

Washington Waldorf at 40

The 2009-2010 school year marked an important milestone for WWS, as we celebrated our 40th anniversary with several events throughout the year, culminating in our Founder's Reception last June.

When the Washington Waldorf School opened its doors in 1969, Richard Nixon was president, Neil Armstrong had recently become the first man on the moon, and the Beatles were still together. The graduates of our first high school class, in 1988, weren't even born. That was a turbulent era, but it was ripe with possibilities, and in our culture there was a chaotic will for change. Our founders seized on that spirit and brought forth a vision for Waldorf education in Washington. The individual initiative and commitment of those early teachers and board members is inspiring to this day.

Looking back on our history I'm struck that this too is a turbulent era. The young people of today share a strong sense of social justice, albeit with a calmer spirit, and perhaps a more practical approach to putting their ideals into action. And we at the Washington Waldorf School now have 40 years of experience to build upon. We have become a mature school, but we continue to consciously cultivate the enduring ideals that keep us young in spirit.

About 1500 students have attended WWS over the years, and more than 300 have graduated from our high school. Our alumni are the true measure of our school. They have excelled at some of the nation's finest colleges and universities. They have shown initiative soon after graduation, and they have gone on to pursue careers in virtually every field under the sun. Most importantly they are living full, meaningful lives. Some of our graduates now have children of their own, and we are beginning to see more second generation children at the school. Even years after leaving WWS, many alumni tell us that their Waldorf education continues to be central to who they are. We are very proud of our alumni, and I hope you will have a look at the class notes (our most extensive ever).

The accomplishments of our alumni are theirs alone, but they have been supported by what might be considered a three-legged stool, comprised of individual teachers and the curriculum, the institution of the School, and their families.

Over the years, some 125 faculty members have taught at WWS, some for only a year or two, and a handful for decades. Their experience and dedication have made us what we are as a school. The Waldorf curriculum, too, is a key to who we are, and it serves as a ceaseless fount of inspiration and wisdom to our

teachers. Over time, it's interesting to observe how resilient, yet flexible the curriculum has been. Moreover, the Waldorf education movement has grown enormously in 40 years, and our teachers draw on the experience and innovations of teachers at hundreds of Waldorf schools in the U.S. and around the world. Just as the times are always changing, good teachers also change by working seriously on their own personal growth and constantly adapting the wisdom of the Waldorf curriculum to the changing needs of our students and their families.

In 40 years the institutional foundation of the School has grown stronger too. The Trustees Council and College of Teachers have evolved considerably so that we have clearer lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability. In the early days, the teachers ran the school alone, admirably taking up every challenge as theirs to meet. They built the stage, staffed the office, ran the admissions process, and much more. With more experience, however, we have recognized the value of building a professional administrative staff, allowing the teachers to focus more on their teaching. Our finances have grown stronger too in 40 years. We run a balanced budget every year and have about \$1 million in our building fund.

Finding a permanent home for the School continues to be an important challenge, but there are exciting developments to report.

The third leg of the stool that supports our students is the parents and extended community. There are about 775 current or former WWS families, as well as many other friends and organizations who are interested in the School. Our families are vital partners in Waldorf education, and they have assumed an essential role in the life of the School over the years. Just as teachers rely on families to support their work in the classroom, the School supports families in developing a more centered and grounded lifestyle.

Over the years we have hosted speakers and conferences that have invited parents to bring some of what Waldorf education has to offer into their homes. Most recently, Kim John Payne spoke about specific ways to simplify the lives of young children so that they do not take on the stress that infiltrates so much of modern life. Our families, especially current parents, provide devoted and expert support to the School as members of the Parent Organization, at events throughout the year, and as leaders on our Trustees Council.

Equally important, our extended community of families, friends, and increasingly, alumni support the School generously through philanthropic gifts. The level of giving has grown significantly over the years and has now become a substantial part of the School's overall budget.

We can be proud of what WWS has become in 40 years. At our Founders Reception it was humbling to



photo by Mei Mei Lin, Class of 2013

hear of the commitment and hard work of those who grew the School in its early years. As important as our accomplishments are, however, we can't rest or become complacent.

Looking ahead to 2010-2011 and beyond, I can't help but recall the obstacles and uncertainties that faced our founders. They started, as so many schools do, in a church basement, with few resources and students; Waldorf education was virtually unknown in this country. What they had in abundance was a pioneering spirit and a commitment to a clear vision.

These times, too, no less than any other time in our history, ask us to reach deep within ourselves and reconnect with that animating spirit and vision. Thankfully, our students give us that opportunity every day. They are what moves us as teachers and parents.

As we begin our 41st year our top priorities are increasing enrollment and ensuring that we are meeting the changing needs of our students. Our enrollment has suffered as a result of the difficult economic climate, and we have had to make changes to accommodate this drop in the number of students. While our program remains vibrant, we want larger

News

Site Update

As you may know from reading previous editions of the *Messenger* or other WWS publications, the School is seeking to obtain a long-term lease (ideally 30 years) on our current property on Sangamore Road. Our hope is that a long-term lease will enable us to make substantial capital improvements to the building, including adding a gymnasium, which will meet our needs for many years to come. This has been a slow process, and it will still take some time to unfold, but I am happy to report that we are making substantial progress.

During the last three years we have taken a variety of actions that set the stage for negotiations with the County. First, we established a capable site committee under the guidance of the Trustees Council. Second, we hired a lawyer who is experienced in working real estate matters with the County. Third, we hired an engineering firm to conduct a detailed engineering assessment of the building which gave us a detailed description of the condition of the building and what improvements are needed. Finally, we hired an architectural firm and have developed conceptual designs for renovations of the building. In the background we have also been working to be a good neighbor and build relationships with local community groups, as they will have a strong voice in the leasing process. All these actions were underway or completed by the 2008-2009 school year.

Last year we moved the process to the next level. We had a series of meetings to explain our plans to

Waldorf at 40, continued from front page

classes for many reasons, not only financial ones. Toward that end we are improving our outreach and marketing efforts, while doing everything possible to keep the School affordable. At the same time, word of mouth still brings us the greatest number of new students.

I have no doubt that we will continue to grow and thrive as a School and as a community. Our alumni show us that Waldorf education works. The Waldorf curriculum continues to provide a very deep well of insight and inspiration. Our extended community is strong and remains committed to the School. As an institution we're better equipped than ever to meet the challenges we face and realize the many opportunities we have.



Michaelmas Tug of War

members of the County Council, the County Executive, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Parks & Planning Commission, all of which were encouraging. In addition, we held the first of what we expect will be several formal meetings, as required by county regulations, with our neighbors to explain what we want to do. We also attended neighborhood association meetings to answer neighbors' questions.

In May the County formally initiated the releasing process by publishing a formal legal notice indicating that the property is available for lease and asking for expressions of interest. Once the period for expression of interest had expired in July, we were the only

party that had submitted a proposal. As a result, we began negotiations on a new lease with the County in September. In order to obtain a long term lease, we are required by regulation to commit to making substantial capital improvements in our building. Our plan is to agree to make certain essential improvements in the existing structure and to build a gymnasium. Assuming we reach agreement on the terms of a proposed lease with the County real estate department, the matter would then go to certain County and State organizations for approval. Once such approvals are in hand, the lease would be signed and become effective. Separately, a more detailed design process would be initiated and would involve hearings before the Park & Planning Commission. Although we hesitate to make predictions, there appears to be a reasonable chance that we will have a long-term lease in hand by summer 2011. The formal planning approval process would take somewhat longer.

As it becomes clearer that we are likely to succeed, we will need to launch a capital campaign. We have begun preliminary planning for the campaign, and when the time is right, we will be ready to proceed. In any event, the news is good, and we have every reason as a community to be excited about the possibilities that lie ahead of us. Please stay tuned for further developments!

Daniel Wacker — Chairman, Trustees Council



Beyond the numbers, the history, and the new initiatives is what we can bring our students tomorrow and the day after. Each of our students is precious, and every day, when one of our teachers greets the students with a handshake and a heartfelt "Good morning!" we take the next step in the extraordinary journey that Waldorf education provides.

Natalie Adams, Faculty Chair

Everyone put on their warmest clothes for the Blizzard of 2010 in February

40 Years — Two Generations

Carl Hoffman, the first class teacher at WWS, sent the following reflections to be shared at the 40th anniversary Founders Reception in June. Now in his eighties, Mr. Hoffman lives in New Zealand.

Your school can be compared to a river that rises in the spiritual world, gently meanders downstream, occasionally interrupted by eddies and whirlpools, and ending in the ocean. In its bed, the River God keeps its watchful eye on events on the surface, complementing his mighty neighbor, the Potomac that provides the area with water for the physical needs of the people. The name of the river endures; its ever-changing waters are the students, their parents, and teachers.

I imagine the children being guided by their angels towards this school who, in a miraculous way, led their parents to it to be enrolled there.

This is what actually happens here. It is well known that no two Waldorf schools are identical. How could they be when each of them, each class, is custom-made to the students' needs and destinies?

It is this that Guiseppe Jones so movingly referred to in his address at the Spring Gala. He was the youngest in his class of eleven children, blessed with a mother who was as thrilled with our school



Three of our founders, Clopper Almon, and Gene and Esther Smith, joined us for our 40th Anniversary Founders Reception in June

as he was happy in it. He was the only student I know of who had not missed a day during eight years! (*Guiseppe was a member of the first class at WWS and he, along with classmate, Fred Samuels, attended our spring gala, where they provided some*

lovely reflections on what the school has meant to them.) He was actually too young for school and often very tired. I allowed him to nod off, but a part of him obviously attended! Every now and then, an apt sentence would surprise us, the correct answer to a question. Himself surprised at what he heard, he would look around for the speaker.

What a beautiful school this is. I am tempted to write a book about it. I actually did 39 years ago and sent the manuscript to Saul Bellow who recommended it to his publisher (in his letter to me he wrote: "had I known of this education sooner, I would have sent my children to such a school."). I received no answer from the publisher.

But this rejection proved to be a blessing. It would have been premature: Eleven children do not make a school! It is another instance of guidance and protection.

The Washington Waldorf School, i.e. its supportive parents, fine students, and talented, devoted teachers, is one of the best. I wish it well for its future.

WWS Community Continues to Give Generously—Thank You!

On behalf of the Trustees Council, our faculty, families, and most of all, our students, we'd like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who gave so generously to support the Washington Waldorf School during 2009-2010. All together, the extended WWS community gave about \$307,000 last year to the School. These gifts make a vital difference in sustaining the School, and we can all be grateful for the spirit of generosity and commitment that lives in our community.

Fundraising accounts for about 8 percent of the overall budget, and we'd like to take a moment to explain the role of giving in the life of the School and highlight some of the "extras" that fundraising makes possible.

Why fundraise at all? The main consideration to bear in mind is that tuition does not cover the full cost of running the School. Last year this gap was about \$1,000 per student. Our fundraising efforts—especially the annual giving campaign—make up most of the difference.

Last year the annual giving campaign raised about \$205,000, a very respectable result in view of the difficult economic climate. These gifts go directly to support the operating budget of the School, of which

about 75 percent is allocated to salaries and benefits, with most of the remainder going to facilities and maintenance, utilities, and program expenses.

There are two other main components of our fundraising program: the fall bazaar and spring gala. Both were notably successful this year and exceeded our goals. The bazaar—our 40th—raised about \$26,000. This continues to be a beloved tradition at the School, and it provides a unique opportunity for parents to work together on a wonderful community event that also exposes the School to a wider audience. All funds from the bazaar also support the operating budget and therefore help close the gap between tuition and costs.

Our 40th anniversary spring gala, held at the Embassy of Austria, was a smashing success, and raised about \$69,000. Of this total, \$36,500 was allocated to the operating budget, as were proceeds from the annual giving campaign and the bazaar. The rest was split between two special projects: hiring a chef to launch a full food program (\$23,400); and purchasing new desks for the Lower School (\$9,100). We're especially excited about the progress we've made in the food program made possible through the generosity of the community at the galas during the

last couple of years. We also want to acknowledge the contributions to the food program made by the Parent Sustainability Circle and other parents. The monies raised for new desks will also make a difference every day for many of our students when they sit down to a much more comfortable workspace.

Finally, the School also received an additional \$5,965 in gifts that were restricted to other specific items, including teacher professional development, the Alanna Lake Endowment Seed Fund, and the sports program, with smaller amounts going to other smaller initiatives. These gifts make an important difference in allowing the School to undertake projects outside the regular budget.

Each and every gift the School receives is very important in the life of the School. Moreover, the spirit of generosity that lives so strongly in our extended community reflects a shared commitment to Waldorf education which is irreplaceable. Thank you so much for that commitment, because without it, we would not have the School we love and rely on.

Nancy Hirshbein, Co-Chair, Development Committee
Chrissie Sant, Co-Chair, Development Committee

Donors

The Washington Waldorf School deeply appreciates all gifts from our extend community, and we are pleased to recognize our donors. We have carefully checked all donor lists and have made every effort to ensure they are accurate. Please let us know of any corrections by contacting the development office at 301-229-6107 x123, or by email to ssmith@washingtonwaldorf.org.

Annual Giving Campaign

Membership in giving circles reflects all unrestricted gifts to the operating budget through the annual giving campaign. Individuals are credited with matching gifts by employers or other sources.

Visionary Circle

\$25,000 or more
Anonymous (2)

Phoenix Circle

\$10,000 – 24,999
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sant

Knights Circle

\$5,000 – 9,999
A. James and Alice Clark
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Partners Circle

\$2,500 – 4,999
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Jeanne Feeney
Glenda Flood
Bill and Nancy Foster
Roy Hakes and Debra Marshall
Malvery and Murchison Henry
Alvin Jenkins
Stacey Kornegay
David and Marcia Leonard
Aimen Mir and Ayesha Kazmi
Jon Jackson and
Maria Monteverde Jackson
David Nebiker and Barbara Cuthill
Jim and Susan Norton
Eliza Reed
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Craig van Schilfgaarde
Elizabeth Welles



photo by Andris Rutins

Deany Blades and Chuck Wells
Robert White

Community Circle

up to \$500
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Sven Abow
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 Microsoft Giving Campaign
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Gifts in sponsorship of our spring gala, including gifts for teacher tickets

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 Eric and Donna Dezenhall
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 Ellen McPherson and Taylor Simmons
 Steve Smith and JLee Newell
 Stuart and Robin Sorkin
 Chuck and Debbie Spitulnik
 Steve and Noelle Topetzas
 Dan and Yon Wacker
 Susan Walsh

Unrestricted gifts made through purchase of items at online or live auction

Anonymous (2)
 Natalie Adams
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 Lark Bergwin Anderson and Michael Anderson

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 Robin and Stuart Sorkin
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Kenann Thompson
Jane Towler
Anthony Modica and
Pamela Trochesset
Lelia True
Dan and Yon Wacker
Bruce and Ginny Weber
Julie and Daniel Wendt

Restricted Gifts

Gifts made at the spring gala "fund-an-item" auction to support purchase of new desks in select Lower School classrooms

Anonymous
John and Natalie Adams
Nevin Bender
Jack and Cecilia Benson
Carlos and Ana Cavalcanti
Ivan and Kathy Charner
Brad and Corinna Clark
David Clissold
Fred and Michele Coleman
Jimmy Daukas and Meg Royce
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Dick and Kay Efron
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Paul Squire and Marta Schley
Sarah Smith
Stuart and Robin Sorkin
Chuck and Debbie Spitulnik
Steve and Noelle Topetzas
Bruce and Ginny Weber
Inji Islam and Salman Zaheer
Calvin Zon and Laurel Blaydes

Gifts made at the spring gala "fund-an-item" auction in support of kitchen renovations and hiring a chef

John and Natalie Adams
Nevin Bender
Jack and Cecilia Benson
Ivan and Kathy Charner
Brad and Corinna Clark
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Amalya Dixon
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Christopher Kendall and
Susan Schilperoot
Brian Lake
Margo Reid and Greg Simon

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Alan Demmerle and Joy Belluzi
Judith Kierstead
Jack and Carol Petrash
Jim Reeves and Carol Parsons
Steve Smith and JLee Newell

Gifts in Kind

Donations by individuals of goods or services to our spring gala live and online auctions
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Laurent Andre
Fatimeh Asi
Bonnie Auslander
Juan and Cecilia Ayllon

Joe and Andrea Banyas
Magali Barbaran
Robert Barkin and Susan Biddle
Nancye Bonomo
Barbara Buchman
Marguerite Canfield
Dana Cann and Allie Coleman
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Inji Islam and
Salman Zaheer
Jan Zika

Donations by companies or other organizations of goods or services to our spring gala live and online auctions

Arts Afire
Avalon Theater
Ballet Petite and Youth
Performing Arts School
Barbara Glaeser Photography
Brooks Glogau Photographers
Buck's Fishing and Camping
Capitol Yacht Charters,
Fred Rapaport
C&O Canal Trust
Circle Yoga
Comet Ping Pong
Eron's Epicure
Glen Echo Children's Theater
Imagination Stage
Jak Plihal and BEING Solutions
Jim Johnson Photography/
Picture-Story Studio
Tutoring Terrific Kids
John Kaboff Cello School
My Organic Market
Restaurant Nora
Roda Movements, LLC
Sangamore
Washington Revels

Other Gifts in Kind

Anonymous
John and Lawrice Dolan
Ken Glass
Nancy Gould
Judy Penski and Robin Rose
Robert Roche and
Nancy Hirshbein
Dragos and Carol Roman
Jennifer Saloma
Kathy Sklar
Steve and Noelle Topetzas
Edwin Welles and
Liz Hagerman
Brian and Erin Wolf



Class Notes

This is our most extensive class notes section ever, and we thank all WWS alumni who provided updates to us. Anyone who attended WWS is considered to be an alumnus, regardless of whether he or she graduated from the School. This year's updates include more alumni who may not have graduated from WWS. We've appreciated hearing from many folks who left WWS prior to Grade 12 but nevertheless found their years at WWS to be important to them. In most cases, the year listed after each name below is the year of high school graduation, regardless of whether the individual graduated from WWS. Years prior to 1988, when the first WWS high school class graduated, generally refer to that person's eighth grade class year.

Please stay in touch. We're on Facebook, or you can reach us through our website, www.washingtonwaldorf.org, by email to ssmith@washingtonwaldorf.org, or by phone, at 301-229-6107 x123.

1980's

Kirsten Parsons McGee (1981) lives in North Brookfield, Massachusetts. She and her husband Dylan have three boys, ages 7, 5, and 3. She has been a stay-at-home mom for eight years and "loves it." A trained Waldorf teacher, she will homeschool her sons this fall.

Andy Jones (1981) has been teaching writing and literature at the University of California at Davis since 1990. He lives in Davis with his wife Kate and their three children. Inspired by the many poets he has interviewed for the last ten years on his weekly KDVS radio show, "Andy's Poetry and Technology Hour," Andy will publish his second book of poetry, *Cages*, in 2011. He also runs a biweekly poetry series, and is chair of the Cultural Action Committee of the City of Davis. Andy reports that "Although the Washington Waldorf School taught him to be an unhurried child, he is now a rather hurried adult." He is in touch with a number of friends from his graduating class of 1981. Andy received his PhD from UC Davis in 1996.

Daniel Foster (1983) is principal violist with the National Symphony Orchestra. He and his wife Adria (who is principal flautist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra) have two children, 6 and 4. Their son entered the WWS first grade this fall, and their daughter attends Acorn Hill. This summer (as he has for the past five summers) Daniel taught at a music festival in Sapporo, Japan.

Nathan Rein (1983) teaches religious studies at Ursinus College, in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He is married and has two children, ages 5 and 3. He received his PhD from Harvard in 2003. His website is www.nathanrein.com.

Catherine (Kate) Bell (1988) lives in San Francisco with her husband and two sons, 7 and 9, and works at a design firm where she develops museum exhibits.

Aric Finucane (1988) is an IT consultant, formerly with Pepco for several years, and now as a contract employee working on fire control and alarm systems. A resident of Silver Spring, he is active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Victoria Mansuri (1988) has left full time class teaching, but remains in Waldorf education, working with children and adults. This summer she taught summer intensives for Waldorf teachers at the Sunbridge Institute in New York, and did a stint at the NOVA Institute Teacher Training Program. She has mentored Waldorf teachers at WWS and in Alaska. While at home in Baltimore, Victoria teaches a group of home-schooled children two days a week and tutors at the Waldorf School of Baltimore. Victoria remains active in theater, and was cast in three plays during this past year at a community theater in Baltimore, and she directed an original musical based on the story of Queen Esther.

David Petty (1989) lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, with his wife and their two dogs and a cat. He is Director of

Business Development for a record label which specializes in fitness and dance music (www.powermusic.com and www.workoutmusic.com). He has worked with NBC's The Biggest Loser workout music series, Shape

"loving the sunny great outdoors and amazing cultural life." She has two children, ages 4 and 7. Her daughter started first grade at the Santa Fe Waldorf School this fall, and her son attends preschool at a program Helena



Iris Levin (2001) observing wildlife in the Galapagos Islands as part of her doctoral research at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Magazine, Prevention Magazine, and Runners World-branded workout music albums, among others. In the last year he has traveled to the UK, Hong Kong, and Japan in connection with his work.

1990's

April Lanman (1990) and her family, including four sons, ages 3 to 10, live in Germany, near Ueberlingen. She is applying to midwifery school in the fall. In the meantime she models for drawing classes. This summer she and her family visited her family in Wisconsin.

Amye Parker Mason (1990) lives in New Hampshire with her husband Shawn and their three children, ages 3, 9, and 11. They own two independent phone book businesses, one in New Hampshire and the other in West Virginia.

Helena Kehoe Mitchell (1990) lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she is

started, where she is "thrilled to get to use my Waldorf experience and training everyday." Before settling in Santa Fe, Helena completed a master's degree in education and the foundation year in anthroposophy, did volunteer work in Hawaii, lived off the grid exploring Colorado's wilderness, participated in AmeriCorps, and worked in education, fund raising and development for people with special needs, as well as for a multinational corporation.

John Selway (1990) lives in New York City, where he is a musician, producer, and DJ. He has recently begun teaching music software at a DJ and electronic music production school in NYC called Dubsport. His website is www.selwaymusic.net. He and his wife Eugenie have a one year old daughter.

James Kehoe (1991) lives in Windsor, Ontario, with his wife Karen and their two children ages 4 and a newborn. He is vice president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 1001, at the University of Windsor.



Daniela Anderson (2008) surveys out the landscape during her 4000-mile cross-country bike trip to raise awareness and funds for treatment of leprosy in Nepal

Alex Laing (1991) lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with his wife Utiki and their one-year-old daughter. He is the principal clarinetist of the Phoenix Symphony.

Amina Hafiz (1992) is a writer who specializes in health promotion. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with her husband Darius, and their two cats. For fun, Amina writes about books, food, and life at her blog, <http://furiouslywriting.blogspot.com>.

Kazi Kehoe McCloskey (1993) lives in Florida with her husband Michael and their two children, ages 3 and 8. She is enjoying living in the "land of sunshine" and preparing to return to college to finish her degree in pharmacy.

Lisa Zatkan Moss (1993) lives in Richmond, Virginia, where she is a nurse practitioner. She received her BS in Psychology and Sports Medicine from George Mason University and her MSN from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is an avid triathlete and completed a full-distance Iron Man (140.6 miles) in 2009.

Megin Charner Laird (1993) graduated last spring with her doctorate from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. She is on the Harvard faculty and directs their undergraduate teacher education program. Her wife gave birth to their second child this summer, who joins her seven-year-old big brother.

Charlie Mayer (1994) is Director of Operations at NPR News. He and his

wife Rachel have two girls, ages 1 and 3. Rachel and Charlie got married at Hawthorne Valley Farm in 2003 where Charlie spent every summer working on the farm, beginning in 1985 with his WWS third grade class trip to the farm.

John Panagis (1994) is a consultant who provides a wide variety of organizations and companies with marketing, branding, social media, and design services. His website is www.johnpanagis.com.

Becca Blond (1995) lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband Aaron and their bulldog Duke. Becca and Aaron were married in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2008 in a ceremony attended by WWS alumna Jessica Blond (Becca's sister), and Marsy Shattuck (1998). Becca is a freelance writer specializing in travel. She has co-authored more than 30 Lonely Planet travel guides, covering most of the globe including South Africa, Madagascar, Thailand, Australia, Tahiti, Western Europe and the USA. Her latest Lonely Planet title is *US Best Trips*. She is also a regular contributor to the luxury travel website Jetsetter.com, as well as the *Denver Post* and *Wall Street Journal*. Becca and her husband Aaron, who is also a Lonely Planet author, offer individual travel planning consultations. She can be reached online through Twitter: [PlanetBlond](https://twitter.com/PlanetBlond), or www.linkedin.com/beccablond.

Josh Petrash (1995) lives in Rockville, with his wife Wilnie and their two children ages 3 and 18 months. He

works in the Transportation Operations Administration of the DC Department of Transportation.

Lee Richardson (1995) is a Senior Software Engineer at Near Infinity Corporation in Reston, Virginia.

Lars Thorn (1995) lives in Los Angeles, California. He recently left his position of community outreach manager at the Westside Waldorf School, and is now seeking work in sports management, politics, tourism or education.

Megan Shelley (1996) is Director of Member Relations at Goodwill Industries International (GII), working with member Goodwills on their leadership development and CEO transitions. She graduated from GII's Senior Leadership Program in June. Megan and her husband Dan have an 18-month-old daughter. They live in Silver Spring.

Zephyr Mays (1997) and his wife Jessica are expecting their first child in November. Soon after, he will complete Coast Guard helicopter training and earn his Wings of Gold as a naval aviator. He will then be assigned to his first duty station as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot.

Nikita Pion Klockner (1997) obtained her license as an Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) and has been working as a psychotherapist at a health clinic in Washington DC. This fall she will be moving to Germany to work with military service members and their families.

Mikaela Bufano (1998) is a producer for the Fox Report with Shepard Smith. She is getting married this fall.

Debra Courage (1998) lives in Northampton, Massachusetts. She has two sons, ages 1 and 4. In addition to taking care of her sons, she is an artist, who works by commission in a variety of styles and media. Her website is www.debracourage.com.

Manfred Elfstrom (1998) is finishing up three years of work with the International Labor Rights Forum, the last year of which he lived in Toronto. This fall he began doctoral studies at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Chris Moses (1998) is a software engineer. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have a three-year-old son. They live in Columbia, Maryland.

Tony Williams (1998) lives in Philadelphia, where he is Director of Government Affairs for Comcast Cable. In addition to his work with Comcast, Tony is starting a fund, "IMPACT Philadelphia," to encourage young people to engage in philanthropy. Prior to joining Comcast Tony had a varied career in politics and government, including stints as a speechwriter for U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN), a public affairs specialist at the Republican National Committee, and a speechwriter at the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as a volunteer on various campaigns.



Nikita Pion-Klockner (1997), Sarah Heirman (1997), Chris Shattuck (1995), and Marsy Shattuck (1998) at our alumni holiday reception last December

Caroline Wright (1999) graduated from Georgetown University Medical School in 2008 and is in her third year of residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she is training to be an anesthesiologist.

Glenda Goodman [1999] moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota, early this year to be with her boyfriend. With Minnesota as her home base she will be traveling to Chicago, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, and Los Angeles to research and write her PhD dissertation on Historical Musicology at Harvard.

2000

Josh Courage is moving to Northern California to open an athletic training gym. In 2009 the City Paper named him the best personal trainer in DC. His website is www.joshcourage.com.

Sophie Toolanen graduated this summer from Eastern University with a MA in Counseling Psychology and is now looking for clinical work in the mental health field in Philadelphia.

2001

Bryan Atkins (right) received his BFA in Woodworking and Furniture Design from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, and is now living in the DC area where he has an active woodworking studio. One of his major projects was building a wooden strip kayak (photos), which took more than 600 hours. He also has done woodworking projects for Waldorf families.

Iris Levin is a PhD candidate in Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has been studying the population genetics of Galapagos seabirds and their parasites, and has done extensive field work on the Galapagos Islands, most recently collecting samples to describe a new species of blood parasite found in Great Frigatebirds. She expects to finish her PhD in the coming year.

Julia Lieberman is a teacher at an alternative school in Montgomery County. Having taught high school science for several years (including a stint teaching outdoor education in California) she is now working on her

MA in Education at the Johns Hopkins University. During the summers, she works as the assistant program director for Camp Attaway, a camp for children with behavioral and emotional disorders in Howard County.

2002

Ben Boorstein lives in Philadelphia where he works for a local non-profit. He and his new wife Jeanette were married last April. Before getting married they hiked 850 miles of the Appalachian Trail and traveled extensively in Southeast Asia.

Miriam Elfstrom is pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at Emory University with a focus in community health and development, and reproductive health and population studies. This summer she has been working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a project with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, and will be presenting the results of her research at the Global Maternal Health Conference in Delhi, India.

Danielle Menditch lives in Denver, Colorado, where she works at Colorado Youth for a Change, a non-profit that helps out-of-school youth in educational programs throughout the Denver area. She lives with her white miniature poodle mix named Louie.

Megan Schoellhamer and her team, the Fury, won the World Ultimate Club Women's Championship this summer, in Prague, Czech Republic. She is a math teacher and plans to begin graduate school in education this coming year.

2003

Likolani Brown is a member of the *corps de ballet* of the New York City Ballet and a part-time student at Columbia College in New York.

Tria Chang lives in California where she works as an education consultant. She is getting married in October.

Claire Clugston finished two years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in May 2010. She lived in a village in the mountains of the Dominican Republic working with a community organization

to implement a fruit tree reforestation project, a latrine project, and a cook stove project for women who were cooking every day on open fires. She now lives in Santo Domingo where she works in the Peace Corps office as a Volunteer Leader for the environment program, organizing trainings and



Bryan Atkins (2001) paddling his kayak, "Shooting Star, which he built. Design by Rob Macks.

conferences, writing project manuals, and supporting volunteers in the field.

Rod Corver is a financial analyst with the global shipping firm, American President Lines. He lives in Rotterdam, Netherlands, after a stint with the firm in Shanghai, China.

JD Dolan is an Army Infantry Officer serving with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He returned from Iraq in January 2010 and deployed to Afghanistan early this summer.

Jeff Johns will be graduating this fall with a BA in Visual Journalism from the Brooks Institute of Photography in Ventura, California. He has spent much of the past three years living and working in Thailand, Chile, India and Southern Africa on various documentary projects. He returned this summer from South Africa where he filmed his fifth documentary, on how leprosy is being addressed in Africa. After graduation he will be based in Los Angeles and continue filmmaking, editing, and producing documentaries both in the

US and abroad. You can find Jeff at www.jeffjohnsphotography.com.

2004

Anabella Aspiras graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing with a BSN. She has deferred

work on a Masters in Public Health in order to work as an RN in an emergency room at a DC hospital. In November she will go to Sierra Leone as part of a health mission funded through the World Health Organization.

Natasha Blank lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she works as a holistic health counselor and Reiki practitioner. She also works as a public relations manager for a large green roof project in SoHo. She is an avid dancer and will be teaching dance at 5Rhythms, a free-form dance practice, as well as teaching movement at Bellevue Hospital. She travels frequently in connection with Get Your Dance On, a dance party she hosts in partnership with the cultural events website www.flavorpill.com.

Sam Charner is Assistant Director of Admissions at Vassar College, from which he graduated in 2008.

Lief Klockner started law school this fall at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. In

the meantime, he has also been working as a paralegal and doing part-time computer repair work. His website is www.klocknercomputers.com.

Laura Lawler lives in Joshua Tree, California, where she has founded an alternative school, called the Living School. The school grew out of her work with children exploring the relationship between people and plants, as well as her experiences in community gardening. Its curriculum combines Waldorf, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Free School, and other sources. Her blog is: www.thefutureschoolhouse.blogspot.com. She is also working as a studio assistant for the artist Andrea Zittel, while continuing to develop her own art.

Jordan Schware lives in Boulder, Colorado. His online store, The Gear Movement, sells high quality outdoor recreation items, especially bikes and skis, and reported record profits this summer. His website is www.thegearmovement.com.

Tom Mansour is an Ensign stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter STEADFAST (WMEC 623), based in Astoria, Oregon. As a Deck Watch Officer, Tom supports the STEADFAST's missions of monitoring fisheries in the Bering Sea and North Pacific and countering narcotics off the coasts of Central America and Mexico.

Jackie Menditch has moved back to the DC area after living in San Francisco for two years. This fall she began work on her Masters in Public Administration degree at American University, with a concentration in international and public management, with a special interest in the management of foreign aid organizations.

Alden Towler Since returning from 14 months living in Nepal as a Fulbright Scholar, Alden has been based in the DC area, traveling, and making music, while starting Potomac Harvest Edible Landscaping, which designs, builds, and maintains vegetable gardens for several clients. During his travels, Alden volunteered for a month at a Vipassana Meditation Center, and visited family in Texas and the Shakedown Cafe at Pitzer College, which Alden founded and is now in its fifth year

of operation. He is now considering moving to New York City where he has been offered a job with a non-profit organization called Harlem Seeds, which works with nutrition and garden education programs for schools and after school programs.

2005

Marguerite Scheuerman has moved back to the DC area from Florida and is working at a daycare center as a teacher of infants.

Max Spitulnik had his Off-Broadway debut this summer in a show called *With Glee* produced by the Prospect Theater Company. A very favorable review of the show from the New York Times is available at <http://nyti.ms/9joEEQ>.

2006

John Lyons graduated from Guilford College in May with a double major in philosophy and economics, with a concentration in dance. Over the summer he worked as a counselor at Hawthorne Valley Farm in Ghent, New York.

Jay Louvis graduated from American University last May with a BA in Film and Media Studies. He is working as a "Genius" at the Apple Store in Montgomery Mall and lives in Takoma Park.

Abby Wacker graduated in May from Haverford College with a major in English and a minor in theater. Over the summer she worked as a field camp counselor at Hawthorne Valley Farm summer camp in upstate New York. She is now attending Headlong Performance Institute, a post-baccalaureate theater program in Philadelphia.

2007

Puanani Brown is a member of the *corps de ballet* of the American Ballet Theater in New York City, on leave from Harvard College, which she entered in 2008.

Rachel Chamberlin is a senior at Eckerd College. Last spring she lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she researched healthcare issues in the Rocinha favela as a Ford scholar. She

will present her research to other Ford scholars this fall, as well as use it in her thesis on the quality of free clinical care offered to people without healthcare. As part of her thesis she will also be studying free clinics in St. Petersburg, Florida, and lecturing on applied anthropology to students at Eckerd. She is on the editorial board of the Eckerd literary magazine, *The Eckerd Review*.

Emily Conrad is a senior at Connecticut College and will graduate in May

America, she researched government efforts to improve the status of former combatants. Over the summer she worked at Potomac Vegetable Farm, the last farm in Fairfax County and a completely environmentally friendly operation.

Michael Kramer is a senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he is studying jazz guitar. He has played with many prominent jazz musicians, including the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, Yamomanem,



Jason Taliaferro (2008) at his wedding this summer in Wyoming, with classmates Ansel Maile-Moskowitz, Joe Sandman, and Philip Seidel.

with degrees in environmental studies and film. She spent the first four months of 2010 studying sustainability and environmental action in Australia with the School for International Training (SIT). While in Australia she made a documentary called "Living and Learning Sustainability from the Start," (available on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/9zMXS6>). She spent her summer in Austin, Texas, working for the Austin Climate Protection Program on the Austin Community Climate Action Plan.

Madelene Elfstrom is a senior at William and Mary, majoring in Latin American studies and environmental policy. Last June she returned from five months studying at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua, in Managua, Nicaragua. In addition to her studies and traveling in Central

Capital Focus Jazz Band, Freddie Redd, Robert Glaspar, in addition to Darek St. Holmes of the Ted Nugent Band. He will be recording with singer Andrea Wood, as part of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. His myspace page is www.myspace.com/michaelgkramer.

Anne Lieberman lives in London where she is studying economics, politics, and public policy at the University of London, Goldsmiths, and English law at the London School of Economics. She is on the council of Democrats Abroad UK, working to register overseas voters for democrats through votefromabroad.org. She was recently appointed as a US warden for the US embassy in London. She plans on applying for UK citizenship in the near future.

Daniela Lyons is a senior at Franklin Pierce University, majoring in mass communications with a global citizenship certificate. Over the summer she worked at the T-Shirt Factory on Chincoteague Island.

Eli Mellen is a senior at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. Over the summer he interned as the assistant to the executive director of the Common Good soup kitchen. For his upcoming senior project he will be investigating gesture in narrative dance and puppetry, drawing heavily on anthroposophical thought and the works of Joseph Campbell among others.

Ava Petrash is a senior at Wake Forest University, where she is double majoring in sociology and English. She spent this past summer in Clarksdale, Mississippi, working for a non-profit that promotes social renewal and positive change in the impoverished areas of the Mississippi Delta. She also spent the summer doing her own sociological research on food access for poor, rural, African-American families in the Delta.

Max Silver is a senior at Carleton College, majoring in economics, and cinema and media studies. This summer he lived in Los Angeles where he interned with an independent feature film production company. He anticipates moving to Los Angeles after graduation to pursue his interest in film. His work can be seen at www.maxsilver.com.

Hetta Towler is a senior at the University of Colorado, where she is majoring in international relations. This fall she will also be interning at Madison House, Inc., a music production, booking, and management agency. She recently returned from studying in Spain for six months.

Rosa Trembour is a senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she is majoring in political science, public policy, and economics. She is on the varsity women's swim team and writes for the school paper, *The Point News*. This summer she interned at an immigration law firm in Denver, Colorado. She plans to attend law school after graduating in 2011.

2008

Daniela Anderson biked 4,000 miles across the country over the summer to raise awareness and money for The Kevin Rohan Memorial Eco Foundation in Kathmandu, Nepal. This sustainable eco-village provides a healing place in society for lepers who have been traditionally ostracized. Updates from her ride, along with contact information for making donations, are available at <http://bikingforleprosy.blogspot.com/>.

Jamie Barkin is attending the University of Maryland, College Park, while also working in an insurance agency where she has earned her insurance license.

Jenna Fanning is a junior at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, where she is majoring in graphic design and interactive communications. She interned last summer for USA Today in McLean, Virginia, and SRQ Magazine in Sarasota. She also teaches art classes and designs media packages for local businesses and nonprofits.

Kendyll Gage Ripa is a junior at Smith College where she is majoring in studio art, with a minor in African American Studies. She spent the summer at the Summer Institute in Art Museum Studies, at the Smith College Museum of Art. She will spend the spring 2011 semester in Prague.

Camille Leon is a junior at Kenyon College, majoring in psychology, with a minor in anthropology. Over the summer she worked as a counselor at Hawthorne Valley Farm. This fall she is traveling to Bodh Gaya, India, where she will be in a Buddhist Studies program and living in a monastery for four months.

Joe Sandman will be a junior at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan this fall. Over the summer he worked as an intern in the office of Congressman John Dingell, doing web and new media work.

Jason Taliaferro (left) graduated from Central Wyoming College in Riverton, Wyoming, with a certificate in welding.

He got married to his fiance Jessica this summer. Anshel Maile Moskowitz, Joe Sandman, and Philip Seidel, all from Jason's WWS class, attended the wedding. Jason and Jessica are living in the Hartville, Wyoming, area, where Jason is working as a diesel engine mechanic.

Sandy Wacker is a junior at Haverford College, majoring in anthropology. Next spring she is planning to study abroad at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Over the summer she worked at a horseback riding counselor at Camp Rim Rock in Yellow Spring, West Virginia.

2009

Allie Miraglia is a sophomore at the University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in public health and French. At Maryland she joined the sailing team, played on an intramural basketball team, interned at an AIDS clinic in Harlem, New York, and made the dean's list her first two semesters. This summer she interned with a TV production company and attended summer school in preparation for spending her spring 2011 semester in Nice, France.

Leslie Johnson is a sophomore at Towson University, where she was on the dean's list during her freshman year. She is majoring in psychology but also interested in education. Over the summer she worked at a Waldorf summer camp for young children.

Zach Smith is a sophomore at Haverford College. During his freshman year he was elected president of his dorm and served on the board of the "Quaker Bouncers." He joined the track team last spring and has been training to compete in the decathlon.

Colin Taliaferro and **Ryan Tailaferro** are sophomores at Sterling College in Vermont, studying sustainable agriculture. In addition to academic work, the program includes substantial practical work with local farmers. Ryan

Class of 2010

Ethan Anderson	gap year
Jorges Ayllon	Montgomery College
Lily Barnwell	Salisbury University
Odile Carroll	Gap year, then Vassar College
Eliza Dezenhall	Gap year, then McDaniel College
Emily Hall	Washington College
Isobel Modica	Maryland Institute College of Art
Yasmin Modica	Shepard University
Johanana Rothstein	Mt. Holyoke College
Mike Rothstein	Westchester Community College
Zinta Rutins	Alfred State University
Theo Zizka	University of Michigan

was on the college maple sugaring crew over the winter, and Colin is a barn supervisor. Over the summer they attended their brother Jason's wedding in Wyoming.

In Memorium

Gurumeher (Gu) Singh Khalsa
(2006)



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Class of 2010



Front Row, L to R: Emily Hall,
Johanna Rothstein, Eliza Dezenhall,
Isobel Modica, Zinta Rutins, Mika
Rothstein.

Back Row, L to R: Yasmin Modica,
Lily Barnwell, Theo Zizka, Ethan
Anderson, Jorge Ayllon, Odile Carroll