

# Oak Leaves

Winter 2021-2022

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

## Through the Decades: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



"Through the Decades" panelists

A highlight of Oakwood's 100th Anniversary celebration held on campus September 24th to 26th, was a "Through the Decades" panel discussion, hosted by Eric Wohlforth '50, clerk of the 100th Anniversary Committee. The panel included eleven alumni/ae, one former faculty member, and one current student who all shared their thoughts and memories of school life, pivotal events, and the historic backdrop to their individual Oakwood experiences. Shown above are panelists, front row: Najah Muhammad '10, Alyssa Spencer '13, Jessica Kimelman '93, Jonathan Talbot '57, Shakiba Daqiq '22, Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86; top row: Henry Brecher '51, Eric Wohlforth '50, Patrick Crowley '50, Ed Noyes '61, Myra Koutzen '70, Bill Bogle '76, and Michael Steinberg. Alyssa Spencer (in costume) also portrayed Joan Bridge Baez, class of 1933, through a reading of Joan's letter preserved in the archives.

The weekend opened on Friday afternoon with the presentation of the Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice, presented by Michael Steinberg, who taught history at Oakwood from 1983 to 1985, following in the footsteps of his father, Fred Steinberg, teacher, coach, and assistant head of school from 1980 to 1987. Several of Mike's former students were in the audience. The subject of the talk, "Working for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties," was a reflection of Michael's 22-year tenure as the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Michigan. During that time, he litigated a wide range of high-profile cases related to racial justice, police misconduct, freedom of speech and expression, immigrant

rights, environmental justice, and many other issues that continue to be relevant. Michael is currently a member of the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School, serving as Director of the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative. Students and guests were inspired by the passion Mike brings to his work, the same passion he brought to Oakwood in his early teaching days when he taught history, advised the student Disarmament Committee, drove vans to demonstrations in Washington, D.C., chaperoned a student trip to the Soviet Union, and encouraged students to use their voices to advocate for important causes.

Saturday was a day of gratitude and reflection on Oakwood's remarkable history. President of the Board Bob Bomersbach led the official ribbon-cutting for the Spencer Family Theater and thanked the Spencers for their exceptional philanthropy and service to the school that helped bring us to this wonderful day. Alyssa Spencer '13 represented her family at the event. Bob also acknowledged the many friends of the school who contributed to the theater renovation and other significant campus projects as part of Oakwood's Lighting the Way Campaign. In keeping with the historical theme of the day, Oakwood's special anniversary book, 100 Years in Poughkeepsie: Decade by Decade, was presented along with a visual display that carried guests on a tour of images that brought us from the 1920s to the present time. We are grateful to school archivist Matthew Voorhees '17 and Anita Dickhuth '54 for creating the book and display. 📖



(from l-r) Stephen Brentari '87, Richard Alter '86, Justin Brown '86, Michael Steinberg, Jesse Washington '86, Leo Junquera '86, Peter Davidson '86 and Moto Moriya '85

### Thank You! 100th Anniversary Committee

Eric Wohlforth '50, clerk  
Henry Brecher '51  
Patrick Crowley '50  
Anita Dickhuth '54  
Loren Talbot '91  
Peter Van Kleeck '52  
Matthew Voorhees '17



## Reflecting Back, Springing Ahead

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

February within the Oakwood community typically has one foot frozen in ice and the other bounding into spring. Single digits and a snow day on a Monday are followed by blue skies and warm sunshine on a Tuesday. While our seniors prepare for winter exams and finalize college decisions, they are already thinking ahead to graduation under the Copper Beech tree.

In February of 2020 our students were on the basketball courts and theater stage, learning in the labs and classrooms, and traveling throughout the US, Canada, and Costa Rica for language immersion, service-learning, and Model United Nations trips. A month later, we were fully in the grips of the global pandemic and developing how to best support and sustain community at a distance. At that time, if we were able to jump ahead to February 2022, we'd witness the return of student trips to Boston and Granada, Spain, sitting for performances in the fully renovated Spencer Family Theater, watching basketball games from the bleachers, and expanded Middle and Upper School programming with enrollment nearing 200 students. In many respects, Oakwood is emerging from the pandemic strong, vibrant, and engaged.

We did not simply jump ahead two years from the onset of the pandemic, however. Students, faculty, and families encountered loss, confronted immense challenges, navigated divisive politics at the local, state, and national levels, and personally drew upon emotional and physical reserves. This takes its toll and has an impact. Over the next weeks and months, we must listen deeply and support fully as we begin to replenish these vital community reserves.



Chad Cianfrani with Patrick Crowley '50

Our Associate Head of School, Anna Bertucci, speaks of 'learning and support coming from every corner of the room'. We witness this in the classroom every day. Over the last two years, I have seen this learning and support extend to the larger Oakwood community. Families are partnering with the school in new and creative ways. Alumni engagement and generosity are impacting current students and future generations. And our Board continues to provide vision, support, and steady guidance.

One of the first board members I met upon taking on the role of Head of School, Patrick Crowley '50, embodied this connection and support. Sadly, Patrick passed away suddenly in mid-January. I have a profound respect for Patrick as a person, a friend, and a member of our extended Oakwood community. Until his final week, Patrick engaged passionately with me and other members of the board on important committee work. He deepened my understanding of, and respect for, this community. He made an Oakwood education possible for current and future students, helped guide several campus renovation and sustainability initiatives, and could certainly spin some amazing an-

ecdotes about Oakwood over 70 years ago. Even one of his books, Hash Every Wednesday, has quietly inspired our dining hall to include this 1950s staple into our weekly breakfast rotation. When I reflect upon the influence of an Oakwood education, and the impact of a principled life rooted in conscience and character, I think of Patrick.

This month our students and faculty will sit together in Meeting for Worship, in the classroom, in the dining hall, at basketball games, and in our new theater seats during the winter play. I have a deepened appreciation for these routines and a new perspective on both the fragility and importance of community. And every Wednesday morning as I sit down for a quick breakfast in the dining hall, I share a little smile with my friend Patrick over that first salty and delicious spoonful of Wednesday hash. 🍳

"My service on the Board is a way of paying Oakwood back for the incredible experience both academically and socially that I had at Oakwood. It gave me friends for life and a jumpstart to my academic career and life in general."

-Patrick Crowley '50

## Dedication of Music Room and Lighting & Sound Booth



The newly refurbished Music Room on the 2nd floor of Lane was dedicated to former faculty Paul and Isabella Taylor. Sara Jane Victor, class of 1954, made this generous tribute in memory of her husband Col. Martin Victor, M.D. Sara Jane chose to honor these two special teachers who encouraged her to have confidence in her own abilities and talents which had a lasting impact on her life.

The new Lighting and Sound Booth was named in honor of Ann and Patrick Crowley '50 in recognition of their philanthropy to Oakwood and Patrick's dedicated service to the school as a member of the board of managers. We are deeply grateful to our alumni for their generous contributions to Oakwood. 🍳





## Oakwood Parent Association (OPA) A Parent's Letter of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Who would have predicted that being banished to our individual Zoom screens to start this year would result in even stronger connections among students, faculty, staff and families once we came back together? As 2021 moves into its final months, I'd like to highlight the significance of what we've achieved as a community this year, and to offer thanks to you all for being a part of it.

If there's anything that exemplifies what can be accomplished by holistic and unified action versus individual entitlement, it is the flurry of activity across the Oakwood halls and fields these past few months. We've seen the campus kick back into high gear with a healthy increase in the size of student body and staff, the return of performances and sports (including a league championship win from the Boys Varsity Soccer team!), and new building improvements including

the dedication of the renovated Spencer Family Theater to mark Oakwood's 100th anniversary in Poughkeepsie.

One hundred years is an impressive milestone, but this last year truly proved what we can do as a community to persevere and thrive. Though 2020 brought hard lessons in isolation, Oakwood students, faculty, staff and extended community members rebounded with an even greater understanding of the importance of connection. The energy and commitment continue, not just in the classroom, but in efforts to serve the greater community and initiatives for social justice led by students, staff and parents.

If, like me, you're inspired by the renewed vitality of our community, if you feel the optimism that comes from meeting extreme challenges and knowing you are up to further tests, then I ask you to consider making a donation to Oakwood's Annual

Fund. Your gift can make an impact by enabling the school to offer experiences and programs that empower our students to be forces of positive change. Any amount you choose will make a difference to our school, to our community, and to our world.

Thank you for being a part of the Oakwood family and its story of connection. Let's come together to shine the light of this community as widely as possible for Oakwood's next hundred years!

Warmly,

Michelle Alumkal

Parent of Arjun '23 and Qingxi '24



## Parents Rebecca Martin and Larry Grenadier To Perform at Parent Dinner & Auction

By: Amy Solis, parent, Siena '24

For the 17th year, Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean '09, and the owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, will sponsor a festive evening for parents, faculty, board members and guests at our annual fundraiser to support Oakwood's Annual Fund. The event on March 5th at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie is also sponsored by Berg-Moss Architects (Chris and Erin Berg, parents of Milla '23 and Corbin '27), Hudson House River Inn (Regina and Sam Bei, parents of Karolina '26) and Rondack Construction. Thank you!

New this year! Oakwood is thrilled to welcome acclaimed singer-songwriter Rebecca Martin and renowned jazz bassist Larry Grenadier as our very special guest performers at this year's event. Rebecca and Larry are globally recognized jazz artists, and also the proud parents of Charlie Grenadier, class of 2024. Rebecca and Larry will present selections from their new album *After Midnight*.

As Larry describes, "It's a unique music connection because of the time spent on and off the bandstand with Rebecca over the years, we have the ultimate level of communication." Their latest collaboration, *After Midnight*, joins Martin and Grenadier with Portugal's Orquestra Jazz de Matosinhos (OJM) for a stunning collection of original songs and beloved standards.

Over the past 25 years Rebecca Martin has become a critically acclaimed singer and songwriter, educator, and community

organizer. She began her career in the early 90s as part of the groundbreaking duo Once Blue, with Grammy-winning songwriter Jesse Harris (Norah Jones). The two made several albums on EMI Records and toured throughout the United States and Canada with Lisa Loeb, Emmy Lou Harris, Squeeze, Shawn Colvin, and many others. In the late 90s she began her solo career and recorded a half-dozen acclaimed albums. She has recorded in collaboration with pianist Guillermo Klein and legendary drummer Paul Motian, and as part of the vocal trio Tillery with jazz artists Becca Stevens and Gretchen Parlato.

Larry Grenadier has been praised as "a deeply intuitive" musician by The New York Times and as an instrumentalist with a "fluid sense of melody" by Bass Player magazine. He has created an expansive body of work in collaboration with many of the genre's most inventive, influential musicians - from early days playing with sax icons Joe Henderson and Stan Getz to what has been decades performing alongside pianist Brad Mehldau, from extended experiences working with the likes of Paul Motian and Pat Metheny to co-leading the cooperative trio Fly (with Mark Turner and Jeff Ballard) and quartet Hudson (with John Scofield, John Medeski and Jack DeJohnette). His ECM Records solo bass release titled *The Gleaners* presents a brace of originals alongside pieces by George Gershwin, John Coltrane, and Paul Motian.

You can learn more about their music at [rebeccamartin.com](http://rebeccamartin.com) and [larrygrenadier.com](http://larrygrenadier.com).



Rebecca Martin and Larry Grenadier with pianist Guillermo Klein



## Sports

By Simon Culley, Athletic Director

The Thirds Soccer Team Coaches Sue Cianfrani and Meghan Bishop were both incredibly proud of all the players and how they grew into a forceful collective unit this season. As a team they were tough, determined, skilled, and most of all a lot of fun! In the third week playing as a team, the 7th & 8th graders made it to the semifinals in their division at the Dutchess Day Tournament, and the 5th & 6th graders won the runner-up trophy in their division. The Thirds team ended up losing four games, and winning four games, but unfortunately had three very winnable games canceled with teams they had already beaten once. At the end of season, the team scored more goals than they conceded. This was a great season for all involved with a lot of new players and after a long break away from the field too. The coaches recognized **Henry Cianfrani '27**, **Rahul Kumar '27** and **Madison Hickman '28** for their outstanding contributions this season.

It was another challenging season for the Girls' Soccer Team. They had several lopsided results but to their credit they kept working hard and improving. Their best result came after a low scoring gritty performance away at Harmony Christian that resulted in a 1-1 tie. The first award went to three-year starting defender and MVP **Sadia Rashid '22**. They put in yet another dependable, strong, and courageous season. In addition, Sadia captained the team this year. Also recognized for a Coach's Award was junior **Mercedes Walters '23**. New to Oakwood soccer this year, she worked incredibly hard every practice and game and took opportunities beyond the designated times to develop her skills. "Mercedes is a dedicated athlete with incredible potential," said her coach, Jodi Allen. The final recipient of a Coach's Award was freshman **Grace Fosket-Cosgrove '25**. Her coach described her as fearless, having great instincts, and a very talented athlete. With continued practice, she will become a phenomenal goalkeeper.

The Boys' Varsity Soccer Team played in its first final since 2008 and won their first HVAL Championship since 2004. The team was fun to work with and they were always motivated and keen to practice. Through the years there have been talented teams but the one thing extra these players brought was team chemistry. They crafted an excellent ability to overcome adversity and work so hard for each other. The team finished the regular season under .500 and needed to win at Marvelwood (2-1 victory) on the final day of the season to receive a first round bye in the play-offs. A very tight defensive stalemate was the next obstacle away to New York Military Academy in the semifinals. Oakwood



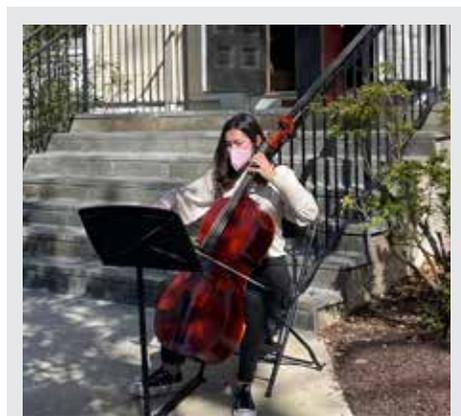
Boys Varsity Soccer team celebrating their championship

came away with a hard fought 1-0 victory thanks to team captain and center back **Trevor Brooks' '23** headed goal midway through the second half. The final saw Oakwood pitted against Storm King who were 6-0 during the season and unbeaten in the H.V. A. L. since 2015! Both regular season games were three goal losses. The final brought out every quality in the Oakwood team. The game saw them leading for 41 minutes, tied for 48 minutes, and most remarkable, never trailing in the contest. Leading 3-2 with minutes to go, a late Storm King goal sent the game into sudden death overtime. The team was notably disappointed in the huddle at the

end of regulation but there was a belief voiced by **Abdul Kablaoui '24** vying for his second soccer title in three days. Just thirty seconds into overtime **Barak Tucker '22** sent a deft chip over the defense for **Remi Sauer '24** to contest the scrambling keeper who was rushing out of his goal. Sauer won the challenge and with an open net calmly side footed his fourth goal of the contest to seal the game 4-3 and give Oakwood the Championship. In recognition, every player received a commemorative plaque as it had been 17 years since the last title, and it literally took everyone in the squad to make this one happen. 🏆



Remington (Remi) Sauer '24 with the boys soccer trophy



Special thanks to Luisa Capitello '22 who performed cello music to welcome guests to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Spencer Family Theater at the 100 Year Celebration



## The Arts

By: Ted Messerschmidt -  
Music Director and Arts Chair

The arts continue to thrive at Oakwood. In September, Oakwood celebrated its 100th anniversary at its current location, and several events marking the occasion included live music and art. **Luisa Capetillo '22**, for example, performed several selections on cello at the ribbon cutting for the newly-renovated Spencer Family Theater in Lane Auditorium. In addition, three alumni performed at the alumni panel discussion on Saturday, September 25th. **Frank McGinnis '04** performed a cover of "The Middle" by Jimmy Eat World, **Delaine Aranha '20** performed his original rap "Dreams", and **Estare Alston '90** sang Miley Cyrus's "The Climb."



Delaine Aranha '20

Later in the fall, Oakwood presented three live performances of the musical *Head Over Heels*. Under the direction of Drama Teacher Melissa Matthews, students including **James Mae Manoy**, **Jonathan De Silva**, **Samarra Dottin**, **Ruby Freedman**, **Alex Ferry**, and **Kishi Oyagi** gave outstanding performances in leading roles. **Frank McGinnis '04** played in the pit on guitar alongside Music Director Ted Messerschmidt on piano. The following week, **Luisa Capetillo '22** joined the best student musicians from area public and private schools at the prestigious Area All-State Orchestra Festival at Brewster High School. In December, Oakwood presented its annual Winter Festival Concert complete with classical, jazz, and pop favorites, original student compositions, and holiday songs. On January 20th Oakwood's virtual arts lecture series continued with Dr. Douglas Quin of Syracuse University discussing his sound design work on projects and films including *Jurassic Park III*.

The Drama Department is currently working on a production of *Puffs: Or Several Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* by Matt Cox. The play is a parody of the seven Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling and follows a group of lesser known students



Frank McGinnis '04



Estare Alston '90

as they navigate school while Harry and his friends create havoc. The students are having a blast bringing their characters to life, and they bring so much creativity to their work! This incredible performance is scheduled for February 25th and 26th.

Art teacher Erin Koch shared that the middle school students had three week elective seminars between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Studio art had two options based on student requests and interest, drawing faces and drawing action

heros. In drawing faces, students had a chance to learn in detail how to draw an eye, nose, mouth, ear and then an entire face. In action heroes, students simultaneously copied a Tenitzu graphic, while creating their own action hero. After break, students have been continuing to learn about and practice shading by building up their drawings in pen. This week we are returning to painting, focusing on how to mix and use secondary colors. Themes for the paintings include my life, cakes and pies, and automatic drawing/ painting. 🎨

## International Composer's Festival



Congratulations to Arts Chair Ted Messerschmidt whose composition has been selected for this year's International Composers Festival! Forty compositions were chosen from more than 800 applicants and selections will be performed in the UK in May.

Ted has been the Director of Music at Oakwood since 2013 and the Arts Department Chair since the spring of 2020. He loves composing and is always looking for ways to get his music out there. When a friend from grad school posted about the International Composers Festival on social media last spring, he decided to enter the competition and was thrilled when his composition was chosen.

Ted plans to attend the festival and shared, "I'm sure it will be a really exciting and enriching experience to meet and share ideas with other composers

from around the world. I've been very fortunate during the pandemic, but still, after slogging through a couple years of it--dealing with new challenges in teaching, constantly changing childcare arrangements, canceled trips, etc.--it will be wonderful to travel and be surrounded by live music for several days."

He would like to thank everyone who helped make this happen. In particular, he wants to thank a few Oakwood alumni who stayed after school to help him make a multitrack recording of the piece. The recording they made together wound up being the one he submitted with his application to the Festival. He extended his thanks to Elias Fredericks, who's now studying Violin Performance at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, and to Stefanie Quintanilla, a violist who's now studying Music Therapy at Temple University in Philadelphia. 🎨



## Middle School Seminars

By: Ricci Alma-Bueno

The Middle School took a different approach to the 3 weeks between Thanksgiving and winter break this year, offering a mixed-grade, seminar based curriculum. Seminars were an exploration into topics that teachers were really excited to present and were rooted in project based learning. Students engaged in discussions and research in preparation for creating final projects in each seminar to share with the Middle School community. This gave students a chance to have some agency in their educational experience and gave them a glimpse into what it is like to engage in course selection based on interest - something they will do in Upper School and beyond.



Matty Canez, 6th grade

Below is a sample of course offerings for the 3 weeks:

### Create a Newspaper

Students had the opportunity to create an Oakwood newspaper. They learned how to write articles about everyday news as well as public interest stories, sports events, arts and culture, cooking, entertainment reviews, opinions, cartoons, etc. The class

published two editions of the newspaper for all of the Oakwood community to read.

### Film Studies

Students watched award-winning films popular with their age group. They learned about the language of film and the concepts of the genre. They analyzed and evaluated films, talked about characters, and showcased their understanding by writing short film critiques that were published in the newspaper created by the newspaper seminar group.

### The History of Fashion

Students learned about historical fashion from around the world, and how it reflects cultures/ gender roles, available resources, and/or neighboring /colonizing influence. Students picked a country/ geographical area/ cultural group to create a digital fashion timeline over a 300+ year period.

### Science and Invention: Widening the Lens

The vast majority of the history of science and invention is taught from a European perspective. Students learned that scientists in other parts of the world often go unrecognized for their discoveries.

### The Strength of my Pen, The Strength of My Mic

Through journaling, role plays and reading writings from teens about resilience, humor, strength and other important topics, students created and performed spoken word poetry in a poetry slam.

### Around the World

Students "traveled" across the world to three different countries on three different continents to learn about new cultures through a study of customs, geographical locations, indigenous crafts, games and food. 📺

## Honoring Hispanic and Native American Heritage

The Middle School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in October by exploring different countries and cultures with their advisory groups all month. Each group presented about a country during Collection and the project culminated with a lively outdoor festival featuring food, facts and games!

In honor of Native American Heritage Month Middle School students learned about the Haudenosaunee which means "people who build a house." The name refers to a confederation or alliance among six Native American nations who are more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy. Each nation has its own identity. As students learned about their creation story and how important artifacts are to the Haudenosaunee in telling that story, they made their own artifacts to represent the creation story they learned about. Their exploration of Native American culture and heritage culminated in a festive potluck on the last day of school before Thanksgiving break. 📺



Middle School Hispanic Heritage celebration

## Dungeons & Dragons Club

By: Lou Agresta, parent of Malcolm '28 and Kaylie '25



Six children in the middle school decided to give a Dungeons and Dragons club a try and I agreed to serve as their club advisor. To be fair, some played before, but others are

entirely new to the game. We've all heard of D&D, but for those not in the know, Dungeons and Dragons is a game of imagination where improv theater meets tactics and there is no 4th wall. The "GM" running the game proposes a situation, and the players dispose.

For example, "You're walking down the street and a dragon lands, crushing a nearby home. Frightened citizens run in every direction. A parent carrying a small child trips and the toddler rolls to a stop just this side of the dragon's massive claw. Unaware of the small sprout, the winged serpent opens its mouth and jets fire into the sky. With a booming roar it demands you return its egg. An egg we all know you don't have. What do you do?" And the kids, playing fantasy characters, leap into action.

The difference between D&D and theater? There is no 4th wall because the players are also the audience, and whether or not a player succeeds in an attempt (I scoop up the toddler and roll away from the dragon's claws) is at least partly determined by a die roll and any bonuses the player can apply to shift the die roll in their favor. So... 4th wall-less improv theater with math.

Put that way it doesn't sound as fun as it is! But the players are having a blast and exercising their creativity.

We started by collectively brainstorming up their own fantasy world in which to adventure, and the results of their creativity astounded me! I can't wait to see what epic quests, heroic causes, and hair-raising adventures these kids pursue! 📺



# Quadratic Equations and the Stock Exchange Workshare Day

By: Simon Culley, Math Teacher



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes at Oakwood offer students a wide variety of opportunities to think critically, to analyze and evaluate information carefully, and to be open to understanding new ideas.

Students in Algebra II classes recently focused on Quadratic Equations. This is a particularly intriguing topic since it has such strong practical applications. While students made some allowances in their calculations for simplification purposes, they are nonetheless challenging and ultimately exhibit powerful mathematics and fascinating discovery. Specifically, they looked into the flight of projectiles. The parabolic nature of quadratic graphs model themselves perfectly to the flight paths of projectiles. Students were asked to calculate things such as height after a specified elapsed time, maximum height,

and total length of time in the air. The key components in executing these concepts with specific problems were to identify velocity, release height, and gravitational factor.

In conjunction with the current class chapter and topics associated with Quadratic Functions, students were also engaged in a synthesis of the stock exchange. For this two-month project each participant was given ten thousand virtual dollars to invest in a selection of well-known stocks and shares. Students were encouraged to do research and monitor their portfolios. This was achieved through a programmed and automatically updated Google Sheet. Investors could buy and sell shares throughout the sixty days, monitoring their own portfolio while checking their peers' progress too. Previous winners of this activity have netted between five and ten thousand dollars over the two month period! 📈



August (Gus) Oneil '28, Nicky Berenzon '28 and Seth Guglietta '27 refinishing a campus picnic table

After a two year hiatus, we were thrilled to bring back Workshare Day with students volunteering both on campus and in area non-profit organizations. On a sunny day in October, students and faculty dug in and got their hands dirty helping out at a wide variety of projects. Ranging from rail trail maintenance to soup kitchen meal prep, groups served in the following locations: Locust Grove; Dutchess Outreach; Habitat for Humanity; Kimlin Cider Mill; Clover Brooke Farm and Poughkeepsie Farm Project.

On campus, students baked for donation to Dutchess Outreach, tended to flower beds and the greenhouse, painted picnic tables, collected campus recycling and organized a coat drive. Many new students and faculty had not yet experienced the tradition of Workshare Day so it was especially rewarding to find ways to safely give back amidst a pandemic. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with area organizations during Earthshare Day in April! 🌱



Aubrie Mahoney '22 at Poughkeepsie Farm Project

## Micah's Meal



Malani '25, Mercedes '23, Micah '29, Meya '27 and Krisken Lewis

Congratulations to the Coward family on their local initiative to give back to the Poughkeepsie community, with Micah's Meal. Oakwood's Main Office Manager Krisken Lewis and her husband Jovan Coward, who is a member of the Oakwood facilities team, collaborated in 2018 to do

something different for Thanksgiving. They were looking for a way to give back to their community with the help and support of their children, four of whom are Oakwood students. It was important to them to teach their children how to get involved in their community, help others and stamp

out the stigma of what homelessness or poverty is supposed to look like.

Therefore, as a family, they planned to have a Thanksgiving meal for all who didn't have a place to go, didn't have family, are homeless or didn't have a space to cook a holiday meal, or just couldn't afford a holiday meal. This meal would take place at Hudson River Housing all day on Thanksgiving providing not only a healthy and hearty meal but also a sense of community, love and support.

Since their son's birthday often falls on Thanksgiving Day, they named the program in his honor. Micah's Meal has operated for four years now and has fed over 200 people yearly solely through donations.

**Micah shared his thoughts about the program:** I like Micah's Meal. It has taught me a lot about being nice. And every year is different and being able to get help and support from my school and classmates made it really cool.

Collection of non-perishable food items, hygiene products and cold weather essentials begin in September. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/micahsmealpok4> 📄

## New Voices at Community Meetings

Community Meeting gives us opportunities to bring new voices to campus on a variety of subjects. In October we welcomed Dave Conover from [Sustainable Hudson Valley](#) who shared about [Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week](#). We appreciated hearing about all the ways our community could get involved locally with sustainability projects. Sustainable Hudson Valley serves as a catalyst for new ways to scale up climate action to slow and reverse the crisis while advancing environmental justice and economic well being in our local communities. Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week is an effort to focus attention on the climate emergency we are all facing with a series of events throughout the region.



John Torrey, Professor at SUNY Buffalo

In November we welcomed both John Torrey, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and a contributing professor in the Africana Studies unit at SUNY Buffalo State College and Valerie Carlisle from the Reunite Migrant Families initiative of the Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance.

John Torrey posed three questions to our community – what exactly is critical race theory in terms of education? Are people teaching it widely across the country? And if they do, how does a critical race theory context change how we teach? Using the topic of reparations for Black Americans as an example, he led us in a discussion of how the nature and content of education changes based on what lens we use to frame historical matters.

Valerie Carlisle shared about her volunteer work both on the US/Mexico border and here in Dutchess County to support separated families as well as new immigrants to our community. [The Reunite Migrant Families](#) initiative of the Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance works to raise awareness about both local and national issues such as family separation and the treatment of those in detention facilities at the borders.

As always, we appreciated hearing from these speakers and look forward to connections with them in the future. 📌

## Preparing for Life After Oakwood

By Haniya Mee, Director of College Counseling



As the final college applications are being submitted by the class of 2022, it gives me a moment to reflect on my two cycles as the Director of College Counseling at Oakwood. Being an office of one means finding the balance between supporting the students and families in each grade level, while handling the administrative process of submitting college documents for applications each fall (256 applications submitted for the class of 2022 so far!). This often means that much of my fall focus is on the senior class, but through advisory time and emails I aim to make each grade know that I am here to help them as they begin to plan for life after Oakwood. I say “life after Oakwood” intentionally as the college counseling mission statement is “to build personal relationships with Upper School students that encourage their exploration, support their growth, and assist them in moving confidently from the Oakwood community to the next stage of life.”

While my title says Director of College Counseling, I can provide support for much more. Each year there are students who explore Gap year programs, have an interest in enlisting in the military, or choose to work after graduation. Their time here is no less valuable and the support they need to navigate their own path is just as important. I work with students beginning in 9th grade, helping them understand how to use their time effectively in the Upper School by getting involved in clubs and getting to know their teachers and advisors. In 10th grade they begin exploring careers, and through one on one meetings we talk about what their goals are for high school and beyond. We plan ways for them to get exposure to different types of institutions as well as different careers paths. In junior year, programming for parents and students gets the whole family on the same page with regard to future planning and the college process. My focus officially shifts to the Juniors in the winter when I host the College Kick-Off. At this weekend event, college admissions officers meet with families in small groups and lead them in a mock admissions committee review. As a “committee” the room needs to come to a consensus on which applicant will be admitted, denied or waitlisted at a fictitious university. During this session, students are able to see what admissions officers are looking for in an application and

understand how the different parts of an application come together to tell their story. During the one on one meetings with juniors I ask them to share their vision of what a college experience looks like for them. We talk about the academic, social and financial fit of an institution before creating a preliminary college list with them. With their list in hand prior to spring break, many families choose to take that time to begin visiting colleges. The feedback they bring back to me after those visits helps to finalize their college list as they head into the summer.

The work doesn't stop in the summer, when the majority of students choose to take part in summer programs, or work and internships. Prior to the start of their senior year I along with Oakwood Humanities faculty offer a one week College Application Camp to students in the community. This allows Oakwood rising seniors to get a head start on their applications before the school year begins. During the camp, students complete their Common Application, learn how to write the supplemental essays and complete a draft of their personal statement. This allows their school work to be the main focus of the fall. As the seniors edit their college lists one last time, and get ready to submit their applications, I work with them closely to ensure everything is clear, correct and that they are presenting themselves well to colleges. With more and more institutions moving away from standardized test requirements the applications do become even more important. The application process has moved earlier with the majority of the class applying to at least one school with a November deadline. This means that it is even more important for students to get ahead of the deadlines and to use their summer to begin their applications. I enjoy the cyclical nature of this position and getting to help students pursue their dreams. 📌



Students at work in the summer College Application Camp



## Oakwood Friends School and Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting – United

By Don Badgley '67, clerk, Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting



Six years after Oakwood School opened its campus in Poughkeepsie in 1921, Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting opened its new meeting house on Hooker Ave., just a few miles away. Now, after 10+ years of discernment, the Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting has relocated its meeting and worship to the Oakwood campus.

Much has changed in the last 100 years. In 1921 some still traveled by horse and today, the words I write can be seen around the world a few seconds after writing them. The changes in the world are innumerable and profound. In my 72 years of life, I have witnessed many of those changes. I have also witnessed (and witness to) something that never changes, what Quaker founder George Fox called "that which is Eternal". The Divine Light is the foundation and

Source of The Society of Friends and of its meetings and schools. This Light is, quite simply, unchangeable, and certainly not confined to any one religion. That Light and Source remains our One Guide as Quakers.

Today, the world is in the midst of a global pandemic unlike anything in history. Millions have already died and millions more are suffering. This event will be remembered by today's Oakwood students as a significant feature of their Oakwood experience, never to be forgotten. Every class has its memories. On November 22, 1963, I was walking up the sidewalk toward the main building as a friend ran toward me crying "they shot him, they shot him", and in that moment I learned of President Kennedy's assassination. This will always be remembered as part of my Oakwood experience. It is one of the few negative moments I can recall and yet, it united us and indeed, united the world for a moment. Most Oakwood memories are warm and joyful, and I remain close to some of my classmates more than a half-century later.

My parents met at Oakwood and of course I am very grateful for that. Some years after my graduation I served on the board for 11 years as did my father before me. To say that Oakwood is an important part of my life and person is an understatement.

So, this union of the Poughkeepsie Friends meeting, (my birth meeting) and Oakwood Friends School is a special moment for me personally. However, I am but one former student. This new relationship of these two Friends communities is far bigger than the individual stories and the opportunities it presents for the benefit of each community are exciting to consider.

Beginning this year, at 10:00AM every Sunday, the main building will become the meeting house, yours, and ours. We hope and trust that many of the Oakwood community and the wider community, students, parents, and neighbors may be led to join us in the stillness of unprogrammed meeting for worship.

Not religious? Just Spiritual? Just curious? Member of another faith community? Perfect! You are most welcome - and invited to join us. We gather in silence, seeking the inner stillness that reveals God's Light. There is no pastor or preset program, no creed or hierarchy. Our only Leader is Divine Love. We gather to quietly Experience that Light - together as a community. That Experience of the Eternal Spirit then orders our lives in the world. This is simplicity.

At first, we of each community will be mostly strangers to one another. We hope to get to know all the people of the Oakwood community better and we want you to know us, the Poughkeepsie Friends. Please approach us with your questions, join us in worship and expect us to reach out to you. We are profoundly grateful for the welcome we have already received and excited at the opportunities before us. 📍

## Curriculum Day



Curriculum day with art teacher Erin Koch

Oakwood hosted our first Curriculum Day on Saturday December 4th. All Upper and Middle School parents were invited to follow their student's schedule for 15 minute mini lessons. These sessions were quick glimpses into classroom life and offered a wonderful opportunity to walk - and learn! - in student shoes. Parents were encouraged to bring supplies and get to work in classes. The day began with Collection where parents were greeted by Chad, Anna and Ricci who got them started for the day and ended with festive snacks in the dining hall. 📍

## Young Alumni Winter Reunion

This year's young alumni Winter Reunion was held virtually on January 28th with **Imani Schectman '08** and **Daniel Schwarz '09** sharing about their career paths.



Imani, a graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, is an artist, educator, healer, and most recently, a tech founder. She loves meeting new people and connecting them to one another. In 2020 Imani launched her company, Open Market, a virtual pop-up and marketplace for BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) and POC (People of Color) businesses. Imani believes we all have a role to play in an equitable society and sustainable environment and is determined to create spaces where people give themselves permission to be their free

selves, to connect with others as humans, amplify our stories as BIPOC people and design solutions that revolutionize systems for BIPOC and underrepresented people.



Daniel is a Life Sciences Consultant at the biotechnology consulting firm Putnam Associates. His work focuses on helping biopharma companies navigate the many challenges that a drug runs into from concept to clinic. He was eager to discuss his path from Oakwood through undergraduate and graduate programs and navigating the career exploration and selection process.

Thank you to Imani and Daniel for sharing their experiences with both current students and faculty, as well as fellow alums! 📍

## Distinguished Alumni Award - Eric Wohlforth

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School, September 25, 2021



Eric Wohlforth (center) with friends Patrick Crowley '50 and Henry Brecher '51

Today it is my pleasure to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Eric Wohlforth, class of 1950, who brings his sharp intellect, kindness, and deep humility to everything he does. Throughout his illustrious career as an attorney and his life of service, he has never forgotten his alma mater, Oakwood. In a letter to Lila Gordon, head of school in the 90s, Eric wrote: "I don't think you have an alumnus who thinks more often with more fondness of Oakwood School than me, 1950. The faculty then included some conscientious objectors from WW11, so I learned what living your faith was all about. Often in the Education for Ministry classes at our church, I speak about the importance of Oakwood in my spiritual journey. The place means a great deal to me." And, Eric, you mean a great deal to us.

Eric grew up in Ridgefield, Connecticut, with his brother Tim, class of 1951, and his writer parents. The boys arrived at

Oakwood when Eric was 14 and Tim 13. A strong student from the start, Eric went on to earn his B.A. from Princeton University. Beyond his academic success, Eric was an athlete of many sports, and fully engaged in the life of the school. His leadership qualities and desire to serve his community emerged early as he participated on many committees, as president of the Boy's Dormitory, the Junior Class, the Student Council, the Political Union, and the Social Committee among others.

After graduating from the University of Virginia with his LLB in 1957 and marrying Caroline Penniman, Eric began a long and distinguished career as an attorney with a specialty in public finance, first in New York, then in Alaska, where Eric continues to make his home. Both Eric and Caroline established a legacy of volunteer leadership and service in their new home state. Eric became a founding member of the first Alaska based

public finance law firm in 1966, and in 1970, he was appointed Commissioner of Revenue for the State of Alaska by Governor William Egan. Among his many honors, he has served as Chair of the University of Alaska Foundation Investment Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Alaska Pacific University, and the University of Alaska Foundation.

In his 1950 yearbook, Eric was asked "What will you always remember?" He responded: "the spiritual guidance received in my friendly walks with Bob, Fos, Jack, and Barry." Eric knew the life of the spirit would always be important to him. In 1990, he earned his Master's in Religious Education from Loyola University, and in 2019, at the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, he was recognized as the longest serving Chancellor within the Episcopal Church.

With his very full life in Alaska, Eric did not forget Oakwood. Through the years, he made the trip to Poughkeepsie for reunions, supported the school financially, and kept up with classmates. In 2016, he agreed to serve on Oakwood's Board of Managers and brought the same thoughtful focus and care for others as in all his work. Now serving as the clerk of the 100th Anniversary Committee, Eric demonstrates at every meeting the value of listening respectfully to each voice as we all seek the way forward to address the issues at hand.

Thank you, Eric, for all you have done for Oakwood. It is my honor to present you with our 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award today. 📸

## Spring Science Lectures

In April, we will welcome **Tom Ditto '62** to present our annual Herzog Lecture and **Sam Tetlow '89** to present at our annual spring service day, Earthshare Day.



"Solar Cooling - On the Shoulders of Giants" - Tom Ditto '62

A comprehensive solution to global warming can be derived from many previous Science, Technology, Engineering and Math thinkers. Thomas DeWitt Ditto, class of

1962, has designed 3D cameras and microscopes for the National Science Foundation and space telescopes for NASA. Now he is eager to present a novel means to lower the thermostat on planet Earth while at the same time generating solar energy for electricity and hydrogen production. Calling on predecessors going all the way back to Archimedes in the 3rd century BC up to a twentieth century holographer, Stephen McGrew, this talk will recall the words of Sir Isaac Newton, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Earthshare Day - Sam Tetlow '89

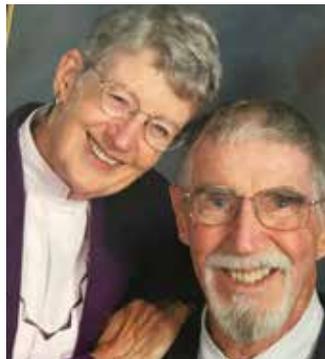
Sam Tetlow is Founder & CEO of Grant Engine and President & Chairman of Prime-Neuro. Grant Engine has a proven model of delivering funding to leading life science companies through the National Institutes of Health small business program as well as other federal funding sources. He will share about his work, talking specifically about Grant Engine's Project North Star which works to increase the



number of federal grants awarded to businesses owned by innovators identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Sam will also share about his recent experiences on Mt. Everest. Sam's sister, Georgia Tetlow, M.D. class of 1991, spoke at Winter Reunion in 2014 on "How I Came to be an Integrative M.D." 📸



## Giving Back to Oakwood: Emmet McFadden Hayes and Virginia Wickham Hayes Scholarship



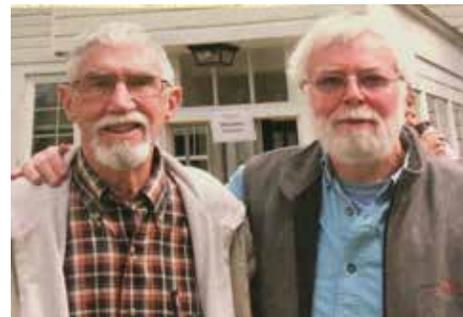
Ginny and Emmet Hayes '51

When Emmet Hayes, class of 1951, returned to the Oakwood campus for his 50th reunion in 2001, he was flooded with memories and emotion. Oakwood had been a pivotal experience in his life, an important turning point after a difficult childhood. Emmet's time at Oakwood helped ground him – in academics, in friendship, and in a new sense of his own value and potential. It prepared him for success at college, first at Antioch, then at City College in New York City, and later at Indiana University where he earned an M.A. in Biology. He married Virginia Wickham in 1960 and they raised a son and daughter. He had the pleasure of knowing his three grandchildren before he passed away

in 2015. Emmet had a deep appreciation for his fulfilling life and all the people in it.

Reading the summer issue of Oak Leaves about the Named Funds that other alumni had established, Ginny Hayes was inspired. She started to think about ways that she could honor Emmet's memory and the commitment they both had to giving back to Oakwood. Ginny shared her thoughts about establishing the Emmet McFadden Hayes and Virginia Wickham Hayes Scholarship Fund:

"My husband, Emmet McFadden Hayes '51, believed that Oakwood gave him his life. He came to the school as a scholarship student for his last three years of high school and learned there about the joys of classical music, the challenge of good literature, the satisfaction of being able to discuss various topics with his teachers, the delights of playing pranks with his roommates, and, most of all, about the potential he had within. Oakwood helped him to unlock that potential. He never forgot the school that nurtured him during those early years and consistently gave back to it, as a donor, as a regular participant in class reunions, and as President of the Alumni Association. I know how proud and happy he would be to know that, together, he and I will help future students learn the same important lessons.

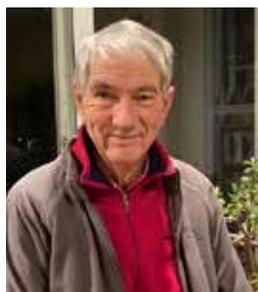


Roommates Emmet Hayes '51 and Tim Wohlforth

It is with great pleasure that, with the help and cooperation of the school, I am able to support and underwrite this scholarship fund in both our names."

As with all Oakwood's endowed funds, the Emmet McFadden Hayes and Virginia Wickham Hayes Scholarship Fund will create a permanent legacy of support, with income from the fund used each year to provide scholarship assistance to students with financial need. Any gain in excess of this distribution is used to build the fund's market value. We are deeply grateful to Ginny Hayes and to all those who have established endowed funds at Oakwood through the years. 📌

## Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter '51 Lecture on Social Justice



Tony Gaenslen

Alumni Weekend 2022 will begin on Friday afternoon, May 13th, with the Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice, presented by Tony Gaenslen. Tony is an activist lawyer and author, and is the parent of Elisabeth Lindsay '84 and Max Gaenslen '87.

From fighting alongside Cesar Chavez for migrant workers' rights in California, to battling for the women of the "Cornell Eleven" in a landmark gender-discrimination suit, Tony's career in law has been dedicated to disrupting the privileges of powerful interests.

Born to a French mother (cousin to the legendary fashion designer Christian Dior) and a stern German-American father, Gaenslen's life in civil rights began in his final year at Yale, when William Sloan Coffin inspired him in the early 1960s to join the dangerous, uncertain struggle in the South for the rights of black Americans. Some harrowing days in a Mississippi jail ensued, and cemented forever his dedication to justice. In his book A Hard Road to Justice: My Life as a Renegade Lawyer, Gaenslen details a life rich in adventure, courtroom battles, activism and self-exploration, all guided by a passion for the law and a quest for human rights. 📌



Support the 2021-2022  
Annual Fund at  
[www.oakwoodfriends.org](http://www.oakwoodfriends.org)

### Alumni Weekend May 13-15, 2022

#### Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

- 2:30 PM Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice presented by Tony Gaenslen
- 6:00 PM Welcome Reception & Buffet Dinner in Dining Hall

#### Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00am Registration & Breakfast
- 10:00am Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Community Meeting
- 12:00pm Lunch & Class Photographs
- 2:00pm Reception for 50th Reunion Class - Head's house
- 3:00pm Tea in Collins Library & Oak Store
- 4:30pm Reception for Oak Tree Club - (Class of 1971 & prior)
- 6:00pm Festive Dinner with musical entertainment in Dining Hall

#### Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

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

## Class Notes



1946

**Elizabeth (Betty) Nunn Kramer** - Still in Independent CCRC at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Many memories of the war years at Oakwood. I was in the 8th grade before they had an 8th grade - a class of just me. My parents were getting divorced and Mr. Reagan made up a class taught by Mrs. Taylor. As an only child, I thrived in a girl's dormitory - roomed with Kay Pallen that year. I skipped grade 12 and went to Guilford in 1945.

1947

**Barbara Tresler Zarchen** - Remain grateful at 92 to have had the Oakwood experience.

**Margaret Meckes Conrow** - I just want to say "hi" to everyone who remembers me. Oakwood was great; so was Swarthmore. I met my husband there; he died 3 years ago from Alzheimer's. We both taught at Kansas State University; I taught English Lit, Ken at his retirement was interim head of the Computing center for the University. Now I am a different person and live in a smaller place, but good for me now. I would love to meet any oakwoodians driving west who could stop and visit. My phone number is 785-539-2046, or 785-320-0423.

1952

**Katrina Voorhis Mabon** - Moved to Houston, TX four years ago to be nearer my children. Lots of new friends and a good senior retirement community. Still driving and independent living but all senior facilities are available.

**Peter Van Kleeck** - 1952 class.lets enjoy Alumni day for the big 70

1953

**Taffy Thunick Hoffman** - Staying healthy in my senior facility. Take walks. Live life by zoom. Thankful for facetime. What would we have done without it. No complaints.

1954

**Peter Mickelsen** - Nancy and I are still upright (on the left of course) but plodding through the snow here at the ranch t'aint as easy as it used to be.. We sure like the moisture though. Oakwood friends are always invited to visit us here at our beautiful ranch in Montana.

1955

**Ellen Knowles Bisson** - Congratulations to Anita Dickhuth '54 & Matthew Voorhees '17. I'm going to look forward to remembering campus not only as my school for five years (1950-1955), but also as my family's back fence neighbor for about 20 years until John Taylor (Jean Taylor Hartwig's father) bought the house for Oakwood, which it still owns.

**Bette Davis Horton** - This past July, our 63rd year of marriage, Pete and I moved to Brunswick,

Maine (home of Bowdoin College as well as Oakwood's Bert & Barbara Mason). After my stint at University of Vermont, Pete and I operated our ski lodge at Mt Snow for 14 years. After 30 years in Middlebury, Vermont, we sold our Christmas tree farm and moved to Nashville, Tennessee next door to our son Ned and his family to enjoy 23 years sharing our grandchildren growing up. Ned and his wife will move nearby us to their oceanfront vacation home when they retire in a few years. Their daughter is blocks away at Bowdoin where Ned and Pete are alums. Her brother will soon graduate from Middlebury College. We have many family roots here. Our other son, Dex, settled on the West Coast and he will visit this year with his two children. By the way, I discovered an Oakwood schoolmate, Juliet Haines Moffet, in nearby Bath, ME. Would love to hear from other Oakwood friends at petenbette@gmail.com

**Judie Palmer Muggia** - Both Al and I are well and delighted to have moved to Brookhaven at Lexington - independent living here, in Lexington MA, where every service imaginable is here for the asking! Celebrated sixty-two years of marriage with our sons over a delightful carry-in dinner in these C-19 times! Three sons and their wives are healthy as well as the ten grandchildren! Four grands working in Manhattan (when not working from home!!) four in Boston or California and two finishing college at Boston College and Middlebury, respectively.

1956

**Michael McGinnis** - When I think about Oakwood, I remember persons, faculty and students, gently listening. I flourished. I particularly fondly remember my neighbors, Charley (52) and Peter Lane (57), and Gail Travis and Karen Jackson (both 57).

**Molly Lynn Watt** - I am continuing to be active in my Cambridge Cohousing Community, now approaching its 25th year since we first met to found it. A good way to live. My husband of more than fifty years, Dan Lynn Watt and I each have a chapter in the book *Twenty Things to do with a Computer, Forward Fifty, Constructing Modern Knowledge* Press 2022. It celebrates the role of activist educators in bringing computing using at first the Logo Computer language to schools throughout the world in the seventies. It was a heady time for us as we traveled to China, three times, Australia, three times, Italy, England, twice, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Canada - all but one province, and all but three states in the United States supporting departments of education in seeing opportunities to use computers to extend thinking rather than program drills. We are fortunate to be well. Every day we practice gratitude.

**Sarah Robin Newcomb** - I remain thankful and astonished at the broadening of my world because of my two years; joy at the wonderful music and

friends at Oakwood, and disbelief at the realization of the horrors of social injustice. Both remain, but Oakwood certainly helped me. Thanks.

1957

**Marion Cunningham Twichell** - Greetings from Ojai, CA where we have lived for over 60 years. While my husband was head of the math department and then Director of Development at the Thacher School, I rode herd on our 3 children and then worked with Thacher's Admissions and Alumni--dealing with students who were coming or going. Now taking walks in our beautiful back country, reading a plethora of books, and plunking away on the piano keep me off the streets. I have fond memories of my two formative years at Oakwood and especially of Miss Craig.

1958

**Holly Clarke-McAlary** - Celebrated wedding of my son Alex to Emilia Santos. Now I am blessed with another grandson, Enzo. Granddaughter Andie lives in Idaho, works as a beautician. Granddaughter Natalie is engaged - lives near Rochester, NY - graduated from University of London 2 years ago.

**Stephie Ross van Reigersberg** - Everyone cooped up because of Covid must mean a dearth of news. That is certainly the case here. But I should report that my husband, Fernando, passed away last August 4 so things have definitely not been the same for my family. We had 53-plus wonderful years together as his last illness actually hospitalized him on our 53rd anniversary, May 11. Strange but true. My sister Sue '62 kept me standing throughout and I just spent the Christmas holiday with her on her farm outside Montreal. It was super-restorative as has been the time spent with my son and daughter both of whom have visited often, he from Philly and she from Colorado. I have not yet retired from interpreting and am working for a Free Clinic at least twice a week. No pay anymore but greater satisfaction! My actor son greatly admired the new theater on campus--it is beautiful. Best wishes to everyone and thanks again for mailing the Oakwood mug--it is definitely my favorite! All best with special emphasis on good health.

1960

**Sue Gehrke Elliott** - My husband and I are still busy with Elliott Vineyards in Pierson, Florida and serving on the Board for Florida Wine and Grape Growers Association. I also keep active representing our town on several other Boards, such as the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority and the Citizen's Advisory Council several traffic and safety Committees. Our grand daughter is following in my footsteps now by attending the Friends School of Portland.

1961

**Conrad Keydel** - Turned 79 last week and feel terrific.



**The class of 1961** gathered outdoors at the site of their landscape project in honor of their 60th reunion. The project included two tree plantings, a bench in honor of their class, and a special plaque. From left: Ralph Skeels '60, Larry Fogelson, Dewey Webster, Jane Thompson, Ed Noyes, Ed Hersberger '60, Jon Wheeler, Maureen Sanchez de Tagle, Sarah Leshar (seated).



**Joan Liebmann-Smith** - My sixth book, *Medical Marijuana: Dr. Kogan Evidence-Based Guide to the Health Benefits of Cannabis and CBD*, was published this past fall by Avery/Penguin/Random House. I'm also a freelance developmental editor, working with many professionals and others on their memoirs and self-help books. My husband, Richard, is a freelance writer. We still live in Manhattan, which we've barely left since Covid hit!

**Ed Noyes** - Betty and I are relatively new residents in Portland, Oregon after 20 years on Bainbridge Island, Washington. COVID still has the city in reduced circumstances but every week something new opens and something old closes forever or reopens, if only partially. We enjoy Dragon Boat paddling with a group of seniors in the Golden Dragons club. We go out on the Willamette River every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings right through the winter. This year we closed our management consulting business for hospitals that we ran for about 25 years - so I guess we are retired. I was a stock broker for about 20 years before the hospital consulting business and am still an active investment manager for myself. I love individual stock selection and abhor mutual funds. Cheers!

**1962 Robert Hirning** - Somehow my little community of Takilma, OR survived the devastating Slater Butte wildfire in September '20 and, after several weeks of mandatory evacuation, we all returned to our homes still standing. This May is our 60th reunion and I already have purchased train tickets from Oregon to Poughkeepsie. I am really looking forward to being back to Oakwood again and visiting the East.

**1963 Martha Richdale** - It has certainly been a challenging year for all but news from Oakwood is so welcomed and inspiring. Our young people are our future and Oakwood students give me so much hope for a better world. Happy, healthy 2022 to all!!

**Jesse Rieber** - Hello to my classmates and friends. I hope all of you are well and weathering the COVID

crisis in good form. My psychotherapy practice continues. Given the current crises, I have and continue to work approximately 70 hours a week. In the Spring I will finally slow things down and give myself a bit of a break over the summer. Love and peace to all of you. Should you find yourself on Cape Cod, give me a call (508-542-9747).

**Lewis Shepard** - Finally retired. We welcomed George Shepard, our second grandchild, January 17, 2022. We divide our time between Cape Cod and Boston with trips to see family when weather and Covid permit.

**Betheda Rosenfeld Shuman** - I retired from working as a mental health counselor and ended almost 40 years of working in social services in Massachusetts. I feel very lucky to have had the experiences that I've had and the opportunity to learn as much from others. When things are better and safe, I hope to travel and see friends and family, but for now, I'm home waiting!

**1964 Peter Dott** - Just retired from Northwestern Mutual.



Peter & Jennifer Dott  
Indian Harbor Yacht Club

**Frank Ritter** - My new book *9/11 Remembrance Renewal Hope, A Twenty-Year Journey* is now available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Though the topic of 9/11 is often viewed through a purely historic and often bleak lens, my book attempts to transmit a hopeful message. My project reflects many of the positive values and lessons I learned from the staff and teachers at Oakwood, including

Dr. Walter Mohr, Peter Yoder, Headmaster John Jennings, Norm Keiser, and others far too numerous to count.

**1965 Teresa Coppoc DeNies** - My husband and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary last November. I had to have a hip replacement last August. Our daughter and son-in-law got promoted, as well as received awards in their careers. So it has been an exciting year for us.

**1967 Don Badgley** - My first book of poetry has been released: "What Is Not A Miracle".

**Jeffrey Mandel** - Just got over a mild case of Covid but it hasn't stopped me from doing what I love: directing a community theatre version of "The Scarlet Letter." Otherwise, life continues. Living in Tallahassee FL (where I occasionally see classmate William Halford) and hoping to retire in a few years. Hope to see y'all at the reunion.

**1968 Peggy Landsman** - My latest poetry chapbook, *Our Words, Our Worlds* has been published. There's a preview with three sample poems and links to Amazon and Kelsay Books, the publisher, on my website. [Peggylandsman.wordpress.com](http://Peggylandsman.wordpress.com). *Thank you Peggy for sending a copy of your book for the Alumni Author collection in Collins Library.*

**Barbara Pelton Lindley** - Just welcomed a third grandchild, a boy this time, and am so happy to be visiting Maine from Arizona to meet him. Love to my classmates of '68.



**1971 David Lyons** - I often look back on my Oakwood experience as fundamental to becoming the person I am today. Of course there were many other people and places along the way, and as I near retirement I am thankful for them all. Especially my dear sweet wife, Joan Michele. RIP

**1972 Nick Polak** - Hard to believe that in just a few weeks it will be fifty years since graduation! Three years ago, after long and thoughtful consideration, my husband and I decided to move back to my native England. We are now settled in Liverpool, in the northwest of the country, something the nine year-old Beate fan staying up to see his idols on Ed Sullivan could never have imagined. Last July after a lifetime of working, I finally retired. We are renovating a Victorian row house in Bootle, north of the city. As I am now an OAP (Old Age Pensioner!), public transport is free, as is medical care and all my prescriptions. We've done a bit of travelling and plan to do more as restrictions are lifted in Europe. I keep busy with gardening and hobbies and finally have

the kitchen I have always wanted, so there's a lot of cooking. Always happy to hear from friends and fellow Oakies.

**1973**

**Mary Lowrey Rose** - Oakwood gave me peace, joy, true friends, and an escape route. I rediscovered a love of learning which led to me becoming a teacher. Even now, just driving up that driveway brings back that feeling of being home. We began the new year with a new grandson! Lowrey Edward Caya was born at 1:37 am on January 11th, weighing 8 lbs 1 oz and measuring 22". His siblings are delighted!



**1976**

**Sean Smith** - Last year was unquestionably the most difficult I've experienced, as both my mother and wife died within three months of one another. Yet providing my wife with hospice care at home for four months was an extraordinary experience, full of beautiful moments of grace even amidst the harsh reality of her impending death. Everybody's situation is different, obviously, but I've come to believe that any individual or family should have access to resources that make it possible to give hospice to a loved one. I was, and continue to be, fortunate to have supportive family, friends and coworkers, who all have made things far more bearable than they would have otherwise. So, yeah, I'm basically doing OK, and hoping for a far better 2022. stsmith58@Hotmail.com

**1977**

**Hugh Kallen** - One of the huge advantages of designing and building websites for a living is my wife Kathleen and I can pack up our laptops and work from tropical south Florida all winter. If any of my classmates want to join us for a week, get in touch. Plane flights are cheap and we always have an extra bedroom. Come and thaw in the sun!



**1978**

**Alan Ross** - was thrilled to meet on Zoom recently with many of his classmates, as well as several faculty members from that era. Alan worked a stint as a physical rehabilitation physician in central Maine for 22 years. He married, raised a stepson, divorced, and became a disciple of Yogananda, the author of *Autobiography of a Yogi*. He met the love of his

life at the Maine Ananda center, then followed her across the country when she took a job in Sacramento. Doing so required him to close his solo practice and empty a basement filled with 60 years of stuff! Fortunately, it was well worth the effort. He is retired from medicine, and enjoys being a house hubby, as well as doing maintenance, gardening, and audio for the spiritual community where they live. He continues to meet virtually with members of the Meeting in Vassalboro Maine, which he considers to be a jewel among Quaker meetings

**1980**

**R. Courtney Bozic** - Still working as an environmental scientist with clean transportation and alternative fuel vehicles. With the state trying to electrify vehicles, I'm pretty busy. We also do an environmental radio show at SUNY Stony Brook's community radio station WUSB, and I am thrilled to announce that our natural science teacher emeritus John Scardina has hosted a number of shows! It has been a blessing listening to his insights, which he prepares so carefully, covering philosophy, local history, Native American and Buddhist teachings and practices, educational methodologies, and of course environmental insights. Our art teacher emeritus Allen McMickle was a recent guest, and shared his experience practicing homeopathy. We often reminisce about things we did at Oakwood, and talk about old friends such as Norm Tjossem and Betty Beard. Listening to John now, it is no surprise that what he and Carl Beard taught us as part of our ecology class at Mohonk has influenced my life to this day. That experience at Oakwood in the fall of 1979 made me who I am today! I hope all the kids at Oakwood now have similar inspirations from their teachers!



John Scardina and Allen McMickle

**1981**

**Neal Ostberg** - Hi Everyone! My wife, 9 year old daughter and I spent the summer in Sag Harbor, NY. We were at the beach for surf camp and we saw pods of dolphins and whales swim by. Now we are back in Manhattan watching the city revive. Love to all!

**1983**

**Amanda Junquera Downing** - The summer of 2021 found the Downing family going coast to coast in our RV. We logged 32 days, 30 states, 14 State/National Parks or Monuments, 5



Museums, 1 Zoo, 7 Touristy spots, 49 State license plates (+ DC), 8,929 miles driven. It was amazing. Amanda is now at Microsoft as a Modern Work Architect and a School Board Director for RSU 21.

**1984**

**Blair Collins** - My wife, Jen, and our son, Jules, are navigating the crazy world we're all in as best we can these days. Jules will be 4 in April and is having a blast at his pre school. Jen and I are working from home mostly, and doing what we can to keep Jules entertained when not in school. I'm still in touch with many of my classmates and am always on the lookout for anything Oakwood related. I look forward to showing Jules around Oakwood someday. I can't wait to see it again. It's always in my heart. Love from here in Oakland, CA! Pic is Jules as a ghost on Halloween.



**1986**

**Abigail Golden-Vazquez** - This November I began a new job with Prosperity Now as a Senior Fellow, Strategy focused on economic justice and entrepreneurs of color. My father Eric Golden '57, lives one mile away and we usually have family dinner on Sundays which is a real treat. I regularly take yoga classes with my BFF Mel Russo '85 online. We had a blast seeing classmates, teachers, administrators and friends at the last Oakwood gathering in September, which my Uncle John '63, attended as well. Can't wait to do it again.

**Stephen (Il chung) Jang** stopped by campus this fall while in the area from the West Coast!



**1988**

**Jennifer Brunton** - co-authored a book on autism advocacy and inclusion, *The #ActuallyAutistic Guide to Advocacy: Step-by-Step Advice on How to Ally and Speak Up with Autistic People and the Autism Community*. We believe this text will serve Autistic people themselves, as well as families, educators, therapists, caregivers, friends, partners, employers, and anyone else who'd like to know more about Autistic perspectives. In a time when civil rights are being eroded, this matters more than ever.

**Elise Leytham** - I am looking forward to getting Oakwood's Anniversary book - OFS was where I started learning about myself.

**1992**

**Dorothy Glusker** - Dorothy continues to live in San Carlos, CA, with her husband and two daughters, where she coaches teachers who teach English Language Learners.



**Jason Postelnck** - I moved to the Guanacaste peninsula in Costa Rica in August. I work remotely from my beachfront casita by day and play music at the various local venues by night. I live with a heterochromatic wolf/Australian Sheppard.

**1995**

**Forrest Rohde** - Well, I have moved once again, now back in the Phoenix, AZ area. My wife, Meghan, is an Assistant Professor at Franklin Pierce University, and I continue in the field of Safety Engineering. I recently joined the Vermont Air National Guard (commonly known as the 158th Fighter Wing) and I am really looking forward to my training and spending time in the Northeast. I would love to move with my family back to the New England area. Here is a recent pic with Meghan and my two youngest sons, Colin and Forrest. My oldest son, Eli, is now 18, and my daughter, Olivia, is 16.



**1998**

**Rony Sztokfisz** from São Paulo, Brazil recently visited Oakwood with his wife Monica after 25 years. While touring the campus with the Admissions Director he shared some of his fond memories of his time at Oakwood and his love for playing all sorts of sports. While in the gym a run away basketball rolled toward Rony. Without skipping a beat, he took a single shot and nailed a three pointer which was met with excitement and the support of the impressed students practicing basketball! A fun highlight of a lovely visit.



**2001**

**Cristy St. John** - Cristy started a new job with the non-profit 'Do Something.org' as Director of Individual Giving. She is looking forward to returning to Oakwood to speak to the community about her work on May 27, 2022

**2008**

**Angela Cuneo** - Dominick and I got married after 12 years together on November 13, 2021 in a small elopement ceremony including our 4 yr old son Leo.



**2012**

**Jessica Cuneo** stopped by campus in November while visiting a friend in the area and picked up her Oakwood mug!



**Faculty and Friends**

**Michael Sklaroff** - Quiet up here in Rhinebeck, although the Village was bustling during the recent shopping season. Lori works weekdays at PaperTrail and walks or bicycles to work. I'm continuing with my Yiddish language studies - there are classes and discussion groups galore on Zoom. I'm also a volunteer ESL tutor.

**Emily Woolever** - It has been one of the great joys of my life to work with the students who attend Oakwood. The young people I have worked with over the last 8 1/2 years have taught me so much about the world that I didn't know. Through knowing our students as the people they are, rather than who they are "supposed" to be, I have experienced the most beautiful rainbow of personalities and perspectives - and this made me a more compassionate and understanding educator and person. Thank you to Oakwood, to my fabulous colleagues, to the supportive parents, and most of all the students who fill my days with laughter and love. "Because I knew you, I have been changed - for good." *We wish Emily the best as she moves on to her next adventure.*

**Nancy and Bill Doolittle** visited campus for the 100 Year Celebration and were presented a special cushion from the Meeting Room by Chad in recognition of Nancy's work on the bench project.



**Art and Parker Washburn** - We speak of Oakwood often and how much it has meant to us. We have recently been Zooming with old friends/teachers and we all agree that it was pivotal in our lives. We hope for the best for Oakwood! 📺

**Oak Leaves  
Winter 2021-22**



**ELAINE MILES**  
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

**JULIE OKONIEWSKI**  
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

**WENDY GIANGRASSO**  
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

**IN MEMORY**

**Virginia Young Muggleton '39**  
October 19, 2021

**Thomas Jabine '42**  
January 30, 2022

**Ann Duncan Pells '46**  
January 30, 2022

**Joan Benson Williams '49**  
October 19, 2019

**William Willmott '49**  
October 12, 2021

**Patrick Crowley '50**  
January 14, 2022

**Carol Filardi Bankhead '51**  
January 31, 2021

**Peter DeCordova '51**  
December 10, 2021

**Ann Fassnacht Schafer-Wolf '51**  
April 12, 2021

**Christa Buhler Fagerberg '52**  
September 21, 2021

**Patricia Mongol '53**  
January 10, 2022

**Malinda Getty Winans '53**  
November 2021

**A. Russell Heaton '55**  
January 22, 2021

**Linda Marvin Hastie '57**  
September 10, 2021

**Jill Copeland Simbari '66**  
December 7, 2021

**Nick Beni, Jr. '71**  
January 30, 2022

**Rudy Roberson '71**  
February 3, 2022

**Alicia Jackson '87**  
January 19, 2022

**Irene Bunin**  
October 23, 2021  
Former Board Member

**Robert Molay**  
August 24, 2021  
Former Faculty

**Joanna Strosnider**  
February 17, 2020  
Former Faculty

**Address Service Requested**

**2022 Spring School Calendar**

- April 1 Herzog Lecture  
Tom Ditto '62
- April 19 Earthshare Day  
Lecture - Sam Tetlow '89
- April 27 Spring Concert
- May 13 Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter  
Lecture presented by  
Tony Gaenslen
- May 13-15 Alumni Weekend
- June 8 Middle School Moving Up
- June 9 Senior Dinner
- June 10 Commencement

Visit us at [www.oakwoodfriends.org](http://www.oakwoodfriends.org)

## A Snowy Day at Oakwood



Photo courtesy of Khoa (Peter) Tran '23