The Olney Current

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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 by Rongyi “Tony” Tang ’15

Report from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

On a temperate and calm Saturday morning on May 24, 2025, in the Stillwater Meeting House, the Olney Friends School community gathered for Commencement. This year's gathering felt especially tender and electric, a reminder of what happens when a community lives its values without apology. Reports have reached me of alumni stating that they felt especially touched by this year's Commencement.

Crissy Cáceres, Head of Brooklyn Friends School, offered a moving and courageous charge to the graduates and all of us present. She invited us to lean into uncertainty, to trust one another, and to find our voice in solidarity. Her words grounded us in hope and reminded us why spaces like Olney matter more than ever.

Leonard Guindon, alum, teacher, and outgoing Dean of Academics, gave a riveting reflection of Olney Friends School, a new tradition we started a few years ago. He spoke from his heart and even invited our students to ululate, something they love to do on a daily basis. Leonard brought the house down! Please watch Crissy and Leonard's full remarks and the entire ceremony on our YouTube channel.

Our students, as always, rose to meet the moment. They stood in that space in the Meeting House with steady grace. Anya Sears used her Senior Research Project to explore the power of sisterhood as a fierce commitment to care amidst complexity. She reminded us that enduring relationships do not erase struggle; rather, they grow deeper through it, as seen with Anna and Elsa in the movie *Frozen*. Anya spoke about the kind of bond that sacrifices, heals, and transforms. In her reading, stories of feminine self-discovery carry quiet revolutions. They matter.

Ezra Ivudria spoke next, with fire and vision. Drawing on Ugandan history and political theory, he asked us to consider how fear and greed have shaped a system that keeps young people on the margins. He challenged us to name injustice for what it is, to reimagine leadership as service, and to see consensus as the heart of democracy. What if power facilitated bonds of trust instead of preserving

privilege? What if accountability came from love for community, not the threat of punishment?

Then came the class representative, Christian Mutabalira, whose speech stilled the crowd with its courage and grace. He spoke honestly about the quiet fears that international students carry, whether they will even be allowed to stay long enough to walk across the graduation stage, and yet he reminded us of something more powerful than fear: community. “No fear is borne alone,” he said. His journey, from Kampala’s warmth to Ohio’s cold winters, from self-doubt to authenticity, reflected the transformative power of belonging. He spoke of silent worship as a space where he found his voice, and of everyday acts of service, like cleaning and classroom care, as acts of leadership and love. His words called us to imagine what would be possible if each of us extended Olney’s spirit of care into the world beyond the confines of Olney Friends School, the physical plant and the parts we carry within us.

To our extraordinary faculty and staff: thank you. You guide, you listen, you challenge, and you believe. You hold this place together with your presence, and your impact reaches far beyond the here and now of Olney. Your commitment to the lives of young people, in all their complexity and potential, is a gift to this world.

To the alumni who returned for reunion events and to those who joined us online from afar: thank you. You remind us that Olney is a lifelong community. Your support, your stories, and your presence help sustain and strengthen what we do.

Wherever you are, please know that Olney Friends School continues to live into its purpose. It is a place where students prepare for lives of meaning and courage. It is a place where we believe education and learning should form thoughtful, empathetic, and ready-to-serve individuals. In short, it is a place the world needs. And we are only able to do what we do because of you.

In Friendship,

Christian N. Acemah
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Olney Friends School Board of Trustees

2024-2025

Drew Adair ’78

Ramona Buck ’65

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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 the board or a committee, please contact Jeanne Kingery at mainoffice@olneyfriends.org.

New Faculty

Logan Boso, *Maintenance, Buildings & Grounds, Housekeeping, Dorm Staff*

I grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and lived there for 24 years. I have lived in Oregon, Tennessee, and Cincinnati along my journey, before moving to Belmont County. I've found a love for hiking, fishing, and the outdoors along the way. I enjoy music, art, skateboarding, and collecting hobby items that include comic books, vinyl records, and vintage video games. I can't wait for my Olney experience to be under way!

Roster of Students, Second Semester 2024-2025

**The asterisk indicates a sibling, child, or grandchild of Olney alumni.*

Freshfolk
Zara Andan, New York, NY
Liam Becerra,* Barnesville, OH
Chad Xincheng Ji, Wuxi, CN
Nicholas Magoola, Nakwero, UG
Kgolagano Makgabo,* New York, NY
Cole Mayanja,* Kampala, UG
St. Claire Sentongo, Kampala, UG

Sophomores
Sydney Andan, New York, NY
Shalom David Egesa, Kampala, UG
Sam Gorsevski, Perrysburg, OH
Ashlyn Kyeyune, Mpelerwe, UG
Kreslyn Schultz,* Bethesda, OH
Maria Sears,* Berea, KY

Juniors
Giselle Jimbo,* Otovalo, EC
Jerry Kibwika, Kampala, UG
Vickie Kirabo, Secaucus, NJ
Denise Kobel, Kampala, UG
Malaika Namatovu, Kampala, UG
Salma Owor, Kampala, UG
Inga Tusiime, Newark, NJ

Seniors
Ezra Ivudria, Kampala, UG
Emmanuel Lungu,* Kampala, UG
Chris Mutabalira,* Kampala, UG
Ropa Muzenda, Johannesburg, ZA
Pearl Nakiryowa, Mpigi, UG
Destiny Nantongo, Nairobi, KE
Anya Sears,* Berea, KY

Commencement
The Class of 2025

By Roger Reynolds

Good morning! I am honored to introduce you to the class of 2025! But first I need to express gratitude –to my wife, Diane, whose support and understanding makes everything possible for me; and to the faculty and staff of Olney Friends School. Their care and commitment make the secret sauce that keeps Olney going, as every one of our graduates today would attest.

The end of year here at Olney comes slowly, then suddenly, all at once. February and March seem to go on forever. You begin to feel as if April will never come. Then suddenly, April is gone, May is here and seniors are finishing their papers, then it's the Graddy Fair, and then the senior trip, and now commencement. You'd think I would be used to it by now, but somehow it always is a shock to find myself up here introducing the senior class.

The seniors know that ideas can come from unexpected places, and if you pay attention, can coalesce and become something new and different. When I came to write these words, I had in mind something a student wrote in their final exam, about how, after all, the work and stress and thoughts and ideas and passions would be for nothing. What was the point? I understood: like many seniors,

they're impatient for what's next, for turning the future into reality. But I think if you are an alum, you have perspective on this. You understand how Olney sticks with you, and you stick with Olney. I wrote back to that student that I felt exactly the opposite: that Olney is so full of memory, so rich in the lived experience of all who have been a part of this community, that it sometimes seemed there was no room for anything new.

And then, thinking about this, I had a dream. (The seniors, probably: "oh no, another dream.") I dreamed I was in my office, working away, and I turned to see all the seniors at my door. I was scared – what could they want? I told them come in, and they did, but alone – my students from the past have come too: Amihan, Kayla, Faith, Jonathan – all the former seniors. They crowd in more and more, smiling as if to say, here we are!

And then, Chris wrote in his paper about African ways of knowing, and I was struck by the concept of "umbilical knowledge," meaning the things Africans know, their identity and way of being in the world, come from a vital connection between body and earth, and a living relationship with the past, all expressed through the image of the umbilical cord. This is a deep knowledge of self that comes from connection, not the western ideas of observation and measurement. What was important to me about this was the idea that we are physically connected, through the umbilical, to past generations, in a sort of chain of being. We are what we are because of what came before.

That's true for me as an individual, but it is also true for Olney as an institution. That's what we mean by the Olney spirit. I don't think we could forget if we tried.

So, Chris, Anya, Ropa, Pearl, Emma, Destiny, and Ezra: I look forward to seeing you in my dreams! I have a few words to say about each senior.

Destiny Sykes Nantongo Cheruto is a two-year senior from Kenya. She wrote her graddy essay on "Unintentional Discrimination and Ableism" as experienced by persons with disabilities. She will attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

Destiny told me that when she first got to Olney she didn't like it much, so she decided she would never speak. She kept it up, for the most part, early in her time here. I began to wonder about this. Was it me? Why wouldn't she talk to me? But eventually she began to make friends, especially Anya, and teachers reached out to her, and she gradually opened up. Now it can be hard to get her to stop talking! During the senior trip to Lake George, NY, Destiny spent the ten-plus hour drive back riding next to me, alternately napping and chatting about her favorite things (colors: brown and pink, meat: beef – had crocodile once, didn't like it much), and in between, Facetiming with her dad. As is the way, Destiny truly began to come into her own here at Olney. College will be the next great adventure for her, one she will navigate with grace and courage, two things she has in abundance. Did you know? Everyone here will miss you terribly, Destiny. Good luck.

Ezra Ivudria is a one-year senior from Uganda. Ezra wrote his graddy essay, "The Game of Uganda," on political corruption in his home country. He will attend Wingate University.

Ezra is a bit of a unicorn. It can be tough to excel as a one-year senior: one year to get acclimated to the culture here, figure out academics, and do the traditional senior activities; but Ezra did a great job. Not only did he fit in well with his class, but his outgoing nature also served him well. (You could always count on Ezra to save the class from being too quiet!) To me, the most impressive thing Ezra did this year was not his excellent paper, but his work as filmmaker. Doing a film is complicated: you have to have a strong vision, but also convince people that you know what you're doing and to help you realize it. The fact that Ezra could write, direct, star in, and edit this project tells you all you need to know about him. That combination of leading with grace and making the work fun, so people actually want to do what you tell them to, is super rare – like a unicorn! Ezra will do well in college, and after, I'm sure.

Emmanuel Lungu is a two-year senior from Uganda. He wrote his graddy essay, "Unpacking the System," on systemic racism. He will attend Wingate University.

In a bit of a departure, I asked seniors to tell me what to say about them, and Emma wrote that he "happens to be the life of the party." (I can't verify, but it's plausible.) He is "quiet, until you get to know him," and "ridiculously talented at connection games" (the one in the *New York Times* where you sort words into categories. He is freakishly good at that!) He has "a genuine heart and he is kind." But there are some things he left out. Some of the best things that happen at Olney are outside the classroom, and I think that for Emma, he is most known for his support for his friends. In final collection Thursday night, so many underclassmen appreciated his friendship and support. This shows how the things we do for others can have a greater impact than we know. Emma is interested in criminal justice and wants to become a lawyer, and no doubt he'll have great success.

Christian Mutabalira is a four-year senior from Uganda, who will attend St John's College in Santa Fe, NM. In his graddy essay, "What Does It Mean to Be African?", he developed a uniquely African concept of citizenship, based on service, naturally.

Sometimes a student comes through Olney determined to wring as much out of the program as possible, and Chris is that student. Soccer captain, dorm governor, class president, Chris won awards for sportsmanship and for the most community service hours. If you ask Chris to do something, he will invariably say, "Absolutely!" A hard-headed thinker, Chris is always ready to address the elephant in the room ("I gotta ask..." is one of his favorite phrases). I think the whole faculty would agree that he's an excellent student in every way. However, Chris' superpower is his ability to fall asleep instantly. Anywhere. In class. I've known him to ask a question, and before I can answer, out like a light. Good luck to you at St John's.

Taropafadzwa Muzenda is a two-year senior from Johannesburg, South Africa, but her parents are from Zimbabwe. That detail is important to her graddy essay about xenophobia, "Afrophobia in South Africa." She will attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

Ropa likes to trick me. She will say things that she knows are patently false, that I have no clue about, and I will believe her. I'd ask, "How many goals did you score in last night's game," she'd say three, and everyone would laugh! I genuinely believed she could have, which Chris found hilarious. I actually enjoy having my gullibility exposed, and love that Ropa knows this weakness, which I think is a uniquely Olney mode of learning. On the other hand, her graddy was by far the most meticulously researched; and her topic, which grew out of her experience being ostracized at school for being Zimbabwean, was serious and well argued. I'm told she wants to become a biomedical engineer, and no doubt she'll have great success.

Pearl Nakiryowa is a two-year senior from Uganda who will attend the University of New Mexico. In her graddy essay, "The Times Are Changing," she wrote about artificial intelligence in medicine.

Pearl is athletic, kind, funny, and curious. One of the amazing things Pearl did this year was learn to play trumpet. She is not one to suffer fools, either, which means she is quick to sense when someone is not telling the truth. But she also has faith – religious faith, yes, but also faith in others. When we were at Lake George for the senior trip, everyone jumped in the lake first thing, except for Chris and Pearl. That water was so cold! Pearl didn't want to, then wanted a life vest, then worried the vest was too big (she is quite small); but finally jumped in with Chris. There was a dock where you could get out, just a few feet from where you'd jumped in. But when Pearl hit that cold water, you could see on her face that it was too much. Chris helped her get out and I rushed over with a towel. I will always remember how she truly took a leap of faith that day. Pearl wants to be a doctor, and I know she will be a great one.

Anya Sears is a four-year senior from Berea, KY, who will attend Oberlin College. Her graddy essay is "The Power of Stories," about how the stories we share can change or deepen our relationships with loved ones.

Anya is a perfectionist – I could never reassure her enough about what she had written. At one point she just kept saying, "I need to go deeper." With Anya's absolute willingness to care and help for others, her self-awareness and emotional intelligence, and her bond with her sister Maria – which she both lives out and explains in her paper – my sense was that Anya's involvement was plenty deep. Early this year, when she was struggling with a paper, I commented that it needed "more Anya," a phrase she apparently took to heart. I find now it was a trick question, because there can never be enough Anya.

So that's the class of 2025. We are so proud of all of you. You'll be missed!

Commencement Address

By Crissy Cáceres

The Head of School at Brooklyn Friends School (NY) since 2019, Crissy Cáceres serves on the boards of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), and the Caedmon School. In addition, she has held leadership positions at Georgetown Day School (D.C.), Abington Friends School (PA), and much more.

Good morning and welcome to this magnificent day, all beloved graduates, families, colleagues, alumni, and Board of Trustees members, to this important occasion. I have traveled from Brooklyn, NY, where I lead a 157-year-old Quaker school in downtown Brooklyn serving 703 students from two years old through 12th grade. I remarked to the students, who were so wonderfully gracious yesterday, that our graduating class has 38 students, and in Brooklyn, that is the equivalent of seven students here. We are – for NYC – considered an intimate entity in the landscape of our peer schools, and like you, we are intentionally and proudly so.

Today, I stand before you in humility and awe. I am in awe of the journey to a beautiful and inspiring human ecosystem in our fraught world, Olney Friends School, which I have admired from afar for a long time. As someone who grew up in a tiny town on the southeast coast of Puerto Rico, called Yabucoa, known for its lush green valleys and still mostly unpaved streets, this gorgeous landscape that is your school home speaks right to my heart, and it beckons. It truly makes me wish that I'd lived this experience. My parents came here in their 20's with three children, and none of us knew a word of English. As the oldest, I was told that I would need to learn English and help my brother and sister to succeed in this very different world. My father, who worked as a sugar cane cutter on the island, used his cutting skills to become a butcher here. My mother worked to keep us safe each and every day, eventually serving as a cook in a school kitchen for many years. Fast forward, I am the first in my family to go to college and graduate school; and like Christian, as people of marginalized identities, we represent the less than 10% of people of color leading independent schools.

Graduates, I hope you fully realize within your souls that this sanctuary is a rare and radiant place where stewardship, silence, and community are not just teachings, but truths that take root. Here, nestled in the serene foothills of Appalachia, amidst 350 acres of certified organic farmland, you've learned that

education extends beyond textbooks. You've tilled the soil, nurtured literal life, and in doing so, cultivated a deeper understanding of interconnectedness and responsibility.

To the seven remarkable seniors before me – Anya, Chris, Ropa, Destiny, Pearl, Ezra, and Emanuel – *mil gracias*. As we say in my homeland, a thousand thank yous for the honor of standing here today, chosen by your collective consensus, a testament to the Quaker spirit that permeates Olney. That you believed my voice could carry meaning on this most sacred of days touches me deeply.

Today, everyone is gathered here because you are loved. You are FULLY loved, seen, admired, and respected for your insistence on being exactly who you are meant to be in this world. You are loved, not just for your academic achievements, but for the luminous journey each of you has undertaken. You arrived here as distinct individuals, each carrying your own stories, cultures, and dreams. You met adults, many who have been here for years (because why would you want to leave?), and they developed relationships with you that have informed the continued growth and evolution of your humanity, individually and collectively. You have been led by a head of school who models what it means to lead a steady life of purpose and meaning, informed not by ego, but by the conviction that humanity intersecting with a values-led journey is what draws meaning and informs positive social impact in our world.

I have learned that over the past year, you've delved into the profound study of enacting an ethic of care and responsibility as global citizens. Interestingly, Brooklyn Friends School's entire mission and identity is exactly informed by your year of study. The closing line in BFS's Mission is: Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service. And one of your north stars is: ***Be Truthful, Harm No One***. Both schools engage in an endeavor that is not merely academic; Brooklyn Friends and Olney Friends are schools with a commitment to shaping a more compassionate world, and as young people in two distinct geographies, you are doing just that. As a matter of fact, Christian, I think it's time for us to explore an exchange, and I mean it!

We are at quite a precipice in our world, and in the next few years, need people to come towards one another rather than navigate away from each other. This will require skills of conflict resolution, restorative justice, and the respect and inclusion of different beliefs and perspectives in order to solve complex problems. As such, remember that your time at Olney Friends has prepared you not only to think, but to ***be***. To ***be*** grounded in your convictions, to ***be*** responsive to injustice, to ***be*** joyful stewards of the earth, and to ***be*** courageous in the face of uncertainty.

As I think about what it means to live with such depth and intention, I am reminded of someone who shaped me in similar ways; and though we never used the word "stewardship" on my island home, she lived it, fiercely and lovingly. She was my *abuelita* [grandmother].

When I was little, growing up in Puerto Rico, my abuelita would wake up quite early; and I loved her so much that I often skipped right to her home before school, after school, and on weekends. She'd greet me with a warm and wet kiss and a big hug and quickly put me to work. We had to feed the pigs, tend the cow, wash clothes by hand, make sausages, collect vegetables and herbs for the day's meals, prune the garden, barter with neighbors, gather wood and water, wash our clothes by the riverside, mend garments, sew a neighbor's clothing orders, get firewood ready to cook meals outdoors, hang clothing on the drying line, check the collected rain water for our cold showers, and if needed, ready a chicken for butchering. Now, in case you're wondering – yes, this was the 1970s and 1980s, not the 1800s.

One day, I vividly remember watching my *Tía* [aunt] return from *El Gran Supermercado*, the big supermarket, in a faraway town with a box of frozen hamburgers and frozen *maíz* [corn]. She offered them to Abuelita, who had a deep freezer that I thought was nothing short of magical.

Abuelita responded simply, "No, *gracias*." When asked again – this time with disbelief – she repeated, with kindness and firmness, "No, *gracias*."

Later, I asked why. After all, those frozen items would make things so much easier. Abuelita paused her work, took my hand, and walked me to the pigs' pen and her flourishing garden. In Spanish, now translated for you, she said:

Crissy, remember that just because something may be easier, it doesn't mean that it is what you need or what is better. What I grow in this garden only comes through if I tend to the garden. What comes from it is what I use to feed our animals. Our milk is delicious and allows me to make your favorite oatmeal over an open fire. Their meat, when they sacrifice their lives for us, is nutritious and nourishing. The clothes you wear, I've made with care and love and there exist no others like them. Crissy, always mind what YOU put into the world. It will mean that you may appear to work harder, or that you will sometimes choose a course not chosen by most, which can be lonely. But if working harder means doing things that help you, help others, and help the land, then always ask yourself, "Is this the moment to choose easy?"

Graduates, much named as *easy* will come your way. And sometimes, ease is precisely what is needed. But always pause. Always ask what putting your *own all* – your wondrous, formidable, and beautiful whole selves – into the world might yield.

In this moment, and in the spirit of Quaker discernment, ask yourselves: What are you tending to in your life like a garden? And what might grow if you nurture it with intention and care?

I implore that you tend to *your* version of best. Let it be shaped by the values of those who raised you, who are sitting right here or watching from home to witness this gloriousness. Shaped by the educators who guided you and listened to your

voices believing in your might; by the friends who walked beside you, celebrating you in times of joy and soothing you in times of sadness, and by this beloved place – Olney Friends School – that has watered the roots of your becoming.

Think back to your time on the farm. What did the soil, the rhythm of the seasons, and the care of animals teach you about balance and responsibility?

I hope, for each of you, that in moments where the tendrils of the unexpected and arduous may ensue, that you pause and reach back to the feelings and moments that brought you centering right here. Reach back to the place that silence does and can continue to hold in your lives. Share a moment of peace with yourself and others. Claim it with fierceness, even as the world may challenge you in doing so. Keep it as an unwavering pillar within.

You, Class of 2025, are the MIGHTY and BRILLIANT SEVEN!

Seven graduates standing tall, rooted in different soils, from Kentucky to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda, yet nourished by a common spirit grounded in Quaker testimonies.

Seven is sacred in many ways. There are seven notes in the diatonic musical scale (A through G), symbolizing harmony and creation. As such, you are a beautiful composition, each essential for the full song of healing that you will compose for the world.

There are seven colors in the rainbow, and they are resplendent in their wonder, symbolizing hope, diversity, and the promise of a new beginning. That is YOU!

There are seven continents and seven seas, signifying an expansive connection to our globe, which you reflect in your identities.

Meeting for Worship happens every seven days, a time when you allow yourself to connect to the Divine Light within us all.

And did you know that there are seven directions in Indigenous wisdom? North, South, East, West, Above, Below, and Within. Graduates, it is that seventh direction, *within*, that holds your compass. WITHIN is the place where your inner light resides. It is the place where truth is clearest. It is the place that this incredible school has helped you listen to.

So, MIGHTY and BRILLIANT SEVEN, together, you are a constellation, a circle, a harmony, a song, and a spectrum. Above all, you are a gift.

Today and in the days ahead, may you sit with these queries: What does it mean to be part of a sacred seven? How will you honor the ways you've shaped one another's lives, even as you go in different directions? In the whirlwind of your futures, how will you return to silence not as escape, but as renewal? What does it mean to hold peace at the center of your life?

And balanced with the silence, boldly and uncompromisingly, continue to use your voices to shift the course of injustice towards goodness. Use your character and robust strengths and insist on that which allows for all to be whole and respected and valued to be true. This is all already within you. It was not created anew. Olney Friends simply made space for your inner lights to shine, and literally shine they have.

As such, ask yourselves, what does your inner light compel you to speak into the world? How will you ensure it shines even when the world resists its glow?

As you stand on the precipice of new beginnings, remember this: the world you are entering is intricate and, at times, tumultuous. Challenges will arise and the path may not always be clear. When that occurs, reach back to the feelings and moments that brought you centering right here at Olney Friends School. Recall the serenity of this glorious landscape, the warmth of your peers, and the stewardship of the adults who have held you. The world also holds great joy and peace for you! Do not be tricked into missing the points of pure happiness and centering in your life. Embrace the silence that holds space in your life. Share a moment of peace with yourself and others. No matter what, claim joy and peace with fierceness, even as the world may challenge you in doing so.

As you grow and strengthen, mighty and brilliant seven, balance your comfort with positive action. Let your voices rise to challenge injustices and advocate for goodness. Get into John Lewis's "Good Trouble." Insist on a world where all are whole, respected, and valued. This power is not newfound; it has always resided within you. Olney Friends created opportunities for way opening that allowed your inner light to shine.

All seated here, repeat after me:

We SEE you.
We BELIEVE in you.
We HONOR you.
We are PROUD of you.
We NEED you.
We LOVE you.

Now Ropa, Anya, Destiny, Chris, Emanuel, Ezra, and Pearl, repeat after me and do so with your full voice and might. Put your powerful strength into it!

We ARE Light.
We ARE needed.
We ARE beautiful.
We ARE brilliant.
We ARE compassionate.
We ARE change agents.
We ARE a MIGHTY and BRILLIANT SEVEN.
We ARE Olney Friends School.

Olney Friends School Class of 2025, in just mere hours, I have witnessed your splendor, and your light is undeniable. I can exclaim with confidence just how proud this woman right here, who has been through and seen so much in this world, is of you. As you step forward into our multifaceted world, please carry this Friends experience with you like a lantern. Its light does not dim with distance. It's a steady and guiding light because it lives right within you.

And may you always find your way to this bucolic and lush home that is filled with absolute and undeniable love for you. Do not forget it. Remember to help take care of it as time unfolds. Tend to it as you have tended to the fields, animals, and one another. It needs you and you need it.

Now, I can only imagine the joy that you will experience and the emotions that will surface when you each go into the full comfort of your homes and families' embraces. I know that for some of you, this journey has required so much of you. Take every moment in. Release laughter, and also allow yourself to release tears. All that you hold is valid. You have nothing to prove. You are beautiful and wonderfully made. Quite simply, be YOU.

Congratulations, MIGHTY and BRILLIANT Seven. May you go forth with courage, conviction, and a focus on purpose-filled care and action.

Special Guest Address

By Leonard Guindon

When I was in Uganda, all the cool boys dressed like this … and all the cool girls were ululating. I've never been so happy to be a guy! My throat doesn't work that way. I'm a Quaker. We are quiet and reserved. We believe God speaks in a still, small voice, so if we're going to hear, we need to be quiet. But surely God speaks with more than one voice. And so, because this is a celebration, and because this echoey meeting house is perfect for it, and in the interest of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion we will enjoy some ululation. Please join in if you are capable. As I raise my hand, ululate; as I drop it, stop. [He demonstrates and a joyful noise arises. This happens, unscripted, several times during the following talk.] … Ah, very nice.

Chris Mutabalira '25 and Leonard

Now, one more item of business. I fear my father may come to visit during my talk. When confronted with the beauty of this life and how fortunate he was, he did not smile and laugh, he did not shout hallelujah; he certainly didn't ululate. Rather, he would get choked up. When his heart was full, it ran out up here [points to eyes]. I call it his gratitude weeping gene, and I've inherited it. So, if I start to tear up, I will raise my hand, a ululation will fill this space, and I will be reminded there are other ways to express gratitude than crying!

Good morning; friends; congratulations, seniors, I'm Leonard. Olney Friends Boarding School class of 1970, I teach at Olney. I was born in 1951 – somehow, this fact came up in Environmental Science class with these guys. There was a pause; stunned silence, then this: "So you were alive when Jesus was?"

I bring up my age because of a phenomenon that has been happening for the last decade when I get together with friends my age – the question of retirement. First it was folks talking about when they might retire, then it was how much they were loving their retirement, then it was: Leonard, when are you going to retire? For a few years, my answer was "I'm just waiting to not enjoy my job anymore." More recently, it has been "Still not sure, still love my job, but I'm definitely one year closer." So, why is it so hard to quit Olney? I'll share three reasons and a poem.

Could it be because you have a boss who gets up at 2:00 AM, goes to the school kitchen, and toils at the stove all night just so the school can enjoy a special Easter dinner? Or was that just how long it took to make goat edible? [Laughter.] When brother Don can't sleep at night, he doesn't count sheep – he tries to count and name all the Heads of School he has worked for. We both agree that Christian leads the list of Heads we've most enjoyed working for.

Why is it so hard to quit Olney? **Ashlyn** and **Audrey** were students in my Algebra 1 class last year. It was maybe two weeks into the school year. At the end of class, they didn't leave right away. Then they said something, in unison, which I didn't quite catch. But it sounded a bit rote, maybe a bit tongue-in-cheek. So, they repeated it: "Leonard, we acknowledge and appreciate your services!" I laughed and asked what that was all about. They said it was what they had to say to the teachers back home in Uganda before leaving the classroom. Sincere or not, I found I really liked it, and I told them I acknowledge and appreciate their efforts at learning algebra.

Guess what I often hear students saying when class is over and they're walking out the door? "Thanks." That's right, "thanks." Did I ever think to say that to my teachers back in the '60s? Working hard day and night, preparing for classes, teaching classes, with five other responsibilities because they worked at a boarding school (and not exactly getting rich at it) – and for what purpose? To try to make me smarter – and I didn't think to say thanks. But these guys do. And did I mention that I teach Math and Science? It's not like I'm asking them to share their feelings about photosynthesis. I'm not interested in their opinion of the Pythagorean theorem. And yet, I hear "thanks" on their way out the door. Kids these days – I love 'em.

My dentist in Barnesville is somewhat familiar with Olney, because one night a week he and his friends play pickleball in our gym. Now when he's done with me in his office, and I'm getting up out of the chair with a Novocain-benumbed mouth, I say, "Dr. Brewer, I acknowledge and appreciate your services."

Again. Why is it so hard to quit Olney? A few years back, **Ethan (Wise x'19)** was a student at Olney. He was a local boy, tall and skinny, one of those teenagers who's growing too fast for his blue jeans. I was on evening duty in the library when Ethan came up to me and said, "Leonard, I think you might be my spirit animal." We laughed about it, but I've never received a finer compliment.

Every autumn since 1876, folks have gathered on this beautiful ridgetop between this Meetinghouse and the Main Building with the intention of building a loving, learning community. You could say we try our best to be good spirit animals for one another. Here is a poem that speaks to just that, written by **Ken Jacobsen (Hon)**, a former Head of School:

Whatever comes, hold to the God who is Love without limits, Truth without guile, Life without end.

Let this God flow into the small things of the day: community is fashioned out of countless little kindnesses and honesty in the details.

Don't be afraid of the hard words of Jesus: they may sting the ego, but they can heal the soul.

Focus on helping each other discover the beauty that is of God: this beauty will be our gift to the world.

In our life together, there are the inevitable hurts we cause one another without meaning to.

Practice forgiveness, the offering of it and the asking for it: this is the great healing art.

Finally, be thankful for a little place like Olney, where Peace can begin in the silence and flower into friendship across all the barriers of the heart.

Alumni Association Meeting

At 7:30 PM on Friday, May 24, Alumni Association President **John Stanley '71** welcomed the crowd of alumni, friends, students, and family members gathered in Stillwater meetinghouse. The traditional Roll Call (below) was conducted. A grand total of 80 alumni were in attendance either there, at another event, or at a zoom reunion earlier that week.

From the facing bench, **Darlene Stanley** stepped up to the podium to welcome the class of 2025 into the Alumni Association on behalf of the 50-year class of 1975. Their invitation was accepted by "**Ropa" Muzenda '25.**

Christian Acemah '01, Head of School, spoke next to welcome our new Honorary Alumni. Each of the following individuals has contributed significantly to the life of the school over a year or more: **Kristina Estle**, Philanthropy and Donor Stewardship Manager; **Elizabeth Inherst**, Line Cook and Art Teacher; and **Jeanne Strawn**, Domestic Admissions Counselor. Next, he invited us to bid farewell to **Katrina Custardo**, who joined us four years ago as a Dorm Staff member teaching Financial Literacy, and grew into a respected Humanities teacher, Residential Life leader, and Registrar. Katrina will be missed by students and faculty. Continuing, Christian reported briefly on the state of the school.

In closing, John Stanley lit a candle and invited attenders to speak from the silence in memory of alumni who have passed recently. Those individuals will have been remembered in this, or a previous, issue of *The Olney Current.*

The number of alumni attending, in person or virtually, was approximately 80. *NEW* feature: in parentheses below, you'll see the percentage of living classmates who attended their reunion. By that measure the 70-year class of 1955 is the clear "winner," with the 30-year and 60-year classes in second and third place. Which class (1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, or 2021) will lead your reunion attendance next year??

Year, reunion	Count	Year, reunion	Count
Honorary	13	1980 – 45 yr	2 (10%)
Before 1955	1	1981 – 1984	3
1955 – 70 yr	5 (*10, 67%)	1985 – 40 yr	4 (31%)
1956 – 1964	4	1986 – 2004	1
1965 – 60 yr	7 (30%)	2005 – 20 yr	1 (6%)
1966 – 1974	8	2006 – 2014	2
1975 – 50 yr	6 (29%)	2015 – 10 yr	4 (25%)
1976 – 1979	8	2016 – 2024	6
*at Zoom reunion earlier same day		Grand total	80

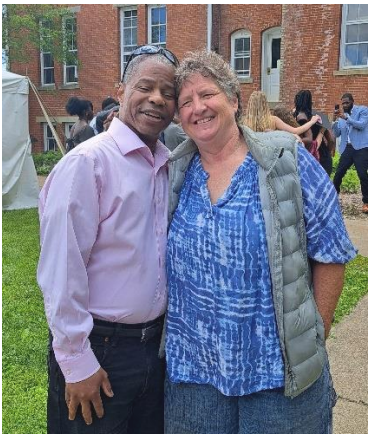
Alumni Reunions

60 Year Class of 1965. L-R Ramona (Braddock) Buck, Michaele (Monger) Kehrt, Lola (Gamble) Toot, Judy Stanfield, John Webb

55 Year Class of 1970. L-R John Stuckey, Leonard Guindon, Bernie Cooper, Sara (Smith) Sheldon

50 Year Class of 1975. L-R back: John Erdman, Vic Stratton, Margaret (Sidwell) Warren, Beata Peck Little; front: Lisa Nagle, Pamlia Connell, Darlene Stanley

Anna (Emmons) Kirk ’80, Ruth (Peck) Brutz 79



Drew Adair ’78, Anna Suter ’80

40 Year Class of 1985. L-R Stephen Emmons, Leeza Doreian, Debora Taber, Reid Hayhow

Don ’74, Leonard ’70 & Legenia Guindon, Kim (Mott) Saderholm ’83

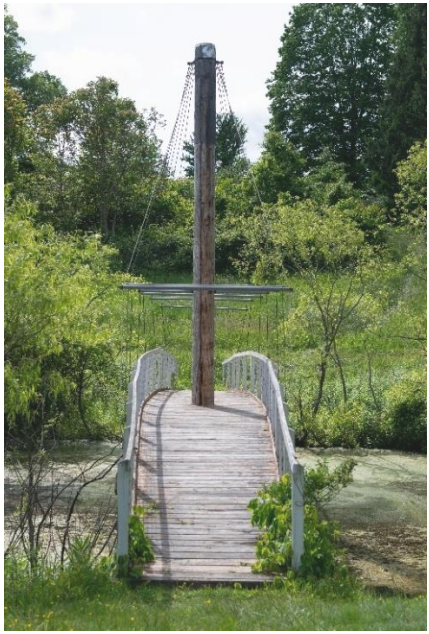
10 Year Class of 2015. L-R Aidan Burns, Noah Howells, Amihan Tindongan, Kayla Kellar, Rongyi 'Tony' Tang

Faith Schanks '24, Golden Roberts '23

Faith Schanks '24, mom Holly, Julian Becerra '23, Jonathan Hutson '23 & friend, Ariel Templeton '23

By Tony Tang '15:

Amihan Tindongan ’15 with goat kid



Bridge to Paul’s Island

The 2025 Reunion Fund Drive, Raise the Roof

Alumni and Friends, Olney Friends School thanks you for being an essential part of the school's supportive community. During the past five years, Olney Friends School has moved steadily towards financial stability and has addressed several deferred, infrastructure maintenance concerns. With support from increasing tuition and scholarship funds, alumni giving has helped us replace the East Porch siding and Mary Davis porch floor, repave the Olney Lane, and restore foundations of the Main Building and Guindon (Boys) Dorm. The second-floor bathroom in the Guindon Dorm was completely renovated and updated in 2023, and the 47-year-old boiler in that dorm was replaced. The Main's kitchen floor has been redone, and new gas ranges were installed in 2024. The Whittier house foundation waterproofing and drainage system renovations are done, a new heat pump is in place, and updates to the main floor will be completed this summer.

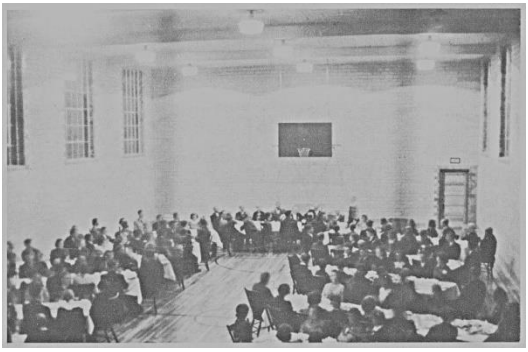
Those critical improvements to our historic structures make it possible for Olney to continue providing the unique, traditional yet evolving, educational experience that still makes lasting differences in young lives. You, our alumni and friends, have walked this journey with us and enabled the progress above – and so much more.

1970-1974 Gym-Ex

2025 Gym-Ex

Fundraising for the Olney Gym began in 1937 and construction was completed in 1938. It took 2,140 hours of labor from 70 volunteers, 500 extra meals for volunteers, and about $10,000 for materials and professional contracts. Within its first month of use, the new Gym also began serving occasionally as a banquet hall or an auditorium. Part of the subflooring and the roof sheeting boards were built with repurposed lumber from the old gym, so those materials are now over 110 years old.

How many special memories were formed in the Olney Gym? Over the years at Olney, you might have played volleyball or indoor soccer, danced the Salty Dog Rag, practiced lummi sticks and poly poles, or even roller skated in the Gym. That venerable space is still the site of our annual Gym-Ex with its rope jumping, tumbling, balancing (pyramids), folk dance, and a comedy skit from each class year. At other times, it hosts volleyball, formal and pickup basketball, indoor soccer, and rental space for Barnesville youth activities.



Now, you can help preserve and protect the place where you lit a candle at Gym-Ex, hit that foul shot, built human pyramids, or served a holiday dinner. After many years of faithful service, our roof has reached the end of its life. Leaks, weather damage, and age have taken their toll, and we must act quickly to keep our Gym safe, dry, and welcoming.

After thoroughly researching the options available, the board of trustees' Buildings and Grounds Committee has recommended the following:

- **A durable metal roof**, built to last 40+ years and withstand the harshest weather, will provide a greater long-term value than shingle roofing for **$39,800**.

Will you help us raise the roof?

As you remember and plan gatherings to reconnect with one another, we ask that you consider a generous donation to the class gifts. How better to honor the joy of reuniting, and the many ways Olney has impacted your life, than to "pay it forward" for the sake of future Olney students?

To participate in this community investment, send donations to:

Credit card or PayPal – www.olneyfriends.org/support-olney/
- Choose the option, or add a note, to "Raise the Roof"

Mail a check – to Raise the Roof, Olney Friends School
- 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713

2022 Gym-Ex (Yes, the year is backwards. They're teenagers!)

A Note from Buildings and Grounds

The Olney Gym has served the school for many years, has always served multiple purposes, and will continue to do so. The school has already completed refurbishing the windows. Four years ago, we installed a new foundation drainage system around the gym as well as the entire Main Building, successfully eliminating a moisture issue that had been damaging the gym walls and floor.

The current roof, of shingles whose expected life span is twenty years, has been in place for over thirty years. The wood sheeting beneath has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. Our goal, if the funding for this project is successful, is to replace those shingles with a metal roof whose expected life span is forty to fifty years.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees spends a lot of time inspecting all campus buildings and evaluating their condition. Our goal is always to provide the best information possible in order to help the school and its board make good decisions about maintaining structures that will continue to serve the school community for years to come. Any building can continue to serve well as long as you have a good roof keeping the structure dry. This way, should it be feasible in the future to build a new gym, the old one can be repurposed to serve Olney in new ways.

Pete Vail '74
Convenor, Buildings and Grounds Committee
Board of Trustees

Giving Back to Olney

From the Development Office

Current and future members of the Olney Friends School community thank you for considering a donation. Here are some ways to join our shared mission:

Annual Fund Gifts

The annual fund helps meet the school's operating needs, including teacher salaries, classroom equipment, guest speakers, and field trips. We accept cash gifts (in person) and check or credit cards gifts by mail (address below) or online (www.olneyfriends.org/support-olney/).

Monthly Gifts

Many friends find it convenient to set up a recurring monthly gift, rather than budget a single, larger donation. Use your online banking account's bill payment feature, or your credit card or PayPal at our web page (above).

Matching Gifts

Your donation may be eligible for a corporate match from your employer. Many companies have matching gift programs; ask yours if they do and how it works.

Stocks, Securities, and Mutual Funds

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

Planned Gifts

Friends at any age can designate Olney as a beneficiary of an 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 and let us know about any plans you have made.

Endowment Gifts

An endowment gift is a permanent investment in the future of your values at Olney Friends School. A robust endowment confers the ability to withstand socioeconomic disruptions and mitigates our dependence on an annual fund.

Development Office: development@olneyfriends.org
Anne Marie Taber, Director; Shea Bugala, Development Assistant
Olney Friends School • 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH 43713 740-425-3655 • www.olneyfriends.org

Around Campus

Academic Dean's Report, 3rd Quarter 2024-2025

By Leonard Guindon, April 10,2025

Weatherwise it was an old-time winter term at Olney, barely getting above freezing for the whole month of January. We kept spirits high in the student body with our traditional February Friday events plus a number of off-campus trips to augment their academic pursuits.

The Juniors visited Washington D.C. in February. As Life After Olney students, they visited Howard and Georgetown Universities. As Humanities students, they spent five hours at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, making many connections with what they were seeing and what they had studied in the classroom. Spanish students attended a concert by Chilean singer/songwriter Pascuala Ilabaca in Pittsburgh, dancing throughout the performance and practicing their Spanish on band members afterward. Spanish 1 and Humanities 9 collaborated on an Inca/Aztec/Maya unit, while Spanish 4 and the All-School Sing Band joined forces to learn a Chilean protest song, translate it into English, and perform it for the community. Environmental Science students took field trips to visit passive solar homes and to monitor stream quality on Captina. Humanities 9 traveled to the Grave Creek Archeological Complex and the Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries during their study of Ohio Valley Native American cultures.

In other news from the classroom, Seniors and Juniors are making progress on their Graddy Essays and Junior Research Papers, respectively. Algebra 2 students are dedicating one day a week to a Math "dessert" after four days of the main course, and have studied fractal geometry, plotted Mandelbrot sets, and found the Fibonacci sequence in the Mother Nature. Some work with coding, specifically Python, is in the near future. Humanities 10 and Physics are working on a trebuchet project; Biology is identifying wildflowers. Enviro is preparing for the Envirothon, and students in Digital Film and Quakerism produced two videos about SPICES which were shared during Community Meeting.

All Seniors have been accepted to multiple four-year colleges and will be making their choices in the coming month.

Winter Outing, February Fridays, Spring Outing

By Shea Bugala

Winter Outing
In January, the surprise Winter Outing was an afternoon at Chestnut Lanes here in Barnesville, where students enjoyed an afternoon of bowling – and pizza!

February Fridays
February is a long and often dreary term, so we break it up by cancelling classes every Friday afternoon in February to offer a variety of fun, educational activities.

February 7th and February 14th activities were led by faculty and friends:

- Diamond Art with Melissa
- Strawberry Jam with Elizabeth
- Natural Tie-Dying using vegetable skins from our farm with Hanna
- Welding, **Ted Cope '61** and Don
- Harmonica Basics, Devin and local musician Bill Hinson
- Drone Flying with Phineas
- Fleece Blanket making with Shea
- Raven Rocks winter hike, Leonard

L-R: Ashlyn, Kreslyn, and Anya dyeing

February 21st had us visiting Barnesville business owners who donated their time and talents for the following activities:

- Shadowboxes with **Shelley Rockwell '82** of The Flower Gardens
- Line Dancing with Leah Pastva of DG Dance Studio
- Music Workshop with Scott Whitacre of Main Street Barrel House

L-R: Cole, Liam, Giselle, Shelley, Inga, Chris, Kreslyn, St Claire

L-R: Jerry, Ezra, Sam, Salma, Vickie, Denise, Leah

For our last February Friday, we welcomed Decklyn Scott, an educator from the Oglebay Good Zoo in Wheeling, WV. Decklyn brought some animal ambassadors and spoke to us about the rehabilitation of wild animals.

At right, senior Anya and sophomore sister Maria Sears meet an albino ferret.

Spring Outing

The surprise announcement for Spring Outing was made just following morning collection on May 1. Students enjoyed a day spent at The Wilds and participated in a safari.

One of the largest conservation centers in the world, The Wilds occupies over 10,000 acres in Southeastern Ohio. Threatened and endangered species can roam open pastures, while the previously strip-mined land provides an ideal setting to study ecological restoration and recovery.

L-R: Shea, Joe, Shalom, Denise

Black rhinoceros

Cheetah

Junior Social 2025

By Hanna Vera

The Junior Social is a highly anticipated end-of-year event that is a ton of fun to attend – and a ton of work to plan. Our 7-student junior class was inspired by Don Guindon's stories of Junior Socials in the past that were held in the middle of nowhere and included elaborate themes for which students sewed their own costumes months in advance! This year's Junior Social was held at Rainbow's End along the south fork of Captina Creek. We are so thankful to Kari McGee and others at Blue Feather Land Trust for allowing us to hold our event there; it was truly a perfect spot for it.

After announcing the surprise event at lunch time, we made our way down to Rainbow's End which is about 20 minutes of winding roads from campus. We began the afternoon with a carnival/circus-themed murder mystery game. As students arrived at the site, they were assigned characters and costumes. The seniors were given particularly outrageous roles that required extravagant makeovers to get them into character.

Next, the juniors divided everyone into groups for a series of team games that included an egg balancing race, a sack race, a balloon popping relay, and a water bucket race. We finished the games with a Mott (girls) vs. Guindon (boys) tug-of-war match (below), but the ancient Gym-Ex ropes we had brought kept breaking! After a few failed rounds with much falling when the ropes snapped, the Mott was victorious.

L-R Denise, Sam, Ropa, Devin, Katrina, Salma, Inga, Anya, Kreslyn. Victim: Emmanuel

L-R Inga, Vickie, hidden, Maria, Anya, Cole, hidden, Liam, Denise

I think that most students would say that the highlight of Junior Social this year was swimming in the creek. Ironically, this was the only unplanned part of the event! The water was high and cold, but the hot day full of activities had everyone wanting to take a dip. Surprisingly, every single student got in! Some kept to the edges in knee-deep water, others sat relaxing on the submerged rock formations mid-creek, and others raced up and down the stream doing impressive freestyle and butterfly strokes! We finished up the evening with a creek-side supper, senior FUN-ishments, and a bonfire.

Rising Juniors, L-R Sydney, Maria, Kreslyn, Sam, & Shalom, receive the Junior Social Axe

75 Year Class of 1950

Marie (Hazard) Procter
I am well and still driving a Jeep Renegade Limited, and also still running my ten-room boarding house with eight tenants.

Class of l953

Helen "Becky" Baker
Dear Friends, I always read the Current with interest and [am] glad that there are a few of us of the Class of l953 that are still around. My two years at Olney were some of the best years of my life and I treasure them. I still live independently on the north side of Chicago with my cat. We have a book group here that meets monthly, and we read serious books and discuss them. We are all retired women and also discuss Chicago and national politics and are very concerned about our democracy and some inroads that are putting our democratic values in jeopardy. We value our constitution and want it to be honored and followed. I subscribe to two daily newspapers and try to keep up with local and international news. I still subscribe to Time Magazine which Teacher Worth Mackie had us read. Wishing the best to our class. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is doing a good job keeping me informed. I had a wonderful career teaching primary grades in a school of primarily Mexican American students.

70 Year Class of 1955

Kathryn "Kay" Smith
Seventy years ago we were a class of 28 – I'm grateful to be one of those still kicking! Since 2018, I have been living at the Walton Retirement Home, down the road from Olney, in an independent apartment. I'm quite happy here. My faithful companion is a 15-year-old dog, "Becky," who flew back with me from Oregon where I lived for 25 years. There is plenty to do here to keep me occupied. I eat lunch over at the main "house" and participate in many of the activities there. Also, I enjoy going to some of the activities at Olney and am active in Stillwater Meeting. I try to keep physically active with "Silver Sneakers," walking, and even playing a little ping-pong with **John Rockwell's '56** group at the Olney gym!

It's great fun to have classmate **Barb Dewees** close by. Greetings to all! Kathryn "Kay" Smith, 1254 E. Main St Apt 1, Barnesville, OH 43713.

Barbara Dewees
After 70 years, here I am back in Barnesville, near old classmates and friends. I started my life in PA, lived a short while in CA (with **Kay Smith**), lived many

years in VA and then several years in NC after I retired. For the past three years I have been living in an apartment in a Senior Living facility in Barnesville. Until my old dog died two years ago, I've always enjoyed the companionship of a dog. My first career was as a hospital laboratory technician for over 20 years, and then I became a self-employed groomer of small dogs until I retired in 1999. I still get out and walk, go to exercise class at the gym two mornings a week, read, work on jigsaw puzzles, and enjoy activities with Olneyites here. We are sad to be missing Wilford Hartley in our group. Four of us old friends – **Wanda (Edgerton) Rockwell '56, Kay Smith, Celia Rockwell '63**, and myself get together every two weeks to play Scrabble and enjoy fellowship and refreshments (cookies!)

Barbara (Barbie) Dewees, 485 North Street Apt 112, Barnesville, OH 43713, bh.dewees@gmail.com.

Kathy (Hinshaw) '55 & Leroy Holloway '56x

Hi Barbie and Kay, so good to hear from you all. It's hard to believe that [it's] 70 years since we were all together. The older we get, the faster it goes.

We have been married for 67 years in November. We have three sons, seven grandkids, and eleven great grandkids. We live with our oldest son Steven and his wife Lori.

Class of 1961

Willie Yee
Shared his Christmas letter with lots of photos of a trip to China, which you can see online at 2024 XMAS letter.pdf or https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QxG3N-Hggpp-Wl2vDUBCskiSHZr7PWVb/view.

60 Year Class of 1965

John Webb
Healthy, snow ski and hot springs.

Judy Stanfield
Lots of changes for me lately. I'm now living by myself at Friends House Retirement Community in Sandy Spring, MD. I've moved "back home" and am particularly enjoying being back in a Quaker community among "my people." I've reconnected with many folks from Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and am also meeting lots of great folks here at Friends House. I still have a lot of old friends in the area and keep plenty busy. I'm still on the board at Olney and get to come back to campus several times a year. This new chapter is giving me a chance to feel solidly grounded and fully myself. My new address is 17201 Quaker Lane, #203, Sandy Spring MD 20860. Cell phone and email stay the same.

Class of 1968

Jo Smith
Greetings to all my fellow Olneyites! These days I am splitting my time between my sister's senior living community in Phoenix, my apartment in Bologna, Italy, and my son's home in Phuket, Thailand. Unfortunately, frequent flyer mileage ain't what it used to be and that trip to Thailand is 16 hours in the air just to get to Singapore from LA- arghh! Thank goodness for compression socks…

May you be healthy, happy and safe! Baci e abbracci per tutti voi!

Tears Do Fall
by Jo Catherine Smith

Tears do fall into our hearts
As love connects with full recall

Of moments gone but never done
Re-lived, re-loved, re-warmed, re-sung

Expanding now into the night,
Our tears reflect the inner light

Of love so real, so here, so now
It takes the stage, renews its vow

To keep us young as we grow old
Our lives lived full and, oh, so bold

Class of 1974

Christopher Hallett

For six years following graduation, I lived in Cleveland for what seemed like an extended Rumspringa with a 21 day pause for health reasons. I left Cleveland in 1980 for Arkansas, where I stayed with my brother and was introduced to fundamentalist evangelical conservative Christianity.

The next 30 years I liken to running away to join the circus. I experienced America by living in 10 states and 15 cities. It was during this time that I met my wife LewEllyn, my partner of 38 years whose support is always welcome, usually needed, and indispensable. Together we raised two children who, as nontraditional students, eventually pursued graduate degrees, Becca in social work and Alex in chemical engineering which led to computational quantum physics. We moved a lot, five states, with the children. I became a cook, certified arborist, teacher, and truck driver. I drove tri-axle trucks to move sand, semis to deliver the mail and ice, and worked a route for a New England bread company. In New Hampshire, with LewEllyn and our two children, I also served in a leadership role as State Coordinator/teacher/minister for the evangelical Christian organization. Leaving that organization was extremely difficult and traumatic for the whole family, but staying any longer would have been worse.

In 2011, my wife and I moved from New Hampshire to Bowling Green, OH, where she earned her MFA in Creative Writing and I worked outdoors on a three-man landscaping crew. The children went in their own directions. After graduation, LewEllyn was hired by the University of Arkansas, and we have been here in Fayetteville, AR, for 12 years. For seven of those years, I worked in the kitchen at the local senior center which provided about 300 meals a day for Meals on Wheels.

I now consider myself retired. My children have also landed on their feet and are navigating the current realities. Becca is in Seattle and Alex in Zurich, Switzerland. I just recently received a second heart ablation procedure to successfully eliminate AFib (atrial fibrillation), and this has been life changing. I guess my heart was so sensitive and easily excitable that it needed some guidance. Which brings me full circle back to Olney, and the guidance I received there which has sustained me over the years. Children are always taking in everything, and I took in more than I let on. Acts of love and decency have an enduring quality, and the strength of our community is woven into the fabric of my soul. I have a better understanding now of our class song, Teach Your Children. My gratitude to my teachers – never underestimate your impact.

50 Year Class of 1975

Beata Peck Little

Dear F/friends: As I join in welcoming the class of 2025 into the Alumni Association and reporting on the years since graduation, I am struck by the longevity of this place many of us think of when we think of "home." We were welcomed by the Class of 1925 (if my math is correct) and back and back with the same ritual. In these chaotic times I marvel that the oasis of calm is still standing. I thank all of you, who by your work, talent, and resources have allowed Olney to be.

I have worn many hats over the years. I am currently living in Harrisburg PA, working in my own office, as a therapist. My specialty focuses on trauma and sexual and domestic abuse. I have two boys (men) who live in the greater Philadelphia area. My eldest, Daniel, is the father of three children and works as an organizer for the union IATSE International. They are the union which ensures that for the concerts, plays, bars, stadiums, and films you enjoy, the people who create behind the lights are treated appropriately. My younger son, Iain, is a scholar with a specialty in Holocaust Studies. As he finds his place, he is working as a GM in retail sales.

I spend my time doing the things I love, riding my bike, working in the garden, and reading. Speed and wind are still my happy place (and occasional downfall). Thanks to my friends who have held me up and also rejoiced with me. You have truly blessed me.

As I think back 50 years and further, as I moved onto the campus as a "faculty brat," I hope that this oasis that taught us the SPICES, even before they were a thing, continues. We have carried into our lives and experiences the basic message of the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. We all need to continue contributing what we can to ensure the class of 2025 has the same gift we have been given.

I can be reached at bpecklittle@comcast.net. Be well, Beata

Lisa Nagle
I haven't been good at updates for the Current, so need to do a 50 year summary now! I'll be brief!

After Olney I attended Earlham and Wilmington Colleges, graduating with a major in agriculture and a minor in Spanish before heading to the Peace Corps in Kenya, where I taught agriculture and English at a secondary school, then did research with USAID and UNFAO projects. I met my Danish husband in Kenya and moved to Denmark with him in 1984. There I raised two children, **Monica '08** and **Jannik Mikkelson x'06**, attended university and taught Danish, English, German, and Spanish in various schools.

In 2004, I returned to the U.S. with my daughter, Monica. My son, Jannik, remained in Denmark. Both got to attend Olney; Monica for four years, graduating in 2008, and Jannik for a year before he returned to finish his education in Denmark. He has remained in Denmark but has been good at visiting us in the US. He and his wife, Helle, have given us two grandchildren, who are under the age of five. We've visited them a couple of times and are looking forward to them visiting us. They are too far away. Video chatting helps, but being able to hold them and play with them in person is much preferable!

In the US I married Gerard Langlois. We moved from Florida to Colorado in 2008. In Evergreen, CO, I worked online scoring TOEFL tests.

After Gerard and I retired, we decided to sell our house and live in a camper van. We've been living in it since the summer of 2021, traveling to visit friends, family, and beautiful natural areas of the US and Canada for lots of hiking and some biking.

In August we're taking a break from our travels and will be renting an apartment with Monica and her husband, Will, for a couple of years. Then we might continue our travels before purchasing a place with Monica and Will when they know where they'll get more permanent jobs. They'll have the house, and we hope to live in a Tiny House on the property.

Despite the bad reputation that social media has, I've so appreciated being able to keep in touch with many of you in that way. Before Facebook, it was The Olney Current that played this role.

Peace, love and light to you all!

Darlene Stanley
Our 50th class reunion! One week after we packed up and left Olney, my father loaded up a pickup truck and moved me to Greensboro, NC, where I accepted a summer job as a housekeeping worker at Friends Homes for director **David Brown Jr. (Hon.)** My Olney roommate and cousin **Sharon Warrington '75** accepted a job there as well, and we both lived and worked together.

That summer job turned into living in Greensboro now for 50 years. I received a BS in Psychology/Sociology with a minor in Religion and a master's in clinical Mental Health counseling. I have been working as a mental health therapist for almost 20 years. I continue to enjoy my work and plan to keep working now for several more years.

I have two adult children, Meg and Jesse Emry. They both live here in Greensboro. I am very involved in my son's ongoing care. He lives in an independent living situation with assistance from staff, is now 30 years old, and continues to mature and make good progress in living and personal skills. He is very intelligent, gifted, and enjoys writing with hopes to one day publish. Meg has four children and loves being a mom. I have to say becoming "Mema" has been a highlight of the last 16 years. I have four wonderful, loving grandkids, River, Raven, Aurora Belle and Maddox; three girls and one boy, aged from 16 to 9 yrs. old.

In addition to raising my kids, involvement with grandkids, and working, a real passion since I was a young girl is genealogy. In 1989 a group of Stanley relatives held a reunion in Damascus, OH, and from that night forward a National Stanley Family association was born. Several years later, we became nonprofit and continued having reunions every year till Covid, then every two years. We published six genealogy books; I have been very involved with the group for the past 35 years. Sadly, due to lack of participation and members aging, we are ending the association in the coming year. A highlight for me, one year we held our annual reunion in Plainfield Indiana, where I was able to find the meetinghouse and the graves of five generations of grandparents.

In addition to knowing my roots from my Guindon (mom **Mary Eva '44**) and Stanley (dad **Wilmer '43**) parents, other interests are energy medicine, shamanism, growing plants, sitting by the fire, and participating in spiritual groups. I am an active member of Friendship Friends Meeting, an unprogrammed Friends meeting here in Greensboro.

My life is grounded with deep roots connecting with the earth, relatives and generations that have come before me. Those roots also include, as a child, attending and being a part of the Olney community knowing that one day I would attend. It always feels like home when I return.

Frances (Barton) Krohn

I will be sorry to miss my 50-year class reunion. I had to make a choice between that and my son's wedding, happening in Missouri the first week in June. I moved back to Eugene, OR about 5-1/2 years ago to be close to siblings. I continue to work at programming, mostly custom software for various businesses, with a side or two of bookkeeping. I have developed a social life for really the first time in my life and am thoroughly enjoying it.

In my spare time I have been sifting gravel from a sunny spot that former owners of my house used for parking boats or RVs or something. Anyway, the crushed rock is thick and yields about 2/3 of a 5 gallon bucket in every 2.5 cubic feet of soil. My sister Rachel is happy to dispose of it for me on her gravel drive. I save the small round rock to gravel paths in my garden which is taking the place of the parking lot. The land is slightly sloped, so I have terraced it a bit, and each year I am able to plant more as the gravel is removed. When I am not working or gardening, I am knitting. I have a page on MeWe.com called Knitting Fever, if you are interested in seeing my work. My best to all, and if any of you are out this way, I would love to see you.

Margaret (Sidwell) Warren 1975
Greetings! I do appreciate the Olney family. Here is my brief recap. I graduated from Ohio State University in the fall of ’81 with a degree in Occupational Therapy and got married to Rod Warren in June of ’82. We have stayed in Columbus, OH, since then. I worked at Central Ohio Psychiatric Hospital for 3 1/2 years, and then for Mount Carmel East Hospital for 37 years. My therapy work was with adults who mostly had neurologic or orthopedic deficits. Occupational Therapy was a good career for me. It was challenging, varied, and a way to work with people.

Since retiring in ’22, I enjoy working in the yard and garden, reading, going to area parks, and helping at a local food pantry. We visit our son and his family when we can.

Class of 1976

Cathy (Cayard) Habschmidt
Cathy and **Larry Habschmidt (Hon.)** will be celebrating 45 years of marriage this June. Both now retired, they are in the process of moving from their long-time home in Richmond, IN, to northern Indiana to be nearer daughter **Emily (Habschmidt) Welch ’04** and her husband Matt and children Owen (8) and Hannah (6). New address is: 411 Park West Drive, Goshen, IN 46526. We hope to return to campus next year for the 50th reunion of the wonderful class of 1976!

40 Year Class of 1985

Reid Hayhow
When I biked away from Olney the summer after graduation, I was excited about the adventure of college at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Six years later, I had graduated from St. John’s (BS) as well as the University of New Mexico (BA). I had also met my future wife, Debbie. The next six years were busy and exciting as we worked at two DNA Databases (in Los Alamos, NM, and Heidelberg, Germany), pursued graduate education in Colorado and North

Carolina, and moved to Las Cruces, NM, for Debbie to start her career as a Physician Assistant at a Migrant Health Center (La Clinica de Familia) and for me to start working in computer science.

After the birth of our first child, we moved back to Colorado to be closer to family. Within a few months, I started working at my current employer, Agilent Technologies, as a software developer. Over the following 25 years we have had a range of adventures. We had a second child a few years later. We purchased and renovated a house. We traveled as a family to Europe and Turkey. I paddled the Pouder River in a kayak for a season. We hiked the local Colorado mountains and much more.

I reflect back on my time at Olney with fondness. I was shaped by the people and ideas during those formative years at Olney, and they inform who I am today. I am grateful for my experience and am glad Olney continues to be a place where young people can grow and develop.

Class of 2004

Jesse Snyder-Ehrich
To whom it may concern, I recently got a raise. I'm working for Henry Poor lumber company in Lafayette Indiana as a door builder. I got married November 2023 to Sarah Starks at First Friends in Indianapolis. We have a cat named Mango.

20 Year Class of 2005

Erin Noel Hogan
Erin is a textile artist specializing in upcycling the mundane into the magical. Since being asked to create work for a collaborative show with two other strong women local to her community in Athens, OH, that took place at The Dairy Barn Arts Center in 2023, she has been delighting in handcrafting sculptures of dragons from upcycled chicken wire and scrap fabrics. You can find her artistic works at her website, www.greendragonthread.com. A day job with the Athens County Public Libraries has provided much meaning, learning, and joy in her past five years working there as an associate librarian. She is now so grateful to also be working on a fabulous new project of helping to launch the social enterprise, Hocking Hills Garment Center, which is bringing education and jobs in sewing clothing back to both the USA and her home region of Appalachia which has been impoverished since the coal industry began its decline. You can check out their story at their account on Instagram @hockinghillsgarmentcenter, or their website, www.ohiohhgc.com.

Class of 2016

Cayce Morrison
Featured in an article in The Overstory, a publication of the Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment:
https://yff.yale.edu/overstory/listening-new-englands-forests.

Class of 2017

Lyushen "Abraham" Song
(As seen on LinkedIn): Double Milestone Achieved! I'm proud to announce two exciting updates: I just graduated from Master of Science in Business Analytics at Boston University program, and kicked off my journey as a Field Sales Business Analyst II at Boston Scientific.

Honorary

George Campbell
It has been 50 years since I taught at Olney (1974-75). Every year I travel to Monteverde, Costa Rica, where I grew up. I visited with **"Lucky" (Standing) Guindon '50** and **Mary (Chamness) Rockwell '49** who both attended Olney. If I understood correctly, they were roommates. They are both 93 years old.

Lucky is on the left and Mary on the right in this picture. They both have major health issues but are hanging in there. The occasion was Mary's weekly "Coffee" on Tuesday mornings, 10 AM to noon, at her house. georgecampbellphoto@gmail.com

Friends Who Have Passed

Foster Uuskallio ’49
From classmate Dick Emmons: After trying for many years to reach Foster Uuskallio, I recently heard from his son Mark that he had died September 27, 2023 after a tough battle with bladder cancer. [Obituary not found.]

Ruth (Stratton) Varkonda ’50

Ruth A. Varkonda, 92, of Salem, OH, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Dec. 13, 2024.

Born on Nov. 15, 1932, in Salem, she was the daughter of Wilford and Helen Dressel Stratton and was a 1950 graduate of the Olney Friends School in Barnesville.

Ruth met her husband, John Varkonda, while waitressing at the Town Hall Diner in Salem. They were married in New York City on May 19, 1953, on the CBS television show called *“Bride & Groom.”* The wedding was sponsored by General Mills and was viewed by two million people. After a honeymoon at the 1,000 Acres Dude Ranch in Stoney Creek, NY, they lived on the family farm in Atwater OH.

After a time, they moved to Salem and bought their own small farm. While John worked at Eljers, Ruth was a stay-at-home mom raising their four children and a true farmer’s wife. She tended to a large vegetable garden, raspberry patch, and even helped bale hay.

Ruth was an active and faithful 60-plus-year member of the Salem First Presbyterian Church where she served as a deacon. Her strong faith carried her through many valleys throughout her life. She was a caring and nurturing mother, always supportive of her children.

She worked in the Children’s Department of the Salem Public Library for almost 28 years, retiring in December of 2013. She said she was retiring because she was too old to learn the new computer system. She enjoyed working at the library and being a part of the lives of so many young people.

She enjoyed playing cards with friends and was always up for a game of Tripoley with the family, frequently winning much to the chagrin of others. She loved the Peanuts’ Gang, especially Snoopy and always smiled when another was added to her collection.

Ruth is survived by daughters, Lynn (Mark) Zocolo of Salem and Amy (Keith) Holbrook of Galena, OH; daughter-in-law, Jane Varkonda of Martha’s Vineyard;

and brother, **Robert (Winnie) Stratton '53** of Barnesville, OH. She was so proud of her six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter with another on the way, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, John Varkonda; parents, Wilford and Helen (Dressel) Stratton; daughter, Bonnie Lee; sons, Rick Varkonda and John J. Varkonda; and sisters, Betty Stratton Solomon and **Jean Stratton Stanley '49**.
https://www.salemnews.net/obituaries/2024/12/ruth-a-varkonda/

Corinne (Krekler) Chapman x'53
Corinne (Krekler) Chapman, 89, of Van Wert, passed away Friday, December 20, 2024. She was born August 20, 1935, in Middletown, to the late William H. and Alice (Roberts) Krekler. In addition to her parents, Corinne was preceded in death by her brother, Norman R. Krekler; and former husbands, Stephen Jesse Wersan, Jack Robert Gray, and Collins Allen Chapman.

She is survived by her daughters, Rebecca Alice "Ariel" Litzky and Vivian Jacquette "Jackie" Rhoades; grandchildren, Corrie Rhoades Gerster and David Elgar Rhoades; great grandchildren, Katherine "Katie" Cole, Lillian "Herb" Cole, Jacob Rhoades, and Benjamin Gerster; and brother, **Bruce Krekler '52**.

Corinne's passions were her Quaker heritage, genealogy, education, and women's advancement. She was a lifelong member of Elk Monthly Meeting (West Elkton Friends), which was the first church in Preble County and had been a hub on the Underground Railroad. She attended Quaker boarding schools (Olney and Westtown) and received her Bachelor of Arts in sociology at the age of 19 in 1955 from Earlham College. After college, she moved to New York City and worked for the summer as a social worker on a floating hospital, then began her studies at Columbia University that fall as a Ford Foundation Fellow.

Corinne received her Master of Arts in secondary education in 1960 from Whittier College and did extensive graduate work beyond the master's level. She later taught school for 1-2 years, then became a guidance counselor for 29 years. Most of her counseling career was at Amherst, OH–first at the high school, later at the junior high. She especially loved to facilitate college attendance for her students, recommending them to the colleges and training programs that best suited their abilities and helping them find funding to pursue their education.

As a child, Corinne visited all then-48 states, a fact she remained proud of her whole life. As an adult, she immersed herself into researching her family's genealogy, a quest that took her again to churches, cemeteries, colleges, and courthouses in several states to do research in pre-internet days. She loved to regale visitors with stories from her family history.

A steadfast supporter of women's advancement and equality, Corinne was an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) since the 1950s, for which she also served as an officer. She was also an avid reader.

Corinne never missed sending greeting cards for all occasions to practically everyone she knew, particularly to close relatives. She was even still doing this up until the last few days of her life. For many years, she also blessed each newborn in the family with a blanket she knitted for them.

Services will take place at a later date, tentatively scheduled for mid-June at West Elkton Friends Meeting. https://www.balesfh.com/obituaries/corinne-chapman.

Wilford Hartley ’55

Wilford D. Hartley, 87, of Barnesville, Ohio passed away on Friday, January 24, 2025, at The Walton Retirement Home in Barnesville. He was born on September 5, 1937, in Barnesville to the late Elmer C. and Anna (Kirk) Hartley.

Wilford was a 1955 graduate of Olney Friends School and received a B.S. in Agricultural Business from Wilmington College. He was a member of the Stillwater Friends Meeting his entire life. He worked throughout Ohio for several companies over the years in fertilizer safety and farm equipment sales. Wilford loved to work with wood, and enjoyed camping and fishing. He was a member of the Toastmasters Club in Columbus, and later was an active Hospice volunteer in Citrus County, Florida where he lived before moving back to Barnesville in 2021.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jean (McMillan) Hartley. They were married in 1983 and enjoyed many long years together.

Wilford is survived by five children, **Anne** (Cornelius) **Hartley-Willis ’82** of Menlo Park, CA, **Karen** (Dana) **Marshall ’85** of Seattle, WA, **Heather** (Paul) **VandenHeuvel ’88** of Evanston, IL, Lori Wright of Marysville, OH, and Jay Craig (Sharon) Wright of Safety Harbor, FL; eleven grandchildren; brother, **Ernest Hartley ’57** of El Dorado, CA; and former wife **Lyn Cope ’60** of Oberlin, OH.

Wilford’s care was entrusted to Campbell-Plumly-Milburn Funeral Home, which now occupies the very building where Wilford was born when it was the Community Hospital of Barnesville.
www.campbellplumlymilburnfuneralhome.com/obituary/Wilford-Hartley

Anna Mae (Cooper) Sutterley ’55
Anna Mae (née Cooper) on December 15, 2024, age 87, of Collingswood; formerly of Haddonfield. Wife of the late David James Sutterley; Beloved mother of Tricia (Eric) Sutterley; Loving grandmother of Evan, Raymond (Lou), and Bella; and Dear sister of **Oliver Cooper ’59** (Gretchen), **Lucile Bauer ’61** (Klaus) and **Janet Teets ’64** (Ed).

Anna Mae, also known as Ann or Anna, was a longtime member of the Haddonfield Quaker Meeting, enjoyed camping, gardening, walking and socializing generally. She actively participated in square dancing, engaging for many years in the Busy B’s club among others.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Olney Friends School, 61830 Sandy Ridge Road Barnesville, OH 43713 (www.olneyfriends.org/supportolney/).
https://www.theretrospect.com/obituaries/sutterley

Nancy Willson ’56
From sister **Gay (Willson) Wellman ’59**: Just to let you know that on the morning of April 2, 2025, we received the call everyone dreads getting and is never really prepared for, letting us know that my sister Nancy Willson had passed away. Nancy was small in stature but had a strong spirit and lived a life of quiet service to others, that included becoming a Waldorf School preschool teacher in at least two separate schools that she helped get started. From the time she was a young child Nancy, seemed to have the uncanny ability to establish deep connections with people wherever she went, which resulted in her having a network of loving friends of all ages spread out all over the country.

About ten years ago it became evident that Nancy was showing signs of cognitive decline and as her sister, I became her long-distant caregiver. With the help of her friends in the Durham, NC area we realized that she was going to have to move into assisted living. It was the friends there in the area where she had lived much of her life who took turns providing the on-the-ground assistance needed to provide her with the best care we could find. It took all of us working together to make it happen.

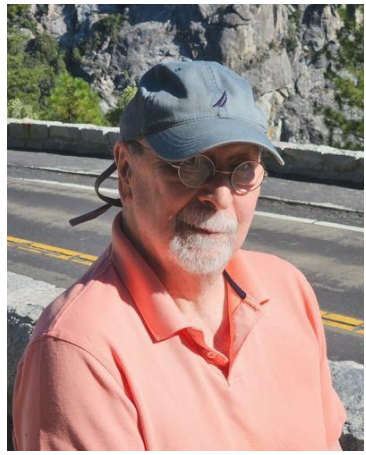
During Covid a weekly Zoom visit with Nancy was started that is still continuing. This provided those of us who made that a commitment, not just the much needed contact with Nancy but also the opportunity to meet and become good friends with each other, this diverse group who had been important to her throughout her life. In addition to those who attended whenever they could, the regular group included two classmates from Olney, **Gladys (Satterthwait) Trzcinski ’56** and the late **Willie (Mott) Crawford ’56,** as well as an older friend from before she was at Olney. So, during the last decade of her life, Nancy reaped the benefits of living a life dedicated to building lasting friendships and to service to others and

gave me, her sister the gift of being able to add all of these beautiful people who are now enriching my life.

Janet (Cooper) Teets '64
Janet Marie Teets, age 79, of Okeana, OH passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family on April 23, 2025. She was born in Salem, OH on Jan. 31, 1946, the daughter of **James and Bertha (Hall) Cooper**. She attended Olney Friends Boarding School and later graduated with a master's degree in psychology from the University of Cincinnati. She went on to work at Miami University as a nursing professor.

On June 29, 1968, she married Ed Teets, and together they had three children. Janet volunteered at Hospice of Cincinnati for over 15 years and at Sojourner for many years. She was also a member of the Butler County Board of Health and member of Three Valley Conservation Trust in Oxford. Janet is survived by her loving husband, Ed; her three children Raymond (Carrie Brownstein) Teets, Amy Teets and Daniel (Jesse Boyd) Teets; grandchildren Isaiah and Shiloh Teets; step-grandchildren Waylon Boyd and Hayden Crawford; one brother **Oliver** (Gretchen) **Cooper '59** and one sister **Lucile** (Klaus) **Bauer '61**; and many other loving relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, **Anna Mae Sutterley '55**.
www.oxfreepress.com/obituaries/obituary-janet-marie-teets/

Dana Zak '65
Dana Thomas Zak, of Brattleboro, VT, died Monday, April 14, after a brief period of declining health. He was born in Detroit, MI, on October 6, 1947, to Patricia Lee (Milligan) and Francis Thomas Zak. He was educated at Olney Friends Boarding School in Barnesville, OH, and his membership in the Society of Friends was a very important part of his spiritual life. Dana was a conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam and performed community service at Cleveland's University Hospital. He graduated from Ohio University. Prior to his retirement in 2013, he worked for 30 years at Cheshire Medical Center as an IT professional.



As a lover of Moby Dick, Dana would agree that "Wonderfullest things are ever the unmentionable; deep memories yield no epitaphs." His complicated and gentle spirit is difficult to capture, but he left a profound impact on those who knew him, many of whom remained lifelong friends. He was an inveterate punster with a wry sense of humor, one who contributed laconic remarks from the back of the room,

intended to fly under the radar and reach only those who were closest to him. Dana was a man of integrity and loving father, always willing to help his children with construction projects and anything else they needed. A devoted Detroit Tigers fan, he played right field on a local men's softball team, and with his family was part of a winning trivia team in recent years. He loved old cars, especially his Dodge Dart. He had an affinity for places of great natural beauty, especially the Southwest, Putney Mountain, and Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Deborah Lyn Zak, his son Matthew Thomas Zak and daughter-in-law Heidi, his daughter Emily Zak Webb and son-in-law Ben, granddaughters Diana and Helen Webb, and former wife and dear friend, Louise Zak. Also surviving are his sisters Deborah Lewis, Cynthia Zak, **Andrea Lingelbach '75**, and brother Gregg Zak, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Pamela Maxwell.

A private family memorial gathering will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, P.O. Box 453, Empire, MI 49630, or Olney Friends School, 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH 43713.

"I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing." -Starbuck, Moby Dick. https://obits.csnh.com/dana-zak

Margaret (Jordan) Hallgren '67

Margaret Leigh Hallgren, age 75, of Girard, passed away on Saturday November 9, 2024, at Walnut Creek Healthcare.

She was born in Cleveland, OH on December 25, 1948, a daughter of the late Macon and Betty Cover Jordan.

Margaret was a 1968 graduate of Olney Friends Boarding School [our records show 1967]. She went on to earn her degrees at Ohio State University. She worked as a teacher in special education for over 50 years. She loved to paint and was an amazing artist. She also loved gardening and was a Master Gardener for Crawford County.

In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Hans Kristopher Hallgren and her brother, Robert Macon Jordan. She is survived by her sister, **Patricia (Jordan) Wilson '74**, and her nephew, Gregory S. Wilson.

Alys P. DeMattia ’82

Alys Piper DeMattia, a beacon of kindness and warmth, left this world on December 20, 2024, at the age of 60. Born June 26, 1964, Alys touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and generosity that will forever be cherished.

An alumna of Olney Friends School, Alys carried with her the values of service and community, which she showed through a life dedicated to helping others. Her unforgettable kitchen became a gathering place for friends and family where her cooking was an opportunity to express her love and no one left hungry.

Her spirit was adventurous, forever curious about the world around her. Whether she was exploring the great outdoors or reading a book. Her love for exploring and adventure led Alys to being an amazing storyteller and making the people around her smile and laugh. She had a deep love for animals, Alys formed connections with her furry companions, finding joy in their unspoken loyalty and affection.

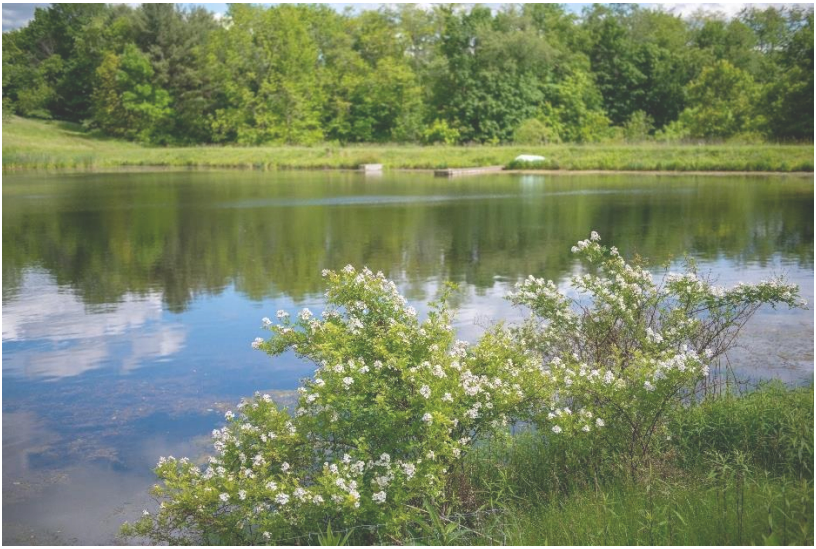
Alys was known for her beautiful flower garden, a vibrant reflection of her personality and a gift for all to enjoy the beauty around them. She could be found enjoying the garden from her favorite spot, her deck, which was home to many parties and gatherings that were filled with joy and laughter.

With a heart full of love and a spirit ready to explore the unknown, Alys P. DeMattia’s life was a testament to the power of kindness. Her memories will forever remain a source of comfort to those she touched. Alys will be deeply missed, but her warmth and light will continue to shine brightly in our hearts.

Alys was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Henning and Caroline Arnold. She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Bill DeMattia; brother **Seth Henning ’84,** stepfather Brian Stenfors, niece Sara Henning, cousin Heather Henderson; her four-legged companions, cat Tink and dog Dingo; and many other relatives and friends. www.newcomerakron.com/obituaries/alys-p-demattia

Tracy L. Pfeiffer ’89
Tracy L. Pfeiffer was born June 30, 1971, and passed away in Columbus, OH on October 8, 2019. She is survived by her daughter, Emerson Sterling Pfeiffer-Riggenbach and mother, Cheri S. (John) Grant, of Columbus; father, Ronald C. (Robin) Pfeiffer of Findlay, OH; and brother, Justin C. Pfeiffer of Houston, TX.

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/columbus-oh/tracy-pfeiffer-10685679



Special Event Hosting at Olney Friends School

Olney Friends School is a unique location to rent for special events. Our historic facility is perfect for small cozy gatherings, and large enough for big family reunions and weddings. We have a variety of spaces indoors and outdoors on our certified organic 350-acre campus. Overnight accommodation is available, as is piano rental. We can also offer delicious buffet options for all occasions (with a minimum of 25 people).

Olney Friends School might be perfect for your next:

- Family Reunion
- Recital
- Wedding
- Birthday Party
- Retirement Party
- Board Meeting
- Reception
- Bridal or Baby Shower

For more information on booking Olney Friends School, contact Vicki Lowry at 740-425-3655, 800-303-4291, or mainoffice@olneyfriends.org.