



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



**Summer 2020
Volume 13 No. 3**



**Reliving a meal at one of Greer's cottages
this coming September 24th and.....You!**

Our gathering this year will be a "first-of- its- kind" as the the Alumni Association will host a **luncheon at Gate House** where you will again have the opportunity to come together at an actual cottage to enjoy a meal and share some memories of cottage life at Greer as well as bringing us up-to-date on your current activities.

The gathering will be held on **Thursday, September 24th**, and the luncheon will begin at noon. The alumni association will provide soda, juice, water, and chips. We are asking you to **bring lunch** either from your home **or** from one of the many take-out establishments in Millbrook.

If you will be coming to the area on **Wednesday, September 23rd**, Sandy and I would love to invite you to join us for dinner that evening. We will meet at Gate House at 4:00pm and we can decide where we will go to eat. Let us know if you are interested. The same invitation applies for the evening meal on the day of the luncheon—September 24th. Because we are holding the luncheon on a weekday before a weekend, it should be easy for you to find accommodations in the area on either night of our gathering.

In case you may be unaware, Gate House has been turned into a beautiful bed and breakfast inn called, "The Millbrook Inn". Each room upstairs is the size of one of the three dorm rooms at Gate!

Last of all, if you will let me know if you think you might be coming, it would be helpful for the owner of the inn to know what numbers to expect. You can reach me through tonyvaz@greerschool.org .

You might want to contact the inn in September to make sure they are still open then. The number is **845-605-1120** and the e-mail address is info@themillbrookinn.com.

**Catching up during the carefree days of
summer!**

Like all of you, I occasionally go through my files in order to keep necessary papers and discard others. Recently in going through my Greer Alumni Association files, I came across some former correspondence which I had erroneously filed away and felt sad for my carelessness. Therefore, I would like to include in this issue some of the correspondence I came across. You will enjoy the correspondence that is included in this issue of our newsletter. So, with apologies to all, here is the back correspondence for all of you to enjoy.

**From Carl and Eunice Ginder, Greer staff
1966 to 1982**

Carl and Eunice were staff at Greer for 16 years and came to the 2019 reunion. What follows is some of their experiences and memories of their time at Greer.



Carl started by working on the farm with **Herby Van Anden** during his first summer at Greer. This followed by being house parents with his wife at Crest, Ledge, and Doubleday cottages. He was then the entire Greer School cottage coordinator and last of all, became the Associate Director of Central Social Services. **Eunice**, in addition to her house parenting duties, worked as secretary of the Social Service department, and later worked as director of the clothing room with **Sylvia Van Anden** during the Haitian program.

They came to Greer as volunteers through the Mennonite Church intending to work for only two years at Greer. However, they stayed on staff for a total of 16 years. We were young, 20 years old, and married for one year when we started, they remembered. We had the good experience of getting to know so many wonderful people literally from around the world and learned to appreciate the many cultures they represented. It was a time for growing personally and professionally. During our time working at Greer, Carl went to college (Dutchess Community and Marist), and then obtained an MSW degree from The Hunter College school of Social Work.

We enjoyed the various jobs and positions we had and still have occasional contact with some of the students and staff we had come to know. Times change and so do we. We thank God for His work in our lives through associations with people and places that has shaped us into the people we are now.

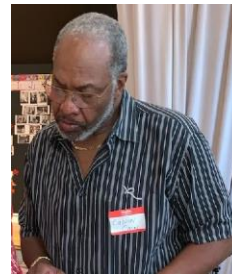
When we left Greer and returned to our roots in Pennsylvania, Eunice worked as an administrative assistant at Elizabethtown College. Carl worked for the next 30 years in care of the elderly. When someone asked him to compare his first career with children with his later career with the elderly, he said, "I once helped young people see their future and now, I am seeing my own future!!"

From Calvin Cain, Class of 1965

Calvin sent me this letter in 2017, so I have updated some of the items included in this letter.

I find myself extremely fortunate to have met some wonderful people and have had numerous

experiences that positively shaped my life. Among



those: (1) my parents whose commitment to my brother Gary and I was unwavering.



(2) The 5 years I spent at Greer. (3) My college life at Central State University. (4) My marriage -- my wife Mona and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in 2020. (5) My military service in Vietnam. (6) Raising two wonderful children. (7) My close relationship with my brother Gary, who is also a Greer alumnus. (8) numerous relatives, and classmates from my class of 65—Armin Ali, Peter Caram, Rita Playfair, and Phyllis Pequeno, and a host of friends from other students who attended Greer.

Presently, I live a comfortable retired life in Wilmington, Delaware. I still do some work on two businesses I helped start. I attended Wilmington University while working on a dissertation entitled: "How a purposive Sample of Career and Technical Education Teachers use Data informed instruction to improve student learning.

My favorite physical activity is Golf—though I struggle to keep my score under 100!! I also enjoy attending pro basketball games and follow the Philadelphia Eagles football team on TV.

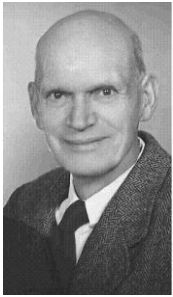
My bucket list includes traveling to Europe, Hawaii, and the Far East. I want to explore the United States via train. I would also like to help young African American males achieve success through one-on-one mentoring. Another goal is seeing all 6 of my grandchildren graduate from high school and college.

Last of all, I believe if we are at peace with ourselves and with our God, I really believe the end of life will be a joyous beginning of a new life, and we may see each other again. The poem "Rabbi Ben Ezra" by Robert Browning informs my thoughts on this. The poems' opening stanza, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first is made..." resonates with the

struggles of our youth and the resultant knowledge we gained from our growing older and hopefully wise.

From George Freer, Class of 1951

Greer School was such a life-changing experience for me. My life at Greer started on the day Mr. Tiquis of the Westchester County Welfare Dept. drove me from my hometown of White Plains to Dover Plains where I was met by a large, bald, scary-looking man dressed in black. He came in a black station wagon and I feared the worst. It was **Mr. William McKinley**, and he assured me that things would be alright for me.



My first night at Greer was spent at Rapallo cottage where the house parents were **Peter and Irene Jensen**. Mrs. Jensen was the best houseparent I had, and she helped me to overcome my problems of living with other people. In the spring of 1946, she held an art contest to see who could draw the best tree. The three would win a trip to the flower show at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City. **Don Charles** was a true artist, and later a sculptor, and came in first. **Bob Cooper**, who eventually was my “big brother,” came in second and my large, leafless, dead looking tree was picked third. We got to make the trip, and it was wonderful.

My science teacher, **Mrs. Ruth Freitag** taught me so well that I was able to get a 95 on the Physics state exam in 1949 and that came after getting a 95 on the New York state regents exam in Chemistry in 1948. But it was my English teacher,



Pauline Stock, who gave me six years instead of the usual four. I had written a cute three-stanza poem in the 9th grade, and perhaps she thought I would do more each year. She wouldn't let me take the English Regents for two of my three years in the 11th grade, so I had two extra years at Greer and played 5 years of football.



In July of 1949 I turned 18 and had to go to Albany, New York for my Military Draft Physical.

Afterwards, I was offered a drink by a fellow who had also registered in Albany that day. I took the train back to Poughkeepsie and waiting in the car at Poughkeepsie to pick me up was **Mr. and Mrs. Fink**. On the RR station platform were some gum machines, so I took two, chewing furiously before getting in their car. Naturally, they wanted to hear about my day, and I tried to inhale as I was speaking! **Looking back on this experience now, I am sure they smelled the alcohol, but nobody said anything. It was that way at Greer—just enough discipline to keep us on the straight and narrow, with plenty of second chances for one-time offenders!** Mrs. Fink and I kept touch over the years, and I brought other alumni to her house in Hyde Park, New York a few times. On one of those visits, she posed in front of my 1992 Plymouth with the “Greer 51” license plates. For her 105th birthday, former student **Ed Crump** and I took her out to dinner and I wrote my old zip code from East Keansburg, New Jersey on a napkin, and told her that it was the friendliest Zip Code in the entire United States because 07734 is the word “hello” if you put it upside down! Mrs. Fink, to her credit, caught on right away.

Each year we all took time off from school to work in the canning factory on the Greer campus and in the fields that were still producing crops that we lived on. I enjoyed working with staff member **Jim Post** and thought it might be a good career for me so I put down “Horticulture” as my ambition in our yearbook, but the Korean War was on, and as I also loved airplanes, I enlisted in the Air Force upon my graduation in 1951 and became a jet engine mechanic. Four years later, I grew homesick and came back to Greer as a camp counselor working with **Mom Mac McKinley**. I even applied for a job at nearby Millbrook school for boys just to be near Greer, but for several reasons, that did not work out. Later, I worked as a repairman for the Singer Sewing machine company and worked with them until they closed in 1980.



Since 1980, I have not missed a reunion at Greer, but as I write this letter in early 2019, my eyesight is failing and will probably not make this year's

gathering unless I win the lottery and can afford an Uber driver!!! **Editor's Note: George was missed at last September's reunion, but we hope he enjoyed the summary of it in the holiday issue and will win the lottery for our gathering this coming September, so he can come in style with an Uber driver!!!**

From Peter Hazzard

My great grandfather, **Rev. Thomas R. Hazzard** founded Hope Farm at the request of **Bishop Greer** and ran the school until the start of WWI when he moved down into the Clove Valley to build a farm and contribute to the war effort. His wife **Betty Vance Bullock Hazzard** then took over the reins and ran the school for almost another decade. My grandfather, **Carl B. Hazzard** grew up at Greer and later with his wife Laura became a successful builder and restaurant owner in Millbrook. My father grew up in Millbrook and returned to Three Brooks Farm down the hill from Greer after WWII, and I was born and raised for my first 3 years of life on that farm as well. I remember Rev. Hazzard very well as he lived in Millbrook until his death in 1957 when I was 8 years old. I visited him often as a boy and I have a strong attachment to the Millbrook area as I often visited my grandparents and their restaurant, "The Blacksmith Shop," and as a teen I returned to attend the Millbrook school. In September of 2019, I will be beginning my 50th year of full-time teaching. I am the Director of Music at the Charter high school where I work.

I enjoy the vibe of the notes I read in the Greer School alumni newsletters: it is one of deep love for the place and more importantly, the faculty.



Editor's Note: Peter was able to come to our reunion which honored our staff last September and shared some wonderful memories of his extended family and their contributions to the success of our Greer School.

An update: According to an Internet search, Peter retired from teaching in January of this year.

From Armin Ali, Class of 1965

My wife and I are not very fond of doing that Miami Beach "snowbird" thing much anymore primarily because you must drive everywhere, and I am not very fond of driving. The Condo owned by our youngest daughter is quite nice and located along a beautiful stretch of beach near the famous **South Beach section**. But if you want a burger, you had better be willing to drive a mile or two. However, here in downtown Manhattan (or better known as "East Village", or Lower East Side), virtually everything we need is within walking distance. So, you grab your shoulder bag, and you can walk to the produce market, Whole Foods, 40 restaurants, gym, and butcher. In fact, we have a 24/7 supermarket just 50 yards from our front door and a 24/7 pharmacy in the opposite direction. However, the area is saturated with out-of-towners, NYU students, and foreign tourists, so you have to have a plan to go out and move briskly. Crummy weather is a good time to go and get it done. Manhattan is the prime destination of many travelers to the rather small island. If the population living here is 1.5 million, then 1 million travelers will upset the balance and things can get uncomfortable. Even at most area restaurants in my neighborhood, they seat you like kids in a school cafeteria, and most New Yorkers require some elbow room.

I am learning Mandarin because the Chinese are gaining ground around here, and I need to be able to communicate.

From Frederic H. Bontecou of Poughkeepsie, New York

Editor's Note: Someone gave me this letter a while ago. The letter was written on **December 9th, of 1949!!!** It was apparently sent out to potential donors after Greer's original barn burned down in August of 1949. I am proud of Mr. Bontecou because it represents the many people through the years who cared about all of us who attended Greer, and who believed in Greer's mission to care for us. It is people like Mr. Bontecou who made life at Greer possible, and I was touched by his kindness and the other donors who responded to this request for help in Greer's time of need. A new

barn was built and served our needs well. Here is his letter.

Dear Neighbor: You doubtless know of the fire of August 25th of Greer's dairy barn with the destruction of this year's crops. The insurance will not cover the full loss. The barn housed the stock



The farm property was purchased in 1906 on 465 acres of land. Small barns were built in 1906 and the large dairy and horse barn were built in 1915.

that produced a quart of milk daily for each of Greer's 200 boys and girls.

These youngsters, aged 6-18, come from broken homes, and we cannot let these children down. The age-old custom of helping a neighbor in time of trouble is one of our most valued American traditions. Many of our neighbors are already proving to be most generous. I trust you, too, will want to send your contribution to help us in this emergency.

Neighborly yours, Frederic H. Bontecou

Ingo Orlamunder, our old alumnus friend, sends us quotes and funny cartoons on a regular basis. Here are a few recent ones:

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'

- Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt (our guest speaker in 1955)

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited

by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement.

- Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending - and to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

- Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

- Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

- Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

- Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.

- Jimmy Durante

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups:

alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

- Alex Levine

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

- Rodney Dangerfield

Money can't buy you happiness But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

- Spike Milligan

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP.

- Joe Namath

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

- Bob Hope

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

- W. C. Fields

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.

- Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

- Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.

- Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

- Billy Crystal

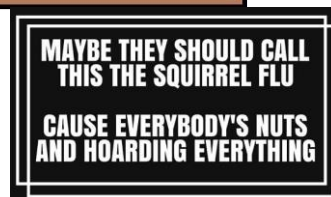
And the cardiologist's diet: if it tastes good spit it out.

May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door.

Jim Mathewson sent these **isolation blues** cartoons he received from "a school mate":



I ran out of toilet paper, so have begun using old newspapers...
The Times are rough.



That's all for now. More later.

Now for the Good News

We have not heard of any alumni passing since the Spring 2020 issue of the newsletter.

Please do not become a part of the next 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). Stay safe and use PPE. It ain't over yet.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have uploaded the Spring 2020 issue. That is 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 - Contact

Sandy Hudnor – tonyvaz@greerschool.org

Peggy Sparks - for addresses (e-mail or snail mail)

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