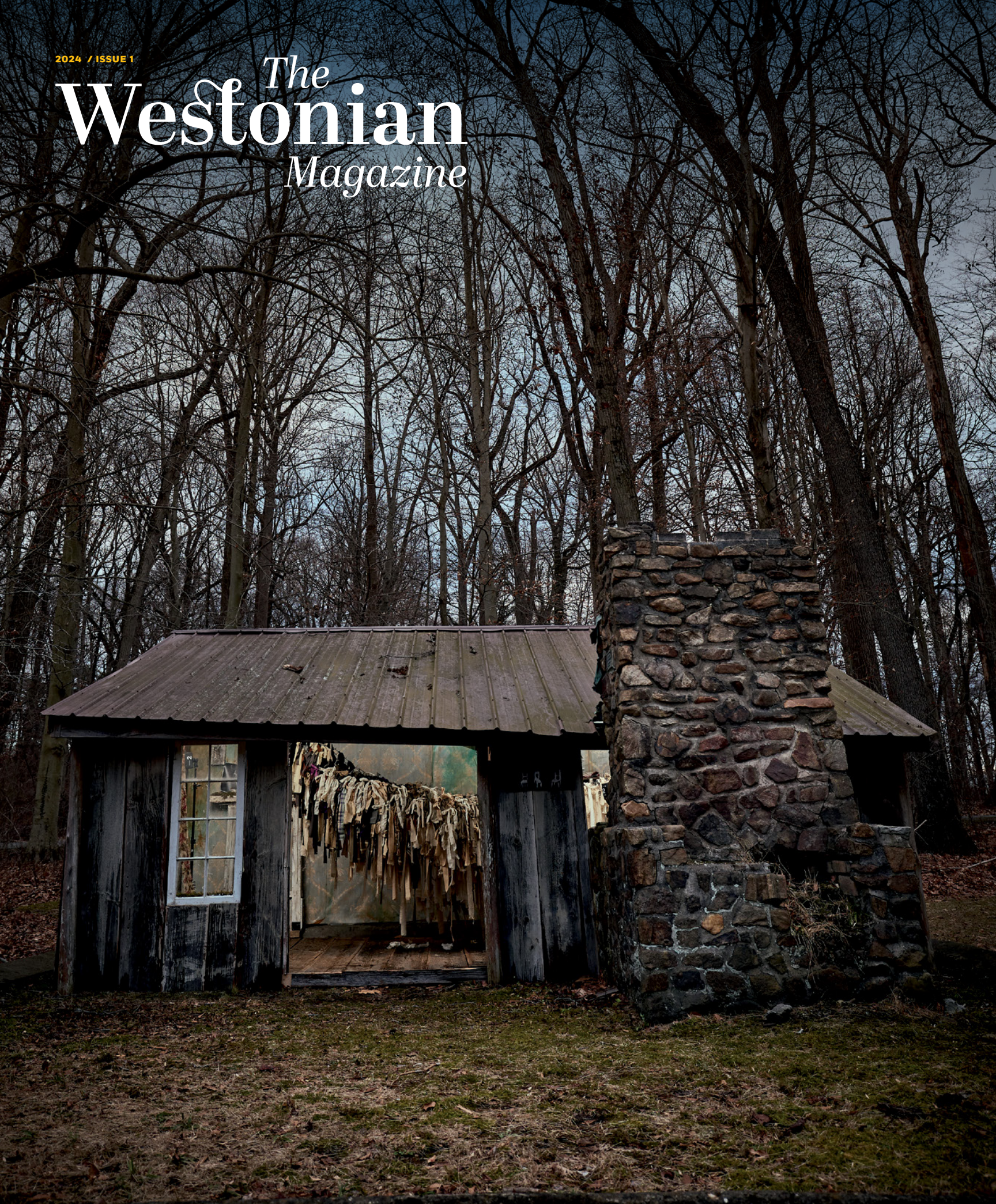



2024 / ISSUE 1

The Westonian Magazine





We welcome letters to the editor. You may send them to our home address or to westonian@westtown.edu.

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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.


Our Unique and Common Experiences



“While every one of our Westtown journeys and experiences is inherently unique—as are we—I am often moved to hear the common themes in the way this community prepared us for the wider world.”

Last May on the Saturday afternoon of Alums Weekend, I found myself standing on sunny Raiford Field with a former advisee catching up about our respective journeys and families, Westtown and otherwise. In this conversation, he passed along an observation he had once heard a psychologist make: that “no two people grow up in the same house or in the same family.” This notion has stuck with me, as it is both literally untrue and figuratively essential. Siblings do, of course, often grow up under the same roof, with the same people, at the same time. We also know, though, that they have different relationships with each other and their parents and that they may experience the same moments and interactions very differently from one another. Crucially, we know that these differences in lived experience can profoundly shape who they become and how they move through the world well into adulthood.

If you are reading this, it is reasonable to assume that you—as I—have a close connection to Westtown School, likely even that you or someone you love grew up in Westtown’s house of red bricks and family of Quaker spirit, intellectual engagement, and remarkable human beings—peers and adults alike. While many of the particulars of our outer experience would have been determined by our Westtown era, much about our inner experience was as likely shaped by who we were, what we carried with us, and how we experienced others during our years here. Did any two of us grow up in the same Westtown? Maybe, maybe not. There are similar temporal distances between the Westtown of World War II, the Westtown I knew as a student in the 1980s, and the Westtown of today. Still, I have been fascinated to discover that my experience may share as much with Westonians who preceded me by four decades and Westonians who are students now as with my very own classmates. While every one of our Westtown journeys and experiences is inherently unique—as are we—I am often moved to hear the common themes in the way this community prepared us for the wider world. This resonance of impact across the years is a gift Westtown offers all of us, and recognizing that is a gift we can give back.

So, I extend an invitation: I would very much welcome hearing from you about your specific Westtown experience. If you have a moment, please email me at HOS@westtown.edu. Who were you when you were closest to Westtown? How did your experience shape who you’ve become? How has your connection to this community influenced the ways you have navigated the world? What else would you like me to know about your experience of this school we share? I know I will learn from your reflections, and I know they will inform my own Westtown journey in the years to come. I look forward to hearing from you. 

News from Around 'Town

UPPER SCHOOL FALL PLAY

The Upper School Fall Play, *Move Fast and Break Things* by Mark Galarrita, was commissioned by Westtown School. This play began development with theater students in the spring of 2022. In this contemporary comedy, a group of teens enter a competition to create the next world-changing app. Their intentions are good but the consequences are unexpected.

The play featured 25 students on and offstage, and senior Ali Unrath designed costumes for this production. Galarrita visited the campus for the performances and met with students during his stay. Our thanks to playwright Mark Galarrita, Alex Ates, Director of Pre-K-12 Visual and Performing Arts, and all of the students who worked on this production. Well done!



See more photos
from the production:





Storytelling & Performance Class Podcast

This year, teacher Alex Ates, Director of Pre-K-12 Visual and Performing Arts, introduced a new course entitled Storytelling and Performance, which included a Story Slam at an assembly. Students in the course also created a podcast. The episodes have audio of the stories and field recordings of the students exploring topics in their stories. These field recordings include a trip to the observatory, a hot sauce challenge in the Dining Room, interviews with Teacher Jay Farrow and Farmer Tim Mountz, a campus ghost hunt, an interview with a third grader, and a visit to see campus dogs in the Athletics Office and Teacher Chris Wills' dog, Ketchup. We invite you to have a listen at above QR code above!

SEVENTH GRADERS MEET WITH AUTHOR AMY SARIG KING

Students in teacher Abby Lausch's seventh grade English class had the wonderful opportunity to have a conversation with Amy Sarig King, author of *Attack of the Black Rectangles*, which they read in class. The students are having conversations about censorship and access to books. Lausch shares, "We've talked about lists of books that are banned in some schools and reasons why, and students have reflected (in writing) on whether they agree with this censorship. We are focusing mostly on the activism that we read about in the book and are learning persuasive communication skills. In the novel, the main character and friends write persuasive letters, protest in their town, and speak at school board meetings. We are practicing all of those same

skills: practicing debates, preparing presentations for a school board/town council meeting, and writing persuasive letters. We will also be doing some research about young activists in the real world and studying some of their strategies." It was an engaging visit with Sarig King and she spent time answering students' questions.



SHOEMAKER VISITING LECTURER

Patricia Park

We were honored to welcome author Patricia Park as our first Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer of the school year in September. Park is a tenured professor of Literature at American University, Fulbright scholar in Creative Arts, Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, and author of the debut young adult novel, *Imposter Syndrome & Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim*, which some students chose for their summer reading. She is also the author of the acclaimed adult novel, *Re Jane*, a Korean American reimagining of Brontë's *Jane Eyre* named Editors' Choice by *The New York Times Book Review*; Best Books of 2015 by

American Library Association; *O, The Oprah Magazine* pick; NPR "Fresh Air" pick; and others. She has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Guardian*, *Salon*, and others.

After an engaging lecture on Monday evening, Park had breakfast with some faculty members on Tuesday morning, then met with students to talk about the book, the writing process, identity, and imposter syndrome. She also met with students in the Asian Student Association and Multiracial Student Union. It was a wonderful visit and we were thrilled to host the Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer Series once again.



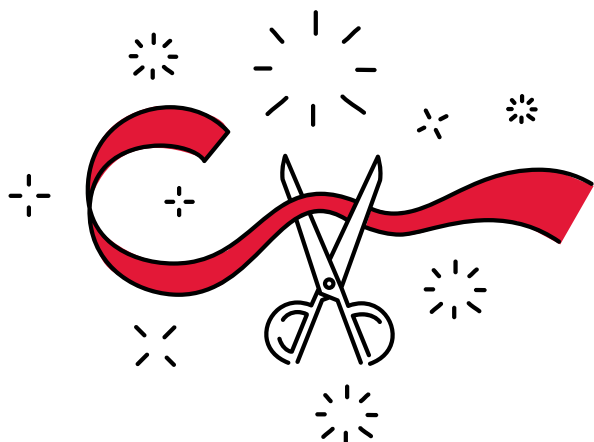
"I want to tell these untold stories of overlooked communities because they deserve to be told."

FIFTH GRADERS

Travel to Echo Hill

Experiential learning is an important part of the Lower School curriculum, and fifth graders have the opportunity for hands-on learning, exploring nature and ecosystems off campus, and team building in their annual trips to Echo Hill. Echo Hill is an outdoor education camp by the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland that houses, feeds, and educates students. During our fifth graders' trip to Echo Hill, they engaged in canoeing, ecology classes, learning survival skills, studying the bay ecosystem, and more. Over three days and two nights, our students have experiences that allow them to build their independence, learn about themselves and classmates, and do things they may have never done before. Some of the highlights included night hiking, learning about the bay—and kissing fish! See more from their adventures at this QR code!





Staats House Ribbon Cutting



On November 3, 2023, members of the community—including classmates and friends of Barbara and Allan Staats '56—gathered for the dedication and ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Allan and Barbara Staats House. After a welcome from Anne Roche, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, Head of School Chris Benbow and Dean of Advancement Ellen Urbanski addressed the gathering. Once Benbow cut the ribbon, the Advancement team hosted a reception and open house.

Formerly known as the Lane House, the building was completed in 1920 to be used as a faculty residence. It has remained primarily a space for faculty and staff housing, and most recently served as a second health center during the pandemic. “And now, friends,” shared Head of School Chris Benbow at the ceremony, “it is the Allan and Barbara Staats House! As many of you know, Allan attended Westtown from 1953 to 1956, and he and Barbara were active in the life of the school for decades, visiting campus regularly for class reunions and other events, including Commencement in the Greenwood...Allan described

his deep appreciation for what Westtown taught him both as a student in the classroom and as a whole person. He noted that his years at Westtown were among his most memorable, and that he developed values and dispositions that grounded him throughout his life, including the critical importance of maintaining hope and positivity.”

The Staats have been tremendously generous to Westtown School over the years supporting the Westtown Fund, financial aid, capital projects, and several endowed funds. “Although we lost Allan in 2020 and Barbara in 2022, their legacy lives on,” shared Ellen

Urbanski, Dean of Advancement. “Through their estate, the Staats’ generosity is now providing additional support to financial aid, the endowment, the Center for the Living Arts, and the Staats House renovation. The Staats’ estate gift also provided resources for us to endow their annual Westtown Fund gift, which will support the Westtown community in perpetuity. Allan and Barbara understood the importance of community and took great pleasure in being with friends and family. In 2021, as we were preparing to honor his life during Alums Weekend, Barbara told me, ‘Allan loved Westtown and is smiling down on all of us knowing that his gifts bring joy to Westtown students, faculty and staff.’ While I do wish they were with us today, I imagine they are both smiling on us this afternoon and cheering on our work together on behalf of Westtown School.”

“Living and learning together—and from one another—is an essential ingredient of the Westtown experience,” continued Benbow. “The community we build here each and every year—each and every day, really—the lifelong connections we make, and the ways these experiences and relationships shape who we are and how we move through the world simply would not happen without the generosity and intention of people like Allan and Barbara. Financial support for our students and families remains one of our highest priorities, and as someone who has known some of the young people who have benefited directly from Allan and Barbara’s generosity, I also know how much Westtown has benefited from the gifts those young people bring, grow, and share with us daily. We are thrilled to have another welcoming community space on campus where we can connect alums, parents, guardians, grandparents, students, faculty, staff—all members of our community. When I look at this building, I will continue to think with gratitude of Allan and Barbara, of their generosity, and of the connections and community they continue to help make possible.” The Staats House will now serve as offices for the Advancement Department and as a welcoming entertainment and meeting space for the entire Westtown community. The next time you are on campus, we invite you to stop by the Staats House to see this wonderful space.

SEVENTH GRADE Canoe Trip

The beloved tradition of Middle School canoe trips, which now spans more than four decades, kicked off this year with the seventh grade’s trip to the Delaware Water Gap. Students prepared for the trip on campus before taking off on the water where they paddled well, developed new friendships, and laughed a lot! Director of Outdoor Education Chris Costa shared that they had beautiful weather and saw multiple Bald Eagles—including several that were circling over them during their floating Meeting for Worship. Students worked together to set up camp, cook dinner, practiced Leave No Trace principles, read maps, and navigated their canoes over 20 miles on the Delaware River. They were challenged and grew in many ways that will continue to strengthen their class and our community back at Westtown! We offer a special shout-out to the many enthusiastic teachers who accompany students on these trips, ensuring that they have a safe, educational, and fun experience.

See the entire gallery by using this QR code.



Lenape Elder John Thomas Visits Westtown

On Wednesday, October 11, Lenape Elder John Thomas of the Delaware Tribe of Indians visited Westtown School. This visit was a milestone in Westtown School's work of healing and reconciliation with the Lenape. For thousands upon thousands of years, the Lenape people lived in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, as well as parts of New York and Delaware. While the Lenape to the North spoke a Lenape dialect called Munsee, the southern Lenape, including those who lived on what is now the school's land, spoke Unami. The Lenape were driven off this land by European settlers in the sixteen and seventeen hundreds and experienced a series of eight forced removals between that time and the mid-1800s. As they became further removed from their homelands, other groups referred to the Lenape as the Delaware (in reference to their origins in the Delaware River Valley), and they eventually adopted Delaware nomenclature for themselves. While the Munsee-speaking Delaware ended up in Wisconsin and Ontario, the Unami speakers settled in Oklahoma.

Today, a number of different groups of people claim Lenape heritage, from communities in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Ontario to communities in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. These communities have different types of recognition—some are recognized at the federal level, others at the state level, and still others are pushing for recognition as tribal entities. Following a process of discernment, Westtown School is primarily engaging with the federally recognized groups, beginning with the Delaware Tribe of Indians, which is based in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The Delaware Tribe of Indians is one of five federally recognized Lenape nations, which also include Delaware Nation (Oklahoma), Stockbridge-Munsee Community (Wisconsin), and in Ontario, Delaware Nation of Moraviantown and Munsee Delaware Nation.

Elder John Thomas' visit included assemblies for our fourth through eighth graders and our Upper School students. He spoke about the traditions and history of the Lenape people, including gender roles in a matrilineal society, Lenape emphasis on respecting



the Earth, and Lenape customs around storytelling. He talked about his own upbringing, including the time he spent in a residential boarding school geared towards assimilating Indigenous children into mainstream U.S. society. With Upper School students, Elder John spoke passionately about some of his work with the American Indian Movement in the 1970s. He also discussed his current work on NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which focuses on the reburial of human remains that have been in the hands of museums, universities, and private collectors. He spoke, too, about current efforts in the Delaware Tribe to keep Lenape culture alive through teaching traditional language and crafts to Lenape youth.

Five Indigenous Middle and Upper School students and one Indigenous faculty member joined Elder John for lunch. Elder John also met with Head of School Chris Benbow for conversation and a walk to the lake. On the way, Elder John pointed at a few tulip poplars and remarked, "I see you have a few canoes growing here!" He graciously received several gifts from community members, a few of which included letters from some Upper School English classes that are studying Indigenous literature, and a beautiful book of cyanotypes of native flora, created by Middle Schoolers and Middle School art teacher Marta Willgoose Salo.

Elder John left campus emphasizing his delight and gratitude for the hospitality of the Westtown community. At Westtown, we are eager to continue building relationships with the descendants of the original inhabitants of the land.

—Louisa Egan Brad,
Dean of Equity, Justice, and Belonging



Lenape Day Celebration

Fourth grade spent the fall term learning about the Lenape people who were the first people to live on the land that is now our campus. The Lenape Celebration Day is an opportunity to honor and celebrate the Lenape, while enjoying the beauty of this campus. Students worked together to prepare food from ingredients (squash, beans, and corn) that the Indigenous people would have grown. They spent time in the woods building structures and canoeing on the lake. They also played traditional Lenape games in the Arboretum. Other campus activities included time on the ropes course, a cookout at the lake, a sunset Meeting for Worship, and making s'mores at the fire circle. See more photos from Lenape Day at the QR code. >>





LOWER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Students Dream Big

An exciting addition is coming to the Lower School: a new playground! Studio Ludo, a well-respected landscape architecture firm with certified playground safety inspectors and vast experience designing play spaces, including those for school environments, has been engaged for this project. As Lower School Principal Karyn Payton notes, “One of the draws for hiring this firm was their practice of engaging teachers and students in the pre-design phase. Studio Ludo and their partners have worked with us to develop their understanding of our Lower School community and play culture, and of our hopes and dreams. They will use the information gathered to inform their proposed designs. Beyond the installation of new play equipment, we are looking for an outdoor play space that reflects our divisional commitment to whole-body health and learning. A space that facilitates and broadens our students’ opportunities for social, cognitive, sensory, and motor growth and development. A space that fosters individual choice, resilience, healthy risk-taking, deepening social interactions, and of course, play, play, play!”

The folks at Studio Ludo have come to campus several times and have engaged faculty and students in pre-design activities to help in their understanding of our school culture and to capture the essence of play at Westtown. In the workshop for faculty, teachers recalled their favorite play memories from childhood, then they broke into small groups to gather a sense of what play means in this community.

Students were asked to draw their ideal play space based on the prompt questions: *What kind of adventures could you have here? If you could build anything, what would it be?* Then there was a design workshop in which each student built a 3D model of their ideal playground. The goal is to begin construction this summer.

You can see more photos of the students working on their designs at this QR code. >>



“A space that fosters individual choice,
resilience, healthy risk-taking,
deepening social interactions, and
of course, play, play, play!”

KARYN PAYTON, LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Students Take Action

In September, a group of Upper School students and teachers (below) went to New York City to join the March to End Fossil Fuels. The march occurred during President Biden's visit to the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit, where world leaders gathered to commit to phasing out fossil fuels. Supporters walked from Columbus Circle to the United Nations Headquarters, and the Westtown group stayed for speeches from climate leaders and activists.

Then in October, Westtown students, many who are involved Green Coalition, the student-led environment club and serve on our Sustainability Committee, along with teachers Jonathan Ogle '88, TJ Skulstad-Brown, and Lara Freeman, protested at the Malvern, Pennsylvania, offices of Vanguard. This youth climate action was organized by Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT). EQAT has been organizing for the last two years to demand that Vanguard, the top investor in fossil fuels, stop using their clients' money to destroy our climate and communities. At the protest, Westtown students and rival George School students joined together to protest for their common cause.



National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has recognized the following as Commended Students for their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT: (from left) seniors Peishan Huang, Maya Jain, Joey Kim, Jerry Li, Ly Nguyen, Ethan Shaman, Tony Wang, and Alena Zhang. “Those named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” says a spokesperson for the NMSC. “These students represent valuable national resources; recognizing their accomplishments as well as the key role their schools play in their development is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.” Please join us in congratulating these students on their outstanding achievement!



8TH GRADE
Morning of Service

Each January, our students participate in a Morning of Service. The day began with a workshop on leadership styles. Service projects included projects in the North Woods, the mini-farm, and the Center for the Living Arts, as well as cooking food for the Saint Agnes Day Room. Thank you to our 8th graders (and the 8th Grade faculty) for their excellent work.



Model UN

The students discussed solutions to a wide range of global issues, from the weaponization of AI to the Sudanese refugee crisis.

In mid-November, 21 students from the Model UN Club attended the Princeton Model United Nations Conference. The students took on the roles of delegates representing different countries and discussed solutions to a wide range of global issues, from the weaponization of AI to the Sudanese refugee crisis. They did a fantastic job and put to good use their skills at listening, collaboration, and creative problem-solving, all of which they are developing at Westtown.







INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ACCESS AND EQUITY CONFERENCE AND COLLEGE FAIR

More than 300 students and their families attended the Independent School Equity and Access Conference and College Fair. Since 2005, Westtown has hosted this biennial conference and college fair with a goal of creating space for substantive conversations with students and their families regarding issues of belonging, equity, access, inclusion, and allyship. The event had a variety of panel presentations, student-led discussions, and a college fair with almost 100 colleges represented. Thank you to Marje Ireland, Jay Farrow, our College Counseling team, guest panelists, and all who participated making this event such a success! And thanks, also, to student photographer Coco Chen '25 who captured images of this special day!



Students Demand Action

On November 3, Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony Williams '75 met with students for a Town Hall about gun control legislation as well as funding for education/access. The visit was proposed and organized by Tessa Kipnis '26 and Lucy Smith '26, club heads of the new Westtown School chapter of Students Demand Action with the support of Joseph Daniels, Chair of the History and Religion Department, who also serves as the club's faculty advisor. As Williams arrived on campus, he was greeted by Head of School Chris Benbow '90 and classmate Jay Farrow '75. Afterward, he spoke at two Town Hall sessions with students and answered questions.



ARTS AND ACTIVISM BOOK DRIVE

The 7th and 8th grade Arts and Activism class would like to share gratitude to our community for the tremendous success of this year's book drive for the Fairhill Community Center and their early literacy efforts. We collected **1,143 books!** Special thanks go to the Komarinski family and to teacher Heather Tannenbaum, our Lower School librarian, for their generosity.



Outdoor Ed Goes to the Mountains

Seven Upper School students, along with teachers Elson Blunt, Tom Berrian, and Director of Outdoor Education Chris Costa, traveled to the Delaware Water Gap for the Outdoor Education Fall Backpacking Trip. They hiked on a section of the Appalachian Trail with heavy packs on steep and rocky terrain. During their unplugged weekend, they learned how to live and travel in the backcountry including how to work within a group to set up camp, build a fire, protect their food from bears, navigate with a map and compass, and cook delicious food. Costa shared that despite the rain and cooler temperatures, students layered up and stayed positive while reflecting together and laughing a lot. They showed great leadership in their support for one another and their ability to meet and push their edges. And, she added, "All of the students expressed so much gratitude for the opportunity to challenge themselves in this way."



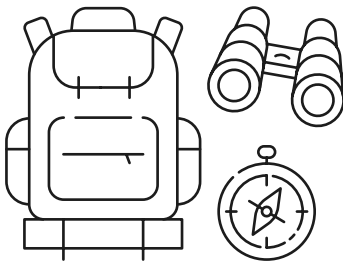
COMMUNITY BASKETBALL GAME

In early January, alums and community members gathered on Coach Downey Court for the annual Community Basketball Game. Team Giants took on Team Moose in a spirited game! It was great to have so many alums on campus!



They showed great leadership in their support for one another and their ability to meet and push their edges.

CHRIS COSTA



International Festival

The annual International Festival was a big success! The festival is an event organized by the International Student Organization to celebrate and learn about the diverse cultures that make up our community. Our students, families, and faculty representing 28 countries set up stations in the Main Hall offering snacks, games, presentations, and opportunities for connection and conversation.



You can see more photos taken by our student photographers Eric Li '24 and Will Wang '26 at this QR Code.



Visit our SmugMug gallery to see more photos that capture the life of the school. Some of the Upper School photos featured here and in our school galleries are courtesy of our student photographers: Coco Chen '25, Mira Hartmann '25, Eric Li '24, and William Wang '26.

The Alice Comfort Project

From afar, the “shack” near the bank of Westtown Lake looks much as it did more than one hundred years ago with its stone chimney rising above the tin roof. But come closer, and you will find a transformed space that beckons you to enter. Inside you will discover evocative pieces that weave together the past and present. You will find relics and enchanting objects of students of Westtown past. Listen closely and you can almost hear the voices of the girls who once played here. This space is not only something to see but also something to experience, as it arouses the senses, awakens memory, and stirs emotion.

Once known as the Camp House, the shack was constructed in 1921 by Westtown students. It later came to be known as the “Girls Camp Shack” where girls came to camp, socialize, and commune with nature. In the deft hands and creative mind of Katee Boyle, the McLearn Artist-in-Residence for 2023, it has been transformed into a “viewing room,” a place to look back through time.

Boyle uses a wide range of media in her work including drawing, painting, sculpture, metal forging, artifacts, photography, video, and writing. She is particularly interested in the relationship between memory and emotion, which is at the heart of this installation. Boyle began this project by working in partnership with Westtown’s Archives and archivist Chrissie Perella Clement. She was interested in artifacts from the nineteenth century and focused specifically on those from the school’s lake. During her research, Boyle came upon the 1911 journal of student Alice Comfort Bacon which inspired her to look through the lens of Alice’s experiences and to incorporate other students’ journal entries of the time.

The installation includes archival artifacts and objects made contemporarily which honor the past. Boyle forged spoons, keys, and jewelry because these objects were found on the lake bed when it

was dredged. She created period garments, worn by student dancers who performed at the site. The toy horses were inspired by Boyle’s discovery of a journal replete with sketches of equestrians.

The anchor of the installation is a boat constructed of wire and the fabric of period garments from students at the time (shown in the table of contents). One cannot also help but think of the long history of canoeing on the lake and canoe making here, and how canoes continue to be part of student life today. Boyle notes that canoeing on the lake was also a favorite pastime of Alice’s. The boat also has metaphorical significance, she says. “Westtown launches students into the world; all of us, we sink, swim, and float.”

In adapting the structure, Boyle maintained its integrity, considerate of the material history and etchings of student names on the lumber. She used vintage wallpaper, aged it with lime wash and paint, and scrubbed it with organic material from the site. Boyle added a floor to create a “kinesthetic auditory experience” as viewers tread through the location.

Boyle collaborated with several classes of Upper School students and Arts Department faculty members in her multidisciplinary exploration. They participated in creating objects, images, and performances integrated into the piece. These collaborations included projects with students in Digital Arts and Photography, Ceramics, Advanced Performing Arts Tutorial, Elements Dance Company, Scenic Arts Design, a cohort of students whom she taught blacksmithing, and student photographers.

Boyle invites spectators to interact with the installation and contribute items, both manufactured and natural, that they may find along Westtown School’s trails. Thus, she invites viewers to contribute to the story. “History wrote the beginning,” Boyle states. “The viewer will write the ending.” The installation will remain throughout the spring of 2024.





We invite you to see videos of the installation and of Boyle's work with students and arts faculty at this QR code.



Learn more about the Arts at www.westtown.edu/upper-school/arts

FIELDS & COURTS



See more sports updates online at www.westtown.edu/athletics



Fields & Courts

The **boys** and **girls soccer teams** both clinched Friends Schools League (FSL) Championships this fall! The field hockey team qualified for the FSL playoffs for the first time in four years, and our cross country runners set personal records this season. Finally, 24 students were named to the FSL All-League and Honorable Mention Teams, the highest representation from any Friends League school. Congratulations to all of our student-athletes for their outstanding efforts this fall season!





Center for the Living Arts Groundbreaking

On October 3, 2023, members of the Board of Trustees, donors, students, Visual and Performing Arts Department faculty, and community members gathered for the groundbreaking for the Center for the Living Arts (CLA). Anne Roche, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the gathering and Head of School Chris Benbow, Director of Pre-K-12 Visual and Performing Art Alex Ates, and ninth grader Jamila Burgos shared in the ceremony.

The groundbreaking marks the beginning of Phase III of the CLA renovation and expansion. During Phases I and II, renovations included creating a dedicated sculpture studio, a natural-light ceramics studio, and a reconfigured digital arts lab. The rehearsal spaces were revitalized, soundproof music practice rooms were created, and the green room and dressing rooms for theater productions were updated. The Barton-Test Theater received new wall finishes to sharpen acoustics, a new theatrical sound systems and lighting, HVAC installation, new catwalks, expanded storage and safety upgrades, and aesthetic renovations to the scene shop and costume storage areas.


Benbow shared, “The vision for this final phase of the renewal speaks to our collective belief in the importance of the arts at Westtown. It will tie the entire Center together by means of an exciting addition, replacing unused space with a stunning gallery, creating a formal visual arts wing, adding flex performance space, and common gathering areas. Alongside critical modifications for accessibility and an aesthetic upgrade of the building’s façade, we will take advantage of one of the most beautiful vistas on the Westtown campus with additional outdoor education space, tying the community together around the arts.”

Ates shared, “...this building will be state of the art and will be a testament to Westtown’s commitment to creative expression. However, it’s a building. What I’m most excited about are the experiences of living that this building will contain, elucidate, and catapult. The arts are a way of expressing our aliveness. At a school like Westtown, where we see folks grow through childhood, we see a lot of living. This building will center the art and the heart of all that living. Finally, I’ll note that our department has been intentional in preparing for this moment to ensure that everyday we center living arts...As a department, we have cleared and aligned our thinking to ensure that we’ll engage these new facilities with mission-driven zest.”



Jamila Burgos '27, winner of the North Penn High School Black History Month Oratorical Contest and winner of the Winner of the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Patriots Challenge, read a poem she wrote to celebrate the event entitled, “The beauty of the world fit into one moment.”

The wonderful shovels used for the groundbreaking were created under the leadership and guidance of Middle School Art Teacher Cindy Hodgson, now in her twenty-first year at Westtown. Her Eighth Grade Visual Arts classes decorated the shovels to represent the various artistic disciplines taught at Westtown. The designs and artwork used on the shovels were inspired by visiting artist Todd Drake who worked with Middle School students during his residency last year to create linocut prints based on the Quaker SPICES: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship.

On a final note, we share our thanks to this community! Every phase of this exciting project was made possible through a tremendous outpouring of generosity from alums, parents, parents of alums, and friends of Westtown. 



Returning members:

- Rachna Kota '15,**
Clerk
- Tracy Jackson '83,**
Assistant Clerk
- Tobias Wilson '05,**
Recording Clerk
- Anne Smith '84**
- Darrel Mayer '81**
- Harve Nichols '84**
- Kat Yeh '82**
- Kavi Gandhi '21**
- Ruth Eriksson '90**
- Sophia Elek '15**
- Ted Moon '73**
- Tim James '63**
- Tom Rie '63**

New members:

- Julia Furey Bastian '16**
- Lydia Bryans '92**
- Mekhi Bryant '16**
- Carlos Diaz '82**
- India Henderson '17**
- Maryann Patterson Ingersoll '69**
- Jamie McVickar '74**
- Barb Nicholson '80**
- Adam Salo '97**
- Rebecca Schmidt '17**

Westtown Alums Association Board

Greetings from the WAA Board! The Westtown Alums Association (WAA) Board is a dedicated group of alum volunteers focused on guiding the WAA and planning events and initiatives for the entire Westtown alum community. Our two main pillars of work are: connection, which focuses on the global Westtown family, and career networking and success, which includes supporting alums and a particular focus on first-generation college students.

This year, we were happy to welcome 10 new members to the board, to join our current membership (see sidebar).

We kicked off our year in October with an internship presentation for recent graduates. In November, we gathered for our annual retreat at Pendle Hill to plan initiatives for 2024. This year, our planning revolved around identifying events to foster connection and community both in person and remotely.

Throughout the spring, we will be hosting a virtual Alums Book Club—keep an eye out for an email about how to join in!

We are also planning an Alums Canoe Trip on the Delaware River May 14-16, the week of Alums Weekend 2024. Early priority for registration will be offered to

members of the 50th reunion class. The trip will be led by WAA Board member Tim James '63. While a small fee will be charged for food and incidentals, most of the gear will be provided by Westtown. If you'd like to join, please contact Tim James (itimjames63@gmail.com) for more information.

If you have questions for the WAA Board, or ideas about community and connection events, please be in touch with WAA Board Clerk, Rachna Kota '16 (rkota2019@gmail.com) or Director of Alums Engagement Domi Waldron (domi.waldron@westtown.edu).

All in the Family

In these pages we celebrate the families of students whose parents or grandparents also went to Westtown.

(ALL IDS LISTED LEFT TO RIGHT)

LOWER SCHOOL

Front: Isaac Schlimme '37 (Henry Schlimme '04, Rebecca Davis Schlimme '04, Paul Schlimme '73); Brooks Pressman '36 (Sarah Pressman '05, Benjamin Pressman '05, Roland Woodward '65); Amelia Hartley '36 (Mary (Townsend) Hartley '03); Willa Burger-Lenehan '35 (Beah Burger '02/BOT, Elizabeth Shants '66, Robert Burger '65); Noelle Jordan '35 (Samantha (Thomson) Jordan '01/CF); Louisa Jordan '37 (Samantha (Thomson) Jordan '01/CF); Alex Castaños '35 (Leigh James Castaños '98, John Robert James '55); Dottie Castaños '37 (Leigh James Castaños '98, John Robert James '55) **Middle:** Maggie Schlimme '34 (Henry Schlimme '04, Rebecca Davis Schlimme '04, Paul Schlimme '73); Sam Rankin '34 (Matthew Rankin '99); Woods Salo '33 (Adam Salo '97/CF); Owen Milberg '33 (Adam Milberg '03); Rex Martin '33 (Margaret Peloso '01); Elise Westerman '33 (Frederick Ralston '65); Tommi-Faye Tyler '35 (Thomas Tyler '08/CF); Vera McRae '35 (Kelly McRae '03); Gabriel Salo '35 (Adam Salo '97/CF) **Back:** Ellie Schlimme '31 (Henry Schlimme '04, Rebecca Davis Schlimme '04, Paul Schlimme '73); Tommy Jordan '32 (Samantha (Thomson) Jordan '01/CF); Sam Lehmann '31 (Paul Lehmann '99/FF); Caroline Adey '31 (Kendra Adey '01); Joslyn Seagers '31 (Joseph Seagers '90) **Not pictured:** Emsley Ritchie Levinn (Emiliee Ritchie '00)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Front: Luke Westerman '30 (Frederick Ralston '65); Kayla John '30 (Sony John '98); Betty Rankin '30 (Matthew Rankin '99); Lawrence Hartley '29 (Mary (Townsend) Hartley '03) **Back:** Lev Bryans '28 (Lydia Bryans '92/Martha Bryans '68); Tristan Schroeder '28 (Nathaniel Thayer Schroeder '91); Michael Ireland '29 (Emiliee Steele '62); Colin Adey '29 (Kendra Adey '01)

LOWER SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



9TH & 10TH GRADES



11TH GRADE



12TH GRADE



UPPER SCHOOL

9TH AND 10TH GRADE

Callum Eager '26 (Marpa Eager '86, George Eager '61); Charlie Saenger '26 (Cari Adams Saengar '97, Chris Saengar '97, Susan MacDonnell '68, Peg Saengar '65); Betty Savage '26 (Paul Savage '79, Deborah Furnas '44); Levon Lenat '27 (David Lenat '86); Jamila Burgos '27 (Renee Burgos '96/FF); Miguel Wenderoth Bachiller '26 (Michael Wenderoth '89) **Not pictured:** Ryder Tookes '27 (Ryan L. Tookes '96/BOT); Kenneth Waltman '26 (Douglas Waltman '87)

11TH GRADE

Front: Aiden Eager '25 (Marpa Eager '86, George Eager '61); Nathaniel Schroeder '25 (Nathaniel Thayer Schroeder '91); Lyon Hancock '25 (James Hancock '91) **Back:** Emily Kessler '25 (David Kessler '90); Sofia Burgos '25 (Renee Burgos '96/FF); Mira Hartmann '25 (Heather Burt '88) William Bradley '25 (Melinda Wenner Bradley '88/FF) **Not pictured:** Francisco Benbow '25 (Christopher L. Benbow '90/CF); John Sharples '25 (William Sharples '83)

12TH GRADE

Ryan Tookes '24 (Ryan L. Tookes '96/BOT); Devin Swarthout '24 (Erika Davies Swarthout '98); Mark Ham '24 (Scott Zukin '81); Byerly Midyette '24 (Buxton Midyette '83/BOT) **Not pictured:** Dylan Koloski (Sitka Koloski '92)

CF=Current Faculty
FF=Former Faculty
BOT=Board of Trustees



Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled by the Alum Engagement Office.
The submission deadline for this issue was December 8, 2023; information received after that date will appear in the next issue of *The Westonian*.

1944 **Mary Alice Whitson Harvey '44** writes, “Although I am still able to hike in the woods, I do not expect to travel to attend our 80th class reunion. Fortunately, I am living with my daughter and her husband right on the St. Louis River estuary. Amazing bird and wildlife watching.”

1946 **Kay Kurt Burtin '46** was awarded the Order of La Florida on September 11, 2023 by the City Commission of St. Augustine, Florida. The award is limited to nine living recipients at any one time for persons over 55 years of age who have “unselfishly devoted time and talent to the welfare and betterment of our citizens and our heritage, and for exemplifying the finest qualities of citizenship by contributing extraordinary services to our community.” Burtin returned to live in St. Augustine in 1972 and became involved in the St. Augustine Art Association (established in 1924), the Pilot Club, D.A.R., St. Augustine Historical Society, the Archaeological Society, Tourist Development Council, and helped with the formation of the Amil Maestre Music Concert Association. Kay says, “I think I developed this love of civic responsibility at Westtown! My greatest accomplishment, however, is my family. I leave the world three sons, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, all of whom are leaders in their professions.”

1948 **Alan Cayo '48** writes, “*Mais où sont les neiges d'antan?* Last May, alone from the Class of 1948, I wandered about our beautiful campus wondering about the absence of my classmates. I recalled George Burns' smiling response (at age 98) to a gruff comment that he should not continue to smoke cigars, ending with, ‘What does your doctor say about your smoking?’

George replied, ‘I don't know, all my doctors are dead.’ I pray (secretly in my closet hoping to be rewarded openly) that that is not the case of my dear Class of 1948 friends (especially all those lovely co-eds). *Allons enfants de la Patrie*, courage, with creaking joints, join me in 2024 or 2028 (our 80th reunion) to give hope to Westonian youth for a long life. Stay well and healthy, I hope to see you there.”

1950 **Elsbeth “Bunny” Benton '50** writes, “I'm in Santa Rosa, and have been here since 1998 when I retired from my job as director of the Children's Center at Caltech. One of my four daughters lives here and has recently retired. She and her husband have a “farmlet” 3/4 of a mile from my little house. They have three sheep, a goat, and chickens, and are very much into ecological restoration of their two acres of recently-burned-over land. They, and another daughter who lives elsewhere, make it possible for me to continue living in my home. I have been evacuated from three forest fires since 2017, but am happy that there've been none of those since 2019. If you want to know more about me, read my mystery novel *Crucial Time*, available online.”

David Hodgin '50 writes, “One of the ‘joys’ of being the class communicator is that nowadays I almost never hear from a classmate or get a response to the messages sent out. That is discouraging. Please [reach out] and tell me something about your life, if you wish. I will share it with our classmates. Like many of you, I am 91. I play bocce a couple of times a week and golf every Monday. Shot a 99 recently and won \$15! It's still a lot of fun even if I can't hit the ball very far anymore without falling. I still spend mostly normal hours in my office. Ninety percent of the work is pro bono these days. Folks ask why I don't retire. I explain that I have had the same

boss (me) since I was 36 and he lets me do pretty much anything I want to. The thing I am most proud of at the moment is that the Cultural and Performing Arts Center I have been working on for some 14 years is open and thriving. Also, I created an Alfred Hitchcock Festival (<https://hitchcockfestival.com>) last year and am working hard on the next one, scheduled for March 8-10, 2024. Hitchcock lived in my town of Scotts Valley for some 30 years—lots of local color. The event is a fundraiser for the theater. So, I am having fun and keeping busy. I hope you are too!”

1951 **Elizabeth Loucks '51** writes, “Attending Westtown is one of the highlights of my lifetime. I have a copy of *The Giant* which is a constant reminder of the values Westtown gives to their students. Bill, my husband and a George School grad, retired from practicing law for 50 years in 2011. Two years ago (2021) he retired from being president of an insurance company that only insured attorneys for malpractice. Bill and I live in an CCRC (John Knox Village of Central Florida) in Orange City. One of the best decisions we have made. We have 10 grandchildren and five great grands. Life is good and we are thankful for our blessings.”

“It is with deep sorrow that we must inform you of the passing of **Parvin Russell '51** on May 22, 2023. Parv loved his years at Westtown and the lifelong friends he made there. After Westtown, Parv graduated from Deep Springs College and completed his master's degree at the Chrysler Institute of Engineering, then continued his career as a mechanical engineer, working for Chrysler for 35 years. His love of family and music was

 SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE...

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

Email:
alums@westtown.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!



The Evans family at the memorial for Lucretia Wood Evans '38: First row, L to R: Deb Evans '78, Ron Schaaf, Becky Evans Marvil '76, Josh Marvil, Cindy Evans Trueblood '74, Peter Trueblood '73, Melissa Graf-Evans FF, Jon Evans '73. Second row, L to R: Isaac Schaaf, Eliza Schaaf, Wilder Schaaf, Alison Maxwell, Andrew "AC" Jones, Cayla Marvil, Matthew Trueblood, Jeremy Graf Evans '14, David Reynolds, Hannah Graf Evans Reynolds '10, Rachel Graf Evans '08.

central to his life. He was a choir member in his churches in Michigan and Florida for over 60 years. Parvin always left you feeling better about yourself. In his memory, please take time to greet people, share a kind word and a compliment. He was a wonderful man who will be greatly missed." *Submitted by Parvin's wife, Sally Russell, and Parvin's nephew, Michael Fisher '77*

1952 **Harold Weaver '52** writes, "As I approach my 90th birthday in June, I feel blessed to be in good enough mental and physical health to be able to contribute, in a small way, to society, including providing new models and new narratives to the Religious Society of Friends. Our ministry, the BlackQuaker Project (BQP), is collaborating with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva to apply our 21st-century model of retrospective justice to healing historical injustices of Quakers and others. In this regard, we have begun with Rowntree, the Quaker confectionary operation

in the UK, which exploited indigenous South African workers in the 1980s under apartheid, with survivors still suffering physically and mentally from the direct and systemic violence perpetuated by the Rowntree company. Thus far, the successor Joseph Rowntree Charitable Fund and three other philanthropic funds founded by Rowntree have only admitted to wrong-doing but, so far, have refused to take the next steps in retrospective justice: full truth-telling and making amends, including reparations.

In 2023 we had major collaborations with QUNO: on World Quaker Day we organized an international Zoom webinar, with QUNO Director Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge as special guest, to educate the Quaker world about *Ubuntu*, the South African concept of 'I am because you are,' the theme of the August 2024 FWCC World Plenary Conference in South Africa, and in mid-November a video presentation for an international Woodbrook Center (UK) seminar on reparations: *Retrospective*

Justice: A 21st Century Quaker Model for Healing Historical Injustice. For 2024, in February, Black History Month, our ministry is offering at Pendle Hill a First-Monday presentation on *Truth and Justice: The BlackQuaker Project Challenges Quakerism in the 21st Century*. In August, in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the Friends World Committee for Consultation's World Plenary Conference, we are scheduled to be actively involved with a section devoted to healing historical injustice, again applying our model of retrospective justice.

Meanwhile, with the apparent demise of the most dangerous COVID, **Anne Steere Nash '52** and I are again able to spend our winters in Oaxaca, Mexico (where a decade ago I co-founded a small Quaker Worship Group), a couple of weeks each summer on Mt. Desert Island (Maine), and bits of time in Ottawa, Canada, with my two lovely grandchildren (Malia and Kendi) and daughter Aisha and her Benin partner Hugues. In September my son Djata and

I were able to spend his birthday over lunch with his brother, my older son **Harold Weaver III '76**, down in northern New Jersey as Harold was recovering successfully from a liver transplant a couple of months earlier. *'La vie est belle!'* seems worth celebrating for the Nash-Weaver family despite the exploitation, corruption, and injustices we can see and feel all around us, including the horrible destruction of human lives, culture, hospitals, and houses in Palestine and elsewhere.”

1954 **Denny Pratt '54** writes, “This has been an interesting year: I retired from my business, and visited my film producer granddaughter in Los Angeles; have a granddaughter who is a diplomat at the UN—and all of them come for Christmas. The diplomat went to George! I was contacted by Wagih Abu-Rish, the brother of classmate **Said Abu-Rish '54**, and had lunch with him. Said wrote 17 books about different leaders, and was on the best selling list internationally for over a year; I spent six years on the phone hearing about his views. He was an Anchor for the BBC. My son-in-law (a Brit) watched him every day. Said was Vice President of Mars Inc. He became a US citizen and served in the Army. He was a top aide to Saddam Hussein but left when Saddam bombed the Kurds. I visited Said at university and we both talked about Westtown, and how much we loved it. Said told me he wanted to leave \$500,000 to Westtown, and have a plaque put up of **Daniel Test '25**. Said got a big spread in the *New York Times*, Westtown wrote nothing. Currently his nephew Ziad Abu Rish is head of a graduate Arts program at Bard. He worked for the American Friends Service Committee in Philly for a while. My issue with Westtown is it has become suburban. Westtown has some amazing folks who have done great things, for example **Bob Eaton '61**, who was class President. Bob, a non-violent activist, inspired many with his actions. There is a film about him. **Joan Nicholson '52**, another graduate and a great radical. I



Christina '61 and Bob Knight enjoying a moment after grandson Dominic's high school graduation.

was not a great student at Westtown, I was never a good student, but I adored Westtown.”

1956 **James Matlack '56** writes, “Jean and I continue in overall good health despite the years and feel well situated in Quarry Hill Retirement Community set in the beautiful landscape around Camden, Maine. Any visitors coming to the Penobscot Bay area will be welcomed.”

1957 **Pete Lane '57** writes, “Joining the Westtown Upper School Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays is my current way of staying in touch. The Quaker Spirit is alive and well at the school as evidenced by the quiet respect shown as people share vocally or just benefiting from the silence. And I was very much impressed by the student-run Meeting for Business that happened [recently]. It's pretty clear that the school's Quaker education programs are bearing fruit. Sitting in that VERY full room for my midweek Meeting with students, faculty, and administrators is inspiring. I recommend it if you're nearby.”

1958 **Colin Kelly '58** writes, “Just wanted to share with my fellow '58ers, that my beautiful wife, Sue Ellen, died recently after battling cancer for five years. She enjoyed meeting many of you at the reunion some years back. I am still serving as the part time priest in Chama, New Mexico.”

1959 **Chandlee White '59** writes, “I retired from a post as Assistant Director of Emergency Services at the Greensboro, North Carolina, Chapter of American Red Cross at the end of 2010. I am now a volunteer: Deputy Regional ERV Lead. My last position as a librarian was for the Center for Creative Leadership (2000–2005) here in Greensboro. I am a member of New Garden Friends Meeting and have recently been active as a volunteer Zoom host (a position created by COVID). Despite the return to in-person Meetings for Worship, there are still elderly members who prefer to worship remotely. I am planning on moving into Friends Homes Guilford, probably by July 2024. My siblings, **Charles F. White '62** and **Sylvia S. White '63** have already moved there.”





Class of 1961 women's lunch group



Class of 1961 men's lunch group

1961 Christina Knight '61 writes, "Bob and I continue to enjoy our senior living at the Overlook, a CCRC, in Charlton, Massachusetts just six miles from where we spent 53 years in Sturbridge. Bob doesn't have to mow the lawn or shovel snow and I don't have to cook unless I want to! We no longer worry about trees falling on the house or floods in the basement. **Debra Knight '85** continues to live in Southbridge just 10 minutes

away. **Jennifer Knight Polimeno '88** and her family moved to Tewksbury recently and are now about an hour away. Our three grandchildren are in college in the Boston area: Ben is at BU grad school, Ashley is a sophomore at Boston College, and Dominic is a freshman at Bentley University in Waltham. We continue to enjoy good health, are very independent and busy and just don't like the number associated with our ages. A blessing about being so close to Sturbridge is that we see our friends often and remain active in our church. If you are in this area, we would love to show you our new home and surroundings."

Laurie Worth '61 writes, "Hi to '61 classmates! Hoping to have a mini class reunion next Alum[s] Weekend (May 17-19, 2024). How about considering coming back on campus for those few days? A couple of us locals will figure out how and where to meet over that weekend. Sound good? Then save the dates! More info in the spring."

1962 David Clement '62 writes, "Taking advantage of the weather we hike two or three times a week, mostly around Tucson. We did a trip to Reno and the Lake Tahoe area in September. Beautiful lakes and trails at 10,000+ feet. We have decided to move to a non profit continuing care complex now under construction about three miles from our home. This is scheduled for spring of 2025 when the construction is finished. We continue to volunteer at several places around Tucson: Both Sally and I at Tohono Chul Park, our local natural garden. I also build with Habitat for Humanity weekly and Sally processes photos for The Nature Conservancy photo archive system. She also works with our library in the donated book section."

David Elkinton '62 writes, "Jan and I moved into the Collington Life Care Community, a Kendal affiliate, in Mitchellville, Maryland, in December 2022. We are now comfortably settled and were pleasantly surprised to find fellow Westonians already here. Unfortunately, we have lost **Rich Regen '57** recently, but **Mike McCulley '57** and **Wynne and Charlie Brown '66** are our neighbors. In October 2023, we visited **John Hoover '62** and his wife Marcia Stone, in Volcano, Hawaii. I think it has been over fifty years since John and I were together. When we visit Florida in the winter, we see **Polly Davidson Hollenback '62** and her husband Paul. Other classmates occasionally appear on Facebook posts, as well, to our delight."

1963 Roger Phenix '63 writes, "I am alive and well, continuing various work collaborating on film and sound projects, living on ancestral ground of the Hudson River Valley. Twenty-two years ago, I married Jo Ann, my longtime close friend. Having lived as one of Westtown's remarkable community of students, faculty, and staff of all ages, is treasured in my memory. Also two years spent with AFSC VISA. I continue in a group of filmmakers founded in 1970 to document



Roger and Bill, 2023 photo by Jo Ann Phenix

work of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Looking for work.”

1964 **Mary H. Bell '64** writes, “Our class, thanks to the excellent facilitation by **Nancy Bennett '64**, has begun holding Zoom calls that have enabled us to catch up with one another and to share our current lives at a common age. What a remarkable group of people! How special, almost sixty years post graduation. I barely appreciated the Westtown experience as I went through it but certainly have since then. I am living in High River, Alberta, and still trying to truly retire from equine veterinary practice and from much of the volunteer work. My advice to all is start succession planning the moment you say ‘yes’ to a volunteer position. I would like to spend more time visiting my daughter’s family as they sail around the world, riding my horse, and doing those many things I long to do (before I forget what they are).”

Bryn Hammarstrom '64 writes, “Hope to join a good group of ‘64ers for our 60th!”

Juliet San Martin '64 writes, “Can we really be coming up on our 60th reunion? Seems impossible. I shall not be attending as I have an annual sailing



Mary H. Bell '64 with her grandchildren in Port De Soller as they sailed around the Balearics this past September.

event conference in Antigua at the same time. I have yet to retire, since I love what I do (selling real estate, organizing sailing events). Life continues to be interesting here in the Caribbean, and no hurricanes this year!”

1965 **Dorothy Spivey Dean '65** passed away on June 17, 2023, in South Hadley, MA, as the result of an extremely sudden, unexpected, and aggressive cancer. She leaves behind her husband, Fred Dean; her brother, **Robb Spivey '70**; her daughter, Becky Glenn; and two grandchildren. *Submitted by Dorothy's brother, Robert Spivey '70*

Gregory Frazier '65 writes, “Marrying and spawning a child at my age was not a challenge. Raising an enrolled Crow Tribal family in the rapid globalization of the reservation and urban areas is the challenge, but it has been interesting.”

Ingrid Scholz Longo '65 writes, “My husband of 38 years passed away with grace and humor in October 2022, after

years of declining health. I ventured out in June 2023 with my little camper, and **Graham '65 and Debbie Miles '65** graciously allowed me to park in their field. What a treat to talk Westtown with them for two whole days! They shared their Meeting, and Debbie took me to **Sally Shirk '65's** memorial where I met Sally's sister **Molly Shirk '69**, and Shirk relatives from the Mennonite community whose friendship Sally enjoyed as well as support in her last illness. Moving south, I caught up on missed years with **Ellis Raiford '65** while camping near her home in Charlottesville, Virginia, moving on to visit other longtime friends before ultimately swinging north for home in Vermont. It's all been quite a journey.”

Penny Robertson '65 writes, “Hi, everyone! On August 31, 2023 I became a first-time grandmother. Copeland Cole Lloyd was born in Houston, Texas. What a thrill and what fun to be a grandmother!”

Peter Woodrow '65 writes, “In so-called retirement, I am still doing

MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM

1938
Lucretia Wood Evans
July 2023

1941
Elizabeth Dyson
June 8, 2023

1943
Joyce Briner
February 10, 2021

Edward Brinton
September 23, 2023

Rose Hijikata
May 28, 2023

1945
Ilse Munzinger
July 6, 2023

Ann Richie Ratliff
June 22, 2022

1946
Rolfe Shellenberger
April 8, 2020

1947
Lucy Bednekoff
October 13, 2023

Avahlee Mitchell
June 28, 2023

1949
Elizabeth Gaw
November 8, 2022

Edward Rich
August 8, 2019

1951
John Yeatman
July 7, 2023

1953
Virginia Hubbell Hamerin
March 12, 2023

1955
David Jenkins
June 2023

1957
Richard Regen
October 2023

1959
Virginia Pabst
November 3, 2023

1961
Rebecca McDowell
October 13, 2023

1963
Robert Bodkin
August 30, 2023

1964
Jeffrey Fuson
May 19, 2023

1965
Arthur Thorp
February 26, 2023

1966
Randolph Hurst
July 19, 2023

1967
James Roney
2022

1969
Susan Ward
October 23, 2023

1971
Patricia Swift
June 4, 2023

1972
Alison Echels
July 10, 2023

Bruce Wright
September 16, 2022

1973
Steven Dunnings
November 2, 2023

1976
Michael O'Neill
March 29, 2022

1985
Christopher Fетters
April 26, 2023

1990
Christopher Macomber
November 30, 2023

2018
Galen Miller-Persico
October 2023

BIRTHS

1998
Toby Snedecor '98
and Jenna Hoffstein:
Grant Snedecor
June 2023

2000
Rachel Shrock '00:
Mira Shrock
February 2023

2001
Emily O'Donnell Ziemba
'01 and Jay Ziemba:
Audrey Marie Ziemba
July 4, 2023

2006
Flor M. Cruz '06 and
Umair Siddiqui: Theo
Alexander Siddiqui
May 10, 2023

2007
David '07 and Claire
Kloss: Desmond Dae Kloss
August 11, 2023

WEDDINGS

2006
Geddes Dowling IV '06
and Jess Lowe
September 23, 2023

2008
Kevin Edwards '08
and Dalila Baied
September 2, 2023

consulting work, mostly various applications of systems thinking to local and international problems in peace and anti-corruption. I am also serving as clerk of my Monthly Meeting and thoroughly involved in the American Friends Service Committee. On the recreation side, I am singing in a 'social justice' choir and struggling to become a competent clarinet player."

1966 William Parker '66 writes, "It always is a joy to read a new *Westonian*. The last one overwhelmed me with how much has been expanded, which were wishes in my mind when I was there as a student. The international culture is beyond my wildest dreams. Your performing arts and languages, looking at both sides of histories besides the ones written by the winners; all amazing to witness here. Some time back, I was able to walk through the boys dorm and got to talking about KOBs. They had

never heard of them but thought it was a neat idea. I don't remember how long ago this was. The idea of each student at graduation giving a KOB to the [Head of School] when getting a diploma was genius. I still have all of mine in some cookie tins. This inspired a halloween costume this year. I go to our local farmers market Saturdays and hang out. There was to be a costume parade and I was able to get into my old Westtown brown and white and wore all types of buttons that I've collected over the years and a cap from my trips to the USSR. The buttons said everything about all of the loves and interests that I had in my life. Halloween has always been my favorite day over any of the traditional holidays throughout the year. I was friends with **Bob Llewellyn '67** back then and also when he came to Cornell. I knew **George Adams '65** well also and **Tom Manning '65**. Westtown made some LP records in 1965 and 1966. 1965 was the Dixieland Jazz band and 1966 was a Bluegrass album. For our 50th class reunion, I was able to put both albums on one CD and made 90 copies plus the liner notes of each. I do have a personal mystery that has been bugging me since I graduated. And that is looking for **Anne Yerkes '65**. We were both at Friends Community School since first grade. Her mom and mine carpooled us through those times. The visions that have lived with me all my life are crystal clear over anything else. Music for me is a memory bank of my life. And Anne's home farm absolutely is one vision of a heaven long gone. There was some small correspondence when I started going to Academy. The 1965 graduation was the last time that I saw Anne in person. Anne was in my class and younger than me. She was advanced to class ahead of me at Friends Community. I'm not expecting an answer, but wanted to share my story and history."

Stop the Road: Stories from the Trenches of Baltimore's Road Wars by **Ev Paull '66** has received two awards for its contribution to Baltimore history: the Baltimore Heritage Award

and the Historical Society's Research/Scholar Award. The book tells the story of both the successful fight to save Baltimore's historic waterfront and the not-so-successful fight to save African American neighborhoods like Sharp-Leadenhall. By 1850, this area held Baltimore's largest concentration of African American Freedmen, as well as Germans and Quakers. The Quakers were strong abolitionists, many active in the Underground Railroad. Freedmen had settled where they were accepted. Modern city planners deemed this neighborhood expendable, despite its thriving Black community, and wanted to bulldoze it for a highway. Everyday citizens fought back, and the neighborhood survived.

1969 **Valerie Peery '69** writes, "The last five years or so have been tumultuous for me. I was diagnosed with breast cancer, although I am close to being in remission. I have been in and out of the hospital as I had other health problems: two hip replacements, pulmonary embolism, TIA (mini stroke), neuropathy, loss of my sense of balance, COVID, cataracts, broken bones in my face and subdural hematoma due to nurses carelessness. If I had a few of these it would be not worth mentioning, just growing older. But it is enervating and depressing for all these things coming after the death of my husband from cancer and being his caregiver for a few years, then my breast cancer diagnosis, and retirement as a midwife (I did not transition well to losing my identity as a CNM), and then being one of my mother's caregivers for three to four years till she passed away, a month shy of one hundred. Moving three times. Enough sniveling. I am still keeping my head above water for now. I still enjoy life, I can still drive, and I have my Border Collie, Rob Roy, to keep me company. I am doing a lot of reading and a little writing. I live in an in-law apartment next to a couple of my kids. It works great for me. I see some of my grandkids daily. Drive them to school sometimes, babysit them. My six

children are happily married and thriving, and I have ten lovely grandchildren. I live in West Chester just a couple miles from Westtown."

1970 **Vicki Vail Nardozzi '70** writes, "After fleeing northern climes for college in Florida and being a resident there for over 50 years, Mike and I have finally left the state. We have been part time in North Carolina for many years, but are now full time residents in the mountains of western North Carolina. Even though I never lived more than a couple of hours from **Geordie Narwold '69** in Florida, we rarely managed to visit, but now that he is a part timer in western North Carolina we treasure our quite regular visits. Working on figuring out how to dress for the first real winter I've seen in many years!"

Emily Leach Richie '70 writes, "Since 2017 I have been living in San Francisco with my daughter and her family. I retired in 2021, after work in primary care, HIV medicine, and US Navy research in Indonesia. Other than my twin Robert, I have not seen a Westonian for many years, but would welcome a renewal of friendship with any living in the Bay Area. My activities include volunteering at the Botanical Garden, coaching a Ukrainian woman with English learning through the ENgin program (they need more volunteers, please check their website), helping with my grandsons, taking courses, and seeing friends. I visited my brother **Robert Leach '70** at his castle in France (Chateau de Puy Vidal, near Angouleme) for 10 days in May/June, where he and his family have established a beautiful venue for hosting workshops and conferences. I hope that we are all supporting Ukraine, the promotion of peaceful tolerance around the world, and efforts to reduce climate change."

David Stabler '70 writes, "This spring, I finished my first novel (at age 70!) and now comes the tedious work of finding an agent. It's a coming-of-age story set in Kenya, where brother **Martin Stabler '68** and I lived for two



Ev Paull '66 receiving the Baltimore Heritage Award
October 19, 2023



Emily Leach Richie '70



David Stabler '70 with his son, Dan, at his 70th
birthday last year.



Janis, Joyce, and Peter Sutherland '70 at Land's End,
Maine.

CLASS NOTES

years, 1964–66. I'm now writing about my cross-Canada car trip two years ago that recalled stories my late wife told me about growing up on the prairies, plus my own memories of summer camp in Ontario, bike riding around Cape Breton between sophomore and junior years at Westtown and a joyous reunion with my college piano teacher. I miss my wife every day, but the seasons come and go and I move forward. Time has new meaning, now. Sometimes it creeps, sometimes it rushes. I keep her close with memories, grateful for their gifts."

Peter Sutherland '70 writes, "Continuing from my last note where I retired at the end of 2022. My doctor contacted me about some test results showing I had a high risk of cardiovascular disease. Before you know it, in early April I had a quadruple bypass. This is a very severe life-changing operation, with a long recovery. My wife, Janis, rescued me from the hospital and brought me back home, avoiding going to a rehab facility. No sooner had I gotten along in my recovery, in August, on my birthday, my mother Joyce Sutherland passed away at age 94 in a nursing home in Maine. She is buried in the Vassalboro Friends Cemetery in our old home town in Maine. This was a very sad but not unexpected event, being the second great blow of the year. Meanwhile, before all this happened we had signed up for a tour of Sicily in October led by the well-known Albany chef Ric Orlando. There was no reason to cancel, so we went anyway. It was a wonderful trip and cheered me up a lot. Now it is time for family and friends, returning to Quakerism, and a different kind of life."

1971 Teri Reath D'Ignazio '71 writes, "Now a few months past 70, I'm writing after being involved in a freak accident en route to my September birthday celebration. We had just left home for a two-mile ride with an Amish driver in an open horse drawn cart. The horse bolted just downhill from our home and yards later, at the looming hair pin blind curve, we were all ejected. Neighbors reported

seeing the horse still running with a cart and only two wheels, a ½ mile up the road! So after two hospitals, three surgeries, and acute medical rehab, I'm walking again, with my broken right shoulder on the mend. The rest of the family is OK, though coping with stitches, broken ribs, and shoulder injuries. **Curry D'Ignazio '08** and **Wendy Gail Lord '74** ended up handling brilliantly all medical arrangements. Now, wintering in Key Largo and hoping with more physical therapy, will get back to the competitive croquet lawn!"

My wife **Patricia Swift '71** and I really enjoyed the 50th reunion event in 2022. We took in the impressive—and new to her—science, drama, and athletic facilities, as well as the fine library. Pat reminisced about some of her classes as we walked the halls of the main building. We also explored the fabulous grounds and had a thoroughly wonderful time canoeing on the lake. However, we valued more than anything the really nice people of your class Pat was able to visit with after so many years—and to introduce to me. I feel very lucky to have met those of you I did! I am heartbroken to report, however, that later in the summer in 2022 Pat's cancer returned, and this past June (2023) she passed away. I am so grateful that my cousin, **Cathy Coate '72**, introduced us back in 2014. Thank you forever, Cathy. If you want to know more about Pat, feel free to email me at jcoate19@yahoo.com. *Submitted by Pat's husband, Jim Coate*

1972 Gail O'Brien '72 writes, "My husband Robert and I have moved to Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin (NW of Madison) to be near and enjoy our daughter and her family. After 15 years in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, we are amazed at the amount of sunshine we are experiencing here in Wisconsin! I truly enjoyed our 50th reunion in 2022 and look forward to seeing classmates again at our 55th."

1973 Thomas Cosinuke '73 writes, "Still reflecting on how wonderful it was to see everyone at our 50th reunion! We had a fun visit in Vermont this Fall from **Joe Strode '73** and Mary Cairns. We also were lucky to have a visit from **Tricia Axsom O'Brien '73** who had been unable to make the reunion."

David Dolinger '73 writes, "On September 29, 2023 Marie Dolinger passed on. She was the wife of **Cisco Dolinger (former staff)** and mother of **Larry Dolinger '71** and **David Dolinger '73**. Marie was a part of the Westtown community and Westtown Monthly Meeting for over 30 years."

David Skillman '73 writes, "I retired as planned on September 1, after bouncing around the corporate world for nearly 50 years (starting as a lab tech for DuPont on October 1, 1973.) It has taken me a few months to adjust to waking up and not jumping to the computer. My wife, Cindy, and I took our first trip to Denver to visit her brother and enjoyed the vistas and Pikes Peak. We are hoping to return visits to family and friends who have visited us in the past. Next up: spend more time with my guitar and bass!"

Clarissa Westney-Nadherny '73 writes, "Thank goodness I was dragged to our recent 50th reunion by **Dana Jones Lee '73**, and was gobsmacked by how much fun it was. Wonderful conversations with unfamiliar classmates resonated for weeks and I'm finding my Westtown acquaintances to be the most worthwhile cultivating. My thanks to all who put in their full efforts because I appeared at the last minute and put in no effort whatsoever!"

Sarah Westervelt '73 writes, "I loved seeing classmates, the campus, and faculty for our 50th! Thanks again to all of you who put out lots of time, money, and your hearts so the rest of us could reconnect so easily. Invaluable. I suspect there may be others in our class confronting encroaching cognitive problems (like my husband). Invisible brain changes can be underway for 20 years while still asymptomatic, and then slowly start showing



Tom Cosinuke '73 and Tricia Axsom O'Brien '73 at Shelburne Farms by Lake Champlain.



Isaac Thorpe '75 and Frederick Inglis '78

up. I want to make sure as many people as possible know about the latest in neurological research. There are things we can all be doing right now to prevent, or stop and reverse Alzheimer's progression. It's not an easy protocol (lifestyle changes), but it's all evidence based and works for many, many people. It's called the (Dr.) Bredesen Protocol and can be found at www.ApolloHealthco.com. Wishing you all well!"

1974 **Mark Amarotico '74** writes, "Looking forward to seeing all my old friends in May. Kay and I are in New York a lot now, near Central Park. Central Park has a feature: The North Woods. That name brings back a lot of memories."

Pat Stabler '74 writes, "Hello to all Class of '74 members from the 50th Reunion Planning Committee! We hope you have received information about the reunion and are thinking about or planning to come. We have a good weekend planned with several get togethers as well as the Westtown events. We would really enjoy catching up with everyone, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. If you need more information, please contact me at everstab@verizon.net and I or someone else from the committee will be glad to answer any questions. Hope to



Kim Ramsey '75 making a Shibori scarf at the Shibori Museum in Kyoto.

hear from you and to see all who are able to come."

1975 **Isaac Thorpe '75** writes, "I had had a blast this summer sharing an ocean-front cottage at the Outer Banks with my great friend **Fred Hetzel**. We were also fortunate that **Frederick Inglis '78**, could also join us for a feast with his daughter Hazel. We went to Wanchese, where we reminisced about our days on deep sea scallop trawlers. We look forward to taking a sail on Frederick's

beautiful sailboat next time Fred heads down this way."

Kim Ramsey '75 writes, "This fall I'm traveling in Japan for a month, leaving the Pacific Northwest autumn for others to enjoy. After retiring at the start of the pandemic, planning for and spending time traveling has been my major agenda. Last fall it was a long, mostly solo road-trip in the Northeast, where I visited my oldest friend and Westtown roommate in Massachusetts! Japan is an outstanding place to visit especially if you like food, nature and craft. The



Corky Cochran '77 and James Hendricks '77
// Corky Cochran '77 and Guy Williams '77



Barb Nicholson '80, Carol Thornton, Melissa Graf Evans (FF), Jon Evans '73 // Jon School '80, Barb Nicholson '80, Sulyrn Godsey '79, Jack Stefferud '79 // Polly Goldstein (FF), Barb Nicholson '80, Sammy Goldstein

country's deep history of Shintoism and Buddhism seems to shine throughout, from magnificent temples to little neighborhood shrines. Loving it here!"

1976 **Andreas Kronfeld '76** writes, "On December 2, I was honored by the Technical University of Munich as a 'TUM Ambassador,' which is bestowed on International researchers who have raised the profile of the university. It was also the weekend of one of the biggest snowstorms (about 1' overnight and another 6" the day before and after), which changed the cityscape dramatically and made transportation a little difficult. Also in my 'class' were scientists from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, and the United States."

1977 **Corky Cochran '77** writes, "I am writing this note to ask a favor of my fellow Westonians. Did you have a special friend or friends at Westtown that you have not seen or heard from in years? Do you wonder how they are doing? All it takes is a little time and effort to reconnect. It is great how we meet every five years for reunions but some alumni never return. Let me share my story of reaching out the past year. I saw three classmates I had not seen in years, one was 46 years ago at our graduation. I had the pleasure to play golf with **Guy Williams '77** at Twisted Dune in South Jersey. I had seen Guy only once since graduation and we played basketball and baseball together and even did our Senior Project together. I also met up with **James Hendricks '77** in Alexandria, Virginia. We used to meet after we had graduated from college in Washington, D.C. along with **Dan Goldstein '77**. James and I were working in D.C. and Dan was in Law school. My final contact was with **Chris Fox '77**. I had not seen Chris since the day we graduated in 1977. Chris, **Mark Banning '77**, and I were like the Three Musketeers at Westtown. Mark passed away while at college and Chris had lived around the world as part of

his job. I drove down to the beautiful Shenandoah mountains to see Chris and meet his lovely wife, Julie. We talked for hours and it was well worth the trip. Many of us have fond memories of Westtown and the lessons we learned there helped guide us. Most of my 37 years in education were spent trying to pay it forward from the likes of Jim Coulter, Jim Morris, and Josh Schmidt. Those three along with my father were the most influential in my life. The saying goes 'do not put off till tomorrow what you can do today.' Reach out to old friends and reconnect! It is a win-win for both parties. Life is too short and if you wait, you may not get another chance. Prayers and blessings to all!"

1978 **David Moon '78** writes, "I live on the North shore of Massachusetts, where I work for Mass Audubon, leading birding tours and working on habitat restoration in New England's largest salt marsh. My two children were raised in Putney Friends Meeting in Vermont, and followed in their parents' paths of outdoor work as they pursued wilderness skills programming and wildlife cinematography. I've been happily remarried for many years, and love life in New England."

Margaret Thom '78 writes, "At Thanksgiving 2023, I started a new job with Pathfinders, a Milwaukee community organization that provides safety, health, and healing to young people with housing instability."

1979 **Eva de Hartog Kovach '79** writes, "My first granddaughter just turned 21. She is attending Boston University. I had the privilege of cutting her umbilical cord when she was born. My grandson will be 11 next week and my youngest granddaughter is two and a half."

Don Wildman '79 writes, "Greetings, '79ers...life has drifted to Martha's Vineyard in the summers. Year two of our little cottage in Oak Bluffs, needs work but great promise. There's a porch involved and the invitation's



Amanda Amarotico '80 walking the security dogs at the university on the weekends

out, please look us up if you come over. Onward with the podcast, which grows: *American History Hit*, twice weekly, wherever you get your pods (as we say)."

1980 **Amanda Amarotico '80** writes, "As my classmates might recall, I went away for our junior year to study in Barcelona. It was indeed the spark that lit my flame. I always tell my students in the Middle East, if it hadn't been for my year in Barcelona, I probably wouldn't be here right now. The Spanish I acquired in Barcelona helped me to connect with Guatemalan refugees in the USA which spurred me on to study Latin America and improve my Spanish at Temple University. From that obsession, and after teaching Spanish in Pennsylvania and New Jersey for eight years, I had the yearning to live abroad again. So off I went to teach in the Sultanate of Oman. I thought it would be just another year abroad, but ended up staying there for 12 years. In 2019 I went off to teach in Oran, Algeria (I know, all you Camus lovers are jealous now) for three years, then to Ecuador to think about settling there, but my obsession with Latin America couldn't counter my obsession with the Middle East. I am back in the M.E. teaching at the American University



Alex, Emile, Amanda '80, and Mark Amarotico // The children of Amanda Amarotico '80

of Iraq, in Baghdad (AUIB). It is an honor and a privilege to be here. I thank my lucky stars for such a rich experience. Summers, I go to Pennsylvania and Oregon to visit family which includes brothers, Mark, '74, Emile, '77, and Alex, along with my amazing grown children and grandchildren. Anyone who wants to meet up in Istanbul or Kurdistan, I'm in. For my winter break, I'm making a dream come true, finally, to get to Andalusia—Sevilla, Granada, and Cordoba. I never went there when in Barcelona."

Dennis Delduco '80 writes, "I have been living in Oxford, Pennsylvania, and running the Pennsbury Antique Mall in Chadds Ford. I have been busy maintaining our horse farm which is a never ending job. Looking forward to next year's Alum[s] Day to see some of the class before mine and hopefully we can have a great showing for my class in 2025."

Barb Nicholson '80 writes, "This year I joined the Westtown Alums Association Board (WAA). While attending the WAA Board fall retreat I also had the opportunity to visit campus and



Marpa Eager '86, Josh Goldstein '85, Chris Kaufman '85, and Randy Scholl '85 getting some practice in this fall.

spent a few extra days to meet up with various former faculty and alums. I look forward to annual trips back as I serve on the board. I stayed with **Jon Evans '73** and **Melissa Graf Evans (FF)** who I had gotten reacquainted with during an Earlham Alums trip to Indonesia this fall. I met up with **Sulyn Godsey '79**, **Jack Stefferud '79**, and **Jon Scholl '80**. I also visited other Westtown community members from our era: **Mary Ann Wagner '58**, **Sam Wagner '57** and **Polly (FF)** and Sammy Goldstein."

1981 Will Hildreth '81 writes, "Ryan and I recently moved into a new (very old actually) 1830's house in Truro. Last fall I had a staged reading of my new play *The Boathouse* as part of the Truro Playwrights collective. It went very well, people laughed and cried in the right places, and it was very well received. (A standing ovation!) I've been in both

New York and Pennsylvania often, particularly since joining Westtown's Board of Trustees, which has been a very rewarding undertaking. While in New York, I recently had a dinner and theatre outing to see *Merrily We Roll Along* with **Sián Gibby '82**. I've also often seen **Kris Batley '81** when I've visited the campus for events and meetings."

1983 Marion Dear '83 writes, "I am still teaching in the Lower School at Westtown, but I have moved to fourth grade. As part of the social studies curriculum, I am learning all about the Lenape people who lived on Westtown's campus pre-contact (before the Europeans arrived). This fall, fourth graders celebrated the Lenape with a hike on campus, games, a delicious feast of stew and cornbread, canoeing, and a campfire. Westtown is clearly a place full of lifelong learners!"

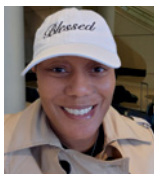
1984 Sarah Young Imbert '84 writes, "Greetings from Corsica, where my family and I have been since 2008. Corsica of Paoli fame. We have run my husband Marc's family vineyard—organic and sustainably farmed since day one in 1964. I keep in touch with **Andrea Hoopes DeGirolamo '85**, who, through my husband's side, is, actually, family. Having not lived on the East Coast since 1993, getting to reunions has been impossible. Agriculture and children's school, etc. Westtown was a lifesaver for me. If anyone travels to the island (spring is the best), please come. Domaine de Torraccia."

Eric Muehlmann '84 writes, "Loitering in God's (Xenu's) Waiting Room AKA Florida (Clearwater). Send help."

1986 Marpa Eager '86 writes, "There have been many mini reunions on and around campus this year beyond Alums day. I hope to see many friends at next year's gathering and in between! Look for a possible Kaufman Family Disc Golf Classic around Alums Weekend."

Charles McCrone '86 writes, "I'm still running Kaleidoscope School of Music in the Seattle area. I self-published my fantasy novel *Siana's War* on Amazon in 2022 and the sequel is coming out soon! I'm enjoying lots of hiking with our new Eurasier puppy, Klaus."

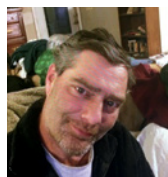
Patricia Williams '86 writes, "On Friday, October 27, 2023, my doctoral dissertation research project was approved by my committee. My research title is: *Persistence Through Resistance in Reclamation City: Examining Black Homeowner Resiliency Amidst the Unrelenting Gentrification Movement*. I graduated from the University of Dayton on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Thank you to Brad Quin, former Director of Admission, who admitted me to Westtown in 1981."



1987 Elizabeth Sagehorn '87 writes, "After visiting with my ride-or-die **Mayland Crosson Reilly '86** and her family at the Jersey Shore last year, I've been lucky to see two more Westtown friends lately. My husband Don and I had lunch this summer with **Josh Foster '86** and his lovely wife Michelle McClendon in Virginia last summer. This fall, we had tea with **James Aldrich-Moodie '87** at his home in New York while we were visiting the Finger Lakes. Not bad for a Californian!"

1988 Andrew Macomber '88 writes, "[I'm] still an AP Government and Economics teacher in southern Texas. I recently ran into **Chris Volcheck '87** in Malvern. My daughter recently started college."

1990 Chris Macomber '90 has passed away at the age of 52 after a long illness. Submitted by **Andrew Macomber '88**



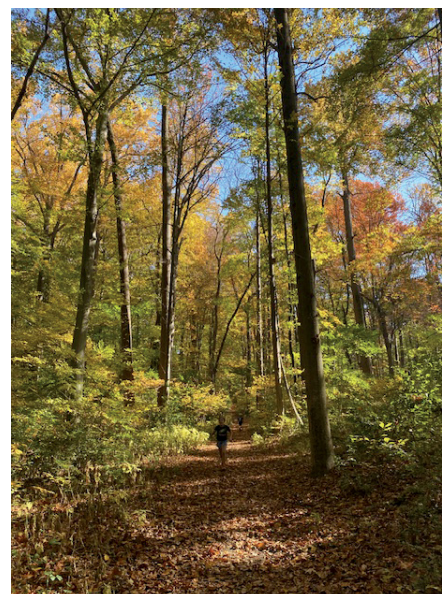
Logan Niles '90 writes, "I've been living in Seattle for the last 13 years. For work, I've been active in the startup scene, have opened, closed, and hope to reopen my company Pot Pie Factory. Currently working from home as a business consultant and coach with my first grandchild due to arrive in January. For fun, I thoroughly enjoy all of the culinary bounty the Pacific Northwest has to offer from its lakes, rivers, oceans, and fertile lands. Making jams, chutneys, membrillo, hard cider, and all manner of homemade comestibles brings me incredible joy. There's a nice number of Westonians in the area, but it's always great to see more. Please say hello if you are planning a visit to the area; especially if you plan on visiting Alki Beach. My pup Cassie and I would love to stroll down its length with you when you visit."

Christine Wiedinmyer '90 writes, "Things are great in Colorado. I am the Associate Director of Science for the University of Colorado Boulder's environmental science research institute, where I have been for 6+ years now. It's an amazing organization with 800+ scientists, faculty and students from across campus and at NOAA doing impactful science. I personally am an air quality and wildfire expert. My daughter, Maggie, is a junior at CU Boulder studying integrated physiology, and my son is a senior at high school looking to play baseball at college next year. My brother, **David Wiedinmyer '94**, lives nearby in Denver with his wife and son."

1994 Kathryn Cloutman '94 writes, "We have been enjoying walking around the lake with our new puppy, Benny. Looking forward to gathering for our 30th in May 2024!"



Logan Niles '90 // Logan Niles '90 and her pup Cassie



Olive and Quintin Leshock walking along the cross-country trail in October.



McKay Family celebrating Shao-Ming's 12th birthday in Grenada.



Chris Rose '95

1995 Ali McKay '95 writes, "**Cedar McKay '95**, Hall, Shao-Ming, and I continue sailing in a new ocean this year! We crossed into the Caribbean in 2022, spent time in Panama and Colombia, before sailing north to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and St. Maarten. The boat spent the summer in Trinidad, and we rejoined it in October after visiting the States. We are now making our way north in the Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Martinique, etc.), and we will visit the States again in the summer of 2024 (when we will start looking at boarding schools for Hall!)"

In 2023, **Chris Rose '95** (VP, Scheduling & Acquisitions at A+E Networks) completed Harvard Business

School's prestigious Business of Entertainment, Media and Sports program, taught by world-renowned Professor Anita Elberse. Go Westtown!

1996 Franklin Winslow '96 writes, "Life has been pretty hectic since leaving Philadelphia in 2018. I met Jenifer Elam in 2019. We were married in July of 2021. And now, I am the proud father of Minnie Winslow! Should you find yourself in Eastern North Carolina, please feel free to come visit."

1998 LeAnna DeBaptiste Hallman '98 writes, "To kick off 2023 I decided to go on a solo trip across Asia. I was delighted to fly from New York City to New Delhi, India, and be greeted upon arrival by **Runa Hatti Gokhale '98**. Runa has been stationed in India with her new appointment as Associate Director for Science and Programs at the CDC. I got to spend a few eye-opening days exploring New Delhi before heading to Phuket and then Bangkok, Thailand. The trip highlight was meeting up with Runa and **Jennifer Diaz-Fields '98** for an unforgettable trip to Hanoi, Vietnam. Jennifer took time away from practicing as a Physician Assistant and her two little boys for this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Sharing this experience abroad together fortified our sense of belonging and our friendship like no other. We ended the trip by spending a few heavenly days with Runa's family in New Delhi touring the US Embassy and the Taj Mahal. We said our farewells and promised to do it again. My time at Westtown was complicated so much by race and culture but the bonds of friendship are for life."

Toby Snedecor '98 and his wife Jenna Hoffstein welcomed a second bouncing baby boy into the world this June. Grant is doing a great job of burbling cheerfully, eating a ton, and sleeping like an adorable rock.



L-R: Jennifer Diaz-Fields '98, Runa Hatti Gokhale '98, LeAnna DeBaptiste Hallman '98. Standing on train tracks in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Parenting is wild. Mira Shrock, Class of 2041



Back row: Alli Dutton '00, Candace Upton '00, Dave McNitt '00. Front row: Stephnie Denham Hallowell '00, Ted Burgwyn '00, Graham Davies '00, Joe Townsend '00.



Emily O'Donnell Ziemba '01 with her husband Jay and baby Audrey.

2000 **Rachel Shrock '00** writes, "What's up, Quiet Rioters! We welcomed baby Mira (Shrock, obv!) three months early this past February, only 1 lb 4 oz, and after six long months in the NICU we're thrilled she's home. So many of our Westtown fam held us in the Light during that terrifying and grueling time, and I felt the love—thank you. Holler if you're in Chicago, on IG, and/or see you

for our 25th coming up (25...what!). Love y'all."

Candace Upton '00 writes, "Westtown friends had a great weekend together in Philly, and went to the Eagles/Bills game too!"

2001 **Katina Ferguson-Bays '01** writes, "In the fall of 2023, I had the honor of being appointed as a Deputy Director for the

Ohio Department of Children and Youth, under Governor Mike DeWine's administration. This appointment comes after 16 years of experience in the Social Services field. I am both grateful and excited for this opportunity and equally committed to improving outcomes for Ohio's most marginalized citizens."

Emily O'Donnell Ziemba '01 writes, "My husband Jay and I welcomed a baby girl—Audrey Marie Ziemba—on



CLASS NOTES



Wedding Party of Jess Lowe and Geddes Dowling IV '06



Westonians gathered at the Belfry to celebrate baby Desmond Dae Kloss



Westtown classmates as groomsmen at the wedding of Gebbes Dowling IV '06. Left to right: David George '06, Kjell Strode '06, Phil Ligon '06, Geddes Dowling '06, Winston Hibberd '06, and Steve Turner '06.



Chimdi Nwosu Tuffs '05, Benny Tuffs, and Gabriel Tuffs

the 4th of July! We moved back to the Chester County area a few years ago and have loved connecting with other local parents from the Class of '01.”

2003 Austin Sachs '03 writes, “Hello, Westtown! It has been a long time since I have given an update. I am currently living in Northern Vermont with my wife, Danielle, and our son, Thatcher (11). I am part owner of a cannabis dispensary in Essex, Vermont, where I currently am the Dispensary Manager. We are in the process of building out a manufacturing facility where I hope to become the CEO of processing and extraction. We also have a small homestead where we raise chickens, turkeys, and alpacas. Wishing you all the best and if you are ever in Vermont, let’s connect. Be well!”

2005 Kat Shinoda '05, certified health coach and hypnotist has launched her business, Your Life Depot. She’s created a thriving

space for individuals to conquer phobias and embrace empowerment! Follow @yourlifedepot or visit yourlifedepot.com for details.

Chimdi Nwosu Tuffs '05 writes, “My family recently moved from Philadelphia to Media, Pennsylvania. We are loving being back in the area and so close to Westtown! I hope to see some of my local '05 classmates more often in 2024.”

2006 Flor M. Cruz '06 and Umair Siddiqui welcomed their first baby, Theo Alexander Siddiqui into the world on May 10, 2023.

Jess Lowe and **Geddes Dowling IV '06** were married at The Old Mill in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania on September 23, 2023. Fellow '06 classmates were Groomsmen including **David George, Winston Hibberd, Phil Ligon, Kjell Strode, and Steve Turner.**

Louis Porter '06 recently published his first book, *Reds in Blue: UNESCO, World Governance, and the Soviet*

Internationalist Imagination (Oxford University Press, 2023). The book is the result of a decade of writing and research, including over a year of document-hunting in Russian-government archives in Moscow and at the UNESCO archives in Paris. It is the first archives-based history of the reception in the USSR of the idea of world governance through international organization. Louis lives with his wife, Liz, and two kids, Louis James (3 years old) and Georgia (1 year old) in San Marcos, Texas, where he teaches Russian and Eurasian history at Texas State University.



2007 Dave Kloss '07 and his wife, Claire Kloss, welcomed their first born child this summer, Desmond Dae Kloss. Before Dez stepped onto the scene this August 11th, he was celebrated at the Belfry



Westtown graduates left to right: David Walsh '80, Robin Embick '08, Emma Podolin '09, Wynne Lewis '08, Kevin Edwards '08, Andrew Currie '08, Melissa McCourt '08, Kristie McLaughlin '08, Marcella Houghton '08, Lucas Braun '08, & Ruby Fairchild '08.

with friends, family, and plenty of Westtown alums including Dave's sister **Katie Kloss '02**, **Martin '69** and **Lisa Ogletree '69**, **Sam Cooper '04**, **Henry Catania '06**, **Jane Winslow '07**, **Nick Silverson '07**, **Emily Abels '07**, and **Melissa McCourt '08**.

Nick Holz Silverson '07 went on two research cruises in the Arctic Ocean this summer as part of his Master of Science at the University of Maryland. He received the 2023 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to fund his research on global warming's effect on Arctic Ocean floor biodiversity. The two research cruises, aboard the ships the Sir Wilfred Laurier and the R/V Sikuliaq, sailed through the Aleutian Islands north through the Bering Strait and into the

Chukchi Sea, ending in Utqiagvik, Alaska (the northernmost town in the US). He saw enormous flocks of sea ducks, pods of gray whales, and the northern lights. He collected buckets of marine worms and clams and will intern at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle this winter to study their DNA. He had quite an adventure! He is grateful to **Teacher Ted Lutkus** and his Bio 101 forest plot as his first exposure to conducting a scientific study. He's also grateful to **Teacher Spencer Gates** for helping him learn to write.

2008 **Kevin Edwards '08** writes, "On September 2, 2023 I had the honor of marrying the love of my life, Dalila Baied, in Santa Fe,

New Mexico, witnessed by family and friends. It was a joyful day, chock full of Westtown graduates. In other news, in December 2023, I received my Master of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of New Mexico."

2010 **Caitlin Hepps Keeney '10** graduated from Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2018. She then went on to pursue five years of postdoctoral training, including a residency in zoological medicine from North Carolina State University, which she completed in July of 2023. After passing her board exam in October, she is now a certified Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine, joining a group of less than 300 certified veterinarians



Nick Holz Silverson '07 dons a Mustang survival suit to collect clams in the Bering Strait.

nation-wide. Since then she began working as a staff veterinarian at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio.

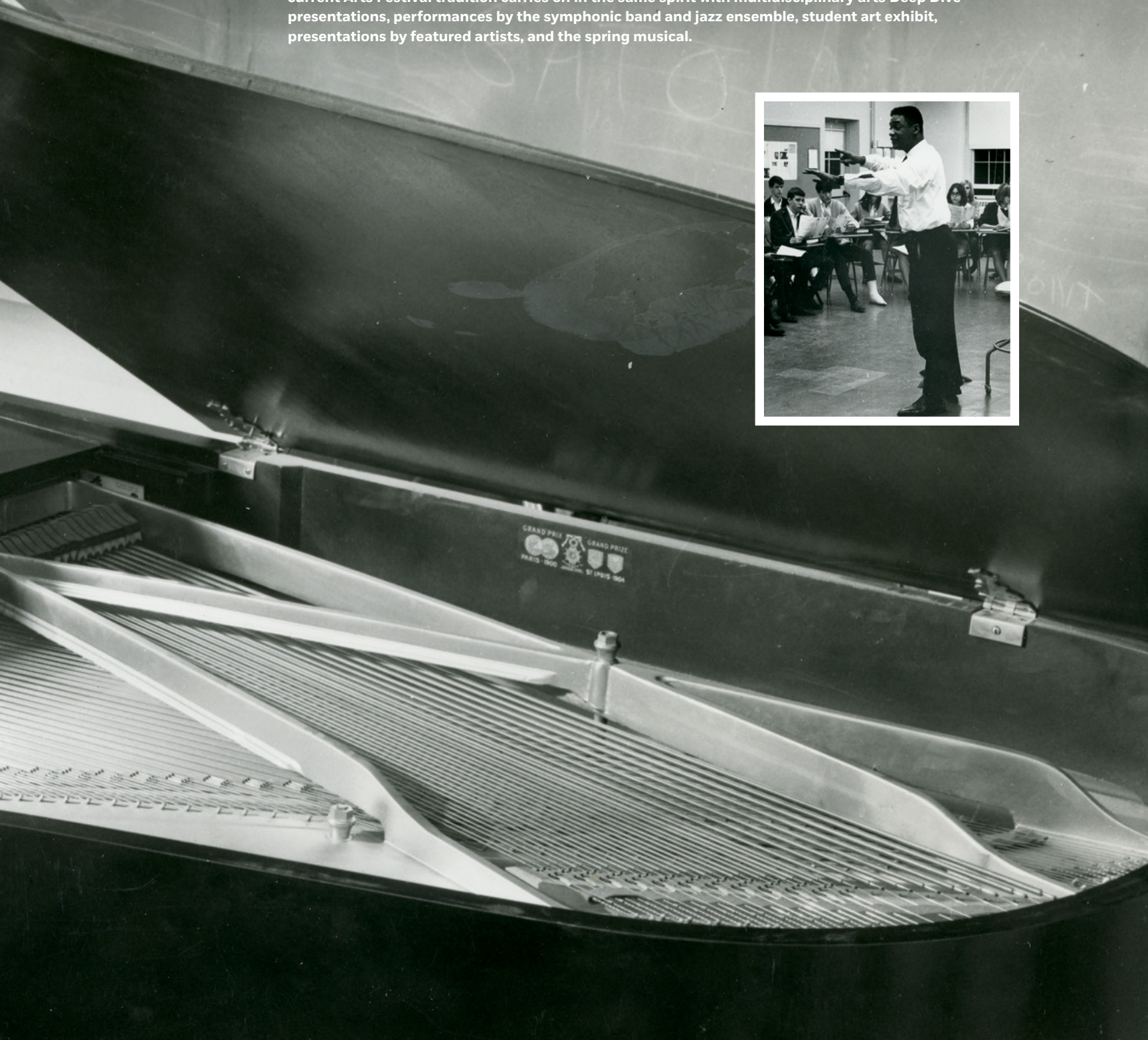
Valerie Puschel '10 writes, "I just recently have fondly thought back of my (sadly only one) year at Westtown, and when I saw the email invitation I thought, why not give a short update. I have been based mainly in Amsterdam/Barcelona, but since around a year living full time in a van that I converted myself and traveling around Europe—mostly to explore, surf and do outdoor sports and visit some passion projects. For the rest of my time I am working for Greenpeace as Head of Digital Transformation. I hope everyone is healthy and happy."

From
the Archives

1956



MERVIN HUTTON was the Upper School's Music Director from September 1956 until June 1967. He gave piano and voice lessons, directed the Vespers Choir, taught music theory and appreciation, and with S. Warren Krebs, started an "Introduction to Arts and Music" course in 1961. Before arriving at Westtown, he graduated from Oberlin College's Conservatory of Music; studied at Temple University and the Tanglewood-Berkshire Music Theater; and taught piano, music theory, and chorus at Florida A & M College. By all accounts, Hutton was well-liked by the students—and talented as well. In a December 1956 *Brown and White* article, it was reported that "He seemed to pull the music out of the singers, and place each note or phrase in its proper spot." The Class of 1959 made him an honorary member and wrote that he had a "magnificent face while conducting." Hutton was a member of the Arts Festival Committee and helped plan Westtown's first Arts Festival in the spring of 1967. The first Arts Festival included a "Musicarama," the annual student art exhibit, a performance by an Afro-American dance ensemble, film viewings, and a printing demonstration. Today, Westtown's current Arts Festival tradition carries on in the same spirit with multidisciplinary arts Deep Dive presentations, performances by the symphonic band and jazz ensemble, student art exhibit, presentations by featured artists, and the spring musical.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

WESTTOWN TEAMS WIN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Above: Girls varsity team celebrates their title victory. Right: Senior wrestlers end their high school careers with a championship.



Just as we were going to press, two teams earned Friends Schools League championship titles.

The powerhouse **girls varsity basketball team** won the FSL Championship against Friends Central School—their fourth consecutive title!

In his final year of coaching before retirement, **Jay Farrow '75** led the tenacious **varsity wrestling team** to the Friends Schools League Championship against Germantown Friends School!

Congratulations to our teams, their coaches, and to all of our talented student athletes.

Go 'Town!

THE SHOEMAKER VISITING LECTURER SERIES PRESENTS

S H E R Y L O R I N G

PERFORMANCE OF

I Wish to Say*

APRIL 8, 2024 AT 10:45 A.M. ON THE BELFRY PATIO

LECTURE WITH Q&A

APRIL 8, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.
IN THE BARTON-TEST THEATER

*The performance of I Wish to Say is interactive. Take a seat with Sheryl Oring and write a postcard to the President. She types the messages verbatim and sends them to the President. Since launching the I Wish to Say project in 2004, Oring has typed more than 4,000 postcards to U.S. Presidents from dozens of locations across the U.S.



REGISTRATION OPEN!

Alums Weekend

MAY 17 - 19, 2024

