

The Olney Current



**Olney Friends School
Barnesville, Ohio**

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Note: Class years are included after the names of alumni; "x" designates an alumnus or alumna who attended but did not graduate. Honorary alumni (Hon.) have contributed significantly to the life of the school.

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Report from the Head of School

By Christian Acemah '01, Head of School

Dear Friends of Olney,

From warm Barnesville, Ohio, and our lively Olney campus, I welcome you to another edition of the *Olney Current*. I had hoped to keep this message short and focused on the new academic year, but found several matters (past, present, and future) that I need to highlight here.

Alumni Meeting and Commencement

On the evening of 24 May 2019, members of the class of 2019 were invited to join Olney's Alumni Association by the class of 1969. They, of course, graciously accepted the invitation. We also welcomed honorary alumni (Jasmin Ilovar, Karyn Riccelli, and Adam Hanson) who served as members of our faculty during the 2018-2019 academic year. It was incredible how many alumni showed up for that meeting and other activities of the weekend. I particularly enjoyed meeting members of the classes of 1949, 1959, 1969, 1974, 1995, 1999, and one member of 2004. There were many others whom I interacted with that made the weekend memorable, so all present from other classes should know that I appreciated their presence. Thank you.

Our seventeen seniors graduated on 25 May 2019 during a special ceremony held at Stillwater Meetinghouse. Aïda Ndiaye, Facebook's Public Policy Lead for Franco-phone Africa, delivered a powerful address that day. Having arrived in Barnesville



Vivienne and Christian Acemah with Aïda Ndiaye

on the heels of a long three-day journey, just a few hours before she had to speak, Aïda was an inspiration to those present. She also felt at home during her short stay with us and promised to come back for an extended visit.

Our new alumni clearly understood the importance of that ceremony, and some only then caught on to how they would miss being part of this community as students. At least, they now know they will forever be part of Olney as alumni. We look forward to welcoming them back to campus as and when they choose to visit. We have received some phone calls and emails from them, informing us about their new adventures. It is a slightly different Olney without them (while remaining the same Olney we all know).

Strategy

As you may recall, we have been formulating a strategy for Olney since August 2018. I am happy to report that a new five-year strategy was approved by our Board during its Annual Meeting on 27 July 2019. The strategy contains an updated mission and six interrelated goals. The mission is laid out thus: Olney Friends School provides a transdisciplinary, college-preparatory curriculum within a supportive community that enables students to develop the skills to care for and thrive in a changing world. The six goals, in outline form, are: (1) curriculum and enrollment, (2) resource mobilization, (3) management of our assets, (4) faculty management, (5) alumni stewardship, and (6) robust governance. These components have to reinforce and work in concert with each other for our mission to be fully realized. For a more detailed version of the newly-approved strategy, please visit our website.

A word about part of the strategy-making process: before its approval, the Board received reviews of the strategy in draft form. Close to 50 individuals participated in that review process, sharing candid feedback that provided constructive challenge to all involved in the strategy-making process. It was, once again, reaffirming to know how passionate many of you are about Olney; and we will continue to seek your input on our strategic direction. The Board has always intended to have a dynamic, flexible strategy so that we can rapidly adapt to changes with a direct impact on Olney (e.g. an economic downturn). I am grateful to our Board for enduring eight different drafts of the strategy, and to those who provided their input. It was a welcome challenge to work on such an important document. Implementing the strategy is another welcome challenge, one that we have already begun. It is not our intention to let the strategy collect dust on an office shelf. In fact, we have a monitoring and evaluation tool in place to track our progress towards attaining the goals set out in our strategy. With a mindful Board, engaged faculty, supportive alumni, right-fit students, and committed funders, we will attain our goals and more within the next five years.

Admissions

With 17 students graduating in May, we embraced the challenge of recruiting at least that many to replace the graduating class. We also had two students who did

not intend to come back to Olney, so we had to find at least 19 new students to maintain our enrollment at the 2018-2019 academic year level. External consultants had predicted a decline in enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic year, but we deliberately set out to prevent that projection from becoming reality. I am happy to report that we surpassed last year's enrollment by two and opened the school year with 36 students from Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, United States, and Uganda. We also expect to welcome a few new students during the school year. So far, our students are adjusting as expected, committed and committing to the academic, social, athletic, and spiritual endeavors set out for them at Olney. We have a cohesive and diverse school that will help us attract even more students drawn to what we have to offer.

Curriculum

We have started our journey towards realizing an integrated, transdisciplinary curriculum. Returning students are adjusting to a more rigorous and vigorous curriculum. Because they were informed about the planned updates before the previous school year ended, they came to school ready to rise to the challenge. New students, for the most part, have also embarked on their Olney careers with optimism, open minds, and open hearts. Faculty members, too, are adjusting to the updated curriculum, figuring out gradually how to teach and learn in ways that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. Knowing that a complete overhaul of any curriculum can lead to upheaval, we are taking it one step at a time until the entire community gains more facility with transdisciplinarity and starts to notice its rewards.

New Roles

You will read on the following pages about faculty moving to new positions. I would like to highlight the unique role of the Quaker Outreach Advisor, who has been tasked with the delicate duty of connecting Olney to Quaker institutions, families, and students. That role is not an easy one, as it speaks to the core of who we are and to the spiritual source of our identity. With deep Quaker partnerships, I see Olney continuing to retain its identity as a progressive Quaker school that puts into action the Quaker values every single day. As the first holder of that position, David Male has his work cut out for him. With his intimate knowledge of how Olney works, affiliation to the Ohio Yearly Meeting, and business experience, I believe in his ability to make this role his own as he intentionally builds partnerships key to our survival.

Alumni Support and Engagement

I thank the alumni and friends who responded to our request for new school vans to help us take students on field trips and other activities. With your support and after trading in our old vans, we procured two used vans to replace two older ones. The newer vans are safe, mechanically sound, and comfortable. Thank you very much. Our students will enjoy riding in them, and have promised to keep them clean. Our new office of Finance and Operations did an outstanding job during

the search and negotiation processes. We are still looking for one more van or car to replace another vehicle in our fleet. We will find it at the right time and for the right price.

As we settle into the academic year, we will draw up a schedule for alumni gatherings. We would like to have more gatherings than we had last year. Please do let us know if you would like us to visit your city or state so that we can consider your feedback as we make plans. I am looking forward to meeting more of you.

Looking to the Future

As we embark on implementing our new strategy, it is not lost on me how much fundraising we have to do, so resource mobilization is going to be my number one priority this year. The other priorities are always with me, yet we most definitely need an infusion of money to make them a reality. Most of my time is spent nurturing new donors, both to ease pressure on existing loyal donors and to demonstrate that we have a meaningful school that can speak to others not yet in our network. This work will not be easy but must be done, with a singlemindedness that stays true to the essence of (past, present, and future) Olney.

We are well positioned for an excellent academic year. We are working hard. We remain dedicated to Olney.

With Love and in Friendship,



Christian Acemah
Head of School

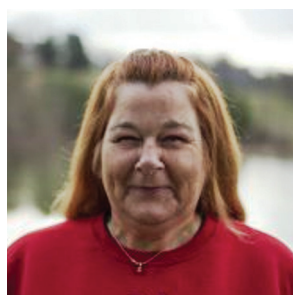


New Faculty and Positions



David Male (Hon.) has been appointed Quaker Outreach Advisor and Educator and will be doing results-oriented outreach to Quaker individuals and groups to recruit students, encourage donations, and foster engagement among Friends from North America and beyond. David will continue to teach mathematics, Quakerism, and electives.

Tina Neiswonger (Hon.), formerly the assistant business manager, is now the Finance and Operations Manager, reflecting the scope of her duties and of her service to the school. Tina will continue as a Faculty Advisor.



Joe Sullivan (Hon.) is now the Assistant Head of School, Finance and Operations, charged with financial administration and reporting along with oversight of facilities maintenance and operations, and counseling. Joe will continue engaging with students via counseling and college advising.

Jessica Wiandt is our new Science teacher on Dorm Staff, who joins us from Wooster, Ohio. Jessica has a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Education for Adolescence to Young Adult from Bowling Green University, and previously taught in Cleveland. She is teaching agricultural science, chemistry, and physics.



Roster of Olney Students 2019-2020

**Names with asterisks are the child, grandchild, or sibling of Olney alumni.*



Icebreaker Games, Orientation 2019

Freshfolk

Chaewon Lee, Daegu, South Korea
Sharon Rios, Richmond, Indiana
Summer Erbeltinger-Bjork, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Ariel Templeton, Barnesville, Ohio
Brandon Bourque, Newfane, Vermont
Golden Roberts,* Belmont, Ohio
Julian Becerra,* Barnesville, Ohio
Miguel Mugira, Kampala, Uganda
Sho Brownstein,* Barnesville, Ohio

Sophomores

Alexandria Brown,* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Elvis Castañon Bamaca, Richmond, Indiana
Ian Veteto, Burnsville, North Carolina
Marco Mugira, Kampala, Uganda

Juniors

Autumn Sadoff, Ware Shoals, South Carolina
Botsalano Makgabo, Pretoria, South Africa
Noa Everet,* Anderson, Indiana
Sydney Toriseva, Wheeling, West Virginia
Axel Bulamba, Kigali, Rwanda
Ian Matos, Bettendorf, Iowa
Joe Goodrum, Cleveland, Ohio
John Cunard, Bethesda, Ohio
Nathan Kintu, Kampala, Uganda
Nava Bauer, Gainesville, Florida
Noah Williams, Perth Amboy, New Jersey
Nshuti Alphonse, Kigali, Rwanda
Patrick Boldrick, Wheeling, West Virginia
Shen Zihan, Tianjin, China
Starbuck Roberts,* Belmont, Ohio
William Quinn,* Richmond, Virginia
Stella Reisbeck, Cambridge, Ohio

Seniors

Alexandra Velasco, La Paz, Bolivia
Kiraboo Migusha, Kampala, Uganda
Sara de la Torre, Puntarenas, Costa Rica
Aidan Baliddawa, Kampala, Uganda
Miggade Timothy, Kampala, Uganda

Commencement 2019: Introduction to the Class of 2019

By Roger Reynolds (Hon.), Senior Humanities

It is my honor to introduce the Olney Friends School Class of 2019:

Frances Baker Tucker from Canton, Ohio, will attend Smith College. She wrote her Graduation essay on grief, which might seem a little odd, because she brought so much joy to our community. A gifted singer/songwriter, a determined calculus student, and our only Spanish 5 student, Frances also became a kind of hero to the sophomore class.

Lelo Bekele from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will attend Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. She wrote her paper about the gender wage gap in Hollywood, like how Mark Wahlberg is worth ten times what Michelle Williams earns for the same work. Lelo plans to become a doctor and return to Ethiopia, where women doctors are scarce.

Gudari Castillo from Monteverde, Costa Rica, will attend Soka University. He wrote his paper on “Artificial Intelligence and YouTube Kids.” Gudi was class president, office work leader, on dorm staff, and won the Sportsmanship award (as his sister Ipsi did before him).

Liz Cheng from Beijing, China, is still selecting a college. Liz wrote her essay on compulsive shopping, a topic close to her heart. Part of the assignment is to produce a poster advertising your topic to the rest of the school. When Liz made her poster eight feet long and four feet high, I realized she has big dreams and the determination to make them happen.

Bosco Dusengimana from Kigali, Rwanda, will attend Bluffton University. He wrote his Graddy paper on the idea of perspective, or how our point of view affects what we think to be true. I appreciated his struggle through the writing to understand right and wrong, to grasp how both sides of an issue could be true at once. Bosco has great integrity and an honest heart.

Rowan Everet from Anderson, Indiana, will attend Earlham College. She wrote her essay on “Women in Surrealism.” Rowan is a tremendously gifted artist who believes that imagination can make the world a better place.

Sophie Fischer Frank from Amherst, Massachusetts, also plans to attend Earlham College. She wrote her paper about abusive relationships. She may look small, but Sophie loves a challenge: in soccer, she relished confronting much larger players. She also became Micah’s running buddy and ran a half marathon this year.

Emma Guy from Wheeling, West Virginia, will attend college in California. She



Back row: Bosco Dusengimana, Ari Work, Luc Nsabindora.

Second row: Liz Cheng, Amaru Jimbo de la Torre, Bao Ngo, Eric Li, Emma Guy, Frances Baker Tucker.

Third row: Malaya Tindongan, Gudari Castillo, Sophia Marotta, Rowan Everet.

Front row: Sophie Fischer Frank, Lelo Bekele, Andrew Iwenjiora, Sara Hirayama.

wrote her Graddy essay on unsolved murders and the psychological impact of reopening such cases on survivors. As Emma is keenly aware of her own emotions and those around her, it is no surprise that her paper focuses more on the feelings of people connected to victims than on the crimes.

Sara Hirayama from Tokyo, Japan, wrote about the art movement known as Minimalism. Sara is an award-winning artist and photographer, with a keen eye for the unusual detail and a quirky sense of humor. One of her things is surreptitious photos of people sleeping. She sent one of me, passed out on an air mattress during senior trip, and I saw myself through Sara's eyes.

Andrew Iwenjiora from Rochester, New York, will attend Edinboro University. Before Olney, Drew attended Arthur Morgan School in North Carolina. With a sharp, unconventional intelligence and a willingness to try new things, Drew has been a leader in Olney's thriving role-playing community for most of four years here.

Amaru Jimbo de la Torre from Otavalo, Ecuador, will attend Earlham College. Amaru wrote his Graddy about the difference between travel and tourism. Though

a very quiet student, he has the quiet strength that comes from being universally respected on the soccer field, as a member of dorm staff, or as an office work leader.

Eric Li from Beijing, China, will attend the University of California Riverside. Eric wrote his essay about Tesla and the future of electric cars. Eric has grown a tremendous amount since showing up as a shy thirteen year old who could barely speak English. Now he is barely shy and appallingly fluent. Eric loves to pretend he doesn't care, but is in fact a devoted friend.

Sophia Marotta from Kingsport, Tennessee, will be a Bonner Scholar at Earlham College. She wrote her Graddy about discrimination against the elderly—after writing a Junior Research Paper about Alzheimer's Disease. Sophia started the year as a junior, but completed both the junior and senior Humanities curricula in one year.

Bao Ngo from Hanoi, Vietnam, will attend SUNY Buffalo. He wrote his paper on depression. Bao excels in math, but actually is a poet at heart. He surprised us by reading his own work at Poetry Slam this year, especially the poem about his love of sleep (but really the anxiety of needing to be awake). A smart and caring person, Bao has less to worry about than he knows.

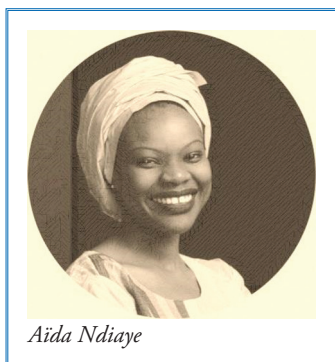
Luc Nsabindora from Kigali, Rwanda, will attend Bluffton University. He wrote his Graddy about DNA evidence. Luc loves basketball and soccer, plays the drums with Drew who plays bass, and is a great friend. When asked to write user manuals for themselves last September, Luc wrote that the trait he values most is loyalty, which feels to him like an “unbreakable bond.”

Malaya Tindongan from Athens, Ohio, will attend Ohio University in the fall. Malaya wrote their essay about “Self-Care.” It is hard to say goodbye, when Malaya first came to Olney as Amihan's ten-year-old sibling, and grew from a tiny person-with-an-attitude to a somewhat larger person-with-an-attitude before our very eyes.

Ari Work from Gainesville, Florida, will take a gap year before college. Ari wrote his Graddy about pornography addiction. Large in body, voice, and attitude, Ari is yet the epitome of an Olney education, someone who cares (in his own way) deeply about the place, especially the Guindon dorm and the friends he made here.

At the alumni meeting last night, someone spoke about that elusive thing, the Olney Spirit. I can tell you, it's a real thing. It's what drew each of you to this place this morning. It's why I always want one more class, even with these guys. It finds expression in the thousand little ways you each care for each other. It doesn't end with graduation. It commences.

Commencement Address 2019: Aïda Ndiaye



Based in London, England, Aïda Ndiaye is Facebook's Public Policy Lead for Francophone Africa. In this role, she oversees Facebook's public policy strategy in French-speaking Africa and advises on business development in the region. Prior to joining Facebook, Aïda worked at Dalberg Global Development Advisors, UNESCO, IBM, and Google.

May 25, 2019

Honored Guests, Parents, Dear Class of 2019,

Allow me first to state the honor that is mine to have been invited to deliver these opening remarks. A couple of years ago, I was sitting on a seat similar to yours. My heart was beaming, beating with a mix of excitement, gratitude, and anxiety. My mother had overcome her fears of travelling south in the African continent, to a foreign land, to watch me graduate in a language she could not understand.

Like many of you today, I was eighteen years old. I had just completed the most challenging, yet rewarding, two-year program at a school called the African Leadership Academy (ALA) in South Africa. Perhaps unlike many of you, or some of you, while the excitement was buzzing around me and had immersed my heart, the reality was that in my heart of hearts I felt crushed.

I had been admitted to ALA, two years earlier, as part of a group of the continent's brightest young leaders. For two years, I had been told I was the best of the best, that I would be the future of the continent—the future of my people. Yet as I sat in that auditorium, on that Saturday of celebration, I knew I did not have anything to show for it.

The French speaker that I was, who had been educated all my life in Senegal's national curriculum, barely made it above average in the international, world-class English school I found myself in. More importantly, to the inevitable “what's next?” question my friends and family would be asking as soon as I showed them my newly acquired diploma, I had no answer.

My track record of North American University applications was abysmal. I had gained admission here and there, yes, but that meant I faced university bills of \$40,000 a year that my parents could never afford.

Later that day after graduation, I would be sitting on a plane on my way back to my home country Senegal, secretly wishing for the plane not to land, or that God would find a way to make me disappear. I could not face what I perceived as my own failure and that of the community I represented.

Graduation is not just a day, a finite moment: it is a journey. The celebration, through a certificate, of your hard work, the joys that adorned and sorrows that marred your high school journey, the friends you will say goodbye to for a long time—all that is only the first part of this journey.

The journey of having to find yourself, without that community that uplifted you for many years, without anyone saying when to do homework, when to eat, or (in my case) without professors telling me I would be leading lands without much qualification—that is the big challenge. That is the next part of your graduation journey: finding a purpose and a mission to follow.

Ngugi Wa Thiongo, the prominent African writer, describes life as follows. He says our lives are “a battlefield, on which is fought a continuous war between the forces that are pledged to confirm our humanity and those determined to dismantle it; those who strive to build a protective wall around it, and those who wish to pull it down; those who seek to mould it, and those committed to breaking it up; those who aim to open our eyes to make us see the light and look to tomorrow ... and those who wish to lull us into closing our eyes.”

Graduation throws us into the middle of that battlefield. It's the moment to challenge the easy half-truths we like to tell ourselves, such as:

Life is fair.

We have what we deserve.

We are special human beings.

Challenging these easy half-truths can pull us towards finding the forces that confirm our humanity.

To me, that battlefield took the form of a gap year back home in Senegal. The plane had finally landed; and as it turned out, honestly my community did not care that I was not admitted to Harvard or to Oxford. When they asked me “what's next,” and I shrugged as I explained I was still figuring that out, they wished me well and continued with their lives.

While I had grown up in the comfort of a middle-class family, my community was that of the global South. It was made of the informal workers who wake up every day at five a.m., trying to sell fish or vegetables in the streets of Dakar with no guarantee of an income, in fear for their life. It was made of the father of eight who lost his job as a construction worker, who relied on the kindness of relatives and

friends to feed his family. It was that part of the world where health insurance and social insurance are privileges only available to 1% of the population. We were each other's health—and social—and employment “insurance.” We contributed to the global pot when one of us was sick.

Confronted with the reality of my people, my own anguish at my lack of plans or at my failure to secure university admission felt trivial. I realized that I had grown to attach myself to forces that were breaking apart my own humanity. I liked the title of being called the leader; I liked the markers of success. I had even forgotten to feel joy and gratitude in the beauty of my life and at celebrations of my friends' achievements.

With no more achievements of my own to claim, I was forced to go back to some basic and essential questions:

What had motivated me to leave Senegal at the age of sixteen?

What was the fire that always animated my heart?

What did my humanity rest on?

I came to realize that the liberation of my people from poverty had always been the guiding compass in my life. Poverty was not natural to Africa but constructed, by a history of colonialism, of imperialism, of failing institutions. My life's mission would be to gain access to those places which perpetuated poverty, in order to deconstruct and to begin dismantling it.

A college admission, excellent grades, or prizes were only the means to much bigger ends. I spent a year in Senegal without formally going to school. Like the rest of my peers, I took classes at the local university in between strikes, and sold mangoes in the markets like my cousins.

The next year, I ended up gaining admission with a full scholarship to a North American university, Quest University in British Columbia. That is where I met Christian [Acemah '01], who was then my professor of African Studies and African Development. After a week of struggling through his class—with 100 pages of reading a day and one essay to write every night—he reminded me of the same lessons: the importance of a meaningful pursuit of life. The courage needed to engage in intellectual inquiry that challenges who you are at the very core. That reaching Quest, and later on pursuing my Masters at Oxford, were important moments to pursue, but would not be the defining moments in my life.

I had already considered my access to these places of privilege, of the elites, was a means to raise the voice of my community. So both at Quest and later at Oxford, I published and wrote papers on the fate of informal workers. I raised their voices as much as I could. And today, in my work I lead Facebook's public affairs in Franco-phone Africa.

The first question I get asked is about Cambridge Analytica, and the next ones are about privacy and election interference. I promise to answer all of those after this ceremony. But the underlying question people often ask me is, why Facebook, if my passion was so much for my community and for Africa?

I answer that at Facebook, I am at the intersection of the democratizing power of social media and of African governments, who for the first time must reckon with social media. The internet has given back to many people in those nations the power to communicate, to mobilize and speak truth to power, to undo years of misery. With all of its woes, Facebook's mission is still to be a place of convening and to bring people closer together.

My work takes me to Cameroon in Central Africa, to the edges of cities about to enter civil war, to run online security workshops with Human Rights Defenders who have laid their bodies on the line for their country's liberation.

Other times, my work is in the city of Goma, near an Ebola-prone zone in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to talk about the innovative power of new technology. I get to tell stories about Theresa M., the first Congolese woman who designed a robot to manage traffic in Kinshasa. I get to tell people the DRC is not just about war, rape, or Ebola, it is a country of innovators. It is a country with brilliant minds, like the ones in this room today, who are also fighting to change their stories.

Still other times, I am seated in front of the ministers and heads of state, helping them to shape their policies on new technologies and the internet.

Although I have now gone through many graduations, from the African Leadership Academy to Quest University and Oxford University, graduation is still a journey and a battlefield for me too. Sometimes I waver when those markers of success are not there, when I receive a rejection, or when a project is not successful. At those times, finding my purpose is what helps me get back up, helps me continue and connect with my humanity.

Class of 2019, as you embark on this journey of graduation, as you celebrate today your achievements, you have spent the last few years in a very special, incredibly nurturing community. You are about to leave, to access and to enter other communities that may be perhaps less special, perhaps less nurturing. But wherever you go, ultimately, you are the community.

Thus I will leave you with the same question that once was posed to me: What is your life's purpose?

Class Reunions at Commencement 2019



The 75-year Class of 1944: Arthur Stanley, Marie (Smith) (Kirk) Hawkins.



The 60-year Class of 1959: Holly (Day) Magoon, Kathy (Sidwell) White, Dottie (Stratton) Churchwell, Wauneta (Peacock) Kerr, Brenda (Bowdish) Ponzani, David Fankhauser, Antero Cortes, Stan White.



The 50-year Class of 1969: Front row: Mary Alice (Cope) Pino, Katharine (Neumann) Richmann, Solveig (Seltzer) Gruber, Sylvia Thomas. Back row: David Brown III, Faith Morgan, Marjorie (Hall) Lamb, Joseph Stuckey, David Nagle.



The 40-year Class of 1979: Front row: Carolyn Smith-Brown, Anna (Cohen) Kirah, Lyn (Beede) Gruber, Ruth (Peck) Brutz, Lucinda (Warrington) Pierce, Carey Newlin. Back row: Anne Marie Taber, Bianca (Patterson) McBride, Rich Thomas (x'79/'80), Phil Connell, Maggie (Carcamo) Connell, Kim (Juerling) Newlin.



The 30-year Class of 1989: Kristine Kimm, Yvonne Underhill, Greg Mott.



The 15-year Class of 2004: Megan Frazer, Katharine (Brutz) Adolf.



The 20-year Class of 1999: Micah Guindon, Kathryn Hunninen, Naman Hampton, Carrie Ella Hearne, Sean Draskofield.

Class Reunion Gifts

To commemorate their 20th, 40th, and 50th Commencement Reunions, the classes of 1999, 1979, and 1969 collectively raised over \$14,000 to help Olney Friends School acquire a newer student transport minivan. Thanks to their gifts and some reallocated funds, we were even able to get a second van! Our students in the photos below say a van-sized THANK YOU!



Brandon Bourque '24 and Alexandra "Maya" Velasco '20 with Joe Sullivan (Hon.)



Golden Roberts '24, Noah Williams '21 (partly hidden), Aidan Baliddawa '20, and Julian Becerra '24 with Anne Marie Taber '79

Olney Friends School

2018-2019 Annual Report

Here, our second Annual Report will summarize some key financial totals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; analyze your donations to Olney Friends School and the Annual Fund; and list all our donors in the year.

Your generous contributions made it possible to provide the Olney experience to qualified students who would not have been able to attend otherwise. Thanks to you, we were able to maintain the diverse student population that is an important part of our mission.

Unrestricted donations	\$ 342,027	Tuition charged	\$1,173,150
Restricted donations	\$ 32,587	Fees charged	\$ 37,396
Grants	\$ 156,498	Scholarships, discounts	\$ 715,835
Total gifts	\$ 531,114	Tuition & fees collected	\$ 494,710

Donors and Donations in 2018-2019

409
Donors

913
Gifts

Avg. gift
\$582

Alumni and their families and friends and our faculty, staff, and board of trustees continue to show their generosity and commitment to the Olney Friends School mission. The following charts illustrate some trends in giving patterns:

Donor Trends	2017-2018	2018-2019
New Donors	163	47
Regained Donors	290	84
Gave less than in previous year	24	146
Returning Donors	36	61
Gave more than in previous year	129	71
Gave last year, but not this year	83	364

In 2018-2019, 202 donors were new, regained, or gave more than before, even without the emergency appeal that influenced 2017-2018.

Annual Fund: gift count by amount

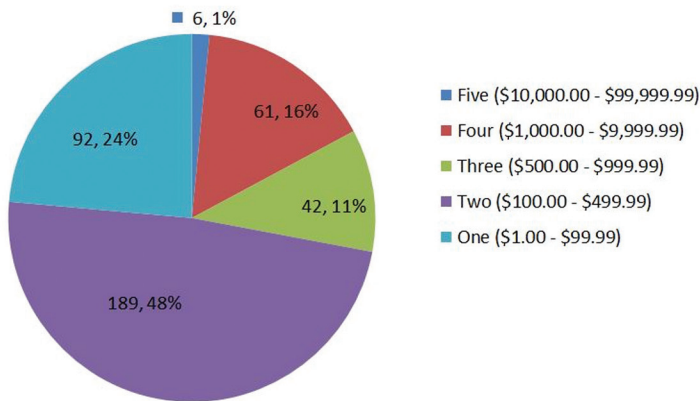


Figure 1. Gifts between \$100 and \$499 made up 48% of Annual Fund gifts by count.

Annual Fund: gift revenue by amount

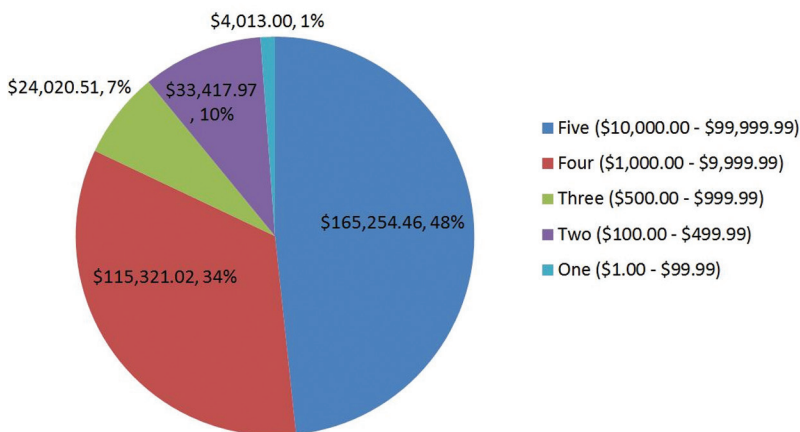


Figure 2. Donations of \$10,000 or greater contributed 48% of Annual Fund dollars.

Our Donors

Fiscal Year 2018-19

The following lists all donors whose gifts we received from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, to the best of our knowledge. If we have omitted or included your name in error, we apologize! Please contact the Development Office and let us know.

Thank you for your support of Olney and the Olney spirit! Without you, we could not continue to offer the unique Olney experience to new generations of students.

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 Thomas Hanson '51
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 Deborah Jordan
 Dee Joyner
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 Jennifer Kampsnider
 Michael (Monger) Kehrt '65
 Doug Keith (Hon.)
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Huxley and Ariel Miller in honor of Claire Miller '97

Molly Roush in honor of Christian Acemah '01

Douglas Terry '98 in honor of Leonard Guindon '70

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Floy Irwin '51 in memory of Lawrence Mott (Hon.)

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Cathy Liggett in memory of Anna (Kirk) Peacock '53

David & Mae Brown (Hon.), the Delano Family, Annette & Frank Dowling, Beverly Minnich, Larry Peddicord, Kathryn Smith '55, Ronald Smith, Barbara (Smith) '73 & Dave Warrington '74, Floyd '54 & Beth (Haines) Warrington '60, and Pauline Wills '48 in memory of Carl Smith '48

Eric Swartz and Jill Swartz in memory of Bertha Swartz '40

Jo Ellen McCracken, Nancy Naylor, and Ruth Naylor '52 in memory of Donald McCracken '75

Ernest Hilton '49 in memory of Erica (Herz) Van Adelsberg '47

Rebecca Shankland x'57 and Terry Teale in memory of Marian Hoge '42

Peggy Hollingsworth in memory of William Hollingsworth '54

Hadley Friends Church (Coatesville, Indiana) in memory of Leanna Roberts '41

You Want to Give Back to Olney, But How?

On behalf of current and future members of our Olney community, thank you for considering a gift to Olney. Here are a few different ways you can give:

Annual Fund Gifts

Please consider outright gifts that can be used to meet the school's annual operating needs including teacher salaries, classroom equipment, speakers, and field trips. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards, by mail (address below) or online at www.olneyfriends.org/support-olney.

Monthly Gifts

Many friends find it convenient to set up a recurring monthly gift, rather than budget for a single, larger donation. You can do this through your credit card or PayPal account at our online site (link above).

Stocks, Securities, and Mutual Funds

Giving appreciated assets maximizes your contribution. Because of capital gains considerations, it is beneficial to transfer your shares directly to Olney (rather than to sell them and donate the proceeds). Please contact us for specific instructions on transferring gift stocks.

Planned Gifts

We gratefully accept planned gifts from friends of any age. You can designate Olney as a beneficiary of your insurance policy or retirement fund, establish a charitable gift annuity through Friends Fiduciary, or make a bequest in your will. Please contact us for more information, or let us know about any plans you have already made.

Development Office, development@olneyfriends.org:

Anne Marie Taber, Director: annemarie@olneyfriends.org

Shea Bugala, Administrative Assistant: shea@olneyfriends.org

Olney Friends School • 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH 43713

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Olney Traditions: Threads of Continuity

By Dorothy Stratton Churchwell '59

Part 1

With a history going back 182 years, Olney Friends Boarding School has collected some long-lived traditions. Some are so deeply embedded as to be part of the fabric defining the school. As the world changes around us, many of our traditions have evolved in response, while some fade away and others are born.

Morning and evening Collections, when the entire community gathers to begin and end its day together, have always been part of life at Olney. At Mt. Pleasant in 1837, students lined up by height with the shortest in front, boys in one side hall and girls in the other, before filing into the collecting room where they sat on opposite sides with the teachers in the front. The practice continued at the new school built in Barnesville in 1876. Later, students would line up and sit by class year (still on separate sides) in the Collecting Room, located then in the current Library at the center of the Main Building.

In 1960, an addition was built with a new Collection Room above the Science Wing. At first, students sat facing the stage and the faculty, who sat in the “facing benches.” For a time, seniors had the privilege of sitting on benches along the sides. Later, seats were arranged in a hollow square to make Collection less like assembly and more spiritual. For many years, Collection included a Bible reading with some silence and morning announcements. Partway through the 20th century those readings began to come from a widening variety of sources, and later became optional. Now, they have become the occasional vocal (or other) ministry, from students and staff, which emerges from silent worship at Collection.



Meeting for Worship on the back lawn in the 1950s

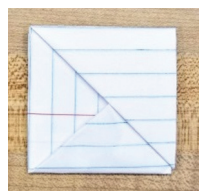
Meeting for worship is still held each Sunday (First Day) and Wednesday (Fourth Day). In the past, Olney students would attend Stillwater Meeting every Sunday and go “half-houring” afterwards, walking out Sandy Ridge Road to the Taber

Farm mailbox, to stretch after sitting and fill the half hour until lunch. For a time, students were also expected at Stillwater's monthly and quarterly business meetings. Because business meetings might last well past Olney's usual lunchtime, students received "monthly meeting cookies" before going "up the hill." One reference says boys got three cookies each, and girls two! Although meeting cookies and half-houring are past history, twice-weekly Meetings for Worship are still an important part of Olney's community life. These days they may be held in the Collection Room or dorm parlor, on the front lawn or Paul's Island, or at Stillwater, as determined by the Spiritual Life Committee of students and staff.



"Half-houring" circa 1950

Though the founders at Mt. Pleasant wanted a coed school, they put a lot of effort into keeping boys and girls completely separated. At first all classes were taught to one gender at a time, and even dining rooms were separate. It took only a few years for the school to realize how much money could be saved by combining genders in classrooms and dining rooms, although boys and girls were seated on opposite sides of the room. Despite such restrictions, boys and girls always managed to make connections in some fashion. Of course they found ways to pass notes; in fact, note writing developed into a special and long-lived art at Olney. Notes were folded in a specific way (photo) and usually delivered by a third person.



*1970's style
"Social Note"*

"Social rules" have always informed Olney traditions, and every generation of students has found their rules too restrictive. In the early days, winter outings for ice skating or sledding were opportunities when certain pairs might find a way to be together. Much later, special occasions were introduced when a boy and girl were permitted to meet together for "conversation." Much, much later, "going down the brick walk" after lunch—and later, after evening Collection—became a time for couples (they were even allowed to hold hands!). For many years, couples were

allowed to sit together at supper on Sunday, so that afternoon's ritual would be writing a social note, inviting someone special to "go to supper with me."

For decades, Olney's dining room had long tables that seated all boys or all girls, six on each side, with a teacher at either end. The first easing of gender separation allowed boys to sit on one side of a table, girls on the other. Olney graduates in the 1920s and '30s complained that they had been so sheltered as students that they lacked social skills needed in college and business. Consequently, staff introduced alternating seating (boy, girl, boy, girl), and the boy was responsible for seating the girl on his right by holding her chair. Dishes were passed among the girls first, zig-zagging down the table, and then to the boys. That plan didn't last long! Around 1960, those long tables were replaced by square ones for eight; today seats are assigned only for lunch on weekdays.



Dining room in the early 1950s

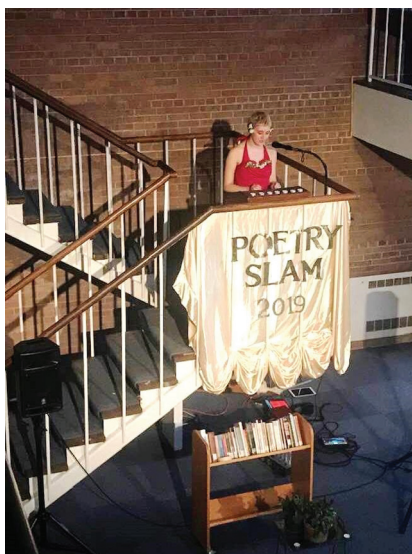
The Olney Literary Society (and the Whittier Society, for a few years) was responsible for Saturday evening programs. Its meetings followed Roberts' Rules of Order, the procedure common in society at large, so students could learn how to conduct business in a non-Quaker fashion. There were lectures, speaking contests, and eventually plays. By the 1960s and '70s, Literary could also include music recitals, guest speakers, and even movies. These days, instead of a formal Literary each Saturday, similarly intellectual and cultural offerings may happen on a weekend, or not. One popular descendant of the Literary tradition is Poetry Slam, held each April in the girls' dorm parlor, where the central staircase makes a fine raised stage for perform-



Folk dancing in the '60s

ing published or original poems. Another descendant is the Coffee House event, in which students and teachers offer short musical pieces, readings, skits, or even a dance. Some recent Coffee Houses have been part of Parents or Homecoming weekend, and are often held in the dining room (because of the coffee).

The traditional Friday evening program, for many years, was the "Social." This took many forms and evolved freely. There was no attempt to make it educational: it was supposed to be fun, and supposed to not be more passive sitting and listening. Roller skating in the gym was introduced around 1950, and folk dancing soon followed (though known initially as folk "games," since more conservative Quakers still frowned on dancing). Friday Socials became more interesting and creative, but also moved away from being the Friday evening routine. Other socials live on, as the long-standing traditions of Halloween, Junior, and Senior Socials.



Noa Everet '21 at Poetry Slam



Beverly (Stanley) Wetherald '52 and Chester Hartley '53 in costume for Halloween Socials

Seniors still plan and carry out the Halloween Social, complete with a haunted house in a secret location, and Junior Social is still a surprise all-school event, with juniors choosing the theme, activities, costumes, and menu.



Junior Social circa 1979



Games at Junior Social 2019



Frances Baker Tucker '19 at Junior Social 2019

Senior Social, when seniors pass down their roles to the next year's senior class, is still held on the last "regular" weekend of school. The following weekend, the last before Commencement, has become the time for Senior Trip.



Sara Hirayama, Ari Work, Bosco Dusengimana, Bao Ngo, & Andrew Iwenjiora at Senior Social 2019

The graduating classmates make all the plans and arrangements for an extended weekend (about five days) trip to an interesting destination. For example, our newest alumni traveled (with three patient teachers) to Asheville, North Carolina, last May. There they slept at the Friends meetinghouse, explored the city and nearby parks by day, and prepared most of their own meals at night. Where did your Senior Trip go?

Join us for Part 2 in the Spring 2020 issue of *The Olney Current*!

Many thanks to several people who contributed suggestions and details of topics to include. Much additional credit should be given to Bill Taber's book, *Be Gentle, Be Plain*, for some of the historical perspectives.

Alumni News

Please send alumni news and obituaries to Anne Marie Taber at Olney Friends School, 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH 43713, or email them to annemarie@olney-friends.org.

Class of 1939: 80-year reunion class

Marcus and Marjorie Hadley

April 23, 2019: Dear Olneyites, I have happy memories of my years at Olney and I wish to send along this contribution and hope it will help support the school. We appreciate so much the *Olney Current* with school news. We are now living with our son Carle and Therall in Billings, Montana. It is still cold outdoors. Our daughter Janice lives in Seattle with husband Lile. Our son Neal and Elinor are near Roseburg, OR. They all come to visit Margie and me several times in the year. Much love to all, Marcus.

Class of 1949: 70-year reunion class

Mary (Otis) Way

Roger Way, spouse of **Mary Elizabeth Otis Way '49**, passed away in June 2019 at the age of 100. He will be missed by family and friends.

Class of 1950

Sylvia (Rockwell) Gralewski

Sylvia writes: I still enjoy taking walks, reading books, and solving crossword puzzles; also volunteering at the local food bank.

Class of 1952

Ruth “Bunnie” (Bundy) Naylor

My new book, *Faith Talk: A Spiritual Memoir Inviting Reflection & Dialogue*, published by Westbow Press, is available now at Amazon.com.

The personal stories of my spiritual formation and lifetime of growth in prayer, experience of God's presence, provision, and guidance begin with my being raised

in a Quaker home and community --including my four years at Olney. I have many wonderful memories of my Olney days (1948-1952) and quite a number of them are mentioned in the book. The stories are not didactic; they simply illustrate how faith has impacted my life. Questions at the end of each chapter are intended to help the reader (or a small group) to think about their own important spiritual experiences or thoughts about faith or no faith. The stories end with my husband's long illness and subsequent death after 61 years of marriage.

I've also published two books of poetry. The one still available at Amazon.com is titled *Straw & All: A Christmas Poetry Collection*. It explores a multitude of ways to experience or look at Christmas. Those poems were written over all the holiday seasons between 1969 and 2013.

Class of 1955

Richard Patterson

Sharon (Perry) Patterson, spouse of Richard, unexpectedly passed away on September 24, 2017. She grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut, where she graduated from William Hall High School ('56). Sharon walked home with her best friend Dottie (Hatton) Batho Lasley every day. Sharon and Dottie met with the Dean of Women from Earlham College. Sharon and Dottie decided to call Earlham their new home. Once there, Sharon was set up on a blind date and married the same man in 1961. With math as her major, her teaching career started in Palatine, Illinois, moved to Maremont, Ohio, and finished in Deer Park, Ohio.

Richard and Sharon bought their home in 1969. Located in Greenhills, Ohio, the new homestead helped the Pattersons start preparing for a family. Lynn was welcomed home in 1970, and Lee joined the family in 1973. Sharon was a stay-at-home mom until the kids were in middle school. Then she got a job delivering flowers for Village Green and, as Richard says, found all kinds of places to spend money! Sharon finished her career with Cincinnati Financial Corporation, where she stayed for 19 years and retired in 2005.

Sharon had many passions. Her family and friends were always put first, leaving her social calendar full and organized. Sharon found a second passion through Shopping. From Longaberger baskets to the Cat's Meow Village that decorated our home, she had many collections. However, the majority of her shopping was for others, always managing to pick the right gift for any occasion. Sharon had a contagious smile that could light up a room. Some say her eyes would sparkle alongside her smile. Her favorite relaxation spot was lying in the sun on our patio outside the family cottage on the shore of Lake Erie. She loved to share that special spot with everyone she could so that they, too, could feel the beauty of the sun.

Sharon is survived by her husband Richard, two sisters Caryl Goldstein (Michael)

and Deborah Blankenship, daughter Lynn Reminga (Ron), son Lee Patterson (Sabine), five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Class of 1964

Stephen Sharpless

I've been here at A Touch of Heaven Assisted Living just over a month. My mind is sharp, but my body?? My right leg is virtually paralyzed and my shoulders have had five surgeries; therefore it's the bed or a power wheelchair. (As I type this, bed.) My chair gets repaired or replaced, depending what Medicare approves. For transport I rely on the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA). They will take me anywhere in the county for \$3.00 each way. Then there is Precious Cargo for \$75.00 each way; I have to be in a real bind to use anything other than RABA.

I retired from the I.R.S. on the century's first workday. I have managed to get to every state but Hawaii and to every Canadian province or territory. My two favorites were Antarctica and Inuvik, Yukon; with Yellowknife and Northwest Territory in the running, and a trip to L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, thrown in. As a history buff the Neufu trio was great; I got to sit on the very rock formation that is documented by Leif Erickson. All of this by car or ferry—loved those Subaru Outbacks.

July 6, 2019, post to Stephen's Facebook page:

Dear Friends of Stephen H. Sharpless,

With sadness in my heart I share with you that Steve died last night. His body finally had enough and I find comfort knowing he is at peace, greeted with loving arms by his parents and brother.

I will be burying his ashes in West Grove, PA in the near future and will post details when I'm able. Love and peace, Carole Sharpless (his niece).

Class of 1969: 50-year reunion class

Mary Alice (Cope) Pino

Greetings to all: When I reflect over my 50 years after leaving Olney in 1969, I marvel at the different places I have lived, the different people that I encountered on the way, and by God's grace I have come to see His hand in shaping my life and being my support throughout.

My first major job was head cook and dietitian at the Arthur Morgan School 1970-71. I learned that I related with middle school kids pretty well, and loved living in the Black Mountains there at Celo, NC. I had considered being a middle school physical education teacher. I met a German woman there who got me in touch with a couple of families in (West) Germany. I worked at Varta Batterie in Hannover for three months and at Kneipp-Kurheim Breu, a family-run spa, in Scheidegg-Algäu for three months before heading back to the states. I took German at Olney and wanted to use it, and this gave me the opportunity to stay with these families and learn more of the language and culture.

Tom Pino and I were married after I returned from Germany in 1972. We had a son, Lorin, in 1973, and eventually ended up buying a farm in Salem, WV, in 1980, where we lived about twenty years. I worked for the USPS, as clerk at first then city carrier, in Salem. I really enjoyed watching the different seasons come and go as well as providing the mail service to my customers. We joined the WV Draft Horse & Mule Assn. Tom and Lorin liked being a part of the local muzzle-loader club, the Appalachian Rangers; and I became a member of the WV Beekeepers Assn. and the North-Central WV Herbal Assn. Lorin helped on the farm with our dairy goats and horses, and hauled wood for heat. He inherited the music gene from the Pinos and loved playing clarinet and oboe in the band and orchestra. He presently plays guitar and penny whistles in different keys, and is a county maintenance man in Jordan, MT.

In 1997, Tom and I went our separate ways and got a divorce. I lived with my folks for a little while and was asked to help at Olney, in the dorm and in maintenance, in 1997-98. It was a struggle that year, but as always, I think back on the different people and students with fondness.

During this time I was a member of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, which had an annual conference connected with six Indian missions, meetings, and communities in Oklahoma, Iowa, and Alabama. Whenever I attended these conferences I felt a blessing from it. In time I felt a “leading,” as Friends call it, to go to the Navajo reservation to live and work among them. It took a while to know this particular path, but I worked at Rough Rock Community School from 2000-2001 and Chilchinbeto Community School from 2005-2009.

After I worked at Rough Rock for one year, I needed more college to have a more secure position, so I returned home to get a teaching degree at Youngstown State University. I went full-time year-round, finished in three and a half years, and landed a teaching job at Chilchinbeto as an elementary teacher for four years. I also was “caretaker” of the Rough Rock Friends Mission there in between missionaries. When I first worked at Rough Rock, I learned so much about the Navajo (Dine) culture, the good and the difficult. The kids have a wonderful innocence about them, but the alcohol and drug addiction problem is a heavy burden. A year before I went out on the “rez,” my son married a woman from Arizona in 1999, and they have three children who are now teenagers: Edan (18), Aaron (17), & Maddie (15).

I returned to Ohio to be with Mom. She had fallen in the winter of 2009 and seemed to have had her confidence shaken. The time seemed right to live with her, so I've been with her ever since. While here I have worked as Therapeutic Support Staff in New Castle, PA, with kids who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. I worked mostly with them in schools, one-on-one, helping with focus and positive behaviors.

Now that Mom **[Verna (Heald) Cope '40]** is in her 97th year of life, I keep closer to home and do more domestic chores for her. I keep a small garden and have branched out and hope to have a nice crop of grapes this next summer. I enjoy the country and farm life and working with kids. I keep active with my dog and like to do interior or exterior painting for friends locally, for now. I also keep active in my local Middleton Friends Meeting, where I am an elder, the clerk of Salem Quarterly Meeting, and the clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting's Ministry & Oversight.

Each day has its challenges, joys, and reflections. I marvel at the goodness of our Lord and the blessings of His seed within us to teach us of His kingdom. Let us nurture His Holy Seed that gives us life and light, not darkness. I hope to be at our reunion but time will tell how things go. Greetings and love to all.

Contact: 44550 State Route 517, Columbiana, OH 44408; 330-831-1242;
pinomary@hotmail.com

Class of 1983

Kate Haas

Writing and editing keep me busy in Portland, OR, and for the past several years my family and I have been volunteering with a local agency to host newly arrived refugees until they find housing. We have been privileged to meet families from Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar, El Salvador, Eritrea, and many other countries. Visitors are welcome! Contact: *Kate.Haas.@runbox.com*

Class of 2007

Lillian Denhardt

Lillian's mother Julianne Vadnais Trempus, a Friend of School who often returned to do volunteer work projects at Olney, passed away unexpectedly on August 4, 2019.

Friends Who Have Passed

Mildred Elizabeth (Mott) Mendenhall '39

November 10, 1921 - May 28, 2019: Strong woman in a contradictory world. Lover and advocate of the Earth, Peace and Justice for All. Brilliant humor. Beautiful mother. Born in the farm house at "The Home Place" in Iowa. To high school among her beloved and life-long friends at Olney Friends Boarding School, Ohio. Wooed by and married to **Hubert Mendenhall ('34)** in 1941. To the prize-winning dairy farm and home in Fairhope, Alabama, to begin family life and to practice "the ancient art of making order where people dwell." Late 40's: war, materialism, television, consumerism led to seeking simplicity and peace in Costa Rica in 1950. She, Hubert and the family, now Carol Francis, Ruth Eileen and Phillip Elwood, and with Hubert's parents, two sisters, other Friends and their families, undertook to build home and community from scratch. There Juanita Lucía and Arturo Luís were born and she, alongside her sister-in-law, helped as midwife at the birth of others. She was active in all community events and endeavors.

Mildred Elizabeth created a way to thrive. She nourished and nursed her children in a wholesome and chemical-free life style, practicing simplicity in all things. She was skilled at removing stains, mending and repairing, using what was at hand and leaving a light footprint wherever she lived. A fine, self-taught seamstress, she created and sewed all the family's clothing, household items, teddy bears and doll clothes. In the woods, she built trails, explored new water-ways, rocky gorges, wild places; their plants and birds and blooms, "guardening" the woods that surrounded her wherever she lived. She cherished her music, singing, her short-wave radio, HCJB Quito, Radio Universitaria, CBC, King FM, and Knowledge Network. She loved words, "working with words," books, reading aloud. Gifted in correspondence and autobiography, she loved recording by word and photograph.

In later years she and Hubert travelled many thousands of miles, she the navigator with her love of maps and of finding beautiful places to camp and picnic, especially beside big trees and rushing rivers. And to Vancouver Island, Canada, in the late 1970's with Hubert where much of the family eventually joined them. She was to live there for more years than any other one place, surrounded by beloved Northern woodlands.

A small memorial Friends Meeting for Worship was held on First Day, the second of Sixth Month, 2019, in her home according to her wishes. We are deeply grateful to those who helped us care for Mama in her last months and days here. You made all the difference.

"Now to whom shall I give my most beautiful flowers and finest fruits?"

"I'll be seeing (thee) in all the familiar places." – Juanita

Leanna (Barker) Roberts '41

Leanna Kathryn (Barker) Roberts, 94, died on Saturday, April 6, 2019, at Wellbrooke of Westfield. She was born on October 10, 1924, the daughter of Ellis and Rachel (Thomas) Barker.

Leanna was educated at the Westfield elementary schools, Olney Friends School, Earlham College and Indiana University. She taught English, Latin and Botany in high schools at Westfield, Tipton, New Castle and Broad Ripple in Indianapolis. Leanna was a member of several organizations including the Blatchley Nature Study Club, Hamilton County and Westfield-Washington Historical Societies, Westfield Outlook Club and the Indiana Society of Pioneers. She was a co-author of the book *Our Westfield* in 1984.

Leanna was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends with membership in Noblesville Friends Meeting and an associate membership in Stillwater Friends Meeting in Barnesville, Ohio. She was active in the United Society of Friends Women, serving as President of the Western Yearly Meeting U.S.F.W. and later as International President of the U.S.F.W. when she travelled to Kenya, the West Bank and Belize. She later was the administrator of the John Sarrin Scholarship Fund.

Leanna was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, **Mary Elizabeth Barker ('37)**. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Joseph G. Roberts; son, Thomas J. Roberts; daughter, **Mary Kathryn (Milton) Whittaker (Hon.)**; and grandchildren, Ramona Kathryn, Rachel Emma, Joseph Santiago, John Milton and Paul David Whittaker.

Elma (Pemberton) Dixon '45

Elma S. (Pemberton) Dixon, 91, of Salem, died at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2019, at Salem Regional Medical Center. She was born on July 7, 1928, in Salem, the daughter of the late A. Lindley and Mary E. (Warrington) Pemberton.

Elma was a 1945 graduate of the Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio and attended Wilmington College for two years. She was a member of the Sixth Street Friends Meeting in Salem. She was formerly employed at Crane Deming Pump Company for 40 years. She spent most of her time in the export department. She was a member of the Salem Elks Auxiliary, Salem and Damascus Historical Societies, Salem Senior Citizens and Salem Retirees.

Elma was a big bowler and enjoyed it for many years. She was very well known at the Salem Hospital as a volunteer in the surgical waiting room and delivered for mobile meals.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Balford W. Dixon on July 6, 1986; brothers, **Lawrence '33** and **Clarence Pemberton '35** and sisters, **Margarete Wiseman '36**, **Bertha Eagleton '41**, **Dorothy Lilly x'42**, and **Lorena Rutledge '38**. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Services were held August 29 at the Arbaugh-Pearce-Greenisen & Sons Funeral and Cremation Services, Salem, with Pastor Steve Lowe of the Damascus Friends Church officiating. Donations can be made to the Mobile Meals Program, 1995 East State Street, Salem, Ohio 44460.

Esther (Holloway) Ewing '45

Esther R. Ewing, age 90, died at 1:10 p.m. Thursday, June 14, 2018, at the Salem Regional Medical Center. She was born June 21, 1927, in Salem, Ohio, the daughter of the late Emry C. and **Amelia B. (Gamble) Holloway ('17)**.

Esther was a member of the Canfield United Methodist Church. She was a graduate of Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. She earned a bachelor's degree at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio. After college, she taught at the Canfield Elementary School. She was a homemaker on the Ewing family farm for many years. After the family moved to Greenford, she served as a clerk at the Greenford Library.

Survivors include her husband, Allan B. Ewing, whom she married June 21, 1951; a daughter, Amy L. Ondrejko of Lisbon, OH; two sons, William A. Ewing of New Milford, CT, and Thomas A. (Patricia) Ewing of Winona, OH; five grandchildren, Jillian, Jerrod, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Robert; and ten great-grandchildren. A brother, **Albert L. Holloway ('49)**, and a son-in-law, David E. Ondrejko, also preceded her in death.

Vernon V. "Slim" Hinshaw '46

Vernon V. Hinshaw was born July 21, 1927, to Virgil V. and Hazel (Reed) Hinshaw in Newberg, Oregon. He grew up in Newberg, attending school there for nine and a half years. He went to Greenleaf Academy in Greenleaf, Idaho, and graduated from Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. He met and married Edith R. Johnson while at Olney, and returned to Newberg. In 1950, Vernon and Edie moved to Centerville, Washington, where they farmed for 20 years. They raised four children, two boys and two girls. In 1970, they sold the farm and moved to Gladstone, Oregon, where they bought a health food store. In 1972, they bought Parkway Health Foods, in McMinnville, Oregon, and in 1976, they opened Parkway 2 in the Town Center of McMinnville. In the 1980s they sold the Third Street Parkway and continued running the Parkway 2 store until Edie passed away in 2003. Vernon long-haul trucked for a while with his oldest son, Phil, and he got his pilot's license in 1974. He loved to fly! Vern was a gentle, kind man, and many people looked to him as a father throughout the years. Vern was unashamedly a Christian. He was a member of Baker Creek Community Church and The Gide-ons. Vern was a great storyteller, and had many stories to tell!

Vern was preceded in death by his wife, Edie; his younger son, David; his younger daughter, Tricia; his sister, Ruth, and her husband, Glen; his son-in-law, Dan; and his daughter-in-law, Dona. Vern is survived by his son, Phil, and his daughter, Kathy; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. He lived a quiet, peaceful life and will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

Wilmer Stratton '50

Wilmer Joseph Stratton, 85, died on March 14, 2018, in Lexington, VA. He was born June 4, 1932, in New Jersey, the son of **Arthur ('18)** and **Edith (Pickett) Stratton ('25)**. Before coming to Olney as a tenth grader he was active in Montclair Friends Meeting, became an Eagle Scout, and played clarinet in the band. At Olney, Wilmer continued his interest in radios, photography, and woodworking besides being a good student. He majored in chemistry at Earlham College and received his PhD from Ohio State University. Almost all of his teaching career was spent at Earlham College where he helped develop a student research program focused on mercury in the atmosphere. Collaborating with scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he was one of the authors of an innovative chemistry textbook, *Chemistry in Context, Applying Chemistry to Society*, which has had four editions. Wilmer was particularly proud of being part of an Earlham faculty team that developed one of the earliest peace studies programs in American colleges and universities, now called Peace and Global Studies.

During Wilmer's college and graduate school years, he was very active with the Young Friends of North America (YFNA) program. In 1954 he traveled to England, Ireland, and Germany to meet with young adult Friends, and in 1958 he was part of the YFNA team that hosted a group of young Russians in an effort to bridge divides fostered by both governments. Wilmer played the banjo and frequently served as a caller for square dances. Throughout life he continued developing his skill as a photographer and later exhibited at a few photographic shows.

Wilmer married Becky Henderson in 1955, and they raised their three sons in Richmond, Indiana. The marriage ended in 1982. In 1989 he married Mary Chenoweth. After retirement they moved to Floyd, Virginia, and later to the Kendal retirement community in Lexington, Virginia. During these years Wilmer pursued his favorite hobbies of woodworking and photography. Wilmer and Mary were active in many projects in the local community and regional Quaker groups (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) as well as enjoying traveling and camping.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; his three sons, **Don ('74)**, Larry, and Roger; seven grandchildren; three stepchildren and their families; two siblings, **Dorothy Churchwell ('59)** and **Dick Stratton ('63)**; and many nieces, nephews and close friends. His brother, **John Stratton ('53)**, died in 2004.

William "Bill" Hollingsworth '54

William Penn Hollingsworth, 82, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died on Saturday, March 9, 2019. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Frank H. and Dora (Oliver) Hollingsworth on November 11, 1936. Bill and his older sister Emily Jane grew up in Hinsdale and attended the Chicago Monthly Meeting with their parents. Bill had resided in Oklahoma since 1983, moving due to his transfer of employment with the Western Electric Company, at their closing of the massive Hawthorne Works complex in Cicero. Bill eventually completed 30 years of working for Western Electric and its successor, AT&T.

In 1985 he married [Eunice] Ilean (Boyer) (Forester), who passed away July 10, 2013. Bill and Ilean moved to the Spanish Cove Retirement Community in 2001 and enjoyed their associations there. They had been actively involved with the Telcom Thunderbird Pioneers in Oklahoma City, part of a nationwide volunteer network of retired telephone industry workers.

Bill was a 1954 high school graduate of Olney Friends School, Barnesville, Ohio. He attended Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, for the two years following. From 1959 to 1961 Bill completed his alternative service obligation with the American Friends Board of Missions in Kaimosi, Kenya, working with the Friends Industrial Mission. For many years, Bill assisted his parents with the editing and mailing of *Indian Progress*, the newsletter publication of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs. Bill enjoyed traveling and attending Quaker gatherings. Early on, he often visited in the Indiana hometowns of his parents, namely Crawfordsville (Dora) and Russiaville (Frank).

Photography was a treasured hobby, and many of his images survive, especially documenting the destruction and rebuilding of Russiaville after the 1965 Palm Sunday Tornado.

Bill is preceded in death by his wife, Ilean Hollingsworth; his parents, Dora and Frank Hollingsworth; his brother-in-law, John Smith; a great-granddaughter; and his uncle, Isaac Allen “Ike” Hollingsworth. He is survived by his sister, Emily Smith of Rock Island, Illinois; step-son and wife, Jimmy and Glenda Forester of Dill City, Oklahoma; step-daughter, Linda Castor of Edmond, Oklahoma; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; his aunt, Helen (Butler) Hollingsworth and cousin Peggy Ann Hollingsworth, Russiaville, Indiana; and cousin Alma Sue (Hollingsworth) and husband, John Pierce, Plainfield, Indiana, and their two children and spouses, as well as their two grandchildren, all in Indiana.

Marlene (Thomas) Cooper ’58

Marlene Cooper, 79, of Columbiana, Ohio, passed away Monday, May 27, 2019, at her home surrounded by her family. She was born May 26, 1940, in Martins Ferry, Ohio, daughter of the late **Alfred (’28)** and **Harriet (Stanley) Thomas (’30)**. Marlene was a member of the Middleton Friends Meeting and was a homemaker. She graduated from the Olney Friends Boarding School in Barnesville, Ohio.

Marlene was involved in the 4 C’s and Mother’s Club. She loved her grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them more than anything. She is survived by her husband, **Walter Cooper (’56)**, whom she married January 2, 1960; a son, Wynn (Becky) Cooper of Columbiana, a granddaughter, Amber (Darren) Ray of Leetonia; three grandsons, Devin (Katie) Cooper of Columbiana, Gavin (Mallory) Cooper of Columbiana, and Nathan Cooper of Boardman; four great-grandchildren, Chloe, Carson, Kenton, and Koleson; two sisters, **Elvina Krekler (’53)** of Salem and **Eva Mae (Dell) Cope (’55)** of Bristolville; and a brother, **Walter (Judy) Thomas (’61)** of Adena.

Sister Therese (Mary Luella) Mott '60

Sister Therese (Mary Luella) Mott passed away on May 2, 2019. She was born March 7, 1942, in Pasadena, California, to John Wencel Mott and **Helen Luella Rockwell Mott ('28)**. The following is excerpted from her Celebration of Life printed in the July-August 2019 newsletter of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"I grew up in a Quaker family of five. My father had a week off each summer and we traveled in a station wagon that also served as our camper. We were immersed in the beauty of creation and experienced connections with the Sister we share our life with... and learned to know the beautiful Mother Earth who opens her arms to embrace us. (Laudato Si 1)

"My father was the bird expert; my mother the nature expert. I remember one mountain experience when my father had us lie down flat, not moving, and not making a sound, waiting with one arm outstretched with crumbs in our hands; eventually birds came to eat!

"My parents taught us to delight in nature and to identify wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and identify birds by their appearance and calls. These experiences left their mark on me, giving me a deep sensitivity of and appreciation for natural beauty.

"When I was in my twenties, I sought a teaching position in Alaska. I was seeking a simple environment where wilderness still thrives. At last I made it to that great State; to a place off the North Slope with enough sun for a garden. However, I soon discovered permafrost and the fact that it snowed every month of the year, making gardening impossible.

"Later I moved to Fairbanks, four hundred miles south, where I was fortunate enough to rent a small house with a large backyard. I went to the university extension farm to learn about short-summer gardening. I learned to make my own rows running north and south three feet apart; to dig trenches in between and keep the soil warm by covering each row with heavy clear plastic sheeting.

"I began to live in a new way. I taught during the fall, winter and spring and lived in my garden all summer long. I put my watch in the drawer and lived without awareness of time, as daylight is continuous in the summer. Long walks and gardening filled my short summers. I ate from the garden, froze the vegetables, saved some fresh ones for myself and gave the rest away.

"I loved being in the garden and close to nature, giving myself to this work. I felt I was participating in the growth and fruitfulness of the plants. I became aware of the garden's cycle of life. In sacrificing, dying and giving what was left, the plants ensured and provided for new life.

"In the winter of 1969, I was living in an Eskimo village on an island off the north slope of Alaska, where we experienced total darkness. The darkness was breathtaking in itself. In such darkness the stars were brilliant—the Milky Way so evident.

“One night while walking out from the village with total 360-degree visibility, the northern lights, Aurora Borealis, presented themselves in curtains of purple, green, pale yellow, violet, blue, and magenta, rippling all around me! I was overwhelmed by the beauty. I found myself dancing and twirling over the frozen tundra in communion with my God. I had many encounters with the northern lights during my years in Alaska, sometimes with friends and sometimes alone. The encounters were always stunning and unique.”

On May 2, 1984, Pope John Paul II was in Fairbanks with President Ronald Reagan for a portion of a day. It was a city holiday and Sister Therese watched the Holy Father on television. She felt impelled to make a telephone call to inquire who the priest was standing next to the Pope. He was Jesuit priest Rev. Francis W. Mc-Guigan. That one phone call was the beginning of a door opening to the Catholic faith for her.

In the fall of 1984 Sr. Therese started regular visits and instructions with Father Mc-Guigan. She was baptized and confirmed on Holy Saturday night in 1985. During the next three years she met, prayed and worked with Sisters of the Good Shepherd. She made a short visit with the Contemplative Community in Florissant, Missouri, and within 16 hours said, “this is home.”

Sister then prepared to leave Alaska. She visited a number of Good Shepherd communities in the U.S. and in March of 1988, Holy Week, she returned to Florissant to stay, where she lived a deeply contemplative life. She learned to play the organ and knitted many beautiful afghans, using the Aurora Borealis colors in her weavings. She enjoyed garden work and added much joy to the communities where she had been missioned in St. Louis, California, Illinois, and Korea.

In 2013, Sister was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a chronic and debilitating disease. Her courage, beautiful acceptance and resignation of her illness was an inspiration and humbling gift to all of us who loved and cared for her throughout the gradual progression of her disease and ultimate death and return home to our loving Shepherd on May 2.

The fidelity of her family, especially her sister Peggy who visited her from California and emailed her daily, were a blessed treasure, as were her religious Sisters and many faithful friends. Sister Therese was also very grateful to our staff and the Visiting Nurses and Associates who brightened her days so often. She was a special angel and is greatly missed.

Stephen Sharpless '64

Stephen Sharpless passed away July 5, 2019, as posted by his niece on his Facebook page. Please see his note in Alumni News.

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