

POTOMAC

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Portrait of a Century
1904-2004

Features

- 6 | A Sense of Time: The First 50 Years
by Nora Mancha, past faculty (1978-2002)
- 26 | Potomac Timeline: The Second 50 Years
- 33 | Founding of *The Potomac Term*
by Worth MacMurray '69
- 36 | Nature Trail Evolution
by Peter Munroe, past faculty (1969-2001)



Centennial Takes Flight

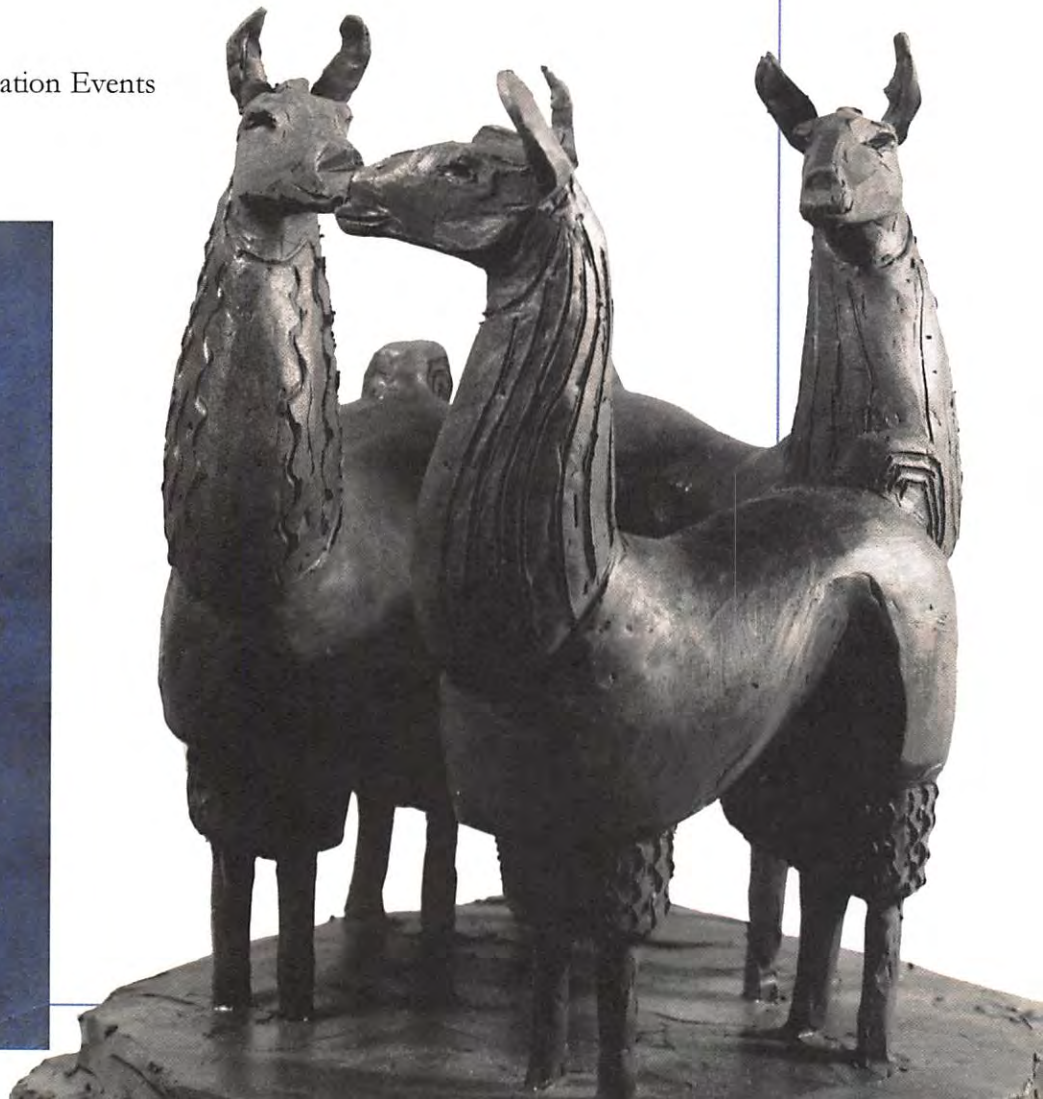
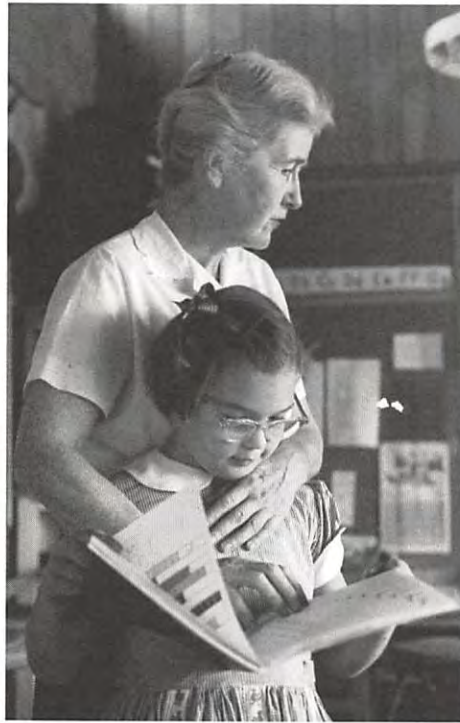
Potomac's Centennial kicked off at the 2004 Commencement with 100 white doves released during the playing of the Centennial Fanfare for the Class of 2004 composed by faculty member Jerry Rich.

- 51 | A New Campus Master Plan
by Junior Bridge
- 52 | Where did the logo come from?
by Peggy Shumaker Nalle '40
- 53 | Who made the Llamas?
by Junior Bridge and Jane McAllister '70
- 54 | Transportation Transformation
by Tom Macy '67
- 56 | Identity & School Spirit
by Lindsay Holdsworth Aquino '65



Departments

- 5 | Message From the Head of School
- 58 | Message From the Alumni Association President
- 60 | Alumni Events: Reunion 2004
- 67 | Alumni Events: Rhode Island Reception
- 68 | Alumni Events: Parents of Alumni Reunion
- 70 | Alumni Class Notes and News
- 94 | In Memoriam
- 96 | Potomac News
- 98 | Calendar of Centennial Celebration Events
- 99 | From the Archives



POTOMAC *Term*

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Dear Alumni:

One of the founding elements of The Potomac School's educational program was to have fun while learning. This year there will be some extra fun. Celebration plans for our 100th anniversary include many special events for students, families, alumni, and guests. At our June commencement ceremony, the release of white doves into the beautiful summer sky began our celebration and symbolized our journey into the future.



As our Centennial takes flight, we reflect on our beginnings. The basic educational tenets – creativity, character, and community – introduced by our founders remain a strong part of our program today. Creativity results from a love of learning and academic rigor. It is the unique synthesis of lessons learned that each student develops for him or herself. Character is found in the deep ethical sense nurtured in pupils through exposure to and involvement in a rich diversity of programs, people, and ideas. Students at Potomac are encouraged to not only value community, but to build community. In that building, the world becomes a more just, humane home for everyone.

Our educational vision guides our program evaluations and changes, as well as the design and expansion of our physical plant. Our strategic plan is the backbone of our continual efforts to renew, to become better, to meet our objectives to maintain the highest standards and to plan for the future. The master plan for the renovation of our school and administrative space reflects the input of school officials, parents, and alumni. Both plans are dynamic to meet our educational goals.

In this issue of the *Term*, you will find many interesting features. These include stories about our history, our traditions, our programs, and a listing of Centennial events. The joy and success of this year-long celebration would not be possible without the countless hours of volunteer time generously donated by alumni, parents, and others of the Potomac community. To them, we say THANK YOU.

Gather your recollections of the past and your wishes for the future. Join in the fun as we celebrate 100 years of learning, and look forward to the next century of educational commitment and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Geoffrey Jones, Head of School





Centennial Takes Flight: The First 50 Years

A Sense of Time

by Nora Mancha, past faculty (1978-2002)

Potomac School in Washington, DC

At the end of the 19th century and well into the 1900s many of Washington's oldest families lived in elegant, understated brownstones surrounding Lafayette Park and the neighborhoods nearby. These were the Washington residents who traced their family roots to colonial times and whose younger generations continued to hold prominent positions in government and in the professional life of the city. Edith Draper Blair, Hetty Fairfax Harrison, and Ellen Warder Thoron, the founders of Potomac School, belonged to three of those establishment families. While the three women moved with ease in the social life of old Washington, they shared a serious interest in happenings beyond it.

Well-educated themselves, they were in search of the most promising among new methods for teaching young children.

Interest in early childhood education had emerged in the United States as a by-product of changes in the workplace. Beginning in the 1880s, the promise of the Industrial Revolution had drawn thousands of women into factory work, and the number of young children left unattended alarmed social workers across the country. The plight of these children had, in turn, sparked national interest in the work of John Dewey and Maria Montessori who in the 1900s were separately developing and testing teaching models applicable to kindergarten and primary schools. In 1837 German educator Friedrich Froebel had opened the first kindergarten or "children's garden" to model a childhood education that would begin much earlier than was cus-



tomary in Europe and would focus primarily on children's ability to learn through play. The "kindergarten movement," initially took hold in America as a solution for the neglected children of the poor, but its fundamental principles attracted educators at every economic level. Before the decade ended, the pedagogical tenets of Dewey and Montessori, while not identical, had been lumped together under the banner of "progressive education" and both methods were being enthusiastically embraced in public and private schools in every part of the country. A successful progressive education was intended to build upon the natural interest of children in exploring everything around them. It emphasized discovery both in the classroom and out of doors, setting daily life experiences above traditional dependence on class recitation and rote drill. Art, music, and playtime were advocated as essential elements in learning rather than unwelcome breaks in classroom routine. Most importantly, a progressive program sought to create a social community by reminding children of their responsibility as members of a group.

At the turn of the century, Edith Blair and her husband, William Montgomery Blair moved their growing family from Blair House on Lafayette Square to their country property, Falkland, in Silver Spring, Maryland. At the Falkland house, Mrs. Blair began teaching the oldest four of her children in a small nursery setting. Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Thoron traveled to New York to observe kindergarten and primary classes at the Chapin and the Horace

Mann Schools, both successful in their adoption of educational practices advocated by John Dewey. The young women hoped to introduce those same practices in a new school they would open for their children and the children of friends.

In 1904, probably in the spring or early summer, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Thoron rented two floors of a building at 6 Dupont Circle where they intended to open The Potomac School. At first the school would offer one section each of kindergarten, transition, and primary levels. Recognizing the need for well-known educators to support the endeavor, the founders asked Harriet Niel, director of Washington's Phebe Hearst Kindergarten College, and Virgil Hillyer, head of the Calvert School in Baltimore, to oversee the development of the curriculum and



Students play volleyball in 1911-1912 at 18th & M Streets.

1904-1906

FOUNDING OF
SCHOOL

1904

Edith Blair, Hetty Harrison (Mrs. Fairfax Harrison), and Ellen Warder Thoron (Mrs. Ward Thoron, who became Mrs. Henry Leonard at 6 Dupont Circle. School opened on October 17 with 47 pupils listed in the catalog in grades 1 & 2.



the hiring of the first faculty. A four-page leaflet announcing the school's opening clearly stated its philosophy: "The Potomac School has been organized to meet a demand for a school in Washington in which modern educational methods shall be devoted to young children. The course of study in all the classes will be broad, the methods of teaching modern and progressive, but special attention will be given to thoroughness in the three fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic. Great care is being given to the selection of a house in perfect sanitary condition, with large, airy rooms and a sunny playground, also near a park where the children can go to play accompanied by a teacher."

The area around Dupont Circle was already one of Washington's most fashionable neighborhoods when the founders chose it for their school. The play space promised in the school's brochure was Dupont Circle itself, which the children reached by crossing the trolley tracks surrounding it. The circle's name had been changed from Pacific Circle to Dupont Circle in the 1880s when Delaware's DuPont family commissioned a statue there in honor of their Civil War relative Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont. In the years following the Civil War, an interesting mix of newly rich mine owners and wealthy businessmen moved to the area, razed existing houses along streets converging on the circle, and replaced them with astoundingly large and opulent mansions. In the view of old-money Washington, all the worst fea-

tures of lately acquired prosperity were embodied in one of the newcomers, immigrant Irishman Thomas Walsh. In 1902 Walsh, having discovered gold in Colorado, settled his family in a 60 room house at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, just off the circle. Walsh's daughter Evalyn alternately horrified and fascinated Washington society with her gaudy display of wealth. Through a combination of funds and audacity, Evalyn managed to achieve the status of Washington debutante. In 1908 she eloped with Washington Post heir Ned McLean. The line separating the city's old and new money began to give way



Harriet Peckham McLean, Ellen Bruce Lee, Katharine Hall and Helen Griffin (with ball) attend 7th grade, the highest grade at Potomac at the time.

Kindergarten, third year, fourth year were added



1906-1916

18TH & M STREETS

1906

The School moved to 1200 18th Street (18th and M St.). A fifth year was added for girls.



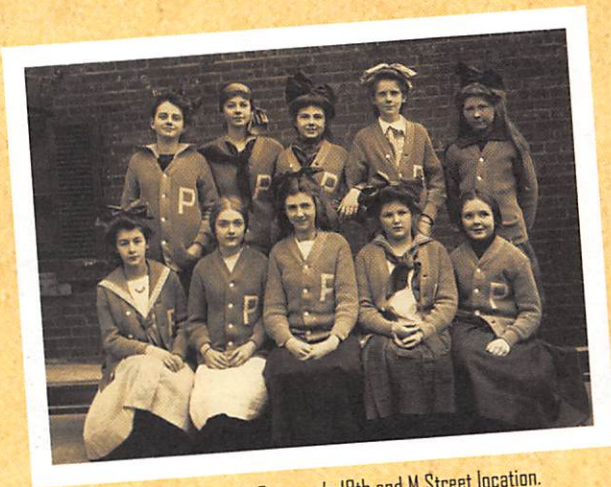
1905



slightly when some of Evalyn's worst critics overcame their disdain and accepted invitations to the couple's Sunday brunches. Up to 200 guests who would never be seen together elsewhere in Washington, regularly mingled on the McLean's front porch to enjoy a lavish meal and entertainment by a full orchestra.

It was to this lively neighborhood that The Potomac School's three teachers welcomed 47 students on October 17, 1904. The slim brochure describing the school was as explicit about its intended enrollment as its philosophy: "The School will be purely elementary and is intended for boys and girls between the ages of four and twelve. By natural progression a higher grade will be added each year, until the full number is reached with twelve-year children, who will then be considered prepared for advanced work elsewhere." The school

year was to finish for the summer at the end of the third week in May. Classes met from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with some variation depending on the age of the children. Tuition was set at \$80 in the kindergarten and rose to \$150 for the second section of the primary class. Summer rent for the building was paid through the establishment of "Subscribers to the Guaranty Fund," a group of 11 women who, together with the founders, covered costs whenever school was not in session. The length of the school year was dictated by Washington's unbearable summer weather. Any family that could leave the city chose to do so before the heat took hold. In 1904, Dupont Circle marked the upper edge of a city rapidly increasing in population, dirt, and noise. Beyond the city limits, to the north, lay the open fields and summer houses in Silver Spring. Across the Potomac River and a wagon or automobile ride to the west were the dusty crossroads of McLean, Virginia, where clusters of cottages overlooking the River offered the promise of relief from the heat.

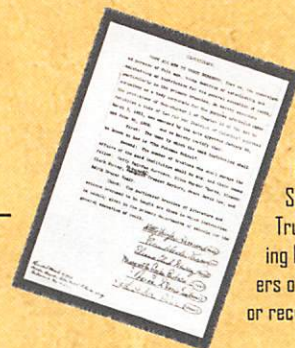


A group of students outside Potomac's 18th and M Street location.

Just two years after its founding and with enrollment growing, the school began a search for larger space. In 1906 preparations began to move to a building just south of the circle at 1200 18th Street at the corner of 18th and M Streets. Perhaps the founders had heard that a school for girls older than those at Potomac was about to open just around the corner at 1326 and 1328 19th Street. An advertisement in the Evening Star on August 19, 1906,

1906-1916
18TH & M STREETS

1907



On March 19 the School was incorporated in the District as "The Potomac School" under a Board of Trustees, a self-perpetuating body consisting of mothers of children in the School or recently graduated.

carried an ad for the new school describing it as, "A select Home and Day School for a limited number of girls." An accompanying article noted that Miss Lucy Madeira, who was to head the new school, intended to "make preparation for college its chief business. In doing this, the endeavor will be to keep the number of instructors so large in proportion to the number of pupils that each pupil may be handled as an individual and not as one of a class." Miss Madeira, educated at Vassar College, had taught at Sidwell Friends School for nine years before leaving to start her own school. Enrollment had been precariously slow at the outset, but increased as fall approached. In October of 1906 "Miss Madeira's School" opened with 13 boarding and 15 day students.

Whatever the reason for it, Potomac's choice of the 18th Street location proved to be of benefit to both Potomac and to Madeira. The strong beginning on Dupont Circle with the youngest children, and the prospect of adding grades in successive years, led The Potomac School founders to consider the placement of the students beyond the elementary level. A casual working arrangement was already easing the transfer of the boys who would leave Potomac to enter fourth grade at a local public school or at the

all-boys', St. Albans School. The opening of Miss Madeira's School around the corner from Potomac's new location suggested that a seamless transition to the upper grades might now be possible for the girls as well. Miss Madeira, in turn, could not have forgotten the first uncertain months when she had taken out ads in the paper to attract students. Now almost every girl at Potomac could be counted on as a future student at "Miss Madeira's School."

An even more fortuitous arrangement emerged from steps taken by Potomac's founders in 1907 to legally incorporate the school in the District of Columbia. The appointment of an experienced teacher as its



May Day festival in Mrs. Kent's garden at 1925 F Street in 1915.

1908

Lucy Madeira, who had founded Miss Madeira's School in 1906, became the first professional head of Potomac through 1910 and chairman of the Board.



1910

Kate May Estey served as head mistress from 1910 until 1920.

1912

Eighth grade was added for girls, many of whom attended Madeira after graduating from Potomac.





head would be a mark of the School's stability and seriousness of purpose. With this in mind, the founders asked Miss Madeira if she would accept the position of Potomac principal. Though her own school was scarcely underway, Miss Madeira accepted the appointment and undertook direction of both schools beginning in the 1908 academic year. Handling duties in two schools undoubtedly involved a complex scheduling of her time. The careful limits set for meeting with Potomac parents only hints at the challenge: "Miss Madeira may be seen daily, except Saturday, at the School from 11:30 to 12:30 [and] on Saturdays at 1326 19th Street, from 10:00 to 12:00."

As principal of Potomac, Miss Madeira brought to the task her extraordinary gifts as a teacher and her strong belief in the learning potential of each student. She fostered teamwork and discouraged any competition in which rewards were won at the price of another's failure. At Madeira there were to be no honor rolls. Each student was urged, instead, to better her last best effort. This was a belief that Miss Madeira would have felt even more important for the very young students at Potomac. Not surprisingly, her concurrent leadership positions at Potomac and Madeira created in both schools a similar approach to education. Her pedagogy so closely matched the aspirations of the Potomac founders that the transition of girls from one school to the other was natural, easy, and proved to be long-lived.

It was almost certainly a measure of the success and growing demands of administering her own school that ended Miss Madeira's leadership at Potomac. In her place, Kate May Estey, who had been teaching at Potomac since 1904 and who served as Miss Madeira's assistant for a two-year period, assumed the position of principal in the fall of 1910. Her successful headship, which continued from 1910 to 1920,



Voices of America Pageant on May 13, 1919.

1906-1916
18TH & M STREETS

1914

The School celebrated its Tenth Anniversary and published *Potomac School: Ten Years*, a report by Kate M. Estey, principal.

1916

The School purchased and moved to 2144 California Street.

covered one of the most tumultuous decades in American history.

The early energy and promise of Theodore Roosevelt's 1904 election had faded by 1908, and the election that year produced the lackluster presidency of William Howard Taft. Four years later, one faction of a badly divided Republican Party supported Taft's reelection; the other backed Theodore Roosevelt's effort to regain the presidency as the candidate of his own Bull Moose Party. The result of the 1912 election was a victory for Democrat Woodrow Wilson. He was elected on a platform that promised progressive reform, but throughout his entire time in office he struggled to enunciate domestic and foreign policies that were both true to his idealistic concept of good government and, at the same time, acceptable to supporters. Under constant pressure to enter a World War underway in Europe since 1914, Wilson resisted until 1917. Then, in a surprisingly determined reversal of direction, committed the country to join the war. Growing unrest marked the rest of Wilson's presidency. Widespread and violent labor strikes and increasing fear of perceived radicals and terrorists complicated civilian life. In 1920, Warren Harding, the Republican nominee, won the presidency

with a campaign promise of a "return to normalcy."

The tenure of Miss Estey as head of school included a move from 18th Street in search of space for more students. A property at 2144 California Street was purchased in the spring of 1916 at a cost of \$29,500. Support in financing the building was again sought from the group of women who had underwritten the expenses on Dupont Circle. While most of the original "guarantors" responded with gifts or loans, this time Mrs. Thoron's name was missing from the list.



An early group photo at The Potomac School.

Evelina Pierce became head of school and served through 1927.

1920



The California Street house was expanded with the construction of a gym/assembly room and a large kindergarten room upstairs. The roof of the addition, built for play space, was called Florence Court.

1922



Several years before the school negotiated its move to California Street, Ellen Thoron had divorced Ward Thoron and moved to Colorado with her three children. She later remarried and with her husband, Henry Leonard, resettled in Washington. Although ties to the school she founded had grown somewhat tenuous, Mrs. Leonard always retained an affectionate interest in its development. She was the only surviving founder alive at the 50th anniversary of the school and on that occasion spoke warmly of the early days: "As I looked at the Potomac School a few days ago I felt I was looking at the growth of a grain of mustard seed. Fifty years ago the school was almost as small as that and to start it was certainly an act of faith. I don't remember now whether the founding of the School was a whirlwind campaign of a few weeks or something that took months of planning. I do remember trips to New York to interview teachers and to consult with Miss Maria Chapin, and going about among our friends in Washington asking them to contribute toward the equipping of a modern school such as we envisioned. As I look at the school today, I am still astonished that . . . young women of about 30 should have conceived an idea which has grown into this splendid vital school. . . ."

Many years later a faculty member would describe the school on California Street as "typical of the mid-Teddy Roosevelt style of architecture. The builder had captured very shrewdly the character of the man for whom he designed it: forthright, solid, four square, and no nonsense. It was an unlikely structure to house a school for

young children, especially a school which placed primary emphasis on the creativeness of childhood."

However "unlikely" the building may have seemed, it endeared itself to three decades of children and teachers. Over the years a series of additions to the original building prevented anything as ordinary as classrooms lining corridors. Instead, the awkward and oddly shaped classrooms that resulted from expansion efforts only added to its magic. The unusual double staircase leading to the gymnasium floor became, at Christmas time, the perfect perch for a chorus of angels. A tiresome climbing of the stairs on one side of the building, crossing over the upper floor, and descending the stairs on the far side was the only way to get from one part of the school to the other without interrupting gym classes. But even that trek, described simply as "up, over, and down," became part of the cherished mythology of the place.

School records from the period touched on public events when they directly affected the school's day to day operation. Before school was underway on California Street, the trustees met on October 6, 1916, to consider what they could do to protect the children during the country's first serious outbreak of infantile paralysis. They were particularly concerned about children who might be returning to school after vacationing in New York, where more than 9,000 cases of the disease had been reported. In some cities across the country, visitors from highly contagious areas were forcibly turned away by armed citizens. The

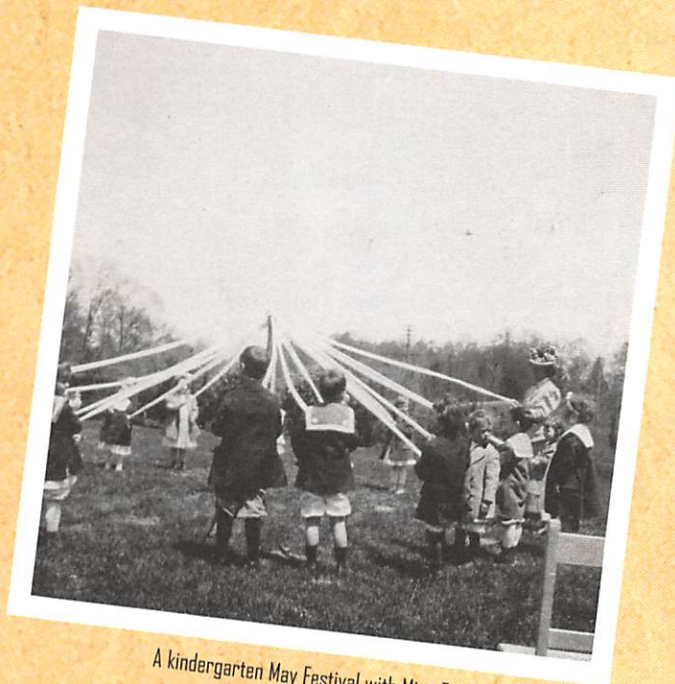
Charlotte Wiggin
became head of school,
serving through 1929.



City of Washington was pursuing less drastic means for controlling the disease, but its threat was no less frightening. The trustees decided at the meeting “to require that [Potomac] children entering Washington remain away from the morning session for two weeks and that everything possible be done to instruct these children at home.” At their next meeting the trustees lifted the quarantine, but determined to “use our discretion about receiving children from infected districts.” The threat of contagion subsided with the arrival of cooler weather, and later that month full classes were able to meet for the first time at the new site.

The Women’s Suffrage Movement also attracted the trustees’ attention. The movement, greatly strengthened since its first modest efforts in the 1880s, had become increasingly bold in agitating for women’s right to vote. Women picketing in front of the White House in support of the cause did so with the clear understanding that they would likely be arrested. If they refused to pay fines, they risked spending time in jail. Among the arrested protesters on at least one occasion was a Potomac trustee whose name does not appear in the board minutes but whose behavior caused considerable debate among her cohorts. Perhaps more outraged by the embarrassment of the arrest than unsympathetic to its cause, one shocked trustee sent a letter to the chairman of the board calling for the suffragette’s dismissal. After a period of unease about how best to deal with the situation, the chairman asked the letter writer to withdraw her complaint. In response, the writer herself resigned from the board; the marcher appears to have carried on both as a trustee and a protester.

A terrifying epidemic of influenza swept through countries around the world in 1918 and early 1919. Worldwide, 44 million people were estimated to have died. In the United States deaths from the flu reached 675,000 – killing more Americans in a few months than were lost to battle during the war years. The death toll was devastatingly high among 20 and 30 year olds, but for reasons never understood, lower among older adults and very young children. In Washington, the first flu cases appeared in late



A kindergarten May Festival with Miss Estey, Head of School.

A third floor (replacing Florence Court) was built over the California Street gym to house an art room and eighth-grade classroom also used as a science room.

1928

1929

The School purchased and renovated the adjoining building, 2156 California Street which had to be extensively remodeled for school use. Dorothea Stillman became head of school serving through 1938.

1930

The School rented a building across the street from 2149 California Street, to house the planned addition of a “high school” of grades 9 and 10.



Tom Lee (left) shoots an arrow alongside Jo Stoddard during a performance of "Robin Hood's Men" in Kent's garden.

September 1918. Through October severe measures put in place to curb the epidemic included the closing of schools, government offices, libraries, and playgrounds. Public gatherings of any kind were strictly forbidden. At the beginning of November and for the rest of the year, the number of new cases declined slightly only to rise again in the early months of 1919. The relatively few deaths reported among children across the country and the small enrollment of the School may account for the fact that only brief references to the epidemic appeared in Potomac's board minutes. Among routine mention of mumps, measles, and scarlet fever were two sentences noting that one child was home with the flu, and another had returned to class.

The firm and steady leadership of Miss Estey throughout the decade allowed the school to mature and prosper. In 1921 when she resigned her position as principal of the school, the trustees asked Miss Estey to remain as a member of the board, an unusual move and a mark of the board's respect for her personal and administrative abilities. Following her death in 1928, the trustees established an assistance fund for teachers in her name and installed a memorial plaque at the school. It reads:

Kate May Estey, teacher and principal, 1904-1920. Gifted with vision judgement and patience, she moulded the school from its beginnings and through her character and devotion brought to the children larger life and happiness.

Evalina Pierce took over headship of the school in the fall

1919-1951
CALIFORNIA STREET

1931

Grade 9 for girls was added, with grade 10 to follow the next year.

1934

Grades 9 and 10 were dropped, returning the classes to boys through fourth, girls through eighth.

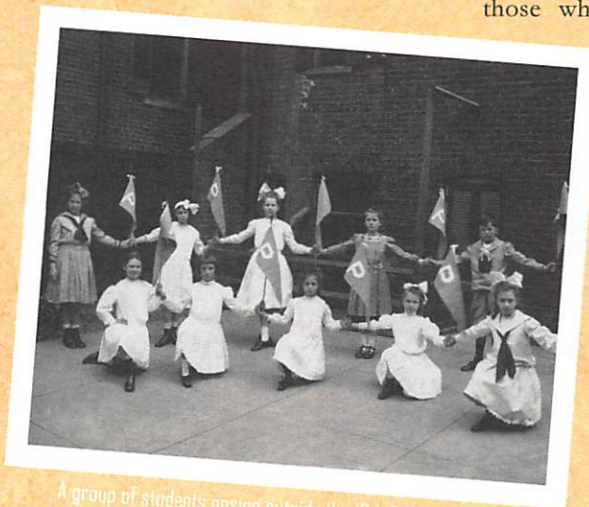
of 1920 and served in that position until the close of school in 1927. She oversaw an expansion of the California Street building with the addition of a kindergarten room, a gym/assembly room, and the enlargement of the playground area. By coincidence, her appointment as head of the school began at the outset of the Harding administration with its promise to return the country to "normalcy." In response to a more conservative political trend, the word "progressive" disappeared from much popular writing, and the once enthusiastic pursuit of progressivism lost much of its appeal. In education John Dewey's methodology, whether as a result of mishandling by its practitioners or misinterpretation of its tenets, came under increased criticism.

Katherine Graham, in her autobiography *Personal History*, gave a description of her childhood school experiences in 1920's Washington, first in a Montessori school and later at Potomac. A sharp comparison is drawn between the two schools:

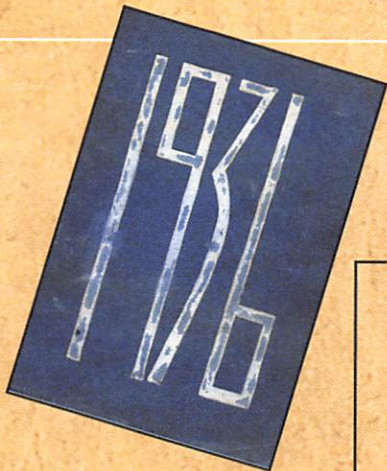
"I began my education in a Montessori school, where we were encouraged to pursue our own interests at our own rate—in other words, to do the things we liked most to do whenever we wanted to. At the age of 8, I entered the fourth grade at The Potomac School, only two blocks from our house. Potomac was a private conventional grammar school, and so I went from a free-form, permissive society to a completely structured school where the desks were in rows, the school day

was programmed, there was homework."

The school described by Mrs. Graham as "conventional" and "completely structured" may have been so only in contrast to the school she had left. It is possible, on the other hand, that Dewey's educational vision, so eagerly embraced at Potomac in 1904, was modified in the 1920s when much of progressive education was under attack. Potomac was undoubtedly attempting to avoid a criticism leveled at progressive schools when it took pains, in one of its publications from that period, to endorse the teaching methods adopted at the school's founding, then to add, as if in afterthought, "the school, however, is not experimental." In 1932, in reply to ongoing controversy surrounding progressive teaching methods, Miss Madeira offered a perspective on John Dewey's work: "Even at the present day, those who



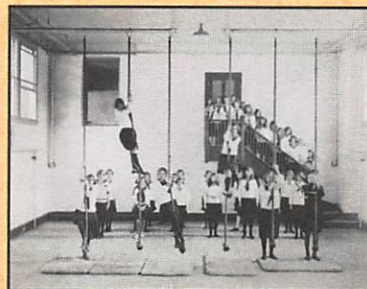
A group of students posing outside the 18th Street school building.



The School celebrated its 30th anniversary and published *The Potomac School: Thirty Years, 1904-1934*.

1938

Carol Preston became head of school through 1961.





are inclined to look upon progressive education with some . . . distrust cannot fail to realize that it is a movement of very great value to educational processes in general, and that it is a most significant phase in the development of educational ideals and methods.”

Following the resignation of Miss Pierce in the spring of 1927, Charlotte Wiggin was named principal. Her unhappy two-year tenure at the school was marked by recurring conflicts with the board of trustees who found her personal manner abrupt and her resistance to accepting advice unsettling. Particularly troubling was Miss Wiggin’s reaction to board inquiries about school finances. Confronted with questions about her spending, Miss Wiggin made the probably fatal error of suggesting that if the trustee chairing the finance committee were replaced, all problems would go away. No amount of discussion and intervention by one or another of the board members seemed to end the dissension. Eventually, the faculty was drawn into the fray in a quarrel over salaries. In the spring of 1929, Miss Wiggin was dismissed. Her replacement was Dorothea Stillman who filled the position of principal for the next nine years.

In a report dated January 6, 1932, the

finance committee produced a detailed retrospective of the school’s financial condition reaching back to 1916. Quite pointedly, no mention was made of Miss Wiggin. “The school, of course, has been successful through having had Miss Estey, Miss Pierce, and Miss Stillman as principals, all women who have carefully watched the expenditures and who have used the income from the school to increase salaries in preference to spending it for non-essential equipment.” Dorothea Stillman was a graduate of Vassar College and Columbia University graduate school. Her work at Potomac began in early October 1929, just days before the stock market crash, and her nine-year term at Potomac covers one of the most difficult financial periods in the school’s history.



Students working in Miss Follin’s kindergarten class on California Street.

1919-1951
CALIFORNIA STREET

1939

Ninth grade was re-introduced for girls.



Miss Madeira's decision in 1929 to move her school from Washington to 400 acres of land in rural Virginia created a problem for the Potomac girls who in the future would need to travel long distances to attend Miss Madeira's School. Signs of the coming Depression did nothing to shake Miss Madeira's legendary determination, and at the beginning of the academic year in October 1931, classes met for the first time at The Madeira School on the new campus in Virginia.

Discussion about extending Potomac School to include ninth and tenth-grade girls had begun in 1929 as soon as Miss Madeira announced her intention to move her school. In the spring of 1931, the Potomac trustees, together with Miss Stillman, considered several possibilities for gaining enough space for the additional classes. Next door to the original building at 2144 California Street, the school had earlier purchased for \$10,000 the house at 2156. Purchase of the next adjacent house, at 2158, would keep the school as a single unit on one side of the street, but the sale price of \$18,000 was judged "exor-

bitant" by one trustee who described it as "a holdup by a woman who realized that our need constituted her opportunity." Finally, and with the thought in mind that the high school was to be an experiment, the board of trustees rented a building across the street at 2149 California Street and prepared to offer ninth and tenth-grade classes there in the fall of 1931. The trustees held an option to purchase the rented building if the high school should succeed.

In their financial report of early January 1932, the trustees

History of the Potomac Pin

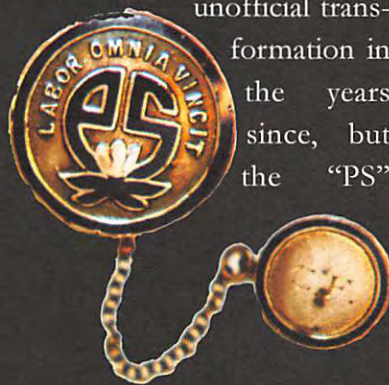
Minutes of a February Board meeting state that a school pin was approved by trustees in February, 1940; the only pin in the Potomac School Archives is one given by Clare Fahnestock Moorhead '42 (bearing the initials CF, from 1942). Clare believes that she and her sister, Lee Fahnestock Leggett '43, designed the emblem for the pin. The logo has undergone official and unofficial trans-

formation in the years since, but the "PS"

remains. What originally looked like a water lily at the base of the "PS" is today shaped like a fleur-de-lis. The song of the Class of 1940 ("Hark, the sound of voices ringing"), with words by Peggy Shumaker Nalle '40 and classmates Cornelia Claiborne, Mira Noyes Boorman, and Lanier Dunn Poland set to the music of the Welsh "Men of Harlech," became the School Alma Mater.

The graduating class was small, as many girls left after eighth grade in 1939 instead of staying on with the reintroduced ninth grade.

In January the Board of Trustees approved the motto "Labor Omnia Vincit," which "upper school" students had selected (by vote) among several proposals by students; Helen Chapin Metz '42 believes she found the winning motto from a book of state mottoes.



1940

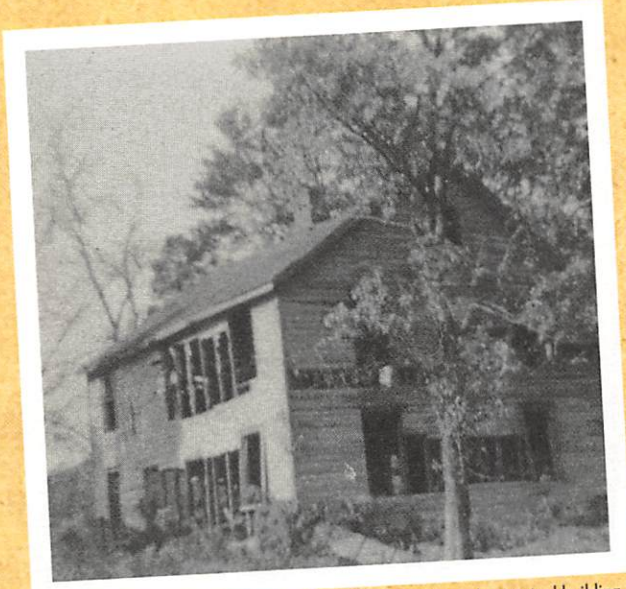


Image from the 1949 Potomac School Yearbook depicting the original building on the McLean property.

continued to express confidence in the school's financial position and suggested that purchase of property on Phelps Place should be pursued if it were to come on the market. Considering the slippage in the country's economic state, the closing sentence of the report could be construed either as "whistling in the dark" or as a calculated effort to maintain morale in the school community: "We believe that if the policy of the past is continued, if salary increases and expenditures are only made as income justifies, and if a net profit of \$3,000 is invested, the financial security of the school is assured."

It fell to Miss Stillman to guide the school through the next five years of disappointing news. Beginning as early as the fall of 1932, school enrollment fell, and the shortfall in income was made up from the profits that only months earlier were being considered as the means of purchasing new property. The high school, in operation for only two years, was struggling. The trustees continued to support it until the end of the 1932-33 academic year, and then the experiment was reluctantly abandoned. Teachers' salaries were reduced by 10 percent in a new, more "flexible" contract put into effect for the 1933-34 school year. The same flexible contract allowed salaries to be reduced by a further 10 percent in the contract offered for the following year, 1934-35.

Difficulties worsened all through that school year. Surplus funds in the school bank accounts had by then been depleted, and the board of trustees covered that year's initial deficit using funds from investments. Subsequent deficits were covered by "drastic reorganization" of the teaching staff, changes in personnel, and longer work hours. In the 1935-36 school year, partial tuition scholarships were offered so that at least some income would be realized by filling seats that otherwise would have been empty. Reflecting on the optimism of her predecessor who four years earlier wrote that the school expected to have a surplus of at least \$3,000 for investment, the trustee chairing the finance committee in 1936 remarked wistfully, "A net profit of at least \$3,000 a year seems to the present committee the height of affluence."

1919-1951
CALIFORNIA STREET

1945

With the physical plant overextended, the Board began to look for other property. The search lasted three years.

1946

By February, Potomac wanted to return to offering fourth grade for boys and consulted with St. Albans before announcing the plan.

Miss Stillman deserved the gratitude of the board for her ability throughout the years of her headship to make do with very little money. Although enrollment had dropped in most of the years she was at Potomac, she nevertheless held the school together and won the loyalty of the teachers and staff. Only once did the faculty grow so restive that they elected a colleague to go to a board meeting and inquire as to when, finally, a raise in salary would be forthcoming. Nothing seems to have come of this mild revolt, perhaps because workers in every occupation were experiencing the same hardship or possibly because Miss Stillman successfully counseled patience for a little longer.

Miss Stillman retired from Potomac at the end of the school year in 1938, and in the fall Carol Preston was named headmistress, a position she held until her retirement in 1961. Miss Preston graduated from Vassar College in 1919 and early in her career taught in New York City at the Birch Wathen School and The Woodward School. Later she moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to teach

at the Sandia School. Beyond her dedication to teaching, Miss Preston was active in the Red Cross and Girl Scout movements in New York, and it was her interest in scouting that first brought her into contact with Helen Seth-Smith, a scout leader already well known both in England and internationally. The two women quickly forged a friendship that would endure for the rest of their lives and would profoundly affect life at Potomac for the 23 years they served the school.

An early recommendation of Miss Preston as a candidate for the headship of Potomac came from Miss



A first grade artist painting outside during the spring of 1937.



1947

On March 12, the School purchased its first "real" bus, with a capacity of 30 children.





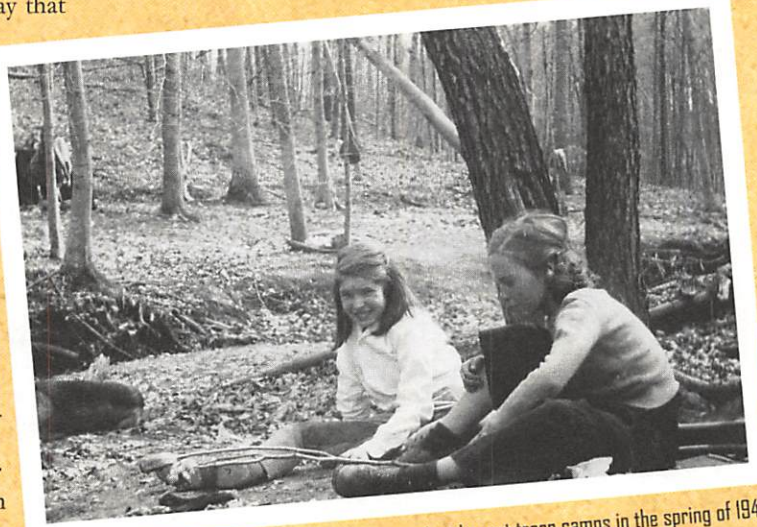
Madeira who had known Miss Preston as a Madeira student and graduate of the class of 1915. This was powerful support indeed, and in the summer of 1938 one of the Potomac trustees phoned Albuquerque to ask Miss Preston to visit the school. Miss Preston had a conversation with Miss Madeira and was interviewed for the position as head of school by the chairman of the board and by Mrs. Blair who was still active in school life at Potomac. Miss Preston was offered the position as head of school during that visit to Washington.

Nothing should have been more comforting to the Potomac trustees than to hire as head of school a leader who had been a student of Miss Madeira. This was a tie to the beginning of Potomac's own history. Here was someone who would appreciate the school in a way that no other head of school since Miss Estey could possibly have done, for both of them – Miss Preston and Miss Estey – had experienced, in different ways, Miss Madeira's strong influence as an educator.

Miss Preston never lost the confidence placed in her by the trustees. As no other of her predecessors, she took command of the school with such a sure and steady hand that at last the board felt free to adopt a position of oversight rather than one of near-daily participation in decision-making. Nonetheless, in the beginning she had good reason

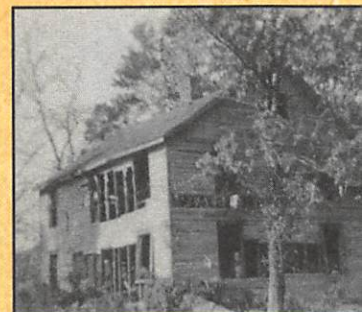
to remind herself of Miss Madeira's injunction that one must learn to "function in disaster." The Depression was not over, enrollment was down to 130 students, and repairs at the school had been neglected for most of the previous decade. Miss Preston called on Helen Seth-Smith to help her. She started as head of the House Department and went on to become assistant head of school. In later years both looked back fondly on their first difficult days: "What a challenge! One well worth taking we thought, for in terms of people, principles and ideas, the school was superior. So we rolled up our sleeves and plunged in."

Miss Preston and Miss Seth-Smith brought different but complementary gifts to the school. Miss



A girl scout troop camps in the spring of 1940.

The School purchased 55.069 acres from Ward T. Kirby in McLean, Virginia, for \$42,506.96. The only building was one that existed on the property.



Preston would have chosen if she could to spend all of her time with the children, but in her role as a school head she revealed a new set of strengths. She built a strong faculty, daring to look beyond the ranks of trained teachers to lure gifted artists and musicians to the school. Her respect for every kind of intellectual pursuit sparked the curiosity of the students and encouraged them toward higher standards in their work. She taught history and English classes, was passionate about great literature, and inspired her students to love it, too. She directed plays, introduced the children to country dancing, and carried on the school traditions surrounding May Day and Christmas while enlivening them with new forms of celebration. Though she occasionally corrected with a severity not apt to be forgotten by the recipient, she much preferred persuasion. In conversations with parents and teachers about the right way to educate children, her light touch took nothing from the clarity of her message. "The group must be small enough for the teacher and child to engage in that intimate and human relationship known as teaching and learning, for education by definition can only be an individual matter. If we think of education in terms of mass production, the children may go through schoolroom after schoolroom for year after year and like a small boy going through the bathtub, come out quite unaffected."

Miss Seth-Smith chose the outdoors as her classroom. Her skills as a scout leader were passed on to the upper school girls who learned how to set up a camp for overnight

stays, pitch a tent, and stalk potential prey (mostly one another.) The nickname "Stalkie" came to replace "Miss Seth," at least among the girls themselves. Establishing of a sense of community within the school had been important from the early foundation days; Miss Seth-Smith's scouting program enlarged on that tradition by preparing the girls to serve the community beyond school walls. After the war she led several groups of scouts on trips to England where they offered service wherever they could. She handled a mind-boggling list of tasks within the school as well. She supervised maintenance of a building in almost constant need of repair. She took care of the ordering of all supplies including the food served to the faculty and to the growing number of students who stayed at school for lunch. She worked with contractors when space had to be divided and divided again as enrollment picked up. Most important, she was always available for any child, teacher or parent who sought her out, perhaps for a gentle word of advice or merely a moment's respite in her small office.

While events of the war in Europe filled newspapers in the United States beginning in 1939, life at home had, so far, remained untouched. Support for the allies included shipments of food and munitions, but Americans remained deeply divided on the question of sending troops abroad. Nothing prepared the average citizen for

1949

In the summer, Miss Seth-Smith took Senior Girl Scouts to England; other scouting trips were in 1949, 1953, and 1955.



Mrs. Avery Coonley gave funds for the first building to be constructed, a scout house, or Field House, in Miss Seth-Smith's name.





the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese or the immediate declaration of war on Japan and Germany that followed. Suddenly, the City of Washington was transformed by the arrival of workers needed to carry on the business of waging full-scale war on two fronts. From 1941 to 1943, the number of government employees increased from 134,000 to 281,000. Temporary office buildings were put up on the National Mall, and private housing was almost impossible to find. In his book *Washington Goes to War*, David Brinkley described a changed city that “began to adjust to a new form of existence: more harried, more crowded, more contentious, faster, lonelier, bigger. And while some of the strains of wartime would subside when the fighting was over, the city would never again live by its old rules”

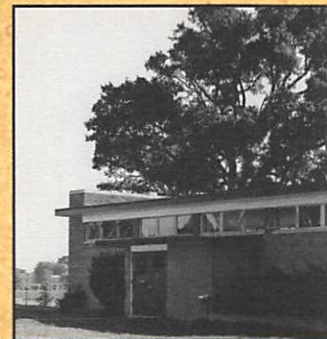
The Potomac School did not remain untouched! In “Memories of Potomac School,” a narrative written after her retirement, Miss Preston recalled the steady stream of parents who appeared in her office pleading that she make room in the school for their children. Her response to the need was typically energetic and accommodating: “We would accept as many children as possible without violating the principles of small classes. We knocked down partitions, we put up temporary walls, and we utilized cubbyholes.” The school was crowded from the beginning to the end of the War, and to the surprise of everyone, many of the civilian and military families that had arrived in 1941 showed no interest in returning home. Enrollment at the school remained high, the building had long since been

expanded to its limits, and deterioration became more and more obvious. Broken pipes led to flooding; the furnace stopped working altogether. Talk began about moving to a new site. The board’s finance chairman reported that the school was out of debt and had invested \$10,000, but cautioned that those savings would certainly not pay for a new school. Without quite knowing how they would purchase it, the board of trustees nevertheless in 1945 began to make the first discreet inquiries about property around Washington.

At the outset, no thought was given to leaving the city. Most of the students lived in northwest Washington, and the search for property quite naturally began there. Kalorama Park, Foxhall at 38th Street, Woodley, the Miller property at Westmoreland and Loughboro, each of those and many more were considered. Some of the sites lacked the desired space for playgrounds; a few had been recommended to the board as highly desirable, but were not on the market; others would have required too much alteration to serve as a school. The committee soon realized that any property that the school could afford in Washington was undesirable, and those that would work were too expensive. Over the next two years, the search extended into Maryland and, finally, in 1948, into Virginia.

One of the Potomac trustees, William Mackall, whose family had been among the earliest to settle in McLean, Virginia, suggested several McLean properties that the search committee might visit. One was the Ballantrac

Construction of the main building began in stages as a safeguard if money ran out. Emphasis was on affordability and simplicity, with rooms designed to have natural light; every classroom opened to the outdoors.



estate which offered, in addition to a lovely old stone house, a boundary on Chain Bridge Road, the major thoroughfare between Washington and McLean. Another possibility was the Kirby farm, a beautiful property of rolling hills and wide fields reaching down to Pimmit Run. The farm was set further back from Chain Bridge Road than was Ballantrae, but the acreage was less expensive. The board first considered purchasing only a modest parcel of the Kirby tract, then voted to make an offer for the entire 55 available acres. After consultation with Miss Preston and Miss Seth-Smith, the board opened negotiations with owner Ward Kirby and agreed to a price of \$42,500 for 55.069 acres.

The decision had its detractors. One of the board members resigned over what he considered a reckless undertaking that would not succeed. Some of the parents were not interested in sending their children on a long ride to McLean; others preferred that their children experience life in the city, rather than in a rural setting. The board was undaunted, and when the move to McLean was completed, only six of the enrolled families chose to stay in town, and two of those returned once the school was permanently settled.

A red brick field house built almost immediately after purchase of the property served as a meeting place for the scouts and as a changing room for the girls who were driven to and from McLean every day for sports. In the spring of 1951, grades seven, eight and nine moved into a still

unfinished wing of the building. Boards were laid at the entrance to classrooms so that the girls could avoid the worst of the mud and, to their amusement, the makeshift walkways around the construction site were placed so that the workmen's colorful language would be kept at a proper distance from the young ladies.

The rest of the school moved to the new site in the fall of 1951. Everyone reveled in the beauty and space offered in McLean, but leaving California Street with all its spirit and warmth and loved traditions was hard. Miss Preston turned to the trustees and teachers for help in easing the students' anxieties: "We made plans to hold the school together, to maintain our values and traditions while enjoying the flexibility, privacy and opportunity offered by the 'new school.'" The students were not alone in missing the familiar intimacy of the old ways. At the first faculty meeting held in the fall of 1951, Miss Preston again urged the teachers to look to the future by reassuring them that, "Nothing that matters has been left behind on California Street."

A new chapter in Potomac's history had begun.

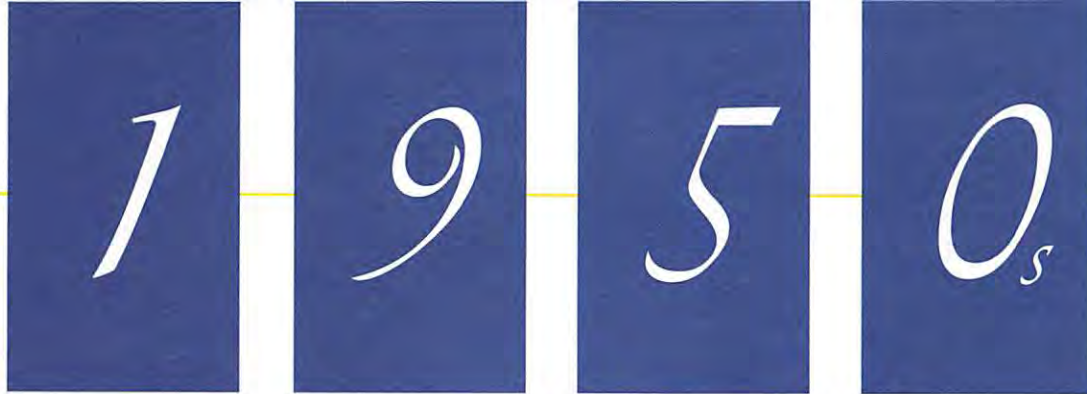
1951

In the spring, Mrs. Price moved out to the new Upper School wing with the Upper School girls. The first graduation on the McLean campus was that spring.





Miss Katherine Hubbard with a first grader in the 1950s.



Nothing that matters was left behind on California Street. —Carol Preston, 1951



Settling Into Virginia

In the fall of 1951, Potomac opened on the McLean campus, its new site of fifty-five acres of rolling hills, to begin its first full year there. Naturally, change brought some apprehensions. In her penciled notes, Miss Preston writes, “So now as we start this forty-seventh year of our old

school in its new setting, it is a good moment to assess our values and try to sort out those traditions that will help us to define the present.” Miss Preston saw opportunities “to use our capacity to play,” to teach in a “more relaxed, more imaginative” way, and “to know the outdoors.” New were the three divisions (now

including pre-K), increased responsibilities of the student government, and space-for sports, scouting, science studies, and free play. Classes continued to be small. Beloved traditions thrived. Miss Bond, a naturalist from England who came on a Fulbright Fellowship, was retained to set up a “course.” Dur Morton followed and over seven years developed a natural science curriculum and built the 10-acre nature trail with the help of hard-working students.

“[Potomac] is a school loved by the children and parents and devoted teachers, and a place for hard work and vigorous learning. That’s what gives it a special spirit. As the school has grown, we’ve tried to keep the same sense of values—a love of quality and a sense of tradition—as a springboard to change when change is needed.”—Carol Preston, 1961

1954 Potomac celebrated its 50th Anniversary.



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
1904 - 1954

1956 In January, Trustees and parents began to meet to discuss coeducation.

Coeducation at the End of the Decade

By the mid-1950s the demand for private schools had increased beyond the capacity to absorb it. Metropolitan Washington was one of the fastest growing areas in the country, and the steadily rising birthrate together with the general prosperity of the times resulted in an overwhelming demand for more private schooling. Potomac boys began to find it more difficult to be assured a place at St. Albans after completing third grade, and parents made repeated requests to Potomac to continue boys through ninth grade.

Enrollment of boys in Potomac's Lower School began to decline.

Formal discussions by the Trustees and parents on the subject of coeducation began in 1956. Potomac considered continuing girls through grade 12, but did not want to administer to the more complex needs of older children. The School also considered establishing a brother school but recognized it would not have the social and administrative advantages of a single, coeducational environment.

Most important, Potomac

trustees affirmed their belief in the value of coeducation. The committee studying plans for boys consulted administrators at St. Albans, and Miss Preston and Miss Seth-Smith visited the Shady Hill School in Cambridge and the Dalton School in New York, recognized as two outstanding coeducational schools. By the end of 1956 the Trustees resolved, "In the event we can find the financing and work out the necessary plans we will make the Potomac School completely co-educational."

"I came to Potomac from a coeducational school," Carol Preston recounts. "At first the classes seemed a little flat without the added stimulation of little boys. I have always liked the idea of boys and girls growing up in a natural way together – learning together – not only meeting each other in the formal con-

"Every so often, the School remembered to encourage us boys to learn more practical, masculine skills in classes like "woodshop" ... Mr. Gates would teach us the finer points of building tables and bookends ... John Langstaff would recruit the best of our alto voices for a performance ... or test others of us in Morris dancing." – Chris Lowery '66

1958 Construction of the new Lower School building began in the spring.



1959 The new Lower School building was completed for use in the fall. The original Lower School wing became the Middle School.

Boys were accepted into fourth grade to begin coeducation through the ninth grade. Enrollment approached 500 students.

fines of dancing class. Before the war, Washington was a small community and, as in any small town, the boys and girls just did know each other naturally, but since the great wartime influx, it seemed that this relaxed way of their knowing each other no longer existed. When one heard the girls talking about boys, it seemed to me they would benefit enormously by growing up together in school."

Starting in the fall of 1959, boys were added in 4th grade to continue through ninth grade.

"The school has, from the beginning, tried to be a place where children can grow freely and in grace, gaining a sense of the challenge of history, the beauty of literature and the arts, the exactness of mathematics, along with integrity, wonder, the kindness of others, and the gaiety of their spirits.

At the end of its 50 years, the Potomac School dedicates itself to its purposes, trusting that the long years of childhood spent in its halls may bear the fruit of free minds, happiness, "the good life" in later years." —Carol Preston, 1954

Moreover, it was decided to increase enrollment by adding a third class to each grade so that the student body would increase from a little more than three hundred to a little under five hundred students. By expanding the school, Potomac could continue to accept almost the same numbers of girls, and with twenty-five boys per class, athletic

teams could be selected that would compare favorably with teams from other schools. To accommodate these students, a new Lower School building was constructed, a new playing field added, and the Field House was expanded and converted to be a "music center." In June 1965 the first co-ed class graduated.

Potomac Celebrates 50th Year!

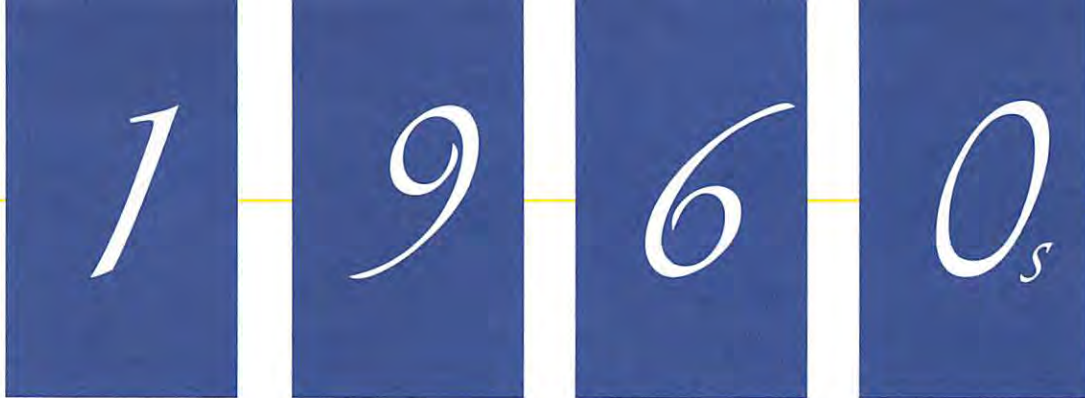
Potomac celebrated its 50th year in Miss Preston's seventeenth year as head (she also taught American history and folk dancing.) Festivities throughout the year included a celebration dinner; the Christmas Play followed by tea for alumnae to meet Miss Preston, Miss Seth-Smith, and the faculty; a poetry reading by H. J. C. Mackarness; a slide-illustrated lecture, "The Navajo People," by Laura Gilpin, photographer; and May Day followed by buffet supper out of doors.



Miss Seth-Smith and Miss Preston light the 50th Anniversary cake.



John Langstaff as Noah in Noye's Fludde.



The Music Program Expands

With the growth of the student body as the School became fully coed – from just over three hundred students in 1959 to just under five hundred in 1964 – the music program was expanded, offering increased opportunities for learning and playing musical instruments. All students sang. Many played

the recorder, handbells, and other instruments in assemblies, recitals, and special celebrations, such as May Day, the Christmas Play, and Thanksgiving—times when the whole school would sing, perform, and listen together. A highlight of the 1960s for many students was the performances of *Noye's Fludde*, the Chester Medieval Miracle

Play set to music by Benjamin Britten. Twice it was staged in the Preston Gym early in the decade before it was later performed on a magnificent scale at Washington's National Cathedral with a consortium of schools. The performance, Mr. Lewis Kimball said, "enchanted hundreds fortunate to see it and the scores of students and faculty who performed in it."

"The arts, music, painting, clay work, science, that brings them close to the out of doors and relates them to their own world, keep alive and develop our most important human possession—the imagination, our human spirit."

—Carol Preston, 1957

Music had always played a significant role in the Potomac experience. Cofounder Edith Blair focused on music and her belief that outdoor activi-

1960

The Potomac Term was launched by Rose Chatfield-Taylor MacMurray '35, a Board Member and Chair of the Public Information Committee.

In March, the first production of *Noye's Fludde*, the Chester Miracle Play set to music by Benjamin Britten, was held at Potomac.



ties are critical for a child's development. At the School's 30-year anniversary in 1934, it was noted, "Music fills a large place in the school life with group singing, rhythms and dancing." In 1976, Head of Middle School Bea Lindsten quoted Miss Preston in recalling that the former headmistress "felt that all the arts were invaluable in keeping alive and developing our most precious human

possession – imagination – the spirit." Indeed, upon her arrival at Potomac in 1938, Miss Preston quickly developed the School's already-strong arts tradition into an outstanding music and arts program. Among her most auspicious contributions was enlisting Jack Langstaff to join the faculty, first part time and later as full-time head of the Music Department. His presence in the 1950s and 1960s

had a profound influence on Potomac students, which is felt to this day. As Miss Preston recalled, "Mr. Langstaff, whom I had the pleasure of teaching when he was a little boy, came to head the Music Department, and the children have been singing ever since. What joy and beauty he has added, affecting in no small way the taste and character of us all."

Student Body Diversification

During the 1960s the Board of Trustees examined and discussed Potomac's admissions policies on a number of occasions to ensure that those policies were nondiscriminatory and to consider whether the School was sufficiently known and accessible to all sectors of the Washington community. In 1964, Lewis Kimball, a strong supporter of diversity among both students and faculty, reported that, for the first time, three African American children had enrolled in the Lower School, changing the heretofore all-white student body.

In the spring of 1968 a committee of the Board of Trustees, headed by Robert Shorb, began to consider the issue of diversity

in great depth. The result, and the "Student Body Diversification and the Scholarship Program" paper, also called the Shorb Report, was presented to the Board in March 1969. The committee concluded that the "degree of diversification reflected by Potomac's student body [and] reflected by Potomac's faculty should be substantially increased; and that Potomac's scholarship program should [also] be increased." The report defined diversification for the first time as representation from all racial, ethnic, economic and geographic sources, but went on to say that Washington-area African Americans deserve special attention. In 1969 only six

African American students figured in the student body of 510 children.

The Shorb Report became the foundation of diversification efforts for years to come. A Community Relations Committee, which would include parents and faculty, was immediately formed to encourage and monitor progress, and to work with current African American parents to "spread the word." Among other steps, the Committee recommended a school bus route be established along 16th Street to attract members of the African American communities—many of them affluent middle class—who lived east of Rock Creek Park.

1961 1961 The School purchased the adjoining 9-acre "church property," eventually called the Gum Tree Field, from the Presbytery of Washington City.

1964 Lewis Kimball became head of school. The first summer camp was held.

1965 Boys graduated from ninth grade for the first time.



Class of '65

1967 Construction of Dimick Wing began.

1967 Six out of 510 students were African American. The Board's "Shorb Report" on diversification was presented and became the foundation of diversification efforts for years to come.

Founding of *The Potomac Term*

by Worth MacMurray '69

As with many good ideas, the *Term* was launched in 1960 on the basis of inspiration and good will, and with very little regard to the associated logistics or practicalities! Rose Chatfield-Taylor (Mrs. Frank G.) MacMurray '35, a Board Member and Chair of the Public Information Committee, (and mother of Adelaide MacMurray Aitken '60 and the author, '69) had come to believe that a formal school communications medium was needed. Potomac's increasing size and the many important issues then at hand both at Potomac and in the world (including new building construction, Cold War civil defense issues, headmaster changes and the beginnings of discussions concerning admitting a more diverse student body, to name a few) dictated, in her view, that the school community move beyond the then – traditional school communications means – meetings (which many interested parties were often unable to attend) and word of mouth. A writer and poet, and an energetic person devoted to Potomac on many different levels, she characteristically envisioned and committed herself to the end product – a professional and informative periodic newspaper – and only then addressed the technical details that were necessarily involved, and that were not her natural interest or strength.

For three years, as each *Term* publishing deadline approached, our dining room became the paper's creative, editing and layout center,

as mother virtually single-handedly handwrote most articles, typed, cut and pasted, and then assembled all materials into a rough draft. She would then drive to the printer in southeast Washington late at night, work on spacing and fill-in content issues, and come home in the early morning. She would then spend the remainder of the next afternoon and evening at the printer, completing that particular *Term*, and paying for the publication of the first year's issues out of her own pocket. Family members learned to live with "TV Dinners," lights blazing from the downstairs all night and the sound of mother's car tearing off to the printer at a moment's notice!

Forty four years later, the *Term* continues to helpfully inform the greater Potomac community about the school's activities and matters of general interest – albeit with the benefit of years of experience and 21st Century technology. Until her death in December of 1997, mother would eagerly pour through each issue of the *Term* immediately upon its arrival, offering her many comments and opinions to my father over dinner (enjoying, now, something other than a "TV Dinner.")





Ninth Grade tug-of-war in 1975.



The Changing Scene

The dedication of the Dimick Wing in September 1970 marked the last sizable expansion of Potomac's buildings for

another decade and a half. The 1970s brought about many developments to the McLean campus, suddenly changing the surroundings, and new

social forces, as always, were affecting the makeup of the student body. The heady growth of McLean by the mid-1960s forced the new reality of the 1970s, namely, that the "country day school" of the 1950s was now in the suburbs. The CIA, Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard), Evermay, Tyson's Corner Center, the Beltway, and Dulles International Airport were all completed by 1965, accelerating the transformation of McLean from country into suburb.

With the economic expansion of McLean and other

"I well remember coming out here the first time before any building had taken place. It was all country then. We walked through fields of tall grass. It was quiet and peaceful, not a sign of houses anywhere. How fortunate we are today that those involved then had the vision to purchase as big a plot of land as they did – and they did it with more faith than money in hand!

Very few people then could foresee the burgeoning growth of this area to the point where housing developments now crowd our borders. We are thus still blessed with plenty of space and lovely green hills and fields."

–Bea Lindsten, 1976

1970 Dimick Wing was dedicated in September.
Una Rawnsley Hanbury produced and donated the circle of three llamas located on a Lower School playground.



1974 The swimming pool was constructed and the summer camp expanded.

Jerral Miles became head of school through 1981.



areas of Fairfax County, enrollment was shifting from the District to Virginia students. Moreover, Potomac's swimming pool built in 1974 led to expansion of the Summer Camp in its tenth year, deepening the School's ties to the surrounding community. The Washington school that just "happened" to be in McLean was becoming a bona fide "Virginia" school, a condition resisted by many who did not want the District presence to be subsumed. The decade of the 1970s, which ended with the School's 75th anniversary, can perhaps be described by the contrary forces of seeking diversification on the one hand and responding to the local community on the other.



Nature Trail Evolution

by Peter Munroe, past faculty (1969-2001)

Stewardship of Potomac's Nature Trail continues through a generous grant from The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc. made possible by the Winsor family.

The Beginning of the Nature Trail

I first saw the Nature Trail in the spring of 1969 when I came to Potomac School to apply for a teaching position. On my first walk through the woods I was assailed by the contradictory feelings I've experienced ever since during my thirty-five years at Potomac. For the most part, I was of course delighted to find such a wonderful resource available to the science teacher I hoped to become. At the same time, I was puzzled by the relatively low biological diversity compared to the nature center in Ohio where I had spent the last three years. I encountered fewer kinds of birds than I had expected, there weren't many wildflowers growing in the woods, and turning over rocks in the stream yielded few aquatic insects. Thus began my years of joy walking and teaching in Potomac's natural areas, qualified by some frustration that everything was not quite what it could be, that the Nature Trail had an ecological potential that was not being reached.

The Nature Trail is actually a network of woodland trails forming much of the eastern portion of the school's property. At the center is a valley running approximately north and south with an intermittent stream at its center. Steep forested hillsides ascend on either side. The stream originates at a large Upper Pond to the north and empties into a smaller Lower Pond. This in turn drains into Pimmet Run. The latter, a tributary of the Potomac River, forms much of the school's southern boundary. The two most widely used trails (the east and west loops) run parallel to



1976 Pre-Kindergarten was expanded (by 23 students) and bus service at 12:20 p.m. was added.



the stream on either side. Three bridges, built over the years by faculty and students (there was only one in 1969), serve as stream crossings. A newly constructed footbridge, spanning the stream at its origin, permits access to the east and south shores of Upper Pond.

The Nature Trail as a Living Classroom

The ponds have always been favorite places for children to explore, especially Upper Pond. At least one pair of red-winged blackbirds are always conspicuous from March through summer, and in the spring there are wood ducks and green herons to be seen at the swampy back of the pond. Painted turtles sun themselves on exposed logs, and both green frogs and bullfrogs can be heard as well as seen. On a lucky day a huge snapping turtle can be spotted, its head poking out through the water surface. Occasionally, the turtle is so close to the shore that one can wade in and capture it, much to the students' excitement. Dragonflies, in many sizes and colors, are everywhere and even laying eggs in the water. Suspended over the surface, the female makes rapid stabs at the water with her abdomen, dropping in her eggs, one by one. Often the male hovers nearby, chasing away curious rival males. Frequently, teachers and students bring insect nets to the pond, and the children are challenged to catch a dragonfly to examine it close up and see the huge eyes and feel the sticky feet.

Children's enthusiasm always peaks when armed with aquatic nets they have a chance to dip into the water for hidden wonders. These include scurrying beetles, long, slender stick-like insects called water scorpions,

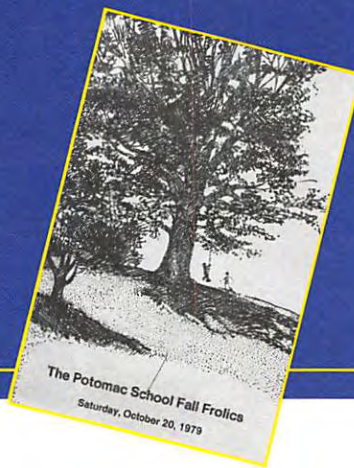
large, flat water bugs, sometimes with eggs glued to their backs, other bugs that look and move like animated row boats and tiny fingernail clams. Most exciting to the students are crayfish and big bullfrog tadpoles that abound in the pond.

Trips to Lower Pond are always interesting and often contain different aquatic animals than the larger pond to the north. Students look particularly for water snakes basking on rocks or logs and for large dragonfly larvae with their curious extendible, lower jaws with which they capture small fish or tadpoles. At the pond's northeast corner, below a huge red maple and sur-



rounded by huge slabs of stone, is a mysterious, stagnant pool. Children love climbing over the rocks and investigating the dark, odorous, slightly intimidating waters.

1977 Fall Frolics was launched.



1979 Potomac celebrated its 75th Anniversary.



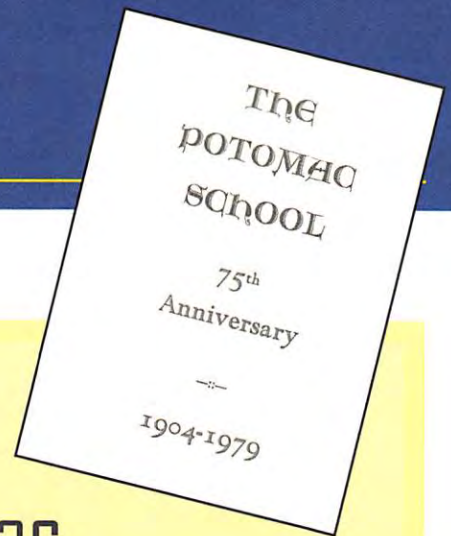
The stream supports little aquatic life, but the few creatures present are particularly exciting to children. These are the fat-clawed crayfish, very different from the ones found in Upper Pond, and numerous, slippery salamander larvae – their red, flowerlike gills sprouting from the sides of their heads. Occasionally, one catches a glimpse of one of the yellow-backed adults under a stone at the stream's edge.

The woods, too, contain many interesting animals, from chipmunks and squirrels to colorful, eminently holdable box turtles and big black snakes which rush noisily through the dead leaves at one's approach. Sometimes a teacher catches one, and the children get to feel its sleek, muscular body. Deer, fox, and raccoon frequent the Nature Trail but are rarely seen. A child's sharp eye can discern their presence, however, by the scat they deposit on the trails and the tracks they leave in the muddy margins of stream and pond. A favorite activity in the fall, or on warm winter days, is turning over logs. Daddy-long legs, sow bugs, slugs, wolf spiders, centipedes, millipedes, and numerous, hurrying, beetles can be found. Some of these difficult-to-catch insects are shiny black, others green with orange legs, and the biggest sports bright orange mid-sections and give off an unpleasant smell which brings delighted grimaces to the children's faces. Sometimes, tearing open a rotting log reveals a colony of large, shiny, slow-moving bessy beetles. Students love to hold them close to their ears and hear them squeak. Even bigger thrills are provided by hibernating queen hornets and large, black, orange-spotted salamanders whose eggs can be found in the ponds in early spring.

A few days after a good rain students look for mushrooms, particularly fat, red russula mushrooms and the graceful, orange-capped Amanitas. Also sometimes encountered, on the ends of cedar branches, are masses of striped caterpillars that make strange, jerky movements when disturbed. The tulip trees provide much pleasure, too, with their tall, straight trunks and large beautiful magnolia-like flowers, yellow-green with orange blotches. Most of these flowers, borne high in the tree, are not readily seen, so it is always a surprise for children to discover a fallen flower on the trail and then to look up and see many others overhead.

The Nature Trail complex has changed considerably over the years. When I arrived in 1969, the hillside to the east of the stream was a nearly pure stand of red cedar trees, an indication that the land had recently been pastured. Since then the cedars have been replaced by tulip trees, a striking example of ecological succession.

Other changes were less benign. The stream, in response to the sharp drop in elevation at its origin, has steadily deepened its channel, eroding and undercutting its banks and depositing silt along its bed. During the unusually high rainfall and snow melt of the last few years, these processes accelerated to the point where the character of the streambed was altered and Lower Pond was threatening to fill up. Meanwhile, on the surrounding land, the vegetation was changing. Aggressive invasive plants, mostly exotic, were taking over, displacing native species and decreasing biological diversity. Two of them, poison ivy and multiflora rose, made large areas, including the stream, inaccessible to people.



Developing the Nature Trail for the Future

The future of the Nature Trail looks bright. In 2001 the school was awarded a large, three-year grant to improve the stewardship of our natural areas and to increase and diversify our educational use of them. Since then Lower Pond has been completely remade into a more productive habitat. The pond was drained and a spillway to control the water level constructed. The pond's western shore was cleared of multiflora rose and then replanted in wetland plants. Two small piers and a stone jetty were installed, and log piles were added to attract wildlife.

The extra rain has turned part of the flood plain into a natural cattail marsh, which we intend to make permanent and to equip with a boardwalk. Ambitious plans have been drawn up to remake the stream channel. The erosion problem at the stream's beginning will be fixed, and a series of drop pools will be constructed along the stream's length to slow the water down and keep water in the stream. The banks will be repaired and replanted.

Finally, we will continue the task of clearing the stream valley and the hillsides of invasive plants and replanting them with native species. The work is already far advanced. During the past three years close to five hundred plants have been planted, nearly all by students. An area at the Nature Trail's northern end, once a mass of brambles and vines, is now a learning center complete with benches and bird feeders surrounded by a bed of woodland wildflowers.

Potomac Celebrates 75th Year!

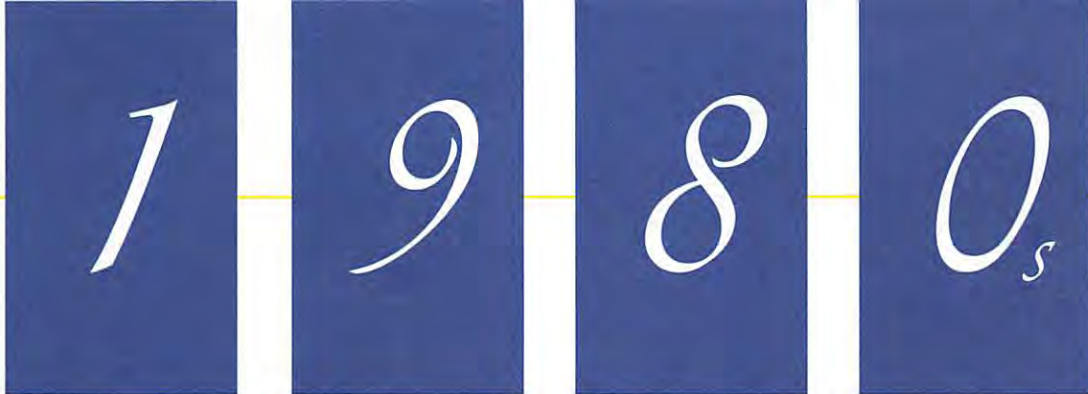
A celebration dinner honored the faculty. Past faculty and friends returned from many states. Jack Langstaff, a longtime music teacher at Potomac came from Massachusetts to lead a musical program. A creative slide show was presented to the dinner guests. A week before, students saw the slide show and ate pieces of a giant birthday cake serving all 540 students. At another event, friends of Potomac gathered for tea in the Library to greet Helen Seth-Smith, after which the Middle School's string ensemble and recorder groups played in the square. At noon students, faculty, and guests filed into the Preston Gym singing Potomac songs (*Go Tell Aunt Nancy*, *Shady Grove*, and others) for a special assembly honoring Miss Seth. After lunch, students got a piece of the giant birthday cake with its 75 candles "plus one to grow on" displayed in the Square.



Students light the candles on the 75th anniversary cake.



Groundbreaking celebration for the Upper School construction.



The core values of the School in 1989, reflecting the new structure but drawing from the past, forms the foundation of the School's mission today.



Extending the Upper School

During the 1984-85 academic year a major issue considered by the Board of Trustees, for a second time, was the feasibility of expanding Potomac School to include grades 10 through 12. At the same time, the School had outgrown the Preston Gym and was compelled to think about building a new gym. When

the decision was made in 1985 to extend the school through grade 12, with a new sports facility, some 30 percent of the Potomac community disagreed with it. Today, all embrace it. In September 1987 the new Upper School opened with ninth and tenth grades, eighty-seven students in all. Eleventh and twelfth grades were

phased in over the following two years. In June 1990 the first senior class graduated.

Just as the move to McLean in 1951 necessitated changing from two to three major divisions and reflected in the architectural plan, the expansion of the Upper School precipitated another redivision – into Lower, Middle, Intermediate, and Upper Schools. Each division concentrated on the needs of its particular age group, thus continuing Potomac's all-important emphasis on the individual child.

“I was thrilled to be able to stay and be a “pioneer” in the first graduating class. We had the opportunity to shape our world. We created clubs and activities, requested elective classes, started traditions, and really functioned as a group. It was an exciting time and truly a special opportunity.”
–Erin Boyle Alvino '90

1981 David Hardman became head of school through 1988.

1982 Arundel Family Library was dedicated October 7, 1982. It replaced the Middle/Upper School library off the square, which became the Admissions offices.



1986 The Upper School Academic Building and Clara Mills Chester '45 Athletic Center were constructed, and the road system rerouted.

Evolving Traditions

Potomac School has always taken pride in its strong traditions in the arts and other areas of student life. Many traditions from the early years of the School – including the Kindergarten Circus, the Lower School Christmas Carols, the fifth-grade Christmas Play, the Middle School medieval festival and Greek Olympics, the seventh- and then eighth-grade trip to Williamsburg, the Upper School play, and Red and Blue – continued to thrive in the 1980s. The Christmas Play, instituted by Carol Preston in the 1940s and beloved by many

process that Potomac School has embraced. In a presentation to parents in 1976, two years after Jerral Miles became head, then Middle School Head Bea Linsten expressed that view: “The tremendously sensitive and demanding task of being Headmaster ... was handed on to Mr. Miles, who is equally dedicated to the task of guiding the Potomac School – to help us hold together that important tension-between the positive core of our tradition and the counter forces of challenge, choice, and change.”

ment in 1987 after 40 years at Potomac, that state-of-the-art tradition was passed on and, though modified, remains integral to the core values of the School.

The Bazaar initiated in the 1940s was a School-wide event where student-made crafts, stuffed gingham elephants from Appalachia, baked goods, and other items were sold; it was discontinued in the late 1960s, because it was not raising funds on a large scale and because increased demands on students' and teachers' time prohibited the making of handmade items for sale. Another fundraiser, The Book Fair, in the 1960s offered new, hardcover books for children delivered by Francis Scott Key bookstore and was held in the Square. Today's Book Fair, now barely contained in the dining room, provides new books for the School's three libraries and sells used books for all ages. Fall Frolics was introduced in 1977 and continues today. Some “traditions” are fleeting but memorable, appropriate only in a small window of time. In the

“I loved it that the traditions – May Day, Fall Frolics, Christmas plays, Lower School holiday sing-a-longs, Blue and Red games – involved the entire school and got everyone together, not just the grades but the whole student body.” –Ansley Martin '83

generations, would phase out in the late 1990s in response to the changing demographics of the School and has since evolved into multicultural celebrations during the holiday season. Fathers' Day, too, has been supplanted, with the forces of social change, a

Assemblies, initiated in the founding year as a Friday general get together, have continued to the present day. Middle School daily assemblies started by Mrs. Lindsten in the 1970s were a time to bond, share, and perform, and to listen, learn, and appreciate. Upon her retire-



1986 The Panther became the mascot and symbol, and the "paw print" logo followed.



1987 The new Upper School opened with ninth and tenth graders.



1988 William Clarkson became acting head of school and in 1989 head of school through 1991.

Academic programs were added to the Summer Camp.

1960s each fifth grader received a calligraphy pen upon the initiation of studying italic script, with the expectation that this level of penmanship would be achieved.

The "honor" of wearing the School uniform still awaits entering fourth graders. A small but important tradition, practiced by the youngest as well as oldest

students, is the handshake, the proper way to say goodbye to your teacher at the end of the day.

Mission, Purpose, and Philosophy

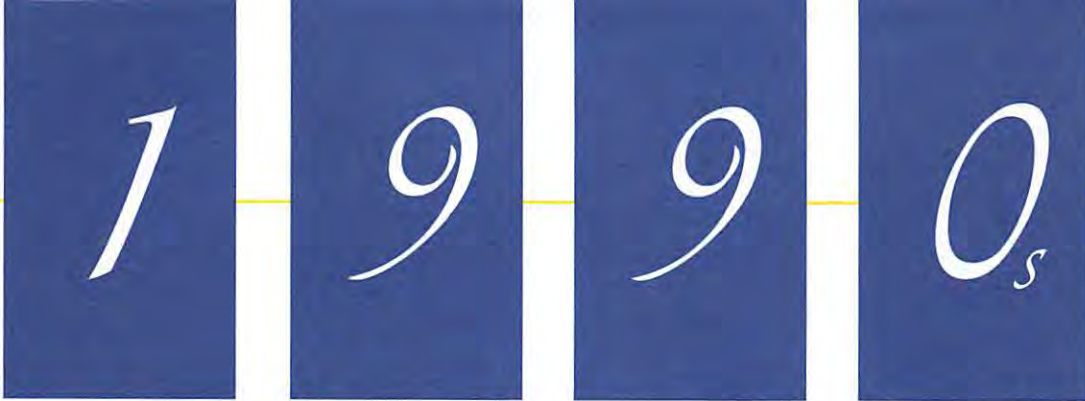
Since its founding years, Potomac has placed the whole child in the center of its mission. Like traditions and curriculum, the School's purpose and philos-

ophy have evolved in response to changes in the makeup of the School and to social context. The mission, purpose, and philosophy of the School were restated in the Long-Range Planning Report of 1989, which addressed older children in the newly extended Upper School. In part it stated that Potomac School encourages high academic achievement, love of learning, caring for others, and a strong social conscience. It also encouraged delight in creative expression and the satisfaction of accomplishment. It promoted in students a firm commitment to high ethical and moral values, a sense of personal integrity, and an atmosphere in which school traditions and rituals can thrive and grow. Further, it sought diversity (racial, socio-economic, cultural, geographic), a balanced admissions policy, and a stable and safe environment. Here and elsewhere it espoused the necessity for a strong faculty. The core values of the School in 1989, reflecting the new structure but drawing from the past, form the foundation of the School's mission today.





Intermediate School students pose with some of the 100 fans donated as part of their community service project.



Developing a strong, respected Upper School was a primary goal in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Strengthening the Upper School

Development of the mind, body, and creative spirit of each student is the focus of Potomac's education program. Building strong relationships between teacher and student, student and student, and faculty and parents nurtures this development. Strength of character is emphasized while students pursue diverse studies and activities. This starts in kindergarten and continues throughout a Potomac student's high school years. Symbolically, at the opening assembly each year, the lifers walk in holding the hand of a new kindergartener, leading them into the beginning of their 13-year Potomac experience.

Even in its early years, Potomac conceived of adding an upper school. In 1987 an Upper School academic building was constructed. It opened to 9th and 10th graders that September, and expanded in 1991. Potomac's current master plan incorporates upgrades and additional expansion of this building to further the educational vision and offerings of the school.

Academic excellence is supported by a challenging curriculum, an array of activities and experiences, and strong personal relationships. Each student's strengths and needs are considered as the pupil progresses through course work. Upper School

students participate in athletics, the arts, technology, and a broad range of academic subjects. Community service opportunities allow Potomac students to focus on the needs of others and develop a better understanding of and caring for the world around them. Diversity in the Potomac community – in program offerings, in topics covered, and in activities undertaken – further enhances this understanding.

Just as Potomac graduates of the 9th grade were accepted into the finest prep schools in the country, today not; Potomac's graduates are attending some of the most respected colleges and universities in the United

1991

Archer Harman became interim head of school for one year.

1992

Brian Wright became head of school through 1999.

The Upper School Academic Building was expanded.

1994

Seventy African Americans represented eight percent of the 875 students, and 57 "racially diverse" students (Asians, Hispanics) represented 6 percent, for a total of 14 percent nonwhite student body.

The Bennett Wing was added to the Intermediate School (original Upper School wing).

States. At the closing assembly, the same kindergarteners give their lifer a rose to send them off into the world. Potomac's graduates carry with them a solid sense of themselves and their bonds with others. They take with them a strong grounding in the continuing pursuit of learning and academic excellence. They leave with a sense of wonder and excitement about the world beyond, and the confidence to explore and lead in this complex world.

Community Service

Potomac's mission statements have always included a strong commitment to service as part of building character and educating the whole child. Important since the early days of the School, community service took on different meaning during different eras. During World War II, Miss Seth-Smith and her Girl Scouts made beds at the Soldiers' Home, for example. In the 1940s and 1950s, volunteer

work took on age appropriate traditions such as the Lower Schoolers visiting residents at local nursing homes, Middle Schoolers preparing food for Martha's Table and Intermediate Schoolers helping out at child care and senior citizens centers.

Although community service is not required of Upper School students, character and the desire to serve

A T H L E T I C S

POTOMAC PANTHERS

School Year 1904: In a four-page leaflet announcing the opening of The Potomac School, the founders stated, "Great care is being given to the selection of a house in perfect sanitary condition, with large, airy rooms and a sunny playground, also near a park where the children can go to play...."

From the very beginning, physical activity was considered an essential element of learning at The Potomac School. Lucy Madeira, appointed headmistress in 1908, broadened the program further, fostering teamwork, but discouraging any competitive endeavors. Several sports, such as tennis and volleyball were offered as part of these drills. By 1934, basketball (boys and girls) and football (for boys only) were part

of the program. In the 1940s, field hockey and baseball were included.

The move to McLean in 1951 proved a boon to physical education for Potomac's students. Ample space was available for a much greater athletic program. Focusing on fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship, coaches were hired for the Lower and Middle Schools. The athletics program broadened again as the school expanded in the late 1980s to include an upper division. By this time, competitive sports were viewed as a strong tool for teaching character issues, such as discipline, consideration of others, and hard work. Success is defined as winning and losing well. Sportsmanship on the fields and in



1999

Peter Briggs became interim head of school through 2000.

The Field House was razed and the diseased gum tree at the bus circle was taken down.

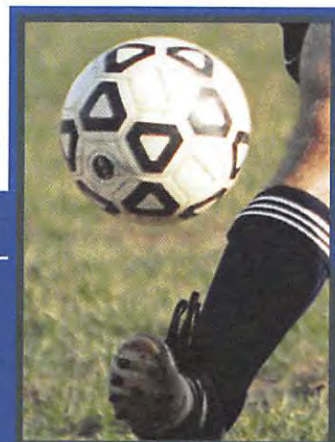
The School purchased the Lee property (13 acres), for a new total acreage of 83. The decision was made to abolish Pre-Kindergarten.

have been so ingrained in students from their first days at Potomac that a large percentage continue to volunteer throughout high school. Upper School students harvest vegetables for Martha's Table and

the Community of Hope, and act as aides in the Lower School working on reading projects.

In each of these and in many other service projects, Potomac students

share their generosity of spirit and compassion for others. They find there are rewards for both the givers and recipients. Service to others has been alive and well at Potomac for many decades.



the stands is emphasized. In keeping with the original philosophy of the school, win-loss records are noted, but not emphasized. The Potomac School athletic program does not recruit students.

School Year 2004: The growth of this program has added to the excitement of the school's community. In the past, students were taken to outside schools and facilities to participate in a variety of athletic programs not available at Potomac. Now, the school has an expansive program that includes four squash courts built to international standards in 1999; a fully equipped weight training room; wrestling and swimming facilities; soccer, football, baseball and softball fields; tennis and basketball courts; and more. All of this has been accomplished with the active and enthusiastic involvement of parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and students.

At present, K-6 students participate in a general physical education program. Students in grades 7-8 are required to play on a team or engage in a physical recreational activity. Junior varsity and varsity sports opportunities are available for Upper School students. A strong outdoor education program (hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, camping, weekend trips, whitewater rafting, and the like) is also offered for grade 9-12 students. The school joined the Independent School League (for girls) in the late 1980s, and in 1994, the Mid-Atlantic Conference (for boys). Twenty-one varsity sports are now offered.

The Potomac School has a dynamic, diverse athletics program that honors the vision of its founders. It continues to grow and improve with the added vision of its 21st Century leaders.

THE POTOMAC

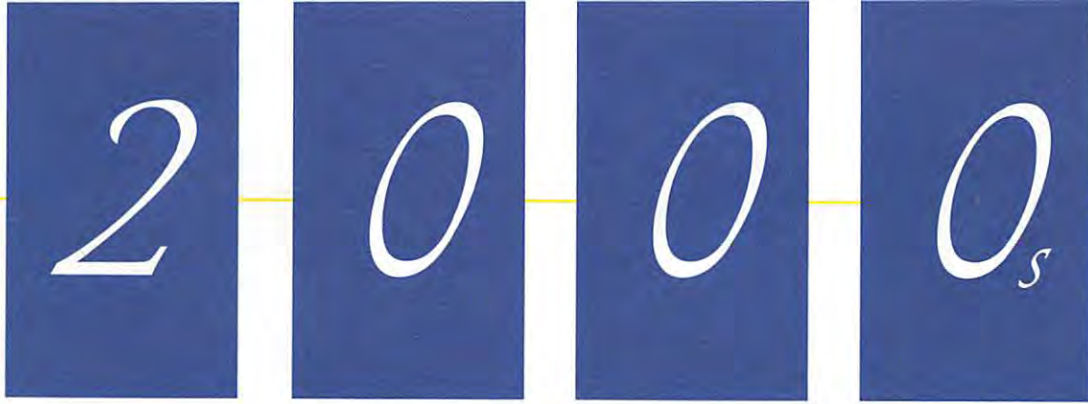
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1904

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Today and Beyond

Tradition and vision walk hand in hand at The Potomac School. Students continue to engage in a rigorous academic program that includes strong involvement in the arts, music, and physical activity.

Long-standing events – such as May Day, Colonial Days, assemblies, the Kindergarten Circus, Red-Blue Day, and more – continue to be enthusiastically celebrated annually. Strength of character, protection of the environment, and community service

continue to be emphasized.

While drawing on its proud legacy, The Potomac School of the new millennium explores and uses technological advances that transform its classrooms, teaching, and programs; examines new educational theories and "best practices" for possible application; and further diversifies its community and program offerings. Diversity is sought as a means to intellectually and morally strengthen the

In the first four years of the new millennium, the school has welcomed a new head of school, opened a state-of-the-art performing arts center, revamped its entire emergency management plan in the wake of the "9-11" national tragedy, undertaken a complete mapping and review of its curriculum, and engaged in the development of a new master plan for the improvement and expansion of school facilities to support the educational program.

2000

Geoffrey Jones became head of school.

Engelhard Performing Arts Center, with Jack Langstaff Auditorium, was completed.



learning community through exposure to many different voices, viewpoints, backgrounds, and topics.

In the first four years of the new millennium, the school has welcomed a new head of school, opened a state-of-the-art performing arts center, revamped its entire emergency management plan in the wake of the "9-

11" national tragedy, undertaken a complete mapping and review of its curriculum, and engaged in the development of a new master plan for the improvement and expansion of school facilities to support the educational program.

Potomac's Centennial celebration officially began with the Class of 2004 graduation cere-

mony when 100 white doves were released into the bright summer sky. With the values that Potomac's founders initiated still so alive in all aspects of the school, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. Thoron would be proud to see that their 1904 vision has grown so tremendously 100 years later.

Green Acres

1948 The School purchased 55.069 acres from Ward T. Kirby in McLean, VA, for \$42,506.96. The only building was one that existed on the property.

1961 The School purchased the "church property," or the Gum Tree Field (9 acres), from the Presbytery of Washington City. Miss Preston and Miss Seth-Smith retired.

1968 The School purchased the Kellogg property (6 acres). It was used as the headmaster's residence.

1999 The School purchased the Lee property (13 acres).

2004 The School purchased the "Shapiro" (originally, in 1950, "Delany") property, adding another 4.5 acres to the grounds, for a total of 87.5 acres.

2001 In the summer the Kellogg house was replaced with a rebuilt residence for the headmaster, suitable for school functions and entertaining.

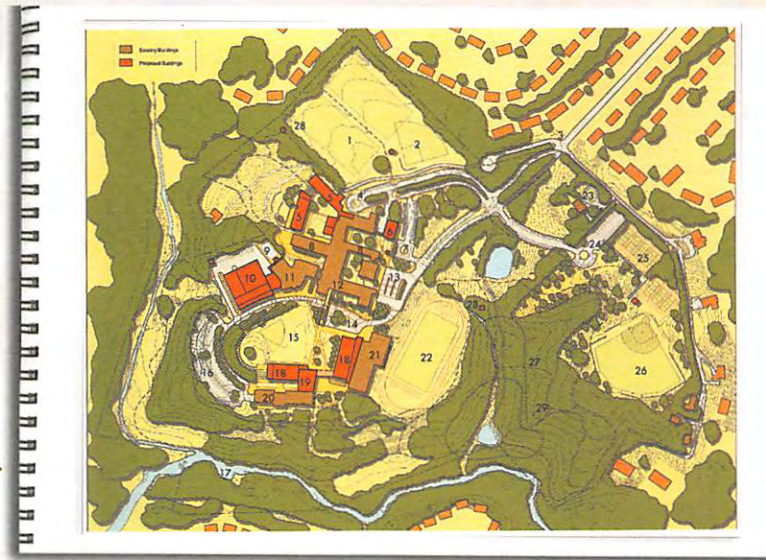
In September, in light of potential threats in the wake of "9/11," the School undertook and completed extensive and far-ranging revisions to its decades-old Emergency Management Plan, which now includes Shelter-in-Place and evacuation protocols and more.

1999 Peter Briggs became interim head of school through 2000.

The Field House was razed and the diseased gum tree at the bus circle was taken down.

The School purchased the Lee property (13 acres), for a new total acreage of 83. The decision was made to abolish Pre-Kindergarten.

*by Junior Bridge,
Communications Director*



A New Campus Master Plan

With the input of many in The Potomac School community – staff, faculty, parents, alumni – and design professionals, a new campus master plan was begun in the early 2000s. The focus is on the upgrading and expanding of the Upper School, relocating and rebuilding the Lower School, redesigning the traffic and parking systems, improving and enlarging athletic facilities, and, moreover, restoring and enhancing the connection between our built environment and our wonderful natural setting.

This effort is a challenging and dynamic one. Review of proposals has resulted in new insights and consequent plan improvements. Continued engagement of the Potomac community in both the refinement and implementation of the new master plan is essential to its success. With this involvement, the needs for the future of The Potomac School can be met, while retaining the core values and foundation upon which it was built.

Where the Logo came from?

by Peggy Shumaker Nalle '40

When the wonderful and redoubtable Carol Preston swept into the Potomac School in the autumn of 1938, she immediately set about empowering the student body in a variety of ways. First, she summoned the entire eighth grade [highest class at that time] to her tiny office to vet the idea of having an elected student government. None of us had given a thought to having a student government up to that point (I'm not even sure most of us thrilled to the idea), but Miss Preston herself was so enthusiastic about the concept that we fell in line.

I have no recollection of how the candidates for office were selected but I remember that the entire school voted. All the students from first grade up sat on the floor of the gymnasium for the election while the candidates (at least two for each office) were hustled into the tiny room where the cots for our naps were stored to await the outcome of the vote. It was quite exciting, especially as it was an entirely new concept for all of us. What, if anything, Miss Preston's first student government accomplished is lost in the mists of time. But it did establish a precedent of self-government at Potomac that flourishes to this day.

Miss Preston also presided over the inauguration of a ninth grade in 1939; some of our classmates from eighth grade did not continue on into ninth, so the Class of 1940 was unusually small. Other distinctions Miss Preston's activism conferred to us, *faute de mieux*, were devising a school motto, designing a school emblem suitable for being made into a pin, and choosing the music and writing lyrics for a new school song. The latter assignment was somewhat controversial as we all were so fond of "Big P-O-T-O-M-A-C" and, indeed, still are.

According to school records, the school body voted among several mottoes proposed by the students. "Labor Omnia Vincet" was the one our class submitted, although several of us were certainly not devoted to labor. School records also note, "The song of the Class of 1940, with words by Peggy Shumaker, Cornelia Claiborn Mira Noyes, and Lanier Dunn, set to the music of the Welsh 'Men of Harlech'...is now the school Alma Mater (Hark, the sound of voices ringing)." Imagine in this day and time writing a song that begins with the word "hark"! If memory serves, we wrote the song one rainy Sunday afternoon at Cornelia's house. It is a testimony to Miss Preston's ability to instill confidence in the young that it never occurred to us that we couldn't get the job done in half a day.



The "swing tree": As a gum tree (*nyssa sylvatica*), it can grow to 80 feet and live to be 400 years old. According to the Fairfax County arborist, Potomac's swing tree is not large enough to be considered a champion species partly because it has suffered from over fertilization from its location by the tundra.

The *great black gum tree* originating in the bamboo grove and hanging over part of the Middle School playground. Of all the gum trees on campus, this one is by far the most colorful. In autumn the brilliant scarlet to red

About the Potomac? Trees?

by Peter Munroe

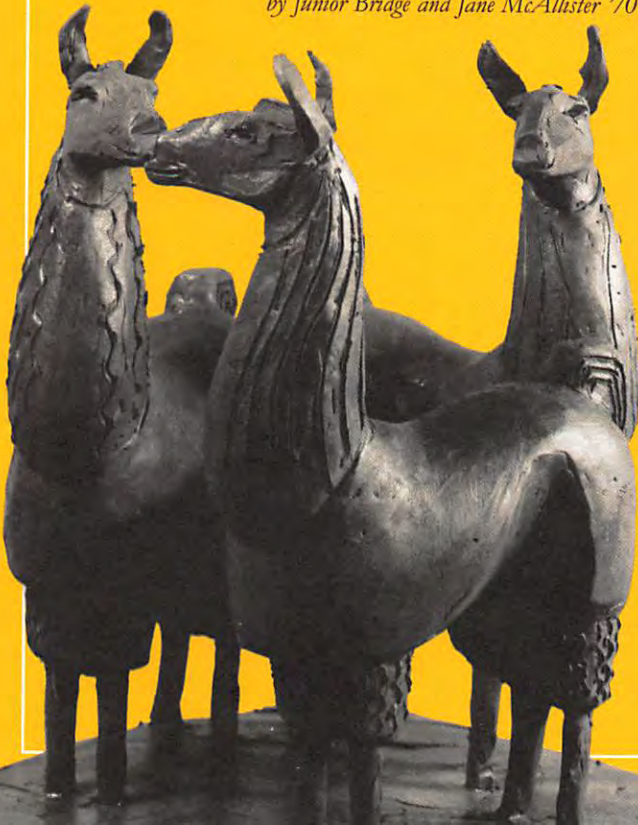
leaves cover the asphalt. I've seen many children pick them up and marvel at the color.

In the Arundel Library square is a male *holly tree* nearly the size of the male holly at Mount Vernon. It keeps the female holly in the Holly Tree Square in berries!

"I'm interested in life and movement, in dance and music, in joy and celebration." —Una Hanbury, artist

Who made the Llamas?

by Junior Bridge and Jane McAllister '70



Una Rawnsley Hanbury was a nationally recognized artist known for portrait busts and sculptures of animals. The mother of former Potomac teacher Diana Hanbury King and grandmother of Christopher King '69, Sheila King '70, Anthony Poole '76, and Colin Poole '80, she produced and donated the circle of three llamas located on the Lower School playground in 1970. Born in England in 1904, the year of Potomac's founding, Mrs. Hanbury loved animals and thus created the whimsical llama sculpture for Potomac children to climb upon. She spent twenty-five years in Washington before moving to Santa Fe where she met New Mexican photographer Laura Gilpin, a friend of Carol Preston's. Coincidentally, in the 1950s, long before the sculpture was donated, Mrs. Hanbury's work was occasionally featured (most notably on the occasion of the School's 50th anniversary) in slide shows given by Ms. Gilpin at Potomac assemblies. Mrs. Hanbury remained in New Mexico until her death in 1990, and her works are now in more than 450 public and private collections, including the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, where in her lifetime her portrait busts outnumbered those by any other living sculptor.



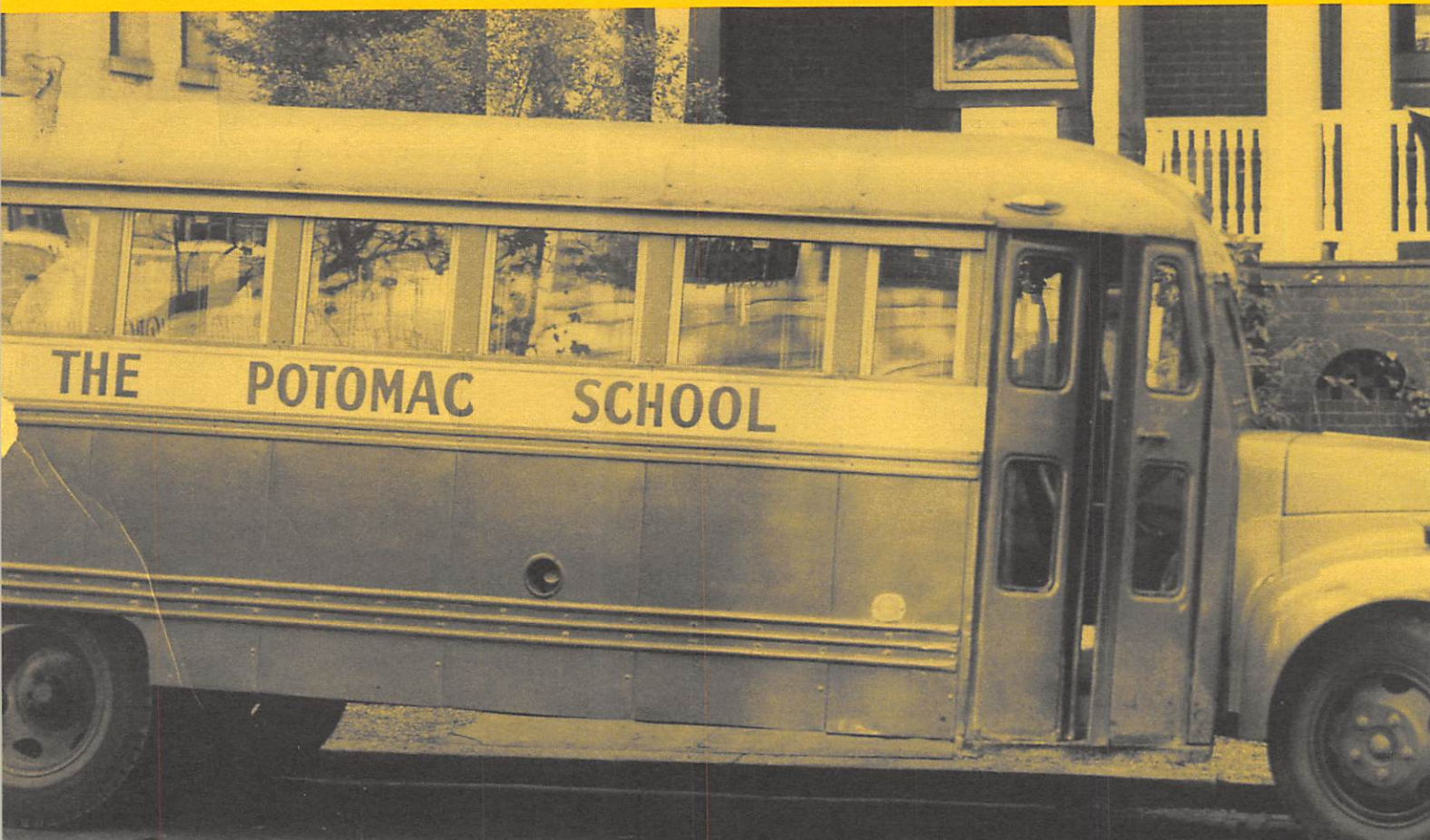
Transportation Transformation

100 Years of Transportation at Potomac

Today it is hard to imagine The Potomac School without its own transportation fleet, but for the first 30 or so years of its existence, Potomac had little need for it. Records show that for the School's first few years in Silver Spring, Maryland, Mrs. Edith Blair hired a teacher from "Washington City" who commuted north by trolley to conduct classes at Falkland Mansion. The trolley system was unique because its power source was an underground electrical

conduit, mandated by the city to avoid unsightly overhead lines. Only Manhattan in New York City employed a similar system at that time.

When the School moved to Dupont Circle in 1904, the Model T Ford was still two years from production, so students still relied on trolleys, horse-and-buggy rigs, or their own feet for the daily commute to school. The school's relocation to the city, both at Dupont Circle



and at 1200 18th Street, NW, two years later, not only made transportation accessible for city residents but, also made the School more appealing because of its proximity to potential students.

The School's move to California Street, NW, in 1916 did not immediately change its need for vehicles. In the 1930s, a Monsieur deChauny was hired with his large black sedan to drive students to and from such far-flung destinations as Chevy Chase and Georgetown. By then the automobile was ubiquitous, but Monsieur's service provided parents with some relief from a daily commute. Smoking a cigar, Potomac's first driver would loudly (but fortunately in French) curse the antics of the drivers around him. A second driver was employed with a similar sedan during the increase of the School's student population during World War II.

Perhaps prophetically, the School purchased its first bus in September 1947, just one year before its purchase of the McLean property. A fragile letter in the archives, written by the business manager, addresses the District of Columbia government and asks for a parking permit for this large vehicle in what was then a largely residential neighborhood.

Once the McLean property was purchased, and before any buildings existed, it was the School's intent to use the beautiful grounds for sports activities, Mr. Irving Seeley's Indian course, and Miss Helen Seth-Smith's scouting program. This necessitated the purchase of more buses for the commute between California Street and

McLean. Because of the Korean War, at least one bus purchase was delayed because of the demand for raw materials by the government. To the surprise of many, this far-away Virginia property was not so far at all, especially when students could be conveyed there by bus.

When construction of the McLean property was completed in 1951, the School was now committed to the purchase and maintenance of a fleet of school buses to provide a vital service to its expanding student population. Almost all of these vehicles headed into Washington and fanned out to collect and deliver students, many whose parents had attended classes at the California Street location. They were also needed for transportation to sports events around the Metro area. The minutes of a Board meeting of October 11, 1954, record that "a gasoline pump and tank had been installed so that we were able to get gas at wholesale prices."

In the early 1970s the School owned 22 buses and vans. Presently, it owns 38 diesel buses, together with a plethora of vans and pickup trucks. As the country's demand for vehicles has grown, so has the School's.

In addition to Monsieur deChauny, names such as Joe Moore, Pete Kittrell, Herbert Sheppard, Edith Wilkerson, and Libby and Molly Shipp are all associated historically with the complex operation and maintenance of these vehicles. Many a student can remember developing a rapport and friendship with these dedicated people because they, as with everyone in the School, were esteemed as valuable and contributing members of the community.

Students today might be thrilled to ride a trolley to school as so many did in the early days of The Potomac School. Over the next 100 years, that may again become a reality. In the meantime, one can frequently see a large yellow bus in the Metro area, emblazoned with the School's name, performing its duty as have its predecessors for the last 50 years of the School's existence.





The many recitals and music concerts have shown me the value of sharing a given talent with an audience.

— Student, grade 9 (1985-86 year-book)

Identity & S

The Tradition of Ass

Assemblies were an important part of the school schedule from its inception. Lydia Chapin Kirk '08 attended Potomac its first year, 1904-05, and remembers that “once a week we had a General Assembly at which children from each class recited poems, sang songs, etc.” The 1905-06 school handbook talks about the “splendid school spirit developed by the children themselves in morning assemblies.” Nancy Hamilton Shepherd '46, remembers, “We frequently gathered for assemblies.”

When the school moved to McLean in 1951, the tradition of assemblies continued. Miss Preston reassured the teachers at the first faculty meeting that “Nothing that matters was left behind on California Street.” The handbook for that first year stated, “Traditional school celebrations . . . in which the school

participates give a sense of unity, continuity, service, and fun – all stabilizing experiences.”

This author remembers looking forward to once-a-week assemblies as a lowly fourth grader in the early 1960s. The entire school gathered in the Preston Gym, announcements were made, and we sang songs together. A sense of school identity and spirit were generated by the togetherness. We all felt that we belonged to and were part of the whole school.

In 1976, an article on assemblies in the Potomac Term described the state of assemblies: “The Middle School children take charge of the Friday Assemblies. Sixth graders serve as ushers and announcers. Students from all three grades share their music, creative writing, prose and poetry (read



School Spirit Assemblies

by Lindesay Holdsworth Aquino '65

I love Lower School Carols because I love to sing; and I love assemblies because I love to listen.
—Student, grade 3
(1985-86 yearbook)

or recited), and plays. Students learn how to handle an error or lapse of memory with grace and dignity, and how to be an understanding, forgiving and appreciative audience.” Two years later, a yearbook dedication to Mrs. Lindsten, lovingly explained, “On Fridays she arranged assemblies so we could be the ones who read the poems, acted in skits, and played for our schoolmates. This helped us develop self-confidence, use our imagination, and enjoy each other’s talents.”

In September 1987, Mrs. Ivorian-Jones, who took the torch from Mrs. Lindsten, wrote, “Assemblies [are] an integral and joyful part of Middle School life and provide a means of conveying and inculcating Middle School values to the students.”

In 2004, Donna Lewis, in her first year as head

of Lower School, wrote, “The opportunity to gather on a regular basis to share as a school family have helped us to connect and build our sense of community. ... The children learn to value diverse viewpoints. ... We accentuate development of confidence and presence in being a valued and contributing member of our school community. We encourage our students to interact with others in a kind and generous manner. We aim to foster a greater understanding of our similarities and respect for our differences.” Middle School assemblies “provide a forum to discuss, confront, and deal with common community issues as they arise,” states the 2004 VAIS report.

The theme that recurs is that assemblies are a vital part of Potomac School’s student life, helping the students develop their own sense of character, creativity, and community.

A Message from the Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni:

What a year this has been! Alumni programs are alive and well at Potomac, and I hope you were able to join us last year at one of our many events. Some highlights of the activities we hosted last spring were: Career Day for Potomac seniors and juniors; alumni night at the book fair; Spring Stewardship Day; reunion weekend; alumni-senior dinner; a town hall style meeting with Geoff Jones; and, a golf tournament fundraiser to benefit financial aid. The highpoint of the 2003-2004 program year was Reunion Weekend held on April 30-May 1, 2004. Over 130 alumni from graduating classes ending in '3, '4, '8, and '9 descended on the Potomac campus for a weekend of events. Because reunions were moved from the fall back to the spring this year, we "clustered" classes together so as to not skip any reunion classes.

A snapshot of reunion weekend 2004: The weekend began with the May Day celebration -- alumni joined current parents and grandparents on the Gum Tree Field to watch the May Pole dance and hear all the old, familiar songs sung by current students. Alumni were welcomed back on campus at a reception on Friday night in the Engelhard Performing Arts Center, where they spent the evening

reminiscing and catching up with old friends over cocktails and a buffet. Meanwhile, the classes of 1953 and 1954 attended a special 50th reunion dinner at the Head of School's residence. Saturday events included: a nature trail walk with Peter Munroe, alumni classes, campus tours, a sing-a-long of classic Potomac songs led by Isabelle Chester Paul '77, and a garden party-themed luncheon for all classes. On Saturday evening, alumni gathered for traditional class dinners at a classmate's home or at a restaurant.

Clustering reunions proved to be a success because the resultant increased numbers added to the festive atmosphere and allowed alumni to visit with their classmates as well as alumni in the class above or below them. Thus, the Alumni Governing Council voted in May to continue to cluster reunions in the future. As you can see from the schedule, we will have reunions every other year in order to pair the classes appropriately.

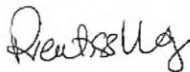
Although there will be no formal class reunions next year, the Centennial events of 2004-2005 will provide alumni with many fabulous opportunities to return to campus and celebrate our alma mater's 100 year history. An army of dedicated alumni has served in many capacities on the Centennial Planning

Committee over the past year and a half, creating an outstanding program for Potomac's 100th birthday. Alumni are the heart and soul of Potomac's history and I hope you will join us to celebrate. Please see page 98 for a list of Centennial events.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of the Alumni Governing Council of Potomac's Alumni Association for their hard work over the past year. The Governing Council meets regularly during the school year to plan events and programs for alumni. This small group works tirelessly to help make our programs the best they can be.

All the members of the council join me in saying that we hope to see you at our events this year and invite you to suggest programs of interest to you and your family. And of course, if you would like to help plan programs or become a member of the Governing Council, we would welcome your participation!

Sincerely,



Prentiss Vallender Lay '85
Alumni Association President



Jody Morse Al-Saigh '94, Gina Cordero '94, Katie Carberry '94, Lauren Banks Amos '94



Adrienne Slaughter-Melvin '78 with her husband, Major Dwight Melvin and their two children.

Year	Graduation Class
2005	All Centennial Celebration
2006	0,1 5,6
2007	No reunion
2008	2,3 7,8
2009	No reunion
2010	4,5 9,0
2011	No reunion
2012	6,7 1,2
2013	No reunion
2014	3,4 8,9
2015	No reunion
2016	0,1 5,6



Past Faculty Valerie Vesser enjoys catching up with Cornelia Biddle Saltzman '59



Diane Kefauver '63 and Dede Fryer Hacking '63

Reunion Weekend 2004



Zan Smith Thomas '63, Dede Fryer Hacking '63, Edie Warner '63, Maria Franco Granquist '63, Wendy Neel Ellsworth '63, Marisa Domeyko, Barbara Franklin '63, Anne Williams '63 reunite at May Day.

Potomac students enjoy walking around the May Pole.



Julie Twiname Warder '78, Jim Fairman '78, and Tim Gould '78 watching May Day.

▶ May Day



Peggy Gill Schaake '68, Simone Jarissen '68, and Susan Webb Soltys '68 enjoying the Welcome Reception.



Past Faculty Cynthia Ivorian-Jones and Allyson Woods '93 catching up at the Welcome Reception.



Keith Ausbrook '73, Liza Gookin Hodskins '73 and Charlie Spalding '73



Past Faculty Bill and Suzanne Doswell with Rylan Harris '80



Willia Fales Eckerberg '54, and Janet Trowbridge Bohlen '43 at the Welcome Reception.



Sandra McNeill Burditt '54 and Elaine Reeves Padovani '54 catching up at the Welcome Reception.

Welcome Reception

Reunion Weekend 2004



Head of School's 50th Reunion Dinner



▷ Class of 1954
Celebrates
their 50th
Reunion at
Head of School
Geoff Jones'
home



▷ Sandy McNeill Burditt '54 and Amy
Ellis Tucker '54 looking at the
memorabilia from the 50's



▷ Ann Addison Frieniere '78 and Susannah
Humpstone Michalson '78 reminisce
over the memorabilia display.



▷ Memorabilia



Charlotte Nelsen pointing out some additions to the Potomac campus

Charlotte Nelsen, Director of Admission, leads a tour of the school.

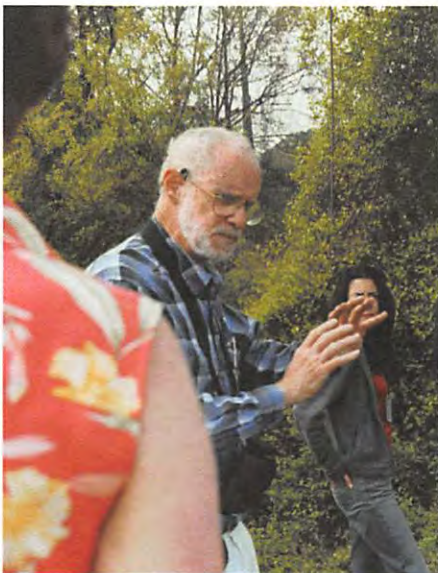


Alumni on tour taking a walk down memory lane through their old classrooms.

Campus Tour



Past faculty Peter Munroe leading the Nature Trail Walk on Reunion Weekend.



Kristina Osten Cook '93 and her family enjoying the Nature Trail Walk



Nature Trail Walk



Reunion Weekend 2004



Rob McDowell '78 presenting the Class of 1978 Reunion Gift to Geoff Jones. The Class of 1978 set out to raise \$25,000 for their 25th reunion. They presented a check for \$32,717.67! Final numbers in June show they have raised \$38,726!



Nina Bohlen '74, Sarah Holmes Briggs '74, Janet Trowbridge Bohlen '43, Julie Bohlen Perry '79, and Kate Holmes Caldwell '68



Nat Abeles '78, Jim Fairman '78, and Rob McDowell '78 after the Alumni Luncheon

Past faculty Bill Doswell with John Nassikas '74, Garrett Randolph '74 and Geoff Jones



Alumni Luncheon



Keith Ausbrook '73, Garrett Randolph '74, Chloe Richardson '79, Liza Gookin Hodskins '73, and John Chester '73 at the Alumni Luncheon.

Barbara Parrot Katz '74 and her daughter with Lisa Shipp Logue '74



ΠΟΤΩΜΑΚ



Cornelia Biddle Saltzman '59, Sarah Holmes Briggs '74, and Diane Kefauver '63 learning the Greek Alphabet with past faculty Imogen Rose.



Alumni Classes



Faculty members Bill Brown and Ida Cook teaching an Alumni Class. Giotto and Dante



Tim Gould '78, Nick Carter '79, Chris Tierney '79 enjoying the sing-a-long with their children.

Wendell Miles '78 dancing during the sing-a-long



Isabelle Chester Paul '77 leading the sing-a-long on Reunion Weekend.



Sing-a-long

Potomac School Golf Tournament to Benefit Financial Aid

Current parents, grandparents, alumni and friends came out to the second annual golf tournament at the Piedmont Golf Club in Haymarket, VA. It was a beautiful day for golf and \$29,564.00 was raised to benefit financial aid.



(L-R) Peter Young '96, Richie Ellis '97, Steve Yeonas, and Frank Jewell.



Front to back: Frank Craighill '03, Eric Rosenthal '03, Brian Fairbank '03, Marty McNerney '03



(L-R) Mark Evans, Mark Polson, Charles Horn, Dan Taylor



There was a three-way tie at the end of play between Team Fairbank, Team Carlin and Team Cecchi. After the playoff on the 18th hole, Team Carlin was in first place, Team Fairbank in Second, and Team Cecchi in Third. The teams, left to right: Frank Craighill '03, Marty McNerney '03, Eric Rosenthal '03, Brian Fairbank '03, Matt Carlin, Jim Podratsky (Potomac baseball coach), Mike Brady (former Potomac soccer coach), Patrick Herwig (Potomac basketball coach), Andrew Gerstel, Cam Lewis, Enrico Cecchi '85, Pasquale Ingenito.

Potomac Alumni: Rhode Island Reception

In July, Senator and Mrs. Chafee, current parents at Potomac, were generous enough to open their home in Exeter, Rhode Island, to Potomac Alumni and past faculty from all around New England. Guests traveled as far as Morrill, Maine and New Haven, Connecticut to take the opportunity to reunite with former classmates and teachers.



Carroll Carter '74, John Nassikas '74, Georgia Chafee Nasikass '74, and Garrett Randolph '74



John Nassikas '74 looks on as Stephanie Chafee talks about the importance of alumni staying connected to their school.



Bill and Suzanne Doswell, past faculty members, reminiscing about their years at Potomac with Maria Graceffa, Director of Alumni Relations.

Attendees at the Rhode Island Reception included: Stephanie Chafee, Katharine Davidge '71, Garrett Randolph '74, Jane Soyster Gould '71, John Nasikass '74, Georgia Chafee Nasikass '74, Rob Parker '71, Joy Pronko (past faculty), Jennie Summerall (past faculty), Micahel Tucker '73, James Wharton '65, Bill and Suzanne Doswell (past faculty), Carol McCune Kirt '52, Mark West '73, and Carol Carter '74.

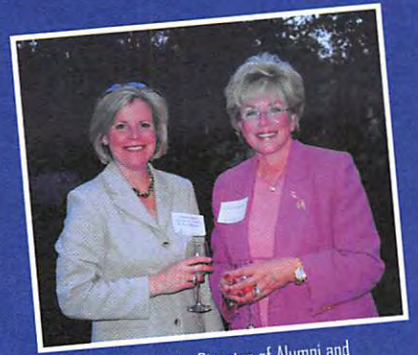


Trustee John Nassikas '74, spoke about watching his four children all at Potomac, experience many of the same traditions that he and his wife Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74 knew.



Potomac Alumni: Parents of Alumni Reunion

On May 12, a perfect spring evening, parents of alumni gathered on the patio of the Head of School's home for the much awaited annual reunion reception. The night lit up with excitement as guests shared memories and news of their alumni children. Geoff Jones showcased an exciting group of events planned for Potomac's Centennial and welcomed everyone back to campus. The Upper School a capella songsters, The Magnificent 7 gave a great performance.



(L-R) - Suzanne Halm, Director of Alumni and Development and Carol Dinardo (Allyson Bloom '92)



(L-R) - Lucien and Talaat Moreau (Scott Robinson '80) and Barbie Harper (Deborah '69, Jeffrey '72, Elizabeth '74)



Upper School singing group, The Magnificent 7

(L to R) - Angie Leith (Caroline '01); Nina Richardson (Scott '03) Host Committee and Toosey Cameron (Mark '87, Gay '88, Juan '73, Elizabeth '74, Nora '91, Roderick '98) Host Committee



(L-R) - Barbara Banks (Natalie '03, Terry '99, Lauren '94) Host Committee and Susan Lewis (Kip '98, Marc '02, Trevor '06) Host Committee.

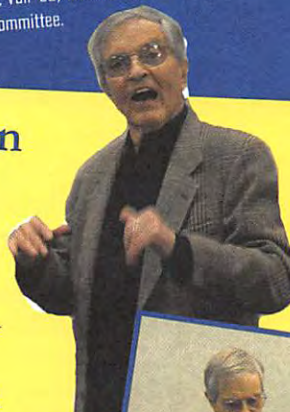


(L to R) - Faith Lewis (Samuel '01, Eleanore '98, Mathilde '94); Susan Lewis (Trevor '06, Marc '02, Christopher '98) Host Committee, Alice Breed (Wynne '02, Vail '98) and Bobbie Kilberg (Andrew '06, Cameron '98, Gillian '97, Sarah '95, Jonathan '94) Host Committee.



Noye's Fludde in Cambridge, MA

In March 2004, Potomac alumni and past faculty gathered in Cambridge, MA to watch a production of Noye's Fludde featuring Jack Langstaff as the voice of God.

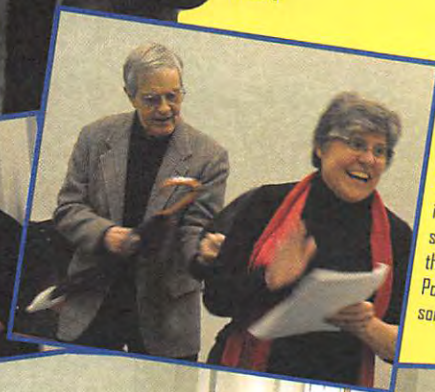


Jack Langstaff leading his former students in song.

- Geoff Jones, Head of School, Woods Vest (Alison '81, Victoria '80) and Susan Vest.



Nancy Lindsten Taylor '67 and Mary Roberts, past faculty, as they accompany the group on the piano.



Jack Langstaff and Jean MacDonald '64 dancing and singing to the classic Potomac songs.

Potomac alumni, parents, and friends join in the celebration.



Class Notes

1930 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Priscilla Manning Porter writes, "Not much news except that I have closed my fused glass business, and for the moment I am staying with my sister in Jamestown. We have had very little snow but winter is not yet over. I, for one, would love to see more of the white stuff! Best wishes to you all!"

1938 | *From John Dugger:*

Jim Birney winters in West Chester, Pennsylvania and spends much of the year in the Berkshires. He has returned to work from November to April as a Priest Associate at St. Peter's Church in Great Valley, PA. He has been retired for 20 years and spends a lot of time with his numerous grandchildren. **Bill Pearson** continues to go on cruises with his wife, Eleanor, where they do a lot of dancing. Dancing did not prevent his gaining seven pounds on his last cruise in the Caribbean, and he has been doing a lot of walking to work it off. He came to Washington in May to participate in the dedication of the World War II Memorial. **Phil Nash** declines to retire and goes to the office regularly; his career in the commodities markets remains interesting and often exciting. He walks a lot in Central Park with his two dogs, both mixed breeds from the island of Vieques, where he and his wife vacation regularly.

1940 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Peggy Shumaker Nalle writes, "Work as a copy editor for Middle East Policy, a quarterly magazine; play tennis and bridge, to keep body and mind functioning; enjoy early summers and early autumns at our house in Maine with David, husband, punctuated by visit with son, **David '74**, his wife, Patricia, and their two daughters ages 12 and 2! Daughter, **Susan '78**, continues at NBC

Dateline. We visit her at her new house in Narragansett, RI. My cup runneth over."

1942 | *From Katharine Stanley-Brown Abbott:*

Only two classmates answered the call and I hope the others are too busy with exciting adventures to be in touch. **Helen Chapin Metz** has been coping with neck spasms, but is much better, and says she'll be able to drive again soon. However, knee replacement surgery is scheduled for late May. "As one gets older, " she writes, "the body certainly seems to make itself known." **T. P. Plimpton** sends news from Florida, "Even though retired, still consulting in landscape architecture and active in rowing (sculled 70 miles as of May.) Susie is chairman of GCA Small Flower Show for the Halifax Country Garden Club. We're both enjoying growing orchids in the same place grandfather Oakes Ames grew them years ago. I accompany the church choir with my flute, being blessed with an orthodox Anglican stance." Gordan and I (**Katharine Stanley-Brown Abbott**) are returning to Europe (first time on a plane since 9/11) for a Baltic cruise with stops in Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Finland, and Sweden. Next January we are sailing through the Panama Canal. west to east, with a jolly complement of Manchester Yacht Club members. Both of us are involved with writing, our college reunions and several service organizations that consume

1942

Katharine Stanley-Brown Abbott
3 Tucks Point Rd
Manchester, MA 01944-1434
glasshead@nii.net

1944

Juliet Gill Davis
2237 48th St NW
Washington, DC 20007-10

much of our time. All four children live nearby, so we're blessed to see them and our four grandchildren regularly. To all 1942 classmates: Happy summer and do be in touch.

From the Alumni Office:

Clare Fahnestock Moorhead writes, "Yes, busy as ever if not more so organizing and improving heritage conservation – now both tangible and intangible worldwide. Concentrating mostly these days on helping small museums in the US. They contain 75% of heritage collections. Family is well – **Peggy Moorhead Williams '70** is currently touring Eastern colleges with daughter Katherine Williams, Milton Academy 2005. Her son, Hayden, Milton 2004, will start at Vanderbilt next fall."

1944

From the Alumni Office:

Edith Moffat Spenser writes, "Well, after so many years here in Connecticut I am moving to Arizona! Mixed feelings, but a new chapter opens up and it's quite exciting. My new address as of March 15th will be 495 Coronado Trail, Sedona, AZ. Best wishes to you all."

1945

From the Alumni Office:

Geraldine Warburg Zetzel's recently published book of poems is called *With Both Hands* and the 23 poems reflect on how long past memories infuse meaning into present moments. Nominated for a 2005 Pushcart Prize, the book is available by direct retail from Finishing Line Press or through Amazon.com.

1952

From Louise Graham:

Ann Barringer Spaeth comments that she has no news fit to print, hard to imagine with her interesting life. **Lindy Gibson Walsh** reports that she is delightfully busy with family and activities she enjoys. Their daughter and family from Hopkinton, NH come for Easter vacation, always the last week of April. Abby is 10, and Luke is almost seven. Her daughter graduated from National Cathedral and catches up with friends during her visit. Lindy went to St. Timothy's, that reunion is the same weekend. Son, Nathaniel is married to Jennifer, a lovely girl from Alexandria, VA, who is a teacher. They married last summer in Kennebunkport, ME, outdoors, at St. Ann's Church. Pete and Lindy live in Kennebunkport from mid-May until October 15th.

Thank heavens they can close the door to their condominium apartment after down-sizing six years ago. Between work for two churches, a garden club, a history of art class and a committee job at the condo, plus tennis, Lindy is a busy lady. **Sorrel Mackall McElroy** is busy with their thirteen grandchildren, it's so much fun to have two attending Potomac. They love living in the country outside of Richmond. She thought they would be living in a condominium, but instead they are trapping raccoons that get into the dog food. **Carol McCune Kirtz** reports that the house

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1932

Elizabeth Nash Nicholson
643 Rushmore-Medford Leas
Medford, NJ 08055

1935

Lucy Marbury Blundon
8024 Georgetown Pike
Mc Lean, VA 22102-1424

1938

John Dugger
5813 Rockmere Dr
Bethesda, MD 20816
jadugger@comcast.net

renovation is finished for the most part, now it's unpacking and figuring out where to put books and odds and ends. It is great to think about other things than choosing faucets and tiles, not enough to keep the mind alive! Now she is involved in writing poetry again by taking a great workshop which actually has publishing poets. It is a little daunting to have your work ripped apart and reassembled every week, but she's getting used to it. Bill is still teaching journalism but they still have time to travel and have fun. Their son, Jake, is in Beijing working at journalism and Bill's daughter, Kate, is a filmmaker in NYC. Carol is still singing with a couple of choruses, she will be doing Mahler's Eighth at Carnegie Hall in February. **Debby Owen Turner** says life is good but so busy she never seems to get caught up. Two visits to the US (wonderful!) since Christmas, and in late March they will go explore Pompeii and Heraculum, Vesuvius, etc. to celebrate Pat's seventy-fifth birthday. Andrew and his family will take over their house in Suffolk, but Debby and Pat will continue to go there weekends and open the garden for the Red Cross in July. She hopes to see us in June '05 if not sooner. Thanks for posting the card, Pippa! **Ann Walker Gaffney** is well and spring hints! She continues her work with the Historic Districts Council, a citywide preservation organization, the Brooklyn Women's Exchange, (a shop for hand-crafted children's clothes, toys, gifts, etc. which began in 1854 to provide an outlet for the work of poor immigrant women), and for Grace Episcopal Church. She is going to Sicily in late March with brother, Mallory and his wife, **Diana Hardin Walker '56**. Your secretary is just back from a

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1945

Patricia Mulligan Briska
01 Silverthorn Rd
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-4361

1946

Marjorie Key Andrews
1107 Route 292
Holmes, NY 12531

1949

Laura Lee Larson
14101 Lewisdale Rd
Clarksburg, MD 20871-9629

1952

Louise Graham
218 N Main St
Wolfeboro, NH 03894-4311

1953

Mary Murray Bradley Coleman
22 Wildwood Dr
Cape Eliz, ME 04107-1118

Class Notes cont.

visit to daughter Sarah and her husband, Drew, in Los Angeles. Sarah and I spent a marvelous day with **Jane Anderson Moon**. Jane had been here in NH two years ago, and the re-kindled friendship is amazing. Jane took us on a tour of historic Orange and down the coast for a gourmet lunch at Laguana Beach, pointing out interesting architecture on the way. What a treat! Jane is planning to retire from Raytheon next year but will continue to be involved with the Computer Engineering Institute in Pittsburgh. Other than that recent excitement, my life goes on as usual. Still teaching, but going half-time next year so I can spend more time with friends and family. I'm also still involved with church, community activities and a local program for needy families. With any luck, I will finally have time to actually see some of you as I have a little more leisure.



1954 Class Dinner at The Herren's
(L-R) Sally Hand Herren, Edie Murphy Holbrook, Sandy McNeil Burditt, Avis Bohlen Calleo, Didette van Slyck, Ann Livingston Emmet, Willia Fales Eckerberg, Amy Ellis Tucker, Mary Coffman Luzzatto, Ginger Lutz Elwell, Polly Graham Coreth.

1954 | From Tina Radigan:

Polly Graham Coreth wrote that she is working at the Office of the United States Trade Representative which deals with international trade policy. She finds it fascinating work and "trade" is turning out to be a hot-button issue this election year. Her daughter, Betsy, husband, Chris and their 3 daughters have just moved from Varsese, Italy to Waterloo, Belgium. She misses having them near them but it gives great reason to travel to Europe. Betsy was here for her Potomac 25th reunion which coincided with our 50th. Polly's mother is in an assisted living facility nearby in Chevy Chase and she is sorry that she's not well enough to help celebrate Potomac's centennial. She and Joe are still at the same address in Chevy Chase. They never thought they'd live in one spot for 33 years! **Sandy Robinson Righter** wrote, "So sorry to be missing our 50th. Please give my best to classmates. All is fine here. Four grandchildren living in New York City and Northampton, MA. Jim is still a hard-working architect, and I play cello and help the New England Conservatory and Dobbs, my old boarding school, as Trustee. **Amy Ellis Tucker** wrote, Looking forward to our 50th! reunion. How can we be having this when we are not a day older? Settled in Coral Gables, Florida for the winter and Bronxville, NY for the summer. Hope to be done with moving. Planning a trip to

1954 on campus at Reunion
(L-R) Sally Hand Herren, Elaine Reeves Padovani, Sandra McNeill Burditt, Mary Coffman Luzzatto, Jane Wigglesworth Lescurre '53 and husband, William, Amy Ellis Tucker.



Oxford to study (sort of) and other stuff for the summer. Saw **Mary Coffman Luzzatto** and Rudy in Ft. Myers last month. Next big decision — when to take Florida residency — or if. Anyone coming to Miami, call!!" **Ginger Lutz Elwell** wrote, "I was widowed in December 2000 and remarried October 2002 to a wonderful man I had known for 25 years. Bob and I have built a house and merged our children, grandchildren (easy) and our furniture and stuff (harder!). I now have 2 children, 6 stepchildren, 2 grandchildren and 8 step grandchildren. Growing up as an "only" child, I always wanted a larger family. Watch out what you pray for!" **Anne Emmet McLucas** wrote that she is now divorced and has changed her name to **Anne L. Emmet**. She has moved to a cute Georgetown house on 30th Street. **Edie Murphy Holbrook** wrote, "Retirement did not work! Am busy working with a young violin virtuoso, Mikhail Simonyan, 18, who walked into my life in Siberia at the age of 13, made a stunning debut with my American

Russian Young Artists Orchestra in 1999, and is now studying in New York. He made his solo debut with Valery Gergiev and the Kirov in September, and is about to solo Tchaikovsky under him with the Pittsburgh Symphony, will solo with the Boston Pops in June and make his Kennedy Center solo recital debut 9/25/04! Am also touring Misha and a pianist, his closest friend (another native of Novosibirsk), as "Siberian Sensations", with stops in Omaha, Las Vegas, and other cities. And am working with Bard College in the planning stages of a conservatory that will be driven by an exciting new approach to educating young musicians, sorely needed. Otherwise, more time for family, and a chance to see both girls and their families who are living on the West Coast. John and I love our "dacha" in upstate New York which is near Bard, so we have time there as well." **Sally Hand Herren** wrote about our reunion, "The weekend was kicked off Friday evening with a very elegant small dinner for the 50th reunion class at Headmaster Geoff Jones's house. We had been to a reception, preceding the dinner, for all the reunion classes in the lobby of the impressive, new (2000) Engelhard Performing Arts Center, midst an impressive display of student art. Saturday brought a day of activities at school with a campus tour, luncheon, alumni classes, and a sing-a-long followed by class dinners. John and I hosted our '54 dinner and were delighted to see classmates, some with husbands, and some who hadn't returned for 40 years or more. **Ginger Lutz Elwell**, who had never been back, was up from South Carolina, with her husband-of-less-than-two-years, Bob. Each had been widowed and had been long-time close friends as couples. **Elaine Reeves Padovani** was in from Tucson, having coordinated her trip with a leadership conference at Madeira. **Sandy McNeill Burditt** came from Shaker Heights, and **Amy Ellis Tucker** came up from Miami, where she spends 6 months of the year. The other 6 months in Bronxville, NY. **Edie Murphy Holbrook** and **Didette Van Slyck** each whisked in for the evening from NYC. Then there were six of us locals: **Polly Graham Coreth** with Joe, **Mary Coffman Luzzatto** with Rudy, **Avis Bohlen Calleo**, **Anne Emmet**, and **Willia Fales Eckerberg**, with Lennart. Look for a picture of us in the Term. We all looked very well preserved for our 50 years out!! We had fun catching up with each other, but missed those who couldn't make it. Next time! As a personal aside, I'm looking forward to being a grandmother in the fall,

thanks to **Lisa '84** and her husband, Charles Foster. Lisa has a great job in international philanthropy with Pfizer in NYC which takes her to interesting countries mostly in Asia and Africa. **Michael '96** is teaching and writing in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and **Allison '97** is with the US Green Building Council here in Washington, helping to save our environment." **Tina Knox Radigan** writes, "We have had a busy year. Last June we had a big 40th Anniversary party at our house on the river and 2 weeks later our daughter, Kate got married to Ben Andrews at our house on the point overlooking the water. Fortunately, the weather cooperated. We were in Bermuda twice last fall and spent a month in Bonita Springs, FL this winter. You would think my husband, Charlie, was retired but he is not! He has cut back a lot and we spend most weekends in the Northern Neck of VA. This running back and forth to two houses gets exhausting, particularly when you are trying to make each house look like someone lives there. We are looking to buy a townhouse here and sell the one we are in, but the way the market is today, everything is way overpriced. So I am concentrating on getting this house fixed up so we can sell as soon as we find another place. Our son, Josh, lives in Alexandria and is still in the restaurant business and Kate went back to school and will graduate next year with a degree in Psychology. We spent a wonderful month in Florida, from Feb. 15th to March 15th and of course it was such fun to spend some time with **Emily McLean**. Her youngest son, Jamie (our godchild), got married on the beach in Ft. Myers and it was a beautiful wedding. It was such a thrill to meet all of Emily's adorable children and see what a great job she did raising them. She is having such fun living in Florida and is obviously very happy. I am sending pictures, one of her wedding and the other of the two of us at dinner one night. We look forward to returning there next winter. I am so sorry to have missed the reunion but my husband's 40th Law School reunion at UVA was that same weekend but I thank Sally for her input on the weekend at Potomac." Keep the news coming! I love hearing from all of you.



Friends & Family
Emily McLean '54 (top) has dinner with friend Tina Knox Radigan '54 and spends time with family at her son Jamie's wedding in Ft. Myers, FL (bottom).

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1954

Elizabeth Knox Radigan
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1957

Susan Cooley
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1962

Deborah Johansen Harris
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debjohansen@earthlink.net

1963

Anne Williams
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1964

Alison Peake
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Hartford, CT 06106-5005

Class Notes cont.

1955 |

The Potomac community lost a dear alumna, Elizabeth Ann Swift Cronin '55 on May 7, 2004. Ann was her Class Correspondent and sent in the following class notes on April 30, a week before her tragic accident. The content of her notes has not been altered as we wanted to preserve her words to her classmates. Please see the In Memoriam in this issue for more on Ann's amazing life.

Hello to everyone! We hope you have in mind our 2005 reunion. **Elisa Kellogg Klose** has offered her DC house again for a get together and hopes we will all come. There has been a good deal of visiting going on. Liza and **Prue Lloyd Rosenthal** came out to Rectortown to see your scribe (Ann Swift Cronin), as did **Ann Bradley Vehslage** and sister Mary Murray and **Mary Virginia (Gibb)** and Patrick Pascoe (who now split their time between their houses in DC and Round Hill). Liza and Kevin visited Prue in Ann Arbor. Liza, amazingly, has, thru sister Celina, become sister-in-law to **Sherry Bingham Downes**. Sherry is living outside Boston with her husband who has just retired from his parish. She is singing in the Choir at Trinity Church, Copley Square and helping set up the forthcoming Democratic Convention. **Marcia McGhee Carter** has closed her rare bookstore in DC and is now as she says "loose upon the land" doing some book dealing, spending time with daughter Celia and grandchildren and singing in the Emmanuel Church, Middleburg, Choir. **Ellen Lishman Robertson** is helping husband George get thru an EMT course while taking history courses for fun at Colby-Sawyer College. One of her daughters is a policewoman and the other is graduating an MA in Psychology. **Judy Young Flynn** reports she is looking forward to cutting back on her business, but at the

moment still has time for lots of tennis, some golf and a bit of traveling on the side. She has 6 grandchildren evenly divided boys and girls. **Wendy Ross Eichler** and husband Tom will retire this year from USIA and State respectively. They have bought a log cabin in Maine and plan to summer there and winter in DC. **Randy Clifford Wight, Christine Willcox Spencer, Kitty Carter Nelson** and **Ann Swift Cronin** all summer in Nantucket and hope to get together this summer! **Gail Owen Troutman** and sister **Debbie '52** were in DC briefly this spring. Gail is doing lots of traveling and working on the board of her local hospital. **Gretchen Becker** is living on a farm in Vermont and has convinced me from some of her recent experiences not to buy that cute goat as a companion for my horses. Gretchen is about to publish her third book, this on a low carb diet for diabetics. **Kay Walker Butterfield** and I (**Ann Cronin**) are doing lots of riding (sometimes together) and are working on a Girl Scout project with **Tinky Ostermann '32** for the Potomac Centennial Celebration. I would love to see any of you when you are in the DC area and hope you will all make it to the 2005 Reunion!

1956 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Linda Merrill Ciccone sent an announcement of her husband, Antonio's series with a note: "The year of Antonio's beautiful Lydia Series exhibition in Palazzo Panciatichia Fuenze! Thinking of you all." **Charlotte (Mopsy) Seymour Lovejoy** writes, "I am traveling a lot this year – diving and looking for lemus in Madagascar for two months – then back for reunion with family in July in Kiowa, SC. Got back from seven months cruising intracoastal Ft. Meyers, FL up to DC/Annapolis this past November. I have an August dive trip to little Cayman – hope for no hurricanes! Our boat weathered Isabel well.

1958 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Barbara Kent Lawrence writes, "We just moved to South Hamilton, MA to be near my daughter and her husband, who are expecting their first child in March. I continue to teach at Lesley University and am working on a research project – the sequel to one I did a couple of years ago. We've been looking at the cost effectiveness of



1959 on campus
at Reunion

Back row: Judith Parker,
Glenavie Norton, front row:
Anne Dickson Ravenel,
Cornelia Biddle Saltzman.

small public schools throughout the nation. We know small schools serve students, teachers, and most communities better than large and are cost effective to build and maintain. You can find the first report of Dollars and Sense at www.kwfdn.org.



1960 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Eve Auchincloss Lilley writes, "We still live in Washington and I am still in the field of special education. At present I am spending most of my time doing diagnostic testing – an area I love – and in fact am working in Potomac's Middle School, as well as with the Lab School and Educational Assessment Associates. Bill has his own company which is doing very nicely. Still take ballet classes (how many more years I wonder?) and am loving being a Board member of the Washington Ballet as well as of Bowen-McCauley Dance (a small company.) I now have seven grandbabies ranging from nine months to thirteen years of age. So all really couldn't be better and I have much to be grateful for. My mom is still with us and living happily and comfortably in her own house in Charlottesville, VA. I send my best to all my wonderful classmates at Potomac!" **Kamila Stapko Allen** writes, "Still teaching reading for grades 1-4. Son, Ben, was married June 2003. My husband is retiring after 35 years of teaching fourth grade. Heard from Mr. Langstaff in January – his teaching still reaches me today. I'm gardening, camping and all the rest." **Connie Casey** writes, "I'm greening (and orange-ing and blue-ing, and pinking) Manhattan. I now design and maintain six parks, as assistant gardener in the NYC Parks and Recreation Department. Our two sons (way grown) live in New York City, too. Harold continues as head of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Best to classmates."

1962 | *From Carol Mattusch:*

Debby Fort divides her time between Denver and a log cabin in the mountains. She fly-fishes passionately, which takes her to beautiful parts of the west. She travels and photographs, and her days are never dull. Have she and **Rhea Topping** met? Read on! **Deb Johansen Harris**, back on the east coast since 2001, is communications manager at Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. She married the

Rev. John E. Harris on May 3, 2003, they live in Concord, MA, and Ted teaches Clinical Pastoral Education at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. Deb has seen **Sue Dreier** and **Nina Nitze Moriarty**, and she reports that **Jack Langstaff** gives concerts from time to time. **Peak Mason Hogen** was in Palm Beach in March when I heard from her, commuting to Wellington to ride in "Disney World for Horses." She is "working towards the 3-ft. Adult Amateur Division, ...holding at 7 inches!" **Mimi Merrill Russell** reports that her work is featured this spring in a Better Homes and Gardens specialty magazine called Garden, Deck, and Landscape. You can find it at places like Lowe's, Home Depot, Borders, and Barnes & Noble. Mimi writes that since her mother died in 2002, she has been able to keep her mother's house in County Waterford, Ireland, by making it available for short-term rentals: look for it at www.tourismresources.ie/cht/avonmore. **Liz Murray Platts** lost her mother in October, but otherwise Liz is in fine form, finishing up her thirtieth(?) year of teaching at the Maret School. Greg is still at the National Geographic; son Jamie, 24 is on the staff of the National Economic Council in Washington; and Chris, 21, is a sophomore at Harvard studying art history, conservation, and preservation. He spent half of last summer in Venice, the other half at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Besides having her fly-fishing school in Upperville, VA, **Rhea Topping** (www.rheatopping.com) runs 3-day schools in Yellowstone National Park for the Yellowstone Institute (www.yellowstone-association.org). She asks if we remember "Seal, Seal, the banana peel...runnin' down the hockey field!" I do! **Wendy Wisner Hazard** had a Fulbright last year in the Philippines. This year she's back as an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maine in Augusta. She is also a grandmother, not to mention the caretaker of a farm, a frisky Morgan mare, and two pregnant Hereford heifers. My (Carol Mattusch) book hasn't come out yet, no fault of my own: the Getty promises that it will be out in October. Tiger, the new horse, arrived from Montana last June on the day that a tornado washed out the main road, but she didn't

Water "Lilleys"
Eve Auchincloss Lilley (above, left) enjoys a moment along the water with her family. Also pictured, Lilley's seven "grandbabies." (above, right) ages nine months to 13 years old, go for a swim.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1967

Thomas Macy
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1967

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1969

Alexander Dominick
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1970

Lindsay Potts
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1970

Jane McAllister
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Class Notes cont.

seem to mind. We have now celebrated her third birthday party (April 1). Two of the guests were our Latin teacher, Mrs. (Imogen) Rose and **Maria Keith MacFarlane '58**. In March, I had dinner and a good visit with **Liz Murray Platts** and **Carol Eakin-Burdette**. Great news!! **Deb Johansen** has agreed to take over the job of class representative! Send your news to her this year (debjohansen@earthlink.net). **Louise McVickar Marx's** daughter Elizabeth was married in October. In spite of all the planning, Louise managed to slip in some golf, tennis, and gardening. **Nina Nitze Moriarty's** father Paul Nitze, 97, was honored in April at a dinner hosted by the Aspen Institute at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, at which the Paul H. Nitze Fellowship Fund for statesmanship, patriotism, and public service was announced.

1963 | From Leni Preston:

Thanks to the hard work of our great communicator, **Dede**, seventeen members of the class of 1963 returned to Potomac to participate in a fun filled reunion full of happy memories and lots of gossip (oh, yes, for those who weren't there, you'd better come next time!) Our happy tribe included: **Sharon Collins Park**, **Marisa Knowlton Domeyko**, **Wendy Neel Ellsworth**, **Barb Franklin**, **Maria Franco Granquist**, **Wiley Jarman Grosvenor**, **Dede Fryer Hacking**, **Liz Jessup**, **Diane Kefauver**, **Wendy Millar Phillips**, **Leni Chapman Preston**, **Chris Ripman**, **Harriett Sweeney Fraunfelter**, **Zan Smith Thomas**, **French Gamble Wallop**, **Edie Warner** and **Anne Williams**. There is way too much news to include with the Term's deadline looming, but suffice it to say that Mr. Shiras' warnings that none of us would amount to anything were way off the mark! What a great class – we had a wonderful time and we are now looking forward to our 50th when we can all be together again, but let's not let that stop us from staying in touch. As for your scribe, 2003 was a very busy year with my museum consulting business going well; move from DC to Maryland into a wonderful house; publication of my husband's book on Maryland Aviation; great trip to France to see our daughter, **Caroline '98**, who spent the year in Pau teaching English and her arrival home to a fantastic journalism job at www.unwire.org - now I look forward to celebrating our 41st reunion!

1964 | From Alison Peake:

First of all, let me please thank **Gail Weinmann** for having done such a fine job with collecting and dispensing current information on the happenings of our classmates. She has decided to take a (well-deserved) break so I'll be doing the notes for a while. Second, thanks to those of you who answered the request for information. As for the rest of you... **Penny Williams Behrens** writes that she's working on a biography of Mary Boleyn (1500-1543), Anne's sister. Daughter Anna, 21, is in Australia for her Junior year, Electa, 24, is in Exeter, England getting a masters in performing arts and "Bill and I are just here in Maine" keeping busy. **Pilly Hammond Hall** wrote to say that she hoped to be able to attend our reunion. **Lynne Dominick Novack** said she'd not be able to come to the reunion because she had a business trip to the area the following week and couldn't do both. Still living in Dallas, she is the Executive Director of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations - keeping busy with 32 programs in 2003! She and John are creating a second life in Patagonian Chile, staying there 2-3 months each year. **Thomas Bradley** wrote from Idaho, where he has lived for 21 years. He was married "years ago" to Derry Gibson. His son Colby, 9, is with him in Boise. Writing, photography, genealogy and the outdoors leave little time for his "real" job which is at a division of Citicorp. **Ellen Peirce** is a professor of Law and Ethics in the Business School of the University of North Carolina and has been doing that for 24 years. She is now the Dean of the Undergraduate Business School and is traveling literally all over the world. She lives with her husband Dan Graham, Will, 8, Jamie, 15, and Nell, 13. My (ex) sister-in-law **Jocelyn Danielson Tennille** moved from New Canaan a few years ago with her husband Bill to return to Miami. Her eldest child, Lauren (27, graduated from Vanderbilt University and is a sixth grade

1964 on campus at Reunion (L-R) - Lalla Dodge Brutoco, Elizabeth Sinclair, Laura Merriam Fay, Alison Peake.



teacher in a public school in TN) had a fabulous wedding last summer in Miami and not only was it a beautiful occasion, but a chance for a huge family reunion. Andrew, 23, is studying in Miami. Joss' three stepchildren are scattered around the US, but one of them has made her a grandmother! **Amy Vance** is still working as a lawyer in NYC. She remains in touch with **Lynne**, who comes to town at least once a year. I spoke with **Margaret Martin** around Christmas time when she was in California visiting her mother. All's well with her - she's still in Rome, but travels to London often for both business and pleasure. I've also spoken with **Joan FitzGerald Denny** fairly recently. She's still in the Boston area and she and I were trying to spend Thanksgiving together, but at the last minute I couldn't join her. There was a wonderful dinner hosted by **Jennifer Owen Murphy** and **Guru Sangat Kaur Khalsa** on the Saturday night of Reunion Weekend at Jennifer's and, although it was a pretty small group, we really had some fun and had plenty of time to catch up. **Laura Merriam Fay** returned for the first time in 40 years. "I had such a good time running into so many familiar faces from the past" and will make a special effort to return next year for Potomac's 100th. Laura and Paul live in San Francisco. Alexandra (25 and my godchild) graduated two years ago from Middlebury College and has been in/around NYC since then. She's returning to SF to go to graduate school this fall. Francesca is a sophomore at the University of Boulder where she's having "too much fun." Jennifer and Ray have just celebrated the birth of their fourth grandchild, born to their son Alec. The baby was 10 lbs.3oz! **Guru Sangat** is an artist and yoga teacher in the Great Falls area and sings in a group, walks, canoes and is on several Sikh councils. It was nice for many of us who aren't in the area to meet her husband. Her daughter is getting married this summer and everyone is delighted! **Elizabeth Dickerson Sinclair** was my hostess for the weekend. She still runs and spends most of her time writing children's stories and trying to publish them. Two of her children live in California and two in NYC, although she is able to see them all with some regularity. **Catherine Satterlee** and her husband Jeff were also at dinner. Catherine works at the Hirshhorn Museum in the exhibits department. The "nest" is empty so she is singing jazz and working on a book with **Isabel Hill Fucigna**. She enjoys life - rollerblading and kayaking and is in a book club with **Molly Scoville Fitzmaurice**. Catherine has a new cell number: (703) 869-2428, so call her! **Gail Weinmann** is still working at NIH, managing and directing research programs. Her husband is still in practice, but talks increasingly about retirement. Their daughter is 16, in 10th grade, and is a source of great fun and joy. Her parents are both alive at 90 plus - "really amazing." She adds, "The reunion was a wonderful experience - we should recruit intensely for the next

one." **Lalla Dodge Brutoco** writes that about seven years ago, she and her family (Rinaldo, Orion, 18, and Darya, 15) moved from the Bay Area (No. CA) to Ojai (So. CA) "We adore life here on our 12 acre organic avocado and meyer lemon ranch." One of their most recent business projects is bottling a gourmet condiment called Garlic Gold, created in their kitchen. It's being sold in more than 500 stores nationally. Lalla and Rinaldo also manage a natural foods deli/restaurant, Shangrila Gourmet. She's also excited about her feng shui consulting business. Lalla's sad news is the death of her brother Powell. We extend our sympathies to Lalla and most particularly to Mrs. Dodge. I've (Alison Peake) been living in Hartford for the past 4 years (having gotten divorced around that time), teaching Spanish to 4th and 5th grades in the West Hartford School System. Two years ago I got breast cancer, did the chemo and radiation, and am now feeling strong and healthy. Just a reminder to the ladies to take care of themselves, something that's hard for us to do. My son Trevor, 26, graduated from Yale 4 years ago and works as a broker in Dallas; my daughter Morgan, 23, graduated (Summa) from NYU last summer and is working at Harry Winston's in NYC, but is looking for something more interesting, perhaps in a think-tank; and my daughter Avery, 21, is studying at BC. My best work seems to be reflected in my children! I know it's early, but having so enjoyed this past reunion weekend, I hope many of you will think about coming back next summer. It can't be that hard to come up with an excuse to visit Washington. Some of you thought you could come this year, but had to change plans at the last minute. We missed you! Potomac is looking very healthy and I think the festivities that are being planned for the 100th will be outstanding and NOT to be missed. Please feel free to write or call me with any news. Remember: no excuses next time around.



1963 on campus at Reunion

Barbara Franklin, Diane Kefauver, Wendy Neel Ellsworth, Liz Jessup, Wendy Millar Phillips, Leni Chapman Preston, Maria Franco Granquist Middle Row: Marisa Knowlton Domeyko, Zan Smith Thomas, Chris Ripman, Dede Fryer Hacking Front Row: Wiley Jarman Grosvenor, Anne Williams.

1967 | From the Alumni Office:

Alexandra Hand Mateer writes, "We're all fine - I'm still in Port Douglas running "shaolin" a Chinese junk which takes guests snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef. It's great fun! We had **Debby Tucker's** husband, Dick Sherman, to stay for four weeks in October, and **Priscilla Koehne Friedberg** came for a month last August so the Potomac connection is still there! Both of my sons

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1971

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1972

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1972

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1973

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1974

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Class Notes cont.



Emily Rowan '04 with her mom, Emily Train Rowan '65 and her grandfather, Russell E. Train '33 at Potomac graduation in May.

are grown up and working in banking and finance – Jules is a financial planner in Sydney and Raz is an analyst based in London. If any Potomac people come to Port Douglas, they're welcome to give us a ring on 409-91231 and we'll show them around."

1968 | *From the Alumni Office:*

Renn Richman writes, "Life is well up in Maine. I am enjoying my grandson, Seth. He lives close by me and we have regular play dates. Being a grandparent is the best." **Susan Graham** writes, "I find it hard to write an exciting note in mid-February which will be read in summer! Buffalo weather is fascinating with the lake affecting snow, rain, wind, and sun patterns within a small distance; five miles can make all the difference. The people who live here are wonderful; a variety of ethnic backgrounds, strong work ethic. The economy could use some help. I have lived here fifteen years – how time passes! My kids (boys) are 12 and 14. My husband works at an indigent Community Clinic; I am a cardiologist with an eclectic practice. Anyone coming to visit Niagara Falls, stop by – we are 10 miles away." **Lucy Jewett Lowenthal** writes, "Peter and I are doing fine. We are looking forward to the reunion in late April. Peter continues his work in solar energy. He is working on an interesting project in Guatemala. Lucy is still doing fundraising at Environmental Defense – so much is needed to be done to keep moving ahead with environmental progress. Rachel, 15, is doing well in high school here in Bethesda. Field hockey and clarinet are her passion. Max, 13, is doing well in school and will enter high school in the fall."

1972 | *From Ros Smythe:*

What amazes me about our class is the number of us who continue to have ties that lead to Potomac no matter where we live. From London, England, **Katherine Bucknell Maguire** reports that she returned to Potomac in October, 2003. Two of her three children played in violin concerts at the school. Katherine wrote "Wow! Potomac has only gotten better." While her daughter played a Viennese piece and her son led a string quartet he composed himself, Katherine said she "somehow felt it had all started right here at Potomac when the cow went out to plow." **Bill Woodson** checked in from southern Ohio. He commented that a highlight of his last trip to Washington was a visit to the parents of **Andy Wolf**. Bill wrote "that visit was probably the first face to face interaction I've had with a Potomac connection in 30 years! I can't tell you how nostalgic it was." He reminisced on how generous and hospitable the whole Wolf family was to him while he was at Potomac and remarked that a 35 year gap was bridged in a single evening. Coincidentally, **Andy Wolf** wrote in as well. Living and working in Charlottesville, Virginia, he is on the medical faculty at The University of Virginia teaching and practicing internal medicine.



William H. DuVal '68 with his son, Billy '04 at Potomac graduation in May.

1975

Margaret Griffin Begor
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1975

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He is still playing soccer in an older league. His wife, Anne, is a nutritionist gaining prominence in the fight against obesity and his two kids Tyler, 12, and Katie, 8, are thriving. Another doctor, **Randy Frank**, wrote from McLean, Virginia to say he is involved in clinical work at Arlington Hospital in addition to teaching and performing research in Geriatric Psychiatry. His twins, Holly and Ellie, are in Kindergarten at Potomac and "loving it." When he gets time, Randy goes biking. **Lise Metzger** has a daughter, Greta, who is also at Potomac in the first grade. Lise wrote that although she wants it to be Greta's school and not a lot of "Mom's" memories, her daughter "loves it when **Debbie Olin Norris** and I tell her stories of us being naughty at school." Yet another classmate with two children at Potomac is **Liza Kuhl Labadie**. Clara is finishing up her 8th Grade year at Potomac and heading off to Lawrenceville for high school. Liza is excited, but nervous at sending her daughter to boarding school for the first time. Daughter Helen is in 5th Grade having a great time with Greek Mythology. Andrew is still working at the NASD, and Liza keeps every thing running smoothly at home. She reported that the family had a great time last summer on a trip to Switzerland and Italy. At Potomac, she runs into **Caroline Baldwin Kahl, Donald Shipp, and Henry Strong**. Of the above three, Henry also wrote in to me. He said "I feel sorry for those class agents who have nothing to send in each quarter, so I figured I'd chuck something into the pot." Thank you so much Henry. I always appreciate everyone who takes the effort to keep me up to date, hint, hint, hint. Life seems to be going along well for the Strong family in Potomac, Maryland. His wife, Kathy, is a veterinarian. **Allana '03**, his eldest daughter, is a freshman at Duke. John Henry is in Sixth Grade and Kip is in 4th Grade at Potomac. For 22 years Henry has been in the structured settlement business, meaning he helps negotiate and finance out of court settlements. Henry wrote "I am one of the few lucky people who genuinely enjoys his work and who looks forward to going to his office each day." **Lisa Koehler** wrote in from Arlington, Virginia. She has started a business contracting classically trained singers for solo and choral events such as weddings, concerts, church services, etc. Her daughter May is in Kindergarten and keeps busy with soccer, piano and singing. Lynne is in preschool and enjoys her studies of dinosaurs and fairies. Her husband Ted continues to work at the Department of State as an IT Specialist. The class extends its condolences to Lisa on the death of her mother last September. From Evergreen, Colorado, **Susie Macy Jarvinen** wrote in to say life is fine. Her two teens and pre-teen are a pleasure. She wrote "It's my greatest joy and deepest challenge helping them become who they need to be." Judging from your note Susie, you are doing a wonderful job. She will be in Nantucket for most of June and July, and



would love for classmates to look her up (Macy on Orange Street). **Caroline Norden** is now ensconced in her new home in Freeport, Maine. She and her husband, **Curtis Bohlen '75** now have a farm with about 33 acres of fields and woods. Caroline is busy looking after Sarah, almost 5 years old, and working part time in conservation consulting. Curtis teaches Environmental Studies at Bates but is in the midst of exploring new career options. They also have ten chickens, and are debating whether to tie themselves down with more animals. From San Francisco, **Lewis Butler** wrote "generally life for myself and my family of four is following the usual lines." Lewis and his wife Catherine have an architectural firm of ten people (butlerarmden.com). They just received an AIA award for a residential project. The pictures he sent me of the home's interior and exterior are striking and beautiful. Their daughter Elena is a sophomore in high school and son Tobias a seventh grader. On a more unusual note, one of Lewis' clients asked him to be in a punk rock video. So if you see Me First & the Gimme Gimmes' video of the song "I Believe I Can Fly," look for the only man in a tie in the video. That would be Lewis. I received a thoughtful telephone message from **Mark Kennedy** who is living in Santa Barbara, California. He offered to send me a healing tool to cure my mid-winter New England blues. Although I did not take him up on the offer, he has made a business out of his healing products for mind and soul. I have saved the most poignant note for last. From Easton, Maryland, **Laird Burnham Larrimore** said that on May 13, 2003 she was diagnosed with Lymphoma. She went through extensive chemotherapy treatments and in September went in for a stem cell transplant. In addition to looking after her six year old child, she went back to work full time as of January 1, 2004 and has "put last year away and am looking forward to a full future." Laird commented "I think of my days at Potomac often and love to read about everything everyone is doing." The class is so sorry to hear

1968 and 1969 on campus at Reunion
 Kate Holmes Caldwell, Peggy Gill Schaake, Maria Chavchavadze, Lucy Jewett Lowenthal, Anne Sprunt Crawley '69, Simone Jorissen, Susan Webb Soltys.

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Class Notes cont.



1973 Class Dinner

about last year's illness and sends Laird our most sincere wishes for her continued good health ahead. I have little to report on my family. My son Jed is a sophomore in high school, Adelaide is in eighth grade and Louisa is in sixth grade. My husband Dan works in finance and uses a room in our barn as his office. His only problem is explaining to his clients why they hear dogs, cats or horses in the background as he tries to make a sales call. I continue to look after the kids, the house, the yard and the animals. As always, my thanks to all who wrote in with their news. It continues to be a pleasure to hear from you and to see where life has taken each of us.

1974 | From Jennifer Just:

Hi all, I might as well start with the reunion which was only a couple of weeks ago, and a good way to delve into where we all are. Well as usual, we had a fantastic reunion; always nice to be with my "Potomac family!" I wish I could remember more details about what people were up to but I was busy shooting video? basically I had the impression that we were all the way you might expect of a group in our mid-forties — slightly distracted by being in the middle of everything: middle of jobs, middle of careers, middle of raising kids either in their teens (**Barbara Parrot Katz**) or on the verge of teens or even very new ones (**Ann Brown**.) **John and Georgia Chafee Nassikas** hosted the dinner Saturday night in their lovely home in McLean and **Andrew Hyde** had unearthed never-before-seen (well not seen in a long time anyway) footage from 8th grade, including shots on the soccer field and out at Ann Brown's farm. We got to see **Rob Bennett**

1974 Class Dinner at The Nassikas'

and **Richard Bray** which was fun since we haven't seen either of them at a reunion in a while. If ever! Yes, the memory grays along with the hair? I also shot some more video this time so that we'll never run out of new stuff to look at! In attendance were: **Nina Bohlen**, **Sarah Holmes Briggs**, **Ann Brown**, a WONDERFUL surprise in **Nina Chapin de Rochefort's** visit from overseas!, **Jamie Engert**, **Grace Guggenheim**, **Andrew Hyde**, **Barbara Parrot Katz**, **Charlie Mathias**, another wonderful surprise in **Afroze Mohammed's** appearance, **Stephen O'Neill**, **Garrett Randolph**, **Gray Rosse**, **Jane Day Rich**, **Lisa Shipp Logue** (fun to see her daughter!) **Harold Singletary** and **Hilary Stewart**. **Garrett** also induced **Bill Doswell** to come down for the festivities which was a great treat for all of us who had this wonderful man as a teacher. It was nice for me to see **Charlie Matthias** and **Stephen O'Neill** "back in town," though they may have been for a long time so apologies if this is old news! (We all go so far back that ten-year-old news feels new.) And of course various spouses were there and I apologize for leaving their names out. Since **Polly Pittman's** wedding was the same day as the dinner, **Ann Brown** and I went out to "The Farm" for an hour (not including DRIVING time, Ann!) to pay our respects and send best wishes from the class. **Polly** was radiant and gorgeous as always. We also saw **Ben Warnke**, who's married to **Polly's** sister **Tammy '68**. It was wonderful to see him and to meet his two beautiful daughters. Few people sent in news so here's what I have, in addition to what I know of folks that I think is publishable. I had a nice long chat with **Ann Brown**, who seems so happy and content — and once I met her daughter, **Anna** it was easy to see why! A wonderful baby. **Ann** is enjoying spending as much time with her daughter as possible before she goes back to work. **Carroll Carter** writes,



"I was very sorry to miss this reunion this year since I now have a niece and nephew (Charlotte and William Lawson) enjoying Potomac. Hearing all of their wonderful news about the school, its programs, sports and facilities has me eager for a visit. It sounds like the reunion was very successful. I had great pre-reunion calls however with Jane Day Rich, **Malcolm Whitman**, John Nassikas, and **Jen Just** and had within the past year caught up with - **John Chester '73**, **Gray Rosse**, **Grace Guggenheim**, **Georgia Chafee Nassikas**, **Nina Bohlen** (in Vermont!), and **Sarah Holmes Briggs**, to name a few. I was sorry to also miss **Kerry Kennedy Cuomo's** party and congrats to Polly! When I haven't been chasing five children (Sam, 14; Luke 12; Nina 9; Blaise 4 and Fiona 2) around Fairfield County soccer fields and school concert halls, I've been commuting to the World Financial Center helping Deloitte develop new business. My wife, Lia, has become the most sought after soprano for weddings and funerals in Fairfield, so when she's away my life on the weekends is a lot like Steve Martin's in Cheaper by the Dozen! I coach one u-10 girls travel soccer team and am just ending my 2 year term as the President of the Roger Ludlowe Middle School PTA. Music is a big part of our lives - thank you Potomac - with piano lessons, one (stand-up) bass player, one French horn player, four singers and me a hack on the piano/ Babatunde Olatungi wanna be! Please contact us if you are driving north this summer, with or without children. We're not far from I-95 and if you are coming either direction our home is well situated for a "rest stop" since we feature a variety of healthy and not so healthy snacks and no there's no shortage of entertainment! Hope to hear from you." **Jane Day Rich** writes, "I am happy about being in the DC area - closer to my parents and to Potomac and Madeira friends. At the risk of getting a pile of resumes or referrals from job seekers, I will mention that I am an executive recruiter with The McCormick Group in Rosslyn. My husband Kevin is working for a start-up company that finds international distributors for small to medium size businesses. Our daughter Isabel (named after sister Isabel '79) just turned 2, and is a lot of fun to be with. I have seen Sarah Holmes Briggs on the treadmill at the health club; caught up with landscape designer extraordinaire **Barbara Parrot Katz**; seen Nina Bohlen at John and Georgia Chafee Nassikas' home (which will be the setting for our class reunion dinner) over xmas; and chatted with Carroll Carter who is still in NYC. One of the highlights of the Reunion for me was the opportunity to share it with sisters **Isabel '79** and **Mary '84** - and what was fun about it, was expanding friendships to siblings of classmates.... so, for example, Nina's sister **Julie Bohlen Perry '79**, Gracie's brother **Davis '79**, Garrett's sister **Comfort '79**. The age gap certainly closes as we get older!" **Sarah Holmes Briggs** writes, "News of mine includes continued work in intelligence, focused on WMD. It's also been fun to remain good friends with locals Barbara Katz, Jane Day



Rich & Ann Brown. Had a great time reconnecting with friends at the reunion. An e-note to **Tim Higginson** resulted in the following intriguing reply: I am off to new ventures. My secretary Kathy Mulhall has my contact information. Her number is (312) 876-6551." **Andrew Hyde** is delighted to be back in Washington after three years in Brussels where he worked as Political Advisor for the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe. Now, shifting careers completely (which is what the State Department is so well known for) he has taken up a two-year stint specializing in telecom issues in Asia. "I've had some fascinating trips to India, Vietnam and Thailand to look at their technological futures," he said. He, his wife Diana and their twin ten-year old boys live in Bethesda. **Jennifer Ramsay Just** (me) is still writing, still not making money at it, but with some help from old pal (etc.!) **Carroll Carter** has taken his commentary writing for the local NPR station seriously enough to start his own website. Will let Potomac friends know when it's up and running. Other than that, he's associate producing a documentary on an Iranian political prisoner, working on other documentary possibilities and sending novels out to agents. And adjusting to life as a single mom? luckily it's been a relatively smooth transition for all. Would love to see anyone who is around? Carroll and I are talking about getting a group in the NY/CT area together! We know where you live, people, and will be contacting you. **David Nalle** writes, "Don't know if I mentioned this or if it's been in the Term, but we had a new baby in the fall of 2002. Her name is Catherine Disston Nalle and she's quite the cutest thing at 19 months. A big fan of toads and frogs." **Susan Parrott Crary** writes, "My three boys, Gardner, 6, and twins Nicholas and Ian, 2 1/2, keep me very busy. 3 boys in a NYC apartment is a challenge, but never dull. I am busy volunteering with

1974 on campus
 Front row (L-R) Daughter of Barbara Parrot Katz, Barbara Parrot Katz, Sarah Holmes Briggs, Nina Bohlen, John Nassikas, Andrew Hyde, Garrett Randolph, Hilary Stewart, Charlie Mathias, Georgia Chafee Nassikas. Front row (L-R) Nina Chapin de Rochefort, Jennifer Just, Ann Brown with daughter, Lisa Shipp Logue with daughter, Caitlin, Jane Day Rich.

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1985

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Class Notes cont.

their schools and our church activities. It's a great life!" From **Garrett Randolph**, my FAITHFUL correspondent – only because, as he told me himself, he's been in my shoes now and knows how hard it is to get people to send in news! Garrett writes, "Have dropped anchor in Maine, or at least established a base camp. Just in from knee surgery in Tennessee. Costa Rica before that. Watching an April blizzard outside – I love Maine. Caught the Nassikas family (John and George Chaffee Nassikas and their kids) last summer in Sorrento and Rhode Island. It may be the last time I can wrestle Nicholas and hold my own. Tried to talk Bill Doswell into joining us at Reunion (obviously with success! –Ed.) just got off the phone with **Mark West '73**. Ran into **Caroline Norden '72** last summer in S. Portland. Walked into a sandwich shop, saw her and said "Caroline Norden," to which she replied "Garrett Randolph." Had not seen her in over 25 years! **Hilary Stewart** recently had an open house for her new business, Spectrum Arts Healing (Hilary does reiki-like energy work and the like and is already developing a regular client base!). She also displayed her artwork there which resulted in some sales and interest by interior designers." **North Sturtevant** writes, "I'm living in the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire and loving it. I'm a Partner at JSA Architects in Portsmouth and traveling a bit between projects in Maine, New Hampshire and on the Cape as well as to our branch offices in Silver Spring, MD and Jacksonville, FL. My 12 year old daughter narrowly missed qualifying for the US Figure Skating Junior Nationals last year as a Juvenile Skater and is giving it a go again this year as an Intermediate. My 10 year old son is playing hockey in Durham, NH, where I am coaching (very much like herding cats)." **Jonathan Willens** writes, "After three years as stay-at-home dad and part-time lawyer, I have moved my little law firm from Brooklyn to Manhattan and returned to full-time employment. (See www.briefworks.com for more information.) The boys, Joseph and Oliver, are 9 and 13, and far more self-sufficient than I was at their age. My wife Julia is taking a break from her exhausting job in the brand-consulting business to try her hand at daily parenting; the boys are skeptical about this change. After 8 years in the NYC public schools, Joe is off to a very Potomac-like high school called Poly Prep Country Day School. He'll be wearing blue shirts, khaki pants and a tie every day, a uniform that seems oddly familiar. Sorry I missed the reunion, but I got **Stephen Warnke** to promise to attend the 35th, so we'll see you then.

From the Alumni Office:

Nina Bohlen is teaching sailing on the San Francisco Bay for fun on the weekends – separate from real job independent consulting for non-profits and foundations.

1976 | *From Julie Just:*

Julie Just writes, "Many thanks to **Stephen, John, and Molly** (and, **Broadway Jackson III**, who plays a significant role in these notes) for cheerfully responding to my (late!) call for news – by email, even better. What's keeping me running are Lucy, 6, and Diana, 19 months, who are too heavy to easily juggle with the New York Times Book Review, where I'm still deputy editor. I'm starting to enjoy reading Laura Ingalls Wilder and the Mrs. Piggle Wiggle books to Lucy, and even the occasional Nancy Drew. Looking forward to Harriet the Spy. And to getting out more. It is possible to read too much." **Stephen Hill** writes, "I'm still loving life doing programming for BET. Splitting time between NY and DC...and sometimes LA. No wife. No kids. I see Broadway in DC...and got to see Broadway Jackson III (Potomac 2011?) in "Fiddler on the Roof." Stellar performance!!!" **John Brooks** is living in Atlanta, and he reports, "I'm now running a large national study to understand the reasons why HIV-infected persons develop all these unusual complications of treatment (e.g., fat redistribution, bone thinning, diabetes) and to describe the medical conditions for which they are at risk as survival approaches that of the typical North American (e.g., unusual cancers, liver and kidney disease). I'm still doing lots of work on programs to introduce antiretrovirals (AIDS drugs) in Africa and have stayed involved with my ongoing research on diarrhea in East Africa. But enough about work; what about life!? I've been together with Todd Fibus for 5 years now. We live a happy life in suburban Atlanta with our cat, Pluto, and spend free time rescuing chipmunks that fall into our pool. We're both physicians at the local VA Hospital, where I have an AIDS clinic and he's a radiologist. We spent 3 weeks this year on a trip going up the Amazon (big spiders!). Don't know if we'll go to Massachusetts to get married, although it happens to be the only state where I actually own real estate. I went to my 25th reunion at Exeter last week and am pleased to report I'm comparatively well preserved but definitely experiencing little memory problems, you know, um, what's it called, oh yeah, "word finding dif-

faculty.” If you’re in Atlanta drop in and say hi.” **Molly Shipp Payne** writes (from just down the hall), “I am still the Transportation Director here and coaching 7th & 8th grade girl’s basketball and tennis. My husband and I have just bought a house in Arlington—very small but very cute. We are close to **Scott O’Gorman** but have yet to run into him even though his son plays baseball in the park behind our house. Broadway and I were just talking about our 25th reunion, and how we hoped a lot of people would be coming to the 30th!! My

Shea,1/2. Their MBA mom, Jennifer, is now the full-time Chairman and COO of our household. And I continue to fight the telecom policy wars here in DC. Overall, everything is terrific.” **Byron Hope** was an active participant trying to contact every classmate and encourage them to come to the reunion. He also brought a huge “78” cake to our dinner. Thanks for your spirit and efforts Byron. Byron is “still working for the police in our Nation’s Capital. Beginning to show gray hair from the job, the kids, the grand kids

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sister and her daughter (Caitlyn-almost 5) came to her 30th a couple of weeks ago. It was fun to see a lot of her class. We did a nature walk with Mr. Munroe etc. May Day has been moved to the Gum Tree field and it was really great! Last Friday was the Greek Olympics – which we never did (the entire 5th grade competes) but it is pretty cool. Broadway’s son was in it.”

1978

From Julie Warder:

Many of us are feeling rejuvenated after a wonderful 25th (26th) reunion! In attendance were **Jim Fairman, David Greenwalt, Wendell Miles, Adrienne Slaughter-Melvin, Julie Twiname Warder, Rob McDowell, John Childs, Alice MacKenzie, Nat Abeles, Ann Addison Freniere, Susannah Humpstone Michalson, Curt Winsor, Tim Gould, Julie Campbell, Libby Jewett, Byron Hope, Ramin Oskoui, Mittie Brooks Rooney, Tony Evans, Sally Anne Epstein and Lola Singletary.** We thank Libby and her husband who hosted a wonderful dinner at their house (historically significant as **Alan Calfee’s** house in high school). From **Rob McDowell** “It was terrific to see such a great turnout of the Great ’78 at the reunion. As my perceptive bride observed, “What a dynamic group of people.” Great job to everyone who contributed to our record breaking contribution of \$32,000-plus. Other classes will be trying to catch up to us for years. Now it’s back to work and the kids. Griffin, 4, is a piece of work and attends a local Montessori school along with his sister Mary-

and maturity.” **Susannah Humpstone Michalson** also helped make reunion calls. In talking with **Martha Levin’s** mother, she learned that Martha lives and works in Hong Kong for Cisco Systems. At the time of the call, Martha was “padding” in South Africa and had to stop in India on her way home for business. We can understand why she couldn’t make the reunion. Susannah also spoke to **Amalie Moses Reichblum.** Amalie lives in Bennington, VT and commutes to Pittsfield, MA where she is a lawyer for GE. Susannah shared her own post reunion enthusiasm. “It was a blast to see everyone and to meet spouses, significant others, and kids!! Thanks to Jim for bringing the cooler of wine to the swing tree; we had a great afternoon in the sun! The sing-along was also great - a real trip down memory lane. It was a real treat to see everyone who came! I returned to substitute in my favorite kindergarten classroom. I told my 5- and 6-year olds about seeing my friends from kindergarten. At first, they had trouble believing that I was ever in kindergarten or 5 years old. But once they got past that, they hugged each other and said, “We’re always gonna be best friends!” That sort of sums up how nice it felt to see everyone on Saturday. Our lives change, people move around, but there is nothing like old (and I do mean old) friends. Thanks to our fundraising group (J.C., Rob, Wendell, John, Ann, Mittie, and all the others who helped). Many thanks to the reunion organizers (Julie, Ann, etc.) for bringing us all together. Many thanks to Libby, Steve, and the nieces for hosting such a lovely dinner!!!! Just a reminder that everyone has a standing invitation to sunny Sarasota, Florida. Mike, Elliott, and I have lots of room and would love to take anyone who is interested out for a little fishing or dolphin watching. I promise to keep the alligators and snakes away from the house. Hope to see everyone soon!! “I had a



ALUMNI PAGES ONLINE

Check out the Alumni page on the School’s Web site. You can enter class news, update your profile and find out what your classmates have been up to. If you don’t know your password, send an e-mail to alumni@potomacschool.org.

Class Notes cont.

good chance to get to know **Jim Fairman** again as he and I were at every reunion event! He has two adorable daughters, 2 and 4. They lived in downtown Chicago for six years, but now live in the Northern Suburbs. He and his wife race a 19' sailboat on Sundays during the summer. **John Childs**, who flew in from California for the reunion, writes, "I've been living in SoCal for more than ten years, and really love it here. The ocean, the mountains, the fires, the earthquakes, the high profile murders; what's not to love? I'm working as a furniture conservator (restorer), and I work for museums such as the LA County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Huntington, as well as "hot" celebs like Barbara Streisand and Cher. But since my dad died in 2000, and my sister moved from Seattle to Toronto with her family, the call to come back east has been growing stronger and stronger. Also, although my current job is interesting at times, too often I feel like I'm nothing but a handyman. SO, I'm fixing to come back east, hopefully in 2005, as a high school history teacher. I'll spend an academic year out here getting experience, and then try to get a job at a school somewhere between DC and Boston. The only question will be what to do with my Catalina 38, which is a fairly substantial sailboat. I'd hate to sell it, since I've already redone all the woodwork, but hiring someone to sail it to the east coast is going to be expensive. Of course then I could fly down to meet up with it in the Caribbean, which would be fun. Ah well, decisions, decisions. It was SO great seeing everyone at the reunion. Take care, and see you all again soon, I hope." **SallyAnne Epstein** also came from out west. She shares, "I am living about 30 miles west of Bozeman, Montana with my husband and two children (Olivia 5 1/2 and Grayson, 4). We have a small ranch that we have spent the last few years fixing up. My husband has spent much of his time renovating an old log cabin into a guest house as well as an old granary into his office and an indoor pool. I am a stay at home mom and spend much of my time in Bozeman where our children are in school. It's beautiful here with a little bit of everything from -40 in the winter to 100+ in the summer. If any of you are in the area do drop by and visit." **Mittie Brooks Rooney** is still living in Bethesda with her husband and 2 children. "My daughter Cate is off to high school (maybe to Potomac) in the fall and our son Thomas starts Kindergarten in September. About 16 months ago I launched a public relations firm - Axiom Communications Group. We are a full-service firm



Class of 1983 Class Dinner at Victoria Esposito's House
(L-R) Back row: Ansley Martin, Chad Oppenheimer, Tom Newbold, John Creamer, David Muhlbaum, Alison Kirk Long, Claire Hebel Harrington and Renee Lettow Lerner. Front row: Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey, Douglas Kennedy, Victoria Frankhauser Esposito and Adria de Leonibus Myers.

and our clients include Ted Turner Documentaries, Calvert Group of mutual funds, and the Department of Homeland Security. I love owning my own business. It was great seeing so many friends at the reunion and Libby and her family were wonderful to host! I would love to know where **Jane Sommers Kelly** can be found." **Adrienne Slaughter-Melvin** shared the reunion weekend with her family. "We've just moved back to the D.C. area from Atlanta, GA. (We, being me, hubby Dwight, and children, Joshua, 3, and Daria, 1.) We live in Ft. Belvoir, VA and we're glad to be home near friends and family. All of us enjoyed the 25th reunion festivities at Potomac and dinner at Libby's house was a blast! Love to all!" **Alice MacKenzie** was with us thanks to her mom surprising her with an airline ticket the night before. Alice is getting a MFA at Rhode Island School of Design. **Tim Gould** and his wife Deanna have returned to the U.S. and are living in Charlottesville, VA with their three boys, Magnus and Harry, 5, and Jago, 1. **Tony Evans** was a great source of memories for us at the reunion. He has been living in Chicago for fifteen years. He has three children, Courtney, 14, Emily, 12

1991

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and Charlie, 10. He has been working in insurance and risk management for almost twenty years. He says he, "enjoyed seeing everyone at the reunion. Potomac is everything I remember!" You can count on Lola to remember everything. We summoned her to the room when we were trying to remember all of our graduation parties. She named them, and in the order they took place! She is, "still in D.C. and there's nothing new going on, but I enjoyed seeing everyone at the reunion. I'll see you in 4 years at our 30th." Here is some news from friends who were unable to make the reunion, but were there in spirit. **Arthur Woolverton** writes, "Still living outside of Portland, Maine with my patient wife Sheri and son Matthew, 7. Just took over the role of National Sales Manager for Talus Corporation and have once again become over extended in community activities. I am Senior Warden for Trinity Church Portland, serve on the Board of Portland Trails and the Chocorua Chapel Association, I am Vice Chair on the local Zoning Board and serve as my Class Secretary at Brooks School." **Alex Clyde Meskan** wrote to say that she was so sad to have not made it to the reunion. She was hoping to make it to May Day with at least one of her two-year-old twins, Madeleine and John. "The weather looked like it was probably perfect for May Day, so I was doubly sad not to be there. I could just feel what it was like thirty years ago! Scary!" She and her husband Tom live in Minnesota and both work for Medtronic, Inc. **Pippa Vanderstar** filled us in on her news in her reunion questionnaire. "I lived overseas and traveled the world as an archeologist for 10 years or so, working in the Mediterranean and in Oxford, England. Now I am happily ensconced in Philadelphia where I teach Art History classes to university students and tutor elementary and high school students in the evening. I love it!" It is good to catch up with **Ian McIlvaine** also. He writes, "I have my own architecture firm in Venice, California, where I am currently working out of an 8 feet by 40 feet steel container as my future home and office is getting nailed together outside the door. I work with my wife, Victoria Yust, a Los Angeles native, who I met while in graduate architecture school at UCLA. No kids, one gray cat. I am president of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition which is doing great work making it safer, easier and more fun for Angelenos to get out and around on bicycle. I am on the board of the CRSP (I could spell out the acronym, but it still wouldn't explain very much) whose main project is something called the Los Angeles Eco-Village, an attempt to convert an existing, dense neighborhood into a healthier, more sustainable place to live by looking at the integration of social, economic and environmental issues. And I am involved in an enterprise called What? whose main business is importing hip, modern jewelry from Murano, Italy and Milan. Check it out at www.whatinternational.com" **Hildreth Willson** writes. "We just got back from a wonderful trip to Victoria, British



Columbia. Went to the bug museum (I held a tarantula) and whale watching. Whale watching was on a perfect day - temperature in the 70's and water glassy-smooth. We found a pod of orcas, which swam within 5 feet of us. Truly magnificent! Meri composed a song to sing herself back to sleep on the return to the harbor; it was about "little orcas." I have NO idea what is little about an orca, but so it went. Work is work - fine but nothing spectacularly interesting to anyone other than me. Kids and husband are categorically wonderful, and am so enjoying all of it. Even new au pair is working out. From Slovakia. Keeps things very interesting in our household, to say the least. She speaks British English, so occasionally we have to adjust for context, such as a boot is not necessarily something that goes on your feet. Meri no longer wears sweaters; she wears jumpers. Incredibly disappointed to have missed you all at the reunion, but I am planning to attend the 30th. I don't think Byron will let any of us miss that!"

1978 on campus
(L-R) - Julie Twiname Warder, John Childs, Susannah Humpstone Michelson, Ann Addison Freniere, Adrienne Slaughter-Melvin, Jim Fairman, Rob McDowell, Sally Epstein, David Greenewalt, Wendell Miles, Tim Gould, Nat Abeles (Kneeling) - Alice Fisk MacKenzie.

From our class website which JC Ewing setup:

<http://hometown.aol.com/potomac78/page2.html>

Ann Addison Freniere wrote: "I got married on the 18th of December to Colonel Robert W. Freniere, USAF. I'm now officially the mother of 4 kids, two boys, 11 and 13, and my girls, Katherine, 7, and Maddie, 4." **Sarah Albritton Wiederkehr** is also in the D.C. area. "I'm living in Arlington with my middle schooler Caitlin, 11 and my wonderful husband, David. I have tried every arrangement there is (and even invented some) to balance working and managing our home life, and, well, now I am at home. The good news is we are all fed and have clean clothes and my nightmares have stopped. It's still strange to be saying anything about anything that happened over 25 years ago, but, can't deny it those are our memories. I do miss the good old days at Potomac with all of you. Best to all." I spoke to **Billy Rademaekers** on the phone.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1993

Malissa Crichton Soong
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1994

Lauren Banks Amos
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1994

Sally Steponkus
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sesteponkus@aol.com

1995

Katie Sabella
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Fort Collins, CO 80525-2731

1995

Erin Vagley
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Class Notes cont.

He is living in LA. He moved there about ten years ago to be a stand up comedian. He said that that was very tough, and he has since been trying his hand at writing. He seems to finally be meeting with some success at this. We look forward to finding out what he is involved with! I, (**Julie Twiname Warder**), am living in Scottsdale with my husband and three children. I am at home with Ben, 7, and twins Sophie and Jack, 2. I brought them with me to the reunion to experience May Day and meet some of my dearest friends. May Day was held on the gum tree field for the first time, and it worked beautifully. It was even more fun for me as I was able to catch up with colleagues from when I worked at Potomac, and even some of my students and their parents. I was mesmerized by how lush and green everything was, coming from the desert. People kindly reminded me that I was there at the best time of year. It felt as wonderful as I had anticipated being back among Potomac friends. If any of you want to be included in our group emails, please email me at jtwdean@aol.com and we will add your address to the list. We have a long list of missing classmates, and we hope to have all of your help in finding them again.

1982 | *From Reid Wilson:*

David Tierney writes, "I have been living with my wife, Sabura, in Napa Valley, CA for the past year as a resident-staff member at a Sufi based Spiritual Retreat Center. My wife is the main teacher for the spiritual retreat program, and I work for The Jaffe Institute as

the Director of Enrollment & Registration for their workshops and their three year Healing School. I also have a full-scheduled healing practice. Evenings and weekends. I'm pretty busy these days, and at the same time, I am surrounded by beauty, and I feel like I am helping people re-discover love, meaning and satisfaction in their lives. I love where I live, I love the people I work with, I love what I do for my job, and I love my wife. I see **Lewie Hamady** every now and then, who lives in Sausalito, CA. If anyone wants to reach me, please pass on my number 707-965-0400 x19 and e-mail yunus@jaffeinstitute.org." **Ann Luskey Weir** writes, "We are all doing well and have been moving around a lot lately. We are currently living in a rental house in Miami Beach, and plan to be here for a few months. We have rented our house in McLean, are home schooling our eight year old, Jordan and six year old, Randy and preparing to get on a rather large boat and cruise around the world for a couple of years. In September, we welcomed our daughter, Charlotte, into our lives. It has been a busy and fun year." **Francesca Hunt Jewett** writes, "We moved to Leesburg two years ago and are actually moving to Waterford, VA next year after we build our house. Our three kids, Hunter, 4, Finley, 3, and Chanler, 9 months, keep us very busy as you can imagine. Chanler gets lots of attention from her two doting older brothers. My husband, Fletcher, has a new job as a loan officer at Severn Mortgage in Leesburg. We love living in the country and head to DC often to see Potomac friends." **Joan Wise** writes, "Here's my news. After six years as a freelance writer, I finally

decided to get back into the commuting rat race and now work for Marriott at their corporate HQ. No more soap opera watching at lunch, walking the dog whenever, and wearing



1979 on campus

Back Row: (L-R) Andrew Preston, Chris Tierney, Chloë Richardson, Betsy Coreth Bowden, Comfort Randolph Belbas, Bill Hoffmann, Bill Doswell (past faculty), Peter Makepeace, Davis Guggenheim.
Front row: (L-R) Marcia Brown, Julie Bohlen Perry, Isabel Day, Speke Wilson.



1984 Class Dinner

my pjs in the office ...sad. But on the plus side, I get great hotel discounts!" **Nerissa Niels** writes, "In true 21st Century form, I'm typing this with my thumbs on a palm pilot from a dressing room in Madison, WI. **Katryna '84** and I are on tour promoting our newest CD, *This Town is Wrong*. It is soundtrack to a book I wrote called *Plastic Angel*, coming out on Scholastic next spring. Thinking of spring and wondering if the climbing tree in the Middle School playground is still standing." As for me (**Reid Wilson**), my wife and two children, Nina, 6, and Alec, 4, are doing fine, except for the fact that Alec broke his collar bone tripping over a basketball two days ago. Now his arm is in a sling for the next four weeks and given that he is constantly in motion this ought to be interesting. We are still living in Lake Bluff, Illinois, but I do manage to see some of you either in Chicago, as I have with **Andrew Scott**, or in DC as I have with **Jimmy Corrigan** and **John Muir**.

1983

From the Alumni Office:

Annette Poblete gave birth to her daughter on August 21st after the blackout!

1984

From Emily Eden Trotman:

I am happy to report that the response to my pleas for news has been overwhelming. I think we'll need our own Term soon. So nice to hear from so many of you. Thanks for your responses. On the wedding front: **James Quigley** was married on the 15th of May in Martha's Vineyard to **Kristen Humman**. He had a bachelor party in Las Vegas which was attended by **John Stump**, **Charles Saltzman** and **Richard Kotite**. See photo. **Jennie Maddox Sergent** writes, "I am still at Scripps, but I'm in a new division that last year began publishing a home and garden magazine for HGTV and, coming this year, a Food magazine for Food Network. Both networks are owned by Scripps. The magazines are quarterly at this point, but they are expected to go every other month

in 2005. They are distributed as inserts to Scripps-owned papers around the country. I just received a promotion, and I'm the editor over both those magazines. So I'm having lots of fun - it's so much more interesting to me than all those years of covering politics! My son, Henry, is now 2 and doing very well. We're now going through preschool application nightmares. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion with my husband, Jim Sergent, who is a graphics editor at USA Today." Jennie also writes, "I'm told that **Garrett Donovan** is now the co-producer of "Scrubs." **Ali Shapiro** writes, "I moved back to the DC area almost 2 years ago and about a year ago decided to leave corporate life behind and start my own company renovating and reconstructing homes. It's been really great and I love being my own boss. (One of my houses is going on the market next weekend...I'm totally psyched and nervous.) Can't wait to see everyone at the reunion bash at my house (my first renovation project) on May 1st!!" (Many thanks, Ali!) **Trevor Corson** writes, "I'm a writer based in Boston. My first book will be published by HarperCollins this June. It's titled *THE SECRET LIFE OF LOBSTERS: How Fishermen and Scientists Are Unraveling the Mysteries of Our Favorite Crustacean*. It's based on two years of research I conducted aboard lobster boats in Maine and another year I spent following lobster scientists around the state as they used scuba gear, submarines, and underwater robots to study the lobster population" We'll ask for it at the bookstores, Trevor! **Joan Wolfington Berkery** writes, "My husband Drew and I are still in NYC and loving it. Our daughter Allie is almost 4 (July '04) and our son Andrew is 1 year old. Allie is in nursery school and loves it. Andrew is very much a boy — he is into everything and loves to climb, jump, run, kick balls. I am not working anymore, and I am really enjoying being with my kids." **Charles Saltzman** writes, "I'm living in San Francisco working as a Product Manager for wireless software products at a company involved with digital imaging. I got married last May and my wife, Hilary Bruce, and I are expecting our first baby in July." **Pilar Frank O'Leary** writes, "I am currently working as the special assistant to the Vice Chair and COO of Fannie Mae. We moved back to DC from NYC about 4 years ago and I've been at Fannie Mae ever since. I am hoping I have hung up my lawyer hat forever but we'll see! My husband, Bill and I celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary in December and we have a 19 month old girl, Carolina Pilar O'Leary who is a blast and already speaking in both Spanish and English (granted there is some serious Spanglish going on!!!). I'm hoping she'll eventually go to Potomac. We live conveniently close to Georgetown

They do!

James Quigley was married on May 15 on Martha's Vineyard. (l-r) Morgan Till '91, Dorothy Wexler '84, Wendy Hoopes '84, James Quigley '84, Kristen Quigley, John Stump '84, Emily Eden Trotman '84, Charles Saltzman '84, Richard Kotite '84, Mary Day Fitzgibbon '84, Jamie Stump '91



Class Notes cont.

University so the Abuelita (my mom) who is a Dean at the Medical School there gets to see Carolina every day. I keep in close touch with **Lisa Herren (Foster)**, **Sarah Howard** and **Charlotte Greenewalt**. **Ricky Frank '90** (my brother) is also in the DC area working for the World Bank and **Michael '93** is in NYC working for IBM." **Lisa Herren Foster** writes, "I'm still at Pfizer working in their International Philanthropy group and managing our HIV/AIDS programs. One project is similar to the Peace Corps in that Pfizer is loaning its employees to NGO's in developing countries for up to 6-month, fully-paid assignments to work as epidemiologists, communications gurus, physicians, IT experts etc in the HIV/AIDS arena. It's a great project to manage and is providing a lot of international travel, which I always love. Otherwise, I'm living in Manhattan, married to my great man Charles Foster, who is involved in a business called giantmicrobes.com – stuffed microbes that are meant to be used as tools for teaching science to kids. We'll see where it leads but if anyone has ideas or interest..." **Matt McGuire** writes, "**Zuri Green Adams** tells me that Potomac has lost track of me, so I wanted to touch base and give you my information. I'd love to make the reunion but I live in Chicago and have a 7 month old so it's unlikely I'll get there. Actually, I have two girls – Alexandra, 3, and Charlotte, 7 months – and of course they are completely Daddy's girls. Can do no wrong. My wife is named Michelle and we've been married for a little over 5 years. I'm with an asset management firm called Ariel Capital, doing institutional marketing. I don't know when the last time we talked was, but I got a PhD several years ago (Harvard, in Anthropology and the dissertation was on public housing policy in the US - long story). But I decided not to go into academia and did several things related to affordable housing development and more practical policy work after getting the degree. Then I wandered into politics and the world of investments, working for NY's State Comptroller doing real estate investments and working on corporate governance concerns. He was running for governor at the time; another long story. When he didn't win the election and his term as comptroller ended I left to join Ariel, which is based in Chicago. So life is good. I talk to **Kenrick Skerritt** and **Zuri Green Adams** now and again, and used to bump into **Scott Craven** and **Rory Kennedy** on occasion in New York (actually, Rory's brother Chris is on Ariel's board - small world), but I'm not in touch with many others. How is everything with you? Please

tell everyone I send my best and if they're ever in Chicago to give me a call." How about an email, Matt? He is at mattmcguire331@yahoo.com. **Sarah Webber Bischoff** writes, "My son, Charlie (Charles Emerson Bischoff) will be a year old on April 24th. He is a lot of fun. He is still crawling to get around and says "hi" and "uh oh" all the time. He gets to visit his "Aunt Jen" (**Jen Webber '83**) often as she lives 10 minutes away in Portland. As for me, I have mostly been busy taking care of him but I still have a 7 unit building in Portland which I am in the process of converting into condominiums." **Scott Craven** writes, "I am doing well...I got married to Bryn Elliot last May in a small wedding in NYC. I resigned as partner at Northsound Capital, a hedge fund in Greenwich, and am starting my own fund in June. I am still living in NY and am having a blast. I've been awol but am coming back with bells on!!" **Talby Reyner Taylor** writes, "My husband (Brad Taylor) and I live in Colorado Springs, CO. We have an 11 month old boy, William (Will). Being a mom is just the best! I am an architect and have my own residential design practice. I work out of my house- and keep about as busy as I want to be with remodels, additions and custom homes. We have renovated and sold a few homes over the past years. We love Colorado and have lived in CO for 10 years this Spring (wow!), but I definitely find myself missing the east coast. **Charles Kehler** writes, "I am afraid I will not be able to join everyone on Saturday (baby sitter disaster), but ask that you forward my best wishes to all. Good luck in Mexico City, and I hope we all catch up in the near future." **Eric Strauch** writes, "I couldn't swing this weekend for a variety of reasons yet would have loved to be able to make it. How fun to see everyone after 20 years, especially because I haven't hardly seen anyone for 20 years. Anyway, thanks for all your work on this. Have a blast! I was working in the OR yesterday and "I Love Rock 'N Roll" came on the radio - brought me right back! Hope to see you some day!" **Rob Coleman** writes, "I'm very sorry to have missed the 20th reunion; 3,000 miles is a long way to go, although

1998

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1998

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I know some came from much further away. I've got no better excuse, except my band was playing a gig at my college (Reed, here in Portland), and we were having a bit of a reunion in our own right on the same day. I've got few biking adventures to report, although I'm back to riding recreationally in the hills west of Portland as a recovery from fairly major and very successful back surgery. Enough about that! Most of my reportable "adventures" these days are professional in nature; I suppose that is common. In any event, I'm one of the many in our class who now are lawyers. You could report in the Potomac Term that I graduated from George Mason University School of Law summa cum laude (either 4th or 5th in my class, I honestly cannot remember which) in 1999, clerked for two years for a judge at the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. after graduation, and now am in private practice focusing on construction and general commercial litigation in Portland, Oregon. Please also report that if anyone is ever visiting Portland, I would love to hear from them and/or have visitors. E-mail is the best contact, at rcoleman@lawssg.com." I, **Emily Eden Trotman**, was so sorry to miss our Reunion (see photo). I hope very much to see all of you sooner than the year 2024. My husband Phil and I are coming on 4 years in Mexico City. We have a little "mexicana," Allie. Looking forward to **James Quigley's** upcoming wedding and seeing many Potomac friends: **Mary Day Fitzgibbon**, **Wendy Hoopes**, **Richard Kotite**, **Charles Saltzman**, **John Stump**, and **Dodi Wexler**.

a talk to Potomac juniors and seniors about my career and how I got a job in television. I encourage others in our class to contact the Alumni Office if you would be willing to share insights on your career with the next generation! It was a really fun day.

From Kelly Hensley Wlodarczyk:

Barclay Smith DeWet and her husband are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Rachel, on April 9th. **Caroline Sanderson Morris** has a toddler, Lindsay, who is walking, talking and turning into a fun and beautiful little girl. She is in her fourth year at BellSouth Telecommunications in the Consumer Marketing Group and recently joined the BellSouth Answers Marketing and Promotions team as a marketing manager. **Zania Pearson** has been working at the State Department for the past 11 years. Her

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1996

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1997

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1997

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1986 | *From Holly Green:*

Katie Bacon and her husband Mark are expecting their first baby at the end of May. Katie plans to take six months off before returning to work as Executive Editor at the Atlantic Monthly Online. **Shawn Banerji** and his wife Rebecca live in New York City where Shawn juggles work at the headhunting firm of Russell Reynolds with his fatherly duties to son Julian, 3, and daughter Beverly, 8 months. He regularly crosses paths with other Potomac alums through work, including **Annie Martin Simonds '90** who works in the Russell Reynolds DC office. **Bobby Der** continues his long tenure at Sports Illustrated for Kids, where he is now Assistant Managing Editor for the magazine. On a personal front, he married his fiancée, Liz, in the Catskills in May and headed off for a wonderful honeymoon exploring Italy. He makes the pilgrimage to DC relatively often as he is still a Redskins season ticket holder! I (**Holly Green**) am still at ABC News, where I recently became a producer for the newsmagazine, PrimeTime with Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson. My husband, Pete, and I are enjoying our daughter, Lilly, who is almost 2 years old. I drove down to DC this winter to give

daughter, Valencia, is 13 and was recently accepted to her first choice boarding school for the upcoming school year. **Courtney Murray** has been living in San Francisco for the past 7 years after a stint as a snowboard bum for a few years. She is a fourth grade teacher and really enjoys it. Courtney recently became engaged to her college sweetheart, Jack Coghlan. Jack is President of a snowboard company in San Francisco. She would like to re-connect with other Potomac alums who live in the San Francisco area. **Jessica McGrew Kosa** has two children, Erin is one and Tommy is three years old. She will start a fellowship at MIT in June. **Stasia MacLane** is planning to move from DC to McLean later this year after her new house is built. **Jamie Mayberry** wrote that after 12 years together, he and his long time sweetheart, Amy, got married in Chicago in May. They incorporated ancient Beltaine and May Day traditions in the ceremony, but unfortunately, no accordions, muffin men, or maypoles were sighted. However, the presence of **James Kehler**, **Paul DeGeorges** and **Catherine Beizer** more than made up for the lack of morris dancers. **Lisa Comparato Klepper** and her family, husband Carl and two children, are in the process of building a new house in Boca Raton and are planning to move later this summer. As for my news, my husband and I are

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1999

Daryn Cambridge
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1999

Susanna Mitchell
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2000

Alison Weisgall
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2000

Jonathan Haworth
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2001

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Class Notes cont.

delighted to announce that we had a baby boy, James Spencer Wlodarczak, on March 1. We still live in New York and after renovating an apartment for the past year, we plan to move this summer.

1993 & 1994 Class Dinner at Cafe Citron
 Back row (L-R) Leah Quadrino '93, David Ritter '93, Erin Cleary '93, Allyson Woods '93, Chris Seline '93. Front Row: Mike Frank '93, Michelle O'Hara '93, Tara Barrett Ciogoli '93.



1990 | From Carter Smith:

Annie Martin Simonds lives with her husband, Will, and her two children, Wiley, 3, and Harry, 2, in Great Falls, VA. Both kids are an “absolute delight” and rather “rambunctious,” so life is never boring, she reports. Will is opening a restaurant in Upper Georgetown called Curry Club (www.curryclub.net), so be sure to check it out! **Nikkia Johns Desprett** still resides in Pflugerville, TX (just outside Austin)



their son, Kyle, who turns 2 years old in June. Rick reports that **Ted Starkey** works for AOL Sports and that he and his wife, Pam, are now back in the DC area. Rick also speaks with **Alistair Edwards**, who just bought a new home in Charlottesville, VA. **Carlos Cecchi** and his wife, Lisa, are expecting another baby (their second), due in October. They are also getting set to move to another place in Alexandria in preparation for the new addition to the family. Carlos is also involved with the Potomac Centennial Committee which is planning and preparing for Potomac’s 100 year celebration.

Alison Shirk Scherr is enjoying being a mom in New York City and “loving the city more than ever.” She continues to work as a prop stylist and paints “here and there.” Her son, Sam, “is terrific and really big.” **Whitney Kloman Leslie** writes that her “life is full of play dates, gymnastics classes, preschool drop-offs, and coloring books” for her two children – Charlie, who will be four in July, and Samantha, who turned two in March. **Perrin Vallender Keeler** and her husband, Max, are still living on Capitol Hill. Perrin earned a Master’s degree in Education from American University as part of the DC Teaching Fellows program. She is also teaching second grade in Anacostia. **Jay Demas** is currently living in St. Louis and attending graduate school in Neuroscience at Washington University. He

1993 & 1994 Class Dinner (L-R) Khadhyja (Kadi) Taylor '93, Eric Clay '94, Camille Morgan '94, Cynthia Robinson '94, Sarah Ogunsola '94.

with her husband, John, and has moved to another group within Dell - the State and Local Government Marketing Programs team. Nikkia travels back to the DC area periodically to visit her mother, Betty Johns, who still lives in DC. She also keeps in touch with **True Patchell** who is doing very well. Nikkia and John plan to travel this summer to New Orleans, Seattle, and Vancouver. **Rebecca Kelsey Roby** moved to Salzburg, Austria in November '03 to work as in-house trademark counsel for Red Bull, the energy drink company. With her husband, Russ, serving in Munich at the American Consulate, they are able to see each other every weekend. They spent many of their winter weekends skiing in Austria and Germany, and they have had other adventures in Nice, France and Amsterdam. **Rick Frank** continues to work at the International Finance Corporation where he specializes in Latin American equity and loan restructurings. He and his wife, Barbara, are keeping busy with

2001
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2002
 Kathleen Buchanan
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1993-1994
Class Dinner
(L-R) Jody Marse
Al-Saigh '94, Gina
Cordero '94, and
Shelly Satly
Pollak '94.



intends to defend his thesis this summer (hopefully!). His fiancée, Laura, is currently a professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. They will be getting married in October in Michigan and then plan to move to New York to start new jobs. **Sophie Simmons** is enjoying success with her business, Thread Design (www.thread.com), which makes bridesmaid dresses. Although based in New York, she and her business partner opened their third store in Chicago last September, and they are now in the process of designing the spring '05 collection. Despite the heavy workload, Sophie managed to spend Christmas and New Years in South Africa with **Antonia Stout '92** where they went on safari and visited Capetown. **Amelia Kidd** (nee Knight) continues to live in London working for the law firm Clifford Chance. She married Nigel Kidd last May in Scotland and enjoyed having **Annie Martin Simonds** and **Whitney Kloman Leslie** be part of the celebrations. Both of Amelia's siblings are teachers in the UK. **Anna '96** is a primary school teacher in Norwich and **Joe '91** teaches at Millfield School in Somerset. Amelia's parents (remember Mrs. Knight, a past Potomac School Nurse!) continue to live further north in the UK, running an exclusive B&B in the Borders of Scotland. As for me, **Carter Smith**, I continue to enjoy living in New York City where I work at Lehman Brothers, an investment bank. Over New Years, I went dog sledding for a week in the boundary waters of Northern Minnesota. If you thought "roughing it" at Caroline Furnace in 7th grade was a challenge, try sleeping outside in negative 20 degree weather with the huskies howling in the background! That said, it was a lot of fun, but I'll probably want to go some place a little warmer for my next vacation.

1991 | From the Alumni Office:

Mary (Molly) Lee Nicholson graduated from The College of William and Mary in 1995. She finished the University of Richmond Law School in December of 2001 and passed the VA Bar in February 2002. In March 2002 she went to work as a law

clerk for the Circuit Court Judges of Alexandria. Her term there will be over in August 2004 when she looks forward to joining a law firm.



1998 | From Jessica Ohly:

Hello All! Well, thanks to the organization and work of **Kip Lewis**, **Maggie Langer**, and **Elena Sylos-Labini**, many of us were able to see each other and catch up at our improvised five-year reunion barbeque. (See photo at top right.) I

hope that we will get another chance to see each other as Potomac heads into its year of Centennial Celebrations! Once again I make the plea that if you have a new e-mail or better way to contact you please send it to me. For our alumni contact list I got something like 43 e-mails bounced back to me because college e-mails no longer work. And if anyone has **Sarah Gregg's** e-mail that would be great. At this very moment she may be writing the same thing I am. I apologize in advance for any errors. I'm sitting in an internet cafe in New Zealand! Now by far the best report I got was from **Ben Jones** who writes that he graduated from William and Mary (along with **Tom Dillon**) in '02 and moved back up to Arlington. He is working at SAIC, a large government contractor, on a number of interesting programs, including one that involved training police forces of developing nations such as Nigeria, Kosovo, Indonesia, and Uganda. Since the beginning of last year the focus has been on the Middle East, and he has had to travel to Iraq twice. He described it as "an eye opening "experience" as well as "nerve-racking." Recently he was promoted to a new position at SAIC to work on an Athens Olympics contract among others. His parents moved to London so he and his girlfriend are now living in his old house, and when he wrote he was thinking about graduate school for 2005. He also reports that "everyone that I've been in contact with since graduating from Potomac seems to be doing well. **Stuart Bam** is working in the DC area, **Pat Norton** is pursuing his culinary dreams as a sous chef (last I heard) at a DC restaurant, **Carlos Blake** is in Tanzania on a Peace Corps mission for the next year and a half (specifically he teaches math and health at a secondary school in a town called Songea), **Neil Taylor** is a forest ranger and living

1998 Class Dinner in November
Back Row: Jessica Ohly, Joanna Steckler, Clay Whitehead, Maggie Langer, Scott Holmer (3), Neil Premkumar, Brian Carney (3), Ellen Lewis, Sarah Gregg, Kristen Rush, Elena Sylos-Labini (3), Lizzy Demuth, Kate Coyne, Mike Pritchett (3), Kip Lewis. Front row: Anne Gasha, Illyse Stempler, Nikolai Tolstoy.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

2002

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2003

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2003

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2004

Kathryn Johnson
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Fabsnyc@aol.com

2004

Regina Lee
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Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Fabsnyc@aol.com

Class Notes cont.



1993 on campus for Reunion

Tommy Martin, Kristina Osten Cook, David Carpio, Bradford Eldridge, Allyson Woods.



1994 on campus for Reunion

Katie Carberry, Lauren Banks Amos, Dev Subhash, Shelly Sattly Pollak, Jody Morse Al-Saigh, Gina Cardero

with his girlfriend in Colorado, **Vikash Goel** finished his Masters at Cornell last year and is currently teaching at the University and living in Ithaca, and **Chaitra Hakkal** is currently attending grad school at Old Dominion U.? Thanks Ben! Now, in a completely random and scattered way I'm going to try and share what information I have. To the best of my knowledge **Carlos** has gone the farthest a field for the longest, however, **Valerie Plesch** has done some major wanderings of her own. She returned recently from several months of working in Vietnam. Her photographs of her time there are fabulous. I was excited to hear from **Amy Markus**. She spent three months last fall doing volunteer work in South Africa! She spent one month working in a lion park outside Johannesburg working with lion cubs and giraffes, as well as training black leopards and tigers. In Cape Town she helped with penguin rehabilitation and in Pretoria she worked on a game reserve. She was planning on moving back to the DC area and getting an apartment with **Ellen Lewis** who was temporarily living at her parents. I think about half of our class is living in the Washington DC area, although a few of us have left our parent's homes (not me!) **Anne Gasho** and I have run into **Yeats Bello** and **Mike Pritchett** getting sushi in McLean. Mike is back in McLean studying to get his

realtors license. **Maggie Langer** is living over in Alexandria where she is teaching middle school and finishing up her education degree at John Hopkins, and last



time I talked to **Joanna Steckler** she was living in Georgetown. **Zal Batmanglij** is also living in Georgetown and working in film/video. **Kip Lewis** is just finishing up his second year in Teach For America. He has been working as a math teacher in a DC Public School, and it sounds like school administration work may be in his future. **Frank Murphy** will be coaching baseball at Potomac for his third season. Over the winter he coached youth basketball with **Peter Young '96**, and of course he continues to work in the Reston Division of the Fairfax County Fire Department. **Sarah Swain** is still working for AEI and living in Bethesda. This spring she met up with **Hope Smith** for a weekend. **Anne Gasho** has moved into her own apartment in McLean and continues to work downtown at the NFL Players Association. **Victoria Chapman** has finished a fifth year graduate program at Vanderbilt University and is currently working for the Washington Capitols. For those folks who have moved onto other cities I hope that you can make it back for some of the events over the next year. **Vail Breed**, after traveling last year, has moved up to Boston where she is working as a paralegal. **Lizzy DeMuth** is also up in Boston- if I remember correctly she is at Tufts Veterinary School. I also heard a rumor that **Melissa Deland** is up in the Boston area. **Susan Reynolds** is down in Atlanta working as an ER Nurse in Grady Memorial Hospital which is a major trauma center. I know that **Sarah Gregg**, **Whitney Duncan**, and **Liz Oosterhuis** are all living in New York City. **Kristin Carlucci** got in touch to let me know that while she is still currently in LA working for RAND she will be moving back to DC in November. She is planning on looking into masters programs in public policy. I spent the fall and winter living at home



and working at National Geographic learning about administrative and desk work and now I am spending three months traveling before I move to New York City in order to attend graduate school at the Bank Street

School of Education. In two years time I'll have a degree in elementary education. As ever, continue to keep in touch. My five-year term is up, but no one has said anything about electing someone new. Anyone want the job... I love hearing from you all, and keep in mind that there will be a big reunion/centennial celebration in the spring.

From the Alumni Office:

Ashley Murphy writes, "Graduated from Trinity College in Connecticut. Became Senator Pete Dominic's Deputy Press Secretary and just started at University of Richmond Law School. Would love to hear from you."

2001

From the Alumni Office:

Nerisa Ahmed is graduating with honors from LSE with BSc in International Relations and History. Ahmed is also doing Master's work at LSE next year.

2002

From Katie Buchanan:

Kate Buchanan, who attends Hobart and William Smith Colleges, will be spending her Spring semester studying abroad in Rome, Italy. She frequently runs into **Hunter Campbell** on campus. **Jenna Linden** was named All-Ivy as a member of the U Penn women's soccer team. **Liz Cheek** will be spending her summer studying



abroad in Innsbruck, Austria. She is enjoying UVA and frequently sees her Potomac classmates **Brendan O'Connell**, **Warner Lewis**, **Alexa Andrews**, and **Margaret Grundy**.

2003

From the Alumni Office:

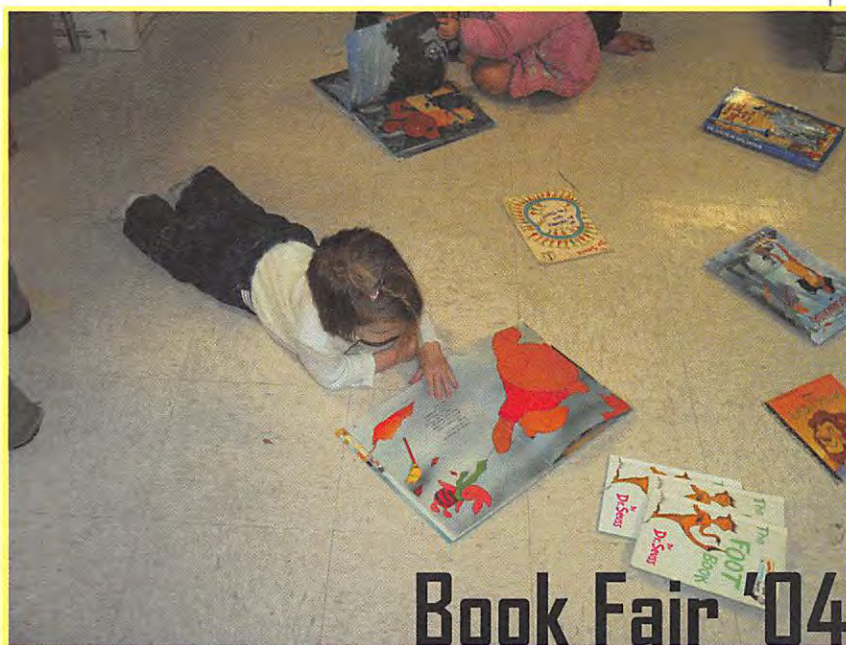
Michael Bergman tells the Alumni Office that **Harlan Work** was cast in a production of "The Grapes of Wrath" (the Steppenwolf/Frank Galati version), in the role of Noah (and several small ensemble roles) at Cornell University. Class of 2003 gathered at Maya Singh's house in June to catch up on their first year at college. (See photos at the left.)

Squash Reunion

(L-R) Former Potomac squash teammates Griffin Vanze '03, Jay Subhash '00, John Warin '00 and Nick Adams '02 reunited this past February during the 2004 Intercollegiate Squash National Championships at Yale University. Vanze played for Haverford and Adams played for Bowdoin, while Subhash and Warin both played for the University of Virginia.

Total Proceeds:

**\$18,000 for
Potomac's
three libraries.**



Book Fair '04

In Memoriam



Robert P. Bennett '74, April 24, 2004 – Brother of Bruce Bennett '77 and Andrew Bennett '82.

Clara Sasscer Chandler '32, June 28, 2004

Clarence Dodge – Brother of Lalla Dodge Brutoco '64, father of Halley Dodge '07.

Juliet Dulany Roby '30, June 2004 – Sister of Benjamin W. Dulany '34.

Edward C. Ernst '38 – Brother of William Ernst '39.

Archer Harman, Jr., June 17, 2004 – Former Head of School, sister of Adele Waggaman (current grandparent), uncle of Victoria W. Knopes (current parent), great-uncle to Archer Knopes '10 and Elliott Knopes '11.

Marne Hornblower, March 30, 2004 – Mother of Marjorie Hornblower Bauer '57, Virginia Hornblower Lawrence '59, Nancy Hornblower Rice '61.

Gareth Ivorian-Jones, July 28, 2004 – Husband of past faculty Cynthia Ivorian-Jones, father of Elen Ivorian-Jones Rogers '85, Lisa Ivorian '91.


Samuel Neel, June 2004 – Husband of Mary Wilson Neel '32, father of Amy Neel Muzzin '60, Wendy Neel Ellsworth '63, and Sophie Neel Kountz '68.

Carol Whitehill Moses, February 19, 2004 – Past Faculty, mother of Barbara Moses '71, Jennifer Moses '74, David Moses '76, Amalie Moses Reichblum '78, grandmother of Sarah Moses '08, Alexandra Moses '11, Adam J.B. Moses '14, Grace W. Moses '16.

Louisa B. Parker, July 9, 2004 – Mother of Jefferson D. Parker '67, Thomas Parker '68, Nathaniel B. Parker '70, Robert S. Parker '71, Rosamond Parker Smythe '72, Patrick Parker '75.

Caroline Thompson Simmons '23, May 20, 2004 – Grandmother of Sophie Simmons '90.

John Sorrentino '90, May 14, 2004



May 7, 2004

Elizabeth Swift Cronin '55

Daughter of the late Helen Griffin Swift '13.

Elizabeth Ann Swift Cronin was a former State Department officer in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Iran as well as in Washington. She was one of the highest-ranking officers during her tenure as deputy political counselor to the embassy in Tehran and spent 444 days as a hostage in Iran from 1979 to 1981. Ann retired from the State Department in 1995. After Potomac, Ann attended The Madeira School and then Radcliffe College. She and her husband, Paul D. Cronin, lived in Rectortown, VA.

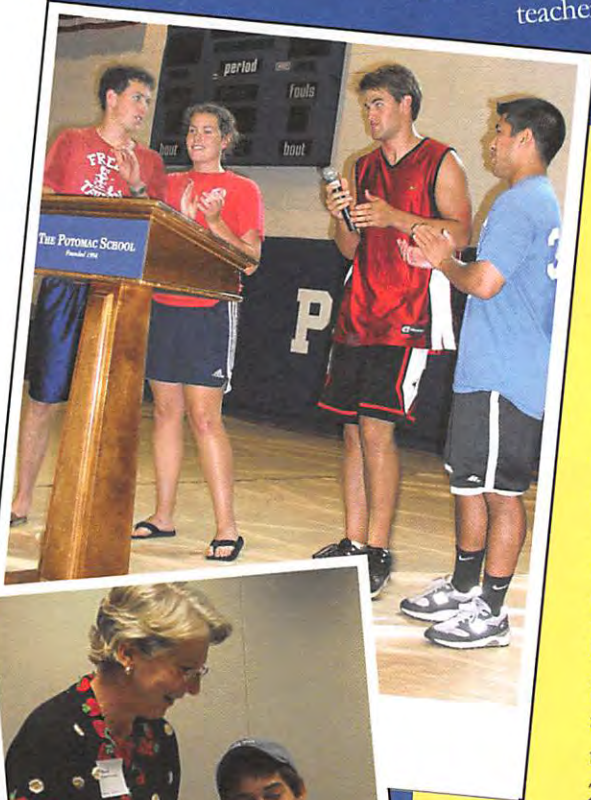
Potomac Annual Giving: Class of '04: "Generosity of Spirit"

The Senior class gift campaign, "Thank you, Potomac" provided funds for the purchase of history reference books

destroyed by the flood in the Upper School library. The books were dedicated to Mr. Eric Waples, a beloved Upper School history teacher, in

honor of his retirement. The seniors also made a contribution to the Financial Aid Fund and set aside enough to honor the school bus drivers with a special breakfast.

At left, David Brady, Student Government President; Claire Robertson, Senior Class President; Pete Dalla and Brent Locey present their class gift to Potomac on Red/Blue Day.



Potomac Alumni Annual Giving: Class of '78 Raises Bar for Reunion Giving

Twenty-five years ago the class of '78 made their mark as a class who did things their own way. Through photography and verse their spirit is woven through the pages of the 1978 yearbook; "my lines and life are free, free as the road." After traveling "roads" for 25 years the class of '78 decide they wanted to recognize their outstanding Potomac education in a

special way. Rob McDowell and JC Ewing led their class efforts along with the committee: Wendell Miles, Mittie Rooney, John Childs, Ann Addison Freniere, Alan Calfee and Curt Winsor to raise \$25,000 for their 25th Reunion. JC designed and hosted a class website complete with yearbook photographs, class news, and kept progress of their fundraising

efforts. The class of 1978 challenges 25th Reunion classes following them to raise \$25,000 for their reunions in spring of 2006. Congratulations to the class of '78 for achieving a new "first" and many thanks for exploring new roads for reunion giving at Potomac. Their efforts resulted in a \$36,726 gift to Potomac.



Class of '78



Eighth grade students in Paris.

*Dear Mom & Dad,
Hello, from Fran*

An invitation to:
SAFARI TO TANZANIA

June 11 - 26, 2005

*Approximate cost \$3,690.00 - \$4,780.00 (depending on the size of the group)

As part of The Potomac School's Centennial Celebration's community service efforts, Dr. M.L. Kabahita, Intermediate School French teacher, is leading a team that is planning a safari trip to Tanzania, East Africa, exclusively for Potomac families - alumni and current. The trip will offer a wonderful combination of discovery, travel, friendship, fun and community service. This is a truly unique opportunity for Potomac families to travel in Africa together. If you are interested and would like to learn more about the safari, please contact Kabahita at 703-749-6399 or kabahita@potomacschool.org.

Tentative itinerary includes a community service project at a school near Migunga forest camps and visits to Arusha National Park, Manyara National Park, Lake Natron, the Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Tarangire. Kabahita will be leading the tour with Sanctuary Lodges & Camps, and you can visit their website at www.swala.com



International exchange dates back to the 1940's at Potomac with Helen Seth-Smith's trips to England with the Girl Guide program. Miss Seth-Smith and Potomac alumni will be pleased to know that this tradition is continuing into the 21st century. With overseas exchange come a deeper understanding, as academic success does not fully translate into a better understanding of people and their culture. A textbook does not bring people to life. To this end, in the summer of 2003, Dr. Kabahita, seventh grade teacher of French, traveled to France to make arrangements for an exchange visit between groups of students. His plans came to life during Spring Break when our eighth graders spent time with families in Paris,

and then reciprocated by playing host in the United States in the largest exchange program Potomac has ever tried.

"This has been an amazing experience both ways," Dr. Kabahita explained. "In less than a week, students got along so well, enjoyed each other's company, and learned how to appreciate each other's differences, something that became blurry because of their camaraderie... That is what this exchange was about, to bring children of different cultures together, and to make this world a better place to live in with peace and friendship."



Potomac students with their French guests at Potomac.



* Airfare included



Scenes from Tanzania, East Africa



Centennial Celebration: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Potomac School invites you to join the celebration as we salute and honor the people, places, history, and heritage of our first century. Special programs and activities are planned throughout the year to pay tribute to the founders, alumni, faculty and staff who have paved the way for the Potomac students of today. Please join this wonderful celebration of our first one hundred years of Creativity, Character, and Community, as we set the stage for the many generations of Potomac students to come.

Homecoming:

October 1 & 2, 2004

Panther Pride will soar to record levels when alumni and friends are invited to return to campus! Head out to watch your favorite sport and cheer on our student athletes! It is a great time to reconnect with former teammates, coaches, and to catch some Panther Pride!

Alumni Art Show:

October 2 - 14, 2004

Saturday, October 2nd, the Centennial Alumni Art Show opens in the lobby of the Engelhard Performing Arts Center. Original works, in a variety of media, will offer a sampling of the wide range of works by our alumni artists. Join us for the opening reception on Saturday evening from 5 - 7 pm

Founders Day:

October 18, 2004

Our School's 100th birthday will be celebrated on Founders Day, commemorating the opening of Potomac's doors on October 17, 1904. Current students and faculty will enjoy a day of celebration including the premier of Potomac's Centennial video, the singing of quintessential Potomac songs, and of course, a huge birthday cake to be shared by all!

Fall Frolics:

October 22 & 23, 2004

The Centennial inspired theme brings special focus to Fall Frolics this year, emphasizing the invaluable role it plays raising funds for both Student Financial Aid and Faculty Development Programs.

Alumni Athletic Tournaments & Evening Social:

November 26, 2004

Alumni athletes are invited back for an afternoon of camaraderie and play. In addition to the Annual Basketball Tournament, the 2nd annual squash tournament is planned. All alumni are invited back to campus to play! The fun continues with evening socials in Georgetown.

Christmas Revels:

December 3 & 4, 2004

Help celebrate the tradition of the Revels-Potomac half-century connection as Revels honors Potomac's Centennial year. Alumni, past parents and faculty are invited to Potomac's annual Opening Night Reception and current families are specially invited to the Saturday afternoon performance.

Songs & Stories with Jack Langstaff & Jay O'Callahan:

March 8 - 10, 2005

The legacy of Jack Langstaff continues when we welcome him back to campus. We are pleased to have Jay O'Callahan, award-winning actor/storyteller join Jack to add a new dimension to the art of storytelling. A grand performance with Jack & Jay is scheduled for Thursday, March 10th.

Centennial Musical Salute:

April 17, 2005

In keeping with Potomac tradition, a spectacular musical salute is planned. Scheduled to be performed at Schlesinger Hall in Alexandria, VA, all four school divisions will be featured. The newly commissioned Centennial pieces from distinguished composers will be performed as well as old Potomac favorites.

Student Art Show:

April 22 - May 10, 2005

In honor of the Centennial, a new dimension has been added to the Student Art Show. Students from all divisions will collaborate on art projects during the school year. We invite everyone to spend time on campus viewing the projects from our talented youth.

Centennial Celebration Weekend:

May 6 - 8, 2005

This fun-filled weekend will offer a host of exciting events. Several of the highlights include: May Day Celebration, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon & Reception, Alumni Events, and the Centennial Celebration Party. A formal invitation including a detailed schedule of events will be mailed in the Spring.

Faculty Art Show:

May 13 - May 24, 2005

Our talented faculty shine with a special art show of their own.

Commencement 2005:

June 8, 2005

The traditional graduation ceremony brings to a close a year of Centennial celebrations and launches the promising futures of the Class of 2005 and the second century of The Potomac School.

Close: Announcements and invitations for each Centennial event will be mailed separately. Please check the Centennial website (potomacschool.org/alumni/centennial) for periodic updates. Questions or comments about The Potomac School Centennial Celebration may be directed to Cathy Voeks, Centennial Coordinator, by phone (703-873-5538) or e-mail (cvoeks@potomacschool.org).

The Potomac School: FROM THE ARCHIVES

As many alumni and staff have been doing research in the Potomac archives, we have found many photos and artifacts, which we would like more details about. This archive page is a new addition to the Term on which we will ask your help in identifying people in photographs. We also hope that this page will help reminisce about your years at Potomac.

This needlepoint was found in the archives but we are missing details about it. Please contact the alumni office if you know who made it and/or other pertinent information about this needlepoint.



The Potomac School needs your help!

If you can identify any of the students pictured below, please contact the Alumni & Development Office at 703-749-6356 or alumni@potomacschool.org



Please notify the Potomac Alumni and Development Office at 703-749-6356, if your address label is incorrect. You may also reach us by mail, online at potomacschool.org, or by e-mail: alumni@potomacschool.org



100th Anniversary
A Century of Dedication

The Potomac School
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www.potomacschool.org

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