Winter 2018-19

Oak Leaves

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

"A Human Writes Human Rights: A Novelist's Report" By Amitava Kumar



Writer and journalist Amitava Kumar will present the Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice on Friday May 17th to open Alumni Weekend.

Now in its 15th year, this lecture series was established by classmates in memory of Dash Davis Gleiter '51 in recognition of her work in civil rights and her lifetime of volunteer activities to promote social justice. Kumar will present: "A Human Writes Human Rights: A Novelist's Report."

Amitava Kumar was born in Ara, India, and grew up in the nearby town of Patna, famous for its corruption, crushing poverty and delicious mangoes. He is the author of several books of nonfiction and two novels. His prize-winning book A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb (2010) was described by The New York Times as a "perceptive and soulful … meditation on the global war on terror and its cultural and human repercussions." His latest book, Immigrant, Montana: A Novel (2018) was included in the list of notable books of the year by The New York Times.

Kumar is the Helen D. Lockwood Professor of English at Vassar College and has been honored with residencies at Yaddo and The Norman Mailer Center. He also has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship as well as a Ford Fellowship in Literature from United States Artists. He serves on the editorial board of several publications and is the script-writer and narrator of two documentary films: "Pure Chutney" (1997) and "Dirty Laundry" (2005). Professor Kumar teaches classes that mainly deal with reportage; the essay-form, both in prose and film; cities; literatures describing the global movement of goods and people; war; and memory-work. He earned his BA and MA at Delhi University; an MA at Syracuse University, and PhD at University of Minnesota.

Oakwood Friends School is honored to welcome Amitava Kumar as our 2019 Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice speaker. All are welcome.



Estare Alston '90 with faculty members Bill and Nancy Doolittle and Charlie Butts

Estare Alston '90 "Living in Two Worlds"



Estare Alston, class of 1990, mesmerized our school community with her powerful talk about "Living in Two Worlds" presented during winter reunion on Friday, January 4th. Estare spoke with candor about her own very difficult childhood and early teenage years in Brooklyn, the unexpected sequence of events that brought her to Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, and her struggle to find a place for herself in this new and unfamiliar environment. She was truly living in two worlds – a sometimes lonely and confusing experience. Estare succeeded on all fronts.

After graduating from Oakwood, Estare earned a Bachelor's in History from Colgate University and later earned a Masters' Degree in Education and an Administrative License in School Building Leadership. She is currently a 9th grade U.S. History Teacher, and President of Talk of the Town's Toastmasters Public Speaking Club. Her goal now is to use her voice to change people's lives by helping to change people's perceptions.

It was clear that students felt a special rapport with Estare and her positive message. Many waited for a turn to speak with her privately to share something about their own life stories. The meeting concluded with a standing ovation for Estare after her breath-taking rendition of Whitney Houston's song, Greatest Love of All.

Thank you Estare for a memorable and inspirational afternoon!

Letter from the Head

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



Early this February I walked into our Meeting Room for morning Collection filled with anticipation, excitement and a little anxiety. With the seventh-grade class as my guide, I focused on the experience at hand… my day as a middle schooler. The last time I was in this position the Carter and Reagan administrations were in transition and the Trapper Keeper was an organizational must. As our Middle School Director texted a photograph of the daily schedule to my iPhone, I quickly realized many aspects of the middle school experience have changed over the last forty years.

Walking the brick pathway between Main Building and the Dining Hall, our first stop was the photography studio and darkroom. Having taken advantage of unseasonably warm weather the day before, the students had already captured six rolls of black and white film around campus. Throughout our hour-long class, canisters were awash in fixers and stop-baths. Timers governed our every move as we measured, poured, tapped, and rocked the film. A nervous energy filled the studio space as we hung negatives to dry while performing a quick quality-control inspection. Cutting, enlarging and final development would have to wait for another day. Class one complete.

Leaving the photo lab, we veered left towards Collins Library and took a shortcut across the quad into Crowley Building and science class. Discussions around sedimentary rock and Jurassic era fossils came alive with the addition of a hands-on project involving plaster molds, clay, sea shells and bone fragments. A query on 'what can we learn from fossilized footprint patterns' lead to a spirited discussion. A few eyebrow raising jokes from both students and me revealed something that my wife has probably known for years - I possess a sense of humor that has not matured much beyond my ten-year-old self. Class two complete.

Silent Reflection: Both our Upper School and Middle School students have Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays. Late morning sun illuminated the back wall, benches and floor. Some of our meetings are structured by guided queries, some are punctuated by powerful and emotional messages shared by students, and some center in complete silence for the entire thirty minutes. This meeting was silent throughout. I was reminded of the special time and place this space affords our community. We unplug and look inward. We reflect. We think. As meeting concluded we shook hands, and not surprisingly the middle school students bolted out the doors.

English and writing were next up. Gathered in a circle we compared the merits of novel versus movie. A statistical approach plotted who, when, what, and how we talked during class. Graphical representation of conversation? As a statistician and engineer, I was both intrigued and pleasantly surprised by this addition. Spoiler…' Princess Bride' the movie is better than the novel according to Oakwood's 7th grade (and most of society).

On to United States History, Civics and Politics: Having studied the US constitution from formation to implementation earlier this term, the 7th grade class began with two questions: 'What is a State of the Union Address?' Why do we have one?" We then proceeded to watch the first 20 minutes of the recent State of the Union Address and then were tasked with identifying major themes, major goals, and topics discussed by the president. Our homework: finish watching the SOTU address, discuss with family at home and further identify areas of success, areas of concern and how we as 7th graders can become involved. Fourth class done… and I am exhausted.

With no rest for the weary, we shifted gears from the classrooms to the courts. Next stop, Kildonan School with the 7th graders and the rest of our middle school basketball team. After forty-five minutes of travel through the rolling horse fields of Amenia, we arrived. Every Oakwood player, from our shortest 6th graders to our tallest 8th graders saw ample playing time. And although the basketball gods did not favor us with a win, we did drain an improbable skyhook three point shot at the buzzer. Multiple parents made the journey to watch their children and the Oakwood girl's JV basketball team arrived in time to cheer us on prior to their match. The coaches concluded an inspiring wrap-up talk with Dunkin Donuts before we boarded the bus back to Oakwood. Exhausted we travelled back to Oakwood's campus. And although tired, this day reminded me of the true value of an Oakwood education and the merits of our Oakwood community. I was inspired by the engagement, the passion and the energy of our current seventh graders. They have a lot of Oakwood learning ahead of them, as do I.



Chad and the Middle School boys taking part in the team building "Marshmallow Challenge"

Beth Porter '87 Speaks at Davos



Oakwood Board Member Beth Porter '87 was a speaker at The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting held January 22-25, 2019 at Davos in Switzerland. Beth took part in the 2nd Annual TransHuman Code Meeting of the Minds Roundtable focusing on "Humans as the Fulcrum to the Internet of Everything". She was joined in this week-long event by the world's premier authorities on the application of AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, IoT, and Robotics to transhuman education, employment, communication, transportation, communities, security, government, food, finance, entertainment and health.

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos is a yearly gathering that brings together leaders of global society. The heads and members of more than 100 governments, top executives of the 1,000 foremost global companies, leaders of international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, the most prominent cultural, societal and thought leaders, and the disruptive voices of the Forum's Young Global Leaders, Global Shapers and Technology Pioneers come together at the beginning of each year to define priorities and shape global, industry and regional agendas.

Participation is by invitation only and reserved for members of the Forum's communities. The ongoing close collaboration with those communities in cooperation with a Network of Global Future Councils ensures the solution-oriented substance of the Annual Meeting. Numerous initiatives of global importance have been launched in Davos.

Beth is the co-founder and CEO of Riff Learning Inc. At Riff she applies the philosophy that people learn best from one another and that collaborative learning fosters both personal and organizational growth. She also teaches IT implementation strategies at Boston University and MIT Media Lab.

Parent Dinner Supports 2019 Annual Fund



Amy Solis, Clerk of the 2019 Parent Dinner

Thank you to Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean ’09, and owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, for sponsoring our 14th annual wine dinner & auction to support the Annual Fund. The event was held on January 26th at Locust Grove – Samuel Morse Historic Site, catered by Cosimo’s. The festive evening was shared by parents, faculty, board members and friends. Thank you to Josie Angley, parent of Michael ’21 and Franco Giangrasso who stepped up to serve as auctioneers and to Amy Solis, parent of Siena ’24, clerk of the 2019 Parent Dinner. Student artwork was on display and student musicians opened the evening with their performances: Juniors **Willow Bennison, Stefanie Quintanilla, Elias Fredericks** and senior **Youyin (Benna) Su**. We are especially grateful to two local businesses who sponsored the dinner this year: Bottini Fuel & Rondack Construction. Thank you!

Through the generosity of all our auction item donors and dinner attendees, we raised over $13,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: Adams Fairacre Farms, Michelle Alumkal & Jeffrey Yang, Josie & Michael Angley - Go A2B Transportation, Elizabeth Arnold, Atlantic Theater Company, Brian & Reina Baas - Renu Medispa, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Boscobel House and Gardens, Bread Alone, Yvette Brockington, Camp Cody, Cancun's Family Mexican Restaurant, Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, Peter Christiansen & Debbie Guy-Christiansen, Amy & Bob Cook, Cosimo's, Amadou Diallo & Mary Geis, Linda & Timothy Doherty, Rich Feldman, Maish Freedman, Giacomo's, Doug Gilmour & Sadia Bihi-Gilmour, John & Wendy Gilvey - Hudson Beach Glass, Gold's Gym, Nathalie Gravagna, Hudson Valley Healing Center, Hudson Valley Renegades, Hudson Valley Skin Care, Italian Center, Timothy Judge, Martina Deignan & Douglas Kirchner, Heidi Kronenberg, Marion SalonSpa, Lisa Matkin - Sacred Healing Earth Arts, Richard Otte & Maria Melilli, Elizabeth Meyer, Mohonk Mountain House, Morgan & Cybele Nielsen - Sparkle, Michelle Niemiec - Eye Appeal Optical, Paula's Public House, Robert J. Pfeifer, Pamela Phillips-Malcom, Bonnie Raitt ’67, Mary Redmond & Eli Schloss, Amy & Louis Solis, Patricia & Carl Stewart, Holly Sturges ’68, Alysa & Daniel Sullivan, Lucia & Scott Swartz, Laurel & Timothy Sweeney - Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, Tea Talk, Malcolm Turk and Village TeaRoom.





Student performers Willow Bennison ’20, Stefanie Quintanilla ’20 and Youyin “Benna” Su ’19 perform at the parent dinner

New Faces



Oakwood welcomes new faculty members (l-r) Molly O'Donnell (Spanish), Sara Scotto (Math) and Jackie Bediako (Academic Support Center)!

The Admissions Team and Student Ambassador Program



When new families come to campus for a visit, they are often greeted by our wonderful Student Ambassadors. Many families report that they especially appreciate going on campus tours with ambassadors who speak honestly and enthusiastically about our programs and community. And, of course, our students are uniquely qualified to talk about life at Oakwood. When a prospective student makes a connection with one of our Ambassadors at an open house or on a tour, it’s often a quick leap to feeling comfortable at the school.

The Admissions Team appreciates the important work of our Student Ambassadors and prepares them for their role. They meet as a group for training and discussion throughout the year and sometimes get together just to have fun. Nick Ugarte, Grace Obee, Akilah Spencer and our Ambassadors enjoyed a day in New York City where they visited Rockefeller Center, took in the Broadway show "Phantom of the Opera" and ate a lovely dinner together before taking the train back home to Poughkeepsie.

Our Ambassadors take pride in the work they do representing Oakwood Friends School to newcomers. Thank you, Ambassadors, for your service to the school!



Director of Admissions Nick Ugarte with Admissions Associates Grace Obee (l) and Akilah Spencer (r)

Sports Center

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

As this piece is being written, the Hudson Valley is alternating between frigid cold and surprising warmth. This past fall, our athletes once again joined our teams in record numbers. Almost 80% of the school was busy on our fields, trails, and courts. Following are a few highlights from the season. As usual, many of the words you will read are from our coaches and I appreciate their dedication and input.

One big change this fall was the return of interscholastic soccer to the middle school. Bolstered with a few upper school students, this coed team was then reborn as Thirds soccer. It was coached by Emily and Matt Woolever. The defense was anchored by **Alex Turk '21, Joe Cao '21, Alejandra Calderon '24, Preston Baas '25, Aaralyn Gravagna '24,** and **Lulu Schloss '24**. All six were new to their positions, but over the course of the season, all of our defenders learned to think tactically. This often included having the self-control to not run forward and try to steal the ball from oncoming strikers, but rather to stay with them and steer them away from the goal.

The team was also strong at midfield with **Soren Bertucci-Miller '25, Haytham Tang '22, Ivo Uebbing '24, Luca Bax '24, Milla Berg '23, Jonah Schumacher '25,** and **Caleb Diggs '24** all helping us to maintain possession. Successful midfielders need a blend of ball control skills and field awareness in order to get and keep possession of the ball, and to move it forward to our strikers. Our group performed this task admirably. Up front, our strikers included **Max Kruk '23, Ian Matkin '23, Tristan Nielson '22**, and **Arjun Yang '23**. Strikers need quick bursts of speed, the aggression to challenge the other team's defenders, and solid contact on the ball when shooting. Our crew all had numerous goals and assists throughout the season. In the net, Arjun, Caleb, and **Dylan Diallo '23** shared duties as keeper, and each blocked many shots and saved many goals. In addition to having quick reflexes, keepers also do a lot of thinking and planning. This includes deciding when to stay back and when to charge a striker, directing the defense, calling out open opposing players, and finding open teammates on punts and goal kicks. Everyone certainly learned a lot!

Overall, our team saw tremendous growth over the course of the season. Many of our players were completely new to playing soccer, and many more were new to their positions. As the season progressed, everyone improved their stamina, ball control skills, and tactical thinking. This growth will certainly help our soccer program in the years ahead.

In other fall action, our cross country teams were quite busy. The youthful boys team developed throughout the season and moved from 4th place to 2nd in the league standings. The five scorers rotated amongst one senior, one junior, three sophomores, and three freshmen. **Layton Liu '19** earned HVAL All-Star status with his 10th place finish at the League Championship, which was hosted by Oakwood Friends. Three other runners came to practice so ready to train every day, that, along with Layton, they formed the scoring nucleus for the team. **Erik Budo Uerkwitz '22** ran as 2nd scorer most of the season and earned the "Newcomer with the Most Impact" award. **Jayden Brockington '21** earned the "Most Improved" award as he raced to be the 3rd Oakwood scorer at the league championship. **Elias Fredericks '20** was one of several who started the season with our August preseason sessions; he developed into a consistent 3rd or 4th scorer, and earned the Coaches' Award.



Middle School soccer players on the field

For the girls, **Adele Fredericks '21** medaled at all six invitational meets this season, and won the Faith Christian meet. She finished 6th at the League Championship to earn All-Star status. Then, she attended the New England Division 4 (small private schools) XC Championship at Marianapolis School in Connecticut. About half the course was a flowing stream from recent heavy rains which made running a bit difficult, but now Adele figures she can handle any course conditions. **Nafisa Rashid '19** completed her sixth season on the cross country team and she earned recognition with the "6-Year" Award. Nafisa continued the streak of every girl who started XC in seventh grade being on a League Championship team (2016). Her dedication to the sport, encouragement to other runners, and superb example will be missed. Even coaches at other schools have grown accustomed to seeing her on the course year after year.

Hosting the annual Oakwood Friends Invitational in September and the HVAL League Championship in October highlighted the tremendous support the community gives cross country. The athletic director, former XC coaches, the Sustainable Gardening crew, and friends and spouses covered many tasks of conducting the meets and spotting certain places on the course. They judged the finish order, collected scoring tags, directed traffic, spotted turns on the course, cheered runners from all schools, and rang the cowbells for further encouragement. No wonder Oakwood receives so many compliments for hosting the best XC meets!

Finally, if you're ever in the area, feel free to attend any of our athletic contests. Schedules are posted on the school's website which gets updated promptly if there are any last minute changes. See you there!





Cross Country runners Jayden Brockington '21 and Hadis Daqiq '19

So Much Drama...

By: Melissa Matthews, Theater Director

The 2018-2019 school year is proving to be a great time for theater at Oakwood Friends School. We have an ambitious schedule and have already covered quite a bit of ground -- the drama department at Oakwood is thriving!



Isabella Kramb '21 and Elias Fredericks '20 in Eurydice

We opened the year with Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl. It's a somewhat lesser known play due to its experimental nature, and, being a drama, I knew I was taking a risk. The turnout for auditions was not as strong as I was hoping for, but I ended up with an extremely strong cast of seven and an excellent stage manager. We were able to move through the blocking quite quickly and, as a result, spent quite a bit of time developing characters and really tailoring the blocking to the actors. The cast was tight-knit and worked well as an ensemble which was truly a necessity for this production. The three students portraying the stones had a particularly difficult job, and it was evident that they spent quite a lot of time outside of our rehearsals working on their dialogue together.

As is so often the case when a play utilizes a powerful special effect, the most memorable moments in our production of Eurydice centered around the water. Water is an oft-used symbol in literature and is extremely pervasive in Eurydice. On several occasions, the script called for characters to emerge from an elevator in which it rained. With the help of Middle School English teacher Emily Woolever and her husband Matthew and father Charlie LaPlant, Oakwood's production was able to enact this effect making for striking tableaus and creating a live soundscape that pulled audiences into the Underworld along with the eponymous character. As compelling was the "river". The script called for a pantomime of characters "dipping" themselves in the river. I felt it was within our capabilities to actually use water and create a river for the actors. This, much like the raining elevator, made for extremely strong images of Eurydice and her Father standing soaking wet and afraid having forgotten their lives entirely. Blank slates. The sounds of the actors moving through the small pool of water and rising from it were deeply affective.

Meanwhile, the 6th and 7th-grade production of Macbeth, the Musical Comedy by Ron Fink and John Robert Heath took on a very different tone despite the source material. We spent some time prior to working through the text to discuss Shakespeare's version so the students had some context which made the jokes more effective. An absurdist comedy by nature, the Middle Schoolers were easily able to take on the material. It took some convincing that something so silly could be genuinely funny if taken with the appropriate seriousness; however, the production was a success.

Ted and I agreed that a stripped down rendition would serve both the actors and text best. We were able to use the set from Eurydice to our advantage. We employed the physical levels including the balcony-esque second level. We used a table, chairs, and a few small swords to round out our minimalist aesthetic. Students emerged in their best plaid shirts, skirts, shoes, and hats in an effort to evoke Scottish tartan clothes. **Luca Bax '24** even donned a kilt as Macbeth!

Macbeth brought parents, faculty, and students together en masse. It was obvious that the students' efforts were appreciated. The audience laughed, clapped, and gave a standing ovation. It is our hope that the support they received will entice them to participate in the theater program again as they move to the Upper School. Beyond the in-school performances of the three annual plays, it was by far the largest audience we've had in the past several years. We are hopeful that by introducing Middle Schoolers and their parents to the work we are doing in the performing arts, we may entice support from parents and students at our other performances and productions. The students work extremely hard and devote themselves deeply to Oakwood's theatrical endeavors.

The winter production, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead saw an incredible audition turnout. Comedies always receive more attention from students, but this winter was exceptionally robust. Twenty-five students came out, all were cast, and nineteen were able to commit to the responsibility. A Those who auditioned ranged from Oakwood theater veterans to first-time performers, freshman to seniors. It has been a pleasure to work with such a diverse group. I'm excited for you to see them and for them to have this opportunity to perform such a complex piece!

We look forward to seeing you in the theatre!

A Raisin in the Sun – a student initiative



Producers Joseph Spence '19 and Willow Bennison '20

In addition to all the wonderful offerings of Oakwood's theater department, several students have taken the initiative to create their own production of "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansbury. The play is scheduled for April 11th and 12th in Lane Auditorium. All are welcome.

Student producers **Joseph Spence '19** and **Willow Bennison '20** described their purpose: "We have decided to do this historic play to encourage and promote African-American culture and heritage at our school. We really appreciate all that our community gives us and the cast and crew are very excited to present this expression of freedom and culture to the Oakwood stage." Special thanks to our friends of the theater who are sponsoring this production: Parent and board member Emilie Gay, Don Badgley '67, Joe Cohen '55, Randy Detwiler '75, Thomas Evans '90, Judith Ebenstein Grose '66, Alec MacLeod '71, Julia Patten '07, Michael Plugh '89, Jessie Washington '86, and Molly Lynn Watt '56. We appreciate your support.

Music Accolades

Congratulations to the following students on their recent musical accomplishments!



Elias Fredericks '20 made second chair, first violin at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Orchestra festival in Rochester.



7th grader Alejandra Calderon, shown with classmate Luca Bax, made it into Junior High All-County Chorus.



Senior Youyin "Benna" Su was accepted into the music program at NYU.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 70th Anniversary

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. Authored by Eleanor Roosevelt, The Universal Declaration recognizes the inalienable rights held by all humans and provides a benchmark for the defense of human dignity and freedom by member states of the United Nations.

To celebrate this important anniversary, Oakwood welcomed guest speaker Ryan Kaminski from the United Nations Association-USA in October. He presented "Rights at Home: A Call to Action on Immigration and Asylum." Ryan is Senior Program Manager for Human Rights at UNA-USA. Previously Ryan was a research associate with the Council on Foreign Relations' International Institutions and Global Governance program and a U.S. Fulbright Fellow (Hong Kong). He is currently a research consultant with Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria.

In December, Oakwood's UNA – Mid-Hudson Valley interns served as moderators at the "FDR's Four Freedoms Today" event in Hyde Park. Interns are chosen by the UNA board of directors through a yearly application process which aims to involve youth locally in discussions of international politics and affairs. Oakwood's Humanities Chair, Stephen Miller, is President of the UNA – Mid-Hudson Valley.

The FDR event featured talks, dialogue, and workshops focused on connecting the Universal Declaration on Human Rights to Hudson Valley issues and solutions. The event was co-hosted by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites - National Park Service and the United Nations Association (UNA) - Mid-Hudson Valley.



Junior Daphne Ballesteros at the UN Day celebration at the FDR Library

The Daqiq Sisters from Afghanistan


Hadi '19, Hadis '15, Sara and Shakiba '22 (Basira – not shown)

Oakwood's international students are an integral part of our community and bring an invaluable richness to the school. The experience of living and studying with students from all over the world affords our community a first-hand exchange of different cultures, religions and geopolitical issues in a way that can't be replicated in a textbook. For the past several years we have been fortunate enough to have four sisters from Afghanistan join our community of learners. The Daqiq sisters - Hadis '15, Basira '17, Hadi '19 and Shakiba '22 have been a vital part of our community from the first day they arrived. Hadis is now a senior at Guilford College in North Carolina where she recently connected with alumna Shai Black Bird '18 who is a Guilford freshman. Hadis is serving as Shai's RA in the dorms and was a friendly Oakwood face as Shai transitioned to college life! Basira is in her sophomore year at Smith College with fellow alumna Sophie Poux '17 while OFS senior, Hadi is an active member of Oakwood's community serving as a Human Rights Intern and a second year member of the school's Libby Moroff Leadership Program. She will graduate in June. Shakiba, the newest member of the Daqiq family to join us at Oakwood, is a freshman and is happily adjusting to life in the dorms with her big sister close at hand as she settles in! The Daqiq sisters are just one example of the international student families who bring so much to our school community!

Student Artist Annie Kronenberg '19


Annie Kronenberg '19

Senior Annie Kronenberg has a bright future in digital photography ahead of her fueled in large part by her experiences in the Oakwood Art Department. Originally from Chicago, Annie moved to NY her freshman year of high school where she "found her artistic voice." She credits her participation in Lizzie's drawing classes with shaping her as an artist and giving her the vocabulary for critiquing art work, including her own.

Annie describes herself as a "tactile person." "I enjoy the actual feel of the materials – the charcoal. And the mediums I work in are connected. Drawing helped me pose people and learn how the human body works which informed my photography work which is mostly portraits."

Her influences include her aunt, Claudia Kronenberg, who was a prolific wedding photographer in Nantucket, MA. Annie described seeing her aunt's studio as really interesting even though their styles were very different from one another.

Outside of the classroom, Annie has spent many summers in pre-collegiate art programs across the country and abroad. She's studied figure drawing, art history and portfolio development focusing on photography at Pratt Institute. The summer of her sophomore year found her in Parson's study abroad program in Paris. This month long photography program gave her the opportunity to delve into Photoshop and strengthened her independence.

Annie also spent a summer at the Art Institute of Chicago for a figure drawing class which pushed her out of her comfort zone and challenged her in a positive way. Locally, she's attended Mill Street Loft's (now known as The Art Effect) Summer Intensive in film photography/digital photo and painting.

When asked what advice she would give to a student interested in pursuing the visual arts/photography at Oakwood, Annie reflected, "If you're really dedicated to the arts, I highly recommend you take drawing and be a part of the critiques. Listen to feedback. Ask questions and don't take it for granted. Absorb it all. Explore. Oakwood has lots of opportunities in many different mediums. Learn from your mistakes. Learn by doing."

To date Annie has been accepted to: Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and Maine College of Art (MECA) in Portland, ME.

Middle School Service Learning

In keeping with Oakwood's mission, every six weeks the Middle School is concentrating on a different Quaker value – simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Currently they are focusing on equality through hands on service-learning at a variety of non-profits in the community.

Service learning work in the Middle School engages students in preparation, research, and action, culminating with reflection. Students took part in a variety of workshops during Oakwood's Social Justice Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They participated in an Advocacy 101 workshop where they identified their elected officials and reached out to them about an issue area of concern. During their Housing 101 workshop they learned about housing inequality through a budget activity in which they had to find an affordable place to live. They further explored budgeting through an activity exploring food security at the local supermarket. Students also watched a film about civil rights and the children's march which was followed by a discussion of how young individuals have a voice.



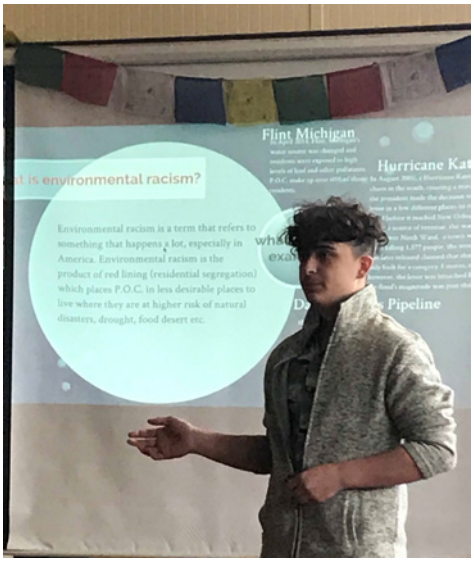
Learning about budgeting for food at a local supermarket

Service learning placements took students from Habitat for Humanity's Restore to a local pet store for a supply drive. They also volunteered at Bluestone Hill Farm in Red Hook and had the chance to feed baby lambs, a highlight for all!



Milla Berg '23 with friends at Bluestone Hill Farm

A Message from Malcolm Condon '20



Malcolm Condon '20 presents in Community Meeting about plastic waste

Please consider for a moment the following: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. These are the core values that not only shape a Quaker but any kind-hearted spirit. As a community that perpetuates these values, at Oakwood Friends, it is our job to radiate radical love, kindness, and social justice no matter where we go. I was raised on Quaker values and my sister Hannah Condon '11 and mother Susanrachel Condon '80 were also Oakwood students. I love the Oakwood community for so many reasons: the people, the faculty, and the spirit of every single Oakwood student who flows through the campus; but even our community is touched by habits that contradict Quaker values.

Let's think about plastic consumption. We strive for simplicity, we love and appreciate our mother earth, yet every day many of us use Styrofoam and plastic, both of which we know poison our planet and are highly processed in a hazardous manner. We strive for stewardship, but through our unnecessary plastic consumption, we are damaging the source of life for us and millions of other beings. Styrofoam and plastic are the two most common materials used in retail. They are both horrible for the environment. People buy them without thinking about it. Styrofoam and plastic are photodegradable, which means that instead of eventually breaking down into the organic materials that were processed in order to make them, they will gradually break down into smaller and smaller particulates, but never cease to be toxic. By supporting the production of these materials, we are speeding up the process of toxins entering our water sources and our food. We also directly speed it up through pollution, literally putting toxins directly into our resources.

Low-income residential districts are sometimes put inside factory districts, where pollution is condensed. As a result of the racial wealth gap, this often forces black and brown people into residential areas where they are at higher risk for pulmonary diseases and cancer, and at higher risk of being exposed to natural disasters. A good example of this was the water crisis in Flint Michigan. In April 2014, Flint's water source was changed by the state government and residents were exposed to high levels of lead and other pollutants. People of Color made up over 60% of those residents. And Hurricane Katrina: In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused chaos in the South, creating a massive flood which struck the Lower Ninth Ward which is 93% Black. The president made the decision to breach the levee in a few different places to release the flood before it reached New Orleans. The water flooded the Lower Ninth Ward, killing 1,577 people. And when natural disasters like hurricanes hit residential factory districts, damages to the factories can cause the release of unsafe substances into the residential areas, contaminating the living space.

We can all help. Please replace single-use plastics with 100% degradable or compostable materials. Let's aim towards becoming a more sustainable and green institution and world.

Oakwood Alums Pursue Science and Math

Many alumni are working and studying in pursuit of careers in science and math, also known as the STEM field – science, technology, engineering and math. We connected with two alums from the class of 2013, Rui (Skyler) Ma and Heather Stratica, and Greg Pitner, class of 2008, to hear about their academic and career journeys in the field.

Rui (Skyler) Ma '13



After Oakwood I attended the University of California at Davis where I majored in math. I am currently pursuing my master's degree in pure math at "Katholieke Universiteit Leuven" in Belgium and I hope to become a PhD candidate For me, pursuing math is a leap of faith. I'm not particularly good at math, but I believe math is the truth. My advice is to do things where your faith lies. However, if you don't know what you believe or what you are most interested in, then do things that can give you more opportunities and more time to figure out what your future path is.

Speaking about her as a student, Math and Science Chair Lacey Fredericks observed, "Skyler demonstrated a distinct talent in her work in my classroom. In addition to having solid student skills and a strong work ethic, she has innate talent that allowed her to process new material with ease. She found her way successfully through dual enrollment in AP AB and BC Calculus while also studying Advanced Statistics independently. Skyler's mathematical gift, when combined with her distinct enjoyment of philosophy and economics, promise her a fulfilling and interesting career."

Greg Pitner '08



I studied Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and defended my PhD in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in the fall of 2018. For the past 6 years I have been a PhD student at Stanford University in Electrical Engineering. Starting in March 2018, I founded a materials company called Aligned Carbon, Inc. to bring semiconducting carbon nanotubes from the lab into real-world commercial applications that will eventually make everybody's computers a lot faster and more energy efficient.

The aspect I like most about this career is the creative freedom in early research and development, where you get the precious opportunity to define what the problem is and justify why this is the problem that needs to be solved first. I also get to be wrong a lot in my work, but when a novel experiment works it feels amazing. Also, I'll admit I enjoy playing with the nanoelectronics fabrication and characterization tools (read: toys).

Looking back, two things stand out from Oakwood: academics and culture. Academically the Oakwood teachers Lacey, Chad, Bill, and Ron taught me a solid foundation in AP math, physics, biology, and chemistry. Also Nora's AP English poetry explication paper assignments helped me write scientific journal papers as well. The AP class credits then allowed me to enter college almost one year ahead of the recommended electrical engineering core curriculum, so I used the extra time to go deeper into the graduate classes and research projects. This led to getting into a good graduate school.

Second, culturally Oakwood is the kind of place where we also developed our passions outside the classroom, routinely greeted everybody in the community with a friendly wave, and appreciated the social impact of our actions. Similarly folks in STEM fields are a bunch of passionate people in a scientific community trying to solve problems that are impactful beyond the lab. These values of passion, community, and social impact are essential. I think it leads to a more collaborative mindset for engineers, and I don't think it is something that gets enough emphasis in the STEM classroom.

I think it is important to get involved in projects outside the classroom related to your potential academic interests as soon as possible. It could be a solo do-it-yourself recreation of a crystal growing experiment you saw on YouTube, or a cool summer job you hustle your way into while in high school, or a competition for robotics/rocketry/ science fair you form an Oakwood team to enter. There are lots of ways to get involved. These experiences may either reinforce your passion for the topic or reveal that path was not as wonderful as you hoped, both of which are great perspectives to have sooner. During these projects you will also meet people that can open doors for you as mentors, write recommendation letters, and grow into your network for advice and support.

Heather Stratica '13



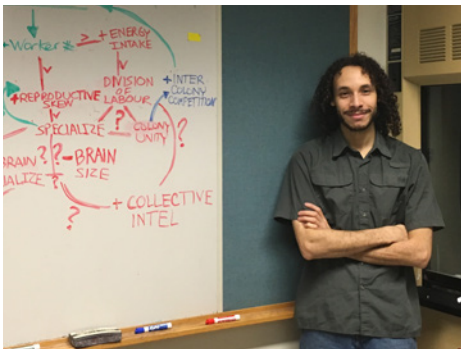
I currently work for DEKA Research and Development as a Test Engineer. DEKA is a Manchester, NH based company that focuses on creating innovative medical solutions and advanced technologies. I've been at the company since I graduated from college in May and I really love it! I get to work with really passionate people and develop cutting edge medical device technology, which has been something I've been passionate about since I was a student at Oakwood.

After Oakwood I studied at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts where I got both my bachelors and masters degrees in Biomedical Engineering. The school is very hands-on and project oriented which was really useful for pursuing engineering.

My Oakwood education prepared me for my career path in many ways. The small classes offered hands on experience and one-on-one learning that I couldn't have gotten from most other schools -- especially in the math and science classes. Engineering is incredibly hands on and most of the time you are working in a small group so I was introduced to this type of environment earlier than most college students. Oakwood also really helped because the school emphasizes individuality and responsibility. The open campus and flexible schedule really helped me gain organizational and time management skills, which are extremely important in keeping your projects on track. I saw many college students from other types of high schools struggle to learn these skills in college.

My best advice for Oakwood students pursuing the STEM field would be to be fearless, never give up, and have confidence in their problem solving capabilities. It's easy to get intimidated by STEM but it's important to remember that if you actually put your mind to it, you will achieve great things. Another piece of advice would be to surround yourself with people who share and encourage your intellectual curiosity as early as you can. STEM is a closely knit field and that's because the people in it are genuinely passionate about what they do. If STEM is really something you want to pursue, the sooner you introduce yourself to this community, the sooner you will feel at home!

Zach Coto '10 Presents Annual Herzog Lecture



Zach Coto, a Biology PhD candidate at Boston University, will return to Oakwood to present our Annual Herzog Lecture on May 3, 2019. A graduate of the class of 2010, Zach shared his journey since leaving Oakwood and gave us insight into his upcoming lecture, "Tiny Brains and Huge Societies: The Evolution of Metabolism in a System of Sterility, Division of Labor, and Collective Intelligence."

After Oakwood, I began pursuing a Bachelor's degree related to social science at Goucher College in Baltimore. The following spring, I decided to shift my academic focus from social science to biological science with a hope to eventually focus on insect social behavior. This led me to return to New York and attend classes at SUNY Orange County Community College in preparation for and eventual acceptance to SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse. I spent about a year as a student at SUNY ESF, first majoring in Conservation Biology and then majoring in Biotechnology while briefly working in a plant propagation laboratory. I was still unsatisfied with my academic trajectory and so I left SUNY-ESF to return home to New York where I began working part-time in a local pet shop. There, I could use my biological knowledge to assist customers with caring for exotic animals.

My interest in insect sociality remained, but I wanted to focus on the molecular mechanisms underlying social behavior (for example, pheromone communication), while incorporating this into studying the emergent properties of insect societies as a whole. In 2014 I enrolled at SUNY New Paltz with a major in Molecular Biology through which I developed an understanding of molecular interactions and development. Meanwhile, I gained a basic knowledge of ecology and I maintained a focus on social insects through my work on insect tool use. While at SUNY New Paltz, I was accepted as a 2015 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow at Rockefeller University in NYC. At Rockefeller, I was able to see first-hand the real-time application of the scientific method. This included seeing the development of the first genetically modified ants using the now popular CRISPR technique. Furthermore, I was familiarized with insect neurobiology, immunohistochemistry and developed a proficiency in micro-dissection. From this experience, I decided to focus my aspirations for graduate work on the neurobiological mechanisms underlying insect sociality.

I graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a B.S. in Molecular Biology and was accepted into the Biology PhD program at Boston University in the fall of 2016 to work in Dr. James Traniello's Sociobiology Laboratory. Today, I study how the evolution of social behavior relates to the evolution of the brain, with a focus on the dynamics of energy allocation at different biological levels (from sub-cellular to social) using ant colonies as model organisms. A fundamental question for our lab and sociobiology more broadly is whether increasingly complex societies require individuals who are themselves increasingly complex and/ or who have increasingly more cognitive investment. Furthermore, we seek to determine to what extent conclusions about social evolution can be generalized across species and different levels of biological organization. I hope to make contributions to answering these questions as they get to the heart of today's popular concerns such as whether we can maintain large, cohesive and peaceful societies, what are the limits of human cognitive and social potential and what exactly we are doing as we develop technology and artificial intelligence networks that are meant to simulate our cognitive and social dynamics.



Zach Coto with former teachers Stephen Miller and Chad Cianfrani

Powell Fund

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 nine years, distributions from the Powell Fund have provided income to support the sciences, the arts and humanities.

This year, the Powell Fund has helped support our program around the four-season greenhouse located behind the Turner Math & Science building. Income was used for a stipend for our sustainability program coordinator and afternoon gardening club. The program is very popular with our students and has become an important part of the middle-school science curriculum.

Income from the Powell Fund has also been used each year to enhance the school's technology. This year, we undertook a major upgrade to our IT infrastructure and wireless coverage. The upgrades include new server switches, wireless access points, new computers for classrooms and offices and enhancements to the Middle School 1:1 Chromebook program. Thank you, Dick Powell, for your foresight and commitment to Oakwood Friends School.



Support the Annual Fund

Donate to Oakwood online at

https://www.oakwoodfriends.org/donation/donate/

HUDSON VALLEY GIVES

You can also support Oakwood through our special Hudson Valley Gives 24 hour online fundraiser on Wednesday May 15, 2019 at

https://www.hvgives.org/organizations/oakwood-friends-school

Charlie Butts Returns to Childhood Elementary School



Charlie Butts with Principal David Scott

History teacher and Athletics Director Charlie Butts returned to his childhood school, Clinton Elementary School, for Oakwood's bi-annual Workshare Day. In keeping with the school's mission and Quaker values, each fall and spring Oakwood students and faculty volunteer in non-profits throughout the Hudson Valley. Projects range from harvesting at farms, assisting at child care centers, trail maintenance and spending time with animals at local shelters.

Charlie Butts is a life-long resident of Poughkeepsie whose grandfather, Ralph F. Butts, was Mayor of the City from 1920-21. He grew up around the corner from Clinton Elementary on Academy Street and walked to the school. Together with Oakwood seniors, Charlie returned to his alma mater to assist with a garden bench project with the help of third graders in Mrs. Sullivan's class. The group painted and planted two handmade planter benches for the school's outdoor garden area. These colorful benches, built by Oakwood students and summer program participants over the past several years, are scattered at locations throughout the City including Waryas Park, Pulaski Park and the dog park on Wilbur Avenue. Oakwood's newest initiative with the benches is partnering with local elementary schools so that area children can enjoy them as well.

Reflecting on his return to Clinton Elementary, Charlie commented, "It's great to be back in my old neighborhood and have a chance to work together with students from my current and former schools. I remember walking these halls, working as a "safety monitor" and visiting the corner store after school for penny candy. Everything certainly looks a lot smaller than I remember it!"

Libby Moroff Leadership Program



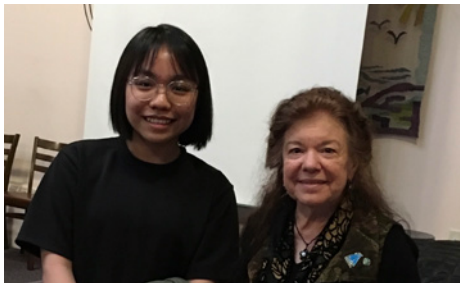
The Libby Moroff Leadership Program scholars have a busy spring ahead of them! From trips to Albany to advocate for farmworker rights, life-saving mental health programs and critical environmental safeguards for the Hudson River to working locally and on campus, these students will be using their voices to ensure that equal labor rights are afforded to all workers and that adequate funds are allocated for these important programs.

Juniors and seniors apply to be a part of the leadership program founded in the spring of 2017 in honor of former board president Libby Moroff '54. Social activism was at the core of Libby's career and these students are following in her footsteps by pursuing their passion for a wide array of issues. With four returning students from last year and eight new members, the group is taking on topics ranging from access to education for students with disabilities and protecting the Hudson River to racial justice and sponsoring a rural school in Belize. These student-led projects give participants the opportunity to delve into an issue area of concern with support from their peers and program coordinator, Julie Okoniewski.

By the end of the spring term, members of the group will implement their projects in a variety of ways including writing op-eds to local papers, scheduling guest speakers for Community Meeting, creating podcasts, and lobbying in Albany. This hands-on program, which is run like a club and meets during lunch, encourages students to turn their passion into action through creative, self-designed initiatives. We look forward to seeing what this dynamic group of students accomplishes in the coming term!

Anh Ho '20 Publishes Op-Ed

Libby Moroff Leadership Program participant Anh Ho '20 from Vietnam penned the Op-Ed below that was published in the Poughkeepsie Journal on December 21, 2018.



Anh Ho '20 with Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater at a recent climate change event

The existence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is strongly associated with our health. It keeps air and water clean. The EPA acts not only to protect human health, but it also helps us fight against global warming, a persistent problem today.

As a Vietnamese boarding student in a school in Poughkeepsie, I feel grateful that the EPA has cooperated with Vietnam to reduce its environmental issues. It also has discussions and workshops to help people better understand the quality of water and air in Vietnam. For a country of about 1.5 million people suffering from respiratory illnesses due to air pollution each year, the partnership with the EPA is very meaningful.

The EPA is globally significant, not just for Americans. Cutting off the EPA budget means we're risking our own health. It is time to protect the EPA, not weaken it.

Anh Ho
Junior, Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie

Reflections: 50 years after Oakwood

The following are excerpts from the Class of 1968 reunion booklet:

Jack Jennings '68
Hey my Oakies "sixty Eighters " Sisters & Brother ..can you believe it - it's been 50 years! WOW ..YES!! I'm coming and gonna have fun! I'm bringing "Nina" my wife & "Dakotah" my 16 year old daughter! (My oldest daughter "Nadia" is in London ..Boo she can't come & Sam the dog can't make it too!) .But YES!...I'm so excited!! Hey Eric, Paul, Larry...any of the "Five Flies" coming? (to Rock it Out!) All I can say it's been such a long time and I miss all of my Oakie Brothers & Sisters so much! Groove out and get down in the dug out! So anyway let's have some fun! YES! See Ya SOON! PEACE & LOVE



Alina Kaplan '68
"Coming from Israel, where most people share the same religion and culture, my time at Oakwood, besides being fun, and giving me lifelong friends whose friendship I cherish, taught me about tolerance, widened my horizons and opened me to appreciate the diversity in people and cultures that are different from mine.

After Oakwood, I moved back and forth from Tel Aviv to NY, but have been living in Israel for the last 33 years. My 30-year-old son just recently got married and I love working as an Art and Sand play therapist, which keeps me playful and creative, while dancing and swimming in our wonderful Mediterranean helps keep me feeling young."



Shelley Raker Pick '68
I am so grateful for my Oakwood education. It set a strong foundation for the next 50 years, which have flown by & been grand. I have lived in many countries, worked in fashion, had a long happy marriage with children & grandchildren, and now reside in the south of France making olive oil & honey. How lucky we all are to share the memories of our high school years together.



Ernan Roman '68
"I was raised by activist parents and continue to try to make a difference. My Taking Action group has been participating in voter registration drives and organizing community meetings to stimulate awareness, dialogue and actions in support of humane immigration policies and legal reforms, rational gun control legislation, sustainable climate change policies and women's rights issues in society and the workplace. In April 2018, I received the "Good Guy" award from the Center for the Women of New York, for starting a community action group to support progressive causes and elect officials who support these causes. I served as a board member of Free the Children for 12 years.

I will never forget these gifts from Oakwood; introduction to pottery with Ms. Willis, a deep appreciation of poetry with Mr. Royal and the intellectual awakening of those years as we immersed ourselves in politics, social issues and music of the 60's."



Linda Thomas '68
"My life has been a surprisingly circuitous adventure, and some credit for the grounding that informed the navigation of my journey can be attributed to my Oakwood experience. Rather than offer up a tedious linear chronology of life events, I'll just share a few anecdotes that have defined me: 1968-69 was an intensely political freshman year at NYU (for which I had been well prepped by Oakwood), but I subsequently left university to enroll at H.B. Studio – intensive, immersive studies in advanced acting/theatre technique, training mostly with Uta Hagen for the better part of 12 years. I loved it, and in time, I got pretty good at it. I adored the craft; abhorred the business. Was afforded magnificent opportunities to work around the globe for extraordinary playwrights and exciting productions across the U.S., London and Australia. Dreams come true.

In 1971, I decided I needed to leave the theatre and the USA for a while and go where the wind blew me -- while I had the means and the time. Spun a globe, closed my eyes and pointed, and my finger landed on Brazil. So, I went. I had planned to stay in Rio for an initial two weeks; wound up staying there for two years. Yeah, there are a few stories that came with that, and I'm lucky to be alive. Overland hitchhiking 2k mi up the east coast almost to the Amazon, overland all the way across to Bolivia, and south by bus, through Uruguay to Buenos Aires. Incomparable adventure."



Alumni Weekend
May 17-19, 2019

Friday, May 17th

2:30pm	Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter '51 Social Justice Lecture Speaker: Author and Journalist Amitava Kumar
6:00pm	Welcome Reception & Buffet Dinner in Dining Hall
8:00pm	Spring musical production *Godspell* A.H. Lane Auditorium

Saturday, May 18th

9:00am	Registration & Breakfast
10:00am	Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Community Meeting
12:00pm	Lunch under the tent & Class Photographs
1-3:00pm	Open Gym for families with young children
2:00pm	Reception for Class of 1969 - Head's house
3:00pm	Tea in Collins Library - Art Show & Oak Store Campus Tour - meet in front of Main Building
4:30pm	Reception for Oak Tree Club - (Class of 1968 & prior) 10 Year Reunion at Bertucci-Miller house, Class of 2009
6:00pm	Festive Dinner
8:00pm	Spring musical production *Godspell* A.H. Lane Auditorium

Sunday, May 19th

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

Class Notes



1946

Betty Nunn Moon Kramer – I'm still living in Gainesville, FL at a CCRC, Oak Hammock at University of Florida. Husband Buddy and I are trying out the nineties to see how we like it. If we do, we may stay until 100.

1948

Beatrice Scherf Campione – Still a volunteer at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge – 30 years!

1949

Harvey Seymour – 70 years ago I was a senior at Oakwood under faculty members such as Alfred Henderson – a Quaker and a science teacher who belongs in the rarefied atmosphere of a Jimmy Carter or a Naomi Klein. My Oakwood memories still guide me on what I'm doing and where I'm going – so thank you, Oakwood, very much.

1950

Artist **Jarvis Rockwell** has a new large-scale exhibition, titled "Us," at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams, MA.



Jarvis Rockwelll with Mass MoCA curator Alexandra Foradas

1952

Best wishes to **Roger and Joso Bullard** at their new residence in Stamford, CT.

Andrew Harkness – Should the works of Ayn Rand be read and debated at Oakwood?

Anne MacDougall Preuss – I have lived for 10 years at Kendal at Lexington in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I do a lot of writing and painting and edit the community literary magazine.

1953

Taffy Thunick Hoffman – I am living in an active senior facility. I find myself speaking about Oakwood frequently, as people often discuss their past and where they came from. Oakwood, I say, "made me who I am".

1954

Peter Mickelsen – It was a busy year at the ranch – logging, roofing, excavating and building. Our son, Marshall, continues to improve from the head injury with goal of living independently with-in the coming year.



Linda Rahl Nadas – Here on Bull Road in Rock Tavern, NY, I am still making clay pots and sculptures. I am happy making things from clay. I guess I love the material. Working with clay is a special time. It is possible to meditate in the studio. Wishing all a great and wonderful 2019.

1955

Robine Andrau – I, along with several of my 'ex-laws' who were about to turn or had turned 80, gave ourselves a birthday bash with a live band. I kicked up my heels and danced with…my rolling walker! I'm hoping to take my family on a visit to the Northwest this summer. Any suggestions for what to see? Randrau@comcast.net

Congratulations to Robine on the publication of her fascinating book: Bowing to the Emperor: We Were Captives in WWII.

1956

Susie Deane-Miller shared a tune with Oakwood 6th graders at her Poughkeepsie home. The students were completing their treasure hunt - part of their science mapping unit - and enjoying their treasure treats. Thank you, Susie!



Molly Lynn Watt – The Cambridge Cohousing community Dan and I are co-founders of celebrated it's 20th anniversary this year. We have found energy and community every day as we live in our 1,083 sq.ft. on the third floor & commute by bike or foot to Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement – almost like living at Oakwood!

1957

"Spin & Win," an interactive work by Warwick artist **Jonathan Talbot** was featured in the inaugural exhibition at the Center for Contemporary Political Art in Washington, DC. "Spin & Win" has also been shown in *"Raised Voices: Artists Resist"* in Brattleboro, VT, 2018; *"We The People"* at the Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, NY, 2017, and *"Politicked Off"* at the Milkweed Gallery in Sugarloaf, NY, 2016.



1958

Jim Davis – Moved from Woodstock, NY to Marlton, NJ after Joan, my wife of 48 yars, passed away in April. My younger daughter and family live nearby. Also, since last December, I am in a wheelchair fulltime due to a nerve disorder. I have a 24/7 caregiver. It is a big adjustement, but I keep busy with PT and playing duplicate bridge. The bridge carries over from Oakwood.

1959

Susan Stein Stephens - Hope to see class of '59 folks at Alumni get-to-gether in May, 2019. Life at Freedom Plaza is just great! Come see why.

1960

Richard Merriss – Teaching Qi Gong in Petaluma, CA.

1961

Rob Blackman – The perspective of time continues to augment my appreciation and gratitude for my Oakwood years that were foundational and transformational. The Malibu, CA fires torched my property but left my house intact. Smoke damage will keep us out of our place another 3 weeks, but we are all safe and sound. Everything else is just 'stuff'.

1963

Martha Richdale – It has been a year and a half since my beloved Bill passed away…18 months of deep grieving and emotional/spiritual growth. As a result of this painful loss, I have 'inherited' my

delightful 27-year-old step-son, Michael Gough, who brings so much joy to my life. My 'third son' is in Air Force Security Forces, now stationed at Andrews Air Force Base. The sun shines brighter every day. I am truly blessed.

1964

Congratulations to **Pamela Tinnes Lord** who published her first children's book, *Furry Tales*, in May 2018. A copy of her book is now in the Oakwood Friends School library. In Pam's words: "I started writing a children's book in 2016. Friends who helped me with the endeavor encouraged me to try to get it published. We were at our daughter's annual Buddy Walk when I heard an ad for Page Publishing. When we got home, we checked them out. They cater to first time authors, promising to read but not to publish unless they like the story. I can honestly say I never thought they would say yes. They did and in May of this year I had my book in hand. Got my first royalty check in August. What a feeling!"

1965

John Blackman – Retired from the County of Los Angeles as an attorney in child support.

Tess Coppoc DeNies – Not much news lately. My husband and I are retired physical therapists for 2 years. Our daughter is living in Batavia with her husband. We have a grand-dog and a grand-cat. Mark and I have traveled to places like Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Iceland, etc. We are active in church and other groups despite the typical trials and tribulations of old age.

Congratulations to **Walter Effron,** 2nd generation owner of Three Arts Bookstore on Collegeview Avenue in Poughkeepsie. His bookstore was featured in the Southern Dutchess News on the occasion of Small Business Saturday. The store was opened by Walter's parents, Jesse and Lillian Effron, in 1946, featuring books, music and artist supplies. The store is directly across the street from Vassar College.

David Sitomer – Renewed my warranties!! Eye, colon & hip surgeries.

1967

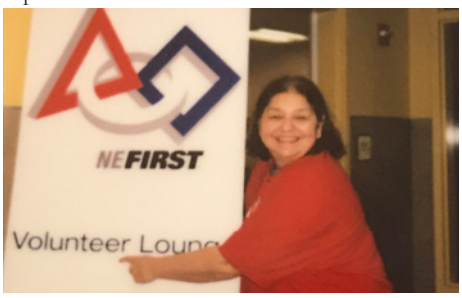
Philip Richmond – Just back from a 10-day visit to Prague and Budapest. Very interesting and important histories. Assuming that my paper is accepted, I will finish my graduate work this December. However, I may elect to defer the cap & gown tradition until next spring as there is probably one more course that I may take. One's learning should not cease because a certificate is achieved. OFS is always in my thoughts.

1969

Chuck Schwartz – Things are looking up. Looking forward to May – 50th reunion. My daughter's boyfriend told my wife and me that he plans on getting married to our daughter. They live in Brooklyn and work in Manhattan. My sister has been living in the upper west side for 30 years and my urologist, who killed my cancer, works in Manhattan. Been spending more time in NYC than ever.

1970

Theresa Riley Baron – Here I am judging the FLL (LEGO) competition – third one this year. It is amazing how the young kids can come together and solve a problem in a 5-minute time frame. Great hope for our future.



Helen Claxton – All the best '70ers. You're in my thoughts always.

Gary Slutzky – Who knew when I left Oakwood in the spring of 1968, that I would ever return? I've been back twice. This past spring, I was invited by several alumna friends and I was glad I went to the 50th for the class of 1968. I reunited with a few alums who 50 years ago, seemed so much older than me. Now, we're all the same age. I was glad to reunite, including with Henry Hidell.

1974

Karen Knowles – I will not be able to attend the 45th reunion in the spring – I will be river rafting the Colorado River in Utah. I would sure like to see everyone – the 50th for sure!

Carrie Ann Stern – Life is good. I moved to Rhode Island 7 years ago and see Jennifer Wilkie Brandon, Cathy Wilkie and Debbie Lynn often. We all live between 10 minutes and an hour of one another. We also see Becky Rothey (Rebecca Pasiencier Rothey) whenever she comes to New England during our summers. It's been awesome to get together.

1976

William Bogle, Jr. – Carol and I are loving living in the South Carolina low country. It affords me great opportunity for photography. I updated my website at www.BoglePhoto.com. Please go there to check out my work.

1986

Padoue Marra and his wife Marie stopped by campus in October and visited with his former teacher Charlie Butts. They live in North Carolina.



1990

Dylan Cristy – is married to Michelle Belville. They live in DC and both work at NASA.

1991

Congratulations to **Georgia Tetlow, M.D.**, for being selected by her peer physicians as a 2018 Mainline Today Top Doctor. Georgia is the founder of the Philadelphia Integrative Medicine practice. She returned to Oakwood in 2014 to speak at winter reunion.

1992

Many thanks to **Ben Daitz** for hosting an Oakwood alumni gathering at one of his Num Pang Kitchen restaurant locations in NYC! And congratulations on the birth of his son Sage Kingston Daitz!

Matthew Jones – Finished up yearly open Martial Arts tournament. It was a wonderful showcase of diversity, talent and skill from participants of all ages and walks of life.

1993

Congratulations to **Jessica Kimelman** and her husband Tommy Cho on the birth of their daughter Isla Paullina Cho on September 22.



1996

Congratulations to **Eliot Harrison** and wife Heather on the birth of their son Hunter Nakatani Harrison on November 18, 2018.

2004

Congratulations to **Frank McGinnis** who starred as Sam in "Ghost, the Musical," at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck in October. The Up In One production is based on the 1990 Oscar winning film "Ghost."

2007

Congratulations to **Jon Pesner** and Desiree Conway who were married on the Oakwood campus on September 1, 2018.



Congratulations on your new additions:

Josie Trefz on the birth of her second son, Griff Wyatt, on December 18, 2018!

Zerui Zhu on the birth of her daughter Catalina!

Emma (Melchior-Schultz) Henning and husband Brian Henning on the birth of their daughter Elliot Grace Henning!

Adam Benzinger recently launched *Laughing Gut Kombucha* out of the newly renovated Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory. Best of luck on this exciting business endeavor!

Thank you **Li Guo** for facilitating a virtual conversation with current international students from China during winter reunion in January. Via Skype, Li fielded questions with 15 upper school students about making the most of their time at Oakwood and planning for college and careers in the future. Li earned his BA from Boston University and his Master's from the University of Chicago.

2008

Zack Federbush's piece "Haunting" will be showcased in Local Project's "Love/Hate" Winter Group Exhibition in Queens/Long Island City! Congratulations Zack!



2009

Congratulations to former student clerk **Jonathan (JP) Powers** '09 and **Jennifer Kennett** '08 who were married on September 29, 2018. Fellow alumna **Kelsey Kleidman** '09 of Ke-Li Photography was their wedding photographer. Jen and JP planted an oak tree at their ceremony to commemorate having met and started dating at Oakwood in 2007.



Mariah Lewis Purcell – Things rarely seem to go as planned. After graduating from the University of Montana last month with my M.Ed., I was thrilled to accept a position teaching preschool in Missoula. I'm enjoying experiencing the whole spectrum of education; from [student] teaching AP English and English 12, to middle school social studies and ELA, to working on a collaborative elementary school research project... and now teaching preschool! While the goal is still to eventually work my way into a secondary English classroom, in the meantime, I'm going to enjoy my circle lessons/activities, snack time, arts and crafts projects, and discussing Moana and Frozen with little humans.



Peter Zimmerman's pilot DESTROY ALL HUMANS is being produced for an upcoming podcast anthology by Venus Radio Theater. Congratulations Peter!

2011

Jill Poskanzer's short story "Lost" was awarded the Annual Birdwhistle Prize in Fiction from Noble / Gas Qrtly.

2013

Rui (Ray) Gao graduated from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia where he received his Master of Finance and Banking degree.



2016

Last fall **Ben Whipple** spent 10 weeks in the Ghorka region of Nepal, an area devastated by an earthquake in 2015. As a volunteer for Raleigh International, he worked with a local and international crew on clean water infrastucture, which included digging ditches for pipes and building tap stations. He also helped to teach schoolchildren in the area about importance of handwashing, teeth brushing, and other aspects of personal hygiene. He is currently traveling and studying social innovation/entrepreneurship in Uganda, India, and Brazil with the International Honors Program, part of the School for International Training.

2017

Parfait Bizimana met with **Cyril Uebbing** '20 over Thanksgiving break in Buffalo, NY.



Faculty & Friends

Congratulations to **Jean and Fred Doneit** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Linz, Germany this summer.

Donna & Brian Fry – I treasure my four years as Admissions Director '88-'92 and the rich experience living in a culturally diverse community so focused on teaching and living out social justice values. Donna also loved doing health education at Oakwood and being part of the nursing office while obtaining her RN license. Donna is now retired from public health nursing and I am semi-retired but working pretty regularly as a school bus driver. Oak Leaves still impresses me with remarkable stories showing the school accomplishing its mission as much or more than ever.

Congratulations to Assistant Business Manager **Denise Gralton** and Vincent Eagan who were married on August 3, 2018.



Music Director **Ted Messerschmidt** travelled to Anchorage, AK, in December to participate in a musical performance at the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center. Ted did his grad and post-grad work looking at the positive roles music can play within our correctional system and society as a whole.

Congratulations to Middle School Director **Ricci Scott** and Saddan Alma-Bueno on the birth of their baby daughter Emmy Madeline on October 24, 2018.



Congratulations to Berg & Moss Architects who designed the new Studios Building at the Randolph School in Wappingers Falls. **Chris Berg** is the parent of current student Milla '23 and **Jonathan Moss**' son Parker was a Middle Schooler. The American Institute of Architects - Westchester & Hudson Valley Design Awards Committee has selected the building for a Design Award to be presented at a Celebration of Architecture ceremony in Greenwich, CT.

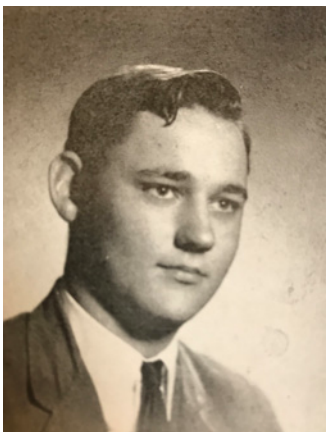
Former history teacher, **David Kehlenbeck** was married to Ginny Wortham on February 2, 2019 in Richmond, VA. Congratulations!



Senior Joe Chen represented Oakwood's team "Quivering Quakers" at the Alzheimer's Association's 'Sub Zero Hero' icy plunge on February 9, 2019! Joe bravely jumped into a frozen lake to support Alzheimer's research and local programs at this annual event run by Oakwood parent **Lauren Greif Voorhees** (Matthew '17). Oakwood parent, CIA Chef and Professor **Scott Swartz** (Sam '22) set up a hot chocolate bar to warm spectators and participants!



Remembering Bert Smiley '62



Oakwood Friends School lost a distinguished alumnus and wonderful friend when Albert Keith Smiley III passed away on October 16, 2018. Known affectionately as Bert, he was described with these words at a reception held at the Smiley family's historic Mohonk Mountain House: "With quiet confidence, a brilliant mind, and a dry wit, Bert worked tirelessly over decades to preserve the Mountain House and his family's legacy. His wisdom and insights, his ability to hold simultaneously a vision of the future and to craft the means of getting there were admired and appreciated by all. Bert lived with integrity – a kind person who appreciated others, and was, in return, loved, respected, and trusted by those around him. He has touched many lives and will be deeply missed."

Bert was greatly admired by his Oakwood classmates back in his school days and in his adult life. Tom Ditto reminisced about his high school friend: "I convinced Bert to jump into calculus with me because we needed enough students to hold the class. I completely underestimated what was going on under his bonnet. Bert was methodical, diligent and studious. Soon "I get it" started erupting from his desk and in short order Bert eclipsed me mathematically. It was his tutoring that eventually helped drag me across the finish line in that class." Bert worked for Irence Csordas '48 for his work study. She remembers him fondly. "Bert was such a wonderful boy. One year, when I was working at Oakwood, he was assigned to me for his work-study job. Always serious, prompt and detailed, Bert would meet the Coca Cola truck promptly and always keep the fridge stocked and ready in the student lounge." Classmate Judy White Komer speaks for many: "Bert led an amazing life and was so well respected even during his years at Oakwood. He will be missed by all of us who knew him."

Bert grew up at Mohonk and returned there for summer jobs while a student at Oakwood. After graduation, he earned a degree in mathematics from Syracuse University, then went to NYU as a research associate at the Courant Institute for Advanced Mathematics. In 1973, he met his future wife Nina Feldman who was a senior at Vassar College. They married a year later and went to Princeton University for graduate study. Bert earned a PhD in economics with a focus on industrial organization. For ten years he worked for the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division as the Director of Research focusing on public policy analysis. In 1990, Bert and Nina returned to Mohonk where Bert became the president and CEO and Nina became the Director of Marketing. Bert continued in that role until his retirement in June 2018.

As a fourth-generation leader of the resort, Bert was passionate about Mohonk's mission of historic preservation. In 2011, 874 acres of Mohonk Mountain House land was transferred to the Open Space Institute to ensure the land's preservation for future generations. In 2017, the Smiley family was named "Legendary Family Historic Hoteliers of the Year" by the Historic Hotels Worldwide at their annual Awards of Excellence. Bert believed that the strength of the business lay in its community of staff. He considered them his extended Mohonk family.



Bert and Nina at Mohonk

Bert was devoted to Oakwood Friends School and to his class of 1962. Former head of school Peter Baily spoke about knowing Bert: "He cared very personally for his alma mater and for the succession of heads he knew and supported beginning with his student days. Bert also made time for a friendship with me, which I hold to this day as a blessing and a gift. I will always feel Bert's spirit here at Mohonk, both in this historic home and in the woods and cliffs beyond, and of course on the Oakwood campus that was his high school home."

"In the work that I do every day with our students and within our school, I draw inspiration from alumni with vision, alumni of character, and those able to reflect deeply, act decisively and who, through collaboration and action help create a strong enduring community. Bert's light serves as a shining example on all these fronts."

Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

IN MEMORY

Alice Landis Tonry '39
July 5, 2016

Lucinda White Lohr '40
November 5, 2018

Janet Stone '46
December 22, 2018

John Gilbert '49
June 28,2016

Tedye Lenore Thompson '49
October 13, 2018

Johanne Haberstro Trotter '49
September 14, 2018

Mary Atherton Varchaver '49
April 5, 2018

Rosalee Haviland Boissy '50
October 13, 2016

Susan Hart Cayanne '52
October 2018

Richard White '52
January 5, 2019

Richard G. Knapp '58
January 2019

Albert K. Smiley III '62
October 16, 2018

Richard Holtz '63
February 10, 2019

John Helfrick '65
October 23, 2017

Tara Tighe '84
January 7, 2019

Oak Leaves
Winter 2018-19

ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

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2019 Spring School Calendar

April 2	Breakfast with the Head
April 5	Arts Lecture – Allison Loggins-Hull '01
April 23	Earthshare Day
May 3	Herzog Lecture – Zach Coto '10
May 17-18	Spring Musical Production *Godspell*
May 17	Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture – Amitava Kumar
May 17-19	Alumni Weekend
May 22	Spring Concert
June 5	Middle School Moving Up/ Academic Showcase
June 6	Senior Dinner & Meeting for Worship
June 7	Commencement

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Winter Fun



Winter Fun Circa 1949