

Oak Leaves

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

Crowley & Stokes 50 Years – An Update

May 2, 1970 was declared Crowley-Stokes Day on the Oakwood campus for the dedication of two new classroom buildings named in honor of two retired teachers, cherished members of the Oakwood Friends community: Ida Brownell Stokes, history teacher from 1944 to 1960, and Martha V. Crowley, English teacher from 1951 to 1966.

The building project began two years earlier following the devastating fire that destroyed the Old Boys' Dorm which had also served as a classroom building. Rather than re-build at greater expense, the board of managers decided to construct twin one-story buildings to replace the classroom space lost to the fire. The buildings were put to good use over the years, and in 1986, Oakwood's first computer lab was housed in Stokes.



Building under construction 1968-1969

In 1993, Lila Gordon, head of school from 1992 to 2000, launched Oakwood Friends School's Middle School as a separate division of the school, opening with eight students in the 7th and 8th grades. The new program was specifically designed to meet the academic and developmental needs of this age group. Over previous decades, 8th grade classes at Oakwood were incorporated into the high school. The new Middle School was housed in Crowley and Stokes, and by 1999, a 6th grade was added to the program.

Today the Middle School is thriving with 55 students enrolled in grades 5 to 8, designated middle school faculty, a robust academic program, and a strong sense of community within the larger Oakwood community. In this issue of Oak Leaves, Director Ricci Alma-Bueno describes how this unusual year has progressed and the many ways that middle school students and faculty have worked toward their goals with creativity, cooperation, and great Oakwood spirit.

Fifty years ago, and today, thoughtful leaders step forward to strengthen Oakwood and to meet the changing needs of our students. Fifty years on, the Stokes and Crowley buildings are ready for updates! Thanks to the initiative and generosity of several members of the board of managers, an



Artist's rendering of new Middle School quad

exciting new project is underway to enhance both indoor and outdoor learning spaces to support our humanities, science, and sustainability curricula for the Middle School. Working with Chris Berg, current Middle and Upper School parent, and Beacon-based architect, the plan includes the purchase of new furniture and equipment for classrooms, re-design of the hallways for better traffic flow, and relocation of the science classroom to be adjacent to Turner Math & Science Building and the four-season greenhouse. Outdoors, a new designated Middle School quad will provide a landscaped patio and seating spaces, and additional area for activities: mural spaces for student projects and design; an outdoor science lab including a geodesic dome chicken coop! Designs will be finalized, and work will begin this spring with a completion date of summer 2021.

We are grateful to Don Spencer, Bob Hidell, and Phil Richmond '67 for initiating this important project. Thank you! 🍷



1970: from left, John E. Taylor, Ida Stokes, Martha Crowley, and Head of School John Jennings at dedication of new buildings.



Geodesic dome chicken coop



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Finding Our Way Winter 2021

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



By noon on February 1st this year, Oakwood had more snow on the ground than the last half decade of Februaries combined. As the nor'easter continued to intensify, my son continued to eye the recycling nervously, having been

tasked to deliver it across campus by the dining hall the night before.

Procrastination was rewarded with gale-force winds and intensifying snowfall. Resolved to fate, contents lashed to toboggan, he set upon his journey.

Inspiration reveals itself in the oddest times. Small moments of resolve, creativity, and commitment have been on display every day on the Oakwood campus this year. Families, faculty, students, and our com-

munity adapt. This fall we prepared for and supported in-person learning with no disruption in schedule and no COVID cases within the student/faculty/staff community. This winter, as data shifted, we focused on health, well-being, and academic support of students with a move to remote learning. And now, with several of our boarding students already back in the dorms, we are preparing for a supportive and engaging spring term of in-person learning.

Resolve, creativity, flexibility, and understanding have strengthened our programming this year and are laying a foundation of growth and expansion for years to come. Faculty invent new ways of learning in real-time, preparing double lessons each week for remote and in-person classes. Students adapt with conversations, labs, performances, presentations, and weekly Silent Meeting - supported by Zoom across cities and continents. Despite COVID's isolation, we remain deeply connected.

As we adapt, students, parents, and community join for online discussions. 'Oakie's' from the 1940's create art with current middle schoolers and their parents during virtual evening workshops. Board, alumni, and friends continue to invest in our future. And while the pandemic restricted movement, we creatively looked forward, completing a two-million-dollar major theater renovation; a project 100 years in the making!



A walk to the recycling bin.

This year has expanded our thinking and deepened our connections. With students returning to the dorms and the promise of spring only weeks away, I can think of no better time to be part of this Oakwood community. I am excited for the work ahead... and if there is another nor'easter this month, I will let Andy sleep in and pull the next toboggan across campus myself. 📷

Parent Gathering and Auction Supports Annual Fund

This year's Annual Wine Dinner and Auction was like none other! Rather than gathering together in person as we have for the past 15 years, we came together on Zoom for a two-part event including a wine tasting experience hosted by long time sponsors Tim and Laurel Sweeney (Sean '09) of Stone Ridge Wine and Spirits. This unique, interactive hour was followed by a virtual gathering celebrating student musical and visual artists. The festive evening was shared by parents, faculty, board members and guests.

Thank you to Amy Solis, parent of Siena '24 and clerk of the 2021 Parent Dinner for her hard work helping to shift to a virtual event. Featured student musical performances were: freshman **Camila Kramb** on saxophone, junior **Luisa Capetillo** on cello and senior **Alex Turk** debuting a track from their new album. We are especially grateful to three local businesses who sponsored the event this year: Berg-Moss Architects (Chris and Erin Berg, parents of Milla '23 and Corbin '27), Bottini Fuel,

and Rondack Construction. Thank you!

Through the generosity of all our auction item donors and event attendees, we raised over \$14,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: Michelle Alumkal & Jeffrey Yang, Dylan Assael & Kara Dean-Assael, Alexandra Baer & Guy Barroilhet, Bottini Fuel, Lisa Cahn, Camp Cody, Chad & Sue Cianfrani, Amy & Bob Cook, Dave & Laurie Craft, Caroline Danford, Sarah & Michael Daubman, De's Jewelers, Maish Freedman, Pedrito & Karen George, John & Wendy Gilvey, Stephen Hopkins & Erin Castle, Hudson Beach Glass, Jim Haskin & Amy Husten, Claribel & Don Pearce, Robert J. Pfeifer, Andrea Pyros & Leonard Nevarez, Mary Redmond & Eli Schloss, Derek & Rachelle Reis-Larson, Sharon & Oliver Siodmak, Robert E. Sokol '63, Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, Alys & Daniel Sullivan, Oona Sullivan '21 and Laurel & Tim Sweeney. 📷



Sean '09, Laurel & Tim Sweeney – Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits

"I think often of the good work and good people at Oakwood. Thanks for living and teaching the Quaker values."

– John Hunter '64



Oakwood Parent Association (OPA) Leadership Council

By: Amy Solis, parent, Siena '24



When the Oakwood Parents' Association (OPA) was formed in 2015, the mission was clear - support school activities and initiatives, enhance communications, and build a thriving inclusive community of Oakwood parents. While the mission remains much the same, the group's structure has changed with the times. Originally OPA was led by a parent volunteer clerk or two co-clerks who oversaw all aspects of parental involvement in the mission. Over time it became clear that it was difficult for any one or two people to manage this year long commitment fully and effectively.

Oakwood parent Alysa Wishingrad (Owen '17 & Oona '21) approached the active members of OPA last summer with a new suggested plan. Why not create a structure where volunteer parents are responsible for an endeavor or strength of their choosing? These endeavors would be termed "Branches" and each Branch leader would be responsible for ownership and communication within their group. No longer would one person shoulder the responsibility to connect, communicate and manage all of OPA's initiatives. The Branch Leaders would then together comprise a Leadership Council in which each leader would have an equal say in the communications and governance of OPA.

The OPA Leadership Council sprouted this summer and has since allowed for a wider net to be cast for parent volunteers. Under this new structure OPA can diversify leadership opportunities, allow short-term or long-term parental involvement in any area, and open the door wider for parental initiatives suited to a parent's particular passion, interest, or expertise. All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in all Branches they desire and are invited to initiate a new Branch. The Leadership Council meets a few times a year to discuss initiatives, outreach, and any proposed new Branches.

With pandemic restrictions this year, gone are opportunities to support on campus events, assist borders who needed holiday stays with families, connect socially in person and start

new projects. But out of the ashes comes a chance to reflect on what we *can* do in our new and hopefully temporary environment. With a greater need to try to connect with everyone, a revised mission was crafted:

OPA's Mission is to create and sustain an informative and collaborative network to enhance communication among parents and to foster community at Oakwood Friends School using the following building blocks:

SUPPORT: Parent to parent focused communication and grade level guidance

CONNECTION: Parent to parent social opportunities

COMMUNITY: Meaningful parental presence in supportive events and service opportunities

Today's Branches include:

- Social Branch – parent gatherings to share what is important in your world. Good news about your kiddo's accomplishments, hobbies or interests you would like to share, ideas for passing pandemic time, etc. Get to know others and make new connections!
- Parent Partnership Branch – a summer outreach effort to welcome new parents to our school community. New parents are partnered with returning parents in small groups called ROOTs, which then plan gatherings to foster a supportive transition.
- Staff Appreciation Branch – a group of parent volunteers who help to acknowledge and support the dedicated efforts of Oakwood's faculty and staff.
- Anti-Racism Branch – an opportunity to build community, share stories and ideas, listen deeply with compassion, witness, and support each other around challenging topics of race, racism, and white privilege.
- Annual Wine Dinner and Auction Branch – help with planning and outreach to other parents for auction donations, sponsors, and attendees to support Oakwood's Annual Fund through a fun "night out."
- Communication Branch - sharing news about events or information about OPA and other school-wide events and topics, contributing items for OPA's "Connections," a weekly email update for parents. Volunteers can share info at any time to the opa@oakwoodfriends.org

Projects and passions are always welcome and considered. The Leadership Council is looking forward to the day when we can all connect in person once more. OPA is what we make it – a community of parents committed to the success of Oakwood families! 📍

Local Leaders Share Their Work

This fall we hosted two local non-profit leaders making a difference in the Hudson Valley through virtual Community Meetings. In October we heard from L'Quette Taylor from Community Matters 2 – Inc. (CM2) in the City of Poughkeepsie. Founded in 2018, CM2 fosters connections between local Poughkeepsie organizations and area youth to build pride in the City. Taylor shared about their work addressing food insecurity during COVID, serving over 10,000 meals locally during the height of the pandemic. He also spoke about the socially distanced golf tournament they held in order to raise funds to support Poughkeepsie youth.



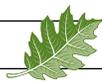
L'Quette Taylor

In November we were joined by Oakwood parent Kara Dean-Assael (Wiles - 9th grade) the co-founder of Fareground, Inc., a women-run food justice, anti-hunger organization dedicated to nourishing the community by increasing access to healthy and affordable food. She works closely at Fareground with fellow Oakwood parent Karen George (Armando - 7th grade), the President for Fareground Community Cafe, who was out in the field delivering meals during the Community Meeting.

These interactive meetings gave students and faculty the chance to ask questions of L'Quette and Kara, learning firsthand about their critical work with families in need in the Hudson Valley. We appreciate them both for sharing their time with us and look forward to volunteering with them in the future! 📍



Karen Dean-Assael and Karen George



Oakwood's Middle School Moving Forward

By Ricci Alma-Bueno, Director



We began the 2020-2021 school year with the exciting addition of the 5th grade class and our new 5th grade teacher Meghan Bishop. We also welcomed many new 6-8th grade students creating a need for two cohorts in both the 7th and 8th grades. The growth has been wonderful, infusing the Middle School community with fresh faces and new voices. We have two co-clerks, one new student, Sammi Iahn and one returning student who has been with us since 6th grade, Taseri Brown. Both students lead our weekly community meetings and are honing their leadership skills in their roles.

Much of the fall term on campus was influenced by COVID-19 protocols and procedures, and students and teachers alike rose to the challenge! We began to do many more things outside including eating lunch, holding Community Meeting and Meeting for Worship. While we were restricted in gathering as a community in the ways we are used to, being outside for these activities led us to realize what a great resource we have in our outdoor spaces, and we plan to continue holding more outdoor activities in the future.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

As we transitioned into remote learning this winter, students began to see teachers on a ten-day rotating schedule. Knowing that remote learning is not the ideal school environment, we made it a priority to include community gatherings in the schedule. Students continue to meet in advisory groups, community meetings and clubs as well as Meeting for Worship and small community connection sessions with the school counselor. Parents are also valuable members of the Oakwood Middle School community, so we have begun to host monthly parent meetings on Zoom which I co-host with Chad Cianfrani, Head of School. As the year progresses, we will welcome additional faculty to provide insight into our program and assist parents with navigating school with their middle schooler.

This year we also welcomed many new core faculty members to the Oakwood family. Our new Science, Art, English, Quakerism/Health and 5th grade teachers have been a wonderful addition to our community and updates on all the innovative things they are doing in their classes can be found on our newly created Middle School website.

Some of the projects we have completed include a traveling "museum" celebrating Hispanic Heritage month, weekly announcements featuring land acknowledgement which honors Native Americans, a food drive to provide full Thanksgiving meals for families in need and the painting of a Black Lives Matter mural. Overall, we are faring well during the pandemic and while we are looking forward to returning to school as we used to know it, we have found new ways to define and celebrate our community and the amazing people that are a part of it. 🍁



8th grader Samantha Iahn prepping food

Engaging Online

By Stephen Miller - Humanities Chair



Despite the pandemic, Oakwood continued its tradition of participation in the Model United Nations and Ethics Bowl programs. Rather than traveling to Montreal as we usually do, students instead took part in the virtual Boston University MUN conference, BosMUN, in February. This year Oakwood represented Colombia, Bolivia and the Philippines. Oakwood delegates also participated in specialized committees like the Kim Jung Un cabinet, the Trojan War, the British monarchy, the Roman Civil War and even represented Mitch McConnell in a US Senate committee!

For the fifth year in a row, Oakwood also participated in the National High School Ethics Bowl. Due to expanding interest across the nation, for the first time, Westchester County hosted an Ethics Bowl contest at Manhattanville College. Oakwood was asked to attend this event rather than the NYC one as a result. Oakwood brought two teams (remotely) to the Bowl, consisting of a great mix of students from 9th through 12th grades. Students were eager and confident to delve into deep and tricky ethical dilemmas! 🍁



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for making this our most successful
#GivingTuesday to date!
We raised over \$7000 from 40 donors
in just 24 hours! Thank you so much
to everyone who contributed and
shared our posts! We truly appreciate
it! Stay tuned for our next online
giving event on May 19, 2021



A Glimmer of Light

By: Lacey Fredericks, Chair, Math & Science Department



The transition to remote learning was not an easy one. With less contact time and increased focus on truly engaging while together, I have looked for ways to assess student mastery while not using valuable synchronous time to do so. This winter in my term-long elective called Mathematical Gems, we studied non-traditional math topics including Pascal's Triangle, Fractal Geometry, and Transfinite Set Theory. At the conclusion of each unit, I asked students to create a project that demonstrates their understanding of the essential concepts of that unit. I was nervous about the open-ended nature of this approach, but students quickly proved my worry was unnecessary!

Students were afforded freedom to design a project that spoke to their strengths, and they seized it as they produced video tutorials, Prezi presentations, Apple Books, mock interviews, and beautiful poster projects. This poster was created by Kishi Oyagi '23 at the completion of our study of Transfinite Set Theory. These trying circumstances pushed me out of my "traditional assessment" comfort zone and allowed my students to tap into their talents and interests in the mathematics classroom. A true glimmer of light! 🌟

"Oakwood was an incredibly special experience for me. In retrospect probably four of the happiest years of my life, and the invaluable lessons I learned went far beyond academics. I'm eternally grateful!"

- Carol Stokes '56



Ahem, hello... I'm Georg Cantor, and I'm here to teach you about set theory.

Looking Like... this. I suppose.

First, let's define what a set is, and what cardinality means.



This is a set of fruit. The cardinality of a set is simply the amount of things (which are called elements) inside the set.

This set of fruit has a cardinality of 5.

The Cardinality of a set can be represented like this: $\{ \text{fruit set} \}$ or this: $\overline{\text{fruit set}}$

When sets have the same cardinality, they have what's called a 1:1 correspondence. We can see this here:

fruit = shapes $\{ \text{triangle, circle, square} \} \{ \text{triangle, circle, square} \}$

We can see these sets have the same cardinality because they both have 3 elements, but we can also check this by matching each element in one set to the other (watermelon - triangle, apple - square, strawberry - circle). This'll become important...

...Right now! Now we're gonna talk about infinite sets, so from now on, no more counting allowed. We find 1:1 correspondence by matching elements together, in a way where there's no gaps or overlaps. Buckle up, this is gonna get funky.

This is how we represent the set of Natural numbers. We also use: \mathbb{N} or \mathbb{N}_0 (although technically \mathbb{N}_0 represents the cardinality of the Naturals)

The Naturals are what's called countably infinite, and actually have the same cardinality as a lot of other sets.

Believe it or not, all of $\mathbb{N} \pm \mathbb{N}^*$ these sets (and more!) have the same cardinality as the Naturals

\mathbb{Z} (the Integers) \mathbb{Q} (the Rationals) Even #'s, Odd #'s

You may be wondering how that's possible, when some of these sets have twice as many numbers or more than the Naturals, and some have only half as many. Well, it all has to do with creating well-ordered sets!

* \mathbb{N} = ANY finite number

For example, you may be scratching your head, looking at the Naturals and the Integers, wondering how they could have the same cardinality.

\mathbb{N} : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...
 \mathbb{Z} : ..., -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ...

But! If you look at it like this, you can see they both go on infinitely in the same direction. With this order, you'll never find an element in one set without a pair from the other; thus, they have a 1:1 correspondence and thus $\mathbb{N} = \mathbb{Z}$

\mathbb{N} : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, ...
 \mathbb{Z} : 0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3, 4, -4, 5, -5, ...

We can prove the Naturals have the same cardinality as all those other sets with a similar method!

\mathbb{N} : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, ...
 \mathbb{N}^2 : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, ...
 Evens: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, ...
 Perfect Squares: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, ...

It may seem strange and counterintuitive, but it's all just a property of infinite sets. Since they go on forever, you just have to find a pairing where we can see a 1:1 correspondence.

Once you've found a pairing that shows a 1:1 correspondence, you've proven both sets have the same cardinality. So, it's relatively easy to prove two sets have the same cardinality.

However, there are sets that do not have the same cardinality as the Naturals. The set of Real numbers is actually bigger than the set of Naturals, and I've proven it (which got me in big trouble back in 1874, lemme tell you).

$\mathbb{R} > \mathbb{N}$ Symbol for Real Numbers

Let's start with a game called Dodgeball. This game has six rounds, and in each round player 1 creates a sequence of x's and o's to fill one row, then player 2 fills one box in their row. The goal for player 1 is to create a row that is the same as player 2's, while player 2 has to "dodge" during each turn to create a unique sequence.

P1					
P2					

Play a few rounds, if you'd like. What you'll find is that player 2 is guaranteed to win-- that is, they're guaranteed to make a sequence that's different than all of player 1's-- if each turn they look at what player 1 put in the box they're about to fill, and put the opposite in their box.

P1	X	O	X	O	X
	X	O	X	O	X
	X	O	X	O	X
	X	O	X	O	X
	X	O	X	O	X
	X	O	X	O	X
P2	O	X	O	X	O

No matter what player 1 does, player 2 will always be able to create a sequence that is not on player 1's board, if they look at this diagonal and put the opposite in their row



Kishi Oyagi '23

Kishi participated in the Alumni Council's "Open Mic" night in December and shared her thoughts:

"It was really so cool to be here. I've heard about how old Oakwood is but it's always amazing to actually see alumni and realize I'm a part of this history of amazing people, and it's really uplifting and inspiring to see such a diverse group of people as well."

A Day in the Life of Nguyen Le '23 An Oakwood Boarder

The 2020-21 school year at Oakwood is unique in many ways – including the fact that our winter term found us with one boarder, international student Nguyen Le from Vietnam. Nguyen, a sophomore, was the one international student who was able to travel to the US this fall to begin his studies at Oakwood, but COVID-related travel issues prevented him from returning home for the winter break and remote interval so he remained in Craig dorm with the dorm parents in residence.

As with so many things at Oakwood, the community came together to support Nguyen during his time on campus this winter, even throwing a socially- distant birthday party for him and helping him celebrate his first stateside Christmas! Day student Aidan Cook '22 and his family have spent a good deal of time sharing meals with Nguyen both on campus and off, and he spent his break relaxing, cooking, watching movies and playing board games.

During the academic day he uses space in the Main building adjacent to the Admissions Team logging on for his remote classes. After school he spends time with the different dorm parents in Craig and on line with his friends. Once we resume in person learning, the remaining boarders will return and Nguyen will once again have a boarding community to spend time with after school and on the weekends. Until then, he'll get to enjoy his time as the only sole boarder in Oakwood's history! 📺

Now to prove $\mathbb{R} > \mathbb{N}$, let's first assume that we have two well-ordered sets of the Reals and the Naturals. This theoretical set supposedly shows a 1:1 correspondence.

\mathbb{N}	\mathbb{R}
1	3.567293011...
2	213.9821720...
3	8.000000000...
4	6031.842910...
⋮	⋮

let's imagine each Natural is paired with every single Real. Now we're going to tear this supposed 1:1 correspondence apart by finding M, the missing Real that's not in this set, which will prove this is not a 1:1 correspondence.

We use the same strategy player 2 used in Dodgeball to create a Real number that is not present in our theoretical 1:1 correspondence. We go down the set in this diagonal line, and every time we see a number that isn't 1, we change it to 1. Every time we see a 1, we change it to 2. This way we ensure we are creating a Real number that isn't in this set. We can do this to any sets that "show 1:1 correspondence," so we know that the Reals have a larger cardinality than the Naturals. Thus, while the Naturals are called countably infinite, $M = \{212, \dots\}$ the Reals are uncountably infinite.

So there are infinities larger than other infinities. Crazy, right? (Other mathematicians certainly thought so). But it gets so, so much bigger. Let's talk about Power Sets.

$X \text{ set} = \{a, b, c\}$

$P(X) = \{\{\}, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{ab\}, \{ac\}, \{bc\}, \{abc\}\}$

The Power Set of a set is a set that contains every possible combination of the elements in a given set. The cardinality of a power set is equal to 2^n where n represents the number of elements in the given set.

So, a Power Set is always bigger than the set it's made from. Therefore, if you make a Power Set of an infinite set...

$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$ $P(\mathbb{N}) = \{\{\}, \{1\}, \{12343\}, \{2121\}, \dots\}$

$\mathbb{R} = \{1.376, 0, -41, \dots\}$ $P(\mathbb{R}) = \{\{\}, \{0, -41\}, \{1\}, \dots\}$

Ohh yeah. And you can always make a Power Set of an existing set, including an existing Power Set. This means there are literally infinite infinities, ever expanding from Power Sets of Power Sets, Power Sets of Power Sets of Power Sets... You get the idea.

Like I've mentioned, all these ideas received major backlash from the math community when I first proposed them. It stressed me out so much it triggered my spiral into depression in 1884, and I was institutionalized. I switched to teaching philosophy after that for a while and my theories alienated me from mathematicians I greatly respected. I recovered, and made more discoveries and reconciled with some mathematicians, but there was a divide and a stain on my reputation that I never quite got rid of. I experienced much personal tragedy outside of my work as well, but I don't want to get into that at the moment.

But despite what Kronecker and so many others thought of me at first, saying my theories were "poisoning the youth" and whatnot, my work and legacy lived on to become a normalized, widely studied and widely taught field of mathematics.

And I've left you with one last idea that revealed a small but significant fracture within mathematics...

THE CONTINUUM HYPOTHESIS

This hypothesis is founded on the question: is there an infinity bigger than the Naturals \mathbb{N} but smaller than the Reals \mathbb{R} ? I thought no, but the real answer is... no one knows, and no one ever will know. In the 1920 Kurt Godel proved that you can never prove my hypothesis is false, and in the 1960's Paul Cohen proved you can never prove it's true. It is a black hole in mathematics.

That's all I have for now, thank you for reading!

oh thank God, my beard is finally back



Celebrating Nguyen's birthday at Oakwood



Arts Lecture Series

By: Ted Messerschmidt - Arts Chair

Undeterred by the challenges of sharing the arts during the pandemic, the Oakwood Arts Department has been hosting a series of virtual lectures given by prominent visual and performing artists. Our first speaker, Daniel April, has a wealth of experience with lighting, photography, and editing. In his lecture "Lighting for Films" he discussed his work as a gaffer on critically acclaimed projects including "The Farewell" (nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 77th Golden Globe Awards), "Tesla," "The Miseducation of Cameron Post," and the HBO series "Betty."

Our second guest, Dr. Baljinder Sekhon, Assistant Professor of Composition at Penn State University, shared his knowledge of composition. "Clearly knowing the power of sonority" (Philadelphia Inquirer), the music of Baljinder Sekhon has been presented in over 500 concerts in twenty countries. From works for large ensembles to solo works to electronic music, Sekhon's demonstrate a wide range of interests and styles. His compositions for saxophone and percussion instruments are widely recognized as

pioneering work in those genres with numerous presentations, CD recordings, and guest lecture appearances.

We also heard from percussionist Elizabeth Pupo-Walker whose primary focus has been the research of Afro-Cuban percussion. She is of Cuban descent and has studied in Havana and Matanzas, Cuba. Elizabeth has performed with John Legend, Reggie Watts, members of Pearl Jam and REM, and the National Symphony Orchestra. She's also played on the soundtrack to the Netflix series "The Get Down" and the HBO series "Vinyl".

Teresa Gasparini, the Executive Director of The New Deal Creative Arts Center, joined us to share about her work as a local director, actor and producer who has performed in dozens of shows and has directed close to over 50 productions in the Hudson Valley. Ms. Gasparini serves as the Artistic Director of Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill, NY and is a contributing writer for the online publication Hudson Valley Ovation. Under her leadership, Teresa has brought New Deal to local, national, and international attention through her visionary and out of the box productions and programming.



Teresa Gasparini, Executive Director, New Deal Arts Center

We were grateful to host these artists for the members of the Oakwood community.

Stay tuned for the following upcoming lectures - all welcome!

Jhanae Bonnick (AEA stage manager) - last week of March

Louisa Vilardi (playwright/theater director) - April

Fredericka Foster - Painter - May 📍

Winter Play

By: Melissa Matthews, Drama Director

This winter, the Oakwood Drama Department prepared its first-ever Zoom play: 10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine by Don Zolidis. Written to be performed on Zoom, 10 Ways... features monologues from twenty-five students, class of 2020 alumni Elias Fredericks and Carissa Herrera, and one Head of School - thanks again, Chad!

I'm happy to be able to participate in a production even though it's so different than usual. I've found that self-motivation has been effective to keep on track despite being physically away from my teacher and classmates.

-Bella Gedeon '21

Acting in a play about a pandemic during a pandemic is a very paradoxical experience. Most people would rather watch a show that isn't about the awfulness that is quarantine, but I have enjoyed working with my fellow actors and Melissa.

-Ruby Schloss '21

Rehearsing for a play online is a completely different experience than I'm used to. Being able to interact with a cast, and have a more direct and rigid structure for memorizing lines is an element of theatre I miss a lot. Rehearsing for this upcoming play has forced me to evaluate my own performances more intensely because when you rehearse in private, you lack some of the criticism that comes with having other people watch your performance. I feel that this experience has helped me exercise skills that are important to acting, though I miss that one on one, in-person connection.

-Jayden Brockington '21 📍

DREAM, DREAM

By Robert Eaton Sokol '63

Is there a perfect man? Is there ever,
A perfect woman in this land?
On a hopeful, brisk, low lit night,
After that long sing-song day,
It dared the twinkle in the late-night light,
Only to wisk-it then wisp it away.

Where ever will I land,
To find that perfect friend to be,
With me so I can dream,
The night away, every day.
While dreaming of a safer, better one,
To share with you, I pray for a better you
and me?

Hopefully, the need for perfection,
Will cede to judgment and other,
Needs of selective grudges and ego seeds.
Insecurity's need for perfection,
And being right, is only a curb and
A swerve away from disaster, to master it
again.



"This was a terrific job! Congratulations to all the actors and others involved. Especially nice to meet the talented Oakwood students!"

- Eric Wohlforth '50



Bella Gedeon '21



Ruby Schloss '21



Jayden Brockington '21



Did You Know? From the Van Wagner Archives

By: Matthew Voorhees '17, School Archivist



DID YOU KNOW...?

- Abolitionist and women's suffragist, Susan B. Anthony's father, Daniel Anthony, attended Oakwood's predecessor, Nine Partners Boarding School in 1802.
- The name "Oakwood" became the school's name officially in 1876 but the earliest reference to the school as Oakwood dates to 1863.
- After the fire in January 1917 that prompted Oakwood to seek a new location, the school considered moving into the Mizzentop Hotel in Pawling, New York, but decided on the Coleman farm in Poughkeepsie.
- On June 18, 1921 the first graduation commencement ceremony at Oakwood in Poughkeepsie featured Daniel Smiley, Jr. as

the commencement speaker. He was the grandfather of Albert Smiley '62. The Smiley family has owned and operated the Mohonk Mountain House since 1869.

- The class of 1924 had five of its twenty members survive past their 80th anniversary of graduation, including Mary Lane Swartz who survived to her 92nd anniversary at the time of her death in 2016 at the age of 109.
- The first Oakwood dance to allow dancing between boys and girls did not occur until April 1934.
- Businessman and department store founder, James Cash Penney visited and spoke at Oakwood in 1928 and later sent his son Kimball Penney to Oakwood for the 1932-33 school year.
- Seventy-five years ago in 1946, Oakwood celebrated its Sesqui-centennial (150th Anniversary). Eleanor Roosevelt was the guest of honor and gave a speech in the A. H. Lane Auditorium. In her speech the former



Eleanor Roosevelt at Oakwood. Photo taken by Henry Brecher '51 as a student.

first lady and activist said, "The only strength we have, is through our own strength and when we, like the Quakers, can achieve the great courage which comes from inner peace then we will have the feeling of serenity which will enable us to accept our national and international responsibilities." 📄

Alumni Council

By Najah I. Muhammad '10,
Alumni Council President

Just a friendly check in from your Alumni Council President, Najah Imani Muhammad, here! I'm writing this letter with a smile on my face, as I reflect on the last several months we've had as an Alumni Association. While we are still living in incredibly challenging times, the moments that spark joy must not go unnoted. The Alumni Council worked hard this fall to bring our community closer together, while we continue to be far apart. Through conversation, creativity, and connection alums from all different generations were able to come together with current students, faculty, and parents via Zoom. We had a wonderfully active fall and early winter and are excited to bring more events to our community in the coming months. It is our goal as an Alumni Council to not only bring joy to fellow alums and the Oakwood community at large, but to also make sure that our work is rooted in service, as is the Oakwood way. Stay tuned for more virtual events and initiatives coming soon!

In case you missed them, here's a recap of our Alumni Council Friday night events from the fall/early winter:

The Alumni Association held its first BI-POC (Black Indigenous People of Color) "Meet & Greet" on October 30th. The group discussed Oakwood's tradition of inclusivity and the pros and cons of creating an alumni affinity group. About seven individuals came together for a powerful and



passionate intergenerational chat about diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is our goal to connect with the school, and other alums to form an actionable committee that can help Oakwood in its DEI efforts.

On Friday, November 20, we hosted a virtual Social Justice Panel, which was moderated by Estare Alston '90, and had about forty people in attendance. With panelists Sakima McClinton '93, Bela Baez '04, Zachary Jones '11, and Jabreel Harrell '17, the energy in the Zoom Room for this event was vibrant, making for an evening that was full of engagement and conversation. It was wonderful to be able to listen to the stories of Oakwood alums, from different backgrounds and time periods, and be invited to engage in thought provoking conversations. The "chat box" on our virtual screens was full of questions and true candor.

In December, there were two events on the docket. The first was a "Create Together" event on Friday, December 4th. This was a beautiful family night, as parent child duos and trios came ready to create together. From parents of alums to current parents and students, this evening of art making, led by Imani Schectman '08, was just the kind of peace that was needed as we started a new month.

Later on in December, I had the opportunity to host a virtual Open Mic Night on Friday, December 18th. With about thirty-five people in attendance, the Zoom Room felt incredibly full of inspiration, gratitude, passion, and fun. Performers included Alumni:

Continued on page 9



Alumni Council

Continued from page 8

Frank McGinnis '04, Jane Shapiro '70 (and friend Bonnie), Estare Alston '90, Jonathan Talbot '57, Imani Schectman '08, and Kimberly Roberson Parks '10. There was also a compelling performance by Oakwood faculty member Dan Ball as well as my mother Fonda Muhammad, brother Sharif Muhammad, and 8-year-old niece, Yasmeen. The passion and love were radiating through our computer screens, and it was a wonderful way to kick off the winter break season.

Finally, on Friday, January 15th, the Alumni Council helped to host Oakwood's Annual Winter Reunion. This year alumni council members Alyssa Spencer '13 and Parfait Bizimana '16 brought young alumni from the classes of 2016-2020 together for an afternoon of laughter and ease. Current faculty members logged on as well to see all the familiar faces. The young alums mentioned how wonderful it was to see everyone again, and enjoyed reminiscing about their favorite times, and places, at Oakwood!

In addition to our five events, the Alumni Council has begun a BIPOC Spotlight initiative. The goal of this series is to spotlight Black & Brown individuals in the Oakwood community. This is a celebration, as well as another touch point as we continue to figure out how to best support our Oakwood BIPOC individuals. These spotlights can be found on Oakwood's social media accounts, as well as under the alumni tab of the Oakwood website. 📍

Virtual Reunion Week

May 19 to 22

Wednesday 5/19 Oakwood Trivia Night

Thursday 5/20 Create With Me

Friday 5/21 Open Mic Night

Saturday, May 22, at 1 PM EST

Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association

Meeting for Worship

Virtual Campus Tour

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

Restoring Whimsy

By Imani Schectman '08



As I have stepped into this entrepreneurial space in my life, I have been asked to talk about what drew me to the path of entrepreneurship and at first, there was no pause, I was always excited to say, "It just felt like the right step." However, since giving that answer a couple of times, I was called to think about what that statement really meant, did it mean that I was stepping into my life's purpose, or did I finally find a career title that explained all of my passions? And the truth is, it is a combination of both. It finally meant that when people asked me what I did and said I am an entrepreneur, people understood that I did multiple things and didn't question why I couldn't choose one career path.

While I was content with the new title, I also knew that the answer was deeper than that. The first time I can remember showing entrepreneurial traits was when I was 5 years old. I used to set up my childhood bedroom into a shop with many stations and I of course expanded into all parts of my family apartment; the living became my "waiting room" and studio, the terrace was my garden and lab. Each corner of our 2-bedroom apartment was designed by me to serve a function for my interests.

Wow, I really commend my parents for allowing me to take over our apartment like that! I had soil, gardening tools, paint, and I had even repurposed kitchen appliances for my masterpieces. All my projects definitely tipped the patience scale. My parents were not always pleased with the amount of mess I had created or my repurposing of kitchen appliances, however, they gave me the space to create, to be, and I think they deep down knew that this was my life's calling. They knew my workspaces meant more to my future than coffee stains on the hardwood floor.

So, when I reflect on my entrepreneurial story it leads me right to these moments where I was making homemade paper, dying fabric, teaching an audience of stuffed animals and dolls, styling my brother's hair, crafting, planting, and hosting gatherings. I guess when you're a kid you don't always know how moments like these will shape your future or if it's even possible to choose a career that will allow you to do everything.

In many ways, as I grew up, I lost some of the whimsy of being an entrepreneur, attributed to societal constructs that teach us to choose one thing and be great at it. I have recalibrated and I am great at a lot of things.

I recently founded Open Market, a curated space for BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) owned businesses. It is a space for us to be conscious about how we spend our dollars, elevate BIPOC owned businesses, and collaborate within the community. We all know that small businesses are the backbone of the American society but really the world, and all statistics show that BIPOC owned businesses have been disadvantaged before the pandemic, however, these circumstances have exacerbated the strain. Open Market begins to bridge the gaps within the marketplace by cultivating an engaged audience, business resources, community, and joy. As the founder, I am on a mission to shift the landscape of the American economy, cultivate sustainable communities that are mission-aligned, and create financial freedom for BIPOC communities.

Open Market is one of the vessels that allow me to be in this entrepreneurial journey. I remind myself daily that I am the epicenter of creativity, community, innovation, and social impact. I want to remind everyone that we can always recalibrate our whimsy; travel to that time when you felt most free, most accomplished, most passionate, and most grounded and begin infusing that feeling into your daily life. I encourage everyone to move in this life as your fullest self, live with intentionality, advocate for justice, create space for underrepresented folks to be seen, heard, and understood, and celebrate. I think it is incredibly important for us to remember that our whimsy can always be restored and that we CAN BE GREAT AT MANY THINGS!

Restoring my whimsy:

1. My parents: Forever giving me the space to create, cheering me on unconditionally, encouraging exploration (I will never be able to thank my mother enough for not canceling my flight to South Korea when I found out I would be going alone to study abroad), extracurricular activities, and trust.

1. Oakwood: Where I was an artist, athlete, activist, and friend. Randi Chalfin for letting me make a mess and figuring out the words to describe what it was I had created. Julie Okoniewski for teaching us how to advocate for ourselves and waking me up during Meeting for Worship but most of all being my Mom away from home.

1. My classroom: Pouring into my students, creating space, and being a mirror for them to see themselves. While my title was Art Teacher, I was more than an art teacher, I knew that my role was deeper. My role was to radically inspire them to believe in themselves and their magic. It was challenging because I knew that they hadn't heard of this before or were told it and didn't believe in it. 📍

Oakwood Faculty – An Important Legacy Remembering Reginald Hannaford & Norman Keiser



Faculty members Art Willis '54, Reg Hannaford and Norm Keiser return to campus for Alumni Weekend 2009

Remembering Reg Hannaford

By Tom Ditto '62



Reginald L. Hannaford

One heard about Reg Hannaford going in. For the entire Freshman year the impact he was having on Oakwood reverberated throughout Main. Then it hit. The legend was true. Taking English was taking a theory of everything, because language was everything. It was thought. It was feeling. It was politics, social interaction, and friendship (which at a Quaker school meant far more than simple buddy-buddy). It was religion, and it was art.

When we come to this last category, having Reg on my side meant I could pursue my God given identity. When the brains were being handed out, creative thinking was the line I must have been standing in. I could not remember names and faces like Roger McClure Dunwell, a born politician and long time President of our class of '62, and utterly lacked the patient concentration

of Albert Keith Smiley III who like the victorious tortoise passed by my hare brained approach to math as we hit calculus. On the other hand, when it came to the volcanic expression of emotion through speech, Reg noticed I was made of molten lava. He let me have a go as Edgar in King Lear – not much of a challenge, really – and what he got in the bargain was a Mad Tom of Bedlam pursued by the Foul Fiend of Flibbertigibbet. That transformation, so central to the success of the plot, convinced him to try me out on the highest peak.

Hamlet is not for the faint of heart, and while I was indeed all the heart, my poor memorization of the lines handed to me made even Reg faint. Of course, I was carrying the usual course load with a bit of a bye on the English he was teaching, but there were all those other courses to eat up my days and nights, so as the clock clicked down to the appointed weekend, I was not able to go through all four hours without resorting to the worn duplicate script I ported constantly in my book bag.

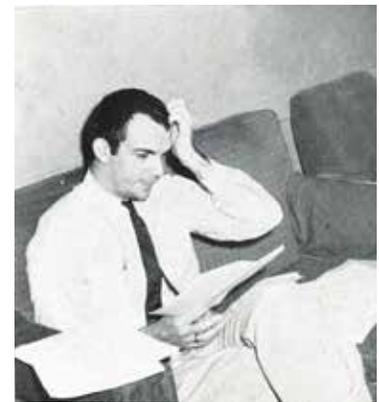
Reg was a scholar. He had pulled together every unique line of the Quartos and Folios from the play and combined them into a Hamlet that was the complete unabridged masterpiece. To this he and his dauntless crew of students and faculty erected an entire Globe Theater stage inside of Lane Auditorium. The smell of freshly cut histrionic boards permeated the space. Suddenly the early seventeenth century was alive where a basketball court had been, and nothing could have been more of a delight to Reginald Hannaford who was a scholar of the past, of the language of Shakespeare, and of culture in general and who was simultaneously doubly alive in the present tense.

"Thank you, Mr. Keiser, for teaching us the meaning of social justice and how to 'actively' spread the love. I'll miss your infectious smile, though, even recalling it in my mind, gives me peace."

– Nancy Leopitiz-Wawrla '67



When the smoke cleared, I asked Gaea McCormick, who as prompter had to follow my fake recitation, what she thought and was not surprised to learn that I had left the bounds of the printed page. It is small wonder that in rehearsal Reg had jumped on stage, pushed me to the ground, and towered over me, hoping, I suppose, that a threat from authority on high would grant my puny brain the awareness needed to memorize 1200 lines of Elizabethan English. Of course, that didn't work. It did make me aware that I was not cut out to be an actor but never took away a jot from my undiminished love of the man. I was to follow him to Oxford, England after he moved on from Oakwood. We were always of a piece, and his inspiration has been indelible. ☑



First row (l-r): Judy Saffer, Jackie Barkan, Reg Hannaford, Barbara Webster, Sylvia Drew. (Seated center) Ida Stokes



Norm Keiser – ahead of his time



In the 1966-1967 school year, history teacher Norm Keiser developed and taught a year-long course entitled: History of American Negro. It was a unique offering at the time. In an interview, Norm explained: "Ideally, this course shouldn't have to be taught. The American Negro should be part of the ordinary course in American History. But he's been omitted and distorted for the most part. This course is an effort to reduce, to redress an imbalance. There are very, very few courses like ours that I know of on a high school level. And they are even rare in colleges. What's more, we are practically unique in offering the course for a full year."

Lacking conventional teaching materials or a text for the course, the class made use of the daily newspaper, TV programs, and a wide variety of non-textbook books. Guest speakers visited the class and field trips were made. The class visited a high school in Harlem and invited young people from Harlem to visit Oakwood for a weekend of discussion and exploration.

Thoughtful, determined, and ahead of his time, Norm Keiser made a difference in the lives of his students. He lived Oakwood's mission every day of "educating and strengthening young people for lives of conscience, compassion, and accomplishment." He helped to broaden his student's understanding and world view through direct experience with others from different backgrounds and life experiences. This extended to increasing understanding of the international community.

Norm took action to help his students make these connections. In his role as faculty advisor to Outlook, he helped organize "International Weekend" which brought fifteen student guests to campus from several countries, including Ecuador, Germany, Sweden, France, Japan, England, Austria, and the Philippines. He knew how to help "break the ice" with activities, like volleyball and soccer, hiking at Mohonk, singing, poetry reading, and conversation at a Saturday night "coffee house." By Sunday morning, at Meeting for Worship, students had much to reflect on about the meaning of the weekend and their new friends. Norm and his wife Peggy also joined with two other fac-

ulty members and a group of 29 students on a tour of the Soviet Union in the spring of 1969. The group prepared for the trip by learning the fundamentals of the Russian language and the history and culture of the Soviet Union, then visited Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev - an eye-opening adventure!

Perhaps the best snapshot of Norm Keiser's work and impact on Oakwood students in the 60s was the creation of "A Plea for Sanity in Resolving Racial Tensions," an Oakwood Declaration made on May 28, 1963. Following are excerpts from this two-page document.

A Plea for Sanity in Resolving Racial Tensions 1963

"Being a group of students and faculty at Oakwood School who feel we are in a favorable and unique position in matters of integration and freedom from prejudice and who have concern for recent racial tensions in the nation, and having thus come together for a voluntary forum on Tuesday, May 28, 1963, to clarify the issues and to increase our understanding, we respectfully submit for careful consideration the following declaration:

We urge our leaders, both elected and appointed, religious and secular, national, state, and local, to be reconcilers, not taking a stand with one side or the other, but seeking a higher level above controversy, where unity can become reality. We deplore any premise which assumes that agreement can only come with victory for one position and defeat for the other. We ask not so much for compromise as for a greater comprehen-



Norm Keiser with his students Lydia Michaeux, Marshall and Carl Tannenbaum '67



Norm Keiser and his family backstage with his former student, Bonnie Raitt '67, at the Palace Theater in Albany in 2013

sion which understands with compassion the feelings and attitudes of all involved.

We deplore the threat or use of Federal military force to settle differences, but we also deplore methods used by any group or association or by any local police unit which may tempt the use of such force. No unfair advantage should be taken in the name of police protection. Violence only gives rise to more violence and to distrust, can never erase or thwart justice under the law, can never bring a peaceful and abiding solution to differences, and can never persuade others that the perpetrators of violence are men of good will with an honorable cause.

We urge all people to encourage their Representatives and Senators in Congress to effect legislation to implement speedily and efficiently voter registration for all citizens and equal opportunities for employment and housing without regard to color. We urge other schools who feel as we do to issue similar pleas and to talk with parents, neighbors, and friends, calling for mature and harmonious behavior and just and peaceful solutions, lest we make a mockery of our constitutionally established Republic and free society and become hypocrites in the eyes of the world.

Fear, due to ignorance or misinterpretation, is a contributing factor to racial prejudice: fear of losing prestige or status, fear of being contaminated, fear of losing jobs or possessions or political office. But all people are entitled to equal opportunities for housing, education, work, medical care, a good standard of living, and the vote. The quality of education, not only in the South but in many areas and metropolitan sectors, must be improved for all children.

Let us demonstrate to all peoples of the world, especially to those who have personally experienced persecution, strife, and turmoil, that human beings of various colors and backgrounds can live together in peace and harmony, sharing equally our nation's wealth and burdens, joys and sorrows, work and recreation." 📄

Class Notes



1945

Susan Davis Doderer - Still hanging in there!

1946

Elizabeth (Betty) Nunn Kramer - Wonderful memories so long ago - blackout curtains in the dorm rooms, roller skating Friday nights on the gym floor, PE every afternoon after classes, study hall every night after dinner - supervised NY State Regents exams. Lights out at 9:30.

1948

Beatrice Scherf Campione - Hope everyone is well. Thirty two years and 10,000 hours at Dan Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. Gene is 'busy' as he volunteers with San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society. That is the non-profit Friends group.

LTC. Ray Frasier USA (Retired) - Still above ground. My best to all remaining class of '48. A great class!

1952

Congratulations to **Roger Bullard** who earned his Master of Divinity from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale in May 2020. *Editor's correction from summer issue*

1953

Taffy Thunick Hoffman - Right before Covid hit I had an amazing trip to Montgomery, Alabama on a Civil Rights Conference. Since then I have been kept healthy in my Sr. facility, where I live.

Nina Lawford-Juviler - Partly retired from editing and designing Kaatskill Life, a regional magazine of the Catskill area and a bit beyond. Have 2 sons, 5 grandchildren - one a doctor practicing to be a surgeon, one in college- Syracuse, one working as a programmer and 2 younger girls. I keep in touch with Pat Mongol.

1954

Linda Gita Rahl Nadas - Greetings to you all. I had a good and busy summer. A new temperature and glaze came out perfectly and colorful. When we visit with family it is out of doors. Very much like your fifth grade reading. Happy 2021.

Sara Jane Benson Victor - Due to the death of my husband, I am moving to Tarentum, PA to be with family there. Any alumni in the Pittsburgh area - love to have mini-reunion when virus is over. Have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Finally sold my piano which had been a source of pleasure for many many years.

1957

John McDonald - The best memories of Oakwood are always with me! Four years of those warm spring Sunday afternoons. Sitting on the grass, singing with Peter Seeger (our neighbor across the Hudson) and his 5 string banjo. Thank you Oakwood

Friends School!

1958

Dianne Manning was happy to find two fellow Oakwood alums living at her CCRC outside Chapel Hill, NC: **Joanne Stoller '49** and **Winifred Jordan Simmons '54**. Great neighbors!

1959

Debbie White Schaack - Over the last few years, we sold our homes in Western New York and Florida, and in December 2019 moved full time to Newport Beach, CA. to be closer to our children. We had hoped to travel east this year to visit friends, but have decided this is a wonderful place to quarantine!

1960

Ralph Skeels - Thankful for my student experience on campus and serving on the Board of Managers for ten years under Peter Baily and Chad Cianfrani.

1963

Merry Anderson - I am feeling so blessed to have been given the opportunity to have been a member of the Oakwood community. In this year that has afforded many of us more contemplative time, I have come to realize that living and learning with peers of multiple races and ethnicities was essential to my world view.

Martha Richdale - It has certainly been a most challenging year. I'm so impressed, but not surprised, by Oakwood's handling of the pandemic with love and innovative approaches to keeping students safe. Personally, I've had to be content with watching my little granddaughter grow from afar and am excited that a baby boy brother will be joining the family in March. Happy, healthy holidays to all. Stay well!!

Lewis Shepard - I am retiring at the end of December. We are still staying safe on Cape Cod.

1964

Steve Halpern - I'm almost sitting out the traveling season abroad though I did do a road trip to Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, Tenn. and Virginia this summer. Headed up



to Sugarloaf Mtn. in late January for domestic skiing. For the last 29 years, I have been fortunate to travel the world & during the ski season, from Italy, Australia, Switzerland, France & more. Most recently, I traveled to Greece, Jordan, Egypt & Italy where I finally became a man. Most, most recently before the pandemic hit, I was in India & Nepal. My 2 children are a success; Zach a hedge fund manager & my daughter Zoe following her dream as a graphic artist. I am still practicing Interior Design. My quaker schooling is part of my everyday mantra. With all my thoughts for another Quaker Meeting & fondest regards.

Pam Tinnes Lord - My second children's book "Furry Tales: It Takes a Village" is due out soon.

Congratulations to **Frank Ritter** on the 100th Anniversary of his family owned building on Main Street in Beacon. Frank's grandparents, Jacob and Sarah Ritter, purchased the building in 1920

1965

Tess Copper DeNies - At this point, my husband and I are managing to keep safe during the pandemic. Next year we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. Our daughter and her husband are living in Batavia. They are able to work at home for the most part. Please stay safe. "This too will pass".

David Sitomer - Wild year. No virus but lung cancer operation and - cancer free! Yea!

1967

Henry Canby - No news. Everything is exactly the same as it was in 1967.

Nancy Leopitzi-Wawrla - COVID can't stop the love. 1967 classmates Janet Tenney, Lydia Micheaux Marshall, Bonnie Raitt, Debbie Sims Wood & Barry Smith have joined to honor Norm Keiser and his legacy of social justice and activism. Stay tuned in 2021 for exciting developments at Oakwood, in his name. We will keep you informed. Thank you, Mr. Keiser, for teaching us the meaning of social justice and how to 'actively' spread the love. I'll miss your infectious smile, though even recalling it in my mind, gives me peace. Stay safe and be well.

Tim Sappington - I continue to live and work as an architect and painter of landscape in northern NH. Much of my work is community and human services related. While a Deacon in the local congregational church up here, I continue to value and live by my Quaker experience at Oakwood. I live with my wife Martha who is a former teacher and very active with the children in our church.

1968

Andy Schlossberg - Enjoying my 10th year of retirement from NYC Dept of Education. Love visiting my granddaughter Ali who lives nearby. Born April 2020. My son and his wife are expecting



a boy early 2021. Spend time with 3 year cockapoo Joey, swimming, reading, traveling (pre covid).

1969
Charles Schwartz - Greetings from Connecticut. In 2020, I retired and my daughter got married. So, after 42 years of full time work, I am going to be taking some serious time off - perhaps the rest of my life. I thought I would be bored doing nothing or running errands, but not so.

1970
Helen Claxton - I enjoyed our 50th reunion through Zoom. I missed the hugs and side bar conversations, and strolling the campus, but it was a satisfying substitute. I hope we can resume in a post-pandemic time. In the meantime, take care all. Be safe.

William Graff - Still working as a cardiologist in NH.

1971
David Lyons - I appreciate the friendships we made as students, and for the life long conversations.

1972
Eric Hoffman - Hoping everyone is staying safe! I am still in Berkeley, CA, looking forward to retiring at the end of the year after 25 years of working for Mass General Hospital.

1976
William F. Bogle - I am hoping to get back to Oakwood for Alumni Day as it will be my 45th reunion. We miss the Hudson Valley but love living in the lowcountry of South Carolina. Stay safe & healthy in 2021.

1982
Daniel J. Schack - Living in Manhattan though dealing with certain minor enough disabilities, but working on my art and poetry. I have material online. One may google poems of Daniel Schack on poetrysoup.com or see facebook for art and links. I'm also on tumblr.com- adanthemanworld and instagram for dschack1. I stand by my work, wholeheartedly. It's honest. Anyone may contact me at dschack1@gmail.com or facebook or call; 646-864-2500(voice mail). I'm holding my breath. ha. ha. One note of hope and wisdom for 2021 for earth and alumni; Do not judge what you don't understand and understand what you judge..

1983
Amanda Junquera Downing - Sam and I continue to live in Maine. Currently we, along with our 2 children (now teens!), are all working from home. Our Covid silver lining is much more time together as a family and a slower pace. Wishing you all well.

1991
Romelina Bustamante - What a year 2020 has been! As we approach the 30 year anniversary of our graduation, I am reminded of the many lessons and memories from my years at Oakwood. You shaped me in unimaginable ways that still hold true today. For that I am thankful. Let's all rejoice in the knowledge that our future is as brilliant and full of opportunities today as it was on that Summer day in June of 1991. Cheers Oakies!

1992
Dorothy Glusker - is a coach in a program for English Language Learners and is completing a

second masters degree in Organizational Leadership and Social Justice. Thank you, Oakwood!

1995
Forrest Rohde - After earning my Masters Degree in Occupational Safety at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, and working in several industries west of the Mississippi, I have come full circle and am now the head of Occupational Safety at Embry-Riddle, and back in Prescott! My favorite thing to do is being a dad, and I have a lot of opportunity for that, so life is good!

2007
 Congratulations to **Ian Kratzke, M.D.**, a general surgery resident at UNC, who is the inaugural recipient of the Erle Peacock, Jr. MD Award. This award supports the education and career development of a resident in the UNC Department of Surgery. Ian will use this award to complete a Master of Health Professions Education Program at the University of Illinois. He plans to pursue a career as a trauma/critical care surgeon with an academic focus on surgical education.

2010
Dan Wysocki - received his PhD from Rochester Institute of Technology August 2020 in Astrophysical Sciences and Technology. He is continuing his research on gravitational waves at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

2014
Congratulations to **Beth Gross** on her graduation from Pace University in December. She graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Applied Psychology. Beth will be starting her Masters in Social Work at New York University in January.

2016
Congratulations to **Caroline Norfleet** who received a Fulbright ETA grant to travel to Taiwan and spend six months working as an English teaching assistant in Yunlin County.

Faculty & Friends
Congratulations to **Olaya Barr**, Middle School English Teacher, on the birth of her son Vigo - born 9/30/20



Congratulations to former faculty member **Liz Morrison** on her appointment as the next Head of School at Morristown-Beard School in New Jersey.

Congratulations to **Anita and Dan Jones** who were honored on November 5, 2020 at the New

Horizons 25th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast. We are grateful for their service to the Hudson Valley community. Anita is also the newly appointed President of the Catharine Street Community Center Board.



Anita and Dan Jones

Greetings from Maine

We wanted to thank everyone who emailed us or who wrote messages to us that were included in the photo booklet compiled by Matthew Voorhees '17, the Development and Alumni Office and our daughter Amanda. We read, and reread those messages now and then, and are moved by the outpouring of appreciation and love from you. The Cross-Country video is humbling, and evidence of good teamwork. The signed posters are sweet, the video by Molly and Jodi and Amanda filled with photos of our time at Oakwood and the surprise gathering on July 4th are very good memories. Thank you.

We spent a wonderful 36 years at Oakwood Friends School in our professional careers and as parents to our children who grew up on campus with you. Actually, we grew up with you too! Our memories are precious and our lives are full of the experiences with the Oakwood community.

Let us know if you are ever in the Portland, Maine area. We would enjoy visiting with you! 📍



Nancy & Bill Doolittle



Send us your class notes & photos
development@oakwoodfriends.org

Deborah Satz Scheer '46 An Oakwood Treasure

Oakwood Friends School lost a treasured friend when Deborah Satz Scheer passed away on January 7, 2021, in Corte Madera, California, where she and her husband Justin Scheer were living since 2015. Oakwood honored Debbie with its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991 in recognition of her many gifts of service – as a member of the Board of Managers, President of the Alumni Association, long-time member of the Development Committee, and informal advisor to several heads of school. With her sharp intellect, thoughtful manner, and persuasive style, she moved others to share her aspirational vision for the school. Debbie brought remarkable energy, humor, resilience, and a can-do spirit to her work for Oakwood over many decades. We are profoundly grateful to Debbie for her personal philanthropy and dedication to Oakwood and will miss her warm friendship and wise counsel.

The following is a shortened version of an obituary printed in the Poughkeepsie Journal on January 21, 2021.

Deborah Satz Scheer was born in Poughkeepsie on May 27, 1929, to parents Richard and Selma Friedman Satz. As a child, she lived first on Underhill Avenue and later moved to Kingwood Park on the outskirts of the city where she raised chickens and tended a victory vegetable garden. Deborah attended the Spackenkill Elementary School, along with her brother David when it was a one-room schoolhouse. She continued her education at Oakwood Friends School, class of 1946, where she developed an interest in Quaker values. She considered her years at Oakwood to be the formative experience that sustained her throughout her life and for which she felt gratitude later as an adult.

While at Oakwood, Deborah corresponded with Justin Scheer, a childhood friend who was serving as commanding officer of a minesweeper in the US Navy. At the end of WW II, Lt. JG Scheer returned to Poughkeepsie wearing his full-dress officer's uniform and Deborah was smitten. They dated while Deborah finished her B.A. in Psychology at Vassar College, class of 1950, and were married in the Vassar College Chapel in 1949. In 2019, they celebrated 70 years of marriage.

During the 1960s, Deborah was actively involved with the Poughkeepsie Day School, first as a parent on the Board of Trustees and later as a Social Studies teacher in the middle school grades. As President of the Board, she oversaw new developments and fund raising for the construction of a new school building. Deborah's interests included art, art history, poetry, literature, classical music, and architecture. She was intellectually curious, an avid reader and collector of books, a lifelong student of the humanities.

In the mid-1970s, she resumed her academic studies at Harvard University where she studied comparative literature and earned her master's degree in Education, class of 1975.

In the late 1970s, Deborah's interest in architecture took a more personal turn when she and Justin decided to build a new home in Millbrook, NY, with architect Robert Marquis of San Francisco, husband of Ellen Godfrey Marquis, Deborah's classmate from Oakwood School. In between trips across the country to visit grandchildren and travels around the world, Deborah and Justin lived in their California style Millbrook home for 40 years. When their grandchildren were old enough to appreciate it, Deborah loved to take them to art museums and philharmonic concerts. After settling in Millbrook, Deborah renewed her ties as an alumna and member of the Board at Oakwood to help the school realize its mission through fundraising and development.

Deborah Satz Scheer is survived by her three sons, Peter, Stephen and William, daughters-in-law Morrow Cater and Anna Gerchick and eight grandchildren.

In her own words...

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Deborah Scheer in 2003 when she became chair of Oakwood's Annual Fund.

"Before Oakwood, I attended Spackenkill School for eight years. At that time, it was a very small, rural two room schoolhouse with approximately 50 kids. So, Oakwood was a BIG new world for me, and a new beginning.

I was a cheerful, somewhat naïve freshman, but I was conscientious about my work and I made good grades. I loved sports and "socials." I played varsity field hockey and junior varsity basketball, earning letters in each, and never missed Friday night roller skating in the gym or dancing to the jukebox on Saturday night. (I was voted "best dancer" in our yearbook.) I also sang alto in the school chorus. I'll never forget the time my choir robe caught fire during a candlelight Christmas program.

"Living close by in Kingwood Park, I rode my bike to and from school. Most of my free time on the weekends was spent there too. Oakwood arranged for off campus trips to Poughkeepsie on Saturdays so that we could go to the movies and visit Smith Brothers ice cream parlor. And I especially enjoyed living on campus, doubling up with classmates Ellen Godfrey Marquis and Lois Jackson Clarke while rehearsals for the senior class play were underway.



"Debbie's love, influence, and leadership within the Oakwood community spans decades. I feel blessed to have known her during my time here. Knowing Debbie has helped shape my view of Oakwood and provided me with a deeper and more profound respect for this community."

– Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



There were sobering moments too, and time for reflection about social injustice and national purpose. These were the war years, and I remember the many reports we heard concerning the fate and courage of conscientious objectors known to the school. I remember that we gathered in the assembly room to hear a radio broadcast of one of President Roosevelt's stirring speeches to the nation. We had a number of international students on campus from Europe and South America, some of whom were sent to Oakwood to escape the war. While we all enjoyed the safe and nurturing life on this small campus, we were also becoming keenly aware of world events." 



Celebrating Alumni Weekend in 2002 – Peter Baily, Head of School, Emmet Hayes '51, president of the Alumni Council, Debbie Scheer '46, Myra Koutzen '70, Ginny Hayes, Elaine Miles, Director of Development, and Ben Dent '53.

Reflections

By Peter Baily, Head of School, 2000 to 2015

I first met Deborah Scheer in the December of 1999, when I interviewed for the position of head of school at Oakwood. Fittingly enough, I first shook her warm hand in Scheer Meeting Room, and thus began a professional relationship and a personal friendship that spanned twenty years. I came to know of Debbie's long-standing and deep-rooted commitment to the success of the school, and her special connection to generations of Oakwood alumni. I came to understand the impact of her service as a board member, her generosity as a philanthropist, her unwavering support of heads of school over many decades, and her loyalty as a dear friend. Even in these recent years, Debbie kept Oakwood at the forefront of her attention, participating in board committee work via videoconference from her new home in California. Debbie's enduring influence can be seen in many places on the campus today: in the Turner Math-Science Building, created during Lila Gordon's tenure as head, and in the marvelous renovations to the Lane performing arts complex, completed under Chad Cianfrani's leadership.

From my vantage point, nothing seemed more important to Debbie than Oakwood, except her wonderful family. Indeed, the last time I saw Debbie in person was at dinner with her loving husband, Justin, at their home in California. The conversation was wide-ranging that evening, but in the forefront of her mind were stories of her children and grandchildren. Her expression when she spoke of them was suffused with love. Her accounts of her student days at Oakwood were also filled with affection. Once, in biology class, she completed an assignment particularly well, and her teacher, Mr. Henderson, made special mention of her achievement. "Thee has done a fine job, Debbie," he told her. In recounting this story to me, it was not her academic achievement that was important to her; it was the way Mr. Henderson enfolded her in the Quaker community of the school by his use of plain speech to address her.

In caring so deeply for Oakwood and for all of us who were privileged to work with her, Debbie has indeed done a fine job.



Debbie Scheer with her dear friends and classmates Ellen Godfrey Marquis and Eric Springer in the Meeting Room in May 2011

IN MEMORY

Richard Thorn '40
September 15, 2020

W. Bruce Weaver '44
August 7, 2020

Deborah Satz Scheer '46
January 7, 2021

S. Howard Gorfinkel '49
January 3, 2020

Daniel Kappel '51
February 26, 2021

John M. Coulter, Jr. '53
August 23, 2020

Alice A. Cooper Richardson '54
Dec. 26, 2020.

Gwen Krakower Brenner '55
April 7, 2018

William Dann '55
September 6, 2020

Linda Kenney Miller '63
December 21, 2020

Linda Smith Quandt '67
June 28, 2017

Richard F. Henle '68
September 25, 2020

Robert R. Granville, Jr. '69
February 13, 2021

Paul Schmid '70
October 23, 2020

Former Faculty

Norman Keiser
October 26, 2020

John G. Morden
August 31, 2020

Kenneth Vogt
August 15, 2018

Oak Leaves



ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Address Service Requested

2021 Spring School Calendar

May 19-22 Virtual Reunion Week
June 9 Middle School Moving Up
June 11 Commencement

Save the Date!

**100th Anniversary Celebration
& Alumni Weekend '21
September 24 to 26**

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

A Snow Day...in the 70s



Oakwood campus circa 1970