

Oak Leaves

Summer 2020

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

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



Delaine Aranba



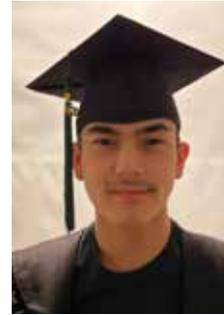
Daphne Ballesteros



Willow Bennison



Malcolm Condon



Zachariah (Zac) Craft



Elias Fredericks



Anisa Gilmour



Carissa Herrera



Anh Vu Phoung Ho



Christophe Mooney



Quynh Thi Xuan Nguyen



Matthew Stewart



Stefanie Quintanilla



Huy Duc To



Diamond Tulloch



Cyril Uebbing



Huairuo (Robert) Wang



Yi (Zoe) Wang



Zhiwei Wang



Jianbao (Alex) Xu



Zeyue (Lareina) Zhang



Hou (Paul) Zhaoyu



Thank you!
2019-2020 Annual Fund
Exceeds Goal!
See Annual Gifts Report
In center section.



Looking Back and Moving Ahead

by Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



For the first time in over seven months, Oakwood students, faculty, and staff gathered as a community this September. As we navigate COVID, adapt to economic uncertainty, and actively engage in the process of shaping a more inclusive and racially just society, we are at our creative, adaptive, and resilient best. Oakwood has been here before. Over two centuries ago, Lucretia Mott, a student at our predecessor school Nine Partners, provided foundational work in the abolition and suffrage movements. 100 years ago, we navigated the last global pandemic during a campus move to the Hudson Valley. And over the last many decades, the mission, and values upon which the school was founded, continue to provide a platform for student voice and community engagement. In keeping with a strong tradition of Friends' education, we do this while educating and preparing students academically for lives of consequence and meaning.

As we prepared for the opening day of school, we reflected deeply on lessons learned these last seven months. Last spring, with New York State under quarantine, we taught from our living rooms, recorded soccer training sessions from our driveways, and engaged in our Zoom classroom conversations from five continents. We held each other accountable and worked tirelessly to support all aspects of the program and mission.

Over the summer, we continued to make significant investments in the health and safety of our community, enhanced the physical spaces and classrooms, expanded outdoor learning spaces to include more of the 55 acre campus, invested in the technological infrastructure, and supported the professional development of our faculty and staff, the heart and foundation of our program. With students engaging both remotely and in-person, classes look a bit different this fall. Social distancing, face masks, increased health and hygiene measures, and a collective sense of responsibility guide and shape our actions. You may even see students from three continents joining their on-campus classmates via Zoom for an outdoor music class. Regardless of where our students are physically, we are connected as one Oakwood community.

While we adapt to our current environment, we look optimistically forward to the year ahead. A growing Middle School program, the largest in almost two decades, now includes a 5th grade. Our Upper School program expanded enrollment across grade levels as we welcomed dozens of new families into the community. While the campus may have been closed for the last seven months, Oakwood's Lighting the Way campaign and renovation of Lane Auditorium moved forward at pace. A few aspects of the project already completed include returning the maple floors to their original condition, exposing the expansive truss beams overhead, installation of energy-efficient HVAC systems, sprinklers, elevator, additional classroom spaces, and a fully updated lighting and sound system. This fall, students are ready to begin another century of gathering, learning, and creating together.

Look forward to welcoming you back to Oakwood (virtually or in-person) and continuing this journey together. See you on campus! 📍



Thank You Maintenance & Cleaning Crews



Danny Wilde, Jose Reyes, Ray Valentin and Pablo Ramos



Chris Galschjod



Araceli Reyes, Inocencia Reyes and Dominga Wolfenden

Lighting the Way Matching Gift Challenge Met!

Last spring, we announced a Matching Gift Challenge for Lighting the Way offered by Rob Blackman '61 and board president, Don Spencer. With generous gifts from 40 donors, we reached the challenge goal of \$100,000! Gifts ranged from \$25 to \$10,000, and every gift was important. Thank you!

Fundraising continues for the final phase of our renovation work. It's not too late to participate. Please contact Elaine Miles, emiles@oakwoodfriends.org or (845) 462-4200 x 224, to discuss ways that you can support the revitalization of our beautiful campus.

Thank You!



My First Year as a Member of the Oakwood Faculty

By: Jesse Doberty-Vinicor '06

This past year at Oakwood has been surreal, rewarding, at times harrowing, but always reaffirming. I came to Oakwood as a student from 2002-2006 and have just returned as an English teacher in the Upper School. This transition was one I was anticipating with some amount of nervousness (would I still feel like I was a student?) and excitement at being able to peer onto the other side of the educational veil. At the end of the year, I am now friends and colleagues with people who were my teachers 15 years ago, and I feel reaffirmed in my faith that, while no school is perfect, Oakwood is interested first and foremost in creating a community that loves and believes in one another.

I was not a model student. I remember getting my Wednesday flex time taken away during my senior year for blowing up the speaker in the music teacher's bass amp (it was an accident, I swear). I had contentious relationships with some of my teachers (who doesn't?) and spent an absurd amount of mental energy trying to get away with doing the least amount of work possible. And despite all of this, I am one of the only people I meet who still cher-

ishes their memories of high school. Oakwood was the community I needed as a long haired, freaky teen, and it continues to be the community I need as a progressive educator.

I vividly remember my job interview here. Stephen Miller, the humanities department chair and one of my favorite teachers from my time as a student, assuaged my nerves about the upcoming demo lesson I was to give by saying that the difference between Oakwood students and many other students is that the students here actively want their teachers to succeed. After the demo lesson (and another year's worth of lessons) I can say that this is true. Nowhere else have I ever seen a group of students and teachers more willing to treat each other like equals, and it's this sense of community that continues to uplift me.

This year was also unique; in December, my wife Andrea and I had a child (a daughter named Esther) and, of course, we were thrust into the middle of a global pandemic to rival the Black Plague. Yet again, both of these experiences colored my first year to reinforce the strength of community I feel here, espe-

cially between student and teacher. After my daughter was born, my wife and I isolated, but as soon as we began venturing out onto the campus again, there was a tangible feeling of communal excitement for the newest addition to Oakwood. Just as important to me has been the attempts at keeping a sense community going throughout the isolation of quarantine. At no other school could I imagine students reaching out to their teachers during summer break just to check in and chat because they miss them, or regularly asking for song recommendations, or creating weekly Dungeons and Dragons sessions with their teachers to stave off isolation.

Oakwood has very quickly become home for me. I believe in the transformative power of the student/teacher relationship, and this past year, with all its ups and downs, has shown me that Oakwood believes in it as well. 📺



Oakwood's 224th Graduation

Thanks to longtime maintenance crew member Chris Galschjodt, early morning music played under the Copper Beech graduation tree even though the graduates could not be there in person. For the last few decades, when we hear Bonnie Raitt '67 playing in the early hours of graduation day... we know it is time to celebrate our seniors!

Instead of gathering in person, we celebrated the Class of 2020 with a pre-recorded virtual graduation ceremony. Despite the distance, with graduates and families tuning in from Vietnam and NYC to across the river and right here on campus, it was a

beautiful ceremony with heartfelt messages of connection and friendship from each senior. Each senior pre-recorded a speech, some at home in China with their parents by their side, others right here on campus under the Copper Beech tree, and some from their backyards.

Farewell class of 2020! We applaud you for your incredible resilience during this unusual spring term and can't wait to see each of you on campus in person as soon as we can! As you step towards new experiences remember, "Have patience with all that is unresolved in your heart and learn to love the questions themselves." - Rainer Maria Rilke. 📺



Class of 2020 in the fall of 2019

Class of 2020 Colleges Attending

Brandeis University
Clark University
Drexel University
Dutchess Community College
Guilford College
Howard University
Marist College
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Siena College
Stony Brook University
State University of New York
Temple University
The Peabody Institute of
The Johns Hopkins University
University at Albany, SUNY
University of Melbourne
University of New Haven
Wesleyan University



"I owe my career path directly to the influence of the wonderful community at Oakwood."

-Kelly Gonzalez '92



Sports Center

By: Athletic Director: Simon Culley

The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team started the season with a thrilling OT win against mighty Forman 20-17. Unfortunately, this would be the only victory of the season despite valiant effort throughout. In addition, many of the results were close affairs with just a couple of one sided games. When all was said and done, **Adele Fredericks '21** was named the season's Most Valuable Player with **Sadia Rashid '22** and **Rachel Wapner-Mol '21** collecting Coaches Awards for their standout contributions.

With 7 wins, the Boys Varsity Basketball Team, led by coach Sean Thompson, had the most successful season amongst our 5 competing teams. Despite two regular season losses versus Faith Christian Academy, the boys stepped up and really challenged our neighbors in a nail biting quarterfinal matchup. The lead changed hands several times and despite losing 56-58 the boys can hold their heads up high knowing they left it all on the court that day. **Christophe Mooney '20** was named the season's Most Valuable Player. **Alper Sayin '21** and **Huairuo Wang '20** received the Coaches Award and Most Improved Award, respectively.

The '19/20 winter season provided plenty of challenges for both coach Sara Sandstrom and the Girls Varsity Basketball Team. However, through it all, the effort and tenacity to improve was always evident, so much that despite only one win going into the Hudson Valley Athletic League playoffs and facing a Marvelwood team that had comfortably won both regular season games, the girls narrowly lost a close, hard fought encounter (26-31). In concluding the season, **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** received the Triple Threat Sports Award. **Ruby Schloss '21** earned the Swiss Army Knife Award for her versatility and **Willow Bennison '20** collected the Paint Protector award for her outstanding defense.



Fall Term Sports Awards

The Boys Junior Varsity Basketball Team faced a lot of adversity and to their immense credit never gave up. They looked like a very different team in the last game of the season compared to the opener a couple of months earlier. With a challenging seven game slide to start the season and multiple results being one sided, they fought hard for their first win and a much needed boost of confidence. This was immediately followed up with a second win. In the last game of the season, they lost by 16 points to Harvey, which was a vast improvement on the 40+ point deficit earlier in the season. **Tristan Jean-Baptiste '23** was named the season's Most Valuable Player. **Michael Angley '21** collected a Coaches Award for his standout play. Finally, **Daniel Cullen '23** received the Most Improved Award.

Oakwood's Middle School Basketball team had an exciting season. The season was one of intense personal growth for all of the players. A majority of the team came from 6th and 7th grade, and many were new to the game, but by the end of the season they had an innate understanding of defense, offense, and working together as a unit. We only won a single game, but that victory, our

final game in the season, was also symbolic of the improvement the group made throughout the winter. Team captains **Luca Bax '24** (who won the MVP award) and **Caleb Diggs '24** (winner of the Coaches Award) led the team in scoring, but also worked hard to help the other players keep motivated and confident. **Joseph Robinson '24** and **Jonah Schumacher '25** both showed extreme improvement as defenders, and many other players who were new to the game (notably **Charlie Grenadier '24**, **Ella Hughes '26**, and **Jack Daubman '26**) came to the court with the dedication and enthusiasm of veterans.

Spring term brought with COVID abundant challenges in all aspects of campus life. Fulfilling physical education requirements in a distance learning model was no exception. In our efforts to provide asynchronous opportunities for exercise for the student body, one of our veteran coaches, Jodi Culley, took on the task of creating virtual fitness programs both pre-recorded and live, using the Zoom platform. Some students joined Jodi a few times a week for various cardio, high intensity interval training, strength training, and Barre classes. Others logged on to Google classroom to watch recordings of lessons involving soccer skills, juggling, and even Jazzercise. 🎵



Boys JV Basketball Team



Coach Jodi Culley



Music During Lockdown

By: Ted Messerschmidt, Music Director

Despite the strictures of the lockdown and the limitations of remote teaching technology, Oakwood students and faculty found ways to continue making music and sharing it with the community during the spring of 2020. In April, students and faculty submitted videos for a "virtual open mic" performance with selections ranging from indie rock songs to a classical trombone solo. Oakwood community members met over Zoom to enjoy the virtual concert. The following month, the Oakwood Music Department hosted a virtual "Masked Singer" competition. Based on audience voting, **Alex Turk '21** won the award for best vocal performance, while Jodi Culley and Jodi won the award for best costumes.

For the virtual commencement ceremony in June, members of the Oakwood Orchestra made a multitrack recording of *Pomp and Circumstance*; each member recorded separate tracks in their homes and emailed the recordings to me. I then worked to sync the tracks using two different digital audio workstations. Main Office Manager, Frank McGinnis '04 also helped by mixing and mastering the final audio file. In addition to recording violin parts on *Pomp and Circumstance*, **Elias Fredericks '20** made multitrack recordings of *Brenda Stubbort's Reel* and *MacArthur's Road* for the ceremony. In addition, **Maggie Teisler '20** composed and recorded an original piano work for the ceremony, and **Willow Bennison '20** and **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** wrote and recorded a touching musical tribute to the class of 2020, which played underneath a photo slideshow during the ceremony.

Also in June, seniors Delaine Aranha, Willow Bennison, Elias Fredericks, and Stefanie Quintanilla were recognized for their outstanding service to the Oakwood Music Department at the Senior Arts Awards. In the fall, Elias Fredericks will begin studying violin performance at Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, and Stefanie Quintanilla will be starting a degree program in music therapy at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 📍



Theater at Oakwood

By: Willow Bennison '20



The Oakwood Drama Department has simply changed my life. It's a space in which students can fully express themselves and become better people. I started theatre the winter term of my freshman year, and I was terrified. I had just started at this new school and was only beginning to make friends and find my place in the Oakwood community. I entered the dance studio, where we held rehearsals, and Melissa Matthews and the drama students immediately made me feel completely at home. Throughout my years at Oakwood, I have done a variety of plays, and I have been pushed to play very different characters - from Jesus in *Godspell* to Nora in *A Doll's House*. I can truly say I have pushed myself to my limits. We are all encouraged to fully dive into our characters and realize our potential as actors and, in some cases, directors and crew. This is a space in which we are all nurtured as young adults. I have learned the importance of responsibility and teamwork more from the Oakwood Drama Department than probably any other space I have been. If our final product, whether it be a play, a monologue, or a scene, is sloppy or under rehearsed we take responsibility for that. Melissa gives us constructive criticism and direction that makes you consider aspects of yourself that you might not have known were there. I think the most special part of the Oakwood Drama Department is that care and love that Melissa puts into cultivating each student. We all feel like we are heard and appreciated when in the theatre. No matter how small your part is you are made to feel as if you are the main character. The Oakwood Drama Department is truly a family, and I am so grateful that I got to be a part of it for four years. 📍

Allison Loggins-Hull '01 New Music Initiative

Alumna Allison Loggins-Hull '01 and Nathalie Joachim are two of the artists featured in the Library of Congress' Boccaccio Project, a collection of songs inspired by the coronavirus pandemic. The shutdown due to the pandemic hit musicians hard, with concert halls and rehearsal spaces shuttered and silent. But a new music initiative from the Library of Congress embraces the constraints of Covid-19. The series is a collection of 10 videos of 10 different original compositions that premiered on-line on June 15th. The project is named after the Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio, who saw the Black Death devastate Europe during the 14th century. Boccaccio's *The Decameron* follows ten people who flee the plague in Florence and tell each other stories in a remote refuge.



Allison Loggins-Hull and Nathalie Joachim

One piece, "Have and Hold," was composed by flautist Allison Loggins-Hull '01 and performed with Nathalie Joachim, a duet called *Flutronic*. Allison wrote, "I was really craving just the feeling of having companionship and just physical contact." She said her craving only intensified as news of police killings arrived. "Whenever these shootings happen, I still have that desire to hold people that I love, even to hold people that I don't know, who share this common experience we all share as black people in this country." 📍

New Etching Press

Thank you to **Marsha and Jonathan Talbot '57** for the gift of an 18 x 36 inch etching press for the art room. Art teacher, Lizzie Meyer, is thrilled with this new addition to the art program: "I look forward to expanding my printmaking offerings as a result of this donation to include drypoint, monotype, chine-colle and relief printing." The press was on loan to Marlboro College prior to its arrival at Oakwood. Ray Valentin helped Jonathan set up the Press. 📍





Costa Rica Adventures!

By: Clara Crosby, Spanish teacher



A group of nine intrepid Oakwood students, four Upper Schoolers and five eighth-graders, traveled to Atenas, Costa Rica, for ten days during spring break. This is the third year that Oakwood has partnered with Sol Abroad, an award-winning study abroad program, having traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico and Granada, Spain the previous two years. Chaperoned by Oakwood's two Spanish teachers, Clara Crosby and Molly O'Donnell, students stayed with host families while in Atenas, and took Spanish lan-

guage classes in the morning, and spent their afternoons on excursions and taking part in cultural offerings. There were also two overnight excursions, including Manuel Antonio National Park, a lush reserve on the Pacific coast with incredible wildlife (including monkeys, sloths and macaws), and a rainforest trip to the Arenal Volcano region, with hot springs and whitewater rafting. It was an exciting, unforgettable and educational adventure for all involved! 📷



8th Grade Moving Up Car Parade



Each year we celebrate the 8th graders with a Moving Up Ceremony, welcoming students to the Upper School and saying farewell to those moving on to other schools. This year, thanks to the hard work and creativity of the Middle School staff and parents, we were able to hold a car parade down the main drive of Oakwood, with teachers, administrators, and families lining the driveway with decorated cars, balloons and signs. The Croft Corners Fire Department even made a special appearance and joined the procession! To generate excitement for the parade, each 8th grader was sent a graduation box that included pictures of their class, markers to decorate their cars for the parade and festive graduation beach balls. As they processed, our graduates received a beautiful pamphlet made by the parents that showcased messages of well wishes from the 8th grade families and their "I Am" poems. They were handed beautiful bouquets of flowers and their hard-earned certificates of completion. As students exited campus, they picked up personalized yard signs for their homes congratulating them on their accomplishments. Families congregated across the street afterwards so students could celebrate in person since they were unable to do so on campus. Best of luck to the class of 2024! 📷

Summer Buzz

By: Sue Cianfrani, campus beekeeper

In a time when social distancing is the norm, Oakwood welcomed about 8000 guests to campus this summer. With over 55 acres to explore the guests quickly spread out and got busy gathering pollen and making honey for their hive. Fascinating and complex, typical honey bees will travel up to two miles foraging and pollinating. If you sit quietly near the Oakwood hives, on the west side of campus, you will observe well-organized flight patterns, with most following an identical path until they are about 10 yards from the hive, and then splitting into several distinct directions.

We got a little bit of a late start introducing this group of bees to campus this summer, so for this year, 100% of their production, and a little additional help from us, will safely get them through the winter. Next year we hope to have our first batch of campus-spun honey for the community! Throughout the fall term, we will continue to visit the hives 1-2 times per week, checking for eggs, brood, parasites, and general hive health. With students spending additional time outside this year, the bees will also serve as a wonderful learning tool and delicious addition to the campus community. Next time you can safely visit campus, put on a bee suit, and check them out! 📷



Sue Cianfrani (right) examines Oakwood's bees

8th Grade Class:
 Adelina (Addie) Ascione
 Luca Bax
 Ethan Borress
 Hayden Diaferia
 Caleb Diggs
 Charlie Grenadier
 Maya Kuenster
 Vanessa Murphy
 Gavin Prendergast
 Oliver Ramaty
 Joseph Robinson
 Loretta (Lulu) Schloss
 Siena Solis
 Qingxi Yang



8th grade class in fall 2019



Perpetual Punishment and the Criminal Justice System



Kelly Gonzalez '92 presented our first virtual [Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social](#)

Justice on April 24th. This lecture series highlights social justice issues and was initiated by the class of 1951 and friends in memory of their classmate, Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter, an attorney whose life work and passion were devoted to civil rights and social action.

Kelly has served as Deputy Director of the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) in their Syracuse and Rochester offices since May 2017. CCA promotes reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services, and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights.

Kelly earned her B.A. in Human Service Studies from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor

degree from Northeastern University School of Law. After law school, Kelly worked for the Legal Aid Society and later was the Practitioner-in-Residence for the Office of Clinical Legal Education of Syracuse University's College of Law where she taught student attorneys and provided direct legal service to clients. Kelly is also the supervising attorney for the Reentry Clinic - which works with individuals who face barriers to employment, housing, education, and licensing as a result of their involvement with the criminal justice system.

Kelly's powerful talk reminded us of the ongoing barriers faced by anyone who has been incarcerated. 📌

Lotus

By: Ila Kumar '21

This is an excerpt from an article that was first printed in Friends Journal, June 2020.

I can identify each person in my family by the sound of their footsteps. My little brother stomps irregularly; my mom has a quick and springy step, unless it's after nine p.m. and the dishes have tired her out. My dad walks the slowest—as if he is planting a lotus with each step. But that night, he came down the stairs slower than usual. That is how I knew something was wrong.

His mom was sick. She had been for a while, but this was different. For the first time in a long time, he felt he needed to be there. My dad was to take the first flight out of New York to Delhi. She wasn't dead yet, but it was only a matter of jet fuel if he could see her before she was.

The plane ride must have felt like purgatory, only with turbulence, as he wrestled his fears and suppressed his anxiety into the space between the two armrests—his heart heavy, like an anchor to the earth. Death is like the tide—it comes slowly, but nothing can stop it. By the time he landed, it was too late.

My parents decided they would wait for my dad to return before they told my brother and me about the death. Unbeknownst to them, I had already seen a text on my mom's iPhone from a distant cousin offering her condolences. I kept the discovery to myself. I don't know why. It's weird to be 11 years old, consigned to the bin of childhood, crashing into adolescence, dependent on the whims of adults who always know more than you do.

My mom and dad talk about their parents in their old age—how it feels to witness the decay and watch them shrink back into their bodies and lean into fragility. More than once, Dad has spoken about the man his father used to be: how tall he used to stand, how dark his hair was, how

his voice filled the room. The day Dad returned from his mother's funeral was the day I understood precisely what he was talking about. He wore death on his face. For the first time, I noticed his age and the toll the world had taken on his body. The person who once waited in line for three hours at Disney World with a four-year-old on his shoulders to have tea with princesses looked like the wind could knock him over. He was a carnival of dejection.

He came back smelling of unfamiliar fragrances. His head was shaved. He wore bracelets made of red and orange threads. He seemed thinner, but obviously weight wasn't his primary loss. He was pierced by something more severe. My dad had left and an old man returned in his place.

The death was difficult to talk about. After suitcases were unpacked and gifts were given, the thought occurred to my brother. "Did she ever get better?" "No, actually, she died." "Oh."

That night I climbed into Dad's bed. We were silent for what felt like a decade and ten seconds. I tried to sync my breath to his. I wondered how I might ask him about what happened. Finally, he asked if I had any questions. I shrugged and shook my head—arbitrary gestures that meant nothing. There was an urge to say something comforting or at least something that demonstrated a little acknowledgment of this significant moment, but I never did. I wanted to wade in with him, but I had not yet learned the strokes needed to swim through this vulnerable and uncharted territory of life. It was the first death of a family member I'd ever experienced. We cannot anticipate for whom we will feel grief. I wanted to see the color in my father's face return, for the curls on top of his head to grow back, for his spirit to thaw. I closed my eyes, holding him in the Light, praying for his recovery.

Heartbreak is an elixir for imagination. I am not religious, but I am often in need of comfort. Now, I picture my grandmother—the width of the sky—watching over the world



and me. That night, I prayed to her. Due to her recent "transition," I'd figured she'd have means to mend Dad's heart. As for me, I learned that a broken heart gives cracks for the Light to shine through. That is my belief. 📌

"In the brief time I was at Oakwood, the school managed to change the trajectory of my life. In short, the unconditional love, spiritual supportiveness, and its structured freedom enabled me to both discover and develop the strength, talent and goodness within me."

-Kwaku Adeigbola '90

100th Anniversary 19th Amendment

August 18, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which guarantees and protects women's suffrage, the right of women to vote in elections.



Kitchen Team Steps Up NYS Covid-19 Response Mission

By: Chuck Wilde, Manager, Brock & Co.

By: Specialist Marla J. Ogden '14, Military Police



(l-r) Charles Wilde, Christina Peirantozzi, Paula Zammikiel and Deborah Wilde

When Covid 19 hit, no one knew what or how long this virus would be around or how long it would shut down our normal everyday lives here in the kitchen at Oakwood. Our role to nourish and feed the community at large still had to happen, so with the assistance and support of Head of School Chad Cianfrani and Business Manager Allison Berger, we put forth a plan that would meet the CDC's and NY State health guidelines for serving meals. The lobby in front of the entrance to the kitchen became our meet and greets area as well as the Pick-Up spot for bagged lunches and boxed dinners. Due to the difficulties of travel, we had the honor of feeding several international students through June 12th. They really appreciated all the good food and support that my kitchen staff was able to give them. The wonderful comments and even a few awesome thank you cards from the Oakwood faculty and staff, and even the children, really kept our spirits high as we worked through these strange times. If you're a numbers person, we average 350 meals per week. That isn't too bad considering we serve over 2,100 meals a week during normal operations. We were able to create different types of bagged lunches and even did a couple of hot sandwiches each week.

I couldn't have pulled this off without the awesome job my crew did. Chef Justin and Debbie Wilde were with me right from the start. When the government stepped in and gave Brock PPP funds, I was able to bring some of my other team members in and they did a great job in assisting. I want to give a huge shout out to Chef Christina, Paula, Pam and Alexis for being the reinforcements that we needed as we finished out the school year. They came in and really elevated our spirits. And thanks also to faculty member Dan Ball who assisted on weekends with meals for our international students! We know you guys really care about us, and about this awesome Oakwood Community, my second family.

Oakwood has partnered with Brock, a Quaker food service company founded in 1927 in Pennsylvania, for many years. We are grateful for the partnership and quality food and service from Chef Chuck Wilde and his team. 📍

Within a span of a week, my unit's mobilization to Europe was canceled and we were called for State Active Duty in New York. With so much uncertainty around what to expect, we quickly switched gears and responded to the NYS COVID-19 mission, along with roughly 3,500 other New York National Guard troops. My unit, the HHD 104th Military Police Battalion, had been preparing to mobilize overseas to partake in Defender-Europe 2020, a large-scale NATO and U.S. National Defense Strategy exercise, originally intended for late April.

We loaded the last of our personal gear and equipment onto shipping containers set for Europe, and within a day we were informed that the exercise was canceled due to growing concerns about COVID-19. Within the following days, my Chain of Command informed us that there was a 100% recall of troops and to prepare a bag for an "undetermined amount of time."

When reporting for duty, it was specified that we had been activated to mobilize and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in New York City. New York City was rapidly growing as the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. At the time, I was fearful due to the amount of uncertainty surrounding the virus. The only thing that was certain, however, was the need for help.

The objective of our mission was to establish a Tactical Action Center in the vicinity of the Jacob Javits Center in New York City, to command and control inter-agency coordination between branches of the military, government, and emergency service agencies. Various agencies, such as FEMA, American Red Cross, NYS Department of Health, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with countless military units spanning across all branches, joined together at the center.

As soldiers, we always train to prepare to mobilize with little to no notice. However, this was the first time I experienced the real deal. Arriving in New York City felt like a scene from "I am Legend," starring Will Smith; with vacant streets that had always been bustling before. The city that "never sleeps", was sleeping.

To help NYC hospitals, the Jacob Javits Center was originally intended to be a makeshift medical facility for non-COVID patients only. At the direction of Governor Cuomo and the President, the center switched from a non-COVID medical shelter to a large 2,500 bed COVID facility, equipped to treat ICU patients.

As a personnel specialist working in the Unified Command Center at Javits, J1, I had access to the daily numbers of intakes, discharges, and deaths. While some have criticized the effectiveness of the Javits Center, we treated 1,095 patients while each member of the facility also put their own health and life on the line.



My primary responsibility was to handle personnel reports and paperwork for roughly 500 Soldiers of the 104th MP BN, who were not only on ground at Javits, but stationed in other locations throughout the state of New York. I did this while also completing online classes for school. At first, I spent many nights with little to no sleep as the Command Center was running 24 hour operations. I quickly adapted as I saw the importance and need of even the simplest jobs.

Many of the 104th MPs were either drivers who helped coordinate troop movements around the city, to and from hotels to the Javits Center; conducted security and medical screenings at the entrances of the building; and delivered meals to Soldiers quarantined at hotels. Once there was a handle on the initial paperwork that was needed in order to place our Soldiers on the mission, I began working for the Javits Security and Intelligence, J2, and was responsible for media requests and visitor badges for the center.

While many of us didn't directly treat COVID patients, each of us played a crucial role in caring for the citizens of New York. I'll never forget serving alongside all of the men and women, who were doctors, nurses, Soldiers, combat veterans, federal agents, engineers, and volunteers to fight an unpredictably vicious disease. From this experience I was able to work with so many brave people, and was standing right there when the 1,095th patient was discharged. While fighting COVID is far from over, our mission at the Jacob Javits Center is complete for now.

Marla Ogden served as student clerk for 2013-2014. 📍





Katie Settel '84 presents “(un)Forgotten” Arts Lecture



On May 15, 2020, Oakwood welcomed photographer Katie Settel '84 who presented a virtual talk: “(un)Forgotten, the Journey to Remembering.”

Katie has studied with Jay Maisel, The International Center of Photography, and The Fashion Institute of Technology. She opened a studio in 2008, which quickly became known and awarded for her unscripted and authentic images. Katie freelances for numerous newspapers including The Connecticut Post and is a concert house photographer at The Fairfield Theater Company. Katie's exhibit "Shot in the Dark", 2016, focused on low-light concert photographs, whose title reflected her own strong belief in taking chances.

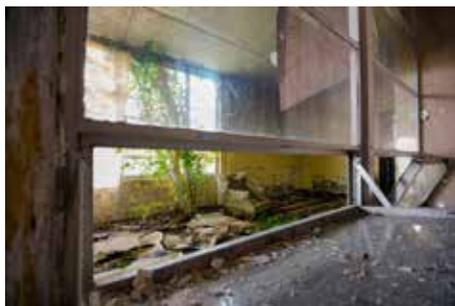
In 2017, Katie embarked on a personal project, '(un)Forgotten', which debuted in October 2019, drawing national attention from the Associated Press, PEOPLE Magazine, and a score of others. She is currently working with Save the Children on a photographic fundraiser entitled "Superpowersunited".

During the lecture, Katie shared the story of creating Unforgotten. Below are excerpts from an article that was written by Rachel DeSantis in October for People.

Photographer Debuts Photo Exhibition Taken at Institution Where Her Brother Was Held as a Child

Growing up, photographer Katie Settel knew all about her older brother Andy. She knew he was at one point a twin, but was the lone survivor. She knew he was intellectually disabled; blind and unable to communicate. And she knew that she'd never had the chance to meet him, as he was living away from her and her four siblings at the Mansfield Training School and Hospital in Connecticut due to his disabilities. “Back in the '50s, the doctors urged the parents to give their kids away,” Settel tells PEOPLE. “They said, you know, you won't have any kind of life, you have to give them away, don't look back ... It wasn't at all a dark, bad secret, [but] I was always haunted by having a brother I never met.”

Now, years after Mansfield was shut down, and Andy reunited with his family, Settel, 53, has returned to her brother's former home, this time with a camera in hand. With the click of a button, she's managed to transform the dilapidated facility into a photo exhibition called (un)Forgotten at the Armstrong Gallery in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a display Settel hopes can help end the stigma surrounding families that were once fractured like hers.



Andy left Mansfield when the facility closed down in 1993 due to overcrowding, abuse, neglect and sanitation issues, and was moved to a smaller home in Connecticut, where he still lives today.

Many thanks to Marsha and Jonathan Talbot '57 for their on-going support of this lecture series. 📷



Katie Settel and her family

Politics of Imagination

By: Sadia Rashid '22



This summer, I participated in the 2020 Telluride Association on-line seminar, Testify: The Politics of Imagination, Fantasy and Magic, centered around defining testimony through analyzing different texts, images and concepts, some of which being Afrofuturism and Black Feminism.

The experience overall was really fun and interesting, the class was very efficient at going over the topics such as unconventional research and magical thinking/world building in depth while giving the space to have open discussions during class. We analyzed texts from a variety of authors including Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Octavia Butler and Jasmine Reid. The professors broke down each concept and built off of the ideas we had previously discussed, asking open ended questions that led to constructive conversations with my peers.

I got to know many of the other TAOSers through the Zoom breakout rooms we frequently had where we would discuss and create questions pertaining to what we were learning that day.

The extracurricular activities ranged from career panels to art sharing and gave me room to speak more openly with other students about what we were interested in. Overall the TAOSers, advisors, and professors were very kind and made the program engaging and inclusive. 📷

The Telluride Association offers a 6 week educational experience for High School juniors designed to bring together young people from around the world who share a passion of learning.

“The real job Oakwood asked of me was to be a better, kinder, more thoughtful person who would always try to make the world a more suitable place. With gratitude for what Oakwood gave me.”

Edith Passenger Root '62



A Letter to Alumni

By: Najah Muhammad '10, president of Oakwood's Alumni Association



Najah with Libby Moroff '54 and Peter Baily on Alumni Weekend 2015.

Fourteen years ago, I remember starting my journey at Oakwood and constantly being given opportunities to shine as a leader. It was beautiful to have the space to foster and shine my natural light, with the guidance of Oakwood community members. Ten years after graduating, it's so wonderful to see that light in current students and recent alumni.

When I was a sophomore, I performed in *Seussical the Musical* in the Lane Auditorium. After the performance, **Libby Moroff '54** came up to me to let me know how wonderfully I embodied my character. We instantly had a connection, and from that moment she was the alumna whom was consistently in my corner supporting me. She fostered a

relationship with me as a student, and then truly guided me as a young alum. Libby is one of the main reasons why I am so involved now, and currently serving as the Alumni Council President. Why is this relevant, you ask? Because it is my goal to connect more students and alumni with each other, so that the Oakwood community can continue to thrive as a united and connected front.

As Libby supported and celebrated me while I was in college, I remember thinking, I hope I can connect with students like that one day. When she brought me onto the Alumni Council I thought, I hope that I am someone with whom future Oakwood students can depend. I hope that the alumni network is strong enough that young people know there will always be someone in their corner rooting for them. As I reflect on my experiences this summer, I find myself forming a connection that feels eternal, much like the one Libby formed with me.

This past summer, I had the pleasure of working with two young members of our Oakwood community. **Jayden Brockington**, a rising senior, and **Willow Bennison**, a recent graduate from the class of 2020, who joined me as apprentices to help run a virtual performing arts camp. When Leaders By Choice (LBC) was looking for apprentices for its camp, I knew that I needed to call on young leaders from Oakwood. Within our first couple of interviews, it was clear that Willow and Jayden were the ones for the job, demonstrating so many wonderful values I see in Oakwood students. You could tell they had a Quaker education because

they exemplified strong collaboration and communication skills. Whenever they led an activity, I was pleased knowing that they were demonstrating these qualities to our campers.

Hearing Jayden consistently mention his work in the Libby Moroff Leadership Program brought tears of appreciation and joy to my eyes, because he is the epitome of a leader. Libby would be so proud. His passion and fervor to better the Oakwood community, and the community at large, is exactly what would have had Libby reeling with excitement.

Similarly speaking, Willow Bennison, who just finished off her term as Oakwood clerk demonstrates such a natural ease and flow as a leader. Just a handful of months out, and she already has ideas for Oakwood and ways to follow through on them.

You never know what kind of effect you will have on someone by simply making it clear that you believe in them. Libby Moroff saw something in me. She believed in me, which in turn, helped me to believe in myself. I see something so strong, creative, and special in Willow Bennison and Jayden Brockington, and I know we will be working together on projects until our grandchildren are running around at Oakwood, and beyond.

Other news: **Imani Schectman '08**, **Alyssa Spencer '13**, and **Parfait Bizimana '16** have joined the Alumni Council. Would you like to get involved? Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at nmuhammad@oakwoodfriends.org.

My Summer Performing Arts Apprenticeship

By: Jayden Brokington '21

This summer I had the opportunity to work with Oakwood alumna Najah Muhammad as an apprentice to the Performing Arts camp, Leaders by Choice (LBC) that her mother started 25 years ago. My good friends **Willow Bennison '20** and **Malcolm Condon '20** first introduced me to this camp early in the summer, Malcolm reached out first, sending me a screen shot that read "Apprentices Wanted! Online Theatre Workshop". He implored me to participate in this program, as he thought I would be a good fit for it. Though intrigued, and really missing theatre because of the theatrical drought that is the pandemic, I was loaded with other work and summer projects and didn't jump on the opportunity right away. It was later in the summer when Willow reached out to me with the same image and a request to join that I decided to give Leaders by Choice a closer look.

What I found was a performing arts community with soul and dedication to cultivating skills for youth in leadership and performing arts. Having loved performing arts since I was little but not having had the opportunity to truly learn about my passion in a formal way, I thought how much a younger me would have loved an opportunity like the one this

camp provides. So I set up a meeting to be interviewed about becoming an apprentice for LBC's STAR Performing Arts Camp. I was definitely a little nervous and antsy at the time of the interview! I hated Zoom meetings with a passion and had been having tech problems all day, but I was excited. The first few minutes into the interview I remember feeling really at home. Coach Najah and Coach Muhammad, as I would come to call my future bosses, gave off positive vibes left and right, and I'm assuming I must have too as I was accepted!

I logged onto the first day of camp with high hopes and a little fear. I believed in the spirit of the camp and staff leading it, but I had heard horror stories of online camps all summer long. I paid my negative thoughts no mind and jumped into the first week full force with all of my energy! I was so relieved when I discovered that camp felt like...well, camp! The energy from both coaches and students was through the roof and very natural, and by the third day in, I already found myself practicing the dances we learned in the mirror, and spontaneously thinking of the kids after camp. One of the biggest surprises for me was just how connected I felt with the students of the camp. They were all younger than me



and Willow by a few years, but I found myself joking around with them and having fun as if I was the same age and were in person. I can definitely say that I've never felt such a real bond with people who I had never met before in real life as I did with the kids at that camp -- they were truly spectacular!

By the second week of camp I was amped! I felt like I was genuinely helping both students and coaches, and I had come to feel really connected with them as well; so much so that I remember thinking to myself once in an after camp meeting, Najah really reminds me of my sister.



From Pandemic to Pandemic: 100 Years

By: *Matthew Voorbees '17, Oakwood archivist*



So far the year 2020 has been a year of significant difficulties and new challenges. There are few people today who can personally remember experiencing a similar event in our nation's history.

Over a century ago, the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, also referred to as the Spanish Flu Pandemic, spread around the world and caused a great deal of suffering. Now during the Covid-19 pandemic, some have looked towards history for answers, mainly as a source of guidance and hope. If we take a look back in the historic records of places such as Oakwood, we can learn from their experiences to help us move forward today.

Over a century ago, Oakwood looked very different. The school was called Oakwood Seminary and it was located near the sparkling waters of Cayuga Lake in Union Springs, New York, a little over two hundred miles from Poughkeepsie. In a report to the New York Yearly Meeting in May 1919, principal William Reagan reported that, "Serious illness has twice interfered with our school work. Early in the year about two-thirds of our whole school were stricken with the influenza." He goes on to report that all of these cases made full recoveries. The pandemic did require quarantines and disrupted school schedules, but the disease was controlled quickly and there were only 100 deaths reported in Cayuga County. Thankfully, the school fared relatively well during this time, but with two-thirds of students falling ill, the school nurse was overwhelmed trying to care for them all. Parents were encouraged to pick up their children and return home, but those unable to return home remained at school and teachers took shifts caring for students.

Looking at newspaper articles from that time period, there was not much reference to Oakwood Seminary in particular. The nearby city of Auburn, located just ten miles from the school, reported on October 9, 1918, that there were over 1,000 citizens sick out of a population of 35,000. The city also reported that one of the few physicians in the area received over 200 calls in a single day, but was only able to see 80.

One short mention of Oakwood was in the personals section of the Buffalo Evening News on October 7, 1918, which noted, "Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hull were hurriedly summoned to Union Springs on Saturday on account of the serious illness of their son, J. Warren Hull, who is attending school at Oakwood Seminary." This would seem to suggest that cases began to impact students directly in early October of that year. In that same publication on November 12, 1918, the same student is reported as having recovered from the influenza and returned to school. In the October 16, 1918 issue of the Ithaca Journal an article entitled, "Uncle Sam's Advice on Flu," stated, "...if the people of this country do not take care the epidemic will become so widespread throughout the United States that soon we shall hear the disease called 'American' influenza." It goes on to make reference to the World War stating that, "Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases, As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells." The city of Ithaca was located just over thirty miles from Oakwood Seminary in Union Springs and articles similar to this one were published in all local papers, both big and small, throughout the country. Besides the account written by William Reagan to the New York Yearly Meeting in May 1919, there is no further mention of the pandemic in school records. In William Reagan's book, "A Venture in Quaker Education at Oakwood School," published in 1968, he makes no mention of the Spanish Influenza Pandemic in 1918, but he does note

an epidemic that affected the school two years earlier. In September 1916, a polio epidemic spread throughout the Finger Lakes Region of New York. William Reagan was about to start his first year as principal and to ensure the health and safety of students he needed to make decisions quickly. He notes in his book that, "...we were required to bring a number of students to the school two weeks before opening date and keep them in quarantine," and continued that "the epidemic fortunately left us with no polio victims. Our careful, conscientious nurse kept close watch over the students. We weathered that first year without serious illness."

In its long history, Oakwood has successfully weathered wars, financial strife, and serious illness, and through it all remained committed to Quaker values and providing an inclusive, safe, place of learning.



This photo was part of an album of photos kept by Ernestine Young Wilder '21. Thank you to the Wilder family for this important contribution to Oakwood's archives. 📷

Remembering My Roommate Jeanne Overman Trankle

By: *Gloria Strauss Marmor '64*



Our classmate Jeanne Overman Trankle, age 73, a resident of Washington, NC passed away from cancer on January 7, 2020 at home surrounded by her family.

Jeanne was born in Stillwater, OK, and graduated from Oakwood in 1964. She continued her education by attending Albright College in Reading, PA. Before graduation, she spent time in Paris, France, coming back to the USA to graduate from the University of Maryland, College

Park, MD. An avid fan of the performing arts, she was not only a self-proclaimed judge on America's Got Talent, but she also performed on American Bandstand in her younger years.

An only child, Jeanne took pleasure in her big family. Surviving her are her three children and sixteen grandchildren. For many summers Jeanne rented a big house on the shore and spent two weeks there hosting her entire family. She was helped a great deal by her husband, Bill Trankle, who pre-deceased her and whom she fondly referred to as "Mr. Wonderful."

Engaging fully with Quaker Meeting at Oakwood, except in the Spring when she would

rather work on her tan, on a blanket behind the girl's dorm, she became a born-again Christian later in life. She loved her congregation at The River City Christian Center, Washington, North Carolina. A talented cook she used to provide meals for the entire congregation at weekly prayer meetings for many years. She would carry vats and tubs of wholesome and delicious food to her congregation.

Jeanne faced cancer with hope, courage and a resilient spirit. She was a loving roommate at Oakwood and a lifelong friend. In the dorm we would often fall asleep singing Pete Seeger's rendition of "Go to sleep you Weary Hobo." Rest in peace, blessed by God, my dear roomie. 📷

Class Notes



1945

Susan Davis Doderer – Still hanging in there!

1948

Paul Doughty – Oakwood is now 'long ago and far away.' Nevertheless, my years as a student there still bring strong and wonderful thoughts and memories of our teachers, "Put-Put", my fellow students, classes, our dances, plays and sports. It changed my life, matured my thoughts and launched me into adulthood. On the way I became a 'CO' during the Korean war, worked with the AFSC in Mexico and El Salvador and eventually became an applied anthropologist and university professor. My 'grown-up' life began at Oakwood for which I am very appreciative.

1951

Charles Doskow – This spring I suddenly went from the classroom to teaching on Zoom with four weeks to go in the semester. I continued that in a summer school course, and will apparently teach all my courses online this fall. I continue to be a full time professor of law at the University of La Verne College of Law in Ontario, California. Currently in stay-at-home status with no end in immediate sight.

1952

Congratulations to **Roger Bullard** who earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Harvard in May.



Dorothy Finkelstein Finell – Currently living in Carmel, CA. I'm the author of 3 books (1 memoir "Finally Home" and 2 business books). I have 7 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

1953

Juliet Haines Mofford – My two years spent at Oakwood were among the most memorable and meaningful of my entire life! I live in coastal Maine where I continue working full-time at writing and historical research. I have 18 books in print, most recently "I Shall Use My Freedom Well," the biography of fugitive slave Josiah Henson: (Touch Point Press)

1956

Hilton Mello – I still live in Rio, Brazil and I am now almost 84. I had my best years in Oakwood in 1950 and 1951. I hope you all, I mean everyone, professors and students are well. I also hope I can go there next year. I see that my English is

getting worse, sorry. I embrace you all.

Congratulations to Daniel and **Molly Lynn Watt** on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Iris Mary Ruth Power on June 22nd in Dublin, Ireland.

Martha Ullman West – Dateline Portland, Oregon and my city is under siege from my government. Many, many are engaged in peaceful protest on behalf of Black Lives Matter; they are not the ones making the news. On the brighter side, my book, Todd Bolender, Janet Reed and the Making of American Ballet is now in the production pipeline and will be published by University Press of Florida mid-April.

1957

Ginger Botvin – (Isadora Alman) retired from my private practice as a licensed relationship and sex therapist after 40 years due to health issues. Latest book a collection of columns from Psychology Today Online entitled What People Keep Asking Me About Sex & Relationships. Find me at askisadora@aol.com or www.askisadora.com

Sarah Robin Newcomb – Still writing songs with Susie Dean '56.

Henry Greenberg – We are sequestered in our weekend place in the Hudson Valley enjoying watching spring unfold day by day but saddened by the coming global castastrophe. I enjoyed writing a family narrative several years ago and now finishing a less personal and more historical description of a very faceted medical career.

Diane DeMask Lyons – My granddaughter Maura Lyons graduated magna cum laude from The University of Alabama in 3½years! I still travel. Left Egypt right before the virus started.

Jonathan Talbot – My Studio has been selected for the 2020 Best of Warwick Award in the Painter category by the Warwick Award Program. Each year, the Warwick Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Warwick area a great place to live, work and play.

1958

Michael Beecher – Retiring at the end of the month after 49 years of teaching, the last 42 years at the University of Washington! Enjoying my 20-month old grandson who's staying with us, the other two are in college!

1959

Alf Hildebeitel – I live in Cali, Colombia with my wife Elena. We were married officially in October

2017. Colombia is beautiful, including our house. We see a lot of Elena's four sons here. But I miss seeing mine, Adam and Simon, and my grandkids, Lucy; Alice, and Liam, through this no-travel period.. They have homes near Washington DC. I mostly keep busy writing books about Indian epics and mythology, now on number 11.

1960

Sue Gehrke Elliott – After 31 years in education, my retirement to a "quiet life in the country" has evolved to being a Vineyard owner. We have operated as a farm vineyard for 15 years now, and sponsor and teach an active winemaking group. In these times of the virus, it is great to be out "in the middle of nowhere" safe and sound. For entertainment, my husband and I are avid genealogists tracing all our roots as generations of Quakers. My granddaughter now attends the Quaker school in Portland Maine. Maybe a candidate for Oakwood some day?

1963

Merry Anderson – Forever grateful for my first interracial experiences during these troubled times.

Jesse Rieber – Hello to my friends and classmates from Oakwood. I hope you all are well and taking all the precautions necessary to stay that way during the COVID pandemic. My practice as a psychotherapist specializing in trauma, depression and anxiety continues. In March I closed my physical practice and have worked out of an office in my home ever since. It is all rather surreal as I now have clients all over the state due to telehealth as a connection. I pay rent for my office monthly but go there for only 20 minutes a week to water my plants and get my mail. My plants are very happy, they have the place all to themselves and are growing along merrily. I spend many hours in my backyard looking into the woods and at my bird feeder. I am now on a first name basis with the grey squirrels, three N.E. flying squirrels; dozens of chipmunks, and one adult racoon and a recent infant visiting racoon. One's physical world can shrink drastically but if you spend time in the reduced world you discover or rediscover how elaborate and inhabited it is. Please take care of yourselves, your friends, loved ones and neighbors.

1965

Wilson Sheldon – Spending my 65th summer on Birch Island, Upper Saranac Lake NY. When my parents bought it in 1955 there were many Oakwood connections. Bill Butterfield who was a coach and teacher at Oakwood also bought one of the houses as did Bill Clark who was Headmaster at Oakwood. In addition Tom Smith who lived right across from Oakwood in Kingwood Park bought one of the houses. The Smith, Butterfield and Sheldon families still own their houses. The weekend of July 24th my cousin Don Badgley '67



and Karen Hardeman Royston '66 were here to enjoy the beauty of the Adirondacks.

David Sitomer – Tobi '61 in Hawaii, David '65 in DC. Quarantined in the light.

1967

Don Badgley – My how time flies! Greetings to my class of 1967 and all those who made Oakwood their home for a time in their lives. In this year of turmoil, disease, suffering, injustice and unprecedented corruption in the seats of power there is also cause for celebration. I am going to brag about my full grown children! On June 13, our youngest daughter Alanna Rose Badgley married her partner Rudy Green in a backyard ceremony Zoomed to nearly 200 friends and family. This was only 3 months after she graced the cover of April 20 Time Magazine because of her work as a paramedic in Westchester County. My eldest daughter, Marissa Faith Badgley also shown brightly as Young Adult Field Secretary for New York Yearly Meeting and as the founder of True Reloveution (Google it) that is teaching skills that enable schools and businesses to better serve their constituents, employees and clients through the power of Love and Compassion. Tracy and I will celebrate our 35th anniversary in October and we are blessed in more ways than can be named. May Love find all of you receptive to its Power!



Rudy Green and Alanna Badgley

Nancy Leopitzi-Wawrla – 2019 was a year of travel! I was away 8 months out of the 12 between March '19 – March '20, then as soon as I returned home, BAM! A shut-down! It gave me time to reflect on our beautiful Nat'l Parks in our U.S. southwest; then Austria; then Thailand and back to Austria. I returned stateside for family doings, which included Florida and Texas. As the saying goes "there's no place like home." Love to all y'all and be well.

Phil Richmond – Gadzooks! "Travel Adventures" & "weddings" are pretty much off the table for us now here in the 'Year of the Plague'. However, for stay at home adventures that would avoid the CoV I am trying to read just right now "Decameron" by G. Boccaccio. Similar in form to Chaucer's work about pilgrims telling stories to each other on the way to Canterbury. However, the Decameron is focused on a group of well-heeled young folk escaping the plague in Florence in 1348. Their journey to safety is accompanied with the requirement for all to tell entertaining tales every night. Seems timely and relevant.

1968

Jonathan Kaplan – Hello from one of the class of 1968! I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy, and that Oakwood is thriving, despite the dystopian times within which we now live.....Here is an update.....A few years back

I was accepted as a member of the International Academy of Ceramics (<https://www.aic-iac.org/en/>) and travelled to Barcelona for the semi-annual conference and new member inauguration ceremonies. I returned to Spain shortly thereafter to continue my studies of Flamenco guitar in Granada. I continue to curate Plinth Gallery in Denver (plinthgallery.com) an ever expanding venue focusing on promoting both national and international ceramic artists and their work. Over the last 3 years I have been writing a ceramics technical book, Plaster Mold and Model Making: Methodology and Practice, which will be published by The American Ceramic Society in the fall of 2021. I have had a wonderful and rewarding 50 year career as a ceramic artist, educator, author, that began at Oakwood School when I needed an art class to graduate. I had planned to study medicine after I graduated from Oakwood. Thank you Oakwood School. Go figure! Who woulda thought? All the best..

1969

Charles Schwartz – I am now enjoying retirement. Staying safe at home My daughter is going to get married in June 2020. I enjoyed my visit to Oakwood in May 2019 (50th reunion). My son and wife are also doing fine.

1970

Gary Slutzky – I'm staying home with my wife during the pandemic, as I hope we all are. It's trying on the mind, but I believe we will mostly survive. I have 7 grandchildren I can only see on face time or zoom. Boring, huh?

1973

Mary Lowrey Rose – Our 5th grandchild (3rd grandson), Benjamin Clay Rose was born on April 22nd in the middle of a pandemic. This meant no chance to visit in person to begin with, but we made do with Zoom as seems to be the new norm. He is a bonny, happy boy and joins big brother Jamie.



1976

Sean Smith – I'm about to start my 32nd year working at Boston College as an editor/writer, and -- unlike 2019-20 -- I hope to spend all of it on campus (as safety protocols allow, anyway). Not that I haven't minded working from home these last five months, but I do miss my colleagues and my workplace. My wife and I still live just outside Boston, and have been mainly hunkering down since March. I continue to freelance as a music and arts writer for Boston Irish (bostonirish.com), and during the past year I decided to take the plunge and start peddling my first novel to publishing houses. The pandemic has robbed me of several gigs, but I've tried to stay active musically – you can listen to some of the results at <http://seantsmith.bandcamp.com>. I've enjoyed the occasional "memories of the '70s" threads on the Oakwood Alumni Facebook group, and as always,

hope such reminiscing can take place in actual, real life, some way, somehow. All the best.



1980

Susanrachel B. Condon – Well it's been a peculiar year to be sure! Our youngest kid, Malcolm, graduated from Oakwood during the height of the pandemic, the year I was planning to celebrate my 40th reunion. Virtual graduation was surreal and bittersweet. Malcolm will be leaving at the end of August for a gap year doing academic and service work in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. I hope next Spring we'll be able to celebrate our reunion in person, with hugs, and without masks. Stay safe and well everyone!



1983

Paul Berger – I'm doing well. A crazy end to my 23rd year of teaching! Covid -19 – Yikes! My daughter finished her freshman year in high school and just turned 15. My mother turned 91 years old! I see and talk to Justin Brown almost every day. It's great to have true lifetime friends that started at Oakwood School.

Allyson Wingate – My best to the class of 1983, as well as to all former and present staff and students. Most certainly a challenging 2020 for our world! Covid-19, protests, racial issues and major economic difficulties... However, may we all focus on and remember there is much good and positive as well. Hang in there everyone. Peace to you all!

1984

Blair Collins – My wife, Jen, our son Jules, and I are all doing well, all things considered. Jules is our main focus outside of work and he's just over 2 ½ now. We're spending lots of time playing with him, watching him grow and getting him ready for pre-school with safety the top priority. Thankfully both Jen and I still have our jobs and are busy with those, trying to find the balance of work and play. I'm keeping in touch with vari-



ous other alumni via social media and am always happy to receive any Oakwood updates! I've attached a pic - it's 3 months old already! Whew time flies even in Covid times. Oakwood is my second home and always will be. Cheers

Alaka Lindsley – In February, I left my management job at MultiCare and the 1.5 hr round trip commute after 23 years, and started working closer to home (literally within 5 miles!). This change also gave me the chance to return to my two passions: doing clinical work and teaching. I now work in the Mental Health and Wellness Department at Kaiser Permanente in Olympia and am also teaching at Saint Martin's University as an adjunct professor in the Master's in Counseling Program, where I received my graduate degree. I get to ride my bike to work, spend more time closer to home with my sweetie, and am enjoying life a lot more. Of course, all of this change comes just as Covid-10 closed everything down, which has meant getting used to virtual mental health counseling, and teaching on Zoom. Been a wonderful opportunity to stretch my brain, and I am so grateful to have a job that I love. Cheers to all of my classmates and friends, and hope you all are surviving, and finding your passion.

1985

David Hochfeld – Daphne and I are well and miss everyone terribly. This would have been our 35th and suddenly we are in a whole new world. Our connections to our fellow Oaks keep us smiling and we know we'll see everyone when things settle. Living in south Florida just became harder. We pray for us all daily. May we all sing under the Old Oak tree again. For the memoirs I would just like to say that Oakwood was the most unique school with people offering the best of themselves in an effort to raise us all to be taller and stronger together and when we were alone we could remember, Oaks grow together...



1986

Jesse Washington is working with John Thompson, Jr. on his autobiography, *I Came as a Shadow*, due out in 2021. Thompson was coach of Georgetown University's basketball team in the 80s, the first African-American head coach of a major college sport to win a national title. Jesse is a senior writer for ESPN's race, sports, and culture website, *The Undeated*.

1988

Skip Davenport – I have been married since November 8th of 2003 to Amy Robinson Davenport. We have 2 kids. The oldest is 14, George III, and the youngest is Emmie, who is 11. Also, our youngest daughter Zoey, who is a Golden Doodle. I purchased a Ford dealership, our family business, in 2016. Everyone is happy and healthy!



1991

Nicola Freeman – May this next season bear the fruit of kindness and compassion.

1995

Aaron Rester – In November 2019, I released the second album on my fledgling record label, Beartrap Spring Records (<http://beartrapspring.com>). "Only the Stars" by The Long Farewells is a new collaboration with my longtime musical partner, Gabrielle Schafer, and is a concept album about the 1910s. It includes songs about World War I, the murder of Frank Lloyd Wright's mistress, the construction of the Ashokan Dam, the Great Hammond Circus Train Wreck, the 1919 Chicago race riots, and other events during this often overlooked decade. It's available on virtually every digital platform for streaming or download, and you can find out more at <http://longfarewells.com>.

1998

Heather Kelley got married in 2018 and spent the past seven years as a theatre administrator and acting teacher at Kean University in Union, NJ. In July, she and her incredibly supportive husband Todd left NYC after 10+ years and made the long cross-country trek to Colorado, where Heather will begin her PhD Theatre studies at CU Boulder this fall. Drop Heather a line at heather.marie.kelley@gmail.com.

2002

Elizabeth Wilkie Roscoe – After moving from Washington DC to London in 2018, I graduated with an MA in Tourism Management from the University of Westminster in 2019. In January 2020 I married Paul Roscoe in London, and we now live in Manchester. I'm currently working in aviation and travel and happily settling into married life!



2007

Congratulations to **Lillian Shad** (daughter Layla) and **Mauro Parra** on purchasing their first home.



Sarah Robbins Weers – I just recently graduated from my Family Medicine Residency at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing Michigan and now I am board certified in Family Medicine and practicing at a small rural clinic in White Cloud in Northern Michigan. My husband Jasen and I just bought our first house and we are so happy!



2011

Congratulations to **Justin Bogle** on his engagement to Emmy Talian.



2013

Heather Stratica – My fiancé (Joe Tomellini) and I got married last August and we are moving to Jacksonville, Florida next week! I will continue working remotely as a Quality Engineer at DEKA and Joe will be flying P8's for the Navy! We are looking forward to the warm weather but will be missing the Northeast.



2015

Karen Swatson – I graduated from American University with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and a minor in Education. A couple of months later, I got an internship at the World Bank from September 2019-December 2019. I had to put my internship on pause in December because I started my Master's in International Development at American University. Throughout the summer, I worked on a personal education



project which will hopefully turn out great. Currently I am applying for the Virtual Student Federal Service internship. Hopefully, I get selected. My regards to everyone.



2016

Yuchen Feng – I got my BA in economics at NYU. I already started the MS program in marketing science at Columbia Business school and I plan to graduate next summer.



Jacky Jin – I graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. I'm currently working at Bloomberg as a software engineer.



Nora Sackett – Nora graduated from Mt. Holyoke College with a degree in music and education and is licensed to teach elementary. She will be doing trail work for the Appalachian Mountain Club in the fall.



Wendy (Meiwen) Zhou – Graduated from Univ. of Rochester this year and will enter UPenn for graduate school in the fall.



Alumnus and former clerk **Parfait Bizimana** visited with Nancy and Bill Doolittle at their new home in Maine! Parfait had an internship at the Maine Farm Credit Bureau in Auburn where he worked on developing a hub for the southern eastern area for his MBA.

2017

Congratulations to **Matthew Voorhees** for receiving the Housing and Residential Life Award for Desk Receptionist of the Year at Kutztown University for the second year in a row.

Faculty & Friends

Congratulations to **Susan Masciale-Lynch** on her new position at Marist College! She will be sorely missed but we are so happy for her as she embarks on this new adventure in higher education!

Congratulations to Desiree & **Jon Pesner '07** on the birth of their daughter Rani Elaine Maxine Pesner March 16, 2020

Jeremy Robbins – I took the role as Head of School at Brehm in September of 2019, with the idea that I would travel back and forth to NY until the family relocated in the summer. Brehm serves students and young adults with complex learning differences. Located in Southern Illinois, we are in a region known for its beautiful lakes and the Shawnee National Forest.



(l-r) Sawyer, holding sister Maeve, with brothers Zeke and Emmett. 📷



IN MEMORY

Frances Smith Feldman '46

July 11, 2019

Eric Springer '46

September 5, 2020

Richard Perkins '50

March 18, 2020

Edward van Kleeck Cunningham '52

March 24, 2018

John Berlin '54

May 17, 2020

Julie Fogelson Braverman '56

April 19, 2020

James Gregor Rechetnick '64

May 21, 2019

Peter Messimer '65

August 20, 2020

Anne Kantaros Murphy '69

September 2, 2020

Robert Lessig '72

June 6, 2019

Horst Berger

May 4, 2019
NYYM

Reginald (Reg) Hannaford

June 13, 2020
Former Faculty

Warren Wyrick

February 14, 2020
Former Faculty

**Oak Leaves
Summer 2020**



ELAINE MILES

Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI

Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO

Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Address Service Requested

2020-2021 Fall/Winter School Calendar

October 3	Middle School Parents Reception
October 17	Upper School Parents Reception
October 20	Workshare Day
November 22	11th Grade College Planning 1:00 pm
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Winter Term Remote Learning Interval
December 15	Virtual Holiday Concert, 7:00pm
Dec. 18 -Jan. 12	Winter Break
January 12	Winter Term Classes resume
January 30	Virtual Auction to support Annual Fund

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Back to School in September 2020

