

Annual Report

2023/24



WASHINGTON
Waldorf School

2023/24

Faculty Chair/Head of School

Lelia True

Advancement

Jane Christenson

High School Co-Chair, High
School Theatre Arts

Janet Dunwoody

Lower School Chair

Alia Goodyear

Director of Communications
and Marketing

Torie Gorges

Director of Enrollment

Stephanie Hanson

Director of Development

Meg Kneisl

Assistant Director of
Development and Events

Lelia True

Faculty Chair/Head of School

Design

Catalone Design Co.

Photography

Alia Goodyear

Stephanie Hanson

James Kegley Photography

Landon Photo and Design

Eli Turner

OUR MISSION

Washington Waldorf cultivates each student's capacity to think clearly, feel compassionately, and act purposefully in the world. We are committed to the education movement inspired by the pioneering work of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner and advanced by Waldorf teachers worldwide.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Washington Waldorf School is committed to educating children in a welcoming school community that reflects the rich diversity of the greater Washington metropolitan area. WWS is an inclusive community of students, families, faculty, and staff that strives to maintain diversity of race, color, ethnic background, religion, economic status, gender, age, and sexual orientation. We educate our students to respect the dignity of all people.

TRUSTEES COUNCIL

James Wise

Chair

Maria Monteverde-Jackson

Vice-Chair

Kate Mueller

Secretary

Nick Hampton

Treasurer

Lelia True

Margery Bank

Marilyn Noguera

Lisa Pitillo

Taisto Saloma

Abel Smith

COLLEGE

Wendy Jackson, Chair

Barbara Buchmann

Jane Christenson

Erica Girvin

Torie Gorges

Judith Graff

Linc Kinnicutt

Bonnie McClelland

Taisto Saloma

Gabriele Schilz

Lelia True

Lynn Wenning-Adelmann

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained on these pages is accurate and complete. If you were a contributor to the Washington Waldorf School in 2023–2024, and find that your name has been omitted, misspelled, or listed under an incorrect category, please contact the Development Office at 301.229.6107x127 so that we may correct our mistake.

Washington Waldorf School is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions may be deducted as stated in Section 170 of IRS Code. The School's federal tax identification number is 23-7003486.

To maintain our 501(c)(3) status, WWS files an annual report, updating the IRS on its current activities, income and financial status. We take this opportunity to share information with our supporters about the past year's achievements and to recognize our generous donors and community.

MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY CHAIR/HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Community,



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved together.

This year was marked by significant milestones that underscore the strength and resilience of our community, as well as the unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff.

One of our most exciting achievements was the opening of the John & Mary Brauer Gym. Completed on time and within budget, this first-class facility stands as a testament to our collective vision and commitment. The new gym has not only enhanced our movement program but also provided a vibrant space for students to engage in a variety of activities, fostering their physical, emotional, and social development. It has become a hub for school events, strengthening our community bonds and creating lasting memories.

As a community, we continue to meet the ongoing challenges of our mission as a Waldorf School. Our every effort is to bring an experience to our students that will develop their capacity to think clearly, feel compassionately, and act purposefully in the world. We appreciate the efforts of our entire community, particularly our alums, in this mission. This year we had several notable events that allowed us to maintain our connection with our alums. I was delighted to see a number of alums at the 2023 Fall Bazaar. The first Alum Basketball Game hosted in our own gym was a well attended event by spectators, alum players, and current student players. Additionally, we hosted our first formal Alum Reunion event this spring. It was a joy to reconnect with graduates from various years and witness the continued enthusiasm and support for Washington Waldorf. These events underscored the enduring impact of a Waldorf

education and the strong, lifelong connections formed within our community. It was a heartfelt reminder of the lasting bonds we share and the continued relevance of our mission.

As I transition from Head of School, I look forward to keeping a strong connection with the school as a parent of an Alum. I continue to be grateful for the education that my son received from the Children's Garden through the High School. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the hard work, dedication, and resilience that our faculty and staff bring to all of our children. Their commitment to our students and to the principles of Waldorf education has been nothing short of extraordinary. It is their passion and perseverance that have made this year's successes possible.

The importance of our community has never been clearer as we navigate these challenging times. Our collective strength and support are crucial as we move forward, and I am grateful for each of you who have contributed to our shared journey. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and address the challenges that lie ahead with the same spirit of collaboration and determination.

In closing, I extend my warmest welcome and best wishes to Margery Bank. I am excited about the future of Washington Waldorf School under her leadership and look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our beloved school.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lelia True'. The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'L' and a trailing end.

Lelia True
Faculty Chair/Head of School

Warm Greetings to the Washington Waldorf School community!



This has been a year of much excitement and transition. It has been an honor to lead our TC this past year as we have taken on so much as a school and continue to thrive as a Waldorf institution, grow as a community, and demonstrate resilience.

Gym

This year, we saw the power of our community to realize our vision in sharp relief with the John and Mary Brauer Gym now standing on our campus. The time we spent on the Stacey Kornegay bleachers watching our basketball teams compete—having our own space to be a community to cheer on our classmates, children, and friends has been thrilling. The additional space has provided our school with a true landmark that students and faculty use constantly, expanding the day-to-day experience and increasing our potential as a school to offer programming and be a fully realized school experience for all future students and families. I want to thank everyone for making this happen, with a special thanks to our departing Head of School, Lelia True, who worked tirelessly to realize this dream, and to Brad Clark for his vision and generosity, without whom this would not have been possible.

Head of School Transition

With Lelia's departure comes the beginning of a new chapter for our school leadership. Lelia has been with the school for more than 13 years, watching her son, William, grow as a student and graduate and working as a part of the faculty for the past seven years and as Head of School for the past three years. She is a true Red-Tailed Hawk, through and through. Her leadership during COVID and afterward has kept our school moving forward—I truly appreciate all that she

has done for us. As she takes her last bow at the school, we will miss her, but we are also excited to welcome Margery Bank as our new head of school. Our work as a TC in heading up the search led us to a strong pool of well-qualified candidates, and Margery stood out amongst them for her calm, thoughtfulness, and ability to communicate. Her tenure at WWS begins with much to look forward to and a strong foundation. We are excited to support her over the coming months and beyond.

Participation in One Fund

Our focus on development this year has been inspiring—we have seen participation in our One Fund increase massively with over 81% of families participating, 100% of TC members, 100% of College members, and 92% of faculty providing gifts to the school. On top of strong participation, we have surpassed our fundraising goal and have a strong infrastructure within our development office to continue to see success. The One Fund provides the school with the necessary operational support to keep our tuition low (relative to peer schools), support faculty compensation increases to be competitive and pay a living wage, and be able to offer substantial financial aid—some of the most generous in the region. Ensuring that we have broad participation, not just focusing on the dollars we raise, is critical for our community. I hope we can exceed this incredible participation number again next year!

Ongoing focus on strategic plan and mission

Lastly, I want to highlight our continued focus on executing our strategic plan. This plan, created last school year, highlights four pillars of focus for our school—Academic Development & Excellence; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging; Organizational & Community Engagement; and Financial Sustainability. Much of what I've highlighted has focused on our work in the first, third, and fourth pillars. For the second pillar, I am extremely proud of the work we have done establishing the DEIB committee this winter, a group focused on reviewing and executing the recommendations provided in the DEIB audit conducted last year. This work has been spearheaded by dedicated College members, TC members, and parents. As that work continues to take shape, the committee will provide constant attention and focus on how we can be a more welcoming and inclusive community that fosters a sense of belonging and pursues equity in our policies and decisions.

A lot has happened over the past year, and even more is on the horizon. The TC is eager to move forward and, as always, we welcome everyone to join our meetings to stay informed and engaged as the school year progresses.

Best wishes for a wonderful next school year!



James Wise
Trustees Council Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

The 2023–2024 school year was full of exciting projects. As the Business Office, we have a central role in supporting the school initiatives throughout the year. This report provides an overview of key developments and projects that have shaped the past academic year. Please note that these numbers reflect an unaudited report. A complete audited report will be made available, and financial statements will be made available upon request.

Key Projects and Initiatives

Financial Assistance

Continuing with our commitment to provide access to quality education for all students regardless of their financial circumstances, we increased the financial aid budget by about 30% from the previous year, resulting in an average award of \$17,200. 38% of our students received financial aid in the past year.

Student Support Programs

We maintained clubs in our high school, in addition to the after-school program for Children’s Garden through Grade 6, bus transportation from Acorn Hill, and summer camps. These programs have been instrumental in enhancing the educational experience of our students. These initiatives have played a vital role in fostering the holistic development of our school community.

Revenue Diversification

Our money market accounts during the past year has generated nearly 50% of our other income, an increase of 50% from the previous year. We have engaged a financial advisor—Merrill Lynch, to streamline our financial goals and diversification strategy.

Cash Position

Our cash position significantly decreased due to the capital expense of the recently completed gym in the past year.

Faculty Salaries and Benefits

In the past year, we increased faculty salaries by 3%, as we strive to align our compensation packages with local market.

Challenges and Operational Results

While we celebrate our achievements in many areas, we also acknowledge risks to our overall financial statement position attributable to economic and inflationary pressures. We commit to a continual a review of existing and potential revenue streams to enable WWS to offer enhanced programs and continue to improve salaries and benefits for faculty. Additionally, to avoid increasing tuition substantially for all families, we need to ensure that we have a successful enrollment season and continue to meet our fundraising goals each year.

Conclusion

The 2023–2024 school year was yet another successful year within our school administration. We remain dedicated to transparency and responsible financial stewardship as we look ahead to the future. We extend heartfelt appreciation to all staff, past and present, for their contributions and dedication. We look forward to the exciting developments that await us in the coming academic year.



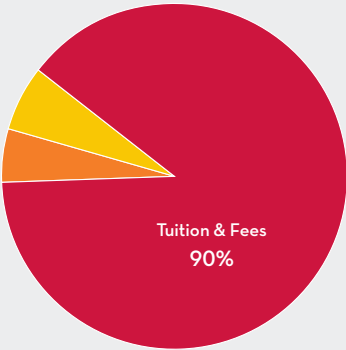
Chiedza Mazonde
Business Manager



OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES

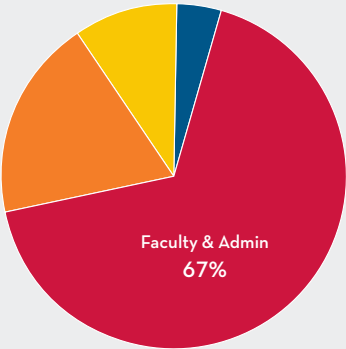
REVENUE

● Tuition	\$ 9,021,183	90%
● Fundraising	\$ 576,445	6%
● Other Income	\$ 409,978	4%
<hr/> Total Revenue		<hr/> \$10,007,606



EXPENSES

● Faculty & Admin	\$ 6,661,107	67%
● Financial Aid	\$ 1,827,884	18%
● Facilities	\$ 1,085,375	11%
● Programs	\$ 346,222	4%
<hr/> Total Expenses		<hr/> \$ 9,920,588



Note: The above financial statements were prepared prior to the annual audit.

Dear Friends,

The 2023–2024 school year was bookmarked with two events that showcase one of the best attributes of Washington Waldorf School—our community. We began the year with a community picnic and Gym opening, and ended the year with a Faculty Farewell celebration. Throughout the year, the sense of our community was amplified within the walls of our new John and Mary Brauer Gym. Memories were made there this year through the Rose Ceremonies, festivals, and community events.

The theme of the 2023–2024 One Fund was “One Community, Building Together”. Each initiative and event we hosted this school year was carried with that sentiment.

Our goals this year were as follows:

Celebrate the Room to Move campaign and John and Mary Brauer Gym

We hosted three events in the Fall of 2023 to commemorate this campaign and monumental achievement for our School. The School year began with a Gym Opening and Welcome Back Community Picnic, precluded by a reception for lead campaign donors. We celebrated the first home basketball game on December 1, 2023, and welcomed alum families, current families, and donors.

Ensure all Room to Move pledges were collected on time, and raise an increased goal for the One Fund

We continued to collect Room to Move pledges, and raised an impressive \$444,444 from 330 donors to the One Fund. The One Fund total is composed from Bazaar proceeds, Annual Fund, and Gala fundraising initiatives.

Increase participation rates amongst Current Parents and Faculty. Stated goals were to reach 75% participation amongst Current Parents, and 80% participation amongst Faculty

The power of our community came through in our 2023/2024 participation rates. We achieved a Current Parent participation rate of 81% and a Faculty participation rate of 92%. The enthusiasm and support during our “Vote

for Washington Waldorf School” participation week was critical to this success.

Increase alum participation and engagement

Quarterly e-newsletters to the Alum Community were continued. We celebrated our first home Alum Basketball game in late December at the John and Mary Brauer Gym. On June 1, the very first Alum Reunion brought back over 40 alums from a wide range of graduating years. This reunion was initiated by the Class of 2004, in celebration of their 20th class reunion.

Identify new grant opportunities

We were pleased to receive a \$5,000 grant this year from the Michael Foundation, specifically to provide professional development and Waldorf teacher training for Faculty members who identify as persons of color.

In the year to come, the Development Office intends to continue building upon and growing in each of the areas above. We accomplished a lot, and there is more to do. The success we achieved this year belongs to our entire school community.

I want to thank a few groups for all the work, time, and effort they put in towards supporting our School in achieving the above goals. The Trustees Council members, chaired by James Wise, were a collective partner in achieving each of our goals. The Trustees Council was the first body of our School to reach 100% giving participation. This leadership set the tone for the rest of the community. Each individual member of the Trustees Council Development Committee, chaired by Kate Mueller, was equally

critical in our success. The Development Committee's collective efforts raised \$123,456 towards the One Fund last year. The Parent Leadership Group worked tirelessly last year to build and support our community, both in individual classrooms and collectively within our school community—piloting a lunch program that served our students throughout the second half of the year. And lastly, I am grateful to both the Teaching and Admin Faculty—for showing up each day and delivering the mission of our School within and outside the classrooms. The Development Office would not be able to achieve our goals without any of the above groups.

The heart of our School is centered around the relationship between Faculty, Parents, and Trustees. Our school rises to its best and highest capacities when these three bodies work in partnership and collaboration with each other. Congratulations to our entire community on a successful 2023-2024 school year, and I can't wait to see what milestones we will achieve, together, in 2024-2025.



Stephanie Hanson
Director of Development and Alum Relations

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Kate Mueller, Chair
- Brett English
- Stephanie Hanson
- Eben Kaplan
- Meg Kneisl
- Kimiko Lighty
- Maria Monteverde-Jackson
- Lelia True
- Sarah Wester

DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADORS

- Sarah Wester
- Hannah Losman
- Eben Kaplan
- Jenia Beer
- Brett English
- Aimee Duncan
- Stephanie Hanson
- Melissa Wilets

FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR FACULTY MEMBERS OF COLOR

This restricted fund comes in response to the recent DEIB Audit completed by Alma Partners, with a final report including commendations and recommendations. It is also intended to address a letter sent by some members of the WWS parent community to the hiring faculty, College, and Trustees Council, highlighting concerns about representation of people of color amongst the current faculty.

Washington Waldorf School has always aimed to provide mentoring and teaching opportunities to prospective faculty members who have an interest in furthering their career in Waldorf education.

The purpose of this additional restricted fund is to provide Waldorf teacher training to faculty members who identify as people of color. This fund creates professional pathways for individuals of color to achieve their goals within the Waldorf movement, thus increasing diversity within the faculty body, to the benefit of the entire community. This fund is intended to be a loan to the recipient(s), forgiven after three years of employment at Washington Waldorf School.

In the summer of 2024, Washington Waldorf School spent a portion of funds raised to date on one Faculty member to attend their first of three years of Waldorf Teacher Education training.

Washington Waldorf School thanks the following individuals and organizations who gave towards the Professional Development Fund in 2023/2024.

- Dawn Beckman and Haneef Omar
- Daniel and Adria Foster
- Maria Monteverde-Jackson and Jon Jackson
- The Michael Foundation
- Jesse Travis and Greg Heltzer
- Judith Travis

Your gift to the One Fund supports the school's mission, and directly impacts every student and teacher, enhancing the education that every child receives.

Contributed support funds:

- » Athletics
- » Adventure Outdoor Education
- » Curricular And Service Learning Trips
- » Faculty Professional Development
- » Financial Aid

YOUR IMPACT *2023-2024*
One Fund By the Numbers

\$456,660 Gifts contributed to the operational budget

 **330** DONORS



Bridging the gap in the budget between tuition and actual costs

- Supporting **3%** increase in salaries for faculty
- Supporting need based aid for **38%** of students, averaging **\$17,200** per student
- **\$80,000** spent on class trips
- A second Nursery classroom, to accommodate a growing Children's Garden program
- Return of a 5-day per week lunch program



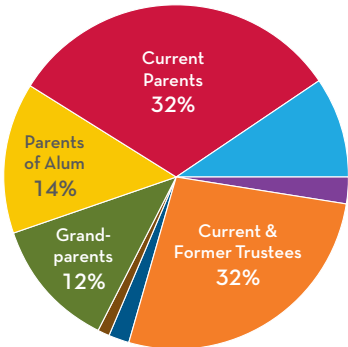
One Fund and Event Fundraising provided **\$1,665** of additional educational value per student, and accounts for **5%** of our operating budget.

Community members who gave to the One Fund campaign last year:

81% Current Parents		27 Alums	75 Parents of Alums
92% Faculty and Staff			38 Grandparents

Gift Range of **\$5 to \$60,000** 

Current & Former Trustees	\$ 123,236	27%
Alum	\$ 12,355	3%
Faculty	\$ 42,860	9%
Current Parents	\$ 144,516	32%
Parents of Alum	\$ 64,012	14%
Grandparents	\$ 56,522	12%
Former Faculty & Friends	\$ 5,290	1%
Corporations	\$ 7,869	2%



MESSAGE FROM THE PARENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Parent Leadership Group (PLG) is grateful to the community for its support of Parent/Family Organization initiatives over the 2023–24 school year, through your contributions of time, talents, money, and ideas. Your involvement in the life of WWS supports all of our children!

Entrusted with the Parent/Family Organization budget, the PLG is proud to have accomplished many initiatives last year. Highlights of the year include:

- Producing a successful **Fall Bazaar**, with robust attendance and delighted children. Dedicated help from the entire WWS community makes this foundational event happen.
- Producing **twenty-two days of hot, wholesome lunches!** In an impressive community effort, volunteers planned, prepared and served lunch between one and three days a week from February through May.
- Sponsoring a panel discussion/Q&A in December on **Learning to Read in a Waldorf School**.
- Supporting ongoing **anti-racism and inclusion** efforts in the community.
- Providing opportunities for parents and families to connect by helping **produce school-wide events**, hosting **Craft & Conversation sessions**, encouraging class captains to plan **social opportunities for classes**, and hosting **two open meetings** of the P/FO.
- **Recognizing the dedication of faculty and staff** through the Faculty Appreciation Lunch and other gestures of gratitude.
- Continued operation of the **WWS Gear Shop**, selling gently used donated outdoor gear to other WWS families at reduced prices, with proceeds going to One Fund.



L to R: Erica Mutschler (with baby Zahava), Jesse Travis, Kellye Quirk, Alistair Henry, Tamara Minor, Drew Sample
Not pictured: Jenia Beer

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

The following is a list of individuals whose gifts of time and talent served the advancement efforts of Washington Waldorf School during the 2023–24 school year. The school’s continued growth and community strength depends on such committed, energetic, and generous individuals.

PARENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Jesse Travis, Chair
Jenia Beer
Alistair Henry
Tamara Minor
Erica Mutschler
Kellye Quirk
Drew Sample

PARENT ORGANIZATION
CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

The P/FO Class Representative serves as each class’s liaison to the Parent/Family Organization, disseminating information and coordinating parent participants to facilitate school-wide events.

Seedlings, Erica Mutschler
Nursery, Jess Lee, Nursery
Songbirds, Erica Mutschler
Sunflowers, Patricia Casbas
Waldorf in the Woods, Alison Yeich
Grade 1, Jesse Travis
Grade 2, Jenia Beer
Grade 3, Miki Yoshimura
Grade 4, Aimee Duncan
Grade 5, Susan Fuller
Grade 6, Chris Carlton
Grade 7, Jenn Leibrieich
Grade 8, Sylvia Szankay
Grade 9, Melissa Wilets
Grade 10, Sarah Langham
Grade 11, Sarah Vakkur
Grade 12, N/A

CLASS CAPTAINS

The class captain provides support to the class teacher as a communicator and coordinator of parent involvement in the individual class.

Nursery, Laur Garner and Cara Llewellyn
Songbirds, Erica Mutschler
Sunflowers, Erica Burkhalter and Gemma Sage
Waldorf in the Woods, Greg Yeich
Grade 1, Esther Probst and Jesse Travis
Grade 2, Jenia Beer
Grade 3, Susan Fuller and Miki Yoshimura
Grade 4, Jesse Travis
Grade 5, Lindsey Simpson
Grade 6, Tania Delgado and Elsa Gomez
Grade 7, Katie Fox and Laurelle Lo
Grade 8, Torie Gorges and Marjia Marovic



WWS Families, Join Us This School Year!

Please participate and help build our vibrant community!

For 2024–25, the Parent Leadership Group has defined roles that range in commitment, from leading a specific event to more involvement on the executive team. You may also support events throughout the year by contributing your time, ideas, and talents.

Getting involved not only benefits the school—it also benefits you! Contributing offers you the opportunity to:

- learn more about what's happening in the school, and influence community happenings and culture;
- model for your children that their education is an important priority for your family;
- form meaningful connections in the WWS community, creating a web of supportive adults; and
- demonstrate and develop your interests in another context—whether it is arts and crafts, organizing, communicating, or spreading joy and smiles!

Volunteer!

Since each family contributes several hours throughout the year to support our events and gatherings, we'd love to partner with you to find out how you'd like to contribute to WWS.

You can reach us at:

plg@washingtonwaldorf.org





Festivals



& Events



What the Fall Bazaar contributed to the One Fund

BAZAAR COORDINATORS

Jesse Travis, Chair
Marlies Analbers
Maria Alonso
Sila Ataca
Lisa Bechmann
Dawn Beckman
Jenia Beer
Aglaiia Benni
Claudia Berg
Cecilia Berg-Benson
Vanessa Chang
Hannah Cooke
Susan Fuller
Erica Girvin
Torie Gorges
Sheila Hackman
Sarah Heirman
Madelaine Johnston
Remy Jokhoe
Lincoln Kinnicutt
Meg Kneisl
Robin Leake
Cara Llewelyn
Laurelle Lo
Bonnie McClelland
Maria Monteverde-Jackson
Eron Picus
Cindy Rupert
Joy Shchupak
Lindsey Simpson
CJ (Leonard) Stumbo
Sylvia Szankay

The Washington Waldorf School's 2023 Fall Bazaar upheld the traditional togetherness of the community, with some new and returning elements. For the first time, artisan vendors were able to gather in the new John and Mary Brauer Gym. Guests were treated to market-style displays, with 45 booths organized in the gym. The addition of this new space lent an open and festive atmosphere to the event and made extra room for revelers to enjoy the activities, food, and entertainment.

The Crystal Cave, Pocket Wizards, and other activities delighted younger kids. Candle crafting, copper lantern making, and other crafts enthralled older kids and adults alike. Geode cracking was a new favorite this year, with volunteers helping kids open dusty rocks to reveal the beautiful crystals inside. The school's own Chef Eron Picus returned to the kitchen to lead the Bazaar's Bistro, serving up a delicious lunch for attendees. Festive musical performances served as the perfect backdrop for shopping at the Patisserie, which had an astounding array of baked goods, all lovingly crafted by the WWS community. The Children's Garden teachers outdid themselves with a lovely puppet show, "The Apple Pip Princess" and Tiny Story Time. Bilingual Story Time was a wonderful new addition, weaving stories in both Spanish and English.

As a volunteer-driven event, the Fall Bazaar brought the WWS community together in a very special way and created many magical moments. The Bazaar also raised a gross total of \$66,039.58 for the school's One Fund. The One Fund benefits every student and family at the school, every day, by bridging the gap between tuition and operating expenses, funding the athletic department, and providing financial aid.



SATURDAY, NOV 23 10AM - 3PM



2023/24 ONE FUND DONORS

Leadership

IMAGINATION CIRCLE
\$25,000 AND ABOVE

J. Frank and Susan S. Brown
Family Fund
Brad Clark
Maria Monteverde-Jackson and
Jon Jackson

IMPACT CIRCLE
\$15,000 TO \$24,999

Burns Family Charitable Fund
Melissa and Todd Phillips

VISIONARY CIRCLE
\$10,000 TO \$14,999

Elsa Gomez and Andres Echeverri
Laurelle Lo and David Talbot
Mary Ann MacKenzie
Rebecca and Eric Sensenbrenner
Chrissie and Lex Sant
The True Family
Dan and Yon Wacker

RED-TAILED HAWKS CIRCLE
\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Anonymous (3)
Jack Benson and Cecilia Berg-Benson
Zeina Chouman and Houssam El Eid
Florescia del Villar and Micah Bump
Edison International
Eli Lilly and Company
Daniel and Adria Foster

Susannah Goodman and Ted Zegers
Torie Gorges and Todd Manchester
Eric and Susan Holdsworth
Jennifer and Rob Liebreich
Kate Mueller and Mike Gibson
Jennifer Robinson and Eben Kaplan
Reid and Linda Stuntz
Sarah and Shay Wester

1969 FOUNDER'S CIRCLE
\$1,969 TO \$4,999

Lynn and Stephen Adelman
Anonymous
Kate and Roddy Cruz
Nancy and Robert Doyle
Jim and Susan Evans
Allison Fultz and Steve Langer
Craig Goodman and Beth Dresing
Alia and Trevor Goodyear
Velma LaPoint and Robert White
Lubin Fine Arts Portraits
Margaret and Robert Mansker
Michelle and Joseph Stuntz
Jesse Travis and Greg Heltzer
Travis Memorial Endowment
Pamela and James Wise

ASSOCIATE CIRCLE
\$1,000 TO \$1,968

The Adventure Camps
David Alsop and
Marianne von Oven-Alsop

Margery Bank
Jennifer and Kevin Borders
Bronwen and Deryck Brown
Catalone Design Co.
Kathy and Ivan Charner
Jane Christenson and Tom Nastick
Sarah and Justin Deckard
Amalya Dixon
William And Nancy Foster
Rocio Gomez Botero and
Felipe Muñoz Gomez
David Haddock
Jessica Lee and Kenneth Brevoort
Kimiko and Phillip Lighty
Hannah Losman and Drew Sample
Bonnie McClelland and
Wade Morefield
Raquel Montalban Jalali and
Wais Jalali
Greg Mueller and Patty Deuster
Serafina Orobello and
Arnaldo Cocuzza
Adrienne Paiewonsky and
Paul Girdzis
Carol Parsons
Maria Poli de Michele and
Roberto de Michele
Colette and Michael Silver
Abel Smith
Jeffery Struewing and Paula Wolyniec
Dean and Sally Wise



Community Circle

PATRON
\$500 TO \$999

American Solar Energy Society, Inc.
Anthroposophical Society
Greater Washington DC Branch
Jenia and Sebastian Beer
Jenni Chaves and Gregory Willits
Ayesha and Randolph Court
Jeff Dammann
ExxonMobil Foundation/Mobil
Retiree Matching Gift Program
Mary and Yaser Freij
Tarina Szemzo and Andrew Fremming
Susan and Joel Fuller
Adrienne Gallo and Aaron Bruner
Erica and Andrew Girvin
Jamesen and Zachary Goodman
Svetlana and Alexey Gorokhov
Leni and Alistair Henry
Barbara and Larry Hoover
Kensington Arts Theater, Inc (KAT)
Patricia King Jackson
Jill and Phillip Lighty
Macmillan Charitable Book Donations
Klara Matouskova
Bill Merkel
Dileep and Natasha Nair
Nova Institute
Marilyn Noguera
Bernard and Esther M. Probst
Kellye and Eric Quirk
Dr. Ioana Razi
Taisto and Abby Saloma
Debra and Marc Schemansky
John Smith and Mary Gabriel
Sandy Spring Bank
Eluned Schweitzer
Pat and Michael Stevens
Chiz Tamaki and Michael Nakamoto
Ulrike and Rodney Thorn
Mara Viksnins
Zantzinger
Elizabeth Zwicker and
Christopher Carlton

FRIEND
\$250 TO \$499

Kathleen Baker and David Plevan
Maria Banda and
Jonathan Beauchamp
Anya Bartlett and David Clissold
Danielle Brown and Mitchell Jarrett
Cully and Sara Brownson
Patricia Casbas and Enrique Gallego
Paula Dinerstein and David Conrad

Yuki and Brett English
Judith Graff and Jeff Caudill
Shelly and Andre Hackman
Stephanie and Dave Hanson
Sarah Heirman and Eron Picus
Kate Losman
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grandparents of the Wester children*
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LIGHT THE WAY

The Washington Waldorf School’s 2024 Spring Gala, “Light the Way,” brought current parents, alum, alum parents, faculty, and friends together in the newly constructed John and Mary Brauer Gym. The evening’s theme paid tribute to the community’s collective efforts to “light the way” for future generations of WWS students and families by building a gymnasium.

Gala Committee members Jenia Beer, Meg Kneisl, Melanie Metzger-Fleetwood, Tamara Minor, Jesse Travis, and Miki Yoshimura, miraculously transformed the Gym for the occasion. Lovely floral arrangements, handmade wreaths, and natural decor lent elegance and whimsy to the space. Beneath an image of the moon shining brightly above the Moveable Stage, guests enjoyed a delicious strolling supper by Chef Eron and Foxhall Catering. Guest Bartenders CJ (Leonard) Stumbo and Lelia True took turns behind the bar, serving up signature cocktails created by mixologist Eben Kaplan.

The highlight of the evening was hearing from the Alum Speaker, Iliana Flefel. She shared that a lower school report on the humpback whale sparked a life-long interest in marine biology. During high school, Mrs. Elfstrom’s support gave her the courage to pursue a degree in the

subject. Iliana spoke passionately about her many transformative experiences at WWS and how financial aid made it possible for her to attend (you can read an excerpt from her speech in the sidebar). Iliana also announced that after many happy years as a Waldorf math teacher, she was returning to a career in marine biology.

After Iliana’s heartfelt speech, the community was moved to generously support financial aid during the “Raise the Paddle” appeal. With silent auction items, buy-in party experiences, and a class basket raffle, the evening raised a gross total of \$142,836 for the One Fund and financial aid. For guests, the night ended with dancing and the knowledge that they had done their part to “light the way” for future WWS families by supporting the financial aid necessary to give the gift of a Waldorf education to their students.

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Jenia Beer
Meg Kneisl
Melanie Metzger-Fleetwood
Tamara Minor
Jesse Travis
Miki Yoshimura





EXCERPT FROM ILIANA’S SPEECH

“Coming back here and speaking in this gym is incredibly emotional. I cannot imagine how wonderful it would have felt to have home games and the ability to practice right after school. The gift that this gym has given the students of this school is unmatched. This is where community happens. This is where we come together.

I would like to add that throughout my Waldorf years, my sister and I could not have attended WWS without financial assistance. My mother was a single parent working to support her two daughters. She knew the incredible gifts that Waldorf education brings to children, and she made it a priority to provide us with that education. However, if we had not received support from the school, that dream would not have been possible. Even though I knew that my sister and I received financial assistance to attend the school, I was never made to feel less worthy to be here. I was treated with the same kindness and warmth that every student receives upon entering this building. My teachers cared about my education and my well-being. ...

The Washington Waldorf School is a special place. I know you all know this as you are here tonight to support the school, but I want to honor and thank the community that supported me, pushed me to be the best I could be, and carried me into my adult life prepared with the skills and knowledge to take on the world.”

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CJ (Leonard) Stumbo
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Alumni Events

This year, the Washington Waldorf School hosted an Alum Basketball Game, a lunch for recent alums to return and speak to current students about the college application process and college experience, and the first official Alum Reunion. These events helped renew and strengthen ties with alum, as they remain an important part of the school's vibrant and close knit community. Former graduates walked the halls of WWS once again, recalling past memories and marveling at the new John and Mary Brauer Gym.

The Alum Basketball Game took place on Friday, December 22, 2023, in the school's new gym. The community's excitement in welcoming back its alums was palpable. The stands were full when the players jogged onto the court to begin the game. Alums, students, current and former parents, Faculty, and friends all cheered on the players with verve and enthusiasm. After the game concluded, the community enjoyed refreshments together and shared WWS stories and memories. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for the community to embrace its alums and a beautiful testament to the bond they share.

On January 10, 2024, about 10 recent alums returned to WWS for lunch, and speak with current students and answer questions about the college application process and college experience. It was a great opportunity for the students to connect with alums and ask practical questions about college life.

On the evening of Saturday, June 1, 2024, all alums were invited to the first official WWS Alum Reunion. The event celebrated the Class of 2004's twenty year reunion, while also welcoming and reconnecting alums from all classes, as well as current and former Faculty members. The evening began with Stephanie

Hanson, Director of Development and Alum Relations, and Margery Bank, the incoming Head of School, welcoming alums and sharing school news and updates. Alums took tours of the school, reconvening in the new John and Mary Brauer Gym for a needle felting activity, led by Faculty art teacher, Barb Bancroft. Their heads, hearts, and hands were engaged as they marveled at the beautiful new gym, celebrated their togetherness, and created a beautiful piece of art.

After the activity, alums and current and former Faculty met in the Auditorium to share refreshments and drinks. Chef Eron Picus and Foxhall Catering created a beautiful spread, which everyone enjoyed while tapping their toes to Irish folk music played by Mitch Fanning and his band. Tom Mansour spoke about organizing the reunion, and called upon his fellow alums to continue to engage with and support WWS, a place that meant so much to them all. As the evening wound down, attendees posed for pictures and reluctantly began to pick up their artwork and WWS swag bags. As they left, embraces, laughter, and tears were shared, as well as appreciation for the opportunity to reconnect with each other and the WWS community.



ALANNA LAKE FUND

In January 2007, the Lake family established the Alanna Marie Lake Fund to acknowledge and thank the Washington Waldorf School community for its unique and singular contribution to Alanna's life. During her 14 years at WWS, Alanna immersed herself in the many learning opportunities provided, both inside and outside the classroom, especially her student exchange to Brazil and participation in the Athletics program. Community, collaboration/teamwork, and cross cultural understanding were important values to her that were deepened and expanded during her time as a student. The renewed impulse of this fund seeks to honor Alanna by providing financial resources each year to help sustain a vibrant, healthy school culture and by continuing to increase financial aid through the One Fund.

The Fund has historically operated as a restricted fund/endowment, with the interest being designated to Financial Aid. The Lake Family intends to reinvigorate the Fund, in alignment with the first Alum Reunion, June 1, 2024.

The Fund operates as a restricted endowment that supports the following efforts from the interest earned off the Fund's principal:

Stipend, honorarium, guest teacher fee, and/or travel fees for a guest speaker or guest teacher that will bring a diverse perspective to the High School, Middle School, and/or faculty.

Left over available funds will go towards the One Fund. The Alanna Marie Lake Fund will be acknowledged in gift recognition reports.

The Lake Family and Washington Waldorf School thanks the following individuals who gave towards the Alanna Marie Lake Fund in 2023/2024.

- **Beverly Amico**
- **Anonymous**
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- **Amy Wilkins**

Alum News & Notes



GUIESSEPPE JONES and **FRED SAMUELS**, from the very first class of Washington Waldorf School first graders (1969), attended the John and Mary Brauer Gym opening and took a photo with the brick they engraved in honor of their time at WWS.

ELENA DAY (1988) recently lead the cast of Cirque du Soleil's Drawn to Life through play workshops and private coaching sessions. Elena also observed the show 5x in three days and gave feedback to the artists. She described the experience as



"magic." Elena works as the ProTrack Director and Head of Physical Theater at The New England Center for Circus Arts. One artist later said to Elena, "I don't know how to say in English...workshop made my Soul feel comfortable."



VICKIE (VICTORIA) MANSURI (1988) This year, Victoria (Vickie) completed her Master's Degree in Education from Antioch University. While working on her Master's for the past three years, she has also been teaching handwork at The Orchard Valley Waldorf School in East Montpelier, VT and online with Lotus & Ivy, a Waldorf-inspired, online, homeschool program. This coming fall, she will return to the class teacher's seat and take the 1st grade at Orchard Valley. This will be her fourth time in 1st grade since she started class teaching in 1998. Her last 1st graders just graduated from WWS's 8th grade. She made a surprise visit to see them and they recreated



Alums attended the Gym Opening and Room to Move Campaign Donor Acknowledgement event on September 8, 2023.

Back row left to right:

CAITLYN SHELLEY ('00), FRED SAMUELS (1969-1975), GUIESSEPPE JONES (8TH GRADE '77), CAITLIN MACKENZIE (8TH GRADE '82), SOPHIE HILLS ('18), NADIA LANGER ('18), ALIA GOODYEAR (8TH GRADE '89)

Front row left to right:

ASHLEY KULESZA LAUGHLIN ('14), NOAH STEVENS ('00), AMY WILKINS ('02), DAN FOSTER (8TH GRADE '83), TAISTO SALOMA ('93)



a photo taken at the end of their 2nd grade year. During this visit, Victoria also attended the WWS Alumni Reunion and caught up with her grade school classmates Derek Parsons and Emily (Murphy) Eanes and their class teacher John Brauer. It was heartwarming to see and show John (Mr. B.) the brick that her class dedicated to him.

CHARLIE MAYER (1994/8TH GRADE 1990) lives in Takoma, DC with his wife, Rachel, and teenage daughters, Anna and Lucy.

MEGAN SHELLEY (1996) started a new position as Assistant Director, Pre-Award Administration, Office of Program Services at Boston College.

ZEPHYR MAYS (1997) retired from the U.S. Coast Guard on May 31, 2024.

Alum **NICK KENDALL (1997)** and his Grammy award winning trio Time for Three recently performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the Music Center at Strathmore in February. **Current and alum students and faculty, and friends came out to see the concerts!**

GLENDIA GOODMAN (1999) lives in Philadelphia with her husband Mitch and children Teddy and Pearl, and works at the University of Pennsylvania.

SOPHIE TOOLANEN (2000) is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Portland, OR.

JAMES MCLAUGHLIN WARD (2002) I was diagnosed with incurable Stage IV NETs cancer in 2017 after 5+ years of deteriorating health and mystery symptoms and several jobs lost due to my inability to continue working. At the time I was given less than a year to live. I was diagnosed with a debilitating side condition, severe Carcinoid Syndrome and I became disabled. However I was lucky enough to be referred to the National Institute of Health and started treatment there. I became a NETs cancer research patient. I have undergone over 10 surgeries and too many tests and scans to count. But in between all of that, I took up art as a therapeutic tool, painting and drawing mostly. I went back to school and graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Arts and Visual Technology degree, I met and married the love of my life Becki. I am now relatively stable with a prognosis of 5 years at a time as I continue to undergo treatment. One thing that kept me going was seeing kids with cancer at NIH and realizing how lucky I was to have a childhood without such a trial. Live every day the best you can, find enjoyment in being creative, support cancer research, give thanks to nurses, and F**k Cancer.

SAVE THE DATE
ALUM
REUNION
2025

Saturday, June 7



JEFF JOHNS (2003) I have (somehow?!) ended up living outside of the US for over a decade now and after time living and working in South East Asia and the Middle East, I have been living in Amsterdam for nearly six years with my wife whom I met in Dubai where she had moved to from France. Currently working as a Senior Creative Producer at Booking.com I stay busy by chasing our four and one year old daughters around and take every opportunity to travel with the family every chance I get. If anyone is ever passing through Europe and is close by, don't hesitate to reach out!

TASHA BLANK (2004) is an international DJ and embodiment teacher. Currently in her third year running global training program Powerhouse DJ School (PhDJ), she's prepping to launch several new music and embodiment related educational programs, as well as a new dance party The Drop. She lives in

Nevada City, California with her partner Andrew, and travels frequently to make dance floors go boom.

LAURA LAWLER (2004) recently returned to the DC area and is finishing up a dissertation on Climate Smart Agriculture for my PhD in Geography from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

BERT MUELLER (2007) was interviewed about how California Burrito has grown over the last 11 years.

An update from **JASON TALIAFERRO (2008)** After graduating Washington Waldorf School's High School, I moved to Wyoming for college. Following college, I got married and started work as a welder in the Boilermakers Union, traveling and working in coal power plants, oil refineries and gas plants in Wyoming and Colorado. My wife, Jessica and I had our first child, Justin, in 2013 and our



daughter, Jemma, was born in 2017. That was a busy year as we bought a small ranch just two months before she was born. We raise a variety of farm animals for multiple purposes but our focus is on beef cattle. We take pride in serving some meals that we can say 100% was raised and processed on our place from meat and produce to dairy products.

For the past 13 years I have been a volunteer firefighter and served as Fire Chief for the past 8 years and continue to do so. In 2021 I was appointed Assistant Business Manager of the Boilermakers Union in Denver Colorado, where I dispatched jobs, worked on recruiting efforts and trained apprentices in welding. Now after 11 years in the construction trade I have moved on to take a welder job at a coal power plant near home. This move has truly been a blessing as I am now able to spend more time with my family, put more focus into growing our cattle ranch, and raising our children.

ISOBEL MODICA (2010) received her MBA in Sustainability from Bard College in 2023, and is continuing in her role as Design Director at Welspun, in which she guides product sustainability, trend, and design for customers and brands including Martha Stewart, Macy's, HomeGoods, Costco, Target, and Charisma. Products

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she has designed have been featured in WGSN trend reports, as well as articles in Good Housekeeping, Refinery29, Home Textiles Today, and Apartment Therapy. She lives in Brooklyn.

AUBREY TINGLER (2011)

Graduated from the University of Maryland Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences masters program with a Master of Science in the Environment and Society Concentration and began work as a Policy and Program Analyst as a contractor with Lynker for the NOAA Office of Coastal Management, working on climate resilience policy.

LIZ WELLS (2011) currently works as a senior product designer at Squarespace in New York City. In the fall she will begin teaching interaction design at the School of Visual Arts. She currently lives in Brooklyn with her dog, Griffin.

CHARLOTTE SMITH (2012)

started a new position as Surgical Physician Assistant at Adventist HealthCare

NATASHA NASH (2017) The friends I made at Waldorf remain some of my dearest; friendships forged with classmates after I left the school have become some of my dearest. I'm living in New York alongside two of my former classmates, and am excited to begin school at Columbia University here this fall. I've now been to a public school, a Waldorf school, a boarding

school, a traditional college, a community college, and soon an Ivy League, getting the full smorgasbord of education. As the years go by I only grow more appreciative of my Waldorf education, but I've also become appreciative of community colleges and RSUs (regional state universities). At a traditional liberal arts college, they teach you the differing perspectives on whether desire for power or attachment to ideology most influences international relations—but at community college, you learn the different perspectives of people with widely varying life experiences. I highly recommend taking a class—seriously. My last semester there, I studied the purpose of college for my English course, and learned about the ancient philosophy of virtue ethics, which the Greeks believed to be education's purpose (or “telos”). (See Johann Neem's book, *What's The Point of College?* if you are further interested; the introduction alone summarizes the philosophy well.) I immediately thought of Waldorf! The more I learn, the deeper in love with learning I fall.

SYDNEY NGUYEN (2019)

was selected as a guest curator for The Trout Gallery at Dickinson College's 40th Anniversary exhibition.

GRET SANT (2019)

started a new position as a Teacher at the Early Childhood Enrichment Center in Oberlin, OH.

EVE HILL (2020)

is a paramedic, currently working towards a paramedic-RN bridge at a paramedic school. Upon completion, she will be dual certified with a nursing license, and has a long term goal to be an air medevac. She is simultaneously working as an instructor at the American Heart Association, teaching CPR, advanced cardiac life support, and pediatric advanced life support.

JACKSON LUDTKE (2021)

was nominated and selected as one of the recipients of the 2023 Triton Student Employee of the Year Award for my work with the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

INAYA MIR (2021)

became a social media ambassador for William & Mary, where she is working on her BA in economics and marketing.

JAAD JAWDAT (2022)

is majoring in Physics at Puget Sound. This past summer, he conducted research through Puget Sound's summer research program. He also worked with a team at Northwest Nuclear Laboratories to design and build an IEC nuclear fusion reactor.

LUCY COURT (2022)

attended an internship program in Turkey, working on an archaeological site for 5 weeks.



Have an update to share or new contact information? We'd love to hear from you. Please email alumni@washingtonwaldorf.org and send us your news of awards or honors, new family members, scholarships, travels and adventures, jobs or milestones.



Save the Date!

*Spring
Gala*

Saturday, April 19, 2025



*Alum
Reunion*

Saturday, June 7, 2025





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The Head, Heart, and Hands Circle honors and recognizes young alum whose generosity cements their status as emerging philanthropic leaders in the Washington Waldorf School community.



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