

# The Friendship Quilt



**FRIENDS SCHOOL MULLICA HILL**

**Annual Giving Report 2019-2020 & Notes to Friends**

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## On the Cover:

Caroline '21 and Eamon Smith '23 are seen here on campus near the meetinghouse. Photography by Maria Martins.

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## Mission Statement

Friends School Mullica Hill empowers students to achieve their full potential and become responsible global citizens by providing a comprehensive academic program infused with Quaker values in a diverse and inclusive learning community.



## Friends School Mullica Hill

### Dear Friends,

How might we best describe this past year at Friends School Mullica Hill? Well, we certainly did put the notion that “it takes a village” to the test. Thinking back to the beginning of this past school year, as we began to celebrate our wonderful school’s 50th anniversary, we surely could not have foreseen the challenges that were yet to come.

Our community was fortunate to be able to celebrate our school’s 50-year history in a variety of ways: by learning from the time capsule that was created 25 years ago, by reading books spanning the last five decades, by sharing in Circle of Friends some of what was discovered by the barrios as they researched different decades, by bringing to life popular TV shows from 1969, the year our school was founded, and by taking a walk down memory lane in a beautiful display at the Fall Festival. We got the sense that while quite a bit has changed over the years, our school’s foundation and the values by which we operate have remained steadfast. For this, we are ever grateful, as we have had to rely on that solid foundation to serve as the fulcrum from which to nimbly pivot to most successfully meet the challenges brought to our community by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Observing our faculty and staff as they uprooted their on-campus processes, seemingly overnight, in attempts to maintain continuity in our children’s educational experience was inspiring. Having witnessed countless zoom meetings during distance learning, what was most impressive was the patience, creativity, and grace with which our teachers approached this situation. In collaboration with the remarkable amount of family support needed to assist students from home, our school was able to successfully navigate this unplanned distance learning experience. In place of a much-needed summer vacation, our faculty and staff focused efforts on planning for multiple potential eventualities, uncertain of the most likely event while hopeful that we would be able to be together on campus again. While things may have had to shift a bit, we were so thankful to be able to realize this goal and to do so without sacrificing the quality of education. It took a village.

Appreciating where we have been, maneuvering through the still uncharted waters of the ever-changing world around us, and maintaining focus on the future and continued growth of Friends School Mullica Hill, we will rely on that strong foundation to carry us forward; driven by our values; and nourished by the generosity of our school community. Gifts to our school, whether to the Annual Fund, for a specific project or scholarship effort, or via your valuable time, are what make it possible for us to continue to provide our comprehensive academic program infused with Quaker values in a diverse and inclusive learning community. Thank you for your valued role in this village.

*Matthew Bradley*

Matthew H. Bradley  
Head of School

*Cori E. McMahon, BJD*

Cori McMahon '89  
Clerk, Board of Trustees



# 2019-2020 Annual Fund (Includes gifts thru July 31, 2020)

## 1969 LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

### Redwood

*Gifts of \$5,000 and more*

Nancy Beauchemin

### \*Salem Oak

*Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999*

Hanshi Deshbandhu

William and Cathy Schmidt

Elizabeth H. Yerkes

### Silver Maple

*Gifts of \$1,500 to \$2,499*

Chris Brown and Vivian Vega

Michael Simenstad and Jennifer Flowers

### Flowering Dogwood

*Gifts of \$1,000 to \$1,499*

John Agliodoro and Joan Carter

Christopher DiFranceisco and

Renee Miraglia

Jeff and Donna Gibson

Brian W. Jones and

Joanne Katzen-Jones

Jack and Lorrie Kennedy

Pete and Gina Mauro

Keith Wasserman and

Betsy Riley-Wasserman

Anonymous

## FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

### American Holly

*Gifts of \$500 to \$999*

Kenneth and Ingrid Austin

Maurice Ayars

John and Andrea Brosky

William Carrigan and Emily Blanck

Mark and Penny Cipolone

Glen and Janice DiMaria

Barry and Annalisa Fellman

James and Mary George

Clark and Andreia Golden

Joseph and Carol Hummel

Roy Lavine and Arun Deshbandhu

Lavine '76

Ali Leeman and Anu Deshbandhu

Leemann '73

Edward Karpowicz and

Judith Corona-Karpowicz

Jonathan Mangel and Lynne Alibrando

Mangel

James and Mary Jane McFarland

Brandon and Amy Pierce

Keith Ragone and Terry Fox-Ragone

Gregory and Beth Reaves

Marcia Robinson

Starr Snead

Alexander Zwil and Kyle Stiffler

Thomas W. Moore '73 and Richard

Bost via Fidelity Charitable

Mickleton Monthly Meeting

RBC Foundation - USA

Salem Monthly Meeting

Your Cause-LLC

Anonymous

### Norway Spruce

*Gifts of \$250 to \$249*

Ronald and Marilyn Austin

Sharon Austin

James and Monica Beller

Matthew H. and Melinda Wenner

Bradley

Richard Carney

Mark S. Cipolone '92

Vincent and Mindy Finore

Annette Galczynski

John Hasse and Esther Mas

Ben Hren

Edward and Moriamo Johnson

Don and Stephanie Maden

Paul and Cori McMahon '89

Walter and Kathleen Pierson

Marshall and Cornelia Schmidt

Christopher and Michelle Shay

Drew Smith and Rebecca O'Leary

Brian Smith and Kathleen Stetser

Barbara Thomas

AmazonSmile Foundation

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

Seaville Monthly Meeting

### White Pine

*Gifts of \$125 to \$249*

Justin and Valerie Agliodoro

George and Andrea Benas

John and Theresa Bond

Patricia Connaughton Burns

Jack and Kimberly Ford

Terence J Gleeson

Luke and Jennifer Holbrook

Robert and Gloria Horvay

Helen Joyce

Christopher Kimberly

Victoria Kuhn

Andrew and Katrina McCarthy

Dawn Mercurio

Jean Minder

Ann Ragone

Michael and Amy Sarachman

Greg and Joyce Smith

Anonymous

### Sapling

*Gifts to \$124*

Abbi Baccile and Barbara Baccile

Gwen Baraniecki Zwil '08

John Baraniecki Zwil '04

Bob and Wilhelmena Battle

Yannique Benitez

Robert Bergholtz

Kevin Bond '06

Gregory and Barbara Borak

John and Linda Brown

Sydney Burns '06

Lauren Carney

James and Carol Elias

Jean Franzen

Brad Gibson '03 and

Sophie Ragone '01

Daniel and Nancy Goldsmith

Bryan and Kathleen Hayden

Arley and Stacey Johnson

Jonathan Knisely and Mary Hu

John and Gloria Kropiewnicki

Arthur Larrabee and

Nancy Van Arkel

Alexa Liccio '06

Nichole M Liccio '02

Dorothy Lopez

Thomas Macaluso

Peter and Mary-Ann Manzelmann

Patricia Matias-Cruz

Chris and Kelly McCardell

Elizabeth Morton

William and Annie Nelson

Glenn and Lisa Parker

Emmanuel and Selina Poku

David and Donna Prella

James and Catherine Priest

Nelson Quizhpi and Johana Perez

Garry and Lori Rowe

Eileen Salmon

Donald and Judy Sanderson

Fran Walls and Patti Sanderson

Anthony Santangelo and Robin Perry

Susan Seyl

Monika Shealey

Barry and Dianne Sloane

Mary Jean Smith

Cedric and Sharon Stallings

Skeffington Thomas and Diane Driessen

Jared Valdez

Alice W. Waddington

Jessica Waddington '95

Mary Waddington

Kay White

Thomas and Heidi Wimberg

James Zakrzewski

iGive.com Holdings LLC

Schweitzer Engineering

Laboratories, Inc

### Gifts in Kind 2019-2020

Some donors choose to give gifts of items or services to FSMH. Below are listed those who have provided gifts-in-kind during the 2019-2020 school year.

Hanshi Deshbandhu

Robert and Gloria Horvay

Brian W. Jones and Joanne Katzen-Jones

Mercedes Kenny

Mitchell H. Kizner

Victoria Kuhn

Kyle Leahy '17

Chester A. Luszc

Salem Quarterly Meeting

Kathleen F. Stetser

**\*In honor of the Salem Meeting oak tree.**

## Restricted Gifts

**We thank our generous donors who have contributed towards specific programs or funds here at FSMH. Below are listed those who have provided restricted gifts during 2019-2020.**

John Agliodoro and Joan Carter  
Mike Ayars  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting  
Elizabeth Baker '24  
Kenneth and Donnetta Beatty  
Nancy Beauchemin  
Robert Bergholtz  
John and Theresa Bond  
T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund  
Sydney Burns '06  
Bill and Chris Ann Ceraso  
Randy and Tina Cerce  
Hanshi Deshbandhu  
Glen and Janice DiMaria  
D'Olier Foundation  
Barry and Lisa Fellman  
Friends Council on Education  
Friends Fiduciary Corporation  
Matt Giacobelli and Tara Cerce  
Anthony and Tara Gibson  
Jeff and Donna Gibson  
Jonathan and Lauren Hodges  
Edward and Moriamo Johnson  
Brian W. Jones and Joanne Katzen-Jones  
Edward Karpowicz and Judith Corona-Karpowicz  
Eric Karpowicz '09

Kennedy Investment Group  
Christopher Kimberly  
Douglas and Krystal Long  
James and Mary Jane McFarland  
Mickleton Monthly Meeting  
Kevin and Colleen Moran  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Committee on Education  
Raymond and Brittany Rastelli  
Garry and Lori Rowe  
Salem Monthly Meeting  
Salem Quarterly Meeting  
Neil and Erica Salmon  
Greg and Joyce Smith  
Starr Snead  
Alice W. Waddington  
Willistown Friends Meeting Trust  
Woodstown Monthly Meeting

## Gifts in Honor and In Memory

**Often our donors and their families give gifts in memory of a deceased friend or family member or like to designate their gifts in honor of someone special. Here is the list for the 2019-2020 giving year.**

### Gifts in Honor of:

Caroline '20 and Charlotte Agliodoro '24  
from Jean Franzen  
Matthew H. Bradley  
from Tina Cerce, Judith Corona-Karpowicz, Christine Moser, Lori Rowe and Erica Salmon  
Peter Manzelmann  
from William and Cathy Schmidt

Patti Sanderson  
from Donald and Judy Sanderson  
Bill, John '97 and Sarah Schmidt '99  
from Marshall and Cornelia Schmidt  
Marshall and Cornelia Schmidt  
from William and Cathy Schmidt

### Gifts in Memory of:

John Harkins  
from James and Mary Jane McFarland  
Dorothy Kramme  
from Susan Seyl  
Steven C. McCall  
from Kenneth and Ingrid Austin  
Denise Mollenkopf '83  
from Kay White  
Lillie Mae Moore  
from Cedric and Sharon Stallings  
Joseph R. Priest '92  
from James and Catherine Priest  
Mildred Sanderson  
from Fran Walls and Patti Sanderson  
Lynn Waddington  
from Mary Waddington  
Jimmy Zakrzewski  
from James Zakrzewski

We have made every effort to include everyone who supported Annual Giving and other special projects. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.

## Alumni Section on FSMH Website

Calling all Friends School Mullica Hill Alumni and Friends - we want to hear from you! We have a special section on the FSMH website just for our alumni! You can update your contact information and provide your life events as they happen. Let us know about your graduation, marriage, accomplishments, and more! You may find yourself published in our Notes to Friends newsletter.

Please email Judy Corona-Karpowicz at [jcorona@friendsmh.org](mailto:jcorona@friendsmh.org) with updates.

We are specifically seeking email addresses and cell phone numbers along with updated mailing addresses at this time so that we can more easily communicate with you regarding upcoming events.

Please also share this link with your FSMH alumni friends and family. You may find yourself published in our *Notes to Friends* newsletter.

Also, please be sure to like us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Join our official FSMH Networking LinkedIn Group - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4869899>

## Providing Support for Friends School Mullica Hill in Your Estate Plans

Since the school's founding in 1969, Friends School Mullica Hill has benefited from the generous support of current and former parents, grandparents, alumni, and other friends of the school. One convenient and very effective way to support the school is through a legacy gift established as part of your estate plans.

Depending upon your individual circumstances, a number of other options for supporting the school may be available including gifts of property, life insurance, stock, bequeaths, and charitable remainder trusts.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Judy Corona-Karpowicz, Director of Development, at **856-478-2908 x102** or at [jcorona@friendsmh.org](mailto:jcorona@friendsmh.org).

# 2020 Virtual Spring Auction

Following the statewide stay-at-home order in mid-March and with only a few weeks to prepare, FSMH pivoted the normally in-person annual auction into an interactive virtual event! The event started on April 3 with a Zoom Happy Hour where everyone socialized and learned about featured items. The online bidding then continued throughout the weekend.

While it was disappointing not to be together, we were delighted that alumni and friends were able to join us from both near and far for the evening. We raised over \$20,000 for the school.

The event was successful due to the enormous amount of work from all of our FSMH community and especially our Auction Committee.

## The Auction Committee

Valerie Aglialoro, Lynne Alibrando Mangel, Tina Cerce, Judy Corona-Karpowicz, Lisa Fellman, Lisa Hickey, Stacey Johnson, Victoria Kuhn, Rachel Owens, Kajal Patel, and Jenna Williamson

## Auction Platinum Sponsors

The First National Bank of Elmer

## Auction Gold Sponsors

A.D. Martin Insurance  
Advancement Connections  
Lempert Orthodontics

## Auction Acknowledgements, Donors and Underwriters

We thank those who placed acknowledgement in our program as well as our generous donors and underwriters who made our 2020 Virtual Spring Auction possible, and we encourage you to thank and patronize these individuals and businesses.

## 2020 Auction Donors

A.D. Martin Insurance  
AAA South Jersey  
Academy of Natural Sciences  
Advancement Connections  
Justin & Valerie Aglialoro  
Allison Brooks Design  
AMC Deptford 8 Theaters  
American Hockey League  
Mike Ayars  
Bayshore Center at Bivalve  
Yannique Benitez  
Bob Bergholtz  
Bowlero Bowling  
Matthew Bradley  
Brandywine River Museum of Art  
Broadway Theatre of Pitman  
Marc & Jennifer Brodzik  
Jon & Cara Burke  
Cake Boutique  
Camden Catholic High School  
Randy & Tina Cerce  
Cherry Hill Skating Center  
Peter & Suzanne Cincia  
CoCo Key Water Resort  
Delaware Art Museum  
Delaware Children's Museum  
Hanshi Deshbandhu  
Diane Driessen & Skeff Thomas  
Eastern State Penitentiary

## The Gift of Time

### 2019-2020 Parents' Association

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Parents' Association played an important role in the FSMH community by hosting special events that enrich our community on and off campus such as the Fall Festival and Teachers' Appreciation Week. Funds raised by the PA were used to purchase items on our teachers' wish lists for their classrooms and for new tents for outside use. We thank everyone for all of their efforts!

Valerie Aglialoro - Clerk  
Lisa Fellman - Treasurer  
Victoria Kuhn - Grade Room Rep Coordinator  
Kelly Chamberlain - Spirit Gear

### Room Reps

Lauren Campbell, Kelly Chamberlain, Lisa Connolly, Joanne Katzen-Jones, Victoria Kuhn, Lynne Mangel, Cori McMahon, Heather Parker, Amy Pierce, Kajal Patel, and Jenna Williamson.



Barry & Lisa Fellman  
 Franklinville Animal Hospital- Mike Shellito  
 and Laura Snyder  
 FSMH Auction Committee  
 FSMH Fifth Grade Families  
 FSMH First Grade Families  
 FSMH Fourth Grade Families  
 FSMH Kindergarten Families  
 FSMH Parents' Association  
 FSMH Pre-K 1 Families  
 FSMH Pre-K 2 Families  
 FSMH Second Grade Families  
 FSMH Seventh Grade Families  
 FSMH Sixth Grade Families  
 FSMH Third Grade Families  
 Garden State Discovery Museum  
 Jeff & Donna Gibson  
 Brad Glbson  
 Nancy Goldsmith  
 Debra Gulea  
 Haddonfield Plays & Players  
 Harrison House Diner  
 John & Lisa Hickey  
 Jason Hummel  
 Arley & Stacey Johnson  
 Edward and Moriamo Johnson  
 Helen Joyce  
 Ed Karpowicz & Judy Corona-Karpowicz  
 Victoria Kuhn & Rick Roberts

Land of Make Believe  
 Lempert Orthodontics  
 Longwood Gardens  
 Jonathan Mangel & Lynne Alibrando Mangel  
 Peter Manzelmann  
 Louis Manzo  
 Patricia Matias-Cruz  
 Pete and Gina Mauro  
 Thomas & Amy McAndrew  
 Katrina McCarthy  
 Jennifer McDaniel  
 Mullica Hill Skin Care  
 Megan Naphy  
 Minuteman Press - Turnersville  
 National Constitution Center  
 Linda Nelson - Younique  
 Annie Nelson  
 Ruthie Norris  
 Oriental Trading Company  
 Our Lady of Mercy Academy  
 Rachel Owens  
 Mehul & Julissa Patel  
 Naymish & Kajal Patel  
 Philadelphia Chamber Music Society  
 Philadelphia's Magic Gardens  
 Brandon & Amy Pierce  
 Point 40 Diner  
 Pump It Up  
 Sophie Ragone

Review Printing  
 Ripley's Believe It or Not  
 River Country  
 Garry & Lori Rowe  
 Debbie Rozanski  
 Salem Quarterly Meeting  
 Erica Salmon  
 Patti Sanderson  
 Amy Sarachman  
 Sara Shepherd  
 Greg & Joyce Smith  
 Sports Events International  
 Starr Snead  
 Stone Family  
 Sweetsboro Pastry Shoppe  
 The Big Event  
 The First National Bank of Elmer  
 The Little Gym of East Greenwich  
 The Philadelphia Flyers  
 The Tatnall School  
 John & Kathy Tull  
 Warmuth Institute of Dermatology  
 Eric & Jenna Williamson  
 Wilmington Blue Rocks  
 Wine Warehouse of Mantua - Dorothy D'Agostini  
 Winterthur Museum  
 WonderWorks Orlando



## Passages

### **Margie L. Gray, 1921-2020**

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our beloved long-time teacher, Margie Gray on November 3, 2020. Margie was originally a teacher at Woodbury Friends School and then served on the FSMH faculty for 40 years from the school's arrival in Mullica Hill until her retirement in 2009. She was a lower school teacher for most of that time and then provided all manner of assistance from her post at the front desk of the Hanshi Building, reveling in her role as surrogate mother and grandmother to many. Many younger alumni will remember that she portrayed the role of Mother Goose at T. Nancy Goldsmith's Mother Goose Summer Camp.



Margie had a great love for her time at FSMH, which included a memorable trip to the Great Wall of China with Teacher Hanshi Deshbandhu. She leaves us with a great legacy as she is so fondly remembered by so many in our community. Please join us in holding Margie's family in the Light.

### **George Crispin**

We recently learned of the passing of former parent and Board Member, George Crispin. George served on our Board of Trustees for many years and is thought to be our longest serving member. He was a strong supporter of Quaker Education and we hold his family in the Light at this difficult time.

## A GIFT FROM THE CLASS OF 2019



Each year, the graduating class gives a gift back to the school. Past gifts have included a new outdoor bulletin board in front of the Hanshi Building, a new podium with sound system, and a new water fountain and bottle filling station.

The Class of 2019 donated a large picnic table that is located near the playground behind the Hanshi Building. The FSMH community is getting such great use of this table! Last fall, the Kindergarten class enjoyed their snacks on the table as seen in this photo. T. Matt holds many meetings at the community table, and last year T. Peter held his morning reading group at the table. Thank you to the Class of 2019 for such a thoughtful gift!





# THE FSMH DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVITY COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2018-19 school year, Friends School Mullica Hill announced the creation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee and invited all interested members of the FSMH community to join. The committee was formed following the strategic visioning process in which Diversity was one of the first and most frequently named values of the school community and identified as both a strength and an opportunity for growth.

Under the direction of its clerk, Dr. Monika Williams Shealey, the Committee has worked to define its mission and to reach consensus on language defining diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

**Committee Mission:** To raise awareness and discuss issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion, work collaboratively with staff to enrich the educational experience of students, foster appreciation and respect for diversity, and advocate for the inclusion of those with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

**Diversity** is expressed in various forms, including race and ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, language, culture, marital status, national origin, religion, age, (dis)ability status and political perspective.

**Equity** is the guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all students, families and staff, while identifying and eliminating barriers that prevent full participation of some groups.

**Inclusivity** is active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity.

## School Climate Survey and Focus Group

During the 2018-19 school year, the committee developed a "School Climate Survey" and disseminated it to students in grades 4 to 8 as well as to staff and parents. The Likert-scale survey included a comments section for each question and an invitation to participate in a focus group session if deemed necessary. Four students offered to participate in focus groups which were facilitated by Teachers Peter and Sophie. The survey results were shared with T. Matt and the Board of Trustees. The committee reviewed data to identify common themes and made recommendations based on the information collected in the survey and focus groups.

## Looking Ahead

With the 2020-21 school year underway, the DEI Committee is continuing to do its work. The committee welcomes all voices and new families. "The group is open to the entire Friends community," clerk Monika Williams Shealey said.

"We strive to support the school's mission by deepening our understanding of issues of diversity, equity, and inclusivity and by providing programming that enhances the experiences of students, faculty, and staff."



**CHEERS TO**

**50**

**YEARS!**

**1969-2019**

## Fall Festival and 50th Anniversary Kick-Off

Our 2019 Fall Festival also served as our 50th Anniversary Kick-Off event. The festivities took place on a beautiful fall day in September. The Hanshi lobby was transformed into a retrospective on our last 50 years. The parent volunteers of both the Parents' Association and the 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Committee did an outstanding job of creating a memorable event!





# Spelling and Protesting



By Bill Carrigan

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Woodbury Friends School (and then Friends School Mullica Hill) regularly participated in the National Spelling Bee. The first stage was a spelling bee within the school, which was organized for many years by Hanshi Deshbandhu, a sixth grade teacher at the time. The winner or winners of the school contest advanced to another event in Gloucester County, which was hosted most years by the Mullica Hill Grange. The winner of this spelling bee advanced to a regional competition of students in the greater Philadelphia area hosted by the Philadelphia Bulletin, a long-running but now defunct daily newspaper. The winner of this contest advanced to the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

The first Friends School student to advance to the National Final was Alexander Knisely who won the Greater Philadelphia regional in the Fall of 1968 and came in 17th in Washington, D.C. the following year. Alexander's younger brother, Jonathan, won the local competition at the Mullica Hill Grange three years in a row, beginning when he was in sixth grade. On his third attempt, Jonathan, still only 12 years old, won the Greater Philadelphia National Spelling Bee regional and advanced to the finals, to be held in the summer of 1971.

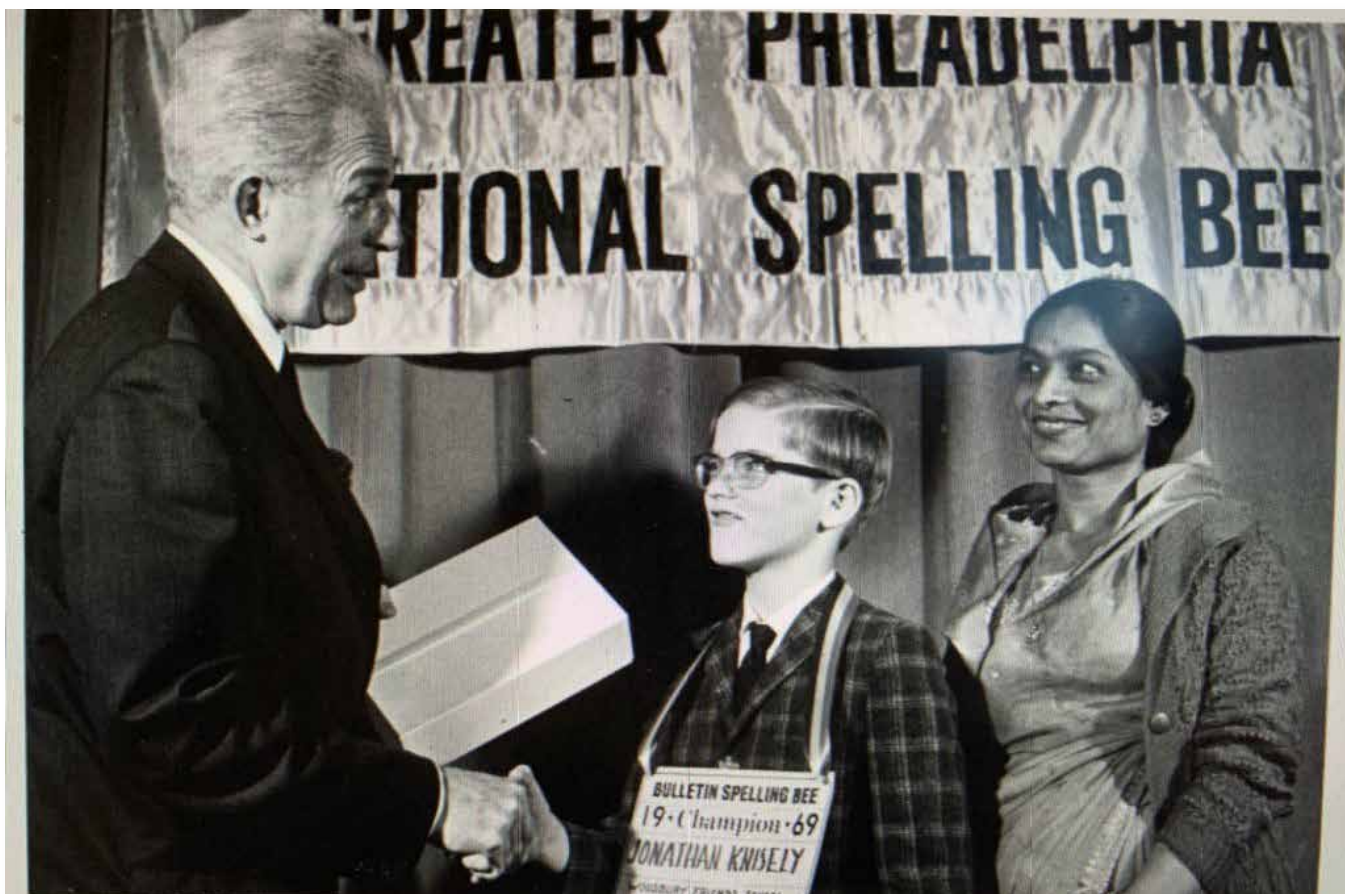
According to the Howard-Scripps Newspapers, which sponsored the National Spelling Bee, there were more than 7.5 million spelling bee participants during the 1970-1971 school year. By June, the number was down to 77. Jonathan and his 76 opponents travelled to Washington for the two-day competition, which was set to begin on Wednesday, June 9th. Jonathan survived the first day. On the second day, the contest came down to Jonathan and Susan O'Malley, a 13-year old from Phoenix, Arizona. According to J.Y. Smith's story in the Washington Post, O'Malley stumbled over "gigot." Smith understatedly wrote that gigot was a word the

English language "has borrowed from the French, but not used much." Smith said that Webster's Unabridged Dictionary noted that "gigot" was pronounced "jigit" in English and "zheego" in French and was defined as "a leg (as of lamb or mutton) esp. when cooked." O'Mally spelled the word incorrectly as "jigot." Jonathan, however, still had to spell both gigot and a second word in order to win. He calmly spelled gigot and then "without hesitation" spelled correctly the word, "shalloon," which the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times noted was named after a French town and meant "the fabric of a coat lining."

Spelling, however, was not the only thing on Jonathan's mind while he was in Washington, D.C. According to Jonathan's later recollections:

National Spelling Bee contestants were taken on a tour of the White House and went through a receiving line where I met Pat Nixon. I asked her (because Richard Nixon claimed Quakerism) when the last time she and President Nixon had attended meeting for worship. She didn't answer the question, but talked about how they had attended many churches through the years.

The next day, after Jonathan won, he knew that his victory would be covered in many newspapers and was a moment during which he might be able to do something than merely promote correct spelling. "After having won," Jonathan recalled, "my father and I went over to the White House where Quakers were mounting a Vigil for Peace (protesting the war in Vietnam). I wanted to go and express solidarity and use my moment of fame to help promote peace." As Jonathan and his father, Samuel Knisely, hoped, the visit was indeed covered in national and local media. Smith's *Washington Post* story was particularly extensive:



Jonathan Peter Knisely is only 12 and it was only on Thursday that he won the 44th National Spelling Bee. So what did this laconic tow-head of an eighth-grader who likes to play baseball do next? Well, first he called on Sen. Clifford P. Case (R) of his home state of New Jersey ("He was really proud of me"). Then he joined the Quaker Peace Vigil on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. That was also on Thursday.

Yesterday, between a luncheon where he missed a chance to eat, and an appointment with photographers, he went back to the peace vigil.

"If the war isn't stopped, I might have to go to Vietnam if I can't become a CO," he explained. "I'm almost old enough to draft, and if the war doesn't end soon, I may have to go kill someone."

Jonathan is a Quaker. As he spoke, he stood behind a sign that read: "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife.... for any end... Quaker Peace Testimony."

Asked if that accurately represented his views, the boy hesitated. "Well," he said, "I have to admit that I get into a couple of fights a week with my brothers and sisters."

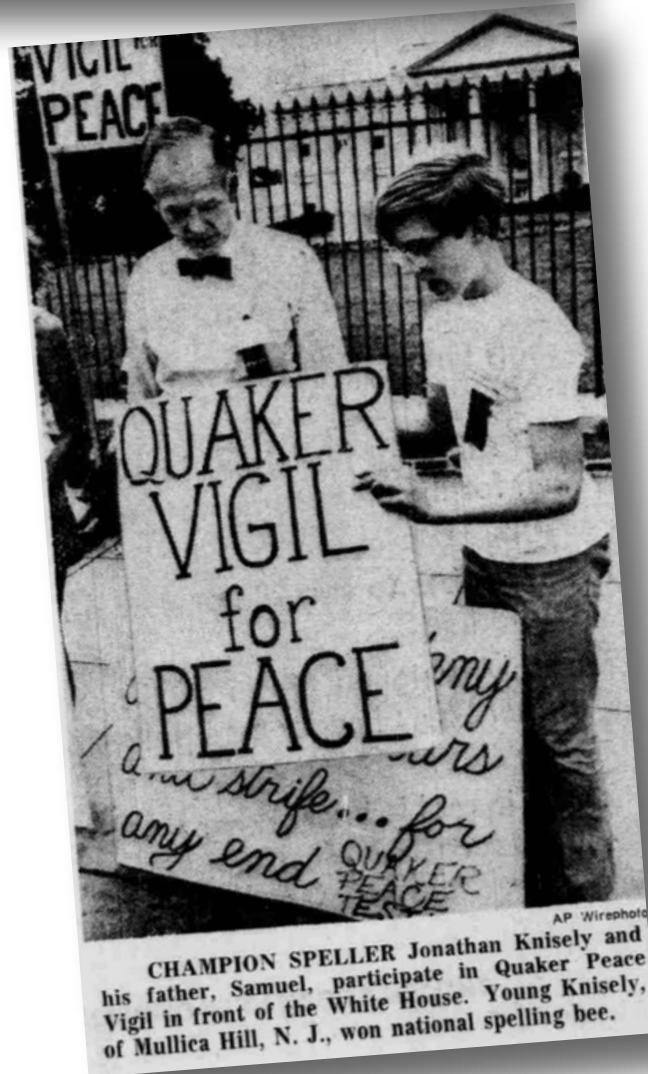
But no, he added, he really is against war. Not just the war in Vietnam, but all wars.

Now that he is a spelling champion, it appears that Jonathan is expected to know about all manner of things.

One reporter even asked him to comment on President Nixon's statement yesterday that he would not compel rich suburbs to accept housing projects for the poor.

This was obviously a long way from Jonathan's particular area of expertise, so his father, Samuel, a glass blower who makes scientific instruments for an oil company, stepped in and said: "He really doesn't know anything about this. He's never been exposed to it. He goes to an integrated school."

That integrated school was, of course, the Friends School of Gloucester County (soon to be called Friends School Mullica Hill).



# FSMH SPOTLIGHT: PAST HEADS OF SCHOOL

By Matthew H. Bradley

As part of the 2018-2019 Appreciation Dinner, we took time to honor the 160 trustees who have served the school since 1969 (representing 869 cumulative years of service!). I also had the pleasure of speaking about the ten women and men who preceded me as heads of school and to acknowledge the lasting contributions they made to the life of our school. The following is adapted from my remarks, with great appreciation for the research of resident historian and former clerk of the board, Bill Carrigan.

**Mary Clare Wohlford** (1969-1973) was first a teacher and then principal of Woodbury Friends School before overseeing the opening of the Mullica Hill campus in 1969 with 74 students and then the massive effort to move all of the students to this new location in the summer of 1970. Serving as head in the school's first year as a truly independent school, Mary Clare secured membership in the Friends Council on Education and gained official approval to award high school diplomas from the State of New Jersey. Mary Clare decided to "graduate" with the first high school graduating Class of 1973 and return to her home state of Virginia where she and her husband became dairy goat farmers.



**Ken Erdley** (1973-1979) had the often difficult task of following the founding head of school. In his time, he oversaw the school-wide celebration of the Bicentennial in 1976, expanded school service projects and field trips, and introduced trips to Spain and France. Perhaps most memorable for those in attendance, Ken added an antique car show and performances by a Philadelphia string band to the Fall Festival.

**Deborah Welsh Smith** (1980) was a longtime trustee who served as acting head of school for several months before the arrival of Alex Horsely. She focused on injecting a "sense of play, humor, and lightness" into the school culture while seeking "creative order."

The highlight of Englishman **Alex Horsley's** tenure (1981-1985) was the construction of the Noel-Baker Building in 1982 which allowed for much greater involvement in sports. Enrollment increased from 193 students to 250 and attrition was cut in half. He also charged Hanshi Deshbandhu with creating a true middle school and instituted a senior trip to the Bahamas!

**Alice Wisor** was a longtime teacher who served as acting head of school when Alex Horsely left midyear to become founding head of the International School of Atlanta. She

helped provide steady leadership during the search for a new head.





**John Brown** (1985-1989) became the fourth head of school in the Spring of 1985. Despite being the second non-Quaker to hold the post (Ken Erdley was the first), he was key in improving the School's relationship to all of Salem Quarter and not just Woodbury and Mullica Hill Meetings. Under his watch, computers were added to the classrooms, field hockey became a sports option, and students traveled to Italy and Greece.

**John Harkins** (1989-2000), who we sadly lost earlier this year, has the distinction of serving the longest term as head of school. A longtime Quaker educator, his tenure included the acquisition of a neighboring residential property to house administrative offices. An even more significant event was the laying down of the upper school in 1992. The following year, the School received Middle States accreditation for the first time. Following completion of the first strategic plan, the School launched its first capital campaign and began building the Hanshi Deshbandhu Building.

**Drew Smith** (2000-2010), a longtime FSMH teacher, oversaw the completion of the Hanshi Building in 2002. Despite economic challenges of the decade, Drew stewarded the School's finances while increasing professionalisation of the board and faculty and maintaining the quality of the education. The School acquired key properties adjacent to the campus, including the Heritage Woodlands Preserve. Drew continues to serve Quaker education as Executive Director of the Friends Council on Education.



**Bruce Haines** (2010-2012), a lawyer by background, launched a new program for three-year-olds. He also increased the School's stewardship of the environment with the installation of solar panels, reducing the cost of electricity - a change that the School will continue to benefit from for years to come.

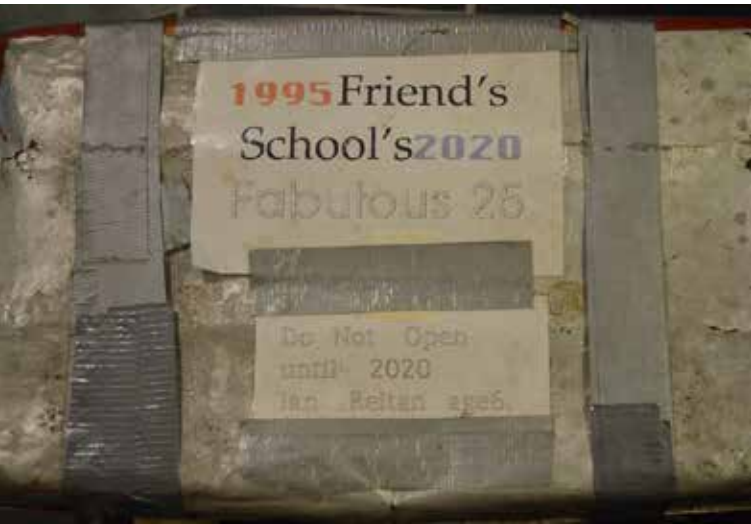


**Beth Reeves** (2013-2017) began at FSMH in Admissions and Development. She helped faculty revise the reading and writing curriculum and create a "one school one book program" that won a statewide award from the New Jersey Historical Commission in 2013. Beth oversaw the consolidation of the school into two buildings, leaving Salem behind, and initiated the return of international field trips with the addition of an 8th grade capstone field trip experience to Costa Rica.

Finally, she oversaw the Building Greatness campaign that led to enhancing indoor and outdoor learning spaces.



## OPENING OF FSMH 25TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE



On Friday, September 6, 2019, our entire school came together in the Mullica Hill meetinghouse to open the FSMH 25th Anniversary time capsule. The red metal suitcase that housed the time capsule traveled from India to the United States with Teacher Hanshi Deshbandhu and is thought to be circa 1900 in creation.

Teacher Matt started the morning's gathering by talking about FSMH celebrating our 50th year. He ceremoniously cut open the duct taped time capsule with scissors and then held up the items from the case to the delight of students and faculty alike.

The suitcase was filled with assorted items from the 1994-1995 school year. Contents included two VHS tapes (it was impressive that a younger student could identify them!), various writing and art projects from each grade, a 25th anniversary coffee mug, many photographs, school handbooks, admissions and auction materials, and the banners used to celebrate the capsule's close on Earth Day 1995.

The highlight for both students and faculty alike was that some of our current teachers had items in the time capsule. Our then Kindergartener T. Brad shared his chocolate chip cookie recipe and the then 2nd grader T. Sophie provided a self-portrait to the time capsule. Also represented in the capsule were other current teaches including T. Nancy, T. Glenn, T. Patti, and T. Peter. After opening the capsule, the entire school was photographed outside wearing their vintage 1969 FSMH logo shirts. The time capsule and its contents will be on display throughout this school year.

During 2020, our school community will be finishing a 50th anniversary time capsule to be opened on our 75th anniversary. Student projects and other items will be included!





# Celebrate! Friends School is 25 Years Old!

Everyone who has been and is connected with Friends School can celebrate our 25th anniversary this year. Myriad blue and silver anniversary balloons have enlivened events at the school, including the annual Fall Fair and Craft Show. October 14, the day before the fair, students planted a tree in honor of the anniversary. That evening, a number of people who dedicated themselves to the founding and growth of Friends School came back to remember that history and to become reacquainted.

Following time to meet and greet each other, those attending Founders Day gathered for dinner and later, convened in the meetinghouse for a commemorative program and Meeting for Worship.

An example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts is Friends School, said Mary Clare Wohlford, first school head, during the meetinghouse program. Her tone as well as her words spoke of the dedication, time, and love involved in the creation of this school in Mullica Hill.

Former Clerk of the Board Dorothy Kramme, cited as a very special person by former headmaster John Brown, warmly and wittily connected the messages shared by attendees about stages in the school's history.

Ralph Reynolds, a former Friends School parent trustee and

planner of much of the school's physical development, spoke of the procession of trucks that brought the Salem Building to its site, its installation, and its opening for class in a matter of days.

The work on and enthusiasm for the program development was conveyed by Teacher Hanshi Deshbandhu. Former Headmaster Alex Horsley chuckled about how the buildings should have been named faith, hope, and charity—Noel-Baker as charity because it was built needing charity.

John Brown noted that his role was to enhance the sense of community, and John Harkins compared the life of the school to that of a growing child, one that has become a bright, brave, well-educated committed young adult.

Threaded among these comments were proclamations, a number of which were read by longtime Board of Trustees member Mary Ellen Taylor. Letters came from Robert Andrews, member of the U.S. Congress; Board of Chosen Freeholders of Gloucester County; Mario Cavallini, clerk of the Salem Quarterly Meeting; Kay Edstene, executive director of the Friends Council on Education; Charles J. Visalli, then mayor of Harrison Township; Christine Todd Whitman, governor of New Jersey; and Raymond J. Zane, member of the New Jersey State Senate.

## The Friendship Quilt



## DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER HONORING TRUSTEES AND HEADS

On Thursday, October 24, 2019, FSMH held its annual Donor Appreciation Dinner at Riverwinds Restaurant overlooking the skyline of Philadelphia. The dinner is held yearly each fall to thank Friends School's generous Annual Fund donors. Being the 50th Anniversary year, a special portion was added to honor all current and former Trustees and Heads of School. Upon arrival, pictures were taken of the 60 guests and honorees against the 50th anniversary wall and appetizers were served. John Bond, current Clerk of the Board of Trustees then asked everyone to be seated and led a moment of silent worship.

During dinner, a slideshow of current school year pictures was shown featuring our incredible students and their special 50th anniversary artwork was displayed on each table. After the delicious buffet dinner, Head of School, Matthew Bradley, provided an update of school happenings. He then spoke about former and current trustees and asked those trustees in the room to stand and introduce themselves. 160 individuals have served as FSMH trustees over the 50 years. The evening ended with T. Matt speaking about all former heads of school and their accomplishments including Drew Smith who was in attendance.

Among those in attendance and being honored, were T. Hanshi Deshbandhu, alumni including FSMH first graduating class member, Kimberly Camp '73, and Wayne Copeland '82. Other guests included faculty & staff, current and alumni parents. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FSMH CLASS OF 2020

In July 2020, we proudly handed out diplomas to the 13 students in our Class of 2020. During an outdoor socially distant ceremony, our students offered their wit, wisdom and treasured memories of their time spent at FSMH. The maturity of each of their speeches was remarkable, especially considering that they had missed their final days together in school with their classmates.



Our 2020 graduates are now attending the following high schools



## A Note from the Development Office

We were deeply disappointed in Spring 2020 to cancel our 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend due to the CoVid-19 Pandemic. We hope to reschedule in some fashion at a later date as we know many of you were looking forward to participating. We will share information once it is available. In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

# Small School Big Opportunities

