

Oak Leaves

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 225 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Acclaimed Journalist and Author Juan Williams '72 Dedicates Plaque of Appreciation to Oakwood



(L-R) Thembi Dube '85, Deb Wood '56, Beth Porter '87, Raphael Hartzog '70, Anthony Heyward '75, Barrett Nnoka '74, Ethan Borress '24, former faculty member Nanette Koch, Siena Solis '24, Juan Williams '72, Tyler Landsman '24, Parfait Bizimana '16 and Annette Engler '87 at the plaque dedication ceremony.

Acclaimed journalist and author Juan Williams, an alumnus from the Class of 1972, returned to campus to dedicate a plaque to Oakwood in recognition of the school's historical support of Black and Latino students and its commitment to racial justice throughout history. With a career in media spanning decades including work at The Washington Post, NPR, as a political analyst for Fox News, and as a weekly columnist for The Hill. Juan has received numerous awards for his writing and investigative journalism. He is also the author of six books, including the non-fiction bestseller, "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965" and "Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary. Juan has also written numerous articles and has contributed to many national magazines, including: TIME, Fortune, The Atlantic, The New Republic, Ebony and GQ.

Born in Colon, Panama. Juan moved to Brooklyn at the age of four. In 1969, he received a scholarship to attend Oakwood and then went on to Haverford College where he graduated with a B.A. in philosophy. Juan has remained close to Oakwood throughout the years and is a dedicated supporter of the school.

Following are the remarks he shared with members of Oakwood's Board of Managers at their September meeting, as well as with a group of students, administrators, faculty and friends. We look forward to welcoming Juan back to campus to open Alumni Weekend on Friday June 14th with a lecture and discussion with fellow alumni, former faculty and friends.

Let's open with a heart full of "Thank You." Thank you to Oakwood Friends School. Thank you to the people who defined this school – today, yesterday and yesteryear – by its love for all children. Thank you, Oakwood Friends, for bringing Quaker principles to life with this legacy of love for generations of young people. Today my friend, Barrett Nnoka, class of 1974 stands with me in offering a very personal 'Thank You.' Fifty years ago, at a troubled, dark time of racial turmoil in America, Oakwood opened its doors to young Black and Latino people, such as Barrett and me. Oakwood took a risk for racial justice by offering Black children access to a first-rate education. That was Quaker witness in action. That was faith come to life for all to see.

Let me be clear about why we are here today. Barrett and I are old men. But we were not the first Black students here. Ninety years ago, in 1933, Oakwood Friends admitted Frederick Yergan, a 12-year-old Black child. He came here for 8th grade. Oakwood stands tall among American schools, as among the first private, preparatory schools to integrate students. And it stands tall as the first Quaker school to award a diploma to a Black student in 1938 when Yergan graduated. Fred's brothers, Charles and Max, also graduated from Oakwood friends. All three became medical doctors, two of them surgeons. Every life they healed was touched by Oakwood Friends School.



More Black students followed. The word got out about Oakwood Friends. The sons of the presidents of two historically Black schools in the south, Fisk University and Dillard University, both made their way to Poughkeepsie to graduate from Oakwood Friends. This little Quaker school became an oasis for them. Their parents saw a safe harbor at a time when even the most highly educated, socially skilled Black parents struggled to protect their children from the wounds of harsh racial segregation in Tennessee and Louisiana. Their stories are one part of the Oakwood legacy.

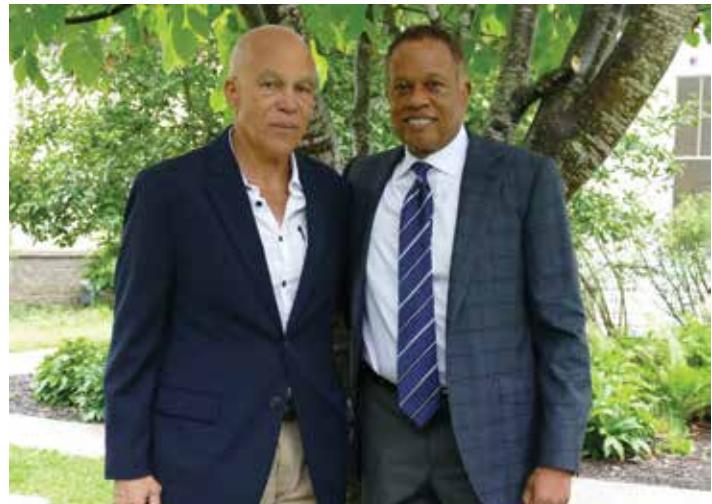
Oakwood Friends was also a rock of hope for so many young women early in the 20th century. Oakwood Friends became a place where female minds were treated as equal to any in the classroom. It was a place of saving grace for Marion Yoshiwara. She came to Oakwood in 1945 after her family faced a mountain of despair, battling racism after being released from confinement in a World War II camp in Colorado after our government removed Japanese Americans from their homes. Oakwood Friends offered her parents a school that respected them and Marion.

Then came the 1954 Brown Decision. The Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in schools generates a "feeling of inferiority" – specifically in Black children. The chief justice, Earl Warren, added that racially separate schools are "inherently unequal". Oakwood Friends heard that cry for justice for all and acted. Six years after the Supreme Court ruling and, in the midst, continuing anger from white segregationists, the leaders of Oakwood Friends took the bold step of admitting 13 Black students. The school acted even as massive resistance to the Brown Decision kept most of the nation's schools, public and private, racially segregated.

Then in 1967 more than 150 race riots shook the country. At that violent, difficult moment, Oakwood Friends took an exceptional stand. Setting itself apart as a Quaker witness - The school admitted 22 Black students. Also, in 1967 Oakwood history teacher, Norm Keiser, introduced one of the first Black history classes taught in the U.S. White students at Oakwood set a record by giving a check for \$1600 to the Poughkeepsie branch of the NAACP. It was the largest amount received by the NAACP from any school or college in New York State, according to the Poughkeepsie Journal.

From 1968 – the year of Dr. King's assassination – to 1977 Oakwood Friends admitted 202 Black and Latino students. It was a defiant stand against school segregation. Friends' meetings around the country raised money for many of those Black and Latino students to pay tuition so they could afford to attend Oakwood. And the school did not hide its work, its open door for school integration. Oakwood Friends let its light shine at that dark moment by reaching out to minority parents and students through a program known as ABC – A Better Chance.

Barrett and I were among the students who arrived in the early 70s. When I showed up in the fall of 1969, I was a skinny kid with a big afro. I looked like a dandelion! My prize possession was a pair of purple converse sneakers. Coming from Brooklyn, it was not just my race that made me feel like an outsider. This was not Section 8 housing in a crowded city. I couldn't believe the campus - the towering pine trees, the emerald green playing fields, the library, the nurturing teachers and staff, the big, beautiful houses in Kingwood Park.



Juan with friend Barrett Nnoka '74

And my white classmates were standouts. I was here with kids coming from much better elementary and junior high schools. My classmates were children of Park Avenue, children who vacationed in Europe, children whose parents were college graduates and corporate leaders. They were hippies with tie-dyed shirts, long hair and sandals. They played the latest Bob Dylan records. Jimi Hendrix and purple haze was a new culture for me.

Would I be able to make it? Was I smart enough? I am an immigrant Black kid born in Panama. My mom brought three kids to Brooklyn when I was 4. In New York, my mom worked in the garment district; my dad trained boxers and did some accounting. My parents did not graduate high school. But my parents believed in education. They loved their children and one reason they wanted us to come to the U.S. was that my sister was about to enter high school.

When it was my turn to go to high school, I was on my way to a mammoth city school with students in tracks that amounted to a new form of racial segregation. My family had no money and little option. But my sister, a bright woman, won a scholarship to a Quaker college, Swarthmore. My brother then won a scholarship to another Quaker school, Haverford. They worried that Brooklyn street life was taking me in the wrong direction. At my sister's Quaker college, she heard about the Quaker prep schools - Westtown, George School and that led to Oakwood.

Oakwood made a place for me as it did for Barrett and others. Oakwood did not just open its classroom doors to students of color. It opened financial support for tuition. It opened dormitory rooms to integration. It opened the dining hall. There was a mixing of people, all classes and races and nationalities, that was inspiring to me at the time. It remains exceptional to this day. Oakwood's daring actions a half-century ago stands as eternal testimony to Quaker values of integrity and speaking truth. It celebrated that of God in Barrett, in me, in hundreds of black and brown children, in all children.

So, Thank you. I opened these remarks by offering thanks. Let me close by saying - Thank you. Let this plaque stand here for years to come as a bright light of enduring thanks to Oakwood heroes and heroines of the past. Thank you to Oakwood Friends people of today, and their defiant willingness to celebrate this schools' proud legacy and sacrifice again to confirm the power of Quaker witness - Oakwood as a light in this world. Thank You. ☐

Oakwood's Enduring Traditions

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

What similarities do we see between a current Oakwood history class and one from the 1950s? What does the creative process look like in art class versus forty years ago? Is where I played guitar in the Dugout in the late 1960s really a fully functional dark room photography studio today? Several of our Board members, pictured below at lunch, explored these questions on Board Visitation Day this January; a time when they join the school community for a day of classes, theater, music, sports, and discussion. This day also serves as a time to remind us of what has changed, what core values continue to inform our mission, and what important work is needed moving forward.



As we move into March, I am reflecting on the first six months of school with great joy. Entering my 19th year at Oakwood, and 9th year as Head of School, I recognize the privilege of working within a community that cares deeply for school mission and one another. These last few years Sue and I have also experienced the transformative power of Quaker education through the eyes of our sons Andy (7th) and Henry (9th). The Oakwood community continues to grow as we welcomed over forty new families this fall, expanded academic programming, and extended our reach into the Hudson Valley.

The fall trimester found students busy in the classrooms, on the sports fields, and on the stage. We introduced a new dual-enrollment program which provides students with the opportunity for both Oakwood and college credit in calculus and advanced statistics. Photography students in 6th-12th grades developed film in our newly renovated dark room. Eighteen students traveled to Montreal in November for an international Model United Nations conference and twenty of our students

traveled to Machu Picchu over Spring Break. Students got their feet wet gathering data in the Hudson River and sailing on the Sloop Clearwater. They competed in regional inter-scholastic math competitions, ethics debates, participated in international philosophy events, and served as panelists on nationally attended Zoom conferences. In the first three months of school over 50 colleges and universities visited the campus and our seniors are beginning to decide on the next steps of their educational journey. It has been a busy start to the year!

Students reflect on their responsibility to live a principled life as service work continues at local soup kitchens, shelters, and other nonprofits. Classes engage with members of the Poughkeepsie community, young and old, through a Service Learning through the Arts course. We continue to collaborate with local farms, businesses, and nonprofits addressing food scarcity issues in the Hudson Valley. And our students engage as citizen-scientists, gathering and submitting real-time data on everything from Hudson River tide levels to hand-counting glass eels during their migration from the Sargasso Sea to Wappingers Creek.

Faculty continue to develop new curriculum, expand student opportunities, and share their work regionally and abroad. Professional development and faculty research have taken us to workshops focusing on restorative practices in the classroom, explored the implementation and impact of artificial intelligence on curriculum, and helped design and deploy environmental sensors. Beyond the core classes, faculty are working with students in the fields of programming, astronomy, civics, social justice, environmental hazards, international politics and ethics law. This is an exciting time to be an Oakwood student!

While the Dugout may look a little different than the last time you were on campus, and the topics explored in ethics or global economics may differ from fifty years ago, there remains a consistency of mission and approach to learning. Students learn how to think, not what to think. They question, listen deeply, and think critically. I invite you to reach out, connect, walk the campus, and see what is happening at Oakwood today. Perhaps you can also see how your calculus, English, and ceramics skills compare to the last time you were sitting at an Oakwood desk! I look forward to connecting. Be well. ☺

Norm Keiser Legacy Fund

In the spring of 2021, several alumni and former faculty came together to establish the Norm Keiser Legacy Fund to honor the memory of Oakwood's former history faculty member. As the Black Lives Matter movement was growing, the goal was to help the school continue to foster an understanding of Black history as American history, as Norm did so effectively in the 1960s. It is now an endowed fund with lofty goals - to further the education of students and the community in an historical and current understanding of civil rights in the United States.

Excerpts from a letter Janet Tenney '67 shared with alumni from the 1960s about the Fund follows:

Dear Friends,

As we all face this time of strife and division in our society, many are asking what can I do to make a difference? As my political friends say, work locally. Oakwood Friends School



may be local for some of you, but at one time it was local for all of us.

The Norm Keiser Legacy Fund has already supported some small projects and faculty are looking to incorporate more social justice related topics into their teaching. I hope you will consider contributing to the Fund. It is a small way to make a difference in the education of Oakwood students in the full American history, the Friends Peace Testimony and empower them to make an impact on the larger community in the Hudson Valley.

To donate visit the school's donation page and note "Norm Keiser Legacy Fund" in the "Comments" section or contact Wendy Giangrasso at (845) 462-4200 x230 or wgiangrasso@oakwoodfriends.org.

Warmly,
Janet Tenney '67 ☺



Sports

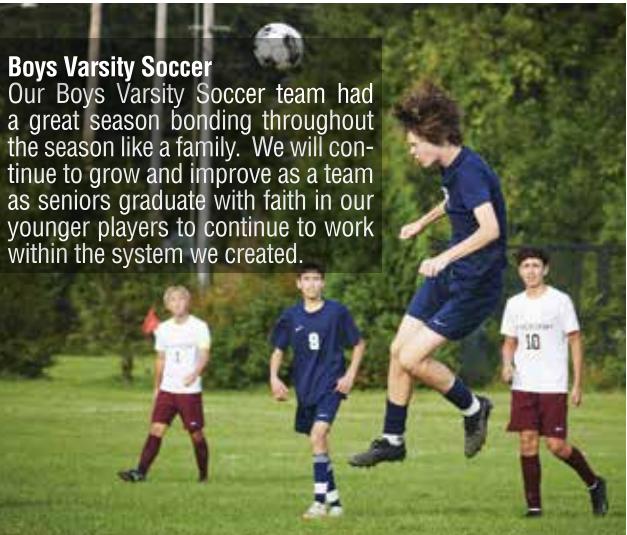
Middle School Soccer

Middle School Soccer had a season full of fun and growth, where veteran players shined and helped guide newer team members to understand their positions and improve their skills. Every member of the team had outstanding moments on the field as athletes and also in sportsmanship that the Oakwood community can be proud of.



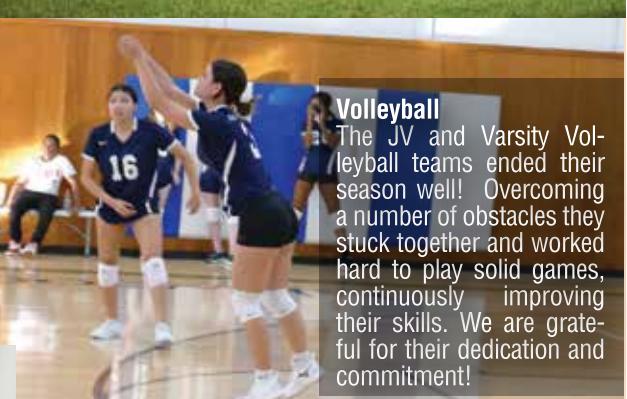
Boys Varsity Soccer

Our Boys Varsity Soccer team had a great season bonding throughout the season like a family. We will continue to grow and improve as a team as seniors graduate with faith in our younger players to continue to work within the system we created.



Girls Varsity Soccer

The Girls Varsity Soccer team continues to grow stronger and develop in skill. This year led to the girls winning their first game in several years and competing in the semi-finals. We are excited to get back on the field this summer for pre-season to continue their progress and reach even higher successes next year!



Volleyball

The JV and Varsity Volleyball teams ended their season well! Overcoming a number of obstacles they stuck together and worked hard to play solid games, continuously improving their skills. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment!



Middle School Basketball

The Middle School Basketball team had a great season, remaining undefeated! The growth they have shown since the start of the season is tremendous and their support of each other has made this team a fun one to be a part of!



Boys Varsity Basketball

The Boys Varsity Basketball season has been an exciting one meeting new coaches and teams with the move from Division D to C. The team has many strong players as well as creative teamwork. We are looking to finish the year off on a high note with a bright season ahead next year!

Cross Country

With the largest team in decades, XC runners in grades 6th through 12th ran hard and improved consistently throughout the season. The boys team won the HVAL Championship for the 2nd consecutive year, with Henry Cianfrani '27 finishing first in the league. The team finished 10th in the highly competitive New England Invitational. We are looking forward to many more miles on the Oakwood course!

Boys JV Basketball

The Boys JV Basketball team has played with lots of energy and heart all season. Their love for the game and enthusiasm is showcased each time they step on the court, no matter the opponent!



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International Symphony Premiere



Ted Messerschmidt (R) with Dr. Tobias Wunderle

Ted after the performance. Reflecting on the experience Ted shared, "It was a wonderful experience and I'd like to thank Oakwood for making it possible for me to attend!"

Aside from his work at Oakwood, Ted has taught courses at Fishkill Correctional Facility, Dutchess Community College, and Marist College, where he served as the Orches-

tra Director from 2012-2018. While at Marist, he was also named the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year in 2010 and recognized for Outstanding Service to Individuals with Disabilities. He has performed professionally on multiple instruments, and his published compositions have been performed in Europe, South America, and throughout the United States. Ted is also an active researcher who completed his doctoral dissertation on the role that prison music programs can play in changing public attitudes toward incarcerated people. He has published articles on music education in prisons in several journals and presented papers at conferences in Austria, Germany, and the Republic of Georgia.

Ted holds a B.A. in German Literature and Music from the College of William and Mary, an M.M. in Composition from George Mason University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University. Additionally he is affiliated with: The College Orchestra Directors Association; The College Music Society; The International Society for Music Education; Die Internationale Gesellschaft zur Erforschung und Förderung der Blasmusik; The National Association for Music Education; and The New York State School Music Association. ☐



Symphony premiere at the Leipzig Gewandhaus

Autumn Theater Night

For the fall term, theater students honed their skills in a variety of courses from Intro to Drama, Acting, Stage Management and Directing, culminating in a night of monologues presented to the community. Collaboratively, they brought forth an engaging and exciting show to a full house of family and friends! ☐



(L-R) Ruby Pearce '26, JV Ryan '27, Mira Zeff '26, Luca Rossi '27, Paisley Ascione '27, Marcus Enderle '25

Winter Concert

This year's Winter Concert in December was a delight for friends and family who were treated to amazing performances on the cello, piano, and alto sax, as well as an ensemble band and singing. We are grateful to our students for sharing their amazing talents with the community! ☐



(L-R) Evie Tourtelot '26, Darius Kalantari '30, Camila Lizardo-Kramb '24, Seth Pincus '29 & Crosby Reis-Larson '28, Christopher Lee '28

Arts



Spotlight on the Middle School

The Middle School has had a robust and active year thus far! Through service learning including fundraisers and clothing/supply drives, students increased awareness about local non-profits addressing needs within our community such as the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County SPCA and Hope on a Mission.

In Arts and Culture students participated in a quilting project in partnership with the Mid Hudson Anti-Slavery Project (MHASP) who donated quilt blocks, presentations, books on quilting, books containing local history, and sewing materials. Students in the 6th – 8th grades completed research as the basis for the design of their quilt blocks while simultaneously looking at the beautiful history of quilt making among African Americans. These squares will soon be assembled into a collaborative quilt and displayed in the spring Art Showcase.



The MHASP joined class to help students learn more about their regional history and quilt making.

The 6th grade Mandarin class learned about food and drinks, and how to communicate their preferences. They also learned about Chinese foods/snacks and dining traditions leading up to the celebration of the Lunar New Year - the Year of the Dragon.

Working on a combination of writing short stories and reading novels by grade, English students explored *We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada Kelly and the classic *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. The novels provided a great opportunity for literary discussions and using text based evidence to support their ideas.

History students created timelines tracing from their birth back to 400,000 years ago! Our eldest students learned about the economies of the North and South and slavery's role in policy



Crosby Reis-Larson '28 and Eve Holman '29

around westward expansion. Following this difficult subject, they then centered on stories of resistance and hope, with readings from Frederick Douglass, Phyllis Wheatley and others.

As part of the science curriculum students learned the intricate craft of coding to create pictures and animations by writing algorithms. They also learned how to create their own websites!

During the Marine Biology seminar offered between Thanksgiving and winter break, students examined different types of marine reptiles, birds, and mammals and took a field trip to the Norwalk Aquarium to put their identification skills into action. STEM class students learned about the construction of boats and how budget restraints impact projects, while Survey of Math Concepts students explored the impact of negative numbers on math problems.



Students at the Norwalk Aquarium

Focusing on the practical applications of math, Scott Beall (Meka '28) came to this class to teach about polyrhythms in music. This demonstration connected math and music together in an interactive, beat-making activity that the entire class participated in.

The experiential learning that takes place in all disciplines of the Middle School ensures that students are prepared for the challenges and self-directed learning to follow in the Upper School which, for some, is just several months away! ☺



► As part of their 3-week Winter Seminar courses between Thanksgiving and winter break, a group of Middle School students participated soup to nuts in a fabulous performance of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*! Students took part in acting, lighting, sound, directing and stage managing and, in an extremely short amount of time, shared a beloved show with family and friends filling the audience!

Highlights from the Math and Science Department

From Geometry, Calculus and Chemistry to Data Skills, Environmental Science and Astrobiology, the Upper School Math and Science Department offers students a wide range of courses from which to choose and expand their academic horizons, including a dual enrollment program with Dutchess Community College. Outside of the classroom, students have the opportunity to get real world skills analyzing data through our collaboration with the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies' Data Jam program and can hone their math skills competing with area schools through the Math League. Following are highlights from the Department of the many opportunities that are available to students.

Dual Enrollment Program

Through our Dual Enrollment Program, our College Calculus and College Statistics classes are being taught concurrently with Dutchess Community College. Oakwood students receive college credits for these courses which can be transferred. The Calculus class is designed for students majoring in engineering, mathematics, or the sciences. Topics include the derivative, limits, continuity, differentiability, the definite integral, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, techniques and applications of differentiation, and mathematical modeling and computer applications. Statistics students learn how to conduct a statistical investigation and draw appropriate conclusions. They focus on genuine research studies, active learning, and effective use of technology, practicing both simulation- and theory-based approaches to statistical inference. We are thrilled to be able to offer our students this opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.

Math League

Last spring Oakwood formed our first Math League team and has joined competitions as part of the New York State Math League's Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan and Orange Counties (DUSO). Competing against Spackenkill, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pawling and Beacon schools, Oakwood's team participates monthly from October to February. The competitions involve solving problems individually in Algebra, Geometry and "Advanced Topics" as well as solving problems as a group. At the end of each meet students are treated to pizza, get a chance to discuss their answers with each other and mingle a bit with students from the other schools. Led by Upper School math



Math League members (l-r) Soren Bertucci-Miller, Hana Foulk, Duke Gandin and Dylan Colagiovanni at a meet in Pawling

teacher Peter Laves, the new team is making good progress and is excited about competing in coming years as well!

AP Environmental Science

Our AP Environmental Science students collaborated with the Environmental Cooperative at Vassar College on a seed sowing project to ensure that native species are returned to the ecological preserve. The Cooperative recently gave an enriching talk to students about how they track different seeds, then involved them in the process of seed sowing.



AP Environmental Science students with teacher David Love seed sowing at Vassar

Science Lab

The science lab is excited by the addition of high end Vernier equipment that will allow for advanced data collection and graphical analysis in chemistry, physics and astronomy, as well as applications across the Math and Science Department.

Data Jam

We have several students who are participating in Data Jam, which is a Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies program in which students from across the region are invited to work with real ecology data and to create a project that analyzes and comments on that data. Creative projects include skits, animations, a book, a model and a board game covering such topics as "Hydrology in the Wappinger Creek" and "Traffic, Air Pollution, and Human Demographics in New York".

Data Skills

In Data Skills, a new math elective, students have been developing a myriad of skills related to the collection and interpretation of data. Recently, each student presented a 'mini-thesis' on a topic of their choosing. Each student analyzed peer-reviewed literature on a subject, and then surveyed people in our community about their opinions or habits related to that subject. They closed the trimester learning how to code in R, a programming language widely used by scientists to analyze large datasets.

Alumni Connections in Science

Science teacher Joanthan Heiles will be collaborating with Jennifer Yee '03 for his spring Astrobiology course. His class will include a survey of methods for discovering and studying exoplanets, which connects to Jennifer's work in microlensing. Jennifer is an Astrophysicist at the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard & Smithsonian whose primary research focuses on searching for planets using gravitational microlensing.



Natalie Varrallo '08 Presents Annual Herzog Lecture



We were pleased to welcome Natalie Varrallo '08 back to campus in November as our guest speaker for this year's Herzog Lecture held in The Spencer Family Theater. Natalie is a food scientist, advocate, and educator focused on improving sustainability and food security, primarily within marginalized communities. She has spent the last 15 years working with food access organizations and educating students on the importance of rebuilding a local, sustainable food system. Natalie works to combine social justice and food systems education while simultaneously increasing nutrition and food security within her community. Her work seeks to use food as a bridge to emphasize a compassionate and continual progression toward a more sustainable world.

Natalie shared a powerful presentation entitled *Food Justice: Understanding Food System Inequalities*. She spoke candidly about the history of injustice in our food system and the ways in which we can help break the cycle for a more sustainable and equitable future. Following the lecture Natalie spent lunch with students and faculty who coordinate the Poughkeepsie Community Fridge project, sharing practical advice about addressing food insecurity locally.

The Herzog Lecture series was established by Daniel Herzog '70 in 1999 in memory of his father, Dr. Hershel Herzog. ☺



Natalie with family/friends (l-r) Ann Cribbin-Varrallo, Philip Varrallo, Dorothy Dirac '18, Niamh Varrallo '18, and John Varrallo.

Food From the Heart

If you walk into the bustling dining hall on any given afternoon, you know you're in a place where students and faculty come first and where delicious food is prepared with care! Led by the new Director of Food Service, Christina Pierantozzi, the kitchen team have been creating exciting recipes resulting in a dynamic menu for day students and boarders alike.

Christina was Head Chef for six years before shifting into the role of Director, so she knows firsthand what it takes for Executive Chef Bob Kraus, as well as Sous Chef Paula Zammikiel and evening Chef Kasondra Green, to be successful in meeting the culinary needs of our community. Talking about her team, Christina shared, "Everyone works well together and boosts each other up." She also loves the support they receive from the students, faculty and administration.

Building on the diversity of the community, the team is focused on creating menus that celebrate different cultures by including Jamaican, Puerto Rican, Chinese, Japanese and Mexican recipes, among others, in their repertoire. They also appreciate student and faculty input to ensure that the menu is meeting everyone's needs, including those with special dietary requirements.

Outside of the Oakwood kitchen, Christina loves to build on her Culinary Institute of America (CIA) education by combining her love of travel and cooking. Most recently she's brought back pasta and sauce recipes from her classes in Florence and Bologna, Italy that she shares both at Oakwood and through her company, Sabatozzi's Catering. Many thanks to all of the dining hall staff for their hard work, dedication and delicious meals! ☺



Dining hall staff day crew (l-r) Paula Zammikiel, Director of Food Service Christina Pierantozzi, Cory Skrine, Jenny Alvia and Bob Kraus



Dining hall evening crew (l-r) Lydia Dahowski, Kasondra Green and Monica Alvarez

Winter Reunion - Welcoming the Classes of 2019-2023



(l-r) Jane Uebbing '22, Cyril Uebbing '20, Eitan (Tani) Neustadt '21, Jayden Brockington '21, Brooklyn Dottin '23, Aidan Cook '22 and Trevor Brooks '23

Our annual Winter Reunion featured recent graduates **Jenine Tobias '23** (University of New Haven, Marine Biology), **Ally Ramos '23** (SUNY New Paltz, Astronomy), and **Eitan (Tani) Neustadt '21** (SUNY New Paltz, History) who spoke with the Upper School about the transition to college, offering tips on time management, making friends, and maximizing their time at Oakwood before college. Alumni from the previous five years returned to campus to connect with friends and faculty over lunch, with a few even getting back on the court during basketball practice! ☘



Nafisa Rashid '19 with
Humanities Chair Stephen Miller



Eitan (Tani) Neustadt '21 and
Trevor Brooks '23 back on the court



(l-r) Winter reunion panelists Jenine Tobias '23, Ally Ramos '23 and Eitan (Tani) Neustadt '21 sharing with the Upper School

East Coast Alumni Connections



Many thanks to **Lewis Shepard '63** and his wife Ellen for hosting a Cape Cod alumni gathering in their lovely home in Wellfleet in October! (front L-R) **Dave Burnett '57** and wife Joan (back L-R) **Lewis** and Ellen Shepard, **Olga Kahn '64** and **Jesse Rieber '63**



(L-R) **Chuck Taylor '68**, **Bill Bogle '76** with wife Carol (Emily '07 & Justin '11) at Nectar Farm Kitchen in Bluffton, South Carolina in October



(L-R) **Karla Maria Morales '90**, **AnnMarie Shirley '04**, **Najah Muhammad '10**, **Adam Benziger '07**, **Jesse Bernz '12**, **Stephen Strocchia-Rivera '11** and **Richard Distel '07** at Good Night Kenny in Poughkeepsie in November

Running at My Own Creative Pace

by Zack Federbush '08



I was always an energetic child with ideas to create, draw and make art. I was always running around, literally, and was full of ideas. However, I also felt out of place, a bit different, worried that I was a bit too strange to fit in - not a good mind set for a kid. Sometimes though, being at the right place at the right time can help. To me, my time at Oakwood was being in the right time and place, to grow and feel safe.

During my four years at Oakwood (2004-2008), I learned not only about what kind of person I was and wanted to be, but I met a lot of wonderful classmates and teachers, all full of kindness and understanding. Most became my friends, some of whom still are. In addition, while living and learning in the Oakwood environment, I learned to take things slower and became less impulsive. Meeting for Worship once a week had a great calming effect.

I remember spending a lot of time in the art room in the main building, either drawing or trying to do something creative. Being in that space helped me find my love for the arts and I decided to go for it as my major in college, at first studio arts and later falling in love with painting during my junior year at Manhattanville.

After graduating from Manhattanville, I knew I needed to learn more about painting and decided to go to grad school at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, which turned out to be a wonderful experience. I was surrounded by very creative people and it motivated me everyday. I graduated with a Masters of Arts in 2017. While I was there, I was also part of a small, short documentary, but more on that later. I love painting and decided to become a full time artist. I moved to New York City and, after some searching, found a perfect art studio in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn.

I had been part of several shows in Savannah and had a couple of solo shows there but New York City was a much harder place to break into. Overtime, with persistence and with the help of new friends in the art world in NY, opportunities to show my work opened up. Finally, in 2023, I had two big opportunities. The first one was in October. I had a solo show at a gallery for the first time in New York City, with over one hundred and thirty-five pieces in the show.

Remember the documentary I mentioned earlier? The second opportunity was that some of the guys who worked on it were now full time filmmakers who decided they wanted to work on a full-length documentary about me. So a week before the opening of my solo show, they started filming me getting ready for the show and creating a new piece for the show as well. It was a little bit stressful, but the solo show was a huge success, and ran for a month. As for the documentary, the filming is complete and in the editing process and should be finished by the summer. It is called "Zack In Many Colors".



Zack with classmate and fellow Alumni Council member Imani Schectman '08

Looking back, I gained the confidence and the spirit of never giving up at Oakwood. The teachers and students created a wonderful environment that made me appreciate myself as well as others. Overall, my main advice is, one, if you are enthusiastic about something and it is important to you, you should go for it. Two, that it is ok to be yourself because sometimes, some people will like you for the way you are, but you have got to like yourself too, though that is probably easier said than done. You can see my art at: www.zacharyericfederbush.com.



Save the Date! Alumni Weekend June 14-16, 2024

Featuring Guest Lecturer
Juan Williams '72

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Thank You!



Class Notes



1946

Betty Nunn Moon Kramer - Quite a ride from Oakwood to Oak Hammock at the University of Florida! I am almost 96 and loving life. I was there on Pearl Harbor Day as a special student in a brand new eighth grade class of three. I remember the black out curtains and the scary look of the dark night time campus. We put a record player in the hall and danced until the monitor sitting at the crossway made us go to bed. I felt safe.



1953

Taffy Thunick Hoffman - At 88, I'm doing as well as possible. No traveling. No golf. But active in my senior living community.

Juliet Haines Mofford - My two years at Oakwood proved a profound, philosophical and positive influence upon my entire life. My 18th book (7 for educational publishers) will be released January 30. At age 88, I continue writing daily, a habit begun at Oakwood and inspired by 11th grade English teacher, Rosemary McNamara.

1956

Susan Deane-Miller - It's been an eventful year. At 85, I am moving into a Continuing Care Residence Community called Woodland Pond, in New Paltz, New York. It is right across the river from where I am now, but it doubles the distance for my younger son, Glenn Arnold, and his wife, Mary, (who now live 15 minutes from me) and involves a bridge toll, so they are not thrilled, about it. The kids from Ohio, older son, Deane Arnold, and his wife, Debby Wright are happy for me. I should be moving in by the end of February. I will still be relatively close to Oakwood, but not so that I can just race there in seven minutes anymore. Now to sell my house....



My son, Deane, and his wife, Debby as they get ready to leave after a visit.

Martha (Ginger) Ullman West - At 85 I continue to work as a dance historian and critic, still based in Portland, Oregon. Via Facebook I'm in regular touch

with classmates Susie Deane Arnold and Sarah Newcomb Lamont, and I live alone in downtown Portland, Oregon. I read a lot, and think a lot, and hope a LOT for a peaceful resolution to all conflicts, especially in the Middle East. My four years at Oakwood certainly helped shape my pacifist point of view.

1957

Isadora Alman (Ginger Botvin) - is living in the Palm Springs area and welcomes callers. askisadora@aol.com

Jonathan Talbot - joined the Board of Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts

Marion Cunningham Twichell - After teaching for 33 years at the Thacher School in Ojai, CA, we are happy that former students are still in our lives. Our own children are all paying taxes and no one's in jail - our grandkids are all above average. So far, so good!

1958

Michael Beecher - Enjoying my third year of retirement in Seattle, especially our visits to our youngest grandkids in LA. All the best to those still standing from the great class of 1958!



From bottom to top (roughly): grandson Tove (his 5th birthday), wife Inger, daughter-in-law Rosaleen with Tilda, old Mike and youngest son Devin.

Jerry Hoerner - At 83 I am still on top of the grass. I summer in Ohio and winter in Florida. Two sons, two grandchildren and a great wife. My best to all as I miss our times together.

1960

Congratulations to **Peter Ernster** on the publication of his new book, *Effective Organizational Leadership*.

1961

Larry Fogelson - I'm still here and doing well now notwithstanding a bumpy last few months with back surgery in August and some related complications, COVID in December followed by a nasty cold. 80

feels like kind of a big deal but I am working on acting like it's the new 60. My "kids" are doing well and their kids (aka 4 grandgirls) are each amazing, interesting, beautiful, and growing up yikes! - 2 in Brooklyn (14 & 9) and 2 in Frederick (13 & 11). I confess it is hard to feel optimistic given the direction of the planet and this nation. I stay active in Baltimore County environmental and planning issues advocacy through a couple of organizations and serve on the board of the Baltimore Blues Society. I enjoy going to many blues festivals and performances and photographing those events. Some images can be viewed on my FB page. I plan to stop in at the June alumni event and hope to see many of you there. Be well and safe all.

Sarah Lesher moved back to Hudson Valley two years ago, to Saugerties, a cohousing community called Cantine's Island. With the help of Ian, a 20-year-old born here, I made an outreach video about us for presentation on a Foundation for Intentional Community webcast. Dressed as the Wizard of Oz Straw Man: Halloween is our biggest celebraCon.

The video is a bit unbalanced; we're going to revise it. But if you're curious about what life in the mid-HV is in a community with multiple Friends who know of Oakwood, go to minute 36 in this YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DH4N_kmC7MQ



Ed Noyes - 2023 Has been a recovery year after my COVID case and our city of Portland's issues with vacant office buildings and homeless street people. I deal with the homeless through Blanchett House and I can't do much about office vacancies. I am still active with our Dragon Boat Club that paddles every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:AM. The average age in the boats is now around 74 and I am an elder at 80. I have become a certified Tiller in the club. This requires me to stand in the stern and take the wind in my face on some cold mornings. Betty and I are healthy and enthusiastic about traveling: Barcelona for this Christmas and New Year's. Next year, Sweden-Norway-England in May, and British Columbia - Vancouver Island in June when we hope to visit Steve and Carol London. We're thinking seriously about a Mekong River cruise next November. Photos on Instagram.

1963

Martha Richdale - Wishing everyone a year filled with gratitude, compassion, good health and peace. May we all change the world for the better with love in our hearts.

1964

Dilys Staaterman - My husband and I have been married for 56 years, have 3 daughters and 5 granddaughters. We live in Truro, Cape Cod at our old family homestead. Our "retirement" job (ha, ha!) is running a small organic veggie farm. We sell to restaurants and have a farmstand, as our home is on a road that has a beautiful beach...so we are very busy! This will be my 15th year riding in The Pan Mass Challenge, a 190 mile bike ride which raises money for cancer research at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Over the Years I have been able to raise over \$110,000 thanks to the generosity of so many people. Seeing the movie Rustin reminded me of the extraordinary experience I had in 1963 participating in The March on Washington....an event etched in my memory forever and one for which I am truly grateful to have been a participant. I remember at the time that I didn't even give it a second thought about going...I simply did it as it was important to me to participate in something I believed in so deeply. I hope to see all of you at one of our reunions. Somehow the demands of our farm seems to interfere with potential travel. If any of you get out our way at the tip of the Cape, please stop by!

1966

Frederick T. Jelin - I just spent the last few days trying to learn photoshop. Frustrating. Was I smarter at Oakwood? Or maybe old age has made me wiser, and I shouldn't waste my energies on Adobe but just use easier photo editing programs. That's what my week has been like. On the other hand, I'm going to a lot of holiday parties. They are fun.

1967

Don Badgley - More than half a century since my graduation I remain at and with Oakwood. I've been blessed to have served the board in past years and have enjoyed many a class reunion. Now, and since 2022 I come to this beautiful campus weekly as a member of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting (PFM). We sold our Hooker Ave. meeting house two years ago and now we worship in the Meeting Room in the Main Building every Sunday at 10:00AM. Oakwood came to Poughkeepsie in 1921 and my father George was one of its first students in that location. Poughkeepsie Meeting moved to Hooker Ave. in 1926 and as a boy, my dad (class of '26) was one of its first members in that location. He met my mother Winifred there, class of 1932. I came to Oakwood in 1963 and graduated in 1967. Poughkeepsie Meeting was my meeting at birth. Though separate organizations, both Oakwood and Poughkeepsie Meeting are part of NY Yearly Meeting and now, we are together. As the present clerk of PFM, I write to invite everyone to come to meeting whether you are a Quaker or not. Though as a student, I got more than one good nap in meeting for worship in that space, it is a joy to sit in that same space once again, nearly unchanged in 50 years, to worship in stillness with Friends. All are most welcome.

Lee Canter Blask - I retired in June of 2020 and wonder how I ever had time to work. This post-pandemic year was one of great travels - Turkey, Greece and Japan - and now trips back and forth to Seattle where my daughter lives and works for Blue Origin. I am grateful for good health and hope that readers here are also well, thriving, and enjoying this holiday season.

Nancy Leopitz Wawrla - Hey, class of 1967! Doesn't it sound weird, when someone says they are 70 yrs

old? But, wait!... I'm 74! Well, as far as I know, we're all in relatively good shape. Fred Jelin, class of '66 recently contacted me. Barbara Spark, my freshman roommate and also classmate at Wagner College sounds exactly the same as when I met her in 1963! I talk with Elaine Hume Lett now and again. I visited with Patience Killen, in Melbourne, Florida, last Thanksgiving. I'm always thrilled to meet with the "Norman Keiser Legacy Fund" team, meeting periodically by zoom, and continuing to enhance and contribute to the Fund. It's fun to read Facebook comments from Jim Raker, Nina Kammerer, Jeff Mandell, Barry Smith, Bob Saling, Linda Thomas, etc. etc. It feeds my heart. I even got a phone call recently from Skip Ayer '65! (Talk about thrills!) Ward (Jake) Morel '65 and Beth Knight '66 Morel moved from Sangererville, Maine to Portland, Maine. They are also very well and loving the city life. These "gifts" of friendship keep me going. My ex-husband used to say I live in the past. I disagreed then and I continue to disagree. I just love my friendships from my youth and I continue to enjoy hearing about and from them, if that's living in the past... So be it! I came across some photographs, the other day, of our 30th class reunion, or was it 35th? We all look like babies! With all of the global "disturbances", I feel that as much as we've learned about conscientious objection and peace activism, there appears to be so much more to learn and teach! Remember our first (for many of us) peaceful demonstration on the sidewalk between the main building and what's now the library? That was a moving experience, but today, as I look back, just a touching beginning. Love and hugs to you all.



Jeffrey Mandel, Maggie (Meg) Waldinger Seff, Barry Smith, Linda Wild, Susan Sartori - all class of '67

1969

Chuck Schwartz - Our granddaughter, Nora Bayne, was born in 2023, in Rochester, NY.

1970

Theresa Riley Baron - I missed my 50th reunion due to COVID so attending this class reunion was epic. Seeing two of my classmates- Fran Dunwell & Raphael Hartzog transported me back in time, especially when Ralphie yelled "T"! Living in the dorms with my granddaughter Cheyenne brought back happy times at Oakwood - memories of FUN, COMPANIONSHIP, HOSPITALITY and everything POSITIVE!

George Carrothers - gypsy life.. home: Long Lake, NY ADK park. What a wonderful ride! and yes.. memories of Oakwood are ever present.. best to all

Helen Claxton - I wonder how many septuagenarians keep their high school in their best thoughts daily. That's a rhetorical reflection. I just know I do.

Mallery Johnson Dalton - Here I am in Reno, NV these last 8 years. Attending Friends Meeting here, consolidating my sibling family here. Three sisters now in a house 2 of us bought, built in 1938. Love the sun and the snow, retired, would love to hear what others are up to: malleryd@gmail.com.

Bill Graff - Retiring next year to spend more time with family, all of us somewhere in medicine.

Joanna Rohrback - Joanna holds a B.H.S and is the owner/manager of Prancercise LLC, a holistic fitness method which is based on "a springy, rhythmic way of moving forward". She has been featured on shows such as The Today Show, The Dr. Oz Show and The Steve Harvey Show. See <https://prancercise.com/> for more info.

Gary Slutsky - We, the Slutsky Family, sold Hunter Mountain Resort in late 2015 after creating and operating it for 56 years. We closed down our heavy construction contracting business in 2020. My father & uncle started it in 1939. We built schools, churches, hospitals, roads & bridges, along with drive-in theaters & a major ski resort. I now spend my time volunteering for the fire department (46 years), the local historical society, a rail trail coalition, and being the corresponding secretary for the local high school alumni association. I have 5 grown kids & 8 grandchildren from ages 2 to 30. It's a wonderful life.

Alan Tuttle - Sometimes it was uncomfortable, the growing pains of adolescence during the 60s (what decade doesn't have discomfort?!) when Oakwood also had some painful transitions. I'm grateful for the container of community that emerged, as we did our best to figure out our place in the world. Some deep, life-long friendships were forged in that crucible. I retired last year... it seemed like the right thing to do. Now I'm as busy as ever, but perhaps I'll return to Oakwood to do 12th grade right, as I kind of missed it the first time through.

1971

Alec MacLeod - After 35 years of teaching non-traditional undergraduates, I retired this past September from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Alternative education has long been an interest of mine. Some of my classmates may recall that my Oakwood Senior Project was teaching a class on Science Fiction. Nonetheless, I had not expected to have a career as an educator, not because I was uninterested, but because my commitment to a liberatory pedagogy made me feel it was unlikely to get a job I would like. I was very fortunate that New College of California, Goddard, and most particularly CIIS were supportive of my aspirations. In 1993 I was invited to participate in the design of the school's inaugural BA degree completion program. The program has thrived. The pandemic and other factors have altered the landscape of higher ed in ways that make it less of a fit for me. It feels like the right time to step back. I take great pride in my former students' accomplishments. They are changing the world each in their own way. I will be continuing DEI consulting and devoting more time to my artwork and our garden. You can see recent work at www.iconoclastic.net

1973

Annie Finch - I took a 3-month trip to India this fall to explore the magical rhythms of matriarchal ways of living. I'm now writing a book about her adventures. To stay in the loop, click Connect at anniefinch.com.

Marcia Van Wagner - I retired in July of 2022 and have been enjoying a lower-stress life in Brooklyn and during visits to our small condo in Tucson for hiking and biking. This past September, my husband Steven and I spent three weeks in Italy and Greece,



where I've never been, and we will definitely be doing more traveling!. Our two sons are navigating their way through their 20s and live nearby, so we get to see them fairly often. I have regular contact with some classmates on Facebook and irregular contact with some in person. Speaking of which, I attended Alumni Day last June for the first time in years and had a really wonderful experience so I'm encouraging people to make the journey for this year's Alumni Day -- particularly class of '74. 50 years, yikes!

1978

Ken Brick - Nicole Zarowin Hanshaw, who sadly passed away Aug 15, 2023, and I both came to Oakwood for a single senior year. She and I had previously attended Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood NJ until heading to Oakwood for "AQE" – Adventures in Quaker Education where we had a fantastic, valuable, friend filled senior year. Nicole would have turned 63 on November 8 th 2023. She had been out on the West Coast for several decades living in Northern CA Oakland area – then moving recently to Portland, Oregon. Nicole was living a healthy, happy, and engaged life – exercising, practicing yoga, dance, painting, and playing pickleball when she received a sudden and completely unanticipated lung cancer diagnosis in late May early June. The cancer advanced rapidly despite aggressive treatment. Nicole was a lifelong friend who I had known since middle school. She has two adult "children" on the West Coast – Alexa and Lucas. I was fortunate enough to be able to get out to Portland and visit her in late June prior to her death. Any Oakwood friend or alumni who would like to be in touch with me are very welcomed to do so – kenbrick@verizon.net.

Alan Ross - My brother Dan and his wife and four boys flew in from Australia for a rare visit. We toured the sequoias in Muir Woods during their San Francisco layover, then I followed them to the East Coast to visit our mom. She turned 95 this year, and is still putting around her home -- in fact, she walks 10,000 steps a day! I am very grateful for my loving family (even if my brother and I need to avoid political topics). I finally sold my buildings in Maine, freeing me to put more energy into my life in California. I look forward to singing Christmas carols door to door with my dear wife this week. In the new year my focus will be on grooming my yoga teaching skills ... and helping save democracy in my spare time. Joy to you all. May peace prevail in our hearts, and throughout the world.

1980

Susanrachel Balber Condon - visited with Alicia DaSilva '79 in New Mexico

**1981**

Lisa Ferguson Uchrin - My son, George, got married in 2022. My husband, Chris, retired and we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in July. I've been the clerk of Quakertown Friends Meeting in New Jersey for the past year. Will wonders never

cease?! Sorry to have missed our 40th - hope to see you at 45th!

1985

Jen Wofford - Over the past month I've organized three events that gave people a place to connect across divisions, to unite in supporting people, and see all human life as sacred, to address tensions about the war between Israel and Hamas. I'm honored this work received coverage in the Boston Globe (cover of the Metro section), WGBH, WBUR, and local Brookline News. At a time of heightened reactivity and tensions, I sensed that people needed a way to come together, to rise above the divisions, and value all human life as sacred. I sensed that people were feeling isolated and helpless about the war, and I knew we needed to model for Boston and for the world, that we can come together. I planned the three events to be deliberately broad and inclusive (whether or not we agree), to create a place that could gather together Muslims, Jews, Christians, all people, all ages. I organized three tables -- a table to make cards of support, love, prayers for the survivors of the kibbutzim in Israel and for the survivors in Gaza; a table to light a candle for prayer or to honor lives lost; and a table for donations to help groups on the ground. I carefully created a broad list of thoughtfully researched groups, nine Jewish and Israeli groups, nine Palestinian aid groups, and seven international humanitarian groups. I reached out broadly and invited people to come, even if they only wished to support "one side", they were welcome. And people came. We saw several hundred folks come out, at each of three events I held, and important dialogues began.

Boston Globe: "As the Middle East war continues, Brookline Jews and Muslims gather for collective mourning"

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/11/05/metro/middle-east-war-continues-brookline-jews-muslims-gather-collective-mourning/>

Brookline News:
<https://brookline.news/community-event-sends-cards-donations-and-prayers-to-israel-and-gaza/>

1986

Regina Helfant - I am hoping all of us who were at Oakwood in 1984 can make it to Alumni Weekend 2024. Can you imagine that 40 years have passed; we can gather and feel young again. Pick up our youth; have conversation, and rejuvenate feelings of what could be. I recently retired, bought a home in Maine and plan to have twenty more years of living a happy life before old age kicks in. It's not just myself, but all of us. We should use Alumni Weekend as a chance to forget our hardships, remember what it meant to be a close knit family, because we all know at Oakwood we had each other. I have always had fond memories of Oakwood, but forget forgotten missed opportunities, because I would not be where I find myself. My life has turned out perfectly, but It has taken me through 40 years. Let's plan to attend this year's Alumni weekend. I am still a free spirit, doing what makes me happy. I long for happiness.

1987

Alice Anachecka-Nasemann - Hello Oakwood friends!! I've been living in central MA for the past 22 years, first going to Divinity School and then working as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Currently my household includes my husband, Alan, our two young adult children, and our dog and cat. I hope to make a Reunion Weekend one of these years - I'd love to see you all

1995

Forrest Rohde - We have settled into our new home in Milford, New Hampshire. I am working in Real Estate and Meghan is teaching Physical Therapy at Franklin Pierce University. Our kids are really growing! Eli is 20, Olivia 18, and both are in Arizona. Colin is 12, and as tall as Meghan, and our youngest, Forrie, is 8! Wow! We took this Christmas picture while visiting Meghan's parents in Colorado.

**1998**

Mike Peters - Last August, I took an Amtrak to Boston and met up with Amanda Doolittle. We then hopped into her DeLorean, and drove up I-95 towards Maine. We hit the required 88 miles per hour and were magically transported to the year 1994, and then visited many parts of the years leading up to 1998. We spent an unforgettable three days together at the home of Nancy and Bill, with Pete and Tim and their families joining us as well. What a magical weekend that included meeting lots of lovely grandchildren, tons of delicious meals, boat rides on a lake, and reminiscing about Oakwood and all that has happened since. The nightcap each evening was highlighted with some good ol' '80s and '90s Oakwood cross country videos and the best blueberry crumble I've ever had! Congratulations by the way to the boys cross country team for defending the HVAL title! Make it a three-peat in 2024! I live in Shizuoka with my wife Mami and children Kentaro and Mio. I became an Assistant Professor at Shizuoka University in March of 2023. I'm also in the final stages working towards my PhD in Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam.

2004

Claribel Baez - I'm excited to share that I am officially a practicing Doula. I continue to guide and help others heal and reach their highest selves by tapping into my psychic / intuitive powers and I'm happy to expand into birth work as a birth rights activist.

2007

Julia Patten - I've been at Abacus Architects + Planners for about 10 years, and this past summer I completed my favorite architectural project yet- a public outdoor stage and amphitheater located in Winchendon, MA! The project is located in a beautiful public park overlooking a pond, and provides much needed recreation and event space to the Town and surrounding communities. It was so fun to design and build that my firm is now starting another outdoor stage project for Fitchburg, MA!



2013

Rui (Ray) Gao - I got together for dinner with fellow alums recently including Paul Qian '14, Jerry Lu '14, Louis Ma '15, Chawa Zhang '13 and myself. They are all doing well and live in Shanghai. For me, I moved to Hong Kong earlier this year and I will be studying a part time JD degree starting next year.

2017

Congratulations to **Owen Sullivan** who has begun a new position in the field of Broadway Producing at The Foxboro Company.



Faculty

Congratulations to Dining Hall staff member **Jenny Alvia** on her marriage to Victor Alvia on August 8, 2023 in Oahu Hawaii on Kawela Bay Beach



Director of Admissions **Nick Ugarte** and his wife Kat welcomed their new arrival, Juliet Maria on October 3, 2023. Welcome Juliet Maria!

Congratulations to **Ricci & Saddan Alma-Bueno** on the birth of their son Elián Davis on January 23, 2024. The family is doing well, and big sister Emmy couldn't be happier!



Former Faculty

Arthur Jarvis - Now in my 90th year but still with very happy memories of my time at Oakwood in the 60's.

Anne Vogt - I would love to hear from any of the Oakies that came to work with Ken and me between 1972 and 1975. We loved having you and having your help. We were living in Penobscot, ME at that time. I'm now without Ken in Blue Hill, ME. Ken died of Parkinsons 5 years ago. ☺

Remembering Treasured Former Faculty

Parker Washburn



Oakwood mourns the loss of Patricia Parker Washburn, age 78, of Greensboro, North Carolina who passed away on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Parker, a native of North Carolina, earned her Associate in Arts degree from Stephens College in Missouri before attending Guilford College where she met her future husband Art and earned a B.A. in English Literature. She graduated and married in June 1969, coming to Oakwood later that summer to work as director of work programs and as an assistant dormitory counselor in Craig Dorm. The couple welcomed a daughter in 1970 and, that same year, Parker assumed the role of Dean of Girls, a role she served until 1972 when she became the school's first Dean of Students. In addition to her administrative role, Parker also taught ceramics. In the summer of 1973 the couple welcomed another daughter.

Although on leave during the 1973-74 school year, the faculty directory describes Parker as, "Oakwood's beloved Dean of Students," continuing to "keep her door open for counseling and friendship to the entire community," and goes on to state "if your problems are severe enough, you can be sure that Parker will ease the pain by baking a chocolate layer-cake or some other irresistible confection." Parker returned to her role as Dean of Students in 1975 and remained for a further three years.

Reflections from Barrett Nnoka '74

Although I always enjoyed Parker Washburn's company, and that of her family, I never said thank you to her for all that she taught me about being a decent human being, respecting others, caring for all people, and accepting all as equal in the eyes of god.

My earliest memories are of her and her husband Artie sitting in their kitchen at Oakwood. She was the Dean of Students, he was a teacher, and they were the young parents of daughters Sarah and Phoebe; thanks for letting me into your lives and allowing me to tag along on a special journey as we all grew old.

I would see her in action many times over the years, supporting employees stricken by HIV/Aids, fighting climate change by partnering with Duke Power to build a solar grid on one of her buildings, and fighting for immigrant rights by creating "safe zones" in her office; she never stopped fighting for justice, and I thank her for that.

You see, I know how many lives she changed, starting at Oakwood as a recent college graduate and newlywed, and over the ensuing years, as a mother, grandmother, business owner, and philanthropist. Parker was a kind and caring person who held us all in the Light. ☺

Dolores "Loly" Martynek



Dolores "Loly" Martynek, 82 of Poughkeepsie NY, passed away on September 21, 2023. Loly was a native of Madrid, Spain where she earned her M.A. with Honors in Romance Languages. She was married to Arthur Martynek who taught Spanish, French, and Area Studies at Oakwood from 1970 to 1983. She was mother of two sons, Ernesto and Raoul. She began working at Oakwood in 1972 as the manager of the school store, the "Dugout," and in about 1974 began working in the Dining Hall. She assumed the role as Director of the Dining Hall in 1976 and retired in 2002.

Alumni/Former faculty reflections

She had compassion, enthusiasm, and creativity. She was always the first person I visited when in town. May she rest in peace.

Jody Mindell '72

I had kitchen work jobs and learned a ton from Loly. Not just how to make salad for 200, but many more subtle things. She had sparkle, Loly did.

Anne Pyburn '80

She was a beloved colleague.
Norm Tjossem ☺



In Memory of Paul Larrabee Doughty '48, Professor, Anthropologist, World Traveler and Friend

Oakwood lost a wonderful friend and distinguished alumnus when Paul Doughty, class of 1948, passed away on September 27, 2023. Paul was an Emeritus Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Florida and recipient of the Malinowski Award from Society of Applied Anthropology, passed away at the age of 93 while under hospice care in Gainesville, Florida.

Born on February 27, 1930, in Beacon, New York, Paul led a remarkable life that left an indelible mark on countless individuals and communities. From a young age, Paul's love for sports, fishing, and scouting ignited his adventurous spirit. He explored the picturesque Mount Beacon and scoured the area's creeks and empty lots for scrap metal to support the USA's World War II effort. Paul's formative years were spent at Oakwood, where he graduated in 1948. Little did he know that his experiences at Oakwood would shape one of the defining chapters of his life. Reflecting on his four years at Oakwood, Paul wrote "It changed my life, matured my thoughts and launched me into adulthood....My 'grown-up' life began at Oakwood for which I am very appreciative."



During his time at Ursinus College, Paul crossed paths with the love of his life, Mary "Polly" Catherine French. Marrying in 1952, they embarked on a 65 year long life together, expanding their family with two children, Carol and Thomas. A man of unwavering principles, Paul chose the path of conscientious objection rather than participating in the Korean War and devoted his service to the Friend's Service Committee, focusing on rural community development in Mexico and El Salvador. This transformative experience fueled his passion for anthropology, ultimately leading him to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research and fieldwork in the Andean Highlands of Peru left an enduring impact on the communities he lived and worked with, and he continued to maintain strong ties with them throughout his life.

After a seven-year association with the Latin American Studies program at Indiana University, Paul and his family made Gainesville, Florida, their home in 1971. Starting as Chair of the Anthropology Department, Paul embarked on a long career at the University of Florida, where he dedicated himself to teaching and research. In 1977 he was invited to the White House where he briefed First Lady Carter before her visit to Peru. Later that same year he was invited to visit Cuba by the Cuban government. His commitment to academia and his students was unwavering, and he retired in 1995, leaving behind a legacy of knowledge and inspiration.

Paul's boundless curiosity and energy fueled his love for travel, both within the United States and around the world. He cherished the moments spent exploring new places with family and friends.



Paul with former Board President Don Spencer and Elaine Miles in Gainesville, FL in 2018

Paul demonstrated his appreciation to Oakwood throughout his life with generous financial support and continued interest in the life of the school. Several years ago he welcomed head of school Chad Cianfrani and former board president Don Spencer to his home to get a personal update about plans for the school going forward. His affection for Oakwood and his classmates remained strong through the years. ☺



IN MEMORY

Clarence H. Padgham '36

September 8, 2023

Paul L. Doughty '48

September 27, 2023

Mabel Benedict Downing '49

January 3, 2024

Gladys Carnell Abrams '50

November 6, 2022

Harvey Putterman '53

September 3, 2023

Carey Downs Gibson '56

January 28, 2024

Daniel Kilpatrick '58

July 18, 2023

Cynthia Webster Coddington '59

October 8, 2023

Mary Hershberger Santos-Neves '63

October 12, 2023

Frank Ritter '64

October 13, 2023

David Sitomer '65

August 26, 2023

Former Faculty

Dolores "Loly" Martynek

September 21, 2023

Dick Mullen

December 2, 2023

Parker Washburn

January 18, 2024

Oak Leaves Winter 2023-2024



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

JULIE OKONIEWSKI, Director

WENDY GIANGRASSO

AMY SOLIS



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2024 Spring School Calendar

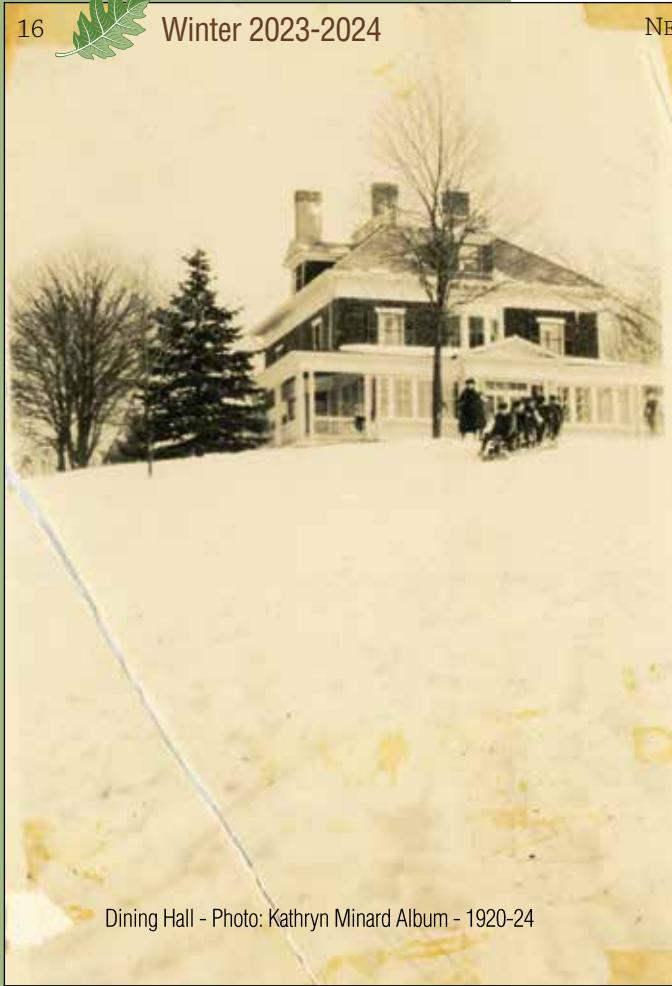
- April 16 Earthshare Day
- May 4 Visual Arts Showcase and Spring Concert
- May 17-18 Spring Production
- June 5 Middle School Moving Up
- June 6 Senior Dinner
- June 7 Commencement
- June 14-16 Alumni Weekend

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

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Winter 2023-2024

NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND MEMBERS OF THE OAKWOOD FRIENDS COMMUNITY



Dining Hall - Photo: Kathryn Minard Album - 1920-24

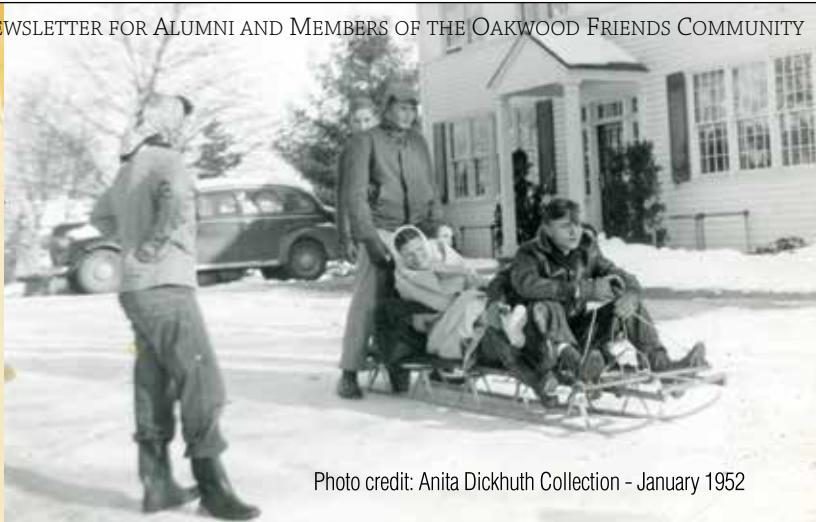


Photo credit: Anita Dickhuth Collection - January 1952



Photo:1946-48