Summer 2016

Oak Leaves

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

A Gift to Oakwood from Frederick M. Yergan '38



Friends & family celebrate Fred Yergan's 90th birthday in Dana Point, CA

At a family gathering to celebrate the life of Frederick M. Yergan who passed away on January 30, 2016, his nephew John Yergan described his uncle as a careful and considerate man. "People here and elsewhere have said to me that Fred was very fortunate to have me around in his later years of life. Well, I like to think that is true, but I also know I was the fortunate one to spend quality time with him both in California and Washington, and to be exposed to a man of such character, honesty, and caring. During his last hours at Sherwood Assisted Living in Sequim, Washington, many employees and residents stopped by to pay respects. He had made quite a few friends. They all knew they were going to miss the quiet, considerate, and kind Major." Here, too, at Oakwood Friends School, Fred Yergan, loyal alumnus and good friend to the school will be missed.

A member of the class of 1938, Fred demonstrated his caring nature and devotion to Oakwood throughout his life. He participated in alumni gatherings held in California and loved to hear school news. He was a leadership donor to the Annual Fund year after year, helping to support current students and faculty. Fred also had the foresight to consider Oakwood's needs into the future and extended his philanthropy by including Oakwood in his estate plans. The Oakwood community is profoundly grateful to Fred for his generosity and has established The Frederick M. Yergan Scholarship Fund with his exceptional bequest. This beautiful legacy will allow other students to experience the wonderful education that Fred remembered and cherished.

Fred Yergan was the son of Max Yergan Sr. and Susie Wiseman Yergan. He and his two brothers who predeceased him were all graduates of Oakwood and all highly accomplished. Fred '38 had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force: He trained as a member of the Fighting 88th, Tuskegee Airmen. He was in charge of the maintenance teams of the early warning system in Alaska, a highly technical position with a great deal of responsibility. He was a radar expert and navigator on B-29 bombers. He was stationed in Western Europe after WW11. Max Yergan '39 was a Long Island family doctor who decided to seek additional training in mid-career and became an accomplished and dedicated trauma surgeon at Harlem Hospital. Charles Yergan '41, also a physician, was in charge of the intensive care unit at Harlem Hospital for years, an important position in the Harlem community where he also had a longstanding internal medicine practice. The brothers are survived by their younger sister, Mary (Bunny) Yergan Hughes.

As the eldest, Fred arrived first at Oakwood in 1934, a pivotal event in the history of the school since Fred was the first African-American student to enroll. Headmaster William J. Reagan considered Fred's enrollment a highlight of the school's early years in Poughkeepsie that paved the way for other students from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities and countries. Reagan wrote in his 1968 book, *Adventures in Quaker Education at Oakwood*, "No longer was there a stigma against "foreigners." The opposition to the enrollment of Jews was decreasing year by year. It became ever more evident that the objection to enrolling "foreigners" had depended not a whit on their character or previous experience, but entirely on the attitude of the community. We had had "different" people, before, but Fred Yergan's enrollment was both a declaration and a challenge of our belief in the centrality of love." These are shocking words in 2016 when Oakwood has long embraced an exceptionally diverse student body, but they're also a stark reminder of the social conditions in 1934.

Happily, Fred had a wonderful experience at Oakwood. He thrived in his studies and was an active participant in campus life, selected as president of the freshman class. He played baseball, basketball and football, performed in student productions, worked as assistant librarian, served on the Boys' Council, and was the vice-president of the senior class. In the "senior superlatives" of the 1938 Drus yearbook, he was named best male student, most sophisticated, most poised, and hardest to rattle!

Fred remained a gracious gentleman with a playful sense of humor and quiet air of contentment. He appreciated the gifts he had received in life and enjoyed the opportunity to give back. Oakwood is grateful for his generosity and honored to carry his name and spirit forward with the Frederick M. Yergan Scholarship Fund.



Major Frederick M. Yergan receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal

Letter from Chad Cianfrani
Head of School



Dear Friends,

A longtime Oakwood neighbor greets many of us with a smile and a wave each morning during his daily dog walks through campus. Having spent decades in the Hudson Valley, he has amassed many historical photographs which he generously shares. This photo from 1914 transports us back to Coleman Farm, Oakwood's (soon to be) new Poughkeepsie campus. A present-day faculty home, the Dining Hall and the Main Building are all clearly visible. These



images, combined with many more in our archives room, reveal a school that remains true to its founding Quaker principles and provides an engaging and ever-evolving home to our diverse community of learners.

This summer I had the opportunity to review and reflect upon many of these past and present photographs. In 1920 construction began on Lane Theater, the first new addition to Oakwood's campus. Over the decades, small sections of green space gradually transformed into a gym, labs, dorms, classrooms and a two acre solar array. Even as the physical and architectural landscape shifted over time, constant was the sense of community and shared learning. Hundreds of photographs told thousands of stories. Our students gathering for Silent Meeting sit on the same benches as their classmates from 1924. Athletes separated by multiple generations play baseball on the same fields below the Barn apartments. The same three girls who analyzed a sun dial in their 1940's science class, measure and record the strength of a beetle in their 2016 lesson.



Images of these girls, taken almost 70 years apart, bring into focus an Oakwood that nurtures a respect of every voice and embraces collaborative exploration. Diving into hundreds of other photos in Oakwood's archive, I see students willing to listen to each other and willing to be active participants in their education. I see faculty giving of themselves in the classroom, in the dorms, in the lounges and in the dining hall. I see a community informed and sustained by our history, unafraid to challenge issues of social justice in the classroom and in society.

Central is the belief that there is a Light in every member of our community. A belief that our differences and our diversity are strengths to be shared discussed and explored. The challenges facing us today require the input of multiple creative minds from multiple nations, faiths and cultures, all capable of this type of collaborative work. Viewed through the lens of curriculum, community and faith, these photographs provide unique snapshots of campus life. And although solar fields may have replaced hay fields, our commitment to nurturing a community rooted in Quaker principles remains unchanged. So as we begin our ninety-seventh year on this Oakwood campus, I look forward to the many new photographs and many new accomplishments to come.

Sincerely,
Chad Cianfrani
Head of School



Aminah Taariq '17
New Clerk



Aminah Taariq '17

Aminah Taariq '17, known as Mimi, has been selected by the school community to serve as student clerk for 2016-2017.

Mimi is a day student from Beacon, New York, who came to Oakwood in the 6th grade along with her sister Nai'lah. Both girls already felt at home on the campus having visited many times while their older sister Fatima Sarassoro attended. Fatima graduated in 2011 and earned her bachelor's degree from Hobart & William Smith College in 2015.

Moving through the grades from a middle schooler to a rising senior, Mimi has become deeply connected to the community and has grown as an individual in many ways. She has sought out a variety of leadership positions both in classes and extracurricular activities. When the clerk application process began, she decided to challenge herself to do more. Mimi says she became nervous when she saw the names of the other candidates: "They were all the best leaders in our class! But I stuck through it, and I am honored to know that I have so many supporters and friends here. It's a great feeling standing up at the podium after seeing many amazing students stand there before me."

Mimi explained the role of clerk: "The clerk represents the Oakwood community with their personality, merit and actions. On campus, it is the duty of the clerk to show respect and kindness to fellow students and use their leadership position to help anyone in need. Off campus, the clerk must represent the school wholeheartedly. The clerk will also be a mentor and friend to all of their peers and be willing to offer any assistance. Finally, the clerk should portray the pillars of our Oakwood structure, which are the Quaker testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship!

I am excited to have the opportunity to better the community that I already know and love so well."

Caroline Norfleet '16 Competes In Philosophy Olympiad



Senior Caroline Norfleet of Croton-on-Hudson was one of two students chosen nationally to represent the United States at the International Philosophy Olympiad (IPO) held in Ghent, Belgium in May. The Department of Philosophy of Sofia University initiated this international competition for high school students in 1993. Each participating country may send one or two pupils, with the exception of the host country, which may participate with a maximum of 10 pupils.

Caroline's paper for the American Philosophy Olympiad was entitled "Los Modismos y Nuestra Vista del Mundo," or "Idioms and our View of the World." Students are charged with writing a paper about one of two philosophy-related topics in a language other than their native language. As a winner, she had the opportunity to travel to Belgium where she competed against other students from around the world.

The topic of the 2016 International Philosophy Olympiad is philosophy of war and peace. Students are given four hours to write a philosophical essay on one of four topics given. The topics are provided in the four official languages of the IPO - English, Spanish, French and German - and the student must choose to write in a language other than her own. Caroline chose Spanish. For her topic she selected various English sayings for her analysis, all related to fate. They included "Life isn't fair," "It is what it is," and "What goes around comes around."

Caroline appreciates the support of faculty and friends at Oakwood: "I had such great opportunities to branch out and try new things. There is a strong sense of community." In the fall, Caroline will attend Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, where she plans to study linguistics.

Student Archivist Represents Oakwood at Union Springs Ceremony

Matthew Voorhees '17 represented Oakwood Friends School at the dedication of an historical marker on June 30th at the site of the former Oakwood Seminary in Union Springs, New York. He participated in the ceremony along with the village mayor, the village historian and members of the local Quaker community.

Oakwood Seminary operated from 1860 to 1920 on a small farm of 20 acres in the village of Union Springs, overlooking Cayuga Lake, one of the Finger Lakes of New York. A three story brick building housed the dormitories for boys and girls, classrooms, library and laboratory, and a large assembly room which doubled for a study hall, Friends Meeting, and a general auditorium. In 1918, William Reagan's first year as headmaster, a fire started in a dormitory room that caused great damage to the building. Under the leadership of Aaron H. Lane and others, the school moved to its present location in Poughkeepsie in 1920 and became Oakwood School.

Matthew was proud to represent the school on this important occasion, which made the front page of "The Citizen, "Cayuga County's newspaper on July 1st. As Oakwood's first student archivist, he has done an impressive job organizing the Irene & Alson Van Wagner Archives Room in Collins Library, digitizing hundreds of photos and documents, creating displays for alumni weekend and other events, and responding to inquiries from members of the public doing academic research. Matthew came to Oakwood in the 6th grade when he already had a passion for history. With countless hours in the Archives Room, Matthew has developed tremendous knowledge of Oakwood's long history and enjoys serving the school in any way he can. Thank you, Matthew!



OPA

Dear Fellow Oakwood Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! The Oakwood Friends School Parents Association (OPA) was created by and for the parents and guardians of Oakwood students as a way to get involved and stay informed about all the exciting and interesting events going on around campus. We look forward to working with old friends this year and welcoming new faces as well. You'll be seeing a lot of us this fall, first at Orientation, and then again during Parents Weekend in October. We've got a lot of great events planned for the year.

See you then!
Alysa Sullivan, *OPA clerk, parent '17*

"My two sons are fabulous young men. I give a great deal of credit for their empathy, kindness, and intellectual curiousity to Oakwood Friends, where they were educated from 6th to 12th grades. Best decision ever!"

Amy Grice, parent
Sam Leach '09
Jacob Leach '11

Sports

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

This past winter basketball season was one of our most successful ever as three of our teams were able to win championships. Here are some highlights from these three teams that combined for a record of 45 wins and 10 losses.

Under new coach Sean Thompson, the Boys JV built on the success of last year and ended the season with a 9-5 record. The team was a mix of younger athletes, some new to the game, and more experienced upperclassmen who provided leadership. The team also had great depth and 10 different players started at least one game. This depth proved especially important as two starters, sophomore **Gabby Mat** and freshman **Spencer Madsen** missed multiple games due to injury. The two leading scorers were senior **Julian Fernandez-Kemp** who scored from the inside, and freshman **Adam Feldman** who ran the offense and had a great outside shot. Junior **Yicheng Shen** also provided some much needed offense coming off the bench. In late January, the team journeyed to Amenia for the Maplebrook School Invitational tournament. After defeating Glenholme School in the opener, we beat Rumsey Hall 28-23 for our first championship of the winter.

The Boys Varsity had one of their best seasons in recent memory finishing the season with a 17-4 record. Coached once again by alum Ted Lonczak '08, the team featured a stout pressure defense and a fast break offense that could also nail the outside shot. They ended the Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL) season with a record of 8-2 and the only two losses were to league power Storm King. One great regular season game was a 52-40 home win over Wooster who would eventually be a New England tournament semi-finalist. In February, the team made their annual appearance in the Kildonan Classic. After advancing to the championship game, the team defeated Hudson Valley Rocks (a talented team of home schoolers) in a close fought contest to claim our second championship of the winter. Junior **Khari Wilmore** was named the tournament MVP. We also advanced to the championship game of the HVAL tournament, but lost to Storm King. Three of the team's four losses were to Storm King and this was not too surprising considering that Storm King would win the New England championship. We also qualified for this championship as the #5 seed and had to play the #4 seed Chase Collegiate on their home court. We fell behind early 14-0, but then fought back to take the lead in the second half. Unfortunately, Chase made a late run to win 61-57, but it was a great effort nonetheless. In addition to Khari, the team was led by junior guard **Jabreel Harrell** whose quickness was too hard to handle for most defenders. Both players were first team HVAL All-Stars and second team New England All-Stars. Senior **Armand Murayire** was also named to the HVAL first team and he provided a strong inside game along with junior **Lisandro Chihuahua** who was named to the HVAL second team. Lisandro was joined on the second team by senior **Derek Baugh** who scored both inside and outside. Finally, junior **Dylan Bimka-Wintrob** came off the bench to drain threes throughout the season.



Boys' Varsity Basketball.

For the Girls Varsity, things didn't look good at halftime of our first game of the season as we trailed Marvelwood 22-16 at home. In the second half, our defense stiffened and the offense began to click. We outscored the visitors 23-9 in the second half for a 39-31 win against a perennial New England tournament team. Our play in the second half would be an indicator of what was to follow for the rest of the season. Great defense was a given and our opponents averaged only 25.6 points per game. The defense started with pressure up top led by junior **Asha Amberslie**, senior **Sage Altamirano**, and freshman **Natalie Bordeaux**. Down low, it didn't get any easier as they ran into some combination of sophomore **Shai Black Bird**, juniors **Mimi and Nai'lah Tarriq**, and sophomore **Briana Uket**. Scoring was also not an issue. There were numerous games where all 10 players were able to score some points. Asha was by far the leading scorer, averaging almost 19 per game. She had the ability to hit the outside shot and her drive to the basket proved impossible to defend. Asha and Natalie were also unselfish as they would drive to the hoop and then dish at the last moment to Shai, Mimi, Nai'lah, or Briana for an easy basket. Junior Alex Weinraub and sophomore Brianna Coble came off the bench to knock down some key shots. Junior **Bianca Luna-Lupercio** was also able to hit shots from long range and was a tenacious defender. We finished the regular season with a perfect 16-0 record and we were also 10-0 in the HVAL. In the HVAL playoffs, we faced Marvelwood in the championship game and came away with a 47-41 win before a packed house at Connor Gymnasium. Like Girls Soccer in the fall, we were HVAL champions for the first time. Now, with a record of 18-0, the team earned the #2 seed in the New England tournament and we traveled to Chase Collegiate School to face Brimmer & May of Newton, MA in the quarter finals. The outcome was never in doubt as we led 25-7 at the half and then cruised to an easy 43-23 win. In the New England semi-finals, we were sent to Loomis Chaffee School to play an experienced team from Providence Country Day School. We had some first half jitters and trailed by 14 at the half, but we closed the gap to 4 late in the second. To their credit, Providence hit their foul shots down the stretch and our season came to a close with a 47-38 loss. Providence would then win the championship the next day in a 30 point blowout. Overall, we ended the season with an impressive 19-1 record. Three of our players were also selected to play in the prestigious New England All-Star game at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA. Asha, Shai, and Natalie were great representatives of Oakwood Friends in this game.

"I loved playing basketball every free moment I had."

Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86

Class of 2016 At College:

American Academy of Dramatic Arts
Bard College
Binghamton University
Boston University (College of Engineering)
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Drexel University
Dutchess Community College
Franklin Pierce University
Hofstra University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Macalester College
Michigan State University
Mount Holyoke College
New York University (College of Arts and Science)
Niagara University
Pennsylvania State University
Rutgers University-Newark
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University
The College of Saint Rose
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Rochester
University of Vermont
Utica College
Vassar College
Wilkes University

Music

By: Ted Messerschmidt, Music Director

The winter and spring terms were an exciting time for the Oakwood Friends School Music Department. Students participated in 12 school performances along with outside concerts and competitions.

The Winter Festival Concert was a great success. The event was full of outstanding performances of selections including: classical works by Mozart, Haydn, and Chopin; original compositions by Oakwood students; folk and jazz tunes; and pop songs by Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, and Chinese stars. In addition, the newly formed school orchestra gave its first performance, and, as usual, the concert concluded with a holiday sing-along led by Oakwood singers.

Students in the Community Service through the Arts class performed for local residents who rarely have the opportunity to hear live music. For example, they performed holiday songs for students at the Cardinal Hayes School for Children with Special Needs in Millbrook, NY. They also played a concert for residents at the Manor at Woodside Retirement Home in Poughkeepsie, and they performed at a community lunch in Stone Ridge, NY. In addition, several students in the class supported Oakwood fundraising efforts by performing at the parent dinner and auction in January, and **Nora Sackett '16** played holiday music before and after the final meeting for worship in December.

For this year's musical production, students gave three powerful performances of *See Rock City and Other Destinations*. In vignettes set in national parks and other famous sites throughout the United States, the characters in the show learn to face their fears and take chances. The fact that the show contained several different story lines gave more students than usual the chance to play leading roles.

The Spring Festival Concert was also a success. Nearly one-fifth of the student body performed at the event. Students performed 18 selections in a variety of styles from 4 different centuries and 8 different countries.

Also during the spring, students participated in music events outside of Oakwood. **Will Dambra '19**, for example, participated in the NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival. He received high praise from the judges, and he earned a rating that was just one point shy of a perfect score. Eighth grader **Elias Fredericks** participated in the same Solo and Ensemble Festival; he earned a perfect score on cello and a near-perfect score on violin. In addition, Elias was selected to participate in the Dutchess All-County Orchestra with exceptional instrumentalists from local public and private schools. Meanwhile, senior



Seniors Nora Sackett, Charlie Zhou & Jason Yang

Jason "Guang" Yang organized recording sessions of his original compositions so that he could apply to college music programs. He was accepted to the Ithaca College School of Music and also to Bard College, where he will begin his studies in the fall. The final performances of the year took place at the 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony and at the Commencement Ceremony. **Nora Sackett '16** performed processional music for the middle school event, while **Yanling "Connie" Huang '18** and the Oakwood Orchestra performed processional and recessional music at the upper school ceremony. Also at graduation, a choir comprised of both students and faculty members performed Ted Messerschmidt's a cappella arrangement of the popular song "Youth." Graduating seniors **Sage Altamirano** and **Hanchong "Jacky" Jin** were featured in the performance.

7th Grade Creates Peaceable Kingdom Mural

Oakwood Friends School 7th graders collaborated in a two-week project under the direction of guest artists Carmen Lizardo, Josh Kramb, Megan Porpeglia and school counselor Peggy Lewis. The finished project, a pigment transfer and acrylic paint 10' x 7' mural, is on display outside the school's Meeting Room. The project integrated Quaker beliefs and practices, art history, visual research, digital media, acting improvisation, photography and painting.



The project began by examining Edward Hick's "Peaceable Kingdom" paintings. The students discussed the artist's intentions and how they would adapt the ideas to construct a peaceable kingdom today. They discussed racial, gender, and social inequalities. They identified themselves as makers of peace and described Quaker values as they relate to their own lives. They created their own version of a Peaceable Kingdom painting adding items that represented peace and unity, such as, the recently erected tipi on the Oakwood campus and a peace sign.

The Oakwood campus was used as a theater and the students became performers inside the collage. They acted out what they wanted a figure in the painting to be doing and a photograph was taken. The student silhouettes were inserted into the painting to represent human kind. The next stage of the project was to collect digital images to translate the painting into a mosaic. The digital transfer process allowed for the image to exist on a canvas. The pigment transfer allowed the students to draw and paint on the image. The project was a powerful experience for the students that engaged them in art, research, experimentation and reflection.

"Oakwood was a formative part of my life. So many lessons learned there beyond the classroom…many things that made me who I am."

Alice Lindsley '84

Earthshare Day Celebrates Lakota Culture

Oakwood's spring "Earthshare Day" of service learning was incorporated into a 3 day celebration of Lakota Culture, featuring musician and activist Tiokasin Ghosthorse from the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota. Tiokasin guided Oakwood students to erect and paint an 18' tipi with traditional Lakota symbols, shared Lakota cosmology, and held a public performance of the ancient red cedar flute. His visit ended with a campout and traditional sunrise greeting.

The tipi remained on the Oakwood campus through graduation in June and was used to host events for area youngsters. Pre-K and Kindergarten students from Poughkeepsie Day School and 1st and 2nd graders from Dutchess Day School enjoyed story time in the tipi. Shai Blackbird, Oakwood class of 2018, spoke to the students about her community and culture on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. She demonstrated the use of the tipi's rain flap, read stories, and taught the children to count in her native language, as well as to say "hello."



Shai Blackbird '18 storytime.



Students erect 18' tipi

8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony in June



Elias Fredericks, Cyril Uebbing, Zachariah Craft, Diamond Tulloch, Arlo Stone, Freddy Carroll

Hudson Data Jam

Oakwood Friends School students once again participated in this year's Hudson Valley Data Jam competition sponsored by the Carey Institute for Ecosystem Studies. **Tillie Schneiderman**, class of 2018, won the People's Choice Award and $100.00. Tillie previously participated while in middle school. This year, she examined the temperature rise in the Hudson Valley in the last 100 years and saw how it affected bird migration, infectious diseases and natural disasters. The link to her Youtube video is below. Congratulations Tillie!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVmS8bBX2is&feature=youtu.be



Tillie Schneiderman

Summer at Oakwood

Camp Growing Green

Eleven campers in 3rd through 5th grades experienced the inaugural summer of Camp Growing Green which made use of Oakwood Friends School's four season greenhouse and introduced elementary students to the process of growing their own food. Every day had a different theme: On planting day, campers used a drill to make their own pizza garden with tomato, basil and oregano plants and made their own pizza dough and pizza to eat as well. On soil day, campers explored the ingredients of soil and made their own worm farms. They also got to "eat" worms and soil. On insect day, they learned how essential honeybees are to our ecosystem by visiting a beekeeper and making lip balm and candles from beeswax. They also picked organic strawberries at a local organic strawberry farm and made smoothies. Finally they celebrated chickens and cows by watching chicks hatch, experimenting with eggs and making ice cream. The camp was led by middle school science teacher Miriam Straus with the assistance of **Niamh Varrallo** and **Dorothy Dirac**, both Oakwood class of 2018.





SAM Camp

Sam Camp

SAM (science and math) Camp Jr. offered local elementary students the opportunity to learn about trees, animals, chemistry and space through art projects, experiments and games. Led by Sue Cianfrani, Oakwood's Community Outreach Coordinator, the camp served over 20 students in a hands-on experiential program designed to make science and math fun and to instill confidence in campers as they tackle challenging activities, such as testing what dissolves, making bubble solution and growing sprout houses.

SAM Camp, now in its 6th year, is a week-long program specifically for 6th to 9th grade girls. The program inspires girls with thought-provoking and hands-on projects; they solder circuits, decode math cyphers, drill holes to seed mushroom logs, sculpt ceramic art and build edible race cars. Women instructors share their passion for math and science.

Adelante

Former Oakwood Friends School intern, Gabriela Quintanilla, hosted a week-long program this summer of Adelante, a program she founded. Twelve participants, undocumented students from the Hudson Valley, gathered at Oakwood to learn about self-advocacy and the arts, how to apply for college, and current opportunities under law. As an intern, Gabby attended Dutchess Community College and later completed her undergraduate degree at SUNY Stony Brook.

At the end of the week, many students were pleased to discover that they had created a second family within the Adelante network. They were grateful to Oakwood for creating a welcoming space to learn and explore!



Adelante staff members

Summer Youth Advocacy Program



Installing bench with flowers

In keeping with the school's Quaker mission of service and social justice, Oakwood Friends School once again hosted the Summer Youth Advocacy Program (SYAP) for Hudson Valley and New York City teens. Now in its fourteenth year, SYAP is a free summer program for economically disadvantaged, minority youth between the ages of 13 and 18. The program increases understanding of civic engagement, teaches the tools of advocacy through the arts, and fosters an early interest in and commitment to civic participation. Activities, coordinated by a former Capitol Hill staffer and led by program alumni, include mock legislative procedures, visits to the offices of elected officials, and the use of theatre, art and music as tools for social change.

The annual service learning project this year included building a planter bench in memory of Poughkeepsie community activist, John Flowers, who passed away last year. The bench was installed by the Hudson River in a park in Mr. Flowers' name during a dedication ceremony attended by his family members, Mayor Rob Rolison and the City's Director of Social Development, Herbert Bullock. Also in attendance was Oakwood parent, Doug Nobiletti, (Eli Nobiletti '11 and Leo Nobiletti '16) who was instrumental in helping Oakwood get their bench building project off the ground and connected to officials about placing them in the City of Poughkeepsie. The group also constructed and painted two picnic tables with murals for College Hill Park. The group worked in partnership with Councilwoman Ann Perry and the Rotary E-Club of District 7210 on the bench and picnic table projects.

SYAP is funded by grants and generous donations from: The Dyson Foundation, M & T Bank, the Rotary E-Club of District 7210, Somos la Llave del Futuro, as well as local businesses and individuals.



Summer Youth Advocacy Program

Alumni Weekend 2016



Class of 1948
Irene Nemes Csordas, Tom Renouf, Marian Amsen Finch



Class of 1951
2nd Row: *Henry Brecher, John Earp, Leslie Earp, Charles Doskow, Ginny Hayes*
Front Row: *Bill Homans, Mary Barnard Homans '53, Becky Henderson Stratton*



Class of 1956
2nd Row: *Brian Johnston, Eileen Grace Haight '59, Ed Haight, Sarah Robinson Newcomb*
Front Row: *Deb Bacon Wood, Dan Watt, Molly Lynn Watt, Marj Frazer Lacey, Ellen Stein Gross, Susie Deane-Miller, Kate Summey Frank*



Class of 1961
2nd row: *Ralph Skeels '60, Ed Hershberger '60, Larry Fogelson*
Front Row: *Maureen Sanchez DeTagle, Jane Miller Thompson, Joan Liebmann-Smith, Margit Winckler '62*



Class of 1966: 50th Reunion
2nd Row: *Nancy Leopitzi-Wawrla '67, Ann Lydenberg Ponzio, Jerry White*
Front Row: *Judith Ebenstein Grose, Jamie Agnew, Mike Cruciger*



Class of 1971
2nd Row: *Andi Green Lynch*
Front Row: *Raphael Hartzog '70, Fran Dunwell '70*



Class of 1976
Bill Bogle, Jr.



Class of 1986
2nd Row: *Fred Jenkins, Peter Davidson, Abigail Golden-Vazquez, Justin Brown, Jeremy Soule '87*
Front Row: *Laura Fast Smith '87, Thembi Dube '85, Annette Engler '87, Steve Brentari '87, Caroline Cook Alter '88, Richard Alter*



Class of 1991
3rd Row: *Sierra Filucci, Soheireh Meier, Julia Wilson '92*
2nd Row: *Simone Berman-Rossi, Loren Talbot, Valerie Reiss*
Front Row: *Jon Jernquist (with Adele), Ben Sebastian '90 (with Century)*



Class of 1996
2nd Row: *Lindsay Manolakes, Robert Castanos, Naiying Kuo, Alex Morris, Cecilie Morris*
Front Row: *Lauren Gianutsos (with Jonah), Matt Gianutsos (with Miloh), Dan Laurence*



Class of 2006
2nd Row: *Jesse Vinicor, Anya Aliferis, Aaron Dean, Steve Zuchowski*
Front Row: *Adam Anderson, Carly Wiener, Noah Shuster*

Distinguished Alumni Award

Oakwood Friends School, Saturday, May 14, 2016

Today it is my privilege to honor Abigail Golden-Vazquez, class of 1986, with the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2016 on the occasion of her 30th reunion.

Oakwood was already a family tradition when Abigail arrived as a student, following in the footsteps of her father, Eric Golden '57, and her three uncles, Arnold '52, Jed '54 and John '63. Known then as Abbey, she was an exemplary student and a wonderful member of the school community. Her advisor and coach, Charlie Butts, remembers her as a three sport athlete, soccer, basketball, and softball, with an outgoing and gregarious personality. Bill Doolittle recalls working in the girls' dorm when Abbey was a proctor: "She did so much to help other students and to lessen the load on dorm parents."

After Oakwood, Abigail earned a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from Amherst, and later an M.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She brought her passions and talent to a thriving career in the areas of global leadership and policy development. Today she is the Executive Director of the Latinos and Society Program at the Aspen Institute, where she runs a policy program whose goal is to improve understanding of the growing Latino community and increase awareness of its critical importance to the future of the United States. Prior to that, she managed the Institute's geographical and topical leadership initiatives that comprise the Aspen Global Leadership Network. There, her work involved helping to stimulate a new generation of local leaders to play a greater role in the social and political developments of their countries. Earlier, she worked for the German Marshall Fund where she was a Director of External Relations responsible for congressional relations, public outreach, and strategy, and from 2000 to 2002, she worked with USAID in Honduras.

On the home front, Abigail also thrived. She was married to Christopher Brauss in 2007 and their son Gabriel was born in 2009. When Gabriel was a toddler, Abigail shared her feelings in a class note: "I'm finding immense joy in being a mother and rediscovering the world through the eyes of a child." Along with a robust career and active family life, Abigail has remained loyal and connected to her alma mater. A member of the Ten Year Honor Roll, she supports the school financially and joins with alumni of all ages at our annual Washington D. C. gathering, where she also attends Quaker meeting. This year, she gave Oakwood a special gift by presenting the 2016 Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice, which she called, "My Winding Road to Purpose – from a commune in Oregon to Fighting for Latino Rights."

Abigail, you are a wonderful ambassador for our school and for Friends' education. We take great pride in calling you an Oakwood alumna, and I am honored to present you with our Distinguished Alumni Award today.

Chad Cianfrani, Head of School

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association

Oakwood Friends School
Saturday, May 14, 2016



Co-presidents Bill Homans '51 and Najah Muhammad '10

Najah Muhammad '10, co-president of the Alumni Association, opened the meeting with silent worship. She welcomed alumni and guests and acknowledged her co-president, Bill Homans '51, who was unable to attend. She thanked him for his service as president and co-president which he is completing today, and showed a painting of the Meeting Room by Maiko Nishikawa '04 to be presented to Bill later in the day.

Najah asked for and received approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 16, 2015. She introduced Deb Wood '56 who presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Myra Koutzen '70. As of March 31, 2016, the value of the Ruth Craig Scholarship Fund was $449,506.00. The net value of the Fund has decreased $17,521.41 or 3.75% in the past year. The value of the Fund on June 30, 2015 was $467,027.41.The change in value is attributable as follows: there was a total increase of $5,028.59 from one donation of $100.00 and unrealized capital gain of $4,928.39.00. There were distributions totaling $22,550.00: the Fund dispersed $22,275.00 to Oakwood Friends School to be used for scholarships. The amount was determined by the formula agreed to at the 2015 meeting of the Alumni Association. An additional $275 was disbursed for an advertisement in the school's yearbook from the Alumni Association congratulating the Class of 2016.

The treasurer proposed and received approval of the traditional formula for determining the donation to Oakwood to be used for scholarship for the 2016-17 school year: 5% of the average value of the past three years of the Ruth Craig Scholarship Fund. The approximate donation would be $22,275 using the value of the Fund on March 31, 2016. The actual donation amount would be calculated after June 30, 2016 using the fiscal year end amount.

The slate of candidates for officers of the Alumni Council were presented and approved: Najah Muhammad '10, president, Myra Koutzen '70, treasurer, Rita James '52, secretary. The slate of Council members was also approved. Najah recognized alumni members of the board of managers: Henry Brecher '51, Patrick Crowley '50, Jessica Kimelman '93, Myra Koutzen '70, Beth Porter '87, Ralph Skeels '60; Loren Talbot '91; ex-officio: Bill Homans '51 and Najah Muhammad '10.

Najah thanked alumni for the many ways they support the school. She reported that we have raised $200,000 so far for the Annual Fund and asked all who have not yet made a gift to do so. Another $75,000 is needed to reach the budgeted goal. She recognized those who have opened their homes for regional alumni gatherings this year: Nancy & Art Saltford '52 in Washington, D.C., Linda Connor '63 at the Art Institute of San Francisco, Drue & Lew Weinstein '57 in Florida, and Jerry & Suzanne Litner '54 in New York City. Additional gatherings were hosted by the Young Alumni Committee in New York City, one at the Ace Bar and one at the Flat Iron Bar. She also acknowledged Abigail Golden-Velasquez '86 who presented the Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice. Najah herself was guest speaker at winter reunion in January. She also thanked donors to "Peter's Porch" and our successful bricks campaign.

Najah introduced head of school, Chad Cianfrani. Chad spoke about his first year as head of school after 12 years as a member of the school community in a variety of roles. He acknowledged the guidance and support he received from Peter Baily, former head of school, the board of managers and, particularly, board president Libby Moroff '54 who passed away in February. Chad presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Abigail Golden-Velasquez '86 and recognized the 50th and 25th reunion classes. He reviewed the schedule of the day and made special mention of a memorial gathering for Emmet Hayes '51. The meeting closed with silent worship.



Abigail Golden-Vazquez '86 with her husband, Christopher Brauss, son Gabriel, father, Eric Golden '57 and student clerk, Parfait Bizimana '16

Three and Out

By: Patrick Crowley '50

Over the years, I have tried my hand at a number of activities, some which held promise and others which clearly did not. The least likely area for success was high school football. When I first tried football, during my junior year in 1948 I quickly became aware that my body didn't equip me for the sport. I was, at age 16, all of 132 pounds and was five feet ten and a half inches tall. Of that weight not much was muscle. Why I even contemplated the sport was the result of finding myself at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, New York in that fall of 1948.

At the time, the enrollment of Oakwood was approximately 158 students including a majority of boarding students with the remainder day students from the local area. Of the 158, only about 58 were male. This posed a serious problem for many sports, although less so for basketball and baseball. It had not been a problem during my first year at the School when boys played football, but of the six-man variety. With small enrollments, six-man football was perfect for the other small schools in Oakwood's athletic league. In fact, in the previous season, Oakwood's team had won the first Duchess County Six-man Football Championship under the coaching of Paul Taylor. That season 27 or so boy's turned out for football demonstrating the sport's popularity.

Part way through the following season, things changed dramatically in that Oakwood opted to join the regular Eleven-man football league in which the larger nearby schools participated. With the numbers available, Coach Paul Taylor had been able to assemble six solid regulars who played with skill required by the faster and less physical six-man game. With eleven players, our new coach, Dean of Boys Bill Butterfield '39, needed to reach down further into the ranks to field a competitive team which required that everybody who was breathing turnout. The Coach was a large individual and I never learned whether he played football at Earlham College where he had earned his degree.

My introduction to the sport was sketchy, at best. As a high school freshman in Coronado, California I had engaged in a bit of long toss of a football with a buddy. I had never suited up in football gear and been part of a team. It was apparent early on that I was going to be a marginal participant in that the School had run out of the new plastic helmets when it came to outfitting me. I was issued an old leather helmet from the previous season. The helmet was such that one could squeeze it shut between the thumb and fingers of one hand. Just how little protection this would afford I was to learn once the season began.

This was to be only my second ever team in any sport. I looked forward to practice and enjoyed being part of the action. I took part in a variety of drills and training to prepare us for the upcoming games against mostly bigger schools with established programs. I particularly enjoyed the tackling drills and hoped that with finesse I could achieve what I was not likely to achieve by size and strength. Practice and scrimmages involved fairly serious body contact which, after the first four or five pileups, hurt less than at first. After getting warmed to the action, I would hurl my body into the mass of humanity with abandon, unthinking of the potential dangers to which I was exposing myself. While during my brief time at Coronado High Scholl I had attended a number of football games and was attracted by the speed and strategy and paid insufficient attention to the mayhem that is part of the game.

As we prepared for games, Coach Butterfield sorted people out by position and tried to assemble a winning team. We had a number of skilled players from our Six-man team and to that group was added boys who demonstrated the skills to be competitive. On the team, all three of my roommates were assigned positions. Eric Wohlforth played center and Don Ingram and Barry Van Kleeck played ends. I was expected to be a back-up at the end position should I be needed. I did my best to learn the position and be ready if called.

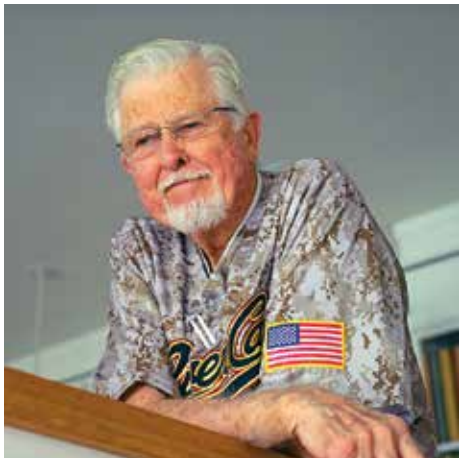
Toward the end of the season, during which I had warmed the bench, we were to play Poughkeepsie High School. Poughkeepsie, as I recall, was in the running for the local championship and would be our toughest opponent. The game was played at Oakwood's field. I had played in one game previously and had been carried off the field after one play. Getting into the game filled me with trepidation, but thought it unlikely. At some point in the game, both my roommates were taken out of the game with minor injuries or to rest. Coach pointed to me on the bench and directed me to enter the game at left end.

I have no recollection of the first play from scrimmage. I just know that I wasn't involved. When Poughkeepsie huddled again they assumed a new style of huddle employed by the United States Military Academy, across the Hudson at West Point, a few miles to the south. All players lined up in two rows with their backs to the line. The quarterback faced them, scanning our defense. As the quarterback swung his gaze from side to side, I saw him do a double take when he spied me. He called his play and the team approached the line. When the ball was snapped, Poughkeepsie ran what would be called later by the University of Southern California Student Body Right. This involved moving the entire team around the right end of the line, which was where I stood transfixed.

No one blocked me, taking on other members of our defense. Their fullback, a very large individual, ran directly at me. My only hope was to place my head to one side and hope to wrap him up. The last thing I remember was the view of his thigh pad as it approached my face full on. I next remember sitting on the bench, watching as Poughkeepsie rolled on to a very lopsided victory. They went on to win the Duchess County championship.

Knowing what I have observed over the years about concussions and serious injuries in high school football, I would have been well advised to avoid the sport. However, I was caught up in enthusiasm for the School, my teammates and our beloved Coach.

While I would never again attempt playing football, it was an experience that, despite the potential danger and the pain, I came away feeling that I had tried and participated and earned a modicum of respect from my schoolmates. Lesson learned.



Patrick Crowley '50
Photo courtesy of Steve Barbour

Class Notes



1942
Janet Locke Genest – I am so grateful for the quality of the education that I received at Oakwood. It made it possible for me to attend and graduate from Swarthmore College.

1943
Gloria Garlick Bogle – Just celebrated my 90th birthday with a party given by Barbara Feingold, Julie Kratchman and Bill Bogle. Wonderful family occasion.

1946
Deborah Satz Scheer – Justin and I are now living in Corte Medera, CA, no longer able to attend meetings at Oakwood. We see Ellen Marquis as often as possible. Last month Eric and Cecile Springer visited here and had lunch in San Francisco with Ellen and me. It was a joy to attend the SF Oakwood gathering hosted by Linda Connor at the SF Art Institute, as well. I hope our alumni day reunion will be well attended this year. Keep in touch: email- dscheer9@gmail.com

1950
Anita Pasternack Finkelstein – I had the pleasure of meeting our new head, Chad Cianfrani, a few times. I was most impressed and wish him a continuous long and fruitful stay at Oakwood.

Joan Guzy Gold – I'm now living in a Friends/Quaker retirement community. Looks as if I've gone full circle. My eldest daughter and my grandson and family (wife & 2 daughters), live nearby. I'm looking forward to seeing them more often. Sorry to miss Alumni weekend, but regards to all.

Eric Wohlforth – Closed my law firm of 50 years in December. Then spent two months in Tuscon before becoming of counsel with another Anchorage firm. Still active on Alaska affairs but trying to downsize my house.

1951
John Earp – Well I finally made it back to Oakwood for my 1st visit, and thoroughly enjoyed it. I was able to share the experience with my wife, Leslie, and youngest son, Brian.

At 4:00 pm on Saturday of Alumni Weekend, the class gathered to scatter the ashes of **Emmet Hayes.** Emmet loved Oakwood very much – he felt that he rested his life as an adult on the foundation he first established at Oakwood. Peter Baily picked a supremely suitable spot – just behind the former location of the former Boys' Dorm, where Emmet had lived, with a view towards the Hudson. A few words were spoken and then we each, in turn, scattered ashes on the grass. Just as we finished, a soft rain came down. It intensified, and the ashes which had been lying on the grass worked their way in. The rain soon abated and as we walked up the hill to Chad's home for the Head's reception, the drops ceased and the sun came out. In attendance: Peter Baily, Henry Brecher, Chuck Doskow, John and Leslie Earp, Ginny Hayes, Mary & Bill Homans, Elaine Miles, and Becky Henderson Stratton.



Mary & Bill Homans with Ginny Hayes scattering Emmet's ashes at Oakwood.

1956
Sarah Robin Newcomb – Hoping to be back for '56 reunion.

David White - Still living in Houston, playing tennis 3 times a week. I have fond memories of Oakwood Friends School.

1957
Diane DeMask Lyons – Will be traveling in May. Hope to make 60th – Wow!



Jonathan Talbot '57, with daughter Loren '91 and grandson, Vander at Alumni Weekend '16

1959
Susan Stein-Stephens – It is wonderful to be living at Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center, FL, a Brookdale Community. We have a great group of performers called 'The Plaza Players'. I am part of the chorus – it feels great to be singing again. I sang Seven and a Half Cents (Pajama Game) and the yodeling song (Sound of Music).

1961
Joan Liebmann-Smith – My brother, Peter Liebmann '60, died of complications of parkinson's disease in May. He loved Oakwood and we shared happy (and weird) memories up until the end. Peter received a PhD in theoretical physics at The Courant Institute of Mathematics at NYU. All those math classes at Oakwood paid off. Thanks PT Taylor!

1963
Mike Mickelsen – Just got back from a month cruising through the Baltic Sea and then visiting Denmark. We got to see the house where my father was born!

1964
Peter Letson – Summer adventure this year involves sail-training on the brig NIAGARA, a replica of a ship from the war of 1812. I will help sail the brig from Duluth, MN to Erie, PA, a THREE WEEK SAIL.

1966
Mary Knight Morrel – Will miss my 50th reunion. Jake and I are doing well. Love gardening, friends and family.

1968



Dick Powell at home in Fresno, CA

1971
David Lyons – We enjoy following the Oakwood Friends on Facebook. I recently added Marketing & Business Development to my scope of work at IBMSECU. Not thinking about retirement, but enjoying the time I spend traveling with my wife, Joan Michele. Hope to make it to Poughkeepsie for another reunion soon.

1985
Thembi Dube – I am happy to donate to my high school which had such an impact on my life and development. I love Oakwood and want to see it provide for other students as it did for me.

1986
Abigail Golden-Vazquez – This year I took a major career leap pushing boundaries to lead a new initiative to bring greater awareness of the critical importance and contributions of Latinos in America. It has been a blessing to build on all my work

and careers in a way that gives back. It is also challenging and necessary in a time when rhetoric is so negative toward Hispanics, Muslims and any one perceived as 'other'.



Congratulations to **Jesse Washington** who reported with ESPN from the Olympics in Brazil!

1991

Valerie Reiss – We've moved to Northampton, MA to raise our boy with a bit more nature than NYC has to offer. So far we love it!

1993

Jessica Kimelman – married Tommy Cho on May 7, 2016 at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. They make their home in Park Slope, Brookyn, NY.

2000

Congratulations to **Tracey Carl Fenton** and Casey Fenton on the birth of their daughter Elliott Arbor Fenton on September 10, 2016.

2002

Congratulations to **Sara Mabry** and Kevin Maskornick who were married on April 16, 2016 in Washington, D.C. Sara is a legislative assistant to Senator Robert P. Casey, Democrat of Pennsylvania, and works on health policy. She graduated from Wellesley and received a master's degree in public policy from George Washington University.



2004

Congratulations to **Claribel (Bela) Baez** on her new job as an Associate Correctional Counselor with the NYC Department of Corrections!

Frank McGinnis' original musical "Safe" is being performed at The Center For Performing Arts in Rhinebeck the weekend of September 23rd through 25th. Congratulations Frank!

2011

Tri (Bill) Dung Nguyen – Graduated from Bard College with a dual degree program at Columbia University's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Oakwood's Barbara Lonczak visited with Bill's family in Vietnam during an Admissions tour of Southeast Asia.

Congratulations to **Jill Poskanzer** on the publication of her book, "Literary Starbucks: Fresh-Brewed, Half-Caf, No-Whip Bookish Humor". Based off of the viral Tumblr she wrote with her co-authors, the book covers a single day with favorite authors as they interact with one another over drinks in a Starbucks. What an achievement!

2012

Congratulations to our recent college graduates: **Jesse Bernz** from Clarkson University; **Therese Kaufman** from Mount Holyoke College; **Daniel Li** from Skidmore College; **Jessica Mitchell** from SUNY Albany.



Jessie Mitchell

2013

Rui (Ray) Gao stopped by campus for a visit in April. He graduated in May from SUNY Buffalo with a degree in International Trade and Geography. While at school, he led the the Students' Geography Association. He's moving to Melbourne, Australia, to begin graduate school at the University of Melbourne and will be majoring in banking and finance.



Rui Gao

Friends & Faculty News

'Good work **Miriam Straus** and Oakwood School!' - Enola Nelson, Miriam's 1st Grade Teacher

Congratulations to **Joan Carl** on the birth of her granddaughter Elliott Arbor Fenton.

Former board member **Liza Donnelly** and her husband **Michael Maslin** (parents of Ella Maslin '07 & Gretchen Maslin '09) will be featured in "New Yorker Cartoonists of the Hudson Valley" at Arts Mid-Hudson from September 9th to October 30th. Liza and Michael will be present for a reception and book signing on October 21st, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The exhibit will include 16 cartoons published in the New Yorker magazine over the years along with copies of their recent books.

Congratulations to Middle School English teacher, **Thomas Perkins**, on his published poem, in Chronogram!



Congratulations to Araceli Reyes & Jose Bernabe on the birth of their daughter Jabeira.



Congratulations to Megan & Chris Sanger on the birth of their son Jack.

Spotlight on Maintenance Crew

Thank you for your hard work all summer to prepare the campus for opening day!



Chris Galschjodt, German Gutierrez, Shawn Sala, Pablo Ramos, Pablo Ruiz and Ray Valentin.

"Purple and Gold" 1924

Class History:
Mary Lane, "Shrimp," is our class president. She came as a "Freshie" in 1920. As a baby she was ruled by her older brothers, however her resulting sweet temper now rules the boys: Vice president of Junior Class '23; Treasurer of Student Board '23; Secretary '24; President of Senior class, '24; Girls' Track Manager, '23; Secretary of Girls' Glee Club, '24; Girls' Council, '24.

Commencement:
Graduation has come and gone and now we face a new world – a world of radiant dreams, and of glorious promise. All of life lies before us, willing clay for our hands to shape, material eager for construction.

And what dreams we have to bring to consummation! Is the world full of weary, sick and dying men? We shall discover the secrets of health – nay, of life eternal! Is man weak and helpless before Nature's strength? We shall give him the key to all power! Do men hate and kill each other the world over? We shall unite them in a brotherhood of peace and love!

You think that we are ungrateful and forgetful – that we turn our backs upon the world with careless ease. That is not true. Every minute, every mile of our way, the past accompanies us. Do we falter, the past gives us an encouraging clap on the back. Do we fall, the past helps us to regain our feet and urges us on. Do we succeed at all, the past applauds us and fires us with further ambitions. All that we have and are – all that we may become - we owe to the past.

To you especially, Oakwood, we are grateful. Grateful for your teachers, your jolly companions, your pleasant scenes. Above all, we are grateful for the ideals you have inspired in us, which will help us to go courageously and cheerfully through life, giving our best efforts to forward the best.

We shall always remember you, Oakwood, and we hope to return to visit you some day. In that day, may we be able to return to you some small measure of the debt we owe you.

Class of 1924

"The class of 2017 will be the last class at Oakwood born in the 20th century."

Matthew Voorhees '17, student archivist

The End of an Era
Mary Lane Swartz 1907 – 2016

Oakwood Friends School lost a treasured friend with the passing of Mary Lane Swartz '24 in July. Mary and her cousin Emily Lane Taylor '23 were matriarchs of an extended family with a deep connection to the School. Sadly, Mary's son David Swartz '53, died just 9 days later on July 15. David was an Oakwood board president and lifetime friend of the School. A celebration of David's life will be held at Mt. Holly Meeting on Saturday, September 24, at 2:00 pm.

The following was published in the Burlington Free Press:

Mary Lane Swartz of Shelburne, VT, died peacefully on July 6, 2016 with family close by. At 109 she was ready to venture forth into her next chapter with a quiet confidence and joyful anticipation. She was born June 3, 1907 in Poughkeepsie, NY and graduated from Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, Westtown School near Philadelphia and Skidmore College in Saratoga, NY. She married William C. Swartz in 1933 and became a Presbyterian minister's wife, filling that role with cheerful enthusiasm while raising three sons, and earning a Master's Degree in early childhood education from West Virginia University. Mary Swartz was skilled at turning the maternal domestic "chores" into an art, from which she both received and gave great pleasure: making shirts for her sons, tailoring suits for herself and her husband, and creating gourmet fare from hamburger and left overs, happily adapting her skills each summer to the limitations of the electricity and phone-free conditions of the family camp in South Hero, VT. She expressed her love by baking bread, goober cookies and angel food cakes, and teaching her sons to make pickles, applesauce, and apple pies.

Widowed in 1966, she continued her life work of caring for others: first for her nonagenarian mother, then for her children and their young families. In the 1980's she moved to Danville, VT, to be near her two Vermont sons and their families, and the family's Camp on Lake Champlain. She loved rural Vermont, quickly becoming a part of the community through church, school and Senior activities, contra dancing, reading to first graders, walking several miles each morning in any weather, driving folks to appointments, and bringing joy and baked goods to shut ins and friends. In 1994 she moved to Wake Robin, a retirement community in Shelburne, VT and quickly made new friends. She was a member of College Street Congregational Church and PEO, was a frequent visitor at the family's South Hero camp, and loved visiting family and friends both near and far. She was a loving and inspiring presence: a Mom, Aunt, Granny, and Great Granny whose gentle but firm guidance was shared and respected by all of her family, just as her friendship and acceptance was appreciated by all who knew her.

Mary Swartz is survived by her three sons and their wives and families: David and Miriam Swartz of Lumberton, NJ, Donald and Jackie Swartz of South Burlington and Robert and Patricia Swartz of St. Johnsbury, and by her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.



David Swartz '53, Mary Lane Swartz '24 and Miriam Swartz

In Memory of Samuel Ho '55

By: Melissa Ho and Samantha Ho Kriegel



Samuel Pao San Ho died peacefully in Vancouver on July 20, 2016, with both his daughters by his side. Born in Tianjin on November 19, 1936, Sam spent his childhood in China amidst the turmoil of civil and global war. In 1949, his family fled China to settle in the United States, living at various times in New Haven and New York City. From 1950 to 1955, Sam was fortunate to attend Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, New York, an experience he remembered with fondness and gratitude until the end of his life.

He went on to study electrical engineering at Princeton University, graduating in 1959, but then changed academic focus and in 1965 completed a PhD in economics at Yale University. After receiving his doctorate, Sam taught at Yale and joined the university's Economic Growth Center. The Center sponsored a year of research in Taiwan, where Sam met Sharon Shai Rong Tang; the two married in April 1966 after a whirlwind courtship. In 1970, Sam became a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of British Columbia. While they moved to Vancouver sight unseen, Sam and Sharon found it a wonderful place to raise their family and lived there the rest of their lives.

Sam enjoyed a rewarding and productive career at UBC. He served as head of the Department of Economics from 1985 to 1989 and as director of the Centre for Chinese Research from 1996 to 1999. Sam's field was Development Economics and after China became accessible to scholars in the early 1980s, his research focused almost exclusively on the Chinese economy. For about 20 years, he did annual field work in China, often staying for long periods in the countryside. Sam and Sharon had a passion for world travel and together visited an astonishing array of destinations including Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Nepal, Peru, Russia, Thailand, Tibet and Turkey.



After the painful loss of his wife to brain cancer in 2008, Sam rallied, nurturing Sharon's remarkable garden, spending time with his family, forging new friendships, and continuing to travel adventurously. Throughout his life, Sam inspired many people with his good humor, equanimity, wisdom and warmth. He retained these qualities throughout his brief illness and continued to make good memories with his loved ones until the very end. Reflecting on his life during his final weeks, he felt complete and amazed at his good fortune.

A beloved husband, father, brother and uncle, Sam is survived by his daughters Samantha Ho Kriegel and Melissa Ho; his sons-in-law Jonathan Kriegel and Alexander Williams; his grandchildren, Mia Kriegel, Talia Kriegel, and Marcel Ho; his sister Pauline Ho Bynum and sister-in-law Nancy Ho (widow of his brother Robert); and his nieces and nephews and their families. At Sam's request, his ashes will be interred at Riverside Church in New York City, alongside those of his parents Shwen Dji Yu and Franklin Lien Ho, and his wife Sharon.

A Gift to Oakwood

Upon the occasion of Sam Ho's 50th reunion at Oakwood Friends School in 2005, he submitted a page for the class booklet. After writing about his cherished family and fulfilling career, he referred back to his time at Oakwood:

"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 expressed his gratitude and affection for Oakwood Friends School throughout his adult life with generous support of the Annual Fund to ensure that students today will enjoy the same important experience. Last spring, when Sam was settling his financial affairs, he made a lifetime gift to Oakwood of $100,000. The gift is not restricted except by the needs of the school as perceived by the head of school and board of managers.

Oakwood Friends School is profoundly grateful to Sam Ho for his exceptional generosity and care.

IN MEMORY

Mary Lane Swartz '24
July 6, 2016

Elizabeth (Betty) Flinn Perreault '38
March 21, 2016

Frederick M. Yergan '38
January 29, 2016

Gordon H. Beckhart, Sr. '40
April 7, 2016

Alethea Pike '41
January 27, 2016

Donald W. Hoffman '42
April 4, 2015

Jean Kenerson Roberts '51
June 20, 2014

David L. Swartz '53
Former Board President
July 15, 2016

Sandor Csobaji '55
February 3, 2016

Samuel P.S. Ho '55
July 20, 2016

Brenda Nelligan Murphy '57
January 8, 2016

S. Peter Liebmann '60
May 1, 2016

Joseph S. Silver '71
June 29, 2016

Joshua Walden '78
August 8, 2016

John C. Bender
Former Board Member
April 3, 2016

Erick Joassaint
Former Faculty
May 20, 2016

Barbara Mason
Former Faculty
March 26, 2016

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

Oak Leaves
Summer 2016

ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Oakwood
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2016-2017 Fall/Winter School Calendar

September 30	Parent Reception, 7:00pm
October 6	Middle School Dinner, 6:00pm
October 21	Parents' Weekend
	Parent Reception, 7:00pm
October 25	Work Share Day
	Breakfast with the Head, 8:30am
November 10	Fall Production, 2:30pm
November 11	9th Grade Family Dinner, 6:00pm
November 11, 12	Fall Production, 7:30pm
December 4	11th Grade Family Dinner, 6:00pm
December 13	Holiday Concert, 7:00pm
January 6	Winter Reunion
January 11	Breakfast with the Head, 8:30am
January 28	Parent Fundraising Dinner, 6:30pm
February 23-25	Winter Production
February 24	10th Grade Family Dinner, 6:00pm

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Oakwood's Commencement on June 10, 2016



Bottom Row: *Nora Sackett, Zoë Huff, Yuchen Feng, Sage Altamirano, Sumayah Harrell, Khadijatou Allagouma, Meiwen (Wendy) Zhou, Runyuan (Monique) Wu, Julian Fernandez-Kemp* ***2nd Row:****Amani Harrell, Ge (Nolan) Wang, Zhicheng (Charlie) Zhou, Sheng Chen, HyunJoon (Jason) Song, William (Billy) DeTorres, Andreas Maltan, Daniel Barletta* ***3rd Row:*** *Hanchong (Jacky) Jin, Yan Wang, Sichao (Kido) Ma, Caroline Norfleet, Ben Whipple, Caleb Stewart-Schneiderman, Guang (Jason) Yang,* ***Top Row:*** *Calvin Ngarambe, Jared Fais, Miles Fah, Beauregard (Beau) Duval, Armand Murayire, Jingchen (Frank) Feng, Parfait Bizimana, Sterling Ward*

Not pictured: *Derek Baugh and Quentin Newman*