced. Below are the 2025 Faculty Enrichment Endowment Fund Awards.

SENTELL HARPER

Upper School theatre arts teacher

Over spring break, Upper School theater arts teacher Sentell Harper will experience all that the United Kingdom has to offer to the theater lover. He will experience Shakespeare’s works as they were originally performed at The Globe, visit Shakespeare’s birthplace at Stratford-upon-Avon, join behind-the-scenes tours of the Royal Opera House and the Harry Potter film set, and attend performances at the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and London’s iconic West End theaters.

NEIL FAGAN

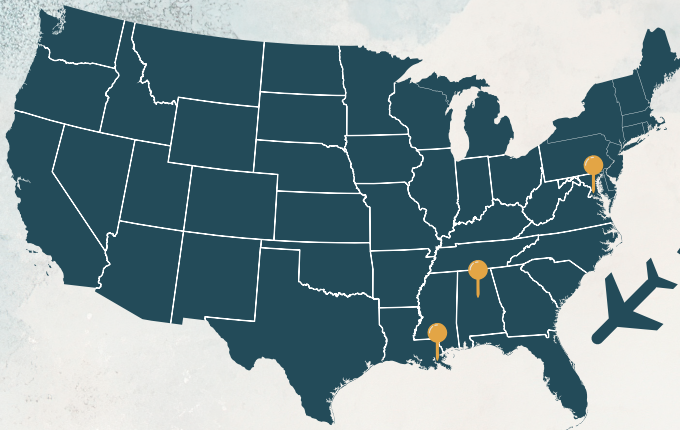
Lower School teacher

Lower School teacher Neil Fagan will gain a deeper understanding of the current state of climate change and how it is impacting the glaciers of North America by visiting Glacier National Park this summer. Through educational guided hikes led by expert naturalists, Fagan will gain firsthand knowledge that he will incorporate into his lessons on climate change as the entire 4th grade embarks on their annual Ethical Leadership Experience.

SAM GOODWIN

Upper School English teacher
and faculty clerk

This summer, Upper School English teacher Sam Goodwin will join other Friends educators from around the country on a pilgrimage to England to explore Quakerism’s roots. One highlight will be climbing the Pendle Hill, where George Fox experienced his transformative vision. She will also visit several Quaker meeting houses and significant Quaker sites, and meet with local Friends about various aspects of Quaker history.



AMERICA: A TRIP INTO THE ROOTS OF SLAVERY

Edith Zhang | 4th Grade Teacher and Lower School Chinese Teacher

When 4th grade teacher Edith Zhang returned from her journey exploring African American history, she was transformed. “The lens through which I view the world has changed completely,” she says. “I knew the shameful history of our country around slavery, but things I had been taught and believed my whole life turned out to be wrong, utterly untrue. As a privileged White woman, would I have lived my life differently had I learned all of this when I was younger?”

With a focus on slavery, civil rights, and present-day issues like mass incarceration, societal disparities, and systemic racism, Zhang traveled to several important places to expand her understanding of the intersection of African American history and Quakerism so as to guide her teaching practice today. Her destinations included Monticello and Mount Vernon in Virginia, the Whitney Plantation and the city of New Orleans in Louisiana, and legacy museums, churches, and other sites in Alabama and Washington, DC.

Zhang’s journey started after a parent recommended a book to her. Clint Smith’s *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* explores the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history



by examining many of the South’s monuments and landmarks. In the process, Smith discovers stories that have been central in shaping the nation’s history. “It affected me deeply,” says Zhang. “I knew I needed to learn more.” She decided to emulate Smith’s idea.

Zhang started with a tour of Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home. “I always admired Jefferson and believed he helped build this country with some semblance of integrity, but what hypocrisy!” she says. Zhang can only shake her head in disbelief when she remembers looking at the bricks used to construct some of the buildings of Monticello that show the quiet fingerprints of enslaved children, including Jefferson’s own with a 14-year-old Sally Hemings, who were forced to hand-make them.

Zhang’s visit to the Whitney Plantation, now a nonprofit dedicated to teaching the history of slavery, still haunts her. The main house stands empty, but the woods where slaves tried to run to freedom, the sugar cane fields where they toiled, and the dirt-floored shacks where they lived were all alive with ghosts. She won’t soon forget the statues depicting the faces of enslaved children, their frozen eyes asking why, made by sculptor Woodrow Nash and displayed in the plantation church.

Several other places she visited also used art in powerful ways to teach this history and to give people ways to process it. For example, in New Orleans, Zhang used her iPhone to see Marcus Brown's augmented reality installation, "Slavery Trails," which features virtual sculptures created to mark areas where people were held, forced to work, and sold. In one spot near the French Quarter, a "Slavery Trails" QR code allowed her to see a dozen bright pink digital ghost figures representing enslaved people in the camera view of her phone. (See photo on right.)

In Montgomery, Alabama, Zhang came to deeply understand the power of names. The Freedom Monument Sculpture Park is one of the Legacy Sites in that city created by the acclaimed public interest lawyer and author Bryan Stevenson, who is known for dedicating his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. As part of Stevenson's desire to give voice to the story of enslaved people in America, he built an enormous 50-foot-tall wall engraved with 122,000 surnames of the 4.7 million slaves living in the nation, according to the 1870 Census, called the National Monument to Freedom. "Who were each of these people? What did they have to endure during their lives?" asks Zhang



rhetorically. "Seeing all those names, each a person like me, my parents, my children, my students, well, it makes you confront the past, unblinkingly, and view the world with different eyes."

Throughout her travels touring sites significant to U.S. slavery, Zhang used Quaker queries like "How is the history of slavery being presented today?" and "How does the past influence the present?" to frame her thinking as her journey progressed and for reflection afterward. "Quaker values helped ground me when I felt submerged in deep emotions and realizations during my trip," she says. "I learned that I could not undo my family's and my place in the world, but I could focus on what I am doing now." She adds that a teacher—a practicing Quaker—once said to her, "Sometimes you can't change the past, but you can bear witness." It's a piece of wisdom she takes seriously. ✨







STEPPING UP

As more and more Sidwell Friends athletes make the leap to D1 universities, we talk with some of them to hear what the transition is like to playing big-time college sports.

BY ZEESHAN ALEEM '04

Sidwell Friends School athletes have enjoyed a lot of success in recent years after their graduations. Josh Hart '13 and Saddiq Bey '18 are having solid NBA careers. Taylor Knibb '16 has won two Olympic silver medals in mixed relay. Walter Rouse '19 completed his first year in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings. Miles Brown '15 wrapped up three seasons in the NFL and now plays in the Canadian Football League. Looking back a bit further, Jair Lynch '89 (gymnastics), Paul Goldstein '94 (tennis), Cheryl Weaver '98 (volleyball), Nana Meriwether '03 (volleyball), and Kara Wilson '12 (soccer) all went on to compete at the highest level nationally and internationally.

But in recent years the stream has turned into a river. From 2019 through 2022, a total of nine Sidwell athletes matriculated at Division 1 schools. In the last three years, including unofficial decisions by the Class of 2025, 23 students have made the leap. And they're doing it across many sports: basketball, tennis, soccer, football, crew, lacrosse, and track and field. Fourteen of the 23 are girls and nine are boys.

"We've had individual athletes come through historically over the years," says Logan West, director of tennis at Sidwell Friends and a Class of 2001 graduate who played tennis at Dartmouth College. "But I think the number of elite athletes has increased and the depth of our programs has improved."

What does that mean for the athletes themselves? The increasing intensity of high school and college sports has been a topic of much public debate in recent years. Specialization at younger ages, private coaching, and time spent in youth travel leagues have all reshaped the experience. And now the introduction of athlete payments through NIL (name, image, and likeness) deals has skewed the landscape even more.

So what has the adjustment been like for these former Sidwell Friends students? About half a dozen of them found time to chat between their classes and practices about what it is like to go from being a senior at Sidwell Friends one year to a college athlete the next; how they balance all the pressures, the classwork, the time constraints, and the reality of being a (still) young student; and how it shapes their outlook on the future. Over the course of the conversations, something obvious yet profound became clear: Sports is about a lot more than sports.

Navigating the Transition

As strenuous and sophisticated as many of Sidwell's athletic programs are, playing D1 college sports represents a different level of competition and commitment. (With a few exceptions, such as the Ivy League, athletes at D1 schools receive athletic scholarships; DIII schools, which include most liberal arts colleges, do not offer scholarships, and athletes have a lesser time commitment to the team.) Whether it's at UCLA, Rice, or Georgetown, that means student athletes from Sidwell Friends are quickly forced to adapt to new and intense demands as they enter the college scene.



Alice Xu '23

"If I had a lot of schoolwork in high school, I was able to cut practice short or skip practice one day to study for a test that I really needed to study for," says Alice Xu '23, who plays tennis at the University of Illinois. "But in college, we have mandatory hours, so we have 20-hour weeks. You make that commitment and you have to honor it no matter what."

Akira Morgenstern '21, who now plays tennis for Georgetown, describes the athletic transition as "very profound."

"I went from playing three or four times a week in high school and playing the occasional match here and there," he says, "to playing every single day and traveling the country every single weekend with my best friends, which has been really cool for me."

Switching from playing at a high school level to a hyper-competitive collegiate level also prompts student athletes to reconsider their athletic identity—how they fit into a team and where they can add value.

"I've been fortunate to be a leader throughout my sports career," says Chali Taylor '23, a linebacker on Rice University's football team. "And then you come to college as a freshman, and you have guys that are sixth years, fifth years, people from other colleges



Akira Morgenstern '21



Chali Taylor '23



Jadyn Donovan '23

with other Division 1 experience, you really start on the bottom. So you have to find your role, and you have to do your role extremely well.” For Taylor that’s both about honing skills and learning how to uplift his teammates in new ways. He finds he’s able to contribute by “being a vocal guy, always being positive” during practice.

Jadyn Donovan '23, who was a member of Sidwell Friends' 2022 national championship team and who now plays guard for Duke's women's basketball team, describes the transition to D1 as a humbling learning curve. “I definitely had some ups and downs my freshman year, figuring out how I could still impact my team in a good way, without dropping 20 points and 10 rebounds,” she says. “That’s very difficult now, compared to high school.” But she still starts every game, just like she did in high school. “It’s an adjustment,” she says, “just like learning how to give to the team without necessarily looking at stats or looking at my personal performance.”

Making the Grade

The other half of being a student athlete is academics. The academic intensity of Sidwell has made the schooling part of being a D1 athlete manageable for many alumni.

“The courses that you’re taking at Sidwell are equivalent to a college curriculum,” says Taylor. “Coming in having experienced writing these 12-page papers is something that made it easy to come into college and be asked to do the exact same thing at a high level.”

“Honestly, I don’t think life has changed that much, because I think the academic rigor and the athletic rigor at Sidwell Friends really prepared me,” says Cam Gillus ’23, a point guard at Lehigh University. He notes that Sidwell Friends Head Basketball Coach Eric Singletary ’93 “demanded a lot of me, because he knew what would be required of me in college. So that standard was already set.”

All of the student athletes describe impressively disciplined schedules that involve hours of classes and training daily during their sports season, as well as significant commitments to athletic conditioning in the off-season, too.

Morgenstern talks about his tennis schedule these days: “It’s wake up around 5:45 a.m. and then get some breakfast. Head to the courts at 7 a.m. We practice from 7 to 9, and then we head to the gym and lift from 9 to 10 as a team. We usually get a little breakfast or early lunch right after that, and then we all go and we do a full five-class course load.”

The off-season training is also no joke. Taylor says he does a hydration test before heading to hours of morning classes, after which he heads right back to the athletic facilities at Rice. He typically does stretching, a defensive meeting, a position meeting, a warm-up, and then a two-hour practice.

In addition to balancing classes and practice, there is of course lots of travel for games, which often requires flying on the weekends.

These student athletes feel that it is challenging—but possible—to juggle everything on their plates and still get a taste of the typical college student social experience. Most describe time management as something that takes effort to master, and they all look forward to slightly reduced practice schedules during the off-season for opportunities to socialize.



Cam Gillus '23

Courtesy Lehigh University Athletics

“Holding myself to the highest standard in every aspect of my life was a big skill I gained from being a student athlete at Sidwell. ”

—CAM GILLUS '23

Xu says that her first year playing college tennis was an adjustment, observing that she had to choose three out of four priorities: athletics, academics, socializing, and sleep. This year, though, she has learned how to find a better balance: “I’ll have fun when I have time, and then if I don’t have time—if I have a lot of work, or if I’m not feeling well—I know how to say no to things now and not feel guilty about it.”

At the same time, it seems difficult to envision her life without tennis. “If I didn’t have tennis and I was only studying all the time, or only socializing all the time, I would get extremely antsy or bored,” she says. “Tennis is just a great outlet for me, if I need an escape.”

Taylor says his coach at Rice, Scott Abell, encourages the school’s athletes to be “well-rounded individuals” and join clubs and be active on campus.

Morgenstern, a senior, is particularly reflective. He says there is “no shortage of fun things to do” but that sometimes he also contemplates the path untraveled. “There will always be the question in my head, ‘What if I didn’t pursue the D1 athlete experience and I just did the regular college athlete thing?’” he says. “But I’m so grateful that I have this sport, tennis, where I can be a little bit different than other people and have a way different college experience than others might have.”

Sports as a Way of Life

Xu finds tennis enlightening off the court. “I grew up learning that pressure is a privilege, and you embrace all the opportunities you get and make the most of them,” Xu explains. “Perseverance, determination, hard work gets you results. I feel like tennis has really helped me in my life.”

Morgenstern and Gillus see athletics as a necessary mental outlet.

“I like learning strategies to channel negative emotions,” Morgenstern says. “I learn how to compartmentalize and just kind of embody my sport and keep moving forward. Tennis has really taught me how to grapple with some tough emotions and to lean on my teammates.”

Gillus agrees. “Sports has given me a way to express myself,” he says. “I’m a pretty competitive person.”

Donavan finds that basketball enriches her life through relationships. “Personal accolades are great and all, but I feel like I’ve made so many lifelong connections with teammates and coaches and staff members,” she says. “Those connections I will definitely have way beyond basketball.”

Taylor values the relationships, too. Even though he now plays D1 football, he recalls his time on Sidwell’s basketball team as formative in his view of the point of sports. “Coach Singletary and his coaching staff do a great job preaching to us that it’s not just a team sport; it’s a family,” he says. “And so when you start learning about your teammates, and you start learning why they’re playing, you start investing more of yourself into the game, and in your teammates.”

All credit Sidwell Friends with giving them a definition of success that is not solely about wins and losses, but also about performance, sportsmanship, and effort.

“I think holding myself to the highest standard in every aspect of my life was a big skill I gained from being a student athlete at Sidwell,” Gillus says. “Having faith and consistency—even if we aren’t winning or doing as I think we should be—staying grounded, trusting the work I’m putting in, and seeing how that will develop into something greater later down the line.”

Valuing Athletics

The School's recent athletic success didn't just happen. As Michael Square, the David P. Pearson '52 Director of Athletics since 2022, says, it was the result of a series of decisions made over the years. Ten years ago, in 2015, Sidwell's Board of Trustees approved a School philosophy statement that said Sidwell Friends should pursue excellence in academics as well as athletics and the arts. "We're striving for it all," says Square. "And in athletics, we're playing to win."

Years before that, the School saw the opening of Pearson Athletic Center, completed in 2010. The center is a standout facility that leads visitors to marvel even today. Other facilities—tennis



Alice Xu '23 plays for the Quakers in 2021.



Chali Taylor '23 plays for the Quakers vs. Clarktown in 2022.

courts and multi-sport fields—stand out as well, all the more so given that Sidwell Friends remains an urban campus with no open space to spare.

Sidwell Friends opened a new Athletic Feature Wall in 2023 to celebrate the School's athletic history and achievements—and to inspire future athletes. It features photos of alumni from decades past as well as recent alumni like Saddiq Bey and Taylor Knibb.

But the commitment to athletes as students runs even deeper. The Sports Leadership Academy, founded in 2019 by former Athletics Director Keith Levinthal, focuses on two themes: personal responsibility and emerging ethical leadership. Student athletes apply to join the two-year program. "The Sports Leadership Academy helps students become a better version of themselves," says Square, "which prepares them for whatever is next." Since his arrival, Square has placed an even stronger emphasis on the core values of the program and on holding students accountable to those values.

The final and perhaps most important factor in Sidwell's recent success is the coaches.

"I think the universal common denominator and the common thread across our programs is the quality of the coaching staff and the team culture of the programs," says West. "That makes Sidwell a place where the student athletes can say to themselves: 'I trust that the coach is going to do what's in my best interest, and the coach knows what he or she is talking about. They're going to help me to get to that next level that I need to be at. And being a part of this team is, one, going to be a tremendously positive and transformative experience, and two is going to help me with my goal if I'm trying to play at the next level.'"



Students walk by the Athletic Feature Wall, which highlights alumni who demonstrate standards of leadership, sportsmanship, and achievement in athletics.

Talented and ambitious coaches attract talent. When Donovan was contemplating which school to join in her freshman year of high school, she was already playing at a high level and she said she was swayed in part by knowing that the girls' basketball coach, Tamika Dudley, had just won a DC state championship for Sidwell Friends and was looking to transform the basketball program. (Dudley, who led the Sidwell Friends girls' basketball program to the national title in 2022, is leaving to become the first director of girls' basketball at the new St. James Performance Academy, a college prep sports complex in Springfield, Virginia.) For Donovan, the combination of the level of academics and sports made Sidwell Friends her top high school choice.

But the high level of coaching also affects students who didn't come to Sidwell Friends with an eye toward sports. Morgenstern, a Sidwell lifer, was able to exploit the School's athletics excellence to turn things up a notch. He attributes his success in tennis at Georgetown to the high level of coaching and play at Sidwell Friends—all the more striking in a sport where young athletes are typically defined by out-of-school play for the United States Tennis Association.

"I think if it weren't for the Sidwell team, I wouldn't be in this position right now," Morgenstern says. "I had always treated tennis as a fun activity, but never something that I thought would propel me into getting to play at the Division 1 level. Meeting Coach Logan West my freshman year really sticks out to

me as the turning point in my tennis timeline. Being able to compete with guys who are also vying for that number one spot added fuel to the flame. That was the first time I really experienced that pressure and that competitiveness and that real love to get out there and compete."

Camille Collier '07, who played D1 basketball for Wake Forest University and then went on to become an assistant coach at Arizona State University, says that Sidwell Friends is developing a special reputation for student athletes because it is demonstrating a "commitment to wanting to be successful in athletics and academics—and knowing that you can have both," she says. This year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association named Collier to its 2025 Next Generation Institute for future head collegiate coaches.



TOP: Cam Gillis '23 plays for the Quakers in 2022.

BOTTOM: Jadyn Donovan '23 plays in the DCSAA Championship game for the Quakers in 2023.

Looking to the Future

These Sidwell athletes know that few people extend their sports career past college. For now, they're keeping their options open.

Morgenstern says he's "most likely not going into the world of professional tennis—although there's always a chance." But tennis has also served as a gateway into non-tennis-related futures. He says it has helped him connect with a vast array of people in Washington, DC, a natural fit for his interest in politics and foreign policy.

Xu says if an opportunity to make it at the pro level arose, she would give herself that chance for a year. But she is also "perfectly content" transitioning to something new and living in another city, like Chicago or New York.

But a few alumni are eyeing the next step in their sports career. Gillus says he is contemplating whether to try to play



Jadyn Donovan '23



Akira Morgenstern '21

Courtesy Georgetown University Athletics



Cam Gillus '23

Courtesy Lehigh University Athletics



Chali Taylor '23

Courtesy Rice University Athletics



Courtesy Duke University Athletics

basketball professionally—either in the United States or overseas. If he doesn't go that route, he is considering banking or consulting.

Donovan wants to play in the WNBA—a lifelong dream. Her back-up plan? "I might want to go to law school."

Taylor says he is taking things day by day. "I wouldn't say that I have the goal of going to the NFL," he says, "but I absolutely train and work like that is the end goal, because I know the people around me are doing the same." ✨

ON THE ROSTER

Currently, there are 20 Sidwell Friends alumni across six sports playing D1 athletics.

BASKETBALL

Ryan Cornish '21

Dartmouth

Mike Brown '21

Chicago State (2025/26)

George Perkins '22

Rice

Kiki Rice '22

UCLA

Jadyn Donovan '23

Duke

Khia Miller '23

East Carolina

Cam Gillus '23

Howard (2025/26)

Kendall Dudley '24

Michigan (2025/26)

Zania Socka-Nguemen '24

Indiana (2025/26)

Marley Long '24

William & Mary

Caleb Williams '24

Georgetown

BASEBALL

Eric Sun '24

Navy

FOOTBALL

Chali Taylor '23

Rice

LACROSSE

Laila Kostorowski '23

Michigan

SOCCER

Dylan Williams '24

Boston University

Mila Maltby '24

University of Pennsylvania

TENNIS

Akira Morgenstern '21

Georgetown

Michael Zhang '21

Army

Alice Xu '23

University of Illinois

Molly Evans '24

Georgetown

MARCH MADNESS

Sidwell Friends had three alumni—Quaker phenoms Kiki Rice '22, Kendall Dudley '24, and Zania Socka-Nguemen '24—on the UCLA women's basketball team, which was the No. 1 seed going into the 2025 NCAA tournament. All were also members of Sidwell Friends' 2022 national championship team. The Bruins made the Final Four before losing to eventual champion UConn in the semifinal. Rice will return to UCLA next year, but Dudley and Socka-Nguemen have both announced that they are transferring.



Courtesy UCLA Athletics



LIVE FROM NEW YORK

BY ELLEN RYAN

With Ana Gasteyer '85 as a guide, take a peek behind the *Saturday Night Live* curtain in Studio 8H.

NBC's *Saturday Night Live* experiment has been broadcast since 1975—that's 50 years of a television show that has shaped the American comedy landscape and cultural zeitgeist. Sidwell's own Ana Gasteyer '85 was an SNL cast member from 1996 to 2002 and was featured several times in the show's recent 50th anniversary special. She is known for her impressions of Martha Stewart, Céline Dion, and Hillary Clinton as well as for originating "Delicious Dish" host Margaret Jo McCullin and folk singer Cinder Calhoun. Gasteyer is also an accomplished stage and screen actress, appearing in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Wicked*, *Mean Girls*, *Suburgatory*, *American Auto*, *Loot*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Goldbergs*, and much more.

A pal of First Daughter Amy Carter from an early age, Gasteyer remembers being at a White House sleepover at age 10 or 11 when she first discovered *Saturday Night Live*. The girls came across President Jimmy Carter chuckling in front of the television. "He was sitting in the family quarters off the private kitchen," she recalls, "laughing at Dan Aykroyd's impression of him on SNL." Seeing the president watch *Saturday Night Live* led to "this kind of primal understanding of not just the cultural import of the show's speaking to the American psyche but its unique role and insight in comedy," she says, adding "as well as Carter's humility as a human and a leader."

"I've definitely come to believe that imitation is the highest form of flattery," Gasteyer says. "The show does a good job of that and of reflecting the culture back to itself. It's one reason the show is still around."

Interview has been edited for length and clarity.



The SNL cast in 1997/1998

Back, left to right: Darrell Hammond, Will Ferrell, Norm MacDonald, Colin Quinn
Middle, left to right: Chris Kattan, Tracy Morgan, Molly Shannon, Tim Meadows
Front, left to right: Ana Gasteyer, Cheri Oteri, Jim Breuer



Gasteyer

HOW DID YOU GET TO SNL?

I attended Northwestern University as a music major, a voice major. It was a terrible fit. But in Chicago, birthplace of improv comedy, I discovered the improv scene, which became my tribe, my fraternity. Then in LA, I started studying with the Groundlings, the improv sketch comedy troupe—worked my way up through the system and performed with them. It's a well-known pipeline for SNL people, including Jennifer Coolidge and Phil Hartman; I followed Will Ferrell and Cheri Oteri and others. SNL was scouting Second City, the Groundlings, and standup comedians, the traditional breeding grounds for the show—now also TikTok and things like that—and they saw me.

FAVORITE HOST?

I don't have one. It's a popular question. I know elsewhere I've mentioned Alec Baldwin and Betty White, but honestly, I don't have one. Most people, when they arrive early in the week, are at their most humble and vulnerable. From athletes to the highest superstars, they're uniformly terrified because it's live television and so much is out of your control. They might be game and excited, but they're also terrified. I admire anyone's willingness to take a leap of faith to be at the mercy of the writers and performers and go with the flow.

FAVORITE MUSICAL GUEST?

Very memorable was Tom Petty on my very first show. I had such a vivid memory of being a kid and seeing the Heartbreakers perform “Don’t Do Me Like That” on the show. It was so surreal to be standing in 8H watching him live.

SOMETHING THE AUDIENCE DOESN’T KNOW?

Cast members have a “self-wig”—a wig made up like your own hair for emergency use. If your own hair has been sprayed and pinned tightly under a wig cap, the crew can just pop a self-wig on top. I tell you, the miracle of *SNL*—the craft of *SNL*—is just pulling off the show.

FACE-PALM MOMENT?

During the 2010 Betty White Mother’s Day special, I had a true costume-change fail—as dramatic a moment as I’ve ever experienced in my life. I was standing within view of the studio audience in a wig cap, bra, and pantyhose while trying to step into the next dress—but something went wrong, and I was caught between the dress and its liner. Hands were pulling at the fabric. Voices were hissing: “30 seconds! Hurry!” Finally, my hairdresser pulled off her own T-shirt and held it out—“At least you’ll have something to wear.” “No,” I replied, “Just get the hair on! Get the hair on!” That’s when top dresser Donna Richards materialized and ripped the dress apart, leaving it just a slip, which was a gamble; who knew if it would even go all the way down? Wig on, I dashed onstage, late but somewhat clothed. Months later, I was riding the subway when a woman walked up to me and said: “I was at the Mother’s Day show. I saw your quick change—and I’m still recovering.”

WHY LEAVE *SNL*?

I reached a point where I wanted to spend time on the more refined part of acting, which was available to me. I’m an actor who wants a long career characterized by a diverse and interesting series of experiences. That means you want to look at film, you want to look at television, you want to work onstage. Plus, I do have an entire career as a singer, which I’m grateful for. The only way to really do that is to do it every day—it’s a very athletic, muscular pursuit. I like the range and the mix of theater and television and comedy-writing and producing. It’s all of a piece, with plenty of Venn diagrams in there. It’s all about achieving creative balance.

“I like the range and the mix of theater and television and comedy-writing and producing. It’s all of a piece, with plenty of Venn diagrams in there. It’s all about achieving creative balance.”



Mary Ellen Matthews/NBC



Dana Edelson/NBC

ABOVE: Ana Gasteyer as Margaret Jo McCullin, Molly Shannon as Terry Rialto, and Alec Baldwin as Pete Schwetty perform “The Delicious Dish” skit in December 1998.

BELOW: Ana Gasteyer performs as Martha Stewart during a “Nightline” skit in March 2004.



Tina Fey, Rachel Dratch, Amy Poehler, Ana Gasteyer, and Maya Rudolph arrive at the Glamour Magazine Women of the Year 2002 show in New York in October 2002. The Women of SNL were named Women of the Year.



Will Ferrell as Marty Culp and Ana Gasteyer as Bobbi Mohan-Culp in February 2025 at "SNL50: The Homecoming Concert"

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT THE SHOW?

I'm still able to replicate the collaborative experience in some ways. But the overall answer is creating and making comedy with really funny people. That's the true high of the show. It extends to the hair and makeup and costumers, who are so incredibly good at what they do, and all the people who can make something out of nothing. You can think of something Tuesday night or Wednesday morning and have it actualized by Saturday with a very talented and confident group of people. That's amazing.

Also, the greatest gift of being a part of that pantheon is the ongoing relationships, because it's such a unique skill set—creating quickly under pressure. I write every day with Rachel Dratch on our Broadway musical. We're almost done with Act I and will have a reading in May; we'll see what happens from there. She's the most joyful collaborator ever. Jorma Taccone, part of The Lonely Island [the comedy trio founded by Taccone, Akiva Schaffer, and fellow SNL cast member Andy Samberg], directed a music video for me. I'm working on a project with Fred Armisen, and I've made music with Maya Rudolph. Any one generation of SNL speaks with the same vocabulary.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE 50TH-ANNIVERSARY SHOW?

It was mind-boggling and amazing to be part of it. Unlike anything else, *SNL* is an active, *relevant* piece of American culture at the same time that it's a *historic* part of American culture. That's kind of fascinating. Being there brought into focus how really privileged I feel to be part of that extraordinary group of 167 or so performers over 50 years.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF SIDWELL FRIENDS?

Sidwell informed everything in my life [not least husband Charlie McKittrick '84]. When [former Sidwell Art Department Chair] Ed Crow handed me my college recommendation for Northwestern, a known theater and music school, he said, "I think this is what you're going to do for a living." Ed was a musician, he went to Edinburgh every summer, he designed sets for the Folger—so to have someone I respected so much whisper that in my ear was really meaningful. Someone seeing in you something that you didn't even know was special is always as important an influence as a human being can be.

I never really put this together before—the community aspect. That's what I liked about the Groundlings, the shows at Northwestern, the musical I'm writing now with my dear friend Rachel Dratch. I like making things with lots of people and everybody benefiting from them, and that's definitely a Sidwell value—and very Quaker, to care about the bigger picture. ✨



Ana Gasteyer '85 and husband, Charlie McKittrick '84, attend "SNL50: The Anniversary Special" in February 2025.

“ I like making things with lots of people and everybody benefiting from them, and that's definitely a Sidwell value—and very Quaker, to care about the bigger picture.”



Courtesy David Danzig

The Advocate and the Coach

From human rights advocacy to college basketball coach, David Danzig '87 is always working to make a difference.

BY JONATHAN E. KAPLAN

Whether standing up for human rights or pacing the sidelines as a college basketball head coach, David Danzig '87 has sought to put points on the board in service of both changing public policy and winning games.

For more than 25 years, Danzig has leapt between two seemingly different careers. One working for prominent human rights organizations and the other coaching basketball in Europe and the United States. Today, the former Sidwell Friends point guard coaches the Pratt Institute men's basketball team. For someone imbued with a passion for social responsibility and justice, the roles are not as different as they seem.

In 2001, Danzig was working with the advocacy group Human Rights First when the September 11 terrorist attacks rocked the nation. Suddenly, Danzig found himself smack in the middle of a yearslong political debate over what constituted torture, its efficacy, and morality. What he found was that political support for what some officials described as "taking the gloves off" to prevent another terrorist attack—even torture—was rooted in popular culture. As part of his role at Human Rights First, Danzig traveled to West Point Military Academy to talk with cadets about the value of human rights and the immorality and inefficacy of torture. "Instead of it being a policy discussion divorced from reality, these were students who were going to become soldiers, who potentially could face a situation where they would genuinely have to decide, 'How am I going to treat a detainee?'" he says. "They would say without blinking, 'I'm going to go Jack Bauer on them if it is going to save the lives of my fellow soldiers.'"

Jack Bauer, played by Kiefer Sutherland, was the fictional Counter Terrorist Unit agent in the Fox television show *24*, which first aired less than two months after the September 11 attacks. The show grabbed the country's attention as

Bauer worked hour by hour over the course of a day to stop bad guys from killing millions of Americans. On *24*, torture worked and the ends—saving innocent lives—justified the means.

So Danzig flew to Hollywood to meet with the show's writers, producers, and actors, including Sutherland, to explain the show's impact in the real world and to provide some perspective about the use of torture. To Danzig's surprise, the show's executives had no idea of how *24* was being received, especially within the military. "They were stunned but also open to the idea of including different storylines," Danzig says.

He subsequently brought interrogators and West Point's commandant to the set of *24* to explain to showrunners that torture does not actually work. As a result, *24* began including more nuanced storylines. Sutherland condemned the treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib and said that torture did not work. Most importantly, Human Rights First produced a free video for the military in which one of *24*'s producers told soldiers that life should not imitate art—that is, do not follow Jack Bauer's lead.

But back to basketball. Before Danzig dove into a career advocating for human rights, his real passion was shooting hoops. If he was not at school or doing homework, he was in the gym practicing free throws and playing pick-up games.

From 7th grade through his senior year in high school, Danzig was on the basketball team at Sidwell Friends. During high school, Danzig played point guard on a team stacked with Division I talent and coached by Eddie Saah, a legend in Washington's competitive basketball circles.

On the court, Saah could be demanding and tough. Danzig loved it.

“The best coaches leave their players with a deep desire to play the sport even more,” Danzig says. “That was definitely true for me. He sparked in me a real enthusiasm for the game.”

Saah in turn valued Danzig because Danzig had an acute understanding of what shots to take and which ones not to take.

Following graduation from Sidwell Friends, Danzig played basketball for two years at Haverford College. He can tell you about every point he scored. “I only scored 67 points so it would not take too long,” he jokes.

After working at Human Rights First for more than a decade, Danzig and basketball would find each other once again—this time in Istanbul, Turkey.

In 2011, Danzig and his wife, Marie, were living in Rome, where Marie was working at the time. They traveled to Istanbul for the weekend, and Danzig saw former NBA star Allen Iverson, who had joined a Turkish basketball team, hit the court. At the game, Danzig also spotted a former Sidwell Friends teammate, John Patrick '87, who was coaching Iverson's opponents, a high-level German team.

Patrick invited Danzig to visit him in Germany, where Danzig confessed that he would love to coach basketball. Patrick hired him as an assistant. “I had never experienced basketball at this level, and so I was doing everything I could to help him out and would literally write down everything that he would say,” Danzig says. “At my first meeting in Germany as an assistant coach, I had three pens and a big notebook. The meeting lasted three minutes. I was stunned. It's just very focused.”

There's no navel-gazing in sport.

Danzig later went to work for another German team and, after returning to the United States, he coached at Saint Peters, a Division 1 school, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

But college basketball coaching means constant travel and time, and with a young family, Danzig needed more balance. That's when he joined the Open Society Foundations, a leading human rights foundation. “It does sound strange to toggle back and forth between these two very different worlds,” he says. “But in some ways, it's kind of great. On policy issues, you often wonder, ‘Am I making a difference?’ You work so hard, and you never can be sure.” Conversely, basketball players and teams are constantly and instantly evaluated. At the end of the game, there's a score. And the goal is clear: What does it take to win?

“

The best coaches leave their players with a deep desire to play the sport even more.”

After several years at Open Society, Danzig once again felt the call to return to basketball. Living in Brooklyn near the Pratt Institute at the start of the COVID pandemic, he called up Pratt's coach to ask if he could help the team. Soon enough, Danzig was coaching early morning and late-night practices. In his first season, Danzig helped lead Pratt to a big win over a strong Baruch College team. Now he's the head coach,

responsible for 19 players and everything they do on—and sometimes off—the court. And he is imparting lessons he learned at Sidwell Friends.



Courtesy David Danzig

“The challenge of the job is to help players understand ‘What do I need to do in order to be successful?’” he says. “Showing up on time, showing engagement, doing work outside of the normal flow—all of these things translate beyond basketball.” He is quick to add that he wants his players to be prepared for what comes after college. “They'll understand what it takes to try and do something that's really hard, and get it done in a way that makes a difference.”

The 2024/25 season was a particularly tough one for the team, which suffered through some injuries and finished with a 2-22 record. “People always ask if my job is fun,” Danzig says. “It is fun, but not in the traditional sense of the word. Being part of a group that is striving toward a difficult-to-achieve common goal—whether on or off the court—is one of the most engaging and rewarding things you can do with your life.” ✨

Jonathan E. Kaplan is a writer living in Washington, DC.

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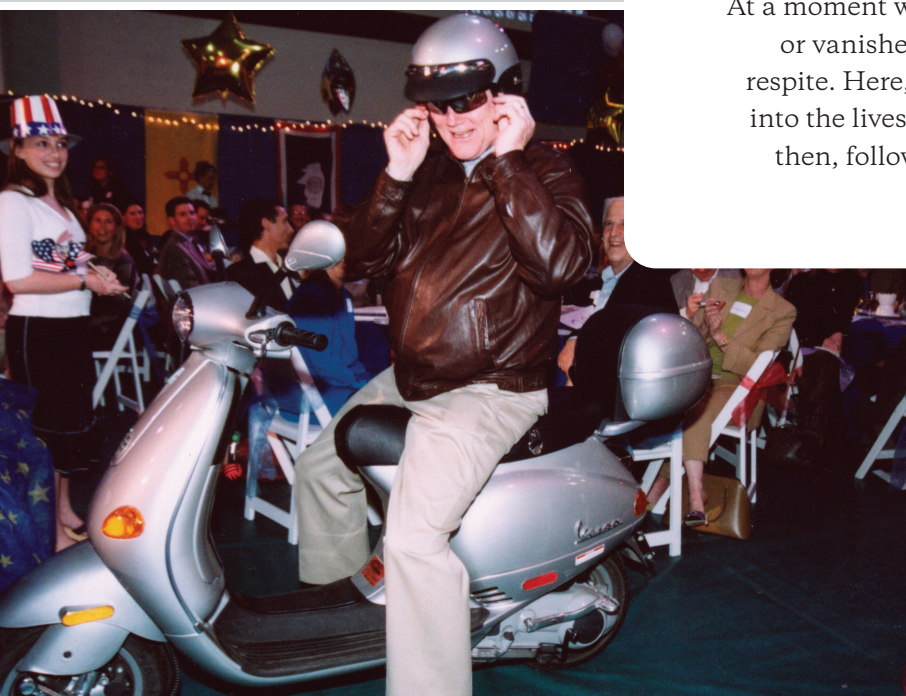


Photos Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives



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.



Remembering the life of former Head of School Bruce Stewart has brought back many happy memories from his time at Sidwell Friends. Let's all hold the Stewart family in the Light (see "In Memoriam," page 12).



1950

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REUNION

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ANN TYLER FATHY: “This has been a year of change for me. I spent four months living in an assisted-living facility, sold my condo, then moved to a small studio on the 10th floor of a new 36-story apartment building four blocks from where I used to live. It’s a new life. The other residents are mostly Gen Z and are friendly and helpful. I keep in touch with my old friends by email and monthly luncheons. And every day I enjoy the warm sun streaming through my windows and watch more high-rise residential buildings being built in downtown San Diego, something I had advocated for when I was on the planning committee.”

1952

JANE KUSHNER PAPISH

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1953

GLORIA GIRTON

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1954

RICHARD NICKLAS

rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu

1955

Join us at
REUNION

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN

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ROBERT BRESLER: “I was deeply saddened by the news of the passing of **David Jablonsky ’56**. After not seeing him for 30 years since our Friends School days, by a wonderful happenstance, we were officemates for three years during my time on the faculty at the Army War College. We became fast friends, and I admired him greatly. He was a decorated combat veteran who

served three tours in Vietnam despite having been severely wounded on his first tour. During his Army service, he earned a Ph.D. in history and completed his career as an army and civilian professor at the Army War College. He was the author of several books on the political-military direction of war, including those on Churchill and Hitler. He was terrific company with a generous nature and a wide range of interests. We often talked about our years at Sidwell Friends—the great times and the people we knew.”

PETER LUYKX: “I am working on a second book of mine in recent years, tentatively titled *Porous Boundaries: The Importance of the Environment in Biological Function and Evolution*. Meanwhile, my *The Professor and the Stork*, a fairy tale about a young girl (the professor) and her friend, a musical stork, should be coming out soon. Both are work, but both are fun to write, too.”

1958

BOB MYERS

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PEGGY PABST BATTIN

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FROM CLASS REP:

In the previous edition of *Sidwell Friends Magazine* notes for the Class of 1958, we provided a number of reflections on the then-Middle School Principal Frank Barger’s disciplinary style. Craig Morgan started the discussion in one of our every-six-weeks informal class Zooms, and several members of the class recalled Mr. Barger’s many positive qualities, but also his best-known disciplinary tactic: When kids had misbehaved in class and were sent by the teacher to the principal’s office, he would sometimes shake them gently but firmly against the metal lockers in the hall of that building, making a terrific racket and giving them a good scare. But he did this only to boys—the girls only watched—and he never hurt any of them.

One classmate was concerned that our account of Mr. Barger’s disciplinary measures made them sound like physical “assaults,” and that it was appalling we had published it. An unnamed alum from a previous year was also

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“offended,” saying Mr. Barger “was so much more than that and a great man in my life.” But quite a number of other members of the class replied with sincere praise of Mr. Barger: **Helene Rosenfeld Feldman, Steve Stovall, Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold, Bob Myers, Peggy Pabst Battin, John Coffman, Craig Morgan**, and Mr. Barger’s son, **Kit Barger**, a member of our very own Class of 1958. **Larry Aaronson**, who was a camper at Camp Shohola, then a counselor, head counselor, and ultimately camp photographer there, describes “Pop” as a “great educator, a powerful school principal, and wonderful camp director. ... He is one of the most influential persons in my entire life.” **Geoff Hugely** summed up the enormous respect we held for Mr. Barger: “He was an excellent teacher, principal, and role model,” providing effective and sympathetic discipline for unruly kids in a way regarded as perfectly acceptable then—three-quarters of a century ago—but not possible in the schools of today. Out of respect, Geoff says, “One can see Mr. Barger from his gentler side; if one learns respect for a person, there is no room for intimidation. ... His door was always open to those who had an issue, and who needed some guidance. ... He was a great example of what an educator, and mentor, should be.”

Speaking of today, there are a few delightful social notes: **Craig Morgan** is happy to report the success of a surprise 80th birthday dinner for his wife, Singhuen, that he and their four kids held in early November. Until she and Craig walked through the door of the church social hall, she thought she was attending a church social affair—but instead found 70 people—half relatives, half friends from the various stage of her life—shouting in unison, “Happy Birthday.” Craig reports that it was great fun.

There were some adventures: **Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold** and her husband, Ed, went on a cruise to the Caribbean; **Peggy Battin** went on a cruise to the Panama Canal, just as political controversy was heating up. And **Ted Mascott** and his wife, Mary, relocated their winter home from Naples to Jacksonville, Florida, on the Intercoastal Waterway. They continue to summer in the Thousand Islands, St. Lawrence River, in New York state.

There are achievements: **Tony Rogers** is about to send the final draft of *Judge Randall and the Angry Son* to **Joan Friedman Seymour** for copyediting. This will be Tony's 10th Judge Randall mystery, and Joan, he says, thanking her, has helped with most of them.

Others in the class have participated in lively politically tinged and sometimes philosophical discussions at our Zoom meetings: not only those mentioned above but also **Carol Wood Sheehan, Steve Baer, Dave Price, Dolly Bowman Tucker, Mary Lib Wahrenbrock Hoinkes, Thatcher Morse**, and more—some frequently, some occasionally. Please join us, if you haven't already, by dropping a note to dr.rbmyers@gmail.com or battin@utah.edu.

Finally, **Craig Morgan** thanked the editor of Sidwell Friends Magazine for not dumping our account of Mr. Barger's disciplinary style and our respect for him on the cutting-room floor: "The Sidwell community and Frank Barger's memory," Craig said, "are better for it."

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
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PROFESSOR DONALD (TONY) ROSS has retired from the University of Minnesota. Rather than try to report his extensive bio, just look it up. Even Mr. Forsythe would be impressed. Don is one of the most interesting people I've ever known. Look, read this bio: sidwell.pub/ross

CARLA BOEHRINGER BLACKBURN reports from Tucson, where she lives in a retirement community. She spends her time with various activities in the community and is on the committee dedicated to raising money to provide tips and other bonuses to the community's staff. Socially, she admits she has a gentleman friend, which does not surprise me, and they have "exchanged rings," but contemplate nothing further. She reminded me that "at a certain age, one must be careful." Carla has agreed to try the Zoom, which is on the last Sunday of every month. I look forward to seeing her there.

GLENN ADAMS, lives in the Virginia suburbs across the Potomac. His health is good, and he told me he walks five miles a day and just had a shoulder replaced. He's contemplating playing tennis again. I told him that he needs to adopt my rules, which mean anything that gets over your head is considered a winner if it lands fair. Same thing for short balls that bounce low. He said he will continue using his underhand serve that has "served" him well for 20 years. He is retired from the CIA and recently attended an alumni meeting in Langley. I can only wonder at what retired spooks talk about! Glenn says he spends a lot of time watching his granddaughters, Zoe and Lila, play varsity sports at Madeira high school. He said they excel at three sports, which means they have inherited liberally from their grandfather.

I had the distinct pleasure of spending a lot of time on the phone with **James Bazelon**. He lives in an apartment in San Diego and has an encyclopedic memory of our class. He remembers who left and when. He started off with **Gale Brown, Dean Brown, and Tupper Brown** and 10 more. He asked me if I remembered **Carol Janney** and **Frederica Wheeler**—of course I did. He mentioned how **Dave Prentice** was sad when he left. Had he stayed, our football team would have been unstoppable. Jimmy told me he lives in an apartment and has arranged to have his meals delivered by various organizations, so he lives well. He said there were some fires nearby, but nothing like L.A.; he then reminded me that

no one is supposed to live on the southern California coast as fires are endemic. Fires are so important there that species of plants have developed seeds that must be exposed to fire to sprout. The good news is that the fire-ravaged areas will be amass of wildflowers in the spring. Thanks, Jimmy, it's good to have you in the loop again. As he doesn't own a computer, Jim will try to join the Zoom by telephone, an easier method.

CHARLIE WESTON reports from Macomb, Illinois, where he lives in a house built in 1830 with his wife, Marrietta. Abraham Lincoln visited the house prior to one of his seven debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858. A later resident of the home developed a measles vaccine in the 1890s. Macomb is the home of Western Illinois University, where Charles chaired the political science department. (For you East Coast chauvinists, WIU is bigger than Dartmouth or Amherst, and has a \$60 million budget.) I spoke with Charles for several minutes and enjoyed it very much. He and I played football together at Friends. It was good to talk to an old teammate.

Our most famous author, **CARTER WILSON**, has produced a new book, his sixth novel, called *The Provider*. (See "Fresh Ink, page 24.") It's the story of a "contractor on the North Shore of Chicago who, closing in on 40, feels the burden of being the provider for all his wife and daughter's many money needs. The protagonist, Jake Guarani, goes looking for casual affairs. But what if love enters the picture?"

Now, Carter says you have to find the book on Amazon (or Barnes and Noble) to get the answer to that question. By the way, a cautionary note: There is another Carter Wilson out there, so make sure you get *our* Carter's work. I read his *Why Go On A Tuesday* and enjoyed it.

1960



JODY HUTCHINSON-GRAFF
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1961

BUNNY ROSENFELD

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LYNN POVICH: “Coming up on our 60th college reunions, I think of how grateful I am for the education I received at Friends, especially since I transferred in in 10th grade. Unfortunately, all the buildings we used are now gone, and I miss the old Upper School and the gym. I’m fully retired, spending winters in L.A. with both our kids (who moved there) and our two grandchildren. My husband, Steve Shepard, just wrote his fourth book, a biography on J.D. Salinger called *Salinger’s Soul: His Personal and Religious Odyssey*. It has gotten very good reviews, and he looks forward to when Salinger’s son will soon release all the material his father wrote from 1965 to his death in 2010 and never published.”

1962

CHETT BREED

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JILL GRUBB reports the “joy of the week: getting to know some Kenyan college students at Friends Meeting and attending Philosophy Club led by one of my former students now a counselor at my former school. Hope lies in the engaged young and those of us who are still involved and learning.” Jill also regrets not being a tech wiz, like the class representative, and we two both invite anyone competent with Zoom to contact us and to offer a session for class-wide participation.

JUDY MCGREGOR CALDWELL says, “My past year has been filled with visiting children and grandchildren. My daughter, Marcy, has a Psy.D. in clinical psychology. She has built up her practice to include 10 associates who specialize in working with adults with ADHD. She also helped write a book, *ADHS Is Awesome*. She now has the problem of having too many speaking engagements. My son continues to invest the monies from the University of Pennsylvania medicine entities. I spent



Susan MvGregor '60 and Judy Caldwell '62 next to Caldwell's painting *Serious Whimsy*, which was juried into a show at the Vero Beach Museum of Art in 2024.



Andy Darrigrand '62 and his wife, Lillian, take a selfie at church.

five weeks painting at the farm in Upper Pennsylvania and on Monhegan Island. I spent a good deal of time helping the Democrats here in Vero and continue to do so. The rest of the time is spent enjoying the peace of my garden.”

GLENN MCCLELLAND recalls, “Images from my youth that remain strong and that bring me peace when brought to mind include all of us sitting in a semi-

circle in Sidwell’s old gym in front of its wood-burning fireplace and being mesmerized by the images of flames burning there, the subtle smell of wood-smoke, and the sound of wood gently crackling as it burned safely contained in our fireplace. A good thing in a wooden gym. People who sometimes rose to speak seemed influenced by this atmosphere and generally spoke of themes of reconciliation and a search for both

inner and outer peace. There were even reminders that lasting peace could only be achieved by a common sense of justice by all. There is also a Quaker practice of sometimes stopping at the end of a busy day to take account of what has transpired and to meditate upon one's own state of mind and connection to peaceful thoughts. When troubled, I sometimes use this practice to reconnect to the memories mentioned above and seek constructive connections to and contemplation of what is transpiring around us."

ANDRE DARRIGRAND (now Andy) showed signs of spunk in reminding the class representative of his former self, encouraging me to scan four or five pictures and "pick one and make up some juicy story about it"—which I did *not* do. (See photo on previous page.)

WENDY SINTON, our classmate missing since the end of 9th grade, has led a full life raising two children and working as a volunteer director in the not-for-profit organizational world. She adds, "For many years, I was a bereavement facilitator with Hospice Volunteers and CHANS Hospice." She lives with her husband, Michael, a hydrologist and water resources engineer in Bath, Maine. She finds joy in part-time work at a local toy store and in monthly book-club meetings with friends, as well as in caring for her gardens and a circa 1760 home.

JUDY WASTLER is in post-op triumphant mode: "Life is good. Still doing the best job in the world—flying in the Southeast and at times to the Midwest as a Delta flight attendant. Great passengers! Not a one has made it to the news—so far. We spent a wonderful Christmas with our son and family in Gainesville, Florida. Can't get much better than that. We usually do have a wonderful time as a flight crew together. One thing that the general public doesn't know is that most of us rarely fly with the same people. We're only a 'crew' for the length of time of the rotation, which can vary from one to five days long. For the most part, all of us are cut from the same mold—i.e., we

love change (we're very adaptable), love people, love to laugh, and hate math. Once in a while a crabby, controlling flight attendant comes along, but then what does it matter? We only have one to five days together, and then it's on to the next fun crew!"

PETER AND MEME ENEMARK say, "We are grateful to have close relationships with our children and grandchildren. They all got together with us last year at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas-time. We are discussing various locales where we can spend a family Christmas together this year."

CHETT BREED (your rep) reports, "Suzanna and I spent a wonderful three weeks during November in Lisbon and Cascais, Portugal, working with Tony Nader on an advanced Transcendental Meditation course and loving Portugal's food and soccer, and loving the taxi-driver who shuttled us back and forth and gave us a no-charge royal tour of the coastline. Then home for a week, and a week in Colorado with our daughter and her husband, and a week following Christmas at home with our youngest son and his wife visiting from Missouri. News from California and Washington state are that our other two families are very well. So, all is contentment with the Breeds in Iowa!"

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
margo10022@aol.com

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: "The 'Season' in Miami is in full swing, so it's busy, busy, and the traffic is untenable! All the fun stuff is happening around here, and it's impossible to do it all. Additionally, the Garden Club is planning for our Annual Judged Flower Show and our Annual Spring Luncheon, and the Orchid Society is planning for our Annual Orchid and Arts Festival, all of which involve committees and meetings, etc. But I will backtrack a little: 2024 ended in a flurry. We had Christmas dinner with the family, followed a week later with a catered New Year's Eve party for 40+ friends.

Then, all of a sudden, it was January—with meetings, social engagements, theater, and more. I also took a two-day flower design class to be better prepared for the club flower show (and maybe a blue ribbon). Now I'm looking forward to the Coral Gables Kitchen Tour, the South Beach Wine & Food Festival, various house and garden tours, and more—plus more time with our 3-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter who has stolen my heart. She's very dynamic and is developing quite the personality. It has been a beautiful winter here, and I wish everyone a happy spring!"

ROSAURA EICHENBERG: "It is awfully hot in Rio, and even though one does not feel like doing anything in this kind of weather, I decided to write a little note to my old friends from Sidwell Friends School. Living in Brazil, it does not seem right to send a nice note about my personal life, when war is raging everywhere. But my health has improved, and we are going to be 80 years old this year. My feeling is that I have learned so little in life, and there is so much more to learn. I have come to the brilliant conclusion that Brazilians have a huge task before them: We must discover Brazil. That is kind of crazy."

DIANA WILLIS ROTHMAN: "This is a big birthday year for many of us: In October, **Lucy Hilmer** and I were able to celebrate **Lucy Jaspersen's** 80th with her. Later in February, I will fly east to celebrate mine with my children and grandchildren. My future predicted in the *Philos: Old Lady*. I guess I've been preparing for years. I'm currently caught up in my four book groups, so I'm reading Carter Wilson's latest novel, *The Provider*."

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
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1965



KEN LESURE
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1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS

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KATHY PAULL BROWN: “In 2021, I started a small group that writes postcards to voters, encouraging registration and turnout. Running the group and writing postcards on my own has kept me very busy. Recently, I have become a citizen archivist, transcribing original documents so as to enable the public to more easily search for particular items. (This is something anyone with a computer can do at home.) My husband, Wade, has joined me in this work, and we were both excited to find ourselves transcribing reports relating to submarine activity during World War II. In so doing, we have enjoyed reading about classmate **Ned Beach’s** father, Edward L. Beach Jr., who served as an officer on the USS *Trigger*, USS *Tirante* (receiving the Navy Cross), and USS *Piper*. We have also transcribed public comments relating to the John F. Kennedy assassination (declassified a few years ago), files relating to motor vehicles seized from people sent to Japanese internment camps, and many other types of historical documents.”

AMY DONOVAN: “I don’t know how to stream (still have a dumb TV), but love TCM (Turner Classic Movies, for those of you who aren’t very hip). Birding remains a passion—where’s the Snowy Owl who was hanging around Union Station a few years back? My husband, Tom, got a new knee in November; it has been great taking care of him (haven’t pushed him down the stairs yet). Thirteen-plus-year-old Tibetan Mastiff Ruby, who rescued us just over seven years ago, hasn’t killed anybody yet, and these days can barely get up off the snow-ice outside, which is pretty much where she lives these days and nights, that is until Tom and I down some vitamins and eat some spinach and go out and drag her inside. She’s very strong and even more stubborn. Lovely dog, surprised you don’t see more of them. It has been extra quiet here now, since our neighbor down the street, Janet Yellin, stopped being secretary of the treasury

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and the 8,652 Secret Service agents immediately moved on (tough to get security these days, from what I hear tell).”

PETE DONOVAN: “The Donovans on McKinley Street are doing well. We are healthy, and our kids and grandkids, who live in the area, are doing well. My son, **Jamie Donovan ’03**, and his wife, Renee, just had their second boy on December 18, named Kelly Robert Donovan. Claudia and I now have four grandkids. I had reverse shoulder reconstruction a year ago so now I have a bionic left arm. Golf and an occasional pickleball game are my only sporting endeavors. I’m not good at either of them. Last summer, I received a surprise box of flash-frozen Alaskan salmon from **Joe Evans**, who was our classmate through sophomore year. What a treat. He lives in Washington and works in Alaska. I had a few emails with **Tim Smith** last year as we both expressed our amazement at the athletic ability of Caitlin Clark. I don’t watch much sport anymore, but I do enjoy watching Clark, as well as **Kiki Rice ’22** (UCLA) and **Jadyn Donovan ’23** (Duke) and other Sidwell Friends grads who have made it to the big time. Sidwell has produced some fantastic men’s and women’s b-ball teams recently, and it is fun to follow some of the players. I see **John Clifford** and his wife, Sue, a lot. We attend the annual oyster roast in Wachapreague, Virginia, every November, which is a hoot. Claudia and I have a house in Wachapreague on the eastern shore of Virginia, and we spend quite a bit of time there. We enjoy birding down there, a hobby that my sister **Amy Donovan ’66** and her husband, Tom, both avid birders, have helped us with. I look forward to hosting our 60th in ’26!”

JOSEPH EVANS: “After returning from a tour of duty in Vietnam from June 1968 to July 1969 as a field radio operator with

1st Armored Amphibian Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I used the GI Bill to attend the University of Kentucky and Duke Law School. Since 1976, I have been practicing law in Alaska and hope to continue doing so for a few more years. I have served as the city attorney for Kotzebue, Alaska, for the past 26 years and the city of Nuiqsut, Alaska, for the past 16 years. (Kotzebue, pop. 2,987, is an Iñupiat community located 26 miles above the Arctic Circle in Northwest Alaska. Nuiqsut, pop. 420, is an Iñupiat community located in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska surrounded by oil field development.) It is a privilege and honor to serve the Native Peoples of Alaska. I am the father/stepfather of seven children and the grandfather/step-grandfather of six grandchildren. My wife, Valerie, and I live on the water in Manette/Bremerton, Washington, on the westside of Puget Sound in the Pacific Northwest. Life has been good for me!”

NANCY MCJENNETT: “I am enjoying my settled life in Concord, Massachusetts, where I’ve lived for 45 years—same house, same husband. I am on too many town committees and in too many book groups, but I love all my ‘causes.’ I have four of the most delightful granddaughters (two 4-year-olds, one 7, and one 12) who live too far away. **Kathy Paull Brown** cajoles me to write postcards to voters in hopes of electing good people to public office, a never-ending effort. I remain a hopeful pessimist! Hope we can all make it to our next reunion.”

MARK SEEGAR enjoys wildlife photography, especially of birds. He is proud of his son’s work on building his family’s new A-frame house in Union, Maine. Mark encourages his classmates to check out some of the YouTube videos his son has produced about the process: youtube.com/@AllPathsLeadToWater.

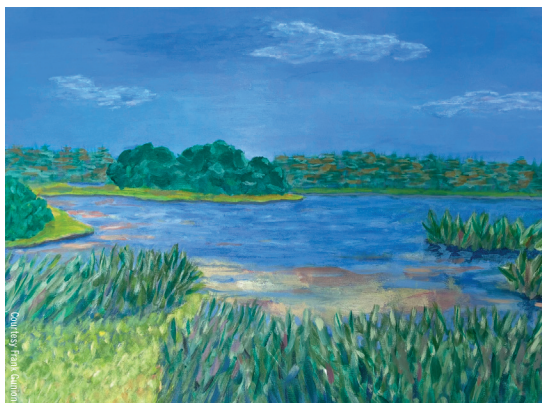
NANCY DEMUTH THOMPSON: “I take one day at a time. I walk my dogs and I swim, trying to stay upright and healthy. Both of our collies are certified therapy dogs with whom I attend de-stress events, mostly at colleges but sometimes at corporate events. I volunteer for our pet therapy or-

ganization by manning the Information line. The younger collie and I have been doing obedience competitions, which is fun since I have an enthusiastic partner. I read, I do needlepoint, I garden in season, and I maintain lots of friendships. Our two sons, two daughters-in-law, and two grandchildren live within 30 min of Lexington, so we enjoy their company often. Wade and I travel with them—and without them—several times a year to coastal Maine, central Vermont, Cape Cod, and Rhode Island. Our 55th wedding anniversary is this July. Life is good!”

CHRIS DEMATATIS: “I continue to enjoy life on the ridgeline of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northern Virginia. After 18 years on the board of the Land Trust of Virginia, including four years as chairman, I am now director emeritus of that land conservation organization. In April 2024, I flew from Virginia up to the Canadian border just east of Lake Champlain to photograph the total solar eclipse from the air. I focused on the eclipse’s umbra as it sped across the earth at more than twice the speed of sound. I had made the same type of flight into the August 2017 total eclipse when I photographed the umbra from an altitude about two-and-a-half miles above the Tennessee River Valley. I fly annually in support of land conservation in Virginia. In March, I plan to spend several weeks flying across the southland and the desert southwest to visit with family and friends while on my way to California. My stops will include visits with classmates **Martha Preston** in Austin and with **Valerie Szathmari** in Sacramento. I also look forward to touring several national parks in Arizona and Utah.”



Work by **Frank Gunion '67**



1967

STEVE BATZELL

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TOM AND RACHEL COCHRAN report that **Lou Thorson** visited their Green Pond, New Jersey, home in June. Soon after, they saw their Kinshasa, DRC-based daughter Blair, son-in-law Chris, and grandsons Nicolas (7) and Lucas (4). They spent a week together at the Cochran extended family’s Michigan summer place and then enjoyed more time, along with their son Ben, in New Jersey, while the little ex-pat family was on annual home leave from their international school teaching positions. Tom was able to spend some great time with their son, Peter, over a three-day visit to Anacortes and Seattle, while seeing old friends. In addition to his one paid job as a poll-worker, Tom continued various volunteer gigs, including with the Northeast-Midwest Institute he launched in 1977, where—using previously unfamiliar tools like *worldcat.org*—he tracks down and digitizes material for archival posterity. He’s doing as many of a Capitol Hill nonprofit’s previous 350+ policy research publications as possible, as some are obtainable only from one or two public libraries in the United States. Rachel continues to make quilts and work with fabric art groups. She was delighted to snag a blue ribbon for her entry in a recent Warwick Valley Quilters Guild’s show.

PETER GLASSMAN: “I sold my veterinary practice in DC at the height of COVID in 2020 and have enjoyed



Peter Glassman '67, his plane, and Uncle Steve, a former WW2 pilot

hanging out ever since. Reading, traveling, visiting kids (all three boys officially married) and grandkids (two via Mat and spouse in Bethesda), Washington Capitals (go Ovi!), and flying my airplane around keeps me engaged. I do miss the hospital but glad it is in good hands and continues to provide great care for area dogs and cats. It has now grown to 80 veterinarians and is one of the premier hospitals in the country. I fly angel flights (sick but not urgent patients) to/from hospital centers mainly on the East Coast. Always nice to have a mission and, for sure, much appreciated by those who, for one reason or another, have difficulty getting the help they need.”

FRANK GUNION: “After retiring from my business, South Moon Under, Diane and I have slowly been migrating south to Florida, where we now spend six months of the year. The other six months are based in Alexandria, where our kids and grandkids live. I have started a second career as a painter. Trying to make it more than a hobby and hope I live long enough to get good. Regardless of my skill level I find it engaging, a big challenge, and fun.”



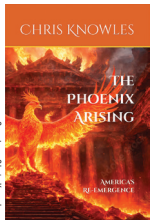
Courtesy Suzanne Stoessel



Courtesy Rutgers University

LEFT: Amy Benesch '68, Suzanne Stoessel '68 RIGHT: Judge Gregory Jackson '69

BOBBY MILLS: “On a chilly day in Rehoboth on December 7, I ran in the Rehoboth Beach Half Marathon with my daughter, Courtney. I finished at 2:56 and was sixth in my age group. I ran past President Biden’s house on the route, near Gordon’s Pond. It felt great. My daughter is a very accomplished runner and, but for waiting for dear old Dad throughout the race, she could have run it in two hours. But it was a real bucket-list thing for me to run with her on a beautiful, sunny but chilly day at the beach.”



Courtesy Chris Knowles

CHRIS KNOWLES: “After being helicoptered to the roof of Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston for a death-defying two-week stay in their Cardiac Intensive Care Unit in December of 2023, I returned home to Martha’s Vineyard to resume writing. My 26th published novel, *Nukes Down Under: The West’s Response to China’s Strategic Build-up*, was released in November 2024. I’m now working on *The Phoenix Arising: America’s Re-Emergence*. I made my annual eight-night nine-day winter silent retreat, this year at the Mercy by the Sea retreat center in Madison, Connecticut.”

1968

ROLLIE FRYE
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FROM CLASS REP:

On February 7, a handful of '68ers shared a delightful lunch at **Lynn McCown's** house to celebrate **Hugh Beach** being back in town for a few days. Lynn, Hugh, **Kay Stevens**, **Betsy Paull**, and **Rollie Frye** feasted on good food and enjoyed good conversation—and also celebrated Kay's and Rollie's birthdays.

SUZANNE STOESSEL: “Turns out **Amy Benesch** and I have been neighbors for all these years without even knowing it! But we’ve made up for lost time, catching up on each other’s lives as we hike together in beautiful Westchester County and topping it off with good meals.”

1969

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

GREGORY E. JACKSON: Holding a bachelor’s degree in political science from Rutgers College and a doctorate of jurisprudence from the Rutgers University-Newark School of Law, the Honorable Gregory Jackson was recently inducted into the 2025 Hall of Distinguished Alumni at Rutgers. Judge Jackson has devoted his entire legal career to public service, notably serving as presiding judge for the DC Superior

Court Drug Intervention Program, also known as Drug Court. Check out the full announcement here: sidwell.pub/jackson.

DEBORA HIRSHBERG NOONE: “I retired from alumni and admissions work in 2018. I worked at Sidwell Friends, North Yarmouth Academy, and Unity college, where I also worked on the alumni magazines, editing and writing alumni bios and stories. I live a few blocks from Bowdoin College in Maine, where I worked as a frat chef and took classes to finish up my bachelor’s, graduating in 1987, after getting my associate’s degree from Green Mountain College, Vermont, in 1971. Currently, I’m a full-time writer, having released nine romance novels. Before the Romance Writers of America disbanded, I was active, attending national and state conferences. I still belong to four state-wide romance writer’s groups (Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). This year, I sold two five-minute romances to *Woman’s World* magazine, and two others in previous years. I belong to a local, retired writers’ group, where we meet weekly, so I have had quite a few short pieces (fiction, nonfiction, prose, and poetry) printed in the monthly local paper. My son and grandson (15) live in Maine. My daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons (15 and 17) live in Denver, Colorado, and summer in Maine. Life is good—and busy!”

MARI THOMPSON: “Another Florida holiday season with my family (son Jeremy, daughter-in-law Kristina, and granddaughter London) has been wonderful. Family is everything, and it is so uplifting to see the joy and excitement through a 7-year-old’s eye. Hoping for only good things in 2025: good health, prosperity, happiness, and peace, as well as an end to racism, bigotry, misogyny, and greed. Blessings to all. *Nam Myoho range kyo.*”

1970



MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
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PALMER FORET: “Mari and I just returned from Egypt. See photo above of us riding camels with the pyramids in the background.”

ELLEN EVERT HOPMAN reports that she has published yet another book: *Celtic Druidry: Rituals, Techniques & Magical Practices*. The book is heavy on ecology and archaeology as well as Druid spirituality. Other than that, she still lives in an oak forest in western Massachusetts, is currently working to find a publisher for another children’s book and enjoys the blessings of “retirement.”

ANN FARNER MILLER: “Last June, David and I spent a few days filled with lots of conversation and great food (oysters, charcuterie, etc.) with **Bob McCabe** and **Dorie Caesar** in Wellfleet on Cape Cod. A high point was the guided tour of the Provincetown dunes on a bright but windy day. Fascinating landscape, ecology, literary/artistic history, and great company.”

ALECK MYERS: “My wife and I recently moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, where we both work mostly remotely. She is a nurse and serves as an integrated healthcare coordinator at the Arc of North Carolina, an advocacy group and provider for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I failed at retirement for the second time and am now happily working part-time as a specialized case consultant for GHA Autism Supports, a nonprofit agency supporting people with autism spec-

trum disorder. We continue to spend a good amount of time in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, at our house. Hello to all the ‘Sid-Buds’ classmates.”

BONNIE YOCHELSON: “I have a book coming out in June, *Too Good to Get Married, The Life and Photographs of Miss Alice Austen*, published by Fordham University Press. Austen was a Victorian amateur photographer who lived on Staten island, when it was a playground for New York’s wealthy merchant class. She is famous for her comical portraits of herself with her girlfriends flaunting feminine conventions—dressing up in men’s clothing or feigning to smoke cigarettes—and for a series of ‘Street Types of New York,’ in which she asked street vendors and messenger boys, among others, to pose for her camera on the streets. These photographs were taken in the 1890s, before she found her partner, Gertrude Tate, with whom she lived for 50 years. The book took me a decade to research and write; I am proud of the result and very happy it’s done! There will be a flurry of book events in New York but nothing planned, at least yet, for DC.”

FROM CLASS REP:

Our class would like to thank **Leslie Prosterman** for the excellent job she has been doing to keep us informed of where the World Central Kitchen is providing food and water to those in need in the LA area. Her advocacy work over the past several years for the WCK has helped raise much needed dollars for the benefit of people impacted by disasters.

1971

BRIAN STEINBACH

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MARY REYNER

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JERRY CAVE: “They said you can’t chase your grandchildren. Ha! Just watch us. We moved to Beaufort, South Carolina, enjoying our granddaughters and grandsons.”

JOHN EMORY: “I attended Renaissance Weekend in Charleston, South Carolina, over New Year’s, where I helped perform several musical parodies on New Year’s Eve (including some of my own, and some of my brother’s, **Marc Steinbach** ’70). Immediately upon my return, Marc and I attended four different U.S. senator swearing-in events in DC on January 3. That was followed shortly by my birthday, a major snowstorm, and my first-ever positive COVID test (minimal symptoms), not my favorite birthday presents. So, when someone says that they are sick of politics, I respond, ‘I got sick from politics?’”

GISELLE DONNELLY: “I am to be elevated to ‘emerita’ status at the American Enterprise Institute, that is to say semi-retired. My next book, *The Fourth Kingdom: The Personality of American Power, Volume II*, comes out in the fall, and I am starting on volume three, *The Whig Way of War*. My wife, Beth, and I look forward to vacationing again this summer in Asheville and hope the city is recovering from the floods.”



LEFT: Palmer Foret '70 and wife, Mari in Egypt **CENTER:** David Miller, Dorie Caesar, Ann Farner Miller '70, Bob McCabe '70 **RIGHT:** Jeremy Gordon '71 and his wife, Susan, at the summit of the Palisades Highlands

JEREMY GORDON and his wife, Susan, went to the summit of the Palisades Highlands on Christmas day, yards away from where the great Palisades Fire started—a fire that would ravage their town two weeks later. Jeremy's house in Pacific Palisades was spared, but many of his neighbors' homes were not. Jeremy and Susan are grappling with re-establishing a normal life.

DANA SACK: "I am still practicing real estate and construction law, and racing sailboats with friends from my second high school. My spouse went to the rival high school in San Francisco, returned to Tokyo to attend Keio University, and met me while working for a law firm here in San Francisco. We have children, Jason and Mina, and one grandchild, Emma. Jason is fluent in Japanese, Mina is fluent in Spanish, and Emma is fluent in Korean. Mina does immigrant asylum trials. She just sponsored me for the bar of the IX Circuit Court of Appeals. I used to sail and ski with **Doug Cater**, and I took **Doug Cole** sailing once. Anyone visiting San Francisco should let me take you sailing."

BRIAN STEINBACH AND MARY REYNER: Mary is still enjoying teaching wheel-thrown pottery at Hinckley Pottery in Georgetown and volunteering at the National Arboretum and at Hillwood Estate & Gardens (mostly weeding!). Husband Brian, now fully retired, is also volunteering at Hillwood as a woodland steward pulling invasives. They have adopted a now 1-year-old cat who has the zoomies 24/7!

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON
joyce@brastedhouse.com

LIZ KEENEY: "I retired in June after a career in higher education, teaching, advising, and most recently providing services to students with disabilities. I still have a number of private clients, including an immigrant preparing for his citizenship test, which feels like the most important thing I could be doing right now. For 18 years now, several of us have coordinated a local school-sup-

ply drive, run mostly out of my spare room, that collects and distributes upwards of \$5,000 of supplies a year. It started small, the change jar of a friend's family, and has grown. We target middle and high school students, whom more traditional drives don't serve, and get the materials to the counselors at several schools as they know who needs them. We define school supplies as anything that if you don't have it, is an impediment to learning. Hygiene products and deodorant are on the wish lists the schools give us, along with calculators and pencils. I live in a small college town, surrounded by farmlands, with the county seat and light industry nearby. Most county residents are working poor, so the need is huge. It's a pleasure to be able to do something local that I know has an impact. **Joyce Jacobson** and I have gotten together a couple of times in recent years, most recently in October 2024 at her home in Chautauqua. Hoping to see more of you at our 55th Reunion.

CINDY EYSTER: "I've been volunteering off and on over the past few years for an online Writing for Friendship and Resilience program for young women at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. Most of these lovely young women would never have had the opportunity to attend university in their home countries due to war, oppression, and lack of financial means. I also lead a monthly meditation and writing group online and enjoy the supportive nature of this small group as we express what it means to be human in these times. Locally, I am involved twice a week with my meditation community here in Tarrytown, New York, ever grateful for these moments of quiet and stillness. I'm still working part-time as a clinical social worker and enjoying baby-sitting my 8-month-old granddaughter once a week. I look forward to hearing more about what others are doing in their communities and send all of us good wishes for keeping our hope and faith in these times."

RAMSEY MCPHERSON is living in the Sarasota area and reports that both he and his son had a lot of damage from the last several years of hurricanes in the area. For-

tunately grants and insurance have helped repair the damage, and it certainly could've been worse as they are safe and well.

JOYCE JACOBSON: "My husband and I are both retired now from being volunteer EMTs with the local Chautauqua fire department for 15 and 20 years, respectively. We are both still active in the fraternal side of the organization, where our favorite activity is handing out 22 dozen donuts and cider to the local elementary school kids for their Halloween party. And there's nothing like giving a young child a tour of the ambulance and fire trucks in the fire hall. It's always good for children to see us in a non-emergency situation. We hope to hear from more of our classmates especially about what you're doing in your own communities to 'let your lives speak.'"

1973

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

STEPHEN BERNHEIM: "My wife, Susan, and I have been 10 years on Orcas Island, where we host a neighborhood community garden and enjoy the country life with our German Shepherd dog and frequent trips to the mainland to visit our daughter and grandchildren and son-in-law, who works from home for the federal government. Right now, I'm waiting to join a legal aid clinic (in-person!) to address needs facing people who are arrested and face deportation and their children. I could be tending leeks... I hope everything is going well with everyone back in Washington."

1974

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT
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PAUL MARKUN
pmarkun@gmail.com

KARL BOSTIC: "Well it has been a rollercoaster these past 16 months. A ride I hope to never repeat. My enduring passion remains as tennis and I'm in very good shape. I have been in London since 1996 working as a journalist, ini-

tially for NBC for 16 years, and since then as a freelance journalist, working for other networks and also the U.N. I was playing tennis as always at my club in London—they even have grass courts—on October 8, 2023. A great workout. The people on the court next to us said they loved my backhand—single-handed. That was the last normal thing I've done since then.

When I finished, I had a message from *PBS NewsHour* asking if I was available to go to Israel the next day. So, I left and that's where I've been ever since. I am no stranger to this region. I first came in 2001 to cover the second Intifada for NBC. And I have spent significant time in the West Bank and Gaza. During the 2014 war in Gaza, I narrowly survived an Israeli airstrike with a concussion. During the Iraq war, it was a triple-suicide car bombing in Baghdad. I have also spent significant time in Ukraine, where I've worked and visited since the last year of communism through the ongoing war. And I had another life-threatening experience in Crimea, spending a day in jail after Russians seized control. It could've been worse.

In all, eight times I've come too close. Malawi, the Congo, Nigeria also. Today I'm the biggest scaredy-cat. I can only say that I'm not the same person I was before I came to all of these places. I've seen enough horror, especially here. It's a beautiful thing to have choices in your life, which is what our parents sacrificed for and what Sidwell Friends helped build. People in these places don't. And because of Sidwell, I'm very good with languages. I took Latin for three years at Sidwell, and I now speak about five languages because of that—French, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Japanese, and some Arabic. Now I appreciate like never before that moment of silence at a Quaker meeting. And let me have a chance to keep hitting my backhands.”

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT celebrated Lunar New Year at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City with friends from the China-US Women's Foundation (cuswf.org). “I look forward to welcoming Sidwell Friends students



LEFT: Leslie Wolf-Creutzfeldt '74 visits the Metropolitan Museum of Art with friends from the China-US Women's Foundation. The calligraphy behind her reads: “Go where it is right. Stop when one must.”

again to our summer internship program. Global friendship and understanding are more important than ever!”

1975 Join us at REUNION

ALAN DRUMMER

alandrummer@hotmail.com

NEVILLE WATERS: “As students, my friend group's moniker, ‘The Rowdies,’ was indicative of the passion displayed while playing an obscure card game (rook). This photo was taken after a recent night of passionate card playing (see photo on next page). So, all members of the class of 1975 are encouraged to recall our good times during our milestone 50th Reunion May 2-3, 2025.”

FROM THE CLASS REP:

Watch for more updates when the Sidwell Friends '75 Class Reunion meets this May!

1976

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BETSY ZEIDMAN

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1977

ADAM STERN

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AMANDA EASTMAN BUSCHI: “After 25 years in beautiful, bucolic Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Neil and I are moving to Pamplona, Spain. Both he and Sarah have Italian/EU citizenship, which makes it easier to relocate, and I will likely be a ‘digital nomad’ initially, until I get my citizenship through our marriage. Sarah is staying in Massachusetts for the time being but hopefully will join us in Europe in a few years. Pamplona is lovely—would enjoy visits from my Sidwell Friends classmates!”

JEANNIE FINKEL: “I'm still in the L.A. area, happily retired after 40 years in the HR field, and enjoying my new hobby, which is anything to do with golf (playing and volunteering). Also, I'm still happily married to my husband of nearly 40 years, Ricky Ortner. Sending warm thoughts and good wishes to all '77ers near and far!”

EMILY RUBIN JENNEWEIN writes from Mexico City, where she is in Spanish school in the mornings and seeing the sights in the afternoons with her husband Chris for two weeks. “My earlier Spanish immersions were in Salamanca, Spain, last year and Costa Rica. Wishing I had started Spanish at Sidwell, but after six years learning the language, I'm finally getting there! In August, we loved hosting our class scribe, **Adam Stern**, and his partner, Tia Rich, at our home in Del Mar, California, when they were in San Diego for a family graduation. We hiked at nearby Torrey Pines Natural Reserve.”

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: 1975 classmates Neville Waters, Ken Hyatt, and Eric Henry are joined by 1974's Edward Cornwell. **RIGHT:** Jeannie Finkel '77 with her husband, Ricky Ortner, in La Jolla, California



BRIAN MUYS: “We’re recovering from the devastating wake of Hurricane Helene in Asheville and many surrounding communities here in western North Carolina. I’m happy to say that we emerged relatively unscathed, despite having to navigate the gauntlet of insurance adjusters and onsite FEMA representatives, not to mention the cleanup of nearly two dozen mature evergreens and hardwoods on or around our property that cannot be readily replaced. Our consolation is planning for a COVID-postponed visit to Portugal and Spain later this spring, along with ongoing, regular visits home to DC to see my daughter and now 2-year-old grandson as proud grandparents.”

LINDA SHEFFIELD: “Who would have ever thought that my career as a ‘Best Ager Model 60+’ would have happened, let alone take off? Aldi Supermarket contracted me to eat overly sweet cookies for their Christmas advertising campaign in Germany. I was plastered everywhere! The excitement has continued into 2025. I am now part of the KaDeWe community spring/summer ad campaign; KaDeWe is Berlin’s largest and most prestigious department store. Do check [#lindab.in.berlin](https://www.lindab.in.berlin) for a look.”

ADAM STERN: “Eleven members of the Class of 1977 gathered for a mini-reunion in Carpinteria, California, in October 2024. We enjoyed four days at a spectacular vacation rental with plenty of time for hiking, beach walks, cooking, and hanging out together. **Ed-die Lazarus** hosted us for dinner one night at his home in Santa Barbara. Others in the group were **Geoff Smith, Bill Hyun, Lewis Segal, Roger Pollak, James O’Donnell, Adam Stern, Adam Kolker, Steve Clark, Jeff Pierson, and Stephen O’Neill.**”

1978

PETER MACDONALD
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CHERYL BASCOMB: “I enjoyed traveling to Switzerland and Italy last fall with a group of Dartmouth alumni travelers and a Dartmouth professor. We experienced snow and cold as well as lake swimming on the same trip. Hard to pack for, but still fun. In January, I had the pleasure of getting to meet and talk with Stacy Abrams when she was on campus. Her talk on moral courage in uncertain times was uplifting and inspiring.”

BRANDEL FRANCE DE BRAVO: “My third collection of poems, *Locomotive Cathedral* (University of Nebraska Press), came out early this year. One of the poems—to my shock and amazement—was included in *The Best American Poetry 2024*. I’ll be reading from my new book at Politics and Prose on Connecticut Avenue on April 26 at 5 p.m. If you can’t make the April 26 event, I’ll be reading at the Writer’s Center in Bethesda on May 27 at 7 p.m. I would love, love to see classmates (and other Sidwell community members)! I’m living mostly in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, these days, so the DC readings are a great opportunity to connect.” (See “Fresh Ink,” page 24.)



Brian Muys '77 and his wife, Siobhan, in Asheville, North Carolina



LEFT: Linda Sheffield '77 is a model for ad campaigns, including Aldi. **CENTER:** Class of 1977 friends in Santa Barbara, California: Geoff Smith, Bill Hyun, Lewis Segal, Roger Pollak, James O'Donnell, Adam Stern, Adam Kolker, Steve Clark, Jeff Pierson, Stephen O'Neill, Eddie Lazarus **RIGHT:** Emily Jennewein '77 and Adam Stern '77 at Torrey Pines Natural Reserve in San Diego

DAVID SHAW: "The good news first: My youngest son is the owner of a very successful large-format printing company in West Chester, Pennsylvania, specializing in vinyl vehicle wraps and wall murals. He also just purchased his first home. The semi bad news: I spent two-and-a-half weeks in October in Penn hospital after having a benign tumor removed from my brain. Surgery went well and I have fully recovered. It brings life into perspective, and you remember what is truly important: family. Don't sweat the small stuff."

1979

TED LEWIS

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KEENE TAYLOR

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PAUL CANFIELD: "I recently became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (for work in experimental new materials in physics). Over the last semester, my wife, Dr. Raquel Ribeiro (also a research professor), gave many talks.

LAURIE REYNOLDS RARDIN: "Jed retired about a year ago from 30+ years in ministry. Huzzah! It is a true joy to have more of Jed's time. We are having weekends together! And... I finally got to speak from the pulpit during Jed's last service! Great to have **Joanna Fleming Bowen** and her husband join us for the festivities! And we celebrat-

ed his retirement with a family trip to Bonaire. A dream come true for me, which included getting my Open Water Diver certification, and I dove with our daughters in one of the last places in the Caribbean with relatively healthy coral reefs and diverse marine life. It was spectacular! My full-time work continues with the state of New Hampshire, and I am leading or involved with multiple projects focused on children's environmental health. Our daughters are both in grad school: Brynne at American University studying wildlife filmmaking and Marta at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart studying landscape ecology."

1980



WILLIAM RICE

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ELIZABETH CARTER: "I'm considering retirement eventually but still working as a psychotherapist in a medical center. It's a good excuse (though my husband sees right through it) to buy art supplies and children's books and toys since I work with everyone 'from kids to grandparents.' I have committed to taking some time off to go on a vacation (a what?) with the aforementioned husband."

CAITLIN HOFFMAN: "Wayne and I have enjoyed life in Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, these past 14 years. I continue to teach ballet and

Pilates on the island. I love encouraging all ages to find joy and ease through artistic expression and movement. Proud parents' news: It was a treat to be in DC last winter to see our son, Hunter, perform at the Studio Theatre in *Love, Love, Love* (see photo on next page). Classmate **Rika Granger** joined us for one of the shows. Happy for our daughter, Paige, who recently opened her private practice as a licensed clinical social worker in Nashville. It is so special to see old friends from our class! In the spring, I was fortunate to get in on **Bobby Morris's** amazing show, *Outward Bound*, at the Ships of the Sea Museum in Savannah. In September, I met Rika and **Sarah Breslau Barnett** for an impromptu breakfast at Tatte near Sidwell Friends. It's fun to catch up back in the old neighborhood! In October, I had a quick visit with **Michael Williams** on the island (see photo on next page).

LISA IANNUCCI: "I am busy doing the librarian thing: faculty librarian at Monmouth University, and a reference librarian at a public library and local community college. Media literacy is more important than ever, and students are coming in unprepared for the new media environment—and we are dealing with the burgeoning AI issue. I'm still living at the Jersey Shore a few blocks from the ocean, where I find it very calming to hear the high-tide waves at night when it's quiet. I'm doing a lot of community service, volunteering as well, and finding it very re-



LEFT: Paul Canfield '79 and wife, Raquel Ribeiro, in Prague **CENTER:** Jed, Marta, Brynne, and Laurie Rardin '79 in Bonaire, wearing *Ofauna.com* rash-guards designed and sold by Brynne. **RIGHT:** Washington-area Class of '80 alumni at a December 2024 gathering: Louisa Hollman, Roselyn Epps, Ann Deschamps, William Rice, Roshini Ponnampereuma, Peter Hutt, Maryland Pao

warding during these turbulent times. Hoping to do some short road trips this summer. Hope all are well! Hope to see you all at our Reunion in May!"

WILLIAM RICE: "For someone lightly traveled like me, 2024 was an unusual year. After visiting Scandinavia in June, at year end my family traveled to India for the wedding of my wife's nephew to a woman who had journeyed back to her father's hometown in West Bengal for the multi-day affair. I got to wear cool native garb and participate in the turmeric ceremony among other fascinating duties. India itself was overwhelming. After years of accepting tales about the homogenizing effect of globalization, I was naively unprepared for the sheer difference of the place. Even though hundreds of millions of Indians have risen up from poverty in recent decades, there are still hundreds of millions more still mired in it. And

that poverty is very much on display—the least important impact of which was the disorientation of a first-time Western visitor. For a Washington native who thought I knew something about air pollution, the constant particulate haze of Kolkata and the gray coatings on the leaves was still a shock. But I'm glad I went. I learned some sobering lessons about the world and myself. As artificial environments advance, it's also good to be reminded of the importance of physical experience.

1981

ANDREW SZANTON
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DAVID WEINBERG: "I recently completed my eighth and final year as chair of the Ohio State Astronomy Department. I'm delighted to be a 'normal' professor

again. There were many highlights in 2024. We went to China with our daughter, Ellie, where we visited her orphanage and met the foster parents with whom she spent the first year of her life. Ellie graduated from Oberlin Conservatory in May and is now making her way as a jazz drummer in Chicago. Island Universe, a sculptural installation by Josiah McElheny that I helped to design, is now on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (thank you, **Michael Govan!**). A good fraction of my time over the past 15 years has gone toward the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is now assembled in a giant clean room at NASA Goddard and is scheduled for launch in October 2026. It's exciting to see the telescope all together, and there is lots to do ahead of launch. And this semester I am teaching undergraduates about black holes, which is lots of fun."

1982

JONATHAN LEVINE
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JULIET BLAKE SHAGOURY: "I am loving teaching 2nd grade (a first for me in my 25 years of public education); 2nd grade is when the rubber hits the road. My husband, Dan, was elected to his second term in the Maine House of Representatives. I spent part of my summer serving as one of his drivers as he canvassed the rural parts of his district. Meeting folks and hearing



LEFT: Caitlin Hoffman '80 hangs out with her actor son, Hunter, outside the Studio Theater, where he was appearing in the show *Love, Love, Love*. **RIGHT:** Caitlin Hoffman '80 spends time with Michael Williams '80 and a friend on Hilton Head Island.



LEFT: Officials from the city of Berkeley and Kala Art Institute attend the art opening for artists **Cheryl Derricotte '83** and Marcel Pardo Ariza. **From Left:** Katie Van Dyke, Mayumi Hamanaka, **Cheryl Derricotte '83**, Marcel Pardo Ariza, Jennifer Lovvorn, **Ellen Lake '87**, and Robert Rivera **RIGHT:** **Katherine Dell '83** with husband Mike, daughter-in-law Sarah, older son James, and younger son Tommy



about their challenges and opinions was really interesting. **Liz Gordon '83** made a pit stop here in Hallowell last summer, and we had an awesome time swimming in Cobbossee Lake and getting caught up. In January 2025, we welcomed our first grandchild into the world. Although she and her parents were all born in Maine, they're still not considered true Mainers. Nevertheless, we feel so fortunate that they're just a short drive away."

1983

LINDA GAUS

gaushaus1965@verizon.net

FROM THE CLASS REP:

First and most importantly, here's an update on our classmates who were in LA during the recent catastrophic fires: **Adam Guttentag** lives in West LA. He wrote that other than some smoke and ash during the worst days of the fires, he was lucky to not be impacted too much. **Fred Wilhelm**, in Riverside, reported "the fires were 30-50 miles from my son, Joe, his wife, Leyla, and me." Perhaps most directly affected was classmate **David Lawson**, who lives in Altadena and wrote: "Got back in last night. Tree debris everywhere outside, fridge full of moldy goodness, freezer ice melted and warped the floor. But our little 1953 ranch house is still in one piece. No ash inside, but a lotta blown dust. We'll need to have the interior tested & cleaned before we can move back in. It's been heavy, but we are very fortunate."

CHERYL DERRICOTTE: "As life would have it, Sidwell folks are everywhere—including **Ellen Lake '87**. Ellen is the co-director of Kala Art Institute. From 2023-2024, I was one of two Municipal Artists-in-Residence for the city of Berkeley's Climate Equity Project. The culminating two-person show (me and artist Marcel Pardo Ariza) was on view at Kala through February 14, 2025." For any Bay Area alums who want to visit or for anyone who wants to check out the website: kala.org/exhibition/roadwork."

KATHERINE MACRAE DELL: "I'm happy to report that our older son, James, was married in July to Sarah Clothiers in Philadelphia. It was a beautiful ceremony and a very celebratory weekend, including a rehearsal dinner at the home of my brother, **Rob MacRae '86**. I'm happy that **Linda Gaus** and her husband, Michael, could join in the festivities!"

RACHEL PASTAN: "The most fun news from me is that my older daughter got married in the fall of 2023. David and I love our son-in-law, who is a wonderful balance to/for our daughter, and we had a blast at the wedding in Cape Charles, Virginia. You can see our younger daughter and her partner in the photo, too. All four kids are in DC right

now, which is pretty great, even though Philly would be nicer (for us). I'm still in Swarthmore, outside Philadelphia, going on a quarter-century now. I'm finishing a novel for a summer deadline, hopefully publishing sometime in 2026. It's about what family is, and mothers and daughters, and grief, and art. There are a couple of long flashback sections that take place in high school, and I'm definitely using *A Midsummer Night's Dream* memories for that! My other news is that I think I'm done with writing novels and am instead moving into selling them: I'm helping a friend open a small independent bookstore in our town. Check Celia Bookshop out online at celiabookshop.com! I'm excited to (a) get away from the insanity of book publishing and (b) help make connections between books that don't necessarily get a lot of attention for people who might love them. Also, starting something new at almost 60 is cool, although also scary. Sending good wishes out to all of you."

PATRICK HEWES: "Big six-oh hit in December. As I work away, I have planned an Outward Bound dog-sledding adventure in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, February 2025. I'll report back if I survive it!"



LEFT: Rachel Pastan '83 with family at her daughter's wedding **RIGHT:** Dahomey Coleman '91, Che Chisholm '91, and Rachel Pauley '91 attend a Knicks vs. Wizards Game at Madison Square Garden.



MICHAEL EDSON, recently returned from places far away, has this to say: "I've just wrapped up four years of work as the founding director of the Museum of Solutions (MuSo), a new, state-of-the-art facility in Mumbai, India, dedicated to inspiring and empowering young people to solve the world's most pressing problems. MuSo is really focused on advancing the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. In our opening year, the museum was named to *Time Magazine's* World's 100 Greatest Places list and won the international Hands On! Children in Museums award. I've been working in museums as a director and strategist for a long time now, mostly out on the edge of my and everyone else's comfort zone, trying to get cultural institutions to have a more consequential positive impact in the world. I think a lot about my Sidwell Friends education and classmates in this regard, dear '83-ers, in that we were so strongly taught that there was a profound gift within every individual and that everyone had something positive to add to the community—and a fundamental human right to do so—whether that community is 20 kids in a Sidwell Friends Meeting for Worship or 22 million in a megacity like Mumbai. Big love to you all!"

SUSAN WILLCOX DYKEMAN: "Here's one for all the third-act learners out there: A few years ago, I picked up a paintbrush for the first time, and now you are all invited to my first solo exhibition of abstract paintings at Touchstone Gallery in Washington, DC, this May. Join me for the opening reception on May 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. **Sally Willcox '81**, **Carolyn Willcox '86**, and **Isaac Dykeman '14** will all be there, so let's make it a reunion! You can have a perfect DC Day—start with brunch, then a protest at the government institution of your choice, next pop into the gallery to take in some original art and finish with dinner. Hope to see you there!"

"As for me, **LINDA GAUS**, at 60 I'm finally living my translation dream. I'm currently working on a translation of the novel that won the 2024 German Book Prize, Germany's most prestigious literary award, which was presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. It's by the novelist, poet, and performance artist Martina Hefter, and it will be called *Hey, Good Morning, How Are You?* when it is published in English (with my name right on the cover!) by Penguin Random House UK in spring 2026."

1984

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Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

ALEC BARTSCH: "After wrapping up a 20-year career at Pixar, I'm now in Seoul helping to create the environments for director Bong Joon Ho's first animated feature film. This exciting project will keep me busy until May or June, after which I'll be moving from the Bay Area down to Los Angeles."

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

1992

EMILY PASTER
emily.paster@gmail.com

1993

CASEY COLMAN HASSENSTEIN
caseycoleman30@hotmail.com

JENNA LAMIA: "In September 2024, a television mini-series I wrote and executive produced called *The Perfect Couple*, which was an adaptation of a novel by New York Times bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand, debuted on Netflix (finally!). It was the most-watched debut of an American series on Netflix for all of



2024, and the number two worldwide, second only to Harlan Coben's *Fool Me Once*. Needless to say, it was very gratifying to have something I had worked so hard on finally out in the world. I am currently living in Vancouver shooting season four of *Resident Alien*, which will also eventually be on Netflix. (Season Three comes out on Netflix in February 2025.) If anyone from the Class of '93 finds themselves in Canada, drop me a line!"

1994

BETSY STOEL

estoel@gmail.com

GRAHAM BULLOCK was in DC this past summer directing the Davidson in Washington Program and was able to connect with several Sidwell friends, including **Ali Mohamadi**.

DAN GALLANT: "I recently became the executive director of the House of Speakeasy Foundation, a literary arts organization that produces author events, spoken word performances, readings, and lectures; distributes thousands of free books to students and families each year; and brings writing workshops to schools and libraries. Our website is houseofspeakeasy.org; we're based in New York, but expanding to other cities."



LEFT: Graham Bullock '94 and Ali Mohamadi '94 hanging out with some of their kids after a delicious brunch in Bethesda.
RIGHT: Mac Owen '28, Tillie Owen '25, Ivan Petrovitch '94, Alex Petrovitch '97, David Owen '86

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

JESSICA GREEN: "I am still in Toronto, teaching environmental politics at the University of Toronto. Me and the kiddos (Milo, 10, and Hannah, 12) are newly minted Canadian citizens! Drop me a line if you're coming through Toronto (jessicafg@hotmail.com)!"

IVAN PETROVITCH: "We recently caught up with current and alumni Friends on the slopes in Park City, Utah."

1995



MARI PALMER MCDONALD

mari.mcdonald@mail.com

1996

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

BILLY GRAYSON: "In 2025 I have a new job: I have joined ICF as the executive director of the ICF Climate Center. I'd love to connect with any alumni who are working on climate change mitigation and adaptation in these interesting times. Check us out at icf.com/climate-center."



LINDSAY HARRIS: "I am happy to report that at the start of this year, I published my first book, *Photography, Architecture, and the Modern Italian Landscape: Primitivism and Progress*." (See "Fresh Ink," page 24.)

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON

ecornie@gmail.com

DAMITA CHAMBERS MCDONALD: "My husband Jerome and I welcomed our first child, Wesley DeWayne McDonald, on September 3, 2024." (See photo on next page.)

1999

LEMA KIKUCHI

lema.kikuchi@gmail.com

CHRISTINE BRAUNOHLER married Jillian Fraker this fall on Nantucket Island surrounded by their family and friends. Sidwell Friends grads in attendance were **Katie Groark**, brother **Peter Braunohler '06**, sister-in-law **Katie Stewart '07**, and sister **Lauren Braunohler '02**. The couple, and their three children (pictured), will be moving from Nantucket to Berkeley, California, this summer.

2001

ELIZA ORLINS

eorlins@gmail.com

LEIGH SHULL took on a new role this past summer leading Visa's North America Deal Strategy & Development Team—an exciting next chapter in her eight-year journey with Visa thus far. Beyond the day job, in October, Leigh was recognized as a one of Seramount's Working Parents of the Year winners for 2024 for her global co-leadership of Visa's Parents & Carers Employee Resource Group (now over 2,000 members globally).



LEFT: Damita Chambers McDonald '97 with husband, Jerome, and baby, Wesley **CENTER:** Christine Braunohler '99 and wife, Jillian Fraker, with children Avery, Zeal, and Sidney **RIGHT:** Leigh Shull '01 accepts the Working Parents of the Year Award for her work at Visa.

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

MAYA SOBLE WINKELSTEIN: “My husband, Devlin Winkelstein, and I were thrilled to welcome our third child, Elizabeth, on December 30. She joins her two older brothers and several pets. We moved from Georgia to Severna Park, Maryland (just north of Annapolis), in summer 2024. I continue to work as a partner at The 2030 Fund, which is focused on addressing climate challenges in the Gulf South.”

2005

Join us at
REUNION

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MEREDITH FINEMAN moved from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles, California, and would love to connect with Sidwell friends on the West Coast.

2006

JOHN SANDERS
jsanders36@gmail.com

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

DENNEL REYNOLDS: Dear old friends gathered at Washington, DC’s Mess Hall on May 11, 2024, to dance, eat, and celebrate the marriage of **Dennell Reynolds** and Bryan Yannantuono. The groom is a graduate of Sidwell Friends’ neighbor, American University.

2009

AJ PARKS
jhpi13@gmail.com

SOPHIE FELDMAN and **AMSIE HECHT:** “On August 24, Sophie Feldman celebrated her wedding to Matt Valespino in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, with many Sidwell friends in tow. Just three weeks later, on September 14, much of the same group convened at Amsie Hecht’s wedding to Seth Jacobs in the Shenandoah Valley. We were grateful to have so many reasons to celebrate together this summer!”

COLIN HARRIS, his wife, Calynn Harris, and their daughter, Audrey Mei Harris, are thrilled to announce the arrival of a little sister, Sabrina Ling Harris, on October 30, 2024, at Inova Alexandria Hospital. Baby Sabrina weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and is growing fast. Big sister Audrey is taking to her new role with love and gusto!

A.J. PARKS: “We were so grateful and pleased to welcome our first child into the world in Washington, DC, on September 27, 2024. Lavender is energetic and talkative these days and has

been making her grandparents and great-grandparents smile from ear to ear for a few months. We are so thankful to the **Sidwell Friends** community for sharing well wishes and helping us share our joy.

2010

Join us at
REUNION

KAI ZHENG
kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

2012

SALENA HESS
salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE
jjv2116@columbia.edu

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA
xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

2014

AVIKAR GOVIL
avikar.govil@gmail.com

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: (Back L-R) Megan Wilner, Sean Wilner '07, Andrew Ross '07, Gina Lentine '07, Amalya Henderson '07, Sarah (Bush) Hechler '08, Sara Woolery, Alex Cohn '07. (Front L-R) Dennell Reynolds '07, Micah Hendler '07, Miranda Bogen, Liv Elbert, Teddy Martin '07, Maggie Dorr '08, Mary Lane '08 **RIGHT:** Dennell Reynolds '07 marries Bryan Yannantuono.



LEFT: (Back L-R) Sam Feldman '06, Sam Hart '09, Kylie Hiemstra '09, Caitlin Lesczynski '09, Katie Choi '09, Catherine Heyward '09, Annelise Haskell '09, Emma Fernandez '09, Tess Lippincott '09, Philip Rihm '09 (Front L-R) Cristina Alba '09, Sophie Feldman '09, Matt Valdespino, Amsie Hecht '09, Florencia Foxley '09 **RIGHT:** (Back L-R) Philip Rihm '09, Catherine Heyward '09, Caitlin Lesczynski '09, Ben Hecht '07, Amsie Hecht '09, Seth Jacobs, Florencia Foxley '09, Emma Fernandez '09, Kylie Hiemstra '09, Sam Hart '09, Tess Lippincott '09 (Front L-R) Cristina Alba '09, Sophie Feldman '09



LEFT: Sabrina Ling Harris **CENTER:** Colin Harris '09, Calynn Harris, Audrey Mei Harris, Sabrina Ling Harris **RIGHT:** A.J. Parks '09 and Jennifer Parks take a family holiday picture to celebrate Lavender's first winter season. James and Jennifer got their Christmas wish and so they're celebrating with a sleigh and a Santa hat.

2015



EMILY MILLER

emillerusa@gmail.com

2016

TALHA JILANI

jilani-talha@live.com

2017

MILAN VIVANCO

vivancomilan@gmail.com

2018

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2019

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2020



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2021

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2022

RASHI GUPTA

rashigupta704@yahoo.com

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Powell Schultz '37

December 4, 2024

Brooks Walker Jr. '46

September 17, 2024

Charles Kinzer '48

September 4, 2024

Charles Brown '50

August 19, 2024

Pat Peterson Strazza '51

October 23, 2024

Charlie Holland '56

December 29, 2024

George Madison Lady '57

January 4, 2025

Ruth Brickwedde Cooper '61

September 10, 2024

Molly Clark '67

July 17, 2024

Stephanie Fain Morrow '70

February 12, 2025

Former Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the School:

Charles Lockyer Jr. P '89, '92, '97

December 9, 2024

Lockyer was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1989.

Bruce B. Stewart

January 26, 2025

Stewart was the eighth head of Sidwell Friends School.

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that which is *eternal*.”

—GEORGE FOX

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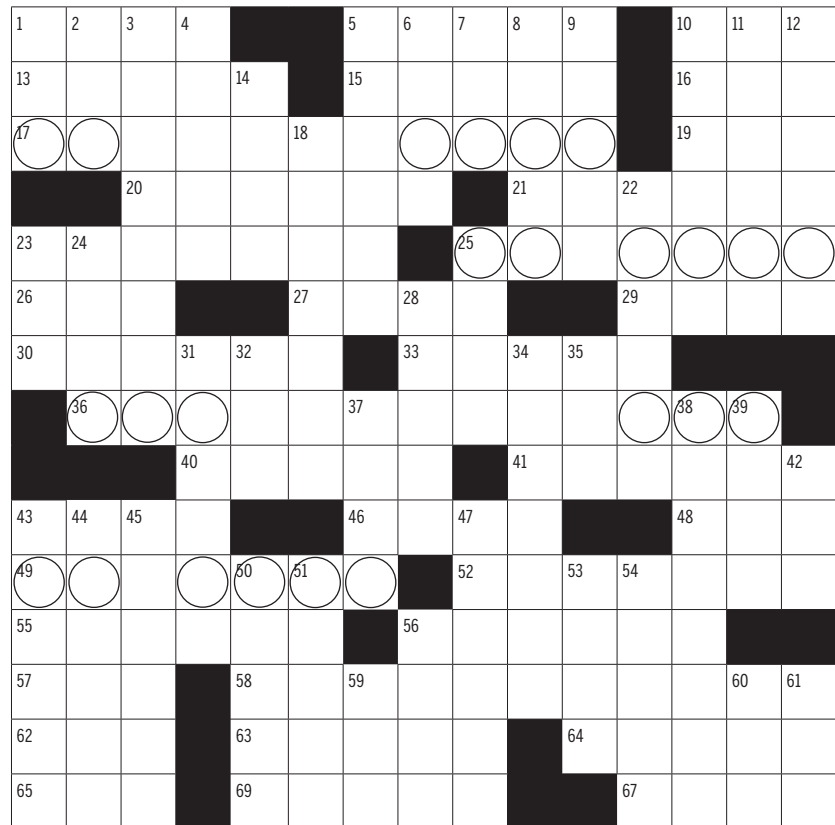
Words with Friends: Spring Break

ACROSS

- 1 Waiting room reads
5 What hot showers create
10 Relaxing hotel amenity
13 Settings for Jibbitz
15 Certain medical fee
16 Deep fryer liquid
17 Spreading everywhere, like hot 16-Across
19 Everyone
20 Be braggadocious about
21 Rubber bathtime friend
23 "The Russia House" author
25 Term for a group of moles
26 Internet address
27 "Bloodline" actor Chandler
29 "Bus Stop" writer
30 Hold protectively
33 "Nice to ____ you!" (Zoom call pleasantry)
36 Making graffiti, perhaps
40 Belgian artist James
41 Like rooms to rent, hopefully, by the time you move in
43 Court sports org.
46 Part of a Wall St. address
48 Rave's opposite
49 Economical, as prose
52 Touchdown spot
55 Immature egg cell
56 "I did not!" is one
57 Avocado discard
58 Common vacation time, and what you can literally find four times in this puzzle
62 Manning formerly of the NFL
63 Food from heaven
64 Lifted or swiped
65 Defense advisory gp.
66 Make merry
67 Unexpected glitch

DOWN

- 1 Hip hop vocalists
2 Dadaist artist Jean
3 Quiet show of approval
4 Milan's La ____
5 Characteristic of a subculture
6 Civil suit cause
7 Prefix with "center"

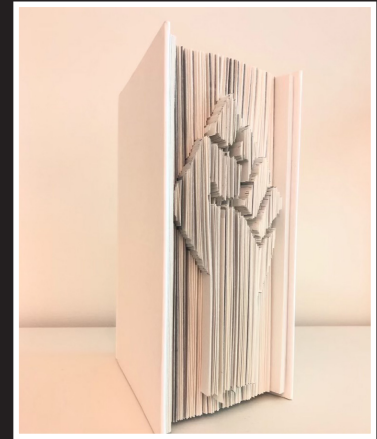


Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

- 8 Food retailer named for two oceans
9 "Uh, dude..."
10 Absorb deeply
11 Making a heap
12 Claim
14 Hollywood Boulevard sight
18 Game birds
22 Rotten Tomatoes contributor
23 Jean-____ Picard of "Star Trek"
24 Drops the ball
25 Rest stop sight
28 LSD guru Timothy
31 Soul-destroying
32 PC hookup
34 Filled with jealousy
35 H, on a sorority house
37 Game with pixelated paddles
38 ABBA song that became a hit after the Eurovision Song Contest
39 Sound like an angry dog
42 Explosive stuff
43 Annual golf or tennis tournament
44 Pampers all the time
45 Battle plan element
47 Dance counterpart of the Whip
50 "Who's there?" answer
51 Kathmandu's land
53 BBQ specialty
54 Body shop supplies
56 By ____ of (due to)
59 Single-stranded molecule
60 In the style of
61 Pub delivery

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





The Shape of Learning



Director of Art Exhibitions and Middle School art teacher Aaron Brophy explains the unique connection across generations between alum artist Sonya Clark '85 and his current students.

"Each year, my students study the work of Sonya Clark '85. As a Sidwell Friends alum, the 2021 retrospective *Tatter, Bristle, Mend* at the National Museum for Women in the Arts was a homecoming for Clark. Exploring issues of identity, equity, and social justice, Clark's fluency with delicate sculptural materials, fiber, found objects, and human hair, add conceptual layers to the visual experience of museum visitors. One sculpture stopped

me in my tracks. *Octoroon*, a larger-than-life-size flag piece, refers to the legacy of the U.S. racial classification system under Jim Crow laws. Today, *Octoroon* can be seen at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in the exhibition *The Shape of Power*. The show deftly explores the history of sculpture and race in the United States.

Clark's *Solidarity Book Project*, a partnership with Amherst College, where Clark is a professor, celebrates the power of art to change the world. Clark models how reflections, readings, and art can make a material difference to Black and Indigenous communities. After watching several videos, listening to interviews, and reading a catalog about Sonya Clark, I encourage my students to emulate

her artwork. Students are free to seek, find, and choose one of her pieces. Clark's hair, cloth, and paper-based sculptures are often interpreted two-dimensionally by my students. However, some ambitious Sidwell art students have taken on the challenge of Clark's three-dimensional work.

This year, several students were drawn to the *Solidarity Book Project*. Students selected their books with thoughtful intention. For her sculpture, Ishani Agrawal '28 chose *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, and Alex Bess '29 decided to use *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Fittingly, these books address issues of race, gender, and class. With every passing semester, Sonya Clark inspires the next generation of Sidwell Friend students, emphasizing the relationship between form and function, image and text, body and soul."

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DISCOVERY DAY CAMP
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
LACROSSE
LEGO
PICKLEBALL
ROBOTICS & CODING

SEWING
SOCCER
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TENNIS
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Director Natalie Randolph '98
teaches students how to line dance.