

## A Shining Moment from the Class of 2008!

Last spring the Class of 2008 created a stunning stained glass window, now installed in the WWS lobby, as a gift to the School and a memorial to their classmate, Alanna Lake. Art teacher, Barb Bancroft tells the story.

Four years ago, the Class of 2008 began their high school studies with a main lesson entitled History through Art. While covering the Gothic Period, we made a tissue paper "stained glass," designed to fit the window panel between the front doors of the school. The students received many compliments on their work, and we dreamed of one day installing a real glass window in the space.

During the same class, the students also painted a 4x8 foot canvas in the manner of the artist Jackson Pollock. We could display it for only a few days, but in that short time it garnered several purchase offers. Suddenly our dream came into clear focus, and the class determined to sell the canvas to fund the window. Our patron soon emerged in the person of former parent, Jane Towler, who stepped up with a generous check.

We began to search for a mentor who could teach us the craft of stained glass. Janette Patterson, who was then teaching German in the High School, practiced this art form in her home studio, and she offered to help the class complete the project. The group now had raised enough money to pay for help with crafting the glass, but we lacked the money to buy materials for the project.

Several years went by, and the class went through many changes both happy and sad. The crossing of their classmate, Alanna Lake, in 2006 had an especially profound impact on them, and they resolved to dedicate the piece in memory of their dear friend.

Then, last summer our need for materials was answered out of the blue! I happened to meet Jan Shaut, an executive from CASE Design/ Remodeling Inc. at Sumner Place Mall, and learned that

she had recently lost her father, Myron Pauley, a well known stained glass artist. Jan was dealing with the loss of a loved one while also facing the task of dispersing his studio and supplies. When Jan learned of the students' intention to create a window for Alanna, she kindly offered her father's glass to us on the spot! Her generosity provided the students with everything they would need to complete the window.

Janette responded to word that the supplies had materialized, and I readied a design for the window based on the original tissue paper mock-up. The students gathered in the Art Room during spring break to cut, grind, and foil the glass according to a pattern Janette had drawn up from the design. Many hands do make light work, and within six hours the layout was done. Janette completed the soldering, and together with Rodolfo Bobadilla's help, we installed the glass while the students were away on their senior trip.

This beautiful window now fills our lobby with warmth and color, and our souls with gratitude. It will always remind us of the great love that can rise through adversity. May our hearts be opened and our cherished memories awake when we pass through those rainbow beams each day as we enter our beloved school.

Thank you, Class of '08!



## A New Look for WWS

Last spring we began a thorough overhaul of our outreach materials, including the school logo, view book (sent to new families interested in the School), web site, print advertising, and other items. Our goal has been to project an image of the School, which is more up to date and suitable for the Washington independent school market, while remaining true to our core values and aesthetic.

With this issue of the WWS Messenger, we are proud to debut our new logo for the School. We will be rolling out our new view book in the coming weeks, with new print advertising, and a revamped web site to follow this fall.

We have something special at WWS, and we are proud to share it with our greater community. We hope you like it too!

Thanks to the parents, faculty, Trustees Council members, and friends who helped with this process.



Jack Petrash with members of his new first grade class. This is his third WWS class.

## Transitions

After finishing eight years with the Class of 2012, **Gloria Leon** will be taking the new 1st grade starting this fall. We are happy to note that all but three students from Gloria's 8th grade class are continuing on to the WWS High School. **Leah Delano** will be assisting Gloria three days a week. Leah completed the Nova teacher training program, and has been a substitute teacher in the Lower School for two years. Leah will also be sharing the new position of class assistant in the 4th grade with **Victoria Mansuri**. Victoria is an experienced Waldorf teacher who was most recently at the Waldorf School of Baltimore. There are several changes to report in our language faculty. **Marina Villareal** taught Spanish in the Lower School for ten years, and is moving on to teach at a parochial school. **Martine de Haller**, who taught German and Spanish in the High School is leaving to become a full time language tutor. Thank you Marina and Martine for the enthusiasm for languages you brought to many students, and good luck. **Sita Hessenbruch** is returning to teach High School German after a year's absence. Welcome back Sita! **Brandel France de Bravo** is leaving after teaching the parent infant and other programs in the Children's Garden. Her warmth and insights into early childhood were a gift to us all, and we wish her well. Thank you Brandel. **Monica Cody** will be joining Chrissie Sant to teach the parent-child program. Our Aftercare teacher, **Colleen Williams** is leaving to pursue her studies full time. Thank you Colleen for your important service to our students and families. **Barbara Buchman** is leaving the Trustees Council after many years of service. Fortunately for the rest of us she will continue to share her love and knowledge of handwork with her many students. Thank you Barbara for your service on the TC.



*WWS's newly refurbished state-of-the-art computer lab awaits incoming high school students.*

## Athletics Thriving at WWS

**Sports Powerhouse may not be the first notion that comes to mind when thinking about WWS, but the Washington Waldorf athletics program is a vital part of school life and getting stronger every year.**



girls and boys high school basketball teams had the strongest seasons in several years, with both teams winning more than ten games each. In a thrilling overtime final, the varsity girls basketball team won McLean invitational tournament. Both varsity teams also played very well at the Kimberton basketball tournament, with a combined record of three wins and one loss.

During this last year WWS also began requiring for the first time that all high school students participate in at least one team sport every year. As might be expected, not everyone was thrilled with this new requirement, but by the end of the year its positive effects were obvious. More students participated in the sports program, our teams grew stronger, and many students found they had previously unknown athletic abilities.

The athletic program, however, is about more than just the game. It's about learning how to work as part of a team, focusing to attain something difficult, and getting stronger. In competing to win, our students learn to cooperate with others and to push their own limits to achieve something bigger than themselves. These lessons transfer directly to every other arena of life and are a central to a balanced education. Look for the WWS Knights to continue growing and competing hard.

*Cross country runners Daniella Anderson and Andrea Boyd tear up the miles.*

WWS athletes compete in high school boys and girls soccer, basketball, and cross country, as well as boys baseball, and girls fast pitch softball. In addition, we have fielded teams in boys and girls middle school basketball for many years. More recently we have expanded offerings in middle school soccer and cross country for boys and girls.

We are members of the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference, along with 13 other schools in the DC area, all of which are larger than WWS. It is a tribute to our coaches and students that we more than hold our own, winning our share of games.

The 07-08 school year saw many notable successes in our athletic program. The WWS middle school girls cross country team won the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference championship. Our



## 10K Race to Benefit Alanna Marie Lake Fund

On Sunday, October 26, 2008, Hands in Peace, will be participating in a 10K race as part of the Marine Corps Marathon. Hands in Peace, an official charity partner of the MCM, aims to "build peace amongst children from diverse cultures through sports and art."

Last year, Camilla Lake and others from the WWS community participated in the Hands in Peace run and had a wonderful time, while raising funds for the charity. This year Camilla plans to run again and has set a goal of raising \$20,000, of which half will go to Hands in Peace and half to the Alanna Marie Lake Endowment Seed Fund. There will also be a community potluck at WWS the evening before the race, on Saturday, October 25.

You are invited to participate as a donor, runner or both (walkers are welcomed too!). More information is available at [www.handsinpeace.org/marathon](http://www.handsinpeace.org/marathon), or call Camilla at 301-949-1564.

This is a great opportunity to support the Alanna Marie Lake Fund, spend some time with friends, and get in shape at the same time, so mark your calendar and get your running shoes on!

## WWS Going (More) Global

WWS has always had a fair number of international students, yet the growth of the international Waldorf movement is bringing students already acquainted with Waldorf education in ever greater numbers. In recent years, the number of students from other countries has increased substantially at WWS, and this coming year looks to be a record.

Moreover, American WWS students are studying abroad in ever increasing numbers, thanks in part to a greater commitment in the High School to promoting exchange programs.

Last year, WWS had students from Austria, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, and Vietnam. We will have even more for the 08-09 school year. Some of these are visiting students, while others are from families who are living in the Washington area for one or more years.

The WWS High School is also becoming more global. This year the High School has exchange programs with schools in Chile, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Interest

among WWS students in studying abroad is growing, and we continue to look for new opportunities for them to do so.

The presence of many international students enriches the WWS community immeasurably, and we look forward to seeing more guests from around the world in the years ahead. The only hard part is having to say goodbye when they return home.

## Teacher Training and Foundation Year Studies at WWS

WWS has been fortunate to host two exceptional programs during the last several years: the Waldorf teacher training course sponsored by the Nova Institute and a foundation studies course sponsored by the Center for Anthroposophy in Wilton, New Hampshire.

Last spring, the first group of teachers in the Nova program completed their three year course, while the third group of foundation studies students completed their two-year course.

Two long-time WWS teachers, Jack Petrash and Cynthia Bennett, played key roles in these programs. Several other current WWS teachers also taught selected courses in the arts and pedagogy. We are grateful for their enormous contributions, not only to WWS, but also to the wider Waldorf community.

One of the key challenges facing the Waldorf education movement is a chronic shortage of trained teachers. Responding to this need, the Nova Institute began a Waldorf Teacher Training Program in 2005, under the leadership of Jack Petrash and Cynthia Bennett. This three-year, part-time program attracted teachers and future teachers from both the Washington, DC, and Baltimore areas. Many had graduate degrees or a significant amount of teaching experience.

After a demanding schedule of classes and both practical and artistic exercises, 13 newly minted Waldorf teachers graduated from the program last spring. During the course of their training, several teachers assisted at WWS in various capacities, as

student teachers, aides, and substitutes. Congratulations to all these new teachers and to the Nova Institute for this vital contribution to Waldorf education.

The WWS community has also been fortunate to have available locally a full foundation studies course. Offered at Waldorf teacher training institutes around the world, foundation studies is an intensive introduction to anthroposophy and the works of Rudolf Steiner. The course also provides an opportunity for students to examine the meaning and direction of their own lives, in the process forming an unusually close-knit group. In addition to in-depth reading of key anthroposophical texts, foundation studies also involve extensive artwork and other exercises. Many who take the course find it to be a life-changing experience.

Under the sponsorship of the Center for Anthroposophy in New Hampshire, three, two-year part-time foundation studies courses have been offered at WWS. Cynthia Bennett coordinated the foundation studies program most recently offered at WWS. Congratulations to the 19 students who completed the program last spring, and thanks to Cynthia for all her hard work in helping to bring foundation studies to WWS again. Some of these students may eventually go on to undertake Waldorf teacher training. All have been challenged to grow

and enlarge their vision of the world and themselves.



*Since last summer WWS has significantly upgraded our grounds and landscaping. As these photos show, we've already seen quite a transformation. Thank you to the many donors who helped make the greening of WWS possible.*

## Class Notes

We're always happy to hear from WWS alumni. Please send any updates or corrections to Steve Smith at 301-229-6107 x123 or [ssmith@washingtonwaldorf.org](mailto:ssmith@washingtonwaldorf.org).

### 1980's

**Rachel (Andrews) Gardell** (1988) lives in Falls Church, Virginia, with her husband Robert and their daughter Kaitlyn, age 3. She works as a software engineer for Plateau Systems in Arlington. In her free time she makes and sells handmade jewelry.

**Risto Harma** (1988) lives in London where he is part of a group that is setting up an NGO called South Asia Forum, which will focus on issues affecting the South Asian community in both the UK and abroad. He is also working on a book about Indian social issues, and recently presented a paper at the European University in Cyprus on how international organizations assess primary education needs in developing countries.



### 1990's

**Elenia (Efron) Guzik** (1990) and her husband Brian are expecting their first child.

**Christine (Bealieu) Loeb** (1991) lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with her husband Steve, and their two children, Amber (11 mo.) and Walter (2).

**Corinne (Patch) Jones** (1991) lives in Austin Texas with her husband, Jonte. They are expecting their first child this summer.

**Carey (Fredricksen) Reddick** (1991) lives in Falls Church, Virginia, with her husband, Donovan Reddick and their two children Dominic (2) and Elienna (8 mo).

**Cari (Weisman) Sherlock** (1991), her husband Robert and their two children, Sienna (3), and Aidan (1), have relocated from Connecticut to Austin, Texas.

**Liev McLeod** (1992) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey. In addition to his teaching and research, Liev is busy with his 20-month old son Eric, and his wife, Agnieszka.

**Jennie Cain** (1997) received her BA from Grinnell College, and MA in communications sciences and disorders from Northwestern

University, and is now completing an MA in German studies at Middlebury College. This fall she will begin a PhD program in German studies at the University of Michigan.

**Noah Clugston** (1997) has been working for the District Attorney in Annapolis since graduating from Georgetown Law School last year. He plans to begin working for a law firm in Baltimore this fall.

**Jenni Spitulnik** (1997) is Graduate Research Assistant in the folklore program at George Mason University where she is pursuing her masters degree.

**Josh Verluen** (1998) is a Staff Attorney and Investigator for Riverkeeper, Inc., an environmental non-profit that fights pollution on the Hudson River and works to protect NYC's drinking water supply. Josh investigates pollution reports from Riverkeeper's patrol boat or citizen "watchdogs," files Clean Water Act enforcement actions against polluters, and coordinates Riverkeeper's Hudson Fisheries Defense Campaign.

**Rob Chaney** (1999) is a software engineer with Citrix Systems in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Yumi Kendall** (1999) is the Assistant Principal Cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. This summer she is getting married to Jared Klein, an attorney working in Philadelphia.

### 2000's

**Josh Courage** (2000) is a certified professional trainer and sports conditioning specialist ([www.joshcouragetaining.com](http://www.joshcouragetaining.com)). Prior to becoming a full-time trainer he played professional baseball for three years.

**Danielle Menditch** (2000) recently received her MSW degree from the University of Denver with an emphasis on clinical practice with high risk youth. She is pursuing a career working with youth and adults with different abilities.

**Sophie Toolanen** (2000) is pursuing a masters degree in clinical counseling at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

**Brian Spitulnik** (2001) continues to be in the cast of the musical *Chicago* on Broadway. His play, *A Good Boy*, had its debut performance at the University of Michigan in December. The play is a "Dansical" based on a series of short stories for which Brian won the Hopwood Award in 2005 at Michigan.

**Mani Hellmuth** (2002) attended Virginia Commonwealth University then left to pursue a career in marine sciences, which took him to various islands around the world. Now living in San Diego, he teaches scuba diving and plans a move to Monterey to continue his studies.

**Peter Serene** (2002) lives in Manhattan and works for Bridgewater Associates, an investment management firm. This summer he is travelling in the Balkans.

**Amy Wilkins** (2002) has joined the Peace Corps and will be assigned to work in Jordan after her initial training.

**Jessica Blond** (1998) is currently a Senior Consultant at BDA Global specializing in Business Continuity Planning and Business Process Reengineering. She lives in Washington, DC in a house with **Marsy Shattuck** (1998) and **Chris Shattuck** (1995). She moved back to the Washington, DC area after receiving her masters degree at The London School of Economics.

**Mikeala Bufano** (1998) is living in New York, where she is a producer and writer for Fox News. She came to Fox after attending graduate school in Chicago and working as a writer for NY1, a local 24 hour news channel.

**Brian Gregory** (1998) has started a doctoral program in education at Columbia University, focusing on communications and media. He is also teaching video at Manhattan Community College.

**Peter Nash** (1998) graduated from Colorado State University with an MS in natural resources management.

**Clarie Clugston** (2003) is serving in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.

**JD Dolan** (2003) is an Army Infantry Officer and has been training at Fort Benning, Georgia, since September 2007. He completed Ranger School in July 2008. He was ranked number one in a Ranger class that started with 460 soldiers, and he received the Distinguished Honor Graduate award. In August, he reported in to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York.

**Jeff Johns** (2003) is a full time student at the Brooks Institute of Photography in Ventura, California, where he is working toward a journalism degree. This fall he will be heading up a team of students that is travelling to India for two months to work on a documentary. The film should be appearing in various film festivals next summer.

**Elena Banninger** (2004) graduated from Drew University with a degree in sociology. She is currently travelling in India and plans to settle in New York City this fall.

**Nina Blustein** (2004) graduated from Vassar last May with honors, with a double major in political science and Italian. Her honors thesis was entitled *How Universal is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Model? A Study of Universality through Muslim Women under Sharia*.

**Ben Boorstein** (2004) will be graduating from St. Mary's College of Maryland this December and is now working on his senior thesis, a political biography of Senator Paul Wellstone. An experienced political activist, Ben took time off of school to work on the Baltimore mayoral campaign during the summer of 2007, then the Kentucky gubernatorial campaign in the fall of 2007.

**Elizabeth Hopkins** (2004) graduated from Lehigh University and will be working at Venture Marketing Solutions, focusing on the Verizon campaign.

**Lief Klockner** (2004) graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a BA in political science. He is moving back to the DC area where he plans to set up a business servicing home computers.

**Jackie Menditch** (2004) graduated in May from George Washington University, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in

political science and a minor in journalism. After traveling to Europe this summer she plans to move to California, work in a law firm, and eventually go to law school.



**Alden Towler** (2004) graduated with honors from Pitzer College, where he majored in international and intercultural studies. At

## The NetworkM



### Social Networking for Waldorf Alumni and Friends

The NetworkM is a social networking site that links Waldorf alumni and friends. Their mission is to "unite social and spiritual activities, progressive thinkers and doers, and creative people interested in finding community." Several hundred Waldorf alumni from around the country have already joined, and the site provides extensive information about events in the greater Waldorf community. You can check them out at [www.thenetworkm.net](http://www.thenetworkm.net).

Pitzer he founded and co-managed the organic, student-run Shakedown Café. This September he will be travelling to Nepal as a Fulbright Scholar to study the links between development, globalization, and diet.

**Jay Adams** (2005) will be returning to Pitzer College this fall after spending his first semester last year in Ecuador on Pitzer's junior year abroad program and the second semester off in Kathmandu, Nepal. Jay had the chance to see tigers, rhinoceroses, and elephants in southern Nepal, and accompanied an expedition into the remote Mustang region to scout out ancient Buddhist paintings in caves recently made known to

westerners. He is currently interning at a film company in Santa Monica, California.

**Jacob Ehrlich** (2005) is a student at Hampshire College where he created his own major in human physiology and nutritional anthropology. This summer he is interning with the Eat Well Guide in New York.

**Rob Sorkin** (2005) transferred to Emory University, where he is majoring in art history. This summer he is interning at Sotheby's in New York.

**Max Spitulnik** (2005) made his professional theater debut this summer at the Studio Theater in the ensemble of *Jerry Springer: The Opera*. The Washington Post said the show is a "thrillingly down and dirty production ... [that] brings the audience to something like a state of musical theater bliss." He returns to the University of Michigan next month for his senior year.

**Amy Herman** (2006) finished her second year at Sarah Lawrence College, and next year will be studying in Hamburg, Germany.

**Michael Kramer** (2007) is pursuing his BA in jazz studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He won first prize in the 2007 Jonathan T. Deutsch Award for young jazz composers for selections from his WWS senior project *Baby Steps*. In addition to taking master classes, he teaches and performs regularly DC area. Michael also participated in the Jazz for Kids program in the Arlington, Virginia, public schools.

**Rachel Chamberlin** (2007) will be entering her second year at Eckerd College, where she is pursuing her interests in medical anthropology. She will be a teaching assistant in the biodiversity botany class this fall. This summer she is working for the Campaign for the Environment.

**Hannah Beal** (2006) will be a junior at the University of Vermont, where she is majoring in environmental studies. She is co-coordinator of the Food Shelf in Burlington's Garden Advocacy Project, which helps low income people grow their own food on donated garden plots. She lives in Burlington and also works part time on a farm.

**Meghan Chaney** (2006) will be a junior at Savannah College of Art and Design. She was on the Dean's List her first two years at SCAD.

**Julia Dann** (2006) has been nominated for a Brave Nation Young Activist Award for her volunteer work as a community development organizer in Costa Rica. Brave Nation is an initiative that seeks to recognize progressive activists under 30. Julia is a student at the College of Wooster College in Ohio.



**Max Silver** (2007) will be a sophomore at Carlton College, where he will likely major in cinema and media studies. He has already made several films and was first runner up in the Sparky Awards competition, and 3rd runner up in the Minneapolis 24-Hour Film Race. This summer he is working in the DC area with Kevin Sockwell, who also directs the WWS senior class play. Next spring he plans to study abroad in Rome and Berlin.

### Class of 2008

**Sasha Adams** will be attending the University of Vermont, where she plans to study nursing.

**Daniella Anderson** will be attending Bard College as a Distinguished Science Scholar to study biology and chemistry and pursue her interest in medicine.

**Mollie Fox** is taking a gap year to study theater in the Washington area.

**Camille Leon** will be attending Kenyon College where she plans to study psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy. This summer she is working as a volunteer at the Waldorf-inspired Escuela Caracol in Guatemala, along with Andrea Boyd and Becky Squire.

**Patty Sarcos Alvarez** will be pursuing intensive ballet studies in the Washington area.

**Philip Seidel** will be attending the University of Maryland at Baltimore County to study computer science.

**Becky Squire** will be attending Bennington College. This summer she is working as a volunteer at the Waldorf-inspired Escuela Caracol in Guatemala, along with Camille Leon and Andrea Boyd.



(above) The Class of '88 and friends.



(above) Carolyn Robinson with early Children's Garden class Hurst Hall, circa early 80's.

**Jamie Barkin** will be attending the University of Vermont to study studio art and English. This summer she is working as a camp counselor.

**Andrea Boyd** will be attending Earlham College. This summer she is working as a volunteer at the Waldorf-inspired Escuela Caracol in Guatemala, along with Camille Leon and Becky Squire.

**Sarah Drozen** will be attending American University where she plans to study elementary education.

**Jason Taliaferro** will be attending Central Wyoming College to study equine management. This summer he is working in construction equipment sales and rentals.

**Sandy Wacker** will be attending Haverford College where she plans to focus on American studies, English, and history. She is working as a camp counselor this summer.

**Kayti Whitehurst** will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to study business or psychology.

**Anschel Maile Moskowitz** will be attending Frostburg State University where he plans to study physical education and go out for football. This summer he is visiting family in Germany.

**Chaquonna Price** is undecided about her college plans but will be working as she sorts out her options.

**Kendyll Gage Ripa** will be attending Smith College where she plans to study human consciousness as well as pursue her interests in art and writing.

**Joe Sandman** will be attending the University of Michigan to study history and political science.

# Seen Around

# Waldorf



The Messenger is produced by the Washington Waldorf School Office of Development. We welcome your suggestions and ideas.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT | Steve Smith

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE | Cindy Guayante

PHONE | 301-229-6107 x123

WEB | [www.washingtonwaldorf.org](http://www.washingtonwaldorf.org)

# Class of 2008



Front row (sitting) L-R: Sarah Drozen, Camille Leon, Patricia Sarcos-Alvarez, Jamie Barkin

2nd Row, L-R: Becky Squire, Daniela Anderson, Kendyll Gage-Ripa, Mollie Fox, Sasha Adams

3rd Row, L-R: Chaquonna Price, Andrea Boyd, Kayti Whitehurst, Sandy Wacker

4th Row, L-R: Philip Seidel, Joe Sandman, Jason Taliaferro, Anshel Maile-Moskowitz

## Washington Waldorf School

4800 Sangamore Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Non Profit  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #2557  
Bethesda, MD