

2025 / ISSUE 2

The Westonian *Magazine*



**Editor**

Lynette Assarsson
Director of Publications

Contributors

Sara Mullen
Archivist

Anne Burns
Dean of Communications

Jodie Driver
*Director of Alum
Engagement*

Ellen Urbanski
Dean of Advancement

Design

Aldeia
www.aldeia.design

**Principal
Photography**
Ed Cunicelli

**Additional
Photography**
Samantha Amadio

Head of School

Chris Benbow '90

2024-2025**Board of Trustees**

Anne Roche, *Clerk*
Emily Temple Abels '07
Karabi Acharya '82
Beah Burger-Lenehan '02
Francisco Burgos
Luis "Lu" Castillo '80
Jehan Chu '94
Allyn Copp '73
Diana Evans '95
Nneka Nwosu Faison '01

Will Hildreth '81
Ann Hutton
Sanjay Jain
Jeffery Kennerly
Gary Linnen '96
Katie McKinstry '03
Rob McLearn
Buxton Midyette '83
Elizabeth Osterman '73
Daryl Shore '99
Mike Sicoli '88
Jennifer Simpson
Charlene Thomas '86
Ryan Tookes '96
Charlotte Triefus

Don Wildman '79
Tobias Wilson '05
Max Yeh '87

Emeritus Trustees

David Barclay '52
Tim Barnard
J. Barton Harrison '47
Arthur Larrabee '60
Katherine Niles McLean '57

2025 / ISSUE 2

The Westonian Magazine

02 COMMENCEMENT

Message from Head of School
Chris Benbow '90

03 NEWS FROM AROUND 'TOWN

What's happening on campus?

20 ARTS GALLERY

Performing Arts

22 FIELDS & COURTS

Champions

24 COMMUNITY

Fond Farewells
Archives Acquisition

28 CLASS OF 2025

Congratulations!

38 ALL IN THE FAMILY

The Tradition Continues

40 ALUMS WEEKEND

44 CLASS NOTES

News from Alums

57 FROM THE ARCHIVES

Let's Play!

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



CONNECT

[facebook.com/
westtownschool](https://facebook.com/westtownschool)



[vimeo.com/
westtownschool](https://vimeo.com/westtownschool)



[instagram.com/
westtownschool](https://instagram.com/westtownschool)

Behind the Cover: A drone shot of our exciting new Lower School playscape

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.



Commencement

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, Westtown celebrated Commencement in an especially lush, verdant Greenwood this June. Unfortunately, the same rain that made it so resumed as the Class of 2025 began their procession into the Greenwood and continued throughout the ceremony. No surprise, all present got very wet. Still, the vast majority of us were grateful to have been able to join together outdoors in that breathtaking natural setting despite the weather (and the few who were grumpy, rightly blamed both the universe and the judgment of the Head of School, though not necessarily in that order).

What follows here is an excerpt of my remarks from that day. I share them again now because—while they were written specifically for the Class of 2025—I sense they may speak to other Westonians in this moment, as well.

Friends, the four messages we just heard are both deeply specific to the individual students who shared them and reflective of the broader experiences of this graduating class: challenge, doubt, discovery,

play, disappointment, perseverance, support, acceptance, connection, love, and much more. They also reflect our mission: “Guided by the essential Quaker calling to seek out and honor that of God in each of us, Westtown School challenges its students to realize their individual gifts while learning and living together in a diverse community. Westtown inspires and prepares its graduates to be stewards and leaders of a better world.”

Stewards and leaders of a better world: Class of 2025, please recognize that in ways both large and small, that’s you already. You’ve been practicing it here every day as you have shaped this community. And a big part of what lies at the heart of your success is a profound love and openness. I have mentioned before the Friends Committee on National Legislation sign that has lived in the window of my office for the past decade or so. Every day it reminds me to “Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions).” It’s just five words, but those last two transform it—for me—from biblical platitude to spiritual discipline. It’s that parenthetical “No Exceptions” that instructs the heavy lifting, and that heavy lifting implies a radical openness.


It asks us to be fiercely open to the Light in one another: open to understanding our world as a fundamentally connected place, even when those connections are hard to see; open to a wide variety of perspectives, including those that deeply challenge our own beliefs; open to receiving a collectively discerned and continuously revealed divine truth; and open to listening closely to our own still, small voice.

Close to three hundred years ago, George Fox, a founder of Quakerism, recorded in his journal that he “...should have a sense of all conditions, how else should (he) speak to all conditions.” Fox went on to describe: “I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God; and I had great openings.”

Consider this image, for a moment, in the context of our celebration of these astonishing young people and the fraught, challenging state of the wider world today. “...an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love which flowed over the ocean of darkness...” I appreciate Fox’s optimism in the order of their vertical arrangement, but even more importantly I appreciate that they are present together, both within each and every one of us, and throughout the complex, sorrow-filled, beautiful, loving place that is our world.

Class of 2025, as you venture on from Westtown, carry with you this nuanced understanding of yourself, of others, and of the world. The details of what exactly to believe are necessarily yours to sort out, but as you do so, resist the temptation of reductive, facile thinking. Let complexity deepen your compassion. Let ambiguity sharpen your empathy. And as you continue to discern your truth, pay attention to when you feel most connected, most alive, most whole, most aligned and integrated with what you believe. Notice these moments, these circumstances, and seek them out. Better yet, create them for yourself and others.

Or, as our old Friend George Fox suggested, “Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”

I went on to remind the Class of 2025 that this was not new for them, and I ask that you, too, remember that it is not new for you either. It is what all members of the Westtown community have endeavored to practice for years. So, though I don’t have a wet diploma to hand you, I also say to you, “Thank you. Well done.” 

News from Around 'Town



Evening of the Arts

At the end of the year, students, faculty, and families gathered for Senior Art Exhibition. The Senior Art Exhibition is a summative experience that brings together works of students from all visual arts disciplines — drawing and painting, photography and digital art, sculpture, ceramics, and fiber arts created during the 2024-2025 school year. This year's talented artists included **Sophia Atkins, Sofia Burgos, Coco Chen, Ella Dobrzelewski, Adele Daughenbaugh, Nick Fabricatore, Nia Foote, Kennedy Hall, Georgia Smith, Bitong Sun, and July Wen.**

The Senior Art Exhibition was part of the Evening of the Arts celebration which began with a reception in the gallery and concluded with performances by our Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band.

Visit the gallery at the QR code for more photos of their work.



GRAND OPENING

Center for the Living Arts



The fully renovated and expanded Center for the Living Arts (CLA) opened to rave reviews! At a formal celebration in April, nearly 150 guests—including faculty, staff, trustees, alums, donors, and friends of the school—gathered to experience the reimagined space that now serves as a hub of energy and creativity in the heart of Westtown's campus.

Dedicated to expression and spiritual reflection through the arts, the Center's restoration was completed in three phases, with work beginning in the summer of 2019. The CLA now features bright and airy visual arts studios, a digital media lab for music and photography production, revitalized performance and rehearsal spaces, an acoustically remediated theater with student-safe catwalks, accessibility upgrades throughout the building including renovated bathrooms and an elevator, as well as beautifully restored outdoor spaces that connect the building to the student experience on the top of campus.

The reception was held in the visual arts space anchored by the

Hildreth-Dietrich Visual Arts Wing—honoring a gift from Westtown alum and trustee, **William Hildreth '81** and his family—that includes a critique wall and exhibit gallery for students as well as numerous visual arts classrooms, and the Chu Gallery, a two-story, permanent exhibition space named in honor of generous support from Westtown Alum and Trustee, **Jehan Chu '94** and his wife, Jeannie. Both galleries are flooded with natural light and have beautiful views of the South Woods and Main Hall.

"When I was a student at Westtown, this building felt like home in so many ways. I spent countless hours in the Barton-Test Theatre, the rehearsal rooms, and the art studios," said Hildreth. "When I learned that Westtown planned to renovate the Center for the Living Arts, I knew I wanted our family's foundation to support the creation of an inspiring space for reflection, imagination, and expression. It has been a great joy to see the renewed space and be confident that it will feel like home to future generations of Westonians."



During the reception, guests delighted in the inaugural installation of works which includes some of Westtown's permanent art collection, student pieces, alum creations, and art procured from visiting artists through the McLear Artist in Residence program. Tours were offered so that new features beyond the gallery could also be explored, such as new private dressing rooms off the theater, an outdoor patio for community gatherings and classes, music pods for private instrument practice, and new faculty offices and student meeting spaces.

The building's modifications are in keeping with the school's sustainability goals and included new heating and cooling, replacement of all windows and doors, installation of an automated building management system to maximize energy efficiencies, and sections of new roof which make the building LEED silver equivalent.



“Westtown was a turning point in both my sister, Shamsi’s, and my life. It had a profound impact on my spiritual, artistic, and leadership development under guides like **Jay Farrow**, **Caroline Loose**, **Ellen Jensen (Abbott)**, and many others. It is a privilege to be able to contribute a small gift back to the Westtown community on behalf of the Chu family and the incredible Class of ’94,” Chu shared.

The Center for the Living Arts officially opened its doors to students this past fall. This exciting space serves as a vibrant invitation to reflect, create, and to seek out and honor the light of God in one’s self and others, and will further support the journey of self discovery and growth that is at the core of a Westtown education.

Enjoy the gallery of photos from the grand opening at this QR code!

Exterior of the CLA; inset left: Grand opening reception



ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

We look forward to sharing our 2024-2025 annual report with you later this year. In order to use our resources wisely and reduce paper consumption, annual report donor lists will be available solely on our website—a QR code with access to the lists will be available in the report. Thank you for supporting Westtown’s commitment to sustainability!



Middle School Play

The Middle School play, *The Edgar Allen Poe Afterlife Radio Show*, was wonderful success! A tap at a chamber door, and the beat of a hideous heart evoked the very best and creepiest of Edgar Allan Poe. When Poe set out to keep his stories alive from beyond the grave, an otherworldly radio studio proved to be just the thing. Wandering spirits gathered to play the roles in Poe’s most classic works from *The Cask of the Amontillado* to *The Fall of the House of Usher*. The grim master of the macabre was a little new to radio, but his cat helped him out. Middle Schoolers did an excellent job and a shout out to teacher **Jack McManus** who directed the production! Enjoy the entire gallery of photos at this QR code.



Lunar New Year Celebrations

Students in all divisions celebrated Lunar New Year, including a special Community Dinner in Upper School. Students worked with Dining Services to create a delicious meal that included special performances and even a dragon dance!

We thank the parents who decorated the Lower and Middle School lobbies, and the Lower School parents who came in as guest readers and did special activities for students! During Gathering, Lower School students and teachers had an incredible time donning their red clothing, symbolizing good luck. They listened intently to 6th grader **Stella** read a selection about Lunar New Year. Fifth grader **Chris** explained the folklore behind the tradition of children receiving an envelope of lucky money. Lower School students **Bowen, Tiarra, Chris, Charles, Cali, Cami, Jeremiah, Carolina,** and **Amelia** shared their traditions in a video. Immense joy filled the room as students saw their classmates sharing an incredibly important part of their heritage with the greater community.



Fifth-graders present their research at the Black history Month Archives Museum

Black History Month Archives Museum

Just before spring break, the Fifth Grade Equity, Justice, and Belonging (EJB) team hosted a Black History Month Archives Museum in the South Room, an exhibit open to the whole school community. Each group worked with Westtown Archivist Sara Mullen to review archival materials and research Black pioneers at Westtown, and then, over the course of two days, gave presentations as visitors came to their tables during the exhibit. “I launched the Fifth Grade EJB team three years ago to ensure student voices consistently connected to Westtown’s mission-aligned approach.” shares **Kelly Yiadom**, Director of Equity, Justice, and Belonging for Lower and Middle Schools. “At the beginning of the year, students have the opportunity to volunteer their time in an effort to do a deeper dive into social justice while developing their advocacy and presentation skills.”

For the Black History Month Archives Museum, students diligently researched Black Westtown pioneers, narrated their stories, and designed the exhibits to bring their stories to life. Their parents and several Westtown community members filled the South Room to learn about Charles Hammond (the first Black man to graduate from Westtown), Mervin Hutton (the first full-time Black teacher), Siggy Howard (the first Black woman to graduate from Westtown), and Grace Cunningham (the first Black student to attend Westtown), and Sonia Simmons (one of the first five Black students admitted to Westtown). Nothing is more rewarding than witnessing the journey of a project through its completion. Well done, **Jordan, Eric, Dania, Jackson, Chloe, Nora, Lucas, Sam, Tommy, Kennedy,** and **Evvia**! You can enjoy a gallery of photos of their exhibit at QR code on the left.



National Science Bowl

This year was Westtown's first time sending a team to the National Science Bowl competition. This competition is a tense and fast-paced *Jeopardy!*-style competition in which teams compete to answer science questions faster than their opponents. Questions can include topics in biology, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, physics, math, and energy science, often about extremely technical concepts.

Science teacher and faculty advisor of the team **Niral Desai** shares, "On February 22, five intrepid science students on the team traveled to the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey, and competed for the very first time against some of the top Science Bowl teams in the nation. **Ben D'Alessandro '26**, **Quinlan McLearn '26**, **Jamie Lee '27**, and **Angela Wang '26** joined captain **Tessa Kipnis '26** as our inaugural team, making Westtown history. The competition was fierce, and these five are looking optimistically toward next year's competition."

On March 2, eight Westtown students also attended the Johns Hopkins Invitational Science Bowl Tournament with Desai and history teacher **Marissa Colston** in Baltimore, Maryland. "Dividing into two teams, our students competed in five rounds during the round-robin portion of the competition, with one of the two teams advancing to the double elimination bracket," says Desai. "Our first team consisted of Tessa Kipnis, Quinlan McLearn, Jamie Lee, and Angela Wang; on our second team, Ben D'Alessandro served as captain with teammates **Leila Alobeidy '28**, **Sarah Lan '27**, and **Jerry Rao '27**."

The Science Bowl program is thriving in its first year and team members are already eager to start studying for next year's competition. Westtown is very proud of the hard work that our Science Bowl teams have shown in such a short time. The program aims to expand to the Middle School as interest in competing continues to grow. We look forward to continuing to showcase Westtown's excellence in the National Science Bowl!

Teacher Niral Desai (left) and part of Westtown's Science Bowl team: Jamie Lee '27, Ben D'Alessandro '26, Quinlan McLearn '26, Angela Wang '26, and Tessa Kipnis '26



Karla Gilbride (left) chats with Louisa Egan Brad, Dean of Equity, Justice, and Belonging

Disability Awareness Month Speakers

March was Disability Awareness Month, and before spring break, we were honored to host both **Aimee Ruben** and **Karla Gilbride**. Aimee is the owner of Game On State, a non-profit business in Media that models inclusive hiring practices. She spoke at Lower School Gathering, then with Middle School students before Meeting for Worship. Later in the week, Karla, a lawyer and activist who was the General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the first blind lawyer to argue a case before the Supreme Court (she won her case 9-0), spoke with Middle and Upper School students at assembly about how blindness has shaped her life's work, and why the scope of her work includes not just advocating for people with disabilities, but for everyone facing discrimination. Our thanks to Aimee and Karla for speaking to our students, and to Dean of Equity, Justice, and Belonging **Louisa Egan Brad** for bringing these speakers to campus.





Third Grade African Dance

Now in its twenty-third year, the partnership with **Jeannine Osayande** and the Dunya Performing Arts Company continues! During their six-week residency, teachers **Charis Fisher** and **Kristin Hayman** and third graders worked with Jeannine and company as part of their studies on the continent of Africa, its cultures, and its art. During the residency, the students learned the movements, origins, stories, and symbolism of the African dances and Capoeira. They also learned about West African adinkra symbols which they incorporated in their batik costumes that they made in their art classes. The studies culminated in the wonderful African Dance performance. At the finale, teachers took the stage and the audience joined in as well! Enjoy the whole gallery of photos at this QR code!



CHESCO BAND FEST

Ten fifth and sixth graders were selected to perform in this year's Chesco Band Fest hosted by Phoenixville Area Middle School! The Fest brought together over 100 fifth and sixth grade band students from around Chester County representing 25 elementary and middle schools. Students spent the day rehearsing with a guest conductor in preparation for an evening concert. Students got to work with Dr. Scott Watson and premiered a new piece titled "Legend of the Blue Flame." Well done all, and thank you, teacher **Jason Wu**!

Middle School Artists Featured in Youth Art Month Exhibit

Congratulations to eighth graders **William B.**, **Daniel D.**, **Cass H.**, **Rylan K.**, **Nandan N.**, and **Abby S.**! Their artwork is featured in The Youth Art Month (YAM) Exhibit. This state-wide online art exhibition, organized by the Pennsylvania Art Educators Association, is part of the nationwide Youth Art Month administered by The Council for Art Educators and The National Art Educators Association.

Art teacher **Marta Willgoose Salo** shares, "As eighth graders, this is a special honor. Their featured art works and their studio habits as artists, reflect creativity, artistic risk-taking, persistence, development of craft, and their attention to the expression of their ideas. They each represent the power of an arts education at Westtown and are role models for their peers in our Middle School art studios."

The Council for Art Education administers Youth Art Month. Youth Art Month encourages support for quality school art programs and promotes art material safety. The program provides a medium for recognizing skills developed through visual arts experiences unlike any other curriculum subjects, including problem-solving, creativity, observation, and communication. See their work on the YAM website at this QR code.



Fifth Grade Play

Before spring break, our fifth graders took to the stage in the Barton-Test Theater to perform *Fairy Tale Fixer Upper*, a collection of classic fairy tales reimaged and re-written by the students themselves. Students also helped to create and design the set. Fifth grade teachers **Andy Fetzer** and **Audra Deprisco** rounded out the cast and Theater Director Shawn Rowley directed the show. Bravo, fifth graders! Check out photos from their performance at this QR code!



UPPER SCHOOL WELCOMES

Dr. Victor Garcia '03

We recently had the honor of welcoming **Dr. Victor Garcia '03** to campus. Dr. Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at New York Medical College, where his groundbreaking research led to the discovery of a receptor (GPR75) involved in regulating obesity, diabetes, and cancer. He holds a patent and has contributed to the development of several drugs targeting these diseases. He is also deeply passionate about mentoring and empowering young scientists. Dr. Garcia visited classes, met with students, and spoke at the Upper School Assembly where he talked about his professional journey, his work, and his time at Westtown. Students were excited to engage with Dr. Garcia both in and out of the classroom.



Dr. Garcia with teacher Leslie Barr and students in the Advanced Anatomy and Physiology Class

SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

At the end of the school year, students were inducted in to Las Alas Sociedad Honorífica Hispana de Westtown – the National Spanish Honor Society. The National Spanish Honor Society's goal is to recognize high school achievement in Spanish and Portuguese and to promote interest in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies. Upper School Spanish teachers **Mercedes Ureña Durán**, **Juan Rodriguez**, and **Cynthia Voorhees** and Middle School Spanish teacher **Franco Yanelli** led a candle-lighting ceremony (outside, of course!) then awarded students their certificates. ¡Felicidades, estudiantes!



The Book Buddy tradition lives on!

Book Buddies

Every year, as part of the teacher **Abby Lausch**'s English Language Arts class, seventh graders learn about writing and storytelling and then work with the Primary Circle students—their “book buddies”—to co-author and illustrate a book. At the end of the year, the book buddies had a “publish party,” where they read their final books together, had a cool treat, and shared recess time. See more photos at this QR code!



Spanish National Honor Society inductees

INTEGRATION BEE BUZZING WITH WESTTOWN TALENT

At the 2025 Integration Bee at West Chester University, Westtown students swept the podium earning the first, second, and third places! Third place in the high school division (along with a \$50 gift card) went to **Kyle Cui '25**, second place and \$75 went to **Max Zhang '26**, and first place and \$150 went to **Jerry Rao '27**. In the semi-final rounds, Westtown was very well represented with **Tiantong Hu '26** and **Jamie Lee '27**. **Tessa Kipnis '26** and senior **Vi Kanyamiheto-Watson '25** also participated.



Westtown students locking first, second, and third!

NATIONAL CHINESE HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The National Chinese Honor Society was established in November 1993. Its objective is to acknowledge the superior achievement of secondary school students studying Chinese as a second language. Like other honor societies, the National Chinese Honor Society not only recognizes high scholastic achievement but also good character, leadership, and service. National Chinese Honor Society members should exemplify all these standards. The Society's goal is to promote enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture learning, commitment to advanced study, and greater cross-cultural understanding. In addition, the National Junior Scholars for Excellence in Chinese award is to recognize our eligible Middle School 8th grade Mandarin students' achievement in the study of Chinese language and culture.

After reviewing their Chinese course work throughout their middle school and high school years, examining the national standards set forth, and discussing the many qualifications of gifted students, the Westtown School chapter of the National Chinese Honor Society was pleased to induct 12 new members into the society and renew seven students' memberships, as well as award four Middle School students with the National Chinese Junior Scholar in Chinese.

At an induction ceremony in the South Room this spring, teachers **Jie Song**, **Nina Li**, and World Languages **Chair Bei Zhang** presented the students with their certificates. Congratulations!

The newest inductees to the National Chinese Honor Society



Tyriek White and moderator Kyle Layne-Allen

SHOEMAKER VISITING LECTURER

Tyriek White

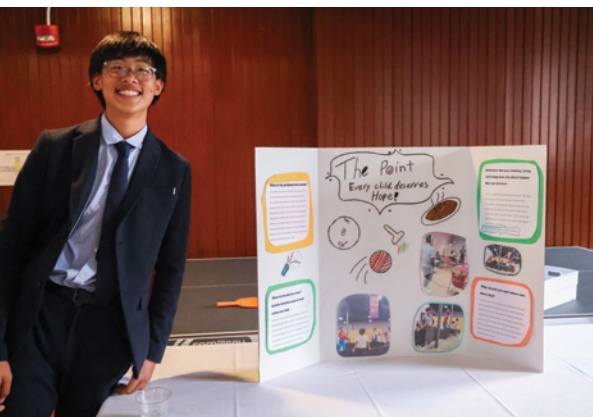
Thank you to author **Tyriek White**, who spoke to our community as part of our Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer series! White, a writer, musician, and educator from Brooklyn, NY, is the author of the novel *We Are a Haunting* (Astra House, 2023), which won the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, was a finalist for the Gotham Book Prize, and was longlisted for the Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize. He was named a 2024 National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" Honoree and has received fellowships from Callaloo Writing Workshop, New York State Writer's Institute, and Key West Literary Seminar, among other honors.

Tyriek visited our American Literature, Creative Writing, and Storytelling classes to discuss his experience, do some writing exercises with students, and joined students for the Black History Month Community Dinner before taking the stage with English teacher **Kyle Layne-Allen** for an engaging conversation. We are so grateful to him for sharing his time and wisdom with our community! You can find for more photos at this QR code.



Think, Care, Act Fair

The seventh grade Think, Care, Act project is the culmination of students identifying their strengths, interests, and talents, focusing on what they care about in their communities and world around them, then choosing a service project or organization to donate time to related to these strengths and interests. Each student does 10 hours of service, which together makes 400 hours of community service performed by seventh graders! The Think, Care, Act Fair is the culmination of these projects and was held in the Uptown Lounge where students presented tri-folds describing their service projects and shared their experiences with parents, teachers, and fellow students. Well done, students, and shout to teacher **Abby Lausch** who created and shepherds this project! More photos from the fair are at this QR code!



Think, Care, Act Fair presentation



Team French cheers on their team at the Language Olympics

World Languages Week

The World Languages Department, chaired by **Bei Zhang**, created a series of activities and events to promote language learning and immersion during the fourth-annual World Languages Week celebration at Westtown. The Upper School student body was divided into language teams—Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish—to compete throughout the week. Activities included special assemblies with guest speakers who demonstrate how they use languages in their work, student performances of songs in their language, themed dinners representing culture and languages each night, and, finally, concluded with the the Language Olympics.

The first assembly featured polyglot YouTuber **Arieh Smith**—known as @xiaomany online—who gave his entire presentation in “Gen Alpha,” much to the delight/chagrin of the primarily Gen Alpha audience!

At the second assembly, the keynote speaker was **Meg Smithson**, Senior Social Worker at New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP), where she works with detained and non-detained people in removal proceedings. She spoke about how language learning has impacted her life and how being able to speak Spanish is crucial in her profession, not only in her one-on-one work with people, but also as she serves as an interpreter in highly sensitive client-attorney meetings. After the moderated talk with Zhang, there was a Q&A for students to learn more.

Though World Languages Week was planned by language teachers, it was an all-hands-on-deck undertaking, as all Upper School faculty participated in facilitating events. This week-long celebration was also a unique way to assess language acquisition in real time. Zhang says, “Some of our goals included promoting language acquisition, building cultural competency, providing students a platform to celebrate their success in their language education, and helping students envision their future career paths where they can apply their language skills and cultural knowledge.”

The Language Olympics—a series of field-day-type events—is always a highlight of the week and capped off the week’s activities. You can enjoy photos at the QR code on the left!





Fourth-graders ready to present their Living Museum

Living Museum

At the end of the school year, fourth graders invited family and fellow Lower Schoolers to present their Living Museum, part of a research project centered on the lives of historical abolitionists. The project is a culmination of their social studies curriculum, which focuses on the history of this continent from pre-European contact through the abolishment of slavery. In this final “living museum” project, students share the work, struggles, and successes of many notable abolitionists. Well done, fourth grade! You can see more photos at this QR code.



TRILLS AND THRILLS

In May our seventh and eighth grade band students participated in their first Trills and Thrills Music Festival. This festival has events throughout the country hosting school music ensembles from elementary to high school to participate in an adjudicated performance before spending the day celebrating at an amusement park. This year the seventh and eighth grade band and their director **Jason Wu** went to Boyertown Area High School for their adjudication, where they performed two pieces and earned an Excellent Rating which is the second highest rating in the event. They spent the rest of the day at Dorney Park!

Beyond the Classroom



Students traveled to Washington, DC, for the FCNL Spring Lobby Conference

A signature experience for many students at Westtown are the school-sponsored trips which provide a variety of opportunities to learn and broaden their experience beyond the classroom. This year's spring break trips offered cultural and language immersion, biodiversity exploration, service, and political activism. Groups went to Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Washington, DC.

Spanish teacher and Puerto Rico trip leader **Mercedes Ureña Durán** shares, "I had the opportunity to travel Puerto Rico with 18 amazing students and two wonderful colleagues: **Fernando Gomes** and **Franco Yannielli**. Throughout the trip we enjoyed the richness the island has to offer through its music, customs, biodiversity, and vibrant culture which allowed for an unforgettable experience.

"Our trip was a mix of fun adventures, immersive learning and service experiences, sprinkled with opportunities to relax and soak in the island's beauty. We started the trip in Old San Juan and learned about the history of the island and visited some important landmarks

like El Morro. We then traveled and hiked deep in the tropical rainforest of El Yunque. It was a challenging uphill hike, nonetheless it was wonderful to have the opportunity to connect with nature in such a majestic setting surrounded by a lush forest of a variety of trees, including the native yagrumo. The students were then rewarded with the chance to cool off by skidding down a natural rock slide into the refreshing waters that run through the forest.

"Visiting a local sustainable forest project called Casa de la Selva was a highlight of the trip for many students. Being deep in the forest and surrounded by nature allowed them to disconnect from technology and engage with each other. They supported the project by clearing the trail by cutting brush and fallen bamboo. It was tough work, but rewarding. Some students dug ditches that helped re-establish drainage to help proper water flow while others built steps along the trail which help to create easy access to the forest. After a day's work, students got to be in community

with each in a more connected way. One student brought yarn and taught other students how to make intricate braided bracelets, which became a favored unwinding activity after a day of work. As the sun set in the evenings we were delighted by the croaking of the endemic coquí frogs which, although they are pretty small and sometimes hard to see, in unison they can make a cheerful and impactful sound.

"We traveled to Loiza to visit Samuel Lind, a local artist that celebrates Afro-Puerto Rican history and his passion for nature through his art and sculptures. Dancing was also an important part of the trip, as the students learned about bomba and salsa. We visited historic cities such as San Juan and Ponce and learned about the history of the Puerto Rican people. A favorite and unforgettable experience for many students was to experience the magic of nature at the bioluminescent bay at La Parguera.

"Throughout the trip, Spanish immersion was our goal and it was wonderful to see the students practice their language skills outside of the classroom in authentic settings. To keep sharpening their writing skills students were encouraged to journal in Spanish throughout the trip as a way of encapsulating their daily experiences."

Science Department Chair and Environmental Science teacher **Ryan Black** led the trip to Costa Rica along with **Megan Williams**. "Students had a rewarding experience in Costa Rica during our biodiversity exploration! We spent the majority of the trip in Caño Negro, a remote wetland area and crucial migratory stopover for many bird species. The students did a fantastic job on several service projects, which included trail maintenance behind the Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Mixto SINAC facility, camping platform sanding



Above: The Puerto Rico group
Right: Exploring Costa Rica's biodiversity

and staining, turning soil and building a greenhouse structure for a community garden, and conducting trash cleanup and recycling along local roadways.

"Several students made the most of our time there by waking up at 4:30 a.m. to observe birds, howler monkeys, and other wildlife at dawn. Highlights in Caño Negro included a biodiversity boat tour down the Río Frío, as well as a biodiversity talk and walk with local experts.

"After five days of hard work and manual labor, we traveled to Arenal Volcano, where we encountered sloths, coatis, and eyelash vipers during a unique hike to a scenic lookout point. There, students learned from our guide about the history and ecology of this impressive active volcano.

"We then visited the cloud forest in Monteverde, where students got a reprieve from the heat and were able to immerse themselves in a completely different ecosystem. Among the highlights was a thrilling night hike, where we spotted scorpions glowing under UV light, camouflaged glass frogs, hidden walking sticks, industrious leaf cutter



ants, elusive kinkajous, stingless "blue cheese" bees, and a variety of other exotic wildlife. Students also zip-lined over the rainforest, bravely conquering the longest zip-line in Latin America, and explored the farming and processing of sugar cane, cacao, and coffee at the Don Juan Plantation."

Teachers [Lara Freeman](#) and [Jake Norton](#) took a small group of students to Washington, DC, for the Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL) Spring Lobby Conference. FCNL is a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace,

justice, and environmental stewardship." The Spring Lobby Conference welcomes about 300 students from across the country to learn about active legislation, engage in trainings about lobbying, and meet with their representatives in Congress. This year's conference focused on the threat to healthcare and food assistance. After their training sessions, students met with their representatives to lobby them to protect healthcare and food programs. Freeman shares, "We had a great trip and the students were fabulous advocates for protecting Medicaid and SNAP benefits as Congress works on its reconciliation budget."



Earth Day Celebrations

A focus on sustainability and the environment is embedded in much of our curriculum and practices, but on Earth Day, we enjoy special activities and celebrations. Some of the ways we celebrated on Earth Day included an all-school Meeting for Worship in the Greenwood, an all-vegan and a locally sourced lunch in our Four-Star Green Restaurant Certified Dining Room, an assembly with a student panel, and workshops centered on the theme “Finding Your Why and Empowerment.” The 17 workshops offered—which covered topics from bioremediation to clean energy at Westtown to environmental justice, to seed sharing pollinators, to name just a few—aimed to help to inspire students to get involved in sustainability work and to find the ways their passions and interests intersect with sustainability guided by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals created by the United Nations. Special thanks go

to [Mira Hartmann '25](#) who was integral in organizing the day's schedule, activities, and workshops in the Upper School.

In Middle School, teacher [Courtney McKinley](#)'s eighth grade students headed outside to race the solar powered cars they had made. As Middle School Principal Will Addis shares, “The call to be stewards of a better world is implicitly and explicitly woven throughout the Middle School. In sixth grade science, the work STEM teacher [Carlos Charriez](#) and the students do cultivating plants in the greenhouse fosters a keen understanding of nature. In eighth grade social studies and science classes, students gain a broader understanding of climate change from both scientific and sociological perspectives. In [Abby Lausch](#)'s seventh grade English Language Arts class, students learn to write persuasive letters to community leaders, which will allow them to hone their skills to

be change makers. In the Dining Room, students eat food cultivated locally and debate which items go in the compost bowl and the Green Captain helps them get the decision right. Our Outdoor Education trips create a meaningful relationship with the world around them, with a ‘leave no trace’ focus. Our athletic program teaches our students to have positive personal lifelong health practices by exercising on our beautiful campus. Our Visiting Artist program also took a sustainability focus this year. [Stephane Rowley](#) centered on using found materials to create a new work of art. Students manipulated the materials in a variety of ways, including sewing and knitting, to create a new work of art. The process had a zero waste focus, and highlighted the connection between us and the natural world. While we celebrate Earth Day each year, we observe the principles every day.”

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS VISIT STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER

Students in teacher **Ryan Black**'s Advanced Environmental Science classes visited the internationally renowned Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, PA. Located along the pristine White Clay Creek, the Center offered an ideal environment for students to conduct chemical tests of water quality and assess aquatic biodiversity using a biotic index. The experience allowed students to observe what a healthy local stream should look like and compare it to the more impacted streams on our campus.

During the visit, students toured Stroud's Platinum LEED-certified facility, which features vermiculture composting toilets and a streamhouse—an indoor laboratory where stream water is circulated for algae growth and controlled experiments. They also met with Stroud's entomology team to gain a deeper understanding of macroinvertebrates and their role as indicators of stream health. Independent study student **Mira Hartmann '25** was able to tour their entomology lab and speak directly with the entomologist to gain insight into advanced analysis methods for the macroinvertebrate data she has been collecting on campus.

This immersive field experience enriched the students' classroom learning and emphasized the importance of real-world, field-based research in understanding and protecting freshwater ecosystems.



Advanced Environmental Science students at the Stroud Water Research Center



Down the River

Our eighth graders participated in a beloved Westtown tradition—the last Middle School canoe trip! The Class of 2029 went on a three-day/two-night adventure on the Potomac River. This hallmark experience is marked not only by skill-building in nature and on the water, but also by community-building and growth. Students learn to push themselves and encourage each other, work as a team, as well as to canoe and practice “Leave no Trace.” As Middle School Principal **Will Addis** shared, “The canoe trips and the training that goes with them provide real-world applications for the skills and understandings we strive to teach our students while also providing lessons that reflect those skills. If you are ever around the students as they prepare for a trip, you will see how evident this is. Phrases like ‘We can do hard things’ and ‘There are no passengers, only crew’ are uttered frequently. This is true on the river but applies to the classroom, playing field, Dining Room, and so on.” Our thanks to **Chris Henwood-Costa**, Director of Outdoor Education, and all the Middle School faculty who support these important trips each year! Photos of this year's adventure are at this QR code!



Artists in Residence



We are fortunate to have robust Artists-in-Residence programs in all divisions here at Westtown. This year, three artists worked with students to share their talents and create special works with students.

The Lower School welcomed **Margaux McAllister** as our 2025 Candace Freeman Artist-in-Residence. The Lower School Artist-in-Residence program is coordinated by Lower School art teachers

Kelly Nicholson and **Jane Chesson**.

Margaux is a multi-disciplinary artist whose recent work has featured various fiber techniques to explore the theme of identity. Throughout the residency, Margaux worked alongside PreK–fifth grade students during their art classes to teach the process of rug tufting using punch needles. Students learned about working collaboratively while practicing new fiber-based skills. They will be able



to continue building upon this work as we integrate these new techniques into our Lower School Art Studios after the residency concludes. Margaux took the students' work back to her Phoenixville studio to assemble a collaborative fiber work, and it was installed in the Lower School this spring. You can see the final piece in the Gathering Room.

The Candace Freeman Artist-in-Residence Program began over thirty years ago and focuses on bringing professional artists to Westtown Lower School to share their artistic process and inspiration with our students. The opportunity for young artists to work alongside a professional artist is a valuable and an important piece of our arts curriculum. You can see many of the Artist-in-Residence projects from years past throughout the Lower School hallways.

This spring Middle School art teachers **Cindy Hodgson** and **Marta Willgoose**



Salo welcomed **Stephane Rowley**, Philadelphia-based mixed media artist, as the visiting artist. Stephane collaborated with students using weaving, quilting, embroidering, sewing by machine and hand, knitting, and more to create a fiber piece which will be installed in the CLA. Students explored textile traditions, especially pertaining to reuse and repair such as Kantha, Sashiko, and piecework quilting to create an installation to minimise and upcycle textile waste.

The Upper School was thrilled to have Westtown alum **Sarah Bourne Rafferty '00** as the McLearn Artist in Residence this year. Sarah worked with students to make cyanotype prints and together they created the

beautiful work that hangs in the CLA Jehan '94 and Jeannie Chu Gallery.

Sarah's work ranges from photographs to books to prints with a particular love for alternative process/non-silver photography. She is engaged in a line of inquiry that stretches beyond a particular medium. Sarah is mesmerized by the interweaving of thoughts into words. She is consistently inspired by the natural world, be it her small back yard or adventures on mountain tops far away. Parts of the natural world often appear intertwined with words or lines of text as she tries to dissect what is happening with the changing of the seasons and how they can relate to communication.

One Story Week

This year, Lower School hosted author and illustrator **Matt Phelan** for the 2025 One Story Week. In addition to illustrating books for other authors, Matt has written and illustrated many of his own, from picture books to chapter books to graphic novels.

The four days of special activities kicked off with an outdoor divisional gathering at the fire circle on Monday, followed by decorating and personalizing One Story Week tee shirts. On other afternoons, students participated in mixed-grade activities based on themes from several of Matt's books. During these activities, fifth graders served as student leaders, assisting Primary Circle, first, and second grade students. The week culminated with a talk given by Matt Phelan in our Gathering Room.

Lower School Principal **Karyn Payton** shares, "Matt gave an engaging and inspiring presentation to our young artists and writers. He shared his journey to becoming an illustrator and author by connecting his childhood to our students' using a photograph of himself as a first grader and drawings he made in second and fifth grades. Simply put, Matt shared that anyone who plays, uses their imagination, and/or draws can become an author or illustrator. Highlighting the phrase 'creativity is super-power,' Matt's tips for the creative process included starting with an idea, being curiously attentive to the world around you, and finding the story in history. Matt showed us an example of his own drafting to final story process for a graphic novel—from scribble to sketch to final picture."

Thanks go to **Heather Tannenbaum**, Lower School Library and Media Specialist, and the Lower School faculty One Story Week Committee for planning this special week. You can enjoy the gallery of photos at this QR code!





The Arts Gallery

Our vibrant performing arts program touches the lives of all our students. It gives them rich opportunities for creative expression through music, dance, theater, scenic arts design, sound, and lighting.





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



FIELDS & COURTS



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



Fields & Courts

All of our student athletes' talents were on display during the winter and spring seasons, most especially the powerhouse girls varsity basketball team. They won the Friends Schools League Championship for the *fifth consecutive year* and the the PAISAA State Championship for the *forth year in a row*! Congratulations to this stellar team and to all of our athletes! Go 'TOWN!





Fond Farewells

BY LYNETTE ASSARSSON

ANDY FETZER

Andy Fetzer first joined Westtown's community in 1998 as a parent when his son entered Kindergarten. He says he was very impressed by "the vibe" in Lower School so in the spring of 2000 when the position of fifth grade teacher opened, he decided to apply. Over the last 25 years, with his wacky ties, tie-dyed t-shirts, bellowing laughter, and music emanating from his classroom, Andy himself has contributed to the good vibes in Lower School, bringing humor, fun, energy, and—of course—his love of music. Well known for his epic playlists and classroom dance parties, students and colleagues alike often referred to him as Teacher Rock 'n Roll. Colleague Marc Dear says, "He brought artists as change-makers of modern culture to the forefront of his teaching every day."

Andy says his teaching career was reborn when he came to Westtown, and he was grateful to be part of a "creative, caring teaching environment where exploration and professional development were encouraged. The Lower School was a place where teachers could work together and have fun together." Adored by his students, Andy "made every day an adventure," says Lower School science teacher Colby VanAlen. "Working with Andy has been a journey marked by humor, music, and memorable moments. He also taught both [of my children] and I saw firsthand the energy and entertainment he brought to their fifth grade experiences."

Reflecting on his time at Westtown, he says, "I am fortunate to have worked with so many amazing colleagues and have had the opportunity to build strong, positive relationships with many Westtown



families. I will miss the students the most. They challenged me to be the best teacher I could be, they helped me to think, learn, and grow as a teacher and as a person. Thanks to my students for sharing their lives with me, they made me laugh everyday and kept me young. It was a great journey for me and I am so happy that I got to spend 25 years at Westtown!"

Lower School Assistant Principal Nicole Vonhamme sums up our sentiments well: "Andy's laughter and positive spirit have brightened our hallways and created lasting memories for both students and faculty. The impact he has made on his students is evident. Thank you, Andy, you will always be a part of our Lower School family."

CINDY HODGSON

If you've passed through the halls of the Middle School over the last twenty-one years, you have witnessed the vision and passion of Cindy Hodgson, Middle School Visual Arts teacher, through the wonderful student art that adorns the walls.

Teacher Yo, as she is lovingly referred to by her students, taught with deep passion guiding students to find the artist within themselves and to grow creatively. Indeed, many of her former students have gone on to pursue careers in the visual arts, and count her as an inspiration.

Cindy was profoundly committed to the community of students and faculty around her, evidenced not only by the

way she nurtured her students, but also by the special events she organized.

"Known to leave gifts in mailboxes or surprise snacks, Cindy is the sort of teacher who makes everyone feel cared for," shares Middle School Principal Will Addis. "She is also the unofficial 'magic maker' for her fellow teachers. Whatever the occasion, Cindy loves to decorate and celebrate. Many of our teachers have one of Cindy's special pieces of art created for their birthday. Sometimes she will come in and say that we are celebrating just because." The Class of 2029 dedicated their yearbook to Cindy and noted in their dedication noted, "One of her most memorable contributions was the beloved Snow Day celebration—her imaginative solution to a snowless winter. Complete with cotton snowballs, themed games, and nearly 200 snowflakes hanging from the ceiling (each bearing a student's name and three descriptive words), it's a tradition that continues today through the Middle Moose program [a community building program in which each student is a member of a spirit team that competes in fun activities each month]. Teacher Yo's creative spirit didn't stop with students. From decorating the faculty kitchen to launching events like Pumpkin Spice Wars and crafting birthday posters for every staff member, she celebrated everyone around her with humor and heart." Of Snow Days and Middle Moose, Cindy says, "What started as a bit of fun have become joyful staples



of our community, and I hope they continue to bring energy and laughter for years to come.”

Middle School theater teacher Jack McManus shared, “She has always been immensely generous, from the time she’s spent putting together thoughtful student experiences to the many spreads to celebrate the faculty to the many other gifts she is eager to give. Her warm spirit is representative of so many of the ideals our community strives for, and it has been a privilege to see her work with students and the work that comes out of those collaborations.”

Cindy says, “Of all the jobs I’ve held—and there have been quite a few—teaching art at Westtown has been the one where I felt most fully myself. It has been the greatest gift to teach, laugh, create, and grow alongside this remarkable community. Thank you for letting me be part of it.” Thank you, Cindy, for all your years of brightening the Middle School. We wish you all the best in your retirement!

LARRY DECH

Westtown School first came to Larry Dech’s attention when he attended a wedding in the Greenwood and was struck by the beauty of the campus. Later, after his children enrolled, he says he especially “appreciated the culture of a place where everyone chose to be there.” Larry began tutoring Westtown students in 2006 and joined the Upper School faculty full time in 2011. He taught physics for years and served as the Science Department Chair for a few of



Left to right:
Andy Fetzer,
Cindy Hodgson,
Larry Dech

them and, eventually, moved into the math department.

Fellow science teacher Leslie Barr says, “When Larry was named Department Chair, we had a strong advocate for us science teachers. He held our interests in mind when assigning us job responsibilities and had our back when challenges arose. He is even-tempered and keeps his cool. I have learned a lot from him and I consider him to be one of my mentors here.”

For a significant portion of his Westtown career, Larry was a crucial member of the coaching staff of the Metal Moose robotics team. Robotics coach and Design Engineering teacher Steve Compton shares, “My earliest memories of him are as a colleague in the department, a colleague on the robotics team, and one of my very best friends from day one. Larry is simply the smartest person I’ve ever worked with in nearly forty years of teaching, in physics, math, robotics, and remarkably, in linguistics, grammar, and writing. I can really point to when our [robotics] team began a new era in technical expertise, and that was when Larry joined us...he was really the teaching force behind our engineers. The students were grateful for him.” For his own part, Larry says that his work with

the robotics team was deeply rewarding and a high point of his career.

Math Department Chair Susan Waterhouse shares, “Larry was a great addition to the math department, bringing a physicist and applied math perspective to his math teaching. Larry was always seen connecting with students in the hallway, whether he was greeting students with a fist bump, asking robotics students about the design of a robot part, or sitting down to help an algebra student through a problem, he was always connecting and sharing joy about learning. Larry has a great sense of humor and good fun was had at department meetings. I’ll also note that he was a super advisor to my child.” Colleague Jake Norton adds, “Not only could Larry dabble in science and math, his grammar and syntax knowledge boiled over in department comment editing sessions. These last few years have crystalized that Larry has been like what general relativity and quantum mechanics are to physics—foundational. I will miss Larry. He was a steady presence and I enjoyed his dry humor.” We will all miss Larry’s dry humor, wit, and his care for students and this community. We wish you well in your retirement, Larry!

Archives Acquisition

In February of this year, the Archives was contacted by **Deb LaFountain**, Westtown Class of 1969, about Quaker ephemera from the 18th century which discussed the founding of a Friends boarding school in Chester County that was coming up for auction. We were immediately interested to learn more about these documents and Deb was able to arrange for members of the Class of 1969 to visit the auction house to view the papers. Closer examination revealed that these documents are four meeting extracts from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, dated 1794-1799, which record discussions regarding the need for and establishment of Westtown School.

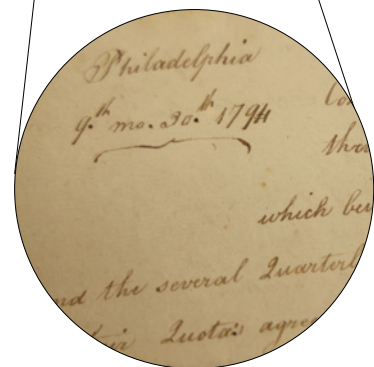
Though the Archives does not normally purchase acquisitions, the school has, on occasion, made arrangements to purchase items of significant historical value to Westtown. While we explored options for the school to purchase the documents, Deb LaFountain jumped into action and began reaching out to members of the Class of 1969 to collect donations—in honor of members of the class who have passed away—for the purchase of these papers. They were able to raise more than enough money to purchase the documents and the materials needed to protect and store the papers. We are deeply appreciative of the Class of 1969 and Deb LaFountain for ensuring that these documents are available for future generations of Westonians to read and study.

If you have visited the Esther Duke Archives, you know that it has a fascinating collection of materials from Westtown's history. Items include school publications, letters, photographs, committee meeting minutes, and student work. Students in all three divisions do research using the resources in the Archives. This is a unique opportunity for students to use primary source materials in their research and connect it directly to their experience at Westtown. The Archives also supports outside researchers, studying topics such as the history of education in the United States, material culture in America, and (of course) Quaker history. Westtown School has also played an important role in West Chester and Westtown Township history and is often included in history tours of the area. Possibly our most common outside guests to the Archives are sampler guilds from around the country, who come to see the Archives collection of student samplers and globes.

While we are very fortunate to have as extensive an Archives' collection as we do, the Archives is always looking for additional unique materials that capture Westtown's history. This is where our community members can help. Do you have letters, photos, scrapbooks, or other memorabilia that capture the student or faculty/staff experience at Westtown? Would you be willing to donate these materials to Westtown? Given our space restrictions, we are generally not able to accept copies of yearbooks or published books about Westtown, but would love to discuss other materials that you might be interested in donating to the Archives. You can reach School Archivist **Sara Mullen** at sara.mullen@westtown.edu or **Victoria Jones**, Director of Library Services, at victoria.jones@westtown.edu.

The mission of the Esther Duke Archives to capture and make available Westtown's history depends on the continued support of members of the Westtown community both past and present. We are deeply appreciative of the Class of 1969 for their purchase and donation of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting extracts and we hope that everyone will consider visiting the Archives to explore its unique collection.

—Victoria Jones '90



Details from the Meeting extracts from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 1794

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, 2024! 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 **Ellen Urbanski**, Dean of Advancement at ellen.urbanski@westtown.edu. Thank you!



BY THE NUMBERS

Total contributions
are now

\$60.2M
on our ambitious
goal of
\$62M

This includes
contributions from

5,006
donors, including
1,588
first-time donors

14
gifts of
\$1M
or more

CLASS OF

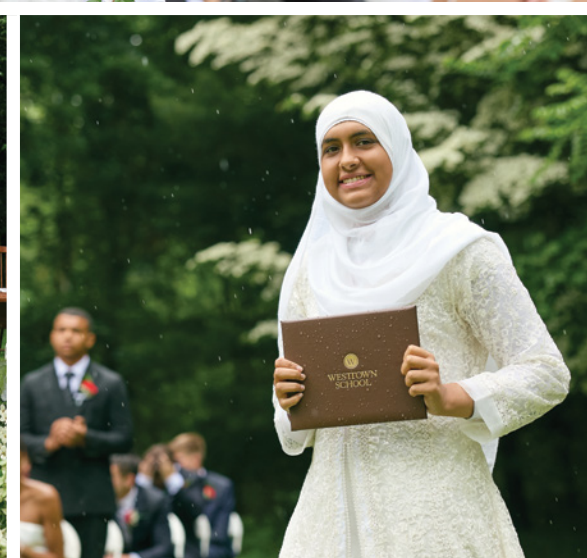
2022



5







CLASS OF
20
25



Graduation Essays

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

WILLIAM BRADLEY SR.

I want to start today by telling you about my favorite moment of every Thursday this year. There's a brief window of time right around the end of dinner when the sun is still clinging to the horizon and the usual roar of conversation in the Dining Room has settled into a low murmur. From my perch over on the Work Program high chair, about as far to the end of the room as you can get, everything seems completely still. It's a feeling that seems entirely foreign to our lives at school. As students, as athletes, as artists, and as friends, we are thrown from one thing to another with what can feel like scarcely enough time to breathe. And so free time becomes a luxury and a resource, as carefully scheduled and balanced as our meetings and classes. Choosing to be still and do nothing with that precious time can feel like a waste, but I think that sometimes it's the best thing we can do.

I want to jump north for a bit up to Deerfield, Massachusetts. My parents and I were up there this summer for an event centered on spiritual listening and growth. I was more than welcome at their meetings and meals and tossing around a frisbee, but for the most part I was left to my own devices. So I got bored and I looked for ways to fill the time. I'd go on my phone or read a little, I whittled, I went on some walks, and eventually I decided

to go on a run, after all I had the perfect conditions: hilly trails, cool temperatures, and just enough shade. So I went for a run and it was amazing—for the first 15 minutes. But hills are hills and I got winded and cramped and pushed through it until I couldn't push anymore. Eventually I paused my music and collapsed on a patch of moss near the top of that latest hill. I lay there gasping for air, and as it came back to me and my breaths drew quieter and my heartbeat left my ears I noticed it: nothing. Everything around me, all the noise and all the movement, had seemed to crash down into that moss with me, and all that was left was a complete and utter stillness. The sound came back eventually, if slowly. Wind blew through the trees and birds sang in their branches. There was movement too, those same trees swayed in the breeze and everywhere there were signs of animals moving in the underbrush. These all sound like simple observations, and in truth they are, but I had been completely oblivious to them just a few moments ago. Only by sitting still could I have hoped to hear and see all the life around me.

Let's go back to the Dining Room and to that perfect twilight peace because in truth it wasn't really quiet or particularly still, it never is in the Dining Room. Just like in the woods, once I've settled into stillness the moment makes its way



back in. I start to notice the voices and laughter, the smiles or shocked looks on peoples faces, all the little groups huddled around their tables enjoying each other's presence. Again, this is not some profound observation; anyone at any time could peek in the Dining Room and see that people were having fun. But it's too easy to miss, and too common to take it for granted or to let it be muddled by all your own worries or conversations. And so, once again, I feel I can only truly appreciate it when I myself am completely still.

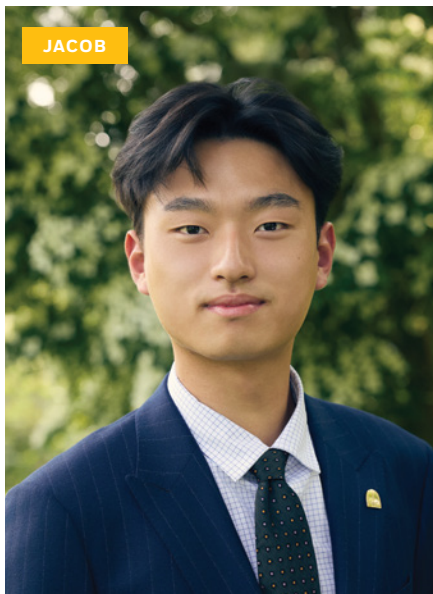
I've gone on for long enough so I think it's about time to get to the point of all of this. We should all try to do nothing more often, more now than ever. High school can be full of stress and excitement and long nights, and for those of us going off to college there's even more of that waiting. Life itself is so full of possibilities and distractions and beauties mostly missed. So at some point, maybe not today or tomorrow or even this year, but at some point, take some time to do nothing. It can be boring, you might feel like you're wasting your time. But if you let yourself be completely still you may yet notice something new. Thank you.

JACOB YUTAO LIU

I sit, facing the walls of my room. White plaster under off-white paint, fully blank. A big pane of white fluorescent light hangs overhead. A room where I didn't quite belong, nor did I care for yet. My two suitcases stand unpacked next to me quietly. Two hours earlier, I had dragged my suitcases from the back of a limo van. I wandered the main building in circles, unsure which end was west or east. Just before I started a third lap, Teacher Jess stopped me and pointed me to the Upper School office, where I received my room key and keycard. Without knowing how to operate the elevator, I dragged my suitcases, seventy pounds each, one by one up to E3.

Westtown had been a strange place from my first visit. I waddled alone behind two tour guides, my blazer left in the Admission Office, but my tie still on—as awkward as an outfit can be. I vaguely remember passing the Meeting House, where the faculty were in service; walking to the athletic center, seeing the basketball court, and thinking to myself that I had and probably would never touch a basketball in my life; walking by Industrial Hall and through Main Building to see the classrooms, the Dining Room, and the library, not knowing that I'd spend the next three years here.

My application, let alone admission to Westtown, was already a surprise by itself. The day I got the email, I sat in a cold stairwell in Vermont. In front of me was a frosted window pane, with bars of iron prohibiting any form of escape. The industrial stairwell was chilly, illuminated with fluorescent lights, setting the stage for my act. I opened my email expecting a letter like the ones my middle school friends received from other preparatory high schools: filled with admissions officer signatures and school insignias and logos. Teacher Jodie's email shocked me. It was in capital letters, with emojis of colorful balloons, confetti, and party poppers. They stood in stark contrast to the white background, throwing



a party in my inbox. It was an invitation that I thought I wanted to deny at the time.

Droplets of tears spelled grief out on the concrete stairs that I sat on. Specifically, the fifth stage of grief: acceptance that is not mine. Westtown had accepted me, yet I hadn't accepted Westtown. My phone beeped with the admissions news of my friends. My friends, who were either good at sports or academics or both, who had big aspirations and wanted to go to big places. I, on the other hand, scrambled to even find enough material to apply to high schools because it was my first year in the United States. This, however, only made my heart heavier. I grieved not for my acceptance, but rather for a lack of choice. I had two options: go back to China or Thailand to continue high school there, or take up Westtown.

I sat in my dorm room, confused. It was the second day of orientation, and I didn't understand at all why I was here. Opening my door, I turned right to see the middle lounge of E3, where rays of sunlight poured through a pane of glass in the ceiling. I sat down, overwhelmed—not just by the empty, unfamiliar lounge, but also the realization of how much of my time here was stretched out ahead of me. I looked up at the glass pane: a passive acceptance of

the space. Though Westtown had opened its arms in an attempt to accept me, I didn't quite understand what my role was at Westtown, and therefore was unable to understand why it tried to accept me in the first place.

In the next few months, I slipped into a rhythm and operated as a cog in the machine. In my view, Westtown operated itself with little need for a new sophomore's assistance. My days were repetitive: bells, classes, meals, sports, lights out, occasionally dozing off in Meetings for Worship, and getting pulled into clubs and affinity groups that, frankly, I didn't quite have an affinity for yet. My days were ones of bargaining: If I arrived to classes on time, ate proper meals, went to my meetings, and completed study hall—would I survive as a member here? I was a side character in a black-and-white film, wandering the halls tirelessly without an objective until the vibrant colors of the Lunar New Year celebration first bled into my gray vignettes.

Wearing red and holding two drumsticks, with half a day of rehearsal running through my head, I marched down a barely cleared path through the Dining Room—dodging chairs and weaving between tables. The whole space was glowing in red: lanterns, tablecloths, scrolls hanging from the doors. Behind me came the lion, draped in red velvet with yellow fringe, teasing and playing with students along the aisle. It blinked. It bowed, while I tried not to laugh until we finally made it out.

Earlier that day, I'd been in the kitchen cutting vegetables—until I was, somewhat unwillingly, invited and roped into cooking sample dishes for dinner. As smoke rose from the pan while I stirred and added ingredients, for a second it felt like I was home, making dinner with my mom. Except this time, I wasn't the sous-chef. I was in charge. That night, sitting at the international students' table and looking at the food I'd helped create, something shifted. I realized that I'd taken part in shaping Westtown. And maybe, by

participating, I was beginning to accept what it meant to belong here. Belonging wasn't a one-time occurrence, but rather a slow, quiet, and step-by-step expansion of the space I occupied at Westtown.

Piece by piece, I started putting decorations on a blank wall. Varsity letters, award certificates, and a collection of items that I'd gathered to show what I've become here at Westtown. A collage of achievements that slowly multiplied itself and crept to all parts of the wall; a shrine that I honored myself; a scroll that told a story of change from black and white to technicolor, a story that weaved itself together.

Before I knew it, I was a part of the lion dance again in my junior year, but not as a drummer or a dancer. Instead, I oversaw the lion dance, accepting my role of organizing new students to take part in celebrations as an International Students Organization Head. On the day of Lunar New Year, we practiced for the entire afternoon. First clumsy, then fluid—their movements mirrored how I was a year ago. Though I can't imagine what stage of grief these freshmen were going through, I hoped that my efforts might help them find something I had once searched for: the first brush of color, of warmth, and of being seen. To be accepted, and then to accept in return.

ALANA THOMFORDE

Feet dangling off the uncomfortable wooden bench, twiddling my thumbs, the silence surrounded me. Not an uncomfortable silence like when you meet someone for the first time and are struggling to find the right words to say to make conversation. A silence that was neither good nor bad, everyone was just one with the silence. A voice erupted the silence: "As Meeting comes to a close, we invite anyone to share words of thanksgivings, anyone you would like to hold in the light, or any information to the general meeting community." My four-year-old self hoisted myself off the bench and faced the familiar faces of Quakerly friends. With

all the seriousness a four-year-old could muster, I exclaimed, "Party at my family's restaurant after meeting!" Had there been a pre-planned party? Of course not, but after my four years of life within the London Grove Meeting community, I considered these people my friends, though most were over the age of 70. The warmth and inclusiveness I felt from this community resonated with me.

My meeting house had 300-year-old oak tree in the center of the lawn, outside the entrance of the meeting house. This tree was a constant in my life, seen in the background of family photos, on the London Grove Meeting House sweatshirts, and of course every Sunday walking into Meeting. But, like my Quaker identity, I began to overlook the massive oak tree, not appreciating its resilience or the roots it had with the community around it.

As I transitioned to public school, I felt a disconnect from the warmth and community that exists in the Quaker teachings. Westtown has always intrigued me—not only because of the great education, but it also offered a chance to reconnect myself to my Quaker identity.

From the moment I stepped onto Westtown's campus during orientation, something shifted. In Peace and Justice and Quakerism classes, I was reintroduced to ideals I had grown up with. Phrases like "hold in the light" began to deeply resonate with me again, but this time I understood their deeper meanings. Slowly, as I learned the deeper meanings of Quakerism, I started to reclaim that identity.

I began to accept my identity and inner light, making it easier to see the inner light of others within the community. I started to weave these practices into my daily life. The silence and tranquility of Meeting for Worship allowed for my inner thoughts to freely flow. When other peers and teachers stood, often mentioning topics I was pondering myself, the idea of a shared truth became to mean much more for me. In discussions of equity in classes, such as Environmental Justice and World

Religions, I was taught how to consider other perspectives unlike my own and that the light shines in everyone. Another example would be calling our teachers by their first names, as it proliferates the belief that we are all equal and deserving of respect.

In the beginning of my junior year, the grand oak tree at my home meeting house fell. The tree that had been a symbol of Quakerism for many Friends within the Chester County community for many decades. For me, the falling of this tree symbolized something more than an old tree dying of old age—it symbolized a warning. It demonstrated to me the importance of continuing the teachings of Quaker Friends as everyday practices.

The next Meeting for Worship I stood up. This time, I did not invite the community to a lunch. Instead, prompted by the Women's History Month queries, I spoke from the heart and thanked my female coaches for the monumental impact they have had on my life. It was a full-circle moment from the excited four year old girl at that bench to a young adult finding my space and voice within Quakerism again.

My journey through the Quaker religion did not stop at me speaking in Meeting for Worship for the first time.



It began to manifest through all aspects of my life, through leadership and advocacy, I began to look for and use my voice to uplift the voices that often go unheard within the community. Most importantly, the Westtown community showed me what it truly meant to consider every one a “friend.”

It is known that senior year often comes with the stress of college applications, maintaining good grades, and finding time to enjoy the last year of high school. For me, my senior year was exceptionally stressful—not because of the normal stressors, but also extreme family circumstances. Through all the stress of these challenges, the Westtown community stepped up for me and became not only a community, but a family. From teachers, advisors, and coaches frequently checking in on me, friends bringing me treats to cheer me up, and even to friends and mentors offering me their houses to live at while I battled these challenges. This extended kindness and consideration showed me what it means to be engulfed within a community.

Now Quakerism is no longer just something of my past, it is something that guides my present and shapes my future. I am proud of my identity, I am proud of the way Westtown helped me to refine my identity, and I am proud of the way it encourages me to seek the light within everyone. Westtown taught me that Quakerism is not just about sitting in silence; rather, it is about how to support others in community because of the unwavering belief that there is goodness within everyone and give a voice to those who often go unheard. The openness and commitment to seeing a person fully has been forever ingrained into me, and it's something that I will carry with me long after I walk out of the Greenwood.

As the class of 2025 moves on from the comfort of Westtown's community, I hope that like the formidable oak tree outside my meeting house, this class remains rooted in its beliefs as we continue to branch out to new communities and

grow into the world, relentlessly working towards a better tomorrow.

VALEDICTORIAN WAMDZU OVWORI

Greetings and salutations, good people. I am honored to have been given this opportunity, and I am definitely not nervous because I have rehearsed this speech more times than I forgot to sign in at Class Collection this year. Well that might be an exaggeration, because I forgot a lot of times. I am grateful to my classmates for electing me for this position, and to my family for being present when it was announced that I would be valedictorian—even though they thought it would be funny to tell me they would not be there. I wouldn't be standing here today without the many teachers, students, and family who paved the way. I'll give a little shout out to my dad and mom for bringing me to this school and so on. I am specifically thankful to my dad for driving me to several stores to find just the right suit to wear today. I would also like to thank my advisor Teacher Steve [Compton], for being one of the first impressions I had of Westtown and guiding me during my time here. Being in his advisory was a golden experience where he brought life to every advisory meeting by discussing just about anything except the suggested questions. I'm also grateful to Teacher Louisa [Egan Brad], who provided the resources needed for me to experience Westtown School to the fullest, and assisted me in getting into my dream school. I consider myself not lucky but blessed to be in this position.

Over the past three years I spent at this school, I met all kinds of interesting people. I met someone who makes art out of trash, someone with an amazing singing voice, someone who knows everything about trees, someone who can write entertaining stories, someone who knows how to take amazing photographs, someone who can do a bird call that sounds incredibly real, and so much more. I learned that greatness comes in many forms, abilities, and powers.



When I first arrived, I was overwhelmed and worried about how I would find my place. Everyone seemed to already know each other and friend groups seemed to have already been established. I often felt outshined by others with their amazing skills. I believed that because I wasn't talented in areas where others were, it meant I was unfit to be here. To put it into 2K terms, I felt like an NPC in everyone else's MyCareer. Today I know that the realest form of skill comes not mimicking others, but from developing one's own path. In more understandable words, it's better to be like Miles Morales and say, “Nah, imma do my own thing.” One thing I love about this community is that it helps people find their domain, and creates an environment for them to expand it. People with talent, or even just courage, have ways of showcasing their abilities. It was at this school that I was able to find my love for the guitar and demonstrate that passion by awkwardly singing and playing “Blackbird” by the Beatles at the most recent coffee house. When I stopped thinking everyone was better than me and learned to develop my own strengths and traits, I found the sense of belonging that I had been looking for. The Bible says, “People look at external things but God

looks at the heart.” For anyone who is still trying to match the performance of others, I would advise them to look inward towards what their own heart truly says. After all, there is a reason the song says “do your thing 21” instead of “do 22’s thing, 21.” Instead of trying to match the performance of others, I encourage us today to follow our own instinct.

There is a story about Einstein writing nine math problems on the board for his class, purposely making one of them incorrect. When his class laughed at him, he used that moment to explain to them how society loves to focus on mistakes and problems, even if many other things are right. I’m sure all of us in some way or another have been lectured about “accountability,” “senioritis,” or “being better role models.” I admit all of these things are important to talk about, but for once I want to highlight the achievements of the senior class rather than the mistakes. Many of us showed up to this school during our freshman year, coming from all different parts of America and even other countries. Some started at Westtown much earlier than that, and others later. I’m aware that this classes’ freshman year was filled with COVID restrictions that may have limited overall enjoyment. Despite all this, we were still able to create such a vibrant community. Friendships feel genuine and open rather than excluding. Unlike some cliché Disney high school movie, students don’t just stay in their own lane and stick to cliques. There are no “popular kids” or “nerdy kids” like the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books convinced me there would be. All students can be seen speaking to all students, even if they don’t necessarily hang out or share similar interests. It’s common to be dapped-up, high-fived, or just engaged in conversation with someone who isn’t necessarily your best buddy, but brightens your day since you may not always talk to them. I admire our senior class for the way it makes everyone feel included and welcome. We also did a great job at creating a sense

of community, especially in the last few months. Our class officers, SBP’s [Student Body Presidents], and faculty went out of their way to organize events that would bring us together. Things like last-senior-standing created engaging tension within the community. During the senior art exhibition, I saw many seniors coming out to support their friends’ art and enjoy the space. Even just last week, many seniors gathered to play childhood games like freeze-tag and red-light green-light. We didn’t always need to be told to engage in community, because we genuinely wanted to show up and enjoy each other’s presence.

Something else I admire is our attitude towards hardship. Although we as a class tried to get our finals removed, we were unfortunately unable to. We calmly accepted that we had to do finals, and even had a member of our class speak in the last Meeting for Worship to advise the rising juniors to try harder. I consistently saw my peers putting in hours in order to make sure they were ready for their exams, just out of pure love of the game and not out of worry for grades. There’s something that one of my friends told me about grades that stuck with me, and I quote: “It’s a matter of principle. I don’t like seeing a C on my transcript.” Getting a good grade wasn’t necessarily about impressing college or our parents, it was about impressing ourselves and meeting the expectations that we believed we could achieve. I hope that this attitude is something that inspires future high school seniors.

The world loves to stop time just to highlight wrongs and mistakes, so it is always good to give appreciation when things have been done right. I encourage the seniors today to stand proud in their achievements both individually and as a whole. To everyone else, my lesson to you from this is to not be afraid to pat yourself on the back when you do something well.

To my senior classmates, I advise you all to not let yourselves expire after graduation. Allow me to explain this strange

word choice. About two weeks ago, me and a friend of mine at dinner noticed that my carton of chocolate milk expired on the same day as graduation, June 7, 2025. We thought this was funny, almost as if the chocolate milk was graduating with us. This moment might seem rather trivial, but it made me realize something. Even though our journey of high school is over, this is not just an end but also a beginning. For many of us, it is the beginning of our college journey. For others, the future may entail something else. To expire in this context means to spoil or go bad, but my hope is that the end of high school will spark in each of us change for the better and not worse. I’ve been blessed by the voices of the Westtown choir, the dances of Elements Dance Company, the amazing art at the recent art show, and the many sports games. I know all of us have amazing skills and hobbies, so don’t give up on them just because we are leaving Westtown. This summer I encourage you all to move well, study well, play well, eat well, and rest well, because your future endeavors deserve the best you, not the expired you.

I’m grateful I got to experience you all in my high school years. Fellow seniors, I wish I could stick around and see the kind of people you all become, but now it is time for me to say goodbye. Shine on, you crazy diamonds.





All in the Family

- (1) Emily Kessler '25, David Kessler '90
- (2) Melinda Wenner Bradley '88 (FF), William Bradley '25, James Bradley '22, Amanda K. Wenner '90
- (3) Renee Burgos '96 (FF), Sofia Burgos '25, Jamila Burgos '27, Francisco Burgos (BOT)
- (4) James Hancock '91, Lyon Hancock '25
- (5) Mark Pocharski, Callum Eager '26, Amelia Eager '23, Aidan Eager '25, Marpa Eager '86, Susan Pocharski, Sandra Pocharski
- (6) Chris Benbow '90 (CF), Francisco Benbow '25, Santiago Benbow '23, Alejandra Navarro-Benbow (FF)
- (7) Peter Sharples, William Sharples '83, John Sharples '25, Corie Sharples
- (8) Heather Burt '88, Mira Hartmann '25

Not pictured: Nathaniel Shroeder '25, Thayer Schroeder '91

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



Back In 'Town

Alums Weekend 2025

BY ELLEN URBANSKI, DEAN OF ADVANCEMENT



More than 400 alums, friends, and family members traveled to Westtown May 16-18 from near and far to celebrate Alums Weekend 2025. Festivities kicked off on Friday morning with the Family and Friends Admission event. The Admission team hosted families for information sessions and tours of campus with an eye toward future applications. Friday evening, current students and WAA (Westtown Alums Association) Board members welcomed friends to the Upper and Middle School Dance Performance. The performance was a smashing success, featuring seniors as soloists. Also on Friday

evening, recent graduates reconnected at Pub Night with trivia and lawn games at Staats House.

On Saturday morning, a Memorial Meeting for Worship was held celebrating the lives of Westonians who had passed away since the last memorial meeting in May 2024. Following Meeting for Worship, the WAA Annual Meeting commenced in the Barton-Test Theater. During this time, three WAA Board members who were honored for completing their service to the WAA Board. We are grateful to **Rachna Kota '15**, **Tim James '63**, and **Sophia Elek '15** for their work and dedication

to the WAA Board during their leadership terms. Each received a lovely **Fred Weyman '75** framed original photo of Westtown lake. We welcome **Tracy Jackson '83** and **Kavi Gandhi '21** who have assumed the roles of WAA Board Clerk and Associate Clerk, respectively.

Head of School **Chris Benbow '90**, celebrating his 35th reunion, shared a school update during the Annual Meeting. An exciting addition to this year's WAA Annual Meeting was a presentation by the SHoP Architects' **Corie Sharples** regarding the new dining building. Corie described the comprehensive design plans, the needs

REUNION

2025

Full album online





CLASS OF 1975 celebrates its 50th reunion; left: alum/community field hockey team played on the new turf fields at the Oak Lane Athletic Complex

that have driven the building's design, as well as next steps.

The Annual Meeting also spotlighted the incredible generosity of members of the Class of 1975! **Brenda Perkins** and **Chris Cryer** presented Westtown with a class gift of \$444,000. This included a scholarship of \$200,000 set up by a classmate, as well as donations to The C. Thomas Kaesemeyer Full Access Fund in honor of **Jay Farrow '75**. The class's generosity will have a long-lasting impact on the school's

financial capacity and we are grateful for their thoughtful support.

Although the day began with cloudy skies, by lunch the weather had turned warm and sunny. The classes of 1975 and above joined together for lunch in the Dining Room while other classes and friends gathered on the Belfry Lawn. Lunch was prepared and served by our wonderful Dining Services team. The student-led Grill Club donated time to provide fun fare, while raising money for

West Chester Food Cupboard. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, the Club donated \$351 to this charity! Everyone had a wonderful time sharing memories and reconnecting with friends.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees enjoyed a variety of events, blending Westtown's traditions—such as canoeing and walks through campus—with new opportunities like a field hockey game at the new Oak Lane Athletic complex and tours of the newly opened Center for the Living Arts.

Throughout the afternoon, the Student Ambassador team hosted the tours of the Center for the Living Arts. Art-passionate seniors served as subject matter experts in the areas of theater, dance, music, visual arts, and the Multidisciplinary Arts Deep Dive program. **Sarah Bourne Rafferty '00**, the McLear Artist in Residence, held a well-attended and celebratory artist talk in the Lower Gallery. Sarah's talk focused on the work she had done in collaboration with Upper School students, and her exhibit showcased Westtown's campus flora through cyanotype prints.

The field hockey team hosted attendees on the new Oak Lane turf fields. Current students, coaches, and Athletic Director **Mich Canuso-Bedesem** led fun drills and a short scrimmage. This was the first



opportunity the team had to enjoy the new turf fields; it was memorable to do so with many alums who had enjoyed field hockey during their time at Westtown!

Westtown's Equity, Justice, and Belonging team hosted Belonging is Sweet, an event for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Alums in the Science Center. Attendees enjoyed time in community, while learning more about Westtown's student and family affinity groups.

Many attended—in-person or virtually—Quaker Life at Westtown sessions held in the Meeting House throughout the afternoon. The sessions included, Quaker Education at Westtown; Quakerism and Equity, Justice, and Belonging; and Quakerism and Sustainability.

On Saturday, festivities concluded with s'mores at the lake and the Class of 1975's 50th reunion celebration. The weekend concluded on Sunday with breakfast in the Dining Room, followed by Meeting for Worship.



In the weeks leading up to and throughout Alums Weekend, more than 100 students helped with preparation, set up, breakdown, and the overall hosting of alums on campus. A special thanks to them and all of our volunteers who help make this event so special!

We look forward to hosting Alums Weekend May 15-17, 2026! We will celebrate class reunion years ending in 1s and 6s, with a special celebration to lift up the Class of 1976 for the 50th reunion.

Changemaker Award

Nominees for the Young Alum Changemaker Awards are considered by the WAA Board and recipients are selected on the basis of their demonstrated commitment to Westtown's mission, especially their dedication to the Quaker calling to seek out and honor that of God in all, and their leadership and stewardship of a better world. We are excited to share that during the WAA Annual Meeting, **Keya Acharya '16** received the 2025 Young Alum Changemaker Award!

While at Westtown, Keya served as Work Program Head, Stage Manager, and as a member of the Scenic Arts Design team. Keya was also known at Westtown for their creative writing, and was a member of the Spoken Word Club. Keya graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 2020, and while there demonstrated their passion for human rights by serving as co-facilitator of writing workshops at the Westchester Correctional Facility. In 2024, Keya earned a master's in social work from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and is now a psychotherapist practicing in New York state. In their last year of graduate school, Keya began a fundraising campaign, now in its thirteenth round, to help two families in Gaza. The families have used these funds not only for their own survival, but they have also helped their community by getting a water tank, well, and food for the community. Keya received a framed photograph of the Westtown Meeting House taken by Fred Weyman '75.

Class Notes

Class Notes are compiled by the Advancement Office.

The submission deadline for this issue was July 1, 2025; information received after that date will appear in the next issue of *The Westonian*.



Left to Right: Sam Wood III '79, Eric Stonestrom '78, Barbara James Stonestrom '43, David Stonestrom '71, Peter Stonestrom '68

1943 In May 2025, friends and family gathered at Barclay Friends in West Chester, Pennsylvania, to celebrate the 100th birthday of **Barbara James Stonestrom '43**. Among those who attended were several Westonians, including Barbara's sons **Peter Stonestrom '68**, **David Stonestrom '71**, and **Eric Stonestrom '78**, family friend

Sam Wood III '79, and Westtown Advancement Staff member, Ray Slater.

SUBMIT A
CLASS NOTE...

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

Email:
alums@westtown.edu

We look forward to
hearing from you!

a sophisticated resort, Rehoboth Beach, and what a different life that was. Westtown was a place where I learned about issues that mattered. The outside world became visible. My first experience was with **Koichi Tsunoda '54 (d)**, from Tokyo, Japan, in 1950. I swung him off his feet at the square dance welcome party. I vividly recalled what our country had done to his hometown. This



Karl Striedieck '55 with his "Winter Companion"

action consumed me in thought. My lessons were from the actions of teachers, not what they taught. Sitting at a mixed table, I learned about death—a classmate had cancer of the back—emotions, love, all while Master Harry presided. We would start every meal with a prayer, Teddy lay on a blanket, and talked about his pain as it progressed; it was riveting. We loved him. He left days before he died! Our Master from England, Ernie Kalabala, a witness to World War II bombing, addressed the prejudice of his dating a white student in a meeting. It was profound; everyone loved him. Just a few of the remembrances that have guided me in my life."

1955 **Jim Forsythe '55** writes, "Joanie and I have recently relocated from Chester County to Ohio. New address: 880 Main Street, Apt 206, Wadsworth, OH 44281. We're now only fifteen minutes from our daughter and two hours from our son. We're both in decent health but benefit from family attention and care. Sorry to have missed the reunion. Wishing all the best to surviving classmates."

Karl Striedieck '55 writes, "Still (for 59 years) enjoying life at 'Eagle Field,' just west of State College, Pennsylvania. Flying for fun continues, and I also give instruction on a form of launching

gliders called winch launch (see: karls-triedieck.com). A Westtown-inspired interest in raptors continues with falconry. Every fall, I trap a red-tailed hawk, train it to hunt with me, and then release it back to the wild in the spring. Another raptor interest is counting golden eagles passing here during the fall migration (see: hawkcount.org). Sorry to miss the 70th. Shooting for the 75th."

1956 **Jean Yaukey Matlack '56** and

Jim Matlack '56 write, "A few big changes in our life and routines, living in the Quarry Hill Retirement Community in Camden, Maine. Some health issues, but overall, we feel grateful to be going strong at 88. After a long summer acquaintance with this area, we are pleased to be in such a beautiful setting. The family cottage on a nearby lake brings relays of Matlacks through each summer. Jim works on tribal/state issues with a network of Quaker activists, along with various roles in the local Quaker meeting. He is still engaged with the Camden Conference, which stages an annual conference. Jean is a member of the local Unitarian Church and works hard with the Midcoast Maine Green Burial group, which she helped to create. Our larger family is celebrating two weddings of a grandchild this year, one in New Orleans and the other in Cambridge, England. Any traveling classmates are welcome to visit with advance notice."

1959 **Terry Irwin '59** writes, "After thirty-one years in Jacksonville, Florida, most with Northwestern Mutual, I retired and moved to Concord, New Hampshire, to be with my granddaughters, who are now 25. In early 2024, we moved to RiverWoods, CCRC in Exeter, New Hampshire. It's a great move—comfortable apartment, a diverse and talented group of residents, and many, many new friends. From boxing, strength and



Class of 1959 66th Mini-Reunion – Richard Ruth, Lydia (Thumper) Gerenbeck Ruth, Bunny Test Lawton, Gail Young McMahon, Dan Hogenauer, Penny Orth, and David Leonard, with Ruth Laug joining via phone.

balance, to poetry, to Great Decisions, the days are challenging. While in Concord, Cynn timer and I became involved with four refugee sisters from Congo. We are now ‘grandparents’ to three children. Twice a week, I am in Concord tutoring Rwandans in passing their citizenship exam or ESL. Life is good and full. I appreciate Westtown’s role in cultivating a social conscience in me.”

Marjorie Hibbard Lauer ’59 writes, “Daughter Mary and I are going to Switzerland for a week at the end of June to see my son Jeremy and his family, including the four-year-old grandson. Due to AMD, my vision is extremely poor, and I am unable to read print material. I do use the iOS voice app, and I subscribe to the National Library of Science app for people with visual disabilities. I can get nearly all the books I’m interested in for free, read to me online. I guess we are all celebrating our collective 84th birthdays this year. Have a happy one!”

Penny Orth ’59 writes, “The Class of 1959 had a mini-reunion at the 2025 Alums Weekend. **Penny Norrington Orth ’59** and Joe Orth came up from Williamsburg, Virginia, and stayed with **Lydia (Thumper) Gerenbeck Ruth ’59** and Richard Ruth. On Saturday night, Thumper, Richard, Penny, and Joe were joined by **Dan Hogenauer ’59**, **Bunny Test Lawton ’59**, **Dave Leonard ’59**, **Gail Young McCahan ’59**, and Joe McCahan at the Ruths. It was a wonderful time on the Ruths’ sun porch, reminiscing about

our time at Westtown 66 years ago. We plan to continue these mini-reunions at the Alums Weekends each year until our 70th reunion, so plan to come!!”

Ricky Van Doren Sites ’59 writes, “This has been a year of tremendous transition both globally and personally! My husband passed away after multiple serious health issues, and I am adjusting to a new and simplified (thank goodness) lifestyle. I moved from a labor-intensive home and yard to a small footprint and a manageable garden in Suquamish, Washington. I’m loving the friendly neighborhood situated on the Port Madison Indian Reservation, a ferry boat ride away from Seattle. I am finding time to participate in the local ‘pantry’ at the church next door, a new book club, tending neighbors’ gardens while they vacation (including enjoying their harvest), clamming at the local beach, and weekend get-togethers with family. The 59ers Chat Group (ZOOM meetings) every other Sunday has been a wonderful way to stay in touch with the ‘Westtown’ news. Any Westonians headed west that might like a ‘guided tour’ of the area, please feel free to contact me.”

1960 Sheila Ashley ’60 writes, “Thank you for all the fun activities for our 65th reunion. Lots of folks appeared for this monumental event. I trust we will get a good turnout for the 70th! See you then if not before! Love to all, stay safe and be well!”

CLASS NOTES



Jared Wolf ’60 at Yosemite NP, temperature 100+

Francy Williams ’60 writes, “It’s hot this summer, here in Woodstock, New York, but patches of shade and an occasional breeze from the woods bring a sigh of relief. I’m living next door to my daughter and family for the summer, keeping busy in the gardens, and riding as a licensed driver, with my granddaughter when she goes to the gym twice a week. I plan to hike around Lake Minnewaska and recall the couple of summers **Rayne Farquhar Darcy ’60 (d)** and I waitressed at the old Cliff House hotel at the top of the mountain, overlooking the lake. The hotels are both gone now, but the property is preserved as a State Park.

It was great fun to gather for our 65th reunion at Westtown and Kendal. Much gratitude to Westtown staff, **Bert and Dotsy Bacon ’60**, and **Bertie Bonner ’60 and Hugh Bonner ’57**, for providing great food and good venues for visiting. We had fun coming up with slogans for our political protest signs, thanks to Bertie’s redesign of our yearbook mascot guy. Hope someone got a photo! Sending greetings to all reading this, especially those who were unable to attend in person. You were likely mentioned in our recollections.”

Jared Wolf ’60 writes, “I was glad to see twelve others from our class at Alums Weekend! As happens to people of our age, the past few years have been a time of change for me. I lost my wife, Lynne, to ALS a couple of years ago, after 55 years of marriage. In March, I sold my house and moved to an independent-living

CLASS NOTES

apartment in Carleton-Willard Village, a Kendalesque CCRC right here in my town of Bedford, Massachusetts. Moving and downsizing from a 4-bedroom house (replete with attic and full cellar) after 50 years of residence was overwhelming, but I survived somehow. I'm glad I don't have to do that again. New address: 311 Winthrop Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730. Mobile: 781-258-2929."

1961 Christina (Chris) Knight '61 writes, "As I'm writing this on June 26, we are celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary and have just come home to our apartment from joining others at an anniversary party for those celebrating 50 years or more. We moved to The Overlook in Charlton, Massachusetts, in October 2022. It's a CCRC and we are enjoying it so much, making new friends, choosing to participate in a variety of activities, and I don't cook anymore! We were in Sturbridge for 53 years and are still active in our church and staying close to friends there because we are only six miles away. **Debra Knight '85** is still in Southbridge, only six miles away, and **Jennifer Knight Polimeno '88** and family are now in Tewksbury, an hour away. Two grandchildren are recent college graduates, and one is a college junior. Life is very full, and though we are slowing down a bit with a few aches and pains, we are grateful for being here as 'we walk each other home!' We welcome you to visit!"

Chuck Peterson '61 In Memoriam: "The world needs more Westonians, and Chuck's life was a paradigmatic example of how Westonians give back to the world. Chuck made a transcontinental trip from Seattle to attend Westtown (no small achievement in 1957). The trip was worth it for both Westtown and Chuck. At Westtown, he was a good and valued friend and an important contributor to school life. He swam distance events for the varsity swim team, served as editor-in-chief of the *Brown and White*, and was elected senior class president. In addition, he developed a valued side gig by teaching himself tonsorial skills. He



Peter Lindes '62, and wife Bianka pictured with two of their children, one nephew, their spouses, and seven grandchildren. (Family in California, Ohio, and Guatemala not included.)

became the barber for many of us, saving us from being scalped in West Chester.

After an exemplary career at Columbia Medical School, he chose, as was typical of Chuck, to serve humanity while training by selecting Harlem Hospital for his residency. Harlem Hospital is a safety net hospital operated by New York City in northern Manhattan that provides state-of-the-art medical care to a badly underserved population. Following his residency training, Chuck moved to the National Institutes of Health, where he continued to 'give back' to society through a distinguished career in biomedical research and research administration. More recently, Chuck had become a valued member of the Woodward Westtown Sunday Zoom Club.

He was taken from us all too soon by a terrible cancer. Typically of Chuck, after receiving this discouraging diagnosis, he remained remarkably upbeat while going through many difficult surgical procedures and other treatments.

We remember Chuck for his intellect, his kindness, and his ebullient, wry sense of humor. In all the years I knew him, I never heard a critical or disparaging word from him. A wonderful life well lived. We will miss him." —Written and submitted by **John W. Hirshfeld Jr. '61**

Laurie Russell Worth '61 writes, "A group of us gathered once again for a lovely dinner and evening at the farmhouse at Crosslands. We have booked this location for next year as it will be our 65th reunion. Please consider coming back for this!! It's always a special time

when classmates connect! More info will come out in the Spring of 2026, but save the dates: May 15th-17th, 2026. See you next year!!!"

1962 Mary Lennox '62 writes, "Trudging the happy road of writing a book and seeing the end in sight! Considering my state of mind then, my modest years at Westtown have easily consumed a chapter. It may get edited down, but certainly not out. Hope to have it in hand by Alums Day 2026!"

Peter Lindes '62 writes, "As I approach 80, I've been thinking back over my life so far. How did a Quaker boy from Westtown end up as a Spanish-speaking Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Utah? Well, that's a story too long to tell here. The gist is that, in spite of my rebelliousness, God has led me along one step at a time. At Westtown, I began to feel and heed His still, small voice, thanks to wonderful faculty mentors and good friends.

Today, Bianka and I feel we are entering into a different phase of life where our physical strength and mental acuity are both somewhat in decline. It's a time to be still and reflect, and to keep trying to be a light to our children and grandchildren who are following along behind. I'm still working full time, and Bianka is enjoying being retired and having time to take care of the house, the garden, and those grandchildren. We also spend time serving in our Spanish congregation at Church, where we try to help lots



William Parker '66

of immigrants, mostly from Venezuela recently, get established here and follow God in their lives.

Our greatest joy is our family. Adult children don't always do what their parents would like, but we love them anyway and work to help them on their way. They give us back the joy of knowing their children. All in all, with all its challenges, life is a blessing. We hope we are growing in spirit so as to keep giving while we are here and be well prepared when the time comes to move on to even better things in the life to come. We wish the best to all you '62ers, and look forward to seeing you all at our next reunion!"

Ted Worth '62 writes, "My greetings to you all! How happy I am to share my thoughts for world peace! Above all, God's love and abundant health!"

1964 Daughter, **Jennifer Wooten '84**, writes, "I wanted to let the community know that my mom, **Priscilla Criddle Thornbury '64**, passed away on March 23 of this year. She had an amazing life that was cut short due to smoking-related cancers and the havoc it wreaked on her body. Please consider encouraging anyone you know who smokes to quit and kids to never start. I wish peace to all that mourn her loss."

1966 **William Parker '66** writes, "First news, I lost my cat in mid-January. In the end, I decided not to get another pet and was not up for taking more responsibilities. It has been on and off at the lab, but mostly on. We have been working for months on a deadline to have the newer part of the lab leased out. The dates kept changing, and some tension was there,

but none was on me. The woman that I've been working for has my mother's eyes and also the same vision as my mom on very personal thoughts and feelings. However, being a scientist also brings my father's logic into play. It is simple work, mainly sorting, cleaning, and repairing. Finally, on May 22, a lease was signed. What followed next was mind-blowing, as both of them gave me sole credit for saving the lab from being auctioned off! They said that they never would stand a chance without my help. My last news item centers on the annual Ithaca Festival Parade. I have a long history of involvement with this event. I donned my chokha and dressed up to the hilt. The chest cartridge tips are made of real silver. The coudie (hat) I decided on was Kevsurian, as these folks were the descendants of the Crusades. I originally played the drums, but it was too cold for that. A chokha makes a tux look like a dishrag. It is excellent for dancing. Near the end of the parade, two Cornell coeds were taken in, as one was Ukrainian and the other had been to Georgia. Then a family approached me, and the father said that he was Kevsurian! His wife is Georgian. We talked for over an hour and exchanged contacts."

1967 **Rob Briggs '67** writes, "As things grew hot and sticky in Washington in late June, a cadre of left coast Westtown alums gathered with partners under cool and cloudy conditions in the 'other' Washington. We visited Oscar, one of six colossal trolls constructed in Cascadia by Danish artist Thomas Dambo, located on beautiful Vashon Island. Oscar invites reflection on the importance of environmental stewardship and reverence for the natural world. Needless to say, if compelled to accept a troll for king, this group will be pressing for the kind found here in this Washington. The meet-up was a direct result of a Friends of Westtown reception held in Seattle in March. Such events are magnets for some of the country's most colorful and interesting people, and it's most unwise to fail to attend when one happens in your area."

David "Poms" Pomeroy '67 writes, "I'm reporting from the Pacific Northwest, no better place in the country to live. I am still working full time, and more. In addition to seeing patients four days a week, I host the podcast *ADHD Focus* as a means of combating all of the myth-information out there about ADHD, a Sisyphean task. I serve as President of the Board of Directors of an NPO founded in 1966, the owners of 95 acres of land above the Snoqualmie Falls. I have learned that President means Chief Go-fer. I have taken up the sport of curling after doing an introductory class on a Saturday morning. I joined the Granite Curling Club three days later. Genuine, wonderful people, intriguing sport, and all in fun (at least at my level). On a recent league night, looking at the other 39 people playing (five opposing teams of four players each), it struck me that neither body shape, size, gender, nor age conveyed any advantage whatsoever. Skill, technique, experience, and, as with any sport, a tad bit of luck, win out every time. My 33-year-old son earned his master's degree in Public Health and works as an epidemiologist at a local city's Public Health department. My daughter, now 35, is a nurse practitioner (Pediatric and



Pictured here under the watchful gaze of 'Oscar the Bird King' are hikers (from left to right) Rob Briggs '67, Bob Llewellyn '67, Jonathan Riley '70, and Bill Marshak '69.

Family Practice ... “Dad, it’s just one more certifying exam.”) working in pediatric oncology at Seattle Children’s Hospital when she isn’t working at home as the mother of three children. I am a member of a large chosen family and love mate of three amazing women (all of us polyamorous). My body argues with me over the concept of old, more vehemently every day, it seems. What a nuisance. I’m too young to be old.”

1968 **Thomas Burson ’68** writes, “Life is filled with literary clubs, running open mics, finishing the basement, and trying to finish my second book of poetry. This book is one I promised my son. All the poems I have written to, for, or about him. If you are ever near Fredericksburg, Virginia, let me know. Happy to put you up for a while or just visit and hear what is going on.”

1970 **Mary Oliver Brown ’70** writes, “My third collection of poetry—*OXYGEN II*—is published by Aquarius Press/Willow Books in Detroit under my pen name, Beth Brown Preston. The book is available at Barnes & Noble in Exton and can be ordered from Amazon. I am a Ph.D. candidate at DePaul University. I will be studying in the Value-Creating Education for Global Citizenship Program with DePaul College of Education. This life-long learning is my goal. My apologies for missing our 55th reunion event. My home at 1118 Carolina Avenue is a welcome place for Westonians visiting.”

Tony McQuail ’70 writes, “**Fran Fuson McQuail ’70** and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on May 24, 2025, with about 100 friends from many decades and community organizational activities. We had a potluck meal at the Lucknow Community Centre, followed by visiting and dancing to a soft rock band. We continue to support our daughter, Katrina, helping her with farm work and projects at Meeting Place Organic Farm. We also get to enjoy time together with her husband, Ben Hustis, and grandkids, Stella (5), Imogen (4), and Hustis (2), since we all live on the farm. We also spend

time with our daughter, Rachel, her husband, Robin, and grandkids Elliot (15) and Emily (13). We do a little bit of camping and a little bit of traveling. We continue to be active in our Huron Quaker Worship Group as well as active in the Huron Tract Spinners and Weavers (Fran) and Holistic Management Canada and Farmers for Climate Solutions (Tony).”

1971 **Robert Brigham ’71** writes, “I received word from his son, Ryan, that **Roy Houseman ’71** passed away on Monday, June 23. He visited with me here in Escondido, California, just a few months ago. We had a wonderful time, but

after an hour’s hike through a nature preserve, he commented he was out of breath. A few weeks later, he was informed by his doctor that he had stage 3 cancer, and he began treatment shortly thereafter. However, it appears the cancer was very aggressive, and Roy did not survive the treatment. He will be deeply missed by all of us who knew him and his twin brother, **Rex Houseman ’71**, who predeceased him by several years. “I have recently moved from my little rented bungalow east of Escondido, California, to a retirement community just south of Escondido. It is a peaceful place with a lake and a trailhead across the road, with all kinds of activities,

MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM

Emma Cadbury ’37

Mary Franklin Miles ’40

Lewis Smith ’41

Barbara Parker ’43

Jean Mosier ’46

Margaret Noyes Hopkins ’47

Janet Miller Zimmerman ’47

Amaryllis Barrett Cooper ’48

Virginia Whipple Cronister
Vaughan ’48

William Halewood ’48

Ann Wiley ’48

Isabel Aitken Brooker ’49

Nancy Parker Giering ’49

Joan Forbes Koponen ’49

Joan McManus Lawrence ’49

Cyril Harvey ’51

Nancy Helle ’51

Nancy Barton Barclay ’52

Philip How ’52

Mary Ott ’52

Gilbert Hoag ’53

Sueshila Stubbe ’53

Douglas Kerr ’54

Sara Coronway Rampon ’54

Theodora Crawford ’55

Mary Hoffman ’55

John James ’55

Anna Wickersham Bishop ’56

Thomas Niles ’56

Sylvie Alpert Bryant ’57

Margaret Zook Wright ’57

Walter Brown ’59

David Starr ’60

Christopher Mills ’61

Charles Peterson ’61

Priscilla Criddle Thornbury ’64

Sarah Shirk ’65

D. David Van Blake ’65

Nino Cooley Ridgway ’67

George Kearns ’69

Roy Houseman ’71

Beth Waddington ’75

Francis Biddle ’82

Matthew Fox ’88

Bobby Dodd ’95

Bryce Lander ’21

WEDDINGS

Ian Perkins-Taylor ’09 and
John Malin

Karis Jackson ’14 and
Sager Moritzky

BIRTHS

Samuel McCauley ’09 and Kayla
Smolarski: D.J. McCauley



Fran Fuson McQuail '70 and Tony McQuail '70 (1975 and 2025)

including a chorale, as well as a meditation group.”

Westtown class of 1971 high school sweethearts **George Caughey** and **Michelle Beer Caughey** celebrated a golden anniversary at their New Hampshire farm on June 8, 50 years to the day since their 1975 wedding. Attendees included their four Westonian children (**Devin '99**, **Robert '01**, **Bennett '06**, and **Willa '08**) and seven grandchildren. Fellow celebrants included four members of the class of '71 present at the wedding 50 years ago, in addition to Michelle and George, of course.

Barbara White Griest '71 writes, “My oldest grandson, Cole James Willey, son of alum **Sarah McFarland Willey '93** (daughter of **William McFarland '69**) and Doug Willey, graduated from high school this year. He was captain of his basketball team, along with his brother, Chase, who is a year behind him. Cole is going to attend and play basketball for Arcadia University in Pennsylvania. I am thrilled that he is so close to me. I get to as many basketball games as I possibly can. I have two granddaughters, Campbell, 14, and Charlie, 9, who live in Virginia with my daughter, Rebecca, and her husband, Chris. My son, **Jeffrey Griest '05**, is married to Liz and lives in Lake Worth, Florida, where he works hard and still golfs. My sister, **Betsy White Burke '73**, welcomed her fifth grandchild, Ava, in May, daughter of her son, Michael, and his wife, Cara. She has three other granddaughters, Caroline, Isabel, and Bryn (Ava's sister). She also has a grandson, Harris. My brother, **James White '69**, lives in New Hope, Pennsylvania, and is always on the move,

visiting friends and family. His daughter, Kristen, was married in June, and the wedding was beautiful! My other brothers, **Barclay White '74** and **Stephen White '77**, live in Leola, Pennsylvania, and Reading, Pennsylvania, respectively. We all spend a lot of our summer at our family house in Skytop, Pennsylvania. **Stacie Dorries Flight '68** lives nearby, so we see her on a regular basis. I also see **Dana Strode-Tritle '71** and **Deb Taft Megless '71** several times a year. I am in touch with **George Narwold '69** on a regular basis, who lives in Deland, Florida.”

1973 Jennifer Lohrke Christensen '73 writes, “I finally retired in March and we moved from Connecticut to Maine in May. Looking forward to exploring new places and settling into a quieter pace. Friends welcome. New address: 6 Izzy's Lane, Wells, ME 04090.”

Christopher Fowler '73 writes, “My 70th birthday dinner in February was a Scandinavian-style smörgåsbord. The tradition is that, when your birthday is a multiple of five, you are the one responsible for the festivities. A close examination will reveal **Francy Swan Williams '60** (middle left), **Ann Talbot Rill '80** (upper right), and **Stephen Lockett '80** (top left) amongst the guests. We continue to work toward getting our house ready to sell in anticipation of moving to Maui, in fulfillment of my wife's now 20-plus-year dream, which, admittedly, I have gone along with. Perhaps by the time you're reading this, we'll be there. (And, yes, we plan to have a guest room...). I also continue to have success with my art. In addition to my ongoing relationship



Members of the Class of 1971 celebrating the Caughey's anniversary (left to right): Sally Stabler, Judy Nicholson Asselin, George Caughey, Michelle Beer Caughey, Robert Bruce McKinstry, Jr., and Catherine Moon Stalberg.



Chris Fowler's 70th Birthday Dinner in Frederick, MD



Joe Strode '73 and Emily Wood Crofoot '73

with the GalleriSoho gallery in Sweden, which had a pop-up exhibition that included my work in Paris early in the summer and one in Toronto in the fall, I have also had work on display in Rome, Venice (including a solo show at the end of July as part of the Venice Biennale), and Barcelona. As Lady Bracknell said in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, “A life crowded with incident!”

Joe Strode '73 writes, “My recent 16-day journey, with my wife, Mary, took us through both the North and South



Jean Burke '74 enjoying a punting ride in Christ Church, New Zealand.

Islands of New Zealand, offering a breathtaking mix of dramatic landscapes, vibrant cities, and unforgettable experiences. From the geothermal wonders of Rotorua to the majestic peaks of the Franz Josef Glacier and a cruise through Milford Sound, each day brought something new and extraordinary. But the true highlight of our trip was the two days we spent at Castlepoint Station, visiting my former classmate, **Emily Wood Crofoot '73**, her husband, Anders, and their two children, Sara and David. Nestled near the windswept coast of Wairarapa on the North Island, Castlepoint Station is a sprawling 9,500-acre sheep and cattle farm that's been owned by Anders and Emily since 1989. The rugged beauty of the land was matched only by the warmth of its hosts. Emily and Anders welcomed us into their home and gave us a behind-the-scenes look at life on a working New Zealand farm—something few travelers ever get to experience. We explored the rolling paddocks, met their hardworking dogs, received a tour of the sheep shearing station, and had a look at their Holiday Park. The evening meals included both lamb and beef dinners that were cooked to perfection. To top all this off, we were invited to stay in the guest house that overlooked the Pacific Ocean. What an incredible experience! Thank you again, Anders and Emily!”

Bill Winslow '73 writes, “Hope everyone is doing well. Our second grandchild arrived in December!”

1974 **Jean Burke '74** writes, “I have been serving as board chair for Foxborough Universalist Church, a very small congregation located right on the town commons. My husband, Joe, and I very much enjoyed our first Viking Cruise, which took us to Australia and New Zealand over the Christmas-New Year's holidays. In February, we visited with family and friends in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. For the summer, Joe is helping out with beach sticker sales (really, they are for car parking) for the Town of Wellfleet, and I am gardening, continuing with yoga, and am part of a swimmers aerobics group called The Mermaids. My sister, **Olivia Heathcote '65**, visited us for three weeks in June.”

Julia Young Russell '74 and her spouse have moved back to California. She writes, “Back to warm, but not hot days, cool mornings and evenings, zero rain (for now). An orange tree bursting out the window, lots of adventures in learning about gardening. I was sad to leave Hartford—our daughter and grandsons, the Meeting, the lush weather—but it is really nice to be back to the familiar here. Grandson #1, Andrew, is lining up to start as a freshman in the fall.”

1975 **50th Reunion Recap** After several months of planning, coordinating with classmates and Westtown staff, several Zoom meetings, many emails, searching for the best caterer, and emailing classmates who had slipped through the cracks, the desired goal of a well-attended and memorable 50th reunion was achieved.

The class of 1975's 50th reunion at Westtown, May 16-18, 2025, was attended by about 43 classmates along with spouses, family, and significant others.

The celebration began on Friday night with a potluck dinner at the home of **Tom** and **Bibbis McAndrew**. We enjoyed a variety of refreshments and shared conversations with classmates, some of whom had not returned to Westtown for 50 years. The festivities lasted well into late evening. On Saturday morning, we met at the Barton-Test Theatre for the



Deb Marcopulos Kitchens '75 pictured with several of her grandchildren

Annual Meeting, where, among other things, we learned about the new dining facility. We also heard from **Chris Cryer** and **Brenda Perkins** regarding our class gift of \$444,000, which included a scholarship of \$200,000 set up by one of our classmates and donations to The C. Thomas Kaesemeyer Full Access Fund in honor of **Jay Farrow '75**.

We took our class photo on the steps of the east end of the school before an enjoyable luncheon was served in the Dining Room. This would be our last time to dine together in the Dining Room, a room that holds so many memories, since a new dining building will be built soon. The mood was nostalgic, yet full of energy as we shared stories of our times together at Westtown with even more of our classmates, who had not been present the previous night. Laughter and smiles, photo-taking all around the

tables, were observed, and everyone was enjoying the moment.

Several of us decided to take a tour, which included the dormitory rooms upstairs, the classrooms where we reminisced, and the basement museum where several items and photos were on display. We decided to walk down to the lake, where we continued to share fond memories of our time together at Westtown.

Saturday evening at the Cabin was special as we enjoyed a delicious dinner together. One of the special treats was a stemless wine glass that had “Westtown 50th Reunion” etched on it! The atmosphere was relaxed as we continued to chat with classmates and some spouses. After enjoying a full evening, several classmates went to **Chris Trueblood’s** home, where they enjoyed more time together with food, music, and fun.

Sunday morning, before Meeting, our classmates were treated to breakfast in the Dining Room. Several of us were in attendance, and after breakfast, we took photos in front of *The Giant* painting, toured the library, and walked over the stone archway to the tennis courts. Someone shared that they had heard that Westtown took part in the Underground Railroad with Harriet Tubman. It reminded us how involved Quakers were/are involved in dealing with inequities and how proud and fortunate we feel having been educated at Westtown. —Written and submitted by **Deb Kitchens, Bibbis McAndrew, and Brenda Perkins**

Deb Marcopulos Kitchens ’75 writes, “I had looked forward to our reunion, and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone. My life, after high school, was a little chaotic, and I basically lived my life backwards from the stereotype. I got married and had three children, and earned my bachelor’s degree while married with children! I worked at Bank of America in Jacksonville, Florida, as an IT professional, where I was a project manager for more than a decade.

I got divorced, and my kids continued to grow up, and several years later, I met my current husband, who was a Naval officer. The trajectory of my life made a radical change as I moved halfway around



Left to Right: Lisa Kearns O’Brien ’75, Ginger Ligenza Mochen ’75, and Deb Marcopulos Kitchens ’75 under *The Giant* in the Dining Room during Alums Weekend.

the world to Honolulu, Hawaii, where my youngest graduated from high school.

A few more moves and we were in Arlington, Virginia, where I had the opportunity to work at the Department of State for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, where I learned so much about an issue I had no previous knowledge of.

Then we moved back to Hawaii for three years, where my husband served as the commanding officer of Pearl Harbor Naval Base. Finally, in 2011, we moved back to Northern Virginia, where we settled down. I worked for the Department of Labor and then, during COVID, I switched careers and got my real estate license, and have loved every minute helping people find a home. My husband of 25 years plans to retire from working in a few years; however, as long as I’m physically and mentally able to work...I plan on working and spending time with our seven grandchildren when they come to town.”

Isaac Thorp ’75 writes, “I had a blast seeing my long-time friends at our 50th. Loved taking walks through the woods and down to the lake, remembering the crazy fun we had. I also really appreciated getting to know classmates I hadn’t known that well before or hadn’t seen at previous reunions (shout-out to **Tony Williams ’75**). Stay well, everyone, and I’ll see you at our 55th!”

1976 Kimberly Keck ’76 writes, “My husband, Tim Keck, and I are living on the Kenai Peninsula with our grandsons. It’s been

49 years since graduation and our wedding. Next year is the big 50! Oh my.

The Keck, Ott, and Zimmerman families will gather in the Summer 2025 for the Life Celebration for my mother, **Mary Edna Zimmerman Ott ’52**, at Gwynedd Friends Meeting.”

F. James Peters ’76 writes, “Living in North Carolina. Working as a therapist. Just added a new puppy to the family.”

Steve Sawyer ’76 writes, “Hi everyone! Not too far from retirement in D.C. Wife is still working...Kids are doing great things...No grandkids yet...Picked up a cabin in far western Maryland... Looking forward to seeing folks at the 50th...Might even get back on Facebook to re-engage!”

1977 Andy Barclay ’77 writes, “I still work a little as a biostatistician on federal child welfare class action lawsuits, plus some voting research. My wife, Michelle Barclay, retires from the Georgia state government in August. After that, we’re giving our house to our son, Sam, and touring and visiting friends in Europe for a few months. We’re not sure what will happen after that.”

Edward Taylor ’77 writes, “I retired from my position as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of California following over seven years of service. I am still keeping my licenses to practice law in California, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania active. But, after many adventures in the law, I am a committed bon vivant. My daughter is finishing up her second year at the University of California at Berkeley with a focus on Environmental Economics.”

1978 Susi Edwards ’78 writes, “I was only at Westtown for my senior year, but I made a few friends who became lifelong ones, even if we rarely see each other. As an adult, I see what great teachers I had, and I remember how beautiful the campus was. After leaving Westtown, I went back to Venezuela and then went on to study in Switzerland and later, Texas. I live in Austin and love it here. I have worked in

CLASS NOTES



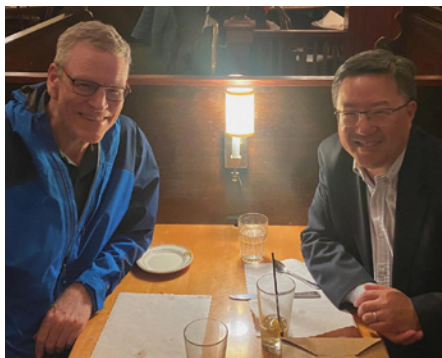
David Gansz '78



Amanda Amarotico '80 dressed for the very first graduating class at the American University, Iraq, Baghdad



Roger Satterthwaite '79 and Bryan Yeh '80



Bob Nichols '80 and Bryan Yeh '80



Sandy Sweitzer '79, front row, second from left, with staff of Triangle Land Conservancy celebrating the 25,000 acre milestone

the Foreign Languages Education sector, mostly in Teacher Certification Testing. Semi-retired now. Married, two daughters, and three grandchildren.”

David Gansz '78 recently retired as Director of the National Transportation Library, having served under Secretary Pete Buttigieg for four years.

1979 Triangle Land Conservancy, which **Sandy Sweitzer '79** has led for a decade, won the North Carolina Governor's Conservation Organization of the Year Award in May. Award chair T. Edward Nickens explained why: “We’ve all heard the saying that they don’t make land anymore. Let me tell you what else they don’t make enough of anymore: people who can look at a piece of land—a piece of land that hasn’t been ‘improved.’ A piece of land that isn’t being ‘productive.’ A piece of land that hasn’t been developed and sits there, right in front of your face, doing nothing for nobody. They don’t make enough people who will look at that land and say: Don’t freaking touch it. Because it’s perfect. And nothing you can do—other than get rid of some kudzu—is going to make it any better. For 42 years, the Triangle Land Conservancy has been working to conserve land that isn’t doing a dadgum thing. Except cleaning water. And pumping out oxygen. And providing critical wildlife habitat. And giving folks places to hike and heal. 2024 was a

milestone year for TLC, as the organization beat its goal announced in 2018 of conserving 25,000 acres by 2025—by a full year. And in just the past year, TLC protected 1,544 acres valued at \$26 million and has an additional 1,800 acres in the works. Land that’s just sitting there. Doing nothing. Except everything.”

1980 **Amanda Amarotico '80** writes, “I’m in Mesopotamia now. Yes! Teaching English to first-year students at the American University, Iraq, Baghdad (AUIB), not to be confused with the one in Beirut (AUB). As many might know, I spent 12 years in Oman, and three in Oran, Algeria, teaching and enjoying all I learned from the people and their cultures. My children are all flourishing in the Philadelphia area. My daughter is a nurse midwife, and my two sons work in a multi-million-dollar custom wood shop. Both have excelled in their professions, one self-taught on all the electronics and technology needed these days in production, the other is a project manager. Both went from sanding to overseeing the whole system. I am a very proud mama! This summer, my daughter, my six-year-old grandson, and I are going to Zanzibar, where I’ve done some volunteer teaching. It will be my daughter’s first trip across the seas, and we are both incredibly excited and grateful to have this opportunity to travel together. My Iraqi students



Elizabeth Sagehorn '87, Mayland Crosson Reilly '86, Don Lipper, and Sean Reilly

are some of the most generous, patient, and good-humored students I've ever taught. Sadly, we foreign teachers cannot go off campus due to concerns about security. I do wish I could visit my students' families, as well as explore much of Iraq. When I first arrived in January 2023, there were high hopes of the whole country being secure; however, after the 7th of October, security has tightened. On the bright side, the campus is beautiful, and there's even a farm on campus, as well as a community garden."

Bryan Yeh '80 writes, "I was sorry to have missed our 45th reunion, but I did manage to have a personal reunion with **Roger Satterthwaite '79** and **Bob Nichols '80** a few months ago while travelling to Los Angeles and Portland, respectively."

1984 Sarah Young-Imbert '84 writes, "Greetings from Corsica. Sixty years of dry farming have proven invaluable as we hit 90 degrees in June. One day, I hope to come back and bring my children to see Westtown. All my best to everyone."

1986 Megan Keiser '86 writes, "Sending greetings and well wishes to Westtown classmates. While I am writing this, I am currently at our family's camp on Squam Lake, the former home of **Helen Hole '24**, part of a legacy family at Westtown, and author of *Westtown Through the Years*. My dad, **Mel Keiser '56**, and nieces, **Ondessa Kiliru-Liontree '21** and **Jahniya Kiliru '20**, were sharing stories about Westtown.

Grateful for the community and strong teachers that we all experienced during our individual and collective time at Westtown. Appreciate the ways that the Westtown community continues to connect with one another - shout out to **Kip Martin '86**, my 'brother', and his daughter, **J (Juliana) Martin '20**, who played an important role in Jahniya's life!

I continue to work in teacher education, recently leaving Brevard College after twelve years for the larger public university, UNC-Asheville. I try to center joy as we navigate the challenges of preparing new teachers in this climate. It has been heartening to see the resilience that emerged after Hurricane Helene. My brother, **Christopher Keiser-Liontree '91**, has moved close by and is helping to support our aging but vigorous parents. My daughter, Sophia, graduated from UNC-CH and is headed to Spain to teach English. My son, Sam, is continuing at UNC-Charlotte pursuing Accounting. A recent highlight was a winter family adventure in Idaho with my kids and my partner, Jeff's, family. We also enjoy hiking with Scout, our black lab. Hope to attend Alums Weekend 2026."

Mayland Crosson Reilly '86 writes, "For the past year, we have been living in Georgetown, Texas, near **Hannah Graf-Evans Reynolds '10** and her wonderful husband, Dave. It has been wonderful to get to know them and count them as friends. In May, I earned my Ed.D. from the University of West Georgia by researching the mitigation of burnout in medical students through the integration of an active learning community. To celebrate this accomplishment, my



Elizabeth Sagehorn '87, Don Sagehorn, Sean Reilly, and Mayland Crosson Reilly '86



Back (left to right): Sam Keiser Fairbairn, Megan Keiser '86, Sophia Keiser Fairbairn, Jeff Holmes. Front: Hailey Holmes

husband, Sean, and I took a transatlantic cruise with **Elizabeth Sagehorn '87** and her husband, Don. We are now moving to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Hope we get to meet more Westonians once there."

1987 Elizabeth Sagehorn '87 writes, "To celebrate a 40-year friendship that started in the old Westtown gym (not the really old gym that is now Uptown Lounge, but the medium-old one), **Mayland Crosson Reilly '86** and

CLASS NOTES



Heather Eaton '92 (left) and Scarlett Stoeckel DeRosa '92 (right) at Frenchy's Restaurant in Clearwater.



Scattergood family chilling at an Irvine park

Elizabeth, and their husbands Sean and Don, crossed the Atlantic on the ocean liner Queen Mary 2. Inspired by our college-era hotel visit on the original Queen Mary that is permanently docked in Long Beach, California, Mayland and I had plotted and planned for years to travel on the new Queen. Neither pandemic nor major life events could ultimately waylay us, and we weighed anchor out of Southampton, England, in June. We ate and drank and talked and napped (well, we are middle-aged) our way to New York. We all had a wonderful time on this trip of a lifetime, and are deeply grateful for the chance to spend this sojourn together with such dear friends."

1990 **Amber Rickert '90** writes, "Wow! What a great time we all had at our 35th reunion this last Alumni Weekend. Wait a minute, was it really our 35th?? How could that be? Every time we are together, it's like no time has passed at all. There we all



Front Row, left to right: Erik Smith '90, Amber Rickert '90, Leah Kalotay '90, Sarah Hudgings '90, Ruth Ericsson '90, Brett Knepley '90. Back Row, left to right: Matt Henry '90, Carly Rosenberg '90, Bart "Tyler" Miller '90, Chris Benbow '90, Rob O'Driscoll '90, David Kessler '90, Bruce James '90. Many are not pictured here from the weekend.

were gathering at the end of the building, just like old times. Hanging out down by the lake. Walking down memory lane. It's so easy for us to come together as a group when we gather. Whether we were at Más on Friday night or Bruce James' house on Saturday night, we made sure to reconnect and remember all the ways in which we love Westtown. Until next time, Friends. —**Amber, Bruce James, Sarah Hudgings, and Ruth Ericsson**

1992 **Brennan Barnard '92** writes, "In September, **Shereem Herndon-Brown '92** (former faculty) and I will celebrate the release of our latest book, *Powerful College Admission Essays: A Guide to Telling Your Story*. Later in the month, **LaToya Battle-Brown '92** (former faculty) and Susan Tree (former faculty) will join us for a presentation at our national conference."

Heather Eaton '92 writes, "I retired from the State Department at the end of April after twenty years as a Foreign Service Officer. In June, I transitioned to the private sector and took on the VP of Communications role at Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) in the Tampa office. I look forward to reconnecting with more classmates now that I am based in the continental United States!

I met up with **Scarlett Stoeckel DeRosa '92** earlier this year when she visited Clearwater with her husband for baseball spring training."

Tofer Towe '92 writes, "I've been living in Madison, Wisconsin, for eight years now and teaching 6th-grade math and science at a local middle school. This year, my son, Elias, will be starting 6th grade, but at a different school. Madison is a great town, with lots of biking paths and trails, so I've gotten into the local cycling culture since moving here. For the past six years, I've helped coach middle school and high school cross-country mountain biking and joined the board of a non-profit that refurbishes donated bikes and gives them to folks for volunteer service with local organizations."

1993 **Marc Scattergood (Palmer) '93** writes, "Been a few years since our last update—we moved back from Denmark in the summer of 2024, and spent the year in Baltimore to be close to family. As of mid-June 2025, we're back on the West Coast and once again living in Los Angeles. Cie and I have one human, Riley, who has just finished 4th grade and will be starting school in the Irvine Unified School District in the fall. I'm incredibly jealous that they'll get to

attend surfing camp in a few weeks. Our cats just sleep on the bed, no surfing for them. I just started as a director at Epic Games (Fortnite, anyone?) and continue my now almost 30-year career in the games and entertainment industry. Let me know if you find yourself in LA! Would love to catch up!”

1995 **Dan Allen '95** writes, “Really!!! 30 years?”

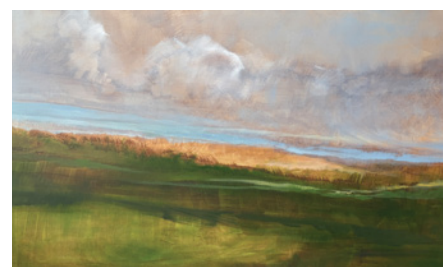
I never liked math, but here we are advancing in age, but young at heart. I now have a beautiful family to call my own, and I am running my family's business on Long Beach Island. For those of you who remember the good old days (I really don't like that phrase), it may surprise you to learn that I served on the governing body for Beach Haven for four years and our zoning board for another two. And no, I wasn't voted out, I stepped down to spend more time with my kids. 30 years? Really?”

Ali McKay '95 writes, “The McKays traveled about 2000 miles on our sailboat from Saint Martin to Baltimore in order to attend our 30th reunion at Alums Day, as well as for our son, Hall, to get a glimpse of his next four years! We had a great time reconnecting with our classmates and with the beautiful Westtown community. Thanks to **Emily Goldsworthy '95** for all of her work hosting our class get-togethers. Amazingly, a tornado hit our boat in Baltimore while we were at the reunion, but luckily, it only had very minor damage.”

1997 **Cari Adams Saenger '97** writes, “**Chris Saenger '97** and I have been back in D.C. since 2023 – our son, Charlie, will be graduating from Westtown next June, and our daughter, **Bea Saenger '23**, is heading into her junior year at UVM! I will be having a solo exhibition of my recent paintings in Washington, D.C., this fall, from September 13 to October 11, 2025. It would be great to see any Westonians who are in the area: carolineadams.com.”

2005 **Daniel Hackney '05** writes, “A month ago, I was let go from my job at Google after having been there for nearly 11 years. It ended up weirdly being a blessing because I'm currently writing this from an Airbnb in Kyiv, Ukraine, where I'm spending two weeks volunteering for Ukraine Torch, a charity started by my high school roommate's childhood friend. It's been incredibly refreshing to work on something I'm so passionate about, though I did get woken up last night by the sounds of Russian missiles and drones.”

Larkin Silverman '05 and her husband, Bobby Dombroski (Shipley '02) have brought Philadelphia water ice to the Maine Market! In their first joint business venture—Sojourn Ice Co.—Bobby serves up handmade, small-batch water ice from a trailer he custom outfitted largely by hand, while Larkin serves as the brand's Creative Director. True to her Quaker roots, Sojourn Ice Co. is committed to sustainability. The couple has even pioneered the use of reusables in their business model; customers are encouraged to upgrade their 10-oz serving to a reusable stainless steel cup, co-branded in collaboration with manufacturer Klean Kanteen. By bringing it back, customers can get a discount and reduce the business's reliance on single-use disposables. By partnering with local vendors, like solar-powered Precipice Coffee and Wyman's Blueberries, Sojourn has kept its production local. Most of their commercial equipment—including their prized Emery Thompson Ice Cream Machine—was procured second-hand, reducing the impact of the start-up from its inception. In addition to being 100% vegan and gluten free, Sojourn's version of water ice also omits the use of artificial flavors or colors. The couple hopes their product harkens back to the taste of a refreshing indulgence on a hot summer day, and is accessible to those with food intolerances, allergies, and looking for a health-conscious treat that the whole family can enjoy. The couple settled on the name as an homage to their literal and figurative journey from a



Cari Adams Saenger '97: *Tinge*, oil on canvas, 72×48", 2025



Cedar McKay '95



Daniel Hackney '05 at the Maidan Square in Kyiv, where in 2014, protests led to the expulsion of the corrupt president.



Larkin Silverman '05, Bobby, and their daughter, Alma. Photo courtesy of Matt Weikel, Sea Pine Studios

CLASS NOTES



From left to right: Jennifer Perkins '78, Brenda Perkins '75, Amelia Bensch-Schaus '09, Maya Manning '09, Katie McCain '09, Ian Perkins-Taylor '09 with husband, John Malin, Leah Holstein '09, Karen Gilbert '09, Colin Perkins-Taylor '16, Scott Henderson '78.



Karis Jackson's '14 wedding with Westonian bridesmaids – Left to right: Amelia Hall '14, Cameron Smythe '14, Finley Sutton '14, Kamryn Jackson '18, Karis Jackson '14, Lindy Disman Sewell '14, MeeRee Orlandini '14, Kendall Jackson '11

young family in Philadelphia to established Mainers, who made a “sojourn” to Waterville and now call it home. Find and follow them on Instagram and Facebook @SojournIceCo., or make the “sojourn” to Maine and try them out!

2009 **Sam McCauley '09** writes, “I’m excited to share two pieces of news! My wife and I welcomed our third son into the world in March—D.J. McCauley. Both baby and mom are healthy, doing great, and DJ’s older brothers are over the moon that they now have another brother in the family. On the career front, I accepted

a lateral job offer within the Lower Merion Township and am now serving as a Career Engineer at a different fire station. I’m grateful for the continued opportunity to serve the community and take on new challenges in this role.”

Celebrating the marriage of **Ian Perkins-Taylor '09** and John Malin! Ian and John live in Sacramento, California, and the wedding took place at the Monte Verde Inn, Foresthill, California, on April 26, 2025. The photo shared shows Westtown alums at the wedding, including the wedding party, family, and friends.



Camden Chin '22 (far left) in the Himalaya



Camden Chin '22 hiking with his team in the Himalaya

2014 **Karis Jackson '14** writes, “I was recently married on May 3 where seven of my nine bridesmaids were fellow Westtown alums!”

2018 **Ethan McLearn '18** is excited to begin a three-year divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in fall of 2025. Thanks to all members of the Westtown community who helped him discern this new direction—you know who you are!

2022 **Camden Chin '22** writes, “After Westtown, I got very interested in environmental science and computer science! This summer, I traveled to the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalaya to record the turbidity of the Ganges River daily for three weeks and interview the pilgrims who travel there. Even brought some Westtown merch!”



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Initially comprising just one room with a handful of students, by the mid-1950s the Lower School was a thriving division in its own building. As it has developed over the years, so have its spaces for outdoor play. Expansions and renovations have often included updates to the playground. In 1983, a new outdoor playset installation coincided with a library expansion. The playset design sought to aid in the “development of balance and agility” and promote imaginative play. Major playground improvements were also undertaken in 1996 and 2001 alongside further expansions of the Lower School building, with similar design philosophies that emphasized motor skills and opportunities for learning outside the classroom. The most recent update, the new Lower School Playscape, was completed this past spring.

Save the dates!



FallFest

September 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Food, fun, and games in a carnival-like atmosphere on the Belfry Lawn.

Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer: Negin Farsad

Monday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Comedian Negin Farsad is a TEDFellow and gave a TEDTalk on social justice comedy seen by millions. She is a regular on NPR's *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me* and Neil deGrasse Tyson's *StarTalk*.



Alums Weekend

May 15-17, 2026

We will celebrate class reunion years ending in 1s and 6s, with a special celebration to lift up the Class of 1976 who will celebrate their 50th reunion!