

Oak Leaves

Summer 2019

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 210 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

A Sustainable Future

by Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



Chad Cianfrani at the dedication of the campus solar array

As a young child, I distinctly remember my father following me around the house turning lights off. By the age of seven, I could rattle off utility cost per kWh and the estimated life-cycle of the various incandescent bulbs illuminating our home. Whether it was getting produce from a modest home garden, heating our living room with a wood-burning stove, or having the entire house dark except the room currently occupied; there seemed to be an intersection between what is sustainable, what is good for the environment, and what yields measurable cost savings.

Over the past five years Oakwood has undertaken several initiatives focused on environmental stewardship. Some of the projects were small in nature, while others were large in scope and vision. In weighing environmental impact and return-on-investment, we have deployed our finite resources, both human and financial, with an eye towards a more sustainable future.

Entering its fourth year of production, the Oakwood solar array has generated over 2.25 GWh of energy to date; an equivalent offset to the greenhouse gas emissions from over 340 cars or CO2 emissions from 90 homes annually. Entering into a multi-year purchase agreement, and with no initial cash outlay, Oakwood produces and offsets our annual electrical consumption and has secured known electricity costs for the next two decades. Sized to produce over 100% of our annual consumption, Oakwood receives cash rebates for excess production. The production also provides future capacity for new initiatives such as an electric vehicle program.

Related to electric vehicle usage, Oakwood received grants this spring through the 'Charge Ready NY' program. At no cost, we were able to receive and install two dual-port stations, one located in front of Main building and one behind Turner Math and Science Building. Oakwood now has fast, reliable charging for several community vehicles and capacity for the addition of an Oakwood electric vehicles fleet. With running costs less than half of traditional gas-powered vehicles, installations of this nature help green the campus while reducing annual fuel expense.

In support of our sustainable gardening initiatives, Oakwood was honored to receive a \$50,000 grant this spring from The Meeting School in New Hampshire. Founded in 1957 and closed in 2011, The Meeting School was a community-based Quaker school located on a working organic farm. Funds spent over the next several years will help honor

the Meeting School's multi-decade commitment to sustainable practices. In phase one, this grant will help expand our greenhouse production, increase the number of garden plots and variety of plants, support faculty professional development, expand our composting program and enrich our curriculum.

Multiple small projects and initiatives over the last several years have also supported Oakwood's commitment to sustainable practices. Beginning in 2014, oil-burning heating systems were converted to higher-efficiency and cleaner natural gas systems. An energy audit coupled with several NY State incentives allowed for cost-effective replacement of campus lighting and the installation of new HVAC control and circulation systems. Window replacements and several insulation upgrades provided further efficiency gains and helped keep the dorms toasty warm.

The aggregate of these projects, large and small, have impacted both our carbon footprint and our annual expense line, yielding over \$130,000 in annual utility savings. We may not be following students around turning lights off behind them, but we are taking positive steps towards a cleaner, more sustainable Oakwood. 🌱



Thank you!
2018-2019 Annual Fund
Exceeds Goal!
See Annual Gifts Report
In center section.



Faculty vehicle charging in front of Main Building



Pablo Ramos installing the new charging station in front of the Main Building



Remembering Mac Simms Head of School, 1980 to 1988



The Oakwood Friends School community mourns the loss of Clark M. Simms, former teacher and head of school, who died on July 12, 2019. Below, Amanda Junquera Downing '86 writes about her step-dad.

Clark M. "Mac" Simms passed away on July 12, 2019 in Wells, Maine, from age-related illnesses. He was born on July 27, 1931, in Montclair, New Jersey, to William Henry Simms of Carmel, California, and Margery Mckercher Siedler of Montclair.

Mac spent more than three decades being a positive influence in the lives of the students he taught and his many colleagues at three different prep schools: The Gunnery in Washington, Connecticut (1959 - 1978), Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, New York (1978 - 1990) and the Millbrook School in Millbrook, New York (1990 - 1992).

Mac loved to teach English, especially Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. Teaching gave him the opportunity to enjoy afternoons either coaching, being with family or being outdoors.

Mac always wanted to make the biggest possible difference. His personal, ongoing inquiry was discovering whether this was best achieved by teaching English or working in the administration.

He first became the Assistant Headmaster at The Gunnery in 1963. He returned to teaching two years later. In 1977, he became The Gunnery's Assistant Headmaster for another year. In 1978, Mac moved to the Oakwood School, a Quaker school, to become the chairman of the English, History and Religion departments. In 1980, somewhat reluctantly, he became Oakwood's Headmaster.

Ultimately Mac's decision between being a teacher or administrator came down to his senses of integrity, responsibility and duty. Those senses had served him well throughout his life.

When Mac served in Korea, his commanding officer wrote, "His intelligence, tact, and unusually cooperative attitude have gained for Mr. Simms the respect of the officers and men alike." In his academic career, he would similarly have the respect of the students, teachers, members of the Administration, parents, and members of the Boards of Trustees. As a public servant volunteering on countless committees, Mac always did extra work to build consensus and get things done.

He was a proud liberal who loved politics. At The Gunnery, he ran mock political conventions every four years. In 1970, he ran for a seat in the State Senate in Connecticut. Mac's opponents were adversaries -- not enemies.

Mac is survived by his partner in life since 1980, his wife Chase; and the four children of their blended family: Jonathan, William, Amanda, and Leonardo and their families. Rest in peace,

In his own words:

Mac Simms reflected on his appointment as Oakwood's head of school and his marriage to colleague Chase Crosley in 1980:

"On a very personal level, I am also aware of the patterns of permanence and change. It was a philosophy of education developed over 20 years of teaching and administering, and a concern to help students individually discover a sense of worth and purpose, that brought me to Oakwood two years ago. At the same time, Chase Crosley arrived to teach English, drama, and Quakerism. She and her two children quickly felt that coming to Oakwood was like coming home. This past June 22nd, Chase and I married each other in the Poughkeepsie Meeting, in the company of family and friends. Earlier in June, I enjoyed hearing from Emily Taylor '23 of earlier Oakwood romances and marriages. The other big change in my life is, of course, becoming headmaster of Oakwood. I am still primarily a teacher, by inclination, and I shall probably remain so. But I am also excited by the challenges and opportunities of my new job; and supported by Chase and by my colleagues and friends here, I feel ready to take them on." 📖



Chase and Mac at Alumni Weekend 2014

New Board Member Dawit Zeleke '81



Oakwood Friends School is delighted to welcome Dawit Zeleke, class of 1981, as the newest member of the Board of Managers. Dawit lives in Chico, California, with his wife Corinne Ong, and serves as the Senior Advisor for Conservation and Agriculture for the Nature Conservancy. He is responsible for setting strategic vision and fundraising for projects for a conservation region that includes forests in the Sierra Nevada, river systems in Northern and Central California, and more than 100,000 acres of agricultural and rangeland properties. Dawit and Cori also own and operate Capay Satsuma Mandarins, a certified organic orchard.

In 2015, Dawit opened Alumni Weekend by presenting the Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice: *The First Time I Saw Snow: An Immigrant's Journey that Began at Oakwood*. Students and faculty were mesmerized learning about Dawit's life from childhood in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, immigration to the United States and arrival at Oakwood as a freshman in 1976. After Oakwood, he earned his B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Friends World College in Huntington, NY. He later graduated from the California Agricultural Leadership Program and serves on the Dean's Advisory Board of the U.C. Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Dawit has remained devoted to Oakwood Friends School through the years, supporting the annual fund and returning often for reunion weekends. Recently, on hearing the news of Mac Simm's passing, he commented: "I had the privilege of being mentored by Mac at Oakwood. He lives on in those he touched. I am heading out today for a hike in the Sierras. I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate his life." 📖



OPA – New Co-Clerks

Dear Friends,

As the long summer days pass, we look forward to the journey and changes ahead -- a new school year, full of exciting opportunities for our children and families. For us, this means a new beginning as well. Challenges are ahead as we embark upon new roles as Co-Clerks of OPA, the Oakwood Parents' Association. It's our responsibility to work as a team to provide opportunities for parents to come together, get to know one another, and to become involved in and support the school community. The groundwork has been laid out for us in recent years and our goal is to strengthen OPA's foundation, hopefully, creating new friendships and opportunities along the way.

We ask for your support and hope that you will volunteer to assist in any of OPA's many endeavors. Each year we host Parent Gatherings at local establishments, in the form of coffee meet-ups or an evening of dining and drinks. We'll work to offer a variety of opportunities in hopes that something meets both your interest and schedule. Every spring we celebrate our staff and thank them for their efforts and support through Staff Appreciation Week. This event has been a lot of fun, both for parents as well as for staff. We ask parents to drop off food and other goodies to energize our staff as they enter finals and the last few weeks of the school year. Our Juniors honor the Seniors by preparing Senior Gifts each spring and need parents to drive them around town for supplies. We support Oakwood by hosting bake sales



Amy Cook (Aidan '22) and Josie Angley (Michael '21)

during plays, volunteering at and participating in staff-hosted events such as Oaktobfest in the fall and the Wine Dinner & Auction each January. Without the support of parents, none of these activities would be successful. Simply by being an Oakwood parent, you are a member of OPA. We hope that you will get involved for one -- or many -- of the opportunities available this year.

This year we're excited to be able to participate in a parent workshop on campus on October 26th entitled "Quakerism and Quaker Education" and hope that you will join us! We'll learn about Quaker history, Quakerism, and hold meaningful conversations about the values within the Quaker education that connects our children and families.

We look forward to working with you and welcome your input, as well as insights from your students. Have a wonderful year and we'll see you soon!
Best,
Amy Cook & Josie Angley 🍌

Oakwood Hosts Ukranian Students



Oakwood and Ukranian students at Yankee Game

Oakwood Friends School hosted a group of 14 high school students from the Ukraine on an educational trip to the United States in May. The students attended classes with Oakwood students, learning the differences in their educational systems and trying some new and creative learning. Alekom Tour Director Maiya had this to say about their two-week immersion experience:

"We just returned from our wonderful American School Immersion Program, organized by Oakwood Friends School. Seeing how our kids cried and hugged each other at the

end, as they didn't want to leave - I can say - it was very successful! Working with a company that has been offering these programs for 17 years, I know for sure what is good. And this program was excellent!"

First of all - it's always about people. We were very fortunate with all the staff at Oakwood: their attitude towards the students, everybody willing to help, treating our students like Oakwood students, always warm, learning everyone's name. Special thanks to Grace and Nick of the Admissions Office for organizing the activities.

Cultural Exchange and Global Goals

Board member Emmy Gay, mother of Willow Bennison '20, and Jim Morgan, clerk of New York Yearly Meeting's African Education Committee visited Oakwood last winter to meet with students and art teacher Lizzie Meyer about the project, "Yes a Better World is Possible." The visit was in preparation for an event held at Brooklyn Friends School on May 11th. Students from Oakwood Friends, Brooklyn Friends, Tanzania Secondary School and students from the Cove in the Bronx explored their personal reactions, artistic statements and creative responses to the United Nations 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The goals include ending poverty, zero hunger and climate mitigation. At Oakwood, Emmy and Jim assisted students in reflecting on what the goals mean to them, and brainstorming ways they might express the goals through art.

An important component of the project was the cultural exchange with the students in Kisangura, Tanzania, at the Quaker supported state primary and secondary schools. Emmy and Willow traveled to the school in Kisangura during spring break to engage the students and teachers on their expression of the goals and to connect them to the US participants. 🍌



Willow Bennison '20 in Tanzania

The two-week visit included trips to New York City - including a Yankee game, Phantom of the Opera, The Museum of Natural History and many cool places in the area: Walkway Over the Hudson, Vassar College, roller skating and bowling. As part of biology class we went eeling - that was an unforgettable experience, first with lots of screaming! We also ate tons of ice-cream!

On the way back to the airport, everybody was silent, very sad that we were leaving. Some girls said they are ready to come back if we do this program again. On the 11 hour flight home, they discussed all the bright moments of the trip, and we have so many of them - all these memories made them very excited! So, once again, I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who made our stay at Oakwood Friends School unforgettable and we hope to see you again!" 🍌



Sports Center

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

Our 2018-19 sports season ended in impressive fashion with the Varsity Softball team losing only two games and capturing the HVAL championship. Since being one of the founding members of the HVAL in the late 1970s, no OFS team has won as many championships as softball. After last year, we lost many players to graduation, and we weren't sure we'd have enough bodies to field a team. Fortunately, many volunteers stepped up and the team ended up being a mix of experienced and inexperienced players.

The season started with an easy 20-1 win over an inexperienced Storm King team, but we faced a tougher test in game two on the road game versus a veteran Marvelwood squad. We won this one 13-10 and we were off and running. Game three was another difficult road test against perennial power Poughkeepsie Day. We won this one 24-12 behind the hitting of junior **Diamond Tulloch** and senior co-captain **Caitlin Amann**. Diamond had two big hits and drove in four runs. Caitlin doubled, smashed her first career home run, and drove in five runs. We then won 4 of our next 5, before narrowly losing a close game at home to PDS. In the last game of the regular season at home versus Darrow, we needed a win in order to capture the #1 seed and home advantage throughout the playoffs. This game was tight the whole way, but we scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth to get some breathing room. In this inning, junior **Amara Diegel** opened with a key walk and she was promptly driven home by a triple by Caitlin. Caitlin was then driven in by a single by junior **Anh Ho**. Darrow fought back to close within one going to the last inning. With one out and a runner on third, there was a pop fly caught by Diamond at first and the Darrow runner on third tagged up and tried to score. Diamond fired the ball to our catcher, senior-co-captain **Victoria Allen**, who tagged out the sliding Darrow runner for a game ending double play. We clinched first with this 7-6 win!



Diamond Tulloch '20

In the playoffs, we had a first round bye and then easily defeated Marvelwood in the semi-finals. This set up a championship game with PDS with whom we had



HVAL Softball champions celebrating their victory

split during the regular season. The game was close the whole way and the score was tied 5-5 when we came to bat in the bottom of the 6th. Our first batter was 8th grader **Clara Young** and she responded with a single to left. We then benefitted from walks and PDS errors to score three runs to take the lead. PDS could not score in the 7th so we won the championship with our 8-5 win! Other key hitters in this game were Diamond with two hits and junior **Stefanie Quintanilla** with a double and a single. The big story though was our pitcher Caitlin. She stuck out 18 PDS batters in 7 innings!

As you might have guessed, Caitlin throws the ball hard. She recorded 128 strike outs in 59 innings of pitching. Credit also has to go to Victoria, who has to catch Caitlin's heaters. Caitlin also led the team in most offensive categories, followed closely by Diamond. Overall, we outscored our opponents 149-78 and had a final record of 9-2. In addition to those already mentioned, we had returning junior **Sophia Lin** play a strong second base. Junior **Lareina Zhang** was new to the game, but quickly earned a starting role due to her improved hitting. Freshman **Bianca Conte** had a rifle for an arm and delivered some key hits. When we were short players at the beginning of the year, senior twin sisters **Heidi and Clare Wang** joined and their contributions were welcome. Middle Schoolers **Maya Kuenster** and **Hallman Kearney** improved throughout and earned some significant playing time. I'd also like to give a shout out to our excellent team managers Cyril Uebbing and Luca Otte. They kept everything running smoothly.

Finally, every year near the end of the spring term, our Hudson Valley Athletic League recognizes the school with the best overall sportsmanship. Coaches at the 8 league schools rate their opponents based on player, coach, fan, and parent behavior. I am pleased to report that the award winner this year was Oakwood Friends! Good sportsmanship has always been a guiding principle of our program and everyone in the school community has contributed to this award in some way. Well done! 🏆



Victoria Allen '19

Class of 2019 at College:

Bennington College
Binghamton University
Clark University
Connecticut College
Dutchess Community College
Eckerd College
Inter American University of Puerto Rico
New York University
Pace University, New York City
Pennsylvania State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Savannah College of Art and Design
The College of Wooster
The New School
The Ohio State University
Ulster County Community College
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
Virginia Tech
Washington College
Wellesley College



Arts

My Mentor

By: Lizzie Meyer



My artistic mentor, Thomas Lyon Mills, has been a professor at Rhode Island School of Design for over thirty years. I took his Freshman Foundation Drawing class in 1995 when I was a sophomore at Brown University. In his class I learned about the value of sustained and searching inquiry through Drawing and many profound lessons that are central to my art-teaching practice at Oakwood. Tom's classes lasted the entire day, into the evening, and were marathons of nonstop drawing, rigorous discussions of independent work, and his unparalleled slide lectures which forged intimate relationships in my mind with everything he scrutinized and discovered in an eclectic range of samplings from art history: from the elegant austerity of Cycladic figurines, to the crystalline perspectival orders of Piero della Francesca, to the organic ecstasies of Arshile Gorky, and so much more.

Over the years since then, a close friendship has developed between us, and Tom and his wife Susan are godparents to my daughter Olivia. Tom is an extraordinary and visionary artist, whose complex works-on-paper, each of which he works on for years, integrate his experiences in spiritually-charged archaeological and sacred sites of the ancient world, with the swampy primordial forests of the Adirondacks, and his dreams and memories. Tom says "Like a mapmaker, I find that my paintings inevitably cross over into the unknown. This then, is my region – where the visible meets the invisible and where the seen pays a constant debt to the unseen." Artist website: Thomaslyonmills.com Gallery website: Riccomaresca.com.

Visual Arts teacher, Elizabeth Phelps Meyer, holds a BA from Brown University in Visual Arts and Religious Studies, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Fine Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art, and an MFA in Visual Arts from SUNY Purchase. Her classes at Oakwood include ceramics, drawing and painting, portfolio development, animation, video and performance art, sculpture and art in nature. 🎨

Music

Spring was an exciting term for the Oakwood music department. In April, **Elias Fredericks '20** and **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** participated in the NYSSMA solo festival and received outstanding ratings for their performances of all-state level selections. Both also continued their involvement with the Stringendo Orchestra program, and Elias performed with the Strawberry Hill Fiddlers on a week-long tour of Canada.

In May, a cast of 14 students gave three fantastic performances of the musical *Godspell*. Under the direction of drama teacher Melissa Matthews, **Willow Bennison '20** played the role of Jesus, **Elias Fredericks '20** portrayed Judas, and senior **Rosie Kilby '19** played John the Baptist. In addition, **Frank McGinnis '04** and Music Director Ted

Messerschmidt played guitar and bass in the live band for the production. Ted also played trombone for a three-week production of *Newsies* at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, NY. At the spring concert in May, students performed a wide variety of selections ranging from classical works by Handel and Saint-Saëns to pop/rock songs by 21 Pilots and several Chinese stars. The audience members were particularly excited to hear original songs by **Delaine Aranha, Willow Bennison & Stefanie Quintanilla**, all class of 2020, and **Layton Liu '19 & Benna Su '19**. The concert was Benna Su's final performance at Oakwood before heading off to the prestigious Music Technology program at New York University. 🎵



Ted Messerschmidt conducting



Benna Su '19 at piano



Cast of *Godspell*

Oakwood presented *Godspell*, John Michael Tebelak's theatrical retelling of New Testament stories from Jesus's baptism through the crucifixion on Alumni Weekend. Set to Stephen Schwartz's pop/rock soundtrack,

Godspell follows a group of young people as they use humor, magic tricks and games to help Jesus tell some of his famous parables and spread the message of love and forgiveness in modern times.



Hands on Learning in the Middle School

By: Emily Woolever

Last spring, History 7 culminated with a whole-class project on westward expansion - a mini-musical called *The Incredible Westward Movement*. In addition to preparing for the show, the class learned about the United States moving west and the effects of that expansion. They focused on the Louisiana Purchase, along with the Lewis and Clark expedition and Sacagawea's immensely important contributions. While studying life as a Lowell Mill Girl during a time of industrialization, they crafted their own letter home as though they were girls working in the mills. Students also learned about the atrocities sur-

rounding the forced relocation of the southeastern Native American populations, putting a new meaning on the phrase "The Trail of Tears." During their study of the Oregon Trail, students read diary entries of those travelling the trail and also competed against one another in the game *The Oregon Trail*.

Putting on their acting hats, the class spent a week role-playing people involved with the Mexican-American war to gain an understanding of how the Mexican territories ended up in the hands of the United States. Students read an article about the experi-

ences of the people affected by the fighting and some of the horrors they faced. Finally, they analyzed a textbook entry on the topic and came to realize that not all history is presented fairly. The term wrapped up with a look at both the gold rush and the experience of sodbusters before jumping into full rehearsals for the musical the last two weeks of school. Their final project, the presentation of *The Incredible Westward Movement*, follows the exciting adventures of Delivery Girl as she races across the country desperately trying to deliver packages to Americans who keep "movin' West." She meets Daniel Boone, James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson, Sacajawea, 49ers, and even prairie children working the land. Kudos to the 7th grade on their innovative, immersive expression of history come to life! 📺



Middle School students role playing a tea party during the Mexican-American War



8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony (l-r): Dylan Diallo, Max Kruk, Milla Berg, Dallas Tulloch, Clara Young, Ada Loeding-Matthews, Ian Matkin and Arjun Yang

"Tick Tubes" and Budgeting

As part of their stewardship service projects, the Middle School assisted with assembling "tick tubes" that control black legged ticks by treating one of their biggest hosts - voles! Voles can house 50-100 ticks per animal. To make the tubes, students treated cotton balls with the insecticide Permethrin and let them dry out. Once dried, the cotton balls are put into empty toilet roll tubes and distributed around properties. Voles LOVE cotton for their nests and as they collect this cotton, they get treated. As a result, less ticks and hopefully less Lyme disease!

Eighth graders also got some great hands on experience through their Budgeting and Business class. They learned about budgeting, living on different incomes, creating a spreadsheet for expenses and learning how to create and grow a business. They also learned about net and gross income. The class raised close to \$1400 with various entrepreneurial endeavors and then researched and organized an end of year trip to Lake George! They stayed in a beautiful B&B, visited an aquarium and took a boat ride on the lake. Everyone, including the chaperones, had a great time! 📺



Middle schoolers at aquarium on their trip to Lake George



Spring Break Trip to Spain

By: Denique "Abbie" Tulloch '19



Abbie Tulloch (2nd from left) with classmates and teacher at the Alhambra

Sunrise in the city of Granada - with the brisk winds comes a challenge that awaits me. Traveling with classmates from my Spanish class at Oakwood, I found the city to be enchanting with an abundance of history. Whether I was sitting at a cafe grabbing a cafecito or sitting in class, I absorbed and embraced the culture at its best. The trip activities helped to immerse me into a world of new possibilities and opportunity. Granada is a siesta-filled charming city that offered much exploration from the

Alhambra to the Alpuharra. In Europe for the first time, I felt like there was a shift that invited and accepted me into a different, yet familiar culture. I ventured out and became fascinated by the multifaceted cultural aspects of the city where attributes of every philosophy are appreciated; where customs, heritage, and ethnicity are diverse and apparent in every function of society.

One day we participated in a flamenco class. The dancers captured the true nature of the

Spanish culture. Their dance was filled with passion and emotion, and expressed the vibrant color and soul that the tempo conveyed. This experience was an immersive exposure to the birthplace of the Spanish language itself. I was able to see the impact of customary traditions on daily life; I was able to grasp a sense of living in Spain. I experimented socially with others from the streets to the fountains and adapted to some of the slang. I also had conversations on numerous difficult topics with local people and found these conversations to be very exciting.

This journey gave me critical insight into the Spanish culture and will always be something that I take pleasure doing. The trip had a positive influence on me, and inspired me to learn the Spanish language more fully. I hope that with an innovative mind, by looking beyond the lens in front of me, I will grasp so much more. I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate in this trip and to experience a journey through Spanish fashion, food, and culture but most importantly its humble people.

Abbie Tulloch was a member of Oakwood's Libby Moroff Leadership Program which helped provide funding for this trip. She will be a freshman at The New School in the fall. 📍

Competitive Ethics?

By: Nafisa Rashid '19



Nafisa Rashid will be a freshman at Wellesley College this fall.

Published in "Student Voices Project" of Friends Journal.

Since tenth grade, I have participated in a competition called Ethics Bowl. Every year high school students gather in teams in New York City to talk about ethical dilemmas and give their opinions on how these dilemmas should be resolved. These dilemmas ask questions such as: Is it right for you to read your sister's journal? Is it ethical for China to have a social credit system?

While the focus is on having a conversation with another school team, three judges decide on a winner in the end, because that's how Ethics Bowl was designed. When think-

ing about competition, Ethics Bowl was one of the first things that popped into my mind; there are so many aspects of it to explore.

Even though it is a competition, there is so much to learn from it. One is learning to work with a team. When competing on a team, you have other people to rely on and support you. If you are trying to explain an ethical theory and how it should be applied, a good teammate will have your back if you leave out a detail, helping you develop a strong case on why you have the best solution to the dilemma. With support you can help lessen others' mistakes and create a higher level of competitiveness. When you build trust and know that someone is supporting you, you can relax and just do your best.

At times throughout the event, you get to see different sides of students. If they are really into an ethical dilemma and feel connected to a solution, it will show—in the tone of their voice, their gestures, and their content. When people have emotional connections to topics, they tend to place themselves inside of the dilemma and release a competitive spirit.

Something funny I find about Ethics Bowl is that it gives ethics winners and losers. One team will win and the other will not. While it may be heartbreaking to lose (I know from experience), there is a lot to gain from a loss. A loss can signify that maybe there was something you as an individual could have done better, for example making sure to explain why your team believes their argument is the best one. Losing can also show that the team as a whole could have done better. There is much to learn about yourself and others in terms of im-

proving for future competitions. Takeaways are less clear with winning because winning typically shows that everything went well. Winning in Ethics Bowl usually shows that a team made a clear and sound argument as to why, for example, dinosaurs should not be brought back to life and how that would be immoral. With winning comes a sense of excitement and pride, knowing you and your team have done well.

Ethics Bowl helps all students who participate see and learn from the perspectives of others. Unlike debate, everyone is allowed to speak and express their opinion. Opposing teams are even allowed to have the same solutions to an ethical dilemma. Many of the cases in Ethics Bowl focus on current issues, helping students think about what should be done in the real world. When I first started going to Ethics Bowl, it was a scary experience, but as I got older, I realized the important aspects to focus on: explaining a dilemma clearly and giving a well-developed possible solution. What is good, what is bad, what is immoral, what is moral? Ethics Bowl has allowed me to explore these questions in a competitive context. While I don't think ethics should be competitive, the competition does open doors for students to have conversations about important issues. Then, after the day is done, they can continue to talk about these issues with family, friends, and classmates. From my experience attending Oakwood Friends School, I believe the most important parts of competitions are to work hard, do your best, be respectful and kind, be proud of your work, and learn how you can improve for next time. The best part is not always the win-or-lose ending, but rather the event itself or process of competing. 📍



Alumni Weekend May 18, 2019



Class of 1959 and friends

Back row: Ed Hersbberger '60, Debbie Stone '58, Peter Reich '61, Peter Bittle, Ralph Skeels '60

Front row: David Nicholson, Sue Stein Stephens, Linda Streeseman Magee, Rhona Bittle, Judy Skeels



Class of 1964

Back row: Phil Hurd, Steve Halpern, Marthe Turner Damrosch, Linda Saltford

Front row: Chris Galligan, Shari Hubner, John Hunter, Peter Wharton, Gloria Strauss Marmor



Class of 1969: 50th Reunion

Back row: Edna Abramson, Rudy Abramson, Gail Wild, Nina Kammerer, Mark Engelberg, Wendy Young, Scott Young

Middle row: Richard Chazen, Greg Scibilia, Dena Farber Scibilia, Maryjean Tocco, Anne Micheaux Akwari, Lisa Getman Ellis, Chuck Schwartz

Front row: Tom Johnson, Kate Whittaker, Joe Donohue, Deb Burlingame, Anne Wood, Adam Starr, Lara Wright Alberti, Wendy Germain

"I credit Oakwood for providing us with an atmosphere where the text and subtext were love. We were enabled to decide who we wanted to become. We learned how to create a world we wished to inhabit. We were made to - comfortably - hear our inner voices."

— Anne Micheaux Akwari '69



Class of 1974

Marcia Van Wagner, Raphael Hartzog '70, Shonna Wechsler Valeska



Mai Spann-Wilson, son of former Dean and English, History and religion teacher Dwight Wilson and music teacher Niyonu Spann., gave a special performance in the Meeting Room During Alumni Weekend. Mai is the founder of U.A.F Consulting, an empowerment coaching program dedicated to serving youth ages 12-24 in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He also works as an activist, rapper, singer-songwriter, pianist, published poet, record producer, and social worker.

Class of 1984

Back row: Gillian Schmidt Long, Dwight Wilson, Lynn Jordan, Augusta Wilson, Stephen Schilling

Front row: Elisabeth Gaenslen Lindsay, Steve Crew, Pauline Mosello Genest, Katie Settel, Ian Richards, Prabal Lunavat



Class of 1989

Back row: Grachan Moncur, Dwight Wilson, Nora Locke, Keith Bunin, Chris Ware

Front row: Charise Brisbon '88, Wendi Anzai, Michelle Payne, James Inskeep, Kira Bazile



Class of 1990-1994

Back row: Jason Kimelman-Block '90, Loren Talbot '91 & Vander, Karla Morales McGarry '90

Front row: Julie Strauss '94, Valerie Reiss '91 & Hudson



Class of 2008 & 2009

Jennifer Kennett-Powers '08, Jonathan (JP) Powers '09, Zack Federbush '08, Cheng Cheng

Distinguished Alumni Award

Oakwood Friends School, May 18, 2019

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



Today it is my pleasure to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Elizabeth B. Porter, Oakwood class of 1987. From the start, Beth exemplified the “whole person” mindset that Oakwood’s mission statement refers to: *developing the scholar, the athlete, the artist and the spirit of each person*. Bill Doolittle, her biology teacher and coach, remembers Beth as a student: “Beth was immediately impressive in her quick grasp of concepts. She was also quick to question the applications of a concept, and in doing so made the concept clearer to other students.” She brought incredible energy and focus to her academic studies and applied those same traits to other school activities - like serving as business manager of the yearbook, as a member of

the Academic Committee, and as an actor playing Chana in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Like her twin sister Katie of the same class, Beth was and continues to be a serious athlete. In fact, in a note on her 20th reunion when her children were 7 and 4, Beth described herself as literally a soccer mom since she was still playing soccer competitively at that time.

After graduating from Oakwood, Beth earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees at Cornell University, starting her career as a math teacher at George School, another Quaker boarding and day school in Pennsylvania, followed by a teaching job at Middlesex School in Concord, when Beth and her husband Pete Richmond moved to Massachusetts. Today she is the CEO and co-founder of Riff Learning, a company based on the philosophy that people learn best from one another and that collaborative learning fosters both personal and organizational growth. Riff works with clients using technology that measures conversational dynamics and provides data to help people learn about their interpersonal effectiveness, and their ability to work with others. She also teaches Information Systems at Boston University’s Questrom School of Business and the MIT Media Lab. An expert in her field, Beth recently attended

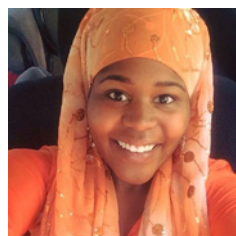
the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, where she participated in the Meeting of the Minds Roundtable focusing on “Humans as the Fulcrum to the Internet of Everything.”

In 2015, Beth graciously agreed to add service on the Oakwood board of managers to her very full schedule. As a new board member, Beth quickly stepped up to full engagement, serving as clerk of the finance committee, secretary, and now treasurer of the board. With her keen intellect, depth of knowledge about education and technology, and long-held Quaker values, Beth brings clear thinking, practical solutions, and sensitivity to others to all board discussions about the life of the school. She played a key role during Oakwood’s 5-year reaccreditation process, providing valuable insights to the visiting team. Beth started giving back to Oakwood early on through consistent support of the Annual Fund and donations of software, online courses and teacher materials, and recently a video-conferencing system to improve communication at board meetings. Beth supports the Oakwood family in other ways too, as one of the first to volunteer to serve as a mentor, and by hosting alumni gatherings in her home with warmth and generosity.

Beth, we are grateful for your affection and dedication to Oakwood Friends School and are pleased to present you with our 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award. 📖

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association

Oakwood Friends School, Saturday, May 18, 2019



Najah Muhammad '10, president of the Alumni Association, opened the meeting with silent worship. She welcomed alumni and guests and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Najah asked for and received approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 19, 2018. The Treasurer’s report was presented on behalf of Myra Koutzen '70. As of March 31, 2019, the value of the Ruth Craig Scholarship Fund was \$522,244. The value of the Fund on June 30, 2018 was \$518,648. There was one donation of \$100 so far this year. There was one distribution of \$25,823. paid to Oakwood Friends School to be used for scholarships.

The Ruth Craig Scholarship Fund is managed by Halsey & Associates, the firm that manages all of Oakwood’s endowed funds. The Trustees set the policy of taking 5% of the balance of the last 12 quarters to determine the distribution of each Fund. For the 2019-2020 school year, the distribution from the Ruth Craig Fund will be \$26,970, as approved by the Trustees.

The slate of candidates for officers of the Alumni Council were presented and ap-

proved: Najah Muhammad '10, president, Myra Koutzen '70, treasurer, Annette Engler '87, secretary. Council members were also approved: Deborah Scheer '46, Henry Brecher '51, Caroline Brevetti '07, Nick Currie '07, Ben Dent '53, Rebecca Gnesin '01, Jessica Kimelman '93, Loren Talbot '91, Janet Tenney '67 and Christopher Ware '89. Najah also recognized alumni serving on the Board of Managers: Henry Brecher '51, Patrick Crowley '50, Jessica Kimelman '93, Beth Porter '87, Loren Talbot '91, Eric Wohlforth '50 and Deb Wood '56.

Najah thanked alumni for the many ways they support the school and promised that the meeting would be fun. She shared the fun fact that in 1934, 85 years ago, the Schwedler Maple trees that line the main driveway were donated by board president John Lane and planted by groundskeeper John Nemes, father of Irene Csordas '48. She asked alumni to contribute to the Annual Fund to help us reach the goal of \$285,000 by June 30th. She thanked alums for their service to the school: Fernando and Stephanie van Reigersberg '58 who hosted a gathering in their home in McLean, VA; Jerry and Suzanne Litner '54 who hosted a gathering in their home in New York City; and Ben Daitz '92 who hosted a gathering at his restaurant, Num Pang Kitchen, also in New York. Three alums returned to campus to make presentations to the Oak-

wood community: Estare Alston '90 spoke at winter reunion; Allison Loggins-Hull '01 was our arts presenter; and Zach Coto '10 presented the Herzog Science Lecture. Najah spoke about the activities of students in the Libby Moroff Leadership Program initiated in memory of Libby Moroff '54, former board president. This year individual projects included a wide array of social justice issues including women’s rights, the opioid crisis, farmworker labor rights, racial justice, and environmental protection. Joseph Spence '19 spoke about his project supporting schools in his family’s native country of Belize. Najah spoke about the alumni mentoring network introduced last year. We currently have ten mentoring pairs including Annette Engler '87 in the field of veterinary medicine and Therese Kaufman '12 in the field of library science and archival work. She invited other alums to consider becoming mentors. Najah introduced head of school, Chad Cianfrani, who presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Beth Porter '87. He also recognized special reunion classes and reviewed highlights of the day’s schedule including a musical performance by Mai Spann-Wilson, son of former dean of students Dwight Wilson, and a tree planting ceremony in memory of Sonya Cramer '83, Chris Naney '83 and Tara Tighe '84. The meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted by Annette Engler '87, Secretary 📖



Service Work Continues After Oakwood

Hello Friends,

I am Parfait Bizimana, class of 2016, and I am currently attending Niagara University as a Finance major. When I left my Oakwood community, I found a family in Western New York and in my freshman year, I was introduced to a Christian community on my campus named Soar. Their mission is to be a caring community and connect people to Jesus Christ. I developed an attraction to meeting on a weekly basis with this community and decided to spend my 2019 spring break with them. The opportunity presented itself as a mission trip in Panama City Beach, Florida, to help clean up the city after hurricane Michael devastated the area.

The purpose of the trip was to bring help through relieving suffering, restoring dignity and revealing hope in the city. We interacted with wonderful individuals who welcomed us and shared their experiences with us. On one occasion, we helped a family who had multiple trees fall in their backyard in ad-

dition to one on their roof. They were able to fix the roof, but it was very expensive which meant that they could not do any professional clean-up in their backyard even a couple of months after the hurricane. With this family's story, God taught me that He provides for us and at his own time. With our group of 14 student volunteers, we were able to clean up their backyard and chopped some of the fallen trees with chainsaws.

On the trip, I had the chance to groom relationships, build new ones, and learn more about myself and my peers. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Oakwood Friends School community that supports me and constantly stays in touch for the core values, especially community and stewardship, that are embedded in us.

Parfait came to Oakwood as an international student from Rwanda. He was selected by the student body and faculty to serve as Student Clerk for the 2015-2016 school year. 📌



Libby Moroff Leadership Program



Libby scholars with program founder Phyllis Schwartz and Margaret Moroff

Founded in honor of former Board president Libby Moroff '54, the Libby Moroff Leadership Program serves juniors and seniors wishing to expand their leadership and advocacy skills. Under the direction of Julie Okoniewski of the Development & Alumni Office, the 2018-19 program scholars pursued a full agenda of group and individual work addressing many issues.

Senior **Mahdia (Hadi) Daqiq** from Afghanistan continued her work on a program she initiated last year, "Afghan Girls Build". This website development program encourages Afghan girls to study computer science and coding. Hadi applied for her group to be a part of the Paris Peace Forum in the fall of 2019. **Eli Pollard** continued his project from last year addressing inequities in the educational system for students with learning differences. He drafted a power point presentation that he shared with administrators in his local school district and submitted an Op-Ed to his local paper sharing his perspective as a past

student in the district. **Joseph Spence** worked on a project for a family run non-profit that supports schools in his family's native country of Belize. **Denique (Abbie) Tulloch** built on her topic of women's rights from last year by creating an innovative podcast that she submitted to NPR's Student Podcast Challenge. During her spring trip to Spain, she spoke to Spanish women on the street about their views on feminism. Her podcast was both in English and Spanish (with translation).

Nafisa Rashid '19 took on both environmental and educational issues through her three projects. She led a recycling initiative on campus in partnership with Colgate, TerraCycle and Starlight Children's Foundation. The recycling station collected toothpaste boxes, tooth brush packaging, old tooth brushes, empty toothpaste tubes as well as caps and empty floss containers which were sent to Colgate in competition for the construction of a local playground built with recycled oral care products. She also led a workshop during Oakwood's Earthshare Day sewing reusable shopping bags made out of up-cycled t-shirts to be used by local families at area food pantries. Finally, she held a collection at the end of the school year for children's books and literature that she sent to a community library at Nyamirambo Women's Center in Rwanda.

Willow Bennison '20, worked with the school's racial justice committee to raise awareness of race inequity. She helped organize culture week to celebrate everyone's culture, hosted group discussions with both students and faculty, organized a Black History month movie marathon and held workshops with the 8th grade about race and inclusion. **Daphne Ballesteros '20** focused on

domestic violence for her project, holding bake sales to raise funds for area non-profits serving women survivors. She will continue her efforts in the coming school year.

Carissa Herrera and **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** worked together addressing issues affecting immigrants. Carissa wrote an Op-Ed on family separations at the border and is collaborating with a local non-profit serving the local immigrant community, Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson. Stefanie addressed issues facing migrant farmworkers by contacting and meeting with local legislators about the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act which became law this year.

Ahn Ho '20 from Vietnam organized our school's participation in the Youth Lobby Day on Climate Change in Albany as well as attended a climate change presentation hosted by the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Ulster County Climate Smart Committee. She also wrote an Op-Ed on the EPA budget which was published in the Poughkeepsie Journal and presented to the school about Ecobricks, a reusable building block, a low tech, virtually zero cost regenerative technology used by hundreds of thousands of people around the world

Diamond Tulloch '20 focused locally on raising money for supplies for children in an underfunded public school. She's been collaborating with a third grade teacher in the school and has continued her project over the summer to help provide much needed school supplies to students in the fall. **Cyril Uebbing '20**, organized a school wide presentation about the opioid crisis. He invited Spackenkill High School's Resource Officer and the Prevention and Harm Reduction Coordinator for the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health to share their experiences working to address the issue locally. 📌



Class Notes



1945

Susan Davis Doderer – Hello friends! I'm doing well in Kentucky. Miss George.

1950

J. Arthur Taylor – Jeannette and I have moved into a 'senior living' facility in our regular Concord/Lincoln territory. This has been very comfortable because we can maintain our regular life – church, Rotary Club, music, etc. Our health is OK for this age. Two of our three daughters live within 15 minutes of us and our third lives in Richmond, VA region. Our three grandchildren are all pursuing life in a reasonable way. So senior life is treating us well.

1951

Henry Brecher – "No news is good news"

1952

Rita James – Oakwood of the 40's and 50's. So many good memories and good friends, some of whom remain that way today. How fortunate I was that remembering William J. Reagan speak at his 1923 Poughkeepsie High School graduation, my father decided his daughter would attend Oakwood.

1953

Congratulations to **Ben Dent** and Carol Ireland who celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in July.



Taffy Thunick Hoffman – I've taken 3 trips this year (while I still can) with Road Scholar. The Everglades and Keys, The Smokey Mountains and an 11-day Alaska trip from above the arctic circle (Barrow) to Denali to Fairbanks, Anchorage and Seward. Not just learning about Global warming but seeing it in front of me (permafrost melting, Glaciers melting, fires from the heat. Awesome and frightening. I also had a lovely brunch with Ben Dent while going to a wedding in Southern CA.

Nina Lawford-Juviler – Not much and nothing exciting – still working on Kaatskill Life but only part time. Try to do art work but other things get in the way. Oldest grandson graduated as a doctor from Rochester Med School – and I missed Oakwood's reunion. Sorry. I keep in touch with Patricia and enjoyed a conversation with Ben Dent.

1955

Judie Palmer Muggia – We continue to be blessed to be aging pretty well! Middle-aged sons nearby, ten healthy, delightful grandchildren (4 working in Manhattan now!) continuing to enjoy wonderful "digs" at Brookhaven independent living - all sons VERY grateful we're here - still playing bridge, walking, enjoying friends etc. Praying for a big "D" presidential replacement in 2020! Sixty years wed as of October 10! it's been a great "run"! Warm regards to all!



1956

Harry Hewitt – Although I didn't graduate from Oakwood I have many fond memories of my two years there. My principle update is that after a career of 51 years of service at Midwestern State University (MSU TEXAS) I have retired. I served as the History department's Professor of Latin American History and Department Chairman.

David White – Still living on Clear Lake, Texas and enjoying the magnificent sun rises and still playing tennis down the street twice a week. With the 50th Anniversary of the Moon landing and Johnson Space Center just across the street, lots happening!

1957

Henry Greenberg – Our 5th and last grandchild, Tabia Rose is 18 months old. It makes Barbara and me that much younger.

Diane DeMask Lyons – Just returned from an interesting trip to the Baltics & Russia. Hope to make the 65th!

Eric Golden celebrated his 80th birthday with his brother John '63 at the home of his daughter, Abigail Golden-Vasquez '86, in Washington, D.C.



1958

Jerry Hoerner – Not a lot different in my life. I winter in Florida and summer in Ohio. My granddaughter got married in January to a Brit and we flew to England to witness the ceremony. The newlyweds live in Indianapolis where Lauren (a CPA) works for an accounting firm and Doug (an engineer) works for Rolls Royce Jet Engine division. I am now a year away from 80 with fairly good health.

1961

Toby Sitomer Hazel – Aloha Oakwood Friends. Oakwood has been on my mind since taking a garden trip to Japan with Dewey Webster and his gang from Seattle. A beautiful trip as we flew over Mt Fuji. A few weeks later I visited my brother David Sitomer '65 in DC attending my first Citizens Climate Lobby. All 1,300 people from all over the US went up to the Hill on June 11, to personally talk with our Representatives in Congress about the Climate Change Bill: Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. The conference was held at the Omni Hotel and has been going strong for 10 years. It felt so good to push together on this crucial issue.

Emory Willis – and Elizabeth are proud to be caring for their son Matt's newborn son James this month. James has 2 first cousins, Camille and Nyla, daughters of Kristen and Linda, respectfully. Em hopes to bring granddaughter, Camille, to 60th reunion (and maybe for an interview).

1963

Martha Richdale – I have just become a grandmother for the first time! My wonderful stepson Michael Gough and his partner Victoria Milazzo have blessed me with a beautiful baby girl named Kelly Elizabeth Gough after Michael's deceased sister. I'm certain that his dad Bill and Kelly are celebrating in the great beyond as a precious part of them fills our hearts with joy.

Jesse Rieber – Hello to all, hope you are doing well. I continue to practice in New Bedford specializing in trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. My wife retired several years ago. Dropped in to see Art Kelsey in CT several weeks ago when visiting my daughter. Some of you may remember him, he taught history at Oakwood for a year and lived in the Old Boy's Dorm. My daughter, Jennifer, continues to work for ESPN managing all the music for things like the X games. My son, Kahlil, is working as an electrician installing 3 phase power systems. Beyond that, I continue my political agitation at www.Witheramerica.com. I have posted the first essay to this site and will post a second once I have time to complete it. My therapy practice website is www.jessearieber.com. Best regards to all, hope to see you soon. Should you find yourself on Cape Cod, please give me a call. I may be reached at 508-542-9747.



Lewis Shepard – It has been a busy year. In June we became grandparents of Nathan Andrew Shepard, who lives in Chicago with our son and daughter-in-law Sam and Kate. Our older son Dan lives in LA where he works in tv and film production. On July 9 we sold our Boston condo and moved to Wellfleet, Massachusetts, where we have had a home for ten years. Ellen retired last year, I am still doing art appraisals. There's a lot of great music in this part of Cape Cod and I hope to play more guitar and ukulele than I have in the past. I taught a course at the Open University of Wellfleet on the History of Modern Photography in New England. We plan to travel some in the next few years when cabin fever strikes, although there is much to do in the off-season on the Cape. Here at home my jobs include luggage transport, vehicle maintenance, dog-walking and trash removal.

1964

Marthe Turner Damrosch – The 1964 class gathered for the recent alumni day. An added treat was the afternoon party at an alumni's home. It was fun! Wonder what's in store for next year?

1966

Tina Mills Schenk – Still alive and kicking. Living in Wilmington, NC with husband Martin Coady and two doggies. Still grateful to Oakwood for the broadening experiences, for the love of learning, and for the feeling of community. Still trying to do my small part in making the world a better place....one day at a time...and into my "old age".

1967

Chris Herrick – I greatly enjoyed my February 2019 trip east to the Washington, DC area, where I was able to visit with former classmates Janet Tenney, Lydia Micheaux Marshall and Phil Richmond, and also with former teacher Bob Hidell. These Oakwood friendships have lasted over fifty years now and are very dear to me.

Congratulations to **Phil Richmond** on receiving his Master's degree in May from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD.

1968

Sara Simkowitz – I so enjoyed my reunion. It was as if 50 years vanished and I was 17 again – except my 33 year old son was with me. Very special time with loving, good friends. All is well in MT – all welcome always.

1969

Adam Starr – Judy and I greatly enjoyed reunion weekend and reconnecting with schoolmates. Oakwood looked beautiful and well tended. Got a strong impression that the school is in the best shape it has been in many years. Head of School Chad Cianfrani and his team must be doing a great job.

1970

Myra Koutzen – I am in my second term as Mayor of the Town of Palm Beach Shores, located on Singer Island near West Palm Beach. It is exciting for me to be using the education, skills and moral compass that I learned at Oakwood Friends to lead this small southern Town. Please visit us when you're in the area and remember that you can't spell Mayor without Myra. Mayor Myra

1972

Jody Harrow – Brandon Ross '73 wearing my designed eyeglass chain in my Interior Designed apartment. Me in background. NYC July '19. We're collaborating on rug and tapestry designs together with his musical inspiration. Stand by!



1973

Julie Bogle Kratchman – Just got back in May from a wonderful trip to Marrakesh and Amsterdam. Love exploring new and old favorite places. We also became grandparents again with the birth of our son and daughter-in-law's baby Ava Lennon in April.

1974

Jeff Fitts retired April 2018 after 37 years at Kodak. He now is serving as the Clerk of Rochester Friends Meeting and the #2 caregiver for his 95 year old father.

1975

Liza Ehle – Recently retired from 35 years in landscaping with employees taking over my company and continuing the path I started. Love that! Now consulting and teaching continuing education in my field on a part time basis so we can travel, enjoy our 3 grandkids and just breathe! We built a beautiful home in Bandon, OR on six acres and give thanks daily for our bliss, abundance and health. Life is good!

1977

Hugh Kallen – Three years after closing our church in Muskegon Michigan, my wife Kathleen and I moved to Grand Rapids. Our Kallen Web Design business continues to prosper. We are able to spend 3-5 months working from Florida each year to escape the bitter Michigan Winters. I turned 60 this year (like many of my classmates), which means it's been well over 40 years since graduation from Oakwood. I'm very happy to be able to keep in touch with my classmates via Facebook; there was nothing like that in the 1970's!

1980

Susanrachel Balber Condon – I am both thrilled and exhausted to announce the completion of my doctorate in midwifery and graduation from Thomas Jefferson University. I was honored to be one of only eight in the inaugural cohort of people in the United States to be granted this brand-new degree. My dissertation was on obstetric violence, consent, and shared decision making in maternity care. Gearing up for '20, when I will celebrate my (gulp) 40th reunion and our son Malcolm's graduation from Oakwood Friends. Get ready, the planning has already begun!

1990

Congratulations to **Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block** who was honored by Grinnell College for his advocacy for human rights and justice. The college presented him with their Alumni Award during their recent alumni weekend. Jason is Washington director of Bend The Arc Jewish Action.



Jason with Keith Bunin '89

1992

Kelly Gonzalez – I live in Syracuse NY with twin daughters Annalya and Isabella. I am an attorney and the deputy director at the Center for Community Alternatives, a nonprofit with a mission to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights. I owe my career path directly to the influence of the wonderful community at Oakwood. Many will remember my mother, Maria Gonzalez, a fixture at our basketball and softball games. She also lives in Syracuse and is training for her 3rd degree black belt at age 73!

1993

Sarah Braun Hamilton – I live in the Green Mountains of Central Vermont, where I work as an educator with migratory farmworkers from Mexico and Central America. I married my college pal Michael Hamilton in 2002, and we have a six-year-old son, Zeke. We also live with two cats, six chickens, and several hives of honeybees. I am grateful to Oakwood for helping me learn how to be part of a community and listen deeply.

1998

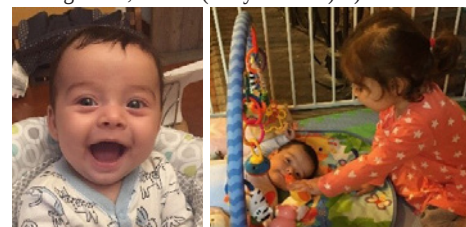
Noah Zerkin got married and is living in China where he works in robotics.

2003

Michael Holdsworth – I have been living in Central Florida since 2007 after receiving my BS from SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry. I later went on to get my MS from UCF. I have been married to my wife, Jen, for over 9 years and we have one daughter, Magnolia "Maggie", who is 3. I have been involved with environmental permitting most of my professional career and currently work at Duke Energy.

2007

Christine Pitner Surrette – We welcomed our second child to our family - Jackson. He was born in late March this year, and is already enamored by his big sister, Addie (2.5 years old). :)





Congratulations to **Ted Lonczak** on his marriage to Masuma "Missy" Islam in June in Baltimore! Pictured with his brothers Will '06 and Kip '11.

2008

Hyun Jung (Rachel) Lee visited with Math and Science Chair Lacey Fredericks on a recent visit to campus.



2010

Caroline Pitner joined her parents who have been living on a boat in Europe on and off for the past several years. She sailed on a leg of their journey from Valencia to Greece and will join them again when they come back across the Atlantic in the coming year!



2013

Rui (Ray) Gao met up with classmates Yuanyuan (Eunice) Li and Shiman (Silvia) Yu recently in Bangkok and reminisced about their times at Oakwood together!



2015

Congratulations graduates!



Leo Nobiletti pictured with his brother Eli '11 and father Doug at his graduation from Long Island University (LIU)



Jailin (Linda) Fang pictured with fellow alumna Jiabui (Lydia) Li '15 & Ada Liang '17 at her graduation from Indiana University Bloomington

Hadis Daqiq graduated from Guilford College as a Bonner Scholar, one of 60 students who perform more than 24,000 hours of community service through sustained commitments to core partners in community groups and specific high-need neighborhoods. She has since moved to San Francisco to live with her sister, Sara. She is pictured below with her sisters at Mahdia's graduation from Oakwood in May.



Jianhao (Hall) Feng, pictured with classmate Hadis Daqiq at Oakwood's graduation this year, is currently studying at the University of Houston majoring in digital media. He is also working on a STREETWEAR e-commerce brand. Website, www.cnup.us – Instagram @cnup.us



Faculty & Friends

Congratulations to Rosemary & **Ted Messerschmidt** on the birth of their son, Peter Thorstein Messerschmidt, born May 28, 2019.



Congratulations to Middle School Head **Ricci Scott** on her marriage to Saddam Alma Bueno in July.

Mike Steinberg, History teacher and coach from 1983-85 – I loved teaching at Oakwood in the 1980s so much that I've decided to return to my teaching roots. After 22 years as legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, I will join the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School in the fall, where I will teach a civil rights litigation course and start a civil rights clinic. 📖

Oak Leaves Summer 2019



ELAINE MILES

Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI

Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO

Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs



Remembering Jonathan Flaccus '58 and Richard Knapp '58, Acorn Society Members

Oakwood Friends School mourns the loss of two exceptional members of the class of 1958, Jonathan Flaccus and Richard Knapp. Both chose to continue their generous legacy of support for Oakwood students through the establishment of endowed funds.



Jonathan Flaccus '58 and his wife Marcy Hermansader were long-time residents of Putney, Vermont, and more recently of East Dummerston. Jonathan was the son of Violetta Flaccus, an artist, and the poet Kimball Flaccus.

Raised by his grandparents in rural Pennsylvania, he spent much of his childhood exploring the fields and forests around him. He later stated that these memories were the source for many of his drawings and paintings.

During his high school years at Oakwood, Jonathan developed a love of music, particularly jazz, which lasted throughout his life. He graduated from Haverford College and later, as a conscientious objector during the war in Vietnam, he fulfilled his alternative service at the Bureau of Neurology and Psychiatry in Princeton, NJ, where he worked as a research associate.

Already a skilled photographer, he taught himself filmmaking and found employment specializing in medical documentaries. He worked as director of the film department at NYU Medical Center. After moving to San Francisco in 1970, he became the Supervisor of Motion Picture Production at the University of California.

Jonathan was a natural traveler. As a college student, he hitch-hiked to California every summer and after college he travelled for 9 months in Europe and North Africa. He hitch-hiked through most of sub-Saharan Africa and later spent a year and a half travelling through Japan, Indonesia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Zealand and Australia.

In 1976, he purchased and renovated a Victorian house on Main Street in Putney. To furnish his house he went to local auctions and found himself enjoying the experience and wondered if he could make a living buying and selling antiques. Beginning with antique furniture and art, and soon expanding into photography, antiquarian books and ephemera, the Unique Antique filled with items that Jonathan found intrinsically interesting. Once the business was established, Jonathan resumed traveling around the world.

Jonathan will be remembered by many for his quick wit and wordplay. A friend wrote: "I will miss his kind but resolutely non-conforming spirit. Without apology, he planted a

flag for the strange and curious, and thereby allowed all the rest of us to live in that same free space, to indulge our own eccentricities. I found that side of him deeply comforting."

Jonathan established the Native American Fund at Oakwood in 2017 inspired by the school's celebration of Lakota Culture and the activism of Shai Blackbird '18 from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Jonathan traced his life-long interest and concern for the rights of indigenous people to his grandmother who put aside clothing to contribute to indigenous people in need. We are grateful to Jonathan for his philanthropic spirit and affection for Oakwood Friends School.



Dr. Richard Gilbert Knapp '58 taught French and general studies at Mars Hill College for 31 years. Dick's colleague, Dr. Greg Clemons, Spanish Professor, wrote "Au Revoir Mon Ami" for publication in the Mars Hill Magazine. Excerpts follow:

Few people knew that Dick was an eminent scholar on the French writer Voltaire and 18th century French literature. In fact, few people knew what a towering intellect and enjoyable person he was. Dick lived in a beautiful home in North Asheville. Inside were artwork, ceramics, and beautiful pieces that he had collected over the years. In fact, his home was like a museum: around each corner was another treasure that was matched only by the elegant furnishings, carpets, and rugs. I remember sitting on the welcoming front porch in warm weather just laughing and talking about anything and everything with Dick. That was the beauty and joy of Dick Knapp: he knew so much that I always considered him a walking encyclopedia.

As a new professor in 1971, Dick stood out because of his non-Southern demeanor. Being from New England, Dick was not quite sure how to maneuver the Southern way, which was at times circuitous and not to the point. His stylized use of French and his worldliness was a refreshing element for the college and for the small town of Mars Hill; he brought culture to the campus and town. Dick's personality could be misunderstood; he was ironic, deprecating, and very blunt. But the truth was that he was also funny, quick with a comment or opinion, and dedicated to his career of teaching. He loved his scholarly pursuits.

Dick was always quick to laugh. His intelligence came through in all he said and did – his humility about his incredible intellect was perhaps one of his greatest features. Dick was the son of a veterinarian. That love

of dogs must have passed to him because he owned Doberman pinschers for years, but as he aged, he was the owner of Dachshunds. When he died in January, I knew that I would miss him terribly, for he was always capable of making me laugh and smile. And, memorably, he had the uncanny ability to make me aspire to his level of scholarship.

Through a bequest, Dick made a substantial contribution to the John Hudson Knapp '53 Scholarship Fund, established in 2000 through his brother's estate. The Fund will now be called the John H. and Richard G. Knapp Scholarship Fund, as Dick requested. Oakwood was fortunate to call him a distinguished alumnus and wonderful friend of the school. 📖

IN MEMORY

Marjorie Glenn Thompson '37

January 25, 2019

Thomas R. Kane '41

February 16, 2019

Christina Gidynski '50

October 3, 2018

Clark B. Hamilton '50

April 7, 2019

Patricia Feldsine King '52

June 28, 2018

Dorothy Kerr Bell '53

January 20, 2019

Briana Burns '53

February 15, 2017

Susan Friduss Mulliken '53

June 13, 2019

Michael Roloff '54

May 2, 2019

Jonathan Flaccus '58

February 20, 2019

Dorothy Haserodt Shaffner '59

June 25, 2018

Michael Sarnoff '62

February 3, 2019

Malinda Greene Boyar '65

April 10, 2014

Cynthia Beal France '69

February 23, 2017

Betsy Babson '71

March 15, 2019

Clark (Mac) Simms

July 13, 2019

Head of School, 1980-1988

Stephen G. Waters

April 6, 2019

Interim Head 1991-1992

Address Service Requested

2019-2020 Fall/Winter School Calendar

October 22	Workshare Day
October 25	Parents' Weekend. Reception at Head's House, 4:00pm
November 6	Breakfast with the Head, 8:30am
November 14	Middle School Dinner, 5:00pm
November 15	Parents' Dinner, 6:00pm
November 15-16	Fall Production, 7:30pm
December 8	11th grade College Planning, 1:00pm
December 17	Parents' Dinner, 6:00pm Holiday Concert, 7:00pm
January 10	Winter Reunion
January 25	Wine Dinner & Auction, 6:30pm
February 28	Parents' Dinner, 6:00pm
February 28-29	Winter Production, 7:30pm

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Oakwood's Commencement on June 7, 2019



Front row (L-r): Caitlin Amann; Mitashie (Misby) Olmo; Mabdia (Hadi) Daqiq; Xinling (Clare) Wang; Xinli (Heidi) Wang; and Denique (Abbie) Tulloch.
2nd row from bottom (L-r): Victoria Allen; Anne Kronenberg; Yicheng (Annice) Liu; Thomas (Sage) Perkins; and Sean (Xiao) Kirchner.
3rd row from bottom (L-r): Joseph Spence; Eli Pollard; Olivia Castanza-Leasure; Terkala Gray; Katarzyna (Kasia) Tomporowska; Nafisa Rashid; and Vera (Rosie) Kilby.
4th row from bottom (L-r): Ye (Joe) Chen; Donglin (Layton) Liu; and Jaymee Cordova.
Back row (L-r): Adam Feldman; Zbesen (Jason) Wang; Youyin (Benna) Su; Yifeng (Evan) Qian; and Ian Musumba.