

Oak Leaves

Winter 2017-18

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 200 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block '90 Presents Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice



Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block

Alumnus Jason Kimelman-Block, class of 1990, will return to Oakwood Friends School to present the Caroline Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice on Friday, April 27th, at 2:30 pm. Now in its 14th year, this lecture series was established by classmates in mem-

ory of Dash Davis Gleiter '51 in recognition of her work in civil rights and her lifetime of volunteer activities to promote social justice.

Rabbi Kimelman-Block is the Washington Director of Bend the Arc Jewish Action, where he works to bring the voices of progressive American Jews into the halls of power in Washington DC. He is the co-editor and co-author of *Just: Judaism. Action. Social Change* and served as the Director of the PANIM Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. He received his rabbinic ordination from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and his B.A. in Political Science from Grinnell College. His talk to the Oakwood community will address: In a Diverse Society, Can Religion Be a Force for Good?

Jason is also the founding member of a cohousing community in Maryland, where he lives with his wife, sustainable food activist and KOL Foods founder Devora Kimelman-Block, and their four children. Jason's sister, Jessica Kimelman '93, is a member of Oakwood's Board of Managers. 📍

International Human Rights Day

By Denique (Abbie) Tullock '19, UNA Intern



Abbie speaking at Human Rights Day event at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park

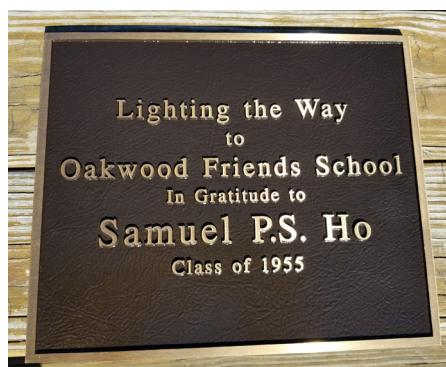
The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is a membership organization dedicated to inform, inspire, and mobilize the American people to support the ideals and vital work of the United Nations. Our local chapter of the UNA, the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter, promotes social justice and international humanitarian issues.

The fifth local celebration of International Human Rights Day was held on December 7, 2017 at the FDR Presidential Library. The two themes of the day were "Working Together for Gender Equality" and "Connecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to Hudson Valley Issues and Solutions." We discussed our rights, specifically freedoms and the political aspects and perspectives regarding those topics. Following last year's event, the suggestions generated by the workshops were shared with elected officials from all over the area. Four of the workshops included for 2018 were *Freedom of Expression*, *The Right to Participate in Politics*, *The Right to Safety*, and *The Right to Equity in Compensation*, all under the general theme of "Women's Rights are Human Rights." Our goal is to continue to have productive and effective discussions surrounding various social issues. Drafted documents were shared with the attendees to help them reflect and grasp a deeper meaning for creating a more egalitarian society. 📍

New Spackenkill Entrance Lights the Way To Oakwood Friends School

Oakwood Friends School lost a wonderful friend and distinguished alumnus when Samuel P.S. Ho, class of 1955, passed away last year. Throughout his adult life, he expressed his gratitude and affection for Oakwood with generous support of the Annual Fund to ensure that students today will enjoy the same important experience that he had. When settling his financial affairs, Sam made a legacy gift to Oakwood of \$100,000 to be used at the discretion of the head of school and board of managers.

Sam's gift was used to refurbish the main entrance to the School on Spackenkill Road, literally lighting the way onto the Oakwood campus. With a new sign, fencing, lighting and landscaping, the entry to Oakwood is beautiful and welcoming, and visible to those driving by in the community. We are so grateful for Sam's generosity in making this much needed renovation possible. We are pleased to acknowledge Sam with a plaque at the entryway. 📍



"I have wonderful memories of my teachers and of friends I made at Oakwood. The five years I spent at Oakwood were some of the happiest of my life."

Sam Ho '55



Inspiration from our Alumni

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



This winter I had the great fortune to travel and share some of the exciting and important work underway in Oakwood's classrooms and throughout our campus. From California to Boston to Florida, alumni, board members and friends of Oakwood welcomed me into their homes and communities. I listened intensely to students, some of whom I remember teaching as 9th graders, as they discussed their graduate studies and the exciting challenges of their first jobs. I was humbled by other alumni who discussed life's work dedicated to professions in academia, finance, medicine, politics and education.



Don Spencer, Paul Doughty '48 and Elaine Miles in Gainesville, FL.

While enjoying some delicious fish and chips in a little diner in Gainesville Florida a few weeks ago, our board president, alumni director and I had the distinct pleasure of eating and talking with one such alumnus, Paul Doughty '48. Soft-spoken, witty and eloquent, Paul joked that he could talk effortlessly on any topic, but only in 50 minute increments (as that was the length of the classes he had taught.) Both Paul and his wife Polly dedicated their lives to studies in applied anthropology, a field Paul has engaged in for almost seven decades. As we moved from dipping bread to onion rings he described the many Latin American communities in which they immersed themselves beginning in the early 1950s. Paul's words painted a picture not of outside ob-

servers, but rather of individuals genuinely engaged with a culture vastly different from their own. Their work and research helped shape community development policy, human rights, international policy and peace studies, and did so in a manner truly reflective of the needs unique to each community.

At Oakwood, we strive each day to inspire and challenge our community to view the world through a similar lens. We ask students to use their education as a means of expanding their understanding and as a vehicle to evoke social and political change. When our current middle school students study sustainable practices in the greenhouse, they are challenged to explore the

impact of food scarcity and distribution within the Hudson Valley. When upper school students study economics and international relations, they do so with a global perspective enriched by a community drawing experience from multiple nations and cultures. And when we gather each week as a community in silent meeting, we listen inwardly; we reflect deeply and we draw strength and support from one another.

Talking with Paul this winter served as an inspirational reminder of what lies at the intersection of passion, engagement, curiosity and humanity. As he and his classmates prepare to celebrate their 70th reunion this May, I am excited to envision the important work our current seniors will tackle in the decades to come. 📍



Chad catching up with Basira Daqiq '17 and Jackie Jin '16 at a gathering hosted by board member Beth Porter '87 in Newton, MA.

Members of the Board of Managers gathered on the new Reagan patio in January.



Back row: Ralph Skeels '60, Michael Quinland, Fred Rodriguez, John Scardina, Eric Wohlforth '50, Bob Bomersbach, Henry Brecher '51. Front row: Jessica Kimelman '93, Fred Doneit, Don Spencer, Loren Talbot '91 and Najah Muhammad '10. Not in photo: Jackson Collins, Mark Colvson, Patrick Crowley '50, Emilie Gay, James O'Barr, Beth Porter '87 and Bill Reagan.



Parent Dinner Supports 2018 Annual Fund



Parent Volunteers: Alysa Sullivan, Bob Bomersbach, Josie Angley, Heidi Kronenberg, Martina Deignan, Doug Kirchner and Susanrachel Condon '80.

Thank you to Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean '09, and owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, for sponsoring our 13th annual wine dinner & auction to support the Annual Fund. The event was held on January 26th at Locust Grove – Samuel Morse Historic Site, catered by Cosimo's. The festive evening was shared by parents, faculty, board members and guests. Thank you to parents Emmy Gay and Alysa Sullivan who stepped up to serve as auctioneers. Student artwork was on display and student musicians opened the evening with their performances: **Willow Bennison '20**, **Elias Fredericks '20** and **Yuyin (Benna) Su '19**. We are especially grateful to two local businesses who sponsored the dinner this year: Cleveland Plumbing & Heating and County Carburetor. Thank you!



Student musician Elias Fredericks '20

Through the generosity of all our auction item donors, we raised \$13,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: A2B Transportation, Adams Fairacre Farms, Poughkeepsie, Sharon Alexander '82, Kayla & Hunter Allen, Akram Amirhosseini, Josie & Michael Angley, Elizabeth Arnold, Atlantic Theater Company, Balance Roling & Massage, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Bill Bogle '76, Bottini Fuel, Boscobel Restoration, Bread Alone, Yvette Brockington, Camp Cody, Elizabeth Casasnovas-Calderon & JC Calderon, Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck,

Center for Therapeutic Massage, Ruchira Chandra & Ryan Borress, Debbie Guy-Christiansen & Peter Christiansen, Reno Colalillo & Nancy Butterfield, Richard & Susanrachel Condon '80, Amy & Bob Cook, Laurie & Dave Craft, De's Jewelers, William Deluca, Eliza's Eye Family Photography, Kathleen & Frank Estony, Richard & Melanie Feldman, Sabrina Ferguson & Anthony Bax, Eve & Bruce Gendron, Gold's Gym, Hudson Beach Glass, Hudson Valley Renegades, Hyde Park Roller Magic, Italian Center, Joe Jankovsky, Timothy Judge, Kenco Outfitters, Katy Keen & George Kilby, Douglas Kirchner & Martina Deignan, Kramer Portraits, Heidi Kronenberg, Claudette Leveque, Susan Masciale-Lynch & Sean Lynch, Locust Grove, Marist College, McGillicuddy's, Jonathan Moss & Sadie Moss Jones, Mountain Float Spa, Jennifer & Ben Munger, Jeff Pollard, Evan Rabin, Bonnie Raitt '67, Mary Redmond & Eli Schloss, Maia Rossini & Ryan Kelly, Lou Simons '56, Amy & Louis Solis, Amy Steckel & Ted Farhangi, Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, Dan & Alysa Sullivan, Lucia & Scott Swartz, Lynn Tirado, Malcolm Turk, Anne-Marie & James Uebbing, and Anna Wilson. 📷



Auctioneer Emmy Gay, parent, Willow Bennison '20

Alumni Gatherings

Thank you to our gracious hosts, **Nancy and Art Saltford '52**, who welcomed alumni and guests into their home in Washington, D.C. on October 29th.



In photo, Eric Golden '57, Walter Dent '57, Juan Williams '72, Nancy Saltford, Barrett Nnoka '74, David Sitomer '65, Jessica Cuneo '10, Elaine Miles, Janet Tenney '67 and Art Saltford '52.

On November 12th, **Peter Richmond and Beth Porter '87** welcomed alumni to their home in Newton, MA. Thank you!



from left - Basira Daqiq '17, Sophie Poux '17, board member Beth Porter '87 and Peter Richmond, Alyssa Spencer '13, Eric Nelson '82 and Sam Arfer '85.



Young alums: Alyssa Spencer '13, Basira Daqiq '17, Jackie Jin '16 and Sophie Poux '17.

Basira and Sophie are both freshman at Smith College; Jackie is a sophomore at Boston University and Alyssa is a graduate of Clark University and currently works in their Development & Alumni office. 📷

Sports Center

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

As the 2017-18 school year opened, we knew there would be challenges in the athletic department. Many talented seniors had graduated and many teams would need to rebuild. What would this mean for our participation levels? I am pleased to report that our athletes answered the call with 83% choosing to play on a team in the fall. This would make the season a success no matter the team's record. Now, some highlights...

Our varsity soccer teams were especially hard hit by last year's graduation, but they played hard and improved throughout the season. On the girls' side, coaches Jodi Allen and Megan Sanger juggled their lineups and players earned valuable experience at multiple positions. The team traveled to Marvelwood in the first round of the HVAL playoffs and played inspired soccer, nearly pulling off the upset before falling 3-2. For awards, senior **Shai Blackbird** won the Versatility Award, and sophomores **Willow Bennison** and **Stefanie Quintanilla** won the Perseverance and Commitment Awards respectively. For the boys, coaches Will Bussert and Stew Diaz lost 11 seniors from last season. Junior **Xiao Kirchner** improved notably over the course of the year and was a team leader in his aggressiveness fighting for the ball. On defense, the team developed better chemistry the more they communicated and learned to cover for one another. Sophomore sweeper **Christophe Mooney** and junior right back **Sage Perkins** were particularly impressive. Christophe's ability to disrupt plays was critical throughout the season. While nearly all of Oakwood's 2017 roster could come back next year, we will lose the following seniors: goalie **Matthew Rodriguez**, midfielder **Chris Ishimwe**, midfielder **Amir Movahedi**, defender **Spike Kelly-Rossini**, and forward **Taji Parker**. These players will be missed for their leadership and toughness.

Our girls' varsity volleyball team, coached by Sara Sandstrom, finished third in a very competitive Hudson Valley Athletic League. They eventually lost in the HVAL semi-finals in a tough match with Storm King. They also narrowly missed out earning the team's first ever bid to the New England championships. Throughout the season, there was some tremendous serving by seniors **Maty Thiam**, **Claudia Sicherman**, **Nancy Masimbi**, and **Briana Uket**. In one game, the team was trailing by 6 and Briana served out the game with 8 straight points. Another senior, **Adele Ruboneka**, was one of the league leaders in blocks. Solid all-around play from junior setter **Caitlin Amann** and Briana kept the team in most matches.



Girls' soccer team with seniors in front: Shai Black Bird & Aiyana Alexander



Coaches Will Bussert and Stew Diaz with boys' soccer team

In cross country, our boys and girls teams were once again led by coaches Bill Doolittle and Sean Thompson. Both teams were larger than normal and both were a mix of experience and youth. Over the season, the teams developed good pack-running which works in the favor of scoring. The teams were often in the thick of the scoring, and just points away from a high finish. Some highlights included the girls' first place finish at the NYMA Invitational, and junior **Layton Liu** outpacing the 3 favorites for an individual championship at the PDS Invitational. For the season awards, Layton was the Boys' MVP, and freshman **Adele Fredericks** was the Girls' MVP. Coaches' Awards went to the girl's captains, seniors **Echo Xu** and **Lily Schaeufele** for their fine leadership and hard work. Finally, earning Coaches' Awards for the boys were junior **Evan Qian** and 8th grader **Eamon Lynch**, who together led the team in practice and in meet scoring. 🏆



Jeremy Atkins and 8th grader Dylan Horton-Ungar in a martial arts demonstration for middle school



The Arts at Oakwood



Stefanie Quintanilla '20 with Music Director Ted Messerschmidt at Marist College

Oakwood sophomore **Stefanie Quintanilla** and Music Director Ted Messerschmidt performed at Marist College's "Music through the Ages" in December. Stefanie played viola with the Marist College Symphony Orchestra under Ted's direction. The concert included music from the past 500 years with selections by Glinka (Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla), Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker Suite), Astor Piazzolla (Libertango), and John Williams (Superman Returns Soundtrack).

Oakwood's Community Service through the Arts class gives students hands on experience in planning and implementing community performances and brings the arts to people who may not otherwise have regular access to live music. During the winter term students performed at the Manor at Woodside Retirement Home in Poughkeepsie and the Cardinal Hayes School for Special Children. Residents of both programs thoroughly enjoyed the performances and appreciated spending time with the student performers. This year, an additional program was initiated involving an arts exchange with young people at a youth detention center in the Hudson Valley. 📺



Students performing for residents

Students took on the challenging work of Henrik Ibsen with their fall production of A Doll's House. Performers were transported back to 1879 where the lead character, Nora Helmer, is being blackmailed. In an effort to save her husband Torvald's life, Nora borrowed money and forged a name. Now her fate rests in the hands of a disgruntled bank employee, Mr. Nils Krogstad. If Torvald discovers the truth, will he protect his wife? Students delivered a strong performance and grew as actors through their experience of preparing for the play.



Willow Bennison '20 as Nora in "A Doll's House"

Four Years of Theater at Oakwood

By Claudia Sicherman '18

My legs shake, and the stage creaks ever so slightly as the cast takes their places. In that one instant, the whole room holds its breath, then the lights come up and thus begins: Act One...

From first setting foot on Oakwood stage, to being cast in my final musical this term, theater at Oakwood has changed and bettered me as an actor, a student, and a person. When I first arrived as a rather outgoing freshman, I had very limited experience with performance art, and always thought myself better suited to visual art. On Orientation Day, I strolled past the humanities teachers and stopped to look at the courses offered in the arts. I stopped to look at drawing classes when a flyer caught my eye: Xanadu. I auditioned on a whim, and, before I knew it, I'd found a passion and talent I never knew I had.

Theater at Oakwood has always been an outlet for me: the people, the plays, and even the space, where I sometimes find myself between rehearsals, simply because it feels so natural. Most people find the open, dimly-lit room to be unsettling, but to me, it's home. I've seen it change and grow over the years, much as I have. It has seen new paint jobs, renovations, different sets, and, from play to play the space changes, almost as if it were a character itself. The best char-

"She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen was performed in February to an enthusiastic crowd. The play takes place in 1995 and follows the story of average Agnes Evans, a 24-year-old high school English teacher, who becomes a lot less average when her parents and younger sister, Tilly, die in a tragic car accident. While finally getting around to cleaning out her family's house, she finds Tilly's Dungeons and Dragons module, a map for a game. As Agnes plays the game in order to get to know her sister better, she discovers the sister she never really knew. 📺



Claudia Sicherman '18 in "She Kills Monsters"

acters in Oakwood theater however, are the casts and crews. Though they also change from term to term, once a student or faculty participates in a production, it becomes very evident that we are, in fact, a family. Dysfunctional though we may sometimes be, fighting on (and sometimes off) -stage, we all come together in the end for a common goal: to put on a fantastic show. Theater has taught me to work with others in a way I hadn't needed to before, and has, on more than one occasion, caused me to form some unlikely but very strong friendships. One particularly challenging production was Sartre's No Exit, because of its small cast of four actors and its heavy content. Despite being one of the more challenging plays for me, it was also the most rewarding and important to me as an actor and from a literary standpoint as well.

From Xanadu to You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Oakwood theater has set me on a path I didn't originally envision for myself, but I couldn't be more grateful. I hope many students to come get to experience the laughs, tears, and support that the theater program at Oakwood has given me. My director, Melissa, music producer, Ted, and the group of consistent "theater kids" have taught me so much and mean the world to me. It is truly a life-changing journey I've been on, and I'm sad to leave it in the past, but I'll never forget the feeling of stepping onstage for the very first time. 📺

My First Year at Oakwood

By: Stew Diaz, Spanish teacher



Cyril Uebbing '20 with Stew Diaz during Spirit Week's Twin Day.

The idea of working with a diverse student population and talented group of colleagues has been exciting for me. It's been an eventful year, whether engaged in the Spanish classroom, spending time with students in the dorms, on the soccer field, or on the basketball court... fully absorbing the school culture and ethos-- not to mention, being a campus resident, has also enhanced this process!

Classes have come alive and provided some cultural learning opportunities for students and Oakwood community members alike. During the fall and early winter, for example, all my Spanish classes have helped build a community altar in the Library for our Oakwood family to participate with; we made sugar skulls to display during Days of the Dead, and learned about the Three Kings Day traditions in Spain and other the Spanish-speaking regions.

All Spanish classes have also highlighted the Oaxacan Regional traditions in Mexico, as a pre-cursor to our 2018 Spring Break trip with students and my colleague, Clara Crosby. We are visiting Oaxaca from March 3rd to March 12th.

As part of their final project going into spring term, Spanish 4 students have also been learning about the Kogi and Arhuacan indigenous communities, especially in regard to their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) systems. This ethnoecological work, carried out mostly by the Kogi and Arhuacan Mamas (tribal leaders), focuses on water management and our human impact on Mother Earth (re. mining, destruction of sacred territories, lack of understanding). The students will also be responsible for organizing a fundraising effort to collect school supplies and used clothing for these communities.

I have been very impressed by the manner in which these students have been using their Spanish knowledge to conduct valuable comparative research; on the one hand, meeting all their grammatical, vocabulary, and cultural background requirements; on the other, effectively communicating the local efforts taking place in the Hudson River Valley with the three ethno educational schools from the villages of Bunkwimake (Arhuacan), Mulkwakungui (Kogi), and Zalemaku de Sertuga (Wiwa), both in writing and speaking (re. video production).

Students are currently in the process of transferring their story boards to dialogue format, which will be edited, rehearsed, and filmed as a final project and first video going out to these communities. In turn, they will be receiving responses from their indigenous peers and my former indigenous colleagues.

Stew Diaz earned a BA in English and Theater Arts at Virginia Tech, an MA in Anthropology at Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Columbia, and is currently working towards an MS in Environmental Education at Southern CT State University. He specializes in Latin American culture, ethno education, literary criticism and bilingual curricular design for environmental education. Prior to joining Oakwood, he lived in Columbia for 8 years, teaching and conducting anthropological research with indigenous communities in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Columbia. He enjoys combining Spanish with fieldwork in the classroom to encourage a career-minded focus. 📖



Stew Diaz working with Michael Angley '21 and Dylan Horton-Ungar '22 making sugar skulls for a Dia de los Muertos celebration

Oakwood Welcomes Author Paula Whitacre



Sue Cianfrani, Community Outreach Coordinator, author Paula Whitacre and Bill Jeffway, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

On Wednesday January 24th, Oakwood hosted author Paula Tarnapol Whitacre in a special Community Meeting. Paula shared her book, "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose" with the community during her visit.

The subject of her book, Julia Wilbur, attended Oakwood's predecessor school, Nine Partners, in the late 1820s. As an adult, she became active in abolitionism in Rochester, and then went to Alexandria, VA, to assist African Americans escaping slavery. After the war, she worked for the Freedmen's Bureau and tried to register to vote in the Washington in 1869. Her Quaker roots served her well throughout her life.

While doing research for her book, Paula Whitacre contacted Oakwood Friends School and heard back from student archivist **Matthew Voorhees '17**. He wrote: "I was forwarded your email and was excited about this information. It is always nice to learn about former students – even if it was over a hundred and fifty years ago. I recognized Julia Wilbur's name immediately and knew that in the Alson and Irene Van Wagner Archives Room here in the library, there was a copybook that she had written in 1829." 📖



Bailey Allen '22 at work



Scientists at work in the Middle School

Black-legged tick project

If you see a couple of sites on campus with a webcam and bait set up (one behind Craig dorm and one in the wetlands by the solar array,) don't be alarmed! Cary Institute is teaching the ecology of the black legged tick (better know as the deer tick) to the 8th graders. It turns out deer are NOT the major culprit of these menaces but squirrels and voles are! Stay tuned to hear what we catch on the cam or on our home made track plates!



Cary Institute educator Shelly Forster

Whole Kids Foundation Grants

Congratulations to middle school science teacher Miriam Straus for receiving two grants from the Whole Kids Foundation whose mission is to improve children's nutrition and wellness by supporting educators and families to help children get excited about fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and other nutritious whole foods.

Honey Bee Grant:

This grant for \$1,500 seeks to stimulate curiosity in young people about the importance of honey bees in our lives and food system, the need to understand and embrace them, and the value of caring about their well-being. Miriam Straus accompanied the 6th grade class to Adams to purchase a bee package consisting of a queen bee and about a pound of worker bees to get the hive started.



Students ordering a bee package at Adam's.

Garden Grant:

This \$2,000 grant will be used to enhance our very successful garden program now in its second year. Oakwood's garden program uses a four season passive solar greenhouse. Last year, **C.J. Nutting '17** built a fence enclosure to help prevent animals from entering. With this grant, we hope to grow enough in the garden to donate to the local food pantry in addition to providing fresh vegetables for our school's dining room. We also want to install a drip irrigation system that teaches students about water conservation and naturally creates a system that ensures plant health. We will also purchase a storage barn solely for garden supplies.

Oakwood's garden program is a wonderful enhancement to our science and math curriculum. In middle school, we teach earth, life and environmental sciences. Composting has been used to study ecology and explain how sewage treatment works as students learn about the local watershed. They also study alternative energies and the passive solar greenhouse is a perfect model to help understand this concept. In earth science, students learn geology and erosion and the ingredients of soil. Photosynthesis experiments are also conducted in the greenhouse. Students measure and record compost data in an excel program and study and graph the data. Oakwood works in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Farm Project.

Miriam Straus grew up on a dairy farm and studied agriculture in college. Prior to teaching, she had a shiitake mushroom operation to grow and sell mushrooms locally. She also worked in programs specifically designed to integrate gardens into the classroom and to learn about food production. 🌱



Miriam Straus placing order with an Adam's employee.



Growing our food.

Afghan Girls Build

By Hadi Daqiq '19



Over winter break, I went home to Afghanistan and had the most enlightening experience of my year. I started a program called "Afghan Girls Build," a website development program for girls. We had two weeks of training and I have seen my students going from no knowledge of web development to building their own websites.

The purpose of the program is to encourage Afghan girls to study computer science and to show them the possibility of what they could do by coding. I realized that we fully achieved the goal of the program when I learned that one of my students changed her major to Computer Science because of the program. All of my students were able to make and launch their own websites by the end of the program and I even had a student who started working in a company as a web developer. I hope to expand the program in the next couple of years. 🌱



Universal Declaration of Human Rights

By Sophie Poux '17



Sophie Poux at Smith College

Three years ago, when I was 14 years old, I read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a foundational text of the United Nations and the most widely adopted legal human rights document worldwide, for the first time. In a world fraught with inequality, the declaration's statement that, regardless of sex, gender, race, religion, age, or any other designation, all people are deserving of a certain set of rights seemed as revolutionary as it did over 60 years ago, when the document was written. The sweeping universality of the UDHR not only brought me a sense of connection to all 7 billion people on Earth, it also affirmed the responsibility I feel, as someone who finds most of her rights upheld, to those whose rights are violated. Whether you are my neighbor or someone who lives on the other side of the globe, I believe that we all are equally deserving of the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration. That first introduction to the UDHR sparked my subsequent work as an activist and organizer with the United Nations Association of the Mid-Hudson Valley. My passion for human rights has helped to define me as a person and student in my communities at home and school.

Last year, this work included facilitating a public discussion for "Human Rights in Action," a Hudson Valley celebration of International Human Rights Day, which commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the Hudson Valley's own Eleanor Roosevelt spearheaded the writing and adoption of the Universal Declaration, the annual event was co-hosted by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the United Nations Association of the Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission. The 155 participants – students, teachers, community members, and local government officials – heard from speakers, including Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and author David Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and took part in breakout discussions co-facilitated by interns of the United Nations Association of the Mid-Hudson Valley, like me, and mediators from the Mediation Center of Dutchess County. These discussions had a local focus, on four topics related to human rights: educational justice and parity, police and

community relations, immigration and refugees, and jobs and the economy. Recently, a letter outlining the participants' concerns and suggestions about upholding human rights in the Mid-Hudson Valley was sent to 30 elected officials and community leaders.

On Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, these four organizations once again hosted an annual Hudson Valley International Human Rights Day celebration at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. This interactive event focused on the comprehensive theme of women's rights as human rights, taking inspiration from the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world ... Without concerted citizen action to uphold [human rights] close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Sophie Poux is a graduate of Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie and a freshman at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. To find out more about The United Nations Association of the Mid-Hudson Valley, go to unambv.org. This article was originally published in the Poughkeepsie Journal.



UNA interns in 2017: Basira Daqiq, Mimi Taariq, Sophie Poux, Stephen Miller, faculty adviser, Bianca Luna-Lupercio, and Alice Flanagan

75 years ago

Lt. Clark Poling, Oakwood class of 1929, was one of the famed Four Chaplains who gave up their lives so others might live during WW11. Poling, who was a pastor at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York, became an army chaplain during the war.

On February 3, 1943, a German torpedo struck the United States troop transporter, SS Dorchester, which left New York Harbor bound for Greenland on January 23rd. The boiler room exploded and the ship began to sink. The four chaplains onboard, Lt. George Fox, Lt. Alexander Goode, Lt. John Washington and Lt. Clark Poling helped to calm the crew and assisted other soldiers onto life boats, giving up their own life jackets when

the supply ran out. They remained on the ship arms linked in prayer when it sank.

The chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. In 2006, a commemorative plaque was installed on the front of New York State's WW11 Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in Albany in their honor.

Oakwood alums Dylan Shad '05 and Lillian Shad '07 are members of the extended Poling family.

William Reagan with the 1928 debating team. Clark Poling (seated), Robert Breed, Agnes Reagan (Kuhn), "Jack" Hogan





Libby Moroff Leadership Program

Participants in the Libby Moroff Leadership Program have had a busy few months! In January, members of the group attended Ignite National's NYC Young Women's Political Leadership Conference at NYU and connected with alumnae who participated in the initial roll out of the program. Speakers included a wide variety of political leaders and advocates including Congresswomen Grace Meng and Yvette Clarke, and Tarana Burke, founder of the #metoo movement. The girls took part in workshops covering topics such as social media campaigns, working on the Hill and tips for lobbying. It was a wonderful, hands-on event that included great networking!



Julie Okoniewski, Libby Moroff Leadership Program coordinator, with Asha Amberslie '17 and Sage Altamirano '16 at NYU.

Shortly after, a group from the program attended a forum in Woodstock to hear from the potential candidates for the Congressional race in November. They also met at Oakwood with a local representative from the non-partisan Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance (DCPAA). They learned about how they can get involved locally through action committees which cover a wide range of issue areas including education, the environment and women's rights.

Finally, students attended a lecture at the Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies this month entitled "Water On, In, and Under the Greenland Ice Sheet". At this lecture by glaciologist Kristin Poinar they learned about the Greenland ice sheet and the vast aquifer under its surface that holds a Lake Tahoe-sized volume of water from the summer melt. This lecture ties directly into the project study area of one of the students in the group who will be presenting about climate change during the spring term. 🌱

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Ethics Bowl

By Nafisa Rashid '19

On Saturday morning, January 27th, 2018, student adviser Stephen Miller and seven Oakwood students traveled to New York University to participate in The National High School Ethics Bowl Competition. Student participants included ninth graders **Bella Gedeon** and **Elizabeth Estony**, Eleventh graders **Hadi Daqiq**, **Abbie Tulloch** and **Nafisa Rashid** and Twelfth graders **Adele Ruboneka** and **Garrett Tanis**. Another eleventh grader, **Olivia Castanza-Leasure** who helped to organize this year's ethics bowl teams was unfortunately unable to attend due to a sudden cold. Participants had to prepare over several months by studying ethical dilemmas, learning moral theories and figuring out ways to solve these ethical dilemmas. Some of these dilemmas involved whether people should be hired if they are smokers, whether students should still be accepted or not into Harvard based on immature actions they took on social media and many other very interesting, timely and thought provoking questions.

Oakwood Students were divided into two teams, Teams A and B, and participated in three one-hour rounds with students from 21 New York City high schools. Oakwood's Team A won two out of three rounds and Oakwood's Team B won one out of three rounds (including a win against Stuyvesant High School!). Both teams did a lot of moral reasoning and critical thinking to debate the ethical dilemmas given and did very well against other teams. This year was Oakwood's third year at the NYC Ethics Bowl.

After a few months of going to morning and after-school meetings to learn new moral theories such as Kantian ethics and virtue ethics, I woke up at five in the morning to catch the train to New York City with seven other Oakwood students. This was my second year participating in Ethics Bowl.



Nafisa Rashid with Lily Schaeufele at FDR Presidential Library



Abby Tullock '19, Nafisa Rashid '19, Bella Gedeon '21 and Garret Tanis '18 at Ethics Bowl

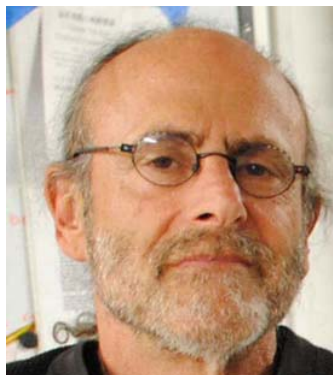
When I got to New York University I saw many other students my age reading over many papers and preparing for the Bowl. I prepared with my team members by going over several cases and finalizing what arguments we wanted to make. When competing against other teams I felt very nervous but when I finally spoke I felt a little more relaxed and had support from my teammates, Abbie, Bella and Garrett. During the breaks between the rounds I was able to talk with Adele, Hadia and Eliza from Oakwood's other team about how they did in their rounds. I was also able to talk with Oakwood Alumna Nai'lah Taariq '17, currently a freshman at NYU. While I had to use a lot of reasoning and brain power that day it was very fun and exciting to try to solve ethical dilemmas with other students and spend time with my peers.

"Ethics Bowl is a national event sponsored by the Squire Family Foundation. It asks students to present fully developed arguments about a number of topical case studies. Our students did beautifully, especially given the fact that with our mandatory afternoon sports, we have much less time to meet and prepare than our competitors. In the end, one of our teams won 2 out of 3 rounds and placed fifth. The other team placed as the top team overall in the Commentary section of the event, the section where they respond to the other school's argument. This section demands high level critical listening and reasoning skills. Oakwood was the only school outside of New York City invited to participate. All in all, a great day for our participants."

Stephen Miller, Humanities Chair 🌱

Congratulations to Nafisa Rashid who was selected as one of the ten finalists from the United States for round one of the International Philosophy Olympiad! Now, she has the opportunity to write another essay in French or Spanish. If she's chosen as one of two finalists, she will travel to Montenegro to compete in the final round.

Jonathan Kaplan '68 to Open Alumni Weekend "So I Asked Myself.... How Did I get Here?"



Our 5th annual Arts Presentation will open Alumni Weekend 2018 on Friday, May 18th, 2:30 pm. Ceramicist Jonathan Kaplan, class of 1968, will present: "So I asked Myself.....How Did I Get Here?" on the occasion of his 50th reunion.

Jonathan Kaplan earned a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has had a serendipitous career in ceramics including teaching, writing as well as maintaining an active studio practice including design and manufacturing for the tabletop industry for over 40 years. Jonathan seems to reinvent himself from time to time but has always kept his eye on the prize,

working as a ceramic artist. He now curates Plinth Gallery and serves on the board of The Studio Potter. In 2015, Jonathan was elected to the International Academy of Ceramics.

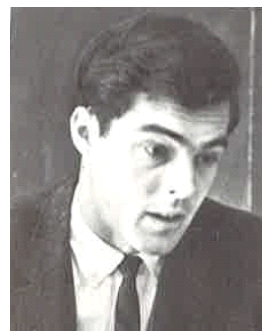
This event is the 5th annual arts presentation launched by Jonathan Talbot '57 who presented "Collage: Medium and Metaphor." The following year, Molly Lynn Watt '56 presented "On the Wings of Song – a Journey into the Civil Rights Era," followed by Lakota performer, storyteller and activist Tiokasin Ghosthorse who visited campus for a 3 day celebration of Lakota culture. Last year, photographer John Willis of Marlboro College combined his presentation about a cross-cultural arts exchange with a day of service learning on Earthshare Day. Special thanks to Marsha and Jonathan Talbot '57 for their on-going support of this lecture series. ☐

"Had it not been for the ceramics class I took in my senior year with Rebecca Willis, I would not have had a meaningful and productive career as a ceramic artist and educator. I am forever grateful to Oakwood School to have enriched my life in such a way."

– Jonathan Kaplan '68

Remembering Hap Peelle

By Daniel Shurman '67



Howard "Hap" Peelle - my Oakwood football coach and advanced math teacher from 1964 to 1967. Thank you Hap for your coaching and teaching. You changed the course of my life. Without your insistence that I learn to program computers in 1967, because they would become important in the geometry of the world, there would have been no second career for me in the world of personal computers and high tech. There would have been no WFB Jr. in my life, nor Bonnie McDaniel Johnson, and no David Liddle and Paul Allen. Hap, thank you for your Quaker-informed kindness and your quick humor. You touched me many times over what became a 53 year friendship with you and your wife.

When we experienced your last months and death we knew that we would miss you. And at the same time you are remembered: You were and continue to be - a shining example of how to be human and excellent - all at the same time. I will celebrate your birthday on Feb 8 with a trip to Bean Hollow to see the ocean. ☐



40 Years

"Well it has been "a few" years but a nostalgic at heart when I got the letter from Oakwood with your email addresses I could not resist. I was sorry the list was not complete and names like Byron, Lane, Tony, Barb, Ralph, Keith, Lisa, Arlene, Michelle, Leslie and Susan were not included but I wanted to reach out to each of you. Though only there for a quick year, my senior year, I truly loved Oakwood and recall most of you quite vividly. I have visited the campus a few times as Julie James '80 and I eventually got together and are now married. Moved out of NYC in 2000 and have two "big" kids here in Delaware. Julie has family in the Hudson Valley and I spent some time there as well so we have dropped in to Oakwood a few times over the years but never on the actual reunion day – so it has been more like a "campus walk around". So much looks the same. Hope all of you are well and thriving. Write back if you dare!"

– Ken Brick '78
kenbrick@verizon.net

Alumni Weekend

May 18-20, 2018

Friday, May 18th

- 2:30pm Arts Presentation
with Jonathan Kaplan '68
- 5:30pm Welcome Reception & Buffet Dinner
- 8:00pm Student production:
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
A.H. Lane Auditorium

Saturday, May 19th

- 9:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 10:00am Alumni Association Annual Meeting
& Community Meeting
- 12:00pm Lunch under the tent &
Class Photographs
- 2:00pm Reception for Class of 1968
- 3:00pm Tea in Collins Library
- 4:30pm Reception for Oak Tree Club
- (Class of 1967 & prior)
- 6:00pm Festive Dinner in Dining Hall
- 8:00pm Student production:
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
A.H. Lane Auditorium

Sunday, May 20th

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

Congratulations to class of 1943: Gloria Garlick Bogle, Joyce Benson Caswell, Bertha May Pearson Nicholson, Dorothy Hansson Richardson, Marjorie Wilder Ross, and Carl Swenson on the occasion of your **75th reunion!**

And to class of 1948: Frederick Brady, Virginia Self Bunker, Beatrice "Tooky" Scherf Campione, Robert Collins, Irene Nemes Csordas, Earle Curtis, Paul Doughty, Patricia Weaver Erne, Marian Amsen Finch, Lt. Ray Frasier, George Langer, Janet Deuell Merritt, Marilyn Beers Neal, Bruce Osborne, Tom Renouf, Lyova Rosanoff, Preston Smith and Gretchen Shane Swackhamer on the occasion of your **70th reunion!**



Yosh Sanbonmatsu - Legendary Teacher

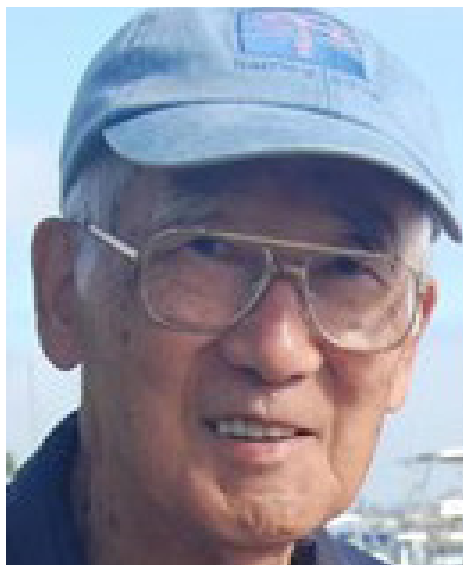


Yoshiro Sanbonmatsu died in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on October 22, 2017. Yosh, as he was known, was born on April 24, 1924, in Holtville, California, to Teru Tsuchiya (mother) and Yoshimitsu Sanbonmatsu (father). During the Second World War, anti-Japanese hysteria led to the US government's internment of Yosh and his family at a Japanese-American internment camp in Poston, Arizona. Yosh left the camp to become a student at Swarthmore College, then joined the US Army and served in Europe and the Phillipines in 1944-45. After the war, Yosh completed his BA in literature at Swarthmore.

After working at the Doubleday bookstore in New York, and after briefly retiring to Paris with a young man's dream of writing the Great American Novel, Yosh settled upon a career as an English teacher. His first appointments were at the Cherry Lawn School in Connecticut, then at Oakwood Friends School in New York. In 1963, Yosh joined the faculty of the English Department at Plymouth Carver Regional High School, and served as department chair. Yosh remained at PCHS for 28 years, playing a key role in developing the high school English curriculum and offering path-breaking courses in film making and visual literacy, among other subjects.

A fierce advocate of freedom of thought, Yosh once publicly defended the teaching of J.D. Salinger's book, *Catcher in the Rye*, against would-be school censors. He was a widely respected and admired teacher who sought to educate his students about the human condition in all its complexities and contradictions. To this day, former students of his speak of the enormous impact he had on their lives.

Throughout his life, Yosh was a passionate advocate for social justice who identified with the most vulnerable in society. Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, he designed and



taught a course at the high school on the African-American experience. He also taught inmates at a local prison and was an active supporter of Native American causes. A patriot in the mold of Mark Twain, whom he admired (and taught), Yosh loved his country, but resisted its government's war-making.

After retiring from the Plymouth schools, Yosh became a full-time artist, concentrating on political and social themes and working in oils, acrylics, watercolor, silkscreen, and sculpture. He received a Masters in Fine Art from Bridgewater State College and studied at the Massachusetts College of Art. In the 1990s, he was one of the co-organizers of Dave's Art Gallery, a political art gallery in Cambridge, as well as the Gallery of Social and Political Art in Boston. Yosh's artwork, the subject of a gallery exhibition in Boston in 2004, can be viewed at www.sanbonmatsu.net.

Yosh put family above all else. He was happiest when biking or kayaking with his partner, or camping or going to the beach with family. He was a loving and unusually involved and devoted father and grandfather, never too busy to help his children with math homework, to read their poetry, or to create sand sculptures for them at the beach. He hand-crafted dollhouses for each of his daughters, replete with wallpapered rooms, carved banisters, and a working doorbell.

Yosh will be remembered by all who knew him as a legendary teacher, a loving father, grandfather, husband, and helpmate, and as a man of great dignity and moral seriousness who nonetheless retained his sense of playfulness, good humor, compassion, and humility to the end of his days. He was a modest man of more than modest accomplishments.

Reprinted with permission from Yosh's son, John Sanbonmatsu, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, WPI. 🍁

Reflections

By Marj Frazer Lacey '56

So sorry to hear about Yosh's death. He did, indeed, have in his own quiet way a tremendous influence on many of us. I had always liked to write, but during my junior year at Oakwood in Yosh's American Lit class, I soon discovered I had a lot to learn about that craft. Yosh not only challenged me to think analytically (a real stretch for me at the time), but to express myself clearly and master the art of transitioning from one point to another in a way that the reader could easily follow.

He took the time to sit down and go over each paper I wrote and point out exactly how I could improve it. Though I felt very connected to many of the teachers at Oakwood, Yosh was special; I felt that he cared about me as a person, not just as an American Lit student. As you might imagine, my choice of careers (all of them) are in one way or another partially an outgrowth of his influence. During college, I worked on the local daily newspaper and planned to pursue a career in journalism. Once I started a family, however, I sought a more child-rearing-friendly avenue and (you guess it) became an English teacher. That segued into school counseling and family therapy--again similar to something Yosh did so well, namely connect with people on a personal level.

Now, in retirement, I continue to write--first a book (*It's Not a Life Sentence*) and now a website devoted to that topic, a travel site (traveltripsntips.com), and a political site (voterbeat.com). Writing has been a constant for me throughout my life.

One story may illustrate Yosh's impressive ability as a teacher. When I went to Earlham, I was placed in Freshman Humanities, an advanced six-unit English course. The chair of the English department was on sabbatical my freshman year, but I had heard many good things about the sophomore Masterworks class he taught so, when he returned the following year, I enrolled. Part way through the year, my freshman professor stopped me in the hallway.

"I just wanted to tell you," he said. "Your Masterworks prof asked me recently if I taught you to write the way you do. I told him no; you came that way."

And the fact that I "came that way" was largely due to Yosh. It wasn't until I watched my fellow freshmen struggling to put thoughts to paper that I realized what a gift I'd been given.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on a very important part of my life. 🍁



Class Notes



1943

Bertha May Nicholson – What a delightful surprise to receive a certificate commemorating my graduation from Oakwood. Has it really been 75 years? It's unbelievable how fast time flies. My year at Oakwood was formative, very important to me. I think especially of Will Reagan, Miss Purnell and the view from the summer house.

1946

Elizabeth Nunn Kramer – Still hanging in there – living at a retirement community connected to the University of Florida – Go Gators! Married to Buddy Kramer



Deborah Satz Scheer – Chad Cianfrani and Elaine Miles visited with Debbie Scheer in November at her home in Corte Madero, CA



1948

Irene Nemes Csordas with her grandson Alexander and his bride Elizabeth at their wedding on August 12, 2017. Alex is the son of Ann & Gabor Csordas '68.



Paul Doughty – Don Spencer, President of the Board, joined Chad Cianfrani and Elaine Miles on a visit with Paul Doughty at his home in Gainesville, Florida in February.

1952

Andrew Harkness – Pee Wee King once said 'A good day is one when I awake, extend my elbows and don't feel wood!' So, I have decided to live forever...or die trying!

1954

Linda Rahl Nadas – Well, my daughter Ruth Gita died in 2017. She left a son Jakob. He is okay and my husband and I are guardians. I am still creating clay objects with attention. Creating is the closest thing to total meditation. I fire to cone 9 and so far so good. Anita Dickhuth and I see each other often. She actually has turned into quite a collector of pots! Best wishes for the new year everyone! Email: lindarahl@gmail.com

Sara Jane Benson Victor – We were impacted by hurricane Irma but are slowly getting our house back to normal. Welcomed 2nd great-grandchild in May.

1956

Martha Ullman West – As I approach my 80th birthday and also the completion of my book: Ballet, American Style: Todd Bolender and Janet Reed, I am distracted, pleasantly, by my grandchildren, Fedor and Flora West and unpleasantly by the sorry state of the republic, starting each day with the signing of petitions.

David White – Our apologies to David White for omitting his name from the 10 year honor roll in 2017. We appreciate David's dedicated support!

1957

Henry Greenberg – My family narrative was published on Amazon in 2017. "Enoch's Legacy" is titled for my paternal grandfather and dedicated to our 5 grandchildren, the youngest now 6 weeks old. Of all my schooling, Oakwood, by far the best.

Marty Shaw enjoyed a lunch visit with Beth and Hugo Sonnenschein and Gwen Rice at Gwen's home in Chicago.



Marty, Hugo & Gwen

Marion Cunningham Twichell – We evacuated from the Ojai Valley during the devastating Thomas fire and were very grateful to return to our unscorched and intact home. Much kindness from strangers and friends, heroics by firefighters, winds blowing in the right direction are highlights of this experience.

1958

Michael Beecher – Still living in Seattle and teaching at the University of Washington. But with our youngest son at Columbia Medical School, we're hoping to combine a visit to NY with the 60th reunion of the class of 1958. Would love to hear from some classmates!

1959

Carole Grayson, widow of Alex Hart – A month before her sudden death, Sukey Stone Eldridge and I spent a lovely day in NYC. I was visiting from Seattle. Met her at Grand Central with a list of museums open that day, a Monday. Instead, we repaired to a café, where we talked for 4 hours. We then bought bagels next door, talked more and walked back to Grand Central. I treasure memories of that day and seeing Sukey at her and Alex's 50th and 55th reunions and at a small memorial for Alex in Bethlehem, CT, in May 2016. Alex always had a special place in his heart for Sukey. I miss them.

Family and friends gathered at Oakwood to celebrate the life of **Sukey Stone Eldridge** on November 25.

1960

Ralph Skeels – Chad Cianfrani and Elaine Miles visited with Board member Ralph Skeels and his wife Judy Skeels at their home in Woodbury, NJ.



1961

Jean Kantambu Latting – Our apologies to Jean for omitting her gift in memory of Barbara Mahone Brown '62 in the 2017 Annual Gifts Report.

1962

Edith Root – I have been rebalancing my life since my husband's death last month. I intend to pursue my passions for skiing by teaching and running women's programs (30 years!) at Jiminy Peak AND my love of nature and horses by continuing work with fox hounds of Old Chatham Hunt. Oakwood helped me learn that we all must find our personal path to spread happiness in those we touch.

**1963**

Martha Richdale – It has been a rough two years with the illness and subsequent passing of my wonderful husband, Bill Bough, on August 9th. I am back in New Hampshire in my little beach cottage, adjusting to life without him, looking forward to the first snow and 'reinventing' myself. In April I am going to Iceland, a trip we had hoped to make together. I know he'll be there in spirit! I wish you all good health, laughter, love and peace in the year ahead.

1964

Pamela Tinnes Lord – An idea got into my head about nature and how the animals react to very bad weather. Before I knew it I had the workings for a children's story. I have always made up stories to tell the grandkids at bed time. I had never written anything before and on a whim I sent the story to Page Publishing as a first time author. They read it, liked it and offered to print the story. I am looking to have it printed by January 2018. The story is about friendship, inclusion and ecology.

1965

John Blackman – retired as an attorney from the county of Los Angeles as of July 1, 2017.

1966

Congratulations to Janet and **Jerry White** on their 40th anniversary. They celebrated in Hawaii.

1968

Andy Schlossberg - Happily retired for 7 years from the NYC Dept. of Ed. Enjoying traveling, my children and my new cockapoo puppy. Living in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1969

Chuck Schwartz – Things could be better, but I will try to stay on course. Religion is very important. Science is critical, though. We now have an anti-science President – this could spell doom.

1970

Theresa Riley Baron – Still loving the retirement phase of my life. Working with LEGO and Robotics is still a great passion of mine but now, I am more judging the teams than mentoring them. I recently fulfilled one of my 'bucket list' items and that was visiting the GIANT causeway in Northern Ireland. Wow! Hi to all my classmates and enjoy whatever comes your way.

Helen Claxton – The remarks of Rebecca Gnessin '01 in the November mailer really resonated with me. I echo many of her sentiments when speaking to friends about my time at Oakwood. My experience at Oakwood transformed my intellectual and spiritual DNA! Like Rebecca, I give to Oakwood to help the school keep doing what it does. Thank you, Rebecca. Thank you, Oakwood.

Gary Slutzky - You just never know how, when or where Oakwood Alumni will come together. The three of us attended the annual Zadock Pratt Museum dinner at Hunter Mountain to honor recipients of awards for preserving the culture and history of the Catskills. Adrienne Larys and I have known each other for some time, as we are board members of the Mountain Top Historical Society. We met Nina Lawford-Juviler, a regional cultural magazine publisher (Kaatskill Life), tonight at our table. Somehow, Nina mentioned she graduated from Oakwood. Adrienne and I knew we were

both Oakwood alums already, but it was amazing to find out that Nina was as well. And there we were, the three of us, all working to preserve culture and history, each, in our own way. Who knew?



Adrienne Larys '62, Gary Slutzky '70, Nina Lawford-Juviler '53

1973

Annie Finch has just sent two new books to her agent: a book of poems called *Amulet for Brave Women* and book of nonfiction, *The Witch in You: Five Directions to Your Inner Goddess*. Annie is thrilled to be offering her first international retreat, a transformational week of writing and yoga for women at Lake Atitlan, Guatemala in February 2019 (more at anniefinch.com).

1974

Jeff Fitts – Looking forward to early retirement from 36 years at Eastman Kodak. Enjoying the ability to stay connected through Facebook.

Karen Knowles – I retired from nursing in May 2017 after 31 years. I am enjoying traveling, working out, reading and connecting with old friends.

1975

Rachel Silveston with her Dad Peter Silveston '47 at Alumni Weekend 2017.

1976

Bill Bogle – I have retired from the practice of law and left Poughkeepsie for warmer climate. We are living in the South Carolina low country near Hilton Head, Beaufort, Bluffton and Savannah, GA. My mom, Gloria Bogle, class of 1943, sold her house this summer and has moved to Savannah, GA. We are loving the south, finding new friends, and caring for our two dogs, Hawkey and Wrigley.

1986

Sarah Hoffmann – Enjoying the season. Happy to offer hospitality to traveling friends. Email to arrange. I'm in a new job in stroke research. Life is good! Sarahkhoffmann@gmail.com

1988

Congratulations to **Ladee Hubbard** for her debut novel, "The Talented Ribkins." Ladee is an adjunct lecturer in the Africana Studies Program at Tulane University in New Orleans. She earned her undergraduate degree at Princeton University, her MFA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Ph.D. at UCLA. She was

recently interviewed about her book on Late Night with Seth Meyers. Toni Morrison was her thesis advisor at Princeton and became her mentor.

**1995**

Forrest Rohde – I am currently an independent realtor in Prescott, AZ, working in an International network. I am happily married to the beautiful Meghan Jo, and expecting my 4th child and 3rd son in April. I'm full of gratitude for all that is beautiful and wonderful in my life.



Forrest & Meghan at the Scottish Games in Prescott, AZ

1998

Georgia Dalto – I love it out here in Nevada! We've had a strangely mild winter, but now it is finally snowing! I'm still working on my PhD, so that's sort of a pain, but I hear it gets better after you graduate. :)

2003

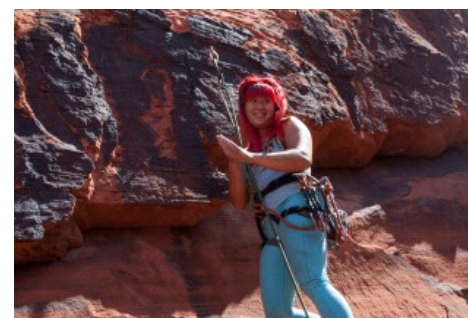
Congratulations to **Jennifer Yee** and her husband Eric Duchon and their son Julian on the birth of baby sister Eleanor Irene Shu-guang Duchon on December 4th, 2017.

2004

Megan Krause-Kelley – Bodhi Marcus Kelley was born on November 9, 2017. We can't wait to take him home! Chlöe loves her little baby brother! A great 4th birthday present for a big sister (November 10th!)

2005

Irene Yee is a climber and climbing photographer in Las Vegas, NV. She started climbing 3 years ago and immediately fell in love with the sport. It inspired her to pick up a camera and start chronicling her adventures and the people she meets along the way. Irene also works as a carpenter for Cirque Du Soleil.



Irene Yee – featured in the Las Vegas Review Journal

2007

Congratulations to **Emily Atkin** on her coverage of the environmental disaster looming in Puerto Rico. Emily is a staff writer covering the environment for the New Republic.

Ella Maslin and her fiancé Ben Fink have started a collaborative company called Wood and Cut that focuses on handmade goods made primarily from locally sourced materials in the Hudson Valley. Ben, the woodworker, brings wood furniture, home wares, and jewelry to the mix, while Ella brings papercut art and textile goods that are made in their shared 19th century barn studio space in Milan, New York.

**2008**

Angela Cunco – Just got the letter today in the mail. 10 yr reunion coming up. Been so long since I've been back to Oakwood. Can't wait to bring my son for his first Oakwood experience.

Rachel Lee – is currently working in the mobile advertising industry in Korea but will be making a move to Rome, Italy with her fiancé in May.

Natalie Varrallo is serving as the Director of the Culinary Arts Department at the Heartwood Institute in Northern California. The culinary arts program focuses on a system of plant-based education that merges nature with the science and art of agriculture and food preparation. Working with her in the culinary program is fellow alum, Nate Schoettle-Greene '09. Natalie was just recently accepted to the Sustainable MBA program at Green Mountain College in Vermont.

2009

Congratulations to former student clerk **Jonathon (JP) Powers** on his engagement to **Jennifer Kennett '08**.

2010

Lauren E. White graduated from Alfred University in 2014 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She is a New York State certified teacher and has worked for one year at the Branksome Hall School, in Jeju Island, Korea; 2 years at the International School of Stuttgart in Germany and recently joined the faculty of the American International School in Budapest, Hungary where she teaches in the early childhood program.

**2011**

Congratulations to **Gabe Matsakis** on earning his master's degree in International Conflict Analysis from The University of Kent in Canterbury, England.

**2013**

Sebastian Wayne debated foreign policy at the 69th annual Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA) titled "The Politics of the Forgotten and the Aggrieved: Remaking the World Order" in November. Sebastian is a history major at Mount Saint Mary College.



The conference was held at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Delegates served on one of 15 regional and topical round tables and were asked to assess and debate issues such as the impact of populism on U.S. and European domestic and foreign policy, the future of American alliances throughout the world, U.S. responses to climate change, and U.S. policies to address ethnoreligious conflict and mass displacement. Sebastian presented his group's policy memo for the reformation of NATO.

2014

Beth Gross – is now attending Pace University

2015

Shray Pathania met up with former teachers and alums at NYU in January where he has transferred to the Gallatin School of Individualized Study.



Shray with Oakwood faculty member Stephen Miller

2017

Kudos to **Jabreel Harrell**, a freshman at SUNY Cortland studying Economics, on his project to start a Summer Youth Basketball League in the City of Poughkeepsie. Through this project Jabreel hopes to, "give young men and women the opportunity to get off the streets and participate in an activity we all love."



Faculty & Friends

Board member **Jackson Collins** has been promoted to Associate Executive Director at Prep for Prep, a leadership development program that offers students of color access to a private school education. Jackson previously served as Director of Counseling, overseeing the well-being of over 700 students enrolled in independent day and boarding schools.

Congratulations to French teacher **Kate Saumure-Jones** and her husband Steve Jones on the birth of their son Charles on September 21, 2017, a wonderful addition to our campus community.





Remembering Zane Mandel-Michalak '13



Zane with brother Max

Excerpt from a tribute written by Zane's loving mothers, Lauren Mandel and Kate Michalak.

Zane Raphael Mandel-Michalak, beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, friend left us Monday, September 4, 2017. Our sweet son leaves behind his loving mothers, their loving spouses, brothers, cousins, extended family and countless friends.

Zane was born with a spirit that craved thrills and passion, to that end he always kept his family on the edge of their seat. A sweet soul, caring man and fun-loving would be words to describe him. Our boy had graduated from Siena College with a degree in Social Work this past May and had just begun his professional position at Evercare. Zane wasn't planning on leaving this earth so soon as he was excited to be collecting "tchotchkies" for his new desk at work the next day. His thrill seeking and passion drove him to make dangerous decisions and he suffered because of it.

Our Zane had a bright future ahead of him, a bride to marry some day and sweet children of his own. Sadly our world is now dimmed because of all that was and will never be. Our wish for Zane's memory is we live every day like it is our last, be fearless and love deeply. His memory will always be a blessing to his family and all who knew him. May his spirit finally be free and watch over his brothers and cousins who will miss him eternally.

A memorial service was held on September 7, 2017 at the Walden Jewish Community Center/Temple Beth-Hillel.

"Zane lived with the highest level of love and passion for life and for those around him. He had the ability to put a smile on people's faces and remind them that being oneself is the best way to be. Zane was more than just my family, he was my best friend and it's been almost impossible to imagine life without him. One of Zane's passions was skateboarding. While other skaters may have had an easier time than Zane completing tricks, that never stopped Zane from pushing forward until he completed his kick flips or heel flips. Often times this meant us sitting for hours in the summer sun, in the driveway or park, a lot of scrapes, bruises, blood, sweat,

and tears, but mostly an unwavering level of determination.

If there was a way to best honor Zane's life and memory, it would be for each of us to live each day to the fullest and to put forth that same level of passion and determination at whatever gives you the most meaning in your own life. I want to thank all of the Oakwood teachers and faculty who came to pay their respects at Zane's funeral. It meant a lot to my family."

– Zach Missen-Jones '11 



Zane with Zach Missen-Jones '11 on vacation



Zane with middle school friends Ozi Matthews, Henry Harms and Alex Rodriguez

Oak Leaves Winter 2017-18



ELAINE MILES

Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI

Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIAGRASSO

Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

IN MEMORY

Elizabeth Abel Wade '30

March 20, 2017

Ellen Hart Mulvey '39

August 16, 2017

Charlotte Brown Tickell '39

March 23, 2016

F. Stewart (Stu) Stover '42

January 17, 2018

Peter Lewis Silveston '47

January 7, 2018

Neil Alan Randell '49

July 25, 2017

Joan Guzy Gold '50

December 9, 2017

John Highberger '52

September 13, 2017

Alice Kelsey '52

February 27, 2018

John (Jack) Collins '53

January 27, 2018

Frank Rizzolo '57

June 2, 2011

Robert Douglas Moore '58

December 10, 2017

Marcia Heiman '59

January 8, 2018

Thomas Caswell Grave '61

October 4, 2017

Judith Ann Nierenberg '64

July 7, 2016

Mary (Molly) Wood '68

July 15, 2017

Abby Litwin Mooney '79

October 8, 2017

Christopher Naney '83

October 28, 2017

Zane Mandel-Michalak '13

September 4, 2017

Harold (Hap) Peele

Former Faculty

December 15, 2017

Georgia Preston

Former Faculty

January 18, 2018

Joseph Rutledge

Former Board Member

October 3, 2016

Yoshiro Sanbonmatsu

Former Faculty

October 22, 2017

Address Service Requested

2018 Spring School Calendar

April 3	Breakfast with the Head
April 24	Earthshare Day
April 27	Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block '90
May 17-19	Spring Production You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
May 18	Arts Presentation Jonathan Kaplan '68, ceramicist
May 18-20	Alumni Weekend
May 23	Spring Concert
June 6	Middle School Moving Up
June 7	Senior Dinner
June 8	Commencement

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

A Winter Field Trip in Esopus, NY



Black Creek Preserve