



The Hope Farm / Greer School  
Alumni Association  
Newsletter



**Winter / Holiday 2019  
And Reunion Recap  
Volume 13 No. 1**

**Honoring our staff gathering and... you!**

What a wonderful weekend it was! **70** of us came together from such divergent places as California, Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Utah, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, Canada and everywhere else in between to gather as friends in order to celebrate and remember the Greer staff who had such a positive influence on all of our lives. The alumni who attended represented those who were at Greer from the era of the late 1940's to the early 1970's. It was truly an opportunity to renew our friendships from over four decades of time. I'd have to say it was my favorite reunion as the outpouring of love for our staff was palpable, and in many cases, emotions were close to the surface as tributes were paid to many staff members who served us at Greer. As the years pass by, we have become very appreciative of those who served us so well in our growing up years spent at Greer. A summary of each day of the weekend follows.

**Friday, September 20th, 2019**

Several alumni got together at noon for lunch at the Millbrook Diner, and we marveled at how the saying, "The more things change, the more they remain the same," describes the



main street in Millbrook, New York.

Many of the same shops and businesses that existed in Millbrook in the early 1950's are still on its main street. Talk about a trip down memory lane—Millbrook's main street sure fits that category.



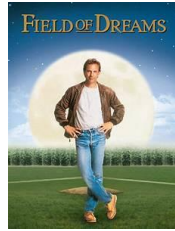
After lunch came an afternoon of decorating the high school auditorium and the alumni association would like to thank the following for helping turn our auditorium into a montage of pictures of 300 Greer staff placed on the walls on the stage of the auditorium starting with staff who were at Greer in 1949 all the way through 1963 and a few staff in the late 1960's. Kudos to alumni **Pat Jordan, Diana Munzer and husband Patrick, Carlos and James Hernandez and Carlos' son and daughter-in-law, Bill Monza, Mark Speakman, Floyd and Tom Oliver, Pat Hilsinger, her daughter and Sandy Hudnor** for their help with the decorations. On the top and bottom of these pictures on the stage were symbols that were hung in our classrooms during our elementary years of school: AaBaCcDd, etc.,



and cursive symbols of how each letter of the alphabet looks in writing. These symbols fit in well with the theme of "school days at Greer." Throughout the weekend of our reunion, many visiting alumni spoke of how these decorations added to the atmosphere of the celebration of our staff. During the afternoon as we decorated, the Fountains-at-Millbrook hosted a three-piece trio which was attended by the Fountains residents. They provided entertainment for all and did a great job as we decorated the auditorium while they played their songs.



A reunion without a **Friday-night-movie** in our high school auditorium would just not be complete, so after several of us went out for dinner in Millbrook, we came back to the auditorium to view the movie, “**Field-of-Dreams.**” Several residents of the Fountains community joined us to enjoy this warm and nostalgic movie.



### **Saturday, September 21st**

The morning began with registration and breakfast put together by **Doug and Mitzi Berry, Isabel Morton, and Marcie Rose.** Throughout the morning alumni and some former staff came in so that by lunchtime, we had our contingent of 70 persons. **The alumni who came were: Maureen Meyer, Ingo Orlamunder, John Hudnor, Robert Ildefonso, Carlos and James Hernandez, Linda Wilson, Robert Tolliver, Anne Meyrowitz, Jack Miller, Charmi Neely, Rose Wallace, Nick Anderson, Jack Rolston, Pat & Bill Monza, Pat Hilsinger, Joe Lopez, George & Laura Fisher, Russell Golden, Don Berger, Penny Harned, Diana Munzer, John Nicholas, Angie, Tom & Floyd Oliver, Pam Pequeno, Roland Herwig, Armin Ali, Isabel Morton, Jim Anderson, Roger Russoman, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ginder, Doug and Mitzi Berry, Calvin Cain, Tecla & Penny Klyce, Pat Jordan, David Abel, Mark Speakman, and Dolan Brammer.** Throughout the morning, we all enjoyed going up to the stage and viewing the 300 pictures of our staff who served us at Greer, and we enjoyed the memories these pictures brought to our mind’s eye.

Lunch began after alumnus **Bob Jenkins** gave the invocation, and we enjoyed a good picnic type lunch provided by the culinary department of the “Fountains-of –Millbrook” staff. During lunch, the Greer School Alumni Association raffled off 6 dinners to franchise restaurants.

### **Celebration of the staff at Greer**

Following lunch began the ceremonies to honor our staff. We began the ceremony with the showing of a 30 minute DVD made to honor the staff. This was followed by what was my favorite part of the reunion as for an hour and a half, each of the attending alumni had the opportunity to

stand and express their thoughts and appreciation for the staff who had a positive influence on their lives. In many cases, the emotions were close to the surface. It is not very often that one gets the chance to look back and express to others how teachers, house parents and other staff changed one’s life. This was such an occasion, and we all had some laughs and smiles on our faces as we listened to fellow alumni express their feelings of gratitude toward staff members. It was, in fact, a very special part of our reunion day. Before the reunion started, my wife, Sandy predicted to me that many alumni would speak from their heart, and her prediction proved to be correct.

During the rest of the afternoon following our celebration of Greer’s staff, many alumni walked or drove around the campus to visit Gate House, the Chapel of the Child, or just to enjoy the quiet serenity of our beautiful campus. It was a perfect afternoon with temperatures in the low 70’s and not a cloud in the sky.

### **Saturday Evening Meal**

The dinner meal was a formal affair served up by the “Fountains” staff and provided an opportunity to mingle and talk to each other, and in general enjoy time together. The dessert cake had a “Welcome to Greer Alumni” icing on it.



### **Post Dinner**

Several alumni gathered at Gate House to remember good times about cottage life at Greer as well as sharing of other Greer memories. We also caught up on our current lives.

### **Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

I continued the recent reunion tradition of the past three reunions by showing the “Reflections of Greer School” DVD to the residents of the “Fountains of Millbrook. They hear a lot about Greer, and I always enjoy their questions and curiosity about life for all of us who attended Greer.

Sandy and I ended the day by visiting former Greer house parent, **Mary Lynn** who with her husband

**Ken** served at Greer from 1960-1962. Mary spends summers in their Peekskill, New York home and winters in Florida near her children. She has many fond memories of her two years at Greer.

### Final Thoughts

I never tire of seeing you, my fellow alumni at our reunions. I consider those feeling felt about you to be a blessing in my life. Listening to you sharing your feelings of gratitude toward many staff members made me aware that so many of you share the same gratitude which I have, and this is also a blessing to me.

John Hudnor, Class of 1963

### Future Gatherings

If an alumnus wants to step forward to organize a future reunion, let me know and I can help you with details and contacts. If this is not the case, then Sandy and I will host an **informal gathering in October of 2020** when we come back east to visit our daughter who lives in the area. Our **preliminary plan** is for the Alumni Association to provide a breakfast and then for the alumni who come to bring their own lunch to eat in the high school auditorium at noon with the rest of the attending alumni. There are several good takeout places in Millbrook village's main street to choose from to bring food for your lunch, or you can bring your own lunch from home. More details will be forthcoming in the **Spring, 2020** issue of our Alumni Newsletter.

### And now.... Photographs of some of the attendees



Anne Meyrowitz Foster  
Jim and Barbara Anderson



Bill Monza and Pat Monza  
Bertram



Eunice and Carl Ginder  
Janet "Mitzi" Schaefer Berry



Charmi Neely-Mulvihill  
Pam Pequeno

Class of 1961  
Anne Meyrowitz  
Karin Lee Townsend  
Nick Anderson  
Maureen Meyer  
Tecla Klyce  
Linda Lea Wilson  
Roland Herwig  
Carolyn Lea Ladeau



Calvin Cain  
Don Berger  
Robert "Ildy" Ildefonso

Angela and Floyd Oliver  
Marcie Rose  
Mr. Greenshirt



Penny Harned  
John Nicholas

David Abel







Marcie Rose  
Isabel Morton



Diana Munzer &  
Husband Patrick



Pat Hilsinger and  
Daughter



John and Sandy Hudnor



Bill Monza and Penny Klyce



Carole Nicholas and  
Robert Jenkins



Bob Rolston, Diana Munzer and  
Joe Lopez



## Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have managed to upload all the recent newsletters to the web site and will upload the remaining 2019 issues as soon as this one has been put to bed. Alumni passing will be reported in the next newsletter.

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 - ) c/o [tonyvaz@greerschool.org](mailto:tonyvaz@greerschool.org)

Peggy Sparks - )

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



*John and Sandy Hudnor*

*Doug and Mitzi Berry*

*Ron and Peggy Sparks*

*Tony and Jo Ann Vaz*