

# THE SUN

Winter 2018

# DIAL

The Magazine of The Ethel Walker School



## AN UNCHARTED JOURNEY

Designing  
a Career in a New Era  
of Work



# THE SUN | DIAL

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We make every attempt to publish accurate  
information. If you notice an error, please let us  
know so that we can fix it. Thank you.

**Editor's Note:** Our apologies to Liss Couch-Edwards '07  
who contributed photography to our last issue and was  
not listed as a contributor and to Adrienne Massie Hill '56  
whose name was misspelled in our last issue.



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*Lauren Nicholson '14, Emily Sappington '06*  
*and Henrietta Cheng Mei '79*

Dear Walker's Community,

Greetings from Simsbury for our inaugural Design issue of the *Sundial*! A year ago I had the pleasure of visiting my alma mater Stanford University to hear about their Design School and its harnessing of the arts, engineering, medicine and a host of other disciplines in collaboration to create productive change in our society. This semester at Walker's we are team-teaching a course on South Asian and Southeast Asian History and in studying ancient Indus Valley civilization, we began to explore the topological mathematics of *pulli kolam* (the geometric designs defined by numerically arrayed grids of dots), both in terms of the structures they impose and the innumerable creative possibilities engendered by those rigid structures. To this day, Hindu women from all over India and all socio-economic strata, literate and illiterate alike, decorate and sanctify the entrances to their homes early every morning by creating such designs whose origins go back five thousand years.

As many of you know, my mantra has been girls as joyful thinkers and doers in the world, and it struck me immediately upon my arrival at Walker's that girls are natural engineers and designers and continue to be as they develop — as adults, most of us are engaged problem-solvers in whatever walk of life we inhabit. This is also what I discovered about our wonderful alumnae body — that we have produced a host of 'designing women' changing the face of our world in productive, impactful ways. All of you, artists, engineers, authors, designers, poets, creators, teachers, and agents of change!

Despite the negative associations of the idioms 'designing women' and 'artful females' in pre-21st century history, we need to embrace the power and possibility of these designations. Which leads us to the fundamental question of what is 'design'? It surely is one of the most meaningful and resonant of terms. Design is by turns: embellishment/ornament, plan/engineer, creation/production and carries within it the notion of sign or mark, the bearer of meaning. Surely these various definitions lie at the heart of any significant educational institution. Teachers and students are designers alike, crafting together the educational process. Recently, we are hearing more and more about design thinking — the process of adopting and adapting creative strategies from the world of design to solving real-world problems and questions. And in a fortuitous coincidence this semester by repurposing Galbraith Gym, Walker's has found just the place for student engineer/designers to let their imaginations run free.

In order to realize our goal of having our girls become joyful thinkers and doers both in their time at Walker's and beyond, we need them to feel convinced of their capacity to dream, create and achieve. In the next issue of the *Sundial*, I want to share with all of you our vision for designing a 'Capabilities Approach' to helping our girls develop confidence, conviction, integrity, resilience and




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“Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.”

GLORIA STEINEM

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courage in which all girls at Walker's achieve functional mastery in a host of areas before they graduate, including a swim test, first-aid certification, a self-defense course, the ability to give a three-minute impromptu speech on any topic with no 'ums,' 'you knows,' or 'likes,' international experience, financial competency including personal finance, taxes and investments, a paid summer internship among others.

Hence, I want to apologize for the fact that instead of producing our usual fall, spring and summer issues this year, we are highlighting some exciting changes at Walker's by devoting two issues of the *Sundial* this winter and late spring to the topic of Design and Design Thinking. This is in keeping with our emerging strategic plan, Walker's blueprint for the future. Beginning with our summer *Sundial Supplement* we will return to our traditional scheduling of issues. So in this first installment of our two-part design theme, I hope you will share our excitement as you turn the successive pages of this issue.

Your fellow dreamer,

Dr. Meera Viswanathan (aka Ms. Vis)  
HEAD OF SCHOOL



# reunion

MAY 18-20  
2018



reconnect



rediscover



reimagine



reunite

Classes ending in 3 and 8, visit  
[www.ethelwalker.org/reunion](http://www.ethelwalker.org/reunion) to start planning!

## National Reunion Chair Alexandra “Alex” Badger Airth Class of 1983 – 35th Reunion

As Walker’s moves forward under Head of School Meera Viswanathan’s leadership, Alex is excited to be helping lead the efforts in shaping a meaningful and exciting Reunion 2018 this spring.

“Some of you may have seen Walker’s classmates or visited campus recently, and others may not have re-connected for years or even since you graduated. Reunion is a time when ALL of us can embrace the opportunity to renew connections to our School, rethink the role the School has played in our lives, and rediscover the intersections of our paths through the common bond of The Ethel Walker School.



Alexandra Badger Airth '83, her husband, Alan, and their children, Chandler, Graysen and Hailey

Each year, Reunion is a major event in the life of the School and this year I ask you to make it an important event in your life too. The role of women in the world, and the importance of

educating young women, is more vital and perhaps more challenging than ever. Come see for yourself how Walker’s is embracing this challenge. Opportunities for fun, learning, networking and sharing during the course of the weekend will leave you surprised and delighted by what you discover upon your return.

Please join classmates and friends, come back — this is our School and our Reunion — and come together to support and recognize Walker’s, our students, our history and our future.”

A NOTE FROM

## Kit O'Brien Rohn '82

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For the past year and a half, I have served as board chair and know, in my heart, that I have received more from Walker's than I have returned in service to the School. Every day, I work with extraordinary people and many at Walker's are now family. I am fortunate to have a team of dedicated trustees to serve beside me who are devoted, smart, creative and disciplined people. We are all driven and motivated by a common cause — our commitment to Meera's success as our head, our School's long-term financial sustainability, and a unified and clear vision for Walker's future. These people inspire me and it is my privilege that I share with you all that they do for our School.

Throughout the year I met alumna across the country and around the globe from all walks of life — filmmakers, authors, doctors, mothers, grandmothers, artists, volunteers, lawyers, activists, dancers and trustees of other organizations, to name a few. Every Walker's sister had a powerful message to share and many were driven by causes. For so many, their motivation was to help other women. To me, this was no surprise. What we are witnessing in the world today is what we learned at Walker's — women helping women is an invincible force. We know the movement well by now — Stronger Together!

Like most women's movements, we share similar stories. All women regardless of age are at a crossroads. There are strong female voices in the world, but too often they work in isolation from each other. When we come together, our achievements have no limits.

Yesterday we were dreaming about what Walker's might be; today we are making it happen. We are implementing ideas that will put Walker's at the forefront of all-girls education. We have an army of talented women leaders at the School and in our alumnae network — many that we know and hundreds more that we need to know better. There is no doubt that when our extraordinary community works together, we are a force to reckon with.

I invite you to join us — come to Simsbury for a visit or see us when we are in your city. Meet Meera and our extraordinary students, faculty, staff, and administrators to hear more about what is happening on our campus. Our new regional clubs are growing across the U.S. and we have organized an alumnae gathering in Panama this March. The enthusiasm for this new event has been infectious and something that we hope to replicate in other locations around the world in the future.

I know that every one of you feels the power and love of our Walker's friendships and I hope that you are engaged in this network of amazing Walker's women. If you are not, join us! We are stronger together.



Kit O'Brien Rohn '82

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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What we are witnessing in the world today is what we learned at Walker's — women helping women is an invincible force.

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# New Trustee: Lindsay Flynn '05

Lindsay Flynn '05 is the vice president of government relations at Twenty-First Century Group in Washington, DC. She represents a diverse portfolio of clients in the healthcare, telecommunication, and transportation industries, including Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, and municipalities. She assists clients with legislative strategy and policy, with a focus on vaccine issues, telehealth, biodefense, and Medicaid managed care.

Prior to joining Twenty-First Century Group, Lindsay served as an intern for U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas (D-MA). She worked as a field organizer on Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) Senate campaign in 2012, and as a coordinator for women's outreach in Pennsylvania on President Barack Obama's campaign in 2008.

Lindsay started her career as a research analyst for Assabet Ventures, a healthcare consulting firm in Massachusetts. In that role, she worked closely with senior executives on projects for health plans, medical device companies, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Ministry of Health in China.

While at Walker's, Lindsay was president of EWAC (Ethel Walker Athletic Council), played varsity field hockey and varsity basketball, and was captain of the varsity lacrosse team. She also was president of the Chemistry Club. Lindsay went on to earn a degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Lindsay served on our Alumnae Board and has been a class agent and reunion committee volunteer. Recently, she hosted our DC alumnae reception which included a private tour of the U.S. Capitol Building. Lindsay's father, Patrick Flynn, served on Walker's board of trustees from 2004 to 2009.



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# AN UNCHARTED JOURNEY

## Designing a Career in a New Era of Work



Work is transforming at a dizzying pace. The “it” field today could essentially be obsolete tomorrow. Technology and globalization are fueling the quick pace of change. A singular skill set enabling workers to ascend a company’s ladder no longer holds promise. Today, jobs require employees to think, integrate and apply knowledge beyond a narrow field.

We spoke with four alumnae who are part of an emerging, new “maker” community — a growing field of doers in science, technology, medicine, art and architecture who are designing in ways and for ideas that seemingly develop overnight. Design itself is no longer just applied to a work of art or on the fashion runway. Design is also being applied to the most critical issues of our day: environmental concerns, technology interfaces and housing needs.

These women are all designers. While they are all doing different types of work, what they have in common is that they have all been able to adapt their skills — not all of which are directly related to the fields they are in — to the seemingly ever-evolving challenges put before them. Taking on the unknown and trusting the foundational skills instilled in them at Walker’s shows a readiness to evolve in this new era of 21st century work.

## Designing a Better Future for Our Earth

### Anne Lacouture Penniman '76

BACHELOR OF ARTS, AMERICAN STUDIES AND HISTORY  
YALE UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Anne Lacouture Penniman was on track to become a doctor or a veterinarian when a semester of pre-med courses at Yale changed all that. “I realized that the quantitative universe wasn’t for me,” she admits. The shift in plans, however, didn’t phase Penniman. She says what was more important was developing core foundational skills to carry her through any career. This foundation is one that was laid during her years at Walker’s.

At Walker’s, she says, “anything seemed to be possible.” She said that during her time as a student, teachers and counselors weren’t focused as much on career paths as they were on intellectual curiosity and rigor.

“I was encouraged to take risks intellectually,” she says. “I’m a firm believer in the liberal arts education for teaching critical thinking and good writing.” In her current work as a landscape architect, she uses all of these aspects of her education. While she is creative in designing new ideas, she says she also regularly uses math and science in her work. “That’s why a well-rounded education is so valuable,” she says.

While the diverse courses at Walker’s inspired her, so too did the campus and the surrounding area — a welcomed change for a girl from Ohio. “I fell in love with the architectural scale and natural beauty of Connecticut: the stone walls, the small villages.” Being in touch with the environment — its present and future

condition — would later become the core focus of her working life.

As a landscape architect, she spends a lot of her days outdoors designing gardens, residential landscapes, public streetscapes and parks. Her firm focuses on sustainable design, habitat and ecological processes to develop plans that think beyond a simple project and look at its larger implications on the land. Looking holistically at a design and its impact is an important part of her vision for each new assignment.

She also believes that it’s important for women to be involved in designing our landscape and built environment. All too often, the construction business is dominated by men, and yet the outcome of this work effects how and where we live. “Women,” she says, “should have more of a say in that visioning process and its results.”

One project that she feels particularly close to is Salt Meadow Park in Madison, Connecticut. The new 42-acre park is a coastal site that was formerly a local airport. “We saved a rare coastal grassland, and we created opportunities for lots of public use and enjoyment,” she says. To bring the project to life, Penniman needed more than just design skills. Being both a historic and

environmentally-sensitive piece of land, she and her team had to engage closely with a citizens’ committee and town personnel to design everything from ball fields to parking while also preserving the habitat and “creating a sense of place.”

In the end, Penniman’s vision for Salt Meadow Park was realized: it honored its history by creating a “runway path,” harkening to the area’s airport

days. In addition, her sensitive design vision “saved a rare coastal grassland,” and for her forward-thinking plan, she took home an honor from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CTASLA). Penniman’s firm, Anne Penniman Associates LLC, also recently received two additional

awards from the CTASLA including Honor Awards for landscape planning and analysis for the Elizabeth Park Master Plan (Hartford/West Hartford, CT) and for built works in a residential setting for the Island Habitat Landscape (Mystic, CT).

Penniman says what she loves most about her design work is “being involved in an ordered process that results in a certain poetry and intangible beauty.” But that “poetry” that Penniman creates has an even larger, longer-term impact. “I hope to encourage my clients, colleagues and employees to walk lightly on the land. I want to leave the world a better place, and I want to try to heal the world of the climate crisis.”

Women... should have more of a say in that visioning process and its results.



Anne Lacouture Penniman '76

## Design's Iterative Process, A Lesson for Life

### Emily Sappington '06

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS,  
INTEGRATED DESIGN CURRICULUM  
PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN —  
THE NEW SCHOOL

MASTERS OF DESIGN, INTERACTION DESIGN  
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Emily Sappington never feared breaking tradition to follow her passion for art. After graduating from Walker's, she went on to the Parsons School of Design, a decision that took some coaxing to convince her traditional career-minded

parents. At Parsons, she crossed disciplines, studying both art and psychology, to open up more unknown pathways ahead. After a circuitous route — one she says was an ordered process of testing and discovery — she now uses her creative skills to design user experiences for some of the most futuristic technologies. She says the drive to pursue her passion and trust her abilities to translate them into a career began at Walker's.

Sappington says the unwavering support of her advisor, Former Head of School Susanna Jones, helped her gain confidence in her chosen direction. "She believed I'd make something of my studies in art and design, and that I wouldn't wind up a starving artist like others joked or expected," recalls Sappington.

Having a community at Walker's that helped identify and support her individual talents was instrumental in helping Sappington take the leap toward pursuing her creative interests. "Because the community at Walker's trusted me, I trusted that it was safe to try out this passion for the arts," she says.

But Sappington knew that she had to turn her passion into a career, and so she began to explore. Early on, she held eight different internships, ranging from designing for publications to advertising to creating exhibits for museums.

Sappington says that this wasn't a period of aimless wandering — much the opposite, in fact. For her, it was a process that mirrors the design process — a series of tests that lead toward a better solution.

"At Walker's and in other parts of my life, I followed a design process without knowing what it was," she says. "It isn't just about making beautiful or useful things, but it's really about the process of creating a solution. I applied this process to my own



Emily Sappington '06

career: form a hypothesis and design a solution. Test it out, then iterate and adjust, repeating the cycle until you get what you want."

It wasn't until her eighth internship that it clicked: she knew she wanted to use her creative skills in the fast-paced, ever-changing technology field. Importantly, she doesn't see the first seven internships as a waste of time and energy. Instead, she sees them as valuable "insights" that helped her to hone in more methodically on the style, place and type of work that best suited her.

Today, Sappington is vice president at Context Scout, an artificial intelligence company that focuses on simplifying engagement with technology for knowledge workers. She says their goal is to take out the "mundane, repetitive and boring" parts of working on a computer. In previous positions, she was tasked with finding out how to create a new monetization strategy for Windows 10 or with smaller challenges, like finding a way to hint to users that a square on a page can be picked up if they click it, without using any instruction. At Context Scout, a young start-up, she says she enjoys the entrepreneurial nature of the place and her need to wear many hats throughout

the day, switching directions "daily and hourly."

That flexibility, openness to new experiences and willingness to step out into the unexplored has been with her since her Walker's days. This approach is one that has helped her develop a challenging career that she never could have predicted back in her high school art classes. In fact, it's also helped her succeed in a field where there are disproportionately fewer women and creative types. Given her willingness to paving new paths, Sappington,

"I followed a design process without knowing what it was," she says. "Design isn't just about making beautiful or useful things, but it's really about the process of designing a solution."

not surprisingly, was the first non-engineering hire at her new company.

Throughout her career, Sappington has had many interesting challenges. While at Microsoft, one of her favorite projects was designing an on-screen user interface for Cortana's Natural Language tasks. The goal was to make the technology more intuitive for anyone using it. She had to think creatively about how the technology should look and function and understand human behavior and the role of technology. With her new design, so many everyday tasks — from sending emails to playing music to setting a reminder or adding a calendar event — can now be done by speaking to the machine rather than clicking or typing.

For Sappington, the design realized its success when it got its ultimate test: being user-friendly for her mother. "Like many tech-savvy children, I've spent hours explaining simple functions like how to copy and paste," she quips. But when she sat down with her own mother to observe her interaction with the

voice-activated technology, she was pleased to see how easily she ordered up an email. "She did it flawlessly, with no instruction," says Sappington. It was then that Sappington knew she had really hit the mark.

It's moments like these that give Sappington great satisfaction with her technology design career. "Solving problems never gets boring," she says. "Working with technology means my work is always changing, and I like that."

That adaptability to new environments — one where the environment may not be so predictable, even from one day to the next — requires more than a particular skill set or narrowly-fielded education. What has been important, she says, is the confidence she gained at Walker's to feel "able to stand my ground and know I deserve a seat at the table," even in a male-dominated field. "The way Walker's girls support one another, and don't have that girl vs. girl competitive nature — that's one of the best things I feel I've brought to the field of technology."

## Designing a Career Shift for Motherhood

### Henrietta Cheng Mei '79

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND  
MASTERS OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Henrietta Cheng Mei knew from a very early age that she wanted to be an architect. But what she didn't know is that there would be unexpected turns along the way — particularly the birth of her children — that would challenge her to redesign her career path.

As a child, Mei was already building communities. While her parents gifted her brother model planes and battleships, they gave her models of homes to glue and fit together. She was hooked. "The three-dimensionality and the imagination of homes and people living in them sparked my interest," she says of her hobbies from a young age.

With this interest in mind, Mei boarded a plane from Hong Kong and took the leap to come to a completely foreign country. When she arrived on Walker's campus in the fall of 1977, she was the only Asian student at the time — quite different, she notes, from the diversity at Walker's today. "It was a very welcoming community with very nice teachers," she recalls.

Mei quickly adjusted and embraced the challenge of exploring a range of

courses, honing in on art. She recalls an important project assigned to her class by art teacher Bob Richardson, who asked them to think about "man and his environment." "It made me think more deeply as to how we as humans interact with the environment in which we live," she recalls. Although Mei already had an idea of what she wanted to do in her career, it was projects like these at Walker's that helped confirm her chosen direction of architecture.

Mei was admitted into the Cornell University architecture program and later worked for many top firms. In the middle of her thriving career, however, she decided to put it all on pause. Like many women, she made an important choice to stay at home for seven years after her children were born. But it wasn't long before she was getting "very antsy" at home all day and felt



Henrietta Cheng Mei '79

the need to use her creativity again. She knew it was time to explore a new option.

Around that time, her sister started making jewelry, and so Mei asked her to show her what she knew of the craft. Quite quickly, the architect began applying her artistic sensibilities to much smaller-scale designs: necklaces, earrings and rings. Mei says that both fields require creativity and a plan, but with jewelry making she can see her vision come to life more quickly.

In order to grow her business, Mei started by hosting small parties for friends at her home, where her designs were a hit. Slowly, she took her jewelry to bigger events and venues, and developed her hobby into a small business, venturing into local arts and crafts fairs. Mei was prepared for this next step of running a small business because she had balanced out her degree in architecture with a minor in business administration. And, like Walker's women do, she forged ahead when life took turns, taking on a new direction with confidence and curiosity.

As a one-woman show, she takes care of every part of her business, including the nitty-gritty side of pitching the tent at events, packaging each piece and customer relations. Mei never planned that her design career would take this turn, but she is grateful for the time it gave her with her children. One of the best parts, she adds, is to see customers appreciate what she has created, many coming back as return buyers.

Being able to enter into a world of imagination and seeing what you want others to see as their reality is fun. Drawing and sketching design ideas and improving as you sketch is the most fun to me.

Today, her children have grown older, and she is balancing both of her design careers — as a jewelry maker and an architect. She works for a top New England firm, Kao Design Group, which takes on projects for the “richest of the rich” and “poorest of the poor.” For one project, she helped design a community center that provided water, toilets, electricity and health services in Kibera, Nairobi, one of the largest slums in the world. “It was an amazing transformation in that community,” she recalls, proudly.

It's this process of transformation — from taking an idea, putting it on paper and then honing it over and

over — that she enjoys most about her design career. “Being able to enter into a world of imagination and seeing what you want others to see as their reality is fun. Drawing and sketching design ideas and improving as you sketch is the most fun to me,” she says.

Mei says that part of being an architect is being a “jack of all trades” — from having strong design skills and technical skills but also being able to deal with a variety of clients, legal codes and even to present convincingly. “You definitely need both creative and analytical sides of the brain,” she says of the field of architecture.

But in the field of life, it seems this ability to be flexible and find how to design new options and ways of working is equally as important — one Mei has been able to do with utmost success.

## Design as an Instrument for Changing the World

### Lauren Nicholson '14

BACHELOR OF SOCIOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Lauren Nicholson sees design as a tool for social change. While still a student at Harvard, she already knows her post-graduation plans. She'll pack up her bags and head to Seattle to join Microsoft's Cloud and Enterprise division. She sees this opportunity in the tech industry as a way of having large-scale and sustainable impact on the world.

Nicholson started her higher education studies thinking she'd work in public health or education policy. She began testing ways to create change by aiding refugees, working in Chile and researching for non-profits. But she had a realization through this process: she needed to see transformation more quickly. “I want to create larger, more immediate impact in a work environment

where I'll be constantly challenged and have new problems to deal with every day,” she says.

That's when she found the tech industry through a research fellowship at a biotech firm. Even though she didn't have the engineering background that many naturally enter the field with, that didn't stop Nicholson. She had to carve out an area for her skill set on the business side to be a part of the industry she saw as a key lever for widespread change. During an internship with Microsoft last summer, she focused on brand strategy, which, she says, “is like professional storytelling.” “I'm designing the stories and strategies we employ to connect people with technologies that can transform their creativity, productivity, and, ultimately, their lives.”

Taking on the big problems of the world with a sense of urgency is a feeling that Nicholson says was instilled in her at Walker's. Her education at Walker's was “essential” in enabling her to solve problems the way she does with confidence today.

At Walker's and at Harvard, Nicholson immersed herself in a wide variety of subjects, and while she loves the new opportunity

in marketing, it was never a subject she formally focused on. “I think the heart of the liberal arts education is preparing young minds to tackle various sets of problems while integrating the knowledge of the people and world around them,” she says. She majored in sociology and government, and says the qualitative and quantitative research preparation and “familiarity with operationalizing solutions to abstract, society-level problems” readied her to take on a variety of challenges in the technology field.

Like Sappington, Nicholson also sees another opportunity in the technology field: to encourage more women to enter it. She says that being a woman in a male-dominated field doesn’t intimidate her, as it may others. She sees it, instead, as an opportunity to be a pioneer — “to make paths for the amazing women I’m sure will come after me — just as the wonderful women did before me.” In this way, her all-girls education at Walker’s has been an important part of building her own “sense of confidence,” but, as importantly, seeing and supporting other women’s sense of place in the field. Feeling this sense of belonging and confidence helped her to “chase challenges with excitement rather than fear.”

She hopes other women see the tech field as a place for trailblazing, too. “The way forward,” she says, “is through mentorship, which has been an important part of my educational and career development.” Nicholson was encouraged by her interaction with women during her Microsoft internship. Women in higher-level management reached out to her regularly for coffee dates and to talk about the company, their careers and lives. These moments, she says, were some of the “most valuable” of the last summer — and ones that reminded her of the guidance she received at Walker’s to find her own, individual way in the ever-changing world.

“I think Walker’s does a great job of fostering a love of learning and curiosity about the world that isn’t constrained by the measure of ultimate ‘success’ being a certain set of careers,” says Nicholson. “Instead, Walker’s is a community that inspires boldness by regularly providing opportunities for its students to step beyond their comfort zones and explore their potential beyond the paths that have already been paved. I think that’s all you really need to thrive in the exciting but increasingly abstract job market of the future.” ■

I’m designing the stories and strategies we employ to connect people with technologies that can transform their creativity, productivity, and, ultimately, their lives.



Lauren Nicholson '14

# Small World Initiative



**In the fall of 2017, a new course in Honors Biochemistry began its second year with a class of 13 Upper School girls who will conduct real-world research as part of their Walker’s education.** The course, co-taught by Science Department Chair Dr. Suzanne Piela and Co-Dean of Faculty and Science Teacher Dr. Julia Sheldon, is partially supported by a Yale University program called the Small World Initiative (SWI), which crowdsources scientific solutions and encourages students to apply their studies to an actual worldwide health issue — in this case, the role of antibiotics. Part of the funding for equipment and supplies needed to conduct the research also has been supported through alumnae gifts to the School. This year, Walker’s is one of only five high schools in the country participating in the program which was established at Yale University in 2012. The program has grown to include more than 250 participating colleges, universities and secondary schools across 38 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and 14 countries. What follows is a story about an actual classroom experience for students in the Honors Biochemistry class.



## HONORS BIOCHEMISTRY:

### The realities of studying antibiotic resistance

#### Starting with the role of research

Two girls stand before a screen in BB Room 312, narrating a Powerpoint presentation on Human DNA Modification.

The girls are new to making presentations and they're a bit uncomfortable but, according to co-teachers Dr. Suzanne Piela and Dr. Julia Sheldon, presenting data convincingly is something they need to get used to.

The girls move through the task of giving their classmates a briefing on the topic: the role of geneticist George Church in genomic sequencing and editing, and the use of CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats), a breakthrough DNA-level genomic treatment used to cure inherited diseases.

They finish with a tough topic: the ethics of DNA modification, including the boundaries of medical power, the use of animals and humans to test new therapies — and the critical importance of research to drive discovery and policy.

#### Hard choices and unanticipated consequences

“We don't do a ton of lecturing,” says Dr. Piela. “This class is mostly discussion-based. But we start with an understanding of what scientific research entails.”

With chairs now arranged in a semi-circle, Dr. Sheldon asks the class: “It's 1960. You have a choice to spend government funding on one of two areas: either diabetes research, or studying how bacteria protect themselves. Which do you choose?” She adds, “No right or wrong answers. Just ideas.” And this triggers responses.

“I'd spend it on diabetes research,” says one girl. “Okay. Why?” “My mom has it.”



Dr. Julia Sheldon, Co-Dean of Faculty and Teacher, Honors Biochemistry



Dr. Suzanne Piela, Science Department Chair and Teacher, Honors Biochemistry

“Good reason, because we all tend to support research of things that affect us directly, and that can be a good thing. Anyone else?”

Another voice joins in. “I’d say bacteria research — because so many diseases are related to it.”

Interesting,” says Dr. Sheldon. “Now, here’s what really happened. The government studied how bacteria and microbes protect themselves. But in the course of their study, they also learned how insulin is created, and of course it became a treatment for diabetes. It shows how research can lead to discoveries — and how research is an investment in ourselves.”

### Where do we get the money?

“Research takes money,” says Dr. Piela to the class. “Without it, we’re done before we even get started. So where do we get it?”

Voices start to overlap: “The government...private foundations...families...investors...schools...taxes...online fundraising tools like GoFundMe and Kickstarter.”

“Great,” she says, writing down all suggestions on the whiteboard. “You have to be creative. Now, tell me what

researchers need to do their job. Besides money.”

“Determination...communication...teamwork...,” are the first few responses, followed by, “time...project design...PR communications.” The whiteboard fills up with the collective output of a class that is now becoming a research team. Their next challenge: supporting the grant-writing process to help fund the research they will perform during the semester.

### Making a meaningful contribution

As the semester progresses, students of Honors BioChem will complete a research project that involves collecting soil samples, isolating bacteria, determining metabolites, doing extensive lab work, and discovering the source of antibiotics.

“They’ll contribute to a real-world issue,” says Dr. Sheldon. “But ultimately, we want them to know science as a process. It’s about trial and error.”

“These girls will also learn about the struggles of women in this field,” adds Dr. Piela. “They’ll learn how to advocate for their work, how to handle resistance, and how to be effective.” ■

In the spring, Dr. Suzanne Piela, Dr. Julia Sheldon and six Honors Biochemistry students went to New Orleans for the American Society of Microbiology conference, ASM Microbe 2017. The event is the largest gathering of microbiologists in the world and the only meeting in the field that explores the full scope of microbiology.



Dr. Suzanne Piela P'22, Nina Chukwura '17, Idabelle Paterson '17, Catherine Liu '17, Tina Chatman '18, Eunice Kim '17, Ivy Li '17 and Dr. Julia Sheldon P'20, '23

Upper School students work with Dr. Emma Mitchell during her freshman physics class

## Walker's Offers New Engineering Course

**B**eginning this semester, Walker's offered a new course on Engineering co-taught by physics teacher Dr. Emma Mitchell and computer science teacher Leslie Goff. The course is 100% hands-on and project based, and students immerse themselves in the process of design and engineering, applying these skills to solve real-world challenges. Types of engineering explored through this course may include mechanical, electrical, civil, and environmental.

"The impetus behind the class is to help our students learn that engineering is a process that will help them work through real-world problems," said Dr. Mitchell. "By the end of the course, our girls will be able to look at a challenge that is facing them and, even if they have no idea how to solve it at first, approach it by saying, 'I know I can tackle this, and now I just need to figure out how.'" The class is intended to be a safe, warm, and fun environment in which our students can explore tactics in hands-on problem solving. "This experience will encourage our girls to consider studying engineering in college knowing that a career path that includes engineering is absolutely an option for them," adds Dr. Mitchell.

The evening course runs on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All work for the course will be done in class, with no homework or written tests. The course is open to students in the Upper School; no background in physics, engineering, or computer science is needed. Enrollment for the class began shortly after Thanksgiving Break with 33 applicants and 12 students selected, demonstrating a strong interest in engineering among Walker's students. ■



Middle School students work with Coding Teacher Leslie Goff during their coding class

## Community Partnerships — Making a real difference in our world.

Community service allows our students to understand the critical role that service organizations can play in making a positive impact on our community — and ourselves. While many schools require community service hours of their students, at Walker's we approach service as a partnership rather than just another box to check on a list of requirements. Walker's girls partner with local nonprofits on special projects that allow our students to provide service to the community while also gaining valuable skills.

In the spring of 2017, 24 Walker's students and three adults were trained as volunteers as part of a pilot program with the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut's VITA program. VITA, which stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, is a partnership between the IRS, United Way and The Village for Families and Children, a Hartford-based organization whose mission is "to build a community of strong, healthy families who protect and nurture children by providing a full range of behavioral health treatment for children and youth, foster care and adoption, and community support services for children and

their families in the Greater Hartford region." This program is a first among the many partnerships that Walker's is working to create with local nonprofits whereby our students provide service to the community in exchange for the acquisition of life skills that support their individual competencies — in this case financial literacy.

Twelve juniors and seniors, along with three Walker's adult volunteers, were trained to prepare taxes for families and individuals making less than \$54,000 per year. An additional 12 sophomores and juniors were trained to greet tax filers to



Head of School Meera Viswanathan looks on as Brea Austin '17 talks with a client about his tax return



Students participate in training on the economic realities facing low income families

be sure that they had the necessary paperwork to complete their tax returns. The training included classes on confidentiality, interpersonal skill development, and an understanding of the challenges facing low income families and the U.S. tax code. In total, preparers participated in 14 hours of training in order to be ready to begin filing returns.

For the 2017 tax season, Walker's students provide more than 700 hours of volunteer service and were instrumental in helping tax filers in the greater Hartford area return more than \$17 million in refunds, including more than \$4 million in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) available to low income households. The average adjusted gross income of the families and individuals served by our students was \$22,615. Walker's students were described as "smart, professional and respectful" by adult supervisors at the sites where they volunteered. In turn, they acquired confidence as they worked hard to secure refunds for the new clients they met every hour at tax preparation sites.

Walker's students came away from the first year in the

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Twelve juniors and seniors, along with three Walker's adult volunteers, were trained to prepare taxes for families and individuals making less than \$54,000 per year. An additional 12 sophomores and juniors were trained to greet tax filers to be sure that they had the necessary paperwork to complete their tax returns.

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program with an understanding of the U.S. tax system and income tax filing as they travel their own journeys to financial literacy. More than 30 student and adult volunteers are trained to prepare for the 2018 tax season, forming a pipeline where younger Upper School students are trained first as intake specialists on their way to becoming preparers during their junior and senior year. This year, Walker's has its own tax preparation site in Hartford where both students and adults will conduct all manner of jobs necessary for the filing of returns for community members.

We asked two of our tax preparers to share some thoughts about their experience during the inaugural year of Walker's VITA program.

#### *What We Gave: Calista Duggan '18*

"The 24 Walker's girls who went through the trainings, both at Walker's and off site, gave so much more than just five hours every Saturday or Sunday morning from January to April. We used the privilege of our Walker's education and the opportunities



Theresa Jo '18 and Lilah Kelly '18 work together to help a client at a VITA site in Hartford

Walker's presents us to help lower income individuals and families in Hartford. In addition to this considerable time commitment, we were the ones these people put all of their trust into. They gave us their extremely personal information with a trust that we would properly file their information without any cost.

The VITA program is needed in inner city communities like Hartford where the other options individuals or families have for filing taxes are to do it on their own or with companies who take most of their return if they have one. If they do not get a return, they charge exorbitant amounts to low income families who struggle to pay the taxes or who choose not to file at all. Offering a free alternative to these companies helps people by relieving an enormous stress on their families. Preparing tax returns for people who would not have this opportunity without volunteers like us was an extremely rewarding task. Seeing the look on people's faces when we told them they got a return or just the gratitude they expressed is indescribable."

**What We Learned:** Theresa Jo '18

"The VITA experience was the most rewarding volunteering opportunity I have engaged in. What I received was more than the feeling of virtue and self-affirmation that often accompany most volunteer work. United Way and The Village for Families and Children staff and volunteers put the 27 of us through two long training sessions, which required much individual studying in between. By preparing ourselves to provide a service to others, we were introduced to the adult world of financial literacy. With the pressure of families we had not met yet, we focused ourselves and pushed the boundaries of our knowledge with the unfamiliar language of exemptions, W-2s, and dividends. Before I could even witness the impact I was to make on others, I felt the impact on myself when my peers and I were officially certified as volunteer tax preparers.

The next challenge was learning to conduct professional relationships. We were told multiple times throughout our training that we were going to manage sensitive matter that was

a stressful burden on most of our clients. On top of that, there was an underlying pressure to present myself as an expert and fluent with the work so that the clients would feel comfortable in trusting me. I was nervous and could not execute such a performance when I prepared my first client's taxes. However, with every next client, I became more and more confident in my interpersonal skills — balancing sensitivity, professionalism, and personalism — and in my tax-preparation skills, while gaining a level of comfort as I continued asking my peers and supervisors for help along the way. Those Saturday mornings, in which I sat down and met the new faces for whom I would prepare taxes for, gave me the greatest sense of adulthood and responsible professionalism I have encountered yet." ■



India Awe '18 and Eliza Wetmore '18 are enthusiastic about learning U.S. tax code during preparer training for the VITA program

## Music Class for Kids with Disabilities

Walker's Visual and Performing Arts Department has recently added to their offerings for children with special needs and their siblings. In addition to the already successful dance class which was established in 2015 by Garett Wierdsma '18, Walker's has launched a monthly music class co-taught by Director of Theater Shannen Hofheimer and senior Monique Pace '18.

The first class took place in September and was attended by over a dozen children and their families. Along with Ms. Hofheimer and Monique, other Walker's students volunteered their time to help the children navigate the class. Students can assist the children in both the dance and music classes as part of our school's Community Partnerships programs.



## Habitat for Humanity in Bryan, Texas

On an early spring day in March, a small group of Walker's students boarded a 6:30 a.m. flight to College Station, TX to begin a week of work during their spring break with Habitat for Humanity. During the week the girls spent in Bryan, TX, the girls helped to set up a showcase for future homeowners at the Habitat warehouse, prepped concrete floors, laid flooring and helped with landscaping, all the while sleeping at a church,

feasting on local cuisine and visiting nearby colleges and attractions. The trip was a great example of the many ways that Walker's girls give back to the community and learn new skills, including how to use power tools and drive light machinery. This trip was the fourth time that Walker's has participated in the program in Bryan. Read more about the trip at their blog, <https://ewshabitat2017.wordpress.com/>.



Cheyenne Watts '17 and Valentina Pirro '18



Keeley Duran '18 and Alana Garcia '17

# New Faculty and Staff

## **Corina Alvarezdelugo** ART TEACHER

Corina joins the Art Department from the St. Mary School, an elementary and middle school in Branford where she earned the school a REGI Grant. She has also taught art to adults and was a guest artist at the Truro Center for the Arts in Truro, Massachusetts, amongst others. She was born in Venezuela where she received formal training in drawing and painting with the Venezuelan master painter and sculptor, Luis Alvarez de Lugo. As a young adult, she studied at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, and later earned her BFA with Honors and Distinction from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven while raising her three children.

Corina's works, including drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, have been shown in galleries and museums in South America, the Caribbean, and in the USA, including the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Her work has been published in numerous publications and she was featured on "Spotlight on the Arts" on the TV Magazine, and "All Things Connecticut" on CPTV. She has won awards from major organizations in Connecticut and New York, as well as an artist-in-residency at the Vermont Studio Center with a merit-based grant. She is an accomplished and enthusiastic gardener and will be helping with our school garden and working with the Gardening Club in addition to assisting with our volleyball and tennis teams.



fabricating and selling fair-trade paper flowers to those who for medical reasons can't receive real flowers. The company also manufactures bags for wheelchairs and walkers — all of their products are handmade in the U.S. by women refugees. Elizabeth moved back to Connecticut from North Carolina, where she worked in the marketing field. She is a former member of Walker's Alumnae Board and is an equestrian and horse trainer. Elizabeth will use her expertise to work with riding families considering Walker's.



## **Leslie Goff** COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

Leslie is a graduate of Columbia University with a B.A. in mechanical engineering. While at Columbia, she played Division I basketball. Leslie went on to earn her M.B.A. from the Isenberg School of Business at UMass Amherst. She worked all over the world as a mechanical engineer, business analyst engineer, and strategic market analyst prior to having her children. Leslie has spent the past few years raising her two young daughters and teaching coding classes at the local library. She is thrilled to be at Walker's teaching coding, advanced computer science and helping us to develop our comprehensive coding curriculum, and co-teaching Walker's new engineering course.



## **Melissa Bernardo, Ph.D.** SCIENCE TEACHER

Melissa comes to us from Wesleyan University where she just completed her Ph.D. in Biology. Her dissertation deals with nutrient-mediated manipulation of host-feeding behavior by a parasitoid. Melissa has taught a range of topics at the university level and is eager to bring her knowledge and enthusiasm to Walker's in her chemistry, biology and environmental science classes. She is also helping with outdoor adventure and softball.



## **Anne Hunt P'22** DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID/ ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION

Anne moved back to Connecticut from Guatemala City with her two children to take this new position at Walker's. Anne has extensive years of experience in everything from teaching and college counseling, to directing admission offices and multi-cultural recruitment. She has worked at schools in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, China, Guatemala and Mexico. Her degree in psychology from Muhlenberg College helps her every day in her job. Her international experience and passion for admission are just two reasons why we are delighted for her to join the admission team. Anne's daughter, Anna, is a member of the eighth grade class.



## **Elizabeth Greenberg '10** ADMISSION ASSOCIATE

Elizabeth joins the admission team as an admission associate. While earning her B.S.B.A. in Entrepreneurship and Marketing with a concentration in Sales at Elon University, Elizabeth started her own business, Non-Scents, LLC in 2011, a business

**Princess Hyatt**  
**GIFT PROCESSOR**

Princess earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA, and a Professional Fundraising Certificate from Boston University. Her development experience began at her alma mater where for three years she worked in the institutional advancement/alumnae relations department, followed by an additional three years in the stewardship and development department at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Princess recently began work on her Master's degree in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy. Having graduated from an all-women's college, she is very excited to be working at The Ethel Walker School.



manage our campus infrastructure, so he is familiar with our campus and some of our staff. Rich has decades of experience with project and facilities management, sustainability and conservation efforts, security and disaster protocols, fiscal planning and management, and employee supervision. Rich has a strong background in management as well as a reputation of being hands-on when needed.

**Johanna Merriman**  
**ADVANCEMENT SERVICES ASSISTANT**

Born in Salzburg, Austria, Johanna brings more than ten years of experience in the international hospitality field and more than six years of experience in the Connecticut educational system in both professional and volunteer leadership positions. She graduated from the Steinach-Irdning hospitality school in Austria with a degree in Hospitality. She is the founder and fundraiser for the annual Simsbury Duck Race benefiting students at the Tootin' Hills Elementary School.



**Neil Landers, Ph.D.**  
**HISTORY AND WRITING SEMINAR TEACHER**

Neil joins us from the Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School in Chicago where he taught humanities and science. A lover of learning, Neil has a B.A. in Humanities and French from Cal State and a Ph.D. in French and Francophone Literature from UC Berkeley. He is teaching upper school history and helping to develop our new Writing Seminar. In addition to teaching, he is co-leading our Community Partnerships Program.



**Jonathan Morales**  
**OFFICE/DATABASE MANAGER ADMISSION OFFICE**

Jonathan joined Walker's as the office/database manager in the admission office. He comes to us from Vassar College where he was the assistant director of alumni engagement. Prior to his time at Vassar, he was an advancement staff specialist at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Previously, he worked as an administrative assistant to the director of development at Trinity College (Hartford), his alma mater, where he studied Sociology. Jonathan's experience in development and alumni relations, make him well-suited to admissions where strong interpersonal, technological and institutional skills are critical.



**Alan Leathers**  
**MATH TEACHER**

Alan comes to us from Westminster School where he taught math for nine years including geometry, honors statistics and precalculus. He has a B.S. in Business Administration from Boston University where he also played Division 1 tennis. A tennis pro during the summers at the Chatham Beach and Tennis Club, Alan is no stranger to coaching. Accordingly, he is coaching our squash and tennis teams.



**Colleen Olsen**  
**HISTORY TEACHER**

After earning her B.A. in French with a minor in English from Dartmouth College, Colleen went on to receive an M.A. in teaching from Relay Graduate School of Education. Colleen taught middle and high school history and humanities for six years in public and charter schools in Boston and New York which prepared her well to teach middle and upper school history and social justice at Walker's. A Division I lacrosse



**Rich Meier**  
**DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES**

We are excited to welcome Rich back to Walker's. Rich worked with Sodexo, an outside facilities management contractor in years past when Walker's used them to



player and member of the U.S. National Women's Lacrosse Team, Colleen is well-prepared to coach our lacrosse team and is helping with coaching duties for our field hockey team.

**Kim Pereira, Ed.D.**  
**GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS OFFICER**

Kim received her Doctor of Education and Master of Education degrees in higher and postsecondary education from Teachers College, Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Hamilton College. Throughout her career in education, she has held various positions in development, institutional research, and admissions. In addition, she has also been an adjunct professor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Kim is an active volunteer in the Farmington Valley community, including being involved in local politics. She has also spent significant time living abroad in Argentina, Singapore, England, and Canada.



including financial aid, re-enrollment and retention, research and information management, and admissions marketing for the School, both Middle and Upper.

**Mindy Schiller**  
**ENGLISH TEACHER**

Mindy earned her B.A. from Northwestern University in American History and Secondary Education. After nine years of teaching middle school English and history at Jewish day schools both in Boston and Chicago, Mindy moved from Chicago to Walker's to join our English department. Passionate about the life of the mind, she is teaching middle and upper school English classes. Mindy also has skills in marketing and writing, and she paints as a hobby — talents we look forward to her sharing at Walker's. She is helping to coach thirds volleyball.



**Catherine Reed**  
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HEAD AND TEACHER**

Catherine earned her B.A. from American University in Paris and her M.A. in Teaching from Brown University. A master teacher, Catherine comes to us after nine years of teaching English and heading the English department at Lycée International de Saint Germain-en-Laye in Paris. Prior, she was an English teacher and college counselor for four years at School Year Abroad in France. She has taught internationally and domestically with her longest teaching engagement at The Wheeler School in Providence, RI. Catherine is teaching in our Upper School and is helping lead our outdoor adventure program.



**Robin Schofield**  
**SCIENCE TEACHER**

Robin teaches part time at Walker's in the Science Department. With a B.S. in biology from Rochester Institute of Technology and an M.A. in education from Worcester State University, Robin is returning to Walker's where she taught middle and upper school math and science for eight years. One of Robin's passions is fiber arts. Last year she showed her extraordinary work in our gallery at the Constance Lavino Bell Library as part of an exhibition on quilting. We are fortunate to have Robin back on campus to teach in our Science Department.



**Aline Rossiter**  
**DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Aline comes to Walker's from the Forman School where she was the director of admission. Prior to her time at Forman, Aline worked in admission and financial aid at the Jewish High School of Connecticut, Chase Collegiate School, and Post University. Aline is a consummate career professional in enrollment management. Because of her extensive experience and expertise, Aline often presents at national conferences. She earned her B.S. from the University of Hartford in Organizational Communications. In this new position at Walker's, Aline is leading all aspects of admission management



**Chris Semk, Ph.D.**  
**FRENCH TEACHER**

Chris joins us from Yale University where he was a French professor and recognized as a brilliant teacher. With a Ph.D. in French Literature, Chris joins us to bring back French to our language department. As he builds our French program this year, Chris also will be teaching an English class and a Latin class. He will be working with our cross-country team and helping with our garden, a topic about which he has deep passion. Chris also cares a great deal about social justice and is on the board of AIDS Project New Haven.



## Faculty News and Appointments

Physics teacher **Dr. Emma Mitchell** is the co-author (along with Ujjwal Raut, Benjamin D. Teolis, and Raúl A. Baragiola) of a paper entitled “Porosity effects on crystallization kinetics of amorphous solid water: Implications for cold icy objects in the outer solar system” published last fall in *Icarus*. ([www.journals.elsevier.com/icarus](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/icarus)) Emma writes, “[the paper is] about changes to the molecular structure of amorphous solid water on icy objects in the outer solar system based on laboratory work that I did. The results can be used to interpret data being relayed back from various space missions, and is especially relevant to moons of Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto. This work was funded by a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship and a NASA Virginia Space Grant Consortium Fellowship.”

History Department Chair **Jennifer Pelletier P’20** attended the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) 2017 Great Decisions Teacher Training Institute in June 2017 in New York City. High school teachers from across the country who have demonstrated a commitment to international education were invited to participate. Programming at the Institute included strengthening skills in teaching global affairs; exploring ways to expand international studies in the classroom; and the development of International Studies curricula. The program included lectures given by university professors, journalists and U.N. ambassadors. The mission of the Foreign Policy Association “is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.” Teachers from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico were in attendance.

Science Department Chair **Dr. Suzanne Piela P’22** was awarded a highly competitive Ambassador Fellowship by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). At Walker’s, Dr. Piela teaches equine science and co-teaches Walker’s Small World Initiative Biochemistry course with Dr. Julia Sheldon. Dr. Piela spent five days in the summer of 2017 at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta where she engaged with CDC public health scientists on exploring current public health issues and honed her skills on effective teaching strategies for public health content, including the development of public health STEM lesson plans. Dr. Piela is spending this academic year in a distance-based professional development arrangement where she will continue to collaborate

with CDC personnel on lesson plan development and also play an active role in the development of resource materials for middle and high school teachers nationwide.

Dr. Piela also was chosen to attend a five-day hands-on professional development program in summer 2017 with The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington, CT. The “Teaching the Genome Generation” program aims to provide high school teachers with content knowledge, teaching strategies and resources needed to enhance student learning in genomics and personalized medicine. Participants engaged in molecular biology and bioinformatics experiments and explored the social, ethical and legal implications for personal genetics.



Julia Sheldon P’20, ’23 and Carol Clark-Flanagan P’93, ’97

Long-time faculty members, **Carol “Clarky” Clark-Flanagan P’93, ’97** and **Julia Sheldon P’20, ’23**, have been named as the School’s new co-deans of faculty. In this new role, the co-deans are responsible for overseeing the academic vision of the School by working closely with school administrators, department chairs and faculty to ensure its implementation through a review of the class offerings, student achievement goals and methods of evaluation. The co-deans also work with the associate head of school on hiring and evaluation as well as overseeing the ongoing professional development of the faculty.

# Fall 2017 Marked 100 Years in Simsbury for The Ethel Walker School!



Ethel Walker Smith and her beloved dogs. Note “Dogswood” on the side of her car. Dogswood was the name of her home in West Hartford that she shared with her husband, Dr. Terry Smith, until her death in 1965.

In the summer of 1917, The Walker’s School for Girls moved to its new location on the 800-acre Dodge estate atop a hill overlooking the Farmington River Valley in Simsbury. The School moved from its original location in Lakewood, New Jersey to accommodate a growing enrollment. According to writings in the *One Hundred Years of Walker’s Women: The Ethel Walker School 1911-2011* commemorative book written by George E. Brown III, son of Marian “Maru” Morton Brown ’44, “It was a Lakewood housekeeper, Elizabeth Sargent, who suggested

Simsbury, Connecticut as a possible location for The Walker’s School for Girls. Although records don’t indicate why Simsbury was chosen, it may have been because Sargent and her family were native to the area.”

The move came at the height of World War I when supplies and labor were at a premium. Despite many obstacles, the move was completed in time for the school year to begin in fall 1917 in the original Beaver Brook building on Bushy Hill Road after some remodeling was done to support the daily activities of 80



Faculty member Leslie Goff made masquerade masks with her two young daughters.



Madeline, daughter of Nicole Hart Dunn '96, enjoys an African drumming lesson.

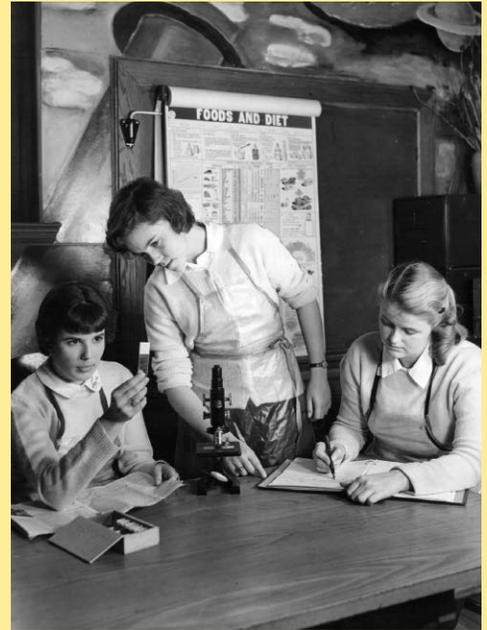


Maya, daughter of Trustee Leander Dolphin '95, enjoys some pumpkin painting with Anaya and Layla Huguley, daughters of Shayna Whyte’s '95 fiancé.

The fall of 2017 was a perfect time for the opening of our “100 Years in Simsbury” photo exhibit which chronicles the evolution of our Simsbury campus from 1917 through 2017. Please join us on campus in the Constance Lavino Bell Library and experience Walker’s through the years. The exhibit will be on display throughout this school year including during Reunion Weekend. If you would like to visit the exhibit prior to Reunion Weekend on May 18-20, 2018, please contact Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P’17, ’19 at +1 (860) 408-4257 to make arrangements.



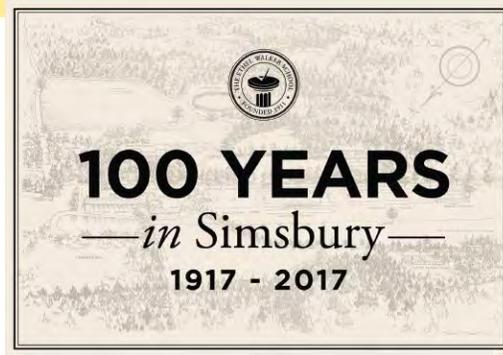
A gathering at “old” Cluett



Science class in 1950

girls. Because enrollment exceeded beds, a sleeping porch was added to Beaver Brook. The girls wore mittens, caps and anything else they could find to keep themselves warm on those cold wintery nights.

To celebrate the occasion of 100 years in Simsbury, in October fellow residents of Simsbury were invited to campus for fall festivities including craft tents, sweet fall treats, African drumming and dancing with Walker’s students. A special photo exhibit of “100 Year in Simsbury” was displayed in the Constance Lavino Bell Library Gallery. The exhibit will remain



on display throughout this school year. It was a lively day on campus, with an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) regional event and a Play for the Cure Field Hockey Tournament which raised more than \$7,000 for breast cancer research. It was a great way to begin our next 100 years. ■

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Because enrollment exceeded beds, a sleeping porch was added to Beaver Brook. The girls wore mittens, caps and anything else they could find to keep themselves warm on those cold wintery nights.

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Kristen Emery '19, Chloe Davis '18 and Laura Calandro '19



## Dogswood Day May 2017

Dogswood Day, a treasured tradition at Walker's, was held in May on a picture-perfect sunny and warm spring day. After a "Strawberries & Cream" breakfast, the day began with the traditional procession and Big 7 maypole dance. Spirited Suns vs. Dials field games followed, and the day concluded with the traditional tug-of-war, in which the Suns outpulled the Dials and became the 2017 Dogswood Day winners, earning the top spot by one point on the day's game tally. For the fifth year in a row, the Suns enjoyed seeing their spirit flag fly high atop the flagpole! A special thanks to the generosity of The Ethel Walker School Parents Association and its unflappable parent volunteers for the inflatables, photo booths, ice cream parlor on wheels, and temporary tattoos provided during lunch.

**Tug of War — For the fifth year in a row, the Suns enjoy seeing their spirit flag fly high atop the flagpole!**





### WHY DOES A MAYPOLE DANCE PRECEDE DOGSWOOD DAY EVENTS?

Walker's first May Day celebration was in 1912 in a wooded area surrounding the deForest Estate on the grounds of the School's original Lakewood, NJ campus. The setting was transformed each May 1 into a magical oasis where girls staged various dance routines under the watchful eye of the dance instructor. Fast forward to 1921 when Ethel Walker married Dr. E. Terry Smith. Shortly after their union, they purchased a home at Sunset Farm in West Hartford known as Dogswood and a quaint country manor, Green Pastures, in West Simsbury. Each fall they invited the girls out for a day of relaxation at their West Simsbury property and each spring a similar event was held at Dogswood, thus Dogswood Day was born. Over time, May Day and Dogswood Day were merged and celebrated on the same day. That is why today's Dogswood Day begins with a Maypole dance!



# Grandparent's and Friend's Day April 2017

Grandparents and special friends enjoyed a day on campus in the spring with their Walker's student(s) for Grandparent's and Friend's Day 2017. They attended classes and morning meeting, enjoyed tea with Head of School Dr. Meera Viswanathan, toured the Centennial Center, and had special family photos taken throughout the day.



Maddie Ross '18 and Emily Ross '19 with their grandmother, Mary Erickson GP'18, '19



Em Jones '21 and her grandmother, Cynthia Palmer GP'21



Lyrica Yanaway '17 and her grandparents, Mitchell and Mary Robinson GP'14, '17



Grace Romanik '18 and her grandmother, Yvonne McGregor GP'18



Saige Tapper-Young '18 and Lenworth Palmer



Anne Jeanne and Tom Lardner, grandparents of Isabel Lardner '18



Grace '19 and Marcella Majka

## Opening Days 2017

The first few days of a new school year are always the most exhilarating and this year was no exception. Old girls and new spent time together meeting new friends or catching up after busy summers. Parents heard from Head of School Meera Viswanathan about her thoughts on the upcoming school year and some international students and their families spent a few intimate moments with Ms. Vis and her husband, Eric Widmer (aka Mr. Vis), talking about daily life at Walker's. After New Girl Chapel, students and their families said their goodbyes and so began the students' 2017-2018 school year. Before the sun set on the close of opening days, parents and guardians enjoyed a lovely reception sponsored by The Ethel Walker School Parents Association.



## Mountain Day October 2017

The start of a new school year would not be complete without our annual trek to the summit of Talcott Mountain for Walker's Mountain Day. On October 5, we were blessed with a picture-perfect fall day where students, faculty and staff hiked with each other to the Heublein Tower and enjoyed a day of sisterhood! The hike was followed by a barbeque on the Centennial Lawn behind Beaver Brook.





# Family Weekend



On Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21, more than 400 family members visited campus for Walker's annual Family Weekend. In addition to enjoying time with their students, family members visited classes, participated in lessons and lab experiments, and heard oral presentations.

Parents were offered opportunities to attend a session on college financial aid and to hear from Head of School Meera Viswanathan and Co-Deans of Faculty Dr. Julia Sheldon P'20, '23 and Carol Clark-Flanagan P'93, '97 on the state of the School and the many ways in which the co-deans are working to support the Walker's faculty on a continual path to advancing teaching and learning in our classrooms. Friday afternoon ended with a noisy and fun Club Bazaar in the Common Room and a lovely reception sponsored by The Ethel Walker School Parents Association in the Living Room.



At Saturday's chapel, faculty member Dr. Emma Mitchell shared her struggles in learning math as a middle school student on her way to earning a Ph.D. in physics. Her words inspired many who have overcome obstacles on their own educational journeys. She talked about her dad as her math teacher and how she was unafraid of letting him down as she knew he was

## TRADITIONS



confident that she could succeed. Dr. Mitchell said, “Without my parents convincing me that I could solve problems and teaching me that struggle is part of the process, I would not be the same person. Many of your families are here today, loving you and supporting you and, hopefully, challenging you to be lifelong learners.”

The weekend was capped off by a crisp fall afternoon of sports. Varsity and junior varsity field hockey, and varsity and junior varsity soccer were out on the fields and our volleyball teams competed in the new Centennial Center gym. Families of our dancers were treated to a short presentation by the dance workshop and dance ensemble groups.

# Family Weekend Keynote Address

REMARKS BY DR. EMMA MITCHELL  
PHYSICS TEACHER



Dr. Emma Mitchell, Physics Teacher

“Growing up, science and math were never what I was best at. That may come as a surprise, given that I’m the physics teacher here, but it’s true. I was not the math and science kid.

I was horrible at math, or, at least, I thought I was, which, honestly, usually amounts to the same thing. I remember the feeling of sitting in a math test and staring at the numbers. With my heart pounding and my brain slipping, I knew, before I even started trying to solve the problems, that I would hit a roadblock that I would not be able to climb over. I gave up. Reading was what I enjoyed the most. I brought a book to the grocery store, to the mall, out to restaurants, and even to the movie theater. Most of my free time was devoted to reading, and that is where I flourished in school. Now, that is not a bad thing — reading is the best ever. I still think it’s the best thing ever, and my six advisees will wearily confirm to you that every single Wednesday night I send them an email exclaiming my excitement for our D.E.A.R. reading hour the next day. But the problem was that, back then, I was hiding from what was challenging to me. I remember getting abysmal grades in math when I was younger, and even just thinking about doing math was enough to make me panic.

So what changed? The answer has to do with my mom and dad. They knew that my low performances in math only meant that I thought I couldn’t do it, not that I couldn’t actually do it. In the eighth grade, my parents pulled me out of school and homeschooled me for one year. That may sound drastic, but my family moved across the country once every couple of years while I was growing up, so taking me out of school for a year was no big deal when

I was switching schools every one to two years anyway. And my parents knew that, at this critical age, what I most needed was self-confidence and the opportunity to face my challenges in a safe environment. My dad became my algebra teacher; he gave me problems to muddle over while he was at work, and when he got home he would patiently help me where I got stuck. I learned that math was a puzzle, a maze. Over that year, I discovered that I was capable of finding my way out of that maze, and I began to find enjoyment in the process. It took a long time, but I got better at that process, and I was not afraid of letting down my math teacher — my dad — because he was already convinced that I was smart enough and that I could do it.

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“What I want you to realize is that you do not need to pick what is easiest for you; you do not need to pick what you are best at right now. Take time — years! — to try new things and to work through challenges, and pick what is most exciting to you — not necessarily the easiest.”

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These days, my love of problem solving has become my life. I chose to go into physics because that’s what challenges me; that’s what keeps me on my toes, and I never wanted that feeling of figuring my way through a challenge to go away. What I want you to realize is that you do not need to pick what is easiest for you; you do not need to pick what you are best at right now. Take time — years! — to try new things and to work through challenges, and pick what is most exciting to you — not necessarily the easiest. I will not say that I’m a natural at physics

or math. Honestly, I’m not really sure how many people are ‘naturals’ at anything. Instead, we have passion, we have drive, and we have grit. We have confidence that we can figure it out. And we bounce back.

If I told you of all the times I have failed, you would be astonished. I will never forget the first year of my Ph.D. program, just a few years ago, when I failed my first exam in my quantum mechanics class. Actually, ‘failed’ is putting it lightly; I think I got something like a 30% on that exam, probably lower. Now,

I don’t tend to wear my emotions on my sleeve. But after this test? I called my mom sobbing and asked if I should drop out of grad school. Really. Knowing that I had failed and had an uphill battle ahead of me was so uncomfortable at first. But over time, I got back into the mindset that I had adopted in the eighth grade and got more comfortable being uncomfortable. Working in my astrophysics lab was the same way. There were times in my experiments when I would get results that I didn’t understand, when I got lost in a jungle of data that made no sense, or when some ultra-delicate machine broke and I was the only one who could fix it, even though, at first, I didn’t know how. This ‘figuring out’ process often took me weeks or

## TRADITIONS

months, and none of it was easy, but by that point I had learned how to see my failures as benchmarks rather than as signs that I was incapable. Each time I had a failure, small or spectacular, I learned something new about myself and about physics. On the Ph.D. qualifying exam, which is the culmination of years of studying in graduate school, I was allowed to choose what broad topic on which the exam would be focused. Being a masochist, I chose a focus of quantum mechanics, which is the same topic that I completely bombed in that first exam in graduate school. This time, after years of hard work, I passed. But it did not come naturally; trust me, there was nothing 'natural' about it.

Without my parents convincing me that I could solve problems and teaching me that struggle is part of the process, I would not be the same person. Many of your families are here today, loving you and supporting you and, hopefully, challenging you to be lifelong learners. Most of you are here for only four years, with the goal of graduating and getting into college. But that is not the end; there is no end to challenging yourself. It is our hope as your teachers that you will all one day be professional thinkers. No matter what you go into, it's all about the process of reacting to obstacles, and you are here now to practice confronting these obstacles, analyzing them, and developing

strategies to tackle them. Will you fail sometimes? Yes. And it is our job to show you that you have all the tools to move forward, and to help you develop and hone these tools for your future challenges. Embrace this process, because you will be using it for the rest of your life.

Finally, let me say a few words to your parents and families. Allow your daughter to be challenged. Allow her to struggle and to work through tasks that she initially thinks are insurmountable. Allow her to sometimes fail, because in that failure lies the seed for regrowth, renewed strength, and the confidence to tackle new challenges. Encourage your daughter to be a lifelong learner. May she never stop reading, may she never stop asking questions, and may she never stop trying new things or even continuing to try things at which she has failed in the past.

Inside of me, there's still that girl that is telling me that I'm not smart enough, that my brain wasn't built for this, that my successes have just been a fluke. I can feel that girl inside me as I stand and speak in front of you today. But when I teach your daughters — when I teach your amazing, strong, adventurous girls sitting in front of me — I am reminded why I challenge myself to spend every day immersed in the process of learning — often struggling, sometimes failing, but always growing. Thank you.”

### Family Weekend Riding Showcase

On Friday afternoon during Family Weekend, our equestrians had a bit of seasonal fun with a special Halloween ride for their families. Students wore their best costumes — as did some of their horses! — in addition to showcasing some of the skills they have been working on this fall.



## Singing with Maggie Wheeler

ACTRESS, MUSICIAN AND CO-FOUNDER OF  
THE GOLDEN BRIDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR

In February 2017, actress and musician Maggie Wheeler visited campus as a Margaret Huling Bonz Women of Distinction Speaker. Maggie was joined by her co-founder of the Golden Bridge Community Choir, Emile Hassan Dyer. For two days, Maggie and Emile engaged the entire community in a series of group community sings including a special session for parents, acting and audition coaching, drumming workshops, and more.

Maggie, sister-in-law of Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler, is best known in the U.S. and internationally for her work as an actress in film, television and voiceover, and most notably as the character of Janice on NBC's hit series *Friends*. She is also a singer, songwriter, choir director and workshop facilitator and has been teaching her vocal workshop, "Singing in the Stream," in and out of Los Angeles for the past 20 years. She co-founded the Golden Bridge Community Choir in Los Angeles, now in its 11th year, with the belief that the joy of singing is a universal birthright, and that together, regardless of musical background, we can help improve the world by joining our voices in song.

Maggie and her co-facilitator, Emile, teach by call-and-response making the music accessible to beginners and experienced singers alike. Through the creation of song, harmony and rhythm, participants become inspired, energized and connected to one another. The physical act of singing together creates a sense of well-being that lasts way beyond the moment.



Maggie Wheeler and Emile Hassan Dyer



The entire Walker's community met with Maggie and Emile in the Galbraith Gym where they sang, danced and shared stories about inspiration and music.



A special call-and-response session was held with Walker's faculty and staff.



Maggie and Emile met with Music Department Chair Laurie MacAlpine P'08 and members of the African Drumming team.

## Navigating Social Media with Laura Tierney

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE SOCIAL INSTITUTE

In March, president and founder of The Social Institute Laura Tierney visited campus as a Margaret Huling Bonz Women of Distinction Speaker. She spoke to students and parents about navigating social media, encouraging girls to be proactive in managing their online presence and to think through challenging social scenarios that would result in a negative image or impression of them. Because colleges and employers are more actively looking at prospects' online presence to get a sense of who the candidates really are and what they stand for, Laura stressed the importance of using your social media space to positively tell your own story and express your passions.

Prior to the presentation, students and parents completed a survey about their social media habits. 65% of our own student community said that they screenshot and share items sent to them by friends — a reminder that we should all assume that posts, such as Snaps, don't "go away."

Laura Tierney is driven to helping teens, athletes, and organizations leverage social media in healthy and meaningful ways. Laura uses her unique background to help athletes and students as they navigate our increasingly digital world. In college, Laura was a four-time Duke All-American, two-time team captain, and Duke Athlete of the Decade for field hockey. During her time at Duke, she played with the U.S. Women's National Field Hockey Team, representing the United States at home and abroad. She served as social media director at the award-winning advertising agency, McKinney, where she worked with national and international brands. Early in her career, Laura helped ESPN use



Laura Tierney

social media to launch espnW and inspire millions of women and girls who love sports. The event was co-sponsored by the Dodgers Field Hockey and Lacrosse Clubs.



Former Head of School  
Dr. Margaret Bonz

### The Margaret Huling Bonz Women of Distinction Speakers Series

**Endowment Fund** was established in honor of Margaret Huling Bonz, head of The Ethel Walker School from 1988 through 1999, for her years of dedication and commitment to the students, faculty and members of The Ethel Walker School community.

The Fund provides the resources for the School to annually invite women of distinction to participate in an activity with students and faculty and to give a formal presentation to the School community and invited guests.

## Postcard Workshop with Caroline Lovell '77

On October 12, **Caroline Lovell '77**, founding director of the Women's Wisdom Initiative, was in Simsbury for a visit with Walker's new visual arts faculty member Corina Alvarezdelugo and her studio art class where the girls had an opportunity to participate in the Traveling Postcards initiative, a program started by Caroline in 2009. Traveling Postcards was envisioned as "an art and social change project that would empower women to share their unique wisdom across borders on small handmade pieces of art, in hopes that it would bring awareness to humanitarian inequities facing women worldwide." The girls engaged in the creation of postcards while learning about sexual assault prevention, survivor support and outreach resources. One student reflected on Caroline's visit by saying, "For me, the postcard workshop was an important experience in which I learned more about exercising compassion and empathy. I drew on my own experiences to attempt to create a safe and calming object for someone else...



Caroline Lovell '77 speaks with visual arts faculty member Corina Alvarezdelugo and members of her Studio Art class.

[it] allowed me to explore what made me feel safe and calm in times of anxiety and hurt. I thought of how we as a human race can understand each other by understanding ourselves and generally felt a stronger connection to the rest of the world."  
 (www.travelingpostcards.org)

## Artist Betty Flanders Foster '53

On April 26, **Betty Flanders Foster '53** visited Walker's and spoke at an all-school assembly on "Art in My Life." During her visit to campus, Betty spoke with students about her time at Walker's and her career as an artist. Betty shared images of her incredible pottery and sculptures, her sources of inspiration, and gave advice to students wishing to pursue a career in the arts. After her talk, she met with students and faculty over lunch to share additional insights and to answer questions.



## Fundraiser for Sydney Satchell '10

In 2015, **Sydney Satchell '10** suffered an injury that would change the course of her life. She was in a car accident that resulted in a below-knee amputation due to injuries she sustained in that traumatic event. At the time of the accident, she was a faculty member at the Berkshire School where she was a learning specialist, dorm parent and director of student activities. Prior she had earned a Bachelor's degree from Howard University where she was a Division I lacrosse player. Sydney has always viewed herself as a lifelong athlete and while the accident may have altered her path, she is determined not to let it deter her from attaining her goals. Instead, Sydney has set a new goal for herself of becoming a member of the USA Sitting Volleyball team. In June 2017, she moved to Oklahoma to train full time. This courageous move to Oklahoma is just one aspect of what Sydney describes as her "new normal." Along the way, she became a motivational speaker and she shares her story with audiences along the East Coast.



Sydney Satchell '10

In April, family, friends and members of the Walker's community came together in Beaver Brook to celebrate Sydney and to support her journey by participating in a fundraiser to help underwrite her training and living expenses while in Oklahoma. To learn more about Sydney's journey and to read her story please visit [www.sydney-satchell.com](http://www.sydney-satchell.com)



### Author Sarah Prager '04

Sarah Prager '04 visited campus in October to speak with students as part of an all-school assembly organized by the WINGS (Gay Straight Alliance) student group about her personal story of coming out, the challenges she's faced and the importance of acceptance. Sarah is the creator of the LGBTQ history mobile app, Quist, and author of *Queer There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World*, published in May of 2017. The book delves deeply into the lives of 23 people who fought, created, and loved on their own terms. According to Sarah, "World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer individuals — and you've never heard of many of them." In June, Sarah was recognized for her work on LGBTQ history at "The Future is Now" event at Yale University hosted by the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and Young Women Rising.



Alumna Kelley Citroni '00, a member of the Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility team at United Technologies Corporation (UTC), visited with members of Walker's robotics team, the Wirecats, and the team's UTC members during the 2017 build season.



Lyrica Yanaway '17 (in the Wirecats t-shirt) is joined by mentors from the United Technologies Corporation during the 2017 build season.

### Author Nan Doyal '81

On October 4, author Nan Doyal '81 was the featured speaker at an all-school assembly. Nan, author of *Dig Where You Are* published in January 2017, shared stories with faculty, staff and students about the people she has met on her life's journey and how their stories led to the writing of her book. Throughout the day, Nan was a guest in classes, gathered with students over lunch, and the community was inspired to embrace ways in which we can make difference. On the website ([www.digwhereyouare.com](http://www.digwhereyouare.com)) for the book, Nan shares what "dig where you are" means. She writes, "Dig Where You Are is about the potential in each of us to make a difference in the world by simply taking what we already know how to do and using it to make a meaningful change for the good. It is about seeing the opportunity in front of you to make something better and then doing something about it. It is not about wishing you were someone you're not, but about recognizing and using the talents you have and including those around you in an effort to bring about change. This book is a collection of stories of people who have done exactly this." The proceeds from the sale of each book go to the men and women of *Dig Where You Are*.



Nan Doyal '81

## Biomedical Engineering

In April, Dr. Joseph Bronzino GP'13, a faculty member of the Engineering Department for 42 years at Trinity College, presented a talk to our students about the exciting field of biomedical engineering. Dr. Bronzino serves as the founder and president of the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium (BEACON), a non-profit organization consisting of academic and medical institutions as well as corporations dedicated to the development and commercialization of new medical technologies. From 1974 until his retirement in December 2010, he served as the Vernon Roosa Professor of Applied Science, an endowed chair at Trinity. He has authored over 200 articles and 11 books. Dr. Bronzino is the grandfather of **Chelsea Regan '13** and the father-in-law of **Trustee Tom Regan**.



Dr. Joseph Bronzino GP '13

## Middle School Student Chosen for Duke Program

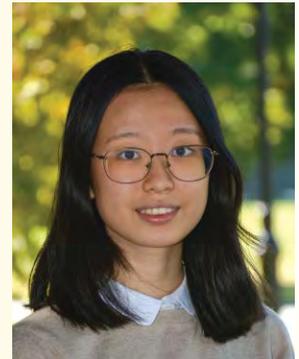
Eighth grader **Bejay Mugo '22** was invited to join the Duke University Talent Identification Program's (Duke TIP) prestigious 7th Grade Talent Search. Each year, Duke TIP identifies a group of academically-talented students in the United States based on their exceptional grade-level standardized test scores. Only those who score at or above the 95th percentile qualify. Those students are invited to participate in the 7th Grade Talent Search and to take the ACT or SAT, which are designed for college-bound eleventh and twelfth graders. Taking an above-grade-level test is an experience that allows these gifted seventh graders to more accurately gauge their academic abilities and potential, as they need more advanced examinations than they find in their grade level.



Bejay Mugo '22

## Grunschlag Scholarship Awarded

In April, **Victoria Wang '18** was awarded The Rosi and Toni Grunschlag Scholarship for Piano Students, which provides funding towards private piano lessons during the 2017-2018 academic year at Walker's. The Rosi & Toni Grunschlag Scholarship Fund for Piano Students was established in 2012 by former students and friends to honor Rosi and Toni who taught piano to over 200 Walker's students from 1950 until 1974. The Grunschlags, a duo piano team, were professional pianists who performed worldwide and left a lasting impression on their students. Their music and their teaching were a reflection of a lifelong passion for music. The Ethel Walker School is excited to honor and recognize Victoria's outstanding talent and the memory of the extraordinary Grunschlag sisters!



Victoria Wang '18



Garet Wierdsma '18 and a model wearing Garet's Trashion Fashion

## Student's Design Hits the Runway for "Trashion Fashion" Show

A gown made entirely from discarded materials designed by **Garet Wierdsma '18** was shown in the 2017 Trashion Fashion Show at Infinity Hall in Hartford. Garet created the dress out of receipts and garbage bags as a statement about consumerism. As part of the preparations for the show, Garet directed a publicity photoshoot and met with makeup and hair professionals to style her model based on her vision. During the show, Garet played a leadership role backstage by organizing the runway route, helping to dress models, and cueing them for their walk down the runway. Garet says, "Seeing my work on a real runway was a moment I will never forget! The entire event was an amazing experience. I got a firsthand look into the world of fashion and simultaneously was an advocate for environmental awareness." Learn more about the event at [www.trashionfashion.org](http://www.trashionfashion.org)



Front row: Jacqueline Zhao '18, Yining Zhou '18, Jeanine Wang '18, and Nina Chukwura '17  
 Back row: Nina Zhang '17, Lexi King '17, Idabelle Paterson '17 and Victoria Wang '18

## Cum Laude Society Inductees

On Monday, May 1, seven students were inducted by Dr. Julia Sheldon into The Ethel Walker School chapter of the Cum Laude Society, an organization that recognizes academic achievement in secondary schools for the purpose of promoting excellence, justice, and honor. Inductees included **Nina Chukwura '17**, **Shiyi Fei '17**, and **Nina Zhang '17**. Juniors **Jeanine Wang '18**, **Victoria Wang '18**, **Jacqueline Zhao '18**, and **Yining Zhou '18** were also inducted for academic work so extraordinary as to merit early recognition into this society. The 2016-2017 inductees were

joined by **Lexi King '17** and **Idabelle Paterson '17**, who were inducted into the Cum Laude Society as juniors.

The Cum Laude Society, founded in 1906, has grown to include 382 chapters throughout world and inducts approximately 4,000 new members each year. The Ethel Walker School is in its 64th year as a member school of the Cum Laude Society. Read more about the Cum Laude Society by visiting [www.cumlaudesociety.org](http://www.cumlaudesociety.org).



Vidya Sri and Millicent Bogert of Everywoman Everywhere

## Everywoman Everywhere

On May 17 during Walker's annual Passing Down Chapel, Vidya Sri, co-founder and CEO of Everywoman Everywhere, and Millicent Bogert, a member of the East/Central Asia Working Group of Everywoman Everywhere, presented remarks about the work of their organization. Millicent is the daughter of **Margot Campbell Bogert '60** who also was in attendance. Everywoman Everywhere, whose motto is "Her right to a life free from violence," is an organization dedicated to advancing a grassroots-up campaign for a "new international norm on violence against women and girls." The organization has a decentralized regional working group structure driven by survivors and practitioners. Vidya and Millicent passionately described their work advancing the goals of the organization, demonstrating how women and girls in all walks of life are playing a central role in eliminating violence against women and girls.

## Global Theatre Literary Festival

Students and faculty enjoyed a morning of literary immersion for the School's triennial Global Theater Festival (formerly the Shakespeare Festival), organized by the English Department. Students from each grade performed scenes and monologues from Shakespeare's comedies, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *12th Night or What You Will*, tragedies *King Lear* and *Hamlet*, and Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Kid* and Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*.



Nina Zhang '17, Nina Chukwura '17, Lexi King '17 and Idabelle Paterson '17 in a scene from *King Lear*



Victoria Wang '18



Joyce Qiu '20

## Music Is in the Air

In April, Victoria Wang '18 and Joyce Qiu '20 competed in the Virtuoso Pianists Competition at the Austin Arts Center on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford. Victoria placed third in her grade level, and Joyce tied for third in her grade level. They played extremely well, representing Walker's with distinction.

Walker's flutist Hazel Wang '19 performed in a concert including the winners of the 41st annual Musical Club of Hartford scholarship competition. Hazel won first prize and a \$500 scholarship in the winds division of the competition.



Hazel Wang '19



Eliza Wetmore '18 with celebrity chef and cookbook author Bal Arneson

## Cooking with the "Spice Goddess"

Eliza Wetmore '18, daughter of Leila Howland Wetmore '82, P'18 cooks up a kale garbanzo bean salad with celebrity chef and cookbook author Bal Arneson, host of "Spice Goddess" (Cooking Channel and Food Network Canada). Arneson was on campus in October thanks to FLIK Independent School Dining. Following the demonstration, the community was treated to a tasting bar of several of Bal's recipes.



## Hooray Sunray to the Grapes!

The Grapes won the First Place Performance “Gold Citation Best in Show” at the ninth annual Wyvern Invitational A Capella Festival at Kingswood Oxford School.



Bri Goolsby '18 in  
“Lacuna! The Video”

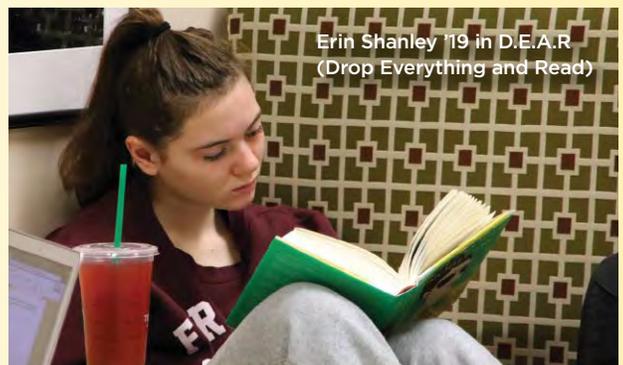


Libby Mewbourne '18  
in “Patient Zero”



## Sharing an Artist Workshop with Avon Old Farms

In November, seven Walker’s students accompanied Art Department Chair Corina Alvarezdelugo to Avon Old Farms School (AOF) to participate in a joint drawing workshop with guest artist Miles Yoshida (left). The girls were invited by Cristina Pinton, head of the Visual Arts Department at AOF, for a meet and greet, art critique and workshop with the New York City-based artist.



Erin Shanley '19 in D.E.A.R.  
(Drop Everything and Read)

## Immerse Yourself in Lacuna

During this year’s Lacuna week, girls immersed themselves in a variety of topics in courses titled “Livin’ That Fair Trade Life,” “Pick Your Poison,” “The Best of Museumpalooza” and “The Secret Language of Flowers” among many others. Lacuna offers our girls the opportunity to take a week-long course in areas of interest outside of their typical academic schedule.

# Where In the World Are Walker's Students?

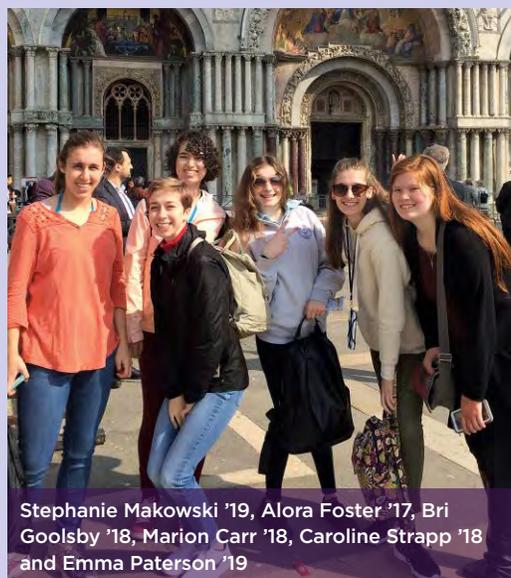
Spring 2017 was a busy season for travel and our girls were out and about across the country and around the world!

## ITALY

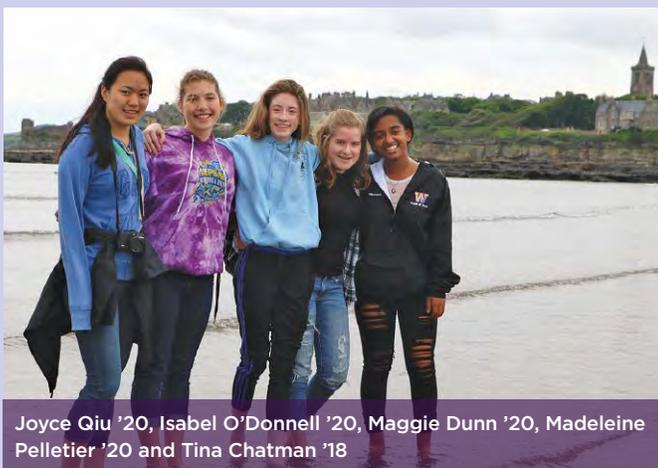
Sixteen girls traveled to Italy with faculty members Jenna Dunn P'19, '20, Jenn Pelletier P'20 and Emily Coffin. During this spring break trip, the group visited Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rome, and Pompeii including many local landmarks and attractions. The itinerary included stops at Vatican City, the Colosseum, the Basilica of St. Francis, and the Bridge of Sighs among many others. The groups took advantage of the local cuisine and ate delicious foods along the way.



Maddie Trenchard '18 and Caroline Niland '18



Stephanie Makowski '19, Alora Foster '17, Bri Goolsby '18, Marion Carr '18, Caroline Strapp '18 and Emma Paterson '19



Joyce Qiu '20, Isabel O'Donnell '20, Maggie Dunn '20, Madeleine Pelletier '20 and Tina Chatman '18

## SCOTLAND

For two weeks in June, five Walker's students visited Scotland along with a faculty chaperone as part of a long-standing exchange with Dollar Academy, a co-educational day and boarding school in Dollar, Clackmannanshire, Scotland. Joyce Qiu '20, Isabel O'Donnell '20, Maggie Dunn '20, Madeleine Pelletier '20, and Tina Chatman '18 joined students from other U.S. boarding school on the exchange trip. Our girls stayed with host families and attended classes for two weeks. Students from Dollar Academy visited Walker's earlier in the school year and stayed with the families of the girls who took the trip.

## SIMSBURY

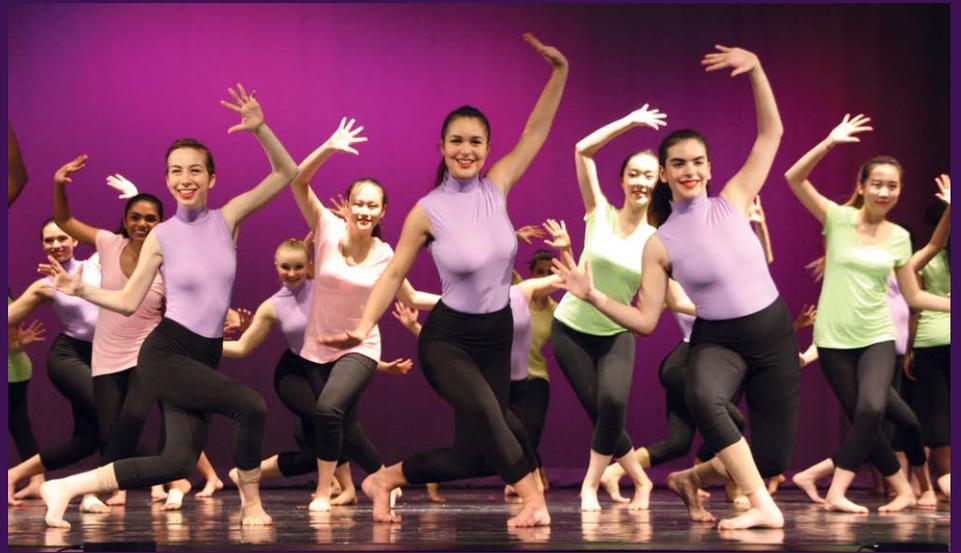
During a Spring Lacuna week a small group of girls hiked into the Walker's Woods with faculty member chaperones for overnight camping as part of a course on "Surviving Walker's." Campers survived for three days and two nights in the Woods purifying water, starting and maintaining a fire, creating shelter, cooking over open flames and preparing for life in the wilderness. All the campers returned to campus with a new sense of accomplishment and a renewed appreciation for warm beds and running water.



Front row: Ams Gillies '17, Isabel O'Donnell '20, Sisi Feng '20, Hannah Theriault '20, and Brooke DeLorey '20 Back row: Jessica Hariprasad '17, Addie Friedlander '18, Nina Chukwura '17 and Mary McNally '17

## Dance Concert 2017

In the spring, Walker's held its annual dance concert featuring performances by students in both Dance Workshop, our varsity level company, and Dance Ensemble, our intermediate level company. Some of the featured performances were choreographed by students and faculty including pieces by seniors Alora Foster '17, Catherine Sun '17, and Agnes Xu '17.



## Annual Elizabeth Olsen Marshall Dance Concert

This fall, Walker hosted the Elizabeth Olsen Marshall Dance Concert held each year in honor of Ms. Marshall, the first head of dance at Walker's and the founder of Dance Workshop. Walker's Dance Workshop and Dance Ensemble were joined by dancers from Taft School, Loomis Chaffee, and Miss Porter's for a day of master classes followed by a performance for the whole school in Ferguson Theatre.



## Upper School Spring Musical: *Sister Act*

Based on the 1992 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg with original music by Tony Award and eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken

Directed by Shannen Hofheimer,  
Director of Theater





## Middle School Musical: *Into the Woods Jr.!*

An adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's Tony Award-winning musical

Directed by Shannen Hofheimer, Director of Theater



# Horizons Summer Program

Each day during the six-week summer Horizons program, Hartford elementary school students traveled by bus from Hartford to Simsbury to engage in programming developed to reduce and prevent summer learning loss, help improve school-year attendance, and further develop social and interpersonal skills.

*Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* will serve 85 girls in grades pre-kindergarten through fourth in the summer of 2018, and will continue to grow each year to a total of 143 Hartford girls in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Horizons at The Ethel Walker School is the first all-girls Horizons program in the country and the first Horizons program in the Greater Hartford area.



## Cooking with Carla's Pasta

"Who likes marinara?" asked Sandro Squatrito to the 60 girls from Hartford public schools gathered for a cooking demonstration. Almost all of the hands shot up around the room. "And, who likes Alfredo sauce?" More hands shot up amid shouts of "Yum!" and "Me!"

So began the morning of July 10 with a special visit by Carla and Sandro Squatrito of Carla's Pasta with sixty Horizons students in the Common Room at Walker's campus in Simsbury. On this day, Carla, the founder of Carla's Pasta, and her son, Sandro, visited with the girls and their teachers to share techniques on how to make four-ingredient sauces that the students could recreate at home with their parents. The girls who were rising first through fourth graders at Martin Luther King School Jr., Jumoke Academy and Parkville Community School in Hartford, jotted notes on their papers as ingredients were added to the simmering pots. Carla stirred and whisked while the ingredients were listed off and the girls worked to write down the recipes.

This trip was the first time that the Squatrito family had a chance to meet with the Horizons scholars and administrators at Walker's.

"It was an overwhelmingly warm atmosphere with the girls and clearly a life-changing experience for them," added Carla. "I was very impressed with the chef hats they made, how the girls were wearing them and excited to learn how to cook." After the cooking demonstration, the girls enjoyed four different kinds of Carla's Pasta made with various sauces by one of the company's corporate chefs, Terry Byrne. Each girl took home a bag of frozen pasta and sauce to enjoy with her family.

"Carla Squatrito is exactly the kind of role model we want all of our Horizons students to look up to. She's a fearless

woman that made her dreams come true through hard work, determination and the support of her family," added Isabel Ceballos, executive director of Horizons. "It is such a great opportunity for our Horizons community to meet and learn from such a strong and fierce entrepreneur like Carla."





## Hands-on, Minds-on LEGO Award

Horizons National has been awarded \$100,000 from the LEGO Community Fund U.S. of which \$80,000 will be allocated to *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* to launch the “Hands-on, Minds-on Approach to Inspiring Girls’ Interest in STEAM” initiative. “Partnering with LEGO is an amazing and transformative opportunity for our students and faculty,” said Isabel Ceballos, executive director of *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* who developed and wrote the grant application. “Learning is an ongoing and cumulative experience. One of Horizons’ strengths is that we are committed to our students long term.” When students enter the Horizons program in pre-kindergarten, they stay in the program through their eighth grade summer.

Launching the “Hands-on, Minds-on Approach to Inspiring Girls’ Interest in STEAM” initiative will allow Horizons to expand their program to include a pre-kindergarten class and build upon their already existing STEAM program. “We are committed to using a sociocultural lens when creating all programming opportunities for our students, especially when it comes to STEAM. Now we can make sure all of our students are presented with the opportunity to experience STEAM in a recurring, innovative, and age-appropriate way and we are thrilled about it!” said Ceballos. *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* will host a STEAM Exhibition during the summer of 2018 on The Ethel Walker School campus for all Connecticut Horizons programs.



Marty Ross P'18, '19 invited two women engineers from UTC Aerospace Systems to visit Walker's in August to show girls in our Horizons program a spacesuit they designed for NASA.

## Basketball

Becky Erosa '17 and Mariah Dunn '19 were chosen to play in the New England Prep School Girls Basketball Association All-Star game. They were chosen based on opposing coaches' votes, which were tallied at the end of the season. It was Becky's second time representing Walker's at the all-star game, and a tremendous honor for Mariah to be chosen in her first year at Walker's. The girls joined representatives from other Class C schools from the Western Division as they played against all-stars chosen from the East Division. The game takes place every year as part of the basketball association's "Super Sunday." The varsity basketball team ended its season with a 14-10 record.



Becky Erosa '17 and Mariah Dunn '19



Jacqueline Zhao '18



Jocelyn Feliciano '19



Fans in The Harriet Bleses Dewey '60, P'86 Squash Gallery

## Squash

The winter 2016-2017 season was Walker's first in its new facility in the Centennial Center. Four brand new courts and The Harriet Bleses Dewey '60, P'86 Squash Gallery offered both players and spectators alike a brand new squash experience as the girls were able to play games

for the first time on their home courts with Wildcats fans close by cheering them on. Head Coach Kelly Babbidge and Assistant Coach Dan Babbidge guided the team to an 8-5 record for the season.

## Skiing

Walker's varsity ski team took home the first place trophy in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class C Championship race held at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts. The girls all placed in the top 10 in at least one of the Giant Slalom (GS) and Slalom (SL) events. **Elise Namnoum '19** placed second in both GS and SL, **Nancy Gfeller '22** placed third in GS and 6th in SL. **Liza Phillips '17** placed eighth in GS and fourth in SL. **Kathryn Phair '18** placed fifth in SL, and **Sarah Dale '22** placed ninth in GS. The best three scores out of the five racers combined to make the team score, but all five racers contributed to the win. The team won both the SL and GS individually as well as the overall trophy. Hooray Sunray!



2017 Ski Team with coaches Emily Coffin and Jonathan David



2017 Swim Team

## Swimming

During Walker's first season swimming and competing in the new Centennial Center pool, the swim team competed in the Founders League Championships.

**Karrah Hayes '22** became the first Walker's swimmer to medal at the Founders Championship, placing third in the 200 Individual Medley (IM) with a personal best of 2:18.63. Karrah also placed fourth in the 100 breast, missing third place by less than three tenths of a second with a time of 1:10.69.

Karrah currently holds the School record in both events. Hooray Sunray Karrah!

In March, Walker's hosted the 2017 New England Preparatory School Swim Association (NEPSSA) Division III Championships at Deerfield Academy.

Walker's swim team had its best finish yet at the DIII Championships, placing



Karrah Hayes '22

5th out of 12 teams. Seventh grader **Karrah Hayes '22** became Walker's first New England swim champion in the 100 breast stroke, and took third in the 200 IM with a new personal and school record. New school records were also made by **Erin Shanly '19** (fourth in the 100 free stroke), **Mariela D'Alessandro '19** and Karrah (fourth in the 200 free stroke relay), and **Lyrice Yanaway '17**, Erin, Mariela, and Karrah (7th in the 400 free relay). Fifteen schools and 301 swimmers total were represented at the event.



Spectators cheer on the swim team from the new viewing deck on the second floor of the Centennial Center.

## OLYMPIC SWIMMER VISITS WALKER'S

Two-time medal winner from the 2016 Olympics Katie Meili met with Hartford public school girls from *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School*, as well as members of Walker's swim team earlier this year at the Centennial Aquatics Center at the School. Katie worked with the girls on basic swimming skills, read books, signed autographs, and posed for photos with her Olympic gold medal. Katie, who told the girls she always had to work hard because swimming didn't come naturally to her at first, encouraged the girls to always work hard on their goals, because "hard work beats talent."



Olympic Gold Medalist Katie Meili with Walker's Horizons scholars



Sydney Longley '17



Gabby Garcia '19 sets up for a bunt.

### Softball Team #1 Seed in the Western New England Tournament

Walker's softball team was seeded #1 in the Western New England Class B Tournament this past spring after compiling a 9-3 regular season record. During the season, Walker's defeated all three of the teams that joined them in the tournament. Each game was a one-run game, and two of the three went to extra innings. The semi-final match-up against Cheshire was a re-match of a game

that took place just a week before the tournament, when Walker's won that game 3-2 in eight innings. Being the #1 seed was a tremendous accomplishment for a team that had many great wins throughout the season, including victories over Miss Porter's, Kingswood Oxford, Loomis Chaffee and Choate.

### 2017 Golf Team

This spring, Elise Namnoum '19, Stefania Pirro '20, Valentina Pirro '18, Kayla Foster '18 and Katherine Tian '18 participated in The 32nd Pippy O'Connor Independent School Girls' Golf Classic held in Watertown, CT. Valentina placed in the top 5; Elise placed in the top 8.



Elise Namnoum '19



Valentina Pirro '18



2017 Golf Team with Coach Darryl Carrington



### Five Girls Selected to Compete in the U.S. Lacrosse National Women's Tournament

Five Walker's girls were selected to compete in the U.S. Lacrosse National Women's Tournament after an extensive tryout held in the spring. **Mia Farnella '18**, **Caroline Stent '19**, and **Shay Ventresca '19** were all selected to represent Connecticut on Team 1.

**Abby Grimaldi '20** was selected to Team 2, and **KC O'Connor '19** was selected to Team 3. More than 200 girls tried out for these teams, and just over 60 were selected to participate. The 2017 National Tournament was held at Yale University on May 27-28, 2017 and featured more than 70 teams and 1,500 high school girls' lacrosse players from across the country. Regional teams competed against each other in front of coaches from over 175 colleges in the tournament, which has been a mainstay in U.S. Lacrosse since 1933.



Mia Farnella '18



KC O'Connor '19



Caroline Stent '19



Shay Ventresca '19



Abby Grimaldi '20

### Varsity Tennis

The varsity tennis team had a demanding schedule and ended their season with a 4-5 record.



Daniela Ramirez '19 returns a volley during a tennis match.



2017 Varsity Tennis Team with Coach Brendan O'Dwyer



## Riding Assembly 2017

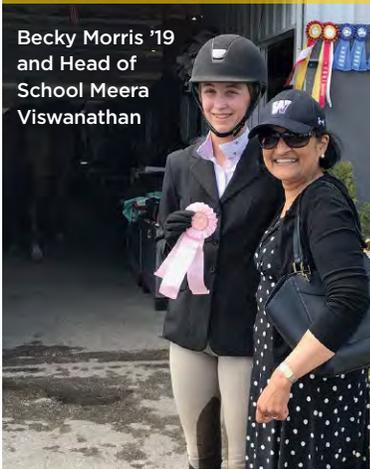
For many non-riding students, Walker's annual riding assembly is the first time they can see girls riding and then have the opportunity to groom, pet and feed our horses. During this year's riding assembly, team captains **Hope Cushman '18** and **Laurel Gaddis '18** gave a riding demonstration in the indoor ring while **Becky Morris '19** and **Grace Romanik '18** provided commentary and answered questions from the audience on technique, terminology and horse care.



Walker's in Florida: Winter 2017

OCALA

Becky Morris '19 and Head of School Meera Viswanathan

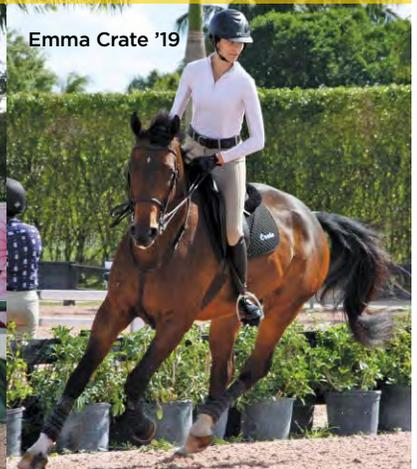


WELLINGTON

Hope Cushman '18



Emma Crate '19



Walker's equestrians competed in the Ocala HITS Horse Show last January including Becky Morris '19, who won 4th place in the over fences class in modified junior hunters, and Lindsay Briggs '20 who won her beginner novice event.

At the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Hope Cushman '18 placed 10th in the junior hunters class, 12th in the low children's jumpers, 11th in the 15-17 equitation and 9th on the flat. Lauren Gaddis '18 was 6th over fences in low children's hunters. Libby Mewbourne '18 was 1st in the 15-17 children's hunter class and was 2nd and 5th in the classic. Grace Romanik '18 was 3rd and 6th in low children's hunters. Emma Crate '19 was 1st in the 15-17 equitation flat class and 11th in the Maclay Medal. Becky Morris '19 won the Taylor Harris Medal, was 2nd in Marshall & Sterling, and 5th in USEF Medal. Em Jones '21 was 5th in the 12-14 equitation flat. Claire Shimanski '23 was 1st in low children's hunters, and 7th in the 12-14 equitation. Hooray Sunray!

Summer of 2017

Hope Cushman '18 was champion in the 15-17 Equitation Division and 5th in the USEF Medal Class at HITS Saugerties, and Becky Morris '19 was circuit champion for 15-17 Equitation at the Vermont Summer Festival Horse Show.

Hooray Sunray to Becky Morris '19 and Julia Luciani '20 for their performance at the Saratoga Springs Horse Show! Becky was first in the 15-17 equitation on the flat and over fences and Julia placed second in the 12-14 equitation on the flat and second and sixth in the children's hunters.

Fall 2017 IEA Events

On October 14, Walker's hosted an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) horse show. The Upper School team was champion with a total of 23 points out of six teams, and the Middle School team was reserve champion in the middle school division. Points were scored by Laurel Gaddis '18, who was first in the open over fences, Isabel Lardner '18 who placed first in the open flat and second in intermediate fences, Margaret Szczygiel '21 who placed third in novice over fences, Hannah Theriault '20 who placed fifth in intermediate flat, and Amy Xia '21 who placed fifth in beginner flat.

Other individual results from the



high school division include: Rae Wicklow '21 placed third and Adela Yan '18 placed sixth on the flat in beginner, Alexis Berard '19 placed sixth over fences and second on the flat and Margaret Szczygiel '21 placed third over fences in novice. Abi Welch '20 placed sixth over fences in intermediate, and

Julia Luciani '20 placed sixth in open over fences.

In future beginner, Kate Samson '23 placed fourth and Christina Farres '22 placed sixth; in future novice, Kaila James '24 placed third over fences and fifth on the flat and Bejay Mugo '22 placed first over fences and third on the flat.

## Fourteen New Paddocks Completed at Walker's

Walker's equestrian program has been greatly enhanced through the completion of a new paddocks project. Throughout fall 2017, a beautiful, larger turn-out area directly across from the Frank O.H. Williams Barn was engineered and built featuring 14 individual paddocks of varying sizes. "The project has accomplished a great deal for our equestrian program and our incredible Walker's horses," commented Head of School Meera Viswanathan during her remarks at a ribbon cutting ceremony in December.

The scope of the project included substantial, elevated regrading of the site, including an all-new gravel sub-surface topped by stone dust, which provides a first-rate footing. Consideration for environmental impact, the facility's aesthetic and sustainability of materials used were aspects of the project spearheaded by consultant Tim Reny. The project's acre and a

half footprint is one reflecting exacting alignment and symmetry featuring paddocks of three sizes. Each paddock is equipped with a Nelson automatic horse waterer to provide a constant supply of fresh drinking water in all four seasons. The location of the new paddocks is ideal, giving our equestrian staff closer proximity to and better visibility of the horses in our care. The location behind Phelps House also provides a prominent view of our horses by the Walker's community and to those passing by on Bushy Hill Road.

The paddocks project was initiated through the generous philanthropy of an anonymous lead donor who saw opportunity to immediately impact Walker's equestrian program. To date, over 50% of the fundraising goal of the \$200,000 project cost has been met, with various levels of recognition for support, including naming individual paddocks and the overall facility. Those interested in exploring ways to support the project and the equestrian program are encouraged to contact Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschiedt at +1 (860) 408-4260 or by email at gorschiedt@ethelwalker.org.



Riding co-heads Laurel Gaddis '18 and Isabel Lardner '18 cut a ribbon to signal the opening of the new facility.



Abi Welch '20 and Randi Booth, assistant head of riding and trainer, welcome the crowd gathered in the warmth of the barn to enjoy hot chocolate and celebrate the launch of the new facility.

*Read more about the paddock project, review giving opportunities and enjoy photos, by visiting [www.ethelwalker.org/riding/facilities](http://www.ethelwalker.org/riding/facilities).*



Head of School Meera Viswanathan is joined by consultant Tim Reny, Michael Waidlick of East-West Arena Construction, Thom Knowlton of Milone & MacBroom, Walker's administrators and the riding team to celebrate the opening of the new paddocks. Special thanks was given to Walker's Superintendent of Grounds Tony Ranaldi P'18, '20 and his team for their dedication to this important project.



Trustee Kevin Chessen P'17, Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschielt, Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Board Chair Kit Rohn '82 and Trustee Shelly Marks '81



Former Interim Head of School Stephen Dunn



Courtney Hornberger '01 (center) and her husband, Rory Taggart, are joined by Cindy Higgins Roby '64 (right)

## San Francisco, California

Alumnae, parents, and special guests gathered at the Bay Area home of Trustee **Dr. Shelley Marks '81** and her husband, Dr. Erik Gaensler, to meet Head of School Meera Viswanathan and members of Walker's West Coast community. **Board Chair Kit Rohn '82** was joined by **Trustee Kevin Chessen P'17** in sharing the news from Simsbury with those in attendance. **Former Interim Head of School Stephen Dunn** was also in attendance where he was recognized for his work to make the Centennial Center a reality.



Tricia Zimmerman '85 and Julia Eells, head of San Francisco University School and former EWS faculty member



## NCGS Meeting, Washington, DC

On **JUNE 26, 2017**, alumnae in the DC area gathered to participate in Girls' School NET: Networking and Empowering Together, an initiative of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS). The Walker's alumnae then continued the fun and went out to dinner together. Many thanks to Sarah Edson, Walker's dean of academic technology and innovation, who is on the board of NCGS for sharing this opportunity with us. We look forward to making this an annual event.



2017: Head of School Meera Viswanathan and Janet Galvin '14



2017: Young alumnae catch up with faculty member Tom Deeds.

### Alumnae Pizza Party in January

Each January, young alumnae gather on campus for an informal gathering of pizza, sodas and sisterhood. Many of these young women are visiting campus for the first time since graduation and others have not seen each other since heading off for college in the fall. Graduates spend time reminiscing with members of the faculty and some have conversation with Head of School Meera Viswanathan and her husband, Eric Widmer — or Mr. Vis as the girls have come to say. Alumnae are strongly encouraged to visit the School's website at [www.ethelwalker.org](http://www.ethelwalker.org) for upcoming alumnae gatherings here in Simsbury and in cities throughout the country — and the world.



2017: Isabel Beeman '16 and Emily Peairs '16



2018: Dean of Academics Jill Harrington and Alexa Lochner '15



2018: Cat Pettit, Lexi King, Sydney Longley, Idabelle Paterson and Emily Cazares, Class of 2017

### Hobe Sound, Florida

On **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017**, Trustee Sarah Gates Colley '75 and Bryan Colley hosted a gathering at their home in Hobe Sound. Attendees included Carolyn Bell, Former Board Chair Stuart Bell, Anne and Chris Reyes P'16, Wendy French Nolan '67, Connie Lavino Bell '48, P'72, '75, GP'12, '14, Abra Prentice Wilkin '60 and Jim Wilkin, and Ruth Cummings Mead '47.



Connie Lavino Bell '48, P'72, '75, GP'12, '14 and Head of School Meera Viswanathan

## Vero Beach, Florida

On **JANUARY 12, 2017**, **Kathryn Loomis Harris '72** and John Harris hosted a gathering at their home in Vero Beach, FL. Guests included Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler, alumnae and their spouses.



Front row: Gigi Pearson Smithers '56, P'81, Anne Austin Mazlish '51

Back row: Gail Sheppard Moloney '56, Pat Doubleday Irons '52, Kathy Loomis Harris '72, Sally Goodrich (former Walker's staff/coach), Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Frances Steward Ingraham '58, Jill Gillette Reydel '51, and Phyllis Richard Fritts '60

## Wellington, Florida

On **JANUARY 13, 2017**, alumnae, past parents, current parents, student riders, friends and members of prospective families gathered for a reception in Wellington, FL, hosted by **Briar Mewbourne P'18**, **Trustee Curtis Mewbourne P'18** and **Nancy Crate P'19**. Students from Walker's riding program shared stories about competing in Wellington. Alumnae reminisced about their time at Walker's.



Head of School Meera Viswanathan with Lauren McGregor and George Romanik, parents of Grace Romanik '18



Sheriden Beard '16, Annie Peavy '15, and Julia Cuissart De Grelle '15



Riding students and alumnae



Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler and Head of School Meera Viswanathan

## Chicago, Illinois

On **JUNE 22, 2017**, alumnae, current and former trustees, and guests gathered at the Chicago home of **Abra Prentice Wilkin '60** and Jim Wilkin with Head of School Meera Viswanathan and Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler. Guests were treated to stunning views of Lake Michigan and the company of dear friends.



In attendance: Jennifer Alter Abt '89, and Mike Abt; Constance Addington P'83, '87, GP'20 and Guy Wilbor; Elizabeth Borland Blodgett '91; Sarah Wood Blumenstein '65; Suzanne "Suzy" Sivage Borland '64, P'91; Ann Middleton Buckley '59; Former Trustee Elizabeth "Betsy" Sivage Clark '67, P'04; Susan Barker DePree '63 and Rob DePree; Clarissa "Chris" Yantis Downey '53; Nancy "Nan" Alexander Doyal '81; Mary Jo Laflin Field '56 and John Simonds; Katherine "Katy" Murphy Ingle '69; Whitney Williams Jones '82; Meleda Wegner Lowry '81 and John Lowry III; Helen Harvey Mills '54; Barbara Merlin Neal '77; Former Trustee Leslie Hailand Newman '66; Leslie Reskin Nielan '75; Lorna Sargeant Pfaelzer '56 and Butch Pfaelzer; Board Chair Kit O'Brien Rohn '82; Lucinda Atkins Sheffield '82; Hilary A. Thornton '77; and Jenna Schnabel Wedemeyer '82



Jennie Alter Abt '89, Elizabeth Borland Blodgett '91, Michael Abt, Whitney Williams Jones '82 and Jenna Schnabel Wedemeyer '82



Susan Barker DePree '63, Leslie Hailand Newman '66, Rob DePree, Lorna Sargeant Pfaelzer '56, and Butch Pfaelzer

## Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

On **AUGUST 22, 2017**, Walker's alumnae and friends enjoyed dinner with Head of School Meera Viswanathan at the home of **Harriet Bles Dewey '60, P'86** and **Bob Dewey P'86** on Martha's Vineyard.



Front row: Elizabeth "Tess" Smith Bramhall '52, Eric Widmer, Lynn Allegaert '94, Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschiedt, Kim Booker, Caryl Van Ranst Dearing '60. Back row: Kib Bramhall, Linda Trimmingham Warriner '61, Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Bob Dewey P'86, Sam Warriner, Harriet Bles Dewey '60, P'86, and Jim Dearing

## Wellington, Florida

Alumnae, parents, past parents and friends gathered in **FEBRUARY 2018** at Kelianda South, the Wellington-based barn run by Linda and Kenny Langmeier of East Granby, CT. Linda will return to Walker's in April as director of the equestrian program and head trainer. Attendees were treated to a reception courtesy of Walker's equestrian families and were able to watch the girls taking lessons.



Linda Strohmeyer P'21 with Linda Langmeier and Jo Seaver '99, who are both returning to the Walker's equestrian staff in April



Katie Gerald, M.K. Pritzker P'21 and Meera Viswanathan

## Miami, Florida

Alumnae and prospective parents in the Miami area spent an inspiring evening in **FEBRUARY 2018** sharing memories and perspectives of Walker's and hearing from Head of School Meera Viswanathan on her vision for the School. A wonderful reception was hosted by **Maui Massa Guinand '93**.



Carolyn Espasas Muchacho '89, Vanessa Valle '94 and Karen O'Neil listen as Maria Casanova Aguero '54 shared, "Walker's taught me to THINK — which is the most important thing — and gave me an intellectual curiosity that has stayed with me my whole life."



Vanessa Valle '94 and Maui Massa Guinand '93



Carolyn Espasas Muchacho '89 and Puja Thadani-Motiani '97



Alexandra Ferraguti, Ana Sofia Guinand, Maui Massa Guinand '93, Vanessa Valle '94, Lisa Dority '79, Holly Zickler P'19, Alessia Guinand, Lorenzo Guinand, Ann Madonia Hamm '84, Carolyn Espasas Muchacho '89, Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Maria Carina Vegas '84, Trustee Sarah Gates Colley '75, Linda Matalon Truppman '77, Maria Casanova Aguero '54, Puja Thadhani-Motiani '97 and Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschiiedt

# Why I Give

BY LINDA YODER P'18, MOTHER OF ELLERY FINN '18

**E**llery came to Walker's in January of her sophomore year. Her family was looking for a school that would provide a broad liberal arts education combined with an emphasis on community engagement and a school where Ellery could acquire the skills she would need to be a global citizen. "We were hopeful that Walker's was the right place for our daughter. When we came to Walker's, we were optimistic that the community would take Ellery in and support her on her new journey," said Linda. "That is exactly what happened."

Ellery was extremely shy and somewhat uncertain about this choice. From the start, at Walker's she was challenged to move outside of her comfort zone. She chose to try out for squash as her winter sport even though she had never played this sport. Her first steps on campus were to reluctantly join the team in a toaster ride to practice at another school. "It was difficult pushing her out of the car on that dark and cold January night and driving away," said Linda. "I worried for the entire three hours of practice only to find that the girl I picked up was smiling and laughing. She already felt that she had found a home on the team." Within two weeks, they saw a different student. The after school pick-up time moved from the end of practice to after dinner. Weekends were spent at school engaged in activities even though she was a day student. "Walker's had become her community."

Walker's delivered fully on providing Ellery opportunities to prepare her for college including a rigorous curriculum in core subjects rounded out with electives including Mandarin Chinese,

Constitutional Law, Anatomy, Engineering, ceramics and a Lacuna cooking class. Today, Ellery is a senior and looks with excitement towards the challenges of college while being fully engaged in taking advantage of every minute she has remaining at Walker's. She has found that Walker's approach to sports carries through to all areas of learning. "You start where you are, engage in the experience and applaud effort as much as you applaud success."

Ellery's time at Walker's has been and continues to be filled with many firsts. A required course in public speaking led to speeches in class and in front of the Walker's community. "Last

year, my super shy child was voted by her classmates to perform the soliloquy from Hedda Gabler in front of the entire school — which she did," said Linda. She presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees relating to the sanctuary school movement and volunteered as a speaker for the Horizon's assembly where she confidently conveyed to the entire Walker's community her passion as a teaching assistant in this educational program for elementary school girls.

These were only some of the "firsts" she experienced at Walker's. Her first "hat trick" in varsity soccer. Ringing the bell with her teammates to announce a win. Working with the robotics team to build Donatello, a robot that could throw balls and climb a rope. Serving as a backstage techie for the middle school play. Mourning when her ceramics project exploded in the kiln. Working at the WAVE Café. Helping to build a dream bedroom for a young girl with a chronic illness. Playing

flag football with a Special Olympics team. Participating in the bell choir and singing with Voce Felice. Helping a girl learn to read. Climbing to the top of Talcott Mountain. Enjoying Funfetti cupcakes her adviser made to celebrate her birthday. The list goes on.

**Ellery (center in the Walker's soccer shirt) leads her teammates in a lighthearted moment during the fall pep rally.**





GIVING TO THE ANNUAL FUND FOR WALKER'S FEELS AS GOOD AS GETTING A HUG FROM YOUR BEST FRIENDS. AND YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE SCHOOL'S MISSION IS CRITICAL TO HELP PREPARE GIRLS TO LEAD TODAY AND FOR A LIFETIME.

**Your gift matters, because we're all in this together.**

Online: [www.ethelwalker.org/onlinegiving](http://www.ethelwalker.org/onlinegiving)

By mail: Annual Fund for Walker's  
The Ethel Walker School  
230 Bushy Hill Road  
Simsbury, CT 06070

By phone: +1 (860) 408-4259



**WHAT IS A PLANNED GIFT?**

Simply put, a planned gift is a gift made to the School that has been arranged for in the present to be allocated to a beneficiary at a future date. Planned gifts are charitable gifts that may involve giving through an estate, a charitable trust, an IRA or a pension fund to name a few ways that a donor can arrange for a future gift to Walker's.

Often the result of a planned gift is a major gift to the School's endowment which can have a significant impact on Walker's mission while increasing the School's financial stability. Planned gifts are also great vehicles for honoring graduates, friends, faculty and family as the gifts may be used to establish named funds or scholarships, while accomplishing both wealth protection and philanthropic goals.

Members of the Walker's community who have established planned gifts and who notify the School, become members of **The Ethel Walker Heritage Society**. Members of this esteemed group are recognized for their desire to support Walker's in the future by notation in our annual report to donors. Other recognition opportunities may also be possible.

There are many ways to make a gift to benefit Walker's through thoughtful planning. For tax and financial advice please consult your advisor. To discuss including The Ethel Walker School in your philanthropic plans, please contact Gretchen Orschiedt, Director of Advancement, at [gorschiedt@ethelwalker.org](mailto:gorschiedt@ethelwalker.org) or +1 (860) 408-4260.

*It is important to consult with your personal financial advisor, attorney, or accountant regarding the structure and documentation of a planned gift. If you intend to make a planned gift, please notify the School so that your commitment can be appropriately credited and acknowledged.*

## The Eileen Josten Lowe Scholarship Endowment

Eileen "Jostie" Josten Lowe '43 was immersed in a life of music from the day she was born in New York City on February 25, 1925. She grew up in Northampton, MA, the daughter of a composer — her father taught music at Smith College for 30 years — and a singer — her mother, who sang opera at the Met and at Smith. During her four years at Walker's, Eileen was deeply involved in the School's music program as a member of the Music Club, as Glee Club head, and as a member of Walker's orchestra. A gifted violist and musician, her senior yearbook page reflects a well-rounded Walker's girl who played basketball, field hockey and soccer, and was recognized to have the "saving grace of kindness."

Bennington College was her next home — studying music and art, and as a student taking a role at the Museum of Non-Objective Painting (now the Solomon Guggenheim Museum), that included traveling with curator and director Baroness Hilla von Rebay. Following her graduation from Bennington, and before she married, Eileen secured her pilot's license. She married, raised her four children, and gave back to her community and to Walker's as a volunteer. In her 70s, she moved to Brooklyn, and she traveled the world — riding the Orient Express from Russia to China, visiting both poles, bird watching in Costa Rica, and going on three African safaris.

While she was living a fulfilling life of family, travel, and her endearing passion — music — Eileen remained a life-long supporter of Walker's and she thoughtfully arranged for a planned gift to benefit Walker's. Eileen passed away in December 2016 at the age of 91 and her will provided a gift to Walker's of \$100,000. The Eileen Josten Lowe Scholarship Endowment will be awarded to students with financial need who contribute to the Walker's arts community.

Eileen's daughter, Sarah M. Lowe, shares, "My mother was imperfect but always perfectly herself. She had an impish side and loved to scandalize. She wore knee socks in the 50s, eschewing nylons, and in the 60s, my father was duly horrified by the bumper sticker she affixed to our station wagon, 'Nixon Eats Grapes,' despite the fact that he worked for the Feds. In the 70s she adopted a duck, her beloved egg-laying Ponchita, and went to court to keep her in our backyard. She often revealed a wonder at nature, and loved watching the water and light of Vineyard Sound, or observing any animal in its natural habitat." Sarah continues, "My mother liked to say she never grew up. I think she didn't feel overly burdened by convention. The word that comes to mind is irreverent."



Eileen "Jostie" Josten Lowe '43  
with her children



Eileen "Jostie" Josten  
Lowe '43

Thank you, Jostie, for the energy and talent you gave to our School as a student and for the "saving grace of kindness" so beautifully embodied in this legacy benefitting Walker's girls in perpetuity.

## The Ethel Walker Smith Endowment

In the fall of 1911, The Walker's School for Girls opened its doors with 10 students, seven teachers, one dog, and Ethel Walker's courageous and resolute leadership — her dream becoming reality with a \$10,000 loan from an acquaintance and fellow Bryn Mawr alumna whose interests were educational and philanthropic. In an article she wrote in 1946, Ethel stated, "Academic standards were exceptionally high; the School was founded as a college-preparatory school with a liberal curriculum that included extra-collegiate subjects. The teachers were said to be an unusual group of highly-trained, experienced young women, each with a definite and arresting personality. They met the demands of a new and untried school and worked to make it succeed as if it were their own. The small classes enabled them to give individual special attention to each student, and besides they took part in all the School activities and the girls benefitted by close association with their teachers outside of classes."

For several years, Ethel continued as principal decision maker for the School, a role that included the pursuit of increased enrollment, oversight of business and operational duties and relocation to the Simsbury campus in 1917. After a three-year courtship, Ethel married Dr. Terry Smith, a U.S. Army doctor who had been brought onboard to help carry the School through the great influenza epidemic of that time. Although relinquishing her day-to-day responsibilities at the School once married, both Ethel and her husband continued to work tirelessly to ensure its success.

A tremendous blow to the Walker's community occurred in July of 1952 when Dr. Smith passed away after a decade of deteriorating health. Dr. Smith's death prompted Ethel to reflect on the School's future. Knowing how crucial it would be that her vision and passion for girls' education be nurtured and flourish past her lifetime, Ethel converted the



Ethel Walker Smith

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Walker's endowment reaches \$25 million with \$7.4 million gift from Ethel Walker Smith.

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School from its then private status to its current non-stock corporate form. Ethel created the Ethel Walker Smith Company to hold the School's lands, buildings and endowment funds. In her will, she created two trusts into which certain assets of her estate were bequeathed. Upon the death of the last of the beneficiaries named in her will, the will instructs that any remaining assets be delivered to The Ethel Walker Charitable and Educational Foundation which also was created by Ethel to receive the bulk of her estate.

When Ethel died at age 93 on June 14, 1965, she had peace in the knowledge that her foresight and generous transfer of wealth would aid in the perpetual

support and welfare of her beloved School. In the fall of 2016, assets totaling approximately \$7.4 million from the first trust were transferred to The Ethel Walker Charitable and Educational Foundation. As a result of this first transfer to the Foundation, the School's operating budget will now receive an annual payout from The Ethel Walker Smith Endowment for operating expenses. The Foundation will receive the assets of the second trust established by Ethel at a future date once there are no longer any living beneficiaries to Ethel's will.

Upon the 35th anniversary of the founding of the School, Ethel Walker Smith wrote: "A school, like an individual, has its periods of childhood, youth and maturity, but unfortunately, unlike an individual, increasing years do not necessarily mean deterioration or extinction. As an institution it ages and develops but because of the continuous influx of new generations, its youth is renewed like an eagle's."

Thanks to our founder's pioneering spirit, steadfast commitment to this institution and the extraordinary foresight she exhibited in establishing this planned gift to the School, Walker's girls today continue to receive a top-notch education. As a result of Ethel's sage financial planning and philanthropic convictions, the School will continue to benefit for years to come.



Dr. Terry Smith

## SPOTLIGHT

# Katherine Hypolite '04 — “Walker’s is in a ‘Golden Age’”

When Katherine Hypolite was asked to join the Alumnae Board nine years ago, she was just out of college and one of its youngest members. She immediately agreed. “It was a no brainer,” she says, “I was involved in everything at Walker’s.” Katherine will step down as co-chair in June 2018, but in the meantime she is looking forward to spending more time engaging her class in myriad alumnae activities and connections she helped strengthen during her tenure.

Katherine started off her time on the Board focusing on student and alumnae engagement and sitting on various committees. However, she says she really “hit her stride” when she assumed the co-chair position and had to think differently and more strategically about how alumnae could feel more connected to the School and how to align their goals with the School’s priorities. She is most proud of the new Regional Clubs of alumnae and the stronger connections between alumnae and students. Board members regularly send emails and treats to students and even take them to lunch. “These interactions are important,” she says, “because as a student, it’s hard to imagine life beyond Walker’s and what life is like as an alum.”

When Katherine herself was a student, it was a chance encounter with Catherine Terry Taylor '79 that changed the course of her own career. Katherine was a senior when she saw Catherine speak on a Big 7 panel during her reunion. “She saw something in me,” recalls Katherine, “Walker’s lit a fire in me that gave me an unbelievable amount of confidence.” Catherine later invited the younger alumna to act as communications manager when she was running for public office in Rhode Island, a move that launched Katherine’s communications career.

It’s connections like those that pulled Katherine toward serving the School and strengthening those areas even further. And she is very excited for where Walker’s is right now, calling it “a golden age” with the new Centennial Center, the quality of the students, the strength of the sports programs and the diversity. She hopes to inspire her classmates to return to witness it for themselves, because, as she says, “Seeing is believing.”



Katherine Hypolite '04

“...interactions are important,” she says, “because as a student, it’s hard to imagine life beyond Walker’s and what life is like as an alum.”

## We are excited to announce our new Regional Clubs program!

Regional gatherings, organized by alumnae, are a great opportunity to socialize with fellow Walker’s women in various cities throughout the U.S. If you live within a 50-mile radius of these specific cities or areas and we have your current email, you will receive updates and reminders via email about events and other opportunities.

If you would like to add or update your email to our list, please contact Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P’17, ’19 at [mpaterson@ethelwalker.org](mailto:mpaterson@ethelwalker.org) or by calling +1 (860) 408-4257.

To learn more about Walker’s in your region or to get involved, please contact these representatives:

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Marion Paterson P'17, '19  
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### WASHINGTON, DC

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Visit [www.ethelwalker.org/alumnae/regional-clubs](http://www.ethelwalker.org/alumnae/regional-clubs) for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM

# Katherine Hypolite '04 and Susan Jensen Rawles '82

ALUMNAE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

This issue of the Sundial ushers in the second year of Dr. Meera Viswanathan's tenure as Walker's head of school. It has been a year of thoughtful reflection, bold promises, and visionary dreams. It has been a year of mapping a path of transition — both the immediate and the long term. It has been a year of hope wed with realistic, critical thinking.

Never do such dramatic moments come without struggle; the School has tested and retested new courses, new schedules, new programs, and new people. It remains wholeheartedly committed to the transformational course that Meera has envisioned and the Board of Trustees has endorsed. As fellow alumnae, we hold fast to the belief that Walker's can continue as the superior institution its founder seeded, one that serves as a beacon for girls across the world and a leader among like-minded institutions.

Many alumnae have reconnected with the School over the past year, motivated by the spirit of possibility. They have toured the new Centennial Center, the upgraded turf fields, and the improved riding facilities. Many had never seen the renovations at Beaver Brook or the beautiful new dorm. All of these improvements have been imagined and achieved with the needs of girls in mind. Off campus, our regional programming is a priority and becoming more robust. We are delighted to be connecting and reconnecting with alumnae in their own regions of the country and the world.

As the School continues its march towards its future, we would like every alumnae to have a voice and a hand in our momentum. See what's happening in your region. Reach out to us with ideas. If you haven't been back to visit, please come by. Join us for Reunion weekend — even if it's not a landmark year for your class. Everyone is welcome, everyone is wanted. If only for a moment, let's all make Walker's home again.



Susie Jensen Rawles '82 and Katherine Hypolite '04 during Reunion Weekend

Katherine Hypolite '04  
CO-CHAIR, ALUMNAE BOARD

Susan Jensen Rawles '82  
CO-CHAIR, ALUMNAE BOARD

## 2017-2018 ALUMNAE BOARD

Katherine Hypolite '04  
CO-CHAIR  
RHODE ISLAND

Susan "Susie" Jensen Rawles '82  
CO-CHAIR  
VIRGINIA

Awele "Nina" Chukwura '17\*  
CONNECTICUT

Caryl Van Ranst Dearing '60  
MASSACHUSETTS

Wendy Hodgkins DeLorey '83, P'20\*  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Elting Doering '65  
CALIFORNIA

Philippa "Pip" Eschauzier Earl '94  
MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Little Hodge '01  
MARYLAND

Courtney Hornberger '01  
CALIFORNIA

Connie Morales '92\*  
NEW YORK

Jamiah Tappin '00  
MASSACHUSETTS

Charlotte Weidlein '05  
NEW YORK

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Gwendolyn Wood Wisely '96  
NEW JERSEY

\*New AB Member



**STAY IN TOUCH!**  
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# Take Note

We're excited to have a number of new volunteers as class correspondents. New correspondents are noted with a Sundial icon ☪ near their names. Please be sure to keep in touch with them to share your news.

There are still classes needing correspondents. Please call Director of Alumnae Relations, Marion Paterson P'17, '19 at +1 (860) 408-4257 if you are interested. A big THANK YOU! to all class correspondents, continuing and new. Your work is invaluable in keeping our whole community connected!

1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944

REUNION

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

1945

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

**Payne Payson Middleton** writes, "This being my 90th year with a birthday in August, here is my news: My three oldest grandchildren (of five) have graduated from college and have jobs which they like very much. Boy, age 29, married in July — goody!; boy, age 27, working in NY; boy, age 25, an artist at the University of Chicago School of Art Institute; girl, age 22, with a job in Washington, DC; boy, age 5, going into first grade in Grove, Italy. My sister has great grands who are 5ish! I am slowing down — was, as usual, at my home in South Carolina for months of February and March. For the first time there, the suggestion was made by my daughters that I not drive to Charleston (1½ hours) for a dinner and night with friends

and back the next day, so I didn't. My home there is still suffering from 2015 flood, 2016 ice storm, and 2016 Hurricane Matthew. Trees down, branches hanging and unexpected frost in March which destroyed blooming (still) camellias and azaleas (supposed to bloom in April but full of frozen flowers in March). This is the frost that killed off produce farms all over the south. I'm in the process of writing my memoirs by hand. Not year-by-year, but by topics: places I've lived, pets, events, etc. both sad and happy. I'm still involved with different kinds of organizations and reasonably physically active (best is swimming with mask and snorkel; pool or Mediterranean in saltwater) and walking better after my hip replacement."

**Molly Darling Bell** has just retired at the age of 90, and moved to Avon, CT to be closer to family. The added bonus is that she will be closer to Walker's too! She is also retiring from her long-standing duties as class correspondent. Our huge thanks to her for all the years of reporting class news! Please reach out directly to the School with your news while we seek her replacement in this role. Please let Director of Alumnae Relations, Marion Paterson, know if you are willing to volunteer. She can be reached at +1 (860) 408-4257.



Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19, Betsy Stott '37, Sarah Stott '70 and Janet Stott '66 at Reunion Weekend 2017

1946

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

1947

Joan Ferguson Ellis ☪

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

"None of the four of us — **Joan Ferguson Ellis, Shirley McKeever Tanner, Peg Plunkett Lord** or I, **Ruth Cummings Mead** — could believe it was our 70th Reunion! However, we joined right in on all the activities: luncheons, dinners, parade, Chapel, alumnae meetings, and

more! We were energized by the enthusiasm of students, staff, other alumnae and for the spirit brought by Meera Viswanathan, the new head of school. Her warm welcome to everyone, her 10-year plan, her goal for enhanced academics, brought such positive reactions — we were overwhelmed. Don't miss any future chance to visit EWS. To our class: see the new, splendid Centennial Center, admire the landscaping, talk to the teachers, the wait staff and cooks, any student, and especially Meera, and you will agree that our old school has been transformed. In mid-July, I drove to Hamilton, MA from my Dedham, MA summer home to have lunch with **Diana "Di" Goss Ward**, who is so sorry she was unable to attend Reunion. Di is still as lovely as she was in the 40s! We vowed to keep in touch



Class of 1947 members Margaret "Peggy" Plunkett Lord, Shirley McKeever Tanner, Joan Ferguson Ellis and Ruth Cummings Mead enjoyed dinner at Debby's House (the head of school's residence on campus) during Reunion 2017.

and hope that any others from the Class of 1947 will join us in the Boston area any time.

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## 1948 REUNION

## 1949

## 1950

## 1951

## 1952

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

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## 1953 REUNION

Susan "Susie" Kleinhans Gilbertson

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

**Chris Yantis Downey** writes, "I do not think I have sent news for the bulletin in 25+ years.

I promise I will not send a summary! I am still working in my career of nearly 40 years, selling residential real estate here on the North Shore of Chicago. All three of my daughters live here: the two who have children live less than five minutes from me. It has certainly been fun for the cousins and great for me. I still live in my home where they were raised. Five of the six Downey women enjoyed a girls' trip weekend to New York last week. A highlight was going to see "Hello Dolly." Our class at Walker's certainly prepared us for enjoying friendship with women and just plain fun together!"

**Suzu Patterson** writes, "Still shuttling back and forth twice a year between Paris and Dayton, OH. Quite a contrast! And, happy with my modest flat in France, since it is ideally located, walking distance 10 minutes more or less to pharmacies, bank, clothing shops, and the bakery across the street. Latter was also the bakery for the current president of France,

Macron, and wife, Brigitte, whom I must have seen there (their flat was a two-minute walk from the bakery), but never spoke with — more's the pity! They're now basking in the glories of the Élysée Palace, and the constant flash of the press corps. Love to you, Susie, and our classmates."

**Bobbie Gerstell Bennett** sees **Jeanne Ballentine Riegel** often in NYC because they both visit a mutual friend who is ailing. Bobbie too was in Florida briefly in the spring catching up with old friends and working on her golf game. The golf must be OK because she played three times while in Dorset, VT over July 4th. Princeton is a hot box in summer (I know because I grew up there), and she gets relief in Nantucket for a couple of weeks with friends.

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## 1954

Betty Richards Tripp

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

**Anita Larsen Sullivan** shared, "I am still playing golf. Handicap is a bit higher than it once was but still enjoy the game. Looking forward to a family wedding in Vail in September. I have 11 grandchildren spread all over this country. It will be great to see them all at the wedding. Other than that, I can say that it is not fun getting old and living alone. Cheers to all."

**Karen Bisgard Alexander** writes, "2016 was full of travels that usually involved the children. Everyone gathered in Chicago for Christmas which involved learning to throw pizza crusts. I spent February in Carmel, stopping first in San Francisco to see **Barbara Mayer Marks** who was terrific. Another tiny reunion in Santa Barbara gathered some retired and/or moved friends.

With friends both old and young dying, one feels a certain temporal need to see special people to exchange memories. Amid all the happy days I felt the weight of an angry citizenry who were suffering the erratic behavior of the president and the baffled legislature. An 80th birthday trip to NYC gave me a surprise counterbalance to the present state of the nation with the acclaimed Broadway musical, 'Hamilton.' What a tour de force! In the summer the whole family went to Greece where we lived in a remote house on a small island for two weeks and learned why the Greek winds are gods. The Art Institute is still an important part of my life, but I find I want to do more to help in the basic feeding and sheltering of those who need it. Trips to the Canadian Maritimes and a family trip to Cuba are in the offing. As long as I can hobble I'll keep exploring, but I am growing more circumspect with my back as its warranty is beginning to give out."

**Betsey Barrett Phillips** reports that she and Chuck drove their RV from Bethlehem, NH to Big Sky, MT where they planned to spend June and half of July and where they had also spent time in February skiing. "Our daughter, Callie, lives in Big Sky with her husband, David, and our two grandsons, Cameron and Ian, ages eight and 10. We spend as much time as we can with them while we are still seen as 'cool.' Their younger daughter, Susannah, received her Ph.D. from the University of Idaho a year ago and landed her dream job with Alaska Fish and Game. She and her husband, Brian, have bought a piece of land and are building a house. Since Brian is a builder, they are literally building their own house. Chuck and Betsey visited them at the end of August via Seattle and a three-day ferry trip from Bellingham to Juneau. Betsey says that they are "bummed" that their kids are so

distant but they have both picked places that they look forward to visiting. Betsey and Chuck play tennis year round and have had tickets for the annual Rogers Cup in Montreal for about 15 years. It's always the highlight of their summer. They will be back in Tanzania in October to spend time with the Precious Project, the orphanage/school they have been involved with for six years. They feel fortunate that they can say, once again, that their health is good and that they are still able to do the things they love to do.

I was so very sad when **Katherine "Kathie" Somerville Steele** wrote that her husband, Ed Hunter, died in September 2016. Soon after, she made the decision to move from her birthplace, the Mississippi Delta, to St. Simons Island, GA where her daughter, Hilary, and Hilary's husband live. Kathie is in the process of building what she describes as a cottage on Hilary's land and would love to hear from any travelers headed towards St. Simons.

**Glenn Shannon Whipple** sent her year-in-review beginning with a wine and cheese tasting cruise with Austin friends to the Puget Sound/San Juan Island in September 2016. Glenn says that it was great fun except when her husband, Oggie, fell UP the escalator and scraped off half his arm at the beginning of the trip, and when she fell on board ship the last day and cut her chin, bleeding all over her favorite outfit and spraining and bruising her hands. Glenn's life is filled with visits with her children and grandchildren. In addition to the family's 10th annual reunion at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, she and Oggie visit them in Fort Worth/Houston and Denver and sometimes they visit at her house. Glenn's eldest grandson graduated from high school and will attend the University of Texas. In Denver, they cared for her daughter's sons, even accompanying the youngest,

# Take Note

a budding paleontologist who also is a reptilian admirer, to a Reptile Show featuring Glenn's least favorite — snakes. Glenn and **Mary Stein Dominick** continue to try to meet in Denver but so far they haven't found a convenient date. Glenn concludes saying, "We continue to be blessed with good health and love living here in the cool mountains. Enjoying a bit of a break from double choirs and leading Bible Study this summer but will resume come fall."

From Switzerland, **Ursula Bitter Ulmer** sends greetings to all. "I find living in Europe among the most fortunate accidents of my life. As deeply concerned as I am with the U.S. situation, I have a toehold outside the maelstrom. Watching the U.S. tear itself apart is a kind of helpless agony, especially when it appears so utterly unnecessary. That civil discourse can also address the truth directly seems to be anathema. My recently departed sister used to say, 'In times of turmoil I read history.' So I am enthralled just now with Andrea Wulf's biography, *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Humboldt's New World*. He addressed climate change even then and so much more."

**Katie Auchincloss Porter** writes that life is good for the Porters. "We moved to Ocean View in Falmouth, ME in July 2016. We are happy and busy with several close friends here and in the Portland area. Best of all, our daughter, Clara, is 10 minutes away and our daughter Elie's youngest is going into her second year at Maine College of Art — so we have two of our grands nearby. I am blessed because my husband of 57 years, Jim, is well, as am I." Katie mentions that **Valerie Stoddard Loring '55**, lives at Ocean View too. Also, Katie had lunch in spring 2016 with **Patsy Blun Deetjen** in Rockland, ME and visited her in September in Blue Hill, ME.

Katie says that they have an extra bedroom and that there are lots of fun things to do in Portland and great food. (Note that your class correspondent can vouch for Portland's great food and interesting places since I attended a Wellesley '58 mini reunion in Portland last year.)

**Helen Harvey Mills** writes about "the first ever Harvey family reunion in La Posada in Winslow, AZ and the Grand Canyon though we have been going to La Fonda in Santa Fe each October. It's a return to history and the old west with Mary Colter architectural wonders and lots of what Stephen Fried, author of the Fred Harvey story *Appetite for America*, calls Fredheads. These are descendants of Harvey Girls, train people, amazing restorers of old Fred Harvey hotels and more." Helen also visited her ballet teaching daughter, Brett, in Portland, OR, home of coffee houses that aren't Starbucks. Helen hasn't been to the east recently but is still planning on it. Martha's Vineyard has some history for her through the Daggett family. She asks, "Are you all working out family on ancestry.com? We should have a class comment place online. Any suggestions?" If so, email Helen at hhmills@aol.com.

As I, **Betty Richards Tripp**, read your news I could not help but think that my life pales next to many classmates. In this current chapter, I find my usual travels are more likely limited to a 150 mile radius from my house to NYC and Boston. I see **Frannie Haffner Colburn** a few times annually, occasionally at my house in Stonington, CT but more likely at Frannie's either in Boston or Manchester, MA. Frannie's interesting commentaries on her out-of-the-ordinary travels seem to fulfill any wanderlust I might have. A major change in my life arrived in August when my Stonington grandson, who graduated in a class of six students

from nearby Fisher's Island School, left to attend his father's alma mater, Washington College in Chestertown, MD, chartered in 1782 with George Washington an original donor of 35 guineas. His cousin, my eldest grandson, who lives in nearby Rhode Island, will enter his second year at Rochester Institute of Technology, leaving his 14-year old brother, my only grandchild still living at home. Just as many have commented, I am aware of my age each time my bones creak yet I continue to be thankful for relatively good health, friendships, family and an interesting life. I hope you all enjoy the same."

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## 1955

Letitia McClure Potter

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It is with sadness that I report the passing of **Mary Emily "Emmy" Alexander Kerney**. Her husband, Jim Kerney, sent me a special email with Emmy's obituary. It was always a pleasure to speak with Emmy while gathering news for our class. Jim, we send you and your family our love and sympathy. I shall miss being in contact with Emmy. (*Editor's note: Emmy's obituary was published in the Portland Press Herald on February 22, 2017. We invite you to visit the website and read the lovely tribute to Emmy.*)

I happened to have a lovely chat with **Dicky Bartlett Peers** who was about to welcome waves of children and grandchildren in March/April to her house in Sanibel, FL. Dicky and Michael then migrate to Nova Scotia for the summer, which they have been doing for years. Kudos for Dicky who is keeping in shape by playing tennis regularly.

As for me, **Tisha McClure Potter**, I have been close to home for the past two years, working to ensure husband Philip is progressing after two surgeries on the same hip after a tumble. He is now doing so much better, but I fear I have not been on top of reaching out to you all — sorry. In June our youngest child, James, arranged a trip to California to test our travel legs. We visited Santa Monica, by chance, staying in the same hotel where **Tania Goss Evans** had stayed months before, overlooking the beach with all its diverse activities. Such fun restaurants in LA, seemingly mostly filled with millennials. The Huntington Library was a highpoint in Pasadena. One hundred sixty acres of amazing gardens (Japanese, Chinese, perennial, herb, etc.) with a delightful teahouse serving a delicious English tea and overlooking the Rose Garden. In addition, the main house has the family's European art collection and another building houses an American art collection. Next, a few nights in Santa Barbara rounded out our mini odyssey. For one who had only gone to Disneyland thirty years ago, I found Southern California a place to return to soon.

Many of you are reaching the 80th milestone. I wish you good health and enjoyment with a sense of worth. May the years bless you. I landed at 80 in August 2016. My daughter **Lissa Potter '85** busied herself with arranging a huge surprise for me — the naming of the Gallery in the Centennial Center at Walker's. I was completely flabbergasted. How wonderfully thoughtful of so many of you to be a part of the scheme! It was the most amazing birthday yet. And I thank you with an overflowing heart. That is all for now, but I hope to hear from you all soon. With affection, Tisha.

**Members of the Class of 1956 recommend the following books that they have enjoyed reading:**

**Phoebe Haffner Andrew**

*A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles  
*News of the World* by Paulette Jiles — a wonderful Western for even those who don't like Westerns

**Dorothy Doubleday Massey**

Adventure? *City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston; a true tale of the discovery of a lost city in the Honduran jungle, the curse set upon it and the aftermath of an expedition to a site not seen by humans for hundreds of years.

Love and Life? *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr; get it now in paperback and find a quiet weekend.

Mystery? *Camino Island* by John Grisham — one of his very, very best.

Biography? *Toscanini: Musician of Conscience* by Harvey Sachs. I remember Miss Sala's story of singing for Toscanini — he touched her shoulder and she didn't wash the spot for days! I, too, (this is A. Massie writing) loved this book; could not put it down.

Animals? *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History* by Dan Flores is the great tale of this remarkable animal which lives from the wilds of the Rockies to New York's Central Park. Coming soon in paperback.

*The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It will make you smile and your heart will sing.

**Serena Stewart**

*Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel* by Carl Safina  
*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

**Linen Miller Greenough**

*Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II* by Vicki Constantine Croke

**"A" Massie Hill**

*Hirohito: Behind the Myth* by Edward Behr  
*Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938* by Stephen E. Ambrose  
*Brahms: His Life and Work* by Karl Geiringer



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## 1956

**Adrienne "A" Massie Hill**

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Our combined 2016-2017 notes for the Class of 1956 will appear in the Spring issue of the *Sundial*.

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## 1957

**Virginia "Ginny" Lambrecht** 🇺🇸

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**Abigail Trafford** has been included in *Marquis Who's Who*, which chronicles the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every significant field of endeavor including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment. Abigail is an award-winning journalist and public speaker who has amassed more than 50 years of experience as a writer, editor and columnist. Congratulations, Abigail!

In September 2016, **Kenny King Howe** and **Bev Dunn Wadsworth '58** met up at St. Paul's. They were there with their husbands who had worked together on behalf of their Class of 1955.

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## 1958 REUNION

**Barbara Welles Bartlett**

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**Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges**

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**Suzanne Gano Blackwell** writes, "Still very active in several organizations pertaining to hunger among youth and mentoring grade school children in reading and English."

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## 1959

**Elena Miller Shoch** 🇺🇸

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**Dyer Wadsworth, Bev Dunn Wadsworth '58, Kenny King Howe '57 and Nat Howe**

# Take Note

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## 1960

Phyllis Richard Fritts

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**Phyllis Richard Fritts** feels that, “Looking back, I feel that I lived out of a suitcase all summer. British Columbia and Monterey to see kids and grandkids, then unpacking here in Vero Beach, FL in September, then repacking in a hurry to evacuate our barrier island home for the hurricane (all fine), then repacking for a repositioning cruise from Rome to other Italian and Spanish ports, and back to Florida. Just had our 49th wedding anniversary. Boy, time flies. Best to all.”

**Clara Perkins Stites** emails, “Phyllis Richard Fritts and I are in neighboring towns. Two years ago Clay and I bought a house in Sebastian, FL. It is near my sister’s Ashram and has a fenced yard for the dogs. All that and flowers too! More recent news, in October we moved to a Kendal community in Kennett Square, PA and are settling in happily. Heading north for Christmas with kids and grandkids, then to Sebastian in mid-January. Hard to keep track sometimes, but it’s all good.”

Checking in from South America, **Ali Mestre de Bidondo** writes, “Here we are at a crazy time of the year. In a country like Argentina, you have an incredible amount of things going along together with Christmas. It is the end of school year, vacations start and it is the beginning of summer. I forget when I last updated my life. I have been a widow for 13 years after a long and happy marriage but nevertheless have been able to continue with a happy life. I have two daughters. One is single, works for a non-profit organization, does sculpture and travels quite a bit. She lives near me. My other daughter used to

live close as well but three years ago moved to the city of Tandil where her husband works. It is four hours away by car from Buenos Aires and fortunately I never spend more than three weeks without seeing them and my four grandchildren — they are the best, four boys aged from 10 to 4. Right after Christmas we all go over to Punta del Este, Uruguay where my parents had a summer house that my two brothers and I have kept functioning for 50 years. We all get together there with three generations coming from various places for a wonderful family reunion. At one point there are about 30 of us living together. All the best for the year ahead.”

**Margot Campbell Bogert** emails, “Jerry and I have been moving around as usual going to Vienna with a Frick Museum group in September then spending most of the fall in Palmetto Bluff, SC. We spent Thanksgiving in Santa Barbara with the entire family which was wonderful. I got to visit campus in May when my daughter Millicent spoke to the girls in Chapel and in class about her work with Everywoman Everywhere. It was wonderful to see all that is new at EWS. I love Meera, our new head!”

From **Christy Hoffman Brown**, “Three days a week, my two Maltese pet therapy dogs and I bring comfort and smiles to patients at NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases and Memorial Sloan Kettering. Still an active traveler, last fall I visited the Italian Lake Region with Yale. In April I took a trip to Amsterdam at tulip time followed by a boat trip on the Dutch Waterways.”

**Bea Vander Poel Banker** writes, “I have absolutely no new news. We are getting settled in our new house, all six children and seven grands are well and happy. I am so delighted to see Walker’s doing well.”

**Ellen Corroon Petersen** writes “The great and unexpected joy of my life is my three-year-old grandson Finn. He and his parents live in Brooklyn, very close to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where I serve on the board and go quite often. Lucky me. In January, Eric and I celebrated our 50th anniversary in San Francisco with the whole family plus my sister and brother-in-law. My older son and his family moved out there two years ago from Brooklyn, alas. Still, it is a pretty nice place to visit and they do come east occasionally. This summer we installed an array of solar panels, and I’m going to get an electric car!”

**Abra Prentice Wilkin** writes, “Most of us will have celebrated our 75th birthdays in 2017 — a time for thanks and reflection rather than more whining about politics and our increasing aches and wrinkles. We look damn good compared with our mother’s generation, and the secret is to keep moving and don’t fall! Jim and I continue to see America first with so much unrest elsewhere in the world. Other than a family Christmas Disney Cruise to the Caribbean (don’t ask!) we’ve clung pretty close to our Midwest and Florida haunts with some time out to help introduce Meera to the Walker’s family. **Sarah Gates Colley ’75** had a small winter gathering in Hobe Sound, and then we had a spring dinner for former trustees in NYC co-hosted with **Kate Crichton Gubelmann ’67** and **Donya Nagjib Soriano ’90**. Amazing how many members of our Class of 1960 have served as board members, and we all sat together at the Colony Club event: **Bea Vander Poel Banker, Margie Field, Betty (now Harriet) Blees Dewey, Margot Campbell Bogert, Marilyn Hodges Wilmerding**, and we asked **Lynn Sheppard Manger ’59** to join us as an older and wiser woman! I hosted a June dinner at our Chicago apartment and even more former trustees turned out

to greet Meera including **Betsy Sivage Clark ’67, Leslie Hailand Newman ’66**, plus many other alums, parents and spouses.

Meanwhile, other news from our class: **Alita Weaver Reed** continues to recover nicely from a stroke; **Merry Bragonier Bouscaren** now lives full time in Nantucket and enjoys being a grandma with daughter Caroline’s new twins; and **Patty Connors Warrender** and **Carroll Townsend Tickner** send occasional blurbs on Facebook. How many others of you are on this addictive, silly thing? I had lunch with **Rusty Hawkins Quaintance ’57** in Hobe Sound and her spirits are strong despite some debilitating issues with her arm.

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## 1961

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

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## 1962

Sage Dunlap Chase

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**Sage Dunlap Chase** writes, “Sent out a plea for news from Class of ’62 and all that came back were personal notes about my recovery! For the two or three of you who may not have heard, I had an unexpected health crisis in Bermuda necessitating an aortic valve replacement, and was lucky to qualify (and be computer chosen) for a non-invasive procedure called TAVR. It is routinely done for older patients at risk for open heart surgery, but not yet FDA approved for folks in their 70s. It was an easy recovery, and I am very grateful to be back to normal activities and feeling well even though I sold my body

to Dartmouth-Hitchcock for the next ten years! Now to deal with a knee replacement this winter — after a much anticipated trip to Vietnam!”

**Sally Bryant Dean** reports from England that their children came over from the U.S. to celebrate her husband’s 80th, and that they have actually had good gardening weather in the U.K.!

Was happy to hear earlier from **Margie Holley** that her husband was doing well enough to plan a road trip.

Hope no news from the rest of you means either that you’re having an uneventful, happy time, or that you’re too busy having fun to write about it! Love to all, Sage

## 1963 REUNION 1964

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## 1965

**Sarah Elting Doering**  
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## 1966

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## 1967

**Dianne “Dia” Wasley Chigas**  
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The Mags from left to right are: Elizabeth Schlosser, Betsy Sivage Clark, Lucie Sides Bourdon, Cynthia Johnston Alexander, Frances Beinecke, Catherine Nimick, Docey Baldwin Lewis, Kate Crichton Gubelmann, Dia Wasley Chigas, Holly Hulburt, Bobbie Bristol, Judith Scott Larsen and Jesseca Ferguson. The two Facebook Mags in the treetops who were projected in from far away are Julie Lange Peyton and Sigourney Weaver.

This creative flock of 15 mischievous Magpies (above) were gathered together in June 2017 to finalize their eight years of contributing to the education of young girls around the world via the *Magpie Giving Circle*. They

all are members of the EWS Class of '67 and are sending cheer and encouragement to Meera and her new aspiring flock of students.

**Betsy Sivage Clark** reports that after 41 years working in MetLife’s

Investments group and moving from Chicago to San Francisco to New Jersey to Chicago, she retired three years ago. “I now spend my leisure life riding and showing my horses, traveling and thinking about organizing my photos. My older daughter, Lindsay, and her husband and two children live in Connecticut. She’s a dental hygienist in NYC. My other daughter, **Allison Clark '04**, and her husband live outside of Barcelona. Allison is taking time off from writing, editing



**Betsy Sivage Clark '67** on Hank with Bruce close behind



**Betsy Sivage Clark's '67** grandchildren, **Alexander (3)** and **Ellie (5) Borocz**

# Take Note



**Betsy Sivage Clark's '67 daughter, Allison Clark '04, had a daughter, Joana Clariana Clark, on June 30, 2017**

and consulting to care for their daughter.

**Jessica Ferguson** was featured in a 12-minute biographical profile entitled "Jessica Ferguson: Cabinet of Curiosity" by Boston-based filmmaker Roberto Mighty. Watch the trailer at <https://vimeo.com/181109259>. Her work is also featured in Christina Z. Anderson's new book from Focal Press, *Gum Printing: A Step-By-Step Manual, Highlighting Artists and Their Creative Practice*.

**Docey Baldwin Lewis** writes, "Thanks to Dia, we recalcitrant classmates of '67 have been prodded into sharing updates not only during our off-campus Magpie get-togethers, but now



**Dolce Baldwin Lewis '67 in Nepal with son Owen (far left in sunglasses)**

also in the formal alumnae bulletin. Does this mean that we have finally grown up? Our Magpie Giving Circle is the tangible outcome of years of friendship made more meaningful through our collective support of global projects for girls and women to become their best selves through creative, economic, or educational opportunities. My own year has been spent in orbit on design and development projects in Senegal, Morocco, Nepal, Madagascar and Indonesia. A highlight was returning to Walker's for a 50th Reunion Alumnae Weekend with classmate **Judith Scott Larsen**. How lucky the current students are that

Walker's has reinvented itself over the past decade or more and offers such relevant, quality education in a caring environment and on a smartly upgraded campus. Looking back on the fifty years that flew by, I am most grateful for friendships made during four somewhat tumultuous years in the mid-sixties. My two grown children are prospering in their respective careers — my daughter as a mediator based in Olympia, WA and my son as a budding trekking guide in the Himalayas, as well as partner in business and community development projects in Nepal. By next year we should have Kyirmu Lodge really up and running in Phaplu, Nepal."

**Dia "Waz" Wasley Chigas** writes, "What's on your mind after 50 years? Perhaps you will remember that I asked all of you that before our 30th reunion? What's on your mind? I dug up my response from 1997 and it was really interesting to read where my life was at that time. Twenty years later, Basil and I are living in our fourth house that's part farm, part art studio for me, office for Basil, and we have been married for 43 years. We like to say — changing houses, not spouses. Our kids are Chloe (41), Jason (39), Nick (37) and Alex (32). Three are married, giving us three grandchildren — Stephen 7, Charlie 6 and Sophia 3.

They all live near us and our two sons work with Basil at Morgan Stanley! Also, we try to get together for most holidays, vacations and weekends at our family house in Maine. In August, we had a wonderful family celebration because our son, Nick, married Kelley under a covered bridge in Vermont. But here's what's on my mind after 50 years since graduating. Looking back and facing forward, with age, time and maturity, what is on my mind is what I know for sure —

Life is a crazy roller coaster of emotions and experiences, gut wrenching ups and downs, closeness and estrangements. So nothing is as constant as change.

Being a mother is the hardest but most rewarding job imaginable. Every action causes a reaction and I can only control my response. Be grateful, see the good, consciously choose to be happy, smile, be kind and practice compassion every day.

Please let us all know about what is most important to you now, what you are doing, and how you've spent your time in the 50 years since we graduated. Email updates, what's on your mind or deep thoughts about life — it's up to you. Stay tuned for a follow up, snail mail letter. Dia/Waz



**Dia Wasley Chigas '67 at her son's wedding in Vermont.**

## 1968 REUNION 1969

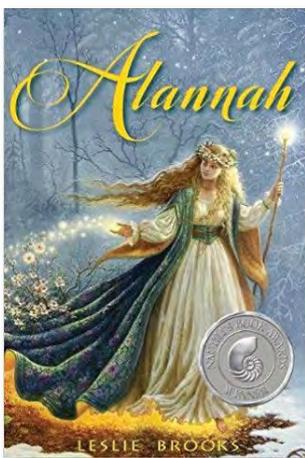
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## 1970

Gail Chandler Gaston

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**Leslie Brooks** has received the Silver Nautilus Book Award for her latest book, a magical fantasy called, *Alannah*. From the Midwest Book Review: "A deftly crafted, compelling, and original tale that is pure entertainment from beginning to end." Congratulations, Leslie!



Book cover of *Alannah* by Leslie Brooks '70

**Bethy Kiendl de Haes'** youngest son, Nicholas, is now in Oakland, CA in the Teach for America program. He will be stateside for two years, so Bethy is hoping to see friends when she's over from England visiting Nicholas next summer.

A full-time journalist for the *Ashland Daily Press* and *Bayfield County Journal*, **Hope Baldwin McLeod** writes stories about her



Bethy Kiendl de Haes '70 and family in Namibia (August 2016)

northern Wisconsin community on Lake Superior — "a stronghold for sustainable farming, alternative energy, and artistic expression." When her husband, musician Bruce Bowers, was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer last year, their daughter, Yazmin, also a musician, came back to live with them; they will be going to Cuba to co-produce Yazmin's next CD. "Big hugs to my former classmates wherever you are...come visit us!" [happypopey@centurytel.net](mailto:happypopey@centurytel.net).

**Pam Constable** reports that she has spent the last year as *The Washington Post* bureau chief in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and she will be continuing this assignment through next year. She can be reached at [constablepam@hotmail.com](mailto:constablepam@hotmail.com).

**Corny Guest** has been teaching English at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, running and competing in SCRABBLE tournaments, and helping expand Youth SCRABBLE in North America. Anyone interested in learning more about tournament SCRABBLE can contact Corny at [CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com](mailto:CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com).

**Arlene Ganem** recently retired after a 30-year career as a financial advisor and is still in the "adjustment phase!" The past few years she has enjoyed memorable

trips to Italy (Rome and Tuscany) and the Czech Republic and at her family's oceanfront home near Newburyport, MA. Remaining close to her life-long love of classical music, this fall Arlene begins volunteering at Spivey Hall, one of Atlanta's premier classical music venues.

**Whitney de Roulet Bullock** and husband, Clark, "had a wonderful trip to the Galapagos! We loved snorkeling with the sea turtles which are much larger and friendlier than the ones we see off Pompano Beach! We found the



Whitney de Roulet Bullock '70 and Gail Chandler Gaston '70 in Hobe Sound, FL

marine iguanas fascinating, and we had a glorious 39th anniversary in Chimborazo — a mountain that has intrigued Clark since he climbed Kilimanjaro!"

Since retirement, **Tally Smith Briggs** has been volunteering in the admissions office at Westminster. Husband Peter, also at Westminster, will retire next year, at which time they plan to move to their house in Westport, MA. "We'll have time to visit friends, so reach out!" [tallybriggs241@gmail.com](mailto:tallybriggs241@gmail.com).



Whitney de Roulet Bullock '70 and husband, Clark, at Chimborazo

# Take Note

**Pam Kraemer Klurfield** writes, “I completed my D. Litt. in May at Drew University. My dissertation, *Cracking Open the Sky: How the Modernism of New York City Skyscrapers Paved the Way for a New American Modern Art*, was awarded distinction and received The Dean Pain Prize for best interdisciplinary study. It was a deeply personal project centering on The Woolworth Building on which my grandfather had been a foreman in 1913...I continue to serve as librarian at Madison Public Schools in New Jersey but will begin teaching courses in my discipline this fall. Our daughter, Avery, is getting married in November, and our son, Dewey, is moving to Santa Monica, so we look forward to some fun road trips out there.” Congrats to Dr. Klurfield!

**Jessica Swift** moved to Sarasota, FL a couple of years ago. Do visit her website — [jswiftglass.com](http://jswiftglass.com) — very impressive!

From **Carlyn Christensen-Szalanski**, “I still chuckle about some of the wonderful times I had with **Gail Chandler Gaston** as sophomore roommates in Beaver Brook, the year that I would ‘try out’ going to boarding school and then liked it so much I stayed.” Carlyn and Jay Szalanski were married over 40 years ago and have enjoyed raising their four children. They now live in Iowa City, IA, where Carlyn, a pediatrician, is in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Iowa. “In 2005 I had the enormous pleasure of seeing **Emily March Morse**, her husband Dan, and their three children as they drove through Iowa.”

**Cindy Emerson Keefer** retired from GE in January, though not from anything else! She and partner, Tom, spent time working at a free surgical camp in southern India founded by her uncle (assisting in the OR with over 200 operations a day), and afterwards



**Cindy Emerson Keefer '70** working at a surgical hospital in India

traveled to Agra, Jaipur and Delhi. Then came a cross-country trip (skis on the car roof!) during their move from Connecticut to San Ramon, CA. Tom is consulting with high-tech companies in the Bay Area while Cindy is working part time at Wentle Vineyards Winemaker's Studio. Cindy and Tom love company and extend an open invitation to anyone in the vicinity. Email her at [cynthiakeefer@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiakeefer@gmail.com).

**Stefani Hulitar** is nearing completion of her second (and last!) house, and has enjoyed every step of the process. Her son, Alex, is living on his avocado ranch in California where he tends to his trees, chickens and exotic fruits. “When I ask about the possibility of grandchildren, he answers that he is too busy at the moment, but that I shouldn't give up hope!”

**Gail Chandler Gaston** writes, “All is well here at Chez Gaston. Been away most of the winter and spring — England, Spain, Wales, Florida — and thus catching up on long-overdue projects. Jamey is renovating a house in Sherman, CT, and Frances one in Milford, PA. When in NYC, both live close enough to avail themselves of the kitchen and laundry! I am currently assisting a friend in researching a book and producing a documentary



**Kim Conway Coleman '70** with husband, Payson, and grandchildren

on legendary *Dial* editor and art collector, Scofield Thayer. And, as always, welcoming anyone coming through NYC.”

**Kim Conway Coleman** and husband, Payson, just celebrated their 45th anniversary. Officially Florida residents, they spend their summers on Long Island near most of their nine grandchildren (number 10 was due in February!). Kim is still active in her interior design business and Payson is still practicing law. Playing lots of golf and working on her bridge game!

**Sarah Stott** and her husband, Howard Jennings, live in Alexandria, VA, where she sings in hospice and is the administrative director of Threshold Singers of Washington, DC. Sarah has enjoyed seeing **Fendi Claggett Wood**, **Pam Constable** and **Carlina Paul Della Pietra** in recent years. At the 2017 Reunion Weekend, Sarah “was inspired by Meera Viswanathan and thrilled to see how she and the School are committed to EWS students becoming future leaders of the world.”

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## 1971

**Cynthia Smith Evanisko**

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**Marie “Betsy” E. Ballenger**

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**Deborah A. Seaman**

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**Debbie Seaman**, long having wanted to visit **Cynny Smith Evanisko** at her place in Hilton Head, SC and finally made the trek from Savannah where she spent a weekend with her husband, Warren Lancaster, son Lachlan, and Lachlan's girlfriend, Claire. “It was well worth the trip to see Cynny, looking as youthful as ever, who made us a fabulous brunch. Also present were Cynny's husband, Mike, and father, TK. The house, which looks right out at the vast white sands on the Atlantic, is fabulous and decorated by Cynny in her (and Debbie's) favorite



Tory Eyre Whipple '71

bright colors. I think we all need to convene here for an EWS 1971 Reunion/Pajama Party"! Debbie also saw **Tory Eyre Whipple**, who flew up from Atlanta to attend a reunion of classmates from the Green Vale School in their native Long Island, NY. "Tory, too, seems unchanged. We missed seeing **Patty Holmboe Atwood**, who also graduated from Green Vale with us. Patty has become a world expert on antique clocks and has her own business, Timely Antique Appraisals, in her hometown of Rockford, IL." Please send notes to Debbie, Betsy, or Cynny. We want to get your latest news!

**Cynny Smith Evanisko** says, "Hi all! My dad's name is Carter Smith. Many of our classmates will remember him from our days at Walker's. He is still going strong at age 91. He retired from UBS Financial Services at age 89; the



Cynny Smith Evanisko '71 and Debbie Seaman '71 in Hilton Head, SC

longest tenured employee of UBS Financial Worldwide. I think that record will remain for a very long time. Cheers!"

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## 1972

**Joanna Betts Virkler**

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**Joanna Betts Virkler** writes:

"Sixteen of us came to our third, four-night reunion last fall, for the second time at the Pelican Inn on Pawley's Island, SC. Those attending were me, **Beryn Frank Harty, Mary "Mimi" Mead-Hagen, Karen Brooks, Deidra "Dee Dee" Roach-Quarles, Anne Boynton Hilton, Victoria "Tori" Reeve Spaulding, Priscilla "Prisca" Cushman, Barklie Eliot, Jill Englund Jensen, Jane Hadden Geisse, Lisa Harrington Foote, Cynthia Anderson Barker, Babette "Babbie" Epple Melka, and Eleanor "Deedy" Henning Clark**. Babbie and Deedy were our 'newbies,' and it was wonderful to have them! We call these reunions a 'Sisterfest' because the bonding and sharing makes us feel like sisters. Plenty of time for walks on the beach, biking and just plain old relaxing too. We are in the beginning stages of planning an October 2018 Reunion. We hope more of you can join us!

"Meanwhile, a brief update of my own. Our ninth grandchild was born in May. Our oldest grandson joined the Army! Biff and I have traveled a lot this year, including on the boat, which is now safely back in Georgetown, SC. As with any large family, lots of blessings and lots of difficult times too. But, I like to think we are moving through all of it with some grace. Biff and I were able to have lunch this spring with **Cynthia Anderson Barker** in her neck of the woods. Cynthia did not

mention it in her own update, but she has been awarded the Social Justice Award by CARECEN, an organization that supports 25,000 immigrants and their families each year. She and her husband, Tim, have been involved with CARECEN for more than 30 years!"

From **Susie Churchill Bowman**:

"I was glad I could Skype with gals at the Pawley's Island Reunion but so wish I'd been up for traveling to be there with everyone. However, I was able to get to EWS for our 45th and bravely represented our Class all alone for Saturday's festivities. Woody and I had a terrific time at the School. Friday, we had a nice but short visit with **Sarah House Denby** before she had to leave for other commitments. Woody had known Sarah's husband, Charlie, in the '60s when both families summered on the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, and a few years back, we'd seen Sarah and Charlie when they were in Vineyard Haven on their boat. Saturday, Woody and I attended many student presentations and talks by the new assistant head and head. Ms. Vis, as the students call her, is wonderful. It was an unexpected surprise to find that Woody, through his FOCUS work, had previously met Meera's husband, formerly head of Deerfield. Sunday, we were able to have a short visit with **Mimi Mead-Hagen** who came for the day with her son (he played an exhibition game on the new squash courts). Mimi moved to Princeton, NJ soon after we had left for the Vineyard. We thoroughly enjoyed catching up with her about local goings on. She's doing some interesting work in the community. Over the weekend, we were very impressed (more like blown away) by how articulate the students were and how much they loved Walker's. They were excited about what they were learning, excited about the opportunities, excited about

the School community. We saw drama sketches, heard not only the Grapes, but the student string quartet and the African Drumming group. We listened to presentations by STEM students on sophisticated research they were doing using equipment that I only first saw in my initial post-college job as a lab tech. All came across as young women on a mission to take full advantage of their educational opportunities at EWS and to go on to make an impact in the 'real world.' We were also most grateful for and impressed by a Women of Color alumnae panel hosted by the Black Student Union. Saturday dinner, we found ourselves with only one other alum at the '67 and '72 table. The Class of '82 at the adjacent tables had us join them and they 'adopted' us! They were so excited by being back at Walker's. It was striking to see that less than ten years after we had graduated, the School had changed enough that their experience was markedly different from ours. And it was impossible not to notice how few alumnae represented the decades of the '60s and '70s. I don't recall if anyone was there from '67, their 50th. I do hope that you will consider returning for our 50th, if anything, to see where the School is today and that it is deserving of our support now. They've added some impressive facilities, but the truly good news is it's a school that is forward thinking with a strong, supportive community and a wonderful head. One sad note was finding out from an alumna ('82), who fled Iran during the Islamic Revolution, that another one of our classmates, **Firouzeh Talibi**, has died. I had a lovely phone conversation with Firouzeh back in the days before the Web when I was class correspondent. One final bit of interest from the Reunion: **Sarah Stott '70** was there with her mother, **Betsy Hubbard Stott '37**, who was not only the oldest returning alum but also on one of the alumnae

# Take Note

panels and a featured artist in the new Centennial Center's art gallery. Sarah and I had a lovely time sharing bits and pieces of our lives over the decades during the afternoon tea in Meera's office. I'm not sure I had ever been into this attractive wood-paneled room before (it had also been the Ferg's office). I didn't know it had been the original library before 'our' library was created out of the old gym. The card catalog drawers, built into the woodwork, are still there. I missed having more of the Class there, and I both hope to see you at the next off-site gathering AND at our 50th at the School in 2022. Let me know if you are ever on-Island, as we say here."

## Cynthia Anderson Barker:

"I look forward to seeing our wonderful group of classmates at our next gathering in 2018. These are very special times as we learn so much from each other as we move forward on different paths but with so much appreciation of each other. Pawley's Island is beautiful! We have renewed friendships and forged new ones. I encourage everyone to join us in 2018. Please be in touch with Joanna for details. Our son finished his second year of college and my husband is retired. I am still practicing civil rights law and really love my work! There is so much to do..."

## From Margaret "Peggy"

**Wascher Hellebush:** "My spring was very busy as both my children were married nine weeks apart; one in April and the other in June. May was also busy as I am the chairperson, and the one and only fundraiser, for my garden club...for the second year in a row. I have one more year as chair. It is quite an undertaking. We sell 12,000 plants and assorted tools. I missed seeing everyone at our last Reunion!!!"

**Jane Hadden Geisse:** "I don't have much news. Pretty much ditto from last newsletter. Keeping



Class of 1972 Reunion in Pawley's Island, SC

busy part time training horses, playing the violin in the local orchestra, visiting or having grand kids visit, and super involved at our animal shelter (we adopted out 94 animals in four days last week!). So much fun at Pawley's last trip!! It is amazing how it feels like we haven't skipped a day with each other even though it was two years since the last Reunion. And it was fun to get some people there we hadn't seen in years. We were at EWS at such a unique time and it has bonded us in a way that I'll bet no other class has. For those of you who haven't joined us on these excursions, you really should. Ask some of the people who came for the first time last year — they had a blast! I hope everyone is well and really look forward to hearing all the news."

## Catherine "Cathy" Miller Patel:

"I am working on my second Master's degree and somehow got through the first year successfully despite the turmoil with our daughter, Kate, and aging parents. And I have an idea for my thesis... my next course is on mental health and designing a program to be implemented within the community. Am also getting my tennis in, though I had a torn tendon in my right knee and was off the courts for seven weeks..."

**Anne Boynton Hilton:** "Not much new and different here for

news. Two of my three kids are around often with our collective five grandchildren ranging in age from two to 12. Our third child is slugging through residency as an orthopedic surgeon. I am still working at a consulting company; hit 41 years in May. Building a house — in year three of a painfully slow process considering hubby is doing it nights and weekends! Our Pawley's Island gatherings have been a blast. Every time another classmate is able to join the group, it adds a new dimension in both catching up and learning new things. Hopefully others can attend next time."

## Catherine "Cappy" Clark

**Shopeck:** "I don't have any special news. We are way behind in the grandchildren count with three, but little granddaughter, Brooke, is 7 months old (our son, Andy, and his wife, Kellie's, first) and she may not have arrived when we last communicated. We too have been traveling quite a bit this year, and I have a new black lab puppy, Penny, who is Brooke's age and full of happy puppy energy."

**Jill Englund Jensen:** "Life is about the same, but I have hopes of change. I continue to work full time managing the care of patients in an Emergency Department Observation Unit,

but I have almost convinced myself that I will retire as of my birthday in June 2018. That will leave one year to pay the full load for health insurance, but I worry that after another year of 12 hour rotating shifts, there won't be anything left to insure. The folks at SisterFest will remember that I was negotiating with Johns Hopkins for a part-time position as a clinical instructor in their FNP program. I am finishing my second semester and am enjoying myself. When I watch these neophyte practitioners, I can appreciate what I have learned in the last 20+ years. I hope I can pass some of that on to them. This last February, I joined a group of railroaders and took the Canadian from Montreal to Vancouver. The train has been maintained true to its construction in 1954. It was a four-day trip across some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. My next trip is planned for October, which will be Egypt and Jordan. I am slowly but surely crossing destinations off my bucket list. There are still more to visit, and I am hoping the knees will continue to hold up. Maybe I won't retire if I can keep traveling? If anyone comes near Delaware, be sure to let me know. I would love to see you."

**Sarah House Denby:** "Our grandson is now 2-1/2. My news is that my daughter, Lisa, is getting

married on July 29 on Mackinac Island, Michigan, to a young Turkish gentleman. They met in a bar in Philly at Halloween in 2015, and he is wonderful! His whole family will be flying over for the festivities. He is a contractor, and she works for the Delaware Valley Education Association. My son, Ted, was divorced last year after six years of marriage and is now dating a young woman from the Netherlands — she is 6' tall, and, since he is 6' 6", they make quite a pair. I will meet her for the first time at the wedding. He still works near Lausanne for Medtronic, as does she. Charley and I are still trying to play golf but are somewhat hampered by injuries — he needs carpal tunnel surgery (after 40 years of practice, he has “Prozac Thumb” from writing so many prescriptions) and my ankle is still problematic. Ah, the joys of aging! Still traveling during the fall-winter-spring — this year's big trip is with Viking in the Elbe with main stops being Prague and Berlin. Then we will visit his younger son and wife living in London.”

**Regina “Reggie” Scruggs:** “I rarely travel but have had the opportunity to do so this summer. spent two weeks in my hometown of NYC in June. It was the first time I had been back since I visited my dying father in the hospital in 2014. So I wanted it to be a happier visit, and it was!



Beryn Frank Harty '72 and husband in the Galapagos

Highlights included a Lerner & Loewe revue at the 92nd Street Y (I'm pretty sure I was the youngest person there!), American Ballet Theatre at Lincoln Center, and a screening of the new film, “The Hero,” and getting to meet the star, actor Sam Elliott, afterwards! In September I plan to travel to Des Moines, IA, for the first time, to see a college friend. I'm looking forward to going to the Des Moines Symphony opening concert of the season!”

**Mary “Mimi” Mead-Hagen:** “All is well here. Our two boys are fine. Harry is older and graduated with a major in economics two years ago. He is a business analyst working at an organics distribution center. Our younger son is a sophomore at UPenn playing squash on the team. Lee and I are working on the house and gardens when we are home, but have travel plans for a fun break heading up to Canada! We enjoyed a Talbott family reunion over Labor Day weekend. We had a good time up at EWS on the Sunday of Reunion. We were able to check out the new gym and squash courts — son, Wil, and his pal, Spencer, played a match and played with some of the EWS squashers. It was a great highlight to meet Meera and very fun to catch up with **Susie Churchill Bowman** and her hubby! Best wishes to all.”

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## 1973 REUNION

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

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## 1974

Vanessa Guerrini-Maraldi Wilcox

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Susan Bierwirth Arbios '74 and husband, Bill, scuba diving on their 18th wedding anniversary in Wakatobi, Indonesia

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## 1975

Doris “Veda” Pendleton McClain

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## 1976

Larke Wheeler

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**Douglas Wise Hytla** writes, “I am remarried to a wonderful man — John Stuart — who is a bloodstock agent. Buys, sells, manages thoroughbred race horses. We have lots of travel with lots of work. I love it. My oldest, Medora, was married June 10 up in Maine. She works for Twitter and her significant

other works for Morgan Stanley. My son is working in alternative fuels outside of Boston and the youngest is a rising junior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. I am so terrible with Facebook, and all the others, but on those many rainy days, I love to follow.

**Lisa Weber Greenberg** writes, “My oldest, Alison, just got engaged! The wedding will be in July 2018 in Stonington, CT, which is not far from **Anne Penniman**. I am still working as a fine arts appraiser and playing a lot of tennis. My son is working in DC for McKinsey and my youngest is a junior at Brown. She too will be home for the summer working for TripAdvisor. I will enjoy having her home again.”



Lisa Weber Greenberg's '76 daughter, Alison, with her fiancé

**Anne Lacouture Penniman** says, “Daughter, Jeannette, is an architect working in Philly and daughter, Amelia, is in Washington, DC looking for work after the election last fall. It's kind of tough out there! In any case, she has irons in the fire, and I know she'll land well. We have a dog who is like a third child, and then there's the horse that keeps me buying carrots and working on my posture! George and I bought some land in mid-coast Maine in 2012, and last year we completed an amazing high performance (low energy use) cabin that he

# Take Note

designed. Now we want to spend all our time there! For the last 25 years, I've gazed enviously at the houses he designs and now I get to live in one! All said, retirement is still in the distance... after losing my mother, his mother and my brother in the last two years, we understand that we are blessed and not to take life for granted."

## 1977

Juliet "Julie" Ward Flood 

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**Todd Taylor Estes'** daughter, Cali, was married on August 5, 2017.



**Anne Campbell Crandall '78** with her grandchildren

Adventures where she leads biking, hiking and kayaking trips that help people achieve their goals through outdoor adventures, fitness and nutrition. She welcomes visitors in Vermont.

**Deborah Ellwood** is sad to report that her beloved brother, Alexander L. Ellwood, died at age 49 on July 18, 2017. She wrote: "Alex will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, his incredible intelligence and his amazing faith and grace. Thank you for your love and support."

**Ashley Lickle O'Neil's** daughter, Morgan, married John Shaddock from Rochester, NY in Kennebunkport, ME on June 24, 2017. They live in Chicago. Ashley just celebrated her third



**Ashley Lickle O'Neil's '78** daughter, **Morgan**, and husband **John Shaddock** on their wedding day

anniversary as an agent at Halstead Real Estate in Darien, CT. She writes, "Call me if you are buying or selling in Fairfield County or need me to connect you with a great agent." She is looking forward to working her magic to get everyone together for our 40th Reunion in May 2018 "so we can win the attendance trophy again and have SO much fun again! Mark your calendars now!"

**Laura MacIntyre Shaw** shares, "I retired last August but it was short-lived. I got involved in community organizing and was asked to run for office to represent my district in the New Jersey legislature. So my days are now filled with fundraising and knocking on doors to talk to voters about issues that are important to them. I've attached a picture that the press took at a Women's Rally in Bedminster, NJ. I spoke about Equal Pay for Equal



**Laura MacIntyre Shaw '78** at a Women's Rally in NJ

Work which is a big issue for women here in NJ. If anyone else is thinking of running for office or wants to hear about it, get in touch on Facebook or through my website [www.shaw4assembly.com](http://www.shaw4assembly.com). You never know where life will take you!"

"In May, I (**Katharine Swibold**) was thrilled to celebrate my 35th Smith College Reunion and to be able to share the celebration with Walker's and Smith classmate, **Libby Swearengen Cerullo**. Now, we have our 40th Walker's Reunion next spring! My daughter, Hannah Becker, got married in Barcelona in October 2016, where she lives with her Catalan husband, and she now works as a receptionist for the BruStar Hotel group. She continues to perform and produce English language stand-up comedy (she won a contest in 2016 for English language comedy!) and sings with a friend. My son, Adam Becker, is engaged to be married June 9, 2018 in West Hartford. He continues to enjoy his job at Food52.com and is enjoying the coding course he is taking to enhance his skill set. He and his fiancé live in Bronxville, NY while she finishes her MFA in creative nonfiction at Sarah Lawrence. My husband is a lawyer and sole practitioner working out of our house. When he is not attending to clients, he is a contributing blogger for two music blogs, Cover Me and Star Maker Machine, and his own called Another Old Guy. He also does most of the cooking. I am still working at Barnard College in the Development Office. I just finished three terms (nine years) on the school board in Tarrytown and a four-year term on the Alumnae Association board at Smith. Libby's presentation of her art at our Smith Reunion was so inspiring, and I plan to make making art (photography) a priority in answering the *who am I* next question."



**Todd Taylor Estes '77**, her husband, **Bill**, and their children, **Zak**, **McKenna** and **Cali**



**Libby Swaengen Cerullo '78 and Katharine Swibold '78 at Smith's 35th Reunion**

**Libby Swaengen Cerullo** very generously wrote, "Seeing Katharine Swibold at our Smith Reunion, and thinking about how she has been the glue for many in our EWS class as well, made me feel sentimental and very appreciative. She has really worked to make everyone feel included. It's an interesting time for all of us; many are beginning to look at family/career/physical transitions and are asking (We've been educated to ask, at the very least) — 'Who am I next?' My current response is that I have revitalized my artistic side and begun working on two series: 'Passions: Portraits of Women as Trees,' and, 'The 7 Mortal Sins and Other Difficulties.' I work with textiles/mixed media and photo transfer. These are my stories! In a speech by the president of Smith, Katharine and I, and hundreds of other women at various stages of life, were reminded to 'write ourselves into our narrative.' (A subtle change from the message when we had more ahead than behind.) So, art, a renewed sense of adventure, and connections with friends have made this a great year so far."

**Cate Whiting** wrote: "For the last seven years, I've been living in the DC suburbs with my partner and two kids, still working as an attorney for the federal government. Have not been fired, directly maligned, or tweeted about, so all is good. What passes

for excitement here: we're about to go solar, installing those attractive panels in the next month or so. Kids (Benjamin (9) and Adelaide (7)) are busy, even in summer, with music, camp, and creating mischief with our au pair."

**Ashley Lickle O'Neil** asks us all to "SAVE THE DATE! Our 40th reunion (Oh dear Lord) is this May 18-20, 2018. Our class won the prize for best turnout/attendance 5 years ago and we will do it again! **Helen Hummer** and **Ellen Fauver** and I are the social chairs and are determined to exceed our last results. We are challenging everyone who plans to come to bring one person that didn't come last time. WE HAD A BLAST! Just ask anyone who attended in 2012. It was so inclusive and we had so many laughs together. This year you will see the new Centennial Center that will blow your mind and make you wonder how we made it through with EVERYTHING in Beaver Brook! Just let us know if you are coming and who you plan to bring! Maybe we can double our turnout!"

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## 1979

**Karen Polcer Bdera**

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**Karen Appel Brown** writes from Providence, RI: "Our one and only graduated Loyola University Chicago this spring and is pursuing a career in marketing. The next big family milestone is next year when Nick and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary! During her epic 2017 summer reunion tour, **Dana Carter Lange** and I spent a wonderful — but way too short — day together here in Providence. Looking forward to seeing more of our classmates at our next reunion!"



**A proud moment for Karen Appel Brown '79, husband, Nick, and son, Justin, following the 2017 Loyola University Chicago commencement ceremony**

**Kathy Ponvert Judge** writes, "My son is off to college, and I have empty nest syndrome! 'I'm in Charlottesville and he will be going to VCU in Richmond. On the bright side, I will gain fabulous closet space... I'm involved in the 'resistance' and cannot believe the shenanigans of the West Wing. God help us."

This in from **Mary Derbyshire Petty**: "Wonderful things are happening at the Derbyshire-Petty household. Mary's eldest son, Gordon, started his neuroscience Ph.D. program at Columbia in August; her daughter, Eliza, graduated from Bard College in May and is spending five months working as a wrangler in Wyoming; and her youngest son, Liam, is a sophomore at UVM. Mary just published her Amazon Bestselling book, *Agility at Any*



**Gordon, Eliza, and Liam Petty, children of Mary Derbyshire Petty '79**

*Age: Discover the Secret to Balance, Mobility, and Confidence.* She has fun keeping up with her EWS friends on Facebook!"

This in from the country-traveling **Dana Carter Lange**: Dana was traveling to make sure she attended her daughter Carter's orientation at Northeastern in Boston — and anyone who knows Dana, knows that she can make an amazing journey out of life! "I have been on the road for 18 days. Tomorrow will hopefully be the last at 19 if I can drive the 12 hours home to Durham. In total I drove about 39 hours and went about 2,000 miles. I walked 174,841 steps in the last 18 days which I never would have done without the kindness of friends willing to walk with me. On the other hand, we will not speak of the calories eaten. I visited 34 friends, seven from The Ethel Walker School years. For the most items cooked for meals she served me, the award goes to **Nancy Mack von Euler**. There were at least 15 different items cooked just for one salad. For the person who had me cook the most, the winner is **Warren Erickson** (former teacher and director of admissions at Walker's), who could not be beaten in this category since I spent the most time at his house. The award for making her husband have lunch with me on his birthday, even though he didn't know me, goes



**Stori Stockwell Cadigan '79 (and Dana Carter Lange's '79 hand!)**

# Take Note



Dana Carter Lange '79 and Nancy Mack von Euler '79



Dana Carter Lange '79 and Jamie Kyte Sapoch '77



Dana Carter Lange '79 and Warren Erickson, former director of admissions at Walker's



Karen Appel Brown '79 and Dana Carter Lange '79



Dana Carter Lange '79 and Karen Polcer Bdera '79



Julie Williams Wagoner '80 and husband, Larry Chip

to Julie Williams Wagoner '80 and her husband, Larry Chip Wagoner. The best sneaky way to pick up the check at every meal goes to **Stori Stockwell Cadigan**. The meal-splitter award goes to **Karen Appel Brown**, who allowed me to taste more yummy things without guilt. The person who came the longest distance to take a walk on the hottest day goes to **Karen Polcer Bdera**. Best political discussion goes to **Jamie Kyte Sapoch '77** who always knows how to phrase things in kindness."

And a quick update from yours truly, **Karen Polcer Bdera**: "I am still retired and loving it! I have several volunteer projects going on — I still fundraise for the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer, I continue to crochet scarves and lap robes for several charities, and I help out where I used to work (God's Love We Deliver) in their Finance Department during donation crunch time. My husband, Nick, and I still enjoy being in one another's company — we continue to race walk through many weekend races (I recently started tracking my races with the New York Road Runners and celebrated my 500th race by doing the Brooklyn Half Marathon), and continue to tackle some home improvement projects. We both enjoy our two annual trips to Aruba."

## 1980

Ann O'Reilly

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**Lué McWilliams** wrote, "I thought to share that my short film is doing well in festivals; it was a semi-finalist among 13 other films in the Katra International Film Festival in NYC. I hope that it has some positive impact on people. Here is the link in case you are interested: <https://vimeo.com/228230972>."

**Shannon Young Ray** reports, "The Ray triplets graduated from their respective colleges in May, with jobs! Hooray!!! Carson will stay in Austin while working for an oil and gas company; Taylor is moving to Dallas and is working for a rapidly growing insurance company; and Megan is a medical scribe at a local hospital ER while she begins the process of applying to physician assistant programs. Our middle son, Peter, also works in insurance in Dallas and is enjoying lots of fun travel on the side. Our oldest, Breck, Jr., works as a private wealth banker in Fort Worth, and his wife, Meredith, is a physical therapist. Their son, Breck III, is 9 months old and can do no wrong! I love to keep him every chance I get — he's truly



Shannon Young Ray '80 (aka CoCo) with grandson, Breck III, celebrating her 55th birthday in July

perfect. Our summer has been focused on Breck, Sr.'s recovery from two shoulder surgeries, with a third one scheduled in the fall. Did not go quite as planned, but he should be fine by the new year. Otherwise, we are both doing well and love spending time with our growing family. Now that I have been on Facebook for a year, I really enjoy keeping up with our class. Best to all!"

**Jennifer Hetzler** writes, "What happens when two old friends from Walker's get together? They try to do a selfie! Was it successful? You'll never know! It was so great to get together with **Jane-Byrd Wiley Terlizzi '79** in January. We had a great time catching up, and, as always, it was as if we had just seen each other. Long-lasting, wonderful friendships are one of the things I treasure most about our years at Walker's! So, what have I been up to? Well, I had heard there was a Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics in Columbus. I was curious how they'd pull that off in central Ohio, being that there is no ocean or Great Lake to jump into, so I signed up. We did it at the Columbus Zoo, in a makeshift pool right by the Polar Bears (I'm sure they were laughing at us), filled with 39-degree water, in the middle of February. We were lucky enough that it happened to be 70 degrees that day, so it was only cold for a quick second.



Jane-Byrd Wiley Terlizzi '79 and Jennifer Hetzler '80

BUT, with the help of some very generous ‘Walkerites,’ I was able to raise \$1,700 for the Special Olympics! Thanks so much, you guys! SO, who wants to join me for the 2018 plunge? I’m getting a team together. Come join me! I’d love to see you, even if you don’t want to take the plunge!”

**Stephanie Smith Breed** writes, “I started The Dorset Exchange — a consignment shop in Dorset, VT — eight years ago. I have two daughters in college, one a senior at Boston University and the other a sophomore at Northeastern.”

**Victoria McCain Carson** writes, “I am still in Wheaton, IL teaching kindergarten — and LOVE it! My husband Drew and I just celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary! Daughter, Emily, and her husband, Rex, have just finished their intern year at National Children’s Hospital and Walter Reed (Rex is in the Navy.) Our son Nat is getting married in Baltimore this August. It will be a HOT, fun weekend!”



**Jen and Nathaniel Carson, son of Victoria McCain Carson ’80**

**Blair Leisure** writes, “My small environmental company in Colorado turns 10 in July 2017! It’s been a great 10 years, and we are still going strong on wetlands, wildlife, and native plant restoration projects. Ted and Eloise are doing great and filling life with joy. My mom (**Kathleen B. Leisure ’50**) passed away last summer, and we miss her every day. Best wishes to my classmates!”



**Ted and Eloise Adelfang, children of Blair Leisure ’80 and grandchildren of Kathleen Blair Leisure ’50**



**Margot Ross Rose’s ’80 grandson, Henry Mills Johnson**

**Margot Ross Rose** writes, “Our first grandchild, a boy, arrived on August 17, so that is our big and all-consuming news. I would love to see you all!”

**Ann O’Reilly:** “In June, it was bittersweet to watch my daughter, **Katie Murphy ’17**, receive her EWS diploma as a third-generation graduate. I



**Katherine Murphy ’17, daughter of Ann O’Reilly ’80, granddaughter of Maureen Buckley O’Reilly ’50 and niece of Patricia O’Reilly ’77**

wish my mother — **Maureen Buckley O’Reilly ’50** — could have been there to see it! Happily, my sister **Patricia O’Reilly ’77** was able to be part of it. Katie headed to Boston in the fall, where she will pursue a degree in social work from Simmons College. My son, Jake, has one more year at UConn, where he is majoring in math. (Yes, Ms. Elmore, Ms. Tregillis, et al., I’m as shocked as you are!!) It’s been great to reconnect with EWS over the past four years. I hope anyone who hasn’t had a chance to already will make plans to see the campus. So many wonderful changes — not least of which is the new Centennial Center. Oh, to have had that facility when we were there!”



**Stephanie Davison ’80 with her girls: Gracie, 19, a student at Montana State University, and Amelia, 23, a student at the “University of Life”**

## 1981

**Veronica “Roni” Leger**

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**Roni Leger** writes, “I spent two weeks in California in May — a week in Pasadena and a week in San Francisco. I was working Monday through Thursday and exploring the other days. In San Francisco, I was a guest of the Marks’ Hotel — one of the finest in the world!! **Shelley Marks** has an amazing house in Presidio Heights with the cutest cat, Ajax,

to keep me company during my work calls. Her son, Nicholas, was as tall as me in May; but when I saw them again at her house in Wingsarsheek Beach in July, he was taller than me! Nick just graduated from Marin Country Day and is now attending his first choice, Lick-Wilmerding.”

As I sent out my request for news, **Betsy Schreier Davis** had just arrived in Peru to trek to Machu Picchu. She wrote, “I’m not doing the traditional Inca trail but rather an off-the-beaten-path route. Will hike for eight days, tour Machu Picchu, then spend another day in the Sacred Valley. Two weeks in all!” But that wasn’t her only Summer adventure. Betsy also wrote that she spent the beginning of the summer in California and Vermont with her son who just graduated from Hobart and was also with her in Peru. When she is not traveling the world, Betsy works at The Princeton Day School as the registrar/database manager. And she started a company with her son called Envi Threads. She wrote, “Website is not up and running yet, still in the prototype stage. But stay tuned. The product can be used for athletes or travelers on the go to hold money, cell phone, passport, etc. close to the body. The original product I designed was for medical purposes, to find a good solution for breast cancer patients post mastectomy and dealing with drains. But my product can be used for multiple medical needs and can double as a pouch for an athlete.”

**Meg Filoon** crossed paths with **Kit O’Brien Rohn ’82** and **Emily**



**Kit O’Brien Rohn ’82 and Meg Filoon ’81**

# Take Note



Emily Eckelberry Johnson '82 and Meg Filoon '81

Eckelberry Johnson '82 in the summer during her travels through New England and took some pictures!

Pam Safford was able to connect with Amy Cleveland Bowman. Pam wrote, "Amy let me know that she would be on the east coast to celebrate her mom's 90th, so Dan and I — now living in New Canaan — buzzed into the city and met Amy and her cousin at the Yale Club. We had just an hour together before she had to get to a show but managed to catch up and laugh a lot; always reminded of the strong and abiding friendship we first formed at EWS."

After a 25-year art gallery career, Ann Marenakos has become a senior accredited fine art appraiser and preferred Chubb appraiser. Her practice is active in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, with occasional assignments elsewhere. She has had a great time getting to know and working with



Ann Marenakos '81

Cristina "Tina" Orsi-Lirot '74, realtor and residential remodeler extraordinaire, who also lives in Darien, CT.

Mary Beth Rettger has started a Master's in Applied Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania in September. It's a one year program, once a month in Philadelphia. She wrote that she was inspired to pursue it after the last Reunion. "My accomplished EWS sisters made me think maybe I had one more degree in me!" Also, both of her kids are now at boarding school. Emma started her freshman year at Concord Academy, joining Daniel who is in his junior year.

Alison Bruce Crichton-Stuart wrote from her horse riding trip in Romania which was a graduation present for her daughter, Flora. "I am now based in London and have started a private psychotherapy practice and am working at the Tavistock Clinic doing the last part of the accreditation system for the English Psychotherapy system. I am also doing another MA, working psychoanalytically with couples. I miss living in New York but have adapted to London life. In the summer it is wonderful with long, warm days that make up for the dark, wet winter. Lots of love to everyone!"

Amy Cleveland Bowman writes, "A quick trip to NYC over Mother's Day weekend, and I caught up with Pam Safford. Life has thrown us a couple of curveballs, but we're standing tall!"



Amy Cleveland Brown '81 and Pam Safford '81 visiting in NYC



The Rettger '81 family in Edinburgh, Scotland in June

I also want to mention a book, *Dig Where You Are*, written by our classmate, Nan Alexander Doyal. It's a fantastic read!"

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## 1982

Cynthia T. Vega 🇵🇷

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

Hello to all! I, Cynthia Vega, am now your class correspondent. I want to, again, thank Eve Agush Costarelli for doing a fabulous job and keeping us all together and informed for the past, like 20 or 30 years!! You are wonderful! Last May, 24 of us made it back to School for Reunion. The School looks better than it has ever looked. The new sports center and the pool are spectacular. The Class of '82 had the highest turnout by far, and won all sorts of accolades for our achievements, including The Sun-Dial Bowl that accompanied us proudly throughout the weekend. Literally, it was the centerpiece of our after hours drinks party at the hotel. And, because the Class of '82 is not to be outdone, we also won another glimmering silver bowl that represented the most money raised by the people attending Reunion.

Our two Tracey's (Reifler and Flach Shiel) travelled the farthest from the state of Washington, and I was our international representation, flying in from the Dominican Republic. We had a rousing (and surprisingly competitive) dance contest with the Class of 2007 at the Ba-Na-Na where Hope Wickser Lufkin, Diana Aixala, Heather Sweeny and Kit O'Brien Rohn wowed the crowd with their moves and rhythm. And when Sister Sledge came on, the playful competition dissolved into a unified chorus of "We Are Family!"

The Dorian Gray award is split between Diana Aixala and Lee Gowen, both of whom, I kid you not, looked like they stepped right off their senior yearbook pages. Hooley Stewart Wilks arrived in a time capsule, dressed in kilt, L.L. Bean sweater and boots — the full regalia — classic Hooley! Our own head of Dials, Emily Eckelberry Johnson, was with us, having us laughing and rolling on the floor just like old times. A highlight was her toast to the entire alumnae gathering at Saturday's dinner, when Emily took the dress off of her back (literally!) to share with Courtney Callahan in order to show the lengths of our deep connection, generosity and devotion to each other. The eyes of our new School administration popped when the dress started to come off, and then broke into a smile when Emily



Courtney Callahan, Jean Brigham Chant, Hoey Stewart Wilks, Leila Howland Wetmore, Tracey Reifler and Emily Eckleberry Johnson from the Class of 1982

uncovered a cleverly hidden dress underneath. The Class of '82 was in true irreverent form! We were all exceedingly proud that the Distinguished Alumna award went to Kit for her dedication to the School, leader of the search team who discovered and hired Meera Viswanathan, and her tireless work as chair of the board of EWS. Hooray Sunray, Kit! At Reunion, we all got to meet **Leila Howland Wetmore's** daughter, Eliza Wetmore '18, who is now a senior. What an amazing young woman! She has an infectious smile and confident demeanor —

just like her wonderful mom! We also met Greta, **Jenna Schnabel Wedemeyer's** daughter, who is thinking about applying to EWS — another fun-loving young girl!

**Claudia Ingham and Sue Czepiel** got together for five days in Montana to hike through Glacier National Park. They also road-tripped through several small towns in Montana and even experienced an earthquake during their trip.

**Beth White Smith** has started a lavender farm a few miles south of

downtown Princeton, NJ. They have a room listed in Airbnb — you can go visit!! It looks beautiful! Contact Beth at [Bethspractice@aol.com](mailto:Bethspractice@aol.com) for more information.

Also this summer, **Heather Sweeny and Hope Wickser Lufkin** spent a few days together in Nantucket. Heather also ran into **Ellen Gerry Breed '79** at a dinner party. Emily Eckleberry Johnson saw **Tracy Denney Hritz**. I see **Ana Perez-Bernal** on occasion and think of **Rocio Pellerano de Cabre** and her boys often.

That is all until next time!!

## 1983 REUNION

**Anna Perkins de Cordova**

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**Anna Perkins de Cordova** says, "Greetings Class of '83!

Get your calendars out. We have a Reunion coming up on May 18-20, 2018. 35 years. I guess that just happened while we were busy doing other things! This will be a rare chance to catch up and marvel at the truly great state of affairs on campus. In the meantime: Spread some Sunshine! Dial me up! Fire off a quick email letting us all know where and



The Mini-Me's: Lyric Abbott, daughter of Andrea Nelson Abbott '83, and Claire de Cordova, daughter of Anna Perkins de Cordova '83

how you are. If words escape you, pictures are perfect. I am writing this note from Manchester, MA where **Andrea Nelson Abbott, Lili Arienti Sloane** and I get a chance to meet at the end of every summer. Lili escaped before I could get the picture taken, but, trust me, none of us look a day older than when you last saw us. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 35th Reunion.

**Monica Vega de Geraldés** writes, "A few 1983 classmates reunited for a EWS mini reunion in the Dominican Republic in early September 2016. **Ximena Eleta de Sierra, Monica Jiménez Echeverría, Ady Artime** and **Ana Duran** were greeted at the airport by me and my sisters, **Paula Vega '89** and **Cynthia Vega '82**, and were



Class of 1982 at Reunion

# Take Note



Ximena Eleta de Sierra '83, Monica Jiménez Echeverría '83, Ana Duran '83, Monica Vega de Geraldés '83 and Ady Artime '83



Clockwise starting from standing left: Monica Vega de Geraldés '83, Ady Artime '83, Ana Duran '83, Ximena Eleta de Sierra '83 and Monica Jiménez Echeverría '83

whisked to the beach house on the north coast of the island. The wonderful five-day get together was filled with loads of fun and good laughs while we caught up on each others' lives, shared memories, and just had a good ol' time. Even though some of us hadn't seen each other in decades, it almost seemed like no time had passed at all. Promises were made about upcoming similar get-togethers."

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## 1984

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)

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## 1985

Elizabeth Potter Giddings

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Esther Pryor

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

Kathleen Brigham Uberuaga

writes, "I live in Rye, NY and have three children, Eliza (19), Nate (15) and Zack (10). I am director of The Learning Consultants, which is a private tutoring and education consulting group. We service students in NYC, Westchester and Fairfield Counties. I love my job and helping students. I spend a lot

of time in upstate NY near the Cazenovia area where my partner, Chris, lives. I see Lissa Potter often and keep in touch with Emiliana Vegas as well."

**Liz Pryor Bradley's** news: In between feverishly trying to save our Democracy by posting salient and witty comments on Twitter and Facebook and caring for her husband, Gerrit, and their two daughters, Eleanor (16) and Willa (14), Liz has been volunteering on Marblehead School and Essex County non-profit boards. She also has been enjoying her kids, their theater productions, hockey and soccer games and band performances because she knows time with them at home is flying by! She and her twin, **Esther Pryor**, just celebrated their 50th birthday with family and friends in New Hampshire where Liz spends her summers. Liz loves keeping in touch with all of her EWS friends online and hopes everyone has a great year ahead. Go Suns!!

**Deborah Flagg Smith** lives in Petaluma, CA with her husband, Christopher, and sees **Tricia Zimmerman** fairly often. Tricia and her husband, Andrew, joined Deb for a summer porch night party.

**Allison Ross Hofstetter** writes, "I am the owner and instructor at Custom K9 Dog Obedience School established in 2009. Both my husband and I have turned our hobby and love for dogs into a lifestyle and business. Lots of hard work and long hours, but certainly worth the rewards!!"

**Surina Khan** sends this news: "This September I celebrated my three year anniversary as CEO of the Women's Foundation of California ([www.womensfoundca.org](http://www.womensfoundca.org)), a statewide community foundation that makes grants to advance gender equity and trains community leaders to be effective policy advocates. I've been mostly

living in California since 2000 except for the three years I was in NYC from 2011-2014 working at the Ford Foundation leading Ford's gender equity portfolio. My partner is a professor at UC Irvine so we split our time between Northern and Southern California. We try to get to our vacation home in Sea Ranch on the Sonoma Coast as much as possible with our dog, Rosie. I've enjoyed seeing **Mari Aixala** here in California and meeting her daughter, Ana Carolina. I've stayed in touch with many EWS friends over the years."

**Esther Pryor** says, "I am living in West Hartford and run a boutique chocolate company, E. Pryor Chocolate. When not in the kitchen, I consult on special events and volunteer with a number of non-profit organizations. I joined the Boston Symphony Board of Overseers this past winter and spent a lot of time at Tanglewood this past summer getting to know the inner workings of the BSO. I am also a trustee at several Hartford area art and culture institutions including the Hartford Stage, the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and I am on the board of regents at the University of Hartford. I ran into **Heather Mueller Fahy** this summer while shopping at a local farm. I love seeing my classmates' Facebook posts, and for those of you who do not know, we have an EWS Class of 1985 page — please join!"

**Leila Wood Stuhr** sends this news: "I live in Ridgefield with my husband, Chuck, and two boys, Charlie, a rising sophomore, and Reggie, a rising freshman. Both kids attend Wooster School in Danbury and are involved in anything sport related (golf, tennis, swimming, basketball, ultimate Frisbee). I work part time as a veterinary internist at area practices doing ultrasounds

and giving second opinions, and we own the Animal Eye Clinic in Wilton where my husband is the ophthalmologist.”

**Robin Raff Taylor** says, “I’m working overseas for the U.S. Department of Justice. My husband and three kids are with me in Stuttgart, Germany, at the U.S. European Command. Before that I was at the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Jakarta. I’d been a federal prosecutor in Northern California before going abroad. I have three kids — Allyson (17), who is looking at colleges and plays basketball, Erin (15), and Derek (11), who play soccer and basketball. The girls ride horses and spent a summer at Walker’s camp. I’ve seen **Mari Pedroso Campano ’84** over the years when in Florida. My mother is selling our family home, and just this week I found a lot of old photos from high school, including pictures of **Chrissy Wood-Smith Lindgren, Leila Wood Stuhr, Sarah Seaman Simmons, and Mary McQueeney** among others.”

**Anne Marie Roe** writes, “I have a little girl named Charlotte who was born on December 1, 2015 and is now 20 months old and keeping me busy. While most of my friends are doing college tours, I have been going to daycare. Being a single mom is a lot of work but is marvelous. I’m also working in the Bronx at Jacobi



**Anne Marie Roe’s ’85 daughter, Charlotte, age 20 months**

Medical Center as the director of reproductive genetics and as the co-director of the OBGYN clerkship at Jacobi for medical students rotating from Einstein. My primary clinical activity is covering the maternal fetal ultrasound unit but I still take calls once a month. We have very high risk patients which keeps it interesting.”

**Emiliana Vegas** sends this: “I am still living in Washington, DC. I joined the Inter-American Development Bank in 2012 and am their education division chief where I manage a team of professionals working throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to help improve the region’s education systems. After many years at The World Bank, I am really loving working in Latin America exclusively! My two boys, Tobias and Emilio Abelman, are a great source of joy. Toby is an eleventh grader at Phillips Exeter Academy and Emilio is a ninth grader beginning this past fall. And, my most recent and exciting news is that I got married in July 2016 to David Lawson, whom I met six years ago and has been an important part of the boys’ and my lives since. David is originally from North Carolina but has lived in NYC, Japan, Australia and for many years in DC. I am happy to report that I stay in touch and occasionally see **Lissa Potter, Kathleen Brigham Uberuaga, Wendy**



**Emiliana Vegas ’85 and her husband, David Lawson, are joined by her sons, Toby and Emilio Abelman, on their wedding day.**



**Lissa Potter ’85, Emiliana Vegas ’85 and Kathleen Brigham Uberuaga ’85**

**Walker and Vera Gibbons** — all of whom are thriving personally and professionally. I love seeing updates on social media from other EWS friends and am so proud of all of you!”

**Stacy Winkler** writes, “I am a dog agility instructor in North San Diego County in Vista. I have four dogs of my own: Keen, Groove, Fresh and Boon, and I have been teaching agility for approximately 16 years. I teach at my home field, travel to different states and countries to give seminars as well as teach students around the world in my online classes. I am also a regular contributor to agility publications. I am hoping to relocate to the Portland, OR area sometime soon! I miss green trees and rain. I may end up eating my words. I can’t believe it’s been over 30 years since



**Stacy Winkler ’85 and Keene**



**Stacy Winkler’s ’85 dog, Fresh, running through the poles**



**Stacy Winkler’s ’85 dog, Groove, on the yellow teeter**

I was with my buds at Walker’s hanging out at the barn. Time does fly!

**Silvia Jovel** writes, “I am alive and well and living in Los Angeles, a place far, far away from the tranquil New England of my high school years. The biggest event of this year was my 50th, fraught with expectations and fears and thoughts of what it was supposed to be and mean and how it was to be celebrated — with welcome or with fear. I have to say, it was a low-key event of happy tranquility, shared among friends and family and with the hope and expectation of good years still ahead. Oh yeah, this year I also

# Take Note

climbed the Great Wall of China! I am about to begin my 10th year of counseling and my 18th year of working in education. And it has been a good life. When I think about EWS, I think about the young and insecure individual that I was and all that I could have accomplished if I had had the necessary self-esteem and courage to be who I was. It is what fuels my work in the high school setting — to show individual students that they can accomplish anything they set out to do if they can first accept themselves and their roots. Today, I realize that I am where I was meant to be. I channel the strength and affirmation I received from Bernita Sundquist and Mary Nelson and Mr. Carrington and the many other teachers and coaches who first believed in me and showed me that I mattered. I channel the passion, the voice and vocabulary and strength of strong leadership in fighting for my students' rights and for their access to education in a way that surprises those around me. My students believe in my honesty and high expectations for them and that is all that matters. I learned a strength at Walker's



Silvia Jovel '85 climbing the Great Wall of China

that I have only just realized, probably because I had the wrong parameters and gauges with which to judge my accomplishments. You may not see me in the news, you may not realize my accomplishments — they are within the anonymity of the West Coast, far away from Simsbury. But please know, that they are a result of a Walker's education. An education that owes much also to the friends I made and to the many memories I have of the Class of '85."

**Mary McQueeney** sent this: "In December of 2015, I moved to Roswell, NM (yes, that Roswell). I am the Children's Court Attorney for the Children, Youth and Families Department. Loving the job and living out here!"

**Tina Wright** says, "I currently split my time between NYC and Phoenix. When not racking up JetBlue flight points, I can be found working on live events and festivals, most often in the food and wine space, and experiential brand activations."

**Lacy Frazer** writes, "I think the last time I sent a note in with a picture of my children, they were between ages 1 and 5... so here is an updated photo of my three children: Jack is almost 18, Joseph is almost 17, and Caroline will be 13 by the time



Lacy Frazer '85

this gets published. My family and I have lived in Chapel Hill, NC for over 14 years. I continue to work as a criminal psychologist for the federal government, a job that I have truly loved. I am eligible to retire this September, but with three children headed to college, I suspect I will work until mandatory retirement at age 57. My wife, Marie, and I just celebrated our 25th anniversary and have spent every waking moment of the last 17 years raising children...you can bet I am looking forward to my retirement and their launching into life! It is so hard to believe that it has been 32 years since we graduated Walker's! Sometimes it feels like it was yesterday. In fact, my boys have been in film school this summer (budding filmmakers) and I found myself doing a lot of reminiscing as I moved them into their dorm room, walked the campus, and ate in the dining hall."



Tina Wright '85 at Joshua Tree National Park after the 2017 Palm Desert Food & Wine Festival



Lacy Frazer's '85 children Joseph, Jack and Caroline

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## 1986

Tahra Makinson-Sanders

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"Hello all, **Amy Turner Fraterelli** here. I live in Colorado with my family. I have two boys, a ginormous sophomore named Ben and a soon to be 12-year old named Sam. They are both musicians attending the Denver School of the Arts. I work for a large cardiology practice as an electrophysiology procedure coordinator. I spend my free time doing fun stuff and laughing as much as possible with my family. We plan to spend our summer weekends paddle boarding at a couple Colorado reservoirs."

**Amy Rogers** says, "I am still working at Porter's as the dean of college counseling. (Yes! I am Mrs. Dee!) My son is a freshman at Avon Old Farms next year, and my daughter is just one year behind him in eighth grade. Being in the area, I am at EWS often. The new Centennial Center is quite remarkable, and School looks great. Speaking of Mrs. Dee,

she is now Julia Eells, head of San Francisco University School and a close friend. She remembers the Class of 1986 fondly! In addition to raising my own two kids, I am also taking care of my 86-year-old father.”

**Cherie Sanborn Weed** says, “Hello all! I’m still living in Seal Harbor, ME. My son Ben is 13 (Yikes!) and my daughter Grace is 11. Steve and I celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary in August. I’ve also decided to jump ship and start a garden and landscape consulting business. It’s exciting and a bit scary to be out there in such a public way but being my own boss does have its advantages. It is allowing me more time with my children and time to raise our new golden retriever, Miles! We were so sad to lose our Wyatt at only 5 from lymphoma. Miles is filling the hole he left behind and digging new ones. I guess the decision to bring him to work with me daily has taught him a few bad tricks. If only I could get him to dig the holes in the right spots!”

**Tahra Makinson-Sanders** sends this update: “I just finished a terrific cycling trip in the French Alps where there were long days in the saddle and epic 17-kilometre climbs, followed by wine and cheese. My women’s sportswear line, TMak Sportswear, is now moving along. Thanks to any classmates that purchased one of my *Après Sport Dresses*. It’s

hard to be a solo-preneur but fun to learn new things every day. I continue to hold a day job in hopes that my own business can take off and support me soon! I am also considering a move out of San Francisco but it’s hard to imagine where that would be.”

**Kelley Schuler Norcia** writes, “I am loving reading what you all are up to! Walker’s seems like yesterday AND a lifetime ago. I’m living in Connecticut and have been teaching elementary school for 13 years. “I’m burnt out now so I fired up the entrepreneur in me and am building a portrait photography business. I have a studio at my house and someday look forward to doing it full time. I am married and my daughter, Allie, is a senior at Smith College this year.”

**Hilary Getman Pearson** writes, “I moved back to Connecticut about 11 years ago and have been teaching first and second grade at The Foote School. Prior to that, I taught in Montessori schools in Portland, OR and Madison, WI. I have two kids, Henry is a junior in high school and Evie is a sophomore, so we are in the midst of the college application process. On Monday I will be celebrating my 24th wedding anniversary.”

**Claudia Mesch Smith** writes, “Hi All! I am in Seattle and the program administrator for a large women’s health study at Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center.

I have been at Fred Hutch for 24 years. Damon and I had been married 25 years in September! We have three children: Elsa (20) is a junior at Georgetown University, Adelaide (18) is a senior in high school and Orson (14) is a freshman.”

**Thatcher Chamberlain Carter** writes, “I’m still teaching at Riverside City College in Riverside, CA. My husband, Ross, teaches culinary arts at Beaumont High School. Our son is at Oregon State University studying forestry, and our daughter started at Goucher College this fall. I have sabbatical next year, so I will be working on finishing my novel, *Salt City*, about a family divided (literally and figuratively) by the elevated highway in Syracuse, NY.”

From **Micaela Porta**: “You know it all, **Tahra Makinson-Sanders**. What can I tell you? I am seriously struggling with hot flashes, lower back pain, and the Trump administration. I manage to squeeze in loving, light-hearted moments with friends and family even as I continue to troll Scott Pruitt at the EPA. I’m happy to be working with my local library’s art gallery and with the League of Women Voters, and preparing to welcome a refugee family to our area soon with a group of volunteers that includes the amazing **Hooey Wilks ’82**. Husband, Victor Alvarez, sons Victor (16) and Lucas (11), are all well, but the real action is with my dog, Ziggy (1-1/2) as rotten a rootin’ tootin’ rascal as ever there was. Thank goodness for pets.”

**Alison Carlin Carrabba** sent this: “This is sort of silly, but **Susie Politano La Rosa’s** son and my daughter are both at Union College together. When Emily was a senior and Matt was a junior, we visited Union together. It was the last school Emily looked at and the first that Matt looked at! Nothing else new or exciting for me.”

**Sri Eka Suandini** writes, “I never thought I would be doing anything related to education, but the fact is I am now the principal of my own inclusive preschool with students from 3 months to 6 years old and half of my students are special needs. I am also doing counseling for parents who have special needs children and beginning to do more of psycho-spiritual healings for self (body, mind and soul) development. As I say to people, I am in the business of ‘making people happy’ and focusing more on ‘human being’ development.”

**Adicia Cohen-Johnson** sent this: “Hi everyone. I recently spent a weekend with **Lamonda Williams ’87, Nichelle Davidson Bussey ’88, Wendy Martin ’87, and Sonja Neill-Turner ’85** in the Hudson Valley at a cozy B&B. We spent the weekend visiting vineyards, laughing, and going down memory lane. I am currently an assistant principal at a middle school and am working at our family’s non-profit organization, More Than a Game. We provide free tutoring, mentoring, community service opportunities for youth and parent workshops on various topics. We also conduct fitness classes and lessons on healthy eating for youth. I am planning on retiring in five years and doing some consulting or maybe just stand at the door of Target and pass out flyers.”

**Daphne Church McGinn** writes, “I’ve decided to shift my consulting practice to focus on the exploding cannabis market in California so I can help these companies prepare for when it goes to the consumer level. My goal is to increase awareness for their products and help educate the newbies coming into the space. There’s going to be a huge need for education on how to use, when to use and which methods are the best. I want to help spread the gospel of CBD, which is



**Tahra Makinson-Sanders ’86** on a cycling trip

# Take Note

non-psychoactive and can heal just about everything and can be used by adults, kids and even pets! Aging women — ugh, which includes us now — can also use it to help offset some of those not so awesome (peri) menopausal symptoms too. So really excited to be a part of the next era and how it will change how we treat our health issues and overall well-being.”

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## 1987

**Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)**

**Liz West Glidden** gave birth to Everett West Glidden on February 7, 2017 (8 lb. 15 oz., 21 inches long.) Everett is doing great and just started crawling. He is bummed he can't grow up and come to Walker's, but he looks forward to meeting some Walker's women in his future! Liz has gone back to work as the land use planner in Haddam, CT. She lives in East Haddam with her husband, Tom, daughter Kate (5) and two naughty hunting dogs.



Liz Glidden's '87 son, Everett West Glidden

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## 1988 REUNION

Carolyn "Carrie" Pouch

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## 1989

Marsha Davis 

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## 1990

Amanda Pitman 

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**Heather Fay Dawson**, executive producer at Connecticut Public Broadcasting, was nominated for two Emmys in the following categories: director, non-live (post produced) for "On Tap: New England Brewing Co." and an interstitial for "Amplify: The Meadows Brothers at Heublein Tower." Hooray Sunray, Heather!

**Brooke Gaffney Redmond** lives in Concord, MA with her husband, Patrick, and her two boys, Ben (11) and William (9). For the last ten years, she has worked in the food and agriculture space as a consultant



Brooke Gaffney Redmond '90 with husband, Patrick, and sons, Ben and William

with Radish Road, a consulting firm providing businesses and nonprofits with fundraising, communications, and program-development services. Recently she became the special gifts officer at Shelburne Farms, a nonprofit education center for sustainability and a 1,400-acre working farm on the shores of Lake Champlain in Shelburne, VT (working remotely from Concord). When Brooke isn't working or mothering, she can be found doing yoga, gardening or plotting the demise of the enormous woodchuck that annually does a number on her family's kale and sunflowers. She misses everyone and thinks about her days at Walker's often and fondly. She sends much love to everyone!

**Kate Graetzer** writes, "I'm living just outside of Albany, NY in the town of Delmar with my fiancé, John, and our three kids (Piper (11), Harper (9) and Orson (8)), who keep us insanely busy. We plan to get married next summer. I recently celebrated my seventh work anniversary at the Community Health Care Association of New York State, where I direct the grassroots advocacy and communications programs. It's a crazy time to be working in healthcare policy! I recently hung out with **Heather Fay Dawson** and family (who live right down the street from Walker's!) and we took the kids to campus to check out our old



Kate Graetzer's '90 and Heather Fay Dawson's '90 kids in front of EWS

haunts. Hope I don't need to wait until our next class reunion to run into more of you ladies!"

**Jenny Belknap** writes, "I am happily still working at Clinique, where my role was recently expanded to SVP, Global Consumer and Product Marketing. My team and I just finished a whirlwind trip to Kuala Lumpur and London, which was both amazing and exhausting. My husband, Tim, and son, Will (6), and I are still splitting our time between NYC and Connecticut. Will just finished his first year at The Town School and is excited to have started first grade this past fall. I hope everyone is doing well! Definitely let me know if you are ever in NYC."

**Tanya Bradford Ouhrabka** lives in Barrington, RI. She is a certified life coach working with women and girls towards greater self-acceptance in their lives. Her son, Chase, is a boarding senior at Kimball Union Academy; her son, Thatcher, is a boarding freshman at Kimball Union Academy; and her daughter, Alexis, is a seventh grader at The Barrington Middle School with hopes of attending Walker's someday herself.

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## 1991

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## 1992

Whitley Ram Schoeny

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## 1993 REUNION

Augusta “Mimi” Morrison Harrison

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Toan Huynh recently represented Accenture as managing director for their innovation programs during a visit from Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy. They discussed innovation and the workforce of the future and showcased demonstrations around IoT (connected) technologies, Alexa and User Experience among some of the use cases. Toan and her broader team focus on how to enable companies, people, and cities to innovate, compete, and operate in the new digital world.

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## 1994

Philippa Eschauzier Earl

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Toan Huynh '93 presenting to CT Governor Dannel Malloy (left)

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## 1995

Nicole Lewenson Shargel

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## 1996

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## 1997

Alicia Benedetto

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Karen Crowe

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**Alicia Benedetto** says: “I’m enjoying a beautiful summer with my family. We spent time in Martha’s Vineyard with my parents and sister. I started working again in January at Magic Box Productions, a media arts education nonprofit. Madeline is off to kindergarten in September. Time needs to slow down. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our reunion! It’s amazing

how we can pick up right where we left off after 20 years. SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 2022!

**Kristin Jones Brown** writes, “I was very sad to miss the reunion, however we welcomed our second boy, Dylan Michael on April 24, 2017. Ryan loves being a big brother. I am a part-time, stay-at-home mom and work doing behavioral assessments for children in foster care.”



**Kristin Jones Brown '97 with family**

named Lily Marion. She joined her older sister, Emma Rose. Melissa also recently changed careers and started teaching high school biology after 10 years in biomedical research.

**Heather Fensick Cremasco** shares, “I got married in September 2016 to my husband, Aaron, and we bought our first home in May. It’s been a big year for us!

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## 1998 REUNION

Brooke Berescik-Johns

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## 1999

Vivienne Felix

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## 2000

Allison Quigley

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**Samara Khalique** writes that she completed her rheumatology fellowship in mid July and will be starting as a rheumatologist in a private practice with two others at the end of September.

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## 2001

Alicia Little Hodge

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Class of 1997 celebrating Reunion

# Take Note



Sasha Osbourne '01 married Charles Breland, Jr. on October 16, 2016



Sasha Osbourne Breland '01 with daughter, Charlise Rae Breland, born March 5, 2017

an amazing experience to step away from working to hone my personal and professional leadership skills and I cannot wait for what my second year has in store! This photo is the group of powerful and amazing women of color that are in my cohort. I chose this photo because it reminds me of the incredible community and family that I built at Walker's. Our class is shattering the status quo as the most diverse class to enter Harvard for the Doctor of Education Leadership program, and I owe all the glory to God for allowing me to step into this opportunity and be surrounded by a group of women that are fierce, supportive, and dynamic.”

## 2003 REUNION

Your class needs a correspondent! Contact [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org)



Liz Cobey Simonton '03 and her husband, Scott, welcomed a daughter, Eleanor “Gray” Simonton, on April 30, 2017

## 2004

Averill Wyman-Blackburn 

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**Sarah Prager** came out at the age of fourteen. Now married to her wife, Liz, and a new mom to their baby, Eleanor, she lives in Wallingford as a writer and entrepreneur. Sarah is the creator of the LGBTQ history mobile app, Quist, used by thousands around the world. Her work with Quist has gotten her invited to the White House, the offices of Google, Twitter, and Microsoft, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and universities in four countries. Her first book, *Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World*, came out May 23, 2017 from HarperCollins. Sarah is also the co-founder of Resistance Mamas-New Haven County, a group of activist moms. Sarah was honored at an event on June 20, 2017 hosted by Young Women Rising. Inspired to move past the notion that young people are our future leaders, this event celebrated Connecticut's young women leaders that are making a difference in the lives of women and girls, here and now. Awardees were all under the age of 40 and demonstrated exemplary leadership and a commitment in their community.



Crystal Ward '02 (second from left) and her doctoral studies cohort at Harvard

## 2002

Holly Jackson

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**Virginia Russell** is starting the Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley in microbiology in August 2017.

**Crystal Ward** shared the following update: “I’ve just finished my first year of doctoral studies at Harvard! It’s been



Brittany Coons Noble '02, Dr. Julia Sheldon (co-dean of faculty at EWS), Holly Jackson '02, Cerra Cardwell '02, Emily Forman '02, and Holly Guzman '02



Sarah Prager's '04 daughter Eleanor

Allison Clark's news: "I moved to southern Spain to teach English four and a half years ago and met my husband that same year at a Carnival festival. After dating for a year and a half, we got married in June 2014, and I moved to live with him in his town that's just north of Barcelona. Since then, I've completed a Masters in Nutrition and Health at a Barcelona university, have published various scientific articles ranging on topics such as immunology, genetics and the mitochondria, all of which have a unifying focus on the gut microbiota. I will likely start my doctorate research in July 2018 at the research center at the Hospital Vall d'Hebron in Barcelona. I will be studying the effect the gut microbiota (also called intestinal flora) has on colon cancer development. Nerdy mumbo jumbo ;- ) I was a bridesmaid in my classmate and freshman and sophomore year roommate **Berit Barr Crawford's** wedding in Charleston last April



Allison Clark and Joana hiking the Priorat region of Catalonia



Allison Clark '04 with her mother Betsy Sivage Clark '67, her sister Lindsay, her daughter Joana and her husband's niece

which was really fun especially because we reunited with other EWS classmates. Our daughter, Joana, was born on June 30, 2017 and we are really loving all the adventures parenthood has to offer...except for diaper blowouts and when she decides to be active and ready for lots of entertainment in the middle of the night. We plan to stay here in the Barcelona area and raise Joana here. I still consider my EWS friends the best friends I've made!"

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## 2005

**Emma Bedford-Jack**

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**Emma Bedford-Jack** writes, "Silas Hudson Bedford-Jack was born on November 10, 2016 to Emma and her wife, Angie. Both moms are very proud and excited to welcome this bundle of hope and dreams into their lives and the world." Emma and family have recently moved to Pittsburgh, PA.

**Katherine Rodriguez Colone** writes, "My husband and I were recently relocated to the Bay Area!

We are enjoying our time on the West Coast with our greyhound and two cats."

In 2011, **Ashley Dombrow** founded the Chicago-based professional organizing and closet design company, Organization Made Simple (OMS), which has an exclusive partnership with the Container Store. In the past six years, OMS, has grown to a 10-person team. Ashley currently lives in Chicago with her Yorkie, Mikey.

**Meredythe Goethe** is managing research and development and people operations for start-up food companies while getting her MBA at Harvard. Between culinary trips that have taken her across the pond and throughout this country ("It was great to see **Kate Seif '05** in DC!"), she is still cooking with more or less the right ingredients and proudly shares her adventures in a weekly column and on [@thesaltypiece](http://@thesaltypiece).

**Jes Cirillo** just started school again to get a degree in sonography and will be getting married January 20, 2018 to a wonderful person named Jeremy Hochstetler. They are heading to Australia for the honeymoon!

**Ting Chu-Richardson Waymouth** and her spouse, Dave, welcomed a daughter, Zora Mei, in May. The three of them recently relocated to Dobbs Ferry, NY to be closer to family.

**Charlotte Weidlein** writes, "I've had an exciting summer and am thrilled to let everyone know that I am newly engaged! I was completely surprised on a hike at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve in July. I couldn't be happier as Jed and I start to plan a September 2018 wedding! Sending lots of love to all my Walker's girls!"

**Katharine Welch** was in an episode of "Cooks Vs. Cons" (Season 3, Episode 7)



Zora Mei Waymouth, daughter of Ting Waymouth '05



Charlotte Weidlein's '05 proposal

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## 2006

**Ebony Moses**

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**Alle Shane**

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# Take Note

## Marielle Vigneau-Britt

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**Lyndsay Forrest** writes, "I am currently residing in Bermuda and am working at a reinsurance firm, Tokio Millennium Re, in the underwriting department for the specialty catastrophe business unit. It has been a busy year for me here on the island, as I bought my first house and also became engaged to my boyfriend of five years. We are planning to get married on June 16, 2018. I hope my Walker's girls and the EWS family are all doing well!"



**Andrea Coggins Toivakka '06 and her husband, Petri, welcomed a baby girl, Lumi Emily Hilda, to their family on March 13, 2017**



**New Year's group: Emily Sappington '06, Andrea Coggins Toivakka '06, Diane LaPosta '06, and Marielle Vigneau-Britt '06**



**Marley Stone Bourke '06 and Timothy Bourke welcomed a baby boy, Senan Todd Bourke, to their family on December 13, 2016**

## 2007

### Emily Casey

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### Jeanette Pelizzon

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**Sarah Helen Barton** writes, "Hey, beauties! I had a wedding on the Reunion weekend so was bummed to miss the opportunity to see everyone! On the update front, I graduated from UCLA

Anderson with my M.B.A. this June. I accepted an offer with Dropbox as revenue strategy and operations manager in San Francisco, so will be moving out in a few weeks! Let me know if any of you are in the Bay Area as well. Would love to reconnect!"

**Samantha Staubitz** sends this news: "Hello, ladies of Ethel Walker! I am currently working as an EMT for Bristol Hospital Emergency Medical Services. I started working for Bristol full time in June. Being an EMT has completely changed my life and I love the excitement and rush it adds to my life. I currently live in Canton and also work as an EMT for the Canton Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance. I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Reunion this past May and had a wonderful time with my fellow classmates. I hope everyone is well!"

**Taylor Davis Lewis** writes, "Hi Everyone! I got married in August 2016, and am now Mrs. Lewis! I am still teaching in New Haven, and am really enjoying the culture and diversity that the city has to offer. My husband and I bought our first home in Easton, CT this past December, and rescued our first black lab puppy a few weeks



**Walker's group picture from Andrea Coggins Toivakka's '06 baby shower: Reema Dedania '06, Kelley Blanchard '06, Adriane Brown '06, Andrea Coggins Toivakka '06, Emily Sappington '06, Diane LaPosta '06, Former Head of School Susanna Jones and Kim Blanchard P'06**



**Class of 2007 Reunion**

later who we just adore! Hugs and best wishes to all! Xo”

**Emily Casey** writes, “Hey dear EWS, hope you are all thriving! I completed the on-campus portion of a Master’s program in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management in Vermont at SIT Graduate Institute. This spring I will be finishing the off-campus practicum portion of my degree working for a Kundalini Yoga Foundation in LA! On track to graduate in May. Can’t believe I will be living in LA but am excited about a new adventure and to be working in a field I am passionate about! Love to connect with anyone in the area or in general!”



**Liss Couch-Edward’s ’07 “Comedy of Errors” poster for Hartford Stage**

**Liss Couch-Edwards**, marketing and graphic design coordinator at Hartford Stage, was interviewed in a *New York Times* article in January 2017 for designing a candy-colored, feel-good poster for Hartford Stage’s production of Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors.” According to the article, “...the poster is a boisterous throwback to 1960s fun-in-the-sun films that made teen hearts throb over Frankie Avalon. There’s also a strong nod to the colors and shapes of Greek architecture, specifically that of the Aegean island of Santorini. The title is rendered in the appropriately wacky font Flowers Kingdom.” In the article, Liss spoke about the elements that inspired her design.



**Liss Couch-Edwards ’07 and John Monagan**

Liss, a former Walker’s faculty member, married Walker’s Athletic Director John Monagan in Walker’s chapel on June 23, 2017 surrounded by family and friends. Former faculty member and mother of the bride Gwen Couch introduced the couple in 2011. The bridal party included Walker’s women **Mega Couch-Edwards ’10**, **Emily van Gemeren ’07**, and Arts Department Chair Cheri Soule. Liss, a legacy Sun, and John, a competitive Dial, said “I do” despite their opposing spirit clubs. They’ll figure that out later.



**Mallory Moore ’07 married Matthew Showe in September 2017**

**Mallory Moore** and Matthew Showe were married on Sunday, September 3, 2017 at The Vinoy Renaissance Hotel in St. Petersburg, FL in front of 150 guests. Other Ethel Walker alumnae in attendance were **Alison Dowling** and **Veronica Victor ’08**. Mallory is a graduate of Florida Southern College and is a marketing coordinator in the Tampa area. Matthew is a graduate of the University of Missouri and is an account manager in the Tampa area. They currently reside in Lakeland, FL.

## 2008 REUNION

**Kathleen Kirby**

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**Hannah Moore Yates** wrote to say she is married to Joshua Yates and mother to Isla Yates born October 21, 2015.

## 2009

**Caitlin Moss** 📧

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**Taylor Cousins** has been working in residential real estate for four years in Dallas, TX and recently landed her dream job as a realtor with Sotheby’s International Realty. She lives in a high rise in downtown Dallas with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy, Henry. Her horse, Placido (an honorary Walker’s alum), just turned 25 and is still happily showing in the hunter/jumpers categories.

**Spencer Waybright** recently started a new job at Hudson’s Bay Company, working in corporate communications across its

subsidiaries, which include Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor, and Gilt. She lives in NYC but frequently visits South Carolina where her parents will soon be living full time.

**Catherine Haas Jalowiec** is working as a leasing agent at a luxury apartment complex in Georgia. She and her husband, Ryan, who is on a career course to become a captain in the U.S. Army, are preparing to move to El Paso, TX for Ryan to take command at Fort Bliss this fall. They recently celebrated their son John’s third birthday, their daughter Mackenzie’s first birthday, and their fourth wedding anniversary.



**Cathy Haas Jalowiec ’09 with her husband, Ryan, and their children, John and Mackenzie**

**Grace Wilkins** married Ricky Walters on September 30, 2017. The pair moved from Augusta, GA to Celebration, FL so Ricky could take his dream job as an engineer with Nautique Boats. They both compete nationally in water skiing, which is how they met.



**Grace Wilkins ’09 and her new husband, Ricky Walters**

# Take Note

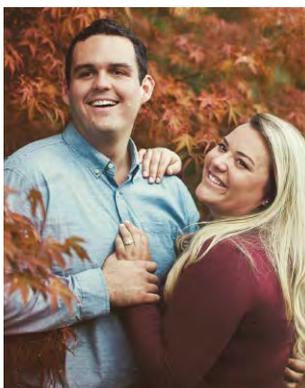
**Heather Carley** recently purchased a house in Winter Garden, FL where she lives with her girlfriend, Marie, two cats, a dog, a chinchilla, a hedgehog, and a hamster. She just celebrated her two-year anniversary working at Walt Disney World in children's activities at the Beach Club resort.

**Amanda Petruskevicius** received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing this past December and now lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia. She is enjoying her current job on a surgical step-down unit and is set to transfer to the intensive care unit later this year.

**Katie Reid** married Brad Thompson on November 3, 2017. She and Brad met on New Year's in 2014 and have been living and working in Charleston, SC ever since. She works for *The Post and Courier*; a local newspaper, starting up a new department in Affiliate Marketing.



**Katie Reid '09 and her husband, Brad Thompson**



**Kaila Tiedemann '09 and new husband, Morgan Wray**

**Kaila Tiedemann** lives in Atlanta, GA and is celebrating a three-year anniversary with her company, where she was recently promoted to property manager for her own community. She married her college sweetheart, Morgan Wray, on October 14!

**Liz Nadeau** finished her Master's degree in biomedical sciences and will be starting medical school in the fall at the Medical University of South Carolina (where **Michelle Nye** is also enrolled in PA school!). Reach out to Liz at nadeau.ek@gmail.com.

**Alanah Percy** lives in Connecticut, works at a home care agency for elderly adults and teaches dance part time. She was recently conferred with her CNA license and will be continuing her education to become a registered nurse.

**Caitlin Moss** is beginning her second year as a Ph.D. student in microbiology at Yale University. She discovered her passion for infectious disease research while working as a lab technician studying tuberculosis in Worcester, MA after college. She bought a condo in East Haven, CT where she lives with her cat, Quincy.

**Molly Turro** had an op-ed piece published in *The Hartford Courant* on April 26, 2017 entitled, "We Are Becoming Numb to Others' Pain," which illustrates her views about how the world is losing empathy and the breakdown of important human connections.

**Michelle Nye** graduated from North Carolina State University in 2016 with a Master's degree in physiology and has worked in dermatology for the past year. She recently moved to Charleston, SC to begin the Physician Assistant Studies program at the Medical University of South Carolina. She and Liz Nadeau are very excited for their future careers in medicine!



**Michelle Nye '09 and Liz Nadeau '09**



**Brittany Dingler '10, Sam Lepore '10, Abby Endler '10, Lexi Stephan '10, Marianne Pettit '10, Carly Giddings '13, Caroline Kieltyka '10 and Ashleigh Stephan '11**

## 2010

**Marianne Pettit**

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**Sydney Satchell** was featured in *GladiatHers.com*, a website educating the masses about the status of women in sports beyond the typical focus of tournaments, injuries and trades. In the article, Sydney discusses going from being a Division I athlete to an amputee. Her story continues to be an inspiration for so many. Also exciting to report is that Howard University's Athletic department created an annual award called "The Sydney Satchell Award for Perseverance." Sydney writes, "I was speechless!"

**Lexi Stephan** writes: "Hello! As fate would have it, I immediately came back to Walker's after graduating from Gettysburg College to coach field hockey and lacrosse. After spending a year on the field I was lucky enough to join the Admissions team. Alexander and I got married in June and shortly afterward I left Walker's to work as a medical scribe as I apply to physician's



**Lexi Stephan '10 with husband Alexander**



**Jackie Reis '11 and fiancé, Michael Giunta**



**Samantha Sorbaro '11**

analysis, forecasting, and reporting for Spanish Speaking Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Global Digital Media businesses. Before switching over to ESPN, I was a financial associate in Aetna's Financial Leadership Development Program. So far my new job has been nothing short of amazing. I have always enjoyed working with numbers and love sports, so this is the perfect fit. I'm looking forward to this next chapter in my career and am thrilled to see all of the success and accomplishments of my fellow Walker's alums!"



**Caroline Kieltykan '10, Jenny Menendez '10, and Marianne Pettit '10 participate in a 5K in DC**

assistant school (if anyone has advice on the process, I am all ears!). I also spend free time volunteering in the St. Francis Hospital ER and coaching club lacrosse for the Dodger's alongside **Sydney Satchell, Mel Welcome '09, and Brennan Maine!**

**Jackie Reis** writes, "I have been very busy this past year! I finished school and accepted a job at Connecticut Children's Medical Center where I am a pediatric cardiac ultrasound technologist. I really think I found my calling, as I love working with kids! I have also recently become engaged to Michael Giunta and will get married next May! It's been a crazy year but I am very excited for the future!"

**Riayn Rosenstock** and David Lavoie of Avon, CT were engaged in NYC in November 2016. They live in Manhattan with their kittens named LuLu and Lemon and work in financial services consulting at Ernst & Young and

Pricewaterhousecoopers. They plan to marry in TriBeCa on May 25, 2018.

**Samantha Sorbaro** graduated from George Washington University in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Journalism and Mass Communication. Samantha is completing her second degree at Parsons, The New School in fashion design. She resides in NYC.

**Emily Kessler** writes, "I'm excited to share that I started a new job in mid-July as a financial analyst with the international finance team at ESPN. In my new job I am responsible for the financial



**Riayn Rosenstock '11 and David Lavoie**



**Emily Kessler '11 at ESPN**

## 2012

**Jordana "Monet" Clarke**

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**Melody Altschuler** writes, "After graduating from Bates College in May, I will be a Sara S. Sparrow Fellow in Clinical Neuroscience at the Yale Child Study Center!"

## 2013 REUNION

**Ameena Makhdoomi**

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**Paige Williams-Rivera**

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## 2011

**Kelsey Ballard**

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# Take Note

Congratulations to all of the young women in Walker's Class of 2013 who graduated from college this past spring! We look forward to coming back for our 5-year reunion in May 2018.



**Mari Arico** graduated from University of Arizona with a major in Literacy, Learning, and Leadership as well as a minor in Special Education.



**Allie Leidt** graduated from the University of Mississippi and moved to Los Angeles in August to start graduate school at the University of Southern California, where she is pursuing a Master's in Behavior Analysis and interning with an early intervention autism clinic.



**Madison Morsch** graduated from Wofford College and relocated to Charlotte, NC, where she is working as an accountant.



**Tori Petrilli** graduated from the University of Saint Joseph.



**Jonell Brown** graduated from Spelman College and is currently teaching English to children in Argentina.



**Karen Macke** graduated from Ithaca College and is pursuing a graduate degree in Museum Studies and Information in Canada.



**Emilee O'Brien** graduated from Furman University and is currently working there as a Social Justice and Community Engagement Fellow.



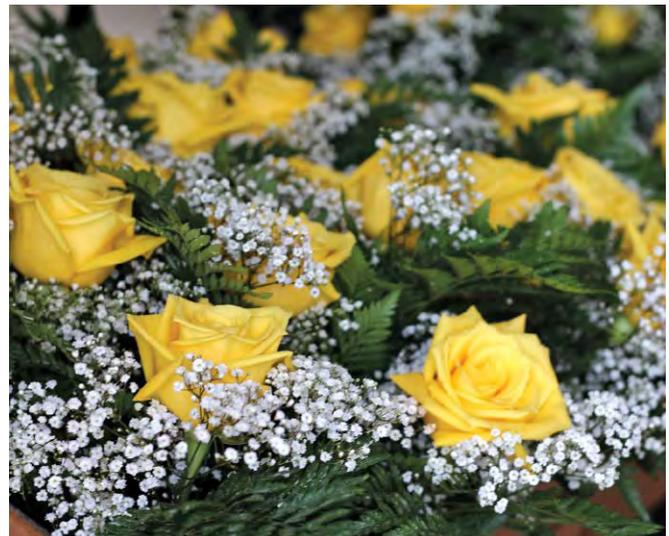
**Paige Williams-Rivera** graduated from University of Hartford and is currently interning for United Technologies Corporation in human resources as she begins her Master's in Organizational Psychology this fall.



**Amy Crescimanno** graduated from University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



**Ameena Makhdoomi** graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and is currently interning for a wine importer and distributor in NYC.



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## 2014

### Olivia Aker

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to [alumnae@ethelwalker.org](mailto:alumnae@ethelwalker.org).

### Taryn Anderson

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### Brittany Camacho

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### Artemis Talvat

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### Lisa Volg

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**Artemis Talvat** wrote to say that she, **Sarah Lowry, Chelsea Strong '15, Cat Flanagan, Alissa Lopez Stechschulte, Kennedy Hilliard, and Angela Tilahun** attended and celebrated the May wedding of **Alissa Lopez**.



**Sarah Lowry '14, Chelsea Strong '15, Cat Flanagan '14, Alissa Lopez Stechschulte '14, Kennedy Hilliard '14, Artemis Talvat '14, and Angela Tilahun '14** at Alissa's wedding



**Taylor Lampert '14 and Alex, a medical alert/response service dog**

**Taylor Lampert** has been busy running her farm in Patterson, NY alongside her best friend, Alex, a medical alert/response service dog. She also continues to ride competitively.

**Sajia Darwish** was featured in an October 2016 *Huffington Post* article which discussed her overcoming innumerable obstacles and opening the Baale Parwaz Library (BPL) in Kabul, Afghanistan. According to the



**Sam Tressy '14 modeling for OoTie**

article, "Sajia defies traditional gender roles and offers a tangible sense of hope for change in even the most tragic circumstances." Read more at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/c-m-rubin/the-global-search-for-edu\\_b\\_12411538.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/c-m-rubin/the-global-search-for-edu_b_12411538.html)

**Sam Tressy** writes, "It turns out that my love of bow ties which started at Walker's paid off! I started my summer off by modeling for the bow tie company OoTie."

**Lauren Nicholson** wrote "I'm a product marketing manager working in Microsoft's Cloud and Enterprise division on Azure Brand Management. Cloud is the future of tech and the future the company is moving towards so it's an exciting time to be working on marketing efforts for its cloud platform (Microsoft Azure). I love my department because even though tech tends to be a male-dominated space, my organization has incredible female leadership and my vertical is all women. So, in that regard, it's been great to see the Walker's way of women empowering other women to make a difference and shatter ceilings in action, and to even do a little bit of reaching back, mentoring, and empowerment myself."

According to *The Citadel Newsroom*, **Cadet Elizabeth**



**Cadet Elizabeth Spoechel '14**

**Spoechel** entered The Citadel with the goal of developing a career working to defend the U.S. in cyberspace and that is exactly what she will be doing when she graduates in a couple of years. Elizabeth is a sophomore from Florida majoring in computer science. She was recently selected to receive the Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship, meaning that the remainder of her studies at The Citadel will be funded by the Department of Defense. Additionally, upon graduating in May 2020, Elizabeth will move to Patuxent River, Maryland, to work with the Department of Defense Space and Naval Warfare Center (SPAWAR). Elizabeth shares, "I believe that expanding our nation's expertise in cybersecurity is critical to safeguard the growing information being conveyed and stored electronically as technology continues to advance. It is a privilege and an honor to be selected for the Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program and rewarding to know where I'll be headed after graduation."

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## 2015

### Emily Mauldin

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# Take Note



**Annie Peavy '15 and Royal Dark Chocolate at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival CPEDI3\* March 9-12, 2017 in Wellington, FL**

**Angela “Annie” Peavy** rode Rebecca Reno’s nine-year-old Oldenburg mare, Royal Dark Chocolate (Coco), and were crowned National Champions at the 2017 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships. Annie placed second in the Grade IV FEI Team Test with a 69.375%, finished first in the Grade IV FEI Individual Test with a 70.122%, and won the Grade IV FEI Freestyle Test with the highest score of the show, a 76.458%. Performing to the music from the French musical “Chocolat” for their Freestyle test, the combination ended with a total score of 71.090%, earning them the title of champion. Annie was also featured in a *Palm Beach Post* article on October 14, 2016 which discussed her riding experience while competing in the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in front of a crowd of 10,000.

Congratulations to **Margaret Hegwood**, who is one of 10 or more exceptional college sophomores selected by Land O’Lakes to be an Emerging Leader for Food Security. Emerging Leaders are matched with a professor or academic mentor

to explore critical food security issues and agricultural challenges throughout the school year. The Leaders also receive a stipend and an 11-week paid summer internship to work with industry experts at Land O’Lakes, Inc. to learn about hunger, agriculture and sustainability. Students travel to key Land O’Lakes locations, including Washington, DC, as well as rural African communities, and then present final projects at the close of the internship year.

## 2016

**Georgia Paul** 

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**Eleanor “Nell” Shea** writes, “I first discovered an interest in politics while enrolled in the

immersion course ‘Women in Politics’ at Walker’s the spring of my senior year. This summer, I explored the political world while supporting my local community. As an intern in the Vermont office of Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT), I gained insight into the national political world, while also working closely with my fellow constituents. My job ranged from opening the Senator’s copious amounts of mail and reading all the local papers to being given a seat at the table during a multi-hour brainstorm and planning session led by the Senator himself on many issues, including how to ensure more young Vermonters go to and graduate from college. Additionally, I was able to pursue interests of my own, such as social justice, by taking initiative and compiling a report on racial bias in Vermont schools, prisons and police departments. As a small part of an incredible

casework team, I wrote letters to Vermonters with a problem and referred them to the available resources. I drafted letters from the Vermont constituency at large to federal agencies or national organizations in support of crucial grants, such as those to support a graduate program at UVM to train more nurse practitioners in mental health and addiction treatment. This past summer the entire office dedicated a massive amount of time and energy to talking with constituents in rural, low- and very low-income areas to understand what issues are most important to them, and how they may be impacted by national legislation such as the Republican health care bill. This experience opened my eyes to a level of poverty and desperation I was unaware existed within my extended community. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and deeply appreciate working



**Young Alumnae gathered in Montreal: Eshita Rahman '17, Nellie Speers '16, Katie Murphy '17, Gita Nodoushani '16, Sidney Keise '16**

as a liaison and amplifier for constituent concerns; not only listening to those who contacted us, but seeking out the opinions of those who may not have the same resources and knowledge of how to share their voice.”

**Lian Nicholson** sends this news: “This summer has been rejuvenating, relaxing and exactly what was needed after my first rigorous year at Wellesley during which I experienced the unfortunate passing of my aunt — and the joy of inheriting a new sister. Therefore, it was decided that my summer would be spent traveling to see my family who are spread throughout the United States as well as my international family. I have traveled to Seattle, Washington, Guyana, Washington, DC, and Martha’s Vineyard for the sole purpose of seeing uncles, aunts, and my sisters and refocusing and re-centering on what means the most to me — my family.”

**Emily Peairs** says, “This summer I had the opportunity to study abroad in Singapore and Hong Kong through a finance program at William & Mary. After taking classes in Williamsburg for two weeks in May, my classmates and I traveled to Singapore and Hong Kong to visit with alums based there, engage in networking sessions, and attend site visits. The breadth of companies we saw was amazing. We visited investment banks such as J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs, venture capitalists, start-ups, accelerators, and angel investors. The people we met were so intelligent and hard-working, and I learned so much in such a short period of time! After the program was over, I also got the chance to stay in Singapore for another four weeks for an internship with Arete, a boutique management consultancy and investment advisory firm. I was able to help with ongoing projects, meet with banking professionals from across Asia, and learn

from the brilliant consultants at the firm. This experience was absolutely amazing, and is one I will not soon forget!

## 2017

**Idabelle Paterson** 📧

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**Natalie Meguid and Shae Clarke’s** families have both recently moved to Florida!



**Nina Chukwura '17, Sofie Taurel Warren '94 and Idabelle Paterson '17** visiting in Barbados



**Cat Pettit '17 (George Mason University) and Clara Cano '17 (American University)** met up in DuPont Circle in DC!



**Clara Cano '17 and Palo Rodriguez Paramo '17** met in NYC



**Margaret “Polly” Shaw Dean '52 and Eshita Rahman '17** met in DC where Eshita was Polly’s neighbor during her fall internship!

# Take Note

## Births & Adoptions

- 1987 **Elizabeth West Glidden**  
Everett West Glidden  
February 7, 2017
- 1997 **Kristin Jones Brown**  
Dylan Michael Brown  
April 24, 2017
- 1997 **Melissa Bryant**  
Lily Marion Boccuzzio  
October 28, 2016
- 1997 **Libby Clark Fuller**  
Aaron John Fuller  
July 17, 2017
- 2000 **Emily Cole-Chu MacSwain**  
Lowen Leeland MacSwain  
March 24, 2017
- 2001 **Sasha Osbourne Breland**  
Charlise Rae Breland on  
March 5, 2017
- 2002 **Ashley Coombes Francke**  
Elliott Kevin Francke  
September 16, 2017
- 2003 **Liz Cobey Simonton**  
Eleanor "Gray" Simonton  
April 30, 2017
- 2004 **Allison Clark**  
Joana Clariana Clark  
June 30, 2017
- 2004 **Sarah Prager**  
Eleanor Hermione Prager  
September 26, 2016
- 2005 **Emma Bedford-Jack**  
Silas Hudson Bedford-Jack  
November 10, 2016
- 2005 **Ting Chu-Richardson Waymouth**  
Zora Mei Waymouth  
May 17, 2017
- 2006 **Marley Stone Bourke**  
Senan Todd Bourke  
December 13, 2016
- 2006 **Andrea Coggins Toivakka**  
Lumi Emily Hilda Toivakka  
March 13, 2017

## Marriages & Unions

- 1997 **Heather Fensick**  
To Aaron Cremasco  
September 17, 2016
- 2001 **Courtney Hornberger**  
To Rory Taggart  
March 18, 2017
- 2001 **Sasha Osbourne**  
To Charles Breland, Jr.  
October 16, 2016
- 2002 **Sofia Arias Francey**  
To Dan Donato DiGregorio  
March 20, 2017
- 2007 **Alicia Couch-Edwards**  
To John Monagan  
June 23, 2017
- 2007 **Mallory Moore**  
To Matthew Schowe  
September 3, 2017
- 2007 **Jamie Shannon**  
To Nathan Hammond  
October 1, 2016
- 2009 **Katherine Reid**  
To Brad Thompson  
November 3, 2017
- 2009 **Kaila Tiedemann**  
To Morgan Wray  
October 14, 2017
- 2009 **Grace Wilkins**  
To Ricky Walters  
September 30, 2017
- 2010 **Alexis Stephan**  
To Alexander Westcott  
June 3, 2017



*Names reflect those received through  
December 31, 2017*

# In Memoriam

Alumnae of The Ethel Walker School

- 1933 **Frances Andrews Dillingham**
- 1941 **Faith Hall Harvie**
- 1943 **Eileen Josten Lowe**
- 1944 **Marion Helen Livingstone Bogle**  
Daughter: Lynn Howard Maxwell '69\*
- 1944 **Priscilla Huffard Rockwell**  
Second Cousin: Terese Treman Williams '55  
Third Cousin: Margot Ross Rose '80
- 1944 **Patricia Kennedy Scott**  
Daughters: Martha Scott Mouer '69 and  
Pamela Scott Volkman '72
- 1945 **Sophie Chandler Consagra**
- 1946 **Carolene Wrenn Kahlbaum**
- 1946 **Dorothy Michelson Dick Orendurff**  
Half Sister: Ursula Bitter Ulmer '54
- 1947 **Helen Willard Chapin**  
Step Daughter: Suzanne Chapin Berl '64
- 1947 **Mary Birge Bonbright Hendrian**
- 1947 **Gwen Ellis Melvin**  
Daughters: Catharine H. Melvin '77  
and Mary Melvin Fleming '75
- 1947 **Delma Dennehy Vander Veer**
- 1948 **Sallie Morphy Colmery**
- 1948 **Maria Suero Nazabal De Smith**
- 1948 **Elizabeth Fox Kaesshaefer**
- 1949 **Mary Ryan Cecil**  
Nieces: Louisa Cecil Harrison '83 and  
Catherine Cecil Taylor '77
- 1949 **Noel Love Gross**
- 1949 **Mary Driscoll Bryan Henry**
- 1950 **Margaret W. Edwards**
- 1950 **Sara Jane Auchincloss Gordon**  
Sister: Kathryn Auchincloss Porter '54
- 1950 **Elizabeth Stieren Roberts Kelso**
- 1950 **Kathleen Blair Leisure**  
Daughter: Mary Blair Leisure '80  
Sisters: Mary Kane Blair Hayes '48\* and  
Rosanne Blair Kelly '56  
Sister-in-law: Jean duPont Blair '58
- 1951 **Isabel Markle Guinee**  
Sister: Joan Markle Moore '45  
Cousin: Marian Markle Pool '45
- 1952 **Gizella Parrish Callender**  
Daughter: Gizella Callender Crawford '81

- 1952 **Mary Patricia Doubleday Irons**  
Sisters: Dorothy Doubleday Massey '56  
and Marguerite Doubleday Buck '55, P'79  
Niece: Wendy Buck Brown '79
- 1953 **Quarrier Bloch Cook**  
Sister: Martha Bloch McLanahan '58  
Cousin: Dorothy Hirsch Loebel '45  
Daughter-in Law: Whitney Williams  
Jones '82
- 1953 **Polly Sargeant Flobeck**  
Sister: Lorna Sargeant Pfalzer '56
- 1954 **Susan Haigh Carver**
- 1955 **Mary Emily Alexander Kerney**
- 1956 **Caroline Rosemary Stanwood**  
Sister: Elizabeth Stanwood Davis '61
- 1956 **Betsy McNally Ravenel**  
Aunt: Eleanor McNally Bodman '31\*  
Cousin: Kate McNally Cote '59\*
- 1961 **Cheryl Yuile Rolland**
- 1961 **Patricia Moser Shillingburg**
- 1963 **Leidy Paine Samson**
- 1964 **Raquel Maria Salas**  
Niece: Corina Alvarezdelugo,  
EWS Faculty
- 1964 **Mary Platt Vencill**
- 1966 **Mimi Kuo Cary-Drake**
- 1971 **Anne Arnot Riggs Good**
- 1968 **Pamela Stewart Peck**
- 1994 **Shane Raffle**
- 2007 **Soumayya Aatek**

# In Sympathy

Members of the wider Walker's  
community

- ADOLPHUS ANDREWS, JR., Brother of  
Frances Andrews Dillingham '33\*
- TERESA L. ANNULI, Grandmother of  
Marianne Pettit '10 and Catherine  
Pettit '17
- JAMES S. ARMOUR, Father of Julie Armour  
Jones '89
- ROBERT L. BAST, Husband of Beatrice  
Weeks Bast '45
- WILLIAM STUART FULTON BLOCH,  
Brother of Martha Bloch McLanahan '58;  
Cousin of Dorothy Loebel '45

- ELAINE G. BRAUER, Grandmother of  
Marisa Greshin '12 and Mother of Julie  
Greshin, EWS Faculty
- GARY D. BROWN, Father of Adriane Brown '06
- CHARLES AUSTIN BUCK, Former Trustee,  
Husband of Marguerite Doubleday  
Buck '55, P'79, Father of Wendy  
Buck Brown '79 and Brother-in-law  
of Patricia Doubleday Irons '52\* and  
Dorothy Doubleday Massey '56
- JOHN GERARD CASEY, Grandfather of  
Riley Bel Bruno '18
- MARY DEMOVILLE THOMPSON  
CLARK, Mother of Catherine Clark  
Shopneck '72, Aunt of Elizabeth  
Armstrong '63, Lacey Neuhaus Dorn  
'65 and Joan Neuhaus '76
- ZELLA KUNHARDT CRAWFORD, Mother  
of Robin Crawford Perito '68
- B. F. PATY DAVES, Brother of Posey Daves '07
- SIMPSON BOBO DEAN, Husband of  
Margaret Shaw Dean '52
- DIANE MORRIS DEBLOCK, Grandmother  
of Diane LaPosta '06
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DILLINGHAM III,  
Son of Frances Andrews Dillingham '33\*
- LEE MILLARD DONOVAN, Husband of  
Catherine McKee Donovan '68
- ANTHONY JAMES DOUGHERTY,  
Grandfather of Kathleen O'Connor '19
- IVY MAY DWYER, Grandmother of Victoria  
Gawlik '15
- JOHN EVANS ECKELBERRY, Husband of  
Mollie Stark Eckelberry '48 and Father  
of Emily Eckelberry Johnson '82
- ALEXANDER L. ELLWOOD, Brother of  
Deborah Ellwood '78
- PATRICIA C. FLYNN, Mother of Robin  
Flynn Wagner '79
- KATHLEEN LAHIFF FRIGO, Grandmother  
of Angelica Frigo '20
- ROBERT FRIGO, Grandfather of Angelica  
Frigo '20
- ALBERT R. GURNEY, JR., Husband of Mary  
Goodyear Gurney '53, Brother-in-law of  
Anne Goodyear Hudnut '51 and Sarah  
Goodyear Wadsworth '57
- WILLIAM HATCH HAINES, Husband of  
Leslie Bucklin Haines '61

MICHAEL STEPHEN HAYNES, Father of  
Brooke Haynes, Former EWS Faculty

JANAN ELISABETH HILALI, Mother of  
Madison Hilali '12

HENRY LEE HILLMAN, Husband of Elsie  
Hilliard Hillman '44\*, Uncle of Mary  
Mead-Hagen '72

RENE MARCEL HODGE, Father-in-law of  
Alicia Little Hodge '01

JOANNE PETRO HOFFMAN, Former  
Academic Dean, EWS

HENRY CLAY IRONS, Husband of Patricia  
Doubleday Irons '52\*, Brother-in-law of  
Marguerite Doubleday Buck '55, P '79  
and Dorothy Doubleday Massey '56

DAVID ELMER LAMB, Former EWS Staff

ROBERT LAMBRECHT, Husband of  
Virginia McMillan Lambrecht '57

BETTY WRIGHT LANDRETH, Mother of  
Diana C. Landreth '64, Aunt of Kathryn  
G. Graham '65

BARRY H. LANSTEIN, Father of Maida  
Lanstein '07

NANCY PEABODY LEE, Grandmother of  
Frances P. Lee '99

ROSE LIEBERMAN, Stepmother of Dara  
Neiman, EWS Staff

SIMON P. DA LOMBA, Grandfather of  
Jacinta Lomba '13, Sara Lomba '16 and  
Sophia Lomba '18 and Father-in law of  
Genie Lomba, EWS Staff

DAVID ODELL MACKENZIE, Husband of  
Deborah Williams MacKenzie '55\*

SALLY SMITH MILLER, Mother of  
Clemence Miller Kissack '87

KENNETH F. MOUNTCASTLE, JR.,  
Former Trustee, Father of Mary  
Mountcastle '72 and Trustee Laura  
Mountcastle '74

CAROL L. NAMMACK, Mother of Caitlin  
Nammack Weissman '82

HALEY E. NAUGHTON, Sister of Aurora  
Naughton '16

MELINDA LEE RAMSBY, Mother of  
Stephanie Makowski '19

JANE BARNES RAMSLAND, Mother of  
Claudia Ramsland Burch '68

SCOTT RICKETSON, Husband of Lisa  
Whitman Ricketson '56

DAVID ROCKEFELLER, Grandfather of  
Ariana Rockefeller Bucklin '01

CORINNE AVERY ROOSEVELT, Daughter  
of Priscilla Reynolds Roosevelt '59

MARGARET R. ROSENBERRY, Sister-in-law  
of Lucy Rosenberry Jones '59 and Elise  
Rosenberry Donohue '55\*, and Aunt of  
Sarah-Jane McCarthy Markoe '80

HERBERT DANIEL SAFFORD, Father of  
Pamela Safford '81 and Suzanne Safford '84

ROBERT JOHN SIVERTSEN, Stepfather  
of Lucy Rosenberry Jones '59 and Elise  
Rosenberry Donohue '55\* and Step-  
grandfather of Sarah-Jane McCarthy  
Markoe '80

FRANCIS JOSEPH SPONZO, SR.,  
Grandfather of Stephanie J. Sponzo '14

EDWIN HUNTER STEELE, Husband of  
Katherine Somerville Steele '54

DONALD STONE, Grandfather of Marley  
Stone Bourke '06

JAMES C. TETRO, Former EWS Staff, Uncle  
of Bryan Rathbun, EWS Staff and Great  
Uncle of Etta Rathbun '23

ROBERT F. VEH, Father of Victoria Veh '76

WANDA E. VEH, Mother of Victoria Veh '76

LUCAS TODD WHEELER, Nephew of Amy  
Wheeler, Associate Head of School, EWS

ROBERT BORDEN WHEELER, Father  
of Amy Wheeler, Associate Head of  
School, EWS

JOHN MACKENZIE WILKINS, Brother of  
Grace Wilkins '09

*\*Deceased*



## Charles Austin Buck, P'79

1929-2017 | EWS TRUSTEE 1978-1985

Born in New Jersey, Austin attended St. Mark's School; he went on to earn a BS from the University of Virginia School of Engineering and an MS from Lehigh University. He served for two years in the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service. As a businessman, Austin continued the family mineral import and export company, Leonard J. Buck & Co., and co-founded Hall-Buck Marine, a shipping and marine services business that operated terminals throughout the country. His first connection to The Ethel Walker School was to marry alumna Marguerite "Meg" Doubleday Buck '55 and thereby acquire two EWS sisters-in-law: Patricia Doubleday Irons '52 and Dorothy Doubleday Massey '56.



Austin and Meg's daughter, Wendy Buck Brown, attended Walker's, graduating in 1979. While his daughter was a student, Austin was invited to join the board of trustees, in which capacity he served the School in numerous roles through two campaigns. As treasurer of the board, he was responsible for establishing business office procedures and through his personal efforts and financial assistance, enabled the computerization of the office. He was a champion for the School, traveling far and wide to promote fundraising, and modeling best practices such as giving in support of deferred maintenance, always with an eye to the long-term growth and health of The Ethel Walker School.

## Patricia "Pat" Kennedy Scott '44, P'69, '72

1926-2017 | EWS TRUSTEE 1967-1988

Born in Honolulu, HI, Pat attended The Ethel Walker School for three years, graduating in 1944. While at Walker's, she was a Sun who participated in the Social Service Club and won the Mallory Cup. She went on to earn an associates degree from Finch College in New York City and then returned to Hawaii to help with the war efforts by volunteering for the American Red Cross. There, she met Naval Officer Norman Scott, and the couple married in 1948. They raised three children in San Francisco and her

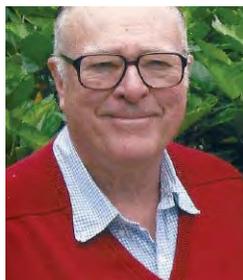


two daughters attended Walker's (Martha Scott Mouer '69 and Pamela Scott Volkmann '72). Pat later married David Tirrell in 2003 and moved to San Rafael, California. Over the years, Pat maintained a strong connection with Walker's as an active and effective volunteer in many capacities: as a leadership solicitor, member of National Campaign Council, Reunion gift chair, reception host, Reunion chair, decade chair, class agent, long-serving trustee and consistent, loyal donor.

## Kenneth "Ken" Franklin Mountcastle, Jr. P'72, '74

1928-2017 | EWS TRUSTEE 1973-1984

Born in Winston-Salem, NC, Ken attended Woodberry Forest School and then the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before joining the U.S. Army, where he served for two years in counter-intelligence on the Korean front. Following military service, Ken joined Reynolds Securities, later Dean Witter Reynolds, as a stockbroker where he worked on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for most of his career. Throughout his work life and retirement, he actively participated in the leadership of many nonprofit organizations. He became involved with Walker's when his



daughters, Mary Mountcastle '72 and Laura Mountcastle '74, were students. In addition to his service as a trustee on the Walker's board, Ken also volunteered as a former president of the Father's Association (precursor to The Ethel Walker School Parents Association), and sat on the National Campaign Council in the 1990's. He was a regular supporter of our annual fund as well as scholarships and capital improvements at Walker's. His daughter, Laura, is carrying on his legacy as a member of The Ethel Walker School Board of Trustees.

Greetings from The Ethel Walker School Parents Association!

What a busy fall it has been for the Association as we've continued our work providing special activities for our girls and working to answer parents' questions and address concerns about life at Walker's. As we turn the corner on a new semester, we are all invigorated by the energy our girls have for learning, the care our faculty and staff show toward our students every day and a campus that is beautiful in landscape and spirit all year through.



This fall we worked with the Office of External Affairs to launch a robust parent portal on the Walker's website at [www.ethelwalker.org/parents](http://www.ethelwalker.org/parents). Please explore the pages as they contain a wealth of content including information about daily life at the School, news stories of note and easy access to the logins we need as parents. If you have suggestions for additional content for the pages, please share!

We had an impressive number of parents attend our receptions during Family Weekend and the Holiday Ride. We always enjoy visiting with returning parents and meeting new ones. Please join us if you can.

We love it when it comes to providing surprises for our students. We shared with them Halloween treats, study break snacks and we're working on our Valentine Day surprise. If you want to surprise your own student on her birthday, please visit the parent portal under "Parent Resources" for information on how to order cakes and other items from a local supermarket.

This fall, the EWSPA hosted a book club talk on *Bad Feminist*, a novel by Roxane Gay, and we underwrote a reception for the inaugural author in Walker's Visiting Writers Seminar, Anne Fadiman. Please watch your email and Walker's Weekly for information on our spring book selection and the date for our discussion along with announcement of the author for the spring semester of the Seminar. Parents, friends, alumnae and members of the community are all invited!

I often say that I am privileged to be here in Simsbury close to our girls. Seeing them grow as scholars, athletes, riders, artists, and performers is such fun. Knowing that they are creating lifelong relationships with each other is truly a gift. Thank you for sharing your girls with me.

All my best,

Julie A. Berard P'19  
PRESIDENT, EWSPA 2017-2018

Ethel Walker School  
**EWSPA**  
Parents Association  
2017-2018 BOARD

Julie Berard P'19  
PRESIDENT

Shayna Luciani P'20, '21  
VICE PRESIDENT

Tracey Goolsby P'18  
SECRETARY

Grace Niland P'15, '18  
TREASURER

Lourdes Dale P'22, '23  
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAIR AND LIAISON

Grace Petrarca P'19  
CHAIR, UPPER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Kim Foster P'18  
Carol Ross P'18  
Gretchen Wierdsma P'18  
CO-CHAIRS, ALL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Shari Nastro P'21  
UPPER SCHOOL DAY PARENT LIAISON

Hazel Mugo P'21, '22  
UPPER SCHOOL BOARDING PARENT LIAISON

Peter Mugo P'21, '22  
INTERNATIONAL PARENT LIAISON

Grace Petrarca P'19  
UPPER SCHOOL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

2018 Tracey Goolsby P'18,  
Tyyne Kelly P'18 and  
Renata Ranaldi P'18, '20

2019 Mary Duba P'19 and  
Kelly Majka P'19

2020 Meg Castineiras P'20 and  
Debbie Savino P'20

2021 Natalie Corbett P'21 and  
Beth Strapp P'18, '21



Students had fun with these silly Halloween treats courtesy of the EWSPA



A discussion of the novel *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay during EWSPA Book Club in the fall



Parents enjoying the EWSPA Reception during Family Weekend

# Treat yourself, a classmate or friend to a specialty scarf!

Each of these items has been custom designed for us by Harris Made, and produced at their family-owned mills in England and Scotland.

Our **pashminas** were artist-designed based on the marble floor in our chapel and feature the EWS monogram from our school ring in one corner. Price: \$100

Our **silk scarf** is a replica of the 1936 campus map with a special touch of Ethel Walker's signature in the bottom right corner. Overall design is purple on a stone/neutral background, with the school colors along the hand-rolled edge. Price: \$125

Our **fine cashmere scarves** come from Scotland and feature our school logo in subtle tone-on-tone Sun or Dial colors. Price: \$200

To order, for more information or for larger images of these scarves, contact Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19 at +1 (860) 408-4257 or [mpaterson@ethelwalker.org](mailto:mpaterson@ethelwalker.org).



Pashmina



Cashmere scarf



Silk scarf



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# The Ethel Walker School

230 Bushy Hill Road • Simsbury, CT 06070

## Save these Dates!

**March 8-10, 2018** — Walker's Women In the World — Panama

**April 13, 2018** — Grandparent's and Friend's Day

**April 27-29, 2018** — Board of Trustees Meeting

**May 18-20, 2018** — Reunion Weekend

**June 10, 2018** — Commencement

