Winter 2015-16

Oak Leaves

Newsletter from Oakwood Friends School • Celebrating over 200 Years of Friends Education in the Hudson Valley

Oakwood Mourns Libby Moroff '54, Board President

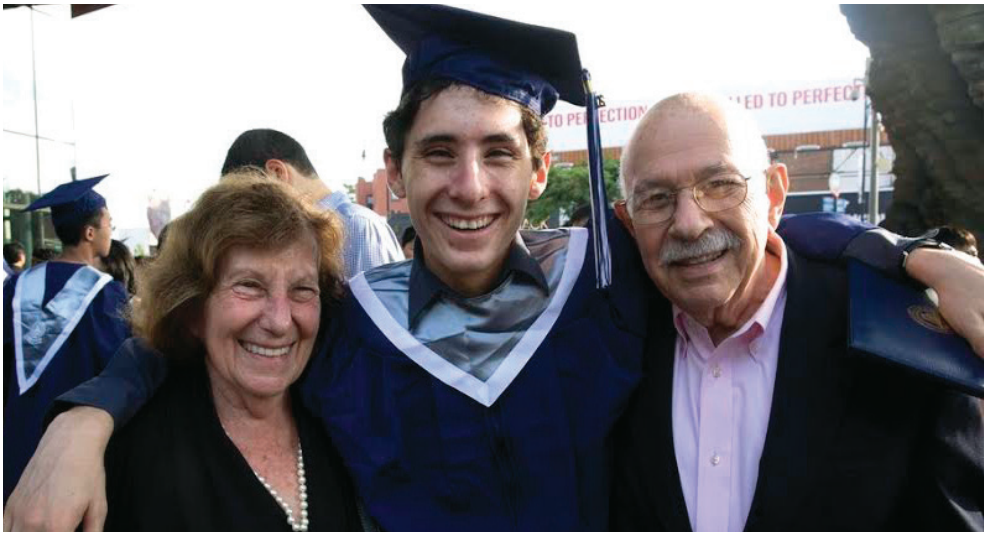
Oakwood Friends School lost a treasured friend and passionate advocate for the school when Libby Moroff passed away suddenly on Wednesday morning, February 17th, following emergency cardiac surgery. The entire Oakwood community joins Libby's husband Saul, her daughters Margaret and Diane, her grandchildren Noah and Sadie, her sister Ruth and countless loving friends in mourning her loss.

Libby grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania, and was first introduced to Oakwood by her childhood friend, Taffy Thunick Hoffman, class of '53. Oakwood was a pivotal experience in her development, best described in her own words: "I learned the basic worth of every person, myself included. I found at Oakwood an air of intellectual excitement missing from my life to that point. I left with an increased degree of self-confidence due, I am certain, to the tradition of affectionate acceptance of all kinds of personalities. I learned the importance of involvement in the world's problems and I took away a firm feeling of responsibility to friends, country, people in general. "

After Oakwood, Libby earned a B.A. in Biology at Barnard College, followed by a Master's Degree in Economics from Columbia University. By then, the consummate New Yorker, Libby was active in Democratic politics in Larchmont where she and her husband Saul, an honorary member of the class of '54, raised their daughters. She devoted her adult life to furthering the principles of social justice and equality for all. Her long career as an activist included a stint as Executive Director of the New York State Democratic Committee in the 1980's, and Political Director for Ruth Messinger in the Manhattan Borough President's Office following that. Happily for Oakwood and her family, after retirement Libby had more leisure time to pursue a broad range of interests, including service to her alma mater and precious time with her grandchildren.

Along with Saul, Libby was famous for her gracious hospitality, opening her home for an alumni gathering every year - the highlight of the winter season. One year, Libby extended her reach to the west coast and co-hosted a gathering in Malibu at the home of her sister Ruth Preven, class of 1955. Libby also brought her many talents to the Development and Enrollment committees, where she was an eloquent spokesperson for the value of an Oakwood education. She initiated many effective outreach efforts, one affectionately known as "The Libby Project." With quiet humor and a gentle touch, Libby was relentless in encouraging others to support the School. She lived her message through her own generosity and modeled a wonderful spirit of philanthropy.

Libby was presented with Oakwood's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011 and was named Board President in 2013. During her tenure, she oversaw the Search Committee process and the appointment of Chad Cianfrani, new head of school. Libby spoke with pride about the outcome: "We are entirely confident in Chad's abilities and commitment to Oakwood's core values: academic and extra-curricular excellence, diversity and respect for others. We are delighted to be working with Chad to fulfill these goals."



Libby & Saul Moroff at grandson Noah's high school graduation, June 2015



The Levinson sisters: Ruth Preven '55 and Libby Moroff '54 in Malibu

On Friday morning, February 19th, Chad spoke to students at collection about alumna Libby Moroff: "Libby, in many ways, was the silent strength behind what we do here every single day. So, I want to take a few minutes to collectively and quietly reflect on what Oakwood means individually to each of us and to think about a woman we may or may not have known, but a woman who was, and is, instrumental in our everyday Oakwood experiences."

Board Treasurer, Ben Frisch, spoke for many when he said, "Libby has been an inspiring leader for the Oakwood Board of Managers. I am profoundly grateful for the time I had to work with Libby on committees. Her gentle persistence and optimistic spirit infused our work together. She is in my thoughts and heart and I am holding her family in the Light."

The Oakwood Friends School community holds Libby and the entire Moroff family in the Light today and always.

"In the fifteen years I've known Libby, she cared about Oakwood in many ways: as an alumni volunteer, as a donor, as a Board member, and as a dear friend to the school. Most recently, as Board President, Libby was my partner in leadership, collaborator, mentor, and guide. With a glint in her eye, a deeply kind heart, and a sharp mind, Libby was a joy to work with and a generous friend. As we hold the Moroff family in the light during this time of loss, I feel that Libby's spirit is enfolding us, softening our sadness and encouraging us onward on behalf of the Oakwood that we all love."

Peter Baily, Head of School, 2000 - 2015

Letter from Head of School Chad Cianfrani



Dear Friends,

Deep thinking, high scoring, student action and some dirt: winter on the Oakwood campus has seen little in the way of snow, but much in the way of activity. Our students, faculty and community have celebrated each other through times of success and supported each other through times of sorrow. New educational offerings have emerged and students have engaged in meaningful service learning in the Hudson Valley. The sun shining down on campus powers not only a solar array, but fuels seedlings in our greenhouse and content in our classrooms. Far from being a dormant season, this winter has inspired growth, reflection and connection throughout our community.

This winter has been a time for deep thinking and student action. On December 10th a group of Oakwood students helped to organize an event at the Eleanor Roosevelt House. The date marked the 50th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of two international covenants on human rights. During a moderated panel discussion community members heard legal perspectives on migrant farmers' rights, refugee immigration policy, and first-hand experiences from a Syrian refugee currently attending college in the Hudson Valley. Our students asked probing and insightful questions. In keeping with the theme of deep thinking, Oakwood also introduced an evening community philosophy series this winter. Developed by humanities chair, Stephen Miller, topics such as "What defines a moral life?" inspired hours of thought-provoking and sometimes intense conversation. These evening discussions allowed for inquiry and dialog among students, parents, faculty and community members.

Moving from the classroom to the hardwood of Connor Gymnasium, our boys and girls are having a truly special, high scoring season. Reflective of Oakwood's student body, the teams consist of students from across town, across the country and across the globe. Both the boys and girls varsity teams finished the regular season at the top of their leagues, each competing in their championship games. In a historic run, our girls' varsity finished a perfect 18-0 and won the league title. After a first round win in the New England tournament, we will see just how far they can go! Athletic Director Charlie Butts, 35 year Oakwood veteran, lists this team as one of the best he has ever coached.

Engaged learning inspires us to apply material outside the classroom walls. "How can the analysis of chemical reaction rates, preparation for a calculus test, or the study of introductory music theory have an impact beyond just me?" This winter, Ted Messerschmidt, our music instructor, challenged his students with just these types of questions. In Ted's new class, Community Service through the Arts, students engage in weekly performances at local food pantries, assisted living homes and day-care centers. Other students reach beyond their walls through peer tutoring programs. Partnering with local colleges the tutoring work focused on first generation high school and college graduate success. When our students engage in this manner, they connect to our wider community and their world expands.

Environmental stewardship often starts at the grassroots level, in this case (literally) with dirt. You will not find a person more excited by this matter than our Middle School science teacher, Miriam Straus. Her focus is not on

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Charles A. Cianfrani, Jr. was installed as head of school on December 5, 2015. Shown here on the steps of A.H. Lane Auditorium: (from bottom left) Myra Koutzen '70, Chad and Sue Cianfrani with sons Andy and Henry, Peter Baily; Deb Wood '56, Henry Brecher '51, Jessica Kimelman '93, Don Spencer, Fred Rodriguez; Ellie and Martin Charwat, John Scardina, James O'Barr, Roger Bullard '52, Fred Doneit and Ralph Skeels '60; top left: Michael Quinland.

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just any dirt, but rather a rich organic mix that is tilled into the ground of our new four-season green house. As students dig in with this hands-on curriculum, they gain a tactile appreciation for the foundation of their food. Rooted beneath the wide smiles and infectious enthusiasm there is some calculated science. Multiple lab tested soil samples, partnerships with professional farms, and years of faculty experience position our greenhouse to be more than an outdoor educational classroom. As the first seedlings emerge this spring, it will provide a deep connection to the food we plant, grow and consume.

As the daylight hours increase and winter slowly transitions to spring, our community also pauses to reflect and celebrate a life. A few Sundays ago, five students journeyed to NYC for an afternoon with alumni and former board president Libby Moroff. On that sunny winter day, Libby was surrounded by classmates spanning seven decades. With Libby as the catalyst, the years blurred into one common Oakwood experience filled with laughter, song and story. Her influence on the community (and on me personally) informs and inspires our efforts. Libby's compassion, commitment and care for Oakwood shine a Light that will continue to illuminate our campus for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Chad Cianfrani
Head of School

Dedication of Peter's Porch & Griffing's Garden



Ribbon-cutting with Beau Duval '16, Peter Baily, Libby Moroff, Pamela Devlin, Jocelyn Griffing and Chad Cianfrani

On Saturday, September 26th, board members, faculty, parents and students gathered for the dedication of Peter's Porch and Griffing's Garden, located on the north side of the Main Building. The project was initiated last spring to honor Peter Baily for his 15 years of leadership as head of school and to reflect his love and care of the Oakwood Friends School campus. With the generous support of current and former board members, a reunion challenge by the class of 1950 and other special friends, the project was completed for the start of school. When the school received an exceptional gift from Jocelyn Griffing and Pamela Griffing Devlin in memory of their father Thomas Griffing, class of 1951, Oakwood engaged the services of a landscape designer to create Griffing's Garden to enhance the area around the new porch. Lush plants include Meadow Rue, Bottlebrush Buckeye, Inkberry and a Magnolia tree. At the ceremony, Beau Duval '16 spoke about the careful selection of appropriate plants for Griffing's Garden. He also spoke about his participation in Oakwood's Sustainable Agriculture Group, coordinated by science teacher Miriam Straus. The program allows faculty to incorporate the outdoor classroom into their curriculum with a four season garden, a commercial composting system to handle all campus food waste, and many opportunities for education and awareness building. Through partnerships with local non-profits, the students are deepening their understanding of issues related to food insecurity and social justice, and the Quaker testimony of stewardship.

Bricks Campaign

To add to the significance of our new outdoor gathering space, Oakwood Friends School offered the opportunity to alumni, parents and friends of the school to reserve a brick for engraving as part of "Peter's Porch." The campaign which ended on January 31st with 180 bricks reserved, raised $30,000 for the school. Many bricks were used to honor a teacher, student or classmate, or to express simple gratitude for the Oakwood experience. Come to campus on Alumni Weekend to see the bricks!

OPA

By: Alysa Sullivan, clerk, parent '17

As we approach spring term at Oakwood, we are already busy thinking about next year and how to keep Oakwood Parent's Association growing and thriving.

As mentioned in the Winter Newsletter we have a couple of initiatives coming up in the spring. We are looking forward to partnering with Middle School science teacher, Miriam Straus on a 27.5 mile pancake breakfast (all the ingredients being sourced from no further than a 27.5 mile radius) as well as working with dean of students, Sara Sandstrom to create a finals care package sale.

We also have had a number of enthusiastic volunteers set to work on Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring. If you volunteered, please be on the look out for an email from Khadi Sidabe, parent '17, the TAW Committee Clerk. She has some great plans in the works.

As to next year, we have two members of the Steering Committee whose students will be graduating in June. Rachel Norfleet and Sheryl Smikle have been integral parts of getting this organization off the ground. We are grateful to them for their time and commitment and will miss them next year.

Having to say goodbye to wonderful, active parents will always be the nature of OPA. Families will graduate out and the make-up of the committees will change. This of course is a good thing, as any Parent Association should reflect the values of the current population. And so, I ask you all to please consider getting more involved with OPA, either to Clerk or serve on a committee. I can promise you that the time commitment is targeted and flexible and the returns invaluable. While we are a young organization we feel very strongly that parent involvement in the school community makes for a richer experience all around.

The last OPA general meeting will be held on April 7. It is at that meeting we will be selecting committee Clerks for next year.

We understand that everyone is busy and may not be able to attend meetings, but that's no reason not to get involved. If you are interested in supporting an event at the school, clerking a committee, have a great project or idea, or just want to learn more, please email us at OPA@Oakwoodfriends.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Support the 2016 Annual Fund
www.oakwoodfriends.org

Sports Center

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

This season was a historic one for the girls' varsity soccer team as they won the Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL) championship. According to Oakwood Friends archivist, junior Matt Voorhees, this was the first time that the Oakwood girls had won a soccer championship. For the second straight year, the team was coached by Megan Sanger and she was ably assisted by Nick Ugarte.



Coaches Nick Ugarte and Megan Sanger

Things did not start out well for the team as they dropped their first two decisions, including an 8-4 league lost at Darrow. Fortunately, things quickly turned around and the team was not beaten in their next four league games. One of these was a 4-4 tie with Storm King who won all of their other HVAL contests in the regular season. For the championship tournament, Storm King was the clear #1 seed and Oakwood was in a battle with Darrow for the #2 spot. Here's where things started to bounce our way.

In our last regular season game, Oakwood was trailing 2-1 at Faith Christian with less than three minutes to go. Senior co-captain **Sage Altamirano** then tied the score with a great assist from sophomore **Brianna Coble**. Brianna then added two more quick goals giving us a great, come from behind, 4-2 win. We then heard that Marvelwood upset Darrow 5-4 and we thus clinched the #2 spot in the tournament with a league record of 4-2-1. As one of the top seeds, Oakwood received a first round playoff bye.

In the league semi-finals, we hosted the same Darrow team who had beaten us decisively earlier in the season. Trailing 2-1 at halftime, goals by senior **Sumayah Harrell** and junior co-captain **Nai'lah Tariq** gave us another comeback victory. We then received more good news when #1 seed Storm King was knocked off by Marvelwood. Instead of having to travel to Storm King for the final, we now got to host Marvelwood who we had already beaten twice in the season. In front of a large and supportive crowd, the outcome of the championship game was never in doubt. Oakwood ran off to a quick 3-0 lead on two goals by Brianna and one by Sumayah. At the final whistle, the score was 3-1 and Oakwood had made history!



Girls Varsity Soccer in action

Speaking of the girls' performance the day after the championship game, Coach Megan said, "I keep getting congratulations from fellow faculty members on our victory, however, the girls are the ones that did all of the work. I put them on the field, but they are the ones responsible for hustling the entire game and putting forth a great effort on defense and offense. They played extremely well yesterday and should be proud of the work they put in all season."

The team was able to combine a potent offense with a stingy defense. On the offensive end, Sumayah's quickness was a nightmare for opposing defenses and she was the leading goal scorer with 14. Right behind were Brianna with 9 and Nai'lah with 7. Juniors **Zo DiSanto** and **Enid Swatson** were next with 5 and 4 goals respectively. Defensively, the keeper during the championship run was sophomore **Shai Black Bird**. At the beginning of the season, she was a little timid in goal and split time with Zo and Sage. She kept improving and was soon diving and making many acrobatic saves. Another big factor in the championship run was the defense in front of Shai. Their play improved throughout the season especially after Coach Megan switched them to a diamond formation. In this set up, junior **Bianca Luna-Lupercio** was the stopper and fellow juniors **Alice Flanagan** and **Brandace Ryles** were wing defenders. They were joined by senior **Khadi Allagouma** at sweeper to form a solid barrier in front of keeper Shai.

Several players were recognized with awards for their accomplishments at the end of the season. Freshman **Victoria Allen** was named the teams most improved player. The Coaches' Award went to Khadi. She was a quiet leader who was on the field for almost every minute of every game. Sage was selected as the team MVP. She was a true inspiration for her teammates with her constant hustle and aggressive style. Five players were selected to the HVAL all-star team. Enid and Nai'lah were named to the second team, and the senior triumvirate of Sage, Khadi, and Sumayah were all first teamers. Finally, Sage and Sumayah both earned a spot on the prestigious Western New England all-star team.

We are all proud about what this team was able to achieve.



Girls Varsity Soccer wins HVAL Championship

Meet Melissa Matthews: New Theater Director



Melissa Matthews

Hi! I'm Melissa Matthews. Having served previously as the Main Office Coordinator, I'm happy to have made the transition to the role of Drama Director putting my undergraduate degree in theater and dance to work here at Oakwood Friends School. I have been actively involved in the theater, either on or off stage, for 23 years and counting, so when this opportunity arose, it was an easy fit.

My grand plan for the theater department has two phases. Phase one is to produce work of which the students can be proud. Phase two is to bring students into the theater fold. A wise man once told me that if the work is good, it sells itself. I hope that if the performances are good enough, the students will be willing to try something new and come out for shows.

This February, I'm taking a swing at *No Exit* by Jean Paul Sartre. *No Exit* is an existentialist drama that explores themes of freedom and responsibility through the fates of three people who have died and gone to hell. Over the course of the play, they come to realize that though no one has been sent to do bodily harm to them, they do still have torturers. Each is the torturer for the other, and the punishment is mental and emotional. The soul moves on, so why punish the body?



Moss Sherman '17, Becky Akinyemi '19 and Claudia Sicherman '18

Despite the intense nature of the play, the students are engaged in the work. Every time we rehearse the play, we find something new, something they didn't totally understand, or something they understood in theory, but only just in that moment grasped the greater meaning of the words.

The blocking of the show really comes from their discovery of the words, and their meaning, and how the students, in and out of character, are learning about themselves. Much of the initial stage work was inspired by the students' own actions and impulses. An actor sat very suddenly, as himself, not his character, because of the impact of the line he had just heard and understood, so we kept that blocking and now his character sits very abruptly in that moment.

I'm passionate about theater, and, to me, that necessitates a passion for the social sciences. Much of my approach to directing comes from a background in psychology which comes into play very often when I work on a show because acting, really, is a study of people. If you walk into the dance studio while I'm blocking a scene, you are very likely to hear me say something along the lines of, "Remember! You're still a person. Your character is a person. Do that bit of business the way a person would!"

It's my experience that young actors become so caught up in remembering their lines and their blocking and overcoming the anxiety of performing on a stage in front of all their peers, that they forget, first and foremost, that they're playing people - people who are maybe different from them but people all the same. I obviously don't want the students to try to relate too closely with the idea of going to hell for the actions they committed in this life. I do, however, want them to look at some of the qualities of their characters and unpack them until they find something they recognize.

This idea of finding within yourself a way to relate to your character is primarily Uta Hagen's technique, and I find her technique in particular works well for teen actors. Her work first focuses on the self. When I remember my experience of being a teenager, I remember how focused I was on myself and the way others saw me. I was already primed to work with Hagen's technique. I think of it as a kind of therapy for teens. She asks that you know yourself first, then apply this knowledge on a character. By doing so, you've created a person who reacts as a person would rather than a one-dimensional string of words.

When you create a real person, the performance is better. When the performance is better, the students are proud of their work. When students are proud of their work, they talk about being proud, being part of a winning team, and more students come out for future shows. Sounds like my two-phase grand plan, right? I'm hopeful that it all works out that way.

Student Musicians: Frank Feng and Jacky Jin



Frank Feng '16 and Jacky Jin '16

Seniors **Jingchen (Frank) Feng** and **Hangchong (Jacky) Jin** have been very active this year performing at multiple gatherings on campus including the installation of Chad Cianfrani as new Head of School and Winter Reunion. For these two events the duo performed "You Raise Me Up" by Graham and Loveland, with Frank on vocals and Jacky on piano. Speaking about their love of music, the boys shared the following thoughts.

Frank – "My first music teacher was my mother, who also loves to sing. We started singing together when I was 8 years old in China. I started to learn guitar when I came to the US when I was 15 and joined a chorus in China where I got to perform at a restaurant for a Christmas celebration. Though I love both guitar and vocals, I especially love singing alone because I feel like when I do both it's easier to get distracted. I plan to continue to pursue music in college as either a minor or hobby."

Jacky – "Music is a process. You have to start as a beginner, put in effort and even suffer a little to achieve your goals and get a sense of accomplishment. The most important thing is to stick with it. Don't give up, even though it's hard. I started playing piano when I was 6 years old. Though there were times in middle school when I had a lot of work and I wanted to quit, I'm so glad I stuck with it. I want to pursue music in the future as a hobby, not a career because I want to keep it something special to me that I do because I want to, not because I have to."

Ron Kamen to present Herzog Lecture: "People, Technology and the Forces of Nature"



Now in its 17th year, the Herzog Lecture was established by Daniel Herzog '70 in memory of his father, Dr. Hershel Herzog, a distinguished chemist and pharmaceutical executive who was instrumental in developing several popular antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs. In keeping with a science and technology theme, the series has brought speakers from many fields to speak to our school community, bringing science inquiry to life and encouraging our students to consider career paths in science.

This year, we are delighted to welcome Ron Kamen to present the Herzog Lecture on Friday, April 29th, at 10:30 am, in the Meeting Room. Ron has more than 25 years of expertise and leadership in developing public-private partnerships in clean energy and sustainability projects, marketing, outreach, and policy. His technical experience includes energy efficiency, wind, water, biomass, and solar power. During his four years of service as President of the NY Solar Energy Industries Association, Ron led the campaign that culminated in the $1 Billion NY Sun program and the creation of the NY Solar Thermal Roadmap. He holds an MS in Systems Science – Watson School of Engineering, State University of NY at Binghamton and a BS in Accounting & Management - School of Management, State University of NY at Binghamton.

Ron has built and managed successful clean power marketing, sales, and public education campaigns; is a recognized coalition builder with the energy industry, government leaders, and environmental organizations; has given inspirational presentations at hundreds of industry and public events; and facilitated the development of Oakwood's solar array project.

Powell Fund Supports New Technology

The Powell Fund was established in 2010 with an inspirational gift from Dick Powell, class of 1968. A leadership donor to the Annual Fund over many years, Dick made the decision to endow a fund that would strengthen Oakwood's financial position for the future while providing income for today's needs. For the last two years, distributions from the Powell Fund infused significant technology directly into the classroom and curriculum. The income helped to support the sciences, the arts and humanities.

This year, the Powell Fund income will be used to support presentation and conference space in Turner Science & Math Building, music editing software and hardware for our music and technology programs and classroom technology for instructional purposes.

In addition, a scanner and computer hardware have been purchased for the Alson & Irene Van Wagner Archives Room located in Collins Library. Student archivist Matthew Voorhees '17 is supporting the work of the Alumni Office with a multi-year project, researching, documenting and preserving Oakwood's rich print, film and photographic history.

Thank you, Dick Powell, for your foresight and commitment to Oakwood Friends School.

Solar Array Provides Power & Educational Opportunities

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

It is a good time to be a photon visiting the Oakwood campus!

Since relocating to our Poughkeepsie home in 1920, the preservation of open space and stewardship of the environment have been important aspects of our school mission. Surrounded by over fifty acres of green space and fresh air, one can sometimes forget the campus is home to twenty-two buildings, four student dorms, a dining hall, library, gym, theater, music and photo labs, ceramics studios, dance studios, and multiple family residences. At any given time over 200 people call Oakwood home, drawing on resources to keep us warm, fed, connected and illuminated (both spiritually and electrically).

Thanks to the focused effort and long-range vision of the Board of Managers we are excited to see the Oakwood solar array take shape. Sized to offset 100 percent of our annual electrical consumption, this array is designed to generate just under 700,000 kW/year.

Despite its size at first glance, the physical footprints disturbed by posts and structures is less than a tenth of an acre. This is an important fact in that the grasses and ground cover continuously prevent erosion and provide habitat for small flora and fauna.



Aerial view of site before construction



As part of a multi-year focus on sustainability and stewardship in action, this project does more than provide clean, renewable energy. The Oakwood array provides a focal point for countless educational opportunities within our Middle School, Upper School and local community. A secured and gated entrance to the array will serve as a backdrop for outdoor classroom space and neighborhood outreach programs. Plans are in the works to provide a web-based interface in which the entire community can log in and monitor electrical generation in real-time.

Oakwood Friends School has a great deal for which to be thankful. Guided by a light from within and now powered by a light from above, our community looks forward to an exciting 2016.

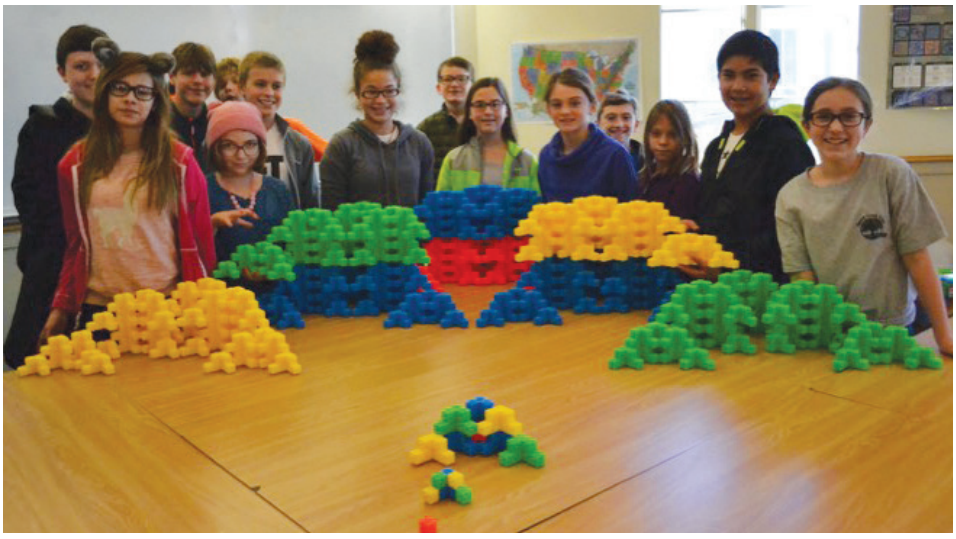
John Scardina Speaks at Community Meeting



Oakwood Friends School board member and former faculty member (1978-1986), John Scardina, presented at Community Meeting on Friday January 29th and shared his experiences working on water projects in Bolivia with the Oakwood community. John travels with Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL), an international, non-sectarian development organization guided by Quaker principles and dedicated to reducing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. Since 1995, they have been working alongside the indigenous Andean people to fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects to secure food sources, promote better health, and generate income.

John is pictured with Oakwood student clerk, **Parfait Bizimana '16**, who is wearing the traditional garb of a Mallkus, or traditional Andean village leader. Villages will present this red poncho as a gift to express their appreciation for their QBL water supply or greenhouses.

Middle School Students Explore Math Through Innovative Fractal Project



Elias Fredericks 8th, Isabella Kramb 7th, Cyril Uebbing 8th, Trudy Poux 6th, Philip Stephens 7th, Freddy Carroll 8th, Yahya Lorick 7th, Arlo Stone 8th, Bailey Allen 6th, Hannah Gendron 6th, Eamon Lynch 6th, Jane Uebbing 6th, Zack Craft 8th and Adele Fredericks 8th

Supported by a grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, middle school students participated in their first "fractal build" using omnifix cubes. With no preparation and only 45 minutes to build, the students were instructed by Lacey Fredericks, math and science department chair, and one of her independent study seniors in how to build in a fractal fashion. The students learned about fractals -- anything that exhibits self-similarity or has parts that resemble the whole, such as broccoli.

Using the ominfix cubes, the students built a large fractal structure in order to get hands on experience understanding the complex concept. This sort of thinking is important as a complement to Euclidean Geometry, which students spend an entire year studying in the Upper School, because while humans build according to Euclidean Geometry, nature builds according to fractal geometry. Examples from nature include trees, our circulatory system, river beds, mountains, ferns and clouds. This activity encouraged students to begin to think in a fractal fashion, bringing them one step closer to understanding our natural world.

Irene & Alson Van Wagner Archives Room

By: Matthew Voorhees '17, student archivist



Matthew Voorhees '17, student archivist, using new equipment

When I first visited Oakwood Friends School I was fascinated with one thing- the history. I thought it was so interesting that the school had been around since George Washington was alive. I was hooked. As a history fanatic there was no other choice but for me to go to Oakwood and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

In my freshman year I would pass a door in Collins Library with the sign "archives" and I always wanted to know what was in there. While talking to Elaine Miles one day, the topic of the archives room came up and I asked her if I could take a look. The room was dusty and crowded with objects. So my first order of business was to clean, then clean, and lastly clean. It consumed the first year of my access to the archives room, but by sophomore year I was focused on unearthing the treasures that lie on the shelves.

I became known as Matthew Voorhees, the student archivist. I began numbering the bookcases and started an index of each item. I found magnificent photographs, I read the faculty minutes from the early twentieth century and learned how they all felt about moving to Poughkeepsie. I couldn't wait to go to the archives room during my free time at school because each day I would find something new and exciting.

Now as a junior, I started off the year with a goal of digitizing some of the photographs and records. So far, I have scanned hundreds of photographs and have been working on retyping documents so that they are easier to read. I have said this when researching my own family history and it applies here as well: There is always more to find. I look forward to finding more treasures, digitizing more photos and records, and most of all I look forward to sharing what I find on Alumni Weekend, May 13 to 15, 2016.

Oakwood celebrates Lakota Culture 3rd Annual Arts Presentation

Oakwood Friends School will be hosting a three day program with master musician and activist, Tiokasin Ghosthorse, from the Cheyenne River Lakota (Sioux) Nation of South Dakota and the bands of Itazipco/Mnicoujou and Oglala. Tiokasin is the host of First Voices Indigenous Radio on WBAI NY - Pacifica Radio and has been described as "a spiritual agitator, natural rights organizer, indigenous thinking process educator and a community activator."

Tiokasin will join the Oakwood community on campus from Monday April 18 – Wednesday April 20 and take part in the school's bi-annual Earthshare Day of service learning. Together with our students he will erect and paint an 18 foot tipi on campus with traditional Lakota symbols, share the Lakota Cosmology of the Tipi, hold a public performance of the ancient red cedar Lakota flute followed by a campfire, and culminate his visit with a camp out and traditional sunrise greeting. Oakwood's two Lakota students, cousins **Shai Blackbird '18** and **Natalie Bordeaux '19**, are working closely with Tiokasin and Oakwood faculty on planning and implementing the events.



Lakota performer, storyteller and activist Tiokasin Ghosthorse

We are honored to be working with Tiokasin who performs worldwide and has been featured at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the United Nations as well as at numerous universities and concert venues.

This exceptional event is the 3rd Annual Arts Presentation launched by Jonathan Talbot '57 who presented "Collage: Medium & Metaphor." Last year, Molly Lynn Watt '56 presented "On the Wings of Song – a Journey into the Civil Rights Era." We are grateful to Marsha and Jonathan Talbot for their on-going support of this lecture series. Oakwood has also applied to a grant from Art Mid-Hudson to offset some of the cost of this program.

Day of Social Justice



Day of Social Justice discussion

Oakwood Friends School hosted a Day of Social Justice for students and faculty on January 26th as part of a yearlong focus on education and experience of mind, body and spirit. Through a series of large group exercises and small discussion-based workshops the school community explored how certain social constructs play out in our daily lives and how they may impact our experiences in the classroom, on the campus and around the world.

The day was composed of eight different student and faculty led discussion/activity groups encompassing themes of privilege, our criminal justice system, human rights, cross-cultural communications, socio-economic class and stereotypes. The community was challenged to explore their own perceptions and thoughts on identity, equality and inclusion. As some of these activities presented students and faculty with complex and often charged social topics, the goal was to foster constructive and healthy dialog between students and faculty. By developing a shared vocabulary the school aims to build and nurture a strong sense of understanding and support within the Oakwood community and beyond.

To help prepare for the day, students met the previous week in advisory groups to discuss, "What is Social Justice?" They worked with the definition of social justice as acting with equality, fairness and dignity to all human beings. They explored the distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within a society. They reflected on social justice as both a process and a goal.

The Day of Social Justice builds on a series of workshops offered at the school for faculty and parents over the last several months focusing on topics such as ally ship, student support and mental health. Speakers, authors and facilitators, have engaged our community, from places such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, UMass Amherst and Smith College.

Metanoia



Elizabeth "Lizzie" Phelps Meyer, Oakwood Friends School's art teacher presented a solo exhibit at Real Art Ways in Hartford, CT this fall. Entitled "Metanoia", which means a transformative change of heart, especially a spiritual conversion, the show consisted of one thousand and eighty hand-thrown ceramic bowls, each containing a fragile miniature landscape, hundreds of hand-painted leaves woven through a paper and clay forest, twelve puppets, and a trilogy of videos set in a fictional art gallery that explore the transformative power of color. The show began with an opening reception on October 15, 2015 and continued through January 16, 2016.

On the closing day of the show, Lizzie offered to the public the bowls she made for the installation piece "1,000 Offering Bowls for Shedrub Ling". She made this work in response to the Nepal earthquakes of last April by making a daily "accumulation" practice of throwing bowls on the potter's wheel. In the installation each bowl contains a fragile landscape constructed of vermilion powder, sand, and clay sculptures. Guests had the opportunity both to receive a bowl from the installation and to give an offering toward the rebuilding of Ky-Nying Shedrub Ling and Nagi Gompa, a monastery and nunnery located in the Kathmandu valley of Nepal, which require rebuilding due to damages sustained from the earthquakes.

Parent Dinner Supports Annual Fund

Thank you to Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean '09, and owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, for sponsoring our 11th annual wine dinner & auction to support the Annual Fund. The event was held on January 30th at Locust Grove – Samuel Morse Historic Site, catered by Cosimo's. It was a festive evening shared by 85 parents, faculty, board members and guests. Once again, Carol and Bill Bogle '76 served as auctioneers. Student artwork was on display along with a presentation of historic Oakwood photos selected by **Matthew Voorhees '17**, student archivist. Musicians **Nora Sackett '16** and **Connie Huang '17** performed for guests on piano with **Charlie Zhou '16** on saxophone. Thank you all!

We are especially grateful to three local businesses who sponsored the dinner this year: Cleveland Plumbing & Heating, Rondack Construction and Dutchess ProPrint. Through the generosity of all our auction item donors, we raised over $13,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: Adams Fairacre Farms Poughkeepsie, Minoo Amirhosseini, Artist's Palate, Atlantic Theater Company, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Bill Beran & Joan Fiorelli, Bill Bogle, Boscobel Restoration, Bottini Fuel, BurgerFi, Karen Butt, Mia Choi & David White, Camp Cody, Camp Waziyatah, Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, De's Jewelers, Meghan & Jack Duval, Rich Feldman, Virginia Gellar, Hudson Beach Glass, Hudson Valley Renegades, Tim Judge, Laura Kellar, Heidi Kronenberg, McCann Golf, McGillicuddy's, Libby Moroff, Mountain & Sackett, Omega Institute, On Location Studios, Rabbit & Turtle Pub, Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, Miriam Straus, Trump National Golf Club, Anne-Marie Uebbing, Village Tea Room, George Walker, Women's Work.



Chad & Sue Cianfrani with Laurel & Tim Sweeney

Vanessa Budetti and Jeremy Atkins Join Academic Support Center (ASC)



This fall, the Oakwood Friends School community welcomed Vanessa Budetti, new Director of the Academic Support Center, and Jeremy Atkins, new ASC instructor.

Vanessa has been teaching and supporting students for 17 years at every level from preschool to college. She is an enthusiastic advocate for students with learning differences. She earned her B.S. in Sociology and English at Ithaca College, and her M.Ed. in Special Education at Mount Saint Mary College. She lives in Newburgh with her family and loves gardening, running, and socializing with friends.

Jeremy has taught in the special education department at nearby Arlington Central School District, and he has worked for the Upward Bound program at Marist College as an Academic Intervention Specialist. Jeremy has over ten years of training and teaching martial arts and self-defense programs. His focus is on special education and discovering methods for students to grasp difficult content. Jeremy earned his B.A. and M.S. in Secondary Education at SUNY New Paltz and lives in Poughkeepsie.

Speaking about her role in the ASC Vanessa commented, "In thinking about the ASC, I am sure that the small group instruction has a direct and immediate effect on the in-class performance of many of our students. We re-teach, discuss ideas and concepts, and approach problems in alternative ways. This is a special program because many private and boarding schools do not have supports in place to help students with learning differences succeed. Jeremy and I get to know our students very well, and they know where they can come for help. We try to meet them where they are and help them build skills toward independence and self-advocacy."

The Academic Support Center is open to any student who has a mild, documented learning difference or who struggles with attention challenges. Academic Support teachers develop a personalized instructional program and meet with students three times a week during the academic day. Our Learning Skills teachers work in 1:1 or 1:2 settings with students who have a diagnosis of a specific learning difference and who will benefit from targeted remediation to achieve optimum success in our college preparatory curriculum. In Focused Instruction, teachers work with students in small multi-age group settings to provide support primarily in the areas of planning, organization and work completion.

"What Makes A Good Life?"

Stephen Miller presents Philosophy mini-series

Stephen Miller, Humanities Department Chair, launched a series of evening Philosophy mini classes for parents, students and faculty this fall. Entitled "What Makes a Good Life?" the course covers such topics as happiness, philosophy of education, and emotions. Sessions to date addressed questions such as: Is morality in a state of decline? Are humans fundamentally violent? Is a good life the same thing as a moral life? How much do I owe other people? The course will continue in the spring.

Speaking about teaching philosophy Stephen stated, "There is a difference between a philosophy course and a philosophical education. A philosophical education seeks to open questions up rather than closing them down with definitive answers. Investigating the meaning and significance of factual information in the actual lives of students leads to deeper discussions of fundamental values, of what really matters and what we should aim for." Stephen's Oakwood courses include Existentialism, Ethics, Globalization, International Relations, Postcolonial Studies, Asian Philosophy and Religion, Nonviolence: Theory and Practice, Philosophy of Religion and Philosophy of Science.

Stephen also worked with a group of students who recently participated in the first annual NYC Ethics Bowl. Oakwood competed against Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Horace Mann and Vanguard. The Ethics Bowl demanded a lot of students as they offered arguments on a series of moral dilemmas ranging from utilitarianism, Kantianism, Aristotelian Virtue Ethics, Feminist Ethic of Care and basic logic.

Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86 Opens Alumni Weekend 2016

"My Winding Road to Purpose – from a commune in Oregon to Fighting for Latino Rights"



Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86

Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86 will open Alumni Weekend 2016 with the presentation of the Carolyn Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice on Friday, May 13th, 2:30 pm in the Meeting Room. This lecture series was initiated by the class of 1951 in memory of their classmate, Dash Davis Gleiter, an attorney whose life work and passion were devoted to civil rights and social action.

As Executive Director of the Latinos and Society Program at The Aspen Institute, Abigail Golden-Vazquez runs a policy program whose goal is to improve understanding of the growing Latino community and increase awareness of its critical importance to the future of the United States. For 8 years prior she managed the Institute's geographical (Africa, Central America, India, Middle East, and China) and topical leadership initiatives (education and environment) that comprise the Aspen Global Leadership Network with the goal of stimulating a new generation of local leaders to play a greater role in the social and political development of their countries. As a Vice President at the Aspen Institute she is part of the executive management team working on strategy and representing the Institute publicly.

Abigail joined the Aspen Institute from the German Marshall Fund (GMF) where she was Director, External Relations and a Senior Manager responsible for partnership development, congressional relations, and public outreach as well as strategy. From 2000-2002, Ms. Golden-Vazquez worked with USAID in Honduras as Communications Specialist during the post-Hurricane Mitch reconstruction effort. Prior to that she was Vice President, Public Affairs Group for Ruder-Finn, a top-five New York public relations firm. She was a term-member at the Council on Foreign Relations until 2008, is an International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) Fellow, is a founding member of the ICAP Association and is a 2013 National Hispana Leadership Institute Executive Fellow. Abigail holds a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from Amherst College and an M.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Abigail is the daughter of Eric Golden '57 and the niece of Arnold Golden '52, Jed Golden '54 and John Golden '63. We are honored to welcome Abigail back to campus to speak to our school community on the occasion of her 30th reunion.

Alumni Weekend
May 13-15, 2016

Friday, May 13th

2:30pm	Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter '51 Social Justice Lecture Speaker: Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86 Topic: "My Winding Road to Purpose – from a commune in Oregon to fighting for Latino Rights"
5:30pm	Welcome Reception & Buffet Dinner
8:00pm	Student production: A.H. Lane Auditorium

Saturday, May 14th

9:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
10:00am	Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Community Meeting
12:00pm	Lunch under the tent & Class Photographs
2:00pm	Reception for Class of 1966
4:00 pm	Gathering in memory of Emmet Hayes '51
4:30pm	Reception for Oak Tree Club - (Class of 1965 & prior) Tea in Collins Library
6:00pm	Festive Dinner in Dining Hall
8:00pm	Student production: A.H. Lane Auditorium

Sunday, May 15th

9:00am	Hot Breakfast
10:30am	Meeting for Worship - Nine Partners Meeting House

Najah Muhammad '10 Returns For Winter Reunion 2016

Oakwood Friends School's annual Winter Reunion was held on Friday, January 8th for recent graduates from the classes 2011 to 2015. Each year, it's a great day for young alumni to return to campus to reconnect with former teachers and friends while sharing their own experiences in college and beyond. In recent years, the day has ended with an exhuberant alumni – student basketball game, organized by Ted Lonczak '08.

Najah Muhammad '10 returned as guest speaker for the event. She presented "Getting What You Want and Wanting What You Need" at a lively community meeting focused on important issues: perseverance, resilience and working towards goals. With her dynamic style, she had everyone up and moving and laughing and energized by her own high spirits and optimism.

Najah had a leadership role at Oakwood as student clerk, and now she is the co-president of Oakwood's Alumni Association. After graduation, she attended Emerson College in Boston and graduated in 2014 with a degree in Theater Education. Currently she is working in three different schools with a company called The Leadership Program. Through this work, she helps New York City students become better leaders through after school programs and the arts. She is also working as a freelance theatre artist and entertainer. While at Oakwood, Najah started an advice column called "Najah Knows" which ran in the Poughkeepsie Journal and continued as a television segment and radio podcast in college.



Student clerk Parfait Bizimana '16 with guest speaker and former clerk Najah Muhammad '10 and Bill Doolittle

Remembering Steven Vogel '57
Biomechanics Pioneer



The flags at Duke University were lowered on November 24, 2015, to mark the passing of biologist Steven Vogel, Oakwood class of 1957. A distinguished alumnus and wonderful friend to Oakwood, Steven visited campus in April 2013 as Herzog Lecturer. When students listened to his talk about "The Physical Fitness of Leaves," few were aware that they were listening to a pioneer in the field of biomechanics, but all were mesmerized by Steven's passionate and creative teaching. Steven earned his undergraduate degree at Tufts University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in biology at Harvard University. He joined the Duke faculty in 1966 and officially retired in 2006, but continued to write and teach classes until 2015.

Vogel is widely regarded as one of the founders of the field of comparative biomechanics. He studied biological fluid mechanics, or the effects of winds and currents on the squishy, stretchy world of living things. Working at the intersection of biology, mathematics and physics, he investigated everything from the ventilation of prairie dog burrows, to the flows of seawater through marine sponges and air through moth antennae, to how trees and seaweed survive in high winds and crashing waves.

Vogel was known for designing elegant experiments on a shoestring budget, building devices such as flow tanks and wind tunnels from scrap wood and spare appliance parts he pieced together in the Duke Zoology department's machine shop. Steven grew up in Beacon, New York, and worked after school in his parent's drugstore from ages 14 to 25. A former Duke student in Vogel's freshman seminar said, "He wanted us to experience the physical world of plants and animals firsthand instead of just talking about it. I came away thinking about the world in an entirely different way." He was a prolific author of books and articles and received the Irving and Jean Stone Prize for Science Writing for Public Understanding. His popular writing appeared in magazines such as Natural History and Discover.

"After the Herzog Lecture, Steven came and sat in on my Robotics class. What remains one of my fondest teaching memories was seeing Steve pull up a tiny chair to the table in Turner 305 and jump right into the day's data gathering and sensor design activity. The students did not know him for his body of work, just as an Oakwood alum who possessed an infectious energy, giddy curiosity and intense desire to communicate and work with students on discovering the marvels of nature."
Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

"We were friends and classmates. As a day student, he often used my spare bunk when he stayed over on campus. I knew even then that he would be a contributor and not a spectator in whatever field he chose. We are not immortal, but if we make this world a better, safer happier place there is reason for us to rest in peace."
John "Mac" McDonald '57

Sonya Cohen Cramer '83
Acclaimed Singer & Graphic Designer

Oakwood Friends School lost another distinguished alumna and exceptional member of the class of 1983 with the death of Sonya Cohen Cramer in October 2015. Sonya's husband Reid Cramer tells us that Sonya's two years at Oakwood were extremely important to her. Below is an excerpt from Reid's description of Sonya's wonderful life.

Sonya Cohen Cramer, 50, passed away on October 9, 2015 at her home in Takoma Park, Maryland. An acclaimed singer who uniquely carried on her family's musical heritage, as well as a graphic designer, she brought the two together in her long-time collaborator with Smithsonian Folkways Records. Sonya's dynamic artistic life encompassed music, singing, design, collage, bookmaking, poetry, and arts and crafts. She had talent, standards, and creativity—and she was a mother extraordinaire.

Born in New York City in July 1965, Sonya Cohen grew up in Putnam Valley, New York in a family with deep musical and artistic roots. She was the daughter of John Cohen, member of folk revival music group, *The New Lost City Ramblers*, and Penelope Seeger, a potter whose elder siblings were folk musicians Mike, Peggy, and Pete Seeger. She was the granddaughter of seminal musicologist Charles Seeger and the avant-garde composer Ruth Crawford Seeger. When she was only a few days old, her parents took her to the 1965 Newport Folk Festival where her Uncle Pete dedicated the evening's performance to her, saying she represented the hope for the future. Later that same historic night, "Dylan went electric."



Penny and John found an old farmhouse to fix up not far from Beacon, New York where Penny had lived with Pete and Toshi Seeger. The Cohens raised their children in a homesteading environment of music and projects of gardening, canning, baking, knitting, and sewing. After spending her high school years in London and at Oakwood, a Quaker boarding school in Poughkeepsie, New York, Sonya attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut where she graduated with Honors in Art and Architecture.

She met her future husband Reid Cramer at Wesleyan, and together they moved to New York City where she worked in film and television with Children's Television Workshop and the Ginger Group. She also designed exhibitions for The Municipal Art Society of New York, and first began to work professionally as a graphic designer. Sonya continued her visual and book arts education with courses at Cooper Union, New School, and School for Visual Arts.

Sonya sang on two records of material from the songbooks of her grandmother Ruth Crawford Seeger—American Folksongs for Christmas (1989), and Animal Folksongs for Children (1992), both on Rounder Records. Sonya sang with her mother Penny, brother Rufus, Uncle Mike Seeger, Aunt Peggy Seeger, and her cousins Neill MacColl, Calum MacColl, Kitty MacColl, and Kim Seeger. *Animal Folksongs* is wonderful family music. Sonya designed the CD, her first of many projects packaging music, and loved singing and having a project with her mom Penny and extended family. She sang with her family throughout her life. On the Grammy-winning *Pete Seeger at 89* (2008), Sonya sings the translated Japanese poem that Pete set to music, "When I was Most Beautiful." The two performed this song together in March 2007 at the Library of Congress.

Throughout her entire career, she delighted in making things. Along with various arts and crafts, she designed and constructed limited edition art books that often took the form of wedding invitations and family announcements. One of her last projects was an edition of handmade scarves made by felting recycled cashmere sweaters found in thrift stores and sewn together in a style inspired by the quilts of Gee's Bend. Sold at the 2014 Takoma Craft Show, she called the project, "What I Felt."

A world-class collaborator, Sonya led a vibrant life filled with art making, music, and family. Her creative spirit and search for beauty led many people to wonderful places—most especially her husband and children.

Reid Cramer, November 21, 2015

Class Notes



1930

Elizabeth Wade – Elaine Miles & Matthew Voorhees '17 visited Elizabeth at her home in Pleasant Valley in January in honor of her 104th birthday. She enjoyed looking through photos from the Archives Room of school life in the late 1920's.



1939

Shirley B. Bergmann – I have moved from Fishkill to Pennsylvania to live near my daughter. My son passed away in 2013, and Kate is the last of my children. I remember Oakwood fondly, and wish you the best during the coming year.

1940

Congratulations to **Gordon Beckhart** on his 93rd birthday on February 14th.

1942

Janet Locke Genest – I have many wonderful memories of my two years at Oakwood, graduating in 1942. The education I received there won me an easy acceptance into Swarthmore.

Stu Stover (with **Irene Csordas '48**) visited campus in December.



1943

Happy Birthday to **Gloria Garlick Bogle** who turned 90 on February 19th!

1946

Elizabeth (Betty) Nunn Kramer – Left Oakwood in '45, graduated in '46 after one year at Guilford College as a special student. Retired English teacher. Now living in Gainesville, FL in a community connected to the University of Florida with second husband Charles Kramer. Loving life at almost 88!

1948

Tookey Scherf Campione – I'm staying off the streets and out of trouble. There are interns at the National Wildlife Refuge who would repute that. Can't believe I've been there twenty seven years.

1950

Patrick Crowley – Ann and I continue living in our townhouse in Sacramento. Retirement gives the opportunity to enjoy our free time. In addition to serving on the Board of Managers, I lead a weekly class in writing personal histories for the Renaissance Society at Sacramento State. I took great satisfaction in participating in raising funds for Peter's Porch for the classes of '49, '50 & '51.

1952

Rita Muckenhoupt James – So many changes, yet Oakwood stays the same!

Katrina Voorhis Mabon – Still traveling. Just returned from a trip to Italy with my granddaughter. We met in Venice and took a Crystal Cruise to Monte Carlo. Lots of good fun.

1953

Taffy Thunick Hoffman – I have taken a big step this year by moving into an independent living senior center. I am busy with activities and most of all the company of wonderful people.

1954

Congratulations to **Sara Jane** and **Martin Victor** on the birth of their first great-grandchild Leona in August. Martin also published a book, Doctor in Blue, a memoir of his 30 year career as an active duty Air Force physician.

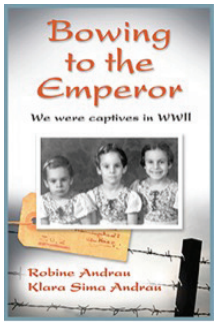


Elizabeth Horr Shattuck – I am sad to report that my husband of 55 years, Peter Hamilton Shattuck, died September 27, 2015 from complications after cancer surgery.

1955

Robine Andrau – I've been busy promoting my recently published book "Bowing to the Emperor: We were Captives in WWII" the story of my family's (and my) experience as prisoners of the Japanesse in Java and Japan during WWII. Even got interviewed on local NPR when visiting my sister Maya in Asheville, NC! Book is available on Amazon. Questions? contact me at randrau@comcast.net





Richard Wood - Enjoyed our class reunion for the class of '55 last spring. We still live in Gettysburg, PA and have "set our anchor" since 2013.

1956

Julie Fogelson Braverman has moved to Silver Spring, MD, to be closer to her son Peter and his family. Unfortunately, Julie has developed Lewy Body Dementia which is advancing rapidly. Symptoms include severe short term memory loss and profound confusion. Correspondence may be sent to Julie at her son's address: Peter Braverman, 114 North Brook Lane, Bethesda, MD. 20814; bravermanp@gmail.com

Molly Lynn Watt – Continue to glow from my happy days at Oakwood with granddaughter Alice Flanagan, with schoolmates Jonathan Talbot, Susie Deane and Debbie Bacon. Counting the days until my 60th reunion!



Molly Lynn Watt '56 with granddaughter Alice Flanagan '17.

1957

Diane De Mask Lyons – Sorry to learn of Steven Vogel's passing. Brought back fond memories of our time at Oakwood.

John A. "Mac" McDonald – I am saddened to hear of Steven Vogel's passing. We were friends and classmates. When he stayed over on campus he often used my spare bunk. I knew even then that he would be a contributor and not a spectator in whatever field he chose. We are not immortal, but if we make this world a better, safer, happier place there is reason for us to rest in peace.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Talbot** who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Orange County Arts Council on November 12, 2015. Last year's honoree was also an Oakwood alum - Linda Nadas '54.

1958

Jonathan Flaccus – My photographs of Cuba & Burma were shown recently at the Vermont Center for Photography.

1959

Margaret Lee Summers Wilson – "There is room for us all in the desert!" said Miss Crowley. Formative words at Oakwood.

1961

James D. Eng – Hi All - Looking forward to returning for Alumni Weekend, May 13-15, 2016.

1962

Madge Tracy Savage and **M. Margit Winckler (Winky)** together again for Columbus Day weekend, 2015. This is the second time seeing each other after being roommates for 2 years, junior and senior years. An incredible four days of reminiscing!



1963

Martha Richdale – We are headed to the Florida house we bought last year in early February. We had planned on an October departure, but Bill was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic lung cancer and started chemo at Lahey Clinic. Chemo failed so he is now on immunotherapy which he'll do at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. Unfortunately, he is now terminal but wants to be enjoying the Florida sun and warmth while he can. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support. Stay well and enjoy every minute of every day!

1964

Linda Saltford – Congratulations on your wonderful and successful announcement. I grew up next door to Oakwood, now Oakwood Friends, and graduated in 1964. I am grateful to my parents for the opportunity to have been a student. Many wonderful and meaningful times.

1966

Stephen Morris – Hope to see mates at reunion.

Christine (Tina) Mills Schenk – 50th Reunion date approaching. Probably will not be there in person, but in spirit. See summary of my life since Oakwood in the "Reunion Booklet". Tina Mills Schenk 1185 Lillibridge Drive Leland, NC 28451 tennis_tina1948@yahoo.com. "Slowing down a bit with age, but still finding fulfillment in numerous ways and holding forever close the values learned, in some part, at Oakwood and through the Quaker traditions. "



1967

Lydia Marshall – "And in these days of such shameful commentary about Muslim Americans, I am proud that Oakwood Friends continues its tradition of inviting, welcoming and supporting students from a range of backgrounds."

Barry B. Smith – Looking forward to seeing my classmates at the next reunion - our 50th!

Nancy Leopitzi-Wawrla – Retirement means travel "during school"! It's so exciting to see high school and college friends during normal working hours. I miss "my kids", but enjoy being with my grandkids and former students - some in Austria, who are now 60!! I was fortunate to have spent time with Norm and Peggy Keiser, while enjoying time with classmate Bonnie Raitt. Norm was thrilled to be with her, and she with him. We look forward to peace and love in 2016. Health & hugs to you all.

1969

Charles (Chuck) Schwartz – Doing well in Monroe, CT. May there be peace all over the world. God bless America.

1970

Theresa Riley Baron – When I think of happy times, I think of Oakwood. THE EXPERIENCES there have molded me into the person I am today! Hi to my class mates and enjoy every second you have with family and friends.

Daniel Herzog – I had to miss the 45th reunion because I had a postcard show in New York, which is a money maker for me. I do a couple of shows a year in the New York and New Jersey areas and have excluded those that were poor money makers. I also have a thriving mail order business in philatelic covers and postcards, plus I buy actively through the mail and get about 1 call a week from my 2 ads in collector publications. I don't have any contact from classmates at Oakwood and wish they would contact me - like Joe and Karl Sieger, Alec Macleod and the like. 183 Tuxedo Parkway, Newark, NJ 07106. cell (908) 468-9413 or home (973) 399-7717.

Gary Slutzky – Seriously, who would be interested in news from me? HAX to those who remember.

1973

Nick Polak – I have more or less retired and moved to Vero Beach, Florida, after 30 years in the music biz in south Florida. Bought a lovely furnished home in a 55+ community. Still work part-time as a short-order cook and Uber driver - while keeping up with my gardening and landscaping. So glad that Facebook has reunited nearly my entire (surviving) class (graduated '72, although I'm really a '73 kid). Love to all, Nick in Florida

Mary Lowrey Rose – We continue to enjoy living in 'Smalltown" CT near both of our grown children. We delight in our two small granddaughters. What an honor and a privilege to participate closely in their lives. Each new discovery or achievement is magical.

1975

Lori Haney – and her husband Gary came from their home in La Jolla, California and visited campus in the fall.



Lori Haney and Spencer Madsen '19 on "Peter's Porch"

1976

Sean Smith – I do have a "real job" (as editor/writer at Boston College), but I also continue to play music of the Irish, Scottish and English traditional variety -- something, by the way, I started doing in my Oakwood years. You can find out more, and listen to sound samples, here: http://seansmith-music.webs.com



1977

Hugh Kallen – Continuing our calling as husband/wife team pastors of Bluffton Church on the coast of Lake Michigan and co-owning and running our Kallen Web Design national small business web development company. Had our first grandbaby in 2015!

1980

Susanrachel Condon – spoke in Community Meeting 2/19/16 on her work as a midwife and women's health activist. Students learned about how education and skilled practitioners can help to close the gap in care created by economic and social inequalities across the globe. She showed data from Amnesty International the World Health Organization on how the US is still lagging behind other countries in maternal and newborn care. Students from Oakwood's Human Rights Interns club hosted Susanrachel for lunch and additional Q&A.



Susanrachel with Oakwood's Human Rights Interns Sophie Poux '17, Alice Flanagan '17 and Khadijatou Allagouma '16

1984

Alice (Alaka) Lindsley – Now Program Manager for Child and Family Services at Multicare Be-

havioral Health in Payallup, WA. Just passed the milestone 50th birthday. Life is good. Hope all my fellow Oakies are faring well. Would love to see folks passing through Olympia, WA. Contact me! alakal@msn.com Cheers!

1985

Dave Phillips Hochfeld – My daughter Ashley Marie finishes grad school this may.. she got herself a full scholarship to USF in Tampa and graduates with a Masters in Education and hopes to work for the University...She is engaged to an amazing young law student who asked all proper for her hand. My wife and I plan to move to Tampa if the kids settle there..luv to all.

1988

Jennifer Elizabeth Brunton – Nothing really…. (boring is good).



Arthur Vincie – I became a writer/director/producer. My last feature film, "Found In Time" (sci-fi) is on Amazon. It went to 25 festivals and picked up 6 awards, including Best Feature at Art of Brooklyn Film Festival. I'm currently working on "3 Trembling Cities," a doc/fiction webseries that explores the inner lives of NYC immigrants. I went to Oakwood 84-86 (would have graduated in 88). Here's the URL for the webseries: www.seedandspark.com/studio/three-trembling-cities

1991

In March, **Dirk Koopmans** is starting a new job as a Research Scientist at Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany. It's a four-year position focused on measuring carbon dioxide exchange in marine systems. Thanks to Oakwood, Bill Doolittle, and many of you reading this, for helping me get my foot in the door on big opportunities early on.

2003

Congratulations to **Anna Rose Holmer** on her directorial debut of "The Fits" which premiered in Venice in September. Called "one of the most promising debuts" by Kaleem Aftab, Indiewire.

2004

Elizabeth Hanka – moved from the Bronx to Brooklyn. Graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a BA in Liberal Arts, and working for Dave Chang's Momofuku.

2005



Heather Hightower and her mom visited campus this past Fall. Heather is enjoying her work as a nurse at Sloan Kettering.

2007

Caroline Brevetti – I recently became a fellow for Sseko Designs, an ethical and socially conscious fashion brand that empowers women across the US and as far as East Africa. To date we have helped send 70 women to university in Uganda and we have 12 more girls in the 9 month program right now. In large part Oakwood is responsible for leading me to Sseko in that it instilled in me the value of helping communities in need, and for that I will always be grateful for the time I spent at Oakwood.

Congratulations to **Emily Bogle** on her engagement to Tom Sciotto.



2008

Laura (Sunita) Graham – After spending a year teaching (via Worldteach volunteer program) English at a university in Ecuador, I have taken a job in North Carolina teaching 4th grade. So far, it has been a wonderful experience! Wishing everyone from the Oakwood community a fantastic 2016!

Natalie Varrallo – After completing her degree in Botany and Sustainable Agriculture from the Evergreen State College in Washington, Natalie went on to receive her certificate in permaculture design. She is currently serving as the Culinary Arts Director at the Heartwood Institute in Garberville, CA which offers a variety of programs on sustainable living skills in the areas of regenerative farming, culinary arts, natural building, eco-art and community resiliency.

Congratulations to **Nathalie Li** who is an air traffic controller for the US Army. Her next assignment is South Korea!

2009

Erin Paterson is working on getting her first book published while working as an office manager at a law firm in Rhinebeck, NY.

Dan Schwarz is working as a Medicinal Chemist at Albany Molecular Research, Inc. (AMRI). His job is to synthesize organic molecules which are hypothesized to have some activity toward a drug target of interest . Data provided by biologists is then interpreted to improve the activity and other parameters of future molecules. The company partners with pharmaceutical companies, the NIH, academia, or other entities in drug discovery to provide them with the infrastructure and expertise to make their projects happen.

Peter Zimmermann and his writing partner, Jason Thomas Mayfield, launched *"Doormen. The Award-Winning Webseries"* through a kickstarter funded campaign with PJ Comedy Party.

2010

Manon Bailly is pursuing her Master of Social Work clinical concentration at Fordham University.

Ivy Rose Cardillo is currently living in Portland, OR taking part in a mentorship to become a labor doula. She is also teaching yoga and working with ThirdPath Institute, a group based out of Philadelphia supporting work-family integration, as an intern and integrated life advocate trainee.

Jessica Rose Cuneo is living in Rockville, MD and recently started as an assistant accountant at BWW Law Group.

Congratulations to **Sarah Powers** who just graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a Bachelors in Economics!

2011

Clara Wilkinson – graduated from the University of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland with a BSL (Hons) in Sustainable Development with a concentration in Biology and Ecology. She left for Zambia in February 2016 to serve with the Peace Corps in their 'Linking Income, Food and the Environment Project."

Kip Lonczak graduated in December 2015 from University of Albany with a major in Communications & Rhetoric. He is now an Associate at The Ross School in East Hampton, NY.

Zach Missen-Jones is traveling through Asia for 3 months collecting fabric for his clothing line, Creative Theory. The goal of the clothing line is to incorporate different cultural fabric, themes, design, and materials to create a new take on urban fashion. Creative Theory strives to obtain fabrics and materials from different places around the world and attempts to buy them as close to the creators of the products as often as possible.

2015

Catherine (Kate) Wilkinson – is attending The Fashion Institute of Technology as a fashion design major and she is minoring in Sustainable Fashion and Mandarin.

During winter break **Eli Berkowitz** went to Israel on a Birthright trip with a group of students touring the country via bicycle. He gained a perspective of the country that, upon closer inspection, allowed him to appreciate the complexities of the politics as well as the beauty of the culture and region.

Friends & Faculty News

Congratulations to **Ann-Ellen Pigue Akeley** (faculty, 1985-2008) who has written two books since her retirement in 2008 to her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. "Roots in the Water" is a thirty-poem collection which focuses on the small rural county in northwest Tennessee where her mother was born and raised. "Donna the Dragonfly Dog" is a children's book narrated by the dog in question, who finds a home in an unlikely place. Ann-Ellen can be reached at ann-ellen@hotmail.com

Judy Joffee (resident nurse 1983-1988) and daughter, Willow, and family are well. Judy is a retired nurse midwife, and currently works in Department of Corrections. Willow is a social worker in the lower east side of NYC.

Congratulations to **Stephen Miller** for receiving the Best Formal Paper on Pre-College Ethics Award by the Association for Practical & Professional Ethics. His paper "Your Feelings Are Wrong" will be presented at the APPE conference.

Congratulations to **Rachel & Nathan Wright** and big sister Abigail on the birth of Nathan Jr. in October 2015.

Remembering Leith Rogovin '87

By: Zak Carey '88

Leith Sun Demon Rogovin was born on April 13, 1969, in Manhattan's Beth Israel Hospital, exactly a year after his parents met at a 'Be-In' in Central Park. It was a very cold winter and spring that year, but on the Easter Sunday he was born the temperature rose into the 60s and the sun shone brightly. God surely warmed the world when Leith was born. For the first few years Leith lived in Hell's Kitchen with his mother, Pam Gross and father, Ira Rogovin. At that time there were many movie theaters on 42nd street, and Pam regularly took Leith to double features. He was only two or three, but he never once cried or interrupted a movie; he was mesmerized by movies and film from that very early age, a passion that lasted and guided him throughout his life.

When he was born, he had two full sets of grandparents, Pam's parents, Hilda and Bernie Gross and Ira's parents, Ethel and Murray Rogovin. The grandparents competed for weekend time with him and he was deeply loved. Leith also had great-grandparents, on his father's side, Max and Esther. As soon as Leith could talk and hold a phone to his ear, he called his great grandmother each day when he came home from school to check in with her. Her nickname for him was "Schmooie".

When Leith was four years old, the family moved to Woodstock, where he attended the School of the New Moon. His heart became rooted in Woodstock at that time, but before long the family moved back to New York City, where Leith made more friends and discovered the world of music. His father Ira shared his passion for Bob Dylan, blues, and jazz with Leith, and those sounds and rhythms spoke to him. In time, Leith's musical horizons expanded to include hip hop, funk, and most importantly, Reggae. The 1979 Peter Tosh show in Central Park sent him into a world of Reggae that fed him with the connection to music and artists and allowed him to explore the deep roots and spirituality the music and culture offered. Leith discovered the vibrant music scene in the Bronx at The Tire Shop, where DJs gathered and the beats and rhythms of the Reggae music drifted through the warehouses and into the city streets of the night. Leith immersed himself in this music that spoke so clearly to his sense of truth and justice and love, and the power of music to heal.

Leith attended public schools in New York City, where he cultivated meaningful lifelong relationships with people of all ages and backgrounds. Later in his high school career, Leith attended Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, NY. Leith brought his exuberance for life and friendship with him, along with a gritty street sense, and a head of curly, long hair. It was at Oakwood where he reacquainted himself with Woodstock, joining friends from school to visit on weekends. Oakwood also inspired Leith with a vision of community service and teaching. His senior year at Oakwood



found Leith working at a Head Start program, helping children from disadvantaged backgrounds get early school experiences; it was clear that helping children was in his future.

After high school, Leith entered a film program at Manhattan's School of Visual Arts, again making friends, sharing his joy of music and life, and engaging people in conversation and his blanket of love and care. It was during this time when Leith began to again immerse himself into the Woodstock community. He and his father rented a house together during the summer months, and before long Leith was a friendly face who would be seen everywhere, smiling, talking, and playing very loud music on his car stereo. He also found his way to Woodstock Day School, working at the summer Arts and Sports Center camp, making short movies with kids, and spreading his message to all who were open to hearing it. Over time, Leith continued to work at the camp, and eventually started working at the school. He wore many hats at Woodstock Day School. He was Advisor to the Senior Class, Community Service Coordinator, College Counselor, Basketball Coach, and, most importantly, the most trusted confidante, ally, and supporter of every child at the school. Always a fan of the underdog, Leith took kids under his wing and taught them how to be strong, brave, confident, and loving people. He always believed in treating even the youngest students with the respect often reserved for adults. When speaking with Leith, it was obvious that he knew you mattered.

One of the many beautiful qualities Leith possessed was that if you met him once, you were his friend forever and he would never lose sight of you. He held close relationships with friends dating back to early childhood and cherished in his heart every person he ever met. Leith was a guiding light in the lives of children. He was a mentor, counselor, teacher, coach, and friend to every child he met. His wisdom and strength, humor and love simply oozed from every pore of his body. Leith changed the world and his love and strength have influenced lives, young and old. Through his more than 20 years of work at Woodstock Day School, Leith affected change. He started a community service program, worked to create an inclusive, loving, and safe environment for students, families, and teachers, and spread the message of love and tenderness at every turn. Leith was masterful at uplifting and unifying people, a complex skill and desperately needed social medicine that he fine-tuned to a science. His brilliant wit, charm, and abundant compassion made for a rarified presence: a true one-of-a-kind - the genuine article. He inspired us to love with abandon, to live fully, to enjoy what we are doing, and to help every person that crosses our paths.

Leith grew up in New York City and, when he was a teenager, spent his summers in Woodstock. The rest is history. Woodstock became his home and heart.

Leith Sun Demon Rogovin, teacher, brother, son, and friend, passed peacefully into the next realm in the early morning hours on Saturday, January 9, 2016, after a determined two year fight against brain cancer. He was surrounded by friends and loved ones throughout his short stay in hospice care and is survived by his sister Seana Rogovin, Oakwood class of 2012, Mother Pam Hott, and Grandmother Ethel Rogovin. Memorial services and celebrations will be planned for this spring.

IN MEMORY

Dorothy Badgley Adams '36
November 30, 2015

Janice Newman Rosenthal '42
September 30, 2011

William (Bill) Mantinband '44
December 30, 2014

Robert M. Lee '45
January 28, 2016

Eva Bunzel Bulman '51
September 29, 2015

Libby Moroff '54
February 17, 2016

Sandor Csobaji '55
February 3, 2016

Allan Weber '56
April 30, 2014

Steven Vogel '57
November 24, 2015

Richard Rosichan '59
February 17, 2016

Barbara Mahone Brown '62
October 5, 2015

Steven Feldman '66
October 5, 2015

Sonya Cohen Cramer '83
October 9, 2015

Leith Rogovin '87
January 9, 2016

Oak Leaves
Winter 2015-16

ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Oakwood
FRIENDS SCHOOL

22 Spackenkill Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
Tel. (845) 462-4200 Fax (845) 462-4251
www.oakwoodfriends.org
development@oakwoodfriends.org

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2016 Spring School Calendar

April 13	10 Year Honor Roll Luncheon
April 14	Breakfast with Head of School
April 18-20	Lakota Culture Event
April 29	Herzog Lecture
May 12-14	Spring Production, *See Rock City and Other Destinations*
May 13	Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture
May 13-15	Alumni Weekend
June 8	Middle School Moving Up
June 9	Senior Dinner
June 10	Commencement 10:30

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Winter Reunion Alumni Basketball Game



Sterling Chapman '10 and Derek Baugh '16 at the Winter Reunion Alumni Basketball game. *Photo: Oakwood alumnus, Max Meere-Weigel '14*