

# The Westonian Magazine



CELEBRATING  
**20**  
YEARS

# THE METAL MOOSE



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2023 / ISSUE 2

# The Westonian Magazine

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The Metal Moose drive team—(front from left) Lucia Sanchez '24, CJ Pitcher '23, Luke Cogswell '24 (back) Kilan Rougeot '24, Bailey Tuckman '25

*The Westonian*, a magazine for alums, parents, and friends, is published by Westtown School. Its mission is to capture the life of the school, to celebrate the impact that our students, faculty, and alums have on our world, and to serve as a forum for connection, exploration, and conversation. We publish two issues a year.

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## Dear Friends

**Through the years** my roles at Westtown have included that of day student, boarding student, alum, teacher, coach, dorm parent, dean, department chair, division head, parent of children in all three divisions, and—as of June—parent of a Westtown alum. Every one of these roles informs my daily work, and I've never felt as simultaneously connected to Westtown's past, present, and future, as I do as Head of School. And no season captures this intersection as keenly as those several weeks of spring framed by Alums Weekend and Commencement.

In the Greenwood this year, as I handed each senior their diploma, they handed me a KOB.\* The tones of their messages were as varied as these new alums themselves: playful, heartfelt, reflective, silly, and profound. Their themes—familiar to Westonians of any generation—included connection, growth, self-expression, love, discovery, joy, challenge, and deep gratitude. Three of these messages have particularly stuck with me. One acknowledged that “Westtown will always be one of my homes.” Another movingly expressed gratitude for unconditional love and acceptance. A third closed with, “Never change.” I've spoken with enough alums to know that Westtown does indeed remain one of our homes for as long as we let it and that few experiences are more profoundly life-shaping than that of unconditional love. The closing of that third message, though, is more complicated.

I understand the inclination to think that for Westtown to continue to be the home and place of love it has been for so many of us, it must never change. Actually, though, to continue to be that place, we must remain true to ourselves by being open to growing and being changed. This spring, I came across a passage in Britain Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* which spoke powerfully to me not just of Quakerism broadly, but of our specific Westtown condition, too. For those of you who attended the WAA Annual Meeting or Commencement, this may sound familiar: “We are seekers but we are also the holders of a precious heritage of discoveries. We, like every generation, must find the Light and Life again for ourselves. Only what we have valued and truly made our own, not by assertion but by lives of faithful commitment, can we hand on to the future. Even then, we must humbly acknowledge that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended.” Friend speaks my mind.


So I can't promise that newest alum that we will never change, but I can assure them that we will continue to hold “a precious heritage of discoveries.” And, like all those who have come before, current Westonians will continue to find the Light and Life again for ourselves, to truly make this our own through lives of faithful commitment, and then hand that on to those who follow. And as we all practice this faithfully day in and day out, we will also know that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended.

As always, thank you for your love and support of this community, and I invite you to continue partnering with us on the shared journey that is Westtown School. 

*\*To the uninitiated, a KOB is a note intricately folded so as to result in a 2" x 2" square. The outside carries the name of the person to whom the note is sent and sometimes the letters 'KOB' which stand for 'Kindness of Bearer.' KOBs are a tradition at Westtown dating back at least a hundred years and were of particular importance during eras when students of different genders had significantly less opportunity for direct social contact than they do today.*



# News from Around 'Town



Amari Rebel  
and The Movement  
perform at  
Black History  
Month Assembly

# Celebrating Black History

In the Lower and Middle Schools, celebration of Black History Month centered on the themes of Black joy, Black Excellence, Black Achievement, and Black families. **Kelly Yiadom**, Director of Equity, Justice, and Belonging for Lower and Middle Schools, engaged students in a series of activities throughout the month around these themes. Students learned about Black inventors and entrepreneurs as well as the achievements of Black Americans. Fifth graders visited the Archives to learn about Black history at Westtown. Students in each grade read a variety of works from the poetry of Amanda Gorman to books like *Hair Love* and *Put Your Shoes on and Get Ready* by Raphael Warnock. Primary Circle students had a special visit from eighth grader **Ryder Tookes**, who read *I'm Loving Me*, which was written by his aunt and uncle, Dr. Clarissa Henry-Adekanbi and David D. Henry II. In addition to readings, third graders listened to music, watched StoryCorps videos and *Hidden Figures*. All of these activities across the grades led to robust discussions among students. Queries in Meeting for Worship in both divisions centered around why celebrating Black History Month is important. In addition to readings, discussions, and classroom activities, Middle School students learned about the incredible life of Thurgood Marshall in a one-man show at the People's Light Theater.

Upper School students, faculty, staff, and families came together for our Black History Month Community dinner. The Black Student Union worked with the Dining Room staff to coordinate the dinner, decorated the Dining Room, and planned a delicious special menu. It was a joyous event that included singing, shared poems, and dancing together in celebration of Black culture at Westtown.

The Upper School wrapped up Black History Month with an assembly featuring a performance by Amari Rebel and the Movement which honored Black culture and celebrated the history of Black music. Students and faculty were singing and dancing to this lively, lovely performance in the Barton-Test Theater! Our thanks to **DeVon Jackson**, Director of Equity, Justice, and Belonging for the Upper School, for bringing this talented group to campus. The assembly was a joyful end to the month that also celebrated Black love in Community Collection, and Meetings for Worship that centered around the five senses of Black excellence. In collaboration with DeVon Jackson, each of the Black affinity groups—Black Women Affinity Group, Multicultural Student Union, In the Know (young men), and Black Student Union—presented queries at a Meeting for Worship aimed at sight and touch (identity, being seen), taste and smell (cultural cuisine, scents), and sound (the impact of Black music). Within these Meetings were also queries about Blackness at Westtown, the impact of Black women in our daily lives, the ways in which Black men impact our lives, and considering which achievements or stories from Black history resonate with us individually.



Fourth grade's Living Museum

## Living Museum

The fourth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the history of this continent from pre-European contact through the abolishment of slavery. It is based on the queries: Who's telling the story? Whose voices are missing? and seeks to amplify the voices in history that have often not been heard. Teachers **Shelagh Wilson** and **Colby van Alen** build a strong foundation by having in-depth conversations with students. They clearly articulate the impact of a young learner embodying the spirit of a person who fought for human rights and, because of this, students have access to true and accurate history. Furthermore, students gain firsthand knowledge of how people sacrificed their lives to progress towards a fair and just society.

Their studies culminate with doing deep dives into the lives of historical abolitionists, then presenting the Living Museum, to which families and fellow Lower Schoolers were invited, where they share the work, struggles, and successes of many notable abolitionists. Well done, fourth graders! 📷

## African Dance

This year's third grade African Dance performance marked the 21st anniversary of the African Dance program at Westtown and the partnership with **Jeannine Osayande and the Dunya Performing Arts Company!** The African Dance performance is a culmination of an extensive unit of study on the continent of Africa and its countries, cultures, and arts and a six-week residency of Osayande and the Dunya Performing Arts Company (DunyaPAC) during which they teach students West African dances and Capoeira. Osayande, Dunya PAC, and the drummers are professional performers whose mission is to teach children about African culture and its diaspora. During Osayande's and DunyaPAC's residency, third grade teachers **Vicki Shelter** and **Kristin Hayman** lead the students through this exploration of the countries of Africa, and art teacher Kelly Nicholson worked with students on creating their batik costumes while learning about West African adinkra symbols. Third graders did an excellent job in their performance, and so did parents and teachers, who joined in the dancing at the end of the show.



**Above:**  
Third graders'  
African Dance  
Performance

## 2023 Deep Dive Certificate Recipients

The Deep Dive Certificate Program honors Upper School students who are engaged in an intentional, organized, and well-documented arc of immersive learning and focused scholarship. Students create the path from initial interest to successful capstone projects. Upon completion of the program, students receive a certificate celebrating their sustained concentration and thoughtful synthesizing of a broad array of experiences and academic work. The designation is noted on the student's transcript, providing our students with yet another way of standing out from the crowd. Students may pursue more than one Deep Dive.

The Deep Dive Designations promote an interdisciplinary lens through which students design and experience their education. Deep Dive Certificates are offered in these areas: Social Entrepreneurship, Sustainability Leadership, Global Leadership, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice, Data-Driven Change, and Multidisciplinary Arts.

**Left:** Congratulations to this year's Deep Dive Certificate recipients! They are (from left): Jimmy Qin '23, Multidisciplinary Arts; Tara Kumar '23, Global Leadership; Dane Clunk '23, Global Leadership; Penny Huang '23, Global Leadership; Jon Ebataleye '23, Data-Driven Change; Alena Zhang '24, Global Leadership; Tyler Greenberg '23, Sustainability Leadership; Priyanka Acharya '23, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Change, Multidisciplinary Arts; and, Chloe Costa Baker '23 Global Leadership





## Visiting Artists

<< Philadelphia-based artist Tim McFarlane came to Lower School to teach as the **2023 Candace Freeman Artist-in-Residence**. Along with the students, he created four panels that will hang in the Lower School hallways. Tim's paintings and collages include vibrant colors, layers, and expressive marks, or "glyphs," that are representative of a unique visual language that Tim has developed over time. The Visiting Artist Program began over thirty years ago and focuses on bringing professional artists to Westtown's Lower School who embrace a child-like approach to exploring their own creativity. The opportunity for young artists to work alongside a professional artist to learn about abstract art and explore varied art media is a valuable and an important piece of our arts curriculum.



<< The Middle School and the Visual Arts Department welcomed guest artist **Todd Drake** to campus this spring. Drake is a printmaker, photographer, and educator, who worked with our students to create a permanent art installation in the Middle School main hallway. Drake and students made linocut prints inspired by the Quaker SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship) and put together collages of these prints that now hang in the Middle School. "[They] beautifully reflect a few essential elements of our students' experience," shared Principal **Will Addis**. "These collages bring together the collected perspectives of nearly 100 students, creating something new and beautiful through collaboration...and remind us of the importance of making space for every voice. The ideas that inspired the students are built on the same values that guide our curriculum and program today and have also influenced Westonians for 224 years." Drake's visit was supported by **Alex Ates**, Director of Visual and Performing Arts, and Middle School art teachers **Cindy Hodgson** and **Marta Willgoose Salo**.

Thanks to the **McLear Artist in Residence Fund**, >> Westtown welcomed ceramicist and sculptor **Kourtney Stone** to **Stephanie Wilhelm's** Upper School ceramics classes. Stone worked virtually for a time with Upper School art students teaching how to sculpt eyes and mouths on clay tiles. Then, during her week-long residency on campus, she worked with students on making silicone molds of their tiles and instructed them on pressing and molding techniques to make multiple clay casts. Through this project, students learned about close observation, creativity, and the unique history carried within every person. Stone's work, along with the work students did with her, was featured in a show in the gallery. She returned to campus for the opening reception on April 28. 📷





## One Story Week

Last April, our Lower School celebrated their annual One Story Week. The week was centered on author (and Westtown alum!) **Kat Yeh '82**. After reading two of Kat's books, *The Friend Ship* and *The Magic Brush*, students participated in mixed-grade activities around the themes of the two books: friendship and aspects of Chinese culture. Some of the special classes included collaborative collage of self-portraits for our Lower School Friend Ship (pictured here with Kat), creative writing and storytelling, painting wishes, paper folding, guest readers, and learning Chinese language and writing from special guests, community members, and Upper School students in Chinese classes. To wrap up the week, students were treated to a sneak peek of Kat's soon-to-be published newest book, *Just One Little Light*, then she led students in creating an original story together. Our thanks to Kat Yeh '82 for making the week so special for our Lower Schoolers!



## Lenape Voices

Lenape Voices is a Middle School arts and service project that seeks to honor over 10,000 years of Lenape stewardship of this land. As you walk around campus, you will see 21 different rocks (ahsēna) painted with relevant Lenape words and their English translations. Should you visit campus and find one of these rocks, we invite you to reflect on both the absence and presence of the Lenape people in this place. You can connect online to The Lenape Talking Dictionary to hear mother tongue Lenape speakers bring these words to life in their ancestral homelands. We also invite you to send pictures of you at any of the rocks. If you visit all 21, your efforts will be celebrated with your own rock at the explanatory signs. You can email your images to Teacher **Megan Rose**. 📷



Outdoor Ed trip

## Into the Mountains

Director of Outdoor Education **Chris Costa**, along with trip leaders **Elson Blunt**, **Fran de la Torre-Shu**, **Justin Boyer**, **Jodie Driver**, and **Melinda Janofsky**, traveled to the High Peaks Region in New York's Adirondack Mountains with a group of 23 students during the long winter weekend in February. Costa reports, "We had early mornings and very full days! Students were fully engaged in programming from Friday morning through Monday night. They worked well together and learned a lot about themselves, one another, and the pace and rhythms of traveling together in the mountains. They unplugged while at camp, engaged in family style meals and joined in the work of making our expedition run smoothly." They hiked, skied, snowboarded, played games in the evening, and shared campfire s'mores. Costa adds that it was not an easy trip, and that was largely by design. Students faced challenges such as those presented by living in rustic accommodations in the winter, practicing the patience required to travel in a large group, learning to ski and/or snowboard, and shifting their relationship with technology. "They displayed resilience and flexibility and reflected in our closing ceremony about ways that they would bring their experience back to their life at Westtown." Experiences like these are natural team builders, as well as opportunities to be in and learn from nature.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

# Visual and Performing Arts

Seven Upper School students were honored with 20 recognitions from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers! They are: **Priyanka Acharya '23**—Three Gold Keys for three works (Visual Art), Silver Key (Visual Art); **Chloe Costa Baker '23**—Three Gold Keys for three essays (Critical Essay), three Honorable Mentions for three essays (Critical Essay), Honorable Mention (Flash Fiction), and Honorable Mention (Science Fiction and Fantasy); **Coco Chen '25**—Honorable Mention (Digital Art); **Peishan Huang '24**—Two Gold Keys (Short Story), Gold Key (Short Story); **Eric Li '24**—Gold Key (Photography), two Silver Keys (Photography), and two Honorable Mention (Photography); **Jacob Liu '25**—Honorable Mention (Poetry); **Tina Zhu '25**—Gold Key (Visual Art)

In other Upper School visual and performing arts news, carved ceramic tiles by **Karah Blunt '25** were selected by the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition out of 1,300 entries nationwide, and **Mallory Peters' '23** piece “Historial Urn Replication” was selected into American Museum of Ceramic Art 2023 Annual High School Ceramics Exhibition.

Congratulations to our students **Milo Salvucci '23**, **Ella Cook '24**, and **Solveig-Michael Daniels '23** who were invited to attend the PMEA District Band Festival. A special shout out goes to Milo—after being selected for District Band, District Orchestra, Region Band, and Region Orchestra, Milo reached the highest level a high school musician can achieve by earning a place in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Festival music ensembles. This is the third year in a row he has reached this level. He also was selected as the top percussionist in Concert Band. Congratulations to Milo and all our talented musicians!

Middle School Artists were also recognized for their work. **Delia Sanchez's '27** sculpture was selected as a Juror's Prize by the Council for Art Education and the Pennsylvania Art Educators Association—the piece will be on exhibit in the State Capitol. Pieces by **Maura Wiggins '27** and **Maitreyi Vadigepalli '27** were included in the association's Youth Art Month exhibit. These pieces were produced in teacher Marta Willgoose Salo's art class.



Earth Day activities: bird watching and trail clean up



## Earth Day... and Month!

The Sustainability Committee, comprising faculty, administrators, and students, created a host of ways for the community to celebrate Earth Month and Earth Day, each with the overarching goals to “get people outside, interact with nature, and to intentionally inherit the Earth.” There was a shoe and clothing drive and on Earth Day, students and families gathered on campus and worked together to sort and organize the donations to prepare them for delivery. Also on Earth Day, Upper and Middle School students and families did a creek clean-up and water restoration project, created a path to connect trails, and there was a plant swap/plant propagation station.

Throughout the month, students in all divisions engaged in a variety of projects and activities designed to help them appreciate the nature around them and to do service to our land. In one example, eighth graders explored the wonders of nature through art for their biomimicry art project. They spent time outside exploring, observing, and collecting examples of nature’s designs to inspire their pieces. Students used willow reeds and basketry to create the frames, then various types of paper mache, wool, thread, and other natural materials to tie the project together. Each piece was a beautiful reminder of the beauty and importance of our planet.

In Lower School, students explored the creek, lake, and frog pond, learned about plant life with Farmer Tim, did an invasive plant pull, enjoyed birdwatching, went canoeing on the lake, and more! They revelled in these opportunities to be outdoors and to learn experientially.

## Enhancing the Collection

Last September, Amy Hart, a 90-year-old former ceramics teacher in Swarthmore reached out to Westtown to consider donating a collection of pottery and other materials to the school. Hart is a prolific arts educator in the region and had friendships with major figures in American pottery and pedagogy such as Paulus Berensohn and M.C. Richards. Westtown was suggested as a potential home for these pieces thanks to the suggestion of Hart's friend, retired Westtown ceramics teacher Joyce Nagata.

In this donation, Hart has gifted Westtown with pieces by Berensohn, Ruth Duckworth, and Karen Karnes. Further, to build on this donation, iconic Philadelphia gallery owners Rick and Ruth Snyderman have also donated a piece by Berensohn to Westtown. Berensohn has direct ties to Westtown, as he was an artist in residence in 1993. He worked with students in all divisions and delivered a lecture on his cutting-edge arts pedagogy.

In addition to the pottery collection, Hart donated a wide variety of classroom and research materials to Westtown. This donation included art books for the Lower School and Upper School libraries, 20 Native American rattles made of various materials, 22 carved spoons made of various materials, six Native American Zuni small stone fetishes, a large collection of minerals, fossils, ivory, shells and a completely intact ostrich egg on a hand-made ceramic base.

This donation comes at a time when Middle School art teacher **Cindy Hodgson** is conducting a project to consider the history of pottery at Westtown in collaboration with the Archives. Further, an anonymous donor purchased pottery by **Joyce Nagata** and current ceramics teacher **Stephanie Wilhelm** [pictured here] for the school's permanent collection, as well as a ceramic piece by **Cara Graver**, former longtime Westtown art teacher. The donations honor a history connecting Quakerism and pottery in Chester County, as outlined in the book, *The Potters and Potteries of Chester County* by Westtown alum **Arthur E. James**.

"There is a thread connecting Quakerism, American pottery, Chester County, and Westtown School," reflects **Alex Ates**, Director of PK-12 Visual and Performing Arts. "For example, Paulus Berensohn—who is widely credited for changing the course of American Ceramics education—was greatly influenced by Quaker mysticism and was a guest artist at Westtown. Amy Hart's generous donation honors Westtown's marvelous legacy of encouraging 'the living arts.' Indeed, these pieces will now live on campus with us, inspiring and teaching students for generations to come." 📷



Floral serving bowl by Stephanie Wilhelm



## Think, Care, Act

Late in the spring semester, the seventh grade held their annual Think, Care, Act Fair, an integration of service learning into curriculum. The Fair is the culmination of a multi-stage project spanning several months that begins in advisories, where students consider and identify their strengths, affinities, interests, and talents. They then focus on what they care about in their communities and the world around them. They then put those passions and skills to use by engaging in a service project that reflects those interests. The final phase of the project is the Think, Care, Act Fair, where they present their projects to their families, teachers, and sixth- and eighth-grade peers. This year they even had a special visit from their Primary Circle Book Buddies! Combined, the seventh grade class participated in over 400 hours of community service. Well done, seventh graders!

# Global Experiences Return

School-sponsored international trips resumed over spring break, a welcome return to global experiences and signature programming for our students. The program to Central Europe explored cities and sites related to the Holocaust. This trip aimed to provide a foundation for understanding genocide both broadly and locally, exploring one of the greatest atrocities of the western world. The group went to Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, and Austria and visited historical and cultural sites such as: The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Theresienstadt Ghetto Museum, Eagle's Nest, Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, Schindler's Factory Museum, Lidice Memorial, Nuremberg Documentation Center, The Ringelblum Archive, and the Warsaw Jewish Historical Institute, among many others. The group considered a range of people (individual and collective), ideologies, places, monuments, documents, memorials, archives, cities, primary and secondary sources as well as voices and views on various social levels, and they examined the choices victims, bystanders, and perpetrators confronted and the (in-) actions they took.

The trip was organized thematically, with focus on local, regional, and international spheres, so that students could move beyond the parameters of the Holocaust period and have ample discussion about the aftermath and representation of the this period and genocide in general—which continues to have ramifications for contemporary global society. One of the trip leaders, Upper School history teacher **Joseph Daniels**, shares, "Our trip to Central Europe had a challenging focus, but one that we felt was incredibly important for young people today. The students accepted the challenging emotional aspects with grace and leaned on each other. They formed a supportive group network among each other that allowed them to care for themselves and connect as a group in

the lighter, fun activities and explorations of modern Europe. It was a memory of a lifetime for all of us!"

Another group traveled to the village of Breman Esiam, Ghana, the home of Heritage Academy, our sister school. Westtown students taught a variety of classes for Heritage seventh graders and led reading groups. After school, the group engaged in their service project: making cement blocks. After the last Westtown group visited in 2019, Heritage used the blocks made by our students to begin constructing a new middle school building. They have named it Westtown Hall in honor of all the Westonians who have been visiting and supporting Heritage through the years. Leaders at Heritage asked this year's group to continue making blocks as their service project. They made 227 blocks, which will go a long way toward completing the building!

The group also took excursions to explore the life, landscape, and history of Ghana. One of the most important aspects of this experience is learning and reflecting on history. Students visited Elmina and Cape Coast Castles—both significant posts during the trade of the enslaved—which are reminders of the brutality endured by millions of Africans forced through the "doors of no return" onto ships headed to Europe and the Americas.

"Students are given a rare opportunity to have personal exposure to sites that mark the beginnings of the West African diaspora and to learn about the history of the trade of the enslaved. To stand in—and understand—these haunting spaces is a powerful and potent experience," shares **Lynette Assarsson**, one of the trip leaders. "Students also have immersive, authentic encounters with the culture. They live in the village, go to markets and haggle for goods, savor Ghanaian foods, learn to speak some Fante, and develop relationships with our neighbors and friends at Heritage. These



are intense, rich, and joyful experiences for students, and it's immensely rewarding for us adults to witness their understanding of the world expand and deepen in real time."

Another group of students embarked on a tour through Portugal, Spain, France, and Monaco. They visited a host of cities and cultural and historical sites along the way. Led by **Bei Zhang**, several faculty members, and partners at EF (Education First) Tours, students explored the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Castelo de São Jorge, Belém Tower, and other significant sites in Lisbon. From there, they traveled down the Algarve, stopping in Evora on their way to the Costa del Sol. In Sevilla, students got to appreciate the Andalusian culture and lifestyle (and, of course, the food!) and marvel at the cathedral, Plaza de Toros, and Plaza de España. After a quick stop at Gibraltar, the group traveled to Granada where they toured the Alhambra, a stunning and magnificent example of Moorish architecture. They continued to Valencia where they visited the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias and enjoyed a walking tour. The next stop was Barcelona where they witnessed the brilliance of Gaudí at La Sagrada Família and Park Güell, and soaked in this art lover's dream of a city. Finally, the last legs of the trip were spent along the French Riviera, including tours of Nice and Monaco.

**Top right:** Western Europe group in Portugal. **Middle:** Ghana group at Heritage Academy wearing clothes handmade by local seamstress. **Bottom:** Central Europe trip group in Germany.



## Jessie Wang '26 wins MAA's 2023 Young Women in Mathematics Award

Jessie Wang '26, along with all Upper School students who were enrolled in an advanced math class, took the Mathematical Association of America's (MAA) American Mathematics Competition (AMC). Her performance in the AMC 10 B for ninth and tenth grade students—a 75-minute, 25-question problem-solving exam—was one of the top in the country, earning her an AMC Young Women in Mathematics Award.

The American Mathematics Competitions' (AMC) Young Women in Mathematics Award and Certificate Program honors the top-performing, self-identifying girl students on the AMC 8, 10, and 12. The top five scorers in each competition split a \$5,000 scholarship, and the top five scorers from each MAA Section receive a certificate.

Based on her performance on the AMC 10, Jessie was invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME): AMC's invitational competition for high-scoring AMC 10/12 participants. Later, she was invited to participate in the United States of America Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO) (AMC's top invitational competition for high-scoring AIME participants). Congratulations, Jessie!



QUICK NOTES

**WORLD LANGUAGES WEEK**

The second annual World Languages Week was a blast! [1] We celebrated the joy of language learning with many special activities. There were awesome student performances at a special assembly, an assembly for visiting speaker **Seyon Kpaan '20**, and each language hosted a themed dinner in the evenings. At the end of the week, teams representing Latin, Spanish, French, and Chinese competed in the Language Olympics. Congratulations to Team Mandarin who won the World Language Cup and Team French who won the prize for having the most spirit! 📷

**CHESCO BAND FEST NOMINEES**

Congratulations to the six Westtown students in fifth and sixth grade who were nominated to participate in the Chesco Band Fest [2] last spring: **William Bromage '29**, **Norah Davidson '30**, **Felix Hopf '29**, **Hamilton Kreiling '29**, **Kayla Park '29**, and **Griffin Richards '29**! These students participated in a one-day festival and worked with a guest conductor to rehearse and prepare music for an evening concert. We are so proud of these young musicians!

**INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY**

At the end of the school year, several Upper School students were inducted into the newly-formed Westtown Chapter 11312 of the International Thespian Society, the honor society for educational theater [3]. They were inducted for having participated in at least 100 hours of excellent activity in theater classes and performances in the Upper School. They are: **Will Bradley '25**, **Kate Dolan '25**, **Tim Gatto '24**, **Devin Gabel '24**, **Tiantong Hu '26**, **Peishan Huang '24**, **Maya Jain '24**, **Liana Jiminez '25**, **Zaria Johnson '24**, **Jerry Li '24**, **Kaelin Martin '24**, **Amelia McDonough '24**, **Finn Mento '25**, **Maddie Moore-Barkley '25**,

**Celia Perkins '25**, **Anna Rebl '25**, **Ali Unrath '24**, **July Wen '25**, **Angela Wang '26**, and **Zeon Waterhouse '24**. Congratulations to all!

**NATIONAL CHINESE HONOR SOCIETY**

The Westtown School Chapter of the National Chinese Honor Society [4] was pleased to induct 14 new members into the society and renew 12 students' memberships last spring. The National Chinese Honor Society was established in 1993 to acknowledge the superior achievement of secondary school students studying Chinese as a second language. Like other honor societies, the National Chinese Honor Society not only recognizes high scholastic achievement but also good character, leadership, and service. National Chinese Honor Society members should exemplify all these standards. The Society's goal is to promote enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture learning, commitment to advanced study, and greater cross-cultural understanding. The new inductees include: **Alex Delgado '24**, **Melanie Flynn '23**, **Tim Gatto '24**, **Taehyung Kim '23**, **Lucia Sanchez '24**, **Nico Lippiatt-Cook '24**, **Tyler Greenberg '23**, **Oliver Hart '24**, **Jessica Schottland '24**, **Maggie Shirk '24**, **Ellen Jang '23**, **Amelia McDonough '24**, **Abdullah Sabir '24**, and **Zeon Waterhouse '23**. The students whose memberships were renewed include: **Jahlil Gary '23**, **Eric Ochis '23**, **Kate Eriksson '23**, **Sophia Hammond '23**, **Cat LeFebvre '23**, **Ali Zahm '23**, **Giacomo Acciavatti '23**, **Zach Blumenfeld '23**,

**Sydney Kostal '23**, **Tee Johnson '23**, **Savannah Peischl '23** and **Mallory Peters '23**. Join us in congratulating these students! 📷

**BASKETBALL GAME**

The annual Alums/Community Basketball Game [5] had a great turnout, and we were happy to welcome alums back to campus! It was great to see so many alums on the court! 📷

**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

The annual Lunar New Year Community Dinner in the Upper School [6] did not disappoint! Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai students worked hard to bring this event back to its pre-pandemic style. Delicious foods, from a menu created and prepared by the students alongside kitchen staff, were served at the dinner which was accompanied by music, student performances, community sharing, and the Lion Dance. After dinner, students were invited to visit cultural stations in classrooms along Main Hall.

In Middle School, eighth grade volunteers supported the Lunar New Year activities throughout the week. All students learned about Lunar New Year celebrations, and teacher Jie Song and Mandarin language students created a video of songs and well wishes for the Lunar New Year.

Students in Lower School learned about Lunar New Year through books, activities, and from parents. Students learned about *Chūnjié*, *Seollal*, and *Têt*.

📷 **WESTTOWN IN PICTURES**

Would you like to see photos from these stories and more? Visit Westtown's Smugmug via this QR code for all our school and community photos!





## ARTS GALLERY



Learn more  
about the Arts at  
[www.westtown.edu/upper-school/arts](http://www.westtown.edu/upper-school/arts)



# The Arts Gallery

Opportunities for students to share their talents on stage, backstage, and in the lighting and sound booth around, and there's room for everyone in the performing arts at Westtown. From the Upper School production of *Broadway Our Way* to the Elements Dance Company's winter and spring performances, to the Middle School production of *The Story Store*, to seasonal concerts in every division, the community gets to enjoy our students' talents and work as well!







See more sports updates online at [www.westtown.edu/athletics](http://www.westtown.edu/athletics)



# Fields & Courts

Double congratulations go to the **girls varsity basketball team!** This powerhouse team won the Friends Schools League Championship, then went on to win the PAISAA state championship. ¶ Congratulations to the boys **varsity wrestling** team who won the FSL Championship! ¶ The **girls varsity lacrosse** team took home the Quaker Cup! Go 'Town!



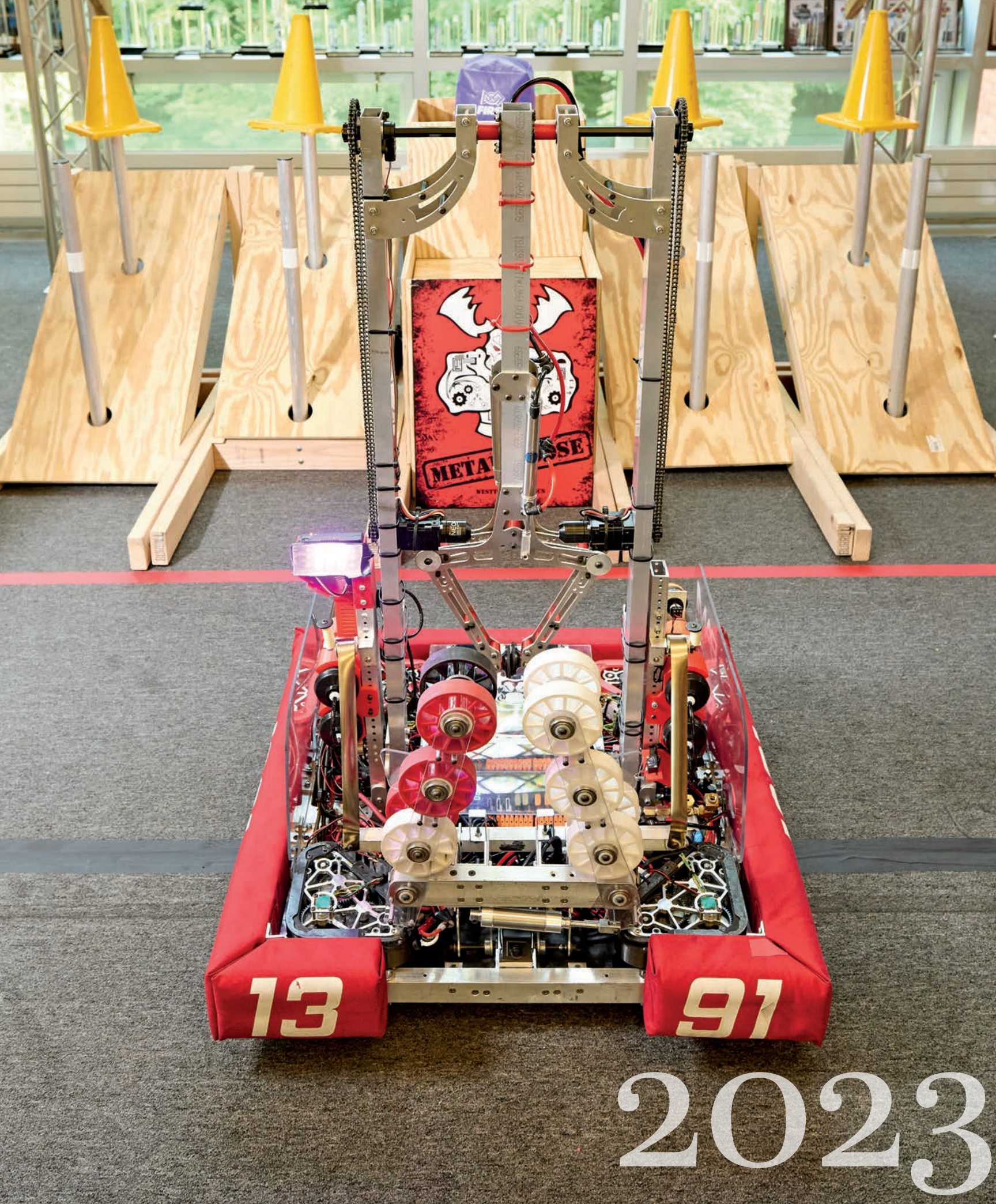
# Past is Prologue

# 2018

**THE METAL MOOSE ROBOTICS TEAM, founded in 2003, has just completed its 20th year. Over these two decades, there has been profound acceleration of tools and technologies for advanced robotics design, fabrication, and function. In the world of tech, “the past” is counted in months and years rather than decades and centuries.**

**The “past” robot shown here was built just five years ago. In the ensuing years, the Metal Moose has excelled, incorporating advanced CAD design tools, computer numerical control (CNC) fabrication tools (mills, routers, and 3D printers), sophisticated sensors and integration systems, vastly superior computing capacity, miniaturized and powerful motor/drive systems, and an explosion of programming capability. This year’s robot is a testament to these technological advances and, of course, to the skills, creativity, and commitment of our students.**





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2023

## Tom Gilbert '76

# Bytes, Camera, Action

STORY BY LYNETTE ASSARSSON • PHOTO BY ED CUNICELLI

**Tom Gilbert** first arrived at Westtown as a student in 10th grade, after searching for a Quaker school that offered more math and science and, because he was an avid soccer player, beautiful playing fields and more spectators at games. After Westtown, he earned a BS in Engineering from Swarthmore and later an MBA from Villanova. After a successful career in the energy world, Gilbert came back to Westtown, where he held a variety of roles. He taught physics, math, and computer science, was Guester House (formerly Stone House) dorm faculty, coached soccer, and, for many years, was the campus photographer. For the last several years, he was the Upper School Academic Technology Coordinator, and was the creator of and faculty advisor for the Data-Driven Change Deep Dive Certificate. Always an active member of the alum community, he served as the Westtown Alum Association President for several years and a Class Connector—and rarely missed the opportunity to play in an alum soccer game! Westtown has been a family affair as well. Gilbert's sisters—Esther Gilbert '70 and Elizabeth Gilbert Osterman '73, who is also a Trustee—his wife, Ellen Cryer Gilbert '76, past Trustee and former Director of Advancement, and one of his two daughters, Karen '09, are all alums. After a rich and innovative career at Westtown, Gilbert retired in June.

Though Gilbert came to Westtown to teach physics and math in 2009, two years later he began teaching Computer Science which was, at the time, the only course in the subject. A passionate advocate of equipping students with these skills, he revolutionized the computer science program. He not only increased the number of courses, but also deepened skill building through creating several advanced-level courses, while weaving the school's mission and Quaker values into the curricula he built. "He brought wonderful energy to our program, building it from a single year-long class to a program with entry-level [and advanced] options," shares Susan Waterhouse, Math Department Chair. "[His] students went on to study computer science at the highest levels in college. His ability to teach team-building to use technology to solve problems...is a skill that our graduates mention. They always note that they [were well prepared] for college courses, but were MUCH more prepared for the team work that was required than many of their peers. Tom's curiosity, ability to learn new things, and to

teach students how to learn new technology has helped keep our computer science program at the leading edge of computer science education." Jack Cross '20, a computer science major at Penn State, shares, "I completely owe my career path to Tom. He provided a welcoming environment in every single one of the classes he taught, and introduced me to the world of coding and computer science." Cross says that it was Gilbert's leadership, passion, and his student-centered, fun classes that had such a great impact on him.

Gilbert was deeply committed to increasing access and inclusion in the technology space. One of his main objectives was to make computer science offerings more accessible to all students, especially those who have been historically underrepresented in tech. He understood that when there is an inclusive culture, students are likely to continue in the subject. "Feeling welcome, included, respected, and having the opportunity to drive discussions and feel like a tech insider is critically important," he says. [See *The Westonian* 2022 / Volume 1 to learn more about his mission in this area.] Gilbert's push for a more diverse tech classroom has been successful. "Tom worked diligently to recruit students of color and female-identifying students, who are not traditionally represented in computer science, into the discipline," shares Upper School Principal Veda Robinson. "Once there, he has mentored and championed them; we can point directly to Tom as one of the key reasons many of these students are enrolling in college to major in computer science. His departure leaves a substantial void at Westtown."

Gilbert's students describe him as creative, kind, patient, selfless, thoughtful, funny, observant, positive, and authentic. They talk about a classroom atmosphere that is welcoming and centered around them. "I really admire his patience and calmness with us," says Haley Jurgens '25. "I feel safe in his class knowing I won't be judged, and he'll always help...He creates a very inclusive and warm environment." They also note Gilbert's personal attention. "Teacher Tom is someone who cares very much about his students and is always willing to spend a long time talking to anyone," says Bailey Tuckman '25. "He also is very encouraging of students to explore their own projects and will help them with those projects." Ian Eskesen '23 adds, "Teacher Tom...teaches discussion-based classes and most of




his time is spent moving around the room, talking to students individually. His lessons are funny, he is constantly positive, and he forces students to really learn the material by having them fly solo for all the numerous projects he assigns.” Gilbert leaves students room to think critically, explore ideas, and to create solutions.

A meaningful part of Gilbert’s career at Westtown has been serving as an advisor and a dorm parent in Guerster House, the dorm for male-identifying ninth graders. He developed strong bonds with them and his dorm colleagues, who emphasize his care and mentorship. “Tom is an amazing mentor. He helped make my transition [to Guerster House Dorm Head] smooth and was a wealth of knowledge that he shared in a way that always felt supportive,” says Josh Reilly. “The length of his tenure, the fact that he is an alum, and his kind and understanding approach with the freshmen, make him irreplaceable and Guerster House will be less without him.” Advisee Arjun Gill ’24 says, “During my first year here, Teacher Tom welcomed me with warm arms and helped me tremendously in adapting to the academics and student life here.”

Gilbert’s colleagues note his contributions to the community, his mentorship, and his under-the-radar sense of humor. “Tom simply loves Westtown,” says Upper School teacher Elson Blunt. “He loves it like it’s a member of his family. He looks out for our well-being and fights for things he thinks are good for the school.” Science teacher Leslie Barr enthuses, “Tom is an amazing colleague who taught me a lot. [We] have been on the Tuesday night duty crew for many years together. He was a big help to all of us with our adoption of Canvas software, and extremely helpful in our switch to online teaching during the pandemic. His legacy...will continue to serve us in his retirement.” Math teacher Omar Otero shares, “He was a mentor to me when it came to thinking in a more Quaker manner and to reflect on things. He is a kind and generous person, a bright man with a giving heart.” And, he adds, “If you make him laugh you get to see a side that many other people maybe didn’t know about him—he enjoys a good joke or anecdote!”

As Gilbert reflects on his time at Westtown, he says that what he will miss most are the people and relationships. A photography enthusiast and “a visual person,” his role as campus photographer remains close to his heart. He emphasizes that his photographs depict Westtown better than his words do. “If you look at my Instagram [@moosephoto] photos, *that’s* how I see this community. The relationships between students, the special moments. It’s captured there, and it’s very important to me.”

We are grateful for Gilbert’s years of commitment to students and colleagues and of his great care for our school and community. Happy retirement, Tom! 

# The Giant

## Celebrating 100 Years

**The Giant** has been a beloved fixture at Westtown for a century. This iconic feature of the Dining Room represents Westtown itself to so many, both for its important place in the heart of the Main Building and its place in the hearts of our community members.

Commissioned by the Class of 1910 in memory of classmate William C. Engle, N. C. Wyeth's *The Giant* was presented to Westtown on Alumni Day, June 2, 1923. The painting reflects Engle's love of the sea, childhood imagination, and the friendship between artist and subject. The children in the scene are Wyeth's five children, with Engle represented by the young man in the white hat.

An artist himself, Engle attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and later studied with N.C. Wyeth, living in Chadds Ford. He spent the summer of 1916 on a classmate's family farm in West Branch, Iowa, in an attempt to recuperate from tuberculosis. That summer he painted three landscapes, which now hang in the Main Building. Unfortunately, Engle succumbed to tuberculosis later that year in November on his 25th birthday.

George Whitney, Westtown's director of fine arts at the time—and friend and colleague of N. C. Wyeth—said in 1932, “Mr. Wyeth knew of Engle's love of children and their happy frolics; he knew of Engle's love for the sea, and so the ‘Giant’ was created, a picture in which one sees the imagination of the child taking shape in the great cloud built form of the [sic] Giant.” William Ellis Coale confirmed the connection between Engle, Wyeth, and the painting's theme in 1946 when he wrote, “Bill had always meant to execute a scene like this of children by the sea, looking up into the clouds. But his early death precluded this, so that his old friend and master created this fitting memorial, and thus fulfilled the pupil's dream.” (*The Westonian*, Fall 1946)

Marian E. Thatcher, herself a member of the Class of 1910, shared the experience of bringing the painting to Westtown. “One crisp autumn day in 1923, Master James Walker and his wife and [I] made a pilgrimage to the famous Wyeth studios at Chadds Ford to bring back with us the valuable treasure which had already been exhibited publicly and which Mr. Wyeth deemed one of his best works. We were received most cordially and on the return to school we felt that the orchard flat-top truck bore with us a great and beautiful treasure in the name of William C. Engle.” (*The Westonian*, Spring 1966)

Wyeth seemed pleased with the memorial to his student, writing to his mother in December 1923, “The exhibition opened Monday night (Howard Pyle Memorial, by his pupils) and I can say without any question that ‘The Giant’ was the canvas of interest. We had a big crowd there, the picture was given the place of honor and created quite a sensation.” (*The Wyeths: The Letters* 697)

When William Engle came to Westtown in the fall of 1908, the only art class offered was freehand drawing. Engle always made time for his art, however. Westtown classmates later said that between classes he was always out with brush and palette, painting about the countryside. Fifteen years later, when *The Giant* arrived at Westtown in June 1923, George Whitney—student and friend of N. C. Wyeth—was completing his third year as the school's director of fine arts and expanding the arts department. Bacon Cottage (part of what is now Balderston Commons), which included new art studios with lots of natural light, was dedicated on the same day as *The Giant*. Since *The Giant* came to Westtown, the fine arts program has greatly expanded. Today, Upper School students can choose from a host of visual arts courses offered which now take place in the Center for the Living Arts.

*The Giant*, which was restored last year, still hangs in the Dining Room for all to enjoy and still causes a sensation one hundred years later.

—Contributors: Chrissie Perella Clement, Archivist, and Mary L. Brooks, former Westtown School Archivist

At the Annual Meeting of the WAA Board, a film by Erik Freeland '80 was screened. Please enjoy this lovely tribute piece to *The Giant* which you can access via this QR code.





CLASS OF

20

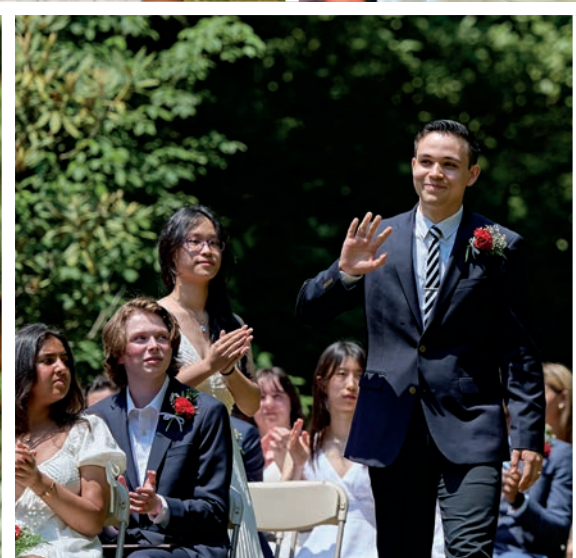
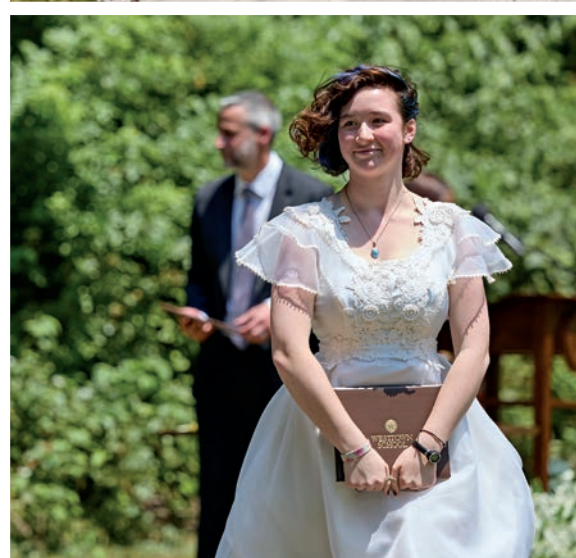




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CLASS OF

20  
23



# Graduation Essays

Each year, seniors write a personal reflective essay. Three were selected to be read at Commencement by a faculty committee. The fourth essay was written and read by the valedictorian who was elected by the senior class to speak on their behalf. These essays represent the character and intellect of our students, as well as the diversity of experiences within our community. We share their essays here.

## TYLER GREENBERG

### Eras, Television, and Music

I feel that what differentiates me from other generations is that I don't just consume media for entertainment, but I live vicariously through the characters and lyrics that speak to me. And this is something that I noticed a lot within my generation: the compartmentalization of different times in one's life, referred to as "eras." So, I would walk up to my friends sitting in Central after watching an episode of *Bojack Horseman*, and I wouldn't say, "I enjoyed Sarah Lynn's performance in (whatever episode I had just watched)," but I would say, "I am Sarah Lynn" or "I'm in my Sarah Lynn era" or "Would you say that I'm giving Sarah Lynn?" And amazingly, my friends responded in similar ways.

My first season at Westtown was my romantic era. All the music trending at the time, influenced by TikTok, like "Amour Plastique" and "Wait a Minute!" had heavy tropes of young love. I had my first real crush the summer before, and spent my nights staying up consuming queer media, like *Call Me by Your Name*, wishing that I could live out an Achillean romance in Lombardy, Italy. When I arrived to Westtown, I didn't find a lover, but I was enamored of the campus and way of life, and started romanticizing my high school experience in a very *Call-Me-by-Your-Name* way. My friends and I would

sign out of the top of campus on weekends to splash around in the creek or take pictures in the sunflower fields, and life was truly cinematic.

Then came my apocalypse era, and I want to preface that I'm aware that the pandemic is becoming a cliché in writing, but international students experienced it very differently. So in January, I had just finished watching *American Horror Story: Apocalypse*, where a cohort of rich elitists live in a bunker during the demise of the world due to nuclear warfare. Although this comparison is hyperbolic, I didn't know what to make of the phone call I received from my parents that month. They lived in Asia at the time, so they went into lockdown before cases appeared in the U.S., and it was starting to set in that I probably wouldn't be able to go home during spring break. At the same time, I was scared of the implications on my parents, because there was no accessible information, and very little media coverage domestically, and in my head, I was really catastrophizing the whole thing. Anyway, one night I was sitting in study hall listening to music and letting YouTube autoplay its selections and "If The World Was Ending" by JP Saxe and Julia Michaels came on, which, in my opinion, is a really corny, corporate song. However, out of curiosity I clicked on the tab and watched the music video

through, which as you can imagine, was about the end of the world, portrayed in a very similar fashion to the music video for "One Last Time" by Ariana Grande, and I just bawled in my little library booth. I obviously didn't think that the music video was prophesying our world state, but it encapsulated my emotions in an abstract way. So I cried.

Due to a combination of COVID and personal affairs, I didn't return back to school until midway through junior year. At this point, academics became harder, the college application process started, and I so desperately wanted to feel and be recognized as smart, but I didn't feel the part. I wasn't unique in this; I had many friends who I'd commiserate with after tests and during projects. To me, this was textbook Alex Dunphy from *Modern Family*. I used to love the show when I was younger and I distinctly remember going out to a restaurant with my parents and talking about her nonstop. Unknowing of my sexuality, they playfully accused me of having a crush on her, but I really just revered her as a character for her eloquence and prowess. There's this one scene where her family is gathered around her on her sixteenth birthday so she can blow out candles, but she goes into this tangent saying, "I really need to focus. There is a sixteen-year-old science prodigy studying cancer research at Johns Hopkins. Sixteen. What am I doing? I'm eating cake." And then she proceeds to use her hands to stuff handfuls of cake into her mouth. Like her, a lot of us made sacrifices of teenage experiences to feel smart, or at least felt guilty for not devoting enough time to our academics when we would live life. Many of us were overachievers.

And us as high school students, on top of having to perform academically, had immense social pressures, and I felt like I was living through "Nosedive." To me, this is the easiest subject to pull examples for because so much media, both ironically and unironically, is centered around appearance and popularity. I religiously listened to Marina's album *Electra*



*Heart* in middle school, but it reached peak applicability in my later teenage years. For those who haven't listened, it's about female archetypes in American pop culture, such as wanting to be a teen idol or a heartbreaker, and her lyrics are so histrionic and encapsulate perfectly the standards around femininity. And if that doesn't mean anything to some of you, maybe you can relate to Cassie from *Euphoria* setting her alarm to 4:00 a.m. every morning to do a meticulous skin-care and makeup routine for the fleeting moment Nate smiles at her in passing. But by far, the most real example, and I recommend this to anyone who hasn't watched it, is *Black Mirror: Nosedive*. It takes place in a futuristic America where after every interaction with someone, you can rate them out of five stars on this social media app. Lower-star people were outcast and had difficulty renting cars, buying apartments, finding jobs, etc. The episode follows a young adult, Lacey Pound, who starts out with a very high rating, but finds herself spiraling as her rating drops in a positive-feedback loop. I think a lot of us were Lacey's in high school, not due to our own fault, but being taught that likes and followers are our social currency.

I was accepted to Cornell the day before our winter break started, and the first two things I did as a result were making a playlist and watching the TV show *The*

*Sex Lives of College Girls*. The playlist was an incohesive smorgasbord of songs that I could imagine myself walking across the quad to, and it included songs like "Don't You (Forget About Me)" and "Kingston." *The Sex Lives of College Girls* is about an unlikely roommate quartet navigating their first year together at an imaginary New England college. I guess I just really wanted to consume media that would reaffirm the start of my college era. I used to feel that my obsession with media makes me come across as very superficial because most of my conversations center around celebrities, lyrics, or characters, and not myself. Specifically, I would hyper-relate to someone or talk about them parasocially. Older people act like overconsumption of media is our generation's detriment, but at its root, it's my way of being introspective. And I theorize that a lot of it is subconscious: that we seek out songs or shows that confirm experiences or emotions we are living through at the time. So even though titling periods of your life as "eras" was a silly little TikTok trend, and even though saying that I learned the most in high school through popular media is an inflammatory claim to make at your own graduation, it was all real to me. Of course I wasn't Sarah Lynn, or Alex Dunphy, or Marina's teen idol, but all of these were parallel to my life at some point, and so maybe an avid consumption of media and this abstract way of relating is a habit we can all take with us to college as we recollect our high school eras and create new ones. Thank you.

### TARA KUMAR

"Teacher Nathan Bohn just told me Tara's going to be the first girl to come to Westtown as an international student from India in the school's 223-year history." My brother said these words to me over the phone. He was visiting Westtown on my behalf while I sat across the world. Mind you, I hadn't been to the U.S. for over eight years or had any idea about what I was getting into, but all I knew was that this was a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity. Being the only girl to come from India is not a mere coincidence. The stark reality of being a girl in India is that it severely limits access to opportunities and resources. From a young age, most girls back home are taught to avoid even dreaming of a future with top-notch education and resources to become the best versions of themselves. Although the country has progressed greatly in the last few decades, this mindset is still widely present in certain parts. As for me, I was blessed with very supportive parents who have given me all the opportunities to thrive and succeed. I remember saying to them, with knowledge about Westtown limited to YouTube videos and my interview with Teacher Wendy, "I don't want to go to any boarding school other than this one." Hearing that I was going to be the only girl from India didn't intimidate me, but made me want to give it my all and make the most of this opportunity.

On my first day, I saw all students dressed in their purple orientation shirts, dancing at the Belfry, blasting "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond on their speakers, and skateboarding around the East End porch. I thought to myself: I'm definitely going to love it here!

*You know the kid that comes to school, becomes friends with everybody on the first day, says goodbye to her parents, and it seems as though she's been here for years? Well, this is not her story.* I came to this school with so much enthusiasm, but not a lot of it translated into reality as quickly as I expected.

My goals were clear: go to class, get good grades, study for the SAT, and in the blink of an eye, I'll be in college. I didn't realize what the issue with my goal was until I returned to India for winter break. It wasn't until I was home that I could look at my life at Westtown in retrospect and compare it to my old school. And it wasn't until then I learned I had access to something I like to call the "Westtown Dream" (like the "American Dream," but confined to this boarding school). I knew that at Westtown if you wanted the chance

to do something, almost every time, you could. Need an extension? You got it. Want to start a club? You can do it. Have something on your mind? By all means, write an opinion board post, or even speak up at Meeting for Worship.

*You know that kid who starts a club and suddenly everyone around campus is talking about it? The kid who talks at Meeting for Worship at every opportunity she gets? The kid whose initials you see on the opinion board every week? This isn't her story either.*

Westtown gave me opportunities, ones that I hadn't imagined were possible. Growing up, my educational board required all students to pick a stream of courses. "Science," "Humanities," "Commerce," and that was it! How could I explore the fascinating intersections of my interests if I was limited to either/or? At Westtown, I was able to sport an impending desire: To embrace *and*.

I could become a student AND an athlete, a leader AND a friend. *And* is something that Westtown has successfully taught me. *And* may mean that my schedule is packed with things to do, but *and* also meant that I was constantly in a state of growth. Growth means to be in constant motion and to progress into someone greater. Westtown has made me grow, and I have learned that who I am today is nowhere near who I will become later. It



wasn't until I explored and till I realized that my initial goal did not include what was truly embedded in the pedagogy at Westtown. I came to terms with the fact that if I get straight As in my classes and ace my SAT, but don't know anything about the people sitting to my left and right, I have, in fact, failed my high school experience. Although I'm confident that Westtown's classes would prepare me for college, I'm even more confident that Westtown's community is going to prepare me for life.

I often think about my 14-hour journey to this boarding school, and my urge to share things that haven't been shared. I began to challenge myself to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way, no matter how small. Earlier in my senior year, I volunteered as a spokesperson on the occasion of Call-a-Thon—a yearly tradition where the school extends its gratitude towards all alum donors. Every call I made went straight to voicemail until one went through. This was how I first interacted with Carol: an American lady from Westtown's class of 1954. A simple word of gratitude transformed into lengthy chats about life. While Carol and I were cultures and generations apart, we found insurmountable comfort in each other's company. She was as delighted to learn about me as I was to learn from her.

As Carol and I continue to be pen pals, I have learned that Westtown's community, new or old, is not just about shared backgrounds or appearances, but about the mutual recognition of each other's differences. It has taught me to honor other cultures while staying true to my own. It has taught me to welcome ideas, people, and new beginnings.

Westtown's community means being friends with people no matter their grade or age. It's being in the same classes as musical prodigies or future leaders of the business world. It's Rafi holding the door for you and wishing you a great day. It's being able to adopt your teachers as your parents away from home. It's people cheering for a JV basketball team's senior game

like it's an NBA final. Westtown is knowing everybody's name in the hallway.

If you ask me what I've learned from Westtown, I would use the words of Charles Bukowski: "Don't try." Let me explain. Too many people add a million things to their schedule just because they think it looks impressive, too many pursue unrealistic lifestyles for external approval, and too many tolerate friendships that hurt them because they're scared to leave. If you force yourself to care about something or want it, maybe you don't truly care about it or want it. If you really don't want to do something in the face of rejection, adversity, or setback, I have learned to say, it's okay not to try. That doesn't mean it's okay to give up when things don't come easy, because there are absolutely no shortcuts in life. But, if not doing something hurts you more than actually doing it, try. Try as hard as you can, and give it your all.

You know that kid you see in the hallway pulling an all-nighter to write an essay? You know that kid who's running in Main Hall the next morning, taking pictures of you for the 2023 Instagram page? You know that kid who convinces you to pay \$3 for a bag of chips just to raise enough money for Dinner Dance? And you know that kid, the only brown girl in the International Student Organization, the one who took a chance to give it her all and make the most of this opportunity? This is her story.

### CHLOE COSTA BAKER Stewarding Ships: Navigating the Leadership Compass

SPICES: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship. As a child at Swarthmore Friends Meeting, learning about these Quaker testimonies for the first time, the last word stood out to me the most. I sounded it out in my head: stew-ward-ship. It reminded me of stew, thick and murky like fog, and also brought to mind the image of a vessel, perhaps with some wise Quaker elder at the helm. Of the six concepts, it seemed the most abstract.

As I grew older and became preoccupied with more prominent “ships” such as friendship, scholarship, and leadership, the idea of stewardship continued to be uncharted territory in my mind. I was beginning to experience an increasing sense of perfectionism with regards to my academic and social life, which resulted in high achievement but also high levels of anxiety. This came to a head during my junior year when I explored a formal leadership position for the first time as an orientation leader, and immediately began measuring myself against an impossible archetype of assertiveness and sociability. During orientation, an all-school scavenger hunt activity found me solely responsible for shepherding a reluctant group of students across our expansive campus. The heat was brutal, the sun bearing down on us, and I trudged hopelessly onward, wishing I was more commanding and charismatic.

Over the next several months, I continued to struggle with my role in the community, my insecurities exacerbated by what I now recognize was a combination of social anxiety and impostor syndrome. At least the external barriers that had impeded my sophomore year—Zoom screens, face masks, assigned seating—had been largely out of my control. Now, the only barrier seemed to be my crippling case of self-doubt and self-criticism. Those familiar



with how the Upper School operates know that it is unusual for a Westtown student not to hold a leadership position, especially as an upperclassman. Even beyond that norm, it seemed that leadership was what high-achieving students such as myself were simply “supposed” to do. But whenever I tried to pursue it, I found myself putting every moment under a microscope, magnifying my missteps and focusing on my flaws.

During this difficult time, I found comfort in the Quaker Leadership Program [QLP], a student group that has been close to my heart and my faith ever since arriving at Westtown School. There, I had my first experience clerking, leading the uniquely Quaker form of decision-making that focuses on “the sense of the Meeting” rather than “majority rules.” QLP was also where I first discovered the concept of a leadership compass, and learned that there is more than one cardinal direction by which to navigate my role in the community. There were four main components of the compass, which was originally inspired by the medicine wheel used by many Native American cultures. North was defined by traits we all automatically associated with being a leader—driven, outspoken, action-oriented—and I thought of all the areas in which I perceived myself to have fallen short. The East was for visionaries, big-picture thinkers who concocted ambitious plans, another quality that aligned with my preconceptions. South was a different story: defined by empathy and gentle guidance, it was very much in line with the clerking techniques we were currently learning. Finally, just as the caring intuition of the South balanced the North’s initiative, West complemented the visionary East by representing the analytical end of the spectrum. This leadership type was highly detail-oriented, concerned with gathering information and performing minor tasks, and again, I found myself identifying with it.

The leadership compass marked a turning point for my eleventh grade self. With

it, I let go of trying to force myself northward, into the conventional model that I had always assumed was the only option. I had previously perceived leadership to be a fixed point of achievement, a static identity that required certain traits I would never truly embody. But, as I came to realize, leadership is not a singular point, not even a spectrum, but a Cartesian plane. Abandoning impostor syndrome, I realized that I—like everyone—was free to forge my own definition, mapping the unique coordinates that corresponded to my individual strengths.

This exploration has led me to incorporate the concept of stewardship into my personal definition of leadership. I have often heard stewardship described in relation to the environment—it compels us to nurture the ecosystems of the world without exploiting their natural resources. I now believe it applies to leadership as well. Given my identification with the South and West areas of the compass, to me stewardship means steering a group toward a decision without imposing my own perspective as dominant. It means guiding the contributions of others and remaining conscious of every small but necessary detail. In the individual leadership positions I did come to hold, as cohead of the club Feminists Advocating for Equality, cohead of the Peer Tutoring Program, and editor-in-chief of the *Epiphanies* literary magazine, I saw myself collaboratively caring for—rather than controlling—community needs and goals.

Viewing leadership in terms of stewardship revolutionized my perspective of both concepts. Before, I had been vaguely familiar with stewardship, as the second “S” in the SPICES acronym, but bringing it into practice lent it new meaning, reconnecting me with the spiritual roots of my childhood as I developed my unique leadership style. The compass also led me to consider the balance of styles and strengths brought to a group as I engaged in the discernment of selecting new leaders, who will carry this work well into the future. The truth is, different ships require



different skills to operate them, and different maps by which to navigate, and only in acknowledging this can we fully embark on the journey towards becoming stewards and leaders of a better world.

**VALEDICTORIAN**  
**MILO SALVUCCI**

Well—this is it. Does it feel too soon, like there was so much more we could have done together if we only had the time? Or does it feel like a lifetime has passed since we entered the doors of Main Hall for the first time all those years ago? Can it be both? I certainly think it can.

Time has been acting strangely these past few weeks. On a little shelf in the corner of E2, there is a clock that has been counting down the days until graduation since the beginning of the year. When the numbers read in the two hundreds, it was easy to ignore, but recently, the days have fallen with astonishing speed, and it's been difficult to look away.

But even when the numbers were right in front of me, I still found it hard to believe that this day would actually arrive. I knew it was there, of course; the date June 10th has been burned into all our minds for quite some time now, and the year 2023 for much longer. But it still never seemed real, not when I was still here with all of you. Even as I was writing this speech, even as I am reading this speech now, the idea that this is our last day together is difficult to comprehend. Maybe part of me does not want to comprehend it, does not want to think about what that idea truly means.

There is certainly a lot to look back on from our time at Westtown. It was so long ago that I actually almost forgot that we are the last class to have experienced the pre-pandemic Upper School, the days of 43-minute classes, when places like the Day Student Lounge and the Belfry were in their prime. In fact, every one of our four years here has been different; after COVID struck, we've had our heavily quarantined sophomore year, our back-to-normal but not-actually-back-to-normal junior year, and finally our senior year, when we truly

returned to normal, even if it wasn't the same normal we had before.

Despite all of that, though, I believe that our time here should not be defined by whether or not the world happened to be falling apart around us at any given moment. Instead, I hope that we can focus on the small memories that we've made here with each other, as they are not about the pandemic or about the world—they are about us.

For me, those memories mean showing up to math class early and writing bad jokes on the whiteboards. It means walking along the beach at the senior retreat hoping to catch a glimpse of a lighthouse. It means climbing a tree for the first time on the South Lawn just a few weeks ago. We all have memories like this, too many to count and certainly too many to lift up here, and it is those memories more than anything else that will stay with us when we are far away from here.

I spoke at our senior retreat Meeting for Worship about the fear of change that I have had ever since I was little, the desire for things to stay exactly as they are. That fear is here with me now, growing stronger with every word that brings me closer to the end of this speech. There have been so many times recently when I have wished that I could stop time, freeze everything in place, and live these past few weeks over and over again. Anything to make our final moments together last just a bit longer.

It was difficult for me to come to terms with, but the truth is that it is pointless to be afraid of change; we might as well be afraid of the sun rising in the sky each morning. This day was always going to arrive, but that does not mean that it is something to be feared. After all, at the end of the day, Westtown's buildings, as special as they may be, are just that: buildings. The true spirit of Westtown is not found there—it is found out here, with all of us.


There are so many people who have helped us through our respective journeys that it would be impossible to name them all here, so I want to extend thanks to all of



you, on behalf of all of us. You all know who you are; your kindness and support has meant so much to us over the years, and we would not be here today if it weren't for all of you.

For my part, I'd like to thank my mom and dad for everything you have done and continue to do. Thank you to Grandma and Grandpa, and to Nonno and Nonna, who are watching from home today. And thank you to Leo for being the best brother ever; I'm really going to miss having you around next year. Thank you all for everything; I love you so much.

And finally, I'd like to thank the class of 2023 for these four precious years, and for entrusting me with the opportunity to give this speech today. Every single one of you is an inspiration, and it has truly been an honor to spend these years by your side. Leaving this community behind hurts, and it hurts a lot, but it doesn't have to be the end of our collective story. This commencement is meant to be a beginning, after all. It can be frightening to think about just how long life is, and we have a lot of it left to live, but through the memories we have made together, we will always be at each other's side.

Thank you. 

STORY BY  
LYNETTE ASSARSSON

PHOTOS BY  
ED CUNICELLI

CELEBRATING  
20  
YEARS

THE

METAL

MOOSE

TEAM

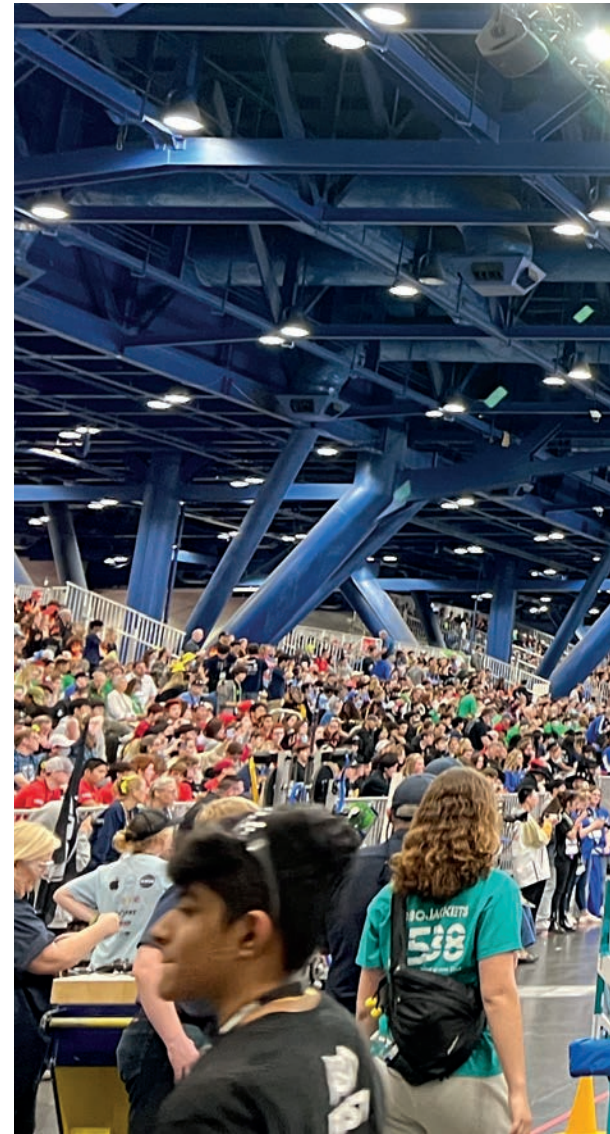
1391





# IT IS 6:30 A.M.

on April 20, 2023. Outside it's an overcast but already hot day in Houston, Texas, and the streets downtown are teeming with young people on their way to the FIRST [For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology] Robotics World Championship. The lines to enter the George R. Brown Convention Center snake around the block. As students and coaches wait in line, there is giddy laughter, high fives, and singing of team songs. Students turn to strangers to introduce themselves and wish each other good luck. There is such an air of joy and camaraderie that it's hard to tell that they are here to compete against one another.



Above: Cheering on their team in Houston. Above right: George R. Brown Convention Center. Opposite: The Drive Team on the competition floor



Inside, the convention center is packed with students from across the world. There are teams from Australia, Canada, Israel, Mexico, and Turkey, and nearly all 50 states are represented. There are roughly 50,000 people filling this arena, a record-breaking crowd for this event. Students and adults are bedecked in colorful team shirts and regalia, some in costume, some with face paint—you can spot a cow, a unicorn, a dinosaur, and a flaming chicken, to name just a few. Music, thumping with the *untz untz untz* of a dance club, fills the air, as does the roar of the crowd. Eight competition areas line the floor, one for each FIRST division, each with enormous screens that show competitions in action, scoring, and rankings at the end of each heat. It is an incredible scene to behold,

and it's impossible not to get caught up in the energy of it all.

Over 3,300 robotics teams compete internationally within the FIRST organization, and 619 teams have qualified for the World Championships this year. After a very strong 2022-2023 season, Westtown's Team 1391, the Metal Moose, has qualified. They enter the competition ranked 7th in the Mid-Atlantic Region and 87th in the world. A cohort of 15 of the 52-member team is here in Houston, and they, too, are giddy and energized.

The Metal Moose is now ranked 16th of 80 in their division after the first day of matches. The drive team—Luke Cogswell '24, CJ Pitcher '23, Kilan Rougeot '24, Lucia Sanchez '24, and Bailey Tuckman '25—has moved their



robot, dubbed BAMI (more on that name later), onto the competition floor. The team takes their spot with their two alliance teams on one side of the field, ready to compete against the three alliance teams on the other. Sanchez, the drive coach, and Cogswell and Rougeot, the robot drivers, are situated behind a plexiglass screen with laptops and controller devices. Pitcher and Tuckman are at the game-piece feeders. They will feed the cones and cubes to BAMI through special windows on the perimeter of the field during the match.

The teams are introduced to great fanfare. “Team 1391 from West Chester, Pennsylvania, the Metal MOOOOSE!” shouts the announcer to cheers. The heat begins. The first 30 seconds of the competition is called “the autonomous

period” during which the robots must complete tasks on their own as dictated by the integration of a sensor system with pre-programmed actions. A horn blasts marking the two-minute “driver-controlled period,” and the heat speeds up. Sanchez leans between Cogswell and Rougeot to call out instructions and strategy as they operate the robot. BAMI moves across the floor to retrieve game pieces and place them in their home designated area; each properly placed piece scores points. It’s an aggressive heat and about half way into the drive period, another team’s robot slams into and severely damages BAMI, (a flagrant rule violation), halting the round. The Metal Moose team members in the stands are shocked and crestfallen. The crowd around the Johnson Division falls



silent, wondering what will happen next. Cogswell approaches the referee and calmly insists for both a rematch and a penalty for the other team. While the other team is issued a yellow card, the judges do not allow a rematch. Because the heat ends early, they don't reach the "end game," the period in which alliance bots must all mount and balance on their charging station in the field.

The drive team takes BAMI to "the pit" in another part of the arena to work on repairs and to try and ready her for the next match. Back at the pit, there is no perseveration on their misfortune nor on the actions of the other team. Instead, team members Cogswell, Tuckman, Rougeot, and Pitcher are focused on the task at hand, diligently working to fix the robot and calmly, but intensely, discussing next steps. Adult team mentor, engineer Jeff Grabner, offers some guidance, but it is the students' job to find and implement solutions. It's not long before BAMI is in good enough condition to continue in the competition. In spite of the quick fixes in the pit, BAMI does not perform as well mechanically in the next round and eventually, the Metal Moose is eliminated in the semi-final round. But a glimmer of hope remains: given their performance throughout the season and their high ranking at the outset of the competition, they might be chosen to be on an alliance in the finals.

At 7:00 a.m. on the third and final day of competition, the arena pulsates with excitement and the ever-present club music. Now ranked 24th in their division after that devastating blow to BAMI the day before, the Metal Moose's last hope to compete in the finals lies in the alliance selection period. The top eight teams get to select three teams. One by one the top teams are announced and representatives take their spots on the field. Representatives from the remaining teams line up on the arena floor surrounding the field, waiting to see if their team will be chosen. Students on the floor are anxious—there's nail biting, shuffling feet, and furrowed brows—and teams in the stands are on the edge of



their seats. The process and wait is excruciating as teams ranked one through eight invite their alliance teams, and tensions mount in the Metal Moose cheering section. Team 4011 from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the eighth and final team to select alliance members, announces their first team. Then their second. When it seems that the Metal Moose's season has come to an end, the

Clockwise from the top:  
**Fixing BAMI in the pit**  
**Anniversary t-shirt**  
**On the competition floor**  
**The 2022-2023 Metal Moose Team**



# TEAMS

>>  
Some members of the  
Scouting Team, Engineering  
Team, and the Business and  
Communications Team.

that happen all the time in these competitions.”

Throughout the days of this competition (and the entire season), the various groups that comprise the Metal Moose team—the scouts, programmers, builders, the drive team, the business and communications teams—have been focused on their tasks, each equally important in this venture. With iPads in hand, those on the scouting team—Odina Achike '24, Alex Delgado '25, Cat-nhi Do '23, Tim Gatto '24, Aveline Heryer '25, Wilson Kuang '24, Celia Parker '24, Theo Penders '24, and July Wen '25—watch all the heats of other teams, take notes, and record their scoring and other data. They have a new data collection system this year designed by coach and Upper School math teacher O'Shayne Rankine. The data they collect and interpret, with the help of engineer Jeff Grabner who has been mentoring the team for a few years, informs the team's strategizing and the decision-making of Sanchez, the drive team's coach. Otto Hillegass '24 and Liana Jimenez '25, both part of the business and communications teams, move about the arena and take turns in the press box on the floor documenting the competition, taking photos, and recording video. They also manage the team's website and social media accounts, and Jimenez has taken on the role of team spirit leader.

While most of the first floor of the convention center has been converted into eight playing fields, about a third of the space is where each team has a pit



space (see page 36). In the pits, teams work on and display their robots, team banners, and memorabilia. Team members regularly go visit other teams' pit spaces and all the students collect memorabilia from other teams. Team 1391 and a host of other teams offer wristbands and you can see many competitors sporting armloads of wristbands. They sign each other's t-shirts, too. These are yet more signs of the supportive and positive atmosphere.

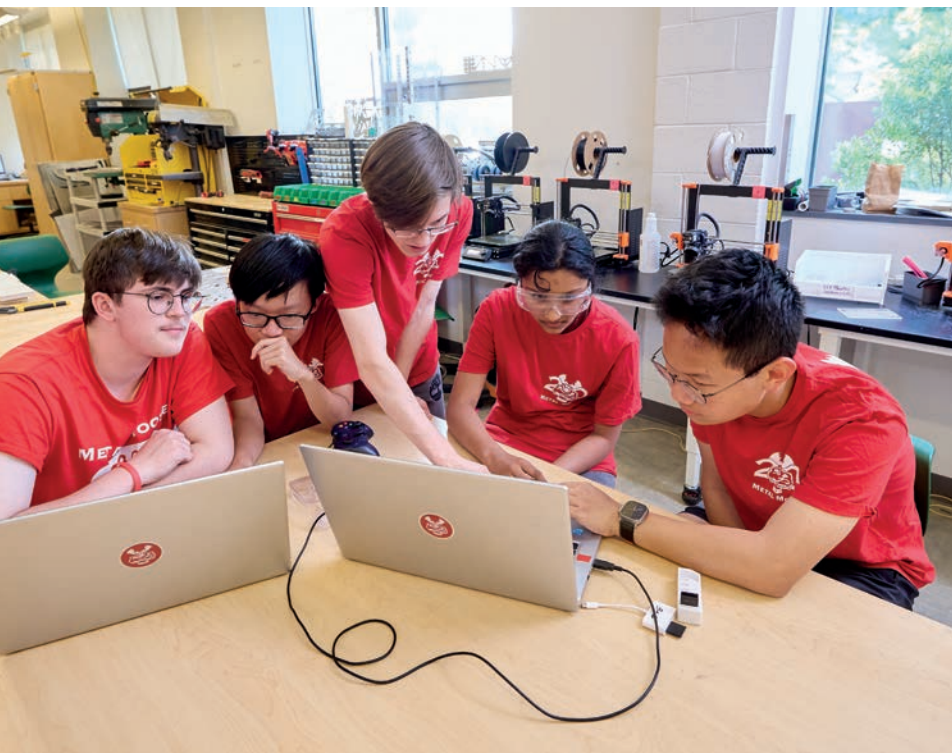
The pits are also where the judges visit at this and every competition. Team 1391 has prepared both a 20-page team overview which describes the mission of the team and their social impact projects, and a 40-page Engineering Notebook that details their iterative design, programming, prototyping, and build process. They must describe all their decision-making with the judges, who also ask them many questions, requiring students to articulate every detail of the robot they have built, every choice they have made. The judges then confer and give a series of awards that recognize specific achievements such as the Quality Award, Judges Award, Autonomous Award, Innovation in Engineering Award, and the Impact Award (formerly known as the

Chairman's Award), given to the team whose philanthropic work stands out. Over the twenty-year history of Westtown robotics, the Metal Moose has qualified for the World Championships 10 times and has won scads of awards (see page 48). Compton notes, "The Metal Moose has a strong record of winning technical awards, among them Engineering Creativity, Industrial Design, Autonomous Performance, Innovation in Control and Excellence in Engineering, and these awards each year are for increasingly sophisticated and leading achievements. And that has very little to do with me; it's got more to do with me setting up structures by which kids can do their best work, encouraging rapid iteration, and asking questions about their logic, thinking, and process. I am only a guide."

## A TEAM IS BORN

While 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the Metal Moose, the road to the robotics team as we now know it started more than 20 years ago. In 1999, a team of three girls—Collette Beyer '02, Yasmina Moukarzal '02, and Heather Scotland '02—along with then physics teacher Patti Spackman formed a





robotics club which they dubbed Young Einsteins. They participated in a design challenge held by a Philadelphia-based organization building with K'Nex, the first competition for a Westtown team. The next school year, Ian Anderson '04 and Ben Testerman '04 joined the club, and the name was changed to the Engineers Club. "Ian was instrumental in making that year a success," says Spackman. "At the same time, he introduced me to FIRST Robotics. He asked if I'd be willing to help start a FIRST team at Westtown during the next year, his senior year. I had everyone in the Engineers Club volunteer at a local FIRST competition to become acquainted with the format and decide if we were willing to participate in FIRST the following year. We came out of that experience excited to enter the world of FIRST Robotics, and that is how it all began!"

"Ben and I and a handful of students joined the pre-existing [Engineers] club," shares Anderson. "We competed in a few small competitions with activities but we were all interested in more, so we volunteered at a regional FIRST event at Drexel University to get our foot in the door. This just reinforced our thoughts that we wanted to start a team, and the

next year we signed up [with FIRST]." Testerman says, "I was an easy recruit because I had already set my sights on going to college to study engineering and my favorite class at Westtown was physics." These two driven co-captains and their teammates finally settled on a team name that would stick: The Metal Moose. But there were some obstacles, namely the cost of fees and equipment. The FIRST entry competition fee alone that year was \$5,000, which seemed insurmountable. But Spackman applied for several grants and, in the end, received a \$6,000 grant from NASA. With entry fees paid, FIRST assigned this rookie team their number—1391.

In Metal Moose's first year, the team was not yet recognized as an official co-curricular and as such, there was not the school support that the team now enjoys. Students found time for robot building around academics and co-curriculars. Since the Science Center had not been renovated yet, there was no space for building either. "We had no funding, no experience, no work space," recalls Spackman. "It was quite overwhelming!" What the team did have, though, in addition to enthusiastic and highly motivated students, was a group of involved and supportive mentors and

parents in the engineering and manufacturing fields, including Chad Spackman '76 and Rick Warther, father of Katie '07 and Natalie '11 and local business owner. Warther offered work space in his industrial facility down the road from Westtown, which included a machine shop and materials. "Without the support of Chad and Rick, there would not have been any possibility of building a competitive robot that first year," she says. Anderson and Testerman both note that the interest from the community was especially important to them and to the success of the team. "All of this was made possible by enthusiastic students, supportive teachers and parents, and amazing mentors," shares Testerman. "A special shout out is owed to our faculty coach, Patti Spackman, and to the numerous mentors (professional engineers, entrepreneurs, business leaders) who worked tirelessly to inspire and teach us, but who let us take ownership of the whole process." Anderson adds, "It was amazing to see so much interest from students, parents, teachers, and the administration for a new program at the school." Spackman adds, "Our rookie year was so magical, so unexpected, and so fulfilling. Ian and Ben were true leaders, and their

>> **The Metal Moose work space in the Design Engineering Lab.**

enthusiasm and energy really carried through to everyone else on the team.” The team won several regional awards that year, including the Philadelphia Regional All-Star Rookie Award, and qualified for the World Championship, an amazing accomplishment for a nascent team. “It was a Cinderella story,” she says.

### **FAST FORWARD: TEAM 1391 TODAY**

Over the past 20 years, a host of teachers, parents, and mentoring partners have continued to support the team in myriad ways—from financial support to transportation to engineering expertise. Design Engineering teacher Steve Compton began co-head coaching alongside Spackman when he first arrived at Westtown in 2007. He had founded FIRST teams at previous schools and was eager to become involved at Westtown. Spackman recounts that she was thrilled to have a partner who was experienced and when she retired from Westtown in 2011, Compton took over as head coach, investing countless hours in building the team. For many years, and until last year, physics teacher and skilled technical builder Larry Dech co-coached the team. Compton says, “I can really point to when our team began a new era in technical expertise, and that was when Larry joined us. He matched my commitment with equal intensity and more, and he was really the teaching force behind our current engineers. Each of those students, when asked by me who they were thankful for, put Larry at the top of their lists.” Dech’s wife, Janelle, is head of her company, Adaptive Textiles, and has been both a team sponsor and has created many of the Metal Moose banners still used today. She also founded the strong business team and practices in use to this day. Physics teacher Megan Williams joined the



coaching staff a few years ago as a non-technical coach and handles many of the logistics and keeps students on task. O’Shayne Rankine, a math teacher new to Westtown this past year, coaches the scouting team and develops systems for organizing and implementing the scouting data. Jeff Grabner (whom Compton has known for 19 years, first as a Drexel engineering student who helped coach a newly formed

Philadelphia charter school team led by Compton) is an engineer with team sponsor SouthCo, who offers mentoring during the design, build, and competition phases of the season. Together, these coaches have a complimentary set of skills and each contributes in a specific way, but they all approach coaching similarly: allowing the students to do the work themselves, with inquiry-based guidance, so they learn.



An important advancement for the Metal Moose is that they no longer have to use space in a local warehouse or in the outbuilding in the North Woods on campus, where they met for several years. After the Science Center was expanded in 2014, the team had a new state-of-the-art space to design and build robots as well as industrial grade tools, 3D printers, a CNC router, and other specialized equipment. It has

significantly enhanced students' ability to build ever more complex and sophisticated robots, and certainly has contributed to the team's ability to perform well in competitions. And, of course, technology has advanced tremendously over the years. There is a vast difference between the capabilities of the robots built in the early years of the team and those built today (see *Past is Prologue*, page 14) because of this advancement. What has

also changed are the skills that students come to the team with. "Many students of the 2020s come to Westtown with skill sets and mindsets mission-ready for this work having known nothing other than a world of high-paced technological evolution," says Compton. Robotics is now an officially designated—and very popular—co-curricular, growing from a handful of students in the beginning to a whopping 50+

**“What I’m trying to do is give students the wherewithal and understanding of starting a company. You don’t have any resources, so you have to find them. You have to act quickly and effectively. You have to create things, take chances, problem-solve, iterate, hold up under pressure, and document every step of your journey to success. So that’s what we are every year, a startup.”**

students, nearly 14 percent of the Upper School student body, this past year. While most of the team members have interest in design, programming, and engineering, a wide variety of skill sets are required to make the team function, so there is something for everyone. The team is divided into groups that focus on specific aspects that help the team operate: the Business Team, which works on budget, networking, and fundraising; the Communications Team, which handles brand management, their website, social media, photography, video making, and team spirit; the Impact/Access and Equity Team, which networks with and makes decisions about community organizations to support and focuses on bringing robotics to underserved communities; and, the Engineering Team which does design, programming, makes prototypes, and builds the robot.

When he came on board, Compton had a vision to increase the profile of the team— both within the Westtown community and within FIRST Robotics—and he has been deliberate in his efforts to diversify the team and has built a

welcoming and inclusive culture. The team is intentionally structured to give opportunities for students to use and build a wide variety of skills, exemplified by the various sub-teams noted above. He wants the team to run like a B-Corp enterprise (an entrepreneurial endeavor targeting performance excellence and social impact) and, as the students all say, “Steve is the CEO!” Compton says, “What I’m trying to do is give students the wherewithal and understanding of starting a company. You don’t have any resources, so you have to find them. You have to act quickly and effectively. You have to create things, take chances, problem-solve, iterate, hold up under pressure, and document every step of your journey to success. So that’s what we are every year, a startup.”

Current team members are examples of Compton’s efforts to have a diverse team, to offer opportunities to students who have come from schools with fewer resources, students who may not yet know or feel that they are suited for robotics, and to foster an inclusive culture among the team. They are an eclectic bunch who are not only into



robotics, but also are star athletes, musicians, performers, writers, and student leaders. Several team members knew they would join the team before they got to Upper School, —including Rougeot, who came to Westtown from Spain specifically for the robotics program after exploring a range of other elite boarding schools, and Cogswell and Tuckman, who have been building and designing things and eyeing the Metal Moose since Lower School. Other team members say they were encouraged to join and that Compton got them excited about robotics. Jimenez says that while she had done Lego robotics when she was younger, she hadn’t considered becoming a member of the team at Westtown. “Teacher Steve noticed my energy and invited me to join the team. I’m here because of him and I love it. I love that my energy was recognized, that he has partnered in my growth and that it helps the team.” She not only serves on



the Communications, Business, and Impact teams, but is also now learning how to build robots. Williams attests, “Steve is a big part of the special sauce of the team. He is really good at motivating the kids. He’s especially good at pulling out talent from kids who don’t even know they have it yet. He encourages them, starting with ninth graders, who are naive to the equipment and don’t know things yet, and builds them into programmers, business people, and helps them build skills in all the different aspects of the team.”

These team-building efforts have been so successful that the team has almost too many members. Because of the heightened interest and profile within the school, Compton is forming two FIRST Technical Challenge (FTC) teams—a kind of training arena within a competitive robotics program—that will launch in the 2023-2024 school year. FTC teams build smaller robots using an array

of materials, while still enabling students to learn design, fabrication, programming, and competition skills. Having a second team will give students more opportunities for hands-on experience and enable them to strengthen the skills needed to design and build a robot and compete in FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). “The core group of students—the older ones—get a lot of experience,” shares Compton. “They are the ones who spend every free moment working on the robot, and there’s only so much room for that. But I want for all of the kids, who may not necessarily want to spend their nights and weekends in the crucible of the FRC season, to have a way to keep learning, a way to compete and grow their skills so they will be ready to move up when the older students graduate. FTC is where novice people can get the intimate and focused learning they need from dedicated peer tutors.” The Metal Moose’s peer tutors (Tuckman, Rougeot,

Cogswell, Hillegass, and Sanchez) are officially designated as teaching assistants—a first for Westtown—and work to develop the foundational and advancing skills necessary for future accomplishment in every student on the FTC teams.

The team’s overall success—and its distinction from other FIRST teams—can be attributed not only to highly skilled and dedicated team members but also to the philosophy of the coaches. The Metal Moose often encounters other FIRST teams that have heavy adult assistance with designing, programming, and building their robots. But Westtown coaches and students take pride in a highly student-driven process. Compton and the coaches are adamant that students must do the work and problem-solve themselves, with support. Coaches will guide students and pose questions, but it’s the students’ endeavor. Rankine says he has noticed this often during competitions. “There are teams that have engineers from NASA helping them, sending them designs, and telling them what to do. But our team...did the work themselves.” Williams agrees, “While we have parents helping with some logistics, parents and mentors don’t do the work.” She says that the Metal Moose is unique in other ways as well. “We’re definitely one of the smaller teams. When we go to competitions, some of these teams carry up to 100 people. Because we are a very small school, what our kids accomplish is really impressive. Another advantage is our inclusivity. There are so many kids who participate that don’t fit the traditional mold and that helps us. Everybody is welcome; you don’t even have to be all that into robots. If you are into business, we have a spot for you. We’re doing branding, advertising, fundraising, scouting, and computer infrastructure to back up the robot. There’s even a spot for people to be spirit leaders in the stands because that is actually part of the competition. We also have an incredible space for students here on campus. The really dedicated core group of kids come to the Science Center at any time to

work—and they do.” Indeed they do. Some team members spend nearly all of their free time in the Science Center from free periods and lunch to the after-dinner time before study hall. Compton says that the core group of designers and builders —about six to eight students—also spend upwards of 14 hours each weekend working during the competition season, which lasts from FIRST’s game reveal in early January through April. It’s an extraordinary commitment of time and energy.

Team members themselves credit their coaches and mentors for their success. “We have to give our coaches a good bit of credit,” says Hillegas. “We have Teacher Megan, who is amazing and super important to the team, and Teacher O’Shayne, who helped a lot with scouting and how to look at the data.” Cogswell adds, “Jeff is an engineer who helps guide us with design and strategy, too. In his ‘free’ time (he’s the father of two young children and a full time engineering lead), he watches matches from across the country so that he can get as much scouting data as possible, which is super helpful.” Several students also mention Daelan Roosa ’18, former Metal Moose member now at Penn earning a PhD in engineering, who continues to advise the team. It is clear that the team has deep admiration for, and special relationship with, Compton. “Without Steve, we wouldn’t go to a competition. We wouldn’t make it to Worlds, we wouldn’t go anywhere. We would literally have nothing besides scrap without him,” says Hillegas. The students point to Compton’s dedication to them both as individuals and as a team, and the astounding amount of time he spends with them during the build and competition season. So much time, they say, that he misses his wedding anniversary every year because it falls during the season. So, as a nod to Compton’s wife, Sue, they decided to name the season’s robot after her. “We named our robot BAMI,” says Jimenez, “which is what their grandchildren call her.” BAMI also “happens to be an acronym for Bad-Ass Mechanical Instrument,” others chime in with winks



<<  
The Pit in Houston

>>  
The 2015-16 team collected backpacks with school supplies for children in Batey Libertad, Dominican Republic, as part of their Good Robot Challenge.

and grins. The other coaches express their admiration as well. Rankine stresses, “I so appreciate Steve’s approach, his faith in the students, and learning from him this year has been incredible.” Williams emphasizes, “Steve is amazing with the kids, and has the ability to coach them almost invisibly. Not to mention that the time and energy he devotes to them is beyond impressive.”

## BUILDING ROBOTS AND BUILDING SKILLS

FIRST releases the game challenge detailing the scoring, requirements, and parameters in early January. As soon as the game is announced, Metal Moose team members get busy brainstorming, drawing plans, designing, programming, building prototypes, redesigning, and reiterating. It is a complex and multi-phase process condensed into the six-week period the team has to build a competition-ready robot. “When we get the game challenge, we figure out what we want to be able to do and how we want to do it,” shares Tuckman, who is on the Engineering Team and a member of the Drive Team. “Then that turns into specific strategies and mechanisms, and then the final robot. So, everything from the solution to the problem to the physical robot.” Rougeot, showing the Engineering Notebook created for the judges, adds, “We start with just conceptual ideas on the whiteboard. And then we make prototypes of wood. And you can see the progression here and how every aspect of the robot just gets better and better.” The students are clearly deeply knowledgeable and casually throw around terms like *swerve drive*, *pneumatics*, *drivetrain*, and *CNC mill* and other engineering jargon as if it were second nature.

Not only are students learning precise technical skills, learning to use CAD, and



to use 3D printers and professional grade tools, they are also learning to collaborate, to be adaptable, to problem-solve, and to operate a small business, skills that they will carry forward to college and future professions. During the build period of the season, the Business Team begins networking and fundraising. School administrators, especially Dean of Finance and Operations Carolyn Hapeman, are “incredibly supportive” of the team, Compton says. But the team has far more expenses than any venture on campus, as tools, equipment, and many of the expenses are still covered by student fundraising, parents (who assist with travel and lodging), alum donors (who help fund the team’s social impact projects), and corporate sponsors. One of the Business Team’s primary focuses is to reach out to individuals and companies to solicit donations. This is yet another way in which students refine skills not technically related to robotics. They must learn how to budget, explore funding opportunities, communicate with corporations and donors, network, and build fundraising campaigns.

Another important aspect of the Metal Moose team are their service projects,

and the Impact/Access and Equity Team is devoted to this endeavor. “My message to the team every year is that we are of great privilege here, regardless of our backgrounds, and the very most important action we can take is to support the growth and development of kids from underserved communities,” states Compton. “Our team is not just a robotics team, we also must be an active player for social impact, access and justice.” Each year they decide on projects and organizations on which to focus. Before COVID, Compton says, “The most important work we have done in the realm of social impact is in supporting underserved communities of young people through partnerships with development organizations. Through our annual Good Robot Challenge and our Access and Equity team, the Metal Moose created opportunities for 158 Batey Libertad children in the Dominican Republic (DR) to have sufficient school supplies for the first time, supported university tuition for a student from a DR Batey Libertad, funded African water projects and youth development, and created a growing partnership with the Kennett Youth

**“Creativity, respect, passion, commitment to the common good, excellence in achievement and the call to drive social change is in our DNA, and is deeply connected to Westtown School’s mission to help create leaders and stewards of a better world.”**

Garage. Working at the Garage with underserved middle school students, we donated 20 Microsoft Surface laptops, contributed to a weekly tutoring program, and have generated funding to offer week-long summer Lego League robotics camps for kids from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware.”

In 2019, the Metal Moose won the Chairman’s Award (now called the Impact Award), which recognizes this kind of work. As described by FIRST, the Impact Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST. It honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the mission of FIRST. It was created to keep the central focus of FIRST Robotics Competition on the ultimate goal of transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encouraging more of today’s youth to become science and technology leaders.

Post-COVID, the team has been focusing on other initiatives. CJ Pitcher ’23 and Compton have been exploring bringing Lego robotics to elementary schools in Bermuda, Pitcher’s home country. They met with Bermuda’s Minister of Education, the Permanent Secretary of Education, and the Director of Innovation over the summer to lay the groundwork for a

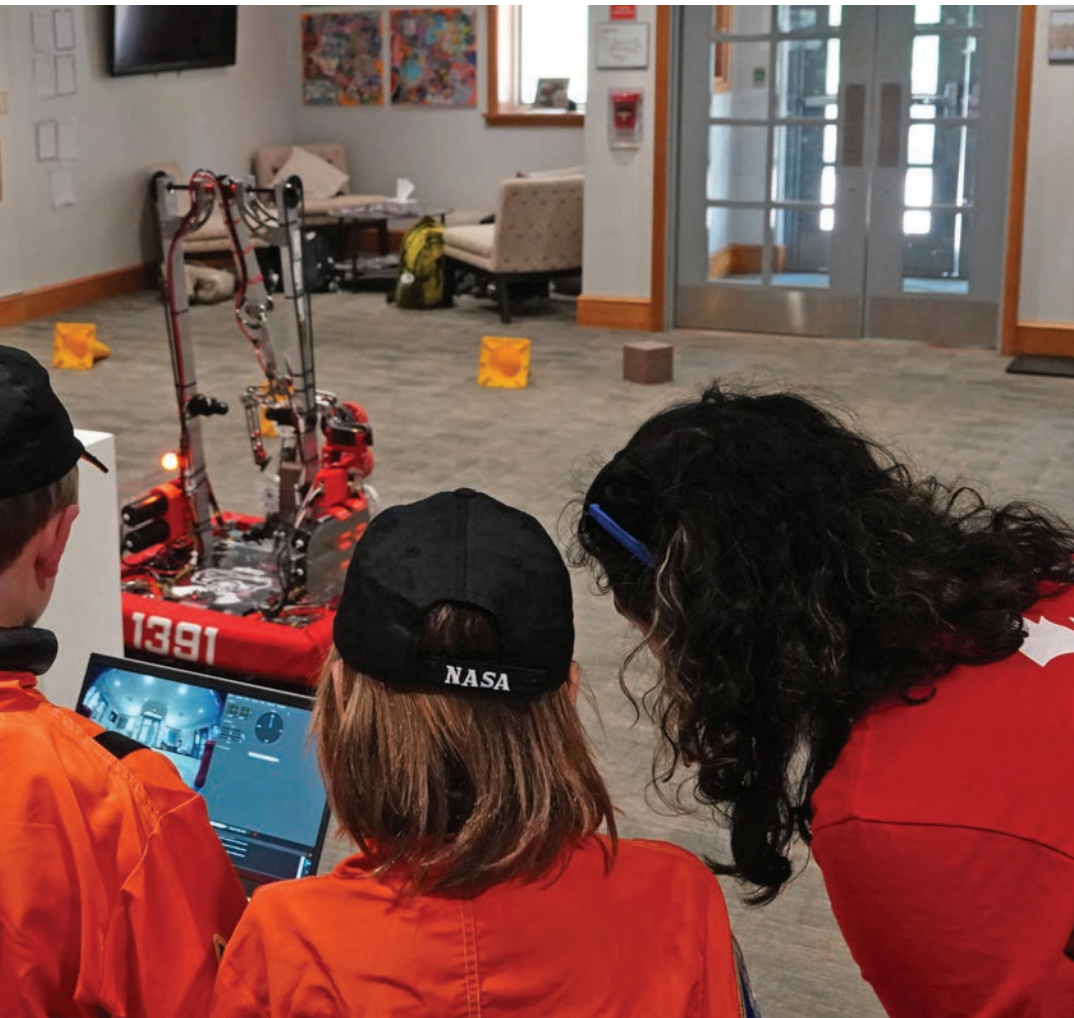
five-year plan. Sanchez has been volunteering at Camp Dreamcatcher, a camp for children with HIV/AIDS, for years and is working on a partnership to offer Lego robotics classes at the camp. Members of the Metal Moose conducted robotics training experiences for children this past August. Through this work, students learn about service, communities, and creating change, central to the general mission of Westtown School, all while building skills in communication and collaborating with adults and young people in other organizations.

Because of the team structure, robotics fosters a variety of skill sets that have real-world applications. Among them are organizational skills, including thinking and planning ahead; self analysis and reflection; diligence and focus; collaboration and effective communication; facing challenges and finding solutions; and, resilience. “The resilience piece is so important,” says Compton. “It’s brutal, sometimes, when things don’t work and kids have to think fast. Being on this team means that kids are put in situations where they must think on their feet, think forward, and do rapid iteration. Resilience and adaptability are skills that will serve them well no matter what they do in their careers.”



Students understand that they are gaining these skills and appreciate the multiple benefits of participating on the team. Sanchez says that in addition to the technical and strategizing skills she learned as the drive coach, “I’ve had to learn to talk to strangers and people from all over the world. I’ve gained an ability to communicate and a lot of confidence. That is something I’m going to carry with me.” Rougeot adds, “I’ve gotten to use and build with industrial grade equipment and machines here. And I’ve learned how to work on a tight timeline and stay within a budget. We learn how to make the best we can with what we have, which is how real life works.” Tuckman says, “I’ve been building things my entire life, but I didn’t really have any context of what being on the robotics team would be like. And I found it was inviting and you could do and try things but didn’t have to be perfect. And then going into the competitions, everybody’s there to have






**Metal Moose team members show second graders how to drive the robot.**

fun and make their robot better. It's not about being the best and winning however you can."

Most of the core group of students on the team say they are all going on to college and careers in engineering, computer science, and mathematics, as many past members of the team have. Some on the team are still undecided about their future career paths and cite interest in many different academic areas, ranging from international relations to business to the arts and creating their own companies. But all agree that being on the robotics team has helped them learn and grow immensely, and they share deep gratitude for their coaches, their close-knit team, and their unique and specialized experiences.

Compton says that the Metal Moose mission statement has guided the team for over a decade: "The Metal Moose will

serve its vision by creating opportunities for excellence in engineering, science and technical literacy, media and communications, strategic entrepreneurship, student leadership, teamwork, community impact, and education, through a robust and sustainable FRC program. The Metal Moose aims to build a creative, respectful, and encouraging environment where members enthusiastically pursue personal interests and passions for the benefit of the collaborative team." He adds, "creativity, respect, passion, commitment to the common good, excellence in achievement and the call to drive social change is in our DNA, and is deeply connected to Westtown School's mission to help create leaders and stewards of a better world." 

GO MOOSE GO!



# ROBOTICS AWARDS + ACCOLADES

## 2004

- Chesapeake Regional: Judges Award
- Philadelphia Regional: Rookie Inspiration Award
- Philadelphia Regional: Highest Rookie Seed Award
- Philadelphia Regional: Rookie All-Star Award
- Qualified for World Championship

## 2005

- Philadelphia Regional: Website Award
- Philadelphia Regional: Delphi "Driving Tomorrow's Technology" Award
- Qualified for World Championship

## 2006

- Pittsburgh Regional: Radio Shack Innovation in Control Award
- Philadelphia Regional: Daimler Chrysler Team Spirit Award

## 2008

- Philadelphia Regional: Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award

## 2010

- Qualified for World Championship

## 2011

- Philadelphia Regional Finalist

## 2012

- Lenape District: Innovation in Control Award
- Lenape District: Finalist
- Qualified for World Championship

## 2013

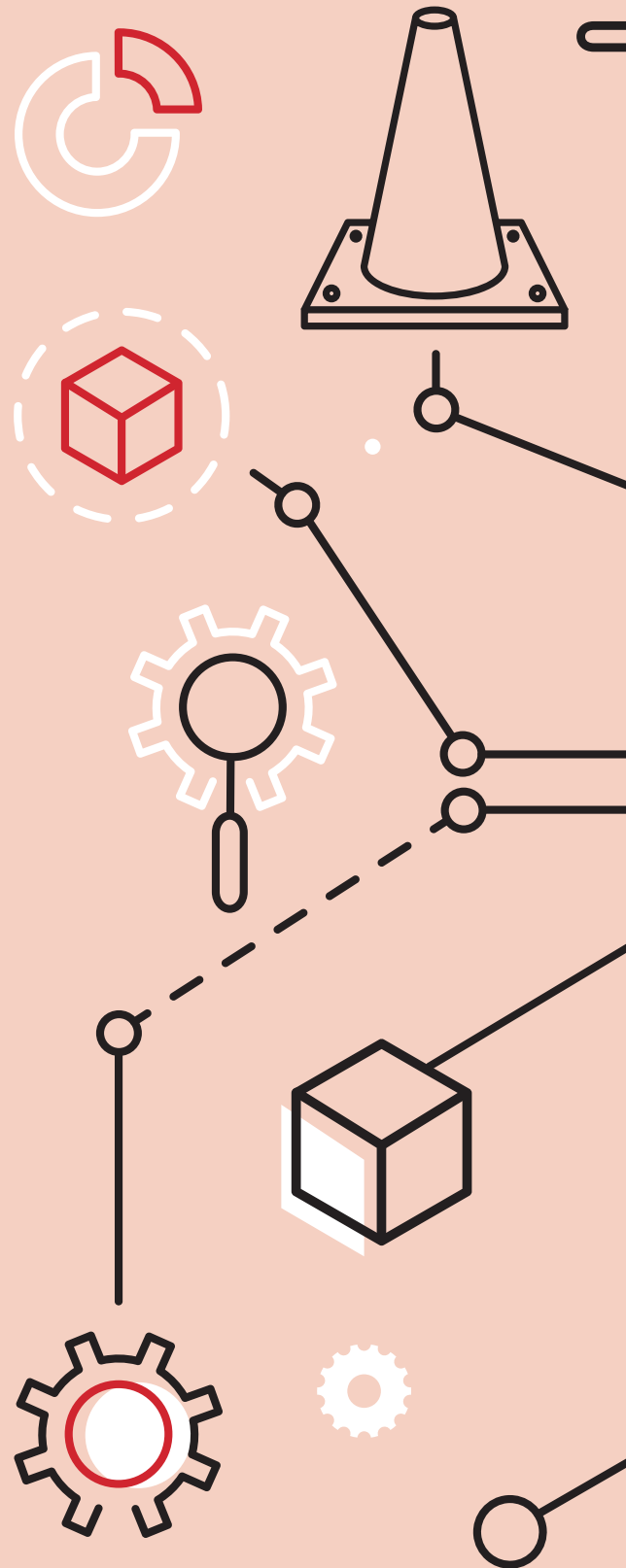
- Bridgewater-Raritan Event: Industrial Design Award
- Springside Chestnut Hill Event Mid-Atlantic District: Finalist

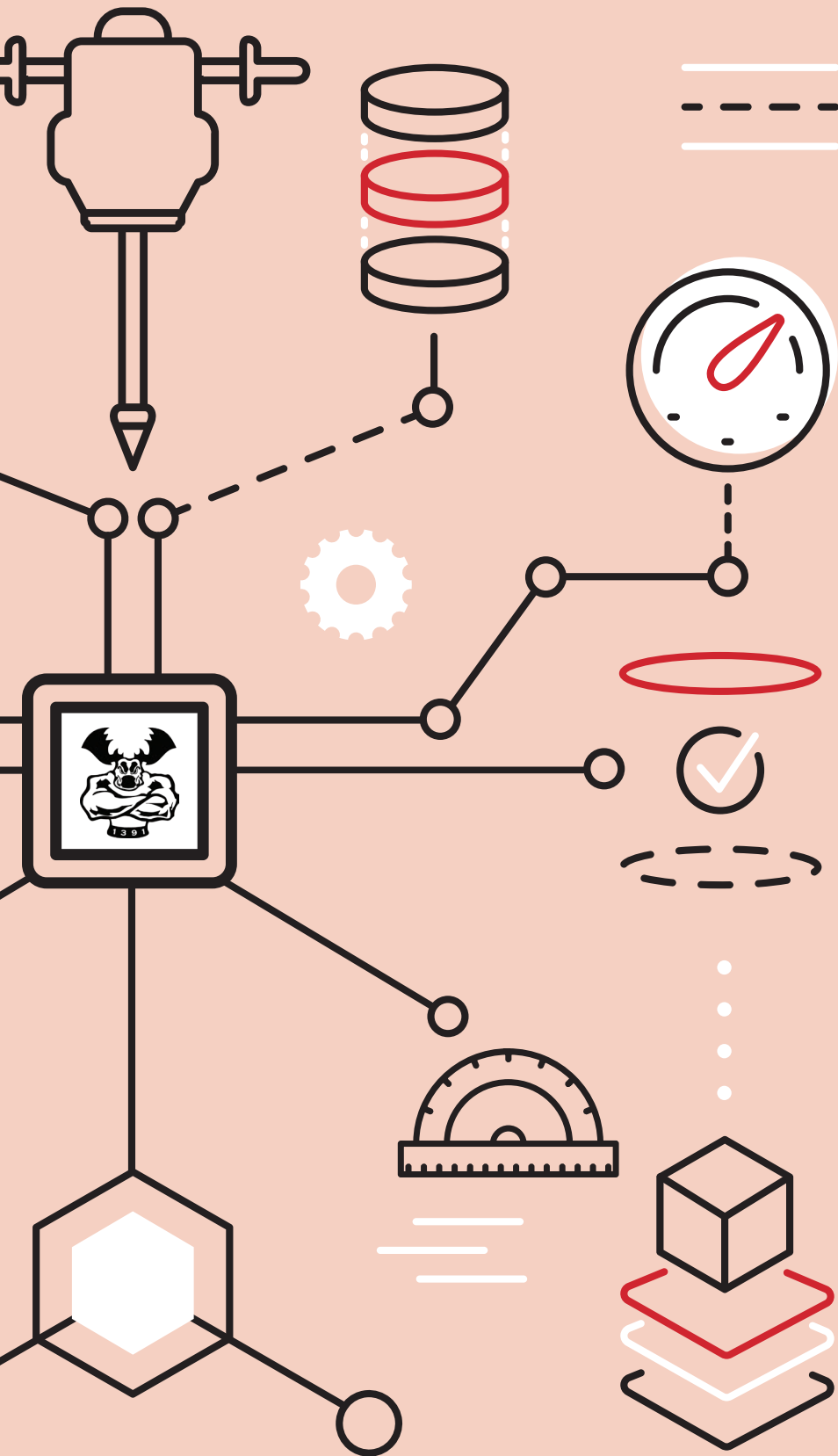
## 2015

- Upper Darby Event Mid-Atlantic District: Creativity Award
- Qualified for World Championship

## 2016

- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Creativity Award
- Westtown Event: Mid-Atlantic District WINNER
- Springside Chestnut Hill Event: Mid-Atlantic District Finalist
- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Creativity Award
- Westtown Event: Mid-Atlantic District Judges Award
- Qualified for World Championship





**2017**

- Montgomery Event: Mid-Atlantic District Excellence in Engineering Award
- Qualified for World Championship

**2018**

- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Innovation in Control Award
- Seneca Event: Mid-Atlantic District Engineering Inspiration Award
- Seneca Event: Mid-Atlantic District Finalist
- Qualified for World Championship—Darwin Sub-Division Finalist

**2019**

- Westtown Event: Mid-Atlantic District Industrial Design Award
- Mid-Atlantic District Bensalem Event: Chairman's Award

**2022**

- Bensalem Event: Mid-Atlantic District Autonomous Award
- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Creativity Award
- Qualified for World Championship

**2023**

- Bensalem Event: Mid-Atlantic District WINNER
- Bensalem Event: Mid-Atlantic District Excellence in Engineering Award
- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Autonomous Award
- Hatboro-Horsham Event: Mid-Atlantic District Finalist
- Mid-Atlantic District Championship: Quality Award
- Qualified for World Championship—Johnson Division Semifinalist



3



4



8



9



13



14



# All in the Family

(1) Keya Acharya '19, Priyanka Acharya '23, Karabi Bhattacharyya Acharya '82

(2) Ale Navarro-Benbow/FF, Christopher L. Benbow '90/CF, Santiago Benbow '23, Francisco Benbow '25

(3) Jovi Fairchild '87, Sophia Bradley '23, Serena Bradley '19, Stephanie Fairchild '83

(4) Torkel Eriksson, Owen Eriksson '23, Kate Eriksson '23, Ruth (Magoon) Eriksson '90

(5) Sophia Hammond '23, Deion Hammond '21, Tray Hammond '18, Charles Hammond '87, (Charles H. Hammond '48)

(6) Ella Goldstein, Carol Wetherill Goldstein '86 (Richard Wetherill '42)

(7) Charlie Saenger '26, Tristram MacDonnell '03, Cari (Adams) Saenger '97, Bea Saenger '23, Chris Saenger '97, Susie (Johnson) MacDonnell '68, Toni (Roberts) Sharp '60, Peg (Walther) Saenger '66

(8) Marpa Eager '86, Amelia Eager '23, (George Eager '61)

(9) Livia Resnik '23, Kerry Lynn Butler Resnik '86

(10) David Henderson, Titus Henderson '23, Joy Henderson/CF

(11) Alex Krawchuk '23, Lara Rogers Krawchuk '88/FF, Peter Krawchuk

(12) Julie C. Keen '85, Ian J.K. Eskesen '23, Chris Eskesen (Priscilla Richie Keene '57; James Keene '57; Emma Brown Richie '25; Comly B. Richie '25)

(13) Trond Grenager '89, Jasper Grenager '23

(14) Joseph Daniels/CF, Solveig-Michael Daniels '23

All identifications are left to right. Key: CF= Current Faculty; FF = Former Faculty

# Anika Forrest '07

## Seeking Quaker Spaces

STORY BY DOMI WALDRON • PHOTO BY KEVIN SOBOLOSKI


**The Westtown Alums Association (WAA) Board** welcomed **Anika Forrest '07** as the keynote speaker at this year's Annual Meeting during Alums Weekend. While a student at Westtown, Anika held various leadership roles, including Admission tour guide, Quaker Orientation facilitator, Balderston proctor, and Senior Class Officer. After Westtown, she attended Davidson College and later earned a JD from Temple University. Anika is currently the Legislative Director, Domestic Policy at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a nonpartisan Quaker organization in Washington, DC, that lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship policies.

During her keynote, Anika described how her Westtown education and her ties to Quakersim impacted the trajectory of her career and personal goals. Although coming to Westtown was a choice made by her mother who was intent on her having a Quaker education, she says, "I quickly adapted to Westtown finding a community rooted in justice and stewardship and, despite challenges, ever striving towards ever more equity." In many classes such as Peace and Justice, "where I learned deeply about tools of oppression" and Latin American Studies, where she learned about the impact American policies have had on the Global South, an interest in and commitment to social justice were deepening. She was especially impacted by her Senior Project to Guatemala, where she learned about free trade agreements, coups, and the ramifications of prolonged wars and genocide. "For me, that [experience] translated into an understanding of forced migration," and further sparked her interests. "And, of course, my first activism experience in the world of migration justice happened at Westtown. A group of us went to Philadelphia and participated in a protest in solidarity with immigrants' rights workers calling for fairer labor rights." She adds, "I found a home here at Westtown, a place that was teaching me about social consciousness, a community that was moral and that was intellectual."

After receiving her undergraduate degree at Dickinson, she began working in the Admission office of Haverford College, a Quaker institution, where she focused on recruitment and access. "I worked particularly on multicultural recruitment, dealing with representation and accessibility for communities that were previously marginalized in higher education." Her experiences with Quakerism at Westtown and Haverford College and her personal commitment to promoting dignity, justice, and protection for marginalized communities led her to seek a law degree to engage more deeply in this work.

"I went to law school...and found that I wanted to, in some ways, go back home. So I started looking into Quaker spaces again. FCNL had a position focused on migration justice." She adds, "There's a saying at FCNL 'where witness meets advocacy,' and that's where I find myself engaging daily. There are institutions and systems which are challenging, but there is a sense of liberty in knowing that we are not confined by those binary constructions, in pursuing the light in every individual, and in letting that sacred calling be at the heart of what we do."

In addition to her legislative work with FCNL, she actively contributes to educational programs and outreach initiatives. She understands the importance of raising awareness and empowering (or "co-powering" as she says) individuals to become agents of change.

Although not a Quaker herself, Quakerism's values align with her own and have shaped Anika's life and career. It has provided her with a framework for ethical decision-making and a strong sense of community. It has also cultivated in her a profound appreciation for silence and stillness, allowing for moments of introspection and a deeper understanding of herself and the world around her. She is also deeply grateful for her Westtown experience concluding, "Thank you, Westtown, for a community that enlightened, challenged, and nurtured me." 





# Back In 'Town

## Alums Weekend 2023

BY DOMI WALDRON, DIRECTOR OF ALUM ENGAGEMENT

The 2023 Alums Weekend event brought hundreds of Westonians back to campus! A wide range of activities and events designed to cater to the interests of attendees of all ages were offered. From the Annual Westtown Alums Association (WAA) Board Meeting, the 50th (and above) Reunion luncheon with the Head of School, to the Back in 'Town Bash, canoeing on the lake, games, and hayrides, a host of meetups, and several thought-provoking panel discussions, there was something for every Westonian to enjoy.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with a deep dive into Quaker life at Westtown. Alums attended panels about Art and

Quakerism, Equity, Justice, and Belonging (EJB) and Quakerism, Westtown Monthly Meeting, and Children's Meeting. These panels demonstrated how school and community life is rooted in Quaker values. Alums attended Meeting for Worship, where they reflected on their inner experiences, as they did while attending Westtown. Alums left confident that Quaker values are woven into the fabric of the school, which fosters an inclusive and compassionate environment.

In another panel discussion, the Equity, Justice, and Belonging (EJB) Team—**Kelly Yiadom**, Director of EJB for Lower and Middle Schools; **DeVon**

**Jackson**, Director of EJB for Upper School; and **Louisa Egan Brad**, Dean of EJB—met with alums to present their current work. The team discussed recent topics for faculty professional development, programming and support for students in each division, parent/guardian/family engagement, and institutional work. Alums asked questions about their own Westtown experiences and shared what they'd like to see moving forward. There were also panels





offered on student life and school leadership, which also led to engaging conversations.

During the Annual Meeting, WAA Board Clerk **Rachna Kota '16** read the roll call of classes, a longtime tradition. **Jon Evans**, **Barry Hogenauer**, **Bruce Haines**, and **Emily Wood Crofoot** presented the Class of 1973's 50th Reunion class gift. To date, the class has raised \$881,961 designated to The Kaesemeyer Full Access Fund, The Class of 1973 Scholarship Fund, The Eugene F. and Mary O. Hogenauer Scholarship Fund and the Westtown Fund. The Class of '73 Scholarship Fund was supported by a challenge gift from Jim and Twink Wood, parents of Emily Wood Crofoot. The Class of 1963

## ALUMS WEEKEND



announced their 60th reunion gift as well. To date, their gift totals \$246,379 and supports the Westtown Fund, and The Faith and Practice Fund in memory of former teachers Charles K. Brown, Thomas S. Brown, and Mervin T. Hutton. **Kat Yeh '82** also took the stage to announce a special \$25,000 matching gift challenge by her brother, **Max Yeh '87** that was successfully met by alums! We are grateful for these generous gifts to the school, and for the many gifts received each year from our alums!

The keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting was **Anika Forest '07**, who shared how her Westtown education and Quaker values have impacted her life and career (see more on page 52). **KC Miller '18** was presented with the Young Alum Changemaker Award, for his activism. Read more on page 57.

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting (and the weekend!) was the inspiring and moving film created by **Erik Freeland '80**, celebrating the 100th anniversary of NC Wyeth's *The Giant*. Following the film viewing, **Bob Batley '81** gave a festive and funny tribute to *The Giant* and its history. You can learn more about *The Giant* and its 100th anniversary on page 20.



Throughout the weekend, alums had the chance to engage with current students, faculty, and staff, providing a valuable opportunity to share their wisdom, experiences, and insights. By interacting with the current generation of Westtown students, alums contributed to the vibrant and ever-evolving Westtown community.

As in years past, Westtown School Alums Weekend 2023 was a joyous celebration of shared experiences, lifelong friendships, and the enduring spirit of the Westtown community. This event always serves as a testament to the transformative

impact of a Westtown education and reinforces the strong bonds among Westonians across generations. Thank you for joining us, and we'll see you next year!

*To see the entire gallery of photos from Alums Weekend, use the QR code.*





2023 Young Alum Changemaker Award Recipient

## KC Miller '18

BY DOMI WALDRON

During the Annual Meeting, the WAA Board was thrilled to present the Young Alum Changemaker Award to KC Miller, Class of 2018. This award is presented annually to a notable alum who has graduated from Westtown within the past ten years, and who exemplifies Westtown's mission in their life and work. Each year, the WAA Board calls for the nominations from the alum community and carefully considers all nominated individuals.

KC, a nurse based in West Philadelphia, is an esteemed activist who has made substantial contributions to the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights and the improvement of healthcare outcomes in underserved communities. As founder of the Keystone Coalition for Advancing Sex Education, KC has advocated for comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive sexual health education. His tireless efforts have resulted in significant strides toward raising awareness

*KC's commitment to political action, demonstrated by his involvement in political campaigns and volunteer organizing, showcases his determination to effect systemic change and create a more equitable and just society.*

about inclusive sexual health education, breaking down stigmas, and ensuring marginalized communities have access to vital resources and support. KC's commitment to political action, demonstrated by his involvement in political campaigns and volunteer organizing, showcases his determination to effect systemic change and create a more equitable and just society.

KC fostered a growing passion for leadership and activism during his tenure at Westtown. He was a Student Body President, a proctor on dorm, and the leader of various organizations, including the Sexual Health Awareness Educators Club, Democrats Club, Students Advocating for Student Health, and the Outdoor Education co-curricular group.

KC was encouraged to apply his Quaker values to create positive change, challenge injustices, to promote more inclusive sexual and public health initiatives for young people while at Westtown and became an activist for several causes. For KC, activism was a manifestation of Quaker testimonies, inspiring him to live out his faith by taking action and making a tangible difference in his community. KC's activism inspires others, illustrating the transformative power of advocacy in promoting social justice and equality. Please join us in congratulating KC!

# Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled by the Alum Engagement Office. The submission deadline for this issue was July 1, 2023; information received after that date will appear in the next issue of *The Westonian*.

## 1943 **Barbara Jones Parker '43**

writes, "I feel Westtown was like a second home in a way, having had both parents attend there. Mother graduated with the Class of 1912 and was close to fellow graduates all her life. I attended summer camp for eight weeks for two summers during the war when Tom Brown and his wife ran it and us campers lived in Stone [now Guerster] House for eight weeks. It was a very rewarding experience! My folks and I frequented the lake often. We would picnic and swim after dad got home from work. In fact, I learned to swim there. We lived only 30 minutes away in Rutledge, Pennsylvania. After I graduated from Westtown, I went to Business School (Taylor Tech.) in Philadelphia for two years and graduated to work in Philadelphia for a couple of years as a secretary. I saved my money and decided to go to Nursing School in Melrose, Massachusetts, graduated in three years, and spent the rest of my life in that field. I met my husband, J. Donald Parker, at the hospital where he was the purchasing agent. We were married in Swarthmore Meeting House. Our marriage lasted 63 years. A few years after Don died, I sold our condo. I moved in with my youngest child and her family in Sandwich, Massachusetts, on the Cape. She and Alex have one daughter, Lily, who is 13 years old and in Junior High. She is a ballet dancer like her mother and loves it. I am 98 years young and do my daily 20-minute walk, weather permitting. Sandwich has the oldest Friends Meeting in the USA. I have joined and find the people most welcoming and of interest. They are a very diverse group! My other three children are Lawrence, Peter, and Kimberly. Larry has passed away; Peter and Kim still live

in Greenfield, Massachusetts. They are fairly frequent visitors."

## 1946 **Kay Kurt Burtin '46**

is still active at St. Augustine Art Association, D.A.A, Pilot Club, and Sister cities. She has recovered from house flooding after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

**Florence Hickman Davidson '46** writes, "I want to thank Westtown for my strong spiritual life. And, oh, just happiness. One teacher of English (falsely rumored on the dorm to have been a nun!) guided me with Quaker readings. And Master Tom Brown and his family, too. And that senior religion class searching the parallel gospels had the profoundest effect. I so love Westtown: You led me to join the new Board starting Tandem Friends in Charlottesville, VA. Also, to help start a Free Clinic, as well as the Professional School of Psychology, now called William James University.

**Alan Robert Marshall '46** passed away peacefully on December 17, 2022, in Sydney, Australia, where he had lived since 1973. Lessons Alan learned growing up in his Quaker family in Whittier, Southern California, stayed with him throughout his life. Seeking peace within himself and with others, seemed to be in his nature. He excelled at Westtown, graduating as valedictorian in 1946. Immediately after graduation, Alan was sent back to California by plane to work on the family citrus ranch, using a tractor and a chain to pull out some poor looking trees on a bit of extra land his father had recently bought. After a couple of days, Alan and his cousin Lester, thought to check where the new boundary actually was, only to discover that they had already pulled out two rows of trees on the neighbour's land. His dad somehow arranged to buy just enough additional land to include those two extra rows.

After a year of Liberal Arts at Earlham

College (and another of Accounting and Business at Whittier College), he started at CalTech, successfully completing the first two years of the four-year electrical engineering degree course. But then he was drafted into the U.S. Army (The Korean War was raging). Fortunately, perhaps, the Army medical examination found Alan had a very slight heart murmur. So, the Army didn't really want him. He served just 90 days in the military, which was just long enough to qualify him for the GI Bill. The Bill provided money for him to both get married and to go back east, where he graduated with a degree in Economics from Earlham College.

He was then encouraged to apply for and was accepted at the Harvard Business School. He graduated in 1954 with an MBA. He and his wife, Carolyn Newlin, welcomed their sons Stephen in 1952 and Thomas in 1953. While at Harvard, Alan became fascinated by computers, crossing over the Charles River Bridge late at night to get time on the Whirlwind Computer at MIT. There, he taught himself to program. After graduating with his MBA, he was engaged in the design of accounting systems with international firms and subsequently in a number of studies for government organisations. These early computer experiences led him and his family to take up opportunities in Sweden in 1965.

After the first year in Sweden, his family returned home to Virginia. Alan decided to stay on in Stockholm to set up his own software company. Because the Swedish company did well, he established a second successful software business in London in late 1967. After a number of years in Europe, Alan remarried and, with his Australian wife, he came to live in Sydney in 1973.

Alan was never afraid of a challenge or of hard physical work: a resourceful man, he was able to get things done. He enjoyed building a swimming pool and doing landscaping for the first house.



### SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE...

**Mail:**  
Westtown School  
Attn: Alums Office  
975 Westtown Road  
West Chester, PA  
19382-5700

**Email:**  
[alums@westtown.edu](mailto:alums@westtown.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you!

He set to work to build a garage for the second house and a small landscaped garden as well. Alan loved woodwork and wood-working tools. He built one kitchen table, then, not 100% satisfied with it, decided to make an improved model in the shape of a super ellipse. The beautifully shaped table which resulted, is still in use.

Alan loved science and became intrigued by Chaos theory. He read about the Lorenz water wheel experiment which illustrates Chaos. So, as a challenge he set to work, following instructions he'd found to build a perspex water wheel using small recycled objects from kids' toys and using a kitchen funnel for the water to flow through. He invited a few young ones in the family to witness his model working. Rarely seen without a book in his hand, Alan was a great reader of science, physics, chemistry, cosmology, mathematical and monetary systems, and economic theories. And for pure entertainment, he went through hundreds of science fiction stories.

By the time Alan retired, he had become concerned about the failures in the world economic systems resulting in inequity among peoples across the world. Through his reading he concluded there ought to be a better way to organise world economies. He enrolled to do a Master's in Economics at Macquarie in Sydney. He published his thesis entitled *Achieving a Better Economy* and he gained his second master's degree in 2005.

In the last few years, as he aged, he enjoyed the wonderful support and friendship of the local community and he became a regular in Five Ways, our local 'village.' He always had a cheery greeting for people he knew—and for those he didn't. He found so much to capture his imagination, to stimulate his mind and many ways to engage with people. Alan has inspired and enlightened us and indeed brightened up our lives. *Submitted by Alan's wife, Barbara Marshall*



Alan Cayo '48, first on right, represents one of General Washington's officers in the Continental Army about 1774. All the men are likewise Continental Army officers. The women represent members of the "Camp Followers" who were often the wives and daughters of the officers and provided the meals, laundry, and medical aid. All are Master Mason members of "The Sojourners," the "Heroes of '76,]" or a ladies adjunctive organization such as the "Eastern Stars." Their work is to give patriotic talks at schools, churches, and civic groups.

**1947 Philip Jenkins '47** writes, "At 94 I am enjoying retirement years looking out my big rear window at the many birds, squirrels, and other varmints in our backyard. My wife, Barbara, and I have been married for 26 years. I have lost both of my brothers, also Westtown grads: **Ray Jenkins '43** five years ago, and **David Jenkins '55** this past year. Although they do not live nearby, I enjoy my three step-children and their spouses, four grandchildren, and four greats."

**1948 Alan Cayo '48** writes, "Having failed to temper my temper during five years at Dear Westtown, I continued to seek normalcy at Penn State and the University of Virginia, to no avail. I thus determined that only the military could restrain me and applied for Officer Candidate School (OCS). To my great surprise, I loved it and continued upon graduation to train as a paratrooper and ranger. Assigned soon after to combat in Korea, I was disappointed to find the battle had been halted by a grumpy cease fire (which remains in

effect today). While in Korea, however, I did discover that I didn't really like living in muddy foxholes and breathing dust, so upon return to the States I applied for flight training and had my third re-birth (1st-Westtown, 2nd military life, 3rd-pilot-ing). And so, thrice re-born, I remained in the service to enjoy a thriller movie lifestyle like the song, *Cigarettes and Whisky and Wild, Wild Women* (where my Light led). That strange 'Light' led me into the arms of an older English war bride of the Second World War, an ex-Russian spy (Danish) girlfriend, and finally a French wife who at the early age of 14 and 15 participated with the French Resistance as a messenger. Those who attended the 2023 Reunion, which included no one else of 1948, may have met her, Gisèle, who faithfully remains with me since 1961. All this was made possible by my assignment to France in 1959. Returning to the States a second time in 1963, I was happy to buy my first home with Gisèle in Alabama for only \$10,000, but we only enjoyed calm for two years as the Army clearly needed more pilots in Vietnam. I was off to war again in 1965. Fortunately,

## CLASS NOTES

the harder I tried to get killed, the more incompetent became the enemy. Thus in 1966 I returned for the third time to the United States a reluctant pacifist and sub-conscientious objector having never fired a shot or been struck by one. This, I can only attribute to the ‘Mysterious spiritual Light of Quakerism’ which has clearly been more powerful than my evil intent. All those wishing to hear more are directed to Amazon: click on the drop-down menu, ‘Alan Cayo’ or Letters from Poinciana for three short essays expanding this tale and assuring you of my grand humility which appearances only seem to deny. In closing, after 92 years of turbulence, my recent visit to the calm waters of Westtown was a peak experience, greatly due to the faculty and staff’s warm reception, and greatly to be preferred to all of the above. *Wa-shbuk Ian khavine aykana, d’afhanan shbukhan l’khayvine.*”

**1949 Margery Freeman '49** passed away peacefully on March 3, 2023, on her home island of Kauai, Hawaii, at the age of 91 surrounded by love. Born in Massachusetts to Katharine and Gilbert, she was the second of three daughters. Marge was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Robert “Bob” Freeman, and is survived by their four children, Barbara, Laura, Eric, and Carla, and three grandsons, Daniel, Nicolas, and Lucas.



Marge and Bob met and married while attending Antioch College. Early in their marriage and in the spirit of adventure, they moved from the east coast to the island of Oahu. Eventually they settled in Seattle, Washington, where Bob worked as an engineer at Boeing. Active in local politics, they became involved with Turn Toward Peace/World Without War Council, resulting in a career change and a move to Berkeley, California in the mid-1960s. While raising her children, Marge earned her RN and worked in Labor and Delivery at various Bay Area hospitals. During her long career she created a program called Shared Beginnings to



Left to Right: Barbara James Stonestrom '43, Alan Cayo '48, Gisele Cayo, Janet Miller Zimmerman '47, Sten af Klinteberg '50

improve birthing outcomes for mothers and their newborns, and helped improve working conditions for nursing staff.

In the 1970s, Marge and Bob welcomed other cultures into their home by hosting a Brazilian foreign exchange student, several Japanese students, and finally hosting two Vietnamese refugees, Tien and Susan, who became like family to them. Soon afterwards they began traveling abroad, eventually visiting six continents. Marge indulged her life-long interest in photography documenting people and their lives, around the world. She created and shared cultural slide-shows of the more than 40 countries she explored. Many of her slideshows are archived and available online via LearnNC at UNC Chapel Hill.

As Marge and Bob considered retirement, they moved back to Hawaii and called the beautiful island of Kauai their home. While working part-time at Wilcox Hospital, Marge explored many interests outside of her career including: involvement in local and state politics; saving public access to the beaches of Kauai; helping the development of the Kauai bike path; helping to build play structures at the Kamalani Playground in Lydgate Park, still loved today by

children young and old; volunteering with Malama Maha'ulepu; volunteering at a poi plantation; as well as raising and planting numerous Monkey Pod trees, which now grace Kauai. Throughout her life, Marge loved reading, and especially reading children's literature aloud. She loved the words, creativity, irreverence, and surprising twists. She enjoyed sharing them with the three generations of her family. All who gathered around to listen, appreciated the stories, read with such delight.

**Virginia Cynthia Peterson '49** of Flagstaff, Arizona, passed away on January 5, 2023, at age 91 surrounded by her loving family.

Cindy was born to **John Webster '24** and **Doris Webster '24** on May 20, 1931. She lived and grew up in Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. Upon graduating from Westtown School in 1949, Cindy attended the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated in 1952 as a licensed Registered Nurse. After launching her nursing career in New York, Cindy decided to continue her nursing career in Denver, Colorado. There she joined a hiking club and met Leif Peterson,

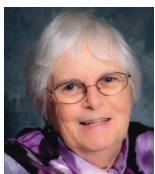


a handsome Scandinavian farm boy from North Dakota. They fell in love and married in 1955. Following Leif's work, they moved to North Dakota and then to Wyoming. Cindy became a full time mother to their children, Linnea, and Carl. Later, Leif changed careers and they moved to Flagstaff where they have lived since 1965.

Cindy was a beloved friend to many. She volunteered in many organizations over the years and was very active in her churches, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran for many years, and in later years, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. She loved people and always made everyone she met feel welcomed and cared for. She sent thousands of cards and letters to her family, friends, and acquaintances, never forgetting anyone's birthday or special occasions. She loved her family most of all and will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin.

She is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Joyce Johnson '51 of Cincinnati, Ohio, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**1952** **Ruth Passmore Young '52**, 88, passed peacefully on December 26, 2022 at The Hickman continuing care community in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where she had resided for a number of years. Born in Chester County to S. Ralph and Mary Passmore, her father grew roses for a living and as a young girl she, along with her brothers, Drew and Robert, would help their father in caring for these much beloved beauties. Quakerism was always part of Ruth's life both at home, at Westtown School, and at Birmingham Meeting to which her parents would bring her in a basket when a baby. Ruth would go on to marry David Young and their children Elizabeth, David, Jr. (Tim), and Sydney would grow up in the Meeting. She was much devoted to her children,



grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

A quintessential Sunday School teacher, Ruth adored children and spent many hours creating materials to teach Bible stories. What she did, she did with precision and detail, something seen in the creation of her many quilts crafted for family and friends as well as fundraisers for charitable causes including Birmingham's purchase of landmine detectors to be distributed throughout the world by the United Nations where needed. Many of the quilts would also benefit Barclay Friends and The Hickman, both senior living communities. Ruth spent numerous hours at the Meeting helping to prepare the many dinners and picnics offered to the public to benefit other charitable organizations Birmingham supported. Always interested in spiritual life, her devotion to Quakerism and Friends never wavered and she lived her faith. You could always count on her presence at worship and her

involvement in the activities that have sustained this community of faith over many years. Even during Ruth's memorial service, many of her quilts were displayed on the benches when people sat, as if to be enveloped in her caring friendship. We are grateful for Ruth's Light that she carried with her, a kind, caring, and faithful Light shared with all she encountered. *Submitted by Ruth's niece, Susan Passmore Birdsong '81*

**1953** Eleven members of our class made it back to campus for our 70th reunion: **Dick Allphin '53** (and Joyce), **Carol Bacon Emmons '53**, **Terry Jacob Engeman '53**, **Kit Woods Fairchild '53**, **Nan Haviland Ferguson '53**, **Marsie Hawkinson '53** (and daughter **Kate Hawkinson '80**), **Janet Hetzel Henderson '53**, **Tom Meyer '53**, **Jerry Michener '53** (and **Pat Michener '59**), **Phil Richardson '53** (and Barbara), and **Don Stoneham '53** (and

# MILESTONES

## IN MEMORIAM

**1944**  
Lucille Oliver Koenig  
May 18, 2023

**1945**  
Douglas Richie  
May 2023

**1946**  
Alan Marshall  
December 17, 2022

**1947**  
Virginia Milhous Hughey  
May 16, 2022

**1949**  
Margery Hoag Freeman  
March 3, 2023

Ruth Harvey  
Mavronikolas  
April 8, 2023

John Petri  
May 29, 2023

**1950**  
A. Blyth Barnes Steere  
March 8, 2023

**1952**  
Thomas Livezey  
December 10, 2022

Ruth Passmore Young  
December 26, 2022

**1954**  
Sandra Turner Belfer  
April 10, 2023

J. Richard Houghton  
March 29, 2020

**1955**  
Patricia Bringhurst Reed  
June 7, 2023

**1956**  
Sophia Carson  
2022

Rene Guerster  
March 9, 2023

**1960**  
Caroline Dupree Lanker  
December 12, 2022

**1963**  
Parry Ely  
March 9, 2020

**1964**  
Jeffrey W. Fuson  
May 19, 2023

**1965**  
Ann MacInnes Mize  
January 20, 2023

Stephanie Scott  
February 23, 2023

Judith Trimble Waldner  
January 12, 2023

**1967**  
David Clapp  
January 7, 2023

**1983**  
Ellen Wright Douglas  
August 5, 2022

**1984**  
Griffith Miller  
June 11, 2023

**1985**  
Gretchen Van assel  
May 6, 2023

## WEDDINGS

**2002**  
Fabiola Paz '02 and  
Augustine Honore  
March 26, 2021

**2010**  
Hannah Graf Evans '10  
and David Reynolds  
December 31, 2022

## BIRTHS

**2002**  
Fabiola Paz '02 and  
Augustine Honore:  
Thasheus and Olivia  
Rose Paz-Honore -  
December 8, 2022



Class of 1953. Top Row: Philip Richardson, Thomas Meyer. Middle Row: Jerry Michener, Nan Haviland Ferguson, Terry Jacob Engeman, Carol Bacon Emmons. Front Row: Kit Woods Fairchild, Marsie Levering Hawkinson, Donald Stoneham, Janet Hetzel Henderson. Attended but not pictured: Richard Allphin.

Andrea Arneson). It was wonderful to be back on campus and catch up with old, dear friends. We appreciated having a classroom set aside as a “lounge” where we could relax and chat on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed dinner at the White Dog Cafe in Glen Mills, just a half-mile from the Best Western Inn where most of us spent the night. One sad postscript: Janet’s husband, Rolland, passed away unexpectedly on May 23. Janet led the planning of our reunion and made sure that everyone had precise driving directions. We hold her and her family in the Light.

**Janet Henderson ’53** writes, “[My] husband of 67 years, Rolland H. Henderson, passed away suddenly on May 23, 2023, of an apparent heart attack. There is an obituary on Legacy.com.”

**1954 Arthur Elliott Gans ’54** died on June 15, 2023 in Vernon, British Columbia. He is survived by: his wife of over 60 years, Dee Gans; son H. Karl Gans of Fredericton, New Brunswick, daughter Katherine Macdonald of Spruce Grove, Alberta; granddaughters Tori Macdonald and Kristina Gans; grandson Christopher Macdonald; several great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews. He was



a longtime Anglican priest and military chaplain, serving on several UN peace-keeping missions with the Canadian Armed Forces. Uncle Art was my dad’s older brother, and his experience at Westtown was one of the driving factors behind my family’s decision for me to attend the school. At 6’6”, he was very much a larger-than-life figure in both body and spirit. He will be very much missed by many people. Aloha ‘oe, Art. *Submitted by Arthur’s niece, Miriam Gans Elliot ’89*

**1955 John James ’55** writes, “Classmates should know the fact that classmate **Judith Graham Miller ’55** was the Watergate Bookkeeper. [She was] Judy Hoback at the time she was included in Woodward and Bernstein’s book, *All The President’s Men*, and portrayed by Jane Alexander in the movie of the same title. We should all be proud of her performance as the Watergate Bookkeeper.”

**Patricia Bringhurst Reed ’55** died on June 7, 2023. She was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Dr. Louis S. Bringhurst ’25 and Ann W. Bringhurst. A fifth-generation Westonian, she graduated from Westtown and received her B.A. in English Literature from Mount Holyoke College. While enrolled at the college, she spent her junior year abroad at the

University of London. Pat volunteered as secretary for her Westtown class through the 50th reunion and produced a reunion booklet every five years. She was a board member of the Westtown Alumni Association for several years. Pat served as Editor of Westtown in Word and Deed, a book commemorating the 200th anniversary of the school. Pat was an editorial assistant and secretary in the Psychology Department at Princeton University during the ’70s. She then worked for over 20 years as a project director in the field of employee satisfaction surveys.

In 2011, she moved to the Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community (QPRC) in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. During her years at QPRC, Pat served on the Residents’ Council. She volunteered with the local Released Time / Bible Adventure program for elementary school students. She was a member of Faith Reformed Presbyterian Church in Quarryville.

Pat is survived by a son, the Rev. Dr. David Sherwood and his wife, Kim; a daughter, **Sara (Reed) Jones ’85**, and her husband, Brian; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Sara writes, “My brother, David, and I were with Mom when she died and we know this would have comforted her. Words cannot express our sorrow at losing such a wonderful, one-of-a-kind mother, but we know she is at peace.” *Submitted by Pat’s daughter, Sara (Reed) Jones ’85*

**Karl Striedieck ’55** writes, “Life (57 years’ worth) on top of Bald Eagle Ridge in central Pennsylvania reminds me how lucky I am to have found this place. And how lucky I am to live in this best era humankind will ever know—50 years earlier or later, no thanks! I’m still flying gliders competitively, having flown in the Worlds in Hungary last summer. Didn’t win, but did OK and enjoyed Szeged very much. The Worlds are in Uvalde, Texas, next year and I’ll be on the team once again for that one. I’ll be flying a two-place glider with a gal who is the current women’s world champion in a different class. 52 years of competitive gliding have gotten me on the U.S. team





Class of 1958. Top Row: Robert Jones, Katherine Horst Modigliani, Bobbi Kaesemeyer Brown. Front Row: Henry Chen, Linda Chen

13 times, but nary a gold medal. Had to settle for a couple silvers.

Single now and enjoying it. I was married for 50 years—25 twice. Trying to stay physically, mentally, and socially fit with daily stretching and walking, falconry, participation in bluegrass jam every week, and competitive soaring. Also giving glider winch launching training here. See karlstriedieck.com. My falconry and soaring endeavors were nurtured by a Westtown field trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 1952. My brother **Walter Striedieck '57** is living near here now. All the best to fellow 55ers!

**1956 Alan Willcox '56** writes, “[I am] enjoying life in a Senior Apartment Building. [I am] also singing with the Baldwin Wallace University Men’s Chorus and volunteering for a local hospice program. Life is good!”

**1957 Allen Smith '57** writes, “I went cave diving in Mexico in December. I am still teaching histology and neuroanatomy at Barry University. I am still married to Irit. We rejoice in the birth of our fourth grandchild.”

**1958** The Class of 1958 began its planning for May 19th-21st in the fall of the year. We had a small committee of classmates who volunteered to help. **Beth Lane Morrison** had been the editor of our Reunion Books over the years. She and **Mary Ann Baker Wagner** were aware of address



The Class of 1958 (June 11th 1958) seated at the table with returning classmates for their 65th Westtown Reunion: Standing: Cappy Loveland, Roberta Kaesemeyer Brown, Sue Squires, Alison Borton Libshitz, Commencement Photo, Bob Jones, Diane Allen, Sam Allen Seated: Dotty Brown Shoefner, Gretel Klemperer White, Gwen Coronway, Henry Chen, Mary Alice Brown James, Kathy Horst Modigliani (Photo by Linda Chen) Others attending that 1958 gathering: Juliet and Peter Lane '57, Brandon James '57, Hugh Bonner '57 and Bertie McKinney Bonner '60, Ben James '59 Sam Wagner '57

differences as we received the list from the school. Our goal was to get folks communicating with each other before the holidays and sending us corrections for communications including emails and cell and landlines as well as home and other addresses. This became a great way to get the ball rolling. People communicated with their friends as well and we learned of classmates and family members who needed extra thoughts and care. Some were put together and sent to *The Westonian* and others were collected by Kathy Horst Modigliani and put on a poster board to bring to the reunion in May.

About 10 classmates attended the Memorial Meeting for Worship at School on Saturday morning. A very special opportunity to be in the peace of the Westtown Meeting House with other Alumni and focus on the loss of Alumni who have recently passed away. Six of our class went to school for the annual WAA meeting in the Barton/Test Theater and lunch in the Dining Room. Others went to The Brandywine River Conservancy and Museum in nearby Chadds Ford and also took a hike along the Brandywine. Others just had a long breakfast together at Kendal.

As we planned for our reunion to be held at Kendal at Longwood on Friday night organized by **Mary Alice Brown James** at the Kendal Farm House where **Sam Allen** and **Peter Lane '57** sang – an Alumni Day tradition for us. Saturday night was at The Wagners’ Tree House at

Crosslands, we had heard on the phone from folks about North America, it was suggested a Zoom to be thought about. It was set up on MAW’s computer and connected to their TV. The catering was by the Kendal and Crosslands food services with libations coming from classmates to add to soft drinks. Our classmates and spouses were 17 and 5 were members of the class of 1957. Friends came from as far away as Maine, South Carolina, and Western Pennsylvania. We have included both our classes in our invitations over the years. Looking over our dining room table set for 13 was our large Graduation picture. All our classmates 65 years ago were at the table with us! The Zoom of 16-18 other members of the class of 1958 joined us for about two hours, sharing their news, discussing our dearly departed members, and sharing memories of Faculty and Staff and appreciation for our wonderful growing up years together. People from the West Coast, **Emily Valentine Krispin** was with **David Hartsough** in San Francisco, **Jenny Heyn Springer** was in Seattle, **Michael St. John**, California, **Barbara duBois** in Arizona, **Ellen Jones Thompson** in Waco, Texas, and from Canada, **Ruth Rhoads Engler** and **Andy Biemiller** from Barrie, Ontario. **Vaughn** and **Beth Lane Morrison** in North Carolina. I am missing some names but we plan to have another class Zoom soon into the new year, 2024. We think it is a grand way to keep in contact with each other. But, use your up-to-date contact list and stay in touch

## CLASS NOTES

with each other! Our Special 1958 Family.  
Submitted by Mary Ann Baker Wagner '58

**1959 Caroline Klemperer Green '59** writes, "The Chanticleer String Quartet (chanticleerquartet.com) will be celebrating our 46th Summer Music Festival with nine concerts around Indiana. Everyone is welcome! I also continue to present children's programs throughout the school year, perform concerts in Indiana and New York City and teach private violin students. **Bob Green '63** and I jump between Rhode Island and Oregon to visit our three sons and their families, and we love it when the whole gang joins us here on Chanticleer Farm."

**Ginny Fairchild Pabst '59** writes, "A year after my husband died in 2021, I moved from our family home of 50 years to a near-by senior living community. It was a good decision and I am happy in my new life with both new and long-time friends. My son and his children are close by. Life is good. I am sorry to miss seeing all of you at the reunion."



**Thomas Satterthwaite '59** writes, "Greetings to all from Virginia City Highlands in Reno Nevada. Gail and I have been here since November 1977 after selling our campground in Montana. We are living at 6,000+ feet in our home designed by Gail and enjoying the quiet and privacy that the high desert provides. Gail and I are actually retired and finding various tasks to keep busy. Our 46th anniversary happened on June 17. Best to all, stay well!"



Caroline Klemperer Green '59 Children's music program in NYC

**1960 Gail Barnett '60** writes, "I will be moving into a new home in Massachusetts this fall. The address is: 35 Belknap St., Concord, MA 01742."

**Caroline Dupree Lanker '60** of Frostproof, Florida, passed away December 12, 2022. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics, she enjoyed a career of over 30 years with IBM. She was involved in many pursuits including folk and square dancing, bird-watching and Quaker and human rights causes. Caroline is preceded in death by her late husband, Gary Lanker, and is survived by her brother, **Alfred James Dupree '66**, her sister **Martha Wolfson '62**, her children Peggy Jackson, Joe Sheridan, and Nancy Williams, her stepchildren Alan Lanker and Linda Porter, their spouses and six grandchildren.

**Stephen Painter '60** writes of his 63rd reunion, "On the overcast day of Saturday, May 20, a few of the class of 1960 returned to Westtown for our 63rd reunion. The five of us who returned were, **Dottie Conard Hasty '60**, **Francy Swan Williams '60**, **Antonia Roberts Sharp '60** with her husband Francis, **Bertie McKinney Bonner '60** with her husband Hugh, and **Steve Painter '60**. Four women and one guy...doesn't get much better than that. What was so special to me is that Dottie is my first cousin, and Tony is my second cousin. I hadn't seen them in a very long time. Francy and Bertie are very caring women that have been very supportive to me and others in our class. We joined for lunch in the Dining Room which was packed with other returning graduates. It was fun to return to Westtown [and we invite others from our class to imagine gathering for our 65th.]"

**Toni Sharp '60** writes, "I [was glad] to be on campus for Alumni Day. I find that being on campus soothes the soul, brightens the positive memories, and makes me feel young again!"

**Holland Taylor '60** writes, "This last year, 2022, was a summit, of sorts...the end, basically, of the pandemic and a stressful job made all the more so by the



Pandemic run of ANN in the winter of '22. Opening night at the Pasadena Playhouse Holland Taylor '60 greets the after crowd from an outside balcony and is joined by a shadow...Ann herself, some wondered.

still very real threat of COVID. I doggedly marched ahead with long held plans to revive, for a final run, my play about Ann Richards, ANN, which I had written and performed at major theatres, including Broadway's Vivian Beaumont Theatre at Lincoln Center in 2013. ANN is a monster role, a two-act one-person show about a character of tremendous depth, humanity, and humor, a real American hero... there's a long prep (wig, makeup, bodysuit, and makeup) and then the two-hour performance. I lost sleep during the run fearing being exposed and getting COVID, causing the show to close and the theatre, a non profit, losing all the money it cost to mount the show! All that worry was unavoidable even though no such thing happened! I learned the show perfectly, never dropped a stitch, audiences returned to live theatre in droves, the show sold out, the playhouse made a bundle, and I had my confidence more than restored by executing that difficult show six a week and never dropping a stitch, at 79. It was good to revisit ANN and make my peace with my last performance run. I was as satisfied as I could ever be with it, and I deeply enjoyed the final polish to the script. Yes, of course, it could always be better, but now, it is good enough. And for the first time with the play, I could concentrate on the acting path, the jumps from lily pad to lily pad... the drive of the whole piece happening not by dint of memory, but from inner impulses. This subtle dynamic approach shaved time off each act, timing that had been very consistent. I was well pleased.



Class of 1963. Top Row: Timothy James, Sydney Craig, Elizabeth Shield Phillips, Ennes Littrell, Dori Dietz Blitz, Heather Woods Ames, Eric Harvey, Paul Bailey. Middle Row: Daniel Smith, Dave Stilwell, Winifred Rhoads Givot, Margaret Lebo White, Dayton Coles, Ted Kresge, Eric Wright, David Andrews, Thomas Rie. Front Row: Edward Krutsky, Susanna Montgomery Trotter, Robert Kinney, Joan Lightfoot, Betsy Peacock, John Emmons, Dorothy Woodward Wortmann, Frank Briggs.

That same year I also had the pleasure and good fortune of appearing on The Morning Show, a very good role opposite Billy Crudup, and Billions, where I played opposite the exquisite Maggie Siff. That show had long been a favorite of mine, so to finally join that family at the end of its final season was great. I also did voice over work for CNN, a documentary about the Roosevelts, and a movie with Awkafina and Sandra Oh. (Quiz Lady, I think) where I play a character so oddly unimaginable to even me that I will have to go to the movie to see what I did.”

**Francy Swan Williams '60** writes of her 63rd reunion, “The morning [WAA



John Worth '62

Annual] Meeting was royally ushered in with a vocal solo by one student and piano solo by another, after the rest of us had tried (and failed miserably) to sing the Alma Mater. The parade of people on the stage gave evidence that Westtown is offering high quality educational experiences, with dedication to inclusiveness and promoting the development of successful world citizens. I was brought to tears of laughter by the enactment of “The Giant” with memories of his Westtown years; and touched by the presentation of the Class of 1973’s 50th reunion gift to support scholarships for future students. In addition to the Alumni Meeting and the family style luncheon and visiting with folks on the granolithic, I paid a visit to the house I grew up in at the East end of campus across from the Cabin. During this exploration, I gathered a deeper appreciation for Westtown’s stunningly gorgeous campus and the ever evolving modification of its structures. From the granolithic, the house looks much the same as it did when we lived there.”

**1962 John Worth '62** writes, “My greetings to all classmates and to all at Westtown. I am working on publishing a fairytale on which I have spent a number of years.

With God’s guidance the final steps will be completed. Summer has shown itself here in Greece with some very hot days. Fortunately the sea is a short walk from our home. With my best wishes.”

**1963** The Class of '63 Reunion Committee put together a reunion program that stretched over ten days! The festivities began with a Watercolor Workshop at Pendle Hill from Wednesday to Friday. Seven classmates found inspiration in this bucolic setting. On Friday, eight classmates and two guests trekked to Philadelphia to tour the fabulous Barnes Museum. Several others stayed on campus to participate in “Quaker Life at Westtown.” **Margaret Lebo White '63** reflected, “I very much appreciated and enjoyed the Quaker Life at Westtown day. It helped me feel more in touch with what Westtown is trying to do as a school today, and I enjoyed seeing/hearing from students. After years/decades of worrying that Westtown was sliding towards becoming just another school-without-a-soul, I got the impression that it was trying, struggling, to use Quaker principles with a much more diverse and non-Quaker student body.”

Friday evening, we gathered for pizza and conversation at Tanguy Community Center. For “the main event” on Saturday,

## CLASS NOTES

27 classmates plus 12 guests/spouses were on campus. We attended the Annual Meeting and enjoyed lunch in the Dining Room. In the afternoon, we assembled in the Meeting House for a Zoom call with seven classmates who could not be there in person. (Several others tried to log on but encountered technical difficulties.) That evening, we met at the Farmhouse at Kendal at Crosslands for dinner and a robust sing-along. We've still got it!

Sunday morning, those of us who did not sleep in or get on the road home gathered for Meeting for Worship in the Greenwood. What a soul-nourishing experience! "But," **Dave Andrews '63** noted, "in five years we might prefer more comfortable seating." Finally, nine hearty souls (seven classmates and two spouses) put in canoes on the Susquehanna on Tuesday morning for a four-day canoe trip organized and led by—who else?—**Tim James '63**. The water level was low, which made for some challenging rocky stretches, but for the most part we enjoyed the tranquility of the countryside and the camaraderie.

**1964** **Lydia Willits Bartholomew '64** writes, "I am enjoying life with more time in nature and savoring the simpler things in life. I am so blessed to be able to Fox Hunt with Cheshire Hunt and Radnor Hunt. Driving my horse and carriage has been fun with Brandywine Valley Driving Club and the Four in Hand Club. I have been training horses for five years. One is a cross of Gypsy Vanner and Quarter Horse. The photo is of Willie pulling a Christen Stoltzfus Meadowbrook carriage at the Bentley



Willie the horse pulling a Christen Stoltzfus Meadowbrook carriage at Bentley Preserve.

Preserve. We are standing in a cornfield ready for a fifteen-carriage drive of about ten miles up in the French and Pickering Conservation area in Northern Chester County. When not working full time, I have directed time to saving our land from development. Crebilly Farm, owned by **David Robinson '67** and **Robby Robinson '64**, [is the] site of a Historic Brandywine Battle circa 1777. The 325 acres of the last block of open land from King of Prussia to Wilmington on Route 202. Thanks to Natural Lands and Westtown Township, the land will remain open for generations to come. Cheers to all!"

**Joseph Mills '64** writes, "I heard from his brother, **Michael Fuson '72**, at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting that **Jeffrey Fuson '64** passed away in mid May of this year from heart failure. I missed the reunion but am doing well. Becoming more part time in my little law practice."

**1965** Known for his wit and historical research as an extreme adventure journalist and author, his latest work, *Motorcycle Sex: Freud Would Never Understand the Relationship Between Me and My Motorcycle* (2023) by **Dr. Gregory Frazier '65**, has again rocked the motorcycling world. Dr. Frazier says of his six motorcycle rides around the world and 16 previous publications about motorcycling, "It's been a wild and interesting ride, the last million miles and 60 years. The physical and psychological demands on my body and mind find me laughing at myself when looking in the mirror during morning ablutions, asking, 'Hah! You're still here?'" As a politically agnostic Native American, he still lives quietly in the Big Horn Mountains of Montana and the jungles of Southeast Asia when not roaming the globe on two motorized wheels.



Sisters **Olivia Heathcote '65** and **Jean Heathcote Burke '74** (grades 1-8) went on a Pilgrimage of the Holy Land tour of Israel together. Weather during the



Sisters Olivia Heathcote '65 and Jean Heathcote Burke '74 in Jerusalem

first week of May was ideal for visiting the Sea of Galilee, swimming in the Dead Sea and walking along pathways of Jerusalem including the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, and the Wailing Wall. We had second thoughts when March protests occurred but are very glad we stuck with our plan.

We're sad to report that **Stephanie Scott '65** passed away in February from a glioblastoma. She was surrounded by her children—**Heron Scott-Schwalbach '99**, **Joshua Scott '96**, and **Reed Scott-Schwalbach '94**—and many friends and will be missed. Submitted by **Reed Scott-Schwalbach '94**



**1966** **Russ Brown '66** writes, "Carmen and I are still living in Savannah, Georgia. We are happy to receive mail or even visitors."

**Margot Eastman '66** writes, "[My recent birdwatching] trip to Ecuador was good, intense, and a brain stretch. So many birds that I didn't know, hard to keep track and learned as I went. The cloud forest is intense, so much foliage that seeing birds was at the 'advanced' level (I'm not at that level). The group was congenial, the food was great. Went up to about 14,000ft (pant, pant) but stayed mostly between 6,000 and 8,000ft. Very interesting. I'm including a couple of photos: one is of hummingbirds eating from a cluster of flower buds in my hand. Aside from birds I had hoped to see a



Margot Eastman '66 holding hummingbirds during her trip to Ecuador // An encounter with a tapir in Ecuador

tapir. They are shy and difficult to see. I couldn't believe that on the second day one came out of the forest and walked up the road towards me, paused, then trotted past me. I was only 3' away."

**William Parker '66** writes, "I'm fine, healthy, and content. [Everything since] Christmas would take too long and it would be a horror story anyway. But, I'm alive and some lives were saved. Lots of challenges and isolation also give me freedom. My cat amazes me every day. I get a massage every night and am content with that. Constant dreams and fascinations of southern France, Italy, etc. I'm currently hooked on Marcel Pagnol. A close friend of mine has been introducing me to a study on healing with sound. I'm fascinated with it.

She came back from an international conference in Spain and was the only American there. She did a demo on me when she got back. [Living a] SLOW life lifestyle and love it. Somewhat active in my community. Found the DVD *Alive Inside*. Grab it. Very interested and active in ideas for improving senior housing and nursing homes. Cavemen had it better than we do. I fantasized [about a] one-way ticket to Georgia and ditching this. They have seniors raising orphans. Seniors are gods there and we waste away here forgotten. Yep, different times and hard times. One constant: Witnessing Existence in Bewilderment. I'm lucky and LOVE to write."



**Gregory Pedlow '66** writes, "I have spent most of my adult life in Europe. I lived in Germany from 1975-1980 while



Gregory Wick Pedlow '66 and family // The class of 1966 at their 6th grade graduation, from the collection of Gregory Wick Pedlow '66

researching and writing my PhD dissertation and met a German girl studying pharmacy at the University of Marburg, where I was also enrolled; we married in 1978 and then lived in the US for 10 years while I taught European history at the University of Nebraska and then became a staff historian for the CIA. In 1989 I became NATO's chief historian and spent the next 26 years in Belgium before retiring in 2015 and moving to Germany. Our two children and four grandchildren are

also here in Germany, so this is my permanent home. When I changed schools in 7th grade I started using my first name, Gregory, but people who knew me before then, including my sister, still call me Wick [which is my middle name]."

**1967 Robert Llewellyn '67** writes, "Sometime ago, I read two things in *The Westonian*. One was the greeting essay by the head of school, **Chris Benbow '90**, and one was

## CLASS NOTES

a letter from **Will Parker '66**. What they both wrote has been with me ever since and had to do with changes in life and things happening as they will happen. As I like to tell people, you truly do not know what will happen when you get out of bed in the morning, or in the evening if you work nights. Something will happen, on that you can depend. What will happen, you do not know.

My three years at Westtown were some of the happiest years of my life. I could live those three years over forever I think and be happy with that. But that is not how life goes. I moved on and away to college and travel and new experiences in other places with people who were not Philadelphia Quakers or other breeds of Westonians. Ten years later, after leaving Westtown, working here and there, finding a sweetheart to travel with, etc. I wound up on the west coast in Oregon. My wife Martha and I live where we have lived for 45 years because of a chance meeting with a then young couple named David and Gretchen whom we met for ONE evening around a campfire in Banff, Canada in October, 1977. It was zero degrees at nine PM with knee-deep snow. Eggs were frozen with ice crystals in our cooler box in the morning and the Canadians who were sleeping in tents had sleeping bags with arms built onto them. We and our new friends were both temporarily stranded due to car troubles, which used to happen back then in the old days. They told us where they lived, gave us their telephone number, and told us to stop by when we went south. Which we did, and we have never left. We both found work, liked the people here, and what they called winter made us chuckle. So we stayed.

Over the years here on the Oregon coast I have played music. I learned to play the guitar when I was in 11th grade at Westtown. I was blown away and inspired when I heard George Adams '65 sitting by the open window of his second story room playing San Francisco Bay Blues on his steel string guitar. I had never heard anyone play guitar before, and I had certainly never heard anyone play it like that before. I was hooked. George was the

nephew of Teacher Agnes Finney, who taught history alongside Teacher Al Hay. They were the greatest. Everyone loved them, but that is another whole story. The sad part is that George enlisted in the army and at the age of nineteen, we lost him in Viet Nam. I wish he had never gone, of course, but I know he had his reasons. And I have never forgotten him and his guitar playing and singing. The guitar that I learned on is an old 'pre-war' 1930's Gibson, which I bought for ten dollars from my good friend **Nathan Kriebel '68**, and am still playing and loving today. We enjoyed playing together, but Nathan also left us too soon, at the age of nineteen, in a climbing accident on a mountain in Colorado. So my playing and my music are rooted firmly in my time at Westtown, and for thirty years I have been learning to play and sing bluegrass, my musical love. I learned to play the banjo, which is really my favorite instrument now. Bluegrass is a very social type of music. You can't play it alone, any more than you can play basketball alone. And so I joined with others and we played together over the years. And I made new friends through music.

So now to introduce my closing ideas, let me say that because my family was a Quaker family, my Dad was a CO [conscientious objector] in WW2, I was a CO, etc, I had never set foot inside an American Legion Hall in my life. To me that was an unknown and therefore frightening or scary place. But you know, military people are family people too, and some of the nicest family people you'd ever want to meet. I'd like to give a tip of the hat here to **Chester 'Terry' Ladd '67**, one of the only military kids that I was aware of at Westtown, and whose mother worked the telephone switchboard in Central while I was there. Because our semi-adopted son, who'd had a hard and not very loving family life, and who bonded with our daughter and with us, became an officer on an atomic submarine, I learned about the family feelings of some of the military. It has been a very moving and emotional eye opener for me. Don't worry, I'm still a tree hugging liberal, but I have seen the light.

And so now, our little local bluegrass jam group is playing on the second Saturday of each month at the Newport, Oregon, American Legion hall, just a couple of blocks downhill from the library. And the people there are good people. And being a small town, I know some of them. And now I know more. So when I'm there, and I look out the window and see the blue Pacific ocean in the distance, and see my friends playing music together, I am thankful. And I realize how far I have come from Philadelphia, home of Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross and the Liberty Bell, and my Quaker family and roots.

Westtown is a deep well. I am inspired and humbled when I read about what is going on at Westtown today. Yes, it is changing. Of course it is. My Grandmother Ella Hall Llewellyn 1909 grew up working in the Farmhouse with her parents—could it really be a hundred years ago now? She would not swear, but she did enjoy telling people that her name was one 'L' of a name! And now I just read that a woman named Christa Barfield has been chosen to run the old and venerable Westtown farm, which I think is a wonderful thing. Thank God for change. Westtown has a deep core of human values that try to include everyone. And when you are lucky enough to live there and learn there and play there, it will stay with you. A deep core of warm loving and community. And it really is true, you just never do know what will happen when you get up in the morning. So just get up, get going, and give it your best shot. And as my older brother **Mark Llewellyn '66** likes to say, 'breathe deeply and breathe often.'

**Carol Savery-Frederick '67** writes, "Finally, after happily living in Connecticut and enjoying life as New Englanders for the past 50 years, I have returned to live in Pennsylvania near where I grew up. Bill and I are now residents at Crosslands, the Quaker life care community literally just down the road from Westtown. The best part of this move is that my brother, Joe Savery '64, and sister, Sylvia Savery '70, are also living at Crosslands. It's great having the Savery siblings together again! Bill

and I are finding life here easy going and comfortable, feeling very much at home on this campus in its beautiful country setting. It's been fun reconnecting with other Westonians who also live here. Pete Lane '57 and Martha Brown Bryans '68 are nearby neighbors. Come visit! Our new address: 445 Crosslands Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348"

**1968 Rachel Trueblood** writes, "With little to no planning in advance, the Class of 1968's 55th reunion was a quiet affair that included a lovely photoshoot of the four participants, **Martha Brown Bryans**, **Caroline Curtis Cope**, **Tom Burson**, and me. Really looking forward to 2028 when hopefully many of us will be able to gather for our 60th!"

**1969 Jeffrey Peckham '69** writes, "Many of us, including classmate Quentin Riegel '69, enjoyed our 50th college reunions around the country this spring. In the same spirit as our 50th high school reunion, my college housemates and I initiated a five-year pledge campaign to create a perpetual annual scholarship from the Class of '73. Our 'hook,' being just that much older, is to tell our classmates to use 'excess' RMD IRA dollars each year to fulfill their pledge. As our Occidental College class was five times larger than our Westtown '69 class, I certainly hope we'll beat the \$410,000 that our little class of 96 alumni raised for Westtown! In fact, that is part of my spiel. If a few relatively frugal Quakers can raise that kind of money, certainly my Oxy class can. I hope to install a similar tradition at Oxy to the well-treaded one we have at Westtown. I am hoping to be on campus next spring for our 55th at Westtown!"

**1970 Mary Oliver Brown '70** writes, "I have finally moved out of the city of Philadelphia where I resided for fifty years. My son Otis Brown III, his wife, Laura, and I found a beautiful home last year in the outskirts of West Chester,



Class of 1968. Top Row: Martha Brown Bryans, Thomas Burson. Front Row: Caroline Curtis Cope, Rachel Trueblood.

Pennsylvania. I retired from my employment at Horizon House in March of 2020. I am spending my retirement in the calm and serenity of the suburbs. I am a full-time writer now and my poetry has been published in several notable literary journals. I have finished the manuscript of my debut novel, *Circe's Daughters*, and I am searching for a publisher. I very much enjoy my life as a writer and hope to reach a wide audience for literary fiction and poetry with my work. Westonians are welcome to visit us!"

**Peter Sutherland '70** writes, "After an over thirty-year career in electrical power systems engineering focusing on industrial power systems, I have retired at the end of last year. I have worked primarily with General Electric and ABB in the Schenectady New York area. I was able to complete my education with a doctorate from RPI in 2003, and have earned industry recognition including Life Fellow of the IEEE. Looking forward to a great retirement!"

**Donald Young '70** writes, "We welcomed our ninth grandchild November 28, 2022. All nine grandchildren live within four miles of the home where we raised our three children—a log house



The new home of Eliza Allison '71

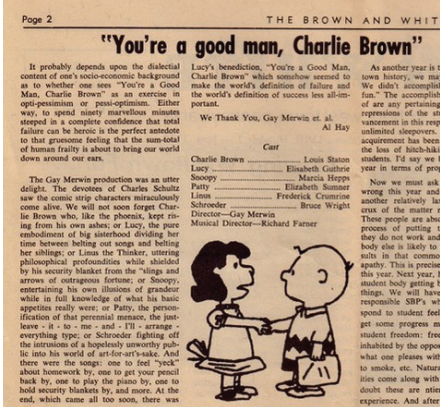
where we have lived for 43 years which was purchased by my great, great grandfather in 1881. Debbie and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on January 27 at the Riviera. And thank you to the Alumni Office for inserting my 50th Reunion submission which was initially inadvertently omitted [from the reunion book]. PS. Our Riviera was the DVC resort in Disney World."

**1971 Eliza Allison '71** writes, "Jay and I are living in the house we built over the last year. It's a dream come true. New address: 83 Flat Point Road, Phippsburg, ME, 04562. Come visit."

**Peleg D. "Ron" Midgett '71** writes, "I'm living with my brother **Steve Midgett '72** in the North Carolina mountains. My new contact information is: (603) 781-1313 / 504 Newman Rd, Franklin, NC, 28734

**1972 Nathaniel Randall '72** writes, "I enjoyed the 50th reunion [last year]. Meeting classmates I had not seen in 50 or 40 years as I made our 10th reunion in 1982. Looking forward to #s 55 and 60. Though my daughters may not let me drive by then."

**Liz Sumner '72** writes, "In 1972 **Marcia Hepps '73** and **Jenny Loerke '73** had the idea to stage *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*—a show that was just leaving Broadway. They cast it in their heads and amazingly got Westtown to arrange the rights and give this student production the resources to put it on. Directed by **Gay Merwin '72**, it starred **Louis Staton '72** as Charlie Brown, **Lis Guthrie '72** as Lucy, **Fred Crumrine '72** as Linus, **Bruce Wright '72** as Schroeder and me (**Liz Sumner '72**) as Patty. Marcia herself played Snoopy. We reprised it 1973 with



You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown reviewed in *The Brown and White*, 1972 // Liz Sumner '72, Marcia Hepps '73, and Gay Merwin '72 (bottom)

**Tony Scott '73** in the role of Schroeder. Clark Gesner, the composer, attended and gave us kudos.

I'm mentioning this now because we got together recently to retell the story on the Unpacking Peanuts podcast, a show where three cartoonists take an in-depth look at Charles Schulz's masterpiece. The podcast aired on April 11."

# 1973

Time it was  
 And what a time it was  
 A time of innocence  
 A time of confidences  
 Long ago it must be  
 I have a photograph  
 Preserve your memories  
 They're all that's left you  
 ~ Simon and Garfunkel

To say that our 50th reunion was incredible feels like an understatement of epic proportions. It was powerful, affirming, uplifting, sweet, and salty. The smiles on our faces erupted genuinely and freely as we encountered friend after friend and relived memories of our times together. Some were as fresh as if they happened hours ago, some not quite as sharp, many elicited peals of laughter, some brought

out tears. We were acutely aware of our eleven classmates who are no longer with us, at least in person—they were most definitely with us in our conversations and in our hearts. Their spirits circled amongst us as we joyfully gathered together.

The weekend started on a beautiful, sunny (if a bit chilly) evening on Thursday, May 18 with a fabulous dinner at **Pat Comerford '73** and Kiki Comerford's house, a second home to many of us during our Westtown years. If those walls could talk...Always the consummate hosts, Pat and Kiki went out of their way to ensure that we had everything we needed to get our reunion festivities off to a running start. Every time we turned around, there was someone new to hug and catch up with, if even for a few minutes with the promise of longer visits to come over the following days. There were friendships renewed after decades apart and new friendships forged. Partners were welcomed wholly as classmates—no strangers here! Over 30 classmates showed up. The name tags provided by **Bert Folwell '73** were helpful in keeping us up to date on who the lovely person behind the warm smile was although we did hear a lot of "You look exactly the same!" throughout the evening (of course as the gathering went on our vision may have become a bit more foggy...).

Friday, a stellar spring day on the campus, offered attendees an opportunity to learn about Quaker Life at Westtown. The school had a variety of outdoor activities available and I know that many of us enjoyed the opportunity to explore the campus again and revisit familiar haunts. Many took to the water to admire the newly refurbished lake and environs, many ended up in chat groups at the Belfry, others relived days on the sports fields and courts. The evening led us to the home of **Jon Evans '73** and Melissa Graff Evans, another familiar and beloved reunion gathering spot. And the friends just kept coming! By this time there were at least 45 classmates at Jon's in addition to partners, spouses, former teachers (and one golden retriever with her ever-present ball).

"What was the worst thing you did while you lived on dorm," "Do you remember when ...," "You/I did WHAT?!" were common refrains that echoed through the fields around us. Great food, drink and friendship flowed well past our normal bedtimes but the energy of renewed connections sustained us.

Saturday began with a drizzly mist settling over the campus, releasing the scent of newly mown grass and abundant spring blooms. The yearly meeting and Roll Call of the Decades was a lot more interesting than I remembered as a student (who were these OLD people crawling all over OUR campus as if it was theirs?) and, of course, our class cheer rattled the roof with over 50 of us in the auditorium. We were treated to superb performances by students, genuinely interesting presentations from speakers along with a surprise visit by The Giant, who tried to outshine our 50th reunion by celebrating his 100th birthday. The nerve. Thanks to the perseverance of our reunion finance sub-committee, **Patty Sheetz '73**, **Jon Evans '73** and **Bruce Haines '73**, and the support of classmates, the generous \$50k matching gift of **Emily Wood Crofoot '73's** parents, Jim and Twink Wood, established a named fund as one of our reunion gift options. The new 'Class of 1973 Scholarship Fund' has a value of more than \$227,000 to date. Our class giving in honor of the place that still gives us much more than we can return totaled over \$836,000.

Head of School **Chris Benbow '90** sponsored our lunch in the Dining Room where we sat together as in days of old and many of us took the time to appreciate the atmosphere we'd taken for granted while students. Tables of eight facilitated conversation and connection, all looked over by *The Giant* himself. After lunch the school was filled with activities from campus tours, hayrides, boating at the lake, art shows, lectures, and even a corn hole tournament. Though many of us roamed the campus, more than a few went back to nap before our evening activities and some of you participated in that tournament—admit it! Our reunion dinner at the cabin was filled





Class of 1973. Top Row: Jim Nicholson, Barry Hogenauer, Mary Sommer, Petra Doan, Elizabeth Osterman, Bruce Haines, Bruce Richardson, Deborah Fawcett Hadden, Jonathan Evans, John Ludlam, Thomas Cosinuke, Debra Young. 2nd Row: David Janssen, Emily Wood Crofoot, William Winslow, Joseph Strode, Larry Moulton, Clarissa Westney-Nadherny, Stephen Vail, James Cooper, Jenifer Plummer Rice, Todd Wetherill, David Skillman, Meg Blanchet, Kathe Picaard Harbour, Paul Hill, William McCrory. 3rd Row: Sarah Westervelt, Christopher Johnston, Anna Beardsley Walsh, Peter Trueblood, Barbara Wright Schlottfeldt, William Fisher, Jane Beebe, Katherine Harrison Yerkes, Mary Yerkes Adams, Katharine Taylor, Dan Collins, Bart Cory. Front Row: Jennifer Lohrke Christensen, Marcia Hepps, Trish Cope, Rebecca Wilson Lowndes

to the brim in so many ways. Aware that our time together was now dwindling, we wanted to cram as much as we could into those remaining hours. **Kathe Pikaard Harbour '73**—thanks to **Allyn Copp '73**'s treasure trove of thousands of film negatives—put together a slideshow presentation to remind us of our times together 50 plus years ago. An In Memoriam slideshow honored those of us who are no longer with us: **Mike Adler '73**, **Mike Comerford '73**, **David Cronister '73**, **Alan Fischer '73**, **Linda Frank '73**, **Anne Kriebel '73**, **James Mudge '73**, **Emily Neal '73**, **Victoria (Tory) Perry Robinson '73**, **Kerry Shay '73** and **Milo Titone '73**. On Sunday morning was the school-sponsored breakfast in the Dining Room and a Meeting for Worship at the Boat House, a fitting end to the reunion glow.

Special thanks to the reunion committee members for reaching out to classmates and helping plan this special weekend. Thanks to Pat and Kiki and Jon and Melissa for your generosity in sharing your homes and sponsoring our dinners, yet again. Thanks to **Marcia Hepps '73** who put up many classmates in her home and led the arrangements for the reunion dinner in

the cabin. Particular thanks go to **Barry Hogenauer '73** who not only served on every sub-committee, he provided tents, glassware, coolers, kegs, wine, endless hours setting up, taking down, tracking down, bar-tending, cleaning up, reaching out and ensuring that everyone involved in the weekend was supported and sustained. Talk about *The Giant*—he's got nothing on Barry. It was a reunion for the record books of our truly special class, as attested by many of the faculty members who were able to join us, including Zinta Smith, Joy Willets Dittman, Foster Doan (via a thoughtful and touching written reflection) Clemence Ravencon, Tom and Sally Kaesemeyer, Pete and Juliette Lane, and Jim Morris. The food was great, the company even better, and the memories made promise to hold us over until we meet again. *Submitted by Kathe Pikaard Harbour '73*

**Jan Frazier-Prentice '73** writes, "Oh, *The Places You'll Go*, a title of a book by Dr. Seuss describes how my life has been, with its roller coaster ride. After Westtown, it took several years to 'find myself.' I ended up going to the Stanford University Physician Assistant (PA) Program. I found my passion as a PA and

eventually ended up at VAMCs in San Diego and Durham. I specialized in Spinal Cord Injury/Disease. In San Diego, I found the 'love of my life' in Jeff Prentice. He was a Disc Jockey and worked his way up to radio/TV production. We married in 1982. In remembering the change of seasons at Westtown, I wanted to experience it again. I got a job offer and ended up in North Carolina working in spinal cord injury/disease at the VAMC in Durham. After seven years in Durham, we knew we wouldn't be able to go back to California due to the high cost of living and ended up in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Jeff and I never had children. We had the opportunity to travel extensively in Mexico and Europe. We were scheduled to revisit Paris two weeks after the COVID pandemic hit and it was canceled. We have yet to get back there. Besides travel, Jeff and I went to many, many concerts, often due to his career. During the last few years we have traveled to see the Rolling Stones, Lyle Lovett and Ziggy Marley, and Sting. After moving to Myrtle Beach we bought our first home, having been owners of several condos, previously. We love it here with the 'mini forest' in our backyard, the restaurants



and of course, the beach. The ‘downs’ in my life have revolved around medical issues that are unfortunately progressing. I was unable to attend our 50th reunion due to them. I look forward to hearing from fellow Westonians. But be patient, it usually takes me a while to answer.”

**Christopher Johnston '73** writes, “Special gratitude to **Jon Evans '73** for ‘twisting my arm’ (his words) to

motivate me to come up here from the deep South to be at the reunion. It was good (albeit a bit surreal) to [reconnect with] so many people, some of whom I had not seen since graduation fifty years ago. Worshiping in the Meeting House Saturday morning was especially poignant. The best part of getting away, though, was getting back home to Chattanooga, Tennessee.”

**Victoria Lord '73** writes, “I am currently living in Bellingham Washington, retired and loving it. I live with two senior rescue cats. Jay is my long-term partner, although we do not live together. Activities include cooking, walking, working out on TRX, and singing as a second soprano with Vox Pacifica. Life is good.”

**Barbara Wright Schlottfeldt '73** writes, “We haven’t changed a bit! Well maybe we are just a bit better! Great 50th reunion.”



Alumni Day 1972 with Barbara Wright Schlottfeldt '73, Kerry Shay '73, Lisa Ashelman Brooks '72, David Humphrey '73

**1974** Sisters **Olivia Heathcote '65** and **Jean Heathcote Burke '74** (grades 1-8) went on a Pilgrimage of the Holy Land tour of Israel together. Weather during the first week of May was ideal for visiting the Sea of Galilee, swimming in the Dead Sea and walking along pathways of Jerusalem including the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, and the Wailing Wall. We had second thoughts when March protests occurred but are very glad we stuck with our plan.

**Meg Rodgers '74** writes, “Not really a '74 graduate but I feel Westtown is a part of me and remember happily my times and friends there. My husband of 33 years died in 2018 and my son in 2020. My other two children are doing well. Peter is a software engineer in Boston and Jean is a neurosurgical PA in Chico, California. I retired in 2020 and love retirement! My recreation consists of mountain biking, mostly with my sister who lives down the street. I am trying my hand at furniture restoration and make rugs out of used mountain bike tires



and old T-shirts. I also volunteer with the Marin Medical Reserves as well as an organization that provides information to new suicide survivors. I now live with my mother who is 92 and going strong. I would love to see friends who head to San Francisco.”

**Pat Stabler '74** writes, “Our 50th Class Reunion is coming up soon! The planning committee is meeting and making plans. Please return the survey recently sent out. We plan to talk to everyone soon to encourage as many as possible to come to the reunion. Hope to see you next May!”

**1976** **Jamie Habecker '76** shares the passing of her mother, Martha Ann “Marty” Habecker, who taught second grade in Westtown’s Lower School for 20 years. See her obituary under “Former Faculty/Staff on page 71.”

**Anne Hanson '76** reports that her book, *Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank*

and *Ida*, has been published. She describes the book as “a true-life mystery about my quest to discover the hidden past that my grandparents Frank and Ida took to their graves. When I finally unearthed their real identities, I learned that their tales were lies invented to conceal disturbing facts.” Tom Woodward, who taught English at Westtown for forty-four years, and “who I was fortunate enough to have for senior English,” said of *Buried Secrets*, “I find [it] a rich journey through one family’s history...It is concurrently a mystery story, a social history, and an examination of family complexities, for starters. Perhaps the core of this story, the glue that holds it together, is the narrator’s reflection, ‘I have learned that the price of a deep and profound love is an equally deep pain upon its loss.’ Its celebration of love even in difficult circumstances is powerful.” *The Akron Beacon Journal* says, “*Buried Secrets* is as suspenseful as a detective novel.” *Kirkus Reviews* called her book “an intriguing journey through the world of genealogical sleuthing,” and *Buried Secrets* was the *Twin Cities Pioneer Press Literary Pick of the Week* for January 22, 2023. If you would like to learn more about *Buried Secrets*, visit [www.annehanson.com](http://www.annehanson.com). The book is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [Barnes & Noble](http://Barnes & Noble).



**1977 Guy Williams '77** writes, “Hey class of '77, great seeing some of you [last year] during our 45th! I happened by our Ol' high school home for the alumni basketball game in January. Abundant memories of that cool, crisp winter air in the '70s, sharing fun times together. Wow...history is well preserved and she's in great hands! Looking to see if anyone has heard from any of these Westonians: **Brian Kelly '77**, **Chris Fox '77**, **Ramona Schubert '78**, and **Jackie Butcher '79**. If anybody's in touch, share my email address, I'd like to check in with some of them. I'm in Lumberton, New Jersey. Enjoying an occasional show in Philly,



Class of 1978. Top Row: Thomas Haviland, Jonathan Crossette, Julie van Roden, Eric Stonestrom, Holly Harper, Mercedes Kronfeld Jordan, Penelope Morris Kelley, John Doan. Middle Row: James Cofer, Susan Chase Nye, Margaret Moroff, Lori Marsden, Peter Cross, Elizabeth Carlson, Michael Renda. Front Row: Maxwell Ziluca, Robert Toland, Tanya Reiner English, Becca Pratt, David Backus.

playing a little golf, and loving my Philadelphia Eagles.”

**1978 Hanno “Adam” Beck '78** writes, “[I] completed [my] PhD in Linguistics last summer and am now a professor at the University at Buffalo. It took a while, but I'm happy to get my career underway.”

**Margaret Thom '78** writes, “In February, my husband and I visited my sister, **Rachel Thom Haverkos '80**, and her husband in Arizona. In March, I went to Philadelphia for work, visiting **Sandy Bak Baggot '80** and other cousins. In June, Brian and I celebrated our anniversary with a trip to New York City. Warm wishes to my former schoolmates.”

**1979 Paul Savage '79** writes, “My wife, Fay, and I plan to move back to New York from Michigan over the next year, putting us closer to our daughter Betty, who'll be a sophomore in the fall. Our other three are college girls in New York City, Charleston, and Santa Clara. I had a wonderful visit to campus and First Day Meeting a week before Alums Day, and it was fantastic; sorry I couldn't get there for the big event this year.”

**Kevin Moore '79** writes, “Our daughter Elise is expecting our second grandson in



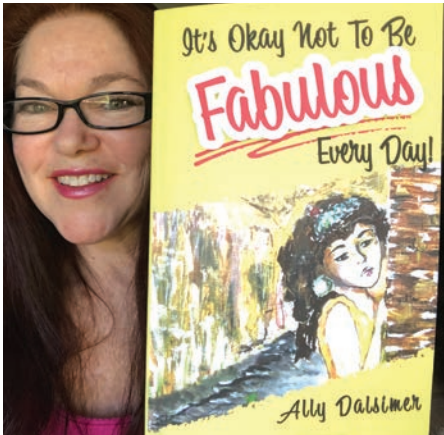
The family of Paul Savage '79 from last Christmas, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan



Cameron Hall '80 with Bruce Harrison '81 at dinner in Seattle

September, joining his cousin Julian, son of our older daughter Daniele and now five years old. The joys of grandparenthood cannot be overstated!”

**1981 John Huntington '81** writes, “After 24 years of teaching at CityTech (CUNY) I have taken the opportunity to retire early! I also used my final leave to write a new



Proud mama, Ally Dalsimer '82, with her first "baby"

book, Introduction to Show Control. I'm off storm chasing and paddling the Grand Canyon and then back this summer and, for the first time in my life, have no plans (and no paycheck). It's scary and exciting."

**1982** Ally Dalsimer '82 writes, "Hi, fellow Westonians! My latest news is that in May I joined classmates **Kat Yeh '82**, **Beau Whitehill '81**, and no doubt many others as a published author. *It's Okay Not to Be Fabulous Every Day!* is my first, but hopefully not my last, book. Fingers crossed. So sorry to have missed the most recent reunion but look forward to seeing folks in 2024!"

**Josh First '82** writes, "I occasionally drive by Westtown and rejoice that the campus itself has not changed too much since I graduated in 1982. The surrounding landscape is under tremendous development pressure, and I like seeing the local land trusts try to conserve every acre possible. Westtown's embrace of 'wokeism' is worrisome, because that is about indoctrination and not developing critical thinking skills. A top notch education is about knowing and analyzing all the important angles, not discarding them because of feelings. The education I received from the old Quakers was the best possible, and I hope Westtown returns to that highest of standard."

**1983** Westtown class of '83 reveled in a sentimental weekend reconnecting with friends/



The class of 1983 at their Friday evening reunion



Class of 1983. Top Row: Joshua Goldman-Brown, William Sharples, Christopher Sharples, Paul Young, Daniel Striedieck, Richard Engler, Russell Norment, Eve Kipp Herrick, Rebecca Basch, Nathan Bohn. Middle Row: William Starr, Christopher Wills, Allison Mahoney Conkin, Buxton Midyette, Marion Van Arkel Dear, Sheran Pittman Honneyman, Stephanie Kasten, Tracy Charles Jackson, Susan Chase N'Garnim. Front Row: Matthew Chin, Kirstie Miller Wills, Jerrold Hoberman, Betsy Hepps Pinsky, Kristine Hoag, Hannah Shakespeare, Delphine Taylor, Marshall Runkel, Lotta Larelius '84.

Friends for our 40th Reunion. More than 33 alums and their spouses kicked off the weekend on Friday evening with a Mexican food truck and Rita Specials at the home of our generous hosts, **Betsy Hepps Pinsky '83** and Ronald Pinsky. On Saturday morning, at the Memorial Meeting for Worship, we reminisced about our cherished **Ellen Wright Douglas Regan '83** and **Jill Kaat Kandel '83**, with heartfelt wishes that all our beloved classmates will Rest in Peace. Alums then gathered at the annual Westtown Alums Association Meeting and having been dubbed "Most Fun Class" by **Carlos Diaz '82** on Friday night, the Class of '83 brought the energy with an enthusiastic traveling WAVE during the roll call of the decades. The



Carol Wetherill Goldstein '86 with her daughter Ella Goldstein '23 at Commencement



Class of 1988. Top Row: Michael Wagner, Joshua Gross, Nathan Walbe, Jonathan Ogle. Front Row: Fleet Temple, Celina Tio, Joseph Montgomery, Heather Burt, Amy Louise Binkley Chandler.

audience was gifted with a creative and humorous living history lesson, with a surprise visit from Wyeth's 100-year-old *The Giant* (aka **Bob Batley '81**).

Saturday evening, we enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner at Radley Run in West Chester, Pennsylvania. **Nathan Bohn '83** paused our dinner festivities by acknowledging several of our '83 classmates, who are currently engaging with Westtown in notable ways, specifically as members of the Board of Trustees: **Buxton Midyette '83**, as Associate Clerk of the Westtown Alums Board: **Tracy Charles Jackson '83**, as Westtown Faculty, Administration and/or Staff: **Nathan Bohn '83**, **Marion Van Arkel Dear '83**, **Jamie Richie '83**, **Kirstie Miller Wills '83**, **Chris Wills '83**, and as talented Architects who designed the innovative space for the Dining Hall and Arts Center: **William Sharples '83** and **Christopher Sharples '83**. We are truly grateful for **Kris Batley '81**, our Westtown Alums Office liaison, and three class organizers: **Sheran Pittman Honneyman '83**, **Allison Mahoney Conkin '83**, and **Betsy Hepps Pinsky '83**, who planned a delightfully nostalgic weekend of bonding. *Submitted by Tracy Jackson '83*

**Marion Dear '83** writes, "I loved seeing my classmates. At the Memorial Meeting for Worship, my mother, **Anne van Arkel '54**, sat with me along with my field hockey team buddies. She was honored. I was delighted to be back with

my tribe. We lost a classmate (a midfielder) so we spoke about how much we love her."

**1989** On May 5, 2023 the National Education Association Foundation had their annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, DC. In attendance were **Reed Scott-Schwalbach '94** and **Aaron Chapin '89**. Reed is the president of the Oregon Education Association and Aaron is the incoming president for the Pennsylvania State Education Association. *Submitted by Aaron Chapin '89*

**Miriam Elliott '89** writes, "Aloha e, fellow 89ers! Looking forward to seeing as many of you as can attend at our 35th reunion next spring. This summer marks 34 years since my family landed here in Hawai'i Nei. It's still sometimes hard for me to fathom that I have lived in the islands for nearly twice as long as I did on the Continent. Please feel free to reach out should you ever have the chance to visit the island of O'ahu. I now live in our vibrant Downtown/Chinatown neighborhood, and absolutely love it. My new address is: 1270 Queen Emma Street #801, Honolulu HI 96813. A hui hou!"

**Carmen Niethammer '89** writes, "After more than 30 years of having called the United States my home base, I finally made it back to Europe. I joined the European Investment Bank (the European Union's lending arm) almost



Aaron Chapin '89 at the Salute to Excellence in Education Gala

two years ago. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which I call my home now, continues to surprise and amaze me. Culturally, much reminds me of my native Germany. Then again, there is the unique Luxembourgish and French that makes this such a fabulous place."

**1993** **Mac James '93** writes of the 30th reunion, "The class of 1993 kicked off its 30th reunion at Levante Brewing Company on Friday night. The music was great although we all agreed that it was too loud. (You may be getting older if you think the music was too loud!) I was not the only one coming in from out of state (South Carolina), with **Alex Brandon '93** traveling from Texas, **Chris Knight '93** from Hawaii, and on Saturday, **Ben Evans '93** down from Massachusetts. At school Saturday, we had an even bigger crowd with **Heather Moore Devine '93**, **Dominic Mambu '93**, and **Reynold Williams '93**, sharing the campus with their families. Sadly, **Mariana Osorio '93**'s son was under the weather, but we're looking forward to meeting him next time. Pennsylvania folks **Liz Webb Rach '93**, **Josh Feissner '93**, **Erica Broennle Nelson '93**, **Leticia Weber '93**, and **Drew Jennings '93** rounded out our gatherings, plus **Joe Hampel '93** dropped in for a Saturday night appearance at Locust Lane Craft Brewery. In addition to our

CLASS NOTES



Class of 1993. Top Row: Kerry DiGiacomo, Josh Feissner, Drew Jennings, Dominic Mambu, Reynold Williams, Christopher Knight, Alexander Brandon. Front Row: Christopher Smedley, Erica Broennle Nelson, Mac James, Ben Evans, Leticia Weber, Mariana Ramirez Osorio, John James

classmates, we were happily joined by **Ariel Hansen '96**, **Denise Chiu '94**, **Clayton Coltman '92**, and **Tobin Bickley '92**. Other special guests included friends Norman Robinson, Tim Jones, Julie Broennle, **Jay Farrow '75**, and Al Freedman. Also special thanks to **Kerry DiGiacomo '93**, **Chris Smedley '93**, and **John James '93** who helped to coordinate a great reunion weekend! Videos were taken but they have all been destroyed in order to protect the innocent.”

**Marc Scattergood '93** writes, “My family and I finally made a big jump after almost 25 years on the West Coast and moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, in July of 2022. Our son, at age eight, is living a life that seemed so common as a boarding student at Westtown, attending Copenhagen International, with a student body from all over the world. While Copenhagen won’t be our last stop, we expect to be in Europe for a long time. Please reach out if we’ve fallen out of touch! mscattergood@gmail.com.”

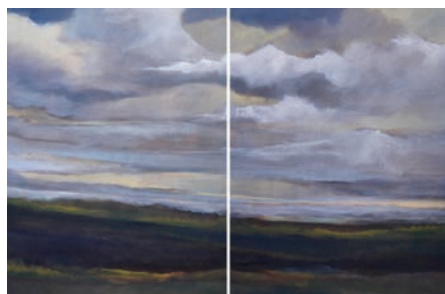
**Victoria Stone-Cadena '93**, “I was so sorry to miss the reunion this year! It blows my mind that I was 15 years old when I first landed at Westtown and it’s been 30 since we graduated. I remember being on campus when these reunions

happened and it seemed so implausible that we would ever get that old (even though I’m sure **Leticia Weber '93** and I came up with mischief plans for that, too). I am so grateful for the time spent there and all the memories we made, pre-internet/cell phone/social media, because boredom spawned the most creative fun. Westtown really was a life-changing experience. It was great to see the photos, especially all the old pics on our Facebook page, thank you again for sharing. My family recently moved to New Haven where I started work at Yale’s Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration. Our twin boys, Lucas and Mason, are creeping closer to 13 years old. Hoping everyone is well and look forward to reading your updates. If you are ever in the New Haven area, drop me a line (vsmalave@gmail.

com) and we can grab a coffee or some of the infamous pizza here (though I’m still partial to a NY/NJ slice). I would love to connect with folks.”

**1994 Jennifer MacCollum '94** writes, “I have settled into my new home in Portland with my kids after a year of transition and it feels great. Recently had Reyes visit from DC and a small get together with Reed, **Ben Chaffin '94** and myself; was great fun! Looking forward to our 30th next year. Really hope a lot of friends will attend!”

**1996 Ariel Hansen '96** writes, “I just completed a Master’s Degree in Science Writing (MA) from Johns Hopkins’ Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, and



Exhalation Diptych - oil on canvas 60x40” 2023 by Cari Adams Saenger '97



Class of 1998 at the Bierhaus on the Friday of Alums Weekend



Class of 1998. Top Row: Sony John, Eider Moore, William Starr, Andrew Rafter, Toby Snedecor, John Bowdle, Kevin Robinson. Middle Row: Booke Beesley, Malik Wright, Justin Barnard, Hannah Lewbel, Mark Mansur, Gulielma Fager, Laura Bennett, Margaret Hudgings Niiler. Front Row: Maria Barboza, Jennifer Diaz, Leigh James Castanos.



Class of 2003. Top Row: Odysseus Chairetakis, Karl Vela, Victor Garcia, Zach Kopchak, Scott Broussard. 2nd Row: Justin Danneker, Ronald Gomez, Sarah Evans, Becca Broussard, Chris Moore, Ben Backup. 3rd Row: Sean McEvoy '02, Margot Cavin, Amira Crowder-Cummings, Andy Davis, Tucker O'Donnell, Katherine Flood, Katharine Frysinger McEvoy, Gwen McEntee Kaplan. Front Row: Kelly Cunningham McRae, Stephanie Reaves, Alex Kaplan '00

am seeking a position in communications for a company or nonprofit in the Seattle area that focuses on the biological sciences or a related field.”

**1997** **Cari Adams Saenger '97** writes, “I have an exhibition of my paintings in Washington, D.C. in September. Please come by if you are in town! Details: Caroline Adams - Elevation - New Work September 8 - October 7, 2023 - Opening reception Saturday, September 9 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Calloway Fine Art and

Consulting 1643 Wisconsin Ave NW Washington, DC 20007.”

**1998** The class of '98 had a strong turnout and a great weekend thanks to the planning of **Leigh James Castanos**, **Sony** and **Sissy John**, and **Jaimie Rock**. We met Friday night at Bierhaus, canoed and walked the campus on Saturday, and had a party at the Johns' home on Saturday. Some highlights of what classmates have been up to: **Will Starr** is hosting a podcast, the Last Action Critics, reviewing movies;



Tadeo and Olivia Paz-Honore holding hands (5 mo)



Current D'Ignazio '08 and CP Rahe as newlyweds on Pink Sand Beach

**Justin Moynihan** is making a movie about backflips on roller-skates, featuring music from classmate **Eliza Hardy Jones** and other alums; Leigh and her family are living on B2; **Brendan Mahon** and his family are (still) at George School (boo); and **Brooke Beesley** continues to dazzle as a burlesque performer. More photos online via our class Facebook group. Several of us met at Meeting for Worship on Sunday and got to see T. TJ, Ernie, T. Pete Lane, and others. It was a great weekend and we look forward to seeing people in '28! *Submitted by Gulielma Fager '98*

**2000** **Jamie Shinn '00** writes, “I recently moved to Syracuse with my husband Sean and our 3-year-old daughter Matilda, where I am teaching Environmental Studies at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). I'm looking forward to hosting visitors to Central New York and connecting with other Westonians in the area!”

CLASS NOTES



Class of 2008. Top Row: Caitlin Rothenberg, Allison Shepherd, Kate Costa, Ian Hutton, Killian Nelson, Andrew Currie, Nicholas Char. Front Row: Melissa McCourt, Willa Caughey, Wynne Lewis, Peter Winslow, Molly Lang, Marcella Houghton, Lucas Braun, Ruby Fairchild, Robbie Bean



Top L-R: Sean McEntee '09, Daniel (Miller) Breimhurst '09, Madelaine (Fye) Breimhurst '09, Becky Evans Marvil '76, Hannah Graf Evans Reynolds '10 (bride), David Reynolds (groom), Jeremy Graf Evans '14, Bruce Evans '75, Jonathan Evans '73 (former faculty, father of bride) Bottom L-R: Melissa Graf-Evans (FF, mother of bride), Fred Crumrine '72 (FF), Nan Evans Beesley '68, Tim Evans '66, Caitlin Hepps Keeney '10, Kathryn Metzker '10, Elizabeth Metzker '08, Toni Evans (P '03), Rachel Graf Evans '08, Arthur Evans '76, Judy Nicholson Asselin '72 (FF), Denis Nicholson Asselin (FF) Also in attendance: Cindy Evans Trueblood '74 and Peter Trueblood '73

**2002 Fabiola Paz '02** married Augustine Honore on March 26, 2021. It was a true pandemic wedding all via Zoom. Most recently, the couple expanded their family with twins. Thaddeus (Tadeo in Spanish) and Olivia Rose Paz-Honore born on December 8, 2022. Parents and babies are doing well despite the heat in Austin, Texas. They welcome visitors if you are in the area.

**2003 Katrina Rogachevsky '03** writes, "I am back living in Philly after almost 20 years away,

and working in civil rights litigation in NYC. I was very sorry to miss our recent reunion, but would love to catch up with anyone who is in the area! It was wonderful to see the photos of everyone gathered with all of your beautiful kids and partners, and I hope to see everyone at the 25th!"

**2007 Katie Warther '07** writes, "I moved back to Philadelphia after traveling around to complete my medical training. I now work as a pediatrician at a private practice in Center City. I now have two (!)

children: Ada who is 2 and Alfie who just turned 5 months old. My husband and I love living in Bella Vista. Come have a hoagie with us if you're in the area!"

**2008 Current D'Ignazio '08** happily announces her wedding to CP Rahe on April 22, 2023 in Harbour Island, Bahamas.

**Shani Gaylord '08** received her Doctorate of Education from Liberty University on May 11, 2023.

**2010 Hannah Graf Evans Reynolds '10** married





Top Row: Taryn McFadden, Meredith Hudson, Jamie Catania. Front Row: Hyun Ah Kim, Ploi Boonsoong, Think Tran.



Wedding of Raquel Paramo '13



Westonians at the wedding of Think Tran '13. From left: HuongAnh Nguyen '12, Think Tran '13, Nghiem Huynh, Linh Truong '13

David Reynolds on December 31, 2022, in Crossville, Tennessee. It is an understatement to say that Westtown was well represented (twenty-three pictured)!

**2011 Emmanuel Parke Arthur '11** writes, "I am grateful for life before, during, and after graduation from Franklin and Marshall College and Westtown School. I have



Lisa Cromley,CF, Bruce Harrison '81, and Anna Harrison '18 at Stanford's MBA graduation for David Harrison '13.

been a teacher of English, French, mathematics, and the sciences. I have been an electrician. I have been a mechanical engineering apprentice. I have been a carpenter. And currently, I am the CEO of Emmanuel Consult, which empowers start-ups in Ghana to manage their finances. I am here mining on my own turf, passing on the torch and paying it forward. It is my dream to invest in building guest houses comme dit en Français 'auberge de jeunesse' as real estate projects on land that belongs to my mother, Felicia, to host my American host families and friends if you ever decide to come here. In the near future perhaps since I will be getting married before the end of this year either in August or December. Come next year, I will also be running a nonprofit registered in Ghana, Friends Society of Learners, with the vision of passing down the torch and paying it forward. God bless America and my homeland, Ghana. God bless my friends and my family for your generosity and all the goodness and mercies that follow all the days of our lives. Amen. PS. My learners refer to me as Father Emmanuel."

**2013 Think Tran '13** writes, "My husband Nghiem



Mekhi Bryant '16, brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Naomi Jiménez '16, employee of the Philadelphia School District, worked together to help high school students register to vote.

Huynh and I celebrated our wedding in Ho Chi Minh City and Ben Tre, Vietnam, on December 24, 2022, with our families and friends. I was overjoyed and grateful to have two of my closest friends from Westtown, **HuongAnh Nguyen '12** and **Linh Truong '13**, as my bridesmaids in the celebration. After the wedding, we

## CLASS NOTES

returned to the U.S. where we currently split our time between New Haven, Connecticut, and New York, New York, to complete the final stretch of our PhDs.”

The wedding of **Raquel Paramo '13** and Steve Richheimer in March 2023 was attended by classmates **Rachel Wortmann '13**, **Katie Keys '13**, **Lizzy Kim '13**, and **Bo Kim '13**.

**2018** Alums Weekend was an incredible opportunity to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about our cherished memories. One of the highlights was seeing Jay [Farrow], who welcomed us and caught up with us at great length. It was heartwarming to catch up with him and express our gratitude for his guidance and support during our time on the team. Another joyous reunion was with our classmate **Kevin Wang**, who has since thrived over his time in Pittsburgh. We had a fantastic time exchanging stories, sharing laughter, and marveling at how far we've all come. The evening was filled with nostalgia, laughter, and a sense of community that reminded us of the unforgettable bonds we forged at Westtown. It was truly a memorable experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with everyone. *Submitted by Andrew Mutch '18*

### FORMER FACULTY

**Martha Ann “Marty” Habecker**, 89, passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023 at Moravian Manor in Lititz, Pennsylvania. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Marty was the daughter of the late Elmer Kreider and Martha Snavely Cope. Marty was preceded in death by her husband, James Habecker, who passed away in April 2008. Marty graduated from Hempfield High School and the Women's College of the University of North Carolina. Marty taught second grade at Westtown School for 20 years—from 1969 to 1989. Always an avid reader, Marty volunteered at the Landsdowne, Pennsylvania, Public Library and at the Lititz Public Library for over 20 years, serving as a Trustee from 2002 through 2004. In addition to reading, Marty



Class of 2018. Top Row: Cameron Bream, William Roberts, Wiley Mutch, Kevin Wang. Front Row: Alex Taylor, Danil Meresenschi, Carter Dear, Jonathan Moldoff.

enjoyed gardening and traveling with her family to Stone Harbor, New Jersey, Folly Beach, South Carolina, Oxford, Maryland, the Caribbean, Carmel, California, Aspen, Colorado, and a group trip to Russia and Poland in 1977. Marty is survived by her son, **Kent Habecker**, and his wife, Liz, of Lancaster; her daughter, Jamie Habecker '76, of Richmond, Virginia; her granddaughters, Sara Habecker, married to Tim Asselin of Boston, Massachusetts, Annie Habecker and Laura Habecker both of New York City; and her brother, John Cope, and his wife, Helen, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Marty's brother, Samuel Cope, formerly of Fort Smith, Arizona passed away in 2019.

**Robert (Bob) William Connolly**, loving husband and father, passed away on January 18, 2023. Bob was Westtown's Business Manager/CFO from 1997-2010. Prior to that, he served as a member of Westtown's General Committee, now the Board of Trustees. Bob and his wife Ginny's two children, **Read '06** and **Candace '09** are both Westtown “lifers.”

Bob grew up in Staten Island, NYC, before moving to Camp Hill, PA. He graduated from Penn State University and attended graduate school at Villanova University in the field of Psychology. After years working in the social service industry he gravitated to a career in academia working as CFO of Westtown

School, PA, and Millbrook School, NY.

During his time working at the Harrisburg State Hospital, he met his wife, Virginia, while she was doing an internship. They were married for 50 years, and raised two children.

Bob had many interests, including cycling, music, baking, woodworking, and vacationing at the Outer Banks, North Carolina, with his family.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Beatrice Connolly. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, son Read (Kristen), daughter Candace, and his four sisters: Ellen (Jack), Bernadette (Stuart), Patty Ann (Tony), and Jean.

# From the Archives

# 1923



N.C. Wyeth's *The Giant* came to Westtown School 100 years ago, in June 1923. The Class of 1910 commissioned the painting in memory of their classmate, William "Bill" Engle, who died of tuberculosis at the age of 25. An artist himself, classmates later said that between classes Engle "was always out with brush and palette, painting about the countryside." After graduating from Westtown, he studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and studied with N.C. Wyeth. *The Giant* reflects Engle's great love of the sea, born of the summers he spent in Beach Haven, New Jersey. The Wyeth family also made summer visits to Beach Haven. The children in the scene are modeled on Wyeth's five children, with Engle represented by the young man in the white hat. With the exception of a few loans, *The Giant* has spent most of the past 100 years hanging in the Dining Room, where the Westtown community and visitors continue to enjoy its presence.



SAVE THE DATE

# Alums Weekend

MAY 17 - 19, 2024

