



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
Alumni Association  
Newsletter



**Spring 2021**  
**Volume 14 No. 2**



May Pole Dance 1957, from the Jack McHenry collection. Compliments of John E. "Jackie" McHenry Jr. and Jim Mathewson

**Food, Clothing, Shelter, ...Greer...and you!**

For the past two years, Sandy and I have gone to the Cedar City homeless shelter one day each week to prepare a meal for those who are in the shelter. Our volunteer work at the shelter has been an eye opener for the both of us. We are constantly thanked by the homeless shelter staff and more importantly, by the homeless residents for our efforts to provide a full meal for them: it sure helps that Sandy is a great cook! These expressions of gratitude make us feel that our service is worthwhile. We cannot come away from our efforts without being grateful ourselves for having good food to eat in our own home and a nice comfortable home to return to each day.

All of us came to Greer because of a need for our parents to have Greer do some of the things they could not do. Some of us who attended Greer came to love Greer, and as well as some who attended Greer who were at the other end of this spectrum in their Greer experience. I suspect most of us were somewhere in between as neither they loved Greer or hated being there but adjusted to the circumstances they were put into and did quite well on a day-to-day basis.

However, no matter what feelings we had about being at Greer, we always had hot food to eat and a warm cottage to return to each evening. This contrast with the uncertainty of how the homeless feel and face each day causes me to appreciate now more than ever the security Greer provided for us during the time we were at Greer, and for that I am so grateful and hope you feel the same way I do.

John Hudnor, Class of 1963

**Staff/Alumni gathering, September 23rd, 2021**

Gate House has been sold and I am hoping to work with the new owner to arrange for a luncheon to be held on September 23rd of this year at Gate House. I have made an initial contact and hope to have definitive arrangements to report to you in our summer issue of the alumni newsletter.

**Hearing from you during the holiday season.**

The alumni association was happy to hear from many of you during the recent holiday season.

**Calvin Cain** reports that he is working part-time for a Jacuzzi Hot Tub Retailer in Wilmington, Delaware. He is also a part-time bookkeeper in a container distribution business. Before the Pandemic



restrictions set in last February, he and his wife Mona went to the country of **Dubai** for a visit. Later in the year,

they were also able to host both sets of Grandchildren—one week for each set. Their grandkids had a ball—Calvin and Mona were worn out!!! The two of them did manage to celebrate

their 50th wedding anniversary this past year—congratulations to you both!

**Charmi (Neely) Mulvihill** had one of her students interview her for the student's psych class, and one of the things Charmi told her was, "it takes a community to raise a child and that's how I was raised, in a "community"—not just a co-ed boarding school that I attended from ages 8-18, but a loving and benevolent community where the younger kids looked up to the older kids: a community that became my second home in the rolling hills of Dutchess County, N.Y.

**Karin (Townsend) Hargy** reported that her family is doing well, and that downsizing in their new home in Chestertown, Maryland from their spacious old home has kept them very busy. To survive the pandemic, she and husband Don have also done lots of reading and Don has his stamp collection to keep him busy. Last of all, there was a productive garden last summer, where Don made pickles and Karin made jams and chutney.

**Pat Hilsinger** went out west this year for her 85th birthday to explore and enjoy the region, including a trip to Goblin Valley State Park in Utah which she highly recommends.



**Angela (Oliver) D'Ambrosio's** husband, **Joe** reports that Angie is making progress in her rehab and loves to hear from Greer people—Joe reports that Angie loves her Greer fellow students and hearing from you means everything to her. Greetings and encouragement cards can be sent to: 46 Princeton Road, Carmel, NY 10512-5643.

The same can be said for **Ingo Orlamunder**, who is now in rehab and he can be reached at 466 Diehl Avenue, San Leandro, CA, 94577.

**Rita (Playfair) Bourne** and her husband were proud to welcome their first granddaughter, Imogen, last September.

Former staff member **Betty (Barton) Tompkins** reports the passing of her husband of 61 years, **Wendell Tompkins** this past July. Wendell was a music teacher for many years and launched several highly successful band programs across the

country. Betty adds that she still has contact with former Greer student, **Penny Klyce** and staff member, **Gayle (Houser) Fox**.

**Pam (Rogers) Tooke** and husband **Michael** celebrated 51 years of marriage. Pam continued to do a thriving business in an antique shop and says she has an eye for the right merchandise and enjoys the thrill of the hunt and the joy of the sale.

**Peggy (Mathewson) Sparks** continues to enjoy gardening and filling the bird feeders and the bird bath. Peggy also remembered her father buying her Canadian flyer ice skates when she was 13 years old and skating many times on the Rapallo ice rink. She still has the skate guards on the blades, and these skates adorn her front door every Christmas. Her husband **Ron** enjoys grilling on his Traeger smoker.



**John Nicholas** says his cabinet making business is going well (kitchen and custom furniture pieces) and enjoys that his son is a partner in the business.

**Roland Herwig's** wife, **Cary** continues to write books and reports some books have done well—others not so well, but she continues to write and hope for more success this coming year.

**Gary and Cherri Wood** have learned to order groceries remotely, visit doctors through Telehealth, and avoided major hurricanes in a year in which their little home projects and some bigger ones for required maintenance.

**Tony Vaz** remembers leaving Greer after his mom became sick and passed away. His dad took his brother and him out of Greer at that point, and his ice skates and his Flexible Flyer sled were left at Rapallo because they were going to be living in Texas. Tony says he could have used them a couple of years later while serving with the Naval Antarctic Summer Support unit crash crew at Williams Field, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. Two years later, he said, they would have come in handy while serving at the Naval Support Station (a radar facility) in Langes, Iceland.



In addition to the update from the people in our newsletter just stated above, the alumni association also received holiday greetings from:

Armin Ali, Jim Anderson, Nick Anderson, Stan Austin, Doug/Janet (Mitzi) Berry, Al Borsodi, Frank Cavallito, Linda (Wilson) Cavanaugh, Ron Cooper, Stan/Theresa Elbe, Mike Ennis, Glenn Fillman, George/Laura Fisher, Izola Fix, Anne (Meyrowitz) Foster, Russell Golden, Georganne (Clarke) Garbas, Cherlyn Gieringer, Robert Ildefonso, Robert Jenkins, Louise Manz, Harry McCandless, Diana Munzer, Syd Nesbitt, Susan (Keith) Sorrentino, Pam (Pequeno) Williams, Pat (Jordan) Picco, Liz Rivera, Jack Rolston, Roger Russoman, Justine (Murray) Scott, Mark Speakman, Pam (Stobbe) Todd, Bertie/Wistar Wood, Tecla (Klyce) Murphy, George Sievers, Jim Mathewson, and Liz (Tuttle) .

It was wonderful and so special to hear from all of you. Our Alumni Association is alive and well, isn't it! And this, despite the fact that Greer closed over 40 years ago! \*

\*Several alumni on the list included comments about memories of Greer and the Martin Play—these comments and other perspectives of theirs will be included in this, and in forthcoming newsletters throughout 2021.

#### From George Fisher

In the summer of 1937, I was taken to Grand Central station in NYC with a shipping tag attached to me, and then I was handed over to the train conductor. At Dover Plains I met a friendly giant—Mr. Mac. He took me to Marcy cottage and Mrs. Mom Morton—I was home! Thank You!

#### From Diana Munzer

**John and Sandy Hudnor** have a new puppy who looks regal and majestic. My daughter lives close by to us, and her puppy's name is Chipper (as in **Chip Fowler**, he is beautiful and kind and worthy of the name). Chipper has destroyed so many things that the list would fill up whole page, but he is so loveable that it is hard to get mad at him. When he runs, he tumbles over himself and he somehow gets up on the patio table and is then afraid to get

down, so he sits there waiting for someone to rescue him!!

I began thinking of Greer School pets, there are two photographs that I remember, probably taken by Mr. Mathewson. One is of **Bob Rolston** with some raccoons, and the other is of **Peggy Mathewson** with a baby rabbit. **Gwen Jones** had a small, white, curly haired dog that went to school with her and sat under her desk during class. Someone thought that inappropriate, so the dog was banned from the schoolhouse. Her dog patiently waited for Gwen outside by the front door. **Georgia King** had a large dog named Wolf when she lived at Crest cottage. I do not remember if he ever lived at Ledge cottage. Someone gave **Suzie Murray** a beautiful puppy, but that must have been right when I was graduating because I do not remember much about him. **Wistar Wood** had some fish in a tank in the office at Crest Cottage, and once in the middle of the night he woke some of us up to come downstairs to see the black mollies give live birth. His wife **Bertie** had a miniature Schnauzer named Blumpi, and I think she might have had puppies while she lived at Crest Cottage. **Noralea and David Abel** had horses, and David always wanted to be a cowboy when he grew up. Then there were cows and cats in the Greer School barn. Did I forget any Greer pets? \* I do not remember if there were specific rules about keeping pets.

\*Yes, John, you left out my two favorites: Warren Olsen's Shelties Hep and Snuffy Olsen!

#### From Ingo Orlamunder

Before I send one of my memories, I wanted to say what a fantastic time Mark and I had at the 2019 reunion where we honored our staff. The Greer School Alumni Reunion Committee did a fantastic job of putting it together. I was in tears when everyone got up and told what teachers, house parents, and other staff had such a positive influence on their life.

I remember when one day Bob Ildefonso, Floyd Oliver and myself went across the Camby Road outside of Gate House and discovered a wild strawberry patch. I think we went back to the cottage to get some containers to put the

strawberries in, or we just started picking them and put them in our shirts, which we had removed. I think I ate as many as I picked!!!! Once we had stripped the patch of strawberries, we went back to Gate house and cleaned and mashed all of the berries, thinking we were making strawberry jam, so we could have them for breakfast on our toast. How I sometimes miss those simple days— no cares or worries in the world, and wonderful friends to share them with.

I have never forgotten my days at Greer. When Mark, my partner and I first met 5 years ago and we sat down to dinner at a restaurant and talked, the first thing I told him was about my days at Greer and how to this day I find that it was the best thing that could have happened to me at that point in my life. I truly think that my time at Greer shaped every aspect of my life and my 45 year relationship I had with my former partner and now the one I have with Mark.

#### **From Robert Jenkins**

When I came to Greer in 1956, I had never played football or even ever had watched a football game. I remembered while at Daisy cottage we would rush outdoors after school and, choose up teams and play some football until it was time to go into the cottage to get ready for dinner. As time passed, Coach **Jack Maddox** told me he wanted me to play Quarterback. I was shocked and I told him I was too small. He would have nothing of that talk and said, “it’s not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.” That ended my resistance, and I enjoyed my high school career at that position.

As for my reaction to the Robert Frost poem, “**The Road Not Taken**,” that appeared in the Autumn newsletter, before coming to Greer I had to learn piano and was practicing all of the time it seemed. As I said in a previous newsletter, I had performed at Carnegie Hall and Hunter college as a youngster but gave up practicing once I came to Greer. Greer’s music teacher, **Dorothy Schafenacker** had told my grandmother that she would give me lessons, but I did not make that happen. After leaving Greer, I actually started taking lessons again from my cousin who was the music director for the

Buffalo public schools. I do still have a piano at my home and play it from time to time, but I have often wondered how my life would have been different if I had taken the road to stay with the piano lessons and pursued music as an adult.

#### **Farewell to one of my classmates of the Class of 1963**

We have become aware that **Pam Lauricella** passed away in late 2019. After leaving Greer, Pam worked as a private secretary and did some waitressing. She had a son and two grandchildren. One of her Greer friends remembers Pam as being smart and funny. She participated in field hockey, Glee Club and being a cheerleader. Pam was so proud she came from the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, NY.

We reported the death of Albert Lloyd Dilks Jr. (another Class of 1963 alum) in the last newsletter. Apologies to Mrs. Jane Dilks and family for referring him to “Alfred”. The error was caught by a former classmate, Victor Vaz.

#### **Other Sad News**

We have learned of the passing of Bates Lee Cutten (Jan 1929 - May 2018). He served in post-WWII as an Army vet in northern Italy.

We have also learned that Peter Mann “Goop” Guild, Class of 1954, passed away in March 2020. Pete resided in the Dallas, Texas area.

We were notified in January that Robin Standerwick passed away in October 2020 of non-Covid illness. He was born in 1931. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean War.

George Sievers informed us that Robert “Bob” Page Burruss had died on January 18, 2021...six days after his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bob was a former student and oldest son of Barbara Burruss, an early 50’s staff member. Bob was living in Chevy Chase, MD at the time of his death. He is survived by his brother, Ellis.



## Looking for a Rapper

I received the following e-mail last month:

Hi Tony,

I'm the Director of Archive & Clearance over at Mass Appeal. I'm working on a new eight-part series with A&E currently titled "Secret Origins of Hip Hop". In this series, we'll be taking an in-depth look at eight different hip hop legends and watch their climb to success.

Our first episode is on the Hip Hop legend Grandmaster Flash. Flash (**Joseph Saddler**) who attended Greer School with his sister in the 1960s. I was hoping you might be able to point me in some direction of archive of the school from the 60s. I saw you have incredible footage on your website, but it is from the 1950s and I'm looking for about a decade later. Any chance anyone from your Alumni Association has provided you with images or footage of the school from the 60s?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you! --

**Eddie Kuspiel**

**Director of Archive & Clearance**

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I responded to Mr. Kuspiel that there is limited information and photographs of the late 60's through the mid 80's, simply because it was not rescued when the Greer property was sold off. If anyone, former students (or staff) have anything that can help him with his research, please contact him at the addresses above or at his e-mail address: [ekuspiel@massappeal.com](mailto:ekuspiel@massappeal.com)

## Apology

In the last newsletter, we featured excerpts from the 1956-57 student guidebook and stated we would cover the third installment having to do vocational guidelines in this issue. Unfortunately, the guidebook has disappeared and may not be recoverable for us to continue. If it ever reappears, we will continue where we left off.

## Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have uploaded the Winter / Holiday 2020 issue. This one will be uploaded to the Newsletter page prior to the next 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 - [J](#)

Sandy Hudnor - > [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)

Peggy Sparks - [P](#)

or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.