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# The Pen and Scroll

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VOL. XXXII, NO. 2

LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST, 2023



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## Letter from the Editor

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Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Lenox School,

Summer's here and, sadly, the days are starting to shorten. In retrospect, the northeast experienced a relatively mild winter – I didn't need my snow blower even once – and spring was likewise forgiving. But Mother Nature exacted payback by "gifting" us with demanding weather conditions this summer.

In much of the northern and central parts of the U.S., we experienced smoke from Canadian forest fires, very serious fires that destroyed thousands of square miles (kilometers to them) of rich forests and killed countless wildlife. Our daughter in New Jersey complained about the smoke (but maybe that's just New Jersey's outlook on life).

Closer to home in the northeast, summertime has brought cool evenings but hot days, upwards of 85 and 90 degrees at midday, sometimes hotter. Just last week, our local power company emailed all customers, "Please turn off air conditioners and other heavy appliances from 2 to 8 PM." This might be amusing to our friends and classmates in Florida, the south-central, and southwest US who are experiencing 120-degree days.

Last week, parts of the northeast, including upstate New York and Vermont, suffered serious rainfall and flooding that resulted in at least one death. Chicago experienced a tornado, and parts of New England have had several tornado warnings. In some places, Florida is experiencing ocean water temperatures (quoting a news report) "hotter than a hot tub."

A recent report claimed that the worldwide temperature one day last month was higher than ever observed in recorded history.

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Whether you accept it or not, the evidence continues to be clear: our climatic conditions are changing at a rate significantly faster than has occurred in the past. We experience this as more turbulent weather and violent storms – it's the increased thermal energy in the global atmosphere. It might seem counterintuitive, but higher atmospheric temperatures means the air can evaporate and hold more water, leading to drought in some areas... but also leading to overwhelming precipitation in other areas as all that retained water returns to liquid form as torrential downpours and devastating storms. We've all seen it happen.

And humankind is causing this by exacerbating an otherwise slow and natural process.

In sad news closer to us, please see the obituary, many thoughtful letters, and many newspaper articles on the passing of our very own Nol Putnam.

On a more positive note, our LSAA scholarships at Miss Hall's are well received and well used, and our fundraising efforts to support this legacy initiative continue forward. Please read David Nathans' status report on our growing Legacy Fund -- and consider making a donation.

Our October reunion is in the planning stages... don't forget to save, fill out, and mail your registration form, which is in this issue. Please consider making donations to the LSAA Administrative Fund as well as the Legacy Fund. You can donate online or using regular mail. Every dollar helps.

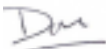
To coin an old and common phrase: *"The End Is Near."* We're starting to plan for a controlled and organized slowdown of LSAA activities as we approach Lenox School's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in '26. Among other things, and as an example, the P&S might trim down the content. And at some point, we may reduce the number of issues each year.

We have just four reunions remaining, including this year. Already we've started downsizing by auctioning off some of the archived goodies to very generous buyers. And the auction will continue this reunion. Please bring your checkbook to our October reunion so you can go home with a one-of-a-kind collectible. Or several.

Please be safe this summer. Hope to see you in Lenox this October 13 and 14.

Best wishes,

Don Foster '63





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## The President's Message

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### 2023 Lenox School Reunion Is Upon Us!

October 13 and 14, 2023

**"If you're going to live, leave a legacy, make a mark on the world that can't be erased." - Maya Angelou**

#### The Legacy Fund.

I know that the Masters who taught English and English composition would admonish me for this cryptic non-sentence. I've been writing these president's messages for years now and I always find inspiration on what to write by thinking about our shared Lenox experience and what is ahead of us for reunion time. Yet, as we approach this next reunion (and what looks like a finish line of sorts in 2026), I must admit to hitting a bit of a writer's block.

I recently had a conversation with Randy Harris regarding this dilemma and he reminded me of something that The Reverend Curry wrote in 1957 titled, "The Case for Lenox School" (which was an appeal by him for support for the school) as well as what David Wood wrote to the Berkshire Eagle in 1988 titled, "Lenox School Never Died."

Here are excerpts of those writings:

**David Wood in the letter to *The Berkshire Eagle*** - "... by admitting "all sorts of conditions of men" an interesting and often exiting community was created, and even today when alumni get together, there is a feeling that Lenox School was as much a cause as a school. Its motto still seems the noblest of them all: "Non ministrari sed ministrare" or "Not to be served but to serve"... **"But in a very**

***real sense for me, Lenox School never died." ... "Over time, however, I came to believe that in a very real sense the school lived as long as its alumni served to exemplify its ideals in their lives." ... "Its sons were always out there: lobstering off the Maine coast, doing missionary work in Haiti, pumping gas in the Bronx, teaching in schools, ministering in a thousand ways and, yes, even confined, in one case, to state prison. I well remember my first interview with Headmaster Robert L. Curry. ... "I don't really have much to offer you," he said, "except hard work and maybe a chance to be part of building something really worthwhile."***

**The Reverend Curry in his letter titled, "The Case for Lenox School."** In this, he provided four responses to the question of "Why should people contribute to Lenox School?" Here is a distillation of his four answers from that writing:

- ***"First, Lenox is a simple school. This is not an age of simplicity and yet our Nation has been built by simple people" . ... "We live simply". ... "***
- ***"The second answer is that we are a solid school. Our national heritage has been built on solid people --- men and women who unsung and without fanfare stuck to their last and built a great inheritance which is ours but which is a trust which we are called upon to hand on better than we received it; and much of education today does not teach this.***
- ***"The third answer is that ours is a school of sweat" ... There is nothing in this fund drive or anything out beyond it in our projected needs of the future which asks that you and others give us something so we can have it easier... no we are only asking enough help so that we can do more effectively for more boys what we are now doing..."***
- ***"The fourth answer is soul..." "This is Lenox School. It is simple. It is solid. It is a place where men and boys sweat to find the answers to life and it is a community with a soul."***

Writers block over. It descended on me that with the Legacy Fund, we're really carrying on what Mr. Wood and The Reverend Curry wrote about. It is creating another starting point for everything that has been done since 1926. What we're doing will serve to prevent the Lenox School story of simplicity, hard work, sweat, outreach, etc., from erasure.

Let me explain. That starting point is represented by the Legacy Fund that gives new life to the story of our little school and the new website that captures for posterity the magic that the dedicated faculty, staff, and families created for us.

Aside from the reconnecting, fellowship and joy we get from embracing our classmates and the faculty and family that attend, this coming reunion and the few that follow are all focused on making good on the mission we have accepted. That mission is to secure the funds necessary to share the much-needed lessons, history, and legacy of what the Lenox School faculty, staff, and families selflessly provided for us. Some have asked why we're doing this and to what end.

If ever there was a time when the example and lessons from what a truly a dedicated and selfless faculty can do with meager resources and a flinty determination to serve and succeed (such as we were privileged to experience at Lenox School), that time is glaringly now. The preponderance of the reporting on the status of education in the U.S. today seems more like an urgent alarm bell that has yet to be responded to; **and in my mind, what Lenox School achieved serves as a lesson learned for today's academic problems.**

So, what does the Legacy Fund have to do with this?

The Fund will continue to provide scholarships, grants, and donations to deserving students and organizations in the name of Lenox School while concurrently retelling the recipients the Lenox School story, such that perhaps they can carry this forward as an example and lesson of what can be achieved. Every journey starts with a first step.

In addition, the Fund supports in perpetuity a new Website that will contain the history of the school, access to all the yearbooks (and thus the story all of you) and the lessons of how this little school managed for decades to produce so much with so little. Perhaps having access to this Website and learning about the Lenox School lessons and model may influence others in the future to re-look at and adopt the lessons from what Lenox School achieved.

Our Board members are right now looking at expanding the impact of our donations and scholarships to organizations that have a national reach. We're looking at outreach to the Native American organizations to support their efforts to further the academic achievements on behalf of their population.

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We're also looking at supporting students in trade schools that currently teach the absolutely essential crafts that make our country run through our scholarships and donations in Lenox School's name.

**"If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." - Benjamin Franklin**

We're not going to let the incredible story and lessons of Lenox School for future posterity (nor each of you) be forgotten. Think about that one Master that made a significant difference in helping to shape or influence your life.

For some, it might be Nol Putnam who recently passed; for others it might be Jim Fawcett, Jim Paterson, David Wood, or Mansfield "Pete" Pickett. Perhaps The Reverend Curry or Doc Blanchard. Whomever the individual or event was, Lenox School was the foundation and launching pad for all of us. We owe them and the school the recognition of what they provided, and their lessons are relevant for future generations.

Thus, the Legacy Fund has everything to do with carrying on past our time and sharing the lessons, legacy, history and activities that Lenox School provided. We're going to do something through the Legacy Fund that future generations will find not only worth reading about but perhaps learning from and writing about.

**Yes, we're going to have another memorabilia auction!**



In homage (and a nod) to David Wood:

- Everyone knows that auctions speak louder than words - that's because of the auction-ears.
- Auctions are the one place where you can get something for nodding.
- Though, of course, you do have to stay 'til the bidder end.

As we did last year, we'll hold an auction of memorabilia, yearbooks, ephemera, etc., so bring your checkbook! And if you have memorabilia hanging around, then bring it and we'll auction it off as well. Proceeds will go to the Legacy Fund and to the LSAA Administrative Fund to help defray LSAA operating costs.

And this year we have exciting news and a surprise regarding the LSAA Hall of Fame Inductees.



From 1961 through 1963 there was a sitcom on TV called "Car 54 Where are you?"



As this is the 55th reunion for the class of '68, I have to ask:

## Class of 1968 ... Where are you?

And once again, we have arranged for a terrific catering operation to supply all of the meals right at the S&Co's Bernstein Theatre.

We remain deeply grateful to Shakespeare & Co for affording us the opportunity to hold our reunions right at the campus as well as for all of the incredible support they have provided through the years.

**October 13-14, 2023 - Save the Date.**

**Don't miss this one, or we'll put you on work squad for the rest!**

Bob Sansone, '68

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

## Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to report that our administrative fund is in good shape, largely thanks to those who helped out at the end of last year, and beginning of this year.

Our LSAA money is deposited with the Community Bank in Barre, Vermont. Ed Miller and Bob Sansone are the authorized signatories. At present, our administrative fund consists of the following:

Checking account:	\$14,268.36
Savings account:	8,248.53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$22,516.89</b>

Even though we anticipate making sizable expenditures at our upcoming reunion, I expect to carry a significant balance into 2024.

As always, anyone who would like to make a (tax-deductible) contribution to our administrative fund (which is entirely separate from our Legacy Fund at Berkshire Taconic) may do so by sending me a check, payable to the LSAA, to the address below.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming reunion. It's always a great time! And this year will feature another opportunity to purchase Lenox School memorabilia. Bring your checkbook!

*Note:* The IRS Federal ID# for the LSAA is 04-3081525. You may need this for any gifts made through third parties, such as mutual funds, banks or credit unions.

Edward A. Miller, Jr., '66  
LSAA Treasurer  
32 Mansfield Lane  
Barre VT 05641  
(802) 505-4060

## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: The following letter from Jud Fisher '63 was recently written to his Columbia College publication. He sent it to us for our interest and/or amusement.*



Jud Fisher writes:

After a year's interregnum, spent working in a defense plant in East Hartford, Connecticut, I graduated from Columbia College, fifty five years ago in the uproarious spring of 1968. Since then, I often have found myself wondering what makes the college and university so different from the rest of the Ivy League institutions. For over half a century, I have looked for the source for Columbia's distinctive character.

I'm 78 years old now and believed up until this very day that my search would end in abject failure. However, this past Sunday morning, I was reading about the changes that occurred after Seth Low became president in 1889. Among other things, Columbia moved from its old, cramped, mid-town location to the more spacious Morningside Heights. And, as I was reading about the construction of the new campus, designed chiefly by the illustrious Charles McKim, it occurred to me that, apart from the influences imparted by its architectural heritage, Columbia has been affected in part by a certain force, hitherto unreported in its history, which I believe exists, but is nonetheless a difficult property to define. For lack of a better term let's just call it "aura of geographical area spatial positioning," AGASP for short. Keep that in mind, because, in what can only be described as an extraordinarily exquisite irony, the historical record shows that Columbia is largely, perhaps inauspiciously, built on the foundations of what was once known as "The Bloomingdale Insane Asylum."

It was just a bit of serendipity that I ran across that bit of information at exactly this point in time (see: *Spectator*, May 8, 1968). Good luck to all of you. Judson B. Fisher, CC, '68

~ Jud Fisher '63



The next issue will be published  
Fall/Winter 2023  
Send your news today!

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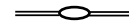
Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

David Curry writes:

Hello everyone,

Very sad about Nol Putnam. Nol was a Lenox man through and through. He was a student and a master. For me, he was a Mentor, FRIEND, and a Patriot. Nol stood up for what he believed in. Just a couple of months ago he wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court basically telling him to do his job. After all these years, I have to say that I will truly miss the gentleman.

~ David Curry '65



Fred Lavenberg writes:

I have been thinking today of Nol and his impact on me. If it is possible, and it is, I never had him as a teacher, coach, dorm master, or stage crew boss, yet his imprint on me and from the outpouring I am seeing, is remarkable.

With his passing the group of Masters, yes I will use this word, that I knew and learned from grows ever smaller so it falls on us the students of Lenox School to carry the torch forward. We are better men today for what was taught to us many years ago.

A vivid memory of Nol is seeing him coach JV soccer bare chested with a huge back brace, how he ever went on to become a most talented blacksmith I will never understand.

You will be missed, Nol.

~ Fred Lavenberg '70



Jeff Smith writes:

If Mr. Pickett were alive, he would almost certainly remind us that the literal translation of the Latin root for education is "leading out."

For us, Nol was an educator.

At times he led us out by going up – climbing the ropes in the gym hand over hand to set the lights for an impossibly elaborate set that he had created from scratch.

At times he led us out academically, by creating a daring, full year course (in the 1960's, when that wasn't done in ordinary prep schools) that combined history and literature (and two teachers in the classroom) with Jim Fawcett.

He led us out culturally and geographically, by curating and expanding the Native American presence at Lenox -- this from a scion of one of America's original settler families.

And his writings in 1971 to the remaining faculty in what proved to be the waning days of Lenox School – maybe David Blanchard has kept some or maybe Randy has some in the archives – are the framework of a spiritual blueprint for what a new Lenox School could still become.

If.....

Nol embarked on all of these journeys with passion born of belief and relentless energy.

Sometimes those forces misled him – screaming at the television in his living room in South Cottage where he had gathered us to hear LBJ announce that he would not seek re-election, “IT’S A TRICK, BOYS! DON’T BELIEVE THIS FOR AN INSTANT!”

But mostly they propelled him – to Mt. Hermon with the Native American program and then to his forge in Virginia, a workshop both smaller and greater than the campus where he had worked with us.

In this workshop, in his own time, he used the forces he had once marshaled for us – patience, endurance, attention to detail, seemingly superhuman strength, and a vision of what should arise beyond the day-to-day – to create, in the gates to the National Cathedral, a monument that will far outlast our most poignant memories of him and endure as long as we have a Republic under God.

I count myself blessed to have known him.

~ Jeff Smith '70

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Ed Miller writes:

Notes concerning golf on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023...

1. On Bob's response form, be sure to include the number in your party that will be playing golf (we need this to make reservations).

This is the annual Charlie McGee Memorial Golf Tournament at Wyndhurst, formerly Cranwell.

Please arrive by 11:30 for lunch at Sloane's Tavern and to form teams.

First tee time 1:00 PM. Cost is \$45 plus tax, including cart. Pay at the course.

2. A further note: We're scheduled to tee up at Wyndhurst, formerly Cranwell, once again this year. This is a great course and they always give us a great price. All are welcome, including the ladies. This is a "best-ball" scramble, so don't worry if you're not a great player. You'll be playing the "best ball" hit by your group on every shot!

Questions => Call me at (802) 505-4060

~ Ed Miller '66

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## Other News

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### School Announces Pickett Winners

**The awards are named in memory of Mansfield E. (Peter) Pickett, who was a longtime teacher at the former Lenox School and at Miss Hall's School.**

By Monica Bliss

Posted on July 10, 2023, [theberkshireedge.com](http://theberkshireedge.com)

Miss Hall's School announces recipients of this year's Mansfield Pickett Scholarships

Pittsfield— Miss Hall's School announces that recent graduates Grey Carmel, of Pittsfield, and Annais Vallejo, of Boston, have been named by the Lenox School Alumni Association as recipients of this year's Mansfield Pickett Scholarships.



The awards are named in memory of Mansfield E. (Peter) Pickett, who was a longtime teacher at the former Lenox School and at Miss Hall's School. The scholarships are presented annually to two students who exhibit outstanding performance in academics and extracurricular activities. This is the twentieth year the association has honored Miss Hall's students.

Grey, the child of 1992 Miss Hall's graduate Rebecca Carmel and the late Greg Carmel, has performed with the MHS Theater Ensemble and worked on the Technical Theater crew, serving as Stage Manager for the productions of Men On Boats, Mary Poppins, and the Misanthrope. Through the Miss Hall's Horizons program, they interned this year with the Berkshire Center for Justice in Great Barrington, and Grey also volunteers with the Berkshire Humane Society in Pittsfield. They will attend Nichols College, majoring in Criminal Psychology.

Annais, the daughter of Grisell Rosado and Rafael Vallejo, is an MHS Big and a Proctor, was captain of the JV volleyball team, co-Leader of the Criminology Club, and was a member of Spectrum and the Latinx Affinity Group. Her Horizons internship this year was at the Sonsini Animal Shelter in Pittsfield, and last year, she was a member of the MHS Environmental Research Action Group. During her free time, Annais can usually be found creating art in the studio or spending time with her friends. She will attend Brandeis University as an Environmental Studies major.



## The Lenox School Centennial Legacy Fund

Our Centennial Legacy Fund honors the School's tradition of service to others and is open for donors until Reunions 2026 and the 100th Anniversary of its founding.

### Specifically, the Legacy Fund Mission Statement reads:

*Generating and maintaining in perpetuity financial resources through which students with demonstrated need, who have shown a commitment to service of their schools, communities, family, or country or to the wellbeing of people in other countries, coupled with a record of achievement in academics or athletics, may be recognized. The Lenox Fund allows such students to continue their education or training, irrespective of any financial constraints of their own personal circumstances, in the spirit of service that was the founding principle of the Lenox School.*

In addition, The Lenox School Legacy Fund intends to follow in the tradition of the LSAA current giving pattern in providing financial support for two-students annually at

Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, for Trinity Episcopal Church and for Shakespeare and Company, both of Lenox. These have been among the LSAA's core beneficiaries for more than 20 years.

Upon completion in 2026, The Legacy Fund will also support the on-going maintenance of the website containing the history, important documents, and memorabilia of Lenox School.

### A Legacy Fund Campaign Update

The Legacy Fund Campaign Planning Committee continues to look for additional historically relevant associations that will provide significant impact long into the future. In doing so, it continues the process of due diligence on expanding our potential beneficiary group to include the independent and national scholarship organization known as ABC (A Better Chance). ABC was an early leader in identifying students of color, with academic potential and financial need, and in preparing them for success at private secondary schools. It remains among the country's leading organizations in the diversity scholarship arena. Many know that Lenox School had an active partnership with ABC in the 1960s and through the School's closing in 1971. Indeed, there are several Lenox graduates who came to Lenox through the ABC program and so it may be appropriate for this partnership to be revived. The Planning Committee will have more details to report at Reunions 2023 this fall.

Reporting on the numbers, as of July 10, 2023, 39 donors have contributed \$243,129 to our Legacy Fund at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF). This is a modest increase of three donors and \$3,325 over late March 2023. Adding this to the \$85,795 in outstanding pledges promised over the next three-plus years gives us a total of \$328,949. With 55% of our \$600,000 Legacy Fund goal, we remain confident that the campaign will be a success. An additional single planned gift or bequest (made via will) of \$50,000 is not included in these totals. We continue to be very pleased with the generosity and positive feedback of Lenox School alumni, faculty, family, and friends. In conclusion, the BTCF Legacy Fund has an appreciated grand total of \$253,582 as of this date.

Two challenge gifts are still available to encourage donors, and these donors have pledged a pool of money on a one-to-one match for classmate gifts. The Class of 1967 has only \$3,368 remaining on the original \$20,000 challenge established in October 2021. This challenge is extended through year-end 2023 and will match any gifts or new pledges from '67 classmates.

The Classes of 1970 and 1971 have a \$20,000 challenge with no specific end date. Also with a one-to-one match, this challenge is to encourage all classmates to contribute and/or pledge to the Legacy Find.

For any questions or additional information on the Class of 1967 match opportunity, please contact John Risley '67 (413-531-7755 or jrisley2@comcast.net). If interested in the Classes of 1970 and 1971 match, contact Jeff Smith '70 (917-494-5341 or jeffasmith230@aol.com).

The Centennial Legacy Campaign was launched at the reunions in October 2021 and is active and ongoing until Reunions 2026. There is still plenty of time to plan, to give, and to pledge. Please consider supporting the mission of Lenox School for generations to come by giving to the Centennial Legacy Campaign.

## Ways to Give to the Lenox School Legacy Fund

Our Legacy Campaign fund manager and administrator is the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in Sheffield, MA. BTCF's main number is 413-229-0370. Kara Mikulich (kmikulich@berkshiretaconic.org) or Kelly Sweet (ksweet@berkshiretaconic.org) are very responsive to any questions and helpful to assist in any contribution transactions.

**Giving By Check:** Please make your check out to "Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation" and write "**Lenox School Centennial Legacy Fund**" on the memo line. Mail the check to: Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA 01257.

**Online Gifts:** To make an online gift with a credit card, use the following link: [https://berkshiretaconic.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\\_id=1676](https://berkshiretaconic.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1676)

**Cash/Stock/IRA Gifts/Bequests and Other Planned Gifts:** To wire a gift of cash, appreciated securities, or a required minimum distribution from a retirement account, please contact Kelly Sweet, Community Engagement Officer at BTCF. Kelly is also the person to contact for help with bequests or other planned and deferred gifts. Kelly can be reached directly at 413-717-7036 or at [ksweet@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:ksweet@berkshiretaconic.org).

Again, many thanks in advance to those who have made gifts or pledges and to the many others who are considering doing so.

~ David Nathans '68,  
on behalf of the Legacy Campaign Planning Committee

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

## Two More Great Reasons to Attend Reunions 2023

If you have been to Reunions in the last decade or so, you know that one of the highlights of the Saturday night dinner are the Hall of Fame Inductions. The Lenox School Service and Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 2008 to celebrate the traditions of Lenox School in mind, body and spirit by honoring those individuals who have lived their lives by our motto, "Non Ministrari, Sed Ministrare" (Not to be Served, but to Serve). The award also recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a dedication to community, both at Lenox School and in their lives.

An LSAA Board Sub-Committee earlier this year was pleased to approve the nominations of two clearly outstanding men who will be honored at our Saturday, October 14th 2023 Reunion dinner.



**Mortimer F. LaPointe**, nominated by David Curry '65, was, among other duties, a science teacher and varsity football and lacrosse coach during his 11-year tenure at Lenox. Mort's impressive 83-24 lacrosse coaching record led to his appointment as coach at Bowdoin College in 1969. In 21 seasons at Bowdoin, Mort led the lacrosse team to an incredible 218-76 record. Equally impressive was Mort's leadership of the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association and his post-retirement service to the sport. Many Lenox boys became stronger and tougher men to face competition, both on the field and in later life, because of the dedicated guidance Mort provided.

**Roger Hoefer '70**, nominated by classmate Fred Lavenberg '70, was captain of football, basketball, and lacrosse his 6th Form year while monitoring a dorm as a prefect. An outstanding scholar-athlete, Roger went on to Harvard where he played varsity football for three years. Roger worked





in New York for many years and volunteered for ABC (A Better Chance), the diversity scholarship and academic support organization that brought him to Lenox School in the first place. Currently living in Columbia, SC, Roger continues to give back by serving as a Special Advocate Supervisor in the Rockland County Courts, advocating in the best interests of child victims.

Celebrating and honoring Mort LaPointe and Roger Hoefler on the same evening

will be an emotional and nostalgic occasion for them as well as for all Lenox boys who have valued their relationships with teachers, coaches, mentors and classmates. It is what our Hall of Fame is all about.

Please join us for Reunions 2023 and especially for dinner on Saturday, October 14th.



## 'Why 'Outward Thrust' and Enrolling Students From 'Minorities In Need' At Lenox'

**Headmaster Curry's Letters To Parents 18 October, 1961 and December, 1961 and His Article 'Twenty Years At Lenox School'**

*Note. In reflecting back upon the history of Lenox School, it is initially not clearly evident how or why a school that was founded to educate a relatively non-diverse student body of boys from families of moderate means in the Episcopal Church's First Province of New England and who for its first twenty years consisted predominantly of boys from New England and New York, ended up in its second twenty years championing diversity and the need to participate in an 'Outward Thrust' or 'Outreach Program'. As I read through the Archives, it became obvious that it was due to the beliefs of one man, Headmaster Curry, who took over in 1946 and the near simultaneous confluence of the following four events. First was the school's initial success of bringing Black students from the Segregated South to Lenox. The second was the impact of bringing boys from other countries such as China [Hong Kong], Japan, Thailand*

*and the Congo, to Lenox. Third was Mr. Curry's attendance at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in the fall of 1961. And fourth was the offer from Mr. Paul Rusch to send a team of boys and two masters to work at the 'Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project [KEEP] in Japan in the summer of 1962'. Provided below are Mr. Curry's thoughts on these four events. RH*

At the General Convention in Detroit this fall. I received a new mission as to the purpose and opportunity of the Church which I had never had before. I saw Christians of many races and tongues, I heard what the missionary enterprise is doing around the world, and there opened before me a vision of what could be done if only we put our shoulders to the wheel and go into action. What we could do would indeed move mountains, and by comparison make the efforts of the secular agencies pale into insignificance...

When should this start?... I saw no reason why we could not send out a secondary school group. At this level and in this school we have a real sense of "community" – boys going from here would know well what to expect, what to do, how to share, how to give, how to work, and how to demonstrate the best we have of democracy and Christianity in action.

Paul Rusch's invitation to come work at KEEP, Japan in the summer of 1962...was not an Asian studies program. We want to have a Japanese student (preferably Christian so our boys can see how costly it is to be a follower of Christ in that nation) be a counterpart to our individual members. Thus they would work together, play together, study together, travel together...Our boys will be in the homes of Japanese Christians... etc.



**Mr. Rusch And Mr. Wood Emplace Cross On Lenox Chapel Alter - First Outward Thrust Trip**

For the past ten years we have been busy building this school... I want now to turn outward and to have this next decade known as the years of outreach. When I see what happens here when foreign students come among us, then I know that the building of tomorrow's world for our children means building bridges now to international understanding. We have three Congolese here this year and they are adding much to the school as well as receiving much. They are accepted by the boys...Color means nothing to most of our boys – they judge another boy on what he is inside and not the color of his skin outside...

We broke the "color line" years ahead and decades ahead of other schools and for this we were cherished and disesteemed simultaneously. Little or nothing has been said about this, but I know something, and could write at length about the subtle limitations which were placed upon our humanity, but will never know the full extent, of what we suffered in lack of support, of enrollments.

We did not give up on our motto "Not to be served, but to serve" and believing that this means service to all of humanity, we continued to take boys from other colors and races, other economic and social standards, and we have lived to see the day when others of a far more "special category" in a status sense are following where we have pioneered... We are now pioneering with another minority group – the Native American. He is cherished on the American Television Screen, and as a tourist attraction, but he is disesteemed at the same time. Thus we hope to be of help to him, knowing that when we reach out to help such persons, we remain in a very "special category."

~ Randy Harris

## 'High Honors To The Class of '48'

According to The Alumni Review, November, 1948

*Note. Provided below is the rather unusual instance of a tribute to a specific class and specific individuals within it, in this case the Class of 1948, written by Mr. Kennard '34, and echoed by Headmaster Curry, in a school-sanctioned publication, 'The Alumni Review'. The reason for this tribute is because in the immediate post-war period prior to 1951, the school experienced enrollment shortfalls and its students were routinely failing to perform at the high level expected and that had been the norm before the war. Then the Class of 1948 performed at such a high level in all regards that even though the school would continue to struggle until 1951, in one bright shining moment, this one class showed what was still possible and instilled hope in*

*all. This class's uniqueness and demonstrated excellence has been carried on to this day by two of its members, Charley Daniel and Bob Kline who have steadfastly represented it, often as the oldest attendees, at so many of our Reunions. RH*

We can't think of June 6th, 1948, and the class that graduated from Lenox on that date, without thinking in terms of superlatives. For the class of 1948 is truly a monument, a monument to the faith and courage of Lenox's new Headmaster, to the hard-work of her post-war faculty, and by no means last, to the extraordinary quality of the form itself.

As a group, the class of 1948 stands almost unrivaled here in academic achievement and its leaders in student government, athletics, and other school activities have left a record that will be hard to touch. We can think with pride of that grand nucleus, the prefects, who were as conscious of their responsibility in building a better Lenox as the Headmaster himself. We can think with pride of Bob Kemble winning large scholarships at two top universities; of Charley Daniell, Bob Gibson, Bob Kline, and Don Quimby – all winning scholarships for their freshman year at college; of the best hockey record in 14 years; of the best dramatics club since 1942; of the "Four W's" whose quartet singing will be remembered by all who attended Alumni Weekend; of the new Sixth Form Commons Room; and of the Commencement Pen & Scroll.

~ Randy Harris



**Bob Kline Graduate - 1948**

## 'Summer 1948 – Sopranos, Sunsuits & Symphony'

According to The Alumni Review, November, 1948

*Note. Since taking over as headmaster in 1946, Mr. Curry was continually seeking additional income-streams to help support the numerous fundraising campaigns necessary to achieve his aggressive building program and to reduce the school's operating expenses that must be met by tuition-generated-income. Part of this process was identifying those different types of activities that could be hosted on the campus during the summer when the students were gone. In 1948, this would be hosting the female students*

of the six-week Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood; and hosting three separate Clergy Conferences, usually sponsored by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts in Springfield, but occasionally by the Synod of the First Province [New England]. Though I have previously described what the Berkshire Music Center School support and activities entailed, provided below is a short, rather humorous look at the all-girl campus in the summer of 1948 that I thought you would enjoy! RH

Long before the first of July, Mike Nugent's truck began unloading the pianos, harps and base-violas; then came the girls – from just about every state in the Union and several outside. Lenox School (for Boys) again welcomed the young women of the Berkshire Music Center, Serge Koussevitsky's unique institution at Tanglewood. Nine Lenox undergraduates came to work at the school for the six-week period, as waiters and dishwashers, under the supervision of a master, all living in the dormitory wing of Clipston Grange.



### Lenox School - To Give To Others Of Its Talents - 1962

diamond was dotted with sopranos in sunsuits. For most of the girls the six weeks were packed with solid work to which the excellent student productions at Tanglewood bore witness. There were two symphony orchestras, chamber music groups, operatic singers, and choruses, with much overlapping of talent.

To the Duchess and "Gramp" Howland goes the credit for getting everything ready and doing what it takes to change a boys' school into one for girls. Curtains to go up; floors waxed; extra bureaus; screens on the windows – and shades.

The highlight of the season came when Gramp flashed his cop's badge one night and arrested one of the assistant conductors of the Boston Symphony for violating the rule about visiting after midnight. Shades of an hour on the woodpile.

### 'Notable Events As The School Approaches Its Twenty-Fifth Year'

#### The Lenox School Alumni Review November, 1948 and December, 1950

*Note. As you've read over and over, the five years after Mr. Curry took over as headmaster in 1946 were a stressful time for him, since no matter what he did, enrollment continued to drop. However, he knew that significant changes and many positive things were occurring, which indicated to him that things would change for the better in the near future which they did beginning in 1951. Listed below are some of the changes that were occurring in the 1948-1950 time frame. The headings for each entry are mostly mine, as is any explanatory information provided in brackets after the entry. RH*

**Enrollment Poised For Growth.** In the size of the student body a cyclic development is apparent. After a few distressing years of huge graduating classes and shrinking lower forms, the trend has reversed, and the enrollment picture today is back at the status realized in the 1930s. [The enrollment would more than triple from 1951 to 1958.]

**Glee Club and Dramatics Shine.** So too with the Glee Club and the Dramatics. For the first time in many years a successful season for both of these organizations was taken as a matter of course. Both groups have profited immeasurably from the new stage and auditorium, but mostly from the tireless effort of the faculty members involved and from the full utilization of talent. [Not surprisingly, this success corresponded to the arrivals of Mrs. Margaret Kennard as Glee Club Director and Mr. David H. Wood as Dramatics Director.]

**"Friends of Lenox School" Created.** A new organization of great promise is the "Friends of Lenox School", comprised of parents and faculty wives under the aegis of one of the latter. They have taken over the hostessing and catering of the athletic teas and, by means of a food sale, raised over \$100 for other school projects and needs. [They would continue to do great things in support of the school and its students until the school closed.]

**Soccer Arrives and Is Accepted.** Soccer has come of age as a fall sport and has shown up very well with a large schedule of games and with enthusiastic support. [Football had

ruled the fall since the school opened and at first questioned whether soccer should even be considered a 'major' sport.]

**First Black Boarding Students.** A milestone of another sort whose significance may be very far-reaching has been the successful admission of Black students. Though at present a tiny minority of three, these students have contributed to the life of Lenox School in very laudable fashion. [Mr. Curry felt that Lenox School led the way in this regard among all private secondary schools.]

**Increase in the Physical Plant.** The most obvious change in Lenox School in the past 25 years is the physical one. So here we are in 1950 with a Lenox School plant comprising thirteen utilized buildings, ranging from the Duckhouse Press to St. Martin's Hall, not counting the building used by the Berkshire Country Day School [Turner Cottage] and one vacant dormitory.

**Rise in Prominence of Alumni.** The second most obvious change is undoubtedly the rise to prominence of so many of the alumni. For example: right here in our backyard... we have tangible evidence: Robert S. Whitman '33 is rector of Trinity Church; Robert Tracy '31 is the school doctor and on the staff at Pittsfield General Hospital; Richard Bridges '36 heads the leading automobile sales agency in Pittsfield; and Royal Treadway '36 manages two resort hotels... [As noted, these examples don't include the wonderful achievements being accomplished by alumni throughout the rest of the country.]

**School Adds I and II Forms.** We have added Forms I and II to the school this year, making it entirely for day students from this area. The response has been smaller than we had hoped for last spring when we decided to make the venture, but the quality is excellent, and it is promising for the future to have youngsters in the school.

**BCD Moves From Thayer Hall To Turner Cottage.** The Berkshire Country Day School moved during the summer from the top floor of Thayer Hall to the Turner Cottage which has been completely renovated, and the value of that building has been greatly enhanced. This school has opened with an enrollment of 43 children. [Note: The Turner Cottage was the 20-acre Lanier Farm's Caretaker's Cottage that the school purchased in 1935. It was better known as The Infirmary from 1956 on. BCD built a one-story addition for use as a classroom that would become the Infirmary's main ward.]

~ Randy Harris

## Trivia Questions

*Note: This edition's Trivia Questions deal with the differences in approaches to leading the school between the two longest serving Lenox School headmasters, Mr. G. Gardner Monks and Mr. Robert L. Curry. It is safe to say that a small secondary boarding school takes on the personality of its headmaster. In fact you could say that the school becomes that headmaster by reflecting his personality, values and approaches to education and community life in general. In reading through the Archives, it became evident to me that it would be difficult to find two men with more different personalities and more varied approaches to education, yet still totally committed to the school, supporting its enduring values, and serving its students. See if you can tell which headmaster, Mr. Monks or Mr. Curry, implemented each of the actions described below. RH*

1. His word guaranteed a student's acceptance to the finest colleges and universities because Lenox School was smaller, each student was better known within the school, therefore the curriculum could be more easily tailored to each student's needs; and there were fewer colleges and universities, as well as less applicants.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
2. He believed that a simple, but adequate school infrastructure that could be supported by a reasonable cost-per-boy, enhanced learning the principles and values that the school was tasked to impart, versus building the necessary facilities to provide a complete school experience similar to like-schools by increasing enrollment to fund needed projects, and trusting in faith to generate the remaining funding.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
3. Oriented the content of chapel services more to the time of day and calendar-appropriate formal services found in the Book of Common Prayer, versus varying the content of chapel services with readings from books by Christian authors and periodically featuring student, clergy and laymen guest speakers both from within and outside the school.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.



4. Had to stop increasing enrollment until sufficient infrastructure could be built to properly support the increase, versus being forced to enroll non-college-bound quality students in order to generate the necessary income to meet operating expenses and keep the school open.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
5. Took more interest in the records and efforts of the school's various interscholastic athletic teams because of their ability to directly affect the overall morale of the entire school, versus simply acknowledging the positive aspects of competitive athletics, but focusing more on other priorities.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
6. Believed that student body diversity and accepting students from 'minorities in need' was a critical element of a caring and functional Christian Community versus focusing more on the school's-directed target audience, boys from families of moderate means residing in the Episcopal Church's First Province, New England.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
7. Increasingly felt that the First Province, New England should provide some financial support to the school, since the school was doing the Church's work and shouldn't have to rely solely on ever-increasing enrollment and its tuition-income to generate required funds.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.
8. Felt that the direction of the Episcopal Church demanded that the school institute an 'Outward Thrust' program to both take its message to and assist Christian communities in need, and to bring 'minority students in need' to the school, so that the communities, minorities and school would benefit.
  - a. Mr. Monks.
  - b. Mr. Curry.

~ Randy Harris



## Reunion Accommodations

We've researched hotels and motels in the Berkshires and have developed a short list of affordable, well-rated lodging choices. All come with different cancellation periods, availability of refunds, cut-off dates for booking, and number of discounted rooms. Make sure you have all the details when booking your reservation. **Ask first for the Lenox School Reunion discounted rate.** All rates quoted do NOT include tax. It is recommended to **make early reservations**, since some of the rates will change as we get closer to reunion.

*Pittsfield:* **Berkshire Yankee Suites** (note name to be changed soon)  
From \$119 per night; rated 9.3/10.  
Call (413) 629-2100, or call (413) 212-8818 (Carmen).

*Lenox:* **Howard Johnson (Wyndham)**  
From \$135 per night; rated 7.6/10.  
Includes continental breakfast.  
Call (413) 442-4000 (Peter).

*Lenox:* **The Ponds at Foxhollow; 2 night minimum; Internet/Priceline Price ONLY.**  
From \$141 per night; rated 8.1/10.  
Call (413) 637-1469. Direct reservations will be more expensive.

*Lee:* **Quality Inn**  
From \$199 per night; rated 7.8/10.  
Call (413) 243-0143 (Sam).

~ Ed Miller

## In Memoriam

### Carl Liddy, Jr. '57

Carl Liddy, Jr. was born July 20, 1938 in Boston, MA the son of the late Carl and Grace Quinn Liddy.

He was united in marriage to LaVerne Treece on March 3, 1962.

Mr. Liddy graduated from the college preparatory boarding school Lenox School for Boys in Lenox, MA and went on to attend Hobart College and was in the ROTC. Mr. Liddy retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant



Colonel with more than 20 years of service. He qualified for Officer Candidate School as a Private First Class and rose through the ranks. He was a graduate of the University of Nebraska Omaha with a BA degree in history and political science. While in the Army he served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He was a pilot instructor for several years at Ft. Rucker, AL. He

served in Korea and moved with his family to serve in Germany. Throughout several military moves within the United States, he was a Munitions Material Management Officer, and Missile Material Management Officer. He also worked in the Office of the Project Manager for Rocket Systems at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. Mr. Liddy spent two years in Iran with his family, where he served as the Advisor to the Gendarmerie. He had a gift for languages, learning to speak Farsi prior to being stationed in Iran. The day after he retired from military service Mr. Liddy accepted the position of Vice-President of Logistics for Aqua Glass in Adamsville. He was also a gentleman farmer. He was a community-minded servant leader who chaired the McNairy County Library Board and chaired the Adamsville Industrial Development Board, the RSVP Board, and worked with the Food Bank and spent many years delivering Meals on Wheels. He was instrumental in helping build the Irving M. Meek, Jr. Memorial Library in Adamsville and volunteered as a Boy Scout leader and Little League Baseball coach. He enjoyed many sports, serving as a football referee while in Iran. Mr. Liddy was an avid reader and writer and collected and worked on antique cars. He was a member of the Adamsville First Baptist Church, served on the Fellowship Committee and was an usher. In 2014 he and his wife LaVerne were honored as McNairy County Citizens of the Year for their tireless volunteer spirit. Mr. Liddy was a philanthropist, donating funds to multiple individuals and organizations.

Mr. Liddy departed this life on May 31, 2023 in Adamsville, Tennessee at the age of 84 Years, 10 Months, 11 Days. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, LaVerne Liddy of Adamsville, TN; a daughter, Teresa A. (Liddy) Peach and husband Robert of Glendale, AZ; three sons: John C. Liddy and wife Carolyn of Spanish Fort, AL, Thomas C. Liddy and wife Julie of Collierville, TN, and Brian K. Liddy of Fairhope, AL;

seven grandchildren: Catherine Peach, Christopher Peach, Tanner Liddy, Quinn Liddy, Kathryn Liddy, Abigail Liddy, and Ella Liddy; and many extended family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Eugene Hunter '50

Eugene (Gene) Murray Hunter, 92, mechanical engineer, power generation specialist, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and mentor passed away of natural causes in Lenox, MA on April 28, 2023. Gene was known for his friendly, gentle nature, his generosity, loyalty and his quiet, steadfast strength - qualities which endeared him to all those who knew him.

Gene was born on April 2, 1931 in Schenectady, NY and grew up in Scotia, NY. He frequently reminisced about his idyllic, Daniel Boone-esque childhood, growing up along the Mohawk River, trapping and fishing, camping in the Adirondacks and hunting with his father in the Catskill mountains of NY. Gene was a graduate of Scotia High School and Lenox School for Boys where he completed a PG year. As a teenager, he was known as a bit of a prankster. Once, while driving the boat that was pulling a high school friend water-skiing, Gene jumped overboard feigning an accident. Unbeknownst to his skier, Gene had turned off the gas intake to the engine before jumping.

By the time Gene completed his PG year in Lenox, MA he was an avid alpine skier. In 1950, Gene entered the University of Vermont, he would say, as much to ski as to study engineering. Gene graduated from UVM in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. That same year he joined General Electric as a test engineer in Schenectady, NY and started what would become a 30 year career in power generation sales with the company. His charismatic, outgoing personality helped him excel in the sale of nuclear reactors, steam turbines and transformers.

Following a number of assignments in engineering and marketing in NY, CT, PA and MA, Gene became district manager for power generation sales for New England in 1968. In 1973, he was appointed manager of nuclear power generation. In 1978, Gene became the national headquarters' sales manager for all turbine and nuclear products, and he became manager of marketing for the company's large transformer business division in Pittsfield, MA in 1982.

Gene is the recipient of six General Electric awards, four of them managerial awards, and is a graduate of five General Electric technical and marketing training programs. Gene was an active member of the American Nuclear Society, Atomic Industrial Forum, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for which he was also the chairman of the Power Generation Committee.



After retiring from GE in 1985, Gene started SalesMark Inc., got his real estate license and sold real estate in the Berkshire area for a number of years. His real passion, however, was public service and donating his time to those who needed help. After passing a series of qualifying exams, he became an Emergency Medical Technician in 1987 and joined the Lenox Volunteer Ambulance Squad (LVAS). Gene's calm, un-

flappable demeanor made him an excellent EMT. For years he delivered babies and rescued people from all types of calamities, usually in the middle of the night. Gene then became president of the LVAS, which he ran for seventeen years. After stepping down from this position, Gene continued his passion for helping people becoming a volunteer with Hospice Care in the Berkshires, Inc. in 2012. He spent much of his last few years sitting along the bedsides of ailing strangers, comforting them and their loved ones.

Throughout his long life Gene had an abundance of hobbies and interests. Some of his favorite pastimes included road trips to his grandfather's house in Portsmouth NH, spending time with his family in his Adirondack camps in Bolton Landing and on Brant Lake, driving his boat on Lake George, taking his daughters water-skiing (he stayed in the boat when his daughters were skiing), alpine skiing with his daughters, salmon fishing on the Miramichi River in Canada, deer hunting with life-long friends and colleagues at his cherished hunting camp in Schoharie, NY, bird hunting in ME and enjoying a Jack Daniels on the rocks while listening to Johnny Cash.

Gene was married to the love of his life, Marilyn Dinardo, whom he met on a blind date, for 65 years until his death. Gene is survived by his sister, Patricia Beck of Wallingford, CT, daughters Debbie Hunter (Joe Porier) of Spring City, PA, Jennifer Hunter (Dr. Mark McKinlay) of Phoenixville, PA, grandchildren Dr. Danielle Porier (William Stone) of Spring-

field, VA, Hunter Porier of Brooklyn, NY, step grandchildren Dr. Michelle Monro (Jason Monro) of Blacklick OH, Andrew McKinlay of King of Prussia, PA and three step great grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate Gene's generosity, public service, and his professional contributions will be held in Lenox, MA in the fall of 2023. Contributions in his name can be made to the Lenox Volunteer Ambulance Squad, Lenox, MA.

To share memories and stories please visit [rochefuneral-home.com](http://rochefuneral-home.com)

## Francis Deming '53

Francis Deming, of Tolland, MA, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 5, 2023, surrounded by his loving family at their winter home in Oldsmar, FL. Francis was 88 years old.

Francis was born in Winsted, CT on August 30, 1934. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Dorcas Deming and his brother, Robert Deming.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Judith Deming (Middleton), of Otis, MA, as well as 4 children, Edwin (Cheryl), James (Maryann), Timothy (Evelyn) and Mary (Mark). He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Francis graduated from the Lenox Prep School for Boys. He was then drafted into the Army as an MP. After the Army,



he worked for Hebert Construction for 29 years, then was a foreman for Walgreen Tree for a number of years. Francis had a farm stand for a number of years, which he loved doing as it gave him the opportunity to meet new people.

Francis had a passion for gardening, hunting and fishing. He also took great pride in helping others.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, the announcement will be made when the date and time are finalized.

## Richard A. Dow '59

*Editor's note: Dick Dow, who was the senior prefect during my third-form year, recently passed away. We did not find a formal obituary, but three of his Lenox friends prepared this heartfelt and thoughtful remembrance.*



**Lenox School Graduation Day, 1959.**  
Left to right, Patricia Rousseau and brother Fargo, Dick Dow and the girlfriend.

### Remembering Dick Dow by three who knew him

Dick Dow, '59 died peacefully in Venice, Florida, March 5, 2023. His daughter and her mother were by his bedside. He was 81 years old.

Dick was a rarity at Lenox; while most of us were sent there, Dick came to Lenox on his own volition. Living with his parents in Northborough, Massachusetts during his sophomore year, Dick saw an announcement for a \$1,000 scholarship to Lenox. He applied and had to travel to Worcester for an interview. When he got there, he was told that the scholarship was no longer available, but the scholarship committee could offer him another—much better—package. With this scholarship, Dick paid his Lenox tuition and expenses for the next two years. And while most of our parents were happy that we were going to Lenox, Dick's father, who had just been elected to the Northborough Public School Board, was not pleased that his son would be attending a private school. To his credit, Dow Senior did not stand in his son's way. How lucky for Lenox. Dick struggled to find all the assigned books on his first reading list... and was overwhelmed when they showed up at his library. But he came prepared and stayed prepared as he worked his way into the prep school culture that was a foreign country to him.

At Lenox, Dick made a favorable impression with his acting, his scholastic ability, and his outgoing personality—so much so that he was chosen prefect in his senior year. He

and his roommate, Fargo Rousseau '59 lived on the second floor of St. Martin's Hall under the watchful eye of House Master William (Bill) Buchanan with whom Dick shared a love of music, and across the hall from Mrs. Portass, the kindly housemother. Dick was ever the role model, and at least four of the second-and-third-form boys in his small dormitory went on to become prefects themselves.

Even if you never spoke to Dick during the two years of his Lenox education, you saw him play major roles in the Lenox drama extravaganzas produced by David Wood and Nol Putnam, and you heard his sonorous baritone voice in the Glee Club and Choir. He won the Basset Prize for dramatic reading as a senior, and he had three entries in one of the school's literary magazines—more than any other contributor.

Dick's dramatic skills were also on display during the Saturday morning room inspections. Any boy in Dick's second and third floor dormitories who had failed to empty his wastebasket or had neglected to make his bed properly would be treated to a show of faux anger that kept us in trembling awe. These performances were usually followed by two or three demerits.

With his roommate Fargo, Dick learned to sail at Lenox. Fargo remembers, "Dick was my winning crew on the sailing team, and he matched his energetic dynamism with the studied stillness of an Audubon birdwatcher about to log a rare addition to his life list. He could quietly charm a delicate Stockbridge Bowl puff into his jib like no other crew I ever had. And, although he had no interest in science or intuition about mechanics, he stayed up with me night after night as we worked our way through Dr. Curry's (another, equally dynamic Dr. Curry) breakthrough book on Yacht Racing and the Aerodynamics of Sailing. I think we were unbeaten on the Bowl and held our own on the sailing circuit all over New England."

Apart from Dick's official curricular activities, he also had an off-campus girlfriend whom he would visit regularly—that is until one evening, the phone rang at the girl's house while Dick was there. The call was for Dick, and the caller was his dorm master and friend, Bill Buchanan. Without a trace of friendliness in his voice, Mr. Buchanan told Dick to return to campus immediately. How Mr. Buchanan learned of his whereabouts, Dick never knew. The headmaster was informed of Dick's transgression and called Dick's father telling him to "rein in" his son. Again to his credit, Dow, Senior said in effect, "I'm several hours and many miles away. Yours is an *in loco parentis* institution; you deal with it."



During the last year and a half, four of us—Dick, Fargo, Court Van Rooten '61, and Bill Kenah '62—developed an on-line chat group in which we reminisced about the past, shared our present concerns, and discussed our hopes for the future.

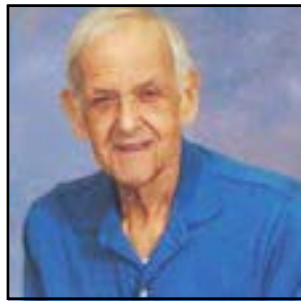
Of all the Lenox memories that Dick recalled in our year and a half of reconnection, the happiest and most vivid were from his trip to New York City with Bill Buchanan and the Lenox French club. And it was Court Van Rooten's father's invitation to lunch and a tour of The Today Show studio with Dave Garroway that lit him up. Dick's introduction to espresso coffee that day was a lifetime standout.

At one point, Dick said to us, "I live on memories these days it seems. It's good to be able to share them."

~ Bill Kenah '62  
~ Fargo Rousseau '59  
~ Court Van Rooten '61

## Trent L. Bongiolatti '59

Trent L. Bongiolatti, 82, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, March 27, 2023 at Baptist Health Paducah.



Mr. Bongiolatti was born in Adams, Massachusetts on October, 10, 1940 to the late, Louis and Kathleen Kirby Bongiolatti. He was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church where he was on the Grounds Committee and also a volunteer at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. He was a Mechanical Engineer for Ingersoll Rand and a U.S. Army Veteran having served during the Vietnam War.

Trent is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ann Marie Hablitzel Bongiolatti; a daughter, Susan Bowen and husband, Michael of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; a son, Nick Bongiolatti and wife, Melissa of Collierville, Tennessee; three grandsons, Thomas Bongiolatti, Nathan Bongiolatti, and Isaac Bowen; a brother, David Bongiolatti, and wife, Lana of Florida.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to, American Cancer Society P.O. Box 2167 Lexington, KY 40588 or Mt. Carmel Cemetery P.O. Box 7346 Paducah, KY 42002 or any charity of choice.

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

You may leave a message of sympathy, light a candle of remembrance and share a "Hug from Home" at [www.milnerandorr.com](http://www.milnerandorr.com) <<http://www.milnerandorr.com>> To send flowers to the family of Trent, please visit our floral store.

## A Tribute To Oliver "Nol" Montalant Putnam 1934-2023

**Katharine L. Putnam Bennett**

Oliver "Nol" de Montalant Putnam died June 11, 2023 in Charlottesville, VA, having been a long time resident of Huntly in Rappahannock County, VA. He was well known to the public as an awe inspiring artist blacksmith and highly respected, even revered, in the blacksmithing community as a master craftsman. He was also a teacher at heart, a voracious student of life and the truest of friends.

Nol was born May 12, 1934 on Beacon Hill in Boston, MA to Augustus Lowell Putnam, Sr. and Anne Lockwood Lackey. From the age of four, he grew up on a subsistence farm with his mother and stepfather in Washington Depot, CT. He attended the local grammar school, the Lenox School for Boys, Lenox MA through 1951 and completed a PG year at Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA, graduating in 1952. He graduated from Trinity College, Hartford CT in 1959. During three of those undergraduate years, he served in the U.S. Army as a drill instructor in Georgia, Missouri and Germany. He completed graduate work at the Harvard School of Arts & Sciences, Cambridge, MA and then at the University of Massachusetts School of Education, Amherst, MA where he earned a Master's degree and almost completed all the necessary work to earn a doctorate.



Nol was always a teacher. In his words: "been a teacher of one sort or another all my life." He taught the history behind current events to recruits in the Army (along with rifle operation and repair). Post Trinity College, he taught for 12 years at the Lenox School for Boys where he had been a student; 1959 - 1971. It closed in 1971. The 1971 Senior yearbook was

dedicated to Nol: "To Nol – to one who knows the meaning of sensitivity, diversity, relevancy and emotion. It only makes sense to express the attitude and atmosphere in our school through this man, but to express love with words, is something we don't claim to know how to do. So Nol,

simply thank you.” While at Lenox, he taught ancient, American, Russian and modern European history, the latter being his favorite. He became the Head of the History Department at which point he developed ever more varied and complex courses. He also co-directed the Dramatics Club where he focused on creating and building innovative stage sets with the students. While in the Army, Nol had learned to work with those who were from a radically different background; he was a fierce proponent of inclusion for all. As such, he was passionate about the Native American Studies Program. In his words, he believed in “making the subject matter fit the needs of the kids so they could grow.” It became a nationally recognized program, even receiving a grant from the Mellon Foundation. He stayed in touch with a group of these students through regular e-mail dialogues until his death.

After one year teaching at the Northfield Mount Hermon School, Mount Hermon, MA, Nol listened to his heart and made a sea change. In his words, he “needed a marriage between head, heart, and hands.” He cashed in his savings, bought a small farm, and with his first wife, Marinette “Rusty” Wise, and his daughter Anne, he shifted to being, in his words, “a studio artist as a blacksmith and sculptor in iron, steel, copper and brass.” However, after the gift of a set of second hand iron-working tools and an anvil from Rusty and after his first experience feeling hot iron move beneath his hammer, he was smitten with artistic blacksmithing. Thus, White Oak Forge was founded.



Nol’s second forge was in Madison, VA where he had moved with his second wife, Anne Clark, so as to be near her family. Ten years later, in 1982, he was asked to open a forge in The Plains, VA, where he became more widely known for his signature style of traditional smithing, and where he met his third wife, a fellow blacksmith, Claudia McCue. While his forge was extremely successful, he desired a broader community of artists and so purchased land in Huntly, VA in 1991. There, he built a house in 1995, and in 2001, along with his fourth wife, Susan Covington, he built his final forge a stone’s throw from his house. They divorced in 2014. Nol remained at the house and forge with his devoted dog Jack. He completed his final commissioned piece in that forge in 2019 at age 85 before selling it and all of its contents to a fellow blacksmith who appreciated and understood Nol’s traditional smithing style.

Nol’s design studio in Huntly was a mecca of creative energy and overflowing with his artistic visions: stacks of pencil sketches, detailed drawings and watercolors with precisely

written notes in the margins - all in preparation for lead solder or modeling clay and perhaps the first blow of the hammer on heated iron. While Nol spent a preponderance of time alone in his forge, being a teacher at heart, he was not insular; he mentored many, sharing his knowledge and his enthusiasm with aspiring smiths. He gave innumerable workshops and was invited to speak and demonstrate at many conferences. He had many gallery shows, was asked to create installations for seven public buildings and received many awards. He was also often seen sharing with the public at open houses and at art fairs.

At the time of his death, Nol was a highly esteemed artist blacksmith, renowned for his architectural and artistic work in hand wrought iron. Classical European technique combined with an aesthetic sensibility gave his functional and artistic creations a signature style. Whether a paper weight, hook, candelabra, stair railing, sign post, garden gate, bench, soaring sculpture or enormous cathedral gate, all were characterized by a balance between enduring iron and weightless dreams, often with a touch of whimsy. Natural design themes of leaves, tendrils, grapevines, and gusts of wind were prominent in his work.

Nol’s creations were sold and commissioned throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. His most publicly recognized, his crowning achievement, was an invitation to create three commemorative hand forged gates for the crypt level columbarium at the National Cathedral, Washington, DC. “To be chosen to do ironwork for the cathedral, I get goosebumps when I think about it, and it’s a little overwhelming, and it brings tears, it brings tears to think that my work is here.” Taking approximately 1200 hours each, the largest and most complex gate is comprised of 42 flowers and 204 leaves, each individually crafted. In Nol’s words: “...what I like about ironwork, the hammer blows merge and they’re the ones that catch the light and bring the gate to life, it’s a living thing, not inanimate, not machine made, not static, its life.”

Nol co-authored two books: “Lines in Space” (2010), which shares his thoughts on design and interpretation and showcases some of his sculptures, and “Beauty in the Shadows: Wrought Iron in the National Cathedral” (2014), a definitive guide to the ironwork at the cathedral. Nol was also the subject of two documentaries. The first, titled “The Prophet of the Plains,” was released in 2000. This was created by the community of The Plains as a dedication and a thank you to Nol when he left. This was followed by an award-winning documentary “Forging Art: Nol Putnam, Artist Blacksmith.” It was aired by PBS May 2023 with footage of Nol working in his forge, discussing a few of his more iconic pieces and sharing his thoughts on art and “making metal move.”

While Nol was himself a master craftsman, he also always considered himself a student of traditional artistic blacksmithing learning from the ancient art of ironwork, by great smiths who had gone before, rambling walks with his current dog Jack and previous dog Tye, and by his relentless efforts and steady learning curve in the forge. Since he believed that “art is a basic component of the soul as we look out into the world,” his creations also came from his own dreams in which ideas were transformed into three-dimensional reality. Nol was also a student of his own life. He used dreams as a vehicle for studying his own interior landscape which he brought to fruition through extensive journaling which revealed new realities and created humble understandings along with a few regrets. In his own words: “It takes great ... energy to want to change; to identify what to change; to do the work of change; to sustain change. To find that which is unlovable in your heart and only then to be able to love it to death for the new you.” Nol engaged in this work of change right up until his death.



Nol was equally comfortable working in complete solitude as artists often must as he was creating human connections. He participated in many reading and writing groups, both on-line and in person, some casual and some with formal instruction. He maintained regular and meaningful conversation with family and friends whether near or far. He was philosophical and often outspoken, most especially

in the social science of politics, frequently writing letters to editors or hand addressing postcards for a cause he believed in. He enjoyed many forms of art and was himself a photographer. He adored music, J.S. Bach especially, and loved to “let it all out” through dancing. Nol was both a student and a teacher in everything he did, whether creating art with iron, creating human connections or being a devoted and compassionate friend. Through his art and through simply being all that he was, Nol added beauty, grace, thoughtfulness and straight up fun to the world. While he is longer physically of that world, the radiant beacon that was Nol nonetheless continues to shine forth through his artistic legacy and through all who were blessed to cross his path. In that way, Nol is now, and will always be, of this world. From Nol: “Be safe, my friends, be brave, be brave. Onward!”

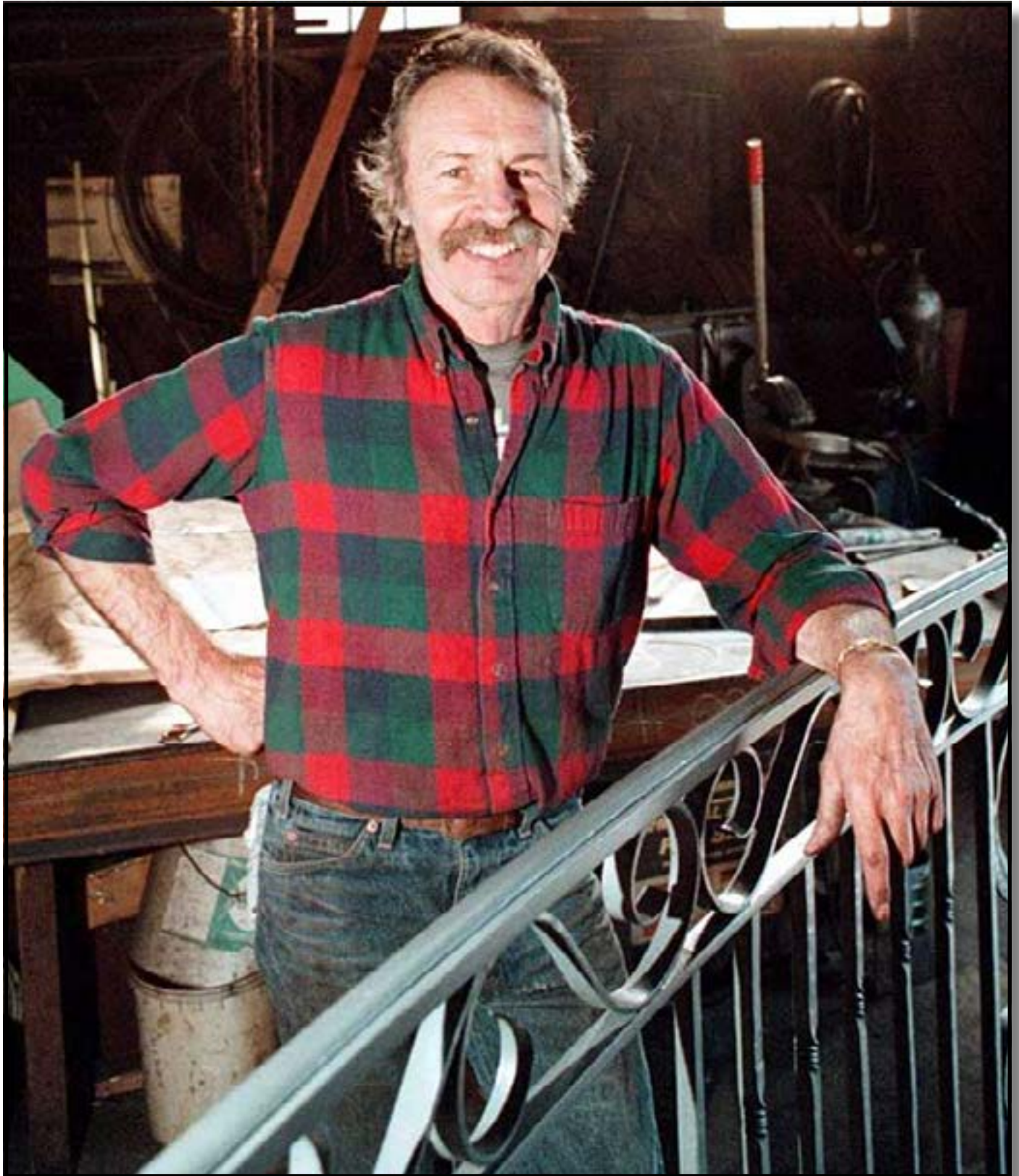
Nol is survived by his daughter Marinette Anne Putnam “Anne,” his stepson Jamie Braden, wife Jenn Braden, their daughter Maddy “Zoey” Braden, his sister Lawrence “Toni” Lowell Putnam, 12 nieces and nephews, and his devoted companion, dog Jack. He was predeceased by his brother Augustus “Pete” Lowell Putnam and his sister Anne Lockwood Seamans.

A celebration of Nol’s life will be held May 2024 near his home in the Huntly, VA area (Rappahannock County) to which all are welcome! The details will be posted on Nol’s site on Caring Bridge ([www.caringbridge.org/visit/nolputnam](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nolputnam)) and announced in the Rappahannock News ([rapnews.com](http://rapnews.com)).





# The Hen and Scroll





# The Pen and Scroll

## Friday, October 13, 2023 - (# attending in the blanks):

- \_\_\_\_\_ LSAA's annual "Charlie McGee Memorial Golf Tournament" (Golf's Fifth Major) at Wyndhurst (formerly Cranwell). **Please arrive at 11:30** for lunch at Sloane's Tavern to register. First Tee time - 1:00 PM. **Cost - \$45 each + tax, pay at the course;** includes cart.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Dinner Buffet 5:30 PM** Bernstein Theatre at Shakespeare and Co, Lenox (including, dessert, soda, wine, and beer ) **(\$20 payable in advance)**

## Saturday, October 14, 2023 - (# attending in the blanks):

- \_\_\_\_\_ **9:30 AM – 11:30 AM; Business Meeting, Bernstein Theatre**  
**11:45 – 11:55 – Lenox School Flag Raising Ceremony**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **12 Noon; Luncheon: Bernstein Theatre - \$17.00 each includes beverages, payable in advance.**  
**2:45 – 4:45PM; Tour of Campus,** courtesy of S&Co.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **5:00 PM; Hymn Sing:** Trinity Church. Anita Stuart will be the organist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 – 6:30 PM Cocktail Reception** (drinks included in meal cost) **followed by Buffet Dinner all at the Bernstein Theatre (\$40.00 per person, payable in advance) followed by Memorabilia Auction!**
- Subtotal from above (Fri night buffet, Sat Luncheon, Sat Dinner) A. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**LSAA Annual Dues** (2023 - 2024) B. **\$30**  
**Donation** (tax deductible) C. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Enclosed** (Payable to "LSAA" = A + B + C): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name and Class: (Family member/guest names, if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this reservation form with check before October 1, 2023 to:

**Bob Sansone ('68)**  
**156 North Shore Road**  
**Voluntown, CT 06384**

**or, if you have questions, call Bob at:**  
**(860) 916 -1467 (cell)**  
**E-Mail: RJSENERGY@GMAIL.com**

***NOTE: You can now register and pay online (using a credit card). Otherwise, you can still do it the "old fashioned way" by filling out this form and sending it and a check to Bob. To register online, click this link or copy and paste it into your browser:***

**<https://lenoxschool.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/12628>**

# The Men and Scroll



**Mr. LaPointe - The Earth Trembled And Quaked...  
And We Won Because Of It - 1965**



**Mr. LaPointe Loads Lacrosse Team into School Bus  
En Route To Another Victory - 1963**



**Mr. Putnam Fells Trees With A Hand Saw  
As He Helps Build The Land Rink -1965**



**First Formers Look Pretty Young - 1959**



**Building Wall In Mexico,  
2nd Summer Outward Thrust Trip - 1963**



**Andy Tanaka, Japan  
Studying Or Pursuing Other Interests - 1967**



Nol Works



Nol Grinds



Nol's Doors



Nol's Candlesticks

## Trivia Answers To May 2023 Edition

1.e. The following were true about Chapel Services in the school's last two years: two Chapel Services per week instead of four; services were no longer held at Trinity Church; one service speaker was from the school and one service speaker was from outside the school; and speakers included clergy, non-clergy, and students.

2.f. The following were true, at some point in the School's existence, about Holy Communion Services available to students and faculty: they were daily

voluntary early morning services; they were a weekly voluntary morning service; they were periodically offered at Trinity Church's 11:00 a.m. service; they were a Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. service [choice between it and a 5:30 p.m. Sunday Vespers service]; and they were a weekly voluntary Wednesday evening service.

3.d. The following were true at some point in the School's existence about attendance at the required Sunday or Weekly Worship Service: everyone attended the main Episcopal Service at Trinity Church; everyone attended a weekly service at a Church [Trinity Church for Protestants, St. Ann's Catholic Church for Catholics], Temple, or Mosque [??] of their faith; and everyone attended either the Holy Communion service at 9:30 a.m. at St. Martin's Chapel or the 5:30 p.m. Vespers service at the Thayer Hall Former Dining Room.

4.e. The following were locations at which Chapel Services, Holy Communion, or Weekly Worship Services were held: the Main Entrance Hallway of Griswold Hall; the St. Martin's Chapel in Thayer Hall; Trinity Church; and Thayer Hall's Former Dining Room.

5.g. These factors caused the various changes in the types of required and voluntary Worship Services and their frequency: student and Faculty desires expressed to headmasters during open forums and a Chapel Committee; a desire to increase students' discretionary time, particularly on Sundays; the increasing religious diversity of the student body; significant changes in the number of students enrolled; a reduced number of ordained clergy with pastoral duties among the faculty; and the ministry style and desires of the headmaster.

*~ Randy Harris*

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**Don Foster**  
**5 Tinkham Lane**  
**Lakeville, MA 02347**