



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



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Greer's buildings, cottages, and...You!

A year ago, at our gathering in October of 2016, I traveled between Gate House and the high school building numerous times. It was near the end of the reunion that one of the alumni mentioned that the field house and the swimming pool behind it



was no longer standing: they both had been razed! Sure enough, I walked down to the area where they

both were and indeed, the area had been returned to its original setting: --- a field between Marcy and Gate house cottages. How could I have not noticed this change all weekend long until someone pointed it out to me!!!

I pondered this lack of observation on my part, and then this thought came into my mind's eye: buildings are an essential part of our lives, and buildings provide opportunities for families, education, careers, recreation, and sometimes, other functions. Certainly, the cottages and buildings at Greer fulfilled those functions. However, without the people who occupy them, they have no meaningful and lasting value. Of course, it saddens me that most of the buildings of our youth at Greer are no longer, but as long as **all of you** are still a part of my life, I take joy in this. Buildings come and go, but wonderful associations and friendships remain: thank goodness for this! Seeing you at our gatherings is one of the on-going joys of my life as I always appreciate our reunions. Thank you all for your friendships, and I look forward to renewing them next May at our Memorial Day weekend celebration!

I would add one more idea of appreciation: the beauty and tranquility of our campus remains as when you were a student/staff residing at Greer, and the high school, Chapel, and a beautifully remodeled Gate House remind us of the Greer we knew. We, as an alumni association, are so blessed that the administration of the Fountains retirement community on our campus always welcomes us with open arms: this is something I never take for granted. So, thank you **"The Fountains-at-Millbrook" administrators**, for always letting us return to our beloved campus and reconnect with each other.

John Hudnor, Greer, "63" and BYU "67"

**From Ken and Mary Lynn,
Greer Staff, 1960-1962**

Mary writes: When we retired in 1992, we had dreams from our youth which we wanted to come true. Since Ken was very young, he always wanted to be a teacher and coach and to go to Montana and fly fish. Mary's dream was to live by the ocean. In retirement, they are living out their dreams. They currently do live in Montana for two months each fall, and they live in a condo near the ocean in Florida for five months in the winters. Their three children live close to them in Florida. The remainder of the year they spend in their home in Fishkill, New York that Ken build years ago.

Mary reflects on their time serving the students at Greer and reports that it was a special place for them, and they have many good memories of Greer. Mary adds, "We have made wonderful new friends in the ensuing years, but old friends are still the most precious. We thank all the Greer staff and students for being in our lives." Mary became a teacher and Ken had a very successful post-Greer career as a teacher and coach at Ketchum High

School in Wappingers Falls, New York—the highlight was the school naming the football field after his name. Congratulations Ken!

From Al Dilks, Class of 1963

I have been retired from Verizon for 12 years and live in Cary, NC. My wife and I are happy here and have made many new friends. The climate and taxes are both much better than in New Jersey. I regularly play bridge with a group of friends, attend plays, enjoy the NC Symphony, garden, and am currently learning how to play Mah Jongg!

We are planning a trip through Canada and hope to return to Paris, France in two years for our 50th anniversary. In between, we are going to visit friends in the northeast and explore some of the southern states.

I think of my time at Greer often, and have told my wife stories of my years there. She has heard them many times and still enjoys listening.

From Rita Playfair Bourne, Class of 1965

I retired two years ago after working 40 years in the National Health Service as a nurse, a job I had no intention of doing as a youngster but loved helping people and found medicine fascinating. Retirement is a journey, not a destination! This been quoted to me, and I agree! I belong to the University of the Third Age and enjoy learning Spanish, play reading, and a book club with other Seniors.

I love my little fawn pug Rosie and walking her. I am planning a cycle trip through Holland for a week with my husband at the end of May and would like to visit Warsaw where my grandfather came from and Costa Rica for its wildlife. I would love to visit the West and South in the USA.

I have two sons with partners and would love to be a grandmother. If anyone from Greer wants to stay with us when visiting the UK, they are more than welcome. We are only a short ride away from Shakespeare's home and the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. Anywhere in England, Scotland or Wales can be reached in a day from the Birmingham train station. As an added note, I was

very saddened to hear of the deaths of Jackie MacGregor and Phyllis Pequeño...such good friends. It would be lovely to attend the reunion in 2018. Let's see.

From Suzie Murray Scott, Class of 1958

What am I currently enjoying? Lots of reading, fantasy planning, and still enjoying and seeking nature and all its beauty and wonder. As for my future plans; I, like you, would love to visit some of the national parks such as Glacier National Park and others missed. Greer gave me such an appreciation of the natural world that I am always trying to recapture it. Believe it or not, difficult to do even in a small city like Savannah. Hoping to return to the Land of Enchantment, New Mexico for visit with old friends and remembered sites. And, also, to continue exploring with my husband, our smaller world.

From Armin Ali, Class of 1965

At age 70, I am not quite so full of vigor or agile as before, and it is now a part time job going to the gym and keeping moving with long walks. Our youngest daughter, Amina, age 42, bought her parent this **Fitbit** gadget that records your steps, sleeping patterns, heart rate, calories, and ranks you among group participants. The goal is to achieve 10,000 steps daily. Well, that is the most that I can do.

Last of all, I just closed my AMA Consultant Services after a 20-year run, and I now feel like an “emancipated” slave.

From Phyllis Campesi, Greer, 1957-1960

Phyllis keeps busy doing croquet, needlepoint, crafts, walking and cooking. She enjoys the variety these activities provide for her. She also likes to visit a good friend in Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, and last of all, in doing family research, she found out that she still has some family members in Sicily on her grandmother's side.

From Sydney Nesbitt, Class of 1961

Syd reports that he enjoys playing music and is in a small bluegrass band: he loves to go to many music

festivals in Minnesota where he lives. In the past, he went to festivals all around the country.

He is still working, but lately has been thinking more and more about retirement. In the future, he would like to be more accomplished on the banjo and the guitar. He also rebuilds instruments as a hobby. Syd would also like to get in his van and travel around the country to visit old girlfriends and relatives. Last of all, Syd points out one of the ironies of his life: he does not care to fly and yet his dad was a pilot and sold airplanes!

From Susan Keith Sorrentino, Greer Staff child, late 50's and early 60's

Susan loves living in southern New Hampshire close to the magnificent ocean of both New Hampshire and Maine. Beach walking, traveling, jewelry making, and love of reading makes for a most enjoyable retirement. In the future, Susan would like to continue aligning herself to the Lord's purpose for her life and to help as many people as she can to enjoy their lives. Currently, Susan is helping two older sisters, (89 and 91) maintain an independent life in their own home where they have lived for 60 years. Last of all, she would like to make another trip to Pennsylvania where she loves to visit.

From James Elliman, Greer, 1950-1953

At this season of my life, I enjoy playing a little golf (poorly), a little travel, yard work and reading.

As to what I would still like to accomplish, as a child I always wanted to become fluent in a foreign language and play an instrument as well. I have done neither nor am I likely to at my age.

After some very difficult early years, my life has been totally satisfactory. The years at Greer were great, as were the McHenry's, who somehow managed about 25-30 boys and did an excellent and memorable job. Lots of great memories.

From Frank Cavallito, Class of 1961

Current Activities:

1. I'm learning to write applications for Apple OS X and IOS platforms. I am currently working on

porting a Windows program to OS X. The programming paradigms between Apple and Windows are very different and the Apple version takes some getting used to.

2. We've planted fruit trees and a garden at our farm. I spend a lot of time making sure everything is watered and keeping weeds and critters at bay. Fields have to be mowed and cedar and bois d'arc trees (aka osage orange) need to be trimmed or cut down.

3. Of course, there are activities involving the grandchildren - sporting events, elementary school graduations, etc. Since two of the kids live in NYC, we make frequent trips to see them - they come down to Texas frequently as well. As the kids study history or government in school, we've taken them to Austin, San Antonio, Washington D.C as well as the three Presidential Libraries in Texas. We've also taken our oldest grandson (currently a junior) to visit Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

Current and Future Plans:

1. We are taking a cruise this summer on the Cunard Queen Victoria from Venice to Barcelona.
2. We have been thinking about doing a crossing and touring the British Isles next summer.
3. I'd like to spend more time in the area of Northern Italy (Turin) where my father was born. We were there last summer but didn't spend as much time as I would have liked.
4. Write apps for Apple mobile devices.

From Dorothy Schafenacker McMuntry, Greer Staff, 1955-1965

Dorothy reports that she still enjoys the Bible study at her local Senior Center in Pennsylvania. She also has opportunities to go out to dinner with friends, and has become very close with her chiropractor, as she has helped Dorothy in many ways. She enjoys conversing with her and finds that she has a wealth of information.

Dorothy keeps busy doing housework, getting meals, reading, and playing the piano—"I even practice at my age!!!", she says.

As for the future, she leaves that in the hand of the Lord.

From Bertie and Wistar Wood, Greer Houseparents, 1950's.

Wistar reports that he enjoys walking several times a day with his dog and likes the active company of his wife, the beauty of nature, and the maintaining of grass and garden. He also enjoys music, especially the flute. He would still like to accomplish being an asset to the many people who help them with various things each day.

Bertie says paying attention to our trees, bushes, plants, and the critters that inhabit them. She still enjoys four hours of yoga each week and playing Scrabble and Ping Pong. She also says she likes to concentrate on Wistar and home as she did for 15 years of bringing up children beginning at Greer.

Last of all, she likes to contribute positive energy to this world as long as she is functioning in it.

From Stan Austin, Greer Staff child 1959-1965

My very first job was at Greer at age 12 (1960). I cleaned the metal shop after school each day. Other jobs followed: school and main office custodian, kitchen helper (Camp Barbey), and maintenance with Vern Ladeau. On this job at the start of the first day, Charlie (?) grabbed me from behind and tried to put me in a large trashcan. I put him in a headlock until he gave up: everyone had a good laugh, including me.

After finishing college, I worked as a Social Security Disability Examiner for 30+ years followed by 11 years as a clinician at a Mental Health center—this was my favorite job. Now I am part time retired and at age 68 I work half time as a driver/mailman for the same mental health center, delivering patients, medications, and mail to all our various facilities in West Denver, Colorado, and nearby mountain towns.

My wife Margaret and I enjoy some traveling and took a couple of trips to Hawaii. Our four grandkids keep us busy as well. Last of all, I enjoy walking,

photography, reading, and twice a month Bible study.

Alumni Profiles

You may recall that we had some errors in a recent alumni profile of Penelope Klyce. Herewith is the correction promised.

Penelope "Penny" Klyce, Greer, 1956-1959

"Penny" was at Greer for her junior high school years (5th through 8th grades). In 1962, she graduated from Manchester High School in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, and then attended Salem State College also in Massachusetts. She has had a few vocations in her career which included: teaching Business Education in high school for a year and as secretary to the Director of the Energy Lab at M.I.T. in Cambridge, MA for over 2 years.

She then worked for M&M/MARS, INC. for the next 18 years in several positions. While working at M&M/MARS she was relocated to PA.

Most recently, she was a substitute teacher for 6 years at a local, Pennsylvania technical institute for high school students.

In looking back at her life at Greer, she enjoyed the daily routines and celebrations of holidays. She especially appreciates and remembers Greer's music teacher, Dorothy Schafenacker. Penny wrote a hymn and Dorothy put it to music for her. Her housemother then asked Diane Sievers, Charmi Neely, and Penny to sing it at a local church.

Penelope has 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Tecla Klyce Murphy, Greer, 1956-1959

Tecla attended Greer from 1956-1959, and after that she finished her high school education elsewhere and she went to several colleges, finishing up as a history major at Vermont College. She married and while her three children were in school, she stayed at home to raise them. She is currently the grandmother of eight grandchildren.

Along the way, she owned a bookstore in Michigan for 5 years, and currently is the publisher and

editor for a Senior Citizens magazine. She has been doing this for seven years.

In her leisure time, Tecla enjoys tennis, writing children's books, and traveling across the United States. In reflecting on her Greer days, she cited going on walks with her boyfriend on Sunday afternoons as a wonderful memory. She liked her science teacher, **Mrs. Freitag**, who she said was firm but subtle. She also has a good memory of the **Percy's**, who were her house parents. Her bucket list is sitting under a beautiful tree and reading because her current life is still too busy for her to do this activity.

Pam Rogers Tooke, Greer, 1958-1961

Pam attended Greer from 1958-1961 and was one of my classmates. She graduated elsewhere from high school in 1963 and attended the University of Cincinnati for a year. She eventually worked in the retail business and loved working in a California department store called "Robinson". She continued working in retail and especially said that "Bridal Register" work was fun for her.

Pam is married with two children, four grandchildren, and a grandchild. Her leisure interests include volunteer work in a thrift shop, which she especially enjoyed, and traveling to such countries as Germany, England, and France. Her positive memories of Greer included church at the Chapel-of-the-Child, Thanksgiving at Greer, and the Martin Play. She fondly remembers **Tom and Cindy Percy**, her house parents at Crest. saying they were great houseparents and examples for her. She also mentioned art teacher **Loren Shirar** as a very nice man.

Billie Phillips, Greer, 1959-1963

Bill attended Greer from 1959 to 1963. He then left Greer and graduated from another high school in 1970, and then went to Nassau Community College and later, finished his degree at SUNY. He then spent eighteen years in the restaurant business and later worked in a bank in sales and business development.

Billie is married and has one son. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and watching football. In

reflecting on his Greer days, Billie said his fourth-grade teacher, **Tom Shay** was a very nice man who made him laugh a lot. He also had a positive relationship with one of Greer's relief house parents, **Hap Collins**. He was the relief when Billie was in Marcy Cottage and Billie remembers that he took a genuine interest in the boys at Marcy.

Reunion News

The 2018 reunion is tentatively scheduled for June 1-3, 2018. Those dates have been confirmed with The Fountains at Millbrook. John and Sandy will be visiting The Fountains in September and will firm up final details. Any changes will be reported in the Winter/Holiday newsletter that all alumni will receive along with registration details.

Here is the tentative reunion schedule:

Friday, June 1st, 2018

Noon-4:30: Decorate the high school auditorium

4:30: Go out to a local area for dinner: all who are interested, meet in the high school auditorium

7:00: Movie in the high school auditorium. The movie is an wonderful true story about escorting a fallen soldier from Afghanistan to his home in Wyoming. It is a tribute to all who have given their lives for our country in all our wars. It is well-written, well-acted, and very moving. The name of the movie is "Taking Chance" and the name comes from the fallen soldier whose name was Chance Phillips. I can't say enough of how moved I am by this movie. It is a perfect movie for "Memorial Day" and it will be well received.

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

8:00am - 1030am: Registration and socializing in the high school auditorium

10:30am-11:30am: Walk to cemetery and a simple service. We will talk about people who have served their country in the armed forces as well as people who have served in other capacities. People can also share any Greer experiences they want to express.

Noon: Memorial Day luncheon in the high school auditorium. Menu TBD.

5:00pm: Dinner in the high school auditorium.

**Dinner at 5:00 will allow people to drive to their evening destination while there is still daylight as by this time of year, there is daylight until almost 9:00pm. There will be a program during dinner that we are still developing. The menu will be finalized and reported in the next newsletter.

Sunday, June 3rd, 2018

3:00pm: Showing of Greer DVD's to Fountains residents and anyone from Greer alumni who wants to participate followed by a Q and A session from the audience that Greer alumni can answer.

This is the way we see it at this point. Additionally, we hope to be able to acquire a bass drum and an American flag with holster so that we can somewhat recreate this scene from 1958:



Anybody know where we can find a guy that looks like the guy with the drum.

Hey, you, in the white pants. We need to see you there too, as well as Dr. Hammer!

Sad News

Sadly, we have learned that former teacher, Loren A. Shirar passed away on June 6. Mr. Shirar taught Art and acted as Assistant Coach to Coach Maddox in the late 50's.

We received word that Jerome Roger "Jerry" Wolf passed away on February 5, 2017. Twelve days before his 81st birthday. Jerry was in the Class of 1955.

We also received word that Larry W. Dent passed away on April 10, 2017. We are not sure of Larry's time at Greer. He was born in 1934. If you are one of his contemporaries, please let us know.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

It has been a trying summer for me and my computers. First my laptop with a lot of Greer files on it went belly-up. Then the desktop that I resurrected to take its place followed suit. Fortunately, I have been able to recover most of the files from various flash drives and older hard drives that never seem to get thrown away...good thing! Hopefully, I will begin to get back into uploading mode soon.

That's all for now.

Tony Vaz – Webmaster Greerschool.Org
Greer Class of '61 (Honorary)

In addition to reporting any change of address to Peggy Sparks, you can contact me at tonyvaz@greerschool.org.

Sorry about the lack of photos in this issue. Too much chit-chat to cover. ☹

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor - Sandy Hudnor - Peggy Sparks

Contact tonyvaz@greerschool.org for their contact information or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.