



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



December 2012



**Season's Greetings Everyone
Many Happy Returns.**

This is the first of the newsletters to be published by Peggy Mathewson Sparks and Tony Vaz, 12- and 8-year students of Greer School between 1947 and 1960, resp. We hope you all are doing well and looking forward to the holiday season as we all did when we lived at Greer and Hope Farm.

Many of you attended the reunion in September and we were glad to see that you could make it. Some of you were unable to attend for one reason or another and we were sorry to miss you. Hopefully, most of you will be able to attend the next one, tentatively scheduled to occur in 2014. The exact date has yet to be determined, but for those of you that did not care for the format of the buffet at the auditorium for the evening banquet, we have some news for you. The next reunion will return to the old style format of luncheon at the school grounds and dinner at a suitable hotel in Dutchess County...to be determined. The exciting part of this news is that Doug and Mitzi Berry have decided to resume their role in planning and organizing the event. More information will be published in the newsletter and on the Greer web site as it is developed.

Pat Dean Hilsinger, Class of 1950, thanks everyone who responded to her survey about the reunion format. She plans to share the results with Doug and Mitzi.

Where in the world is...?

Dean Miller, Class of 1967, suggests a new category to get more people involved. His first inquiry goes like this:

I'll start it out with:

Where in the world is Hap Collins? (or was it Hap Coons) Ed. Note: How about Hap Colin?

My first cottage was Marcy. It was March 1959 when I was 9 years old. I remember an old guy (at 9, everyone was old) who lived upstairs in Marcy who used to take us hiking & camping in the Catskills. I don't remember what he did for a job at Greer. But if I ever wanted to skip out on the Friday night movie, I could sit with him in his apartment, watch TV and talk.

Ed. Note: Who do you wonder about? Let us know for future editions.

Visiting in California

Earlier this year, Wistar and I had a week-long thrill. Hildi Walton Plunkett came from London to visit family and friends in the U.S. and chose to begin her visits here with us in Torrance, California. While she was here, Diana Munzer came down from Northern California for a few days, and Georgia King left her horses long enough to spend one of those days with us. The conversation ranged from memories of Greer during our two years in Crest, 1953-1955, through kitchen and household activities together, to world affairs. We were so pleased to be with Hildi, Dinny, and Georgia that those days were priceless.

Thanks for what you are doing for us all, Bertie Wood



An Autumn Gathering...September 2012

By John Hudnor, Class of 1963

Our gathering this past September was a weekend I will long remember. It began on Friday afternoon by decorating the high school auditorium, and the theme was "Autumn at Greer". There were pictures of "pumpkins" and "falling leaves". There were also pictures of old cottages and main buildings of Greer on the stage to remind us of the Greer we all knew.

The Friday night movie began at 7:00 PM (although Al Dilks reminded me that they used to start at 7:30), and 20 of us enjoyed, "Dead Poets Society", which was about boarding school life in the 1950's.

As the movie ended, we did not walk our spouses back to Ledge Cottage, but all stayed and talked for about an hour before going to their hotels for the night. Most that came to the movie were staying at Gate House. Charmi Neely- Mulvihill said it would be great to wake up in one of Greer's cottages to which I replied, "If you woke up at Gate House in your days as a student, you probably would not have graduated at Greer".

As a side note, the chairs we sat on in the auditorium were much more comfortable than those hard wooden ones and more importantly, no one was seen in the "detention room" up in Mrs. Freitag's 10th grade home room!

Eighty-five came to lunch on Saturday and during the afternoon most of us walked the campus while several walked down to Camp Barbey. They reported that, yes, nature had indeed reclaimed most of the camp, but the pool was still there, as were some remains of cabins and the main hall. Virtually, all of us took a tour of the remodeled Gate House and we remembered "cottage life" at Greer.

Seventy-five came to the semi-formal dinner at the auditorium. Debbie Slocum, the executive director of the Fountains at Millbrook and other members of her staff served a tasty dinner. Afterward, some alumni spoke, and among the speakers, Pam Rogers Tooke and Charmi are

going to head up a committee to secure a grant to turn the Chapel of the Child into a historic building and refurbish it.

Next the movie, "Reflections of Greer School", was shown where we again remembered scenes and people from our youths spent at Greer. We all lingered a little longer after the movie and talked of friendships and good times.

This gathering was all I had hoped it would be. The warm glow of talking and being with all of you lingers with me still. The only disappointment was not having all of you attend and let me assure you that you were remembered and missed.

See you at the next gathering! Seeing you and being with you never gets old! In fact, it is a reaffirming of your goodness and continuing friendship.

Last, but not least of all are the staff and residents who now live at the Fountains of Millbrook. They enjoy our coming to their campus and like to hear about Greer and our lives as Greer staff and students. I showed the movie to several on Sunday evening and the question and answer session following, lasted twice as long as the movie. They were genuinely interested in us and how we spent our time at Greer. I had a lot of fun answering their questions and telling them stories about Greer.

Film to DVD Project

John and Clarke Moffitt have undertaken a project to have John's 8mm and 16mm home movies taken at Greer in the late 50's converted to DVD-Rom format. It is a costly endeavor and donations toward its completion are being sought. Persons contributing will receive copies of the finished project and additional copies will be available for a reasonable price at the next reunion. If you are interested in contributing, please send your donation to Mitzi Berry

A name from the past

My name is Peter Hazzard. I was born in Poughkeepsie, and my family is from the Millbrook area. I turned 60 recently and am finally getting down to a project that I have been meaning to undertake for the last few years. I am writing a history of the Hazzard family of Millbrook as a legacy for my 4 children and (at present) five grandchildren so that our family history will not be lost.

I am the great-grandson of Rev. Thomas Robert Hazzard, who was the first, or certainly one of the very early, principals (or headmasters?) of Hope Farm/Greer School. He was the rector of St. Peter's Episcopal church in Lithgow, NY from 1923-1951 and his son and daughter-in-law Carl and Laura Hazzard owned and ran a restaurant in Millbrook for many years (The Blacksmith Shop). I am also an alumnus of the Millbrook High School - 1966

I remember going to the school (Greer) many times in the mid-1950s with my grandmother and my dad but have lost all touch with how my family was connected to it. My dad died in 2004 and my mother has Alzheimer's (age 85) so I have lost my window of opportunity for information from them. I am desperate to find out whatever I can about our family's connection to Greer School and about the school itself.

I have been a teacher at a small boarding school (Lawrence Academy in Groton, MA) for the last 26 years and I have really enjoyed looking at the Greer School website and all the old yearbooks.

Ed. Note: Wikipedia states that TRH was the founder of Hope Farm with the urging of Bishop Greer. This is incorrect. He became the first 'warden' of Hope Farm at Bishop Greer's urging.

Contributions

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and personally thank everyone who has contributed to the publication costs with their donations and/or subscriptions to date. Because of their generosity, the newsletter will

be sent to everyone in hard copy form for the next two years, as well as those who wish to receive it in digital form. Any monies remaining at the end of our run will be turned over to the returning publishers, John and Sandy Hudnor and to Doug and Mitzi Berry to assist with reunion preparations.

Thank you:

Peter Caram	\$100.00
Bill and Bob Constantine	\$200.00
John Travlos	\$200.00
Inge Rothenberg	\$ 50.00
Calvin and Gary Cain	\$ 20.00
Pam Todd	\$ 10.00
Betty Tompkins	\$ 20.00
Georgia King	\$ 20.00
Sydney Nesbitt	\$ 10.00
Cheryl Crawford	\$ 50.00
Patricia Hilsinger	\$ 25.00
Armin Ali	\$100.00
Vicki Craig	\$ 30.00
John McHenry	\$110.00
Virginia Neville	\$ 10.00
John R. Fredericks	\$ 10.00
Jackie MacGregor	\$ 25.00
Bill Beer	\$ 35.00
Georgeanne Garbus	\$ 10.00

These folks contributed \$25.00 in 2012 to the Alumni Association:

Armin Ali	Jim Lucas
Jim Anderson	Richard Lucas
Paul Bassett	Dorothy McMurtry
Robert Best	Maureen Miller
John Blass	Clarke Moffitt
Peter Caram	Pam Pequeno
Vicki Craig	Hildi Plunkett
Al Dilks	Pam Todd
Mike Ennis	Betty Tompkins
Anne Foster	Pam Tooke
Karen Green	William Seeley
Pat Hilsinger	Tony Voight
John Hudnor	Mary Ann Webster
Jean Lee	William Winkert

Their contributions are also appreciated. Thank you.

Faculty Christmas Dinner

By Walter Bell, Teacher, 1968 - 70

A month after my 21st birthday my pre-holiday time outside of school was taken up with planning the annual faculty Christmas dinner. The venue was to be one of the Home-Ec suites in MacAllister House. School Assistant Principal Tom Shay had dragooned a sixth-grade teacher, a fellow rookie, and me to handle this chore. The Home-Ec teacher agreed to cook whatever we bought with our \$60 budget but planning the menu and shopping was up to my colleague and me. We drove 20 miles to the big ShopRite across from the Gertrude H. Ford Tea Company in Poughkeepsie, where prices were cheaper than in the tiny neighborhood Grand Union in Millbrook. We decided to serve canned ham and sweet potatoes and thought we were quite clever to have brought the project in under budget. On opening night, flop sweat dampened my brow until I saw how the attractively the holiday table in the Home Ec suite was laid, with festive-looking center pieces made of candles, evergreen sprigs and bright red bows-- it really looked like Christmas. Almost everyone on the staff showed up except mostly-blind John Ballon, the ancient school custodian. We'd bought plenty of wine with the money we'd saved by buying canned ham so no one complained about the fare and the evening was a success. It was also the last Greer School faculty Christmas dinner.

We will miss them...

Ruth Ann Wichelman died 10-26-2011
Madelyn Niemann died 12-13-2011
Agnes Slewick Kraker died 3/26/12
Frederick Bruno Trommsdorff died 7/7/12
Paula Pequeno Jeffrey died 8-16-2012
Eldred Ross died 3-8-2012
Margaret McKean Kalik died 9-24-12

Lost Contact

We have lost e-contact with these alumni:

Joe Lopez Chris Doyle



An excerpt from "Hope Farm/Greer School Memoirs of Childhood"



By Peggy Mathewson Sparks

The Christmas Pledge Service

The first Christmas Eve service was held in 1915. This service was usually held on the Friday evening before the Christmas vacation. At 7:30 in the evening a vesper service was held in the Chapel of the Child. A large pine tree was placed in the nave of the church and sparsely decorated by somebody during the day. The older girls would present a tableau of the nativity scene and they sang Christmas carols.

The processional hymn was sung, then the reading of the gospel, usually from the book of Luke telling the ancient story of the birth of Jesus, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Then the Director read the story of the "Christmas Apple" by Ruth Sawyer, about the clockmaker, Hermann Joseph. Meanwhile the Christmas tree stood naked and waited for its gown of pledges. One at a time, each cottage got up, surrounded the tree as best they could, the shy children sank back into its bows and they sang their cottage song, and so it went, each child stretched to place their round colored construction paper pledges high on the tree;

- Plum sang "Once a Little Baby Lay"
- Greer girls sang "Away in a Manger"
- Marcy boys sang "There's a Wonderful Tree" and "The Friendly Beasts"
- Daisy boys sang "We Three Kings"
- Gate boys sang "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"
- Crest girls sang "The First Noel"
- Rapallo in their low voices sang "Oh Come All Ye Faithful"
- Ledge in high soprano voices sang "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Season's Greetings Everyone!
From Peggy Sparks and Tony Vaz and families