

2024 / ISSUE 2

# *The* Westonian *Magazine*





We welcome letters to the editor. You may send them to our home address or to [westonian@westtown.edu](mailto:westonian@westtown.edu).

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# The Westonian Magazine

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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.

# The Constancy of Place




“Westonians are, at least in some ways, children raised by this campus. The details may vary from decade to decade, but that relationship is a constant.”

**More than anything else**, Westtown is defined by its people. And yet, almost everyone who was a daily presence on campus when my Westtown journey began has moved on over the four decades since. This is, of course, inevitable, natural, and right, and it calls to mind an image of generations of Westonians lighting lamps along a path so that those who come later may find their way. This is what's been done for us, and it's what we now do for others. As I consider continuity here at Westtown, my thoughts also turn from people to place, to the incredible resource that is our six hundred acres, and to how this very campus so vitally informs our experience.

Early on in the contemporary classic *Braiding Sweetgrass*—one of this year's employee summer reading options—Robin Wall Kimmerer mentions someone introducing himself as “a boy who was raised by a river” and contemplates the various meanings of that description. Westonians are, at least in some ways, children raised by this campus. The details may vary from decade to decade, but that relationship is a constant. Whether our current Lower School Farm and Forest program, woods plots, or countless labs centered around aspects of Chester Creek, our campus has long been integral to Westtown's academic program. In so many other ways though, too, the Westtown experience is grounded in and inseparable from our physical environment. How can one remember tapping maple trees and making syrup without recalling the trees themselves? Or—if we're of certain generations—of picking fruit without finding oneself once again in the orchard high above the lake? Or of fishing, paddling a canoe, or ice skating without thinking of the lake itself? Memories of sledding locate some of us on the South Lawn and others on the North side of the Main Building, but we all shared the bracing air and muffled quiet of snow in a Westtown winter. How many of us associate the Lower Fields not just with athletics, but as a place to watch a sunrise, perhaps gathered in silence on an Easter morning? How many swam at Elephant Rock? And how many can close their eyes now and see an impossibly beautiful Wyeth sky stretched out overhead?

And yet, in these constants there is always change. I'm sometimes simultaneously disoriented and reassured when I realize that some seemingly immutable features of our campus—now synonymous with Westtown—only appeared near the midpoint of our 225 years. I think of the Westtown-famous photograph of girls gathered on Elephant Rock in the 1890s, and realize that when they were students the Main Building (1888) was a recently added feature, and they wouldn't have known the Lake (1912) or the Meeting House (1929) at all. And then, as I consider the way built features have come and gone throughout our history without changing our fundamental essence, I'm reminded of the anecdote—one I first heard at Westtown years ago—about the old fellow who'd had the same ax his entire life, though he'd replaced both the head and the handle several times.

As always, thank you for your love and support of this school that we share. 



# News from Around 'Town

Bruce Harrison '81  
teaches Lower  
Schoolers about the  
longtime Westtown  
tradition of sap boiling  
(see page 13)





## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# Black Excellence

In celebration of Black History Month, the workshop series Black Excellence at Westtown highlighted the achievements of Black faculty and staff who serve as mirrors and windows for our students. Each presenter visited a Lower School classroom to share what their roles are at Westtown, how their life experiences impacted their professions, and then did an activity with the students to help them understand their work in our school. Thank you to presenters **Marissa Colston**, **Jay Farrow '75**, **DeVon Jackson**, **Dwayne Morris**, **Janiel Samuels**, **Courtney Tyus**, **Tejan Walcott**, and **Domi Waldron** for sharing their professional journeys with our students, and to **Kelly Yiadom**, Director of Equity, Justice, and Belonging for Lower and Middle School, for creating this workshop series.

In the Middle School, students learned from four panelists who spoke to Middle School students for the Black Women in Excellence workshop. Their presentations highlighted the achievements of professional Black women during Black History Month. The speakers — **Alice Palmer**, Attorney Team Lead at Lincoln Financial; **Dr. Nicole AQUI**, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at Penn Medicine; **Dr. Nelly Silva**, CEO at Advanced Dentistry of Collegeville; and **Teleicia Dambreville**, In-House Counsel of Burlington Store, held workshop-style presentations that highlighted their expertise in their professions, their journeys, and the path students can take if they are interested in the profession being presented.

In the Upper School, Black History Month events began with an assembly featuring a panel of Black Quakers who shared their experiences, the influence of Quakerism in their lives, and the connection between their identities and Quakerism. It was an engaging presentation and we are grateful to the panelists for talking with our students. Our thanks to (from left): **Lee Payton**, Upper School Principal, Friends Central School; **Veda Robinson**, Upper School Principal, Westtown School; **Karyn Payton**, Lower School Principal, Westtown School; **Emma Lapsansky-Werner** PhD, Professor Emeritus of History and Visiting Professor in the Writing Program and Quaker Studies at Haverford College; **Domi Waldron**, Director of Alum Engagement, Westtown School; **Francisco Burgos**, Executive Director of Pendle Hill, member of the Westtown School Board of Trustees; and, **DeVon Jackson**, Upper School Director of Equity, Justice, and Belonging, Westtown School, who organized this event. Throughout the month, our student affinity groups — Black Women



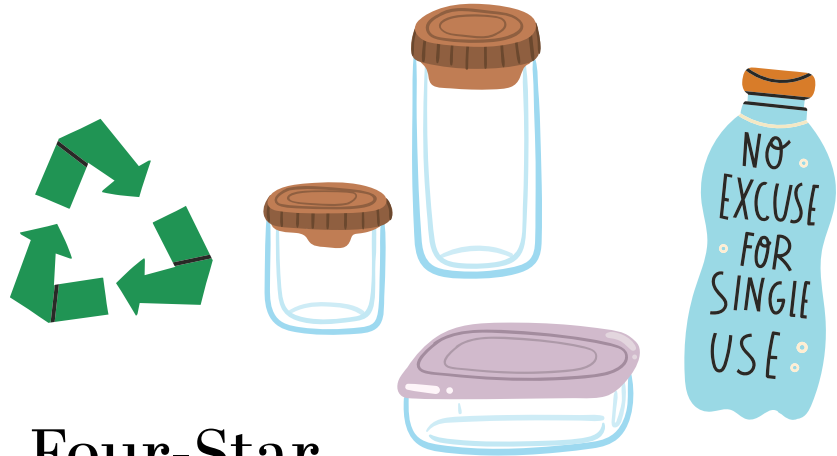
Top: Upper School history teacher Marissa Colston presents to second graders; Black Quaker assembly panelists: Lee Payton, Veda Robinson, Karyn Payton, Emma Lapsansky-Werner, Domi Waldron, Francisco Burgos, DeVon Jackson

Affinity Group, In the Know (Black Male Affinity Group), Black Student Union, and the Multiracial Student Union—hosted programming during Meetings for Worship and Community Collection. Black history month celebrations concluded with a Community Dinner with a delicious special menu as well as an amazing performance by the Westtown Community Choir!



## CLTA RECOGNIZES WESTTOWN'S CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) announced the 16 Chinese Programs awarded the "Distinguished K-12 Chinese Program in the United States," which included Westtown School's Chinese program! We are excited that our program has received this honor and has been recognized nationally. The award ceremony was held during the CLTA Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, where **Bei Zhang**, Chair of the World Languages Department, accepted the award on behalf of the program. Congratulations to teachers **Bei Zhang**, **Nina Li**, and **Jie Song** for their outstanding work!



## Four-Star Green Restaurant

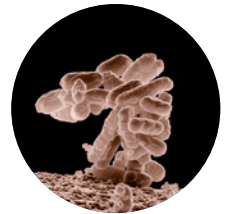
We are thrilled to share that our Dining Room has been re-certified as a 4-star Green Restaurant this year! Special thanks go to **Chef Josh Jackson** and the Green Coalition, our Upper School sustainability club. Some of the hard work that contributed to the re-certification includes: Removing single-use disposables from the Dining Room; returning to a no-plastic-water-bottle policy in the Upper School; roll-out of the Green Container Program (a check-out and return system for reusable to-go containers); collecting and composting kitchen waste on site; removing single-use sauce packets, switched to AWSM sauce condiments (co-founded by alum **Paul Lehmann '99**); and, when possible, products are purchased from local sources first.



### CHESTER COUNTY

## Science Research Competition

At the Chester County Science Research Competition's award ceremony, students **Jerry Huynh '25** and **Shawn Xu '25** received awards for their work. Huynh took first place in the Microbiology category for his research, "The effect of gelatin encapsulation on phages infectivity on E.coli C and survivability in different conditions. Xu won first place in Engineering for "Needle Roller Structured Climbing Robot." Both students advanced to compete in the Delaware Valley Science Fair. Science teacher **Tyler Kochel** is the coordinator of Westtown's Science Fair Club, and as such, provided significant time and support to these students. Join us in congratulating them all!



Shawn Xu's robot won first place in Engineering



Jerry Huynh won first place in Microbiology



## Quaker Artistry: Voices and Vision Podcast

For his David Mallery Fellowship, **Alex Ates**, Director of PK-12 Visual and Performing Arts, created a podcast exploring the intersection of Quakerism and creativity. In this three-episode series, Ates interviews New Orleans Clarinetist Ben Schenck, New York City Printmaker and Graffiti Artist Todd Drake, and Westtown student poet **Jamila Burgos '27**. This podcast is intended as a resource for faculty and staff, students, and the greater Friends community. Use this QR code to listen.



## Quaker Artist Todd Drake Returns

Westtown Lower School, and Lower School art teachers **Jane Chesson** and **Kelly Nicholson**, were pleased to welcome New York City-based artist, Todd Drake as our 2024 Candace Freeman Artist-in-Residence. Todd is a Quaker printmaker and street artist whose artwork addresses the themes of peace, resilience, and community. Todd worked alongside PK – 5th grade students during their art classes throughout the week-long residency to learn the process of lino-cut print-making. Students learned about concept planning, carving linoleum-style printing blocks, and all had a chance to “pull a print.” Drake will take the student work back to his NYC studio to create a collaborative mixed-media collage, which will feature his own work alongside student prints and will be installed in the Lower School. The Artist-in-Residence Program began over thirty years ago and focuses on bringing professional artists to Westtown Lower School to share their artistic process and inspiration with our students. The opportunity for young artists to work alongside a professional artist is a valuable and important piece of our arts curriculum. You can see many of the Artist-in-Residence projects from years past throughout the Lower School hallways.

### VISITING ARTIST

## Marek Bennett

Westtown Middle School and the Westtown Arts Department welcomed Marek Bennett to campus as our 2024 Visiting Artist. Marek worked with our

students on the fundamentals of creating comics and graphic novels and guided them as they created three-panel comics inspired by our Quaker values. Marek opened his visit with an assembly, where he shared details of his own work and began a sketch of the Meeting House inspired by feedback given by students. All students participated in Marek's workshops. His visit concluded back in the Meeting House where he shared student work and the completed sketch of the Meetinghouse. Our thanks to art teachers **Marta Willgoose Salo** and **Cindy Hodgson**, as well as **Alex Ates** and the entire Arts Department for making this experience possible for our Middle School students!



## SENIOR ART SHOW

The Senior Art Show, a long-standing Westtown tradition, opened on May 22. Students, faculty, parents, and community members gathered to celebrate with a reception and viewing. The exhibit was a showcase of senior artists' creative expression and talents and represents a culmination of their artmaking. Well done, seniors! We invite you to enjoy the wonderful work of our talented senior artists at this QR code.











# Learning Around the Globe

Over spring break, school-sponsored trips set off to Italy/Greece, Ghana, Taiwan, and Washington, D.C. where students experienced new things, learned by doing, and immersed themselves in their surroundings.

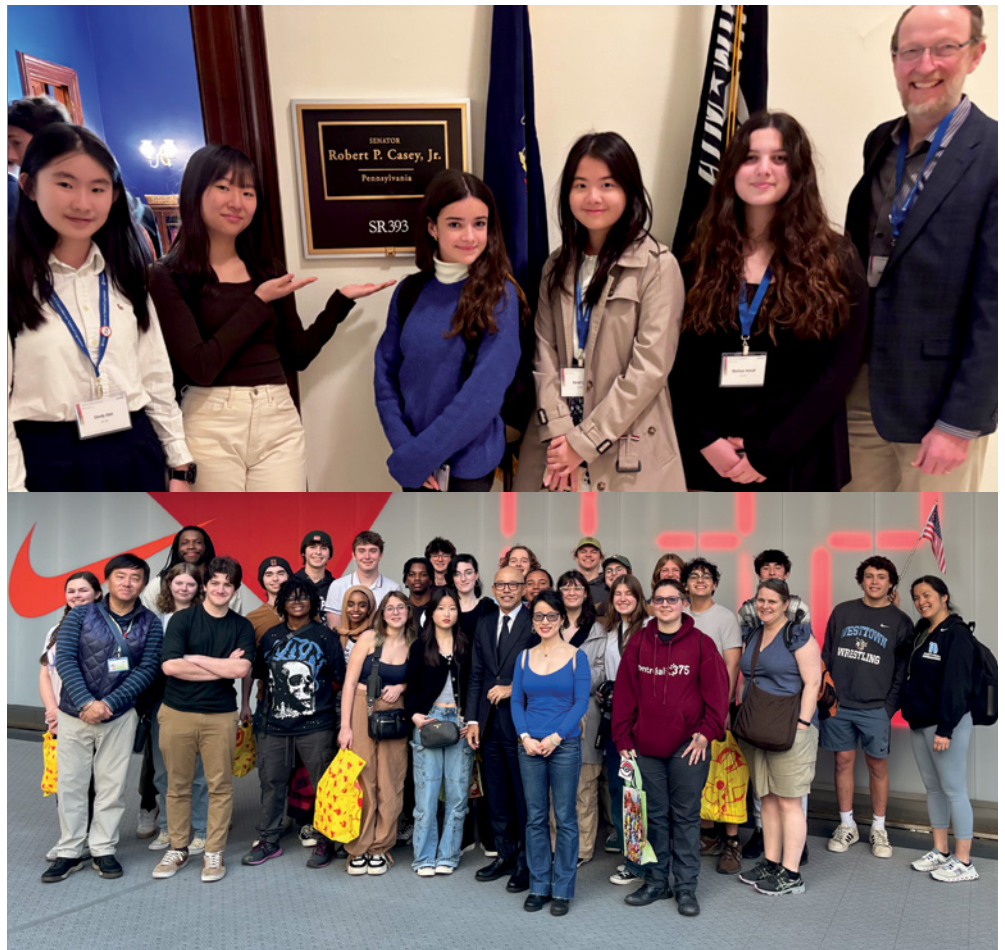
Teachers **Ted Freeman**, **LJ Scurfield**, and **Ellen Abbott** led 18 Latin students on the trip to Greece and Italy, where they explored the relics of the ancient world. Freeman shares, "We first spent several days exploring the city of Athens, Greece. We took in the grandeur of the Parthenon resting atop the acropolis of Athens. We roamed the Athenian agora, as did so many of the great philosophers and statesmen of antiquity. Our group went into the Greek countryside to visit the fascinating sites of Delphi, Mycenae, and the theater of Epidaurus. We then flew to Rome and continued our exploration of the ancient world. We climbed several of Rome's hills, including the Capitoline and Janiculum. We spent a day in Vatican City exploring St. Peter's Basilica and the endless halls of the Vatican museum. We travelled to Ostia Antica, the ancient port city of Rome that is now an expansive set of ruins. Throughout our trip, students read a variety of Latin passages relevant to each site. Students also enjoyed delving into the cultures, languages, and food of modern Greece and Italy."

**Lynette Assarsson** and **Marissa Colston** led a small group of students to Ghana to work with our sister school, Heritage Academy, in the village of Essiam. Students gained experience in the classroom teaching Heritage middle schoolers various arts, crafts, and games. Westtown students also led



reading groups daily, where students read aloud together to improve English reading, pronunciation, and comprehension skills. The group's service project at Heritage was making cement blocks to be used in the completion of a middle school building. Westtown students have been making blocks for this project over the past several trips to Ghana and to honor that work, Heritage will call the new building Westtown Hall! Living in the village of Ajumako gave students the opportunity to have a truly immersive experience, to enjoy authentic Ghanaian cuisine, and to join in the hustle and bustle of "market days" in local villages and towns. The group traveled to Cape Coast to learn about the transatlantic trade of the enslaved and had powerful tours of former trading posts. They also spent time on the beautiful coast and braved the canopy bridges of Kakum National Rainforest. Finally, in the capital city of Accra, they toured the home of author, historian, and civil rights activist W.E.B. du Bois, learning about his life, work, and legacy.

**Bei Zhang, Fran De la Torre-Shu, Kyle Layne-Allen, and Megan Williams** and a large group of students journeyed to Taiwan. Their adventure began with a tour of Taipei where they explored history, art, and culture through iconic landmarks like the Grand Hotel, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, National Palace Museum, National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine, Longshan Temple, Presidential Square, and Cheng'en Gate. They experienced Shilin Night Market, a sensory delight that showcases Taiwan's culinary diversity. The group had several hands-on learning experiences such as Taiwanese cooking lessons, a sky-lantern making workshop, and more! The group ventured into Taroko National Park to take in the natural wonders, and to Yehliu Geopark, known for its unusual rock formations. They also visited the Li Chuan clam aquafarm (and dug for clams!) and Toucheng Farm to observe sustainable agriculture practices. A very



special highlight of the trip was meeting with Westtown alums **Steven Wu '86** and **Richard Wu '87**. The Wu brothers gave the students personalized tours of their department stores and learned about their business philosophies and models, and had insightful conversations about their Westtown experiences. Students were also treated to specialty foods such as soup dumplings and bubble tea from the store that created the first bubble tea in the world! We are grateful to Steven and Richard Wu for sharing their time and insights with our students, and to **Amanda Young** in the Advancement Office who helped facilitate this wonderful visit!

Religion teachers **Lara Freeman** and **Jonathan Ogle '88** led a group of students to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL) Spring Lobby Weekend training. FCNL is a Quaker lobby group that "connects

historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equity, simplicity, and integrity with issues and legislation in Washington. Our community brings together Friends and tens of thousands of like-minded individuals, sharing a belief in relationship-based change making to advance the world we seek, one lobby visit at a time." The Westtown contingent joined hundreds of other students from across the country as they learned and lobbied together. The training sessions this year focused on lobbying for The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. After they finished their training, students visited the offices of both Pennsylvania senators as well as Representative Chrissy Houlahan. One student, a resident of NJ, visited her representatives, including Senator Cory Booker's office. Freeman reports that the students were committed, engaged, and phenomenal participants.



# Earth Day!

For Earth Day 2024, students in the Green Coalition, the Dining Services staff, and Outdoor Education leaders created a program for immersive learning, one that got many students outside. Earth Day began with an all-school Meeting for Worship in the Greenwood (pictured opposite page), with special queries to consider while centering down. In the Upper School, Mary Ann Boyer of Boyer Suddoth Environmental Consultants gave a presentation. Then students broke into a wide variety of workshops and activities ranging from a TED talk on Doughnut Economics, to nature writing, to tree measuring, to invasive plant pulling, to planting a butterfly garden, weaving plarn, and building seed bombs, among many other activities. Students enjoyed time canoeing on the lake, the ropes course, volleyball games, and even an ice cream truck! Our thanks to Green Coalition, Dining Services, student leaders, and the Sustainability Committee for making Earth Day 2024 a memorable one! Check out images from the day at the QR code.



## CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

# Deep Dive

Congratulations to this year's Deep Dive Certificate recipients! The Deep Dive Program offers a multi-year, multi-disciplinary approach to a particular subject area that empowers students to design an intentional, organized, and well-documented arc of immersive learning and focused scholarship. The goal is for them to explore topics across disciplines, to be active participants in their own learning, and to become empathetic, confident leaders. This year, students completed Deep Dive Certificates in Data-Driven Change; Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice; Global Leadership; Multidisciplinary Arts; and Sustainability Leadership. In May, these students presented to the community about their studies and their impressive Capstone Projects. ↓

## BOOK BUDDIES

As part of their English studies, each year 7th graders and Primary Circle students collaborate to write books together. They spend time building relationships, learning each other's interests, learning about the elements of storytelling, and ultimately they write and illustrate a short story together. When finished, 7th graders bring the finished books to their "Book Buddies" and spend time reading their books, enjoying popsicles, and having recess together! You can enjoy more images of the Book Buddy sharing day at this QR code.









## Think, Care, Act

The Think, Care, Act Fair is the culmination of a multi-stage project that begins in 7th grade advisories where students identify their strengths, affinities, interests, and talents. They then focus on what they care about in the community and the world around them. In the third step, they try to connect the first two pieces into a service project that helps others by putting passions and skills to good use. The final step is to present their projects to their families, teachers, and 6th and 8th-grade peers. At the end of the year, 7th graders filled the Uptown Lounge with tri-folds and shared their experiences.

This annual project, led by teacher and 7th Grade Dean **Abby Lausch**, is designed not only to incorporate service learning into curriculum, but also to help students discern what is important to them and to give them a growing sense of agency in having an impact in their communities.



THIRD GRADE

## Learning Civics

"This year's third graders had a contagious passion for civics! After learning about forms and branches of government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, and civic engagement, we ended the unit with a class election as the culminating project. Students formed campaigns that championed causes, rather than people. Within each campaign, students took on various roles such as designer, creative director, speechwriter, and public speaker. Students then presented to their classmates in hopes of rallying support for their cause. These campaigns aimed to raise awareness for a range of topics including animal welfare, endangered species, pollution awareness, bullying prevention, and climate change. We then set up a private voting booth in our classroom, with a sample ballot inside, and students enjoyed casting their ballots and tallying up the votes (students could vote for any issue except their own). The goal of the election was to come up with one cause students could unite behind, and then raise awareness for that cause as a whole grade. Animal welfare won the class election, and third graders then decided on a method for raising awareness. Students landed on creating posters and scratch presentations to raise awareness about this issue, working individually or in pairs on their final projects. It was fantastic to see our students apply their curiosity and passion for civics throughout this project, using their collaborative and conflict resolution skills along the way, in an effort to turn that passion into action." —Charis Fisher, Third Grade Teacher

### THESPIAN SOCIETY INDUCTION



The International Thespian Society is the honor society for students who have engaged in over 100 hours of participation in our theater program. Seven Upper School students have joined the Thespian Troupe, and four seniors received high honors from the program! Westtown's troupe has 32 members and is self-governed. Congratulations to **Lena Johnson '26**, **Shawn Sprott '25**, **Terry Ma '25**, **Jamila Burgos '27**, **Emily Kessler '25**, **Preston Morefield '27**, and **Victoria Potts '26** on being inducted. The four seniors who received high honors were **Odina Achike '24**, **Sasha Khalo '24**, **Eric Li '24**, and **Jess Schottland '24**. Congratulations, everyone!





## Sugaring to Boiling to Syrup!

In February, trees on campus were tapped, part of the long-standing tradition to make maple syrup from our trees. Because of the long stretches of a warm winter, the sap flowed well and maple sugaring was well underway. Director of Outdoor Education **Chris Henwood-Costa** worked with her Lower School Farm + Forest classes to tap, monitor, taste, and collect the sap.

Then, in late February, Lower School students again took part in a historic tradition here at Westtown: the boiling of the sap collected from the trees. This tradition has been a part of Westtown for over 100 years! **Henwood-Costa** and **Bruce Harrison '81** led the boiling process, and gave Lower Schoolers sap to taste. Next, the sap was placed in kettles and taken to the kitchen for the final steps to become maple syrup. Did you know it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup?

At the end of the year, Henwood-Costa and Farm + Forest co-teacher Farmer **Tim Mountz** gathered at the "Grandmother Maple" with first graders. They have made seasonal observations of the tree all year and helped to tap and harvest the sap for the annual maple sugaring project. Costa shared, "They LOVE this tree so we wanted to make an offering to close out our time together."

## PAEA EXHIBITION

March is Youth Art Month, a national effort to raise visibility for visual arts education. Congratulations to several of our Middle School students who were featured in the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) Youth Art Month Exhibition this year: **Rose Cook '28, Quinn Galey '30, Trinity Ingram '28, Piper Lowe '28, Harrison Rupp '28, and Scout Shipley '28.**

A very special congratulations to **McKenna Lausch '28**, the recipient of the statewide Middle Division Award. In addition to being showcased on the exhibition as an awardee, the image of McKenna's work is displayed on a banner in the Capitol. Her original work, entitled *Bookworm* (pictured here), is displayed in our Westtown Library.





ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
AND BIOLOGY STUDENTS

## In the Field

Teacher **Ryan Black** engaged Environmental Science and Biology 2 students in a biodiversity study, employing a variety of technologies to collect and analyze data. Black explains, “iNaturalist is a community science app that allows users to share and record biodiversity information with a database which can be used for scientific research. The goal of iNaturalist is to connect people to nature and create a living record of life on Earth. Environmental Science and Biology 2 students used the app to contribute to our Westtown Biodiversity Studies. The overall project, the Westtown School Biodiversity Study, pulls all of the observations recorded on campus. There are sub-projects that pull data from different parts of campus that Environmental Science students use to compare the biodiversity of different areas. Some of the Environmental Science students set up trail cams and recorded those observations on our Westtown Trail Cams project. And since there are a lot of avid birders on campus, we also set up the Avian Diversity Study. We may add more projects next year to show the diversity of other taxonomic groups.” Visit the QR code to learn about our campus biodiversity. Anyone in the community with the iNaturalist app is welcome to contribute to these ongoing projects as well!

Black also took his Environmental Science 2 class to the Jersey shore for a day of service and learning. Students worked with reTURN the Favor, an organization that “works to rescue horseshoe crabs...stranded on beach areas seasonally closed during shorebird migration and horseshoe crab spawning season. Many horseshoe crabs spawn on these



Environmental Science students rescue horseshoe crabs

closed beaches and oftentimes become stranded, overturned, or even impinged behind natural or manmade structures. The reTURN the Favor program works with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection so that horseshoe crabs stranded on closed beaches can be rescued by sanctioned volunteer groups.” Black shares, “Students witnessed the awe-inspiring spectacle as hundreds of thousands of Atlantic horseshoe crabs gathered along the Delaware Bay shore to engage in their annual spawning ritual—a tradition that has endured for hundreds of millions of years! The ecological significance of this event cannot be overstated. The eggs laid during this mass spawning serve as a vital food source for numerous species, including endangered migratory birds such as the red knot. However, the

future of horseshoe crab populations hangs in the balance. Threatened by habitat degradation, overharvesting for pharmaceutical purposes and fishing bait, and historically utilized as fertilizer, these ancient creatures face significant challenges.” The students had a very successful day, rescuing a total 348 horseshoe crabs. The students also witnessed a great abundance of shorebirds at a few beaches which limited their ability to conduct rescues at these locations (the shorebirds take priority and they were careful not to move them). The group collected data on the numbers of flipped/trapped male and female horseshoe crabs as well as deceased Diamondback terrapins. All of the data they collected was reported to reTURN the Favor.





# Happy Retirement!

In addition to **Jay Farrow '75** (see page 24), three other longtime employees retired at the end of the year. All have contributed to our community immensely. We celebrate their careers and wish them well as embark upon new journeys!

Over a total of 21 years of service, **Pam Mullaney** has worked tirelessly in Dining Services, contributing to the team's work to feed and nourish our community. Director of Dining Services Beth Pellegrino shares, "Pam's time at Westtown has been coupled with raising her three (now all adult children) who are her everything. She worked late nights in the Belfry in her early years in order to be home when her children were young. Pam has worked



many other stations in the kitchen over the years. We fondly refer to her as the 'finder of lost things,' as she has an iron clad memory for where things in the kitchen have wandered off to! She pitches in for the dishroom, Dining Room, prep areas, and cleaning." Beth also notes that Pam was a crucial part of the team's safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, and executed the protocols and procedures for sanitation. Pam has always been a team player and valued member of the Dining Services staff, and was a friendly and welcoming presence in the kitchen and Dining Room. We wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement!

**Kenn Sirinek** began his career at Westtown as a substitute teacher and coach in 2004. In 2008 he became a full-time core teacher in Middle School, focusing primarily on math. He continued to be a three-season coach throughout his career. "He has consistently strived to instill games with a joy of play, an appreciation for hard work, and an expectation of integrity and good sportsmanship," says Middle School



Principal Will Addis. Director of Athletics Mich Canuso-Bedesem says, "From insisting that his teams dress up on game days to ensuring every

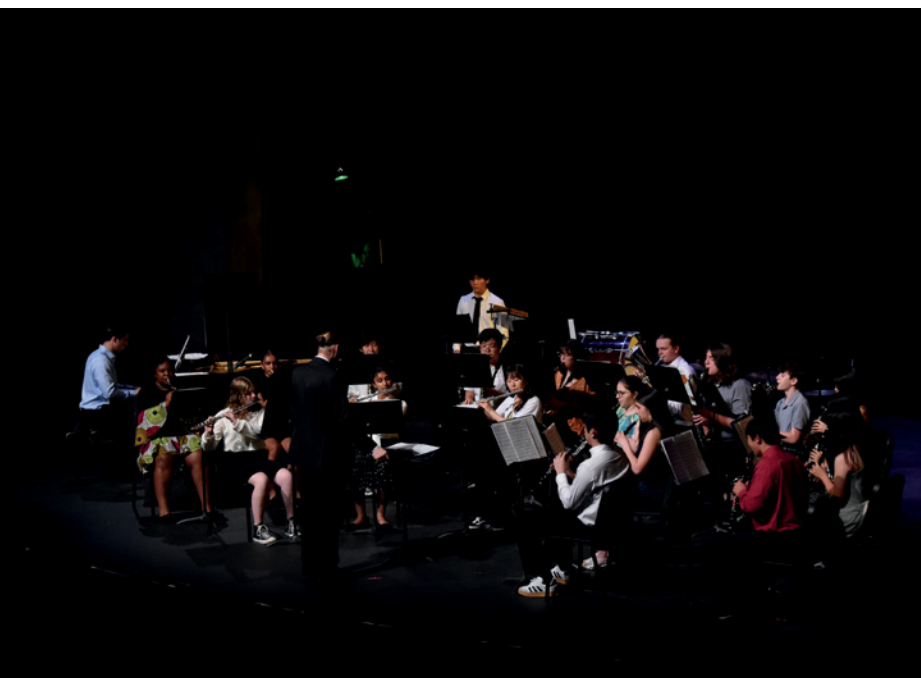
player gave their best effort on every play, Kenn held his players to a high standard both as people and as players. Kenn has always been just as focused on the character development of his players as he was on their skill development." Kenn's colleagues also lift up his willingness to help others. "One of the things that stands out to me most about Kenn is his unwavering generosity," says Seventh Grade Dean Abby Lausch. "Any time a teacher needed coverage or support, he offered to step in...Kenn always offers to help and looks for ways to support his colleagues and students." Known for his quick wit and puns, Kenn also brought humor to his work. Addis concludes, "Beyond the playing fields, Kenn taught math for two decades. He also served as an advisor for students across all three grades and even taught history at one point. Along the way, he raised two Westtown graduates. It is not surprising that Coach Kenn has been the ultimate team player for Westtown." We wish Kenn all the best as he enters retirement!

**Betsy Swan** first arrived at Westtown in 1992 to teach Middle School English and computers. Over the early years at Westtown she also taught math and film, then left to work at another school for a few years. In 2011, she became the Middle/Upper School Librarian where she

remained until her retirement. In addition to her role in the library, Betsy was deeply committed to and involved in the spiritual life of the school. She served as Clerk of the Religious Life Committee and served on the Quaker Life Committee as well. When colleagues and friends speak of Betsy, the theme of Quakerism in practice in the community emerges. English Department Chair Ellen Abbott says, "Betsy is a fierce champion of our Quaker calling and heritage. She is outspoken about how important Quakerism is to the fabric of Westtown. She modeled and elderd us on Quaker teachings, decorum, and history and saw this as a true calling." Former Westtown Archivist Mary Brooks shares, "[Betsy's] enthusiasm for connecting students with sources and material in the library extended to frequently sending them to the Archives for further research. She championed connecting the school's past to the present, especially regarding the school's Quaker roots, and she was always a great resource for questions related to Quakerism." Victoria Jones, Head of Library Services says, "Betsy strives to live her life in accordance with her beliefs. She is generous with her time and tireless in her support of those around her... She did extraordinary work to recenter Quakerism at the heart of the Upper School and has brought her keen intelligence and good humor to all the work she has done in the Mary Hutton Biddle Library. Betsy is a consummate librarian, who has worked closely with teachers and students to ensure that students are reaching their academic potential through working on meaningful projects and assignments." We are grateful for Betsy's many years of service and her deep impact on our community. She will be missed!

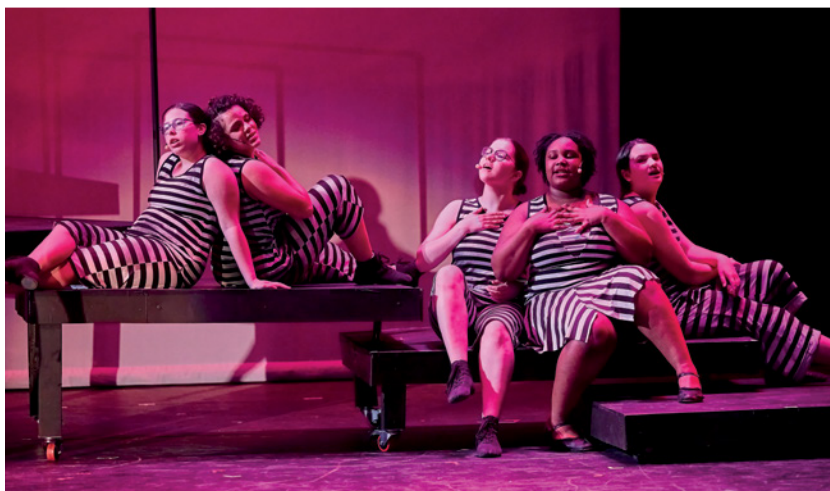






# The Arts Gallery

In this issue we celebrate the performing arts! From instrumental and choral concerts in every division, to the Middle School production of *Newsies Junior*, to the Upper School's *Chicago: Teen Edition* show this year, our students took the stage to let their talents shine.







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



## FIELDS & COURTS



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

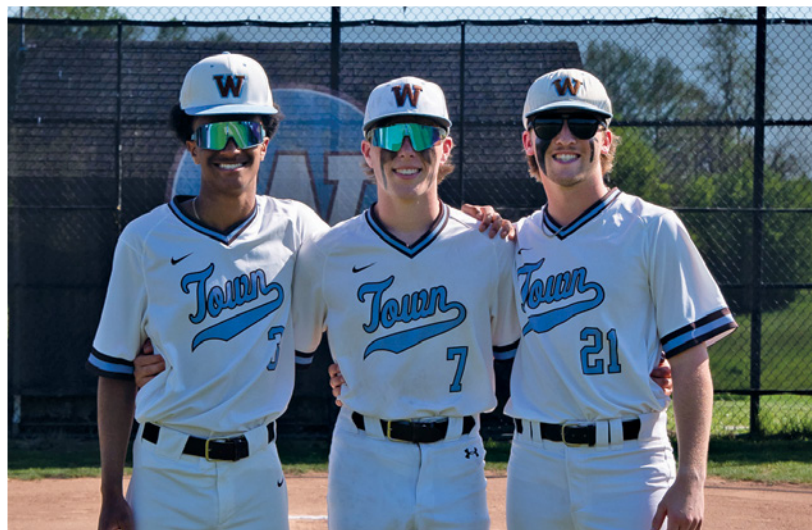


# Fields & Courts

What a spring season for athletics!  
Here are some team highlights:

- The golf team won the FSL championship.
- The girls lacrosse team brought home the Quaker Cup.
- The boys lacrosse won their first-ever championship titles: FSL championship and the PAISAA state championship.

Congratulations to all our student-athletes!









# Curriculum and Program Review

**In the spring of 2022**, Westtown School successfully completed its Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) re-accreditation, a process that independent schools undergo every ten years. As part of the accreditation process, the PAIS Visiting Committee recommended that the school implement a systematic cross-divisional review of curriculum. Although the school had already begun a long-term curriculum review in 2017, much of the work was paused in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. In the summer of 2022, Administrative Council—the senior leadership team comprising the Head of School, division principals, and the Deans of Finance, Admission, Advancement, Communications, Access and Equity, Integrated Health and Wellness, and Faculty and Innovation—met to review the recommendations of the PAIS Visiting Committee. They considered the scope and objectives of a review process focusing on the school's mission and the aspirational goals of the Strategic Vision adopted in 2020, and determined that the school should implement a comprehensive, multi-year curriculum and program review. “The tremendous scope of this project requires the full and active support of our employee community,” shares Chris Wills, Assistant Head of School for Program and Community, who is leading this process. “Faculty would need to examine, document, and potentially rewrite aspects of the curriculum while our external-facing offices would need to communicate the process and outcomes of this work to internal, external, and prospective audiences. We knew that to be successful, we would need to engage in this work through Quaker decision-making processes that would seek input and wisdom from students, faculty, families, trustees, and alums.” To that end, the Curriculum and Program Review Process Committee was formed and given this charge:

*Guided by Westtown's mission and Strategic Vision, the Committee is charged with compiling, auditing, and reviewing Westtown's tri-divisional programmatic curriculum including*



*academics, co-curriculars, residential life, etc. The Committee will establish a shared understanding of the vision for Westtown's program and deliver a scope and sequence mapping the curriculum PK-12th grade. The work of the Committee should be grounded in the guiding principles and essential questions established by the Process Committee and examine the program through the lenses of Quakerism; equity, justice, and belonging (EJB); and sustainability. The Committee should complete this work from January 2023 – August 2025.*

The Committee—in partnership with and approval from the Principals Group, Upper School Department Chairs, the Equity, Justice, and Belonging team, and the Sustainability Committee—developed a list of essential questions some of which include:

- *How do we define Quaker pedagogy at Westtown?*
- *How do we ensure that the principles of equity, justice, and belonging are effectively embedded throughout our program?*
- *What are the experiences and outcomes that are expected of a student completing each division?*
- *How do we leverage our unique position as a regional three-divisional day school and a global boarding school for the betterment of our students?*





Over the course of five months, the Committee reviewed the mission and Strategic Vision, considered these essential questions noted above and discerned the following goals and specific outcomes:

- *Create a profile of a learner/graduate at each transition grade (5th, 8th, 12th) that includes graduation and/or transition requirements and signature divisional experiences;*
  - *Develop a scope and sequence of Westtown's academic, co-curricular, residential, and programmatic curricula across all grades that includes essential learnings—learning to know (content), learning to do (skills), learning to be (dispositions), and learning to live with others (community agreements and expectations)—as well as benchmarks of when essential learnings are introduced, practiced, and mastered;*
  - *Establish essential themes and topics;*
  - *Consider and determine texts and resources to be associated with teaching and learning in each grade/course;*
  - *Establish measurable outcomes and clear metrics;*
  - *Give recommendations for academic schedules for the Middle and Upper Schools that work in conjunction with the Lower School schedule;*
- *Provide recommendations for the academic calendar that supports best practices in teaching and learning for all divisions;*
  - *Institute an ongoing process for program review.*

This review is an exciting opportunity to analyze and document our academic program and affirm its strengths and distinguishing features, as well as to identify areas for improvement, to align classroom activity with mission, establish strategy, and to create a set of common goals and aspirations rooted in Quaker values. Faculty have embraced this opportunity and have engaged in regular professional development sessions over the past year.

The first session focused on the school's endeavor to offer an outstanding education in an environment of intentional belonging and explicit Quakerism, and the fundamental belief that personal integrity, spiritual growth, equality, community, social responsibility, justice, and peace-making go hand in hand with achieving academic excellence. Teachers were challenged to identify Quaker pedagogy and instructional strategies in their classrooms; identify content, skills, and outcomes that are the hallmark of a Westtown education; to identify learning gaps, bias, and barriers to access; to elucidate skills needed for students to be successful users of technology; how equity, justice, and belonging are embedded in their curricula; and how they develop norms for sustainability and stewardship. Subsequent sessions were led in partnership with the EJB team, educational consultants, department chairs, and academic leaders. During these sessions, faculty began to map their units and curricula and consider how they embed the pillars of the Strategic Vision (Knowledge, Community, Environment) in their classrooms. Future sessions will focus on common standards and rollout of an official digital mapping tool—created in partnership with our Technology Department—that will provide consistent documentation of content and curricula and faculty will continue fruitful conversations about who we are and what we aspire to be as a school community, and the most effective ways to provide a superlative education that fulfills our mission and vision.

“I’m very excited because the outcomes of this process will drive decision-making in our teaching practices, hiring goals, and spiritual community,” says Wills. “We determined that we needed to clarify the ways that Quakerism undergirds every aspect of school life, and should examine our program through that lens and clarify that our commitments to equity, justice, and belonging and sustainability are grounded in our Quaker values. But most importantly, the goal is to honor every individual student in our community and to ensure that we live out our mission to *inspire and prepare our graduates to be stewards and leaders of a better world.*”



## IN MEMORIAM

# Lisa Cromley

STORY BY LYNETTE ASSARSSON • PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES

**For more than 36 years**, Lisa Cromley was a stalwart presence in the Middle School. Over the course of her career at Westtown, she taught English, history, and social studies with a spirit of joy, conviction, and curiosity. She was a lifelong learner who continually advanced her knowledge and honed her craft while challenging and inspiring her colleagues to do the same.

Lisa was always at the forefront of adopting new and emerging technologies in the classroom, steadfast in her commitment to using innovative methods to engage her students. She was the first at Westtown to introduce virtual reality into the classroom, enriching a unit about refugees and migration to help students deeply understand the refugee experience. “Lisa was an educational pioneer,” says retired Middle School teacher

Sue Gold. “In her embrace of technology as a means of engaging children and enhancing her curriculum, her search for relevant resources, her understanding and applications of the latest educational research, and her willingness to learn and change, Lisa was a pathfinder and a trailblazer.” Teacher Abby Lausch shares, “Lisa was one of my most impactful mentors and inspirations. She was always learning more, trying new approaches, testing

out technology, and doing it in a way that was completely student-centered. She constantly raised the bar for teaching, and this helped model for me what a life-long learner truly looks like. Her curriculum was always evolving, and we all benefited from her hard work and endless curiosity.” Colleague Jon Kimmel sums it up like this: “Lisa was actively at the forefront and working edge of almost every curricular conversation and re-envisioning at Westtown in the last 36 years.”

Lisa was also a trusted friend and mentor. “She was a confidante to many, many people. She gave excellent advice and never let you hide from challenges—you knew she was looking out for you,” shares colleague Megan Rose. “She was our go-to for grounding and modeling of Quaker spirit, humility, and generosity. She had incredible wisdom and perspective.” Megan adds that Lisa was also instrumental in creating healthy community among faculty. “She brought new people on board



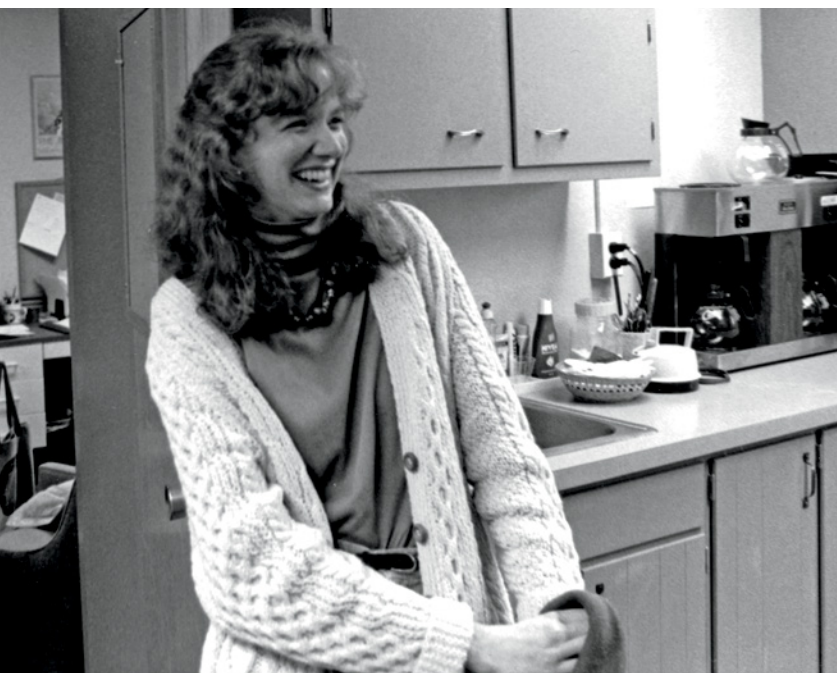
with our culture of respect—she did not brook any unkindness or talking behind people’s backs.”

As friends and colleagues share their memories of and stories about Lisa, a recurring theme appears. Although she was a very serious educator, she had a magnificent sense of humor. “She asked critical questions, challenged us to do the best we could for students, and did all this with a sparkle in her eye and a wonderful sense of humor,” says former colleague Bill Monahan. “If we could get Lisa laughing in a meeting, she would often have difficulty stopping. It was pure joy.” Megan Rose adds, “Lisa was into her fourth decade of teaching 6th and 7th grade and she did it with tremendous integrity, intellect, deep care, empathy, and humor.”

Lisa actively shaped the life of the school, constantly seeking to better the experience of students and colleagues and to center Quaker values. She was a co-founder, along with Betsy Swan and Jon Kimmel, of Oak Lane Day Care, created so that faculty and staff had on-campus child care that was steeped in Quaker values. Many years ago, Lisa and then-colleague Melinda Wenner Bradley ’88, redesigned the Middle School student leadership process, so that students who took on leadership roles were selected through a Quaker discernment process whereby students evaluate candidates based on a variety of leadership qualities, not elected by a popularity vote. The Middle School Clerk program continues to thrive today. She also created the class dean system and served as the first 7th Grade Class Dean. Lisa was a profoundly trusted colleague, evidenced by her roles as Middle School Faculty Clerk and her







presence on a wide variety of committees at the school, most especially search committees. She also served as an Assistant Clerk for the school's bicentennial publication, *Westtown In Word and Deed*, a celebration of Westtown's history.

Although soft-spoken, gentle, and always ready with a kind word, Lisa was also a meticulous and conscientious teacher who set high expectations for her students. She wanted to make sure that they learned how to write well and persuasively; that they developed strong vocabularies; that they understood context, nuance, and perspective in literature and history; and that while they were mastering the material and critical thinking skills, they were also developing empathy and a sense of the world around them. She had a keen sense of each student and paid close attention to their needs. Many attest to this attentiveness and describe that she was often the first teacher to notice when a student needed extra support. Jon Kimmel notes, "Lisa was a teacher who observed and considered her students so deeply that she was regularly the one who identified social and emotional concerns and questions about learning differences and styles." Middle School Principal Will Addis shares, "Lisa cultivated her content carefully and developed a classroom culture that allowed her to truly see the students in front of her and to be responsive to the needs in that classroom, building on their strengths and adjusting to their needs." Former principal Nancy van Arkel says that Lisa's ability to recognize students' needs meant she also took meaningful steps to meet them. "She knew how to help students leverage their strengths and she helped them learn how to discern the strengths of their peers," she says. "Often this took the form of structuring group work to provide a

variety of roles within the group. Lisa also modeled using a variety of assessment tools to ensure that students would be able to demonstrate their learning in ways that aligned with their strengths." Students were attuned to this and recognized her care. "Kids have come back to say that she noticed something about them and would pull them aside to lift it up," says Megan Rose. "She said to one student, 'You are going to write a book someday,' and things like 'You know how smart you are, right?' to many others and these kids never forgot it." (And that student did indeed go on to write a book!) Former colleague Melinda Wenner Bradley '88 shares, "When I called my daughter to tell her about Lisa's passing, there was a pause and then I could hear the tears in her voice when she said, 'She taught me so many words!' That legacy of all the ways she helped Middle School students explore language and ideas goes out into the world—Lisa's light gets shared through all of us who learned from her, and in a special way through the former students who are now teachers themselves, like my daughter."

A fitting testament to Lisa's impact on students and her legacy has been the book drive in her honor. Spearheaded by one of her former students, Ella Cook '24, and organized by a group of Upper School students who had Lisa as a teacher in Middle School, the drive collected 563 books. These students designed a memorial book plate that was placed in each, and the books are being distributed by community members to the little free libraries across the area and even across the country. Faculty and staff have taken them on their travels and left books in Maine, Georgia, South Carolina, and Colorado so far.

Generations of Westonians' lives have been touched by Lisa's unique blend of wisdom, passion, patience, kindness, humor, and joy. She left an indelible mark on our community with her unparalleled dedication to education and unwavering commitment to nurturing both students and colleagues. Her legacy of curiosity, integrity, and thoughtfulness will continue to guide and inspire us. She was esteemed, she was loved, and she will be dearly missed.



*Lisa Bond Cromley passed away peacefully on March 7, 2024, in West Chester, Pennsylvania, surrounded by her family and close friends. A memorial service was held in the Westtown School Meeting House on May 11, 2024 where those gathered celebrated her life and shared loving tributes. If you would like to commemorate Lisa, the family asks that donations in her honor be made to the Kaesemeyer Full Access Fund (which supports Westtown School's student access program) or to The American Association for Cancer Research.*



# Jay Farrow '75

## Leap of Faith to Living Legend

STORY BY LYNETTE ASSARSSON • PHOTO BY ED CUNICELLI

**It all began in 1972**, when 15-year-old Jay Farrow was “plucked from the doldrums of Cleveland, Ohio,” and landed on Westtown’s campus sight unseen. He didn’t know anything about boarding schools, Quaker schools, or even Quakerism. The A Better Chance (ABC) program connected him with Westtown and he enrolled as a sophomore. Jay describes this decision as a “complete leap of faith.” When he arrived on campus, it was a strange, new world for him that was exciting at first, but wasn’t always easy. In fact, he considered leaving at one point until he had a pivotal conversation with his advisor and mentor, Jim Morris, who encouraged him to stay. So, stay he did and, all told, his time at Westtown School spanned nearly half a century and all of his adult life.

As a student, Jay envisioned a career in business or economics, but there came a moment in Peter Lane’s ’57 math class that he decided to become a teacher. “Pete was such an inspiration to me. It wasn’t because of trigonometry, but because of how he was as a teacher and how he related to his students.” Jay knew then it was important to him to have a career in which he could connect with students in that way. He went on to The College of Wooster where he earned a B.A. in history and a Secondary School Teacher Certificate. Former Head of School Tom Kaesemeyer encouraged Jay to do his student teaching at Westtown, and Jay credits Tom for being persistent in his invitations to take a teaching job at Westtown as well. In 1980, Jay returned to teach and serve as the Assistant Dean of Boys and the JV wrestling coach. His plan to be at Westtown for “just two years” turned into 44. After a few years at Westtown, Jay earned an M.A. in Secondary School Administration and Supervision from Villanova University. And Westtown became a family affair as well: Jay’s two sons, Matthew ’09 and Christopher ’11, were lifers.

In addition to teaching math for 38 years, Jay took on myriad roles and leadership positions over the course of his career. He held many deanships in the Upper School, including Dean of Students. In these roles, Jay was continually working to improve systems that benefited students and teachers alike. He knew that young people make mistakes and deserve opportunities to learn from them, so he implemented less-punitive, learning-centric systems of discipline to help them gain opportunities to learn from these mistakes. These include creating a demerit system to replace the detention system; rescinding the “one-step” expulsion policy for drug and alcohol violations in favor of suspensions,

assessment, and testing; and founding the Faculty Resource Group, the first drug counseling, support, and intervention system. He is also credited with helping create the Duty Administrator position, designed to support deans and residential faculty by streamlining and collaborating on duty responsibilities.

Through various administrative roles from serving as the first Director of Health and Counseling Services to Associate Head of School to Assistant Head for Operations, Jay has impacted student medical and mental health services, operations, crisis management, strategic planning, and accreditation of the school—in fact, he clerked four full-scale PAIS/PAPAS/MSA evaluations and accreditation processes, each of which is a massive undertaking. He clerked Administrative Council for over a decade, co-clerked the Campus Master Plan, served as Recording Clerk for the Building, Grounds, and Environment Committee on the Board of Trustees, and has served on countless committees and inter-divisional administrative searches. The list of accomplishments and initiatives implemented by Jay over the decades is extensive and his hand is visible in much of school life as we know it today.

Students remained at the center of Jay’s work and he takes great pride in the fact that he always had a group of advisees, no matter the administrative role he inhabited. He had a special passion for ensuring that students of high financial need had access to all the school has to offer that isn’t covered by tuition. To that end, he co-founded the Full Access Program in 2005, which has been a significant resource for under-resourced students. The Full Access Program provides funds for things like computers and calculators, books, sports equipment, and assists with fees for school-sponsored trips. “This work requires tremendous care, the ability to have direct conversations about money, which is a challenging topic, the ability to make a genuine connection with students and parents to build trust while also stewarding limited funds to achieve the maximum benefit,” says former Dean of Admission Nathan Bohn ’83. “Jay excelled at this important work making a difference for hundreds of students.”

Issues of access, equity, belonging, and creating community have long been passions that drive Jay and he was involved with the Families for Multicultural Community (FMC) and Parents of Color (POC) groups for years, helping to create a welcoming community and shared affinity space. In 2005, Jay co-founded the tremendously successful biannual Independent School Equity





and Access Conference and College Fair, which has brought hundreds of college and university representatives to campus, as well as students and families from around the region.

Given these passions, Jay's last role at Westtown, Dean of Access and Equity, was one of the most meaningful to him, and one he felt well suited for. In this role, which is part of the Admission team, he worked with many access organizations to improve recruitment and to continue to enroll a diverse student body. In this position Jay co-founded the BIPOC Camp, an orientation program for new students who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color, and continued his work in being a guiding force for the FMC, organizing the College Fair, and administering the Full Access Program.

Perhaps what looms largest in our collective minds is Jay's career as a wrestling coach. He posted 498 wins (and the tally would have been well over 500 were it not for COVID) and earned 26 Friends Schools League titles and 15 Delaware Independent School Conference DISC titles. He was awarded the Daily Local News Sportswriters Head Coach of the Year in 1992; PAISAA Head Coach of the year in 2013 and 2024; National Prep Head Coach of the Year in 2024; and won the PAISAA Coaches' Sportsmanship Award in 2018.


Given this record and these accolades, it may be surprising to learn that Jay only wrestled two years in Upper School and did not wrestle in college. When his high school coach, Tim Loose,

first approached Jay to become an assistant coach in 1980, initially he resisted. "[He] cornered me and asked me if I would 'help out' with wrestling, but unbeknownst to Tim, I was not a huge fan of wrestling when I was a student here. But I could never say no to Tim Loose!" Jay began as a JV coach and after about five years became Head Coach starting when Tim went on sabbatical. Upon Tim's return, he saw the work Jay was doing and elevated him permanently to the head coach role. This dynamic duo coached together until Tim's retirement in 2014.

Of all the ways Jay has shaped and influenced students, coaching wrestling stands out. It is not for the stats nor the records, but for the way he coached, for the lessons that went far beyond the mat, and for the long-lasting relationships he built. Jay famously practiced with his team and did every drill that they did. His support and guidance was not only for the team, but also specific to each individual, including the personal notes he wrote each wrestler after every meet. To his wrestlers, Jay is a legend. "The most exceptional coach I have had, he models excellence on and off the wrestling mat, never asking more from his athletes than he is willing to give himself," said Brennan Barnard '92 in a recent article in *Forbes* magazine's "Mentors Among Us" series. "One hundred and ten percent is his baseline—dedication, steadiness, humor, intensity, and investment are hallmarks of how he carries himself as a coach and educator...I learned lessons about resilience, failure, humility, commitment, community, and caring." Mauricio Torres '08, who both wrestled for Jay as a student and served as an assistant coach on the wrestling team when he taught at Westtown, shares, "It would be reasonable to assume wrestling rooms to be spaces of macho bravado, and indeed many of them are. Jay is far more concerned about cultivating self discipline, camaraderie, fearlessness in the face of challenge, selflessness in pursuit of the collective good, pride in one's work, and an insistence on the persistent pursuit of growth."

As Jay reflects on his career, he attributes his longevity to students. "I've been here so long because I never lost the quality of interactions with students. I didn't care what the school asked of me as long as I could be involved with students. And they've all helped me in so many ways. They helped me become a better teacher, a better adviser, a more patient person, and a better coach."

It's not just the amount of time one spends at an institution that seals their place in history, it's how they spend that time, the relationships they build, the impact they have on a community. And Jay's place is sealed. His name is enshrined in the bricks and mortar at Westtown in the Loose Farrow Wrestling Center, but more importantly, his impact lingers in the hearts and minds of those he taught, coached, advised, and worked alongside.

Jay, with abundant gratitude, we wish you exciting travel adventures, unlimited Scrabble games, and all the best in your retirement! 



*CLASS OF*

20







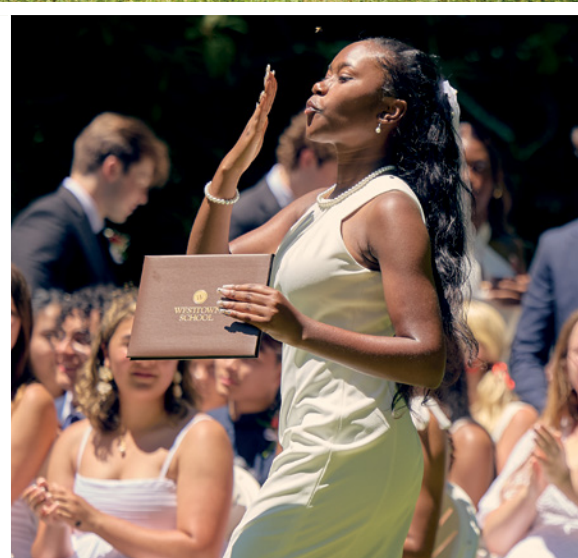
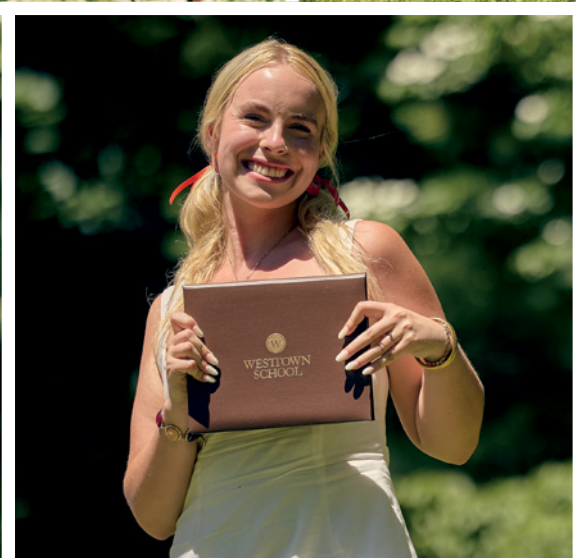




CLASS OF  
**2024**









CLASS OF

20  
24





# Graduation Essays

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

## OLIVIA BLEY

“Mom, I don’t think I want to go to Westtown anymore.” I looked down remembering my first week at Westtown and didn’t understand how I got to this point.

The year had been a wreck. It was the summer after my freshman year, and to recap, I had torn my knee, lost some friends, desired more structure post-pandemic, and was searching for a place to point the blame: Westtown. As the school tried to rebuild the lit-up and enthusiastic community it once had, it was slowly losing me. The intriguing quirks of a Quaker boarding school that made the school different from others had transitioned from positives to negatives in my mind. I decided I wanted a more traditional high school experience. I figured all my social challenges and hardships must’ve been because of Westtown. So, reactively, I enrolled someplace else and believed it would make me happier, but the disappointing reality of my decision became apparent in just three weeks.

This “more traditional” school had exactly what I thought I was looking for. There was a football team, homecoming, and all that you could think of in an American high school. However, I soon learned that the values of trust and care that were embedded into Westtown’s culture were not in other places. At this new school, there was too much structure and no trust. My teachers were those I could go

to for their class but only that; there was no time to get to know them and they didn’t express an effort to get to know me the way my Middle School advisor, Teacher Jon Kimmel, had. My anxiety weighed my once-flying hand in the classroom and sealed my known-to-be talkative lips. My notes grew less authentic and more mechanical. While focusing on how I valued my social experience in high school, I had forgotten how much I valued my educational one.

With my injury, learning was the only part of my life I felt excited about, and by switching schools, I had taken that away, leaving me with nothing. I had found a new house, but not a new home.

Quickly, I regretted my decision immensely. I missed the quirks of Westtown like Meeting for Worship and calling my teachers by their first names. At my new school, I’d sit in class, disengaged, holding back tears as memories floated in and out of an alive Westtown I had known. I thought of the moose mascot high-fiving tiny lower schoolers at pep rallies and music bumping from the Belfry porch. I felt disappointed in myself for giving up on the school so easily. I felt guilty for abandoning a place I had felt so connected to in a short time.

I hesitantly communicated my regret about my choice to my parents, knowing what I was about to ask. They had filled

out exhausting forms and applications to make this happen for me and had been supportive of the change. I felt guilty about going to them and asking for another. It was clear before that I wasn’t sure what I wanted, but this time I knew whatever move I was going to make next had to be the last. I am incredibly grateful that with their support I could yet again look at other high schools. I thank them for that. Though, while trying my hardest to find a new place, what I kept looking for was not found. I then knew exactly what I needed in my school. I needed not the “traditional” American high school experience, but the Westtown experience.

And so, three weeks into my sophomore year, I made my return. Even though the school was not entirely the same as it was before, I was so glad to be back.

I hadn’t realized until I left how much I had taken for granted at Westtown: the freedom in my schedule to maximize my time, the trust the teachers had in me, the environment that supported asking questions, and the expectation to be kind. Smiles from people who didn’t know me and introductions from those who noticed I was “new” reminded me why I chose Westtown in the first place. My instinct to smile back and engage in conversation finally emerged and I felt like myself again. My confidence in the classroom was supported by both my peers and teachers. There were limitless opportunities for me to start over and grow.

When I left, I thought I had already seen all of what Westtown had to offer me, but little did I know that by appreciating what Westtown was for itself, I could find the support in faculty and peers to accomplish new goals. I started the Multiracial Student Union with a peer because it proved as a needed space, and Westtown was the kind of school answer to our call. I developed the tools of teamwork through group collaboration and conflict resolution with peers to become a strong student leader. Throughout my five years at Westtown, I made close relationships with my teachers and leaned on them



OLIVIA



**“I hadn’t realized until I left how much I had taken for granted at Westtown: the freedom in my schedule to maximize my time, the trust the teachers had in me, the environment that supported asking questions, and the expectation to be kind.”**

for advice. I was pushed and challenged by Teacher Susan Waterhouse, which unlocked a new passion I may not have otherwise known I had. Leaving and then coming back to Westtown taught me that sometimes what you’re looking for, you already have. Maybe I needed patience, maybe I needed more time, but Westtown had everything I needed all along.

### LUCIA SANCHEZ

On my twelfth birthday, my parents gave me a relatively inexpensive but alluring wide-eyed plastic figurine of the Flash, a cinematic obsession of mine at that time. I had recently been permitted to watch

TV-14 shows on Netflix, exponentially expanding my mental library of pop culture knowledge. The Flash was the first show I ever binge-watched, and I quickly started hunting for new content to consume like *Stranger Things*, *Parks and Recreation*, and *Brooklyn 99*. After receiving this first Funko Pop figurine, I started collecting characters like Chewbacca, Hermione Granger, and Spider-Man, basing my purchases on my newest cinematic fascination. These were the characters that I revered for their bravery and wit.

In middle school, I began to notice the homogenous viewpoints of my white peers in narrow minded class discussions, racist TikToks being shared, and the alienation of the few people of color at the school. I became aware of my identity as a biracial (Filipino and Puerto Rican) woman of color, taking offense to those classmates stereotyping Asian names and their support of gendered politics. Building my Funko Pop collection became a cathartic outlet to connect with my identity. Adding Kamala Khan and America Chavez, women of color, in the Marvel Universe brought me joy and pride. This desire to connect led me to start completely anew at a Quaker boarding school. I was drawn to Westtown by an Instagram post made by the Asian Students Association (ASA) for AAPI month. It made me feel seen in a way I never had before.

When I got to Westtown, I was awestruck by everything: the picturesque campus, the college-style classes, and, most importantly, the inspiring seniors and upperclassmen. We definitely had a rocky start to the year, having everything from Meeting for Worship to chem labs over Zoom. But what made the year memorable for me were the seniors and other upperclassmen who came together to lead the school. There were Kavi, Alexis, and Sam, who managed to virtually hold meaningful collections and demonstrations. There was also Sophia Hammond whose beautiful ASA narrative and powerful leadership skills inspired me to also run for ASA head.

Looking up to these incredible human beings as my role models, I began to participate in many activities across campus. I wanted to become someone others could look up to in the same way I looked up to those upperclassmen. However, in the process, I developed insecurities and doubts. I subconsciously compared myself to my peers, resulting in deep anxieties about my self worth. My perfectionist tendencies held me back from fully participating in activities I enjoyed but was not great at.

One of the activities that I joined was the Metal Moose, our amazing robotics team. I had barely any experience with programming or engineering when I joined the team, but I fell in love with the engineering lab and the opportunities it would bring. In the beginning, I had no idea what I was doing. I tried robot design, field build, and programming, but nothing stuck out to me as a passion. I discovered my true love for robotics in our first competition my sophomore year: being drive coach. Teacher Steve “asked” but really told me I should be the drive coach, an integral role on the team, and I happily agreed, excited to now be in the middle of the action.

Drive coaching has become a significant activity in my life as it merges my competitive spirit with my fascination with STEM and technology. It includes on-the-fly problem-solving and decision-making in order to win. Becoming the drive coach meant a lot to me as I never quite saw myself taking on a leadership position in robotics, especially being surrounded by predominantly white men in STEM. I learned valuable communication and technical skills, but, most importantly, it helped me find my voice and become assertive in a world where I have always felt and continue to feel like I don’t belong. I was able to hone in on the leadership skills that I had admired within my Westtown role models by competing in an activity that I loved.

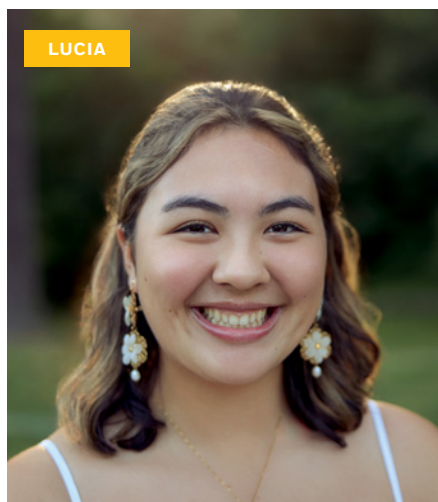
At the World Championship this year, which was our best season in several years, I had the opportunity to connect



with a few of the younger girls on the team during the competition and outside of it. We fangirled over the best robots, played Mario Kart, and had rich conversations, which led me to realize my role in continuing the sustainability of our program and the inspiration of the next class of Westtown students. I saw parts of my awe-struck freshman self in them and realized the significance of continuing a legacy of role models.

This year, on my eighteenth birthday, my parents gave me a new Funko Pop, only this time it was a custom Funko Pop that

**“This desire to connect led me to start completely anew at a Quaker boarding school. I was drawn to Westtown by an Instagram post made by the Asian Students Association (ASA) for AAPI month. It made me feel seen in a way I never had before.”**



my parents had modeled after me. She has my curly hair and my glasses and is wearing one of my favorite outfits. She is a representation of me at my most confident - comfortable in my own skin and capabilities. Despite this confident vibe that I have managed to manifest more frequently, I still know the work it took to end up here and now realize the cycle through which we become our fully confident selves. Just as the role models I looked up to had to work to end up where they are, I work to achieve my goal of becoming more like them. As I am completing this journey, I notice the cycle starting over with the awe-struck freshmen beginning on their own paths at Westtown to eventually become role models within the community. In my next four years, as the cycle restarts, I hope to remember the unique and beautiful journeys we all take to become leaders and role models to those around us.

#### SASHA KHALO

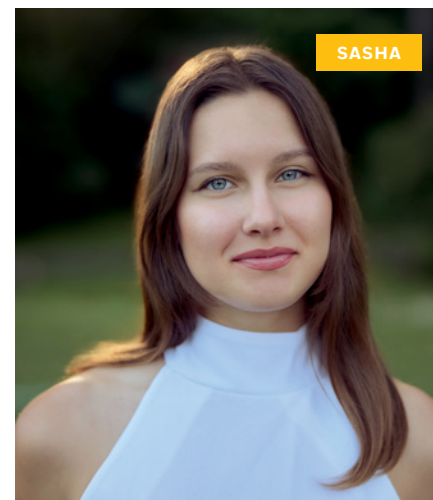
“Cry after everything’s over,” my mom tenderly whispered to my ear on a day that split my life into “before” and “after.” It was the day that taught me to lose. It was the day when the Russian invasion happened.

6:29 a.m. Kyiv, Ukraine. I wake up from booming, roaring sounds. Half-asleep I wonder: “Who sets fireworks that early in the morning?”

6:30 a.m. My eyes are wide open. Wild, paranoid thoughts slip through my mind. I jump off my bed, my legs bring me to the window in a desperate search of those bright joyous sparks in the sky.

6:31 a.m. I tremble. I can’t tell if it is because of fear, anger, or just the floor vibrating from explosions of Russian bombs above my head. Outside the window I see a glimpse of what is erasing my home right in front me. Devastating, dark, and cruel war.

The next day I had to pack one backpack and leave my house as fast as possible because one of the battlefields was roughly 12 miles away. In a couple weeks since the invasion, my family was forced to leave Ukraine in order to survive. My



**“I came to the United States ready to fight. I was ready to prove that I deserved this spot and a chance to be here. However, I didn’t need to. The moment I stepped out of the car at Central, a bunch of strangers approached me with bright smiles and a will to help.”**

mom drove me and my younger sister to France for six days straight, so we had a chance to at least finish the school year. I had to leave my family and my country behind and with each day a wound inside of me grew bigger and bigger. My soul hurt to even think about the life I lost, and the people I kept losing. So when I received a surprising email “Welcome to Westtown School!” I was determined to shut my feelings down and take the maximum out of the exchange study experience, so I can help save my country—Ukraine.





**“As we stand here in the Greenwood, waving goodbye to the final days of high school, time has punctuated our youth with a playful comma. There is still much about our youth that is left undone. Time will take us to our respective callings and offer us the chance to write our own narratives of the future.”**

I came to the United States ready to fight. I was ready to prove that I deserved this spot and a chance to be here. However, I didn't need to. The moment I stepped out of the car at Central, a bunch of strangers approached me with bright smiles and a will to help. The first couple days I couldn't digest the fact that so many

people genuinely want to support and protect me. Westtown was filled with light that I've never got to experience before. Indeed, once, a chunk of me was ripped off leaving an empty hole behind it, however, now I was surrounded by warmth and love, and people who wanted me to become a part of the Westtown family. I never thought that a small, isolated, private Quaker school across the ocean could make me feel like I belonged on a distant continent of America. But Westtown proved how terribly wrong I was. Each day I grew closer and closer to this school and every member of the community here.

Therefore, I am grateful for the memories that I will cherish forever. I am grateful that I got to experience snow days, senior retreat, spring at Westtown, or even the time when my room got flooded. Westtown gave me more than I could ask for. This school reminded me how to love.

My fight is not over. Today is just the beginning. But as I start this new, unpredictable chapter in my life I know that here I'll always find my family. And today I will cry, as I am proud to call this place my second home.

#### VALEDICTORIAN KELVIN LUO

Trickles of rain knocked gently on the window on a mid-September night. I gazed outside into the woods covered in gray as a stream of chilliness climbed up my sleeves. Shivering, I breathed heavily into the glass, blurring my vision, and reducing the world to nothing but the faint distant street light in the dark. This image is definitely not what I wanted to send to my mother. I thought to myself, how would a mother be convinced that her son is doing well seeing this medley of hopelessness?

My mother had many concerns about sending me across the Pacific and entrusting her son to a campus she had never set foot on and a faculty she had never met. Her incessant reminders of “keep your passport safe” and “always wear a mask outside” are still fresh and urgent,

echoing through my mind. Daily interactions on WeChat included blogs about where in America school shootings and protests had broken out and how COVID numbers had risen in the past week. Nonetheless, I always assured her that Westtown is safe, the faculty and kids are friendly, and lunch is more than just burgers and fries. Westtown had not yet earned her trust.

Therefore, I decided to show her that Westtown did deserve her trust. I began taking pictures, seizing the beauty of campus with my own eyes, and waiting for the uploading loop to be complete to ease my worried and discontented mother's mind. I captured the Oak Lane Fields where myriads of red and brown danced among the treetops, the peaceful snowy campus lawns during sunrise, and the sidewalks decorated with the tender and immaculate blooms of March, searching desperately for all the beauty that I thought she wanted to see. Soon, it became a custom, and I also updated her weekly with reports on academics, SAT prep, and summer program applications. However, with all of this beauty my mother was presented with, she did not seem satisfied. I asked her why, and she said in confusion, “How come I no see you in any of these?”

The statement struck me hard, and I was speechless. Where am I? I looked up from my dimming laptop and phone and stared into my palms. What kind of life have I been living? I pinched my forehead and cried with my hands over my mouth, fearing that my sobs would wake my roommate. I had been caught up with showing her what I was eating, studying, and seeing, desperate to prove that I was eating well, studying everything I was supposed to, and seeing the most beautiful campus that a Chinese mother could ever imagine. The Westtown that I wished my mother would see is not one that I saw myself in. Faces of peers flashed by, and encounters with them were conjured up in my mind. However, I realized that I was imprisoned in my own head space,




segregated, and only painting the dream that I wanted my mother to see.

Therefore, I decided that something needed to change. The next day, after school, I stood in the Main Hall and stared at the collection of pictures of my peers, trying to match names with faces. The method seemed dumb, but it worked well. After about two days, I began summoning the courage to lift my head and respond to those friendly gazes that I had been meeting in the hallway. Too shy to ask how names were pronounced, I returned every salutation with a sincere head nod and a timid smile. Soon, I found friends who were willing to stand next to me and hear about my whimsical thoughts and passions. Sitting on the stone fence next to the white cherry blossoms of early March, I took the first selfie of my life with friends. I was nervous and excited,

but too embarrassed to say anything about it, so we sat and merely talked about our dreams for the future.

Slowly, that vivid image of high school I had been trying to paint for my mother started to feel more genuine. As I stretched out my arms and tried to embrace life at Westtown, I found it embracing me back with kindness. As I scrolled through albums to share snapshots of life with my mother, I found a timid boy in a white t-shirt smiling in all of the pictures. In some he attempted to clear out the sand from his shoe after volleyball, showed off his Chinese yo-yo skills to young friends, and hugged his peers during College Shirt Day. I stared at them, with a trickle of warmth rising up my heart, and sent them to my mother. My mother's incessant reminders of safety, academics, and health ceased, and it remained that

way. My mother finally decided to give Westtown the trust it deserved, with her boy growing confident and optimistic, like she had always imagined.

The great Roman poet Horace once said, "Leave off asking what tomorrow will bring, and whatever days fortune will give, count them as profit, and while you're young don't scorn sweet love affairs and dances." As we stand here in the Greenwood, waving goodbye to the final days of high school, time has punctuated our youth with a playful comma. There is still much about our youth that is left undone. Time will take us to our respective callings and offer us the chance to write our own narratives of the future. The future is not a dream or a pretty and delicate image to fabricate, but a vivid path that must be walked by us. Embrace your lives, and you will be embraced by the kindness of the world. 









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# All in the Family

(1) Sean Cook, Rose Cook '28, Ella Cook '24, Angie Cook (CF), Lisa Williams

(2) Jimmy Durán, Sofia Durán '24, Luna Durán '35, Mercedes Ureña Durán (CF)

(3) Mark Gatto, Timothy Gatto '24, Megan Williams (CF), Greg Gatto

(4) Heather Jain, Maya Jain '24, Logan Jain '22, Sanjay Jain (BOT)

(5) Mary Koloski, Sitka Koloski '92, Dylan Koloski '24, Paul Koloski

(6) Jack Loew '24, Kelly Loew (CF) (not pictured: Rhett Loew '24)

(7) Erika Davies Swarthout '98, Devin Swarthout '24, Lydia Williamson '02

(8) Kristin Martin '24, Arthur Martin, Kaelin Martin '24, Judene Wint-Martin (CF)

(9) Buxton Midyette '83 (BOT), Byerly Midyette '24, India Midyette, Mary B. Midyette, Lisa Midyette

(10) Natasha Henry-Tookes, Ryder Tookes '27, Ryan Tookes '24, Ryan L. Tookes '96 (BOT)

(11) Susan Waterhouse (CF), Benjamin Waterhouse '21, Zeon Waterhouse '24, Brian Waterhouse

Not pictured: Mark Ham (Scott Zukin '81)

Key: CF=Current Faculty, BOT=Board of Trustees

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# Back In 'Town

## Alums Weekend 2024

BY DOMI WALDRON, DIRECTOR OF ALUM ENGAGEMENT



**Every May**, the Westtown campus is transformed into a vibrant hub of laughter and shared memories as alums from across the decades return for Alums Weekend. This year's Alums Weekend, May 17-19, blended tradition, camaraderie, and celebration. The event drew alums from all walks of life and all over the world eager to reconnect with their fellow Westonians and explore the campus.

The weekend commenced on Friday with a gathering in the Belfry, which featured presentations and discussions about Quaker life at Westtown. The day-long program offered alums an immersive experience into Quaker life

at the school today. Through interactive panels, discussions, and reflection in Meeting For Worship, attendees gained a deeper understanding of Quakerism in education, and the traditions they once experienced and how they've evolved for Westtown students today. Later in the evening, recent graduates gathered for a Young Alum Pub Night. Held in the cozy atmosphere of the Staats House, graduates from the last two decades enjoyed a trivia competition and time for fellowship.

On Saturday morning, alums gathered in the Meeting House to remember and honor those who had passed away in the last year. The Memorial Meeting was

followed by the traditional Westtown Alums Association (WAA) Board Annual Meeting. The meeting demonstrated the dedication and vision of the WAA Board, which is deeply invested in the school's mission and success.

**Kavi Gandhi '21** was honored as this year's Young Alum Changemaker Award recipient. Kavi shared that his time at Westtown ignited his thirst for learning and love for leading, which have propelled him to where he is now—pursuing a degree in public health at Davidson College. He expressed his gratitude to be part of a Westtown community that includes students, alums, families, faculty, and staff who



# REUNION 2024



are all invested in making the world a better place in various ways. He shared that he was deeply honored to have received this recognition.

**Ally Dalsimer '82** offered the keynote address for the Annual Meeting. She shared about her life path and her personal journey as a boarding student at Westtown. Ally described candidly how she persevered through challenging times and how Westtown helped to shape the person she became. As time





**CLASS OF 1974.** Front Row: Cindy Evans Trueblood, Olivia Brown Ott, Anne Zimmerman, Laura Morris Siena, Lucy Copp, Ellen Jones Marsden, Sarah Anderson, Jeanne Gibson, Martha Jenkins, Don Horton. Middle Row: Julie Young Russell, Eve Hiatt, Dan Easterlin, Norie Ringer, Mark Amarotico, David Helson, Peter Brown, Laurie Lewis, Faith Salvo, Meg Rogers, Jean Heathcote Burke, Vanessa Hilton, Mark Ott. Back Row: Pat Stabler, Kent Habecker, Eric Weyman, Doug Lurio, Bob Bishop, Sam Western, Clayton Westervelt, Susan Abernathy, Joe Williams, Jamie McVickar, Martin Kepner, Jennifer Shaw Nikel, Sandy Leavitt Geeslin, Kevin Bell, Kim Fisher Glazer, Bud Walker, Dan Easterlin, Beth Perot

moved on, she reunited with Westtown friends she made along the way. Ally and Kavi both believe that being at Westtown was a transformative experience, which resonates across the ages in our alum community.

Following the Annual Meeting, the luncheon for those who graduated fifty or more years ago was a highlight for many. Held in the Dining Room, the luncheon was a mix of reconnection and celebration. Alums shared stories about their lives since graduation while remi-

niscing about their time at Westtown.

The afternoon was a blend of activities designed to engage alums of all ages. The Back in 'Town Bash was the social hub of the weekend. There was canoeing on the lake, the "Long" Run for Fun, reunion classes danced under the tent, future Westonians lined up for face painting and balloon animals, and photos with the Moose!

Our recent graduates gathered in West Chester borough Saturday evening for an event featuring ax throwing, food,

and conversation. The event combined friendly competition while providing opportunities for young alums to reconnect. The evening ended with a celebration for the Class of 1974 at their 50th Reunion Dinner held in the Cabin. Classmates shared heartfelt stories, reminisced through a slideshow of photographs, and reaffirmed the bonds that had only strengthened over the decades.

Sunday morning provided a serene conclusion to the weekend with Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House. The quiet reflection, heartfelt messages, and shared gratitude offered Alums Weekend a peaceful and profound end. Alums expressed their appreciation for the lifelong friendships and the values instilled in them from their time at Westtown.

As the weekend drew close, alums were left with full hearts and a renewed sense of connection to Westtown. The shared experiences and community spirit were



## BACK IN 'TOWN! - ALUMS WEEKEND 2024



**W** WESTTOWN SCHOOL

## ALUMS WEEKEND



Full album online



evident in every event, every conversation, and every hug. The success of Alums Weekend 2024 reaffirmed the enduring legacy of Westtown and the deep bonds that continue to unite this community.





# Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled by the Advancement Office.

The submission deadline for this issue was July 1, 2024; information received after that date will appear in the next issue of *The Westonian*.



Left to Right: Jim Forsyth, Janet "Randy" Knonlauch Zimmerman, Bart Harrison

**1942 Ellen Sharpless Loller '42** died on November 29, 2023, at Village on the Green in Longwood, Florida, where she had lived since 2004. Ellen was a longtime resident of Chester County. She was a legislative aide to Congressman Joe R. Pitts before retiring to Florida to be near family. She was the daughter of **Beulah Sharpless Mackey 1918** and **Evan B. Sharpless 1894**. Ellen is sur-

vived by daughters Connie Katauskas of Longwood, Florida, and Cheri Western of Maitland, Florida, as well as four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**1946 Margie Taylor Jenkins '46** writes, "I was back at Westtown for my 50th, and I am still alive. I am 96 and living alone in a

three-room apartment in a Friends house retirement community in Sandy Spring, Maryland. I have one married daughter and two grandsons who live not too far away. I need to find out how many other alumni live here. We used to get together occasionally but not in a few years. **Irma Guthrie '62** lives five doors down my hall. She and her late sister, **Beth Guthrie '65**,

grew up in a Quaker community near Westtown. I have a long history of relatives who attended our dear Westtown! My best to all who are currently there. When in season, Tom Farquhar (FF) now sells produce from his various little fields once a week in our community!"

**1948 Alan Cayo '48** writes, "A note, a note, my Kingdom for a note. My joy in revisiting the beautiful grounds, new buildings, and pleasant teachers of Westtown in May of 2023 to celebrate the Class of 1948's 75th Reunion was somewhat diminished by the presence of no one from my class but me. My clarion call to all who were missing has elicited zero response so I wonder now if there are no warm bodies remaining.

Surely not, I was pleased to find a member of the class of 1947 who graciously kissed me (probably mistaking me for an ancient boyfriend), and one of 1943 still warm. And so, there is still hope. I impatiently await my 80th Reunion in 2028 to see if there may not be some "Bell Ringers" of the class of 1948 who have been saved from the grave after having been mistakenly buried while still alive. After all, what's the benefit of holding "wakes" and placing strings in one's supposedly dead fingers if no one ever wakes or rings the bell?

Finally, to give hope to my classmates and all those approaching the age of one hundred glorious years, I offer Bob Hope's comment on aging, "After age 90 it is alright to continue to chase women, but only down hill."

**1949 Retired Judge Robert Young '49** passed away January 25, 2024, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Carolyn; five children, **Donald Young '70**, David, **William Young '80**, **Paul Young '83**, and **Nancy Kline '87**; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. After graduating from Haverford College and the

University of Pennsylvania, he started the practice of law in 1956 and was appointed to the bench in 1984, retiring in 1995. Westtown always remained a special place in his heart.

**1950 Elspeth "Bunny" Benton '50** writes, "I am living happily into my 90s, still in my own little home, across from a lovely park and Santa Rosa City Library with my cat, Cosette. My daughter, Anna, lives nearby. My two other daughters also live in California; they are very attentive, yay! A singing group meets in my home every Thursday morning. We sing rounds from all over the world. I attend Redwood Forest Meeting many Sundays. I am also in a book group but I have to read the book twice each time in order to remember it. I live less than a mile from Friends House retirement home and I enjoy friendships and activities there. I am blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They are from New Zealand to Santa Rosa; Ohio and British Columbia. I remember very fondly my two years at Westtown. I am still in close touch with **Polly Richardson Ulin '50**. The state of the world is sad and precarious and I do what little I can to make it better."

**1951 Ann Edmondson '51** writes, "After sixty years of a happy life with my husband in Woodland, California, I have moved to Holliston, Massachusetts. Bob passed in June of 2020. My daughter and her husband suggested that we build a mother-in-law unit connected to their house. I moved here in August of 2021. It has taken about three years to feel at home and to make fun contacts. One of my decisions has been to connect with the Wellesley Friends Meeting. I feel as though I have returned to my roots. The idea was spurred by a visit from Ray Slater who mentioned a number of Westtown Alumni who attend this

## SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE...

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

**Email:**  
alums@westtown.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!





Left to Right: Miriam Swartz, Daniel Wills, Anne Van Arkel, Peter Goodwin, Sandra Evens, Earl Evens

Meeting. It has been a happy solution. Currently, I am recovering from a total knee replacement which, at 90, is challenging. I would really enjoy a visit to the campus. *The Westonian* tells of the many changes that have occurred since 1951. As Westtown was my home, it would be even more meaningful to see all the changes. Maybe it might happen if I wish hard enough!"

**1955 Karl Striedieck '55** writes, "All is well in central Pennsylvania at Eagle Field, my home for the last 58 years. My brother **Walter Striedieck '57** is here too. My passion for flying is undiminished, especially glider flying. I'll be competing in my 15th world championship (since 1978) this August, this time in the two-seater class with a talented gal from Tennessee. Two silvers are my best so far. Marital status is single despite being married for 50 years—25 twice!



[Long]. I have fond memories of that and the other outings. My health is okay for a 195-year-old. I am planning on coming to the reunion next year."

Flying a red-tailed hawk every winter in pursuit of falconry is a feature that was no doubt kindled with that trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in the fall of 1953 led by Master Jan

**1956 R. Melvin Keiser '56** writes, "Beth and I are doing well amidst our pill-strewn landscape of older age. Now long retired after teaching thirty-six years in Religious Studies and English at Guilford College, we are active in our Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, working for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel, enjoying adult children living near (**Megan Keiser '86**, **Christopher Keiser '91**) and grandchildren now in or about to be in college (**Jahniya Kiliru-Liontree '20**, **Ondessa Kiliru-Liontree '21**, Sophia Fairbairn, and Sam Fairbairn), and still writing books. Beth's is *Making Peace with Joy and Sorrow* about Taha Muhammad Ali, an extraordinary Palestinian poet we met in Nazareth, and our travels among Jews and Palestinians in the so-called Holy Land. My [book] *Paths to the Personal: Thinkers on the Way to Post Critical and Theopoetic Depths* came out in April exploring how far major religious thinkers have included personal experience as the basis of their philosophical reflections. I continue to feel great gratitude for Westtown, what it means to me and generations of my family."

**1957 Kaler Wills Howard '57** writes, "So, where were all of you on Alums Weekend? By now you have had time to wander through all of the candid photos. I seem to show up in quite a few. I am not

sure how that happened but it does prove that I was there! It was a walk through a lot of memories. I was able to make the trip back because all of Ross's issues seemed to level off (many of the wonderful perks of growing old) and I was able to put together a long weekend. I hadn't seen Brother Dan nor any of the other numerous relatives for about seventeen years. It was such fun to "stir up the troops" then cut and run back to Oregon. Among others, I had the chance to visit with **Tim '63** and **Ben James '59**.



**Brandon '57** was noticeably absent. It was also really good to visit with **Dan Hogenauer '59**. We sat together in one of the panel discussions. I also got to have lunch with **Hugh '57** and **Birdie '60 Bonner** which was really neat. Neither one has changed in the last seventeen years which really isn't fair, but I was having too much fun to care. **Sheila Ashley '60** also joined us for lunch and she, too, was a pleasure to visit with. On Sunday, I went to Meeting for Worship. Oh my, I had forgotten how much I have missed a silent meeting. Out here, we have adulterated versions which are okay, but not like the real thing. One of the people attending spoke about how he told his grandkids that 'all the Quaker saints sat up on the ledge above the facing benches.' I almost laughed aloud at that one! I did have coffee afterward with **Pete '57** and **Juliet Lane**. They are doing as well as can be expected given our aging. I had the chance to stop in and see **Sam '57** and **Mary Ann '58 Wagner** who are both still sharp as tacks. I am sorry I did not have more time to spend with them. We sure had some fabulous parties on their farm. All in all, it was well worth the effort and I am so glad that I made the trip. I have no idea when I will be able to do it again."

**Pete Lane '57** writes, "Hi 57ers ... 2024-1957 equals 67 years since that day in the Greenwood. I'm really wondering how I, as our class rep, can communicate via email with all of you who have given



## CLASS NOTES

the school your contact info. Juliet and I are lucky to live only eight miles away from Westtown so we're usually present on Sundays for Meeting."

**1959** **Ruth Laug '59** writes, "Our 65th reunion began with a wonderful gathering and dinner at **Gail Young McCahon '59's** home. Once again, Gail and family hosted our classmates for a delicious spread. There were about 20 of us there including spouses. Coming together in this welcoming place has always become a significant way for us to kick off our weekend together. **Muff Ewer Pettinos '59**, who sadly could not attend, generously gifted the class with customized 65th reunion mugs. On Saturday morning, we all met at the Barton-Test Theater for the annual Alumni (Alums) Day Meeting. One highlight of the Alumni meeting on May 17 was the recognition from Westtown of our exemplary giving over the last five years. Our class has contributed or pledged \$1,289,413 since our 60th reunion. Among this total were: the Richard R. Thompson bequest of \$378,400, four other testamentary gifts totaling \$647,054 and \$162,643 to the Westtown Fund, \$40,862 to the John Baird Fund for Sustainability, \$28,313 to the Eugene and Mary Hogenauer Scholarship Fund, and \$19,561 for special projects. Westtown has committed to establishing the Richard R. Thompson Faith and Practice Fund "to support and grow the Quaker identity at Westtown School." In the afternoon, a group of classmates attended **David Bates' '59** memorial service, held at Birmingham



Top Row: Nancy Summers, Jimmy Glen, Dan Hogenauer, Ben James. 3rd Row: Carol Behre Summar, Barbara Regen Claffie, Aimee Wilson Bellows, Ruthie Laug, Lydia Gerenbeck Ruth. 2nd Row: Joe Orth, Penny Norrington Orth, Gail Young McCahon, David Leonard, Nancy Hadley-Jaffe. Front Row: Chenda Curtis Davison, Pat Lee Michener, Tom Elkinton, Bunny Test Lawton

Friends Meeting and organized by **David Leonard '59**. David had been very helpful to David and Julie, his wife, while they lived in a retirement facility in West Chester. The service was just right for remembering David. We had our final get-together on Saturday evening at Ellerslie Farmhouse at Crosslands, where we enjoyed a catered dinner and carried on with our conversations. About 25 of us were there. Of course, we chatted about all of you who could not make the trip for various reasons—please know that we thought about you, talked about you, and missed you!"

**1960** **Charles Coltman '60** writes, "I am living the good life! I spend winters in Palm Beach, Florida, and summers just outside of Annapolis, Maryland, in Edgewater. Juliette, Lloyd, and I play bridge, golf, and love to travel at least four times a year, usually with friends from England we met on a cruise through Asia. We belong to Friends of the Uffizi and the Louvre, so Paris and Florence get our attention. It helps that Juliette was born in Florence. During COVID, I wrote a book on my banking career, *A Banker's Journey*, and am just finishing up a book covering multiple generations of the Coltman family. I am looking forward to our 65th reunion!"

**Francy Williams '60** writes, "I am looking forward to attending Alumni Day next year. I hope to see those of you who are able to make it and to hear from those who are not able to come in person. I hope a number of us will be able to move,

sing, and gather for our reunion. Perhaps by then the destructive situations in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world will have turned toward a process of healing. I recently watched a documentary about the genocide in Gaza, which was filmed over three weeks between May and June 2022, *Where The Olive Trees Weep*. It is an important film to see and share."

**1961** **Cynn timer Irwin '61** writes, "In early January of this year, **Terry Irwin '59** and I moved from Concord, New Hampshire, to a CCRC on the New Hampshire seacoast in Exeter. We are loving it here, making new friends, and enjoying the many opportunities at this lovely, welcoming community. Happily, our children are located nearby in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Portland, Maine. We've had fun getting together a few times with **Bob Woodward '61** and Mary Woodward, who are now almost neighbors. Best wishes to all for health, happiness, and peace."

**1962** **Tony Michel '62** writes, "Tony and Terry Michel are alive and fairly well. We've both had our 80th parties but both were small and local. We've had a busy spring of travels to see family and friends up and down the East Coast. I'm trying to walk more and Terry continues her peregrinations with our neighbor Cathy. We haven't talked much about a retirement community. My cousin Fred is well-established at Broadmead with his wife Debbie. Broadmead is a quasi-Quaker



Our customized 65th reunion mugs gifted to us by Muff Ewer Pettinos '59.





Top Row: Ed Winslow, Bob Frysinger, Steve Taylor, Bryn Hammerstrom, Chris Valentine. Second Row: Arthur Allen, Linda Ames Cassidy, Mary Bell, Lydia Willits Bartholomew, Theolia Valentine. Front Row: Baird Brown, Dagny Karkalits Henry, Becky Watt Winant, Chris Hall, Catharine Winner Salam, Jane Williams Wiregard

setup in Towson that my Uncle Johnny helped to set up. I suspect that we'll stay here in our rut in Lexington until one of us has a major decline. Next, we're off to Oregon to join family at the beach in the old family homestead. Maybe we will eat some mussels or crabs. We will be back after July 4 to recover and then go to Australia to look for...kangaroos, gold, or wombats? Stay tuned..."

**Samuel Sholl '62** writes, "In February, 2024, we went on a tour of Vietnam and Cambodia. Beginning in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, a river tour boat took us along the Mekong River to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and ultimately, by air, to Hanoi, Vietnam. Highlights of the trip included the "killing fields" of Cambodia, and quite memorably, the ruins of Angkor Wat and Angkor Ban."

**1963 Jane Elliot '63** writes, "After having tried to retire a few times, I think I'm actually going to get it done at the end of 2025. By that time, I should have tried all my cases that need to be tried and otherwise closed out all of my files. I have absolutely no idea what I'm going to do, although I'd like to repeat the four-month long drive around the country that my dog and I did the first time I retired. (Different dog this time.) We'll see. I need to look around for something to do, though. Maybe cooking for a group that works with unhoused or food deprived people? Another we'll see."

**Roger Phenix '63** writes, "I am in eternal awe and appreciation of the period I was fortunate to spend at Westtown."

**1964 Suzanne Wilson '64** writes, "I left Westtown after my 8th grade year but I find I've kept my classmates and school in my heart. Most things I needed to know about life I was exposed to at Westtown. Through life's journey I have realized that Westtown values have been the healthiest for my body and soul. I'm into my 50th year of living in Montana (and love visitors!) I know why I was brought here and feel so 'at home.' It is extreme and unpredictable in all the senses! Montanans are fighting to keep it that way. May those who do make it to our 60th reunion have a wonderful gathering. I will be at my 60th high school reunion in Massachusetts. Sending blessings, peace, and hugs!"

**1965 Bill Eaton '65** writes, "I retired last year and with nothing to do, I wrote a short novel *Outward Bound*. Sales have skyrocketed on Amazon to 12 copies sold!"

**Huong Norton Payson '65** writes, "It seems ages since our graduation. Many of us are successful and some of us have left our world. Some of us are 'waiting for God.' The rest of us, the survivors, are scattering here and there. Due to distance and a prior commitment I regretfully missed our reunion! With plan and hope, I certainly will appear for our 60th Reunion at Westtown School. My oldest daughter, Kim Payson, an anthropologist specializing in South East Asian Studies, graduated from Rice University and ASU. She is living in Somerville, Massachusetts, with her husband, Peter MacDonald. He is an artist in the computer game industry. Their children are Erin, who will be at the University of Massachusetts this fall, and Piper, a junior in high school. Bach Lien, my middle daughter, graduated from Macalester College and University of Arizona as an archaeologist specializing in Greek and Roman Civilizations. She is living in Seattle and works in the computer game industry as a producer. Her husband, Patrick Moynihan, is also a guru in the same field! My Lan, my youngest, is a



Roger Phenix '63: fall of 1960.



computer science engineer from Brown University, also working in the computer game industry. He is married to Dr. Kate M. Waldeck, a Yale graduate, working at Huntington Hospital. Their daughters are Johanna, 9, Elliott, 7, and Margot, 4. What a household with three active, smart children, four dogs, two cats, six chickens, and two rabbits! I strictly forbade my children from playing games while under my roof and now they are in the games industry for a living! I stopped traveling cold turkey when my former husband finally settled in Cape Cod. I enjoy living in Arizona where I have been since 1964, and will be here until my last breath.

It is so peaceful to have a garden, a library, and a young dog, Maya. My much younger husband, Cat Quang Huy, is from Laos. He moved back to Vietnam, escaped to Australia, and then finally met me in the USA! Well, that is all for now. This is a bit long, but that is my life. Until we get together to ruminate, may you all have good health and live in peace."

**1966** **William Parker '66** writes, "On New Year's Day, first thing in the morning, I found my birth certificate. I was able to go to the Social Security offices and apply for a Social Security card that I had lost years ago. My plan for 2024 was to be able to travel if I wanted to. An enhanced driver's license was next on my list, but before that, I needed to rewrite my will as the last time I did was in 2006. My lawyer quoted \$1000-\$1500 to assist me with the will. Later, a friend suggested the Office of the Aging which helped me for free. Most of the will is done and I'm quite excited about that. I am now getting very fired up about getting back into my miniatures and model railways again because I kept everything in storage for all of these years and I had never really lost interest. Some local friends were talking about my designs and methods, also noting that nobody is doing what I'm doing in the field. I'm finally arousing some curiosity as I've been searching locally for like-minded folks. An old friend of mine, Steve Peck, achieved an

MILESTONES			
IN MEMORIAM			
<b>1933</b> Biz Stratton Dec 11, 2015	<b>1950</b> Robert Ayers October 2024	<b>1956</b> Glen Hudson Dec 9, 2023	<b>1969</b> Ruth Church Apr 6, 2024
<b>1938</b> Marion Fuson Feb 7, 2024	<b>1951</b> Lee Morgan Oct 25, 2021	<b>1957</b> Martha Bekken Feb 10, 2024	<b>1970</b> John McCandless Feb 28, 2024
<b>1941</b> Samuel Nicholson Feb 21, 2022	<b>1952</b> Asia Bennett Dec 11, 2023	<b>1958</b> Sam Wagner Jun 15, 2024	<b>1976</b> John Nicholson May 5, 2024
<b>1942</b> Dottie Haviland Jan 15, 2024	<b>1953</b> Bruce Reeves Apr 13, 2023	<b>1959</b> Ellen Thompson May 27, 2024	<b>1976</b> Lucy Longstreth Mar 19, 2024
<b>1944</b> Mary Wood Kurtz Feb 6, 2024	<b>1954</b> Parvin Russell May 22, 2023	<b>1960</b> David Bates Mar 11, 2024	<b>1984</b> Griff Miller Jun 11, 2023
<b>1946</b> Ellen Sharpless Loller Nov 29, 2023	<b>1955</b> Evelyn Canilang Dec 31, 2022	<b>1961</b> Spencer Garrett Feb 5, 2024	<b>1987</b> Matt Struckmeyer Feb 28, 2024
<b>1947</b> Willis Edgerton Dec 22, 2003	<b>1956</b> Whitey Wilson Nov 21, 2023	<b>1963</b> Tim Hiatt Mar 13, 2024	<b>2018</b> Galen Miller-Persico 2024
<b>1948</b> Bob Bates Dec 8, 2020	<b>1957</b> Chris Johnston Feb 29, 2024	<b>1964</b> Doug Fuson Mar 16, 2024	<b>BIRTHS</b>
<b>1949</b> Blanche Sayers Oct 19, 2019	<b>1958</b> Norma Shapiro Dec 14, 2023	<b>1965</b> Diana Hayes Oct 23, 2023	<b>2007</b> Carrie Asselin '07 and Daniel: Arden Francis October 4, 2023
<b>1950</b> Guil Fisher Jan 18, 2023	<b>1959</b> Charles Hazard May 17, 2024	<b>1966</b> Keith Yingling Jan 14, 2024	<b>Will Boyd '07:</b> James Boyd January 2022
<b>1951</b> Judith Goodman Mar 1, 2024	<b>1960</b> Doug Murray May 25, 2024	<b>1967</b> Dorothy Dean June 17, 2023	<b>2012</b> Jordan Robbins '12 and Frank Emmanuel: June Emmanuel October 25, 2023
<b>1952</b> Robert K. Young Jan 25, 2024	<b>1961</b> Richard Yeatman 2018	<b>1968</b> Beth Guthrie 2024	
	<b>1962</b> Suzanne Day January 2024		

incredible historical model of an old railroad yard. He logged 10,000 hours in its creation. No one known in history has done what he did. In January, 2013, *Model Railroad Craftsman* published an article about his work. After that, our beloved hobby shop, Rock River, was no longer operating as the owner had died. It was an enormous loss for all of us in the modeling community. Things went up for sale and I was the first one there to buy the railroad caboose. This was a hot item. Later, I bought out all of the detail parts of which no other hobby store carried. Steve has contacted me as he and RMC are doing a photoshoot for a new article about Rock River. Steve wanted

to borrow my caboose as RMC would not do the article without it. I did not lend the caboose but instead, I gave it to him. Steve bought the Rock River layout and has it with his earlier creations which are all restored and running together. We were both very close friends with Russ Schiller who is a legend with what he achieved in his life. Those stories are too wild and varied to delve into. He was an excellent mentor for me and others and he took over the job of selling Rock River. I learned more practical skills than Cornell could ever teach me from modeling. Russ's ancestors were German pipe organ builders. Munster cathedral and other places in Germany had Shiller





Back Row: Neal Pedersen, Chris Shay, Dottie Pedersen, Matt Bradley, John Russell, Alden (Obie) Mudge, Barry Prince. Third Row: Ed Franco, Lee Miller, Martin Bauer, Martin Ogletree, Lisa Hendricks Ogletree, Patti Bernard DiGiacomo. Second Row: Martha Way, Betsy Clement Bauer, Sallie Murphy Palm, Bob Murray, Bob Shenton, Maryann Patterson Ingersoll. Front Row: Valerie Walker Perry, Carl Hemmingsen, Scot Campbell, Quentin Riegel, Cathy Manning Kane

organs. He also flew WW2 aircrafts and multi-engine bombers. He had 2,300 hours logged in and was one hell of a storyteller.”

**1969** **Chris Shay '69** writes, “Our 55th reunion was definitely my favorite. **Patti DiGiacomo's '69** home Friday evening was the perfect setting, particularly conducive to small group conversations. When we graduated, we were sure we'd change the world. Fifty-five years later, we are going strong. The Class of '69 did, in fact, change the world, some in small ways and some large, but all important. We shared funny stories of those student days and stories of teachers who had a spark that lit up the classroom and managed to break through into our consciousness. They managed to make sense of it all. Some of those stories included Hugh Cronister, Al Hayes, Warren Krebs, and **Earl Harrison '50**, to name just a few. It surprises me that we read Shakespeare, Huxley, or Dostoevsky and discussed tangled complex ideas. These teachers continue to be part of the class of '69. Celebrating them added richness and depth to our reunion. Walking through Westtown early Saturday morning, I was reminded of the supportive and caring nature of the faculty and how much I missed that after graduating. I pretty much fell apart after Westtown. We might have resolved our adolescent quest to figure out ‘who I am and what I'll do,’ but I suffered over the relationships I missed. Growing up in such a tight

community was a struggle, leaving was a bigger struggle. Somehow, this reunion helped me accept the loss of youth. I feel better about myself and better about Westtown. Mostly, I feel grateful for the time we shared. Surprisingly, Sunday Meeting for Worship came up for discussion. We requested to have our own separate Sunday Meeting. Quaker ideas have definitely influenced my life. While I was a student, I registered as a conscientious objector and I made it my business to talk about peace. I'm determined to take a stand against gun violence.

The idea of a piano recital began with an article about Mervin Hutton published in the *Westonian Magazine*. I've always wanted to express my gratitude and saw this as the perfect opportunity to do so. Music and gratitude are a healing combination. This recital to honor a teacher makes quite a statement about the class of '69. **Gail Woods '69** and **Cathy Manning Kane '69** joined to present a one-hour program of classics and pop tunes. Gail and I played a Schubert ‘Serenade’ for four hands and Gail played an enchanting Chopin solo. Cathy played an inspiring performance of the composition that **Jeff Peckham '69** wrote for his Senior Project. Finally, we all played ‘Name that Tune’ as Cathy took us down Memory Lane touring our favorite songs. A recital honoring a music teacher must necessarily begin with Bach, the greatest of all music teachers. Mervin Hutton's choral conducting had totally captivated me. The music filled his being and danced as



Carrie Asselin '07, Daniel, and Arden

he conducted. I was transported by his conducting. He had argued convincingly that my abysmal academic achievement didn't match the intelligence of my piano playing. He pushed me to take music seriously. I took his advice and surprised everyone with a sudden jump in my grade average. The Brahms *Intermezzo opus 118*, written in his twilight years, reflects a clarity of insight into the deep mysteries of our existence. This was music that interested Mervin Hutton. I learned the Brahms *Rhapsody in G Opus 79* during my junior year at Westtown. The sweeping drama is characteristic of the tumultuous struggle of those Westtown years, a struggle that was prerequisite to our coming into consciousness: academic, social, psychological and spiritual. Finally, Debussy's *Clair de Lune* calls to mind senior year. Spring never bloomed with such vibrant color as it did our senior year. It could be the euphoria of our senior year that keeps us coming back to reunions. The silence we shared at the end of this Debussy hung in the air like mist. It belonged uniquely to our class and to this moment. Our class always had a strong spirit. It never stopped growing.”

**1971** **Judy Nicholson Asselin '71** writes, “We have moved to the beautiful and quaint New England ‘city’ of Bath, Maine, to be near our daughter, **Carrie Asselin '07**, son-in-law Daniel, and new grandson Arden Francis, born



## CLASS NOTES



Gathering of Class of '76 friends. Pictured left to right at Karen Peter, Ellen Cryer Gilbert '76, Anastasius Peter '76, Julie Waldhausen, Tom Gilbert '76, and Tank Waldhausen '76.

October 4, 2023. We love living in 'vacationland,' and while we miss being near friends in the Philadelphia area, a plethora of Westonians live nearby — **Eliza Brown '71**, **Margie Ulin '80**, **Petra Doan '73**, Mark and Katie Hiza (FF), Alison and Dan Matlack (FF), to name a few. We are a short drive to Popham Beach, the most stunning beach in Maine. Come visit!"

**1972** **Nathaniel Randall '72** writes, "I am enjoying time with my two-year-old granddaughter. It has been 28 years since I had to deal with a two-year-old. Any and all suggestions appreciated."

**1973** **Chris Fowler '73** writes, "I recently reconnected with **Jim Nicholson '73**, **Barry Hogenauer '73**, **Bruce Haines '73**, and **Marcia Hepps '73**, though, sadly, the occasion was the memorial service for Jim's older brother, **John Nicholson '70**, at Westtown Meeting. It was impressive to see the assembled Nicholson family fill both facing benches under the arch.

On a happier note, I continue to enjoy success with my photography. In addition to galleries all over the United States, my work has now been seen in London, Paris, Athens, and, likely by the time of this publication, Barcelona and Amsterdam. I was also recently elected Secretary of the Philadelphia Sketch Club (which does exhibit photographs) of which I've been a member for several years. Previous members have included



Left to right: Tim Miller '78, Rick Tuttle '79, Holly Harper '78, Mercedes Kronfeld '78, Lori Marsden '78, her daughter Julia, Julie van Roden '78 and her daughter Elizabeth, Mindy Goldstein '78, Maggie Moroff '78, her daughter, July, and friend.

N.C. Wyeth, Thomas Eakins, and others (I'm told that N.C. Wyeth had his first solo show there). It brings me up to Philadelphia from our home in Maryland regularly—alas, along I-95. One does suffer for one's art...!"

**Debra Young '73** writes, "The last few years have been extremely busy for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and for me. That has meant that I've spent very little time at home. After nearly a year in Florida working Media Relations after Hurricane Ian, I was deployed to Maui following the devastating wildfire that barreled down a mountainside above the town of Lahaina, destroying everything in its path and killing 100 people who had no way to escape. I started with FEMA almost 19 years ago and of all the disasters I have worked, this was the most heartbreaking, not only because of the high death toll but also because of the trauma experienced by the thousands of survivors who escaped the worst experience most of us can't even imagine. Homes and businesses burned to the ground, schools burned to the ground, families who lost everything, with nowhere to live and jobs gone as well. And the native Hawaiian families who lost what had been in their families for generations and were forced now to live in hotel rooms. That was August 2023. Fast forward to June 2024. Available housing is still scarce on Maui and many Lahaina residents can't fathom living anywhere else. More than \$535 million federal dollars has been allocated so far for the recovery, \$52 million in aid going to 7,132 affected families. I didn't mean to go so deep on this, but when one sees up close and personal the horrific

things that other people experience, one truly appreciates the life one's been gifted. There, but for the Grace of God, go I. *Mahalo nui loa!*"

**1974** **Meg Rodgers '74** writes, "After graduation from Henderson, I went to Dartmouth and then graduated from Boston University School of Medicine. I practiced Ob/Gyn for 33 years and retired in 2020. I lived in New England for 25 years after high school. For many of those years my primary recreation was windsurfing off of Cape Cod. It was super fun! I got married, had three children, then moved to California. My parents had sold the house in West Chester when I was in college and almost all of my family was in the Bay Area. My kids were raised in Redding which is at the top of the Central Valley and is very hot and dry. We were in the country with a large rambling house and a variety of animals on the ten acres. In the winter, we skied on nearby Mount Shasta. We saw the Bay Area family frequently. When the two oldest kids were in college, my husband, son, and I moved to Utah so I could join a Gyn-only practice. We were there for four years and loved the amazing powder skiing, then moved back to northern California. My husband died in 2018. My youngest, Christopher, died by suicide in 2020.

I joined my mother in her Tiburon house in 2020. She is 93 and physically very active. She enjoys every minute of life, just can't remember it later. I spend a lot of time with my sister who is just minutes away. We use our e-mountain bikes to explore the hills of Marin several times a week."





Back Row: Jeff Shapiro, Jeff Kline, Don Wildman, Jeannie Spackman Hall, Sandy Sweitzer, Sam Wood, Rob Cosinuke, Rick Tuttle, John Banta, Steve Coleman, Jack Stefferud. Second Row: Roger Satterthwaite, Harry Wilson, Liz McMath, Lilli Duvall, JT Grosch. Third Row: Sara Jane Bacon Duffey, Jasmine Meray Spence, Corneila Kietzman, Caro Hall Nishioka, Marnie Cryer Foody, Kate Stevenson, Keller Shinholser. Front Row: Chris Scholl, Liddy Damron Ellis, Jacki Butcher Brown, Sulyn Godsey, Wendy Houser Hannon, Stacy Richards, Martha Sadler-Stein



Left to Right: David Stefferud, Dave Roberts, Sam Wagner

**Laura Morris Siena '74** writes, "I enjoyed our 50th Reunion! Folks looked amazing and it was great to hear classmates' life stories and updates. As I write this in June, we are in Los Angeles celebrating our daughter, Anna-Claire's, graduation from medical residency (primary care) at UCLA, and our son-in-law, Torsten Odland's, graduation from the PhD program in Philosophy at UCLA. Our son is in the 4th year of residency in general surgery—you guessed it!—also at UCLA. Happy days all around. Ron and I are enjoying retirement and I am knee-deep in Pennsylvania politics."

**1976 Branin Boyd '76** writes, "I retired in December and moved up to the country full time. I have been very busy since, though perhaps at a slightly slower pace. **Will Boyd '07** and his wife had a son, James, in January 2022. They are all thriving and adorable. **Alex Boyd '11** is still in North Carolina, working and pursuing another degree."

**Ellen Gilbert '76** writes, "**Anastasius Peter '76** and his wife Karen, hosted a gathering of classmates at their cottage in the Poconos in June. **Tom Gilbert '76**, **Tank Waldhausen '76** and his wife Julie, and I enjoyed an evening of great food and fellowship. Tom, Tank, and I are all retired and we are hoping Anastasius joins us soon in this new and exciting phase of life. We look forward to seeing classmates at our 50th reunion in 2026!"

**1978 Julie van Roden '78** writes, "Thanks to Lori Marsden's organizational skills, a group of 1978 and 1979 alums met in New York City to see our friend and classmate, **Tim Miller '78**, perform in *Carmen* at the Metropolitan Opera. It was a great performance followed by a fun dinner together."

**1979 Martha Sadler-Stine '79** writes, "My husband Bill and I still live near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He's retired but I'm still working (actually teleworking) full-time as a program analyst with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in the Medicaid Managed Care program. Away from work, I keep very busy with gardening flowers, veggies, and indoor plants. After attending the Philadelphia Flower Show for seventeen years, I finally became an exhibitor, winning numerous ribbons, including Best of Show in the non-flowering begonia category. Not bad for a first-time exhibitor! It's a lot of effort to exhibit at that huge show but I guess I'll do it again



Left to Right: Seth Kaufmann, Nat Gordon-Clark, Caroline "Alex" Robboy

next year. I'd be interested to hear from any other Westtown Alumni who exhibit in the Philadelphia Flower Show."

**1983 Nathan Bohn '83** writes, "After fifteen wonderful years as the Dean of Enrollment at Westtown School, I have decided to begin the process of down-shifting. I am not quite retiring though! Auxen will soon be starting their senior year at Parson's in NYC. They love NYC. Jane and I have moved to a home nearby in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, so we can remain near our Westtown friends and the campus we love so much."

**1987 Elizabeth Sagehorn '87** writes, "I was on a cruise to Italy and Croatia with my family this spring when fellow passenger, **Joan Perkovich '85**, reached out and



Elizabeth Sagehorn '87 and Joan Perkovich '85 met on a European cruise this spring.



## CLASS NOTES



Class of '89 gathering. (L to R) Ferd Zogbaum, Nathan Derr, Nate Robb, Ross Browne, Chris Stein, Randy Lewis, and Chris Wilkes.



Left to right: Paul Yingling '93 competing in the Moneymaker Poker Tournament in which he placed 7th. Grant with his grandfather, Peter Snedecor (former faculty).



introduced herself. What a treat to find a Westtown friend in the middle of the Adriatic!"

**Megan Williams '87** writes, "I graduated from Westtown in 1987 and I have a memoir coming out from Sibylline Press in September. This book is a braided memoir about

my decision to apply to the Philadelphia Police Academy and my struggles raising twins who were born at 29 weeks. Westtown and Philadelphia figure prominently in this narrative!"

**1989 Daniel Fisher '89**

writes, "After working as a lawyer for twenty years, I have changed my job. Since then, I have been working as a board member for a large charitable foundation in Bonn/Germany. The purposes of the foundation

include: inter alia, animal shelters, care



Top Row: Matthew Martini, Tim Russel, Reyes Barboza, Nate Bryans, Travis Klose. Middle Row: Hillary Murray, Kate Evans-Walquist '95, Jessica Small-Mountenot, Scott Seibert, Jennifer MacCollum, Cassandra Costello, Erin Kelley, Delphine Barringer-Mills, Emily Schwartz. Front Row: Motoko Mitarai-Rushmore, Douglas Bogdanoff, Katie Cloutman, Zarinah Jones, Meredith Much



Many members of the classes of 1994 and 1995 gathered at Nate Bryan '94 family farm during Alums Weekend 2024



Back row L-R: Scott Jacob, Lindsay Franklin, Beirne Roose-Snyder, Glen Upton. Middle Row: Amy Ackerman, Bianca Dube, Erycka Montoya, Celestine Cookson. Front: Jane Lopez

for crime victims, and support of the elderly. I am living near Bonn with my wife, Astrid, and our cat and dog. Our daughter moved out last year to study media design and film production at the University of Wuppertal. Right now, we enjoy our holidays cruising with a camper through Southern France.

Whoever is in the Cologne/Bonn area, you are very welcome to stop by!"

Thirty-five years after walking through the Greenwood, seven members from the class of 1989 gathered at **Nathan Derr's** home this past June in Towson, Maryland, for a fun-filled weekend of reconnecting, tossing the





Top Row: Sam Cooper, Travis Granger, Alex Dondero, Mark Ratliff, Emily Knowton (Snedecor), Henry Schlimme, Adele Abbott (Carr), Claren Copp-LaRocque, Yoon-Ji Lee. Bottom Row: Katie Montgomery, Amanda Thomforde, Becka Schlimme (Davis), Kathy Christiano (Hanrahan), Elizabeth Backup, Suzanne Marlatt



Front row: Maddie Breimhust, Caitlin Hunter, Katie McCain. 2nd row: Maisie McGowan, Ian Perkins-Taylor, Karen Gilbert, Sam McCauley. 3rd row: Michael Williams, Dan Breimhurst, Beverly Aiyanyor, Jake Eisenhauer, Aman Ali, Ammar Al-Rubaiay. Back row: Charles Holley, Matt Farrow, Jonathan DeWolf, Eric Frysinger, Ben Barclay, Martin Moon

frisbee, and reminiscing about their time at Westtown. Gathered were: **Ferd Zogbaum** (Tampa, FL), **Nathan Derr** (Towson, MD), **Nate Robb** (NYC), **Ross Browne** (Tucson, AZ), **Chris Stein** (Columbus, OH), **Randy Lewis** (Philadelphia, PA), and **Chris Wilkes** (Washington, DC).

**1990 Bruce James '90** writes, "We have moved! Back home. When searching for a property to help an aging parent, we found a familiar house on sale; my childhood home. It's the one designed and built by **Ben James '59** and **Jane James '59**. With only one owner in between, we've purchased the James family house in Birchrunville. The owners even transferred the P.O. Box that has been in my family for my whole life. (Anyone have an old-school Westtown address book from the 80s?) We are enjoying the house and the space, though it will take a while to settle in. Our first house guest was **Tyler (Bart) Miller '90**."

**1993 Paul Yingling '93** writes, "I hope everyone is doing well. I'm still with Atlas Air flying cargo around the world in a 777 which is a pretty big airplane. The company is going through some changes and decided not to continue partnership with Amazon, resulting in downgrading a third of our fleet—13 737s and 17 767s—which is a pretty big deal. I was pretty close to upgrading to Captain of the 777 but now it looks like those senior to me on the downgraded fleets will get the opportunity first so another five or ten years? Danielle and the kitties are great and tolerate my hobby of playing poker. We had a great time on the World Poker Tour Cruise in April and I took some time to play a few tournaments in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas in June. My YouTube poker vlog is getting some attention from folks in the industry but I'm still learning how to produce an engaging video. I create all of the video, audio, and graphics. If you'd like to view some of the shenanigans

you can check it out at [www.youtube.com/@777Poker\\_](http://www.youtube.com/@777Poker_)."

**1994 Katie Cloutman '94** writes, "It was great to see so many of us at our 30th reunion! We gathered at Slow Hand in West Chester on Friday night and Zoomed with some who couldn't be there in person (**Jacob Reimer '94**!). On Saturday, we overcame the rain and met on campus for great food, music, and reminiscing around campus. Some of Westtown is the same, but so much is different! On Saturday afternoon, we gathered at **Nate Bryan's '94** family farm for another great evening of food and friends! It is always fun to catch up with those near and far. If we missed you, hopefully we will see you in May of 2029 for our 35th reunion!"

**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 Toby Snedecor '98**, Jenna Hoffstein, and Malcolm Snedecor welcomed Grant Hoffstein to the world last summer. After a whirlwind first year on the planet, Grant is toddling around, almost sleeping through the night, and rapidly outgrowing clothes meant for two-year-olds. He and his father also made a guest appearance on 10 Dad Commandments, a podcast hosted by **Steve Flemming '98**.

**1999 Daryl Shore '99** recently relocated to Atlanta in February 2024 after the passing of his father in September 2023. Daryl was also promoted to Senior Vice President at the National Equity Fund in March 2024. He continues to enjoy his service on the Westtown School board.





Katie Keys '13 (left), Rachel Wortmann '13 (center), Rebecca Wortmann '16 (right) and family celebrating Rachel's graduation from University of Michigan



Class of 2004 off-campus gathering



Top Row: Graham Giangiulio, Christian Carmellini, Jeremy Graf-Evans, Ethan Fye, Manny Vilmatello. Front Row: Billy Haviland, Max Pinsky, Laura Schell, Todd Roberts, Luke Frankel

## 2008 **Alexandra MacColl Garfinkel (Roche)**

'08 and **Robert Roche** '08 are excited to share that they will be moving to Germany this year with their son, Hugo, and dog, Dutch! This move will be for a few years so that Alexandra can pursue a very exciting research position at the Max Planck Institute in Dresden. After living in New Haven, Connecticut, for nine years, they are very excited for this next big adventure. They will, however, dearly miss the communities they have in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. They are, of course, also looking forward to their planned cross-Atlantic visits from loved ones! Tschüss!

## 2010

**Emily Beaman** '10 writes, "We welcomed Theodor Beaman-Haraldstedt to the world in July 2023!"



**2011 Nahara Saballos** '11 writes, "This past June, I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Family Medicine Residency! After eight years of learning and training at UPenn, I will be transitioning to work at Temple University Hospital as a primary care doctor and family medicine obstetrician. At graduation, I got to see other Westtown Alums including **Dr. Kent Bream** '86 whom I trained under, and the lovely Nyanin sisters, **Ohemaa** '05 and **Nana** '07, who were celebrating their brother's graduation."

**2013 Rachel Wortmann** '13 graduated with her MBA from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business and was joined by **Rebecca Wortmann** '16, **Richard Wortmann** '83, and **Katie Keys** '13 to celebrate in Ann Arbor.



# From the Archives 225 years

This year marks 225 years of Quaker education at Westtown School. On May 6, 1799, Westtown opened its doors to an inaugural co-ed class of forty students with the intent of providing a “guarded religious education” for Quaker families in the Philadelphia area. The journey to this historic day started over thirty years before, when prominent Philadelphia Quakers such as George Churchman advocated for the establishment of a Friends boarding school. The idea gained support following the founding of Ackworth School by London Yearly Meeting in 1779 and the publication of Owen Biddle’s “A Plan for a School” in 1790. Finally, in 1794, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting formed a committee to consider the proposal. It was accepted, and in 1795 a tract of land was purchased in Chester County from the Gibbons family. It is on this same six hundred acres that Westtown School still operates today, with over two centuries of experience providing an education grounded in Quaker principles.



Globes made at Westtown School during the early 19th century reflect the educational and religious mission of the school. Both boys and girls were considered scholars at Westtown, and though taught separately, each had classes in reading, writing, mathematics, bookkeeping, geography, and the natural sciences. Boys learned surveying skills, while girls were offered sewing class. The embroidered silk globes, both terrestrial and celestial, show the importance of geography and astronomy in their studies—and the advanced needlework skills of some of the students. Sewing remained part of the Westtown curriculum until 1843 when it was discontinued by a decision of the Committee on Instruction.

Needlework globe,  
made by student Susan  
Ecroyd, circa 1839–1841

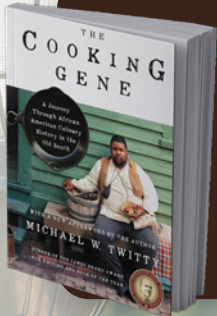


# Save the dates!



## FALLFEST

*Food, fun, and games in a carnival-like atmosphere*  
September 21, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Belfry Lawn



## Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer

*Michael Twitty, world-renowned author, speaker, and culinary historian*  
November 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
Barton-Test Theater



## Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer

*Tyriek White, award-winning novelist, musician, and educator*  
February 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.  
Barton-Test Theater

