



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



Reunion Recap/Summer 2018
Volume 11 No. 3

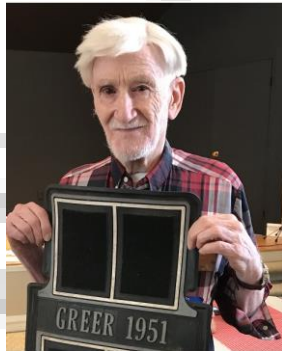
**A Memorial Day Gathering:
A summation for you!**

Twenty-nine former students of Greer and two former members of Greer's staff gathered together on June 1st and 2nd to again celebrate our Memorial Day traditions of Greer, and more importantly, to reconnect with friends forged during our youth.

Diana Munzer,



George Freer, Class of 1951,
was our oldest alumnus and



Harry McCandless,



Pam Pequeno, Class of 1969,
was our youngest alumnus.

**Angie Oliver
D'Ambrosio,**



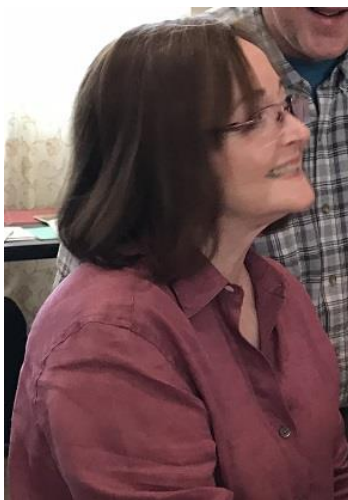
In between those years were

Pat Jordan Picco,



John Nicholas,

Charmi Neely-Mulvihill,

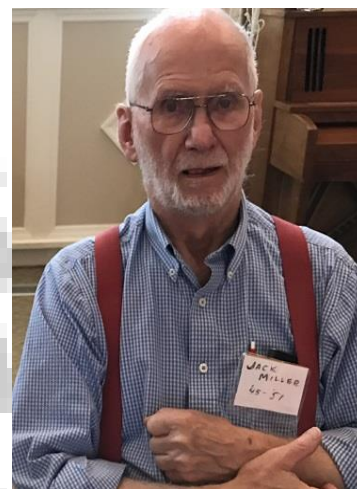


Roger Russoman,



Bob "Ildy" Ildefonso,

Jack Miller,



Armin Ali,



Doug and Mitzi Berry,



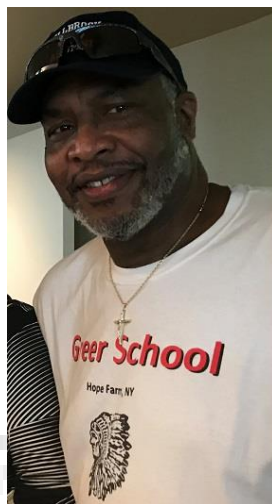
Rita Playfair Bourne,



**Robert Jenkins,
Penny Klyce,**



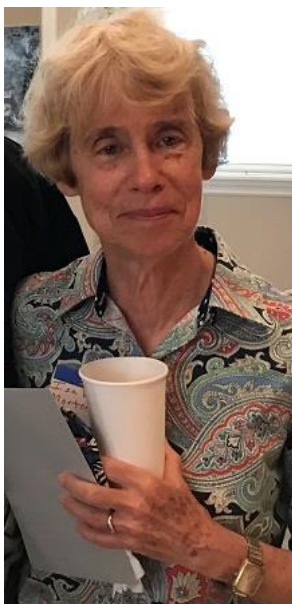
Calvin Cain,



John Hudnor,



Dolan Brammer,



Isabel Morton

Class of '61



Maureen Meyer Miller, Tecla Klyce Murphy, Anne Meyrowitz Foster, Tony Vaz, Don Berger, Karin Townsend Hargy, Linda Wilson Cavanaugh, and Nick Anderson.

Maurice Neville, Cherlyn Gieringer Lumberto and Joe Lopez also attended, but managed to escape the photographer's lens.

Several came with spouses, family and/or friends along with the two former staff members to make for a gathering of over 50 people strong! It is safe to say that we are all "aging gracefully"!!!

Pre-Reunion Preparations

Preparations for the reunion began with the pre-reunion work of clearing Greer's cemetery. Through the diligence and hard work of **Doug Berry** and his son **Joe Berry**, the cemetery was transformed back to the days when we would have our Memorial Day service in it. Doug and Joe mowed and cleared the entire cemetery, so that it really looked just like it did 50-60 years ago when we held our annual Memorial Day services in this sacred ground. Alumnus **John (Jack) Miller** had returned to Greer a few years ago to replace the old cross in the cemetery with a newly constructed cross, and with **Joe Berry** adding freshly planted flowers at its base, they added to the beauty of our cemetery cross. We are grateful for the work of these three persons whose efforts enabled all of us who walked to the cemetery on a beautiful Saturday morning remember and appreciate what a sacred event this Greer tradition was.

Friday, June 1st

For several Alumni, the weekend began on Friday afternoon as we set about decorating the high school auditorium. In light of the Memorial Day theme, there was an abundance of red, white and blue colors. In addition, there was a brand-new Greer school flag, a new American Flag, and a new drum. The two flags were set on the stage and they both looked beautiful and were nice touches which brought back vivid memories of Greer's Memorial Day traditions. Thanks to **Diana Munzer**, her husband, **Patrick**, **Tony** and **Jo Ann Vaz**, **Pat Jordan**, **John** and **Sandy Hudnor** for their efforts in making the high school auditorium look so beautiful. In the early evening, those of us who did the decorating went out for a meal at the **Millbrook Diner**, which is one of Millbrook's long-standing businesses going back to before all of our time at Greer. Our waiter had a great sense-of-humor, and we had a lot of fun talking and bantering back and forth with him. It is the little things like this that make our reunions so special.

After dinner, several people from the Fountains-at-Millbrook joined us to watch a perfect Memorial Day movie in our former high school auditorium

called "Taking Chance," which is a special tribute to all the men and women who gave their lives in America's wars. It is a movie I highly recommend for all to see.

Saturday, June 2nd

Saturday morning began with registration and breakfast goodies provided by the **Berry's**, **Isabel Morton**, and **Marcia Rose**. One can always count on these four persons to start off each reunion Saturday with a tasty breakfast in the auditorium.

At 10:30, we gathered outside the entrance of the high school to begin our walk to the cemetery.

Calvin Cain was our drummer and **Anne Meyrowitz Foster** carried the American Flag and the Fountains co-director, **Brian Slocum** carried the Greer School flag. Calvin reported that the drum was a little heavier than it was 50 years ago (it was), but Calvin did a great job of setting the pace with the soft and slow beating of the drum. Our walk to the cemetery was a tad bit slower than years ago, but the same atmosphere was re-created as we proceeded to the cemetery on this beautiful Saturday morning. We were joined by several members of the Fountains community and this included **Brian and Debbie Slocum**, the co-directors of the Fountains community. The service at the cemetery was simple and reverent. **Bob Jenkins** gave an opening prayer, and this was followed by the placing of small American Flags on several gravesites and the sharing of thoughts by Greer Alumni and several Fountains residents. During the service, someone mentioned the memory of Greer's former music teacher, **Dorothy Schafenacker** who would play a portable organ each year during the service at the cemetery—always a nice touch. For sure, Dorothy's playing was missed, but the quiet atmosphere, only broken by the thoughts and feelings expressed by the speakers at the cemetery, make this occasion very special. There was somewhat of a contrast in our walk to the cemetery between this year and our participation years ago. When we were at Greer, the expectation was that no one talk going to and from the cemetery. By contrast, we did talk going to and from the cemetery on this occasion; however, the reverence while at the cemetery was

as similar today as it was 50+ years ago. These feelings and atmosphere as we encircled the cross were palpable, and I found myself somewhat reluctant having to leave these special moments in our cemetery memorial service.

Luncheon

We enjoyed a wonderful traditional Memorial Day picnic lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and beans, etc., after coming back from the cemetery, and afterwards, there were several choices to be made for our afternoon period between lunch and dinner. One of choices was NOT the traditional, "first- swim- of- the- year- at- the- Res." Yes, it is still there and beckoning, but former staff member **Maurice Neville** who lives right across the road from the Res told me that a snapping turtle "protects" the "Res" from being used. It was a good excuse for **not** doing our traditional Memorial Day swim!

Dinner

We gathered for dinner in our auditorium, and waiting us were tables decorated with red, white, and blue luminaries with candles inside. Sharing memories and catching up with our lives was the theme of dinner, and later we had an encore performance of the two DVD's that were shown at previous reunions before it was time to go our separate ways until our next gathering. Former staff member **Maurice Neville** brought a small layout of his model trains to show any who wanted to linger a little longer. Maurice's trains were antiques and quite nice to view as he proudly showed them to us.



Sunday, June 3rd

I showed the residents of the Fountains one of our DVD's about Greer and as at previous showings, the residents were very interested in Greer's past and I enjoyed answering questions about all of you.

The last event of the weekend was attending a Sunday afternoon wedding of one of the fountains staff at the Chapel-of-the-Child. It was well attended by the residents and marked the first formal service I had attended in this chapel since I graduated from Greer in June of 1963. As the church bell was rung just prior to the start of the wedding, I remembered many Sundays when the same ringing of the bell alerted us that church services were soon to begin: it was a great feeling to hear those bells again for us to come to Sunday services, the Candlelight services, or graduation services. It is amazing how the sound of a bell can bring back so many pleasant memories.

Last of all, we wish to express many thanks to those of the Alumni Association and the Fountains staff who quietly worked hard to make this wonderful Memorial Day weekend possible. I think it would be safe to say that all who came had very positive feelings, and we were all glad to renew ties with each other. We, the Alumni Association, look forward to seeing all of you at our next gathering in 2019. Details will follow in forthcoming newsletters.

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

We get letters

This from Diana "Dinny" Munzer a few days before the reunion. This will be in two parts continued in the Fall issue.

I only spent a small percentage of my life at Greer School, however the reason I am the person that I am today is mainly because of the people that nurtured me for the ten or eleven years that I spent at Greer.

I can't possibly mention them all, but in no special order:

Mrs. Fink, stern and kind at the same time. Usually one did not want to be called into Mrs. Fink's office, but once when I had a particularly bad experience with an adult (not a Greer School person) she went out of her way to call me into the office and comforted me and told me that I was not at fault. In the fall, she always took a bunch of us in her car to see the deer in the fields around Greer.

Dr. and Mrs. Elliott: Dr. Elliott often could be seen striding around the campus, showing Greer and us off to the many dignitaries he had invited to come and visit with us and give us money. He taught me songs as he filled up the auditorium with his voice. "Once I went in swimmin, where there were no wimmin" and "I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses"

Mrs. Elliott taught Sunday School putting up felt people on the felt board on Sunday mornings. Later she told me she wanted us to have a regular Sunday school where we would learn bible stories. Mrs. Elliott was a mother to us all, coming to the reunions, cooking dinner for a group of us, always cheerful, always loving. Even though she and Dr. Elliott went on to another school she always mentioned that we were her favorites, that she loved us the most, and that she was so proud of all of us and delighted in how well we did as adults. And we did do well.

Miss Sutton: She taught me that it only takes five minutes or so to vacuum Plum living room. Easy to get it done in time to get to school...after supervising the kids breakfast and giving them a tablespoon of cod liver oil followed by an orange slice. Washing the spoons always made me gag. The cod liver oil would float to the top of the water in the sink and when you put your hand in the water the oil would adhere to your hands and arms. Even now the thought of that smell almost makes me gag again. Getting everyone's hair brushed, and the bows on the back of all the dresses tied, it took some doing. Miss Sutton moving thru the kids in her high-top shoes, patting one here holding one on her lap there.

Mrs. Morton: I didn't know much about the boy's houseparents, but Mrs. Morton had all those little boys singing, "I said the cow, all WHITE and red" (with gusto) in the Chapel of the Child at Christmas time. And whenever I think of Mrs. Morton, I hear her saying, "Go shake your pants."

Mrs. Larsen: I think she was my first houseparent. There was no room for me at Plum Cottage, so they put me in Greer Cottage. Mrs. Larsen gave me my love of books. Every night she read to us. First, she read to little dorm, then she read to big dorm. A chapter a night. "Misty of Chincoteague" and of course, my favorite, "Daddy Longlegs". Peggy Mathewson insists that "Daddy Longlegs" is not about Greer School, but I am sure that the author knew about us (She did attend Vassar which was near Greer) and I think the first chapters were partially inspired by Hope Farm.

Mrs. Larsen came back to be my houseparent at Ledge Cottage.

Mrs. Freitag: A smart woman, who knew about science. She made me memorize things that I remember to this day. I think we all know them by heart. Like the definition of Osmosis.

Mr. Olsen: He made me jealous because he liked the class after mine more than mine because, he said, it was his first class. I didn't approve of his friend, Mr. DiArpino, who was not a very nice person. But his friend, Mr. Albers was terrific in my book. He once made me stay in after class to finish an essay, but he took the time to talk to me and encourage me to study and pay attention to school. He also taught me that one should strive to make the world a better place.

To be continued in the next newsletter.

Reunion News

There is nothing new to report about the next reunion to occur in 2019. Hopefully, we will be able to provide details in the next newsletter and/or the Greerschool.Org web site.

Sad News

There is nothing significant to report currently. Thank goodness!

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have managed to upload all the recent newsletters to the web site and will upload the Spring 2018 issue as soon as this one has been put to bed.

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

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor {
Sandy Hudnor { Contact Tony Vaz for e-addresses
Peggy Sparks {
or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.