

Oak Leaves

Summer 2021

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 220 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

The Spencer Family Theater

Alyssa Spencer, Class of 2013, remembers joining her dad, Don Spencer, to see a student production of "Seussical" at Oakwood. It was her first school experience in a black box theater with real stage lighting and a sound system, not just a school cafeteria with a stage. She was impressed. She didn't know at the time that this theater would become her home for the next four years at Oakwood, the place she would spend most of her time outside of her classes and the dorm, and central to her high school experience.

Alyssa's enthusiasm for the drama program was contagious. Her parents, Don Spencer and Vickie Riccardo, were delighted to see her so engaged and thriving at her new school. In 2011, when Don agreed to serve on Oakwood's Board of Managers, Alyssa was excited: "I was happy to see that my dad was getting involved in a place that I thought was so special and his involvement meant that he saw the same qualities I did in Oakwood and wanted to uphold them. I am so proud of the work he has done to push the community forward as a whole and I hope that I can follow in his footsteps." Now a development professional at her alma mater, Clark University, Alyssa has already stepped up to a volunteer leadership role at Oakwood, serving as co-president of the Alumni Association with Najah Muhammad '10.

In Don Spencer's role as president of the board of managers, he was a driving force behind the tremendous strides in capital improvements across the campus. Funded by Oakwood's Lighting the Way Campaign, the enhancement of Oakwood's arts facilities was an important focus of this work. As a result, students have been enjoying new state-of-the-art visual arts and ceramics studios in Main and using new music studios in Lane to create and perform compelling music.

Now, as we approach the celebration for Oakwood's historic anniversary – 100 years in Poughkeepsie – we are pleased to announce the completion of our capstone project, the renovation of our theater, housed within the first building constructed on the campus for the school's use in 1921. The newly named The Spencer Family Theater will be dedicated at the anniversary celebration in September in recognition of the Spencer family's exceptional support and service to the Oakwood school community. We are grateful to the many generous donors who have helped bring us to this milestone and look forward to welcoming the extended Oakwood community and friends of the school to student performances, concerts, guest lectures, and other events in our beautifully renovated theater space. 📺



Don Spencer and Vickie Riccardo visited the new Spencer Family Theater in July.

100th Anniversary Celebration & Alumni Weekend 2021 September 24th-26th

Friday 9/24

Caroline 'Dash' Davis Gleiter '51 Lecture on Social Justice - 2:30 PM
"Working for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties" Presented by Michael Steinberg,
Director - Civil Rights Litigation Initiative, Michigan Law School

Saturday 9/25

Alumni Association Annual Meeting – led by Co-Presidents Najah Muhammad '10 and
Alyssa Spencer '13 – 10:00 AM
Lunch & Class Photos – 12:00 PM
50th Reunion & Oak Tree Club Reception at Head's House - 2:00 PM
Welcome to The Spencer Family Theater – 3:00 PM
"Through the Decades" Panel & Music - 4:00 PM
Book Launch "Oakwood: 100 Years in Poughkeepsie"
Festive Dinner – 6:00 PM

Sunday 9/26

Nine Partners Meeting House - Meeting for Worship - 10:00 AM



Alyssa with fellow actor Acelia Zhu in the 2010 production of "Nine".



Community Summer 2021

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



While two tropical storms converged on the campus this August, we welcomed a New York City Friends School soccer team into our dorms and fields and prepared the rest of campus for the arrival of our students from

around the Hudson Valley and around the globe. With close to four inches of rain in a few hours, our four-season greenhouse, located where tennis courts once stood fifty years ago, temporarily transformed into a shallow sun-filled pool.

The sun came out. The waters subsided. The garden flexed back to life.



Class of 2021 Colleges Attending

Bard College
Carleton College
Colgate University
Colorado College
Columbia University
Dickinson College
Fordham University
Hofstra University
Manhattan College
Marist College
New York University
Northeastern University
Pace University
Rider University
RMIT University Vietnam
Sarah Lawrence College
School of Visual Arts
Skidmore College
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stony Brook University
SUNY at Purchase College
University at Buffalo
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of New Haven
University of Rochester
Vassar College



Henry Cianfrani '27 in the flooded garden

As a school we are shaking off the waters as well. Reflecting back on these last 12 to 18 months, I am humbled by the focus and dedication of our faculty, students and families. I am moved by the perspectives and gratitude our graduates shared during graduation under the Copper Beech tree in June. And I am excited to celebrate the 100th year on this Poughkeepsie campus and the successful completion and dedication of The Spencer Family Theater this September.

Navigating a boarding and day program during a global pandemic is not without its challenges, and yet, we continue to grow, celebrate and mark milestones. Our faculty adapts curriculum and partners with families. Our Middle School program, now including a 5th grade, nurtures the largest enrollment in over 50 years. Alumni vision and generosity expands endowment, programming, and student support. Middle School renovations, theater technology, outdoor classroom spaces, and wetland work are but a few new areas of growth this last

year. Established funds, such as the Powell Fund, continue to provide technology essential for support of remote and in-person learners during these ever-changing times.

As I look ahead to the start of this academic year, I am proud to be part of an expansive network of alumni, families, faculty, and friends. Locally, this provides opportunities for a diverse cross section of learners in the Hudson Valley. Globally, we are strengthened by our international student perspectives and recognize the strength and sacrifice it takes to travel thousands of miles from home and culture. Particularly, we hold in the Light families of our students living in regions of instability, unrest, and oppression.

So as we lean into another year of excitement, uncertainty, and opportunity, I am looking forward to seeing you on campus (both in-person and virtually) and to sharing our student voice. See you at the 100th year celebration, and barring another tropical storm, you can even stop by the greenhouse for a tomato or two! 🍅



Chad with Melissa Ho, daughter of Sam Ho '55, on a recent visit to campus

Book Launch! Oakwood: 100 Years in Poughkeepsie



As we mark the school's milestone anniversary with a celebration on our campus in September, we are pleased to present Oakwood Friends School: 100 Years in Poughkeepsie, co-authored by Matthew Voorhees '17 and Anita Dickhuth '54. Although not a comprehensive account of a long and detailed history, the book high-

lights many important events, and together with some of the best photographs available, it paints a picture of the life and times of the school since it was founded.

Available at the 100th Anniversary Celebration, September 24 to 26, and on-line at www.oakwoodfriends.org.



We Widened Our Worlds...Anyway!

By: Karen Nichols, Humanities teacher and Math/Science Department Chair



As COVID-19 forced unnatural “social distancing” upon our community, I identified a primary goal for the year. During this time of utmost constriction, I would encourage Oakwood students to transcend artificial barriers like masks and Zoom to expand their worlds: they would against the odds know the world better and to know it with purpose.

Why this goal? As a geographer by training and a teacher of history, English and senior seminar courses in the Oakwood upper school, I see immense value in exposing students to “the real world” at every possible turn. This translates into a pedagogy where central themes in the humanities work together with current case studies to reveal ongoing, actionable issues rooted in history. Such an approach to learning challenges the misguided idea too often promoted in U.S. education that real learning happens “in college” and that world problems and opportunities must wait. Oakwood does not subscribe to this limiting notion. Not surprisingly Oakwood students were ready to engage with the world through the lens of our curricula. Because they were capable, I made it a point to bring in some of the college-level materials that I typically use with my students at Mount Saint Mary College, where I am a part time faculty member in the Social Sciences Division (teaching physical geography, economic geography, and anthropology). Oakwood students were ready!

Ninth graders in World History led the charge as they explored “ancient African societies” only to find that colonization has deprived many of these civilizations of their histories and material culture. Students discovered that non-local “anthropologists” had excavated many cultural artifacts from African societies such as Great Zimbabwe and Dahomey (Benin) and that a heated debate over artifact repatriation rages today as repositories in France and Britain face their histories.

Tenth grade English students traveled the world as well. They took on literature by authors with diverse backgrounds, many of them women. They learned about the complexities of Dutch East Indies politics

and ethnic hierarchy in what is today Indonesia. They grappled with the tensions facing Chinese and Puerto Rican immigrants to the United States and they saw the world through the eyes of a Shona teenager in Southern Rhodesian (Zimbabwean) prior to independence. They emerged from this world tour, which included a stop in the worlds of *Frankenstein* and *The Tempest* with expanded geographic literacy and knowledge of social hierarchy, oppression, and resistance.

Seniors in the Environmental Hazards course tackled contemporary environmental case studies through a lens of global climate-change. They explored such topics as sea level rise crises in small island states (e.g., Tuvalu), megadrought-related wildfires in Australia, and dust storms in Northern China. They did this all with an eye to cause, effect, and problem-solving. It is worth noting that international students provided real-time reports about hazards in their regions. Their experiences inspired me to investigate how monsoon flooding affects the Mekong River Delta and to prepare a module comparing China's typhoon patterns with US East Coast hurricane patterns.

Opportunities for extracurricular travel were limited this year. Model UN could not head to Montreal for example. Still some students jumped at the chance to prepare for a local international affairs quiz bowl, Academic WorldQuest (AWQ). The competition is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley (WAC-MHV). As a long-time WAC-MHV board member and co-coordinator of the regional competition, I was thrilled to see how intensely the Oakwood team members prepared. As their coach, I could only facilitate so much. It was up to them to pore over the packed study guide of topics, which ranged from “Uzbekistan” to “the ILO”, knowing they would face 17 other high school teams. While Oakwood did not win this year (one team narrowly missed going to nationals), they expanded their worldview and camaraderie.

In many ways, 2020-2021 had real COVID barriers. But we transcended them and widened our worlds anyway! 📦



Thank you!
2020-2021 Annual Fund
Exceeds Goal!
See Annual Gifts Report
In center section.

OPA

By: Amy Solis, parent, Siena '24,
Member of Leadership Council



With Oakwood's 2021 academic year in our rearview mirror, we are reminded of how difficult and unique this year was for everyone. We also realize how staying connected, in whatever way possible, is always worth the effort.

This summer OPA is planning a few activities to encourage connections and support our growing community. These include a Parent Outing at 1915 Wine Cellar in Poughkeepsie, and a Family Outing at Lake Taghkanic in Ancram. This is a great way to bring our students and families together for some well deserved fun after a long year of distancing. We also plan to hold a few Family Drive-In Movie nights.

Another important way OPA is planning to connect is through our Roots initiative. Last year was a success in helping our new families feel welcome ahead of the school reopening, while reconnecting existing families. We'll do the same this year. Roots ambassadors will reach out to new parents and guardians to set up an in person or zoom introductory gathering to say hello and provide guidance for any questions they may have. Next, ambassadors will set up a second gathering or zoom with all parents by grade, to help connect a wider net of people to reach out to for support throughout the year. Parents and guardians who are unable to join can always connect one on one with their ambassador.

As we forge ahead into the new school year, we look forward to connecting with as many families as possible in new and important ways. As always, we are open to new ideas, passions or interests. OPA operates under a Leadership Council composed of individuals who lead and direct areas of community interest. This helps equalize the management of all initiatives throughout the year. If you have a project you would like to lead, or would like to serve as an ambassador, please write to us at opa@oakwoodfriends.org. As always, our goal remains focused on meaningful connections within the Oakwood community. We hope you'll join us in being part of what makes Oakwood truly special! 📦



Sports

By Simon Culley, Athletic Director



To say it has been a year is an understatement. A silver lining through it all was seeing the enthusiasm students brought to the return of afterschool activities. Sports and afterschool activities were completely voluntary, yet the participation rates were refreshingly high. In the spring we offered running club, tennis, soccer, spring theater production, and ultimate frisbee. Seeing the students engaged in activities created a general buzz around campus, and the feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive.

Every participant and activity leader wore a mask to ensure the safety of their fellow participants. Students showed their resiliency and dedication by following the masking protocols. It can be a challenge, particularly with activities requiring a high degree of cardio, but everyone did a fantastic job adhering to all guidelines.

As coaches it was liberating being outside in the fortunately gorgeous weather. Leading activities once again allowed all of the coaches to engage with students outside of the classroom. The ability to build upon relationships established in the classroom, or to develop completely new connections in a less formal setting was relished by all.

During the spring participants were able to create their own sense of competition with small tournaments and other competitive games. Heading into the fall everyone is looking forward to interscholastic games. The bus rides, rehearsals, and opportunity to play against other schools is something everyone is excited to return to in the next trimester.

Even with the challenges of the past year, we were able to build camaraderie. Everyone worked together to enhance the experience of their peers. A big thank you to the afterschool activity leaders for their patience and enthusiasm. Sean Thompson,



Jodi Allen, Chad Cianfrani, Tim Stanson, Ted Messerschmidt, Melissa Matthews, Molly O'Donnell, and Meghan Bishop – we could not have done it without you! 📸

Arts and Activism

Students from Oakwood Friends School and the Spackenkill community came together to paint a collaborative Black Lives Matter mural created by a local high school graduate, Mary Haddad. Using a unique paint-by-number design style, this inclusive project involved students from both communities at the middle and high school levels. Never having met before, the students collaborated on this project that took over 320 hours in two and a half months in the hopes of combining their efforts to make an impact in the fight to stop racism. Mary, a neighbor of Oakwood, was distressed by the theft and vandalism of two BLM signs in front of the school so she reached out seeking a way to “turn the theft into a creative collaborative project.” Students shared their thoughts about participating in the mural creation process:

“Painting the BLM mural was really fun, but more importantly, you felt like you were part of something bigger. It felt like you were taking a step to changing the community for the better and ending the cycle of oppression. If we combine our efforts from many schools and communities, we could make a big impact in the fight to stop racism.”
Ryan K. – 6th grade Oakwood student



Black Lives Matter mural on campus

“This mural project was so energizing—we were all acting in community, in friendship, and in solidarity to produce this really beautiful work of art. I am so proud to be a part of that.”
Ila K. – 12th grade Oakwood student

After being unveiled at Oakwood the mural has been on tour at galleries and events throughout the Hudson Valley for the summer and fall including the Cornell Creative Arts Center in Kingston, The Art Effect and WomensWork.art in Poughkeepsie, a Juneteenth event in the City of Poughkeepsie and the Newburgh Free Library.

Students also worked closely with art teacher Lizzie Meyer on a mural addressing the Stop Asian Hate movement. Led by junior **Siena Fargis**, whose father **John Fargis** is a member of the class of 1984, approximately 20 students and faculty came together to create this powerful piece in support of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Junior **Thomas Langan** and senior **Celeste Faranghi** also helped with the design with includes multiple languages. The mural will be displayed at Oakwood for community members and guests to see. 📸



Siena Fargis '22 painting the “Stop Asian Hate” mural



Music and Drama

By: Ted Messerschmidt, Music Director



This spring was a busy and exciting time for the Oakwood Music and Drama departments. Students participated in the virtual NYSSMA solo festival, gave their first live performances at Oakwood in nearly a year and a half, and seniors made decisions to study drama and music at prestigious colleges in the fall.

Oakwood had strong representation from both the middle and upper schools at the NYSSMA festival. Pianist **Jordan Santos '26** received an "excellent" rating for his recording of Ehrhardt & Engle's Sun Dance, and **Luisa Capetillo '22** earned a 99% rating for her performance of the first move-

ment of the Brahms Cello Sonata No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 38. Because Luisa performed a solo of the highest difficulty level and scored above 98%, she will be considered for inclusion in both the Area and Conference All-State Orchestras next fall.

Later in the spring, as the threat of COVID began to abate in the Hudson Valley, Oakwood was fortunate to host its first live performances since February 2020. In May, Oakwood students gave outstanding performances of four ten-minute musicals in the newly renovated theater: *The Answering Machine*, *A Most Average Musical*, *The Hipster Sister*, and *The Facebook Fighter*. The short musicals gave a variety of students the opportunity to showcase their skills in leading roles.

The Spring Festival Concert was held a few days later. Students gave powerful performances of classical works by Brahms and Soon-Hee Newbold, a jazz standard by Kenny Dorham, pop/rock and soul favorites, and original songs by **Alex Turk '21** and **Brooklyn Dottin '23**.

Audiences thoroughly enjoyed the musical and the concert, but the events were bittersweet as they marked the seniors' final performances at Oakwood. **Molly Doherty**, **Celeste Faranghi**, **Isabella Kramb**, **Oona Sullivan**, **Alex Turk**, and **Billy Walker** will be moving on to college in the fall,



Billy Walker '21 in the spring production of "Four Ten Minute Musicals"

and several of them will continue their work in the performing arts. Isabella Kramb will be studying Musical Theater at Rider University, Oona will be studying in the Theatre Program at Sarah Lawrence College, Alex Turk will be majoring in Studio Production and Sound Recording at University of New Haven, and Billy Walker will be studying Drama and Communications at Manhattan College.

On June 11th, Oakwood held its 225th commencement ceremony, which included original music by **Brooklyn Dottin '23**. Brooklyn performed several exciting piano pieces as prelude and postlude selections. The Oakwood Music and Drama departments wish both the graduating seniors and returning students best of luck next year! 🍀

Interview with Musician Alex Turk '21



"Oakwood has been a great place for me because it's such an accepting community and it allowed me to be my true self for the first time. Over the course of 4 years, I've met so many people that have impacted me in positive ways, and there have been so many great times that I'll always think about when I leave here. I'm looking forward to starting at New Haven in the fall but I will always remember my time here."

When did you first start exploring music?

I have always had an interest in music and I'm always listening to it. As I'm writing this right now I'm listening to music. I've always wanted to write my own music but I never really thought I had the skills to make my own. At summer camp before 5th grade, I did a digital music production class

and I learned garageband. So for around 6 years I had basic knowledge of producing but I never utilized it until quarantine. Covid did one positive thing for me, which is that it made me realize what I want to do with my life, which is make music.

Which musicians inspire you?

Since quarantine, my music taste has broadened a lot, and I listen to a lot of different genres. From Slipknot, to Lil Peep, to Type O Negative, to Billie Eilish, I listen to a lot. What inspires me is the creative musical minds that defy the boundaries of music genres. An artist who has particularly impacted me is Ghostemane. He combines different styles of rap, metal, hard rock, synthesizers, while using so many different styles of vocals and adding heavy booming bass to every song. Ghostemane in particular, but any other artist who is experimental like that is inspiring because of their rebellious nature to the concept of music genres. Other mentionable artists I'd say are: BONES, who is the most prolific musician I know, having hundreds of songs over dozens of albums. Yungblud, who's song writing skills and melodies are just so amazing, and Molchat Doma, a post-punk band from Minsk, Belarus who's 80's style melodies and unique percussion inspire my sound.

Tell us about your newest project.

I'm always working on new music, but as of this very moment I have a song coming out soon entitled "the symmetry is so clear". I took on a metal/shoegaze approach, where I combined dark and heavy metal riffs with echoing and angelic sounding vocals of me singing about my existential views. This song is different from anything I've made before but I'm very proud of how versatile my sound is becoming.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I think that once I wrote the song "mount trashmore", that's when I found my sound. I'd describe my music as the place where genres melt into one another. A typical song of mine combines rap beats with electronic, metal, rock, industrial, shoegaze and so many more genres into one. I feel like if you work outside of a genre, there are endless possibilities, because you can combine anything, and still make it genre-fluid. Like if you combine hard rock sounding drums and rapping over it, or combine guitar riffs with a trap beat. "Keep listening to music cause it gets you through everything, I promise." - Mitch Lucker. I am Dakotaxela, and you can find all my music on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, iTunes, SoundCloud and Bandcamp. 🍀



Hudson Data Jam

By: Amelia Goldstein, Science Teacher

Hudson Data Jam is a national competition hosted by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies which aims to inspire students to make creative projects based on real ecological data collected in the Hudson River. Along the way, students learn about graphing, ecological literacy, and scientific writing, as they produce formal lab reports and their own charts and graphs. Projects and reports are judged anonymously by a large panel of volunteer judges, before being awarded prizes at different levels based

on the difficulty of the data set(s) chosen.

This year, 17 Oakwood students participated with two middle school teams and four upper school teams. I served as faculty advisor along with Sue Cianfrani. Three of these teams participated as an extracurricular, while three teams were composed of students in Ecological Perspectives, a science elective. Competition was steep, as over 110 projects were submitted to the Cary Institute for evaluation. Students from Oakwood won five different prizes across five different teams. First place for high school level 1 data went to a cartoon about the rise in zebra mussels in the Hudson River produced by seniors **Brandon Christianen**, **Magdalena**

Teisler, **Jane Canfield** and **Michael Angely**. First place for high school level 2 data went to **Jerry Pfeifer '21**, for a unique rap about microbial decomposers. First place for high school level 3 data went to **Aidan Cook '22** and **Tani Neustadt '21**, who created a song about the rising air and water temperatures in Poughkeepsie, combining two level 1 data sets to enter as a level 3 project. Honorable mentions went to middle school students **Ra Kumar '27**, **Corbin Berg '27**, and **Henry Cianfrani '27**, who produced a comedic skit about wildlife populations in Millbrook, and **Theo Hirmes '23** and **Kishi Oyagi '23** who produced an accordion-style watercolor booklet about biodiversity in the Hudson River. 📖

New Pollinator Garden

This winter two campus residents, Amelia Goldstein, science teacher, and Andrea Onstodt, clinical social worker, and spouse of English teacher Jesse Doherty-Vincor '06, dreamed of a native pollinator garden at Oakwood. Inspired by the Pollinator Pathway organization (<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>) they connected with Outreach Coordinator and beekeeper, Sue Cianfrani, who was planning on starting some native plantings of her own to support Oakwood's honey bees.

Andrea and Amelia walked around campus and suggested a bit of land down by the former llama pen, which happened to be in Andrea's backyard and about 15 yards from the apiary. With the help of Ray Valentin, Oakwood's Facilities Director, the plot was cleared of weeds and roots by the beginning of April. Andrea's friend at the Hudson Valley Seed Company donated 40 seed packets as part of their school program. The

vegetable seeds went to use in our four-season greenhouse and flowers were started indoors for use in the pollinator garden.

The team received a local Air & Waste Management Association Earth Day grant, along with a grant from the Wild Thyme Fund, to support the new garden. Funds were used to purchase a wheelbarrow, shovels, hose, and some more established plants to start feeding the pollinators. Before planting, students were tasked with testing the soil to make sure it was a good site for growing. They also chipped in moving logs and stones to create hiding and nesting sites for pollinators. Lastly, Amelia's class conducted a survey of biodiversity in the area using Quadrat sampling and Simpson's diversity index. "It was about increasing native biodiversity" says Amelia, "We also used it to explore native versus invasive species, and the role of bees as keystone species. I have more plans to use it in the fall for ecology lessons on phenology and naturalism."

As we wait for the seedlings to grow and

flower, there are plans to improve the area: plantings by students on Workshare Day for seeds that need cold stratification; installation of gutters and a rain barrel on a nearby garden shed to reduce use of city water; and, finally, improved use of our school composting program to enrich the soil in the plot. 📖



Chess Club Is the Best Club

By: Trevor Brooks '23



Chess club members Roxy Hermann-McNamara '23 and Michael Angley '21

We are not what you expect a chess club to be. We are not nerds crowded around a dusty library table, socially awkward, wary of outsiders, and constantly retreating to our insular conclave. We are the precise opposite of that. If you happen to be on campus when we're meeting, you'll hear us before you see us. We play outside (weather permitting) and between the sounds of

laughter, conversation, and plastic pieces on vinyl boards, we make a great deal of noise. If you follow the sound, you'll find twenty or so players who every week give up their study halls in order to play a couple games of chess on Wednesday afternoon.

Just two years ago, there weren't many who did that. For a long time, chess club stayed in its unique corner of Oakwood, a small oasis of five or so people within a desert of non-chess activities. Somewhat understandably, staring at plastic pieces arranged in what looks like abstract art was unappealing to most people. It seemed that a high school chess club was simply destined to be small, awkward, and noiseless.

That destiny stood unchallenged until this fall, when eighteen people suddenly decided to register for our club. The first week after that, we didn't even have enough sets to play; we only brought four, since preparing

for more than eight players felt like wishful thinking. But even though many of them didn't get to play, our newcomers all came back the next week (we had more sets by then). And more kept joining; it seemed like someone new would come every week, often with no chess experience at all.

From that point on, we continued building community. Meeting virtually in winter was more difficult, but we stayed strong, especially in chess instructional seminars held the last half of term. We also added a middle school affiliate, built an Instagram page, and knitted a flag. And we're planning a lot more for next year.

I recently asked some fellow chess clubbers why they play with us, and their answers all amounted to the same thing: "It's where I belong." It continually astonishes me that so many people can identify with chess; we don't just play chess, but are chess players. And yet, chess is so often labeled as "for nerds" and banished to a corner of the school. This year, I learned that a great many people have a nerd inside of them. 📖

Student Clerks



Ann Pierre Louis and Ila Kumar

Every spring, the Oakwood community selects a rising senior to serve as student clerk for the following year after an application and try-out process. Last year, in consideration of the special challenges posed by the pandemic, two seniors were selected as co-clerks. The new model worked so well that a decision was made to continue with co-clerks for 2021-2022.

Outgoing clerks, Ila Kumar and Ann Pierre Louis, and incoming clerks, Max Hopkins and Barak Tucker shared their thoughts:



Max Hopkins and Barak Tucker

Ila Kumar '21: I really enjoyed this unique experience of having a co-clerk. Ann and I did not just share responsibilities, but we were able to have a shared experience—figuring out how to be the best clerks we could for our community. It was so lovely to have a friend through it all.

Ann Pierre Louis '21: Like with everything, having a friend by your side just makes every moment and every experience special. Co-clerking truly represents what the community

is about; it was a collaborative and amazing experience. Ila and I were both able to bring out the best parts of ourselves and utilized our personal skills in order to start gloomy mornings off with a heartfelt greeting that seemed to raise the mood for the entire day. Even when we were remote, I knew that I could count on Ila. And that was truly the most amazing part of being a co-clerk; having a friend through it all. My advice to Barak and Max would be to truly lean on one another and on the community as a whole. Embrace the awkward silences during collection because they are so meaningful.

Max Hopkins '22: As for how I feel about clerking, I'd just like to say that I'm excited to be a more active member of the community, and to be as effective at representing Oakwood's principles as I can. Also, I think it will be good to have the chance to serve as a helpful peer for new students, as well as for those that have attended Oakwood for as long or longer than I have.

Barak Tucker '22: I feel jubilant and open about clerking this coming year. I hope to bring a certain alacrity to the campus again in the fall and I hope to get to connect with the community better. I think it will be fun to get to know everyone a little better with Covid-19 less on the forefront of our minds. I'm excited to see what the world will be like and how Oakwood will respond to it. 🌱

The Daqiq family from Afghanistan

The Daqiq sisters have been an important part of the Oakwood community since 2014 when Muhadisa, known as Hadis, arrived to join the class of 2015. She was followed by Basira '17, Mahdia '19, known as Hadi, and Shakiba '22. The four sisters have had a wonderful impact on Oakwood, getting fully involved in all aspects of school and community life during their times as boarders here, even last year with Shakiba studying remotely from California. They shared updates about their lives.

Hadis '15: I am working as a software engineer at Gusto in San Francisco. I am hoping to one day become part of starting a tech startup. Oakwood and Stephen Miller's classes matured my knowledge, how I view religion, politics and my philosophy on life.

Basira '17: I graduated from Smith College in May with a degree in Engineering Science focused on biomedical engineering. I am currently taking a break and learning to surf! My near future plan is to work as a research associate for two years before I head to graduate school.

Mahdia '19: I am going into my third year at Connecticut College and have started my summer with an internship at Microsoft. I had a great time at Oakwood and am very thankful for my teachers

for having prepared me for college and for life after. Would love to visit soon!

Shakiba '22: As a member of the Libby Moroff Leadership program, I pursued a project last year on cultural appropriation and made a virtual presentation at an all-school Community Meeting. 🌱



Basira (l) and Shakiba (r) welcoming 8th grade sister Narges at NYC airport.

Summers Are More at Oakwood

By: Sue Cianfrani

"Summers are More" is Oakwood's newest summer camp, a revised version of SAM camp, initiated by Chad and Sue Cianfrani and Lacey Fredericks ten years ago. Five new teachers are participating, each teaching a skill they enjoy. Ricci Alma-Bueno, Middle School Director, ran a cooking course "If you can Make it you can Eat it!" History teacher Jon Pesner '07 ran "Hands on History". School Counselor and Soccer coach Jodi Culley hosted "Sports of all Sorts." Grace Obee from Admissions shared her theater skills in "Make a Scene" while 5th grade teacher Meghan Bishop took kids "Around the World in 5 days" exploring different cultures without leaving the classroom. Sue continued the Science thread with "Break it, Make it, Take it", a 'how stuff works' Engineering session.

Campers in grades 4-8 choose one morning and one afternoon session to suit their interests. Camp ran for 2 weeks in July. 🌱





My Path to Becoming an Architect

By Julia Patten '07,

During my time at Oakwood, I learned how to grow as a person, and I learned that you should never stop learning and growing. Oakwood encouraged my exuberance for creativity, instilled the importance of helping and understanding others and the environment, and allowed me to be myself all along the way.

While at Oakwood, I decided I wanted to be an architect. Architecture was always an interest of mine, and it felt right because it was creativity that was (literally) grounded. Plus, I always liked building / doing / making things during my time at Oakwood, particularly in theater. Architecture, with all of its academic rigor and creative designing / building seemed like the obvious choice.

Oakwood prepared me incredibly well for college. I went into an accredited architecture program at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, and then a year later a Master of Architecture. For my master's thesis I focused on installation / interactive architecture in public spaces. I channeled my Oakwood theater experience and built a full scale mockup of my thesis project.

After graduating I worked at my first job for about 2 years. Notably during that time I continued the gingerbread making tradition I enjoyed while at Oakwood, and I entered my

firm into a gingerbread competition held by the Boston Society of Architects. The submission was on display at the BSA and also featured by inhabitat.com that year.

In 2014 I married my wife Monique Roy and also started a new job at Abacus Architects + Planners, where I still work as an Architectural Project Manager. Working at Abacus provides me with the opportunity to work on projects that are predominantly publicly oriented, making housing and community spaces more accessible, affordable and inclusive. Working on projects that improve the lives of others has been a key aspect of my career so far, and I would not want it any other way. Two of my favorite projects have been renovating two residential units at the Watertown, MA Housing Authority. This project allowed for two different families with children with disabilities to have affordable and wheelchair-accessible places to live. The other is a project I'm working on now - an outdoor stage & amphitheater in a public park that will bring the community together around the creative arts.

In 2018 we moved to Harvard College's campus when Monique accepted a position in one of the residential Houses there. While living on a residential campus might have seemed daunting for some people, my time



Julia Patten '07 (4th from left) at ribbon cutting in Watertown, MA

at Oakwood had provided a great model for me. I immediately wanted to engage with the students in the way I had been engaged with at Oakwood, which is something I had missed dearly during my college years. I dove in, getting to know the students, hosting events (such as grape harvesting, jam making, and homemade pasta making), helping to run the community garden, and participating in other House activities. In 2019 I was offered and accepted a role as House Fellow, which has been an exciting, fun, and rewarding experience.

More recently, I have been contemplating ways to integrate my continued and deepening concerns about the health of the planet with the field of architecture and the built environment. I am still working out what that means, and where my next steps along that path may lead, but I'm certain that the skills and values I acquired at Oakwood will continue to serve me well along the way. 🏡

Global Affairs Certificate Program 2021

By Stephen Miller, Humanities Chair

Oakwood's Global Affairs Certificate Program requires seniors to complete a capstone project to earn a certificate. The following are the projects of five seniors from the class of 2021.



Adele Fredericks
Female Landownership and Climate Change Policy in Nepal, Ghana, and Lithuania

The project analyzed barriers to female land ownership before showing the true costs of this. Adele argued that increasing female land ownership in a country has benefits in terms of mitigating climate change. She closely analyzed both laws and practices in the three regions and tracked how these correlate to climate change results.

Ila Ali Kumar

Urban Reconstruction: Planning After the Pandemic

This project tracked the ways in which the current pandemic has revealed the brutality of contemporary urban inequality. Camou-



flaged under socially constructed ideas of normalcy, public architecture allows the government to shape our actions without us perceiving how our experience has been deliberately shaped.



Robert Jerry Pfeiffer
US International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) & International Relations

Every day children are wrongfully removed and retained outside of the United States of America. Most of these children are abducted not by strangers but by their own family members. This project investigated both international and domestic law aimed to eliminate this practice, concluding with a call for an amendment to the Sean and David Goldman Act which would force the state department to act on international abductions.



Jane Ruby Schloss
Health Equity in the United States of America, Poland, South Africa, and Cuba

Ruby writes that, "Healthcare is the backbone of modern society. It defines the importance of safety and equity in society. Healthcare shows the true quality of life in a nation." She offered a moral analysis which also suggests some practical paths to financial equity and innovative improvements like community-health initiatives.



Ibrahim Waheed
Globalization and the Middle East

This project examined different aspects of globalization through the lens of its impact on the Middle East in the last 50 or so years. The project argued that the topic of Globalization is easier understood by examining a specific model than by trying to understand it from the theoretical. 🏡



Norm Keiser Legacy Fund

Dear Friends,

Oakwood Friends School is establishing **The Norman Keiser Legacy Fund** to further his commitment to racial awareness, involvement, and action. Those who had the privilege of knowing Norm, fondly remember a brilliant and modest man with the warmest smile. He was also a passionate fighter for justice and inclusion. His quest was to educate and create an awareness in all persons, friends, students and faculty to reach a broader understanding of the historic struggles and achievements experienced by Black Americans.

When we think back to our History of the Negro in America class, our memories are of the passionate teacher who had the "audacity of hope" for civil rights for all. In 1966, Norm was a trailblazer, who introduced our class to the seminal textbook, *Before the Mayflower, A History of the Negro in America: 1619-1962*, written by the renowned Black scholar and historian Lerone Bennett Jr. Not only did Norm teach from the book, he also organized a class trip to Harlem, where we visited the Schomburg Center, met Bayard Rustin, Lewis Michaux and students from HARYOU-ACT. Norm brought Black history to life!

Many of the Black students endured segregation and Jim Crow laws in the cities from which they left for a better education at Oakwood. As a diverse class, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to learn a more accurate history of America. As Norm said, "Ideally this course shouldn't have to be taught. The American Negro should be part of the ordinary course in American

history. But he's been omitted and distorted for the most part. This course is an effort to redress an imbalance." And, he did!

Today, the importance of continuing Norm's legacy couldn't be more relevant. Many states are passing legislation to ban teaching the harsh reality of racial discrimination in America, while maintaining the white-washed and inaccurate version. The Norman Keiser Legacy Fund will continue Norm's vision of teaching through lectures, classes, panels, trips, and other creative methods to educate Oakwood students in the fundamental pursuit of truth and human equality. Let us be the example for other schools.

Thank you for your consideration. We would greatly appreciate you joining us in contributing to the Norman Keiser Legacy Fund to help us reach our starting goal of \$50,000. Let's keep Norm smiling.

Gratefully,
Don Badgley, Lydia Micheaux Marshall, Bonnie Raitt, Barry Smith, Janet Tenney, Nancy Leopitz Wawrla, Debbie Sims Wood, class of '67, board member Bob Hidell, Oakwood faculty 1966-1968, and David Keiser-Clark, son of Norman and Peg Keiser. ☺

"Norm Keiser was our North Star"
— Joel Erlitz '68



Norm Keiser at Oakwood in 1966

How To Contribute

If you wish to make a contribution to the Norman Keiser Legacy Fund, please make your check payable to Oakwood Friends School and note Keiser Fund in the memo line. Mail to Elaine Miles, Oakwood Friends School, 22 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. You may also contribute through our website, www.oakwoodfriends.org. Please note Keiser Fund in the comment line.

Thank you!

Environmental Impact of Plastic Waste

By: Susanrachel Condon '80



Susanrachel Condon '80 and
Malcolm Condon '20

My son Malcolm '20 has been working to raise awareness about the environmental impact of plastic waste. In 2019, in recognition of my 40th reunion and his graduation, we started a fundraiser to help reduce and eventually

eliminate single use plastic consumption as part of an overall greening of the Oakwood campus. Because of the COVID19 pandemic, we put the fundraiser on hold but we're thrilled to announce it's on again!

In partnership with Chuck Wilde, Brock, Inc., our family aspires to raise enough money to buy sustainable materials for large campus events. Chuck reports the school spends \$2000-2500 annually on disposable supplies for events such as open houses, alumni weekends, and graduations. He estimates that enabling Oakwood to purchase reusable wine glasses, water goblets, china, silverware, and cream/sugar sets for 160 people will demonstrate a return on the investment in approximately 7 years.

Our goal is for the friends, alumni, and current Oakwood families to help us realize our dream. Please give as generously as

you can. Any amount will get us closer and be greatly appreciated! Between now and the 100th Anniversary Celebration, my company will match donations up to \$2,500.00. Together we can get this done, and leave a greener legacy for Oakwood celebrations in the years to come. All funds will go directly to Oakwood for the duration of the fundraiser. If you send a check to Oakwood, make sure to note it is designated for the Green Dining Hall Fund. **Here is the link to donate on Go Fund Me:** gf.me/u/vxmxyz
Thank you!

P.S. The best way to curb single-use plastic pollution is to reduce your personal plastic consumption!
<https://www.earthday.org/2018/03/29/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/> ☺

A Tribute to Paul and Isabella Taylor



Isabella and Paul Taylor

Oakwood Friends School is pleased to acknowledge a significant contribution to our Lighting the Way Campaign to enhance our arts facilities from alumna **Sara Jane Benson Victor**, class of 1954. Reflecting on the many ways that Oakwood opened the way for future opportunities in her adult life, Sara Jane chose to honor two former faculty members who were especially significant to her. Below, she speaks about the special role that math teacher and coach, Paul Taylor, and art and music teacher, Isabella Forsythe Taylor, played in her Oakwood education. When you next visit the Oakwood campus, stop by our beautiful music classroom on the second floor of Lane and see the plaque in the Taylor's honor. Sara Jane's gift was given in

memory of her husband, Col. Martin I. Victor, M.D., who supported Sara Jane's many interests and her affection for her alma mater. 📖

Where Music and Math Meet

By: Sara Jane Benson Victor '54

Isabella Taylor, in her gentle, soft spoken way, took a shy music-loving bookworm and convinced her to share her talent. With careful nurturing, she encouraged me to perform and let my creativity shine. The culmination of her efforts was when, on one day's notice, I had to fill in for her at the annual "Christmas Pageant". Thanks to Bert Ma-

son's "think high," and my new gained confidence, my performance got rave reviews.

"You can do it," was Paul Taylor's cry to me as I struggled with math. While his white hair and stern manner made him seem intimidating, he was always patient and kind with me. In fact, in geometry he used crayons to help me visualize congruent triangles. Not only did I eventually master Algebra 2, but he helped me realize I could do almost anything if I believed in myself. How proud he'd have been many years later to see me actually teaching Algebra 2 in High School (though having the teacher's edition with answers helped!).

As I matured into adulthood, those two lessons: "share your talents," and "you can do it," were instrumental in carving a future full of opportunities in teaching and volunteer work, including public speaking and writing. Oakwood has many great teachers, but for me these two were my "fairy godparents" 🧚



Col. Martin Victor M.D. and Sara Jane Benson Victor '54

My First Year at Oakwood

By: Meghan Bishop, 5th grade teacher

Do you know that feeling in your stomach as you approach a roller coaster to ride it for the first time? That knotted feeling deep in your stomach because of the nerves, but your heart is racing from pure excitement. When you climb into the seat, fasten the seat belt, and see the operator give the thumbs up to go, you then have those doubting thoughts. "What am I doing?" "Can I do this?" The climb to the top is long, and both the anxiety and excitement start to build. Then once you go over that hump all you can do is hang on. Every up and down fills you with adrenaline and excitement.

As I walked into Oakwood for the first time, I experienced feelings much like I would boarding a rollercoaster. When I was offered the position to teach the 5th grade at Oakwood, I knew it would include a series of firsts. It would be the first fifth grade class; I would be the first fifth grade teacher of the school; it was going to be my first time creating a curriculum, mostly on my own, and a first in creating lesson plans that were adaptable for teaching students who were both remote and in person. Oh, and

let's not forget, all the safety procedures to adjust for the Pandemic. I couldn't have done any of this in any other setting other than Oakwood. The community was inviting and supportive and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to be here.

My experience this year has been nothing short of amazing, fun, and very busy. Developing a curriculum with lessons that engaged students both in person and remotely at the same time was challenging. The support of parents was crucial, and the fifth graders had by far the most invested guardians I have ever had the privilege of working with. In the midst of a pandemic the fifth grade managed to create close relationships with each other. They learned to think outside of the box to communicate and interact in ways that didn't involve them being in the same room.

As can be assumed, there were a lot of hiccups and complications in the beginning, such as figuring out how the students at home can actively participate in discussions with peers. My goal was to have these kids be a part of the class just like those sitting in the classroom. That meant all lessons were digital, students at home had to have access to a printer for a paper handout to be distributed to the class, and lots and lots and lots of group work. Another obstacle was trying to figure out how to get the students

to interact with each other in fun hands-on assignments, projects and games while abiding by covid regulations. Access to digital platforms such as Nearpod, Brain Pop and Kahoot became important in a socially distanced classroom to build that comradery amongst peers. In a classroom where technology was a vital piece for educational success throughout the entire school day we obviously came across some technical difficulties. With patience, we learned and adjusted. My experience and feelings were much like being on that roller coaster with all its ups and downs. My stomach may have dropped a few times, but that adrenaline and excitement never went away and I looked forward to coming to work each and every day. I was sad to see the year end, but am looking forward to next year's ride. 🎢



Meghan delivering supplies to remote student Sam Gutierrez'28



Giving Back to Oakwood: Two New Scholarship Funds



The Janeway Family

There are many ways to support the life of the school for current and future Oakwood students. One way is to establish an endowed fund for scholarship. These funds create a permanent legacy of support, with income from the fund used each year to provide scholarship assistance to students with financial need. Any gain in excess of this distribution is used to build the fund's market value. We are grateful to all who have established endowed funds at Oakwood through the years. Please see the list of funds in our Annual Gifts Report.

The Charles and Margot Soley Janeway Scholarship Fund



In May 2021, Charles and Margot Janeway, both members of the class of 1955, established The Charles and Margot Soley Janeway Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance to students with financial need.

"It is very much our pleasure to make this contribution as Oakwood played such an important part in our lives. We both spent our last two years of high school at Oak-

wood. Perhaps it all began when Charlie would surreptitiously pass life savers to Margot in Mrs. Newlin's Latin class of three students. At Oakwood we made many good friends, including Sam Ho, Charlie's senior roommate, who also retained a life long heartfelt affection for the school.

After graduation Margot went to Smith College and Charlie to nearby Amherst and they fell in love. Now 66 years and four children and nine grandchildren later we remain in love and appreciative of Oakwood where that connection all began.

At Oakwood, Charlie didn't really "get" Quaker worship. But four years afterwards, when he was in medical school, he experienced that feeling of "coming home" in the silence of the Quaker Meeting in Rochester, NY. He has remained connected to Quakers ever since and was so pleased to find a Quaker meeting on the small beautiful island where we live on the coastal waters of Washington State. Although Margot ultimately found a different spiritual path, the Way of Adidam, she and our children have all been influenced by the Quaker testimonies of wanting a healthy world where there is peace, equity, respect, and inclusion.

"It gives us great joy to know that in a small way we will be offering a similar transformative opportunity at Oakwood to future students."

- Charlie and Margot Janeway '55

The Ann M. Crowley Scholarship Fund

In June 2021, Oakwood board member Patrick Crowley, class of 1950, established The Ann M. Crowley Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife. The purpose of the fund is

to support rising seniors who would not be able to continue at Oakwood without financial assistance. Preference will be given to female students. Ann Crowley was a devoted member of the Oakwood community, attending reunions with Patrick, and supporting the mission of the school over many years.

Patrick attended Oakwood for two years from 1947 to 1949 when his family lived in Venezuela. The excerpts that follow from Patrick's memoir, Hash Every Wednesday and Related Stories, make clear the specific purpose of the new scholarship he has established.



Excerpt from Hash Every Wednesday and Related Stories by Patrick Crowley '50

"One of my greatest regrets is not being able to complete my secondary education at Oakwood School. My stepfather had changed jobs and my parents had returned to the States from having worked in Venezuela and accepted a job with my uncle in his furniture store in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

As a result of the move and the reduced family income, it was determined that I would finish my senior year at Las Cruces Union High School. Las Cruces was a large public high school, quite a change from Oakwood with its much smaller enrollment. In the fall of 1949, I attended my first class and graduated in June 1950. With my grounding during my two years at Oakwood, I graduated with all A's, except for one B.

Over the years I reestablished my connection with Oakwood. In 1975 my wife Ann and I attended my first reunion and have attended every five years since. The Class of 1950 has dwindled but remains active. In 2013, I was appointed to the Board of Managers.

My service on the Board is a way of paying Oakwood back for the incredible experience both academically and socially that I experienced in my all-too-short time at Oakwood. With friends for life and a jump start to my academic career and life in general, I look forward to the 100th anniversary of Oakwood's existence on the Poughkeepsie campus." 📖

Class Notes



1951

John Earp - Hard to believe that I've been retired seven years already. I'm still doing well for the most part tho slowing down a bit. My youngest son should finish his PhD in psy & philosophy at Yale this summer, and has accepted a position at Oxford thereafter.

1952

Katrina Voorhis Mabon - Moving to Houston to be near family was a good move for me. I live in the tower of the Buckingham Senior Living which has independent apartments although our campus has all levels of care. Soon after I arrived I broke my back so I had good rehabilitation here. I have recovered so am back home again and enjoying my family who live nearby.

1953

Ben Dent - Dodged Covid and enjoying life here in Southern California. My wife takes good care of me. Still thankful for my years at Oakwood and the friendships formed there.

This photo is a few years old, but it's the last one I like. Love to all.



Juliet Haines Mofford - I live in midcoast Maine where I continue working full-time on writing and historical research assignments. I have 18 books in print, (seven for educational publishers about American history) Latest releases: "I Shall Use My Freedom Well" - biography of fugitive slave Josiah Henson and "Abigail Accused: A Story of the Salem Witch Hunt" (both published by Touch Point Press in paperback and on Audible)

Harvey Putterman - My best to Andy Harkness, class of '52, one of the finest human beings I have had the good fortune of knowing.

1954

Penny Betts Colby - After nearly 60 years Terry and I gave up home ownership and have moved to a retirement facility. Interesting people and we don't miss the cooking, the mowing or the power outages.

1955

Judith Palmer Muggia - Al & I increasingly delighted to be at Brookhaven at Lexington - double

vaccinated by February 20th - marking 62 years of marriage in October. Three sons well, happily married and we watch the ten grandchildren build their lives in Manhattan, CA and New England. They all manage to visit often which is a joy! First grandchild to be married in October 2022. No more travel, but Al still offering courses through Tufts Life-Long Learning programs and I continue my work with the Galapagos Conservancy supporting education in the Galapagos Islands. Sending warm, best wishes to all!



Judy and Al Muggia

1956

Molly Lynn Watt - My husband, Dan Lynn Watt and I finished our playscript of "George and Ruth: Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War" and are preparing it for publication now. Did you know more than 1,000 teachers world wide teach the history of this war as a war idealist volunteered for to stop fascism. We are excited, we have performed this play with no costumes, scenery, props, rehearsals, no memorizing lines, to be performed once a couple of dozen times, and then let it sit, when people asked to use the script, we thought we better get it in shape! My granddaughter **Alice Flanagan '17** is finishing up a masters degree in Sheffield, England working from Carol Gilligan's foundational work, she is working on caring. And via our grandson and through no effort, we are proud GREAT grandparents to Iris Ruthe in Dublin, Ireland.

Martha Ullman West - I have survived Covid and am very pleased to announce publication of my book Todd Bolender, Janet Reed and the Making of American Ballet. It 'only' took me 20 years to write it. It is available from the University Press of Florida and independent bookstores.

In other news, we dread the fire season on the west coast, with reason.

1957

Josef Burton - I am interested in hearing from anyone in the Portland, Or. area. 203-417-2426.

Henry Greenberg - Sold our weekend house; back in NYC full time, looking forward to Lincoln Center, Broadway, travel and 5 grandchildren.

Peter O. Lane - As a birthright (former) member of Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, I'm excited that they/we may be worshipping on the Oakwood campus sometime soon.

Diane DeMask Lyons - Have future travel plans. Meanwhile, I'm doing lots of reading!

1960

Sue Gehrke Elliott - After retiring from teaching biology, environmental science and gifted for 31 years, I started a new career. We started a vineyard and now sponsor a wine making club and I now teach winemaking. We love our country living, chickens and all. Who says you have more time when you retire? I plan to wear out not rust out. Visitors always welcome at Elliott Vineyards. I have an 11 year old granddaughter, Nora Courtney, who is attending Friends School of Portland Maine.

1963

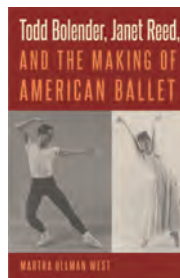
Peter Clarke - Feeling a lot better / safer now that I've got both my Pfizer shots - guess that tells you I'm not Republican!

Lewis Shepard - Except for a trip to Chicago to visit family, Ellen and I have spent the past 14 months on Cape Cod. The dearth of music has been only one of many changes here. We've been taking Zoom Classes in Latin American Art History, The Political Implications of World War 1, Blues and Root Music and more.

I taught a course for The Open University of Wellfleet (OUW) on Great Printmakers in New England. Using a kit from Chesapeake Light Craft my older son and I built a wooden dinghy in our basement. Now we are outside in the yard cleaning up after Winter and Spring weather, including the dreadful pine pollen that has turned my red car orange.

1964

Peter Dott - Jennifer & I are approaching our 23rd anniversary. We have an extremely bright 7 year old grandson whose observations never cease to amaze me. I have pretty much retired after 28 years at Northwestern Mutual where I have been concentrating on estate planning. We sold our place in Jupiter, Fl and am now residing full time in Greenwich, Ct. Nothing like living the American dream in reverse! My thoughts often go back to our days at Oakwood.





Things appeared so much simpler. No Covid or other pandemics. I offer my congrats to the staff at Oakwood for continually keeping "the ball in play" through assorted tough times. You all deserve to be commended!

Frank Ritter - As a witness of the 9/11 attack at the World Trade Center and the aftermath of the tragedy, I have written a book featuring my photographs with personal accounts of survivors and first responders. It will be available for sale prior to the twentieth anniversary this September 11th. For a sampling of the book it can be seen at www.911WeRemember.com. The book will also be available to be purchased on the web site closer to the 9/11 anniversary date. Many of my values mentioned in the book were acquired through my positive Oakwood experience!

1965

Paul Rothenstein - Following a brief engagement, I recently married Louisa Dugan in a civil ceremony in Saratoga County, NY, and will be marrying her again, just to be sure, in a religious ceremony in Baltimore, MD, where she is originally from, and where we just bought a small house together. We met at the Clark Art Institute.. David Sitomer, lifelong friend since Oakwood, will be the best man and is very busy studying up on Catholicism. Walt Effron, our mutual lifelong Oakwood friend, also will be attending. Louisa plans to continue her counseling career back in her home town after many years in south Berkshire County, MA, while I continue my non-career of composing electronic music at home. There may soon be a dog in the picture; there is already a cat. We would be happy to hear from any and all long lost friends: paulrothenstein@gmail.com.

1967

Don Badgley - 54 years after graduation and my office is across the street in Oakwood Commons and my Quaker Meeting is relocating to the Oakwood School campus. Family well and life is sweet.

Christine T. Herrick - I sailed through the pandemic by taking on the project of building a new, one story home here in Bend, Oregon. My husband, John, is increasingly frail and will be more comfortable in a one level home. Also, after 13 years in our former home, it was time to go through the winnowing process that moving demands. I found the building process to be a creative outlet that diverted me almost completely from pandemic anxiety. I also adopted a tiny Humane Society calico kitten, who provides excellent companionship, amusement and affection. I am relieved that the pandemic seems to be a waning event and I look forward to opportunities to travel again and hopefully reunite with Oakwood friends in an exotic foreign location for vacation in the coming year.

Nancy Leopitzi Wawrla - Two terrific and recent surprises and additions to my FB "friends" are Jill Pundt '66 and Alan Weinraub '64. They look fabulous and also share other Oakwood F/friends. Connecting with them makes me happy inside. Maybe it's the "youthful endorphins" dancing! Also, slow, but steady progress towards the Norm Keiser Legacy Project. We will reach out to you all, shortly. Peace and health to you all!

1968

Andrew Schlossberg - In April of 2020 I was fortunate to become a grandfather to an incredible, beautiful granddaughter and then months later a grandfather to an adorable grandson born January 2021. The joy of parenthood is magnified thousands of times when becoming a grandparent!! Reading, swimming, hugging my 4 year old cockapoo, seeing friends, beginning to travel finally. Dancing in the streets on November 8th. Breathing a sigh of relief! Survived the pandemic. Lucky and appreciative of everyday. Best to all of my wonderful classmates from the class of 68!

1970

Helen Claxton - Oakwood Friends School, you are ALWAYS on my mind. Class of '70, especially you. Love to all.

Jim Raker - Fun year! Did my best to keep COVID out of 3 nursing homes. Completely lost faith in the USA, got 2 rescue chihuahuas (why?), youngest son spent his Junior year of Skidmore at home with us doing Zoom classes - poor boy - and I got somewhat better at flatpicking. Great to be going back to bluegrass jams after a year of whooping it up with a metronome.



Alan Tuttle - I can't exactly give credit to my Oakwood education for this instance of me climbing higher in life (specifically up Half Dome in Yosemite in May), but it didn't hurt :). Greetings to all!



1971

David Lyons - I'm planning to retire next year which will give me more time to travel and see friends and family. I'm a little nervous about it because I've been working all my life. Any advice would be welcome!

Alec MacLeod - I have now been teaching at the California Institute of Integral Studies for over 25 years. My program serves adult students completing

their bachelor's degrees. We provide a liberatory education rooted in the work of Paolo Freire and bell hooks. Most recently I have also been developing a consulting practice working with non-profits and educational institutions on equity, inclusion and diversity. Both endeavors provide me with meaningful and challenging work. I am also still an active studio artist, most recently doing digital prints (giclée). You can see it on my website www.iconoclastic.net. I am enjoying reconnecting with classmates in the last few years. Look for me on FB and Insta.

1975

John Figueras - In December I retired from the Plumbers and Pipefitters local 392 in Cincinnati Ohio. I am looking forward to my new life with hopes of travel and reconnecting with folks from my past lives! Wishing well to all!

1982

Erik N. Nelson - I am still working for the state of Massachusetts to keep records about its own construction and real estate for the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and in my spare time I write poetry and fiction and do computer animation projects. I try to go kayaking at least once a year and bicycling whenever I can.

2007

Sarah Robbins Weers - I'm enjoying working in a rural family medicine clinic in northern Michigan. I think of Oakwood often and miss it!

Congratulations to **Richard Distel** and his wife Margot on their June 26th wedding in Poughkeepsie with close friends and family.



2017

Asha Amberslie - Graduated from Fordham University with a BS in Applied Mathematics.

Basira Daqiq - Graduated from Smith College with a BS in Engineering Science with a focus in biomedical engineering.

Alice Flanagan - In June of 2020, I got my BA in politics and philosophy from the University of Sheffield, and in September of 2021, I'm on course to be getting my MA in philosophy from the same university. I'm working as a substitute teacher and freelance writer and living in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK, with my lovely partner Mario, and I hope to be starting a PhD in the next year or two.

Bianca Luna-Lupercio - I graduated two weeks ago with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from the University of Southern California. I am currently

doing cancer research at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and will be applying to medical school next May.



Bianca Luna-Lupercio

Sophie Poux - Graduated from Smith College with a BA in Government.

Nai'lah Taariq Sidibe - Graduated from New York University with a BA in Public Policy and Economics.



Aminah Taariq Sidibe - Graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Communications and Environmental Studies.

Matthew Voorhees - Graduated from Kutztown University with a BA in History.

2018

Matthew Colalillo - Matthew received his associates in Applied Science this past December from SUNY Delhi, he is now working on his bachelors in Meca Tronics. He is having a great time at Delhi and will have an internship this summer at the Department of Environmental Protection.

Faculty & Friends

Best Wishes to **Michael Gallo Farrell** - After 21 years as Oakwood's art and photography teacher and advisor for the yearbook, Michael Gallo Farrell retired in June 2021. A professional photographer and artist for over 30 years, his work is regularly published and exhibited in galleries, including a permanent collection at the Avalon Archives Museum of Rock & Roll at The Falcon in Marlboro, New York.



Arthur Jarvis - All is well here. We have just had our second Covid jab and are enjoying fine spring weather in our beautiful garden. Is it really almost 60 years since joining Oakwood?! Floreat!

Class of 1921 - Oakwood's First Graduating Class in Poughkeepsie

June 2021 marked the one hundredth anniversary since the first graduation at Oakwood in Poughkeepsie. Taking place on June 18, 1921, sixteen students received their diplomas in a ceremony held in what was then the Assembly Room and is now the Meeting Room. The commencement speaker that first year was Daniel Smiley, Sr., who spoke on the way in which teaching standards were changing and Oakwood was emblematic of that. Smiley said in his address, "the methods of teaching are so changing that at the present the teachers do not say to the pupil 'go and do this,' as 'come, let us do this.'" He was the great grandfather of Albert Smiley '62 and 2nd great uncle to Josephine Smiley 'ex 33, Doris Smiley 'ex 35, Virginia Smiley 'ex 40, and Marjorie Smiley '51. Like his great grandfather Daniel, Albert "Bert" Smiley operated the Mohonk Mountain House which has been in the Smiley family since 1869.

The sixteen graduates of the class of 1921 were Ruth Anthony, Helma Brown, Robert Conaughty, Hilda Cuniff, Earle Curtis,



Helen Curtis, James Frazer, Carroll Kenworthy, Catherine Kissoon, Hazel Leader, Ruth Reynolds, Doris Rozell, Douglas Sherow, Lydia Varney, Helen Wing, Ernestine Young, and John Young. Notably, all of the graduates had attended Oakwood when it was located in Union Springs and had followed the school to its new location in Poughkeepsie in 1920. The last surviving member of the class of 1921 was Douglas Sherow who passed away a few months shy of the 80th anniversary of his graduation in 2001. 📖

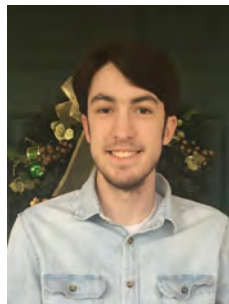
Did You Know? From the Van Wagner Archives

By: Matthew Voorhees '17, School Archivist

DID YOU KNOW....?

- What was the name of Oakwood when it was founded? (Nine Partners)

- What building on Oakwood's campus used to be home to cows, sheep and pigs? (The faculty apartments, "the barn," was an actual barn brought to campus in the 1920s and later converted into apartments in 1945)



the barn," was an actual barn brought to campus in the 1920s and later converted into apartments in 1945)

- What year was the Copper Beech tree planted? (The tree was planted in 1938 by the senior class)

- Which building on campus has a time capsule in its cornerstone? (Craig Dormitory has a copper box that was placed inside the corner stone on November 1, 1952)

- What year did Oakwood come to Poughkeepsie? (1920)

- What famous singer graduated from Oakwood in 1967 and went on to earn 10 Grammy awards? (Bonnie Raitt) 📖

Congratulations to **Araceli Reyes** and **Jose Bernabe** on the birth of their son Anderson.

Blessings on each of you at this reunion. In lively spirit, we are with you there! **Wistar** and **Bertie Wood** 📖



Best wishes to **Lacey Fredericks** and **Sean Dickinson** on their move to New Hampshire.

Oak Leaves Summer 2021



ELAINE MILES

Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI

Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

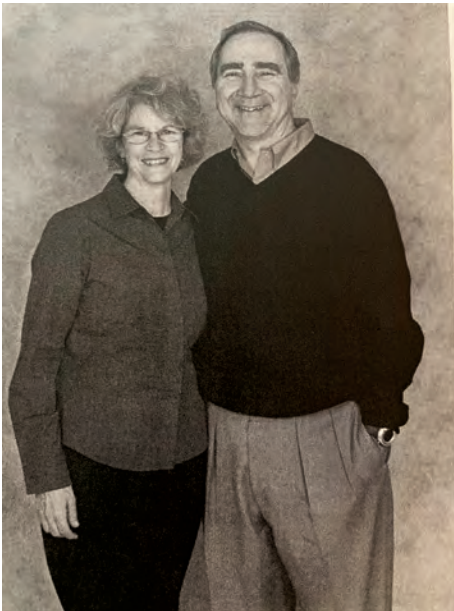
WENDY GIANGRASSO

Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs



Remembering Hugo Sonnenschein '57 Distinguished Alumnus

Oakwood Friends School mourns the passing of Hugo Sonnenschein, Class of 1957, who died on July 15th. A widely respected economist, teacher, mentor and scholar, Hugo served as the 11th president of the University of Chicago from 1993 to 2000. Prior to this appointment, he served as provost of Princeton University, and held positions on the economics faculties of the University of Minnesota, the University of Massachusetts, Northwestern University, and Princeton. He was a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association, the American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences.



Beth and Hugo at home in Chicago

Hugo remained a wonderful friend to Oakwood Friends School throughout his adult life. As he treasured his wife Beth, their three daughters and their families, he also carried a deep affection for his Oakwood classmates who were like brothers and sisters to him when he was a student. We are deeply grateful to Hugo for his dedication to the school, his philanthropy, his friendship, and his care for our students – current and future. On the occasion of his 50th reunion at Oakwood in 2007, Hugo shared the following reflection on the pivotal role Oakwood played in his life.

In His Own Words:

"In very many ways I feel that I am a child of Oakwood. I came to Oakwood as a "very little boy," age 11, and I left as a "little boy," age 16. Oakwood was responsible for much of my upbringing. The remainder of my upbringing was, by and large, the responsibility

of my Aunt Mary (ages one to nine) and my wife Beth, whom I met in my first year of college. We share three daughters and five grandchildren. The daughters are healthy, accomplished, and generally quite well. They are also "good people" and we are proud of them. Of course life has its ups and downs, but we have generally been quite fortunate.

From ages 11 to 16 one is frequently something of a jerk, and I was a master of such behaviors. Although I believe that I heard with some clarity the admonition "there is that of g-d in every man," some time needed to go by before I was able to more or less regularly act on the implications of those words. I am somewhat competitive by nature, but I have learned over time to equally appreciate the "wins" of other people. Even more, I have come to appreciate the collective wins of institutions and societies and the role of every individual in those wins. Generally speaking, it has felt good to "grow up."

These days I teach economics at the University of Chicago. My students are undergraduate and graduate students, more or less in equal measure. I still publish very abstract technical work and supervise doctoral work, but this is very difficult for me and I am getting less good at it. I travel excessively for work, and Beth and I travel a good deal for play. A favorite activity is biking in far off places. We enjoy music, and listening to a granddaughter sing, or a grandson play the violin, is a very special gift. Beth is a cancer epidemiologist, whose career has been compromised by our constant moving about. She has an active interest in child welfare and she spends one afternoon each week squeezing our youngest grandchild, who is just a stone's throw away. The most meaningful parts of my "work life" have been teaching and caring for my university.

Oakwood was a wonderful place to grow up and I owe Oakwood a great deal. You, my classmates, are my "brothers and sisters." Our teachers are, well, "my teachers" and my aunts and uncles as well. Oakwood is where I first "fell in love," broke significant rules, and found many of my capacities. In one ten minute private meeting (ouch), Bill Clark taught me that I was worth more than I seemed to believe and that I could be a better person than I was then being. My mother died when I was four and Oakwood was there to raise me. The academics were very strong, my classmates were talented and smart, and it was "not bad" to learn that conscientious objection was a possible choice and that social values are a big deal. May we all continue to grow and may Oakwood continue to provide an excellent environment for such growth. I very much look forward to being with you and listening to your stories." 📖

IN MEMORY

Susan Heath Bowen '37
April 5, 2020

Shirley Van Wagner McCormack '41
December 22, 2020

Janet Locke Genest '42
September 9, 2020

Dorothy Adolph Scirocco '46
January 29, 2021

Frederick Brady '48
September 11, 2020

Patricia Busher Mead '48
January 16, 2021

Eleanor Cohn Kane '49
April 28, 2021

Susan Lefavour Kraus '49
November 15, 2020

Mary Williamson McHenry '50
March 1, 2021

Rachel Quinby Perkins '51
February 19, 2021

Pauline Weil Schwartz '51
May 30, 2021

Gerald A. Smith '51
September 9, 2013

Jed Golden '54
May 18, 2021

Walter Glen Bibler, Jr. '57
May 11, 2021

Hugo Sonnenschein '57
July 15, 2021

Laura Greene Boehlecke '58
February 6, 2020

Sue Stein Stephens '59
December 18, 2020

Louisa Morgan Jackson '63
April 18, 2021

Alison Goodsell Zarembo '63
December 24, 2020

Roger Polk '66
January 12, 2021

Bethea Brice '84
March 11, 2020

Steve Horn
Former Faculty
April 22, 2020

Gene Warfel
Former Faculty
July 18, 2021

Address Service Requested

**100th Anniversary Celebration
& Alumni Weekend 2021**

September 24th-26th

2021-2022 Fall/Winter School Calendar

September 13	First Day of School
November 5	Parents' Day
November 11-13	Fall Production
December 13	Parents' Dinner & Holiday Concert
January 7	Winter Reunion
January 29	Wine Dinner & Auction
February 24-26	Winter Production

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Graduating Class of 2021



Front row (l-r): Yue (Sofia) Lin, Adele Fredericks, BellaJoli Gedeon, Brandon Christiansen, Celeste Farhangi, Molly Doherty and Magdalena (Maggie) Teisler

2nd row (l-r): Elizabeth Estony, Luca Otte, Ibrahim Waheed, Isabella Kramb, Ila Kumar, Oona Sullivan and Ann Pierre Louis

3rd row (l-r): Jane Canfield, Jayden Brockington, Phillip Stephens, Robert (Jerry) Pfeifer, Ruby Schloss and Lila Ressler

back row (l-r): Alex Turk, Eitan (Tani) Neustadt, Julian Wiseman, Michael Angley, Harrison (Harry) Haskin and Billy Walker.

Not pictured: Hao Sun, Huicheng (Hayden) Huang, Linh Phuong Nghiem, Shu Hao (Andy) Zhang, Xilin (Joe) Cao and Zhengnan (Arthur) Xiao.