

The Olney Current



Olney Friends School
Barnesville, Ohio

Winter 2023 Vol. 131 No. 1

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ERRATA: On page 29 in the previous issue (Summer 2023), instead of Howard Rockwell '46 it should have said that Howard Rockwell '24 built the dorm furniture in the old barn.

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Send corrections and contributions to:
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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, typically through employment over one year.

Cover Photo: Evening after an ice storm at the Sunnyside faculty house and winter garden.

Report from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a fantastic fall. At Olney Friends School, we had an incredible start to the academic year with students, as always, from across the world.

Whenever I must write this letter for the *Olney Current*, I freeze, not knowing what to highlight in a few hundred words. Each day here holds a hundred stories about our community members, their interactions with each other and the environment, their growing trust of each other, and our collective striving to welcome everyone and help them feel they belong at Olney. Most of the work happens imperceptibly, simply, and at a comfortable pace. You cannot rush belonging!

Why do we care about belonging? How do we foster bonds of trust? The answer to the first question seems straightforward: the Quaker testimonies call upon us to care for others and see the humanity in everyone. The answer to the second seems more elusive, as community members interpret the testimonies from their diverse viewpoints. In this setup, conflict arises when we forget the number of perspectives at play in our interactions. When we pay attention to each other and have the patience to scrutinize our taken-for-granted assumptions, we grow together. Each interaction becomes a moment to learn with and connect to each other. In this way, we dissolve the surface-level boundaries that separate us, fostering bonds of trust amongst community members. In this paragraph, I have outlined, in broad terms, some ways we try to create a sense of belonging at Olney. The detailed version gets quite complicated.

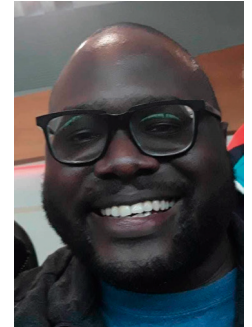
I can now write about the past few months. In our collective activities (e.g., Almost Anything Goes, the hike to Raven Rocks, Olney Distance Run, and fall outing), I noticed everyone working together to build the Olney community. Students and teachers supported each other during moments of joy, hope, loss, despair, fear, homesickness, and more. Without anyone asking them to say a kind word or find help for someone who needed a friend to speak up, our community members did so for each other. Our community is at its best when our ordinary routine activities become the occasion for meaningful, uplifting, and humanizing interactions. That is the Olney Spirit.

When I arrived at Olney as a new student, I immediately felt at home. My sense of belonging has deepened over the years. I hope you will see yourselves reflected in the pages of this issue and confirm what you already know: no matter where you are, you belong with Olney and Olney belongs with you.

In Friendship,



Christian Acemah
HEAD OF SCHOOL



Olney Friends School Board of Trustees 2023-2024

Ramona Braddock Buck '65, Silver Spring, MD
Lisa Cayard '72, Morrow, OH
Dorothy (Stratton) Churchwell '59, Emerita, Madison, WI
Frank Fisher (Hon.), Philadelphia, PA (on leave)
Christopher Harris (Hon.), Denver, CO
Jeanne Kingery (Hon.), Columbus, OH
Melinda (Gamble) Kramer '64, Emerita, Gaithersburg, MD
Elizabeth Sikkenga x'80, Ypsilanti, MI
Judy Stanfield '65, Ponte Vedra, FL
Sandra Sterrett (Hon.), Chardon, OH
Gwen Torry-Owens '78, Metuchen, NJ
Peter Vail '74, Lancaster, OH
Hartwig Zakin (Hon.), Maplewood, NJ

The Board of Trustees is always looking for committed people to serve in trustee and non-trustee roles on board committees. These committees (both standing and ad hoc) assist and oversee the school's health and stability in important areas. Existing committees include Academic Affairs, Admissions, Advancement (also known as Development), Buildings and Grounds, Farm, and Finance; others may be created as the need arises. For more information, or to submit your name to be considered for nomination to a committee, please contact Jeanne Kingery at mainoffice@olneyfriends.org.

New Faculty & Positions

Isis Brown, Kitchen Manager

I was born and raised in Belmont County, Ohio. Growing up, I didn't have fresh fruits and veggies as an option, so learning how to cook them has been a big passion of mine for my entire life. My life revolves around taking care of my many cats, loving my family, and making delicious food for all my friends and family.



Valerie Reed, Fundraising & Donor Stewardship Manager



From Bridgeport, OH, Valerie studied geography and environmental science at Ohio University. She has taught environmental education, managed a non-profit children's museum, and built regional workforce readiness programs in career technical education. With her family, Valerie operates a local bicycle shop and serves on a community organization that works to connect communities via bike/pedestrian trails. Valerie holds a MAED from West Liberty University and resides in Martins Ferry, OH, with her husband David and two children, Johanna and Ryder.

Alexander Trouten, Dorm Staff

Alexander Trouten grew up in St. Clairsville, OH, and graduated from Ohio University with a degree in biological sciences. In addition to working at Olney, he teaches physical science at Martins Ferry High School. Alexander enjoys fishing, looking at animals, playing outside, and making art. He is joined on campus by his rabbits, Hilda and Ollie; frogs, Barge and Tugboat; and hermit crab, Worm.

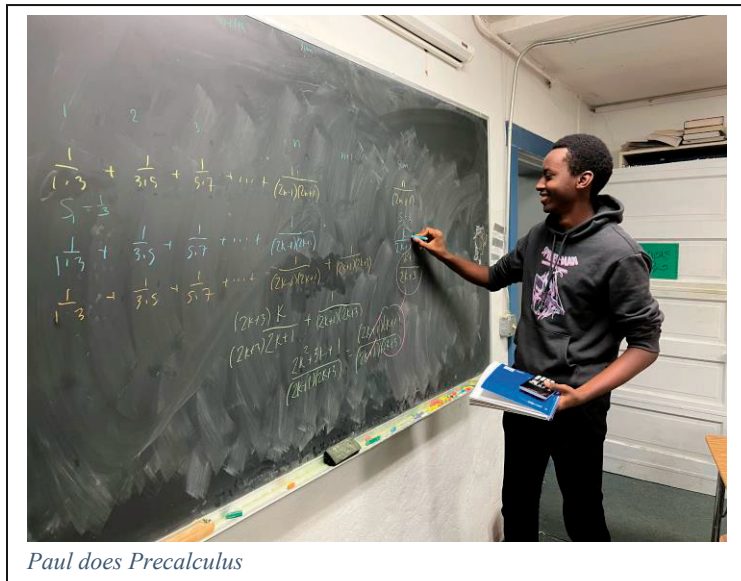


Austin Wickem, Cook

Austin was born in Ohio but grew up living in different places across America. Austin joined Olney with more than 20 years of kitchen experience. He loves working at Olney for the calm that it brings to his life. His free time is spent gaming and working on antique vehicles.

Aaron Wills, Assistant Farm Manager

My academic background is in neuroscience from Virginia Tech with a master's in psychology from Mercer University, but I came to Olney after working in agriculture in New Mexico. The prospect of filling Olney's fields with the diverse shapes and colors of a fully biological farm excites me, and I look forward to continuing Olney's traditions while adding my own. During my free time you can find me cuddling my cats, watching college football (Go Hokies!), or scheming about new things to do on the farm.



Roster of Students 2023-2024

An asterisk indicates the sibling, child, or grandchild of Olney alumni or students; double asterisk** means enrolled and paid with visa pending.*

Freshfolk

Yikeber Baye,** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Chad Ji, Wuxi, China
Ashlyn Kyeyune, Mpelerwe, Uganda
Kreslyn Schultz,* Bethesda, OH
Maria Sears,* Berea, KY

Sophomores

Basliel Ermias,** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Jordan Galiwango,** Kampala, Uganda
Vickie Kirabo, Secaucus, NJ & Kampala, Uganda
Malaika Namatovu,* Kampala, Uganda
Salma Owor, Kampala, Uganda
Audrey Ssebbowa, Kampala, Uganda
Inga Tusiime, Newark, NJ & Kampala, Uganda

Juniors

Yoni Bachoro,** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ray Kakiiza Daniel, Kampala, Uganda
Paul Kamugisha, Kampala, Uganda
Emmanuel Lungu, Kampala, Uganda
Chris Mutabalira,* Kampala, Uganda
Ropa Muzenda, Johannesburg, South Africa
Pearl Nakiryowa, Mpigi, Uganda
Destiny Sykes Nantongo, Nairobi, Kenya
Andrew Nsubuga,** Kampala, Uganda
Anyia Sears,* Berea, KY
Joram Tumuhimbitse,** Masaka, Uganda
Joan Anne Tumwebaze,** Masaka, Uganda

Seniors

Nelson Kakeeto,* Entebbe, Uganda
Dolores Liu, Shijiazhuang, China
Abraham Mulindwa,* Kampala, Uganda
Shirley Peng, Shijiazhuang, China
Faith Schanks, Barnesville, OH
Fikir Tegene,* Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Around Campus: Student Life 2023-2024

By Katrina Custardo (Hon.)

Hello alumni and friends! This is my first time writing to you, so please bear with me as I try to condense the past four months into 1,000 words or less. Here is what has been happening at Olney Friends School:

The school year began as usual, with orientation, but this year was unique with more new students than returning ones. The junior class, for example, gained six new students from South Africa and Uganda. This made orientation even more important, and our returning faculty and students made sure to welcome the new students and families to Olney.

Stepping into my new role as Registrar, I had the challenge of creating a new class schedule for the school year. I helped students sign up for electives and was happy to see that most students signed up for more than one elective in the first quarter (this continued into the second quarter).



From left: Fikir, Katrina, Faith, Nelson, Shirley

Electives included Your Voice, a class to build public speaking skills and Race, Power, and Privilege, both taught by **Christian Acemah '01**; Ornithology, **Jessica Wiandt's (Hon.)** year-long elective to create a census and guidebook of Olney birds; Art in Nature, in which **Amy Witt (Hon.)** helped students find artistic inspiration from our beautiful campus; and All School Sing Band with Devin Clouse, another year-long elective that grows more popular as the year passes. The All-School Sing Band students played and sang at this year's Homecoming Talent Show.

Our weekends during the first semester have also been busy. Two weeks after arriving, we did Almost Anything Goes (AAG), our weekend long event where teams of students and faculty compete in a variety of games and challenges. I was disappointed to have broken my foot in the weeks before AAG so



Dolores and Maria at AAG

I could not participate. That did not stop students from regaling me with their adventures: one lost his shoe, not once, but twice in Livezey Lake; several teams

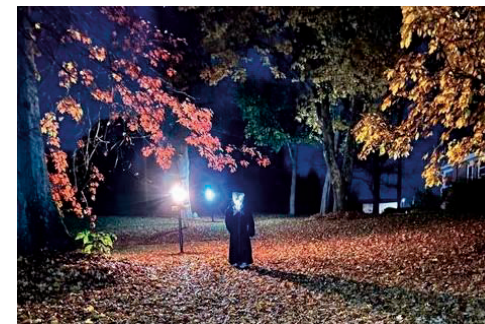
fell into the lake during the canoe race; the pie-eating challenge caused a few stomach aches (the winner was still very proud of his feat); and students surprised themselves with their running ability during a race around the lake.

In October, we invited alumni and friends back to campus for Homecoming. Students and faculty were happy to see so many returning faces, especially four of the students we graduated this past May. The Olney Distance Run (ODR) t-shirt, designed by current senior Shirley, showcased our cute farm animals.

Julian Beccera '23 came in first at the ODR followed by Emmanuel, a new junior. The Alumni-Student soccer game followed with everyone getting drenched in rain and the students coming out victorious (final score quoted by students ranges from 0-2 to 2-4). The day ended with a Talent Show hosted by Audrey and Salma, two students from the Your Voice class. Many students and faculty participated to show off their story-telling, musical, and dancing skills.



The ODR starts with Emmanuel in the lead



Spooky Shea on the brick walk

At the end of October, the seniors hosted the annual Halloween Social. They planned a haunted trail in which groups of students left the Collection Room to be terrorized by a doll in the Mary Davis basement, went up the brick walk to get scared by **Shea Bugala (Hon.)** and her partner John by the Whittier house, were haunted by Jessica and Devin in the Locust

Grove, got chased across the soccer field by **Leonard Guindon '70** and his chainsaw, and finally got repeatedly scared by seniors hiding in the Girls' Woods. With my foot still healing, my job was bringing groups from the Collection Room to the Mary Davis, the perfect spot to hear the screams that echoed throughout campus.

In November, the freshman class hosted Thanksgiving Dinner with a Masquerade theme. Students and faculty dressed formally, and many were masked. The dinner featured classic American Thanksgiving dishes and the

following, annual Farm Report from **Don Guindon '74, Hanna Vera (Hon.),** and Aaron Wills.

Currently, we are in the midst of the annual Secret Santa tradition. In the weeks leading up to the Holiday Dinner, hosted by the sophomores, students and faculty participate by giving and receiving little surprise gifts. After the holiday dinner, we will adjourn to the dorms to exchange final gifts and reveal our Secret Santas' identities. I may have spent the last week and a half quietly prowling around trying to figure out who my Santa is (I've narrowed it down to eight possibilities).

On the Academic side, students have been hard at work in their required and elective classes. Juniors have the busiest schedule, with two sciences (Physics and Agricultural Science), Health, and Quakerism. I am a bit biased toward the freshmen as their Humanities teacher; but they have all acclimated to Olney and had fun in class doing a Sumerian invention project and Blacksmithing (a transdisciplinary unit with Chemistry). We recently invited the community to join us in writing our names in Egyptian hieroglyphs. The sophomores have been busy this semester, also with the blacksmithing unit; and as I write this, they are beginning the medieval shield project in Humanities 10. This is the second year Jessica, Amy, and I have done the transdisciplinary unit on blacksmithing. In Humanities, Amy and I focus on blacksmithing throughout antiquity (freshmen) and the medieval period (sophomores). Jessica, with her experience in blacksmithing, conducts learning at the forge and goes deeper into the chemistry of blacksmithing with the sophomores. This year, students each made an S hook, useful for hanging things as well as decoration.

Lastly, our seniors: I mainly work with them as College Counselor and Life After Olney teacher. This semester, they received a visit from Ohio University and visited Marietta College with the juniors. At Marietta, we had lunch with **Jonathan Hutson '23** and met with Amy Elliot, the Community Engagement Director of Marietta's Leadership Program. Amy has many family connections with Olney – an incredible and fun surprise. Seniors also went to the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce College Fair and will visit Washington and Jefferson College with juniors on December 9th. Some have already received acceptance letters, an accomplishment we proudly share with the community.

With a week and a half left until Winter Break, the general feeling around campus is "Wow, that went fast!" Yesterday during Life After Olney, seniors reflected on their last first semester here, and had to pause as they realized they are one semester, two quarters, five months, or "170-something days" away from graduation. No doubt the second semester of this year will go by just as quickly!

Bountiful Harvest: Thanksgiving Dinner Farm Report 2023

By Don Guindon '74, Hanna Vera (Hon.), and Aaron Wills

Don: It was a year of transition, not unlike all the other years of transition here at Olney. This one was a little more difficult saying goodbye to **Cayce (Emmons '16)**. He worked long and hard to provide healthy food and fun activities for the Olney community. We replaced a lot of perimeter fencing and got the beef herd in a much more manageable shape while he was here. I want to recognize **Katrina (Custardo) (Hon.)** for her help and support through the summer. She took on the garlic harvest with help from **Jessie (Wiandt) (Hon.)**; and Devin's ability to hang the bulbs up high was essential. When Hanna returned in August, she jumped right in and started helping with goats, chickens, and the beet harvest. Now, with the addition of Aaron, I feel like we have the farm team in order. Thank you all.

Our numbers are lower this year for many reasons, but mainly because we didn't plant for beyond June without Cayce's position filled.

On the farm we had:

- Hay: earliest first cutting in years, good quality, 130 tons.
 - Second cutting, 35 tons plus 5 tons of mulch hay.
- Straw: 5 tons.
- Corn: 85 bushels.
- Beef: 16 calves born, 8 bulls and 8 heifers; one cow processed for 620 lbs. of meat.
- Goats: 10 does had 18 kids; 5 wethers processed for 150 lbs. of meat.
- Chickens: 600 broilers processed.
 - Layers: started with 75, foxes thinned the flock down to 40; produced roughly 17,000 eggs in the past year.

Hanna: It was another productive year on the farm for produce from our Sunnyside and hoop house garden plots. Cayce harvested a lot last spring and then left us in a good place, with plenty of stuff in the ground to be harvested over the summer and fall. The following is the weight of what we have produced since last November:

- 6 lbs. arugula
- 13 lbs. swiss chard
- 15 lbs. beetroot greens
- 21 lbs. kale
- 25 lbs. tomatoes
- 33 lbs. tatsoi
- 50 lbs. raspberries
- 112 lbs. spinach
- 121 lbs. lettuce
- 268 lbs. beetroot

- 386 lbs. carrots
- 1,500 garlic heads = 133 lbs.
- **Grand total:** 1,183 lbs. or 537 kg produce
 - Equivalent weight: 32 cinder blocks OR about one adult male polar bear.
- 17,310 eggs are enough to feed:
 - 47 people, one egg a day for a year, OR 23 students, two eggs a day for a year.

It might go without saying, but farming at Olney is a true team effort. This year's bounty is brought to you by Cayce, Don, and I; Katrina's summer efforts; Jessie and Devin lending a hand countless times; multiple quarters of farm team plus student volunteers; and now, Aaron since he joined us last month! I am grateful to be a part of this wonderful team and community.

Aaron: After taking out the nine remaining apple trees from the old orchard planted back in the 1960s, it was very gratifying to harvest enough apples from the campus trees to measure in bushels! We picked 3 bushels off of 5 trees this fall.

We cut and split 75 locust posts and built over 1,700 feet of barbed wire fence this year. That means a post set in a dug hole every 12 feet, braces at each end and sometimes the middle, and 5 strands of barbed wire stapled to the posts. Our cows don't get out nearly as much as they used to.

And of course, we produced 30 tons of compost using packed manure from the goats, chickens, and beef; lawn clippings and old hay; kitchen waste; and now, table scraps from each meal thanks to Hanna and the cooperation of you, the students!



The Ripples of Olney

By Marjorie (Hall) Lamb '69

On a recent visit to Dublin, Ireland, our Head of School, Christian Acemah '01, met with Marjorie and her husband, Charles Lamb. Marjorie and Charles received an update on Olney Friends School from Christian. Marjorie agreed to write a few words about her time as an Olney student:



From left: Charles Lamb, Christian Acemah, Marjorie Lamb

For me, Olney was a place where I could begin to “spread my wings” in a safe and monitored environment away from the strictures of home. I met people from other countries; I explored fields of relationships and found I was surrounded by staff who tried hard to understand where I came from and to respect my parents’ views of how they wished me to be nurtured. An example of this was that I had to wear culottes instead of shorts for playing hockey and no one made fun of me for that. (You can imagine how I felt as a teenager – having to be different from everyone else!)

I think I would really emphasize that “safe space” and the respect given for uniqueness. Early teens can be a really tough time in one’s life and opportunities to blossom are so necessary. I know you said “stand out positively” – here’s how what may have appeared negative, and scarcely helpful at the time, turned out to be a [positive] motivation in later years when I had time to explore those areas that were tough. For example, I was brought up [being told] that reading novels was not the right thing to do because “they weren’t true.” When I had to read books like *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson, and *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, I was perfectly lost (or felt I was). Could hardly make heads or tails of them. I never did get into Shakespeare much, but when I got to Ireland and had lived here long enough to get introduced to other dialects, I decided to read *Kidnapped* again and found I could understand much more. From then on I read a lot, and discovered for myself that novels often contain far more “truth” than was understood by my family. However, I never tried to persuade them otherwise (LOL)!

Those shy, tentative beginnings at Olney blossomed into something quite the opposite. Now I am often verbose and ramble on and on about lots of things! I think the experience of discovery in the wider world that began at Olney helped me when it came to communication with all sorts of people.

Supporting your Class and School

From the Development Office

We are looking forward to welcoming our reunion classes and other alumni and friends at Commencement weekend on May 24-25, 2024. The 50-Year Class of 1974 will have the privilege of inviting the Class of 2024 to join the Alumni Association of Olney Friends School. Other reunion years, those ending in four and nine, are shown in the table below. Please save the date now and make plans to come celebrate with your Olney friends!

1949	75 years	1989	35 years
1954	70 years	1994	30 years
1959	65 years	1999	25 years
1964	60 years	2004	20 years
1969	55 years	2009	15 years
1974	50 years	2014	10 years
1979	45 years	2019	5 years
1984	40 years		

Class reunions are an opportunity not only to catch up with old friends, but also to network, share stories, and trade advice and counsel with one another. Besides that, reunions are opportunities to show support for the school that nurtured your young selves. How? First, just by showing up. Second, by donating towards the cost of your meals while you're here. Third, by giving a class gift to celebrate your graduation anniversary. Watch out for this year's wish list, coming soon!



Do you love reading *The Olney Current*? Let us know with a \$20 to \$30 donation toward the cost of creating and publishing this magazine (online and in print) for our alumni and friends. It costs our staff many hours to put together each issue for you, and it costs our budget to print and mail hundreds of copies.

Thank you!



Giving Back to Olney

From the Development Office

THANK YOU to 367 generous donors in fiscal 2022-2023 who contributed to surpassing the annual fund goal! The **2022-2023 Annual Report** and donor list will be emailed to supporters by around Dec. 31st, 2023, and available to view online at olneyfriends.org/strategy/. On behalf of current and future members of the Olney Friends School community, thank you for considering a donation to Olney this year. Here are some ways to join our shared mission:

Annual Fund Gifts

Please consider outright gifts that can be used to meet the school's annual operating needs including teacher salaries, classroom equipment, guest speakers, and field trips. By helping meet these costs, annual fund dollars free up funds for student financial aid. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards, by mail (address below) or online at 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.

Stocks, Securities, and Mutual Funds

Giving appreciated assets maximizes your contribution. Because of capital gains considerations, it is more beneficial to transfer your shares directly to Olney 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 Corporation (FFC), or make a bequest in your will. Please contact us for more information or to let us know about the plans you have already made.

Endowment Gifts

For the school's long-term flourishing, we always welcome major gifts to help grow the Olney Friends School endowment.

Development Office: development@olneyfriends.org

Anne Marie Taber, Director: annemarie@olneyfriends.org

Shea Bugala, Administrative Assistant: shea@olneyfriends.org

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Alumni News

75-Year Class of 1949

Dick Emmons

10/28/23: Greetings, great class of Forty-Nine! Hoping this finds you well; I'm thinking of you and remembering. Here are just a few of my old "poems" from crossword puzzles I have composed over the years:

Thirty years of my education; Thirty years career;
Thirty-two years since being retired ... I'm so happy I'm still here!

Enroll your Teens in Olney Friends superb boarding school!
Give them great Quaker nourishment for Body, Mind and Soul!

It's OUR school, Alumni! She needs each loyal grad
To help the future kids to have the great times like WE had!

Love for Learning; to good goals turning; Challenge! Fun! Renewal!
Trust and Truths for searching youths at Olney Friends School!

Old Friends: You miss them so, when they have gone to where there's no
returning;
But Memory keeps the fires of Love and Longing brightly burning.

Still fresh in mind and heart, though years so quickly pass;
Good memories of Olney...and our Forty-Niner Class!

Keep the students coming! There is much yet to be done!
Olney life is humming; full of Learning, Laughter, Fun!

Best wishes to you all. Barbara and I are well here on Vashon Island. It has been a year since my heart attack, and thanks to two stents, I seem to be doing fine, keeping up with gardening and house and yard chores; almost daily walks. Worried about the world situation, but praying for peace and sanity to develop between nations and peoples. May all go well with you, and keep in touch with each other, send a note to the Olney Current, and do keep supporting our School! Dick Emmons '49

Class of 1951 and 1952

A Visit with Allan '51 and Deborah (Foster) Warren '52 By Christopher Starr '67 & Allen Starbuck '67

As students at Olney in the 1960s, Teacher Al Warren taught us Biology, and one of us (CKS) also did Woodwork with him. Around the time of Commencement this year, we were privileged to visit Al and his wife Debbie at their home in Blacksburg, Virginia. It was a wonderful blast from the past.

Al was born in 1933 in southwest Ohio on a poor farm that was quite isolated from the rest of society. He did not really become socialized outside of the family until he started school. When he was 12 the family moved to a bigger farm, where he had a pet workhorse named Dolly. Hearing of an auction of buggies, he and a friend attended and came back with two buggies. After that he had great fun giving his friends buggy rides with Dolly.

Although Al was not very scholarly (his self-assessment), his father thought it would add polish if he attended Friends Boarding School (now Olney Friends School), of which he had heard good things. Accordingly, Al was off to Barnesville to join the Class of '51. There he met Debbie Foster of the Class of '52, and they have been together ever since.

Debbie's Olney roots are much deeper. Her grandfather, Wilson Steer, was among the first graduates after the school moved to its present location in 1876. Other graduates included both of her parents (**William & Millicent Steer Foster**), who met at the school, her sister **Mary (Foster) Cadbury '41**, and her brother **Albert '44** (dec.) Mary later taught at Olney.

Like many (possibly most) alumni, the Warrens look back on their Olney years as an enjoyable time when they met many of their closest friends. After graduation, Al returned as Olney's assistant farmer, followed by two years of alternative service (an option for conscientious objectors to military service) in a hospital in Detroit. There he roomed with three Mennonite COs while working first in maintenance, then as an operating room technician. After his alternative service, Al attended Wilmington College and graduated with qualifications in Biology, Chemistry, and Education. Back at Olney from 1959 to 1964, he taught the two of us. He attended the University of Georgia, where he earned his MA degree in 1965, after which he taught in a public school in Rhode Island.

Meanwhile, Debbie went to nursing school at the University of Rhode Island. She graduated in 1957, and they were married that same week. She worked for a time before the children came along and then again when they were in school. The Warrens bought a rocky, 30-acre farm in Rhode Island, where they grew Christmas trees. They decided the barn had better makings of a family home than did the house, so they fixed it up and moved into it. It amuses Al & Debbie to recall that their three children (**Daniel '77**, Tim, and **Elizabeth Warren Tuchler**) "grew up in a barn." It was a happy time. The family was not wealthy, but had plenty of space for a garden, cattle, and a horse (not a draft animal, just for riding).



From left: Allan Starbuck, Al Warren, Chris Starr, Debbie Warren

After 30 years there, the rocky farm became too much to manage. Al found himself at loose ends, “a guy who didn’t know what he wanted to do.” They retired and moved to Virginia in 1996, where Al found out what he wanted to do as a hobby: woodworking. After all, he had taught it for five years at Olney; and the greater part of his working life was devoted to building houses, especially energy-efficient ones with passive solar power. Today each of them has his/her workshop, which we were pleased to tour. Al does his woodworking, while Debbie does her quilting and makes decorative items from wheat straw.

65-Year Class of 1959

Oliver Cooper

Time just seems to be flying by, and not just since I graduated from Olney in 1959, now 65 years in the rear-view mirror. I realized that my wife, Gretchen, and I are now in our 8th year since moving to Indiana from our long-time home in southwest Ohio. We may have felt a need in our advancing years to slow down a bit, especially from horse-related activities which occupied so much of our energy; but it was mostly the “pull” from our kids – daughter Rebecca, husband Chris, granddaughter Carrie (then 4, now 12) – that led us to make the move. We bought a place with acreage in south central Indiana, just a few miles from the Ohio river, a mile and a half from our kids, already populated with a small herd of Angus cows; then sold our Ohio farm, moved into this new farm’s “barn apartment,” and built a new house the next year. Pretty much in that order. Actually, those cows were bought by the kids and became part of their larger cow-calf beef operation.

Our lives have slowed down a bit, but both Gretchen and I remain busy with our projects and helping on the family farm. She has her garden, plants and flowers, cats, and other interests. For myself, I usually have a list of various jobs needing done, prescribed by my son-in-law, the farm boss who also works full time in town as captain at the Corydon fire department. My jobs include equipment maintenance, fence repair, pasture mowing, cattle roundups, and hay making; with the roundups and hay being community involvement along with a larger farm down the road. The hay finds me spending many long hours in my John Deere tractor (with cab and A/C of course), tedding and raking hay for round bales for winter cattle feeding. There are many fields, 20 or more, on several properties which I’ve become familiar with, their hillsides, valleys, and more sinkholes than I care to count. This area is definitely not the endless flat ground we may think of for Indiana – think more on the order of Barnesville, but with sinkholes to maneuver around.

Our social life is mostly local, as we haven’t been doing much traveling; but we’re grateful for our community, for visits with neighbors, eat-outs with family, activities with our granddaughter’s school, helping with once-a-year cattle vaccination; or just sitting around the late fall evening campfire with our son-in-law’s hunting friends at deer camp. Both Gretchen and I were able to have visits

from most of our sibling families in 2023, even though we are scattered around the country, she with 3 brothers and their families (Alaska, Idaho, Ohio), and myself with 3 sisters and their families. My sisters are all Olney graduates and still living: **Anna Mae (Cooper) Sutterley ’55**, **Lucile (Cooper) Bauer ’61**, and **Janet (Cooper) Teets ’64** (of New Jersey, Florida, and Ohio). None of our kids attended Olney, but they all remember the school well from childhood family visits at the Olney campus where their grandparents (my parents) **James (Hon.)** and **Bertha Cooper (Hon.)** worked and lived in the ’60s and ’70s, then after retirement lived in Barnesville, then at the Walton Home.

One indoor activity for me these last few years has been writing, something I thank my Olney class of ’59 for getting me started on. Around the time of the pandemic, our class had a nice renewal of communication, sharing Olney stories and remembrances from 60-some years earlier, through email and Zoom. Since then I’ve accumulated writings about my family, our ancestors (from a genealogy kick I was on for awhile), childhood in Middleton, OH, going to school, working at home on the farm, going to boarding school (Olney), college (Wilmington), U.S. Army (2 years), landing a job (GE Aircraft Engines in Cincinnati), getting married (to Gretchen from college), bought a farm, remodeled the house, had a daughter, tore down the house and built new one, numerous outside activities that included whole family, got seriously into horse trail riding, camping, and trail work, some farming, retired at age 60, moved to Indiana 15 years later (not written that chapter yet). Perhaps that history is nothing much significant, but I do now have most of it captured with stories and pictures, where I can entertain myself in old age, perhaps family and friends also. This seemed a worthwhile accomplishment, as I believe “when we’re gone, that history and those memories will also be gone, unless we get them written down.” Our generations in this techy world are not nearly so good with verbal storytelling as were our ancestors. Address: 5665 Weber Rd. SW, Mauckport, IN 47142. ojcglo@gmail.com 812-732-4113

Gay (Willson, Miller, Erickson) Wellman

Greetings from south central Alaska. We are still here in Kenny Lake on the road to Chitina. Not sure how much longer we’ll be able to manage. Neither of us are in physical shape to do as much of the work that a place like this needs. Fortunately we have wonderful, younger neighbors that we can hire to do some of the heavier work and the housekeeping that I don’t feel up to doing. David has two big projects he wants to complete before we can think of moving. One is completing the 60 ft suspension bridge over the Willow Creek that runs through the property. He’s been working on it with volunteers for over 13 years. We are hopeful it will be done enough to be used by next summer. The other is getting the land that we have set up as a nature preserve surveyed so it’s all in one deed. The plan is to donate it to a non-profit we’ve set up, or if that doesn’t work, to the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE) that has been using the trails for tours and other activities. We’ve been on the WISE board since its beginning for over 20 years now. It has managed to grow better and better every year with lots of different programs that get kids and adults outside

as well as providing some much needed science education in the schools throughout the area. Once those are done David has agreed that we will probably need to find another smaller place closer to family and medical care. We both hate the thought of leaving Alaska but ...

I had a total knee replacement this fall. This should be the last of various structural adjustments I've had over several years that remind me I'm no longer a spring chicken. The hope is this will help with the balance issues I've had the last 10 years or so. I'm still working part time with the Alzheimer's Resource Agency. It's a perfect job for me. I'm able to work from home, with most of my work online with Zoom support groups and education classes. I also provide phone and in-person consultations when possible. The work provides me with that all-important sense of purpose. It's amazing to me how close one can get to people in little boxes. The best thing is that they are fine with me continuing to work from the road. I just have to be sure to be somewhere with internet connection. It worked well last winter and spring when we were outside for four months. We hope to be able to do the same thing later this winter. We have this sweet 24 ft RV that allows us to make long road trips around the country in relative comfort.

As for family news, **John Miller '81** and his daughter **Kelsi '14** are here in Anchorage so we see them fairly often. My sister, **Nancy Willson '56**, continues to live in a convalescent center in Durham, NC. Daughter **Ann Miller '82** and her son **Kris Miller-Hill x'05** are still in the midwest. Kris has a beautiful baby boy (a toddler now), my first great-grandchild. Daughter **Trish Miller '84** and her family are still on the east coast. Along with David's family who are either on the west coast or in the east, these are the main reasons we try to get out every year to make the rounds. It's a good thing we both like to drive and love seeing the country in between the visits with family and friends.

It's been a joy to be able to use technology to stay connected with members of the Class of '59 periodically over the last several years. I'd love to be able to attend our 65th class reunion there at Olney this spring but not sure it will work out. All I can say is "We'll see" which was my usual response when the kids asked if we could do something.

As usual we welcome visitors to this great north country. Just let us know and we'll put out the red carpet. We still have the extra rooms even if it's no longer functioning as a B&B.

Kathryn (Sidwell) White

Four generations of the family of **Stan '59** (deceased) and Kathy (Sidwell) White joined with four generations of the family of **Ed '60** and **Mary Ellen (Stratton) Wall '60** for the marriage of Alyssa Sieger and Ian McMunn. The wedding was on September 10 in a beautiful pine woods setting in western Wisconsin. Alyssa is the daughter of **Stephanie (White) Sieger '83**, and Ian is the son of **Janette (Wall) McMunn x'83**.

Class of 1963

Astrid (Bruhn) Tretzak

Dear Friends, hoping that you all are fine and wishing you a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year!

Here some information about my life in a short version: I married twice, both times my husband was a Spaniard and that is why I live on the Canary Islands just in front of Morocco, in the tourist region of Maspalomas. I live in an apartment in the same building as my youngest son, which is a very positive situation as we can help each other if necessary. He has two children, one studying economics in the Netherlands and the girl visiting German School, 10th grade. My oldest son lives in a mobile home at the moment in southern Spain and works online as an engineer for a Swiss company.

We are a real European family: I, myself, German, married to a Spaniard, my father was English and my grandmother Prussian, my mother German, and my daughter-in-law with a French mother. So I think we all are human beings, living on earth with a religion called love and I imagine an astronaut who looks at our earth and does not see any frontiers but only one big place where people can live together peacefully. That would be my wish!

I officially became a Quaker several years ago and we have a meeting online in Spanish every Sunday at 7 p.m. Spanish time. If you want to join, tell me and I will send you the link.

Un abrazo to all of you, Astrid (astridbruhn0@gmail.com)

60-Year Class of 1964

Mimi (Melinda Gamble) Kramer

The early highlights: Earlham College, B.A., English, 1968 – graduated in the afternoon; got married in the evening to classmate Gary Kramer at Stout Memorial Meetinghouse on the Earlham campus. It was a busy day. Purdue University, M.A., Ph.D., English and American literature, 1970 & 1975. Stayed at Purdue for the next 15 years, teaching business and crisis communication courses to MBA students at the Krannert Graduate School of Management as well as writing and editing the school's marketing publications. After Gary finished his Ph.D. in organic chemistry, he joined the Purdue Chemistry Dept.'s instrumentation group and focused on laboratory robotics. While at Krannert I developed my side gig, a business communication training consultancy. I worked with over 25 clients located across the country. It was an amazing learning and traveling experience – the education was mutual, for sure. Speaking of education, at age 32 we learned to downhill ski, thanks to some of my graduate students, and enjoyed the sport with friends and relatives amid breathtaking scenery in the US, Canada, and Europe.

The big move: Having spent nearly half our lives in Indiana, in 1990 we made a major move to Gaithersburg, MD, where Gary had accepted a job at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), stemming from his work in laboratory robotics. In the fall I joined the faculty at Prince George's Community College, where I taught for the next 24 years. During that time I wrote college English and business communication textbooks for Prentice Hall (now Pearson), got tenure, redesigned a bunch of courses, served on umpteen committees, served 12 years as English Department chair, and received the college's highest award (the President's Medal) for leadership and service. Although awards are nice, the best part of my years at PGCC was in the classroom with students, many of whom were working adults taking tentative steps toward higher education. Helping them succeed in spite of oftentimes fragile family and financial situations more than made up for the tedious administrative meetings. In 1990 I left a major research university for a teaching-centered two-year college – and knew I had come home.

Now for the good stuff: retirement. Gary and I retired within three months of each other in 2014. Some people might not think we are retired. Gary has continued to build electronic and mechanical things, now in his shop rather than in a lab. I'm fairly certain we are the only people on our street with two lathes, a drill press, a microscope, and a myriad of electronic test equipment in the basement. Among other projects, he just finished rebuilding and restoring a 1946 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a 10-year journey. I continue to teach, now for a local Osher Institute lifelong-learning program. After eight years of teaching the literary aspects of detective fiction, this fall for a change of pace I offered a course on spy novels. It's great not having to explain what happened in Breshnev's USSR (the background of Gorky Park). Students who love to read and have 50+ decades of life experience, how wonderful is that! More flexibility in our lives also means we can travel when others aren't – although this fall we discovered that September is still the high season in Italy.

Being retired allowed me to accept membership on the Olney Board of Trustees. Not only has the experience been deeply rewarding, but I also renewed connections with trustees who were friends and classmates from decades ago – **Santha (Bundy) Farrah '64, Sarah (Towe) Horsfall '64, Judy Stanfield '65, Paul Dockery '63, Ramona (Braddock) Buck '65, Dottie (Stratton) Churchwell '59**, my FBS German teacher, and I served together as board co-clerks. Imagine the rearranging of my mental set – from her former student to *co-anything* with Dottie! We had a great time and numerous phone calls between board meetings.

I hope that many classmates from 1960-64 will return to Olney for our 60th reunion, May 24-25. Time's winged chariot, *carpe diem*, and all that. There was a good turnout for our 50th; let's do it again. For information about the reunion, joining the board of trustees, or just to reconnect, email me at melinda.kramer@comcast.net.

Karen (Wood) Weston

(x'64) I married just out of high school in Iowa 1965 and was married for 43 years – moved to Palm Beach Gardens in Florida for 12 of those years after he retired and before he died. Then I hung out in Florida for 15 years; and then last fall, Hurricane Ian kicked me out with flooding in our apartment in Kissimmee – the water was about 30" in totaling the whole apartment (live-in care-giver). My granddaughter in Tennessee took me in for about nine months, and now I'm living in Gray, TN, with a friend. I LOVE the change of the seasons and the cool weather reminds me of those brrrrrrr Iowa winters, though much milder. My address is 150 Valleyview St, Gray, TN 37615. Drop me a line or send me an email at aeodes@yahoo.com.

Class of 1966

Louise (Telfair) Hinkley

Can't believe it's been 15 years since we retired! We split our time between Maine in the summer and Arizona in the winter. Both playing tennis, and involved in bands in both states (yes, still playing flute!). In Arizona, I belong to the Glass Arts club, and enjoy fusing and mosaics. In Maine, I garden (mostly vegetables) and spend time at our lake cottage. We have plenty of room, and welcome visitors! Address: PO Box 1807, Gray, ME 04039

55-Year Class of 1969

David Nagle

I retired from college teaching two years ago this coming May, and as a soccer referee at the beginning of this year. I had been volunteering with the German-American Society of Tulsa, started teaching one of their community education German classes, and was elected to the Board. This spring I was elected President and it all keeps me busy. I enjoy serving on the Ohio YM Peace and Human Relations Committee with Olney classmate **Sylvia Thomas '69**. She and I also participate in another Zoom group, Quaker Readers, which I find deeply meaningful. [My wife] Beth continues to teach Spanish at Northeastern State University, here in the Cherokee capital, Tahlequah. Our son, Joseph, is a senior there thanks to an honors scholarship. He was Homecoming King and asked his mother to serve as his escort. He hopes to attend grad school to become a physical therapist. Anika just turned 17 and enjoys being in the color guard for the Tahlequah HS band. Taking care of the house keeps me busy, in addition to my duties with Hominy Friends Meeting and general oversight of Council House Friends Church N.E. of Grove, OK. Our most recent Olney visitor was classmate **Katharine (Neumann) Richman '69** and her husband. The doormat is always out for Olneyites and we are glad to have a guest bed.

50-Year Class of 1974

Martha (Zavitz) Laing

It seems strange to try and sum up 50 years in a few paragraphs, but here goes... After graduating from Olney, I moved to Canada to attend the University of Western Ontario in the fall of '74. I finished up the year and married Ken Laing in June of '75. I graduated in the spring of '78 with a degree in Fine Art from the University of Guelph. Ken finished his degree in Horticulture in the spring of '79 and we started farming on the family farm near St. Thomas, Ontario on land that was cleared by my father, **Paul Zavitz's (Hon.)** Quaker ancestors. Our daughter, Ellen, was born in '80 and son, Grayden, in '83.

We transitioned our farm to organic production in '89. Over the years, our farming career included growing pick-your-own strawberries, raspberries, peaches, and elderberries as well as a variety of field crops, ending up as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm growing produce for over 200 families. Our farm also welcomed over 50 interns, who lived with us during the growing seasons and learned to grow organic crops as well as to drive horses. We purchased our first team of draft horses in '80, and eventually started raising Suffolk Punch horses, a rare breed of draft horse originating in Suffolk England. In our semi-retirement we still manage a small herd of Suffolks and custom graze most of the farmland with beef cattle.

Another chapter in my life occurred at the time of the Gulf war, when we decided to drive a horse and buggy to reduce our reliance on oil because we believed the need for oil was at the root of the war. Concern for the environment was also a motivating factor. We continued for 17 years, until we returned to driving a car because of the difficulty in finding a safe horse and the increasingly busy roads. It is with some degree of disbelief that I reflect on that experience.

After my children were grown, in addition to farming, I taught ESL part time. I worked mainly with Low German-speaking Mennonite women who had migrated back to Canada from Mexico. I have remained an active member of the local Quaker Meeting. I have been involved as a facilitator for an interactive education exercise about indigenous history in Canada. It is the "truth" part of Truth and Reconciliation. I have enjoyed participating in the community at large by being part of various farm related organizations, as well as the local historical association and a spinners and weavers' group. Our son married the daughter of another member. He and his wife and daughter live near St. Thomas, where he is a videographer and artist. After living in Oregon, our daughter Ellen returned to the farm with her husband and two daughters in 2015. She grows produce for her business as a chef. I feel very blessed to have three granddaughters who live nearby. My mother **Jane Zavitz (Hon.)** and siblings **Kit Zavitz '69**, **Jamie Zavitz '83**, and **Louisa Zavitz '77** all live at the opposite end of the farm. **Phoebe (Zavitz) Parish '71** and **Danny Zavitz '75** live in the area as well. Needless to say, keeping up with family can be a full-time job!

I feel a deep connection to the land where my family roots ground me in the soil. My life's work surrounds me with my beloved gardens and the buildings that Ken and I built, including three timber frames (two houses and one barn). I appreciate the foundation I received in community living from my time at Olney, both as a faculty brat and a student. To that experience I attribute my abilities to juggle responsibilities, work with people, and organize events over the years.

Tim Curtis

My wife, Helena Guindon, and I moved back to her home community of Monteverde, Costa Rica, in 2017 after nearly seven years in Pennsylvania, on the farm where I grew up. I then worked for five and a half years as Director of the Monteverde Community Fund. I was "retired" in May for four months and am now in a new job (half-time) as administrative coordinator for Bosqueterno, S.A., the small organization that owns the portion of cloud forest that the Quaker founders of Monteverde set aside to protect their water source. Our mission is to protect the water and biodiversity of those 554 hectares (1369 acres). It's a challenge, between the changing climate and the encroaching development. Please, everyone, let's do what we can to "be the change" that humans must make, to consume less and love more. Our two sons, Silvio and Tulio, are grown, but are both back in Monteverde, living with or near us on the Guindon farm. I am very much hoping to attend our 50th reunion next year, but don't know if we can swing it.



Tim and Helena

45-Year Class of 1979

Rachel (Barton) Ruckman

I am twice widowed and a retired low-key lawyer, south of Eugene, Oregon. I play stand-up bass here and there, informally, and just inherited a piano. My daughter is 22 and has a room in my house that she uses sometimes. Our house was built in the 1920s and was the original Lane County trapper's cabin, re-roofed this summer and wood heated.

My main paying work is as Treasurer for Eugene Friends Meeting. Secondary/occasional is botanical field-data processing (turning field data into charts and tables for the reports). I've done paid or volunteer stints with Native Forest

Council, Parker Learning Gardens, Project Eleven Hundred, Touch the Earth Environmental School (Oregon, not Georgia), Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association, Whole Earth Nature School, Grand Canyon Trust, and probably others. I found the *Kinship With All Life* book that **Bill Taber '47** loved, listed in the public domain! Another favorite author is Tom Brown Jr. rachel.nfc@gmail.com. POB 50861, Eugene, OR 97405.

Class of 1987

Helen (Ravndal) Dennis

Mother Janeal Ravndal writes: “Yesterday Helen, who works as a greeter at Dayton Children’s Hospital, was the first ever to be honored there with what they call [the] “Patient Experience Award,” honoring her warmth, skill, and memory of names as she relates to patients and their families.”

Classes of 2016, 2006, 1968, 1966, and 1965

Kelsi Chavez and Family

From Carolyn: Here is a photo taken September 18 at **Carolyn (Hon.)** and **David “DR” Stanley’s ’66** house in Agualongo de Paredes, Imbabura, Ecuador. Greetings from all of us!



Left to right: DR Stanley, Wayne Stanley '68, Carolyn Stanley, Kathy (Voorhees) Stanley '65, Ronaldo Chávez '06 and son Ethan, Kelsi Chávez '16, and Marianela de la Torre, mother of Amaru '19. Kneeling: Amy (Dennis) Stanley (Hon.) with Leo, Ronaldo's youngest.

Friends Who Have Passed

Barbara (Autenrieth) Thygesen '44

Barbara Leigh Autenrieth was born June 1, 1927, in a farmhouse near Paullina, Iowa. Her loving parents were Elden and Gertrude Autenrieth. Her early years as the middle of three sisters, with an oldest brother, laid a solid foundation for her future. Though the depression affected the family’s lifestyle and finances, the benefits of farm life for the children included learning responsibilities in doing chores and helping each other, as well as the excitement and joys of creative exploration and play.

Barbara attended Gaze, IA, schools grades 1-8, and graduated high school in 1944 from Olney Friends Boarding School near Barnesville, Ohio. Her early years in the Mapleside Friends community near Paullina, and her years at Olney formed the solid bedrock upon which she continued her lifelong commitment to the Quaker faith. Dear friendships formed at Olney enriched her life for the next 80 years, and she thoroughly enjoyed the Olney reunions she attended. She was a member of Paullina Monthly Meeting until 1972 when membership was transferred to Salem Monthly Meeting (Oregon).

She graduated from Oregon State University in 1949 with a degree in Education, emphasis on Home Economics. After two years of teaching in Oregon City, Oregon, she was drawn to the work of the American Friends Service Committee and their work with the disadvantaged, both in the United States and abroad. Experiences with Native American and African American people in the United States, as well as post WWII reconstruction work in Finland and England, were life-changing in creating a deeper awareness of the Earth’s people and their needs. In the years following her time in Europe, she worked at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa and as a nutritionist in Seattle, Washington.

While in Europe, she met her future husband, Bent Thygesen, from Denmark. They married July 21, 1956, under the care of Eugene Friends Meeting. Theirs was the first marriage in Oregon under the care of an Unprogrammed Friends Meeting. Three children, Mari, Mark, and Kristi, were born to the couple. The years of raising the children were profoundly fulfilling for her. The family lived in Denmark for one year, getting better acquainted with Bent’s family. Bent and Barbara taught at a folk high school during this time. At times, through the years, the family expanded to include Danish cousins, an exchange student from Bolivia, and Barbara’s retired parents who lived nearby. She delighted in welcoming friends into the family home in Newberg, Oregon. Barbara was actively engaged in her community, owning and running a restaurant with her sister, Norma, and working for a local social services agency assisting seniors. She volunteered extensively and enjoyed the discussions and friendships in several book groups.

With her deep commitment to service, Barbara was active with the American Friends Service Committee for years, serving on the Executive Committee of the

Pacific Northwest Region, including a term as Clerk. She was active in Salem Friends Meeting for 50 years and served on many committees. The Meeting was a cornerstone of her life.

Following Bent's retirement from teaching, Bent and Barbara traveled to China where they taught English for a year, appreciating the history and culture of their students. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring China by rail and bus. In 2002 they moved to Capital Manor, in Salem, Oregon, joining Barbara's brother Horace, and his wife, Mary, and her sister, Emily. Norma lived in a smaller community not too far away, so the siblings were able to see one another often in their later years. Barbara enjoyed gardening, book groups, and new friendships at Capital Manor.

Bent died in 2019. Barbara's parents and siblings also preceded her in death. She is survived by her children: Mari Thygesen, Mark Thygesen and his wife Megan, Kristi McMorran and her husband Jeff, grandsons Ben McMorran and Christopher McMorran, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Lawrence Tjossem '47

Lawrence Tjossem, 93, of Decorah, passed away April 4, 2023, at Barthell Eastern Star Assisted Living in Decorah.

Lawrence grew up on a farm in the Quaker community of Mapleside, positioned between Paullina and Primghar in northwest Iowa. His parents, Merle and Ellen Moffitt Tjossem, raised him within the Quaker tradition of a non-pastoral Meeting for Worship, speaking the "plain language" of "thee" and "thy." He lived his life exemplifying this influence for truth, peace, equality, and social justice. He approached others with the operating principle of "there is that of God in each one," respecting and defending the underdog and the down-trodden.

Lawrence attended part of high school in Paullina, where he excelled in academics, sports, and music. He then followed the family tradition of attending Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. This environment was a welcomed experience where he found those of common heritage and beliefs. He proceeded to William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he studied business administration. This is where he met his future wife, Kathryn White.

At this time, he was of the age to register for the draft. As a life-long Quaker he was automatically afforded a Conscientious Objector status, along with those from the Mennonite and Brethren denominations. He would have had the opportunity to work in a hospital or place of community benefit. Lawrence believed that anyone, not just those from designated "peace churches," should be able to choose, according to their conscience, whether to register for the draft. He did not register. Because of this conviction he served nine months in the federal prison in Springfield, Mo.

He married Kathryn in 1950 and farmed for a short while with his father in Paullina. They moved to Decorah where Lawrence worked for his father-in-law, Bernard White, for White Transport. Lawrence attended Luther College and

built the family home of 72 years. Lawrence and Kathryn raised four children: **Judy '68, Cindy (Tjossem) Mychajlyszyn '69, Greg (Hon.)**, and Steve. They supported and complemented each other in all aspects of their life together.

Lawrence played an integral role in the establishment and on-going success of Hawkeye Stages, providing leadership for 55 years, working with his sisters-in-law, Bunni White Cooper and Myrna White Mardock, his brothers-in-law, Ed Wells and Marv Cooper, and other family members. His influence continues to this day. After retirement he enjoyed the opportunity to return to his roots, farming again on his Christmas tree farm, Evergreen Hills.

Lawrence was active in the Hesper Friends Church, with Quakerdale Hornes in New Providence, Iowa, as president of the board for many years, and in the Decorah Lions Club.

Lawrence provided wise counsel to his family and many who knew him. He enjoyed engaging in conversation with friends and strangers alike. He showed interest in each person's life story and beliefs. His on-going enjoyment in life was being with Kathryn.

Those who passed before are his wife of 55 years, Kathryn; his parents and siblings; Kathryn's parents, Bernard and Ruth White; two brothers-in-law: Ed Wells and Keith Mardock; sister-in-law Theresa Wells; his young great-grandson, Kaden; and son-in-law, Ron Ruen.

Those who continue are his children: Judy Tjossem, Chetek, Wis., Cindy (Roman) Tjossem Mychajlysyn, Greg (Karen) Tjossem, Steve (Kari) Tjossem, all of Decorah; grandchildren: Shaun (Jill) Tjossem, Richland Center, Wis., Logan (Jaime) Tjossem, Chetek, Andrew (Alli) Tjossem, Eagan, Minn., Kirsten Tjossem and Tanner (Mollie) Tjossem, Decorah; and great-grandchildren: Rylee, Carley, Grace, Gabriel, Gavin, Kaelyn, Henrik, Iver and Evelyn.

Kathryn (Rockwell) Hamer '55

Kathryn Clara (Rockwell) Hamer passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Heritage Specialty Care, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was born September 26, 1936, in Fairhope, Alabama, daughter of **Howard F. '24** and **Dorothy (Rockwell) '25**.

Moving to Costa Rica with family in 1950, Kathryn spent most of her teen years in Monteverde. From March 1957 she lived in Cedar Rapids the rest of her life.

Kathryn was a seamstress, at one time making women's apparel for Civil War Reenactment events. She was a knitter, a quilter, and enjoyed reading John Grisham novels. Working for a large fabric store, she taught sewing classes and expertly repaired sewing machines.

She was preceded in death by her parents as well as brothers **Howard '46** and **Leonard '50**. She is survived by brother **John '56** and sister **Celia '63**.

Kathryn is also survived by her four children: Janet Morgan, Cedar Rapids; **Brian x'82** (Stephanie), Cedar Rapids; Joyce (Blane) Beschta, Cedar Rapids; and Holly (Dennis) Nowell of Harrisburg, MO. Also surviving are nine grandchildren, and soon-to-be ten great-grandchildren.

Gerald B. Grant '65 (1947-2022)

By **Christopher Starr '67**

Gerry Grant died late last year after a prolonged period of ill health. I roomed with him during one semester and had one class with him, in addition to many informal contacts during three years at Olney and occasional correspondence in succeeding decades. He was a life-long Quaker. He was serious-minded and relatively quiet, although by no means humorless or tongue-tied, apparently well-liked by all teachers and students.



Part of Gerry's overall seriousness was seen in his artistic interests. He painted – once he produced a creditable copy of the *Mona Lisa* for use in a school play – but more prominent was his devotion to music. He played the cello and was the first person I knew personally who practiced classical music. In later years he gave knowledgeable answers to my various questions in this area, and it sometimes felt like he had known Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) personally. In English class we once read a medieval morality play, at the end of which Tr Lynne Shivers asked one classmate whether she liked it. The classmate's reply was a curt "No." Tr Lynne then asked Gerry, who readily said in a bright tone "I thought it was delightful." That incident, above all, impressed upon me that he stood apart from us rabble.

Gerry was gay. I am not aware that anyone suspected this at the time, not because he was deeply closeted but just because the general topic was not on our agenda. We knew that such a tendency existed, but to us at that time it was remote from our consciousness. The only time I recall the topic being addressed arose when **Dana Zak '65** convened an informal, tape-recorded symposium in the dormitory around the question "Is there a place in our society for the overt male homosexual?" **Gary Beck x'67** opined on libertarian grounds that there was such a place, after which we just sort of shrugged our shoulders as if to say "Yeah, okay, whatever."

Gerry was evidently conscious of his homophilia from an early age. Many years after graduation he expressed some bitterness that, while we heteros could have girlfriends in high school, he could not have a boyfriend. The norms of the time simply would not have permitted it. Although he did not tell me so, I imagine that he was gratified in his mature years that society had come so far in this respect.

Joseph Wegesa '79

Joseph Wegesa was born on February 3, 1960, and entered into rest on October 1, 2023, in Arlington, Texas. Joseph was the beloved brother of Peter Wegesa, Dorothy Wegesa, Lynn (Wegesa) Anderson, and Caroline (Wegesa) Brandon.



Joseph was known by his close friends as "Mozart" because of his dexterity with computers and the services he offered to many Kenyans in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He was ingenious, with the heart of an angel and feathery hands that could not hurt a fly. What a gentleman!

Valerie (Boyce) Bryan '88

Valerie Louise Boyce Bryan, of Mobile, AL, passed away peacefully August 17, 2023. She was born August 20, 1970, to Louis and the late Donna Boyce.



Valerie went to Wheeling Park, WV, high school, and graduated from Olney Friends School in Barnesville. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with the Master's and PhD in Social Work. While in college, she worked for the State of Kentucky as a mitigation specialist, where her caseload was condemned prisoners. She laughed that she drove a state vehicle with a bullet hole in it. Upon graduation, she taught at UK for a few years, then moved to Mobile to teach at the University of South Alabama. She is the author or co-author of several books, some of which are used as textbooks at universities today.

Valerie is survived by her husband, Steve Bryan; sisters, Melanie Boyce of Wheeling, Marcie Fortun and husband Justin of Pittsburgh, and Leslie O'Grady and husband Timothy, Sr.; brother Robert Caldwell (Judy Jobb), of Shadyside, Ohio; and her father Louis of Wheeling. She leaves many friends, followers of her culinary expertise on Facebook, and the cats she loved dearly.

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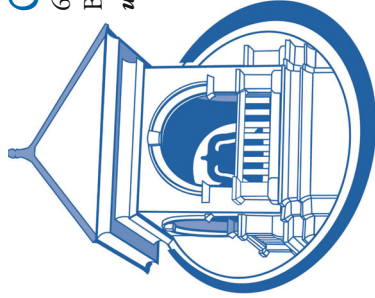
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