



Reunion and Commencement 2018
Visiting Writer Seminar
Alumnae Authors
Summer Reading





Members of the Class of 2018 celebrate by tossing their flowers in the air after they are announced as graduates of The Ethel Walker School.

SUN|DIAL SUMMER 2018 SUPPLEMENT

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HEAD OF SCHOOL
Dr. Meera Viswanathan



The Ethel Walker School

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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.

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ON THE COVER:

Graduates Marie Ettien and Margaret "Garet" Wierdsma celebrate during Commencement Exercises on Sunday, June 10, 2018. Pictured in the background are Board Chair Katharine "Kit" O'Brien Rohn '82, Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Keynote Speaker Tiffany Dufu and Trustee Thomas "Tom" Regan P'13.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Walker's Community,

I hope your summer thus far has been filled with warmth, family, friends and joy! After a year of exciting changes and many discoveries, my summer days off thus far have been ones of much-needed reflection, rest and even torpor. For me that means days of alternating bouts of gardening, pleasure reading and thinking. This summer I seemed to have followed without any planning four simple rules for each pastime akin to a traditional bride's preparation for her wedding — something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

In other words, this summer I've planted some seeds, cuttings or pots of things I've put into the ground before like brightly colored zinnias and dahlias; some new things like double Siberian irises and rhubarb; and some cuttings and seedlings given to me by friends — green shisho for the herb garden, new varieties of epimedium and the lovely dwarf Japanese Andromeda given to me by the Advancement Office staff at Walker's. So too with reading and thinking, embracing and mulling over what I already know, what is novel and what I've borrowed from others. Most important are the blue things — blue as in the improbable, i.e. out of the blue, blue as in rarefied, bluebloods for example, and blue as in deeply moving and indicative of the human condition, the blues.

This summer I planted in blue aplenty, that color so desired and yet so rare in gardens: dreamy sky-blue morning glories, blue ageratum, blue sages and even, out of an abundance of improbable hope, blue poppy seeds of the famed Himalayan Meconopsis that I have grown and killed many times in the past, but never gotten to flower. Hope springs eternal! Meanwhile now with the advent of tetraploids and gene editing, I'm told we will see many blue kinds of flowers in the coming years. Will that change our sense of awe in the garden I wonder?

Blue also seems to figure largely in my reading — Joan Didion's *Blue Nights*, a meditation on what it means to be a woman in middle age and the experience of loss, Penelope Fitzgerald's *The Blue Flower*, a book that has sat on my shelf for years untouched until now, reminding me of the extraordinary inhering in the seemingly ordinary, and re-reading Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. The last is a book I've taught a dozen times, but one that never fails to stun and move me with its ability to conjure beauty out of horrific experience.

What has consumed me most though this summer is reflecting and meditation, generally of course, but most especially about all things Walker's. Thinking about all of the wonderful



At times, it would be easy to succumb to feeling daunted and even blue, given the enormity of the responsibility at hand and the challenges facing us today. But instead I am struck by this rare opportunity to be an educator now.

alums I've had the pleasure to meet this year at gatherings, at Reunion and on visits to campus, meeting prospective applicants and the newly entering students, and our current students full of animation and emotion, and possibilities. Questions arise. What can we do to ensure their present well-being and their future prospects? In our contemporary world, what does my job as an educator mean? Are we sufficiently cognizant of the changes taking place socially, economically, politically in our country and around the world? How can we better safeguard and advance our faculty and

staff so that they can devote themselves to our girls and school? At times, it would be easy to succumb to feeling daunted and even blue, given the enormity of the responsibility at hand and the challenges facing us today. But instead I am struck by this rare opportunity to be an educator now.

Educate, literally to lead out, out into the blue, to experience fully and most sentiently what the human condition entails. What the human condition entails in a world in which singularity in the sense of artificial intelligence is no longer unimaginable. Voltaire's *Candide* ends with the line, "Il faut cultiver notre jardin." We can take this to mean "We need to cultivate our garden," meaning let's tend to our own affairs as most translators have suggested or more radically as the brilliant translator Burton Raffel argued, "We need to work our fields." Surely education is this kind of cultivation.

Here's to the rest of summer — may it offer play and rest to all!

Cheers,

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



Visiting Writer SEMINAR

BY LINDSAY HODGMAN,
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY



Visiting Writer Aimee Nezhukumatathil reads from her latest collection of poetry, *Oceanic*, during an all-school assembly.

The Visiting Writer Seminar is a special initiative class in the English Department where students are introduced, on the page and in person, to a living writer. Participation in the Seminar is an immersive author experience where students become scholars in that writer's works, and the course culminates with a visit by that writer to The Ethel Walker School. During the visit, the writer teaches master classes, conducts writing workshops and participates in class discussions. The writer also delivers a school-wide assembly and a public reading with the community.



Visiting Writer Aimee Nezhukumatathil talks with English faculty member Lindsay Hodgman and Dean of Studies and Science faculty member Julia Sheldon during a reception before a reading of her work.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil's poem, "Invitation," begins thus: "Come in, come in, the water's fine! You can't get lost / here." As if responding to this invitation — an invitation to poetry and an invitation to see the limitless beauty in ourselves and on our planet — students in the Visiting Writer Seminar plunged into a study of Nezhukumatathil's work.

Nezhukumatathil is an acclaimed poet, poetry editor of *Orion* magazine, and professor of English at the University of Mississippi. In the spring semester of the 2017-18 academic year, Visiting Writer Seminar (VWS) students read three of Nezhukumatathil's collections of poetry in preparation for her visit: *At the Drive-In Volcano*, *Lucky Fish*, and her latest collection, *Oceanic*, which was released in April of 2018.

Nezhukumatathil touched down in Connecticut on May 10, 2018. For the next two days, she taught students about craft, invective poetry, persona writing, enjambment, and white space, among other elements of poetry. In addition to answering dozens of questions about her life and work, she imparted many

lessons: reminding students to look upon the world with wonder, challenging them to “embrace beauty and light in a climate where beauty and light are not always encouraged,” and urging them to never seek balance but, to instead allow themselves to be pulled by the things that they love.

Nezhukumatathil’s visit marked a joyful celebration of language, poetry, reading, writing, and social and environmental justice. It also served as a source of inspiration for the growing population of student writers who inhabit the Walker’s community. In reflecting on the class and Nezhukumatathil’s visit, VWS student **Chichi Pannullo ’18** noted, “We were able to understand Nezhukumatathil’s reasoning behind her choices as a writer, which equipped us with more diverse ways to express our ideas.” She continued on to say, “I got the chance to meet with an amazing writer who gave me the tools to enhance my work and become a better writer.” ■

Walker’s students and faculty members read their own original poetry at a coffeehouse featuring Nezhukumatathil as guest reader.



Lilah Kelly '18



Jacqueline Zhao '18



Grace Mugo '21



English Faculty Member
Scott Frey



Isabel Rush '19



Visiting Writer Seminar students Laurel Gaddis '18, Maggie Ashley '18, India Awe '18, Zakiya Evans '18, Chichi Pannullo '18, Leslie Morales '18 and Garet Wierdsma '18 are joined by Visiting Writer Aimee Nezhukumatathil (center).



Reunion 2018

Walker's Simsbury campus came alive May 18 through 20 for Reunion weekend which was filled with a variety of activities giving more than 120 graduates the opportunity to see old friends and hear more about what is happening at Walker's today.

Friday began with lunch in Abra's followed by an afternoon tea with Head of School Meera Viswanathan and Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler. During the afternoon, a women of color panel of graduates convened in an informal setting with students to share their experiences both at Walker's and beyond. Throughout the day graduates visited the archival display on the main level of Beaver Brook where they scanned yearbooks, saw photos from throughout the decades and viewed artifacts from the School's archive including uniforms, athletic gear, and awards and plaques.

Following an art exhibit opening featuring the works of six alumnae artists (see page 6), the group convened in the new "Soc" in the Centennial Center for a reception followed by a Golden Hours dinner at Debby's House (the Head's House) for Reunion classes prior to 1968 hosted by Head of School Meera Viswanathan (or Ms. Vis as she's known to the students) and her



husband, Dr. Eric Widmer. The 25th Reunion class headed to Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler's house on the hill for a dinner co-hosted with her partner, Tim Reny. Other classes went to various restaurants for intimate dinners with classmates.

Saturday dawned with rainy skies but they didn't dampen the hearty souls who came to campus for a 6:30 a.m. Mimosas and Majesties viewing of the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. After a yoga class, a Strawberries and Cream Breakfast was served in the lobby of Ferg prior to student presentations. Attendees got a sneak peak at this year's spring musical, "Hairspray," with an energetic presentation of "Good Morning Baltimore" followed by student presentations on the Small World Initiative Honors Biochemistry class, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Guests were treated to an exceptional recitation of poetry by Kristen St. Louis, a freshman who took first place in a school-wide poetry competition and went on to represent Walker's at the state finals.

Reunion Chapel, preceded by the parade of classes, was an opportunity to remember departed classmates and to celebrate the sisterhood Walker's graduates share. Awards were presented (see page 7) and each member of the Class of 2018 was welcomed into the Alumnae Association with a sundial charm, a gift of the **Leslie Hailand Newman '66** Alumnae Association Induction Fund. After lunch, Beaver Brook came alive with music from the

African Drum team who performed during lunch then shared rhythm techniques and hands-on instruction.

A state of the school address presented by Ms. Vis preceded an alumnae panel moderated by Trustee Teresa Younger, president and CEO of the Ms. Foundation. This was followed by a talk about "Thinkers and Doers" which took place in the new engineering space in Galbraith while a LGBTQ discussion was held in the Constance Lavino Bell Library lead by **Sarah Prager '04**, author of *Queer, There and Everywhere*. A drop-in "Milk Lunch" was offered in the library along with a chance to visit Walker's apiary, participate in an alumnae ride at the barn, campus tours and open hours in the Centennial Center gym.

Awards were presented during Saturday dinner and no Reunion Weekend would be complete without a rousing Ba-Na-Na to cap off the evening. Those looking for a quieter time enjoyed a piano bar with live music provided by Music Department Chair Laurie MacAlpine P'08.

On Sunday morning, alumnae were invited to share brunch with Meera and reminisce about their time at Walker's by sharing stories of their time as students. Most agreed that while times change, many things remain the same — Walker's relationships last a lifetime.

Visit us as often as you can. We love welcoming Walker's women back to Simsbury. ■

Reunion

Reunion Weekend offered an opportunity to feature the work of alumnae artists **Betty Flanders Foster '53**, **MJ Levy Dickson '68**, **Kim Matthews Wheaton '68**, **Libby Swearngen Cerullo '78**, **Vaune Hatch '78** and **Katharine Swibold '78** in the Letitia McClure Potter '55, P'85 Gallery on the main level of the Centennial Center. Their works included sculpture, painting, art quilts, illustrations and photography. In addition to an opening reception held on Friday afternoon where Reunion attendees enjoyed the exhibit, students were able to visit the gallery and read about each of the artists and her artistic journey.



Libby Swearngen Cerullo '78 shares some of her thoughts on an art quilt she created.



Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler (middle) and her partner, Tim Reny, pause with Betty Flanders Foster '53 near one of her sculptures in the Letitia McClure Potter '55, P'85 Gallery in the Centennial Center.



Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Claudia Ramsland Burch '68 and Kim Smith Niles '68 enjoy the work of artist Kim Matthews Wheaton '68.



A first floor conference room in Beaver Brook was transformed into a mini Walker's museum filled with artifacts from the archive including yearbooks, photos, publications, clothing, awards, spirit gear and many other treasures.

REUNION AWARDS



Front: Mary Feeney, Ann Perkins de Cordova, Lili Arienti Sloane, Nina de la Sierra, Lorna Denham and Andrea Abbott
Back: Wendy Hodgkins DeLorey, Elizabeth Holland, Garrett Handley Dee, Ana Consuegra, Ann Strachan and Kim Birnie Garzon

The **GATES FAMILY BOWL** was established in 2002 by Sarah Gates Colley '75 in honor of her parents, John and Christine Gates, and her family's longstanding relationship with The Ethel Walker School. The Bowl is awarded to the Reunion Class that raises a gift to the Annual Fund for Walker's of \$100,000 or more. This year's recipient of the bowl is the **Class of 1983**, which collectively gave gifts totaling \$109,506 to the Annual Fund for Walker's in honor of their reunion.



The **ELIZABETH NASH MUENCH '55 TRAY**

is awarded annually to the Reunion class (or classes) that has achieved the highest level of participation in the Annual Fund for Walker's by Reunion Weekend. Hooray Sunray to the **Class of 1953** where 51.3% of the class made a gift in honor of their reunion!

Susie Kleinhans Gilbertson,
Betty Flanders Foster,
Betsy Rauch Rainoff and
Bobbie Gerstell Bennett

REUNION AWARDS

Hooray Sunray to the **Class of 2013** for earning this year's **SUNDIAL BOWL** which is awarded to the class with the largest percentage of classmates registered for Reunion Weekend.



Above — front: Coriene Smith, Amy Rose Crescimanno, Emilee O'Brien and Sam Gonzalez; Middle: Ameena Makhdoomi, Jess Chang, Allie Harris, Hannah Meehan, Chelsea Regan, Jill O'Brien and Paige Williams-Rivera; Back: Brittany Sawyer, Abigail Reynolds, Madison Morsch, Sahra Ibrahim and Tori Petrilli



At right — Director of Institutional Advancement Gretchen Orschiedt presents the Sundial Bowl to Ameena Makhdoomi and Paige Williams-Rivera of the Class of 2013.



Jamiah Tappan '00, incoming co-chair of the Alumnae Board, with Bri Goolsby '18 (l) and India Awe '18 (r)

During chapel on Reunion weekend, the Alumnae Association awards the **ALUMNAE BOARD SOCIAL ACTION AWARD** to the senior student (or students) who “has demonstrated a concern for issues of social inequality and has acted on her concern through actively promoting awareness or participating in community service, activism or social entrepreneurship intended to advance positive social change.” This year’s recipients are **Bri Goolsby** and **India Awe**.

- 2017: Brea Austin and Eshita Rahman
- 2016: Lian Nicholson, Sara Lomba and Nell Shea
- 2014: Kennedy Hilliard
- 2013: Jacinta Lomba and Emilee O'Brien
- 2012: Tahara Jordan



The **LONG DISTANCE AWARD** is presented annually to the alumna who has traveled the longest distance from her home state or country to attend Reunion Weekend. This year’s recipient is **Karen Kennedy '08** who traveled 3,361 miles from London to attend Reunion!

Alumnae came to campus from California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, DC, Canada and the United Kingdom!

Amey Amory DeFriez '45

Margot Treman Rose '80 Distinguished Alumnae Award

Amey Amory DeFriez '45 was raised in Dover, MA, one of five children and the only daughter. After graduating from Walker's in 1945, she went on to graduate cum laude from Radcliffe College, later chairing the boards of both institutions. Her own educational foundation inspired a lifelong passion for, and support of, education — women's education in particular. "I have been fascinated by the way groups work and how they can accomplish more than the individual," she told the Harvard *Crimson* in 1997. Amey's life and her work are a testament to this principle as she drew people together, inspiring and challenging them to work harder both individually and collectively.

In 1948, Amey married Dr. Albert Ivins "Ivy" Croll DeFriez, went on to graduate from Radcliffe in 1949 and subsequently moved to New York City, where Ivy was finishing his residency. They later moved to the Boston area and raised a son, Nicholas, and two daughters, **Pauline DeFriez '67** and **Elizabeth DeFriez Gibson '69**. According to Nicholas, "[Amey's] first passion after we grew up was education. Some people get on boards for the name recognition. She actually made everybody work."

Amey's record of dedication and volunteer service to Walker's spanned more than thirty years and includes work as class secretary and president of the Alumnae Board as well as leadership roles during two major fundraising campaigns. She was a trustee from 1967-75 and president of the board of trustees from 1972-75, the first alumna and first woman to lead the School's board. She subsequently chaired Radcliffe's board for ten years leading up to its merger with Harvard, was a charter member of the National Association of Independent Schools, and an incorporator of SPHERE, a consortium of independent schools in the greater Hartford area.

In 1994, Amey delivered the Baccalaureate address at Walker's with her characteristic combination of humor and sound advice. "If I could leave you with three points to remember, at least one of them might stick and then we would all be ahead of where we were before." She told the girls "Don't be afraid to fail, don't rush too much to get on with your education, and learn how to cut corners." Thinking that the parents and faculty might take issue with this last point, she went on to clarify: "...after you hit the larger world, you're going to have to learn how to cut corners. There's just too much to do. So learn first what are the truly important matters, then what the deadlines are, and what are the things you don't want to bother with... Don't forget social service. My own volunteerism opened for me the door to a substantially salaried and most interesting occupation, as well as providing deep satisfaction in itself." Amey concluded by saying, "...keep in touch with your EWS friends — they will turn out to be some of the best you'll ever have. And I'll include in that alumnae and future graduates as well. You are part of a distinguished and supportive continuum."

Amey was a consistent annual donor to Walker's throughout her life, and also remembered the School in her will. In honor of her 50th Reunion, Amey made a leadership gift that was announced by the School with these words: "Amey wanted to reaffirm and celebrate one of the primary missions of The Ethel Walker School — to develop leadership in its young women... To look at the life of Amey Amory DeFriez is to view the case statement for the value of the Ethel Walker experience. It is here that young women learn the value and joy inherent in stepping forward to make a positive difference in the world in which they live."

In announcing this award, Board Chair **Kit O'Brien Rohn '82**, the 2017 winner of the award, said "Amey's name will be added to [the Margot Treman Rose '80 Distinguished Alumnae] Bowl as a testament to her life of impact and her extraordinary service to our School. Please join me by standing and applauding for her and for what she inspired in us."



Amey delivering the Baccalaureate address to the School in 1994

PAST WINNERS

- 2017 - Katharine (Kit) O'Brien Rohn '82
- 2016 - Harriet Bleses Dewey '60, P'86
- 2015 - Sarah Gates Colley '75
- 2014 - Ann Watson Bresnahan '69 and Lisa Pagliaro Selz '69
- 2013 - Margot Campbell Bogert '60
- 2011 - Deborah William MacKenzie '55
- 2010 - Letitia McClure Potter '55, P'85
- 2007 - Sarah Johnson Redlich '78, P'10
- 2005 - Margot Treman Rose '80

The Margot Treman Rose '80 Distinguished Alumnae Award

is The Ethel Walker School's highest honor given to Walker's graduates. It is presented to graduates of the School who best exemplify Margot Rose's attributes, ensuring that her work, dedication, and influence will be remembered now and always. When awarded, it will honor alumnae who, by their devotion and talent, elevate the work of their profession, who influence their community, or who give extraordinary service to their School. The award has been endowed in Margot's honor by her mother, Terese Treman Williams '55, and her stepfather, Joseph Williams.

Reunion



Jean McIntire Leuchtenburg and Joan Woodford Russo



Cicily Warren Hajek and Barbie Welles Bartlett



Front: Liz Austell Straight, Grace Zelinka Becker (former faculty), Kim Matthews Wheaton, Merrill Ware Carrington, Anne Coit Williams, Kim Smith Niles
Back: Sam Schutrum Coughlin (former faculty), Claudia Ramsland Burch, Ann Stone Costello, Jan Mactier, Wendy Sargent Anderson



Front: Maria Hampton Klimczak, Annie Crandall Campbell, Cate Whiting, Jennifer Hermann, Linda Abizaid Wiener, Ashley Lickle O'Neil, Vaune Hatch and Heather King Taylor
Back: Ellen Fauver Reimer, Susan Griffin Yonkers, Helen Hummer Feid, Katharine Swibold and Libby Swearengen Cerullo



Front: Amanda Bryan and Sheila Dillman Fontanella
 Back: Patsy York, Melissa Jackson Loree, Jai Smith Rezac, Veonous Martin Jacques, Connie Mellon Kapp, Karalyne Sperling, and Margaret (Dolly) Meinert Eschbach



Front: Kim Edstrom Bivins, Jasmin Marquez Whitehead, Mandy Eastman and Toan Huynh
 Back: Lisa Metzke, Glenna McMahan and Mimi Morrison Harrison



Natalie Foreman-Wynn, Erin Shupenis Ellis and Rachael Rosselli



Julie-Ann Sulman Toalston and Jessica Bruen



Front: Sarah Seferian, Arielle Haller-Silverstone, Kelly Harris, Lucca Troutman, Meg Mahoney (former faculty) and Vanessa Truglio
 Back: Codie Kane, Carolyn Crosby Lavin, Lia Chafee, Lauren Milka, Karen Santana, Jessica Towle and Karen Kennedy

106th Commencement





A beautiful spring morning dawned on June 10

with a sunrise breakfast on the deck of Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler’s home on the hill behind the barn. This long-standing tradition began a series of events that culminated in the 106th Commencement exercises of The Ethel Walker School.

In his invocation, **Dr. Eric Widmer**, or Mr. Vis as he is known as the husband of Head of School Meera Viswanathan, reminded the 72 graduates and their families and friends, “Commencement signifies a beginning, to be sure, but because it also means saying goodbye, we must be forgiven our nostalgia — those of us who remain behind, cherishing our memories, knowing that our seniors will always be welcomed back to this very special place that they have done so much to make their own.”

In her remarks, Student Body President **Esi Obeng ’18** reminded her classmates of all the things they have accomplished during their time as students. “In short, we left our mark. How did we do it?...Year after year, race after race, our time at Walker’s made us stronger and better equipped to face each set of obstacles. The time you spent here shapes you into the woman you will become. It’s one of the most extraordinary things about Walker’s. The community is so powerful that you start growing and

evolving as soon as you become a part of it.”

Keynote speaker, **Tiffany Dufu**, a catalyst-at-large in the world of women’s and girls’ leadership and the author of *Drop the Ball*, shared with the graduates the “new elixir” for successful women and advised them “to find your crew.” She went on to detail the four things that a woman’s crew will do: “Your crew will allow you a space to be vulnerable and they will help you create a plan for your success. A crew member says, ‘What are



Head of School Meera Viswanathan



Tiffany Dufu, Keynote Speaker



Student Body President Esi Obeng '18

WE going to do about this?’ Your crew holds you accountable to your plan. And, your crew supports you transactionally, such as by re-Tweeting your posts and promoting your work.”

Tiffany shared a story of when she was a little girl and her reaction toward a neighborhood boy who acted inappropriately toward her. Even at that young age, Tiffany knew that his actions were not acceptable and she followed her instincts. “Listen to your gut voice. Don’t confuse the voice in your head with the voice in your gut.” She also shared the early struggles of her parents and noted that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible “in this

great country.” She concluded by saying, “In order to finish the next leg of the race, I encourage you to find your crew, listen to your gut voice and to do something that you’ve never done before. The world needs your leadership.”

Head of School Meera Viswanathan spoke to the class saying, “Today is a bidding of farewell as all of you go out into the world. There are two things additionally I would like you to take with you as you pack up your belongings: Heart and Imagination.” She quoted the work of authors and poets, including John Keats who said “I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the Heart’s affections and the truth of the Imagination.”

She then delivered her charge to the Class of 2018 imploring them to “...go out boldly in the world with heart and imagination remembering the words of our school meditation, ‘for in love lies the key to life.’ Remember that your bond to this School can never be severed, you will always be ours, we will always be yours. Though you will undoubtedly face many obstacles, manifest resilience, even in difficult times. Know that in the words from Virgil’s *Aeneid*, ‘Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit.’ Even at this too will you one day look back and smile.” ■

Funding for our commencement speaker was provided through the Margaret Huling Bonz Women of Distinction Speakers Series Endowment Fund. Dr. Bonz was head of school from 1988-1999.



The Ethel Walker Medal is the highest honor bestowed on an adult member of the Walker’s community whose service and dedication has been “of the highest caliber and represents the vision, tenacity and commitment of the founder of The Ethel Walker School, Ethel Walker herself.” The award, given at commencement exercises, is presented on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

This year, **Trustee Tom Regan P’13** was presented with The Ethel Walker School Medal during Commencement exercises. In her comments about Tom, Board Chair Kit O’Brien Rohn ’82 said, “Tom’s longstanding leadership at Walker’s began during his daughter Chelsea’s enrollment in the middle school where he became involved as an active parent volunteer and fundraiser for the School. Tom joined Walker’s Board in 2014. His work on the board includes the investment committee, finance committee, audit committee, foundation board, executive committee and treasurer of the board.” She continued, “On the Board, he has been invaluable, working with Greg Jandreau, our CFO, to ensure careful oversight of our operational budget and investments, and embodying fiscal prudence and discipline, always candid and always kind in his approach.”

Regan, an attorney and partner with Brown Rudnick, LLP in Hartford and a graduate of Trinity College, Yale University and the University of Connecticut School of Law, was joined at the event by his wife, Melissa, and their son, Colin. His daughter, Chelsea, is a 2013 graduate of Walker’s who celebrated her fifth reunion in May.



Trustee Kit O’Brien Rohn ’82, Trustee Tom Regan P’13 and Head of School Meera Viswanathan

2018 PRIZE NIGHT AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS

BOOK AWARDS

THE BRANDEIS BOOK AWARD

Elisabeth Helmin '19

THE BROWN BOOK AWARD

Stephanie Makowski '19

THE DARTMOUTH BOOK AWARD

Alaina Vermilya '20

GEORGE WASHINGTON BOOK AWARD

Stephanie Makowski '19

THE HARVARD BOOK AWARD

Xinyu Wang '19

THE MOUNT HOLYOKE BOOK AWARD

Celeste Davis '19

THE ST. LAWRENCE BOOK AWARD

Annie Sherbacow '19

THE SMITH BOOK AWARD

Maisie Smith '19

THE TRINITY BOOK AWARD

Guo Chen '19

THE WELLESLEY BOOK AWARD

Lilien Gruber '19

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE BOOK AWARD

Hannah Schweitzer '19
Caroline Smith '19

THE YALE BOOK AWARD

Hannah Schweitzer '19

DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND PRIZES

THE MARY SCULLER NELSON ENGLISH PRIZE

Isabel Lardner '18

THE MANDARIN PRIZE

Elise Namnoun '19

THE LATIN PRIZE

Theresa Jo '18

THE SPANISH PRIZE

Jessica Marasco '18

THE HISTORY PRIZE

Monique Pace '18

THE SCIENCE PRIZE

Jiaming Wang '18

THE RPI CERTIFICATE

Maisie Smith '19

THE MATHEMATICS PRIZE

Xuanzi Zhao '18

THE MUSIC PRIZE

Veronica Garcia '18

THE MADELENE SALA CHOIR GIRL

Sofia Lomba '18

THE VIRGINIA CHILDS RAMSEY HINMAN PRIZE

Jingyi Yan '18

THE PERFORMING ARTS PRIZE

Sofia Lomba '18

THE VISUAL ARTS PRIZE

Jingxuan Zhao '18
Adaline Friedlander '18

THE DOROTHY SILVERHERZ DANCE PRIZE

Caroline Strapp '18

THE ELIZABETH OLSON MARSHALL DANCE PRIZE

Margaret Wierdsma '18
Briana Goolsby '18

THE THEATRE PRIZE

Madeline Ross '18

THE TECHNICAL THEATRE PRIZE

Jessica Marasco '18

THE VOORHEES CUP

Margaret Dunn '18

THE MERITORIOUS EFFORT CUP

Keeley Duran '18

THE WILLIAM C. LICKLE ATHLETIC CUP

Keeley Duran '18

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Keeley Duran '18
Lauren Gaddis '18
Amande Joseph '18
Isabel Lardner '18
Caroline Strapp '18
Margaret Wierdsma '18
Saige Tapper-Young '18

THE WILLIAM C. LICKLE CUP TO HONOR FRANK O.H. WILLIAMS

Laurel Gaddis '18

SERVICE AWARDS

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Margaret Wierdsma '18

THE HEAD'S SERVICE AWARD

Alejandra Cortes-Fuenes '19
Amanda Joseph '18
Elisabeth Helmin '19
Shiyue Huang '19
Esi Obeng '18
Alaina Vermilya '20

THE CICERONE SOCIETY PRIZE

Caroline Niland '18

THE MARGARET MALLORY CUP

Lara-Emilia Schwörer '20

THE BRUNHILDE GRASSI CUP

Elisabeth Strapp '20

THE CLARISSA GREEN CUP

Mariela D'Alessandro '19

THE HELEN BLAIR MEMORIAL PRIZE

Adaline Friedlander '18

THE BARBARA AND ELIZABETH BYRNES MEMORIAL PRIZE

India Awe '18

THE EMILY CLUETT PRIZE

Marie Ettien '18

THE CUMMINGS PRIZE

Esi Obeng '18

THE ISABEL JACKSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

Eliza Wetmore '18

THE CATHERINE HENDERSON MURTAUGH PRIZE

Briana Goolsby '18

THE CARY PAGE MEMORIAL PRIZE

Margaret Wierdsma '18

THE HENRY B. SARGENT MEMORIAL PRIZE

Leslie Morales '18

THE ALISON STONE MEMORIAL PRIZE

Jiayi Wang '18

THE FACULTY PRIZE

Marion Carr '18

THE TRUSTEES' PRIZE

Lindsey Riggles '18



Senior Class Gift — During the Prize Night ceremony, the Class of 2018 gave a generous gift of a ping pong table to the School. It will be in the new Soc in the Centennial Center for all to enjoy. Pictured presenting the symbolic gift of paddles and balls to Head of School Meera Viswanathan are Leslie Morales, Eliza Wetmore and Addie Friedlander.

Baccalaureate Chapel

On a beautiful early summer evening, students, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered for Baccalaureate Chapel to celebrate as a community and to hear from 2018 Baccalaureate Speaker **Laurie MacAlpine P'08**. Special awards were given to a small number of girls in recognition of the qualities they possess as members of the Walker's community. Chapel was followed by a dinner in Beaver Brook for the seniors and their families which was served, following tradition, by members of the junior class.



Laurie MacAlpine P'08, Chair of the Music Department and 2018 Baccalaureate Speaker

In forming the **Caroline Walker Honor Society**, the Class of 1958 defined the four requisite qualities for membership in the Society: kindness, loyalty, courage and humility. The 2018 members of the Society are **Keeley Duran**, **Addie Friedlander** and **Jeanine Wang**.

Left-right, Keeley Duran '18, Addie Friedlander '18, and Jeanine Wang '18



During Commencement exercises, two prizes are awarded to graduating seniors including:

The **Prize for Scholarship** is awarded to the top student in the senior class who "is an exceptional student who has taken a remarkably difficult course load during her time at Walker's, and has excelled in each of those classes. This year's recipient is **Joyce Sun '18**.

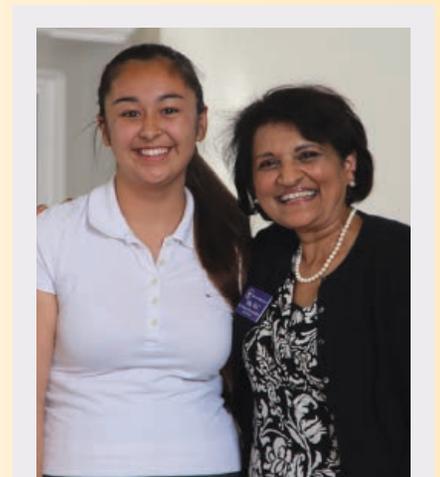


Dean of Academics Jill Harrington and Joyce Sun '18

The **Beatrice Hurlburt Memorial Prize** for character and influence is awarded to a student of "outstanding character. Character means possessing those qualities such as integrity, honor, unselfishness. Influence means positive leadership either actively or by example." This year's recipient is **Keeley Duran '18**.



Keeley Duran '18 and Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler



Liyanni Vasquez '20 and Head of School Meera Viswanathan

The **Amy C. Rehffuss Award** is presented during Baccalaureate Chapel to a girl who is "a versatile and sensitive young woman. Her grace and gentle manner complement her many talents." This year's winner is **Liyanni Vasquez '20**.

Class of 2018 Matriculations



72 students are attending **57** different colleges in **22** states (inc. DC)

Maggie Ashley
 India Awe
 Imani Baptiste
 Riley Bel Bruno
 Brenique Bogle
 Marion Carr
 Jingtao Chang
 Ernestine Chatman
 Rachel Crampton
 Hope Cushman
 Chloe Davis
 Kylie Driscoll
 Nina Duggal
 Calista Duggan
 Keeley Duran
 Mekkah El-Amin
 Marie Ettien
 Zakiya Evans
 Mia Farnella
 Ellery Finn
 Kayla Foster
 Adaline Friedlander
 Laurel Gaddis
 Gabriela Garcia Quiros
 Veronica Garcia
 Louisa Gillett
 Briana Goolsby
 Ella Gotbaum
 Sabrina Heller
 Pornpat Jantip
 Theresa Jo
 Amanda Joseph
 Lilah Kelly
 Morgan LaBonte
 Isabel Lardner
 Sydney Lerz
 University of Oregon
 American University
 Western Connecticut State University
 Denison University
 Bard College
 Swarthmore College
 Art Center College of Design
 Chapman University
 Cambridge University
 Rollins College
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Fordham University
 Denison University
 Hamilton College (NY)
 Jefferson University
 SUNY Buffalo
 Skidmore College
 Johns Hopkins University
 University of Vermont
 The University of Alabama
 Clarkson University
 Skidmore College
 American University
 Quinnipiac University
 United States Naval Academy
 Prep School
 Connecticut College
 Pace University
 University of Oregon
 Pennsylvania State University
 Babson College
 Tufts University
 Union College
 Bryant University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Fairfield University

Samantha Logan
 Sofia Lomba
 Jessica Marasco
 Lauren Marcrum
 Liberty Mewbourne
 Leslie Morales
 Caroline Niland
 Esi Obeng
 Monique Pace
 Lauren Pannullo
 Holly Paul
 Kathryn Phair
 Valentina Pirro
 Lindsey Riggles
 Elizabeth Roach
 Grace Romanik
 Madeline Ross
 Sara Scinto
 Karli Sifodaskalakis
 Caroline Strapp
 Jia Yi Sun
 Saige Tapper-Young
 Kaitlyn Thoma
 Katharine Tian
 Madeline Trenchard
 Jiaming Wang
 Jiayi Wang
 Eliza Wetmore
 Margaret Wierdsma
 Jewel Williams
 Jingyi Yan
 Han Yang
 Haoyue Zhang
 Jingxuan Zhao
 Xuanzi Zhao
 Yining Zhou

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 University of Connecticut
 Vassar College
 Pace University
 University of Miami
 Bard College
 Xavier University
 Amherst College
 University of Richmond
 Rutgers University
 Boston University
 University of New Hampshire
 Baylor University
 Brandeis University
 University of Hartford
 DeSales University
 Pace University
 Purdue University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Dickinson College
 University of California, Los Angeles
 New York University
 University of South Carolina
 New York University
 Bryant University
 Swarthmore College
 Boston College
 University of Denver
 New York University
 Jefferson University
 University of Rochester
 Northeastern University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 The New School
 Northeastern University
 Art Center College of Design

As of June 10, 2018

Eight

students are attending college
 for engineering

Six

students are attending college
 for visual or performing arts

Five

students will be playing a
 varsity sport in college

Rays of late afternoon sun beaming into the Chapel created the ideal setting to celebrate 13 eighth graders as they moved from being middle school students to rising ninth graders. During Walker's 28th Middle School Promotion, family and friends gathered to hear remarks by school administrators, the Middle School president and faculty advisors who read comments about each girl and the time they spent together.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Head of School Meera Viswanathan followed by comments from Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler. In her remarks, Ms. Wheeler encouraged the girls to employ three strategies for success in high school and beyond "aside from hard work and commitment." In illustrating her first point, lead by example, she commented on Student Body President **Esi Obeng '18**. "Esi just does what is right and good. She finds joy in others, is curious, passionate and kind." She continued, "She is quiet and confidently leads by her actions. This is the most authentic kind of leadership and I encourage you to learn from her and lead by example."

Ms. Wheeler encouraged the girls to "make the people you are with feel important and valued" and she also asked them to strive for a balance between strength and gentleness saying "Strength and softness are not mutually exclusive. You can have both. The challenge is finding the right balance for the circumstance."



Middle School Class President Njeri (Bejay) Mugo '22 read a personal letter to each of her classmates raising a good deal of laughter with her wit and insightfulness about each student. The event was capped off with the eighth graders singing *It's Time* by Imagine Dragons followed by The Ethel Walker School Song.



MEMBERS OF THE EIGHTH GRADE CLASS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Dale | Karrah Hayes | Njeri (Bejay) Mugo |
| Olivia Dargis | Ana Hunt | Sofia Sheintop |
| Christina Fares | Mae Johnson | Hailey Suller |
| Nancy Gfeller | Katherine (Kate) | Kaitlyn Suller |
| Asha Haug | Manderlink | |

What is the Gwen Couch Award?

During the early years of the Walker's Middle School, Ms. Gwendolyn "Gwen" Couch built a community based on friendship, citizenship, and a curiosity for learning. She had a way of bringing students together and encouraging them to be their best selves. Ms. Couch held dear the Walker's traditions that fostered and deepened our common bonds. For these reasons, the Gwen Couch award is given to the Middle School student who best embodies those admirable traits of our beloved Ms. Couch: a warm welcome for all, a sense of creativity, strong school spirit, a joy of learning, and kindness to everyone. Ms. Couch is the mother of Meghan "Mega" Couch-Edwards '10 and Alicia "Liss" Couch-Edwards '07.

Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler and Middle School Director Lee Ann Harris presented the following awards during the ceremony:



HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Grade 8
Karrah Hayes '22



HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Grade 7
Eleanor Lardner '23



GWEN COUCH AWARD
Njeri (Bejay) Mugo '22



Works by Alumnae Authors

Members of the alumnae community are busy publishing books on a variety of topics. Please enjoy this sampling of some of the latest books published by fellow classmates.

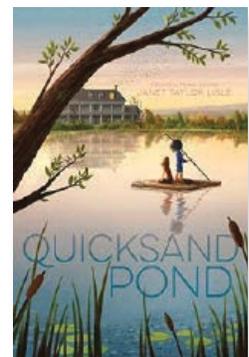
Janet “J.J.” Taylor Lisle ’65 *Quicksand Pond*

Echoing the themes and tone of Lisle’s Newbery Honor–winning *Afternoon of the Elves*, this loss-of-innocence novel traces the delicate friendship built between two girls from different backgrounds. Irritated with everyone in her family, 12-year-old Jessie Kettel is in a “separatist mood” when she arrives at a rented Rhode Island cottage for summer vacation. While her father and siblings find other ways to occupy their time, she goes off by herself to the nearby pond, where she finds a dilapidated raft and later meets Terri, a local girl. Terri is eager to help Jessie fix the craft, and as the girls make repairs, Jessie becomes unsettled by Terri’s stories about the downfall of her family, her destructive home life, and her dreams to get away. With characteristic subtlety and enormous compassion, Lisle expresses complex family and social conflicts while showing how Jessie’s understanding of the world and her newfound friend expand, even as the views of those around her remain narrow. Terri’s struggle against oppression and prejudice will have as profound an impact on readers as it does on Jessie. For ages 10 and up.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com>

Paperback

ISBN 978-1-4814-7222-7



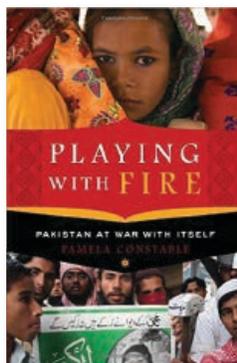
Pamela Constable '70
*Playing with Fire:
Pakistan at War with
Itself*

A volatile nation at the heart of major cultural, political, and religious conflicts in the world today, Pakistan commands our attention. Yet more than six decades after the country's founding as a Muslim democracy, it continues to struggle over its basic identity, alliances, and direction. In *Playing with Fire*, acclaimed journalist Pamela Constable peels back layers of contradiction and confusion to reveal the true face of modern Pakistan.

In this richly reported and movingly written chronicle, Constable takes us on a panoramic tour of contemporary Pakistan, exploring the fears and frustrations, dreams and beliefs, that animate the lives of ordinary citizens in this nuclear-armed nation of 170 million. From the opulent, insular salons of the elite to the brick quarries where soot-covered workers sell their kidneys to get out of debt, this is a haunting portrait of a society riven by inequality and corruption, and increasingly divided by competing versions of Islam.

Beneath the façade of democracy in Pakistan, Constable reveals the formidable hold of its business, bureaucratic, and military elites — including the country's powerful spy agency, the ISI. This is a society where the majority of the population feels powerless, and radical Islamist groups stoke popular resentment to recruit shock troops for global jihad. Writing with an uncommon ear for the nuances of this conflicted culture, Constable explores the extent to which faith permeates every level of Pakistani society — and the ambivalence many Muslims feel about the role it should play in the life of the nation.

Hardcover and ebook
ISBN 978-1-4000-6911-8

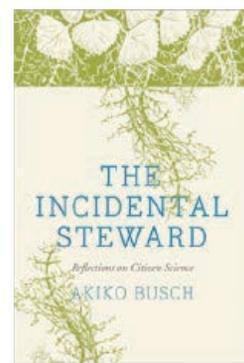


Akiko Busch '71
The Incidental Steward

A search for a radio-tagged Indiana bat roosting in the woods behind her house in New York's Hudson Valley led Akiko Busch to assorted other encounters with the natural world — local ecological monitoring projects, community-organized cleanup efforts, and data-driven citizen science research. Whether it is pulling up water chestnuts in the Hudson River, measuring beds of submerged aquatic vegetation, or searching out vernal pools, all are efforts that illuminate the role of ordinary citizens as stewards of place. In this elegantly written book, Busch highlights factors that distinguish twenty-first-century citizen scientists from traditional amateur naturalists: a greater sense of urgency, helpful new technologies, and the expanded possibilities of crowdsourcing.

The observations here look both to precisely recorded data sheets and to the impressionistic marginalia, scribbled asides, and side roads that often attend such unpredictable outings. While not a primer on the prescribed protocols of citizen science, the book combines vivid natural history, a deep sense of place, and reflection about our changing world. Musing on the expanding potential of citizen science, the author celebrates today's renewed volunteerism and the opportunities it offers for regaining a deep sense of connection to place.

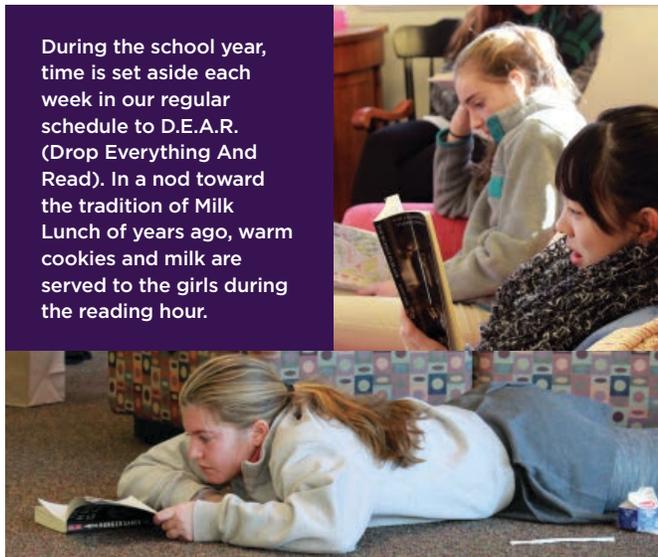
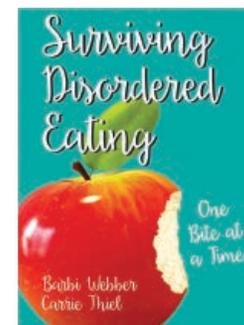
Hardcover, paperback and ebook
ISBN 978-0300178791



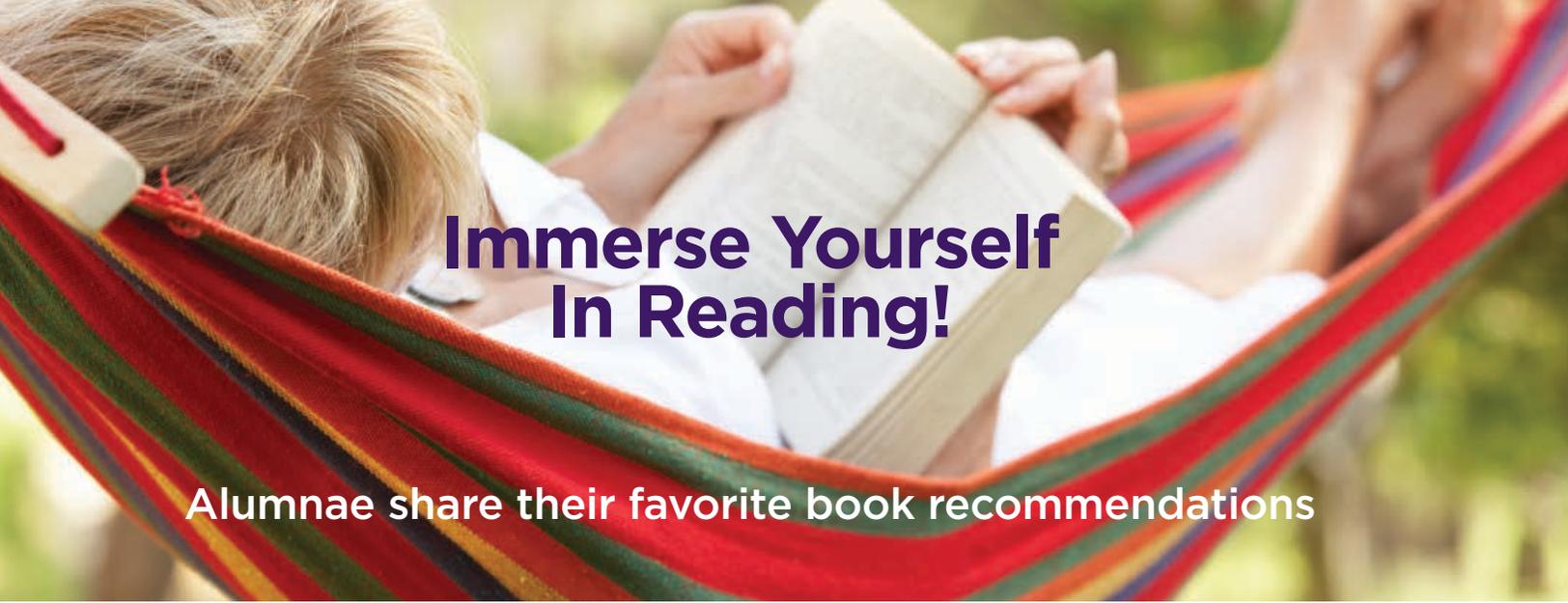
Barbara "Barbi" Heimbach Webber '78
(with co-author Carrie Thiel)
*Surviving Disordered Eating:
One Bite at a Time*

Written by an eating disorder survivor and a licensed clinical professional counselor, this book offers practical tips and strategies for anyone recovering from anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, or other forms of disordered eating. It is also a useful resource for parents, other family members, friends, teachers, mental health and medical professionals.

Paperback and ebook
ISBN 978-1-60679-340-4



During the school year, time is set aside each week in our regular schedule to D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read). In a nod toward the tradition of Milk Lunch of years ago, warm cookies and milk are served to the girls during the reading hour.



Immerse Yourself In Reading!

Alumnae share their favorite book recommendations

1953

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.

Susan “Susie” Kleinhans Gilbertson says, “My book suggestions are *The Velveteen Daughter* by Laurel Davis Huber and *Horse Soldiers* by Doug Stanton.”

Louise “Rusty” Hodgman Huff recommends *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, adding, “This book is very popular and I really enjoyed it.”

1954 REUNION

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.

Mary H. Stein Dominick-Coomer submitted these picks:

Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

The Things We Keep by Sally Hepworth

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

The Second Mrs. Hockaday by Susan Rivers

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Helen Harvey Mills loved the following titles:

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

The Gourmands’ Way: Six Americans in Paris and the Birth of a New Gastronomy by Justin Spring

The House in Prague: How a Stolen House Helped an Immigrant Girl Find Her Way Home by Anna Nessay Perlberg (Also known as Anna Backer Perlberg, a former History teacher at Walker’s.)

Betty Richards Tripp’s list includes two of Mary’s choices: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, which Betty says is “an incredibly well researched historical novel covering many generations from

Ghana to the U.S., is beautifully written and compelling to read.” Betty also adds, “*A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles is a wonderful if improbable tale of a Russian nobleman confined to his Moscow hotel under the Soviet regime.” Additionally, Betty recommends *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance and says, “This heralded memoir portrays, with empathy and feeling, the trials and tribulations of those most affected by the end of the industrial era in the U.S.” Betty’s final recommendation is *A World Elsewhere: An American Woman in Wartime Germany* by Sigrid MacRae. “Written by her youngest daughter, the life of a rather naïve debutante from West Hartford, CT, who marries a Russian-German nobleman in pre-WWII Paris and all too soon is left widowed with five children in Nazi Germany. Post-WWII they move to Maine with minimal money and restore a house with no electricity and minimal plumbing.”

1965

Sarah Elting Doering

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Sarah Elting Doering

writes, “Please see page 20 for information on our classmate **Janet “J.J.” Taylor Lisle’s** book *Quicksand Pond*. She writes children’s books that have earned awards and she is quite well known. She couldn’t come to our 50th but she lives in Rhode Island and I am in contact with her.”

1971

Cynthia Smith Evanisko

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Marie “Betsy” E. Ballenger

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Deborah A. Seaman

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Charlotte Smart Rogan’s novel, *The Lifeboat*, is being made into a movie! The book is described as “[a] page-turning novel of hard choices and survival, narrated by a woman as unforgettable and complex as the events she describes.” Hooray Sunray Charlotte!

 = class correspondent

1972

Joanna Betts Virkler

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Joanna Betts Virkler says “I bought a couple of books for grandchildren in the 4th to 6th grade range at a school book fair. I wanted to read them myself first and completely fell in love with a couple of them. The first one is *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor. The second is *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. Many of you may have seen the movie. I have not, but I am sure it is good. The book is very good, but I honestly enjoyed “Mason Buttle” more and it has a similar storyline. The third book is *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter. The fourth is *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian. This book was published first in 1981, and I thoroughly enjoyed it but I think the story is just too intense for children. The other three books are great for children of all ages. They also have the advantage of being short!”

Karen Brooks recommends her sister’s book, *Alannah* by Leslie Brooks ’70. “It’s young adult fiction but I loved it, too — I’m not much of a reader (eyes don’t cooperate) but I downloaded it to Kindle and it worked fine.” Karen also shared the link to Leslie’s book: www.recorder.com/New-book-5965367”

“This is my favorite book at this time, *Essential Oils: Ancient Medicine* by Josh Axe, Jordan Rubin, and Ty Bollinger,” says Babbette “Babbie” Epple Melka. Babbette adds, “*Mosby’s Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Health Professions* is fascinating. And of course, all the Harry Potter books.”

Barklie Eliot touts, “I really enjoyed *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. It’s both funny and thoughtful. I also love *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, which has been out a while. *Exit West: A Novel* by Mohsin Hamid is a really interesting take on the whole issue of immigration. The book, *The Power*, by Naomi Alderman will engage and jolt your sensibilities. Starts a bit predictably but takes an unexpected turn near the end. Finally, if you like biographies, anything by Ron Chernow or Walter Isaacson is excellent.”

Jane Hadden Geisse highly recommends *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman and says it is “one of the best books I’ve read in years — it’s fiction.” Jane adds, “A really interesting non-fiction book is *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel. It’s the true story about a man who lived in the Maine woods for 25 years without any human contact. I know I have read other good books, but of course can’t recall them when I try to. Hope everyone out there is well.”

“I’ll go with the book I have recommended the most so far this year, *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea,” says Gilda Rogers. “It’s a story about a Mexican-American family. We have the patriarch of the family who is looking forward to his own passing and throws himself a party. While the subject would usually be rather somber, the story is told with lots of humor. The family story gives a look at a family that is going in different directions but they all come together in their love for their family. I enjoyed the writing and I enjoyed the characters.”

Classmate Sarah House Denby has these two recommendations: “*Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood (the first of the

MaddAddam trilogy, but they’re all stand-alone novels) and *To Be Sung Underwater*, by Tom McNeal.”

1975

Dr. Doris “Veda” Pendleton

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Hilary Walker Hotchkiss

recommends the following:

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Leslie Baldwin likes these three:

The Mermaid Chair and *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

What I Told My Daughter:

Lessons from Leaders on

Raising the Next Generation of Empowered Women by Nina Tassler

Class correspondent Dr. Doris “Veda” Pendleton suggests:

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America by Michael Eric Dyson

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

One Crazy Summer, P.S. Be Eleven and *Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia

Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Is Speaking by Priscilla Shirer

Editor’s note: We’d like to suggest Dr. Doris “Veda” Pendleton’s book, *I Mastered Parenting, and Here’s What I Did: Parenting Strategies That Work*.

1979 REUNION

Karen Polcer Bdera

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Karen Polcer Bdera provides this summer reading list, courtesy of the Class of 1979:

Uncommon Type: Some Stories by Tom Hanks

Doctor Sleep by Stephen King

The Black Box by Michael Connelly

The Woods by Harlan Coben

The Empathy Exams: Essays by Leslie Jamison

1980

Ann O’Reilly

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From the Class of 1980, Ann Steiner O’Reilly sends:

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

The Collectors by David Baldacci

I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

1981

Veronica “Roni” Leger

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Elizabeth England shares these titles: “*Mrs. Caliban* by Rachel Ingalls; *The Perfect Nanny* by Leila Slimani (riveting); *Transit* by Rachel Cusk (she’s not for everyone, but I LOVE her!); *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng; and my pal, April Stevens, has written a young adult book that is breaking my heart (in a good, perfect way), *The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley*. EWS should have it in the library!” To the Class of 1981, Elizabeth adds, “Hellllloooooo, everyone! xx”

1990

Amanda Pitman

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For the U.S. market, Lauren Howard Sentuc translated *You Changed My Life*, by Abdel Sellou, a memoir on which the film was based. Lauren adds, “Apart from that, I translate/adapt novels, screenplays, subtitles and ad campaigns.”

1998

Brooke Berescik-Johns

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Suggestions from Kate Estock:

In a Dark, Dark Wood and *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware

Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud: The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman by Anne Helen Petersen

It Ended Badly: Thirteen of the Worst Breakups in History by Jennifer Wright

Ipsita Das recommends:

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

The Animators by Kayla Rae Whitaker

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy

The Sleepwalker’s Guide to Dancing by Mira Jacob

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai

Brooke Berescik-Johns’ picks include:

Circe by Madeline Miller

Cross Creek by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Jessica Terpstra sends a Hooray Sunray! to Suzanne Hayes ’96 who has numerous recently-published articles as well as a blog. You can find more information on Suzanne’s Facebook page, under Suzanne Eileen. Jessica also recommends *The Rise & Fall of Great Powers* by Tom Rachman and *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams* by Matthew Walker.

2017

Idabelle Paterson

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Shiyi “Koko” Fei recommends the classic, *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf.



Walker’s alumna Nicole Hart Dunn ’96 was a mystery reader during story time for our *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* program. During the six-week Horizons summer session, kindergarten through fourth grade students enjoy fun academically-enriching activities such as art, sports, music and swimming, along with a focus on strengthening their literacy, math, science and technology skills.

The Horizons program began in 1964 at New Canaan Country School. In 2017, Horizons served over 5,000 students in 52 programs in 17 states. There are currently eight programs in Connecticut. Walker’s hosts the first all-girls program in the country.

Stay in touch!

We love to hear from our alumnae and want to know more about what you are doing out in the world. Send us your news and be sure that we have your most up-to-date contact information on hand so that we can share news about what is happening in Simsbury. Please email us at alumnae@ethelwalker.org or contact us by phone at (860) 408-4259.

Many of you remember the summer reading list that we all received as students. We thought you would enjoy seeing the list our girls are reading from for this coming school year. <https://www.ethelwalker.org/summer-reading-2018>



Annual Fund
for Walker's

THANK YOU!

**Thank you for your gift to the
Annual Fund for Walker's.**

Walker's girls had a great
school year because of you.

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The Ethel Walker School

To learn how your gift made an impact,
please watch this thank you video:



[www.ethelwalker.org/
thankyou2018](http://www.ethelwalker.org/thankyou2018)





Spread the word about your alma mater!

Visit campus, learn about our curriculum, riding program, athletics and art offerings, and meet and interact with students, faculty and staff.

OPEN HOUSES

Monday, October 8 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, December 3 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, November 8 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



www.ethelwalker.org/admission