



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
Alumni Association  
Newsletter



**Spring 2020**  
**Volume 13 No. 2**



**Spring: the wonderful smells of green grass and leather gloves, a new decade, and ... you.**

Although I continually enjoyed striving to develop new learning activities for my classes through the years in my attempt to have my students enjoy and appreciate the people and events of our American History, I'd have to say, especially upon reflection, that the favorite part of my being a teacher was that each year I would be lucky to form close relationships with a few students. It's just the way it is in teaching—you enjoy getting to work with all the students, but you get close to a special few each year. One such student was Hannah Sanford. She strove for excellence in the class and achieved that goal with an A+ grade. It was students such as Hannah who confirmed to me that becoming a high school teacher was the right choice for my career. Hannah's overall enthusiasm for learning, combined with her ability to compose insightful written essays on history topics, and be one of the class leaders in our classroom discussions in regards to the history topic under consideration were attributes I admired and her attitude and efforts remain in my memory to this day. As a teacher in each individual class that you teach, you look for a student to be a class leader, and Hannah filled that role in her class: It really makes the teacher's job easier.

Hannah loved softball, and in the spring that I had her in my class I can still remember her telling me one day of what made each spring so special to her. She said that it was going to softball practice and loving the smells of the newly grown grass and her leather softball glove. It did not seem very significant to me, but to Hannah it was one of the joys of the newly arrived springtime.

Like Hannah, the coming of spring brings unique joys and opportunities for all of us, and I think the most common denominator is that spring does bring a sense of renewal with the warmer and longer days, the growth of flowers, plants, and new leaves on the trees. What joys and memories does each spring engender in your mind? What is special about spring when you were a student at Greer and subsequently, in your post-Greer life? It has been correctly said that each of us has a story to tell which is important to us. I encourage you to share with you fellow alumni and staff something you remember and still enjoy with the coming of spring each year.

For me, each spring was special because I no longer had to wear the cumbersome winter clothing, and it was the start of the baseball season of my beloved Brooklyn



This memory remains with me today, as I can still recite the starting lineup for the 1955 team. Trivial? yes, but a warm and wonderful memory. **Note:** I still anticipate the start of the baseball season each spring, but now it's rooting for the Boston Red Sox as I spent 40 years living in New England!!! And no, I cannot even give you the starting lineup for last year's Red Sox.

I hope all of you enjoy this spring as we enter a new decade. Let us hear from you.

John Hudnor, Class of 1963

**Greetings from the Staff and Alumni during the holiday season!**

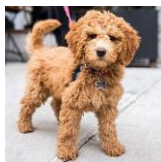
The Greer School Alumni Association was pleased to hear from many of you during the recent holiday season. **Hildi (Walden) Plunkett** lives in England and spent this past Thanksgiving visiting with her daughter who lives in the states.





**Pam (Stobbe) Todd** spoke of so many good memories of Greer, her classmates and the beautiful campus. She also reported lots of snow in her area this year.

Former staff member **Pat Dallas** said she also has a “Golden Doodle” just like Sandy and



me. Her Golden Doodle is lots of fun and keeps her moving. She adds the



dog is very smart. Since she moved from Hyde Park, New York to Lake George, New York it is harder for her to come to our reunions but reports of fond memories of her 7 years at Greer. Pat also enjoys the Alumni newsletters.

**Penny Klyce** reports having a wonderful time at our last reunion and especially enjoyed seeing her Greer friends.

**Stan Austin** and his wife Margaret celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December. They also spent a week in historic Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina and took in all the wonderful sites and activities these two cities had to offer.



**Karin (Townsend) Hargy** moved to Chestertown, Maryland which is in Maryland’s Eastern shore. Her family had previously lived in New Hampshire during the summers and North Carolina during the winters, but now will be in Chestertown all year

round. Karin said there are lots of community activities in town and the surrounding area. She has found a DAR chapter and various knitting groups to enjoy. Husband Don enjoys stamp clubs and there are several in the area. He also plans to get involved with the local community theater. Both Karin and Don enjoyed a trip to Peru and Ecuador last February.

**Peggy (Matthewson) Sparks** was very happy to report that her husband Ron’s cancer is gone. Peggy had a health challenge but had enough of a sense of humor to report that she had surgery on Halloween—and that she would not forget that! We’ll take that as a good omen, Peggy. Her

brother, and former Greer student, **Jim** and his wife visited Peggy this past September.

**Roland Herwig’s** wife Cary continues to write books and attend book conventions in addition to spending part of each day writing.

After spending many years in Iowa, **John Travlos** spends most of his time in Florida—yet remains an avid University of Iowa fan.



**Frank Cavillito** writes that owning a puppy can indeed have its challenges. His family got a 4-month-old German Shepherd/Husky: it was housebroken but likes to sleep in the family bed: somewhat of a problem says Frank.



**Syd Nesbitt** was sorry that he could not make it to the reunion but had contact with former student **Nick Anderson** via a phone call and both Syd and Nick enjoyed remembering their times as Greer. Syd is very happy to keep up with the Greer news and people.



**Linda (Wilson) Cavanaugh** has some health issues that she is recovering from. She mentioned that daughter **Julie** continues to work with the Special Olympics as a global messenger volunteer and participates in bowling, bocce and cross-country skiing.

**Tecla (Klyce) Murphy** was kind enough to bring many copies of her quarterly magazine she publishes about life in Maryland for all to enjoy at our gathering last September. It is a great quarterly magazine with lots of helpful articles as well as good stories to read. She reports having a good year in 2019.



Former staff member **Betty (Barton) Tompkins** said she especially enjoys hearing all about the students in the alumni newsletters.

**Calvin Cain** mentioned that he continues to appreciate the wonderful experience at Greer as he said he grew up in a safe and

nurturing environment. He still feels a closeness with the guys he grew up with at Greer.

**Tom Oliver** is still working as a sheriff but mentions that retirement is right around the corner. In the meantime, he keeps busy with bowling, radio and the local fire district board of governors in Arizona where they live. He expressed appreciation for a fun Greer gathering last September.



**Bob Jenkins** reminded us of an article written in the New York Daily Mirror in 1959 concerning the success of Greer's football team despite Greer having such few students in the school. In the days before the communications revolution we now live in, getting an article in a New York City newspaper in 1959 was a big, big, deal. He spoke with fondness of teammates **Ed Martin and Douglas**



**(Skip) Skipworth.** Bob loved the camaraderie that naturally comes with participating in team sports, and I feel we can all relate to Bob's feelings.

**Pam (Rogers) Tooke** had a great first sentence in her holiday greeting: "life is like a roll of toilet paper—the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes." Pam and husband Michael celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and enjoyed some trips to National Parks in the west during the year. Each month during 2019 was filled with fun activities for the Tooke's.

**Jack Rolston** agreed that indeed, emotions were close to the surface at our honoring of the staff portion of the reunion.

**John Nicholas** especially enjoyed the opportunity to honor our Greer staff at the September reunion and his sister, **Cherlyn (Geiringer) Luberto** reports that despite some health challenges in 2019, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

**Charmi (Neely) Mulhill** was very happy to connect with the alumni attendees and looks forward to opportunities to meet again.

**Roger Russoman** spends time in New Jersey in the summer and Florida in the winters. He looks forward to seeing all of you next autumn.

**George and Laura Fisher** said that Greer was a good place to spend their childhood at and they hope to see all of us again soon.

**Liz Rivera** still loves to travel and enjoys learning about other cultures. She always enjoys the reunions at Greer.

Other alumni and staff who sent greetings were: **Armin Ali, Jim Anderson, Nick Anderson, Doug and Mitzi Berry, Pat (Monza) Bertram, Joe Delisle, Mike Ennis, Anne (Meyrowitz) Foster, Georganne (Clarke) Garbas, Robert Ildefonso, Pauline (Wendt) Kalahale, Harry McCandless, John Miller, Pam (Pequeno) Williams, Pat (Jordan) Picco, Susie (Murray) Scott, Suzanne (Keith) Sorrentino, Tony Vaz, and Bertie & Wistar Wood.**

Did you notice the common themes throughout the comments made by alumni and staff in their holiday greetings? To me it was love of Greer and reconnections made at our gatherings. We hope to see all of you at our next gathering.

### **A call for your help!**

Yikes—I am running out of things from you to include in our newsletters, so will you help me? Here's how:

We have been publishing for the past two years your memories of staff who stood out in your life and helped you during your years at Greer. These tributes were a special part of each newsletter. Moving forward, the Alumni Association would like to pay tribute to some of the fellow students you made friends with while at Greer and sharing some of those memories with the rest of us. Here are some ideas for you to write about:

1. Who did you look up to?
2. Who was a good role model for you and what about him/her did you admire?
3. What are some things you did with them that you enjoyed?
4. What **pranks** on other students (or staff) did the two of you do? Did you get caught?

5. What sports, drama, other clubs did you two belong to?

6. Did you keep up with your friend after the two of you left Greer? Where did they live and what did they do for a living? Did they marry and how many children did they have?

These are some questions you can get started with—we look forward to hearing from you!

### **September 2020 gathering**

I am currently working with the Fountains-at-Millbrook administrators to organize and plan for our informal reunion in late September. **More details will be forthcoming.** We look forward to seeing you and renewing our friendships.

### **Sad news**

This is a recap of all the alumni and former staff members we have lost or heard about losing this past year. Most have been reported in previous newsletters and/or recorded on the web site In-Memoriam ([http://greerschool.org/in\\_memor.html](http://greerschool.org/in_memor.html)) page:

#### **Students**

Amos Garold Berry  
Ida Farley Bove  
Diedre Renee Greenway (2014)  
Edward Nathaniel Martin  
Melissa Ann Poole Whitney  
Willie John Zebrowski (2009)

#### **Staff**

Alice Evelyn Austin  
Thomas Percy

#### **Other**

Eleanor Mae Barker Trommsdorff was not a former student or staff member but was a longtime alumni association supporter and the widow of the late alumnus, Fred Trommsdorff.



### **A Word to the Wise**

Please do not become a part of the previous list by not following the Federal,

State and Municipal guidelines set forth to deal with the current medical crisis occurring nationwide and globally (Covid-19).

Now a word or two from our old friend, alumnus **Ingo Orlamunder**:

Mark and I just got some tips on how to avoid getting the Virus. Some of them are a bit extreme but I will leave it up to you as to what you will do. This source comes from all the autopsy's that China has performed.

Drink hot liquids (coffee, tea, hot water). Avoid cold drinks.

Sip warm water every 20 minutes.

Gargle with an antiseptic and warm water every day. You can use salt, vinegar, or lemon instead of an antiseptic.

Shower or bathe when coming in from outdoors. Do not sit down but go straight to the (hot) shower or tub after removing all your clothes and washing them. Or you can hang the clothes in direct sunlight which kills the virus

Wash metallic surfaces carefully. The virus can live on the surface for 9 days.

Wipe doorknobs and hand railings with an antiseptic solution.

Eat fruits and vegetables (raise zinc levels).

Avoid the common flu. (Ed. note) Did you get your flu shot?

If you get a sore throat, attack it immediately with gargling with salt, lemon, or vinegar and warm water. The virus will last 3 days in the throat and then travel to your lungs. Gargling and drinking warm water will wash the virus to your stomach where it will die.

The source of this information is supposed to be reliable but doing the above is strictly up to you.

### **Greerschool.Org Web Site Update**

I have uploaded the Winter / Holiday 2019 issue. 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](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor, Sandy Hudnor or Peggy Sparks. Contact [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org) for e-addresses or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.