



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



*** Reunion Recap ***
Summer 2015
Volume 8 No. 3

Greer Reunion----2015

A weekend to renew and remember.

Where do I begin? Well for starters, the most important feeling is that it was great to be with all of you, and for me, these feelings **increase** with every gathering we have at Greer; it must be one of the joys of aging gracefully. For example, on Friday evening after the decorations were finished, six of us went out to dinner at a very nice restaurant just north of Millbrook. **Pat Jordan Picco, John Hudnor,** and their spouses were joined by **Tom King** and **Calvin Cain** and we talked the evening away! The rule of thumb for a restaurant is to get the customer in-and-out within an hour: we were oblivious to that custom as we were there for three hours! Fortunately, the restaurant staff did not seem to mind.



Clockwise from top left: Tom King, John Hudnor, Gene Picco, Pat Picco, and Calvin Cain

On Saturday morning, **Anne Meyrowitz Foster** and her classmates from the class of '61 gathered together for breakfast at a local eatery. Anne was subbing for **Tony Vaz** who usually co-organizes this traditional, "class of '61" breakfast. Tony assures me that he will be here for next year's reunion.



L to R: Nick Anderson, Anne Foster, Linda Cavanaugh, Ellie Burke, Don Berger

During Saturday morning, as we all arrived at Greer's campus, there were reconnections to be made between us, and this was followed by the viewing of pictures hung up all around the auditorium before we settled down for a luncheon prepared by the Fountains-at-Millbrook staff. **Marion Percy** said the grace before the start of lunch. Then, during the luncheon, laughter could be regularly heard with even more smiles when we did our "**door prizes**" activity after lunch. The following won door prizes and these are the prizes won:

1. Who came the farthest distance to attend the reunion? It was a virtual tie between **Jim Anderson**

and **Ellie King Burke**, who both came from Florida, but Jim insisted that he came just a few miles further (393, in fact). Ellie was gracious enough to concede, though I am not sure Jim actually came further! Alas, the door prize was a car air freshener, so Ellie got the last laugh.

2. Who had the most dates with the opposite gender? Winner was **Don Berger** and his prize was lip balm.

3. Who has been married the longest? Winner was **Theresa Giarusso Elbe** and the prize was romantic candles.

4. Who were the youngest alumnus and the oldest alumnus? Winners were **Marion Percy** for the youngest and **Laura Connor Fischer** for the oldest. Marion's prize for the youngest was a baby rattle and Laura's for the oldest was dentures.

5. Who has moved the most times in their life? The winner was **John Steele** and his prize was a sign that said, "Garage Sale".

6. Who has missed the most movies because of serving detention during the Friday night movies? The winner was **Jack Miller** and his prize was a bag of microwave popcorn. I know, I know, we didn't have microwave popcorn in the 1950's, but Jack didn't seem to mind that his prize was an anachronism!

7. Who has the most grandchildren? The winner was **Virginia Moffitt Corrigan** and her prize was a photo album.

8 Who has played in the most different types of sports? The winner was **Pat Jordan Picco** and her prize was a heat wrap.

9 Who has the most bionic parts in their body? The winner was **Linda Wilson Cavanaugh** and her prize was a small wrench.

10. Last of all, who was wearing the most Greer colors (Red and White). The winner was **Theresa Giarusso Elbe** and her prize was a red mask.

Following lunch, the alumni did various things such as a walking tour of the campus which included visits to Gate House, which is now a beautiful country Inn. Some of us thought about trying to go to Camp Barbey, but it has become almost impossible to find the road to the camp, so we did not venture out in search of the camp.

We gathered again at 5:00 p.m. for the evening meal. Grace was said by **Mark Speakman** followed by the Fountains staff again hosting a wonderful meal for all of us.



Maurice Neville Mark Speakman

What happened after dinner was probably my favorite activity of the day as all were invited to stand and tell our name, what years we attended Greer, and then one other comment of our choosing. Almost to the person, each of us told of how Greer was a very important time in our life. Very poignant and positive feelings were expressed and I was touched by the heartfelt feelings expressed by all. It was an affirmation of Greer's importance in our lives, and I might add, that without a place such as Greer, our lives would have been much less successful.

The last activity of the day was the movie entitled, "**Greer School: Now and Then.**" This DVD was different from the one we made in 2012 in that it had scenes from previous reunions as well as scenes from life at Greer and new pictures of staff along with new musical numbers. (Ed. note: see how you can view the movie on-line below in the web site update.)

On **Sunday afternoon**, Sandy and I had the opportunity to show the Greer movie to the residents of the Fountains of Millbrook. We were very pleased with the turnout as we had over 20 show up and although the movie is only 35 minutes long, the presentation took over an hour and a half because the residents had lots of comments and questions about all of you. They were quite interested about your lives at Greer before it became a retirement community.

The weekend came to a delightful end on Sunday evening as Sandy and I went down to Fishkill to visit with former staff members, **Ken and Mary Lynn**. The Lynn's were at Greer from 1960-1962,



and besides being houseparents, Ken was the coach of all three boys' sports which were played at Greer. Ken and Mary left Greer over 50 years ago and yet, they remember most of the people who were at Greer during the two years the Lynn's served at the Greer community. As the pictures of former staff and students appeared on the DVD, Ken and Mary would say something they remembered about the people who they recognized. In short, the Lynn's enjoyed their time

at Greer and looked back at you with fond memories. Our visit with Ken and Mary was the perfect ending to a weekend full of pleasant experiences with all of you who came to renew your friendships. I am already looking forward to our gathering next year!

Some Reunion Attendees

Here are photos of some of the reunion attendees enjoying lunch and renewing friendships:



Jim and Barbara Anderson



Marion Percy and Roger Russoman



Bob Ildefonso, Pam Pequeno and Charmi Neely-Mulvihill



Sorry! Too many to list. 8^)

Reunion News

We have already set next year's reunion for Saturday, October 22nd, 2016. We are excited the Fountains-at-Millbrook have let us set this next date to meet, and we wanted to let you know now because October is a popular month in Dutchess County and encourage you to reserve a motel/hotel as soon as possible.

More details of our gathering will appear in future newsletters.

Newsletter Changes

(Repeated from the Winter 2014 newsletter for the benefit of our newly joined alumni.)

As most of you may be aware, John and Sandy Hudnor resumed the authorship of the **Greer School / Hope Farm Alumni Association Newsletter** effective with the winter issue.

What you may not know is that the publication and distribution of the newsletter will remain the responsibility of Tony Vaz with support from Peggy Mathewson Sparks and Mitzi and Doug Berry.

Tony will edit and format the newsletter as before, print and mail hard copies, and will e-mail versions in only .PDF format. The reason for this change is

that due to the large memory requirements of a Microsoft Word document with many graphics, it causes problems with e-mail delivery. If you are unable to read the .PDF format by downloading and installing the Adobe Acrobat Reader from this Adobe web site: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>, let us know by e-mail or postal mail and we will send you a hard copy, at a reasonable cost (see below).

Peggy will maintain a database of addresses, both postal and e-mail. If you have a change in address to either, you need to contact Peggy. If you fail to do so, your continued receipt of the newsletter may end. Peggy's mailing address will be provided on request.

Mitzi and Doug will maintain the Alumni bank account set up long ago in the Bank of Millbrook. All forms of payment should be sent to them, whether it is "dues", newsletter subscriptions, reunion funds or donations.

The correct address is available by contacting tonyvaz@greerschool.org

Mitzi and Doug Berry



You should realize that printing out and mailing hard copies of the newsletter is not done without a cost. We have asked all of you that receive a **hard copy** to contribute to its publication and mailing. The approximate cost of printing and mailing newsletters to you is approximately \$5.00 per year (for four quarterly issues). **Former staff members are exempted from this cost.**

If you decide to not contribute, we have a couple of options:

1. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, if you have received a hard copy without any photos, graphics or watermarks (simply, plain text), we have determined that you have not made a contribution in over two years or more. Once we have received a contribution from you, we will resume sending you the 'deluxe' version.

2. It is entirely possible that we may have to discontinue the 'free' service, although we may reconsider on a case-by-case basis. We have had

some very generous, anonymous donations that will allow us to continue for a period of time, but are not likely to last forever without additional funds. We can't expect the anonymous donors to keep covering the costs for everyone.

If you are receiving the electronic versions, with the occasional color photos like this one, you will receive them gratis (**free**) as long as we are able to put them together. If you also want to receive the hard copy (with grayscale photos) in addition, we are asking you to contribute. Please consider getting only the electronic versions, gratis. Again, send your contributions to Mitzi and Doug. Make checks out to **Greer School Alumni Association**.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

The montage movies produced and presented at the 2012 and 2015 reunions are now uploaded to the **Movies** page. Currently they are only accessible on Internet Explorer and possibly Microsoft Edge if you have upgraded to Windows 10. I am working on making it accessible on Google Chrome and should be available by the time this newsletter is published.

Speaking of newsletters, I'm not sure how many of you have found them yet since no advance notice was sent out, but if you go to the **Main** page of the web site, you will find a new icon labeled **Newsletters**. Click on it and you will drill down to a new page with four icons on it. Each icon will lead you to a different set of newsletters. They are labeled: **Morton & Berry, Hudnor 1, Vaz & Sparks** and **Hudnor 2**. There you will find under each, all the newsletters published by the specific authors. All sets are complete except Hudnor 1, which I am working on and this one in Hudnor 2, which will be available after the **Fall 2015** issue is published.

In order to make room for the new icon I took down the Special Tribute to George Groh that has been somewhat redundant because all the photos in that tribute are now available in the yearbooks and photo albums on the site. No disrespect was intended to George or his granddaughters who are recipients of the newsletters.

In-Memoriam

We have learned of the following recent death and it has been entered on the In-Memoriam page:

Jacqueline McGregor (Long) died on August 3, 2015.

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 for e-addresses of the following to send newsworthy articles:

John Hudnor

Sandy Hudnor

Peggy Sparks

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