

## CAMPUS UPDATES ON THE HORIZON







# Westonian Magazine

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**Behind the Cover:** Drone shot of the turf fields construction area.

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.

## **Seeking Connections**



"Every day, Westtown students are jolted by 'aha' moments of interdisciplinary learning, recognize the reverberations of history in current events, and discover through proximity and shared experience all they have in common with peers whose differences seemed more stark only months earlier."

**More than most things**, I am confident in the presence of connection. Whether we recognize it or not, it is always there. And by "there," I mean just about everywhere.

Quakerism has much to say about this, of course, and it is likely in large part Westtown's Quakerism that instilled the seed of this confidence deep within me long ago. (That and a book by Alan Watts that Teacher Foster Doan gave me in the late 1980s, but I think Westtown should get some credit for that, too.) After all, the Light within each of us, direct access to the divine, the shared journey toward a sense of the meeting, even the root of each of the testimonies reflects or depends upon connection.

Frequently, people speak of "making connections" as if they are creating them, and there are indeed some social instances where that is true. More often, though, it seems to me that what we're describing is the experience of having a pre-existing, unseen connection revealed to us. Last Saturday morning, I sat with my wife, Alejandra, on a bench in the small waiting area of a local breakfast spot we'd never tried before. After a few people were summoned to their tables and a few others filled the small anteroom, a couple of us began talking. It soon became clear through conversation that all ten of us sitting there—members of four separate breakfast parties—were connected by Westtown School, representing classes from 1983 to 2038, years of Westtown parenting, and decades of Westtown employment. This may be a less profound bond to realize than the presence of the divine spirit in each of us or the interdependent ecosystems upon which the health of our planet depends, but in each case these exist whether we have discerned them yet or not. Similarly, every day, Westtown students are jolted by "aha" moments of interdisciplinary learning, recognize the reverberations of history in current events, and discover through proximity and shared experience all they have in common with peers whose differences seemed more stark only months earlier. And each time they make these discoveries, they also practice the essential habit of seeking connections that have existed all along, waiting patiently to be realized, internalized, and acted on anew.

In this way, unrealized bonds contain a kind of potential energy, as do Westtown students themselves, whom we seek to inspire and prepare to be stewards and leaders of a better world. In the conclusion of his 2002 Nobel lecture, President Jimmy Carter observed that, "The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices." He's right, I'm convinced, and that connection, too, is there whether we recognize it or not. Unless we do, though, we won't give ourselves the chance to realize its potential. In this moment, especially, when divisiveness and othering seem all too often to be the accepted coin of the realm, practicing the habit of discerning connection is surely as essential to Westtown's mission—and to our hope for the future—as ever.

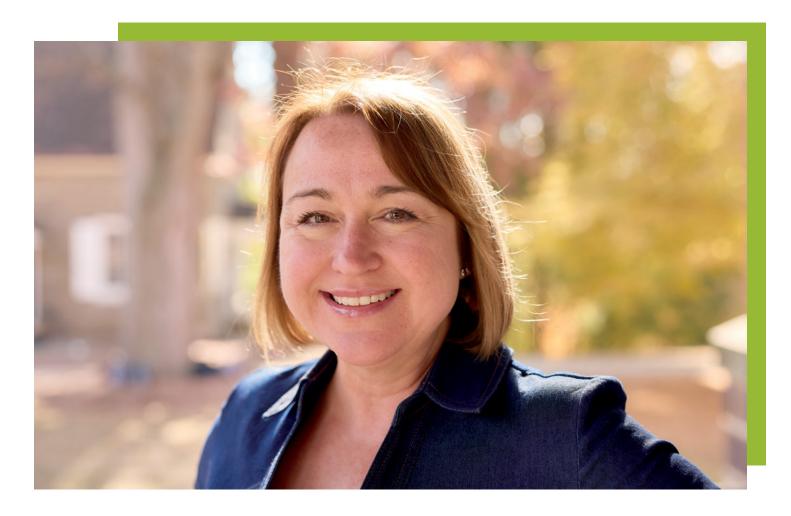
As always, thank you for your care and support of this community we share, and for your openness to innumerable connections waiting to be discovered. W

## News from Around 'Town

#### OUTDOOR ED BACKPACKING TRIP

Chris Henwood-Costa, Director of Outdoor Education, and teachers Tom Berrian and Courtney McKinley led the Upper School fall Outdoor Ed backpacking trip. This group hiked a section of the Appalachian Trail with steep and very rocky terrain while wearing heavy backpacks which carried everything they needed for three days. Henwood-Costa shares, "The [students] were completely unplugged. They learned how to live and travel in the backcountry including how to work with a group to set up camp, build a fire, protect their food from bears, navigate with a map and compass, and cook delicious food for one another. They spent time getting to know each other, enjoying the views, and reflecting together. They showed great leadership in their support for one another and their ability to meet and push their edges." Henwood-Costa says they left the experience feeling empowered and resilient, and knowing that they are capable of more than they thought possible before the trip. All of the students expressed so much gratitude for the opportunity to challenge themselves in this way. Enjoy more photos by scanning QR code below.





# New Director of Sustainability

Over the summer, we were thrilled to welcome Francine Locke to our community as the new Director of Sustainability. She also serves as the Director of Sustainability for Germantown Friends School (GFS). Through an innovative partnership, Westtown and GFS created this shared role that offers both school communities the benefit of an experienced Director of Sustainability. This cross-school collaboration is generating energy and innovative ideas and already students from

both schools have visited each other's campuses to find creative and effective ways to collaborate.

Locke brings a wealth of experience and knowledge. She has a Master's in Environmental Health from Temple University, and previously served as Chief Sustainability Officer for Delaware County and as the Director of Sustainability and Green Schools for the School District of Philadelphia. She shared, "Everyone at Westtown and GFS gets it, and that's a beautiful thing to

inherit in this position. There is already a ton of interest and wonderful people leading this work. I am working with generous, kind communities at schools that value Quakerism and sustainability. This mindset is expressed through meaningful actions that are the norm at both schools."

Locke says she is highly impressed with the sustainability practices already in place at Westtown, noting many examples from implementing green stormwater management practices, to composting, eliminating single-use plastics, and procuring locally grown produce in the Dining Room. "From a sustainable campus perspective, Westtown is a leader in operationalizing sustainability into its facilities management program. The school's state-of-the

art building automation system allows for an efficient way to control HVAC systems within historic facilities. All of the facilities' lights have been converted to high efficient LEDs. From a renewable energy perspective, the school purchases 100% of its electricity through renewable energy credits sourced from wind farms. There is much to be said about the sustainable campus operations at Westtown," she says.

She also notes that, "Westtown is a true leader in education for sustainability. The campus is a living laboratory and an outdoor classroom, and the curriculum reflects the abundance of natural resources present at the school. Teachers and students at Westtown experience education in a way that allows them to find their own connections with the natural world and sustainability, while also applying their understanding of math, science, religion, art, and other areas of study. This is an interdisciplinary approach that is not limited by subject area."

One of Locke's first projects is to create a sustainability plan for Westtown along with members of the Sustainability Committee—a group comprising faculty, administrators, staff, and students. "The sustainability plan will include input from the entire school community so that it becomes a product of the school's collective thinking rather than a document that is delivered to the community for implementation," she shares. "Communities tend to support a plan that they help create, and we want this to be a living plan that delivers measurable outcomes and reflects the Quaker values of the community. My hope is that we will develop a holistic, whole-school sustainability plan that connects education, physical spaces, and organizational culture as a sustainable system. We want to consider economic,

"Westtown is a true leader in education for sustainability. The campus is a living laboratory and an outdoor classroom, and the curriculum reflects the abundance of natural resources present at the school."

social, and environmental issues in an interconnected way rather than as separate issues. For example, we will work towards balancing economic growth with equity to ensure that everyone is uplifted on the journey towards sustainability. Through a robust outreach and engagement process, we will identify baseline data for energy, waste, water, emissions, food, and much more. We want to then develop manageable sections or focus areas of the plan such as education, energy, zero waste, and health and wellbeing. When this framework is created, we can identify measurable targets and the actions needed to attain them. Threaded throughout the plan will also be inspiring stories of the work currently taking place at the school, including highlights of programs, practices, and people. It's an exciting time to be here and I'm looking forward to growing more sustainability initiatives from the seeds that have been planted by my predecessors."

Locke is also very excited about the upcoming construction of a 2.1 MW solar array. "This infrastructure will support the school's goal of working towards a carbon neutral campus. There is a potential to calculate carbon sequestration of the 600-acres of natural land, accompanied by the offset of carbon emissions from the new solar array and together, with reduced waste from the campus, highly sustainable procurement practices, and changes in human behavior, the school has the potential to lead the way in a more sustainable environmental

footprint. This will also be a powerful educational tool for students who may be able to study the system, once again demonstrating Westtown's campus as an innovative laboratory."

Energized by this community and the work already underway, Locke says she looks forward to bringing her prior experience to bear in this role. "I am so grateful to be at Westtown leading the sustainability efforts of this extraordinary school. My past work involved crafting successful sustainability solutions with limited resources. As the Sustainability and Green Schools Director for the School District of Philadelphia and the Chief Sustainability Officer for the County of Delaware, PA, I found that the development of a community-created, highly organized and results-driven plan allowed for these institutions to connect resources to prescribed actions. This led to measurable progress that could be shared out with the larger community, inspiring hope and optimism for a better world. I would like to bring this approach to Westtown, creating limitless possibilities with the vast 600-acres of mature, beautiful, preserved land, and the already-existing foundation created by my predecessors. Students are our purpose at Westtown, and I look forward to supporting their journeys to become global sustainability leaders. They will be the changemakers who crack the code to climate change and an equitable, kinder world."

### Dining Services Recognitions

Westtown School Dining Services has earned 4-Star Certified **Green Restaurant®** recertification from the Green Restaurant Association (GRA)! Dining Services at Westtown first earned a 4-Star rating back in 2019. This 4-Star designation by the Green Restaurant Association—an honor rarely given to a school dining facility-was awarded to our Dining Services after being evaluated in six categories: energy, water, waste, food, disposables, and chemical use. Thirty seven percent of all food served in our Dining Room is locally sourced. Our Dining Room serves produce from the student farm year round, as well as

Westtown's Dining Services team has also been awarded **The Slow Food Snail of Approval** by the Slow Food organization. "The Slow Food Snail of Approval award is a recognition given to food and beverage establishments that are pursuing and practicing Slow Food values in their business. This is more than about making good food — it's about making commitments to the environment, local communities, employees and purveyors, and our core values

produce from 80 area farms through

Philadelphia's Common Market.

of antiracism and anti-oppression." The Snail of Approval is awarded based on evaluations focused on the following six areas: sourcing.

environmental impact, cultural connection, community involvement, staff support, and business values.

Slow Food

SNAIL OF

**APPROVAL** 



Seventh graders at their food truck

## Food Truck Challenge

Seventh grade STEM teacher **Carlos Charriez** wanted his students to learn about the design thinking process and to create a collaborative project with Lower School students, so he introduced the Food Truck Challenge. Their leading question was: How can you design a food truck for third graders that focuses on healthy eating? They were challenged to create a menu, design a logo, create a slogan, and pay careful attention to presentation and truck design. In addition to other elements of the design thinking process—brainstorming, defining, prototyping, and testing—a crucial piece of design thinking is empathy and understanding a client's needs to design toward solutions.

For the Food Truck Challenge, seventh graders first visited with their third grader "clients" to interview them about their wants and needs in a food truck experience, their favorite foods, possible allergies, and to gather other ideas. The students then took this information and in groups worked on brainstorming ideas, designing their food trucks, and crafting healthy menus. Then, in the build stage, they built cardboard food trucks from which to serve their food. For the final stage, seventh graders set up their food truck stations in the Science Center and welcomed the third graders who got to sample all the offerings and provide feedback. The third graders were excited to visit the food trucks, taste the menus of all the groups, and the seventh graders were thrilled to share their creations! "The creativity and craftsmanship of the seventh grade class was on full display for this partnership and I could tell based on their smiles that they took a lot of pride in their work as they served their third grade clients," Charriez shared. "If students remember anything about this STEM class, I hope that they realize how important the skill of empathy is when working with others."



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## Spiritual Journey Project

Religion teachers Lara Freeman and Jonathan Ogle combine art and spirituality in their Quakerism course. For the Spiritual Journey Project, students create a collage or 3D sculpture of their spiritual identity. In this Quakerism course—an Upper School requirement students are asked to reflect on their own relationship with spirituality and religion and consider the influences on their lives that have shaped the identity and beliefs they claim or are exploring at this point in time. "We invite them to see themselves as more than just embracing or rejecting a particular label, but as a unique person engaged in figuring out what spirituality and religion mean to them and how they see the world," shares Ogle. "There are so many pressures in our society that either dictate specific ways to talk about these things, or work against talking about our spiritual and religious lives at all. The collage project moves students out of the usual verbal modes of communication and forces them to engage with these questions in an unaccustomed way that is often unexpectedly revealing to them in their understanding of themselves, as well as creating interesting, varied visual expressions of parts of their inner lives that are often hidden."

For the Spiritual Journey Project (an idea first shared with Ogle by Tom Hoopes), students create a collage or 3D sculpture of their spiritual identity. Ogle's and Freeman's instructions for this project call students to make a 2D collage or 3D sculpture of their spiritual identity at this moment, or of their journey thus far. They ask students to



Students working on their collages for the Spiritual Journey Project

consider: Have your beliefs changed or your perspective on them? What do you focus on? What are your questions? What people and experiences have influenced your journey? At the conclusion of the project, students present their art and share their journeys with the class. "Another purpose of the project is to open a space of curiosity about the diversity of ways their peers have experienced and are thinking about these topics," continues Ogle. "It's much more comfortable to ask someone, 'Can you explain what that green yarn in the corner represents?' than to say, 'Tell me what you believe.' It's more comfortable to answer, too. Through this, and other activities, we want students to develop more skill and comfort living in a world and in communities where people may openly have many different relationships with spirituality and religion. This project can set the stage for more open, authentic conversations in class as the year goes on. That skill and comfort can be transformative in the communities they will live and work in throughout their lives, including Westtown."

Have your
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ASSEMBLY PRESENTER

## George Lakey

George Lakey gave a rousing presentaion at a recent Upper School Assembly. Lakey is an activist and author who has committed his life to fighting for social justice in many realms: racial justice, LGBTQ rights, and climate justice, among many others. As a Quaker, he has co-founded and led many organizations and campaigns focused on peace and justice. At the assembly, he spoke about his anti-war activism in Vietnam, his work in the civil rights movement, and his recent work fighting climate change. A sociologist and researcher by trade who has studied social movements across world and in Scandivia in particular, he addressed the extreme political polarization in the United States, re-



minding students that polarization very often precedes progress in societies; that it's often this tension that propels movements forward. He reminded students that they can can be instrumental in change as well. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A period.

Upper School religion teacher
Lara Freeman, who was instrumental in bringing George to campus, shares, "George visited one of the Environmental Justice classes for an open conversation about social change and his long history of working for a more just world. The students came prepared with questions they wanted to ask. The conversation was rich and could have lasted another hour. Following the presentation in assembly, George also met with students, staff, and faculty in

a reception in the South Room. It was exciting to hear from adults who had participated in trainings with George in their youth as well as to see a new generation of people motivated by his joy, humor, and creative engagement in this world." It is of note that Westtown students who have taken the Peace and Justice classes over the last few years have used the Global Nonviolent Action Database, which Lakey helped to create at Swarthmore College.

Lakey is a member of the Earth Quaker Action Team and columnist for WagingNonviolence.org. You can learn more about Lakey and his work in the documentary film *Citizen George*, or through his books. He is the author of: *Dancing with History: A Life for Peace and Justice; Facilitating Group Learning: Strategies for Success with Diverse Learners; Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians got it right and how we can, too; and HOW WE WIN: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning.* 



## Tchin Visits Lower and Middle Schools

Lower and Middle Schoolers recently enjoyed a visit from Tchin, a nationally known Indigenous artist, musician, educator, and storyteller. He shared vivid lessons of how things like colorful flowers and rabbits came to be. During his performance, Tchin also played various rare Indigenous flutes, some of which have not been enjoyed for generations. We are grateful to Tchin for sharing his stories, music, and magic with our students!



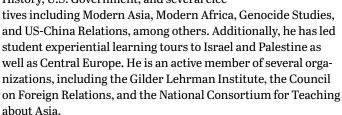
HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## Joseph Daniels

Upper School history teacher **Joseph Daniels** was named the 2024 Pennsylvania Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher of the Year! Joseph was chosen by a panel of teachers, administra-

tors, and scholars for his achievements in American history education. In addition to this state-level honor, he was in the running with 53 other teachers across the country for National History Teacher of the Year.

Joseph Daniels is the Chair of the History and Religion Department. Over the last 20 years, he has taught World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and several elec-





Congratulations to these seniors on their National Merit Scholarship achievements! Over 1.3 million juniors across the country entered the NMS program and only 16,000 qualified as semi-finalists. **Kyle Cui** (3rd from left) is a semi-finalist and will continue in the competition. **Terry Ma, Steven Zhao, Jacob Liu, Liam Sellers-Johnston, Shawn Xu, Sophia Park, Aveline Heryer**, and **Katherine Graham** (not pictured) have been named Commended Students by the Nation Merit Scholarship Corporation, which means they were in the top 50,000 scorers of students who took the PSAT last fall.

SHOEMAKER VISITING LECTURER

## Michael Twitty

We were honored to welcome Michael Twitty, culinary historian and world-renowned author of The Cooking Gene, KosherSoul, and Rice, as our first Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer of the year! Tim Mountz, Sustainable Agriculture Educator and Farm Manager, and Twitty had engaging moderated talk followed by a lively question and answer period. The next day, Twitty spent time talking with students in the senior English classes in the Belfry, as well as with students in the Perspectives in Literature and African American Experience classes where he talked about African American culinary history at our Lower School Three Sisters Garden. Our thanks to Michael Twitty for a wonderful visit, and the Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer Committee for bringing him to campus!





## Environmental Science Students Explore Off Campus

This fall, teacher Ryan Black took Environmental Science students traveled to the North Brigantine Natural Area along the southern New Jersey coast. This area is critical shorebird habitat, home to several rare and endangered species, and part of the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island beach along the New Jersey coast. Students learned how to identify different species and estimate population sizes with the goal of reporting this data to state agencies and conservation groups. "They were able to identify seven shorebird species (including endangered red knots) and counted 1,810 birds over the course of our two surveys," shared Black. "Combined with the data from Episcopal Academy and Haddonfield Memorial HS students, we have counted over 7,000 birds so far this migration season at the North Brigantine Natural Area." They also documented human activity and other disturbances to investigate the impact on the shorebird species. The data collected (and data to be collected in the future) will be used for a lab report/field study assignment.

Students were on the move once again for a freshwater mussel survey of E. Chester Creek (on campus in the North Woods). Black says, "We have been unable to find any native freshwater mussels in the creek. This is unsurprising since mussels are missing from approximately 95% of regional streams surveyed. We compared the abundance of native mussel species (o) to invasive Asian clams (561). We also collected some water quality data and inspected some areas for macroinvertebrate life. It was the largest group I have ever had in waders at the same time and they did a great job!"

Students also had a night field trip to Rushton Woods Preserve to observe Northern Saw-whet owl banding. The students were able to see the researchers collect data on one older female Saw-whet owl that was caught right at the last net check. Our students were hosted by the Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) who wanted to ensure that we share that, "All birds were handled for scientific purposes in the presence of Banders-In-Charge at a federally licensed banding station. Do not attempt to handle wild animals without the proper training and permits."



Right: Students surveying shorebirds Below: Studying freshwater mussel species Below right: Northern saw-whet owl banding







## Math Olympiad

On Friday, December 6, Westtown's Math Department hosted the Philly Math League Olympiad. This was the first time Westtown School has hosted the Math Olympiad. There were teams from George School, Hill, Penn Charter, Episcopal, Baldwin, Agnes Irwin, Haverford, Masterman (for the first time), Springside-Chestnut Hill, Shipley, and Friends Central.

The olympiad is the culminating event of the Philly Math League season. Every team competes during every round of six questions, which could either be individual based (where the top five scores of a team are added together) or cooperative (where students work as a team to submit one solution set). It was a great opportunity for Westtown's team to see those participants they've been competing against all fall.

The energy in the Uptown Lounge was palpable as students spent the morning solving and discussing diverse math questions alone and working in teams of eight. The Westtown

team finished in the top four schools in the competition, with a very close semifinal loss to Episcopal Academy, who eventually lost by one point to George School, the three-time defending champion. Math teacher Jake Norton and Math Department Chair Susan Waterhouse share, "Our young team has a lot of depth and we are looking forward to continuing to build strength in the coming year!"

Congratulations to Westtown's team: Tiantong Hu '26, Isabella Jin '27, Jamie Lee '27, Jayden Qin '28, Jerry Rao '27, Bailey Tuckman '25, Angela Wang '26, and Max Zhang '27!



## AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) is a series of math examinations designed to challenge middle and high school students with engaging problems, aiming to identify mathematical talent, foster a love of math, and develop critical problem-solving skills through friendly competition; essentially, it's a national program focused on strengthening future generations of mathematicians by providing engaging math challenges across different levels of difficulty. The top three AMC 10 (for 9th and 10th graders) scores were: 1. Isabella Jin '27; 2. Jayden Qin '28; and 3. Max Zhang '27. The top three AMC 12 (for 10th and 12th graders) scores were: 1. Jamie Lee '27: 2. Angela Wang '26; and 3. Tiantong Hu '26. Additionally, Jamie Lee '27 received a Certificate of Achievement for his score on the AMC 12 as a 10th grader; received a Certificate of Distinction as a top 5% score in the country; and, qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Junior Angela Wang qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination) and sophomore Isabella Jin received a Certificate of Distinction as a top 5% score in the country; received an Honor Roll of Distinction as a top 1% score in the country; and qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Congratulations to all!

## DR. SMITH GOES TO FOURTH GRADE

**Dr. Virginia Smith**, Associate Professor of Water Resources in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Villanova University, visited fourth grade science classes to talk about



her work in urban flooding and researching mitigation solutions and water management. She spoke to the students about water systems, how rivers change with climate, gardens that help mitigate runoff, and about rain gardens both create biodiversity and decrease the temperature of cities. She engaged the students in demonstrations on rainfall in urban areas and they discussed ways individuals can help the watershed in any area. Dr. Smith also noted that the new Lower School playscape will have rain gardens and is designed for runoff mitigation. Lower School Science teacher Colby Van Alen shares, "Before Dr. Smith's visit, fourth graders explored how land changes shape without human and animal interference. This led to on-campus walks where numerous discoveries were made, such as signs of water runoffs. It was wonderful to have Dr. Smith in the classroom to deepen their inquiry-based learning in this area."



## **International Festival**

Just before Thanksgiving break, our community enjoyed the annual International Festival. This event, organized by the International Student Organization (ISO), was a wonderful success! Our students, families, and faculty set up stations in the Main Hall representing and celebrating their many cultures and countries offering snacks, games, presentations, and opportunities for connection and conversation. Our thanks to ISO and all who participated! Enjoy the gallery of photos at the QR code here.



SEVENTH GRADE

## Canoe Trip

The canoe trips have been a signature program in the Middle School for over 40 years. The seventh grade canoe trip's placement at the beginning of the school year is intentional, as this trip is often a formative experience for students, resulting in deeper relationships with peers and faculty, an increased sense of self-confidence, and a belief in their ability to overcome obstacles both individually and as a group. This trip is also an integral component of community building as they enter their seventh grade year.

Led by Director of Outdoor Education Chris-Henwood Costa and several Middle School faculty, the group paddled a section of the Delaware River located in the beautiful Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area on the border of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They carried everything with them on the river and camping as they traveled downstream. Henwood-Costa shares, "All students were engaged in the meaningful work of traveling as a large group down the river, including tent setup, meal preparation and clean-up, fire building, canoe packing, and unpacking, etc. The learned navigation skills and had several opportunities to practice leadership in small and large groups. In addition, students continued their understanding of Leave No Trace (LNT) wilderness travel practices that we began working with in sixth grade Outdoor Education." See more photos at







### OAKLEY EXPLORED

As part of her art history independent study focusing on women artists, senior **Coco Chen** researched Violet Oakley, an artist whose work is well known to Westonians. She shares her work with us here.

The painting George Fox on Pendle Hill in the South Room is a significant representation of the Quaker belief at Westtown. However, Violet Oakley, the artist, remains far less recognized and appreciated than the art itself. Although the name of the artist is inscribed in the bottom-left corner of the painting, attention is overwhelmingly drawn to the central figure, George Fox, whose name is written on the bottomright corner of the painting in the same size and font as the artist's signature.

Oakley was once celebrated as the "greatest woman muralist the United States has produced" and "probably one of America's best-known woman artists," as noted in the articles and journals published in her time. Like many female artists, Oakley came from a family deeply involved in the arts and she became interested at an early age.

Her childhood was imbued with creativity, and she was surrounded by a household that valued artistic expression. Letters and paintings sent back home by her aunts, who studied art in Europe, offered young Oakley a glimpse into innovative foreign art movements and demonstrated the power and potential of art. Those influences allowed her not only to visualize the lives and works of other female artists but also to witness real-life examples around her. Her determination to excel led her to study at prestigious institutions such as the Art Students League of New York and later the Center of Art: Paris and London, Her work combines historical themes with elegant colors, adhering to a Victorian aesthetic at a time when modernism was on the rise.

Oakley thrived in her career between the end of the Civil War and the First World War, during this "golden age" in which Americans believed in boundless possibilities. Inspired by William Penn's belief in equality, which flourished in the Philadelphia region, she encountered fewer barriers to becoming an artist than many of her predecessors and contemporary female artists. In 1905, Oakley received a monumental commission to paint the murals for the Pennsylvania State Capitol, including the governor's reception room in Philadelphia and the Senate and Supreme Court chambers. This was the most significant commission female artists could receive up to that time.

Even more noteworthy, Oakley was not just an art creator but also an educator. In the spring of 1913, she began teaching a mural painting class at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), becoming one of the first female instructors at an art academy. Later in her life, she made several visits to Westtown, where she hosted workshops and classes with Westtown students. In 1956, when Oakley was eighty years old, an anonymous Westtown alum commissioned the painting of Fox which now hangs in the South Room.

Throughout her life, Violet
Oakley illuminated her ideas
in William Penn's philosophy,
feminism, and education through
her art. While it's impossible to
capture all her achievements
in a brief passage, her life and
work exemplify how she made
the most of her era. Her legacy
lives on in her art, continuously
reflecting her profound vision and
enduring impact.

#### SOLAR ARRAY UNDERWAY



In alignment with our Strategic Vision, we continue to pursue carbon neutrality. As

part of this pursuit, an eight-acre, 2.1 MW solar field is being installed. Strategically located within our farmland, this area provides maximum sunlight exposure throughout the year. The location was also chosen because it was not adjacent to any wetlands nor environmentally sensitive areas.

Development firm Biostar Renewables is installing the array, along with specially designed infiltration basins to comply with stormwater standards. The panels will be mounted on a single-axis tracker racking system, which means they track the sun from east to west throughout the day. Over 3,800 solar modules will be connected in strings of 25+ modules. At the completion of the installation, Biostar will also plant evergreen, deciduous, and ornamental trees along Shady Grove Way to provide a barrier and to improve the viewshed.

Biostar Renewables will own and operate the array and Westtown School has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The PPA allows Westtown to lock in a fixed electricity rate of \$0.090/kWh for the next 30 years. Westtown's electricity rates are expected to increase over time creating more savings for Westtown. At the end of the PPA term, Westtown can either purchase the system or have it removed by the developer to the site's original condition at the developer's cost.

The solar array will tie directly into Westtown's electrical system and the estimated annual generation from the solar project is 3,282,149 kilowatt-hours (kWh). This production is projected to offset approximately 91% of the 3,610,687 kWh of Westtown's existing annual load. This is enough to reduce 2,126 metric tons of CO2. This offset is equivalent to the electricity usage of 414 homes in a year or 239,231 gallons of gasoline. This exciting, mission-aligned project is well underway and is estimated to be operational by late summer/early fall 2025.

## Identity, Values, and Politics

As part of our Identity, Values, and Politics series Katina Bays '01 spoke at an Upper School Assembly this fall. This series, organized and hosted by Dean of Equity, Justice, and Belonging Louisa Egan Brad, brings speakers to Westtown to talk about their work and life experiences especially as they relate to these topics. Bays is Deputy Director of Outreach and Engagement at the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, serving under a Republican governor, Mike DeWine. Originally from New Jersey, Bays enrolled at Westtown in ninth grade. She was a two-season athlete and was involved in Service Network. After Westtown, she earned a B.A. from Spelman College, then went on to earn a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University. She is also a licensed independent social worker.

Bays presented an engaging assembly and Q&A session where she described her roles, what inspired her to pursue work in social service, and both her positive and negative experiences at Westtown. She noted that regardless of the political party in office, the issues remain and their department's mission is to serve the children and families of Ohio. "I think that red, blue, independent aside, many of us in helping professions get into it because we want to make a difference and help

families thrive...And when we put the politics aside and look at the fact that African American babies in the state of Ohio are dying at two times greater rates than their white counterparts, that has absolutely nothing to do with politics and everything to do with the social determinants of health. And so I think that it is very important that we are having these discussions and that we are starting to frame them in a different way."

Bays also visited the Peace and Justice class and hosted a drop-in session in the South Room where a steady stream of students talked with her individually. She says that she was impressed by the students. "In both Jonathan's [Ogle] classroom and as well as my time in the South Room with students, I just felt like [students] were wise beyond their years," she shared. Some of the questions they were asking were very forward-thinking, and oftentimes I think that we sometimes have misconceptions of who and what teens are. But these students were ones that you knew were going to go out and do great things. For me, it was energizing, it was invigorating, and it was a reminder of how much Westtown pours into students... I left thinking that there are so many budding leaders that I was able to engage with that I know will make a difference in many of the professions that they choose. I felt excited to be a part of the Westtown family



and the legacy that Westtown is continuing to make."

After her visit, Bays and Egan Brad spoke more extensively. Bays says being back at Westtown made her feel nostalgic and like "coming home in many ways. While it was great to see some of those same things, it was also so encouraging to see the increased diversity in the student body and staff population, much of which I had not experienced, at least to that level, during my time."

Egan Brad asked Bays what major points she wanted to students to take away from her talk. "That everyone's journey is unique," she replied. "The time you have at Westtown is a special time to find yourself, and you have the ability to explore who you are and who you aspire to become. It was my hope that individuals would take away that not only was my experience unique as is everyone else's, but it was also important for me to use that time at Westtown to explore who I was as a young African-American woman. I also wanted people to take away that it wasn't always rainbows and butterflies, and that there were some challenges that I experienced. I don't think that my challenges were abnormal, but I also wanted to make sure that I was telling a very accurate story. Despite the highs and lows, Westtown helped me be very intentional in my decision for my

next phase in life, which was college. I made the decision to attend a historically Black college because I knew that for some of those pieces that I had not yet fine-tuned at Westtown, I needed to be in an environment in which I would be able to cultivate those and grow. I really do hope that students took away that you can still have a great experience that may have some valleys that are a part of it, but that it is important to take away all that Westtown has to offer and use that as you are making your next steps into adulthood."

Finally, Egan Brad asked Bays how she felt her Westtown education set the stage for her subsequent education and career. Bays says that there were so many ways that Westtown prepared her for her future, noting discipline first. "If I think back to study halls from the age of 14, I got used to having the discipline to study at my

own pace and make sure that I was prepared," she says. "The other piece is just the level of independence. I was active on campus at Westtown, so I was having to put myself out there, and also go into places and spaces where it may have been a little bit uncomfortable. I think that played a huge role in my life because now, oftentimes, I am the only one that looks like me in a room. I also know from Westtown that although I may be the only one in the room that looks like me, I'm in that room for a reason, and so my value is the same as everyone else that's in the room. I think that Westtown also allowed me to speak up for marginalized groups. Westtown made me confident and made me feel like the sky was the limit. The other piece is how important community is, and how important having a firm foundation is. After my visit, I went back to my closest Westtown friends, and we've

been together since our time at Westtown. In many ways, those ladies have grounded me and have kept me sane through highs and lows in life. But all of that began on what was then Girls Third [dorm]. We were all just young girls from New York and New Jersey and we needed each other throughout our time there. Westtown gave me so very much and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity. At 14, when my mom told me I was going to apply to the Wight Foundation, it was met with apprehension. I wanted to stay home, I wanted to stay in a world that I knew well. But going to Westtown completely set me on the trajectory of where I am in life, and I am forever grateful for everything that I received from Westtown. Even the lows, because I think it helped to shape me into who I am today."





Immersion in the arts is an essential experience for all Westtown students. The visual arts program encourages students to see themselves as artists, nourishes their creative expression, and helps them hone the craft of art.









#### **ARTS GALLERY**



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











#### **FIELDS & COURTS**



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





## Fields & Courts

The girls varsity soccer team took home the Friends Schools League title as well as the PAISAA State Championship! This is the first time in school history that the girls soccer team has won both the FSL and PAISAA State titles in the same season.

The boys varsity soccer team had an amazing season, and capped if off by winning the Friends Schools League Championship!

For the first time since 2019, the field hockey team made it to the Friends Schools League final, where they lost an intense game to ANC placing second in the league!





















## Campus Projects Update

It's an exciting time on campus as building and improvement projects come to fruition. Read on for updates about several of these projects!

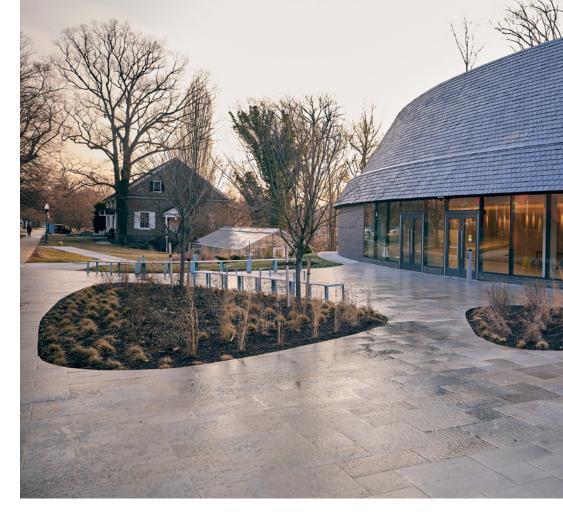
#### **Turf Fields**

As you can see from the image of the cover of this issue, the turf fields project is nearly complete! Students will be able to practice and compete on the fields this spring.

There are many exciting special features of this project, all of which reflect our commitment to the health and safety of our students and community, as well as to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. Instead of crumb rubber, of which many fields are made, the turf infill is made of PureCob, an environmentally friendly, biodegradable material made from milled corn cobs. This is a natural by-product of field corn which is processed domestically. Not only is this material better for the environment, but also makes playing surfaces cooler and more safe.

Field 1 boasts the latest technology from Musco Lighting for dark-sky compliant lights. The dark-sky lighting ensures that the light is directed downward towards the field and minimizes light pollution. The lights will be used exclusively for Westtown teams and likely only for special community events such as Friday Night Lights, senior games, and playoffs.

In addition to the turf fields themselves, the project includes a clubhouse with two ADA-compliant bathrooms and



an elevator, and an ADA pathway that will link all the Oak Lane fields, both turf and grass. The area around the fields will also contain new trees and plantings.

This new facility creates community by providing state-of-the-art experiences for our teams and fans. We welcome you to come and cheer on our student-athletes and check out the new facilities soon!

#### **Center for the Living Arts**

The third and final phase of the Center for the Living Arts (CLA) renovation is nearly complete! In late January, students began using all the learning spaces; the remaining few aspects of the renovations will be finished during occupancy. During Phase I, renovations included a dedicated sculpture studio, a natural-light ceramics studio, and a reconfigured digital arts lab. The rehearsal spaces for choral and instrumental music were revitalized, a climate-controlled instrument storage space and state-of-the-art soundproof music practice rooms were created, a digital music production studio was

added, and the green room and dressing rooms for theater productions were updated. Phase II of this project focused on the Barton-Test Theater and included wall finishings to sharpen acoustics, new theatrical sound systems and lighting, HVAC installation, new catwalks, expanded storage and safety upgrades, and aesthetic renovations to the scene shop and costume storage areas.

In October 2023, ground was broken for Phase III and crews have been working steadily since. During this final phase, a formal visual arts wing was added as well as a flex performance space, a multi-use space, and common gathering areas. A two-level exhibition gallery space as well as a new lobby and corridor connecting the theater and gallery have enhanced the complex. An aesthetic update to the facade, roof, and outdoor spaces were part of this phase as well. The renovations also included critical upgrades for accessibility and ADA compliance. In all, an impressive 40,000 square feet were added to the complex, while mostly maintaining the







Center's original footprint and not disturbing much of the South Lawn.

Numerous elements of the CLA renovation help us move toward our environmental sustainability goals, including HVAC, window and door replacement, and roof repairs, all of which have led to the equivalent of LEED Silver certification.

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors who helped us reimagine the Center for the Living Arts and realize this exciting project. We—and our dedicated visual and performing arts faculty—are thrilled to have these innovative new spaces for teaching and learning, creating, gathering, and bringing our community together through the arts.

#### **Lower School Playscape**

With most of the construction completed, soon Lower School students will be playing on their new playscape! The playscape will offer our young learners opportunities not only for physical play, but also for creative and imaginative play.

There will be spaces that appeal to different ages and interests and areas for children to be social or take a solo break. There are many features that make this playscape unique and fun and enhance learning. From the mini farm, to rain gardens, to native perennials, nature will intentionally be a main focus. The plantings will have seasonal interest with trees and plants that flower, berry, or are aromatic, so there also will be a sensory connection to this natural environment. When it rains, rain will be funneled to specific areas to water plants and to a basin with steppers creating a different kind of play experience.

The new structures include: a slide built into the hill, a Viking swing, two

parkour structures, a tree deck, play houses, boulders, and other climbing apparatuses. The playscape as a whole will encourage different kinds of play, movement, and imagination. Because Lower School students and faculty took part in the early brainstorming phases of this project with Studio Ludo, there is a wonderful sense of ownership and community and students are so excited to use it!

#### **Dining Facility**

In May of 2023, Head of School **Chris Benbow** shared with the community that the Board of Trustees had approved the building of a new dining building to be located just across from the entrance at

Central on the north side of the Main Building. In addition to providing the Dining Services team with the updated facilities required to accommodate a variety of dietary needs and elevate sustainable practices, this free-standing, 20,000 square feet building also will provide muchneeded, accessible space for gatherings, celebrations, and meetings. The dining building will be able to seat 460 simultaneously (currently our buffet-style Dining Room can only seat 240 people at a time), allowing ample space for Middle and Upper School students, faculty, and staff for shared meals. The kitchen, bake shop, and dishroom will be highly visible, and there will be an herb garden on the terrace. There also will be ample storage space for tables, chairs, and backpacks. And, with the relocation of dining services, we will gain 3,000 square feet of flexible programmatic space in the heart of the Main Building.

Since January 2024, the Dining Building Committee, along with the team of project partners—SHoP Architects, IMC Construction, CICADA Architecture/ Planning, Inc., Corsi Associates—have been meeting biweekly. The group has selected vendors and partners and been working on determining pricing, budget, and concept needs. They have discerned sustainability goals and ethical sourcing, developed renderings, and completed a schematic design phase which included studies on and discussions about sunlight and positioning of the building, electrical loads, geothermal heating and cooling, and transitioning to primarily electric kitchen equipment, as well as design of the servery and kitchen, storage, office, and meeting space, and design of Work Program spaces for dish room and prep. There is much yet to be done, and the committee continues to work diligently as this exciting project unfolds.

If permitting through the township progresses smoothly, the site work could begin in early 2026. With a projected 14-month build, the building could be ready for use in 2027.



A few WAA Board members on Alums Weekend 2024: Ted Moon '73, Maryann Patterson Ingersoll '69, Carlos Diaz '82, Barb Nicholson '80, Tracy Jackson '83, Rachna Kota '15, and Sophia Elek '15

#### **WAA BOARD**

The Westtown Alums Association Board of Directors (WAA Board) is a dedicated group of approximately 20 Westtown School alums who work

collaboratively to foster strong connections between the alum community and the school. The WAA Board meets bimonthly to discuss and strategize initiatives that enhance engagement, support the school's ongoing efforts, such as *Lighting the Way*, and ensure that alums remain actively involved in the life of Westtown. The WAA Board has two main foci: building connections among the global alum community and supporting the success of recent graduates. For example, in the 2023-24 year, the board hosted a book club and focused on career development by partnering with an organization offering internship opportunities.

Board members represent diverse backgrounds, professions, and graduation years, creating a rich environment for ideasharing and creative solutions to strengthen ties across generations of Westtown graduates. The Board's overarching goal is ensuring that alums, no matter where they are, feel connected to the school and each other. We look forward to developing additional opportunities for engagement and involvement this year.

Interested in an immediate opportunity to get more involved? We are looking for an alum to spearhead the book club! Please contact **Rachna Kota '15**, Clerk of The WAA Board at rkota2019@gmail.com for more information.

#### **WAA Board Members:**

Rachna Kota '15 (Clerk) Tracy Jackson '83 (Associate Clerk) Kavi Gandhi '21 (Recording Clerk) Lydia Bryans '92 Mekhi Bryant '16 Carlos Diaz'82 Elle Ding '09 Sophia Elek '15 Ruth Eriksson '90 Julia Furey Bastian '16 India Henderson '17 Tim James '63 Darrel Mayer '81 Jamie McVickar '74 Harve Nichols '84 Barb Nicholson '80 Maryann Patterson Ingersoll '69 Tom Rie '63 Adam Salo '97 Carol Savery-Frederick '67 Rebecca Schmidt '17 Anne Smith '84 Olivia Wiggins '22 Kat Yeh '82 Hannah Zuckerburg '16

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

## Lighting the Way

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WESTTOWN SCHOOL

LIGHTING THE WAY REPRESENTS MORE THAN JUST A CAMPAIGN—IT IS A CALL TO ACTION TO SUSTAIN AND AMPLIFY THE UNIQUE SPIRIT OF WESTTOWN.

By enhancing our academic offerings, expanding access and opportunity, investing in our talented faculty, and creating spaces that foster learning and community, we prepare students to become leaders who shine brightly in a complex world.

We have received an outpouring of generosity from Westonians all over the world in response to the public launch of *Lighting the Way* on October 8! Donors have thoughtfully contributed to support every facet of this Campaign at all levels of giving (see By the Numbers).

For more information about the campaign or to make a gift, please scan the QR code or reach out to Ellan Urbanski, Dean of Advancement at ellen.urbanski@westtown.edu. Thank you!

#### BY THE NUMBERS

Total contributions are now

\$58.4M on our ambitious

\$62M

This includes contributions from

4,759 donors, including

1,452

first-time donor

13 gifts of

or more



# All in the Family

#### **LOWER SCHOOL**

Schlimme '04, Rebecca Davis Castaños '37 (Leigh James Castaños '98, John Robert James '55), Louisa Jordan '37 (Samantha (Thomson) Jordan '01/CF), Caleb Waller '37 (Brian Waller Scott), Beau Glatts '38 (Carlyn (Todorow) Glatts) Mido Maggie Schlimme '34 (Henry Schlimme '04, (Leigh James Castaños '98, John Robert James '55), Noelle Jordan '35 (Samantha (Kelly McRae '03), Willa Burger-Lenehan '35 (Beah Burger '02/BOT, Elizabeth Shants '66, Robert Burger '65), Hartley '03), Brooks Pressman '36 (Ben Pressman '05, Sarah Pressman '05/CF) Back: Sam Rankin '34 (Matthew Rankin '99), Gabe Salo '35 (Adam Salo '97/ CF), Tommi-Faye Tyler '35 (Thomas Tyler '08/CF), Emsley Ritchie Levinn '35 (Samantha (Thomson) Jordan '01/CF), Rex Martin '33 (Margaret Peloso Martin '01), Elise Westerman '33 (Adam Milberg '03)

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Frant Luke Westerman '30 (Frederick Ralston '65); Ellie Schlimme '31 (Henry Schlimme '04, Rebecca Davis Schlimme '04, Paul Schlimme '73); Sam Lehmann '31 (Paul Lehmann '99/FF); Kayla John '29 (Sony John '98); Betty Rankin '30 (Matthew Rankin '99) Back Joslyn Seagers '31 (Joseph Seagers '90); Michael Ireland '29 (Emilie Steele '62); Lawrence Hartley '29 (Mary (Townsend) Hartley '03); Colin Adey '29 ( Kendra '01)













#### **UPPER SCHOOL**

#### 9TH GRADE

Ryan Seeley (Kathleen Bobrownicki '05), Jonah Connor '28 (Jolien Connor '91), Lev Bryans '28 (Lydia Bryans '92, Martha Byrans '68), Nathan Gibboney (James Gibboney '99, Rebecca Gibboney '99) Not pictured: Tristan Schroeder '28 (Thayer Schroeder '91)

#### 10TH GRADE

Victoria Wenderoth Bachiller (Michael Wenderoth '89), Addison James (John James III '93, John James '55), Jamila Burgos (Renee Burgos '96/FF, Francisco Burgos/BOT) Not pictured: Levon Lenat '27 (David Lenat '86), Ryder Tookes '27 (Ryan L. Tookes '96/BOT)

#### 11TH GRADE

Betty Savage '26 (Paul Savage '79, Deborah Furnas '44), Callum Eager '26 (Marpa Eager '86, George Eager '61), Charlie Saenger '26 (Cari Adams Saengar '97, Chris Saegar '97, Susan MacDonnell '68, Peg Saengar '65), Miguel Wenderoth Bachiller '26 (Michael Wenderoth '89), Kenneth Waltman '26 (Douglas Waltman '87)

#### 12TH GRADE

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

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





## Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled by the Alum Engagement Office. The submission deadline for this issue was January 1, 2025; information received after that date will appear in the next issue of *The Westonian*.

1942 Alice Bacon Long '42 celebrated her 100th birthday on September 1, 2024.

O Susie Pennell '48 writes, "This year, Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, 'LexArt,' had a show of my self portraits, 'A Life in Images.' I've been doing one on my birthday since the 70s. They hung 56 paintings quite dramatically, dating from the 1950s through this year. This year's portrait, *Keeping On*, was hung in the Pastel Society of America in New York City, and then went to the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio. Painting has been about one third of my life. My family with Arthur J. Pennell '48 and our children, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Arthur Edward, are the major priority. I've also been active in Friends Meeting in Cambridge, New England Yearly Meeting, and the AFSC. Now that I'm 93, I'm not as active in Quaker life, though still on FMC committees. The 'children' are a major support now, Arthur J. having died in 2010."

Elspeth "Bunny" Benton '50 writes, "Probably because I married a Westonian, I've always stayed in touch with classmates and with the school itself. I married John Benton '49 in 1953 and we had four daughters, three still living. John taught history at Caltech and was a MacArthur winner in 1985; it was definitely a joyous day in our lives! Sadly, he died in 1988 from a fall. I was active in early childhood education, directing the Children's Center at Caltech, a job I loved. I moved to Santa Rosa, California, in 1998 and married Edwin Stephenson in 2000. He was a wonderful man! We had ten years together. I am a member of the



Alice Bacon Long '42 at her 100th birthday celebration



Sara Sue Fawcett Pennell '48's 2024 self portrait, Keeping On

#### **SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE...**

#### Mail:

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

Email: alums@westtown.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!

Redwood Forest Meeting in Santa Rosa. I have hiked a lot throughout my life, including Machu Picchu in 1993. I am the happy grand- and great-grandmother of countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

1951 Joyce Johnson '51 writes, "I took a road trip in June with my daughter. We visited Westtown and Philadelphia. We also had a wonderful visit with Irene Evens Jones '51 at Medford Leas in New Jersey."

 $1952\,$  Anne Steere Nash '52 and Hal Weaver '52 tumbled into the new year in Oaxaca, Mexico, where they have begun most of the last dozen years in this welcoming sunny, warm climate and progressive political environment. They look back on 2024 in a positive manner for the beautiful things that happened in Hal's ministry, the BlackQuaker Project. Two books are scheduled for publication in 2025: (1) an audio version of Hal's 2012 anthology with Paul Kriese and Steve Angell, Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights and (2) Race, Decolonization, and the Cold War: African Student Elites in Moscow, 1955-64, an update in transnational history of his 1985 dissertation in international education.

In 2024, the BlackQuaker Project was productive in collaborating with other Quaker organizations in moving Quakerism along in recognizing the need for reparatory and retrospective justice in healing past and ongoing injustice rendered by Quakers to people of color around the world despite the opposite reputation of Quakers re slavery in the Americas, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism in Africa, and other historical eras of exploitative world history (FWCC).

Their ministry gave highly interactive, consciousness-raising programs at Pendle Hill and with Swarthmore College on Bayard Rustin. They are happy that their Quakers of Color International Archive (QCIA) is now housed at Haverford College, Hal's alma

mater and the campus on which Anne grew up, with the first batch of videotaped interviews remaining at the Du Bois Library at UMass Amherst.

They invite you to join their mailing list and to see their website to check out the education and fora that they are providing to the Religious Society of Friends and others.

Their health has generally been good as they approach their 90th and 91st years, respectively. Anne has twice fallen from vertigo. Hal has had three brief hospitalizations: a successful operation blocking off one threatened artery and no-known-cause "aphasia," now believed by his neurologist to be "mutism," all a complete mystery to them and apparently to the medical profession, which you realize might still be more of an art than a science.

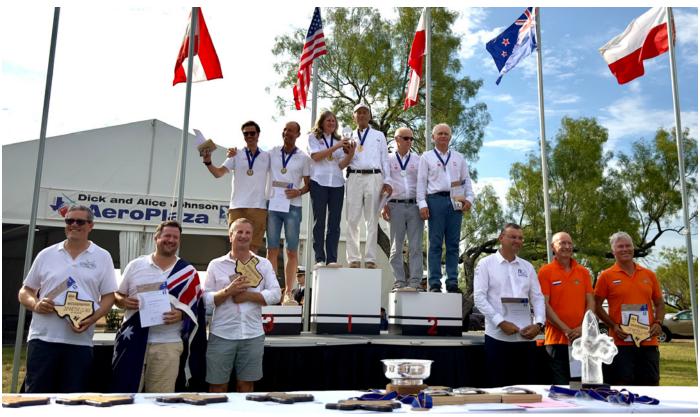
They look forward to the joys and creativity of 2025 despite the apparent challenges of a new administration in DC.

 $1953 \stackrel{\text{Dot Mason '53}}{\text{"This many years out,}} \text{ writes,}$ I am still active. I am fully mobile again after a nearly yearlong saga with a badly broken foot. I remain in my home of forty-six years and both my children live near me. My activities are focused on New Garden Friends Meeting, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and a still-young political advocacy group Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation. I recently returned home from a Global Volunteers service project in and around McAllen, Texas. Our team worked at a Refugee Respite Center operated by Catholic Charities and at the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley. At the Respite Center, I think that I helped a little and I know that I learned a lot. Working at the Food Bank tested my physical stamina. I passed. This was my twelfth Global Volunteers project in recent years; most of the others have been in other countries."

 $1955 \ {\textstyle \begin{array}{c} \hbox{Karl Striedieck '55} \\ \hbox{writes, "After 46 years} \end{array}}$ of soaring competition, my copilot and I won the world soaring championship in the twenty meter class last summer. I had managed two silvers in earlier years, but not the gold. The competition is held every two years in various countries, mostly in Europe. Although powered flying has been the majority of my flying since 1958, I enjoy soaring the most and it was due to a Westtown trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 1952. The sight of raptors floating by led to soaring and numerous world record flights (see National Geographic, March 1978). I'm still living, for 56 years, on my 245-acre paradise on Bald Eagle Ridge about seven miles west of State College, Pennsylvania.

John James Jr. '55 writes, "I am 86 years old. I graduated from Westtown in 1955. We have three children, John James '93, Chrissie James '96, and Leigh Castaños '98. They each spent thirteen years at Westtown. John and his wife, Faith, live in Shelburne, Vermont with their two daughters Addison James '27 and Hadleigh. John works for an asset management firm in Burlington. Christina lives in New Orleans where she is a therapist. Leigh and her husband, Ryan, their son Alex Castaños '35, and daughter, Dottie Castaños '37 live at Westtown. Leigh works for Capital One and Ryan works for Westtown."

1956 Robin Dizard '56 writes, "The 50s feel as far away as the planet Mars! Does anyone remember the way we used to wear petticoats that were so wide and stiff? Two girls could not go through a doorway at the same time! Maybe classmates recall buying one from me. I used to make them out of fiberglass screening. I pleated them, and trimmed them with bright-dyed bias tape. I think they sold for \$10.00. Anyway, in the present, I live in California. I pursue water-color painting, Tai Chi, some research on the transAtlantic slave trade, and write letters to the editor about various things. I am still married and still plugging along."



Karl Striedieck '55 standing at the podium following the World Soaring Competition

 $1957^{\tiny \text{Pete Lane '57} \text{ writes,}}_{\tiny \text{On that special}}$ Saturday in June of 1957, I think there were 72 of us who shook hands with Dan Test. Our number 68 years later as of June of 2025, has diminished a good bit because of 'graduations' of the ultimate kind. It's okay, but we miss them. Those of us who live near enough to visit the campus, Meeting For Worship on Sundays is a great way to be present on campus. I hope 'Turkey Day' was good to you and that Santa has something besides 'a bucket of coal and a switch' in the sleigh for you. We still don't have skating or sled track ramps on the lake yet, but it's been pretty cold."

1959 Ricky Sites '59 writes, "This has been a year of change. First, I turned 82 (bone age), and am maintaining age 42 (mind age). My kids always told me to 'act your age, Mom!', but who listens to their kids? I participated in my first 'march' in downtown Sequim, Washington. I learned

about the fabulous gift of hospice as my husband's health deteriorated and he passed away. I enrolled in Olympic College to start another phase of my learning experience. I sold my house and am now planning my move to a new village, Suquamish, Washington, to be near my daughter's home. My support for all of this has come from my dear Westtown friends, who are flung far and wide, during our biweekly Zoom meetings, my Memoirs Writing Group, my neighborhood, family and friends from my past career. For all of this, I am grateful. I have Westtown to thank for building my inner strength and my appreciation for this life, despite arthritis and creaky bones. Yes, I gave up skydiving, skiing, and ocean sailing. My dog, Yankee Doodle, is begging for agility training, but I just say, 'NO."

Tom Satterhwaite '59 writes, "To all 59ers, wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year season. Life here in the Reno, Nevada, area is good. Enjoy!"

1960 Francy Swan Williams '60 writes, "Greetings from Skyline Drive! We are overlooking the Shenandoah Valley near Luray, Virginia, where I spend fall, winter, and early spring.

In May, I will pause my migration north, stopping at Westtown to attend our 65th reunion. It seems fitting for a Swan to migrate with the seasons. I am looking forward to catching up with folks and sampling life at Westtown in 2025.

Sheila Ashley '60 writes, "Every month I thoroughly enjoy the Breakfast Club ('BC') Zoom get together orchestrated by Bert Bacon '60. Penny Teaf Goulding '60 started them when she retired. Before the pandemic, we would meet at a Panera restaurant for breakfast. Now, on Zoom, there are opportunities for folks who live farther away to join in. We consistently see Toni Roberts Sharpe, the Bacons, the Sterretts, Francy Swan '60, the Bonners, and Penny Teaf Goulding. This past summer, a friend and I cruised down the Mosel River and then



Tricia Herban '60: Last spring, I was in Paris, and in this photo I am about to eat a Vacherin for dessert at The Languedoc, a favorite family restaurant in Paris.

rode every variety of train imaginable in Switzerland! It was very fun! I have no plans yet for 2025, but I am sure they will materialize."

Tricia Herban '60 writes, "As a resident of a continuing care retirement community, I am very grateful to have a large, lovely apartment in independent living. I remain active in a variety of community organizations including the Women's Club of the Ohio State University (my husband's alma mater), PEO, my church, and Aldus Society—a group of book enthusiasts. In addition, I am involved with the Landscape Committee, Health and Wellness, Employee Appreciate, and a continuing education program offered at my home, Ohio Living Westminster Thurber. My local family (son, daughter-in-law, and two grands) live about five miles up the road and I enjoy being part of their lives. It is equally important that I have many friends throughout the community. I especially enjoy participating in a small writing group, Scribblers, and sharing books in a non-fiction book group. If you are still puzzled by the disparities in our country today, The Truth about Lies: The Illusion of Honesty and the Evolution

of Deceit by Aja Raden might be a good read. If you just want to connect with nature, I would suggest Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kemmerer. In addition to my passions of reading and writing, I have discovered the joy of walking and try to take four-mile walks in our city parks several times a week. I am about to leave for an annual twoweek, post-Christmas stay in Mexico, where I walk the beach daily. I have subsequent trips planned to hike Italy's Cinque Terre and visit United States national parks. I hope this finds everyone well and I would love to see or hear from other classmates."

1961 Head of School, Chris Benbow '90 and former Head of School Tom Kaesemeyer '61 had the opportunity to catch up at the home of Zinta Smith (widow of former teacher Bruce Smith) in West Chester.

Dave Borton '61 writes, "I am just starting my 11th solar powered electric boat. She will be a 30 foot USCG Certified 20 passenger launch."

962 Dave Clement '62 writes, "We will be moving to a continuing care facility in the spring. It is only about two miles from our present home but as I age, keeping up the house becomes more of a challenge. We are moving to a new campus so we were offered incentives to make the move. There were 166 units built and they needed 80 reservations for funding. Construction has been ongoing for three years. We travelled a little bit this year. Our older son works for Madison Square Garden, owners of Sphere in Las Vegas. Much of his work is done in Los Angeles but he takes many trips to Las Vegas. He is developing a video for performing groups such as U2 and The Eagles. We were able to go to Los Angeles to see him. We also went to the upper peninsula of Michigan with a few Earlham classmates."

**Ted Worth '62** writes, "On November 23, I had a wonderful presentation of my book, *The Boy Who Could Not Make Up His Mind*. It is my philosophy of life."



David Borton '61's current solar boat project



Head of School Chris Benbow '90 and Former Head of School Tom Kaesemeyer '61



Ted Worth '62

1965 Jan DeLaney '65 writes, "Bob and I retired to Lee, Maine, in 2013. We are off the grid with a tree farm (188 acres of trees) in rural Maine. We are living our dream, gardening and canning our bounty. We have been hiking a lot! We have also been finding spirit in nature and at Orono Friends Meeting. Since being here, I have learned to spin and honed my knitting skills which I learned from Teacher Katharine. I will not be at the reunion because our team will be competing in our 5th International



Bill Eaton '65, playing a gig with Sweet Potato Fries



Penny Claghorn Robertson '65 with her grandson

Back-to-Back Wool Challenge which is when a team of eight will shear a sheep, spin the raw wool, and knit a sweater in a timed event. The sweater you see is our 2024 effort which took 10 hours 36 minutes. We came in third place in North America and the world. You can go to our Facebook page and see a video of 2024 and if you have time on May 17th, we should be live at this year's event. I am wishing all alums good health and good weather for the reunion."

**Bill Eaton '65** writes, "This has been several years of aging! I find it hard to believe that I am slowing down and enjoying it. My first grandson was born about a year ago and he is such a delight."

Penny Claghorn Robertson '65 writes, "I am going through exciting and important changes! Although we never made it to Mauritius or Bali, I just purchased a new cone-grinder for coffee by Baratza that works really well! Janet and



Janet DeLaney '65: Presentation of the sweater made by the Mainely Spinners to Sarah's House

I have been playing music with a group called Sweet Potato Fries. **Pete Lane '57**, who taught at Westtown for decades, is also in the group."

Bill Telfair '65 writes, "I retired in 2012 and Carole and I moved to Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in 2013. We wanted to be closer to our daughter Megan Telfair '91 and her family so that we could watch our grandchildren as they grow up. Our daughter, Caty Telfair '93, had our grandson in California in 2016, so we are now bi-coastal again. We enjoy the college town of Shepherdstown with its active music and summer theater programs. I enjoy a large garden each summer and I lead bird walks each month for the local Audubon society. They are very active and manage four local wildlife preserves. We also enjoy taking trips. The last was a trip to Portugal and Spain aboard a four masted sailing ship. We visited Lisbon, Seville, Granada, Valencia, and several national bird preserves. We also took a trip to Montana for a family reunion at a large AirBnB along the Missouri river. We have demonstrated at both local and national protests. Locally, we protested a new company built in our neighborhood burning fossil fuels to make insulation. We also protested for women's rights and voting rights in Washington, DC. We look forward to seeing everyone at our reunion this year."

Thomas Manning '65 writes, "Eleanor and I are happily retired and have moved permanently to Massachusetts to be closer to family. We miss the Southwest and the West, having lived there since the late 60s and early 70s. The main problem is that in the winter it's cold here, unlike Tucson! We are looking forward to the reunion next spring."

Margaret Marshall '65 writes, "I am still living with my husband, Marty, in Orland, Maine. We are overlooking the Narramissic River. The past few years, especially 2024, have been full of challenges and adventures related to our old 1850s house and our increasing age. I have given up my Quaker clerkship of our quarter. I have also taken part in environmental groups and volunteering at our local animal shelter. I am caring for Marty, who is in a wheelchair as a result of a neurological condition which made him paralyzed in the arms and legs. We have been learning perforce about the healthcare system in Maine, which is struggling due to not enough staff and an increasingly elderly population. Currently, we are holding our own and looking for ways to stay in our home as long as possible. The political situation is indeed daunting. I certainly did not expect Trump to win. I am taking things one day at a time. As you might have inferred from the above, I will not be able to join you at Westtown

### MILESTONES

#### **WEDDINGS**

Khamara Pettus '96 and Chas Thomsen Madison McKee '10 and Morgan Proffer

#### **BIRTHS**

Tracy Hewitt '10 and Stephen Roche '10: Laurence Roche January 7, 2024

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Isaac Stanley '30 Ruth Scales Snyder '32 Frank Whitson '32

Charlotte Parker Weiner '34

Elizabeth Garrett Mogee '35

Rhoda Taubel Shiffert '35

Elwood Webster '35

Emma Cadbury '37 Frances Turner Allison '40 Carolyn Pickett Miller '40

Gilbert Gray '41

Elizabeth Richards '41

Lucy Peaslee Dougall '42
Erling Gamble '42

Ellen Loller '42

D. I. D. I.

Barbara Parker '43
Ellen Llewellyn Shoun '43

Faith Kurt Tiberio '43

Margaret Hall Bagley '44

Hali Giessler '45

Polly Gildersleeve Boyajian '46

Margaret Hoag Myer '46

Bruce Weston '47

Alan Cayo '48 Robert Merwin '48 Robert Young '49 George Forsythe '51 Nancy Daus '52 Charles Lane '52

**Deborah Richardson** 

Joseph Brown '49

Jane Massey Draper '49

Charles Holaday '49

Marilyn Loos '49

Ross Stevenson '49

Howard Tchou '49

Brewster '49

Hannah Parris '52

John Battin '53

Jerome Woodard '53 W. James Cheyney '54

Sandra Kenyon '54

Robert Stucklen '54 Joel Dimmette '56

Ann Gregory '56

Jamie Maconachy '56

Donald McPherson '56

Phyllis Humphrey

Brown '57

Martha Schmidt '57

Katherine Smith '58

Vanda Warner '58

Samuel Shanaman '59

George Adams '60

A. Thomas Andrews '60

Carol Jeanne Smith '61

Clinton Grove '63

Herbert Hoover '63

Charles Webster '66

Nino Cooley Ridgway '67
Terry Walker '78

Chester Mellinger '82

Jermel Vanderhorst '90

Ian Macomber '98



Bill '65 and Carole Telfair traveling the world

for Alums Weekends. Best wishes to all of you."

Graham and Deborah Miles '65 write, "Looking past the last few months, we are trying to follow the many crumbs of joy that drop into our lives, mostly from our three children, Ross Miles '90, Rebecca Miles '91, and James who attended Downingtown High School. We have five delightful grandchildren, Sydney, Elisa, Adeline, Foster, and Corrine. These days, this means traveling to grandchildren's sports matches in ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, track, and field hockey."

Betsy Brett '65 writes, "This summer, I moved back to my house in New Haven with my boyfriend because his Parkinsons and dementia were worsening. We have been together for ten years and were commuting between our houses until COVID intensified. I began

to work virtually and moved in with him in Westerly, Rhode Island, until I realized it made more sense to come back here to care for him. He needs almost round the clock caregivers now and we oscillate between the pain of loss and savoring the sweetness, intimacy, and gravity of the arc of life. I'm happy to be back here with the support of friends and colleagues. During COVID, some colleagues and I had a lot of fun editing two books on psychoanalysis. I'm still very engaged in practicing analysis and writing. I've also been drawing and painting with a group of friends. I have two boys and four grandchildren who are a joy. When we recently got together, the grandchildren were so excited that they all ran around, wrestled, and generally got overwrought with someone ending up in tears—this is usually the youngest who is also the only girl. Their wildness reminds me of a

comment Liz made years ago about having a young child. She said she was glad to still have a terror in the house."

Chris Hoenstine '65 writes, "In December of 2021, John and I moved to southern New Hampshire to be close to our son James Hoenstine '04 and his family. We are enjoying being around the corner from our delightfully energetic grandchildren Jackson (3) and Leona (1). Our daughter Liz Hoenstine '00 lives with us along with our dog, Jif, cat, Jeremiah, rabbit, Hopper, parakeet, Ling-Ling, and guinea pig, Shoes. We have almost two acres with a big yard surrounded by woods. We are almost finished putting a studio in the garage—nice big windows looking out to the woods. Can't wait to make something in my new space. We are doing reasonably well for old timers. I'd love to hear from anyone up this direction!"







Graham and Deborah Miles '65: Most of the family at a Washington Capitals game

Liz and Jim Maier '65 write, "We are looking forward to our 60th reunion! We moved to a retirement community in Falmouth, Maine, over eight years ago and have met many new friends here. We are fortunate to have both of our daughters live nearby in Portland with their families and we travel to Norway often to visit our late son Sam's family. His twins started college in Bergen this year and his youngest daughter, Solveig, is planning to spend her gap year with all of us in Portland starting in the summer. We still study Norwegian everyday and have just adopted 13-yearold McDuff, a six pound Maltese. Seeing all of our classmates in May will be a highlight of our year!"

Jennifer Sumner '65 writes, "I don't plan to make the class of '65 reunion this year but I send good wishes to classmates who do gather. That Saturday, a friend and I are flying to India for a tour of the north, including the Taj Mahal. I do usually flee the northwest gloom at some point in the winter. Last year Steve and I spent three months revisiting national and state parks in Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico and visiting our daughters and grandchildren in various parts of California. Much of the year, I adore the Evergreen state and still do a lot of biking and hiking. We live two hours from three different national parks. Please let me know if you're in

the area and want to explore incredible natural beauty. We live in a continuing care retirement community in Redmond and really enjoy the people, the activities, and the facilities. In 2015, we were in Ecuador for three months when Steve had a massive stroke from which he eventually recovered. Five years ago, we sold our home and moved here when I thought Steve was heading for another stroke. False alarm, thankfully, but it's reassuring to know there's assistance if it were needed. He's going to have his turn as caretaker when I have shoulder replacement surgery in January. I've been singing in three choirs and look forward to doing more watercolor painting when my shoulder feels better. Have a great reconnection with Westtown and each other.

We started in 2013 to help foster the clean energy transition by installing rooftop solar with battery backup, went with a pellet boiler rather than burning oil, which is so prevalent in Maine, and drove a plug-in hybrid until 2019 after which we have now gone through a succession of three full electric BEVs. In 2002 we bought a VW Eurovan camper and travelled around much of the country until about five years ago when I sold it. This year we got back into more limited traveling and bought a teardrop camper which we tow with a Kia EV9. Admittedly, this requires a



Jennifer Sumner '65 at Glacier National Park

slower pace and more frequent "fueling" stops than if done with a gas guzzler, but the continued roll-out of EV charging infrastructure makes it entirely possible. I'm currently looking at the logistics of a camping trip to the Gaspé Peninsula late next spring, and am considering a look into a trip to lovely Colorado and New Mexico at some point in the future. I lost my heart to Colorado when I lived there so many years ago."

Bill Carter '65 writes, "After Westtown graduation, and in chronological order, I've lived in Indiana (Earlham), Colorado, Pennsylvania (where I met wife Susan Parrish teaching at Westtown), Maine, Iowa, and finally Maine for good. Susan and I built our home in Yarmouth starting in 1984 after returning from Iowa where I studied architecture. Our three sons all attended Westtown. Jamie Carter '94 and Sam Carter '00 live in Yarmouth also while Charlie Carter '97 is in Natick, Massachusetts. We have six grandchildren. Peter Woodrow '65 and Jim Maier '65 live not far from us but our paths rarely cross, although they likely would if Susan and I chose to attend Portland Meeting."

1966 Sharon Taft Quarles '66 writes, "Jim has finally retired (mainly) upon publication of the book he coauthored with Aaron Zebley and Andrew Goldstein titled Interference: The Inside Story of Trump, Russia and the Mueller Investigation [more info below]. We are headed to Costa Rica in November for the winter. Come see us if you are near."

"Interference is the behind-the-scenes true story of the Mueller investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Sharon's husband Jim (and the two other co-authors) were a major part of this history. The book tells a very readable account of what it was like to carry out the investigation of election interference and the many actions Russia took to promote Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton. The subsequent 34 indictments resulted in a guilty plea or verdict in nearly every case. The book carries special relevance today, as the Supreme Court has sharply limited the conduct for which a president can be prosecuted—or even investigated."

Henry Mustin '66 indicates that the gradual onset of early Parkinson's has slowed him down a bit, causing him to consider giving up the power tools that have allowed him to make furniture during his retirement. He is still active outdoors and has become a native plant specialist. Along with other volunteers, he regularly helps remove invasive plants from local nature areas. European Holly, so popular at Christmastime, is a serious problem in the northwest, crowding out native plants in the understory. He and



Rod Blanchford '66 and Susan Balderston Peery '66

his wife are considering downsizing to a retirement community, but the wait list is long.

Will Davis Parker '66 writes, "I've been working and helping out as a simple handyman in a giant old environmental lab. I am loving it. My summer plans were to finally come down to reunion back home because it has been over thirty years. Everything changed on August 5th as a freak windstorm took place and major damage was done to my property. The front of my house looked like a biological waste zone. A limb from a tree hit the side of the house and ripped off all of the wiring including the NYSEG meters. I was cut off of the world for about ten days. Since then, everything is better and I've been super busy. Fall has been the opposite of my past as I've been earning some money and have been in much better shape than before. My big problem has been finding locals that would take interest in what I make in my shop. I was introduced to Ithaca Generator which is a facility set up for anyone who wants to make something that they can't make at home as space and tools are lacking. On Tuesday evenings walk-ins are able to come and also ask questions about

anything you can imagine. We have a full wood working shop, pottery, ceramics, kilns, 3D laser printer, laser cutters, print press shop, sewing machines, weaving looms, and more. This has given me a boost locally and opened up new worlds for me here and new friends as well. Finally, I got a phone call that changed my life forever. A couple of weeks ago, a woman called me looking for genealogy of the Shearers of Scotland! I was on the phone for over an hour and a half. Pop pop was my favorite ancestor. I've always been curious about any ancestors but figured there was not much to be found as he had three sisters that never wed. One brother was killed in World War 1. I was wrong, the information this woman has makes the Shearers look like rabbits. She is writing a book about all of this and eventually she will send me and my sister copies. I'm happy, healthy, and certainly not bored. My cat is fine."

Rod Blanchford '66 writes, "I live with Susan Balderston Peery '66 on a five-acre homestead in Centerville, Indiana. Together, we run a small business, Abington Meadows LLC, where we produce healthy syrups made from what we call "superberries"—elderberry,





William Davis Parker '66 in his shop (top); storm damage

honeyberry, hawthorn berry, and juneberry. These are all high in antioxidants and anthocyanins and proffer numerous unique health benefits. We sell them through Hidden Pond Farm, producer of raw fermented sauerkraut, kim chi, kombucha, and beet kvass located two miles from us. Hidden Pond Farm has been going strong since 2008 and was founded by my sister Jeanne Blanchford '64 and Andy McDowell '65. We have not slowed down very much. We have employees but we still do a lot of the production and marketing ourselves. We also stay busy with caring for our chickens and goats, growing a large garden, raising turnips and daikon radishes for production, maintaining our state-certified kitchen and caring for our land. It is a good life which I believe keeps us young. I try to stay fit by running three or four days per



Wendy Hammarstrom '69 teaching Tai Chi

week. Anyone wanting to know more about us can visit abingtonmeadows.com or hiddenpondllc.com or contact us at wisdomstruggle3.@yahoo.com."

1968 Thomas Burson '68 writes, "I am retired and currently remodeling my basement. I published a book of poetry, *The Roller Coaster Begins*, which is available on Amazon or Barnes & Noble. I am working on a second collection now. The best news is that everyone in the family is healthy and as argumentative as ever."

1969 Wendy Hammarstrom '69 writes, "I am living in De Luz, California, a rural area halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego. A resident of San Diego County, I also currently work for the county, teaching Tai Chi for Better Balance to mostly seniors in Fallbrook. I get paid to study and teach in wellness and community centers and libraries. This has prompted me to learn/re-learn Spanish, which never came as easily as French. (Teacher Zinta's class was my favorite at Westtown!) Up until the pandemic, I was a bodyworker/massage therapist and yoga teacher and I completed a book about those thirty years called Circles of Healing, The Complete Guide to Healing with Massage and Yoga; website: www.circlesofhealingbook1. com. I am part of a writer and artist group in Temecula, California, and we recently completed an anthology titled

Stay Awhile, which explores this area

over the last two hundred years, with

fiction, bio and poetry. I'm an associate member at La Jolla Friends Meeting and enjoy our Class of '69 monthly Zoom calls. My daughter and grandson keep me glued to the west coast yet I still feel like my roots are in Pennsylvania. I welcome hearing from you!"

1971 Rebecca and George Beregus '71 write, "After living in the same house on the

east side of Iowa City for the past thirty-five years, we have moved across the river about three miles away. This is an exciting move for us. We are half a mile from Kinnick Stadium, so home football games are gobsmacking. We have settled into retirement and hopefully this is our final move. All Westonians are welcome to stop over for the night. If you are traveling on Interstate 80 across Iowa, this detour will add only a handful of miles to your journey. We can offer a comfortable guest room, excellent food, and, hopefully, good company."

 $1972 \begin{smallmatrix} \text{Sarah Abby} \\ \text{Wilson '72} \end{smallmatrix} \text{ writes,}$ 

"My life has been an interesting trip. In the middle of COVID, my husband, Jim, and I moved from Detroit to Brewster, Massachusetts, which is close to Cape Cod. My parents built a house here in the mid 80s. It is so beautiful here. Every day, I am astonished, delighted, and thankful. Our son, Robert, lives in Chicago, which he loves. I'm retired and still working my way through this next life passage. I am healthy and happy. I plan to attend our 55th



Chris Fowler '73 and cousins at a family gathering

reunion. If any of you are in this neck of the woods, please make contact and come visit."

1973 Sally Chandler '73 writes, "I love living on Tybee Island in Georgia. My little home is not oceanfront so I think I'll be dead before the sea gets to me. After Kamala lost, I took up edibles, and I gotta say, that has really helped. I have three cats, Leo, Mandy, and Grable. My husband, Sandy, has dementia and is content living in a memory care facility. My life is good."

Chris Fowler '73 writes, "My wife, Lisa, and I once again were in Finland for two weeks in July and August, staying out on the island off the southwestern coast that I've been visiting periodically all my life. The particular highlight this time was my first cousin Magnus' 70th birthday. In the Scandinavian tradition, when your birthday is a multiple of five, you, yourself, are responsible for organizing the birthday party. Magnus and his wife went all out, holding a dinner at their neighboring summer house for more than thirty people including as many other cousins and second

cousins who could make it. Of particular interest was a first cousin, whom I had never met, who lives in Alsace, and whose birth brought my mother down to Paris, where she and my Uncle Kristofer were living. At the time, my father was going there to visit Kristofer, whom he had gotten to know while they were both doing relief work after World War II. So Catherine was responsible for my parents, Earl and Ulla Fowler FF, meeting which was a rather important event for me!"

975 Susan Inglis 75 Write "I am looking forward Susan Inglis '75 writes, to attending our reunion in May and making new acquaintances with you! Much has happened in the last fifty years. After Westtown, I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and eventually earned a BA in anthropology. I raised my two children in Chapel Hill, too, pursuing a career in artisan enterprise development, first with a home-based sweater business and then as a consultant in international development, working in dozens of countries. Later, I served as founding director of Sustainable Furnishings



Marina Gresham '76 aboard her camper van

Council from the same base. I maintain a pied-a-terre there still, though I moved home to Edenton, North Carolina, in 2013 as my mother was aging. When she passed on to her reward in 2019, I became steward of the home that our ancestors bought in 1786. I enjoy being active in the house and garden as well as in the community where I serve as a tutor at our middle school."

976 Ann Hanson '76 writes, "I am delighted to announce that my book, Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida, is now available as an audiobook via Tantor Media. Buried Secrets is the true history detective story of how I discovered the hidden past that my grandparents took to their graves. When I finally unearthed their real identities, I learned that their stories were lies invented to conceal disturbing facts. To preview the audiobook, go to tantor.com/ buried-secrets-anne-hanson.html. Prefer reading? Check out a sample chapter here: annehanson.com/chapter-to-read. To view on Amazon, visit this address www.amazon.com/dp/B0BG8Y3SKQ. I am available to speak to societies and



Glenn Parker '77, Peter Chase '77, Susan (Chase) Nye '78, Jonathan Chase '82, and Andy Barclay '77 at the wedding of Peter's daughter

book clubs either in person, if feasible, or remotely."

Marina Gresham '76 writes, "I am hoping to be fully retired by the time you read this! I'm making up for lost time this year. My partner and I did a lot of traveling in our truck camper this year between Pennsylvania, Colorado, Arizona, and everywhere in between. I find it kind of unnerving to be a senior citizen. (I think I am still considered an adult...) I am co-facilitating a class on aging successfully and I'm interested in knowing how others are looking ahead. I'm finding myself drawn toward intentional community living and am interested in hearing from others who share interest and experience with this. I am hoping to rebuild a few social skills lost along the way and during the pandemic and would love to connect with other Westonians! I live not too far from Westtown in the overly hip town of Phoenixville. Come visit if you don't mind a living room futon. My place is small and in the heart of 'hippedyville.' I have been told that I have not been responding well to attempts at communication. Sorry, I know this is true. I am trying to be more responsive. I am a bit better in person. Phone and text tend to work better for me than email."

1977 Peter Chase '77 writes, "Westtown alums

attended my daughter's wedding on October 20 in Waterford, Connecticut."

1978 Jim Cofer '78 resides in a Cleveland suburb and teaches science and english to English Language Learners, primarily those seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine and the violence in Afghanistan. He is a devoted father of three grown children and a proud

grandfather of seven grandchildren. Jim would be delighted to reconnect with his Westonian friends. If you'd like to reach out, feel free to connect with him on Facebook or send him



Jim Cofer '78

an email at jscofer@gmail.com.

1979 Marnie Cryer Foody '79 writes, "In May, I joined the ranks of the retired! I have had a wonderful time traveling and catching up with many friends. I loved seeing so many of our class at our

loved seeing so many of our class at our 45th reunion! While **Ben Hartman '79** was not able to join us due to injury, I had a fabulous day with him in New York City recently! I am feeling thankful for family, friends, and health!"

Dan Nicholson '79 writes, "Cornelia Kietzman '79 and I both have students



From Dan Nicholson '79: Celia, Lucas, Mateo, and Sonia at a fall tournament with the Sneetches and Donkeys

currently attending Haverford College! One of Cornelia's sons, Mateo, and both of my daughters, Celia and Sonia. The undergrads have become good friends as well as ultimate frisbee teammates!

Cornelia and I are delighted, as we have been friends since we were in diapers."

1980 Chris Fisher '80 writes, "I'm still living in Boiling Springs in south central Pennsylvania. I've enjoyed reconnecting with the old gang from Westtown in the past two years, catching up with Scott Campbell '80 and Ben Bernhardt '80 including visits to Ben's Orchard near Media."

1981 Bruce Harrison '81 shares that on a trek out west, he visited with son David '13 and alum friends. They enjoyed Quaker meeting in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. He also shares that many Westonians gathered in Baltimore, Maryland, for the wedding of Emma Warnick, Tina Hoffman Warnick's '81 daughter.

 $1982^{\tiny{\hbox{Karabi Acharya '82}}} \\ \text{writes, "I have exciting}$ 



Westonians joined the San Francisco Friends Meeting outdoor Meeting for Worship in Golden Gate Park in October. From left to right: Tom Foody, Marnie Cryer Foody '79, Barbara Troast (holding Seamus), Jay Batley '79, Margot Rogers Ocañas '82, Kate Schafer Frankel '80, Bryan Yeh '80, Katie Hawkinson '80, Joseph Slusky, and Mark Frankel



Quaker Meeting in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: Jay Batley '79, Margot Rodgers Rivera '82, Bryan Yeh '80, Bruce Harrison '81, David Harrison '13



Small Westtown meetup with Chris Fisher '80, Scott Campbell '80, and Ben Bernhardt '80

news! I've just signed a deal for a book about being multiracial with the tentative title We Contain Multitudes: Being Multiracial in America. It's a combination of memoir, interviews with multiracial people, and some history on why things are this way. I am thrilled to be working with Apollo Publishers! If you want to follow along as I work on this passion project, check out my Instagram: www.instagram.com/we\_are\_multitudes."

Josh First '82 writes, "Twenty-one years running a small business occasionally takes me near Westtown, and I always drive by. Seeing the buildings fills me with fond memories. Westtown shaped me in good ways, and I hope future graduates Josh First '82 will get the same high quality education I got there."

1985 "Two momentous events happened this year. In June, we welcomed our first grandchild, Briar Alfrit Hurd. She is (as they all are) the most beautiful baby. She has entranced all of her aunts and uncles. In October, I celebrated the 15th anniversary of Footprint Architecture & Design, the firm I started after my layoff in 2008. It continues to take me all over the Delaware Valley helping people solve their problems."

Thomas Roe '85 writes, "It has been a rough twelve months! I spent last July in the hospital with bacteria infesting my heart but I have since recovered completely only to suffer a partly detached



Westonians at Tina Hoffman Warnick's daughter's wedding: Bruce Harrison '81, Anna Harrison '18, Allison Matlack/FF, Dan Matlack/FF, Amanda Richards Jones '81, John Hoffman '82, Joanna Bache Tobin '81, Lisa Shapiro Boehm '81, Tina Hoffman Warnick '81, Sarah Brown Margolis '84, Steve Margolis '84, Betsy Christopher '73, Claire Murphy '15

retina a little while later. A few laser surgeries later, I came out fine. I had, however, slowly developed early onset cataracts that needed removal. That happened this summer, and I am now 20/20. Phew!"

1989 Jennifer Ahnstedt '89 writes, "In October, Heidi Zimmerman Kress '89, Hannah Fretz Pierpont '89, Sarah Grison '89, Alex Robboy '89, Jennifer Hinshaw Adair '89 and I met in Provincetown, Massachusetts for a long weekend which was definitely not long enough. Thank you, Westtown, for this friendship that has seen us from our teens to our fifties and everything in between. In personal news, our oldest is settling in happily as a freshman at UMASS Amherst this year and our baby is in the midst of the college application process."

Hanna Fretz Pierpont '89 writes, "I was sorry to miss our 35th reunion but did spend a wonderful sunny October weekend in Provincetown, Massachusetts, with Jennifer Hinshaw Adair '89, Jennifer Mann Ahnstedt '89, Heidi Zimmerman Kress '89, Caroline 'Alex' Robboy '89, and Sarah Grison '89. I live in the Boston metro area and work as an independent educational consultant helping students and parents navigate the college admissions process."

Logan Niles '90 writes, "I'm still enjoying Seattle after fourteen years of being here. I'm primarily working as a culinary consultant and business coach while I work on bringing back my former company, Pot Pie Factory. Living by the beach and walking my senior pup is interspersed with foraging for local foods, brewing beer, wine, and cider, and creating culinary products. I am also enjoying my new role as a grandma. I do not feel old enough to be a grandma, but I'm loving the journey. I occasionally get to hang out with fellow alums and welcome meeting up with more when they're in town."

Matthew Henry '90 writes, "My wife, Kristin, daughter, Aanijah, and I live in Niwot Colorado, just outside of Boulder. Both of our families still live in the tristate area so we get to spend time with Chris Benbow '90, Jos Seagers '90, and Charlie Coltman '90. We also have an occasional visit with Erik Smith '90. We enjoy getting to visit with them and their families when we are back. Aanijah is a junior in high school and very musically talented. She has a published song on Spotify and a new one in the works. We are super proud of her! For those



Logan Niles '90

#### **CLASS NOTES**





Westonians in attendance (from left to right) were Kerry DiGiacomo '93, Ame Wooten McClune '97, Margaret Bernard Schmidt '66, Kristy DiGiacomo Godin '97, Jeff Godin '00, Patti Bernard DiGiacomo '69, and Eric Godin '02



Ali McKay '95: The McKays on the road

of you in Colorado, please reach out so we can get together. Anyone interested in exploring an amazing place, we have room for you!"

Charles Coltman '90 writes, "I am married again to a wonderful woman named Dawn. Many of you have met her and just thought I'd share my utmost appreciation of joy. My son, Chase, has left Delaware Valley Friend School and has started at Wissahickon High School as a junior. He's made an incredible transformation into public school

life. I currently live in Haddonfield, New Jersey, with many of the Philadelphia Eagles."

1995 Ali McKay '95 and her family are still sailing the world, but this fall, they are pausing briefly while they look at boarding schools (including Westtown!) for their son, Hall. They are driving around the country in their EV, looking at eleven schools.



Khamara Pettus '96 and her new husband, Chas Thomsen, following their wedding



Guli Fager '98 completing her Ironman Triathlon

1996 Khamara "Kandi"
Pettus, a member of
the class of 1996, and Chas Thomsen
were married on August 10, 2024, at
The Lexington in St. Paul, Minnesota.
The couple exchanged vows in a small,
intimate ceremony surrounded by their
loving children and extended family.

1997 Kristy DiGiacomo Godin '97 and Jeff Godin '00 were married near their home in Central Florida on November 3,



Karl Vela '03 and his son along with Scott Broussard '03 and his son climbing in the Thunder Chicken Challenge

2024. There were multiple Westonians in attendance.

1998 Guli Fager '98 writes, "What a year! In June, I completed the requirements to become a Certified Financial Planner. I'm thrilled to have this designation after several years of hard work. I'm still in Baltimore but serve clients all over the United States. In August, I traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and completed my first Ironman triathlon. It was an amazing experience and the culmination of five years of triathlon experience. I haven't decided what I'll do in 2025 but my bike is calling to me. Hope all is well with '98ers!"

2003 Karl Vela '03 and Willy Evans Vela (son of Karl Vela '03 and Sarah Evans '03) recently completed the Thunder Chicken Challenge. This elite climbing feat saw them summiting the fourteen highest peaks in Maryland. Willy was joined on his final ascent across Deer Creek

through the Turkey Swamp and up Wild Turkey Rock by his best friend Wes Broussard (son of Rebecca and **Scott Broussard '03**).

2006 Jonathan Lang '06 and his wife, Jacky, welcomed their first daughter, Olivia Rose Lang, into their family this year on January 29, 2024. Hopefully she will also have the chance to attend Westtown in the future!

2007 Ali Hepworth '07 writes, "I am now a Registered Dietitian! I would love to connect with current students who are curious about nutrition careers and other Westtown alums who are RDs. Wishing everyone a happy and nourished year ahead in 2025!"

2010 "I'm excited to share that I've recently joined the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Abroad Office as a Global Programs Manager in November!



Jonathan Lang '06, wife Jacky, and daughter Olivia Rose.

In this role, I'm working to support and expand international learning opportunities for students and helping them navigate the process of studying abroad and fostering global connections. It's been a rewarding experience so far and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Penn's vibrant international exploration and learning opportunities."

Tracy Hewitt '10 writes, "Laurence Roche, son of Stephen Roche '10 and I, was born on January 7th, 2024. He's a happy and healthy little guy. Westtown class of 2042, here he comes! On another note, my niece, Minayra Chhabra '28, started as a freshman at Westtown this year. We are so happy for her!"

Madison McKee '10 writes, "I married Morgan Proffer on September 21, 2024 in Philadelphia surrounded by family and Friends! Abby Gross '10, who I met in T. Linda's Kindergarten class, was my Maid of Honor and Maggie Provencher '10 was a bridesmaid."



Westonians at my wedding! Bottom row left to right: Elizabeth Spackman '10, Brian Robbins '10, Abigail Gross '10, Caith McKee '08, Woody Frankel '10, Ian Teti '10, Top row right to left: Alexandra Frankel '08, David Pecunia '10, Luke Frankel '14, Jacob Shorr '10, Jake McGill '14, Maggie Provencher '10, Taylor Brewster '10, Sarah Walser '10, Emilie Johnson '10, Madison Frankel '10

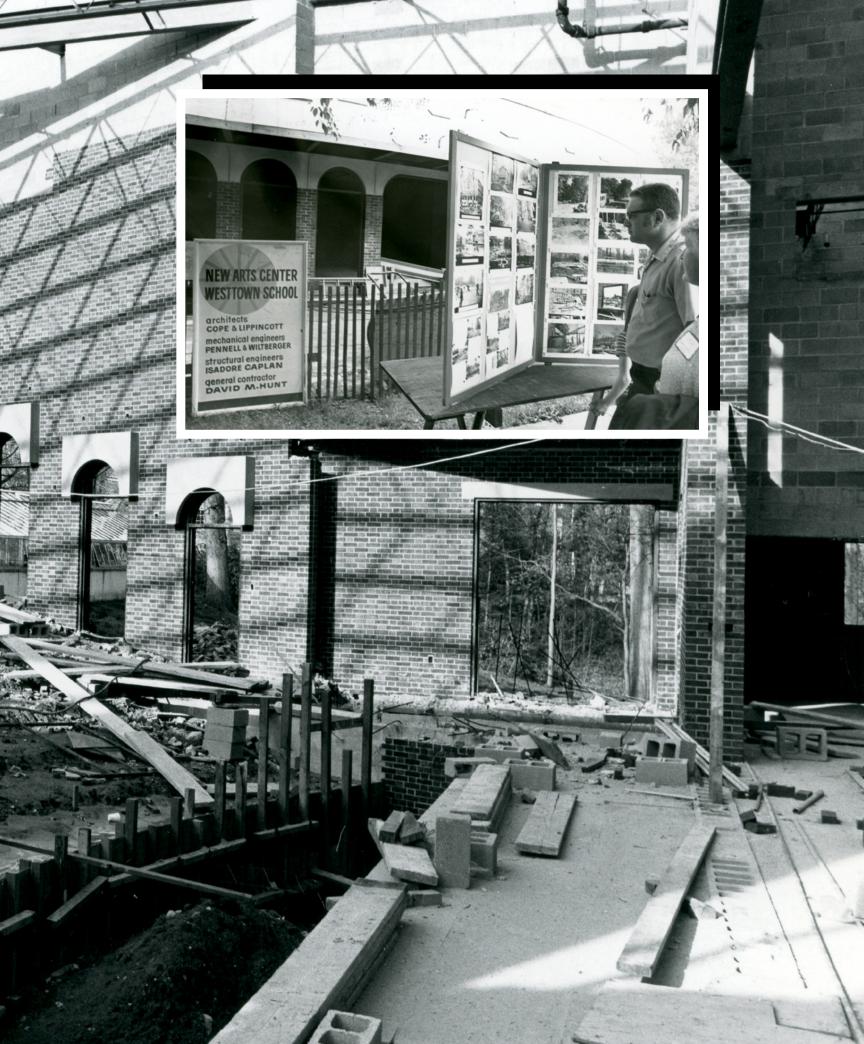


From Tracy Hewitt '10: Laurence Hewitt Roche



Raquel (Paramo) Richheimer '13, Katie Keys '13, and Rachel Wortmann '13 met up in Connecticut for Raquel's baby shower





# Save the Date



Celebrating 225 Years of Quaker Education MAY 16-18, 2025

## See you back in 'Town!

We're excited for you to join us for Alums Weekend and Reunion Celebrations for classes ending in 0 and 5.

