

Kent Place

FALL 2023

26

BEAUTIFUL
NOISE

32

A SEAT IN THE
FRONT ROW

36

CHOOSE
YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE

42

A CENTURY
OF STAR

Luna Markels '23
shares her
independent study
on page 37.



CONTENTS



Can you feel the joy:
the Class of 2023
celebrate on
Sweatshirt Photo Day



- 2 From Mabie House
- 3 In Her View
- 4 Commons Room
- 26 Beautiful Noise:
Commencement 2023
- 32 A Seat in the Front Row
- 36 Choose Your
Own Adventure
- 42 A Century of STAR
- 50 Keeping Pace
- 57 Class Notes
- 72 With Wisdom



Designer Leighton Malone '30 shows client Dr. Galambos the Tiny House built to her specifications. Read this story on page 9.

A Window into KPS

There's a lot to love about *Kent Place* magazine. It provides a window into our classrooms, a chance for our community to meet our brave and brilliant students, an opportunity to celebrate our remarkable alumnae, and a means to explore what makes Kent Place, Kent Place.

The fall issue does all these things and more. One of the highlights this spring was our Commencement ceremony (page 26). The young women from the Class of 2023 have embraced the values of leadership, integrity, and compassion that we at KPS hold dear. We're proud to send them forth as confident, capable individuals ready to make their mark on the world.

As a school for girls, Kent Place stands as a beacon of educational excellence, providing a unique and empowering experience for its students. Beyond the exceptional outcomes our graduates achieve, KPS offers many paths to shape their development as future leaders. On page 32, learn how our environment fosters this leadership and the development of strong, independent thinkers who are unafraid to challenge the status quo.

On page 36, we bring to life some projects undertaken by our students. These young women took the initiative to explore their passions, engage in independent research, and create meaningful contributions to their disciplines. Their stories are a testament to the power of curiosity, drive, and self-directed learning.

On a celebratory note, on December 20, 2023, our students will perform in the 100th edition of STAR (page 42). For a century, STAR has become an integral part of our school's legacy, highlighting the immense talent and passion our students possess.

I'm proud to be your Head of School as we enter our 129th year. I'll continue to build on the rich legacy of the Kent Place mission. We have many, many more stories to tell!

Yours for Kent Place,

Dr. Jennifer C. Galambos
Head of School

Kent Place

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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF THE STAR?

“Senior year singing the duet of *Silent Night* with classmate Joan Flemming.”

—KRIS (MELLOR) CONLEY '66

“Magical ambience, being short so always in the front row, and memorizing all songs because of that. And also loving the words!”

—ELIZABETH (ALLEN) POST '70

“The magic of the dark, candlelit auditorium, the bonding that comes with the blending of voices, and worrying someone would faint and fall off the very high bleachers.”

—MARY ANN (GARVIN) SIEGEL '62

“I was a freshman the year The STAR was recorded for an album (vinyl), which I still play every year when I decorate for the holidays. And I was the editor of *Ballast* in 1978, when the annual picture of The STAR was printed upside down . . . ugh!”

—ELIZABETH (ALLEN) POST '70

“More than 50 years ago, music at Kent Place was made up exclusively of choral and vocal groups. Two of us, however, a harpist and a flutist, were chosen to provide instrumental embellishment to The STAR vocalists for four years. On performance evenings, we stood, in the dark, to the side of the platforms. Confident of my satisfying recollections, I asked the harpist, many decades later, how she remembered our instrumental presentations at The STAR. ‘Carla,’ she replied with mild disgust, ‘all I remember is your flute dripping on my shoulder all night as I played arpeggios.’”

—CARLA (BAUER) RENTROP '68

“My love was practicing in Mabie House with the Upper School all together working on harmonies. ‘Lo How a Rose’ is a choice particularly excellent to showcase the vocal ranges, from soprano to alto.”

—KAREN LITTLE '85

“We were proud to be a part of STAR and it was an important and memorable tradition for us.”

—BETSY (BUSCH) CROSBY '66 P '93

STAR is turning 100? We can't believe it either. Check out our feature about this incredible milestone on page 42.

COMMONS ROOM

NEWS AND VIEWS
FROM KENT PLACE

BOLD MOVES

The Places You'll Go, the People You'll Meet!

For the first time since 2019, global trips have returned to Kent Place. With four spectacular international trips in 2023 and more in the planning stage, our students are broadening their horizons and becoming world learners.

Over Spring Break, 23 Middle School students went to Iceland to expand their STEM curriculum and 21 Upper School students who have taken or are taking a Spanish course flew to Spain to explore major cities and practice speaking the language.

"Traveling with teachers and students internationally was a different experience for me because I'd never even been to another state without my family," says Sarah Mattle '28, who went to Iceland. "I formed closer relationships with my peers than ever before."

By the time you're reading this, a group of Upper School Choral Singers will have performed at a music festival in Dublin with the world-renowned artistic director Rollo Dilworth (see page 23), and another Upper School group will have ventured across Switzerland and Germany, discovering STEM throughout the region.



Middle School students explore crevasses, ridges, and ice sculptures during a guided hike of Sólheimajökull glacier.

The itineraries for next year's global trips are in the works, with exciting adventures planned to France, Ghana, Costa Rica, the Galápagos Islands, and more. *Bon voyage!*



BRAVE & BRILLIANT

Gabrielle Liberman '24

When Gabrielle Liberman speaks, the words tumble out in a torrent of enthusiasm. A self-described history and English fanatic, she's also delighted by her Spanish classes, particularly AP Spanish Literature. "I love all the readings we've done for class," she says. "I'm a creative writer and our texts in Spanish literature have actually made me a better writer in English. But I'm also a math nerd," she says, laughing. "What I like about calculus is that every graph has a second hidden one behind it, the derivative. I get to discover all these secrets by taking calculus."

Gabrielle is constantly making discoveries outside the classroom, too. A dedicated member of Jewish Affinity, Latinx Affinity, and both club and Upper School swim teams, she also serves as senior class president, a Mock Trial Team captain, Spanish Club president, Chorale president, and a Varsity Swim Team captain. Whether in class or on her own time, this is a student who embodies the Kent Place brave and brilliant young woman.

As for her favorite extracurricular activity, Gabrielle says it's tough to choose. "I love Mock Trial, though," she says. "It's helped

me become a better speaker, think on my feet, and have more confidence. I also love to sing," she says; she receives operatic training and participates in Chorale and the New Jersey Youth Choir. A soloist in the winter STAR concert, Gabrielle conceived and organized this spring's "KPS Concert for Change," a performance that utilized music to promote social justice (see page 22).

All these activities have provided valuable lessons about the power of connection, particularly with younger students, says Gabrielle. "I've learned the importance of reaching out and making people feel seen and valued. It's extremely rewarding."

It's also been rewarding to learn more about her own culture, she says. "I'm Jewish and half Hispanic, but for many years I didn't know much about my heritage. My involvement with the school's alliance and affinity groups has helped me get more in touch with my identity."

Jennifer Dwyer, who teaches AP Language and Composition and is the Upper School advisor to the Community Service Committee, says she's incredibly impressed with Gabrielle's intelligence, work ethic, and innate leadership skills. "Gabrielle is super smart and a wonderful human," says Ms. Dwyer. "She's clever, hilarious, and completely committed to everything she takes on."

For Gabrielle, her philosophy boils down to two things: being kind and being welcoming. "My KPS experience has shown me that it's not about the grades you make or the leadership roles you occupy, it's how you treat others," she says. "As I look back over the leadership positions I've held these past three years, it's clear to me that I've earned these roles by being a kind and open person, and that means everything to me."

MORNING MEETING

BRILLIANT RECOGNITION. Kent Place earned four InspirED School Marketers Brilliance Awards — two for its redesigned website and two for the winter/spring 2022 issue of *Kent Place* magazine. **A SPECIAL**

TREAT. During the Upper School production of *Clue*, Sandy Rustin, the playwright who adapted the script from the movie, and Casey Hushion, the original director of the professional production

company, came to campus to meet with the cast and crew. **COOL AS A CUCUMBER.** As part of their study of Antarctica, second-graders created a small "hut" to insulate an ice cube and keep it from melting.

THIRD TIMES A CHARM. The MakeKPS Hackathon took place for the third year in a row. Participants worked on coding projects, heard from guest speakers, and attended workshops on [continued on p. 8]

PLUGGING IN

TAKING CHARGE OF THEIR DIGITAL LIVES

The Ethics Institute's REBOOT (Rethinking Ethical Behavior Online for Oneself Together) program, which is entering its second year, is a unique initiative led by students for students that empowers them to take charge of their digital lives. REBOOT's mission is to shift the community's understanding of, and habits within, digital culture, teaching students of all ages to enjoy the benefits of technology while providing a process for them to make data-informed and ethically minded decisions. Let's take a moment to learn about some of REBOOT's exciting work.

MENTORING/COACHING. REBOOT members have presented and coached K-12 students and families to empower them to think ethically online and set personal digital boundaries.

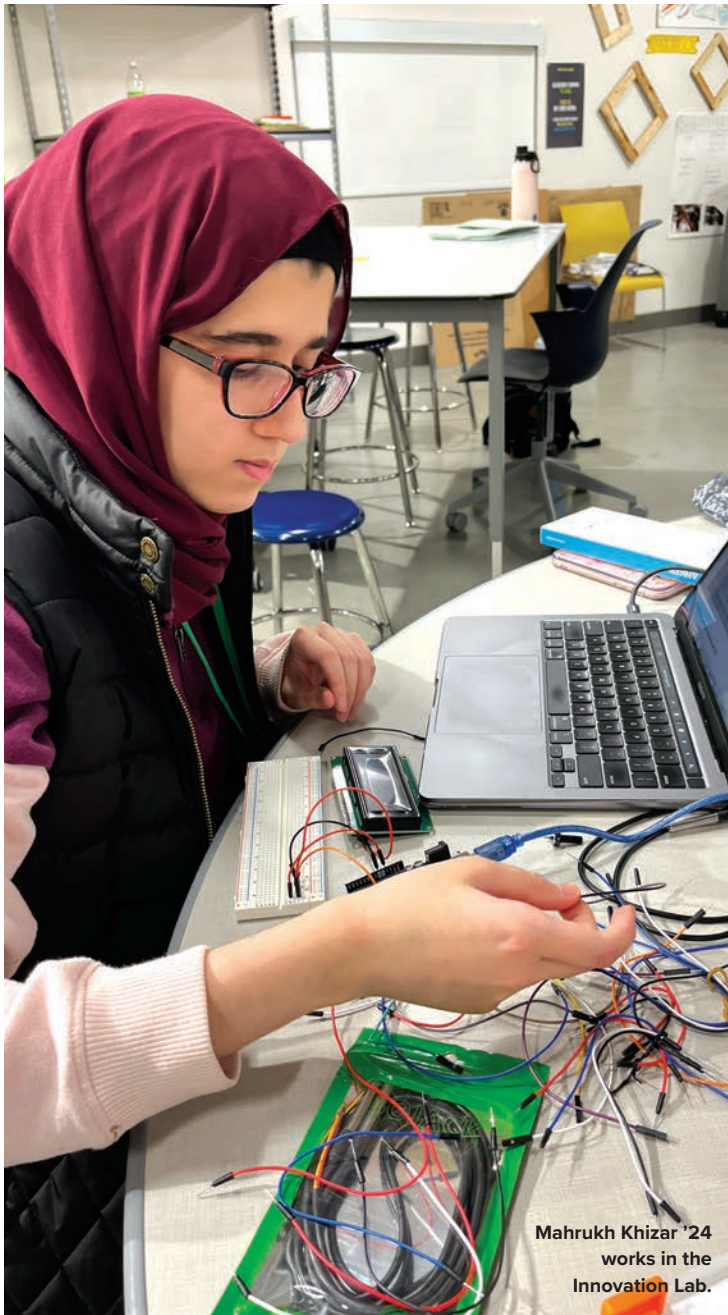
ENGAGEMENT/OUTREACH. REBOOT members produced a series of videos spreading the message of healthy digital habits and have started to form partnerships with schools across New Jersey.

PODCAST. REBOOT members host a podcast, entirely student produced, during which they interview an expert or their peers to achieve a multilayered understanding of technology and social media.

CASE STUDIES. Members create case studies to gain a greater understanding of technology and social media through discussions using an ethical framework in advisory and classroom settings.

REBOOT founding members. (Back, l-r): Mackenzie Thompson '23, Ishani Wadhwa '23; (middle, l-r): Margo D'Angelo '23, Molly Daab '23, Olivia Santoro '23, Catherine Paris '23, Scarletta Liftin '25, Elizabeth Khidekel '23; (front, l-r): Emily Shewchuck '23, Luna Markels '23, and Sophie Cozine '23





Mahrugh Khizar '24 works in the Innovation Lab.

KPS ENGINEERS SHINE BRIGHT

What are the unintended consequences of innovation? And how can we advance the world in a way that brings joy and makes humanity a little better?

Planting girls squarely in the thorny crossroads of disciplines is exactly what Evelyn Hanna sought to do four years ago when she designed an Upper School elective called Engineering, Ethics, and Entertainment. In her prior role as Director of Curricular Innovation and STEM and now Interim Director of the Upper School, she welcomes all interested students in Grades 9–12 (no prerequisites!) to better understand and wrestle with machine learning, AI, and design-thinking protocols as well as the biases that can creep into their use. More important, by situating the class in the Innovation Lab, where Arduino microcontrollers, 3D printers, laser cutters, and various programming platforms are at their disposal, she doesn't just nurture complex conversations; she creates a space for students to get their hands dirty — to experiment, code, fabricate, fumble, revise, and struggle together.

In close collaboration with the Ethics Institute, Engineering, Ethics, and Entertainment pushes students to integrate what they've learned about ethical decision-making with the Engineering Code of Ethics. "I want them to shift from passive consumers to ethical innovators," says Dr. Hanna. "Their final project: Identify a problem stemming from a passion or interest and design a human-centered, digitized solution to it."

Below, a peek at a few of the students' inspired creations.

- A burgeoning gardener, Mahrugh Khizar '24 used Arduinos to create a timed thermometer and LCD display screen that would enable farmers and gardeners to monitor and achieve optimal soil temperature.
 - Aarah Ali '25 used the laser cutter to create a 3D map of the world illuminated by LED lights and controlled by an Arduino microprocessor.
- "This course helped me to see that dance and engineering aren't opposite sides of my personality; they're *different* sides," says Ava Zinna '24, who designed a digitized disco ball for her final project. "The creativity, hard work, and problem-solving that I love about dance and choreography apply equally to engineering. Innovation exists in so many fields."

real-world applications for computer science. **EDUCATION AND ALLYSHIP.** The student-led Disability Education Alliance hosted Celebrate Neurodiversity Day with an informative panel, a DIY fidget-making station, and educational trivia posted throughout the building.

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH STEM. Assistant Head of School for Teaching and Learning Julie Gentile and Interim Director of the Upper School Evelyn Hanna presented "Curricular Change Management: A Case Study on Transforming STEM Education" at the ICGS-NYSAIS Ed-

ucating Girls Symposium. **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.** On International Women's Day, students went by bus to the New York Stock Exchange, where they met with senior-level women, among them its president, toured the building, and participated in the closing bell on the trading

floor. **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.** Nupur Ballal '23 and Katherine Lyon '23 were named finalists for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Awards. **A FAN FAVORITE.** The Kindergarten invited parents to the annual Kindergarten Authors Tea, where the [continued on p. 10]

The Houses Fifth-Graders Built

A beach house perched on coffee stirrers-turned-stilts, a converted bus with a roof deck, and a spacious patio featuring chairs fashioned from plastic Easter eggs were just a few of the imaginative details on their projects when Grade 5 students unveiled their . . . drumroll . . . tiny houses!

Presented by the student-architects at an open house for their families and “clients” in late spring, the 34 intricately designed model houses were built to scale using foam core board. Each no more than 360 square feet and constructed according to each client’s wishes within a trim budget of \$30,000, they were the culmination of an almost yearlong math project. They also proved an eye-opening introduction to financial literacy, social justice, economics, engineering, negotiation, and much, much more — “math in action,” as fifth-grade teacher Sally Snyder put it.

To the right, a peek at the coastal-themed tiny house designed by Claire Chen ’30 for her client, Computer Science & Engineering Chair Suzanne Tracy.

For a full description of the project, see again “Tiny Houses, Big Lessons” in the 2023 winter/spring issue of the magazine.

“My big takeaway from the project is that every human being is entitled to decent shelter with privacy.”

—CLAIRE CHEN '30





BRAVE & BRILLIANT

Rhyan Brown '24

KPS senior Rhyan Brown isn't shy about her interests. "I'm one hundred percent a humanities person — I love my English and history courses — and I also enjoy my ethics course," she says. "I like thinking about real-world problems: what impact they have and how factors such as ethical values and stakeholders weigh in."

Rhyan delights in talking about these issues, too. A member of the Plainfield Chapter of New Jersey Orators since age 7, she's an accomplished public speaker with nine medals of excellence (the highest award) to her name and considerable public approbation. "When I was eight or nine, I wrote a competition speech that was an excerpt of MLK's 1957 sermon 'Loving Your Enemies,'" she says. "It turned out to be one of my best to date, and in the years since, I've performed it repeatedly — at the New Brunswick chapter of the

NAACP, for the Elks and for the Masons, at the Juneteenth Ceremony for the board of directors at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, and at countless churches."

And Rhyan doesn't merely talk about social justice; she also works to achieve it. A summer intern for Senator Joseph P. Cryan (D-N.J.), the newly elected copresident of the Black Cultural Association, and an active member of the Upper School DEIB Student Task Force, she has represented Kent Place at four diversity conferences. "It's nice to get together with people like me and at the same time learn about other cultures and perspectives," she says. "Through my involvement in these groups, I've gained the ability to deal with difficult situations and have uncomfortable conversations, knowledge that helps me and also enables me to educate others."

Rhyan credits her time at KPS for enhancing her confidence, in public and in the classroom. "I'm not afraid to be wrong and I now learn without hesitation," she says. She also praises the school for training her to be a lifelong learner: "I've discovered how to be an effective learner rather than someone who just memorizes information," she says. In addition, says Rhyan, Kent Place has provided valuable opportunities to understand and embrace a personal leadership style, one she's excited to strengthen as new copresident of Green Key. "Although I believe it's sometimes important to step up and take charge, I often find that it's more important to concentrate on what others have to say before speaking," she says. "That way, I'm able to analyze and approach situations with an even broader perspective, a skill that's crucial for any leader."

Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Tyhisha Henry has no doubt that Rhyan will put her formidable skills to good use in the years to come. "Rhyan is a very active student, inside and outside of the KPS community," says Ms. Henry. "She's a fine example of being brave and brilliant, and her gifts and talents are evident in the various roles she plays in the school community. For example, as a member of the Bioethics Project, Upper School DEIB Student Task Force, and Student Diversity Leadership Cohort, Rhyan has modeled how to facilitate conversations, among her peers and adults alike."

"I like helping people make difficult decisions and think critically about issues that have an impact on other people's lives," Rhyan says.

She'll be guiding the young members of the KPS community as well: She was recently named lead mentor for the Primary School affinity group, Kaleidoscopes.

students read the stories they've published this year and recited some poetry. **BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS.** The sixth-graders held another successful **TREP\$ Marketplace.** Students created unique products, pitched and launched their own busi-

nesses, and sold their inventory to paying customers. **HOT OFF THE PRESSES!** Two Upper School students, Kayla Peng '26 and Lorelei Gustafson-Johnson '26, have been honored in the "One-Pager" Contest offered by the *New York Times.* All KPS English 9 students participated

in this event as a way to bring more learner-chosen topics into their English curriculum and to give them a peer audience for their work. **NEVER FORGET.** In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Upper School students listened to Hanna Wechsler, a survivor of the

camp, who has devoted the last 45 years to telling her story. **TEA TIME.** Primary School students researched champion female ecologists, and came together for the 10th Annual Women's History Tea to talk about these women over tea, sandwiches, and desserts. ■

FIVE THINGS ABOUT . . .

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM EXPO

When you think back to your own school's science fair, what do you remember? Poster boards? Volcanoes with active lava? Working late alone at your kitchen table? Well, the Middle School STEM Expo shakes up the traditional format, giving students an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of scientists and engineers as they travel on a natural path of discovery.

5

CHOICE: STUDENT-DESIGNED RESEARCH IN EIGHTH GRADE

It's a simple question: "What do you wonder about?" Students' curiosity leads the way as they come up with their answers. They then ask their own questions to guide their research and design an experiment that will enhance their understanding of everyday phenomena. As they gather information, their opinions often change and they learn that questioning brings deeper understanding. They walk away knowing about something in their own world they didn't understand before they answered a simple question.

4

SUSTAINABILITY: ENGINEERING DESIGN IN SEVENTH GRADE

Seventh-graders examine the meaning and application of sustainability in today's world. Working in groups, they design and construct model buildings and prototypes with consideration of the environmental impact and expand their understanding of today's environmental crises: air and water pollution, energy conservation, and climate change. In examining these issues, they use their creativity, resourcefulness, and mathematical and collaborative skills to make prototypes that address these concerns.

3

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: TREP\$ IN SIXTH GRADE

Sixth-graders experience both TREP\$ (enTREPpreneur\$) and Expo as a combined, eight-week interdisciplinary unit. With workshops, business challenges, and mentorship, students learn about product development, finance, marketing research, advertising, merchandising, and salesmanship. Students come up with a product that addresses a particular need, create a prototype solution and test it, make modifications, compute pricing and earnings projections, and then release the product to the consumer (in their case, the marketplace).

1

WHY ARE SCIENCE FAIRS IMPORTANT? The work done is *inquiry* learning at its best. Teachers and students learn with one another and from each other from brainstorming ideas to presenting their projects, and have a great deal of fun together along the way. Science fairs enable students to strengthen and demonstrate science, math, language arts, and critical thinking and communication skills; practice problem-solving, collaborating, and the art of compromise; and get experience with the scientific method/engineering process.

2

WHAT MAKES THE KPS STEM EXPO UNIQUE?

Here, the entire process occurs within the classroom, as students problem-solve together. A school for girls brings benefits, such as developing leadership skills in fields dominated by males. Because each grade follows a unique theme, the learning goes beyond science with the incorporation of STEM and other fields from each project. Every grade has a unique way to display and communicate this knowledge: a marketplace and board displays in sixth grade, functioning scaled prototypes in seventh, and interactive Google presentations in eighth.





IN D.C., EIGHTH-GRADERS CONSIDER TRADEOFFS

Every decision requires a person to consider the tradeoffs, understanding there is always a cost. It's especially true, and an often challenging dilemma, for those in a position of leadership. This is the complex balance our eighth-graders examined as they traversed the nation's capital in April.

"Our trip was mission-driven, focusing on leadership," says trip organizer Alicia Rodriguez, Economics and Financial Literacy Coordinator and Middle School math teacher. "Each excursion included reflective prompts where students observed how leaders prioritize mission, vision, and ethical values, allowing them to develop their responses and recognize the opportunity cost of every decision leaders make."

The group visited historic sites such as Congress, the National Archives, memorials in the National Mall, and the National Portrait Gallery, and gazed at the faces of and monuments to a variety of leaders — both beloved and contentious — throughout history. Students considered the decisions these leaders made, the tradeoffs, how values guided them, and the impacts on society of their decisions to inform the eighth-graders' impressions about who they were/are as leaders.

"Seeing D.C. through this lens challenged me to think about how the leadership styles and decisions of different individuals have shaped the way the world is today," says Avery Delaney '27. "It definitely changed my perspective on leadership and what it means to lead."

SYLLABUS

Fusing Tradition and Technology



COURSE TITLE: Animation I

TEACHER: Carey Gates, Chair, Visual Arts Department

PREREQUISITES: None (!)

BACKGROUND: Visual artists have long been intrigued by making still imagery move, says Mr. Gates. Even with an MFA in painting, he has dabbled in animation. Although his graphic design and studio art classes at KPS touch on vector graphics and animation, students were increasingly asking for a dedicated animation class. After 10 years at the school, Mr. Gates agreed it was time. "As chair of the department," he says, "I'm always looking at how we can honor traditional skills like two- and three-dimensional design, painting, drawing, and photography, and at the same time teach our students more twenty-first-century artmaking methods and their application outside the role of an artist."

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A trimester-long class open to students in Grades 10–12, Animation I uses Adobe Animate and Adobe Premier to guide them — by way of mini-challenges — on the basics of two-dimensional animation, from story development, to storyboarding, to understanding frame-by-frame mechanics, such as "rigging" (adding joints to characters so their arms move) and "tweening" (creating images that go between the main frames). In a culminating project, students present their very own one-minute animation. Fun history and analysis are sprinkled throughout, like the stop-motion techniques of the 1920s, transparency techniques of early Warner Brothers pictures, and more-recent animated shorts, like *The Simpsons*.

REQUIRED READING: Handouts from *A New History of Animation*, by Maureen Furniss, and *Animator's Survival Kit*, by Richard Williams. Plus, cartoon-watching!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: "In addition to understanding the history of animation and developing digital drawing and animation skills, such as calculating and applying appropriate frame rates," says Mr. Gates, "I want students to feel they have the tools to explore animation further, even outside the classroom. There are many different skill sets to learn in artmaking, and animation is one of them."

INSIGHT: "Students who lean more toward math and other STEM subjects can struggle to understand the role of visual arts. But a class like animation — where you can see the fusion of technology and the arts — is a great opportunity to help make the connection for them."

FUN FACT: For her senior independent project and before Animation I was even offered, Alina Kapur '23 created her own 3D animation, fueling interest among her KPS sisters.



Aahana Banerjee '32 completes a transaction at the annual Third-Grade Lemonade Sale.

BUILDING FINANCIAL FLUENCY

From Dollars to Sense

There's no denying it — today's global society is complex, and students require a good understanding of economics and finance to navigate it. Kent Place recognizes this need, and in response a dedicated task force comprising faculty and parents has been hard at work over the past decade to develop the school's signature Economic and Financial Literacy Program.

Designed to move students from exposure to immersion, this groundbreaking initiative addresses a host of issues — entrepreneurship, economics, an ethical decision-making framework, investing, and personal finance — to cultivate a mindset for economic and financial literacy among students from Primary School through 12th grade. It's led by Coordinator and Middle School math teacher Alicia Rodriguez, a 2022 winner of the Princeton Prize for Teaching.

LEVERAGING EXISTING STRENGTHS IN THE PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

KPS's Economic and Financial Literacy Program builds on current offerings that

encourage students to examine their world from the perspective of economics, taking advantage of opportunities to further financial literacy through class projects, events, and curricula, says Ms. Rodriguez. "Our goal this past year has been to examine our economic offerings in the Primary School, assessing what currently exists and what could be expanded. Our aim for this age group is to introduce economic concepts — the availability of resources, the value of goods, the concept of tradeoffs — through literature." For example, she says, third-graders read *The Lemonade War* and then experiment with the concept of entrepreneurship at their annual Lemonade Sale.

As students progress to Middle School, they're introduced to increasingly sophisticated concepts such as tradeoffs, scarcity, and product development by way of such projects as creating tiny houses in fifth grade (page 9), the sixth-grade TREP\$ Marketplace, and the eighth-grade elective Money Matters.

Eighth-grader Nana Afia Somuah has participated in several of the pro-

gram's projects. "I've learned a lot about tradeoffs," she says, "and why they're important to understand and apply to our lives." For example, she says, the trip to Washington, D.C., showed her how early leaders made important decisions to benefit the new nation. "We looked at tradeoffs the founding fathers had to make when they were creating legislation," she says. Her Money Matters course illustrated the impacts of ethical values on our everyday life, especially when it comes to decision-making based on money, and a statistics project in math class demonstrated the impact of social media. "Throughout my eighth-grade experience, I was exposed to the common theme of ethical decision-making," she says.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE UPPER SCHOOL

Having established a developing program in the Primary and Middle Schools, Ms. Rodriguez and other faculty are now turning their attention to the Upper School, that has offered AP Economics for decades, but has opportunity to expand access to all. Students currently heighten their understanding of economic principles through such clubs as EconSquad and the Investment Club, says Ms. Rodriguez, but more remains to be done: "We know financial literacy must be taught experientially and in tandem with other classroom learning to be fully absorbed, so we're working together to expand ideas.

"Ultimately," she says, "my hope is that with this program, students will learn to look at the world through an economic lens, a perspective I believe is integral to our core goal as an institution. Our mission is to empower girls to be confident, intellectual, and ethical leaders who advance the world, and we can't empower women if they don't understand the interplay of economic forces within and among societies."

The program may feel a bit unconventional, interweaving ethics and economics, Ms. Rodriguez concedes, but that's part of what makes it stand out. "Employing economic and financial literacy is a decision-driven, skills-based exercise," she says, "and one I believe is critical for every well-educated young woman to master in order to have the autonomy to succeed."

PROUD TO BE A DRAGON

Lilly Gomes '24

How have you grown as an athlete at Kent Place?

In my three years here, my coaches have helped me grow both as an athlete and as a person. They've pushed to make me a stronger, better athlete and have taught me and my teammates life lessons.

Is there any advice you'd give to someone coming to Kent Place as a ninth-grader?

I recommend joining a fall sport: it will help with meeting new people before the start of school and ease any nerves going into September. I arrived in my freshman year, and although I was nervous to play a sport with people I didn't know, I knew preseason would give me a chance to familiarize myself with people in all grades.

What have you learned from being a multiple-season student-athlete?

I've learned that it's important to have good time-management skills — balancing sports and school can be difficult. I've learned to communicate with my coaches and teachers, and I've also learned about concentration. It's important to be able to focus on practice or a game after a bad day, as well as to be able to go home after practice or a game and do homework.

Do you have any pregame rituals?

On game days, my hair goes into a ponytail and then I braid the ponytail. I also don't wear my uniform shirt — I keep on my warm-up shirt throughout the whole warm-up, then before the game, I put on my uniform jersey.

Lilly Gomes plays volleyball and lacrosse and is a member of the Active Minds and Film Clubs.



Juliette Maria '26
and Alex Grinis '25

DRAGONS COMPETE IN INAUGURAL FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON

The Kent Place Athletic Department piloted a spring athletics team in 2023 — Girls Flag Football. The National Football League (NFL) and the New York Jets partnered with more than 50 New Jersey schools, with talks of NJSIAA to sanction girls flag football as a varsity sport. Introducing a brand-new sport may sound like a mighty task, but the coaching staff and players learned the game, persevered through challenges, became impressive competitors, and completed their season pleased with their victories and a job well done.

The team finished with a record of 2–3 (an especially rainy season led to several game cancellations). Alexandria Grinis '25 directed the offense as starting quarterback and senior captains Sophie Williams and Scarlett Gibby led the team in touchdowns and receptions, respectively. For the defense, senior captain Anne Woodall had the most interceptions.

“It was a really rewarding experience being on Kent Place’s inaugural flag football team,” Scarlett says. “We’re trailblazers, paving the way for the next generation of girls flag football.”

“Since flag football was new to all of us, it was a really welcoming environment where mistakes were expected and encouraged,” says Sophie.

The 2023 inaugural Kent Place flag football roster comprised Allison Aмео '26, Eden Ekong-Reid '25, Sophia Gandhi '25, Scarlett Gibby '23, Lila Gorke '25, Alexandria Grinis '25, Elijah Hall '25, Sofia Keri '23, Juliette Maria '26, Ava Nalavala '23, Madeline Popolow '24, Megan Szot '23, Rowan Tabora '25, Abigail Weldon '25, Abigail Werbel '25, Sophie Williams '23, and Anne Woodall '23.

“My wish,” says Anne, “is that the program continues to grow and that the Flag Football Dragons become more and more competitive. I hope our team has left a legacy of working hard to get better, and having a good time too.”

Head Coach and Assistant Director Athletics Jesse Schulman talks about a proud moment from the team’s last game of the season: “After a hard-fought game against an undefeated, top opponent, our team was debriefing in our post-game huddle when the opposing coach walked over and interrupted us. He praised our team’s efforts and said how impressed he was with our team’s performance, especially in our first year as a program.”

“I can’t wait to see our teams prepare for their seasons. I’m excited for the days when their hard work pays off as they face big rivals with full crowds cheering our athletes on.”

—ALYMA KARBOWNIK '24,
PRESIDENT OF THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



WORK HARD. PLAY HARD. The Kent Place lacrosse program traveled to Universal Studios, Orlando, this spring for preseason training. The team took part in a five-day competitive program that balanced the rigors of on-field lacrosse training with off-field team bonding. The players worked tirelessly on improving strength, conditioning, and lacrosse-specific skills, while making memories to last a lifetime.

OUR “NONNEGOTIABLES” MEASURE ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Is a winning season the definition of success? Is making it to the championships? Creating an environment in which all athletes can progress, take risks, and perform their best — these are hallmarks of Kent Place athletics, and they’re how we measure success.

For me, success is determined by a simple list of characteristics I call “nonnegotiables.” They’re the traits that lay the foundation for team spirit and provide room for adaptability, which we aim to instill in every athlete on every team.

A key component of the implementation of the nonnegotiables is the team captain. At my first biweekly captains council meeting, I asked this question: Within your sport, what are your nonnegotiables?

In an instant, the list wrote itself:

- Sportsmanship
- Mutual respect and support
- Drive

A captain leads by example, so a measure of success is exhibiting impeccable sportsmanship — both on and off the field. That means handling wins and losses with grace and respect for opponents, coaches, and officials. Shaking hands with opponents before and after a game is also what good sports do. Sportsmanship: nonnegotiable.

A captain builds respect and support. Respect for all stakeholders within a sport is nonnegotiable, as is respect for teammates and coaches — respect is the glue that bonds the athletes. Love for a sport brings student-athletes together; however, a team’s success

is established by supporting one another through thick and thin, building camaraderie, and exhibiting honesty, all of which define being a team player.

Clapping an injured player off the field and applauding fans at the end of a game — these are gestures that can be seen from afar. However, dealing with high-pressure situations with composure and integrity and recognizing when teammates need encouragement are crucial to the team spirit. And nonnegotiable.

Drive is motivation taken to the next level. To complete the description of a leader, the captain instills in all her teammates that extra desire to do their best. No team succeeds on the basis of just one athlete — every position, every role counts equally. Creating a space where athletes can expand their comfort levels to pursue team goals is what an effective captain does. A captain embodies an athlete who can push past her mistakes, eliminate the fear of failure, and inspire her teammates to do their best. Instilling drive: nonnegotiable.

A captain rallies her teammates, is first with a high-five, and is loud with her encouragement. With her nonnegotiables, her fellow athletes will improve, be daring, thrive, and win.

So, how does the Kent Place athletics program measure success? We measure it by our nonnegotiables: sportsmanship, motivation, the thrill of competition, and, please, let’s not forget fun!

By Vicky Browne, who is in her second year as Director of Athletics



Varsity Soccer celebrating a goal



Taylor Sieg '24

DRAGON HIGHLIGHTS

Fire and Glory

We're proud of our winter and spring teams, as they continued to advance KPS athletics. Here are a few noteworthy stats, wins, and highlights.

ICE HOCKEY

- Advanced to the NJIHL Cohen Cup Final
- Charlotte Cote '24 voted NJIHL Cohen Division MVP and finished top in the state in save percentage (.924) and shutouts (7)
- Molly Brozowski '26, fourth in the state in goal scoring with 29
- Ava Builione '26, fourth in the state in assists with 20

VARSITY SWIMMING

- Quarter-finalists in the Union County Championships and the Prep Championships
- Two relay teams in top 16 at Meet of Championships: 200 Medley Relay (Bridget Daab '23, Margot Callahan '23, Lizzie Washburn '23, and Liv Minton '25) and 400 Free Relay (Bridget Daab '23, Gabrielle Liberman '24, Liv Minton '25, and Lizzie Washburn '23)

WINTER TRACK

- Lindsay Hausman '23 won 3200 meter at Union County Meet, setting a meet record of 10:33 and qualifying for Millrose Games Invitational Mile

GOLF

- Ranked fourth in the Central Section and seventh in the Overall State Girls Golf Rankings
- 10–1 match record, undefeated in conference play

- Finished fourth at the Tournament of Champions at Raritan Valley CC
- Finished third at the Central Section Tournament at Stanton Ridge
- Taylor Sieg '24 and Sophia Miller '23 ranked among top 50 individual golfers in New Jersey

VARSITY LACROSSE

- Highest state ranking in more than a decade — New Jersey: 17th and Non-Public A: third
- Semifinalists in Prep Tournament, Union County Tournament, and NJSIAA State Tournament
- Caitlyn Quinn '26 led team in goals with 51 (most by a freshman at Kent Place in 10+ years)
- Emma Claire Quinn '24, Heidi Rosely '23, and Lilly Eccles '23 named USA Lacrosse Awards: Academic All-American

VARSITY SOFTBALL

- Won Union County Sky Division by going 7–0, moving up to the Valley Division for 2023–2024 season

SPRING TRACK

- Alyma Karbownik '24, fourth overall in the 100m at the UCIAC Conference Championships

MS LACROSSE

- Champions: Middle School Athletic Conference

COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

11 GO ON!

Eleven members of the graduating Class of 2023 will be continuing their athletic careers at the university level:

Alexandra Anderson
tennis, Georgetown University

Amanda DiTommaso
lacrosse, Bates College

Lillian Eccles
lacrosse, University of Notre Dame

Lindsay Hausman
cross country and track,
Duke University

Giordan Ismael
rowing, Columbia University

Chloe Miccolis
lacrosse, Duke University

Sophia Miller
field hockey, Duke University

Noe Nalavala
cross country and track,
Colby College

Lola Possick
fencing, University of Notre Dame

Heidi Rosely
lacrosse, Johns Hopkins University

Elizabeth Washburn
swimming, Brown University





Fourth-graders explore and model different kinds of angles during a geometry unit.

Customized Learning + Empowered Students = Fourth-Grade Math

When you think of fourth-grade math, you may recall multiplication tables, fractions, addition, and subtraction. Inside the KPS fourth-grade classroom, however, math goes beyond the numbers. With small-group instruction and student-led “choice time,” fourth-graders learn math at a pace that works for them while absorbing life lessons such as accountability, respect, and teamwork, and understanding that with choice comes responsibility.

Robin Versh, fourth-grade teacher, instructs her students in groups of three to five, which makes it possible for her to see how each is progressing and provide an individualized learning experience. Those not in a particular day’s small-group instruction head to their stations and work on a math project of their choice.

During choice time, students partner up and decide on a project, then track their work. At the end of the week, the students meet with Ms. Versh to show what they’ve accomplished, hear feedback, and prepare for the next week. The only boundary? Follow the student-created and agreed-on rules in 4V’s Math Station Agreement:

1. Pick a “focus” person.
2. If someone starts talking, kindly suggest that you’re focusing on your work.
3. Make sure your work is yours.
4. Share your ideas.
5. Be kind.
6. Work in a group of two or three.
7. Be patient with your partner(s).
8. Choose a variety of math partners.
9. Always have fun . . . or at least try to!

“Through small-group learning and choice time,” says Ms. Versh, “I’ve witnessed that when students have options, they own what they’re doing and are invested in it. They feel empowered to hold themselves and each other accountable, and they’re excited to express their creativity while practicing math. Most important, they can learn in a more personalized way that adapts to their learning styles and needs.”

The concept of small-group learning and providing more choice in the classroom is beginning to take root in several other Primary School classrooms, inspiring students to become more-curious learners and more-confident individuals.

“One thing I’m looking forward to in seventh grade is the Ethics Bowl team. KPS has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to practice our public speaking skills, while discussing relevant ethical topics of the day, and I’m eager to be a part of the team.”

—EVA OBALDE '29

TRANSITIONS

Farewell and Gratitude

We bid farewell and express our appreciation to two extraordinary individuals and celebrate their tireless efforts and the countless ways in which they have nurtured, protected, and cared for our community. Congratulations on a well-deserved journey into retirement.



**AMY ASHINSKY, PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSE
(26 YEARS)**

“When Amy accepted a summer camp nurse job at Kent Place, in 1997, little did she know that 26 years later she would be retiring from the same campus.

At the age of four, Amy proclaimed to her not-so-nice nurse in the hospital that “someday I’ll be a nurse and I will never be mean to my patients,” and she has kept that promise. In her warm manner, she cares for every student (and staff and faculty) who walks through her door.

“Amy began her diverse career, at NYU, as a nurse in orthopedics, neurology, neurosurgery, and pediatric oncology. At Kent Place, Amy was a member of Walking the Walk and the Employee Wellness Committees and also of SEED, and participated on the Student Support and Emergency Management Team. She also started the Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab program on campus. Amy’s passion was being an advocate for students with food allergies.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to have worked alongside a wonderful friend and colleague. Amy will be dearly missed by all.”

—LYNN EVANS, RN, HEAD NURSE



**SAM MANGANIELLO, CAMPUS SECURITY
(21 YEARS)**

“Sam’s journey with Kent Place began in September 2002, and throughout his tenure, he served in various roles within the Security Department and displayed unwavering dedication. Sam’s commitment to public safety extends far beyond his time

at Kent Place. Before he joined the campus team, he devoted an impressive 25 years to the Summit Police Department, in both the patrol and the investigative divisions. Combining his years of service at Kent Place with those in the police department, Sam has spent a remarkable 46 years safeguarding our community.

“Beyond his passion for public safety, Sam has a rich array of interests outside of work that include the Yankees and travel. Now he’ll have time to pursue the things he enjoys most. His presence and camaraderie have undeniably made a positive impact on our department and he will be missed.”

—DARREN SUCOROWSKI, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY



GET TO KNOW . . .

LUIS LARGO

Science Department Chair, Upper School physics teacher

I grew up in Bogotá and graduated from the Colombian School of Engineering with a degree in industrial engineering. I was 20-something and had never left the country. Many of my professors had studied in the United States and I wanted to do that so badly. I was accepted to the graduate program in physics education at Rutgers and was thrown into teaching physics labs. That’s what helped me to be able to speak English. I had to make myself understood.

I was mostly raised by women — my mom, my grandmother, my three aunts, and my older sister. They always empowered me to be my best. The opportunity to teach girls at Kent Place was like paying back a little bit of what they did for me.

I acknowledge that most of my students won’t remember the physics I teach, or won’t apply it directly after Kent Place. What I’m giving them is critical-thinking skills they can use in any field they pursue in college or later in life.

A former colleague at a high school I taught at before Kent Place always wore a bow tie. I asked him to teach me how to tie one, but it took watching a YouTube video for three days until I finally did it. When I got to Kent Place, I created Bow Tie Tuesdays for myself. I try to wear a different one every week. Now, everyone knows me by my bow ties. Even the Primary School girls make me bow ties out of paper towels, or anything else they find.

What I find very impressive is that my students are ready to participate — they run to the center of the room when I ask for volunteers, they’re active members of a learning community, and they support the growth of the class as a whole. KPS girls give their all when I assign a new project. Their enthusiasm is just amazing.

Brilliance Unveiled

Our KPS performers showcased their talents in multiple sold-out performances from the Upper School's play *Clue*, to the Middle School's musical *Matilda, Jr.*, to the Upper School's *An Evening of Dance*.



Chamber Dancers
Angelica Nwachuku '24
(center) with Cooper
Grogan '26 (left) and
Catherine Gerbino '24
(right) in "Entitled,"
"An Evening of Dance"



Cast of *Clue*



Sarah
Mattie '28 in
Matilda, Jr.



Dance Ensemble in
"What's Going On,"
"An Evening of Dance"



Cast of *Matilda, Jr.*



PREPARATION TIME. Members of the Primary School Ensemble rehearse with Mr. Thornhill once a week during recess to prepare for their Spring Recital.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG VOICES

Kent Place is well represented at honor choirs at both the state and the national levels. Our return to singing has meant that our most passionate singers were able to audition for the opportunity to perform advanced choral repertoire. Congratulations to our singers and to Mr. Neil Ginsberg and Dr. Lori Mirabal, who prepared them so well.

American Choral Director’s Association

- Laila Gandhi '27, junior high
- Katie Hu '30, elementary
- Serena Cui '31, elementary
- Lily Kang '31, elementary
- Sasha Tetley '31, elementary

New Jersey American Choral Directors Association

- Elizabeth Thekkanath '28, junior high
- Laila Gandhi '27, junior high
- Tara Nirula '27, junior high
- Quinn Schwarz '31, elementary
- Melanie Hoffman '31, elementary

Making Music That Makes a Difference

In early spring, KPS premiered the “Music for Change” initiative, an evening of songs and sounds dedicated to promoting social justice and change. The event was the brainchild of Gabrielle Liberman '23, a classically trained singer and passionate advocate for social justice. “I came up with the idea and wrote the formal proposal over Winter Break,” she says. “I wanted to find a way to use music as a storytelling device and inspire people to lend a hand to social-justice programs.”

With the help of Performing Arts Chair Edel Thomas, Gabrielle invited musicians to perform pieces based on one of three themes: empowering women, protecting the environment, and helping children. The event was open to the public free of charge, and those in the audience were encouraged to donate to a cause of their choice.

“We raised some \$800 for the Malala Fund, the Sierra Club, and the International Children’s Fund,” Gabrielle says. “We had ten acts — some original compositions — and people worked for weeks to perfect their performances.”

But the real mark of success, Gabrielle says, is the enthusiasm generated for making the concert an annual event. “I’ve already had an underclassman come up and ask if she can run the concert after I graduate,” she says. “It’s been an amazing experience and I’m thrilled that it will live on after I graduate.”

“Seize every opportunity. Take the ceramics elective just for fun, submit poetry to *Windward*, make props for the musical . . . there are so many amazing things you can do in the arts at Kent Place, but you might not know their true value until you try them.”

—KAI MARKLEY '24

Kent Place Choir
at the Christ
Church Cathedral
in Dublin



Harmony Across the Emerald Isle

Thirty Kent Place Singers and Chamber Singers traveled to Ireland this summer to perform with the world-renowned artistic director Rollo Dilworth during a Dublin festival. Two participants, Zoë Espiritu '25 and Andrea Hanchuk '24, reflect on the experience.

At the end of June, I traveled to Ireland to perform at a Gala Festival Concert in the Christ Church Cathedral with the Chamber Singers and the Kent Place Singers. This trip instilled in me patience and perseverance as a singer and as a performer, as each rehearsal lasted from two to four hours. The three different performances in Cork and Dublin made me value the meaning of teamwork and resilience. As a student of Kent Place, I felt an overwhelming sense of joy and pride as we showcased our skills at every venue, feeling closer and closer to one another each time.

One of the highlights was meeting the two other schools, from California and New York, performing in Christ Church Cathedral with us. Though our time there was short, I made many connections and memories I'll carry with me throughout my life.

Outside of singing as a choir, my favorite day was spent visiting Blarney Castle, kissing the Blarney Stone, heading to Killarney, and shopping there for a few hours. The opportunity to travel with the Kent Place Choir was an unforgettable and enriching experience that I will always treasure.

—ZOË ESPIRITU '25



A sea of Kent Place raspberry pink T-shirts surround me at the Newark airport as my fellow Chamber Singers braid one another's hair and share their airport French fries. After months of practice and anticipation, we're about to embark on a journey across the Atlantic to do our favorite thing: sing.

It was a pleasure to travel and perform in Ireland. From the breathtaking sights of Blarney Castle to the quaint town of Killarney, it was a privilege to experience everything with friends. I take pride in our performances at St. Colman's Cathedral, the EPIC Immigration Museum, and Christ Church Cathedral, the culmination of months of hard work.

We also had the honor of working with Artistic Director Rollo Dilworth, an accomplished, passionate composer. He urged us to believe in what we sang and to convey the message of the music through our facial expressions.

This trip constantly reminded me of the power of a community, specifically the Kent Place community. From frolicking in the fields of Phoenix Park to rushing to say our roll call as fast as possible, every moment of this experience made me feel welcome and supported. I'm grateful to have spent it with my Kent Place family by my side.

—ANDREA HANCHUK '24

Honoring Our Queen of Dance

In the realm of grace and movement, there exists a figure whose passion has shaped the lives of countless students and colleagues. We pay tribute to dance teacher LeAnn Yannelli, creative force behind the Kent Place Dance Program, whose impact has been immeasurable for four remarkable decades. With great sadness, it was announced this spring at the final faculty and staff meeting of the year that she would be ending her tenure at KPS.

For 40 years, LeAnn nurtured a space for self-discovery and growth, and every year we watched in awe the incredible talent showcased by the Chamber Dancers and Dance Ensemble, groups she established, in her signature “An Evening of Dance.”

Thank you, LeAnn, for your commitment and creativity. We could fill countless pages of highlights from her years at KPS, but hearing from those whose lives she influenced and inspired would speak to the heart of how much she meant to the school community.



“To this day, LeAnn’s passion for choreography is infused throughout our program. From our youngest Primary School dancers, who learn all the elements of dance — body, action, space, time, and energy — to our most advanced Chamber Dancers, who create their own senior projects, LeAnn’s students have always embraced the artistic and athletic elements of her creative process. Her long-established tradition of ‘An Evening of Dance’ has maintained the highest professional caliber of dancing in the Upper School.”

—EDEL THOMAS, CHAIR, PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

“Without a doubt, some of my most liberating, most empowering, most noteworthy moments at Kent Place were on the sleek floors of the dance studio: Ms. Yannelli’s classroom. She embodies passion, creativity, kindness, and elegance — art in motion, dance. She has, in her subtle yet intentional manner, shown us all by example that the beauty of a dancer has just as much to do with what happens off the dance floor as what happens on it.”

—CHELSIE NACELUS '21

“She created an environment for everyone to move without insecurity or doubt. In her care I got to be me and in her care I got to grow to become the person I am now. I love Ms. Yannelli and am ever thankful for her.”

—GRAYSON (BARRY) O'REILLY '03

“When I was a high school student, LeAnn introduced me to a modern sense of dance, that my body could express anything and everything. My mother had been a ballerina, so I was drawn to dance but not to ballet; LeAnn showed us a new world of contemporary dance that was tangible and fun — she got us moving with live accompaniment and improvisational techniques and lots of ensemble work. I remember fondly our fancy-free footwork to Scott Joplin and grape-colored unitards for a dreamlike piece that won us awards at regional competitions. When I think about it, LeAnn might be the reason I still dance and choreograph for inter-generational and adult ensembles with Halestone Dance Studio, which is in Lexington, Virginia. Thank you, LeAnn, for your mentorship.”

—STEPHANIE HODDE '87

“During my senior year, Ms. Yannelli took the KPS Chamber Dancers to the Hudson River Museum to perform at the Dancers Among Us: Jordan Matter exhibition. She thoughtfully choreographed a stunning piece that highlighted every dancer’s strengths in front of a vast audience of museumgoers. We were all so proud and happy to bring to life Ms. Yannelli’s vision, and we built an even stronger dance community.”

—ALLAI REGAN '17

“LeAnn Yannelli was one of the most influential teachers in my KPS life. I was always dancing so much after school that it seemed unnecessary to spend any more time dancing in school, but I have LeAnn to thank for making me versatile in many styles of dance. She has a modern dance background, but she pushed me to be open to everything, even when I pushed back and thought I knew better. My freshman year saw the inauguration of Chamber Dancers. We went ‘on tour’ to perform in nursing homes and at community events. She encouraged me through my senior project in choreography. She always had a smile and lots and lots of patience. I thank her for all she did for me.”

—SUZANNE (LOPEZ) PRISCO '89,
ABBOTT ACADEMY DIRECTOR,
JOFFREY ACADEMY OF DANCE

LeAnn Yannelli Looks Back

Dance has always been my passion — I studied it from the age of three through an MFA in dance. When Kent Place School offered me the job as head of the dance program right out of graduate school, I was both excited and concerned. What would happen to my love of choreography, my professional career as a dancer? I soon realized that even as a teacher, I could have both.

At Kent Place, I had the academic freedom to create a dance program that reflected my experience, interests, and goals. I taught what I knew and loved. My work as a choreographer flourished, as I’d usually make new dances for my students every year — sometimes three or four at a time. At first I taught Grades 4 through 12 and led the performance group Dance Troupe. I then created Chamber Dancers and Dance Ensemble and eventually Middle School Dance Makers. As I reflect on my time at Kent Place, sharing my love of dance with so many students and colleagues over my 40 year tenure was not only a source of inspiration, but of countless cherished memories that will not soon be forgotten. Watching the dancers grow from young girls to young women, many of whom went on to careers in dance, was both an honor and a privilege. Knowing that I played a small role in enriching their lives brings me great joy.



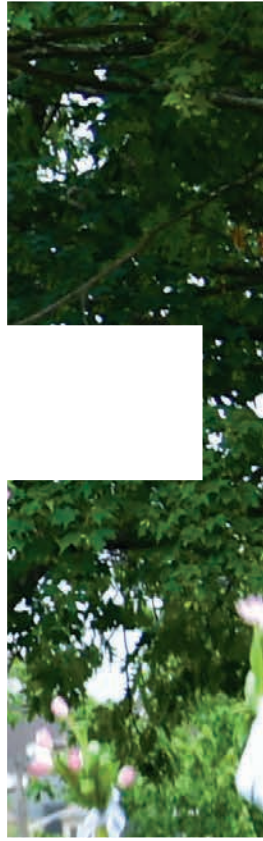
On Saturday, June 3, our 78 brave and brilliant graduates proved that their class is not only unafraid to be heard, but is also poised to redefine the very meaning of empowerment.

BEAUT





IFUL NOISES



“

When we first arrived, we were certainly loud. But our years here at Kent Place, guided by amazing teachers and mentors who always believed in us, transformed us from noisy, rowdy, annoying tweens into young women who demand to be heard. Roshni's project on discrete mathematics, Elina's animated short film, Alex's original musical composition — these are all outcomes of this class finding our voices. Anyone can shout anything from a rooftop, but we've been equipped with the skills to be more than just loud: we've learned to speak up and make a difference, to have an impact, to use our voices to effect change.”

—CECE REALI AND LILY B. MILLER,
SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



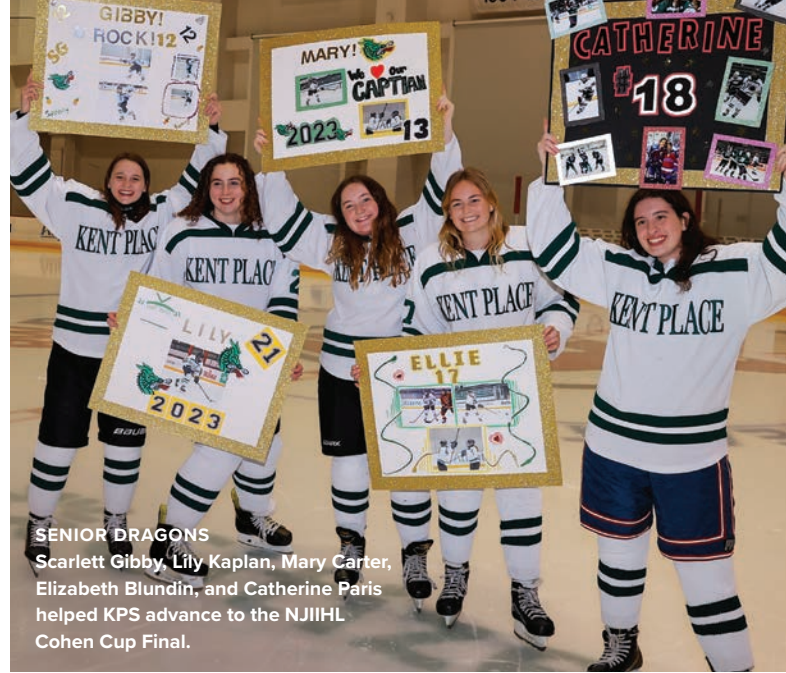
A BRILLIANT START
Lifer Roshni Kopparapu in
Preschool, at the beginning
of her Kent Place journey



KENT PLACE, FOR LIFE
Our lifers on their last first
day of school at the Primary
School playground



DEDICATED TO THE ARTS
Whether on the stage or in the studio, seniors like Sofie Cozine, pictured here working on her AP Portfolio art, shared their creativity with the community.



SENIOR DRAGONS
Scarlett Gibby, Lily Kaplan, Mary Carter, Elizabeth Blundin, and Catherine Paris helped KPS advance to the NJIHL Cohen Cup Final.



CITIZENSHIP CUP
By vote of all faculty and staff, Lilly Fanelle was awarded the Citizenship Cup, the school's highest honor. Lilly was an enthusiastic participant in all of the performing arts and deeply committed to the school's Disability Education Alliance.

“ You’ve never wanted to take yourself too seriously. You’re a class that was eager to play and to celebrate the little victories and to create musical, artistic, athletic, academic, and moral beauty in the face of extraordinary adversity. You were capable of this because you were open to the wonder and awe all around you, and you created these moments for others.”

—NICOLE HAGER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE UPPER SCHOOL



UNBREAKABLE SISTERHOOD
Seniors support their fellow classmates with laughter and cheers.



A GIFT OF POETRY
Sekai Marques shares her poem *Destiny* with her classmates and invited guests.



SENIOR CLASS REPS
The graduating class chose Cece Reali and Lily B. Miller to give student remarks.

“

When you're in college, wherever you may be, I want you to have the voice I know you have — you're not a silent bunch! Remember that your voice counts. You are to stand up for what you believe, fight against injustices, and fight for you. I see before me that you're our future, you're our changemakers. I know you'll make the future a better place for all of us.”

—MICHELLE MURPHY,
UPPER SCHOOL
DEAN OF STUDENTS



**“ Each of you is bright, powerful,
and a leader, but it’s in
your collectivity that you’ve
achieved greatness: as role
models for the students who
follow and look up to you.”**

—DR. JENNIFER GALAMBOS, HEAD OF SCHOOL



TO KPS FOREVER
Members of the
Class of 2023 during
the recessional.



A JOYFUL OCCASION
Celebratory candid
from their final class
photoshoot.

At Kent Place,
girls develop
confidence and
connections as they
move to advance
the world.

BY CATHERINE O'NEILL GRACE | ILLUSTRATION BY EVA VÁZQUEZ

A SEAT IN THE FRONT ROW



S

SONYA JOO '91 has spent her career in male-dominated business environments. After earning degrees from Yale and Columbia and London Business Schools, she worked in successively senior global executive positions at major entertainment studios including NBC Universal, Sony Pictures, 20th Century Fox, and the Walt Disney Company, and 18 months ago, she joined an entertainment technology startup, Autograph, as head of business development.

"I've worked for a lot of entertainment companies, in entertainment studios, and now I'm in tech," she says. "Being able to navigate these dynamic industries and cultures requires having a strong sense of who you are and your capabilities. When you're a young woman in the workplace, it's not always easy to hold your ground. You need to have a strong foundation and believe in yourself."

Her sense of self, she says, stemmed "from when I was in Kindergarten at Kent Place." Her parents liked the fact that KPS is an all-girls school: Her mother had gone to an all-girls school, and Joo's grandfather was committed to making sure his girls were educated, she says, "even though back then in Korea, women typically did not have this opportunity. KPS's mission resonated with my mother for her daughters, my sister, and me."

At Kent Place, Sonya says, "you're encouraged to try new activities and to test yourself. I gained so much confidence in having that freedom in an environment to explore and learn what's possible. I had a forum to test my voice in writing, in speaking in class, in having conversations with teachers. You can be in student government, you can be the editor of the paper, you can write the research paper, you can play for that sports team. What you can do is unlimited. One of the most valuable lessons I learned at Kent Place was not to be afraid to try."

Sonya's experience bears witness to a statement from the International Coalition of Girls Schools (ICGS): According to a UCLA study, the majority of girls school graduates report higher self-confidence than their coeducated peers.

Jennifer C. Galambos, Head of School, has always believed in the power of girls. "I grew up on a street that for much of my childhood had all girls, and there was nothing we thought we couldn't achieve," she says. "I understood girl dynamics very, very well."

Later, as a teacher and administrator at independent schools, says Dr. Galambos, "I watched girls get short-changed by their middle school education experience. I watched them get quiet. I watched them shrink into themselves, sometimes in physical ways and sometimes in metaphysical ways. I wanted to focus on the needs of girls."

Dr. Galambos pursued that work at the Bryn Mawr School, where she served as assistant head, MS and US division directors, and also taught history and coached tennis. When the opportunity to lead Kent Place came along, in 2017, she jumped at the chance.

"Kent Place affords girls and young women an opportunity to develop full confidence in themselves and try out their leadership skills in a safe environment that enables them to move on to college, where they unapologetically take up space," she says. "In their early years, they can explore and develop a strong voice in a place that exalts them and is designed to take advantage of the way girls learn. We're educating an empowered young woman who knows her value and knows what she brings to the table. We're developing young women who are ready for any challenge in the world."

To this end, KPS focuses on developing leadership. "There are both formative and summative ways that leadership is developed here," Dr. Galambos says. Some of it is easy to spot, such as students on stage presenting or leading a student government meeting. "But it's often in those smaller places that get less attention," she says, "that you're seeing the development of leadership. You're seeing it on the playground in Primary School. You're seeing it in a science classroom. Everywhere, we're building the framework for a young leader."

"In a school for girls," says Holly Doyle, Director of Kent Place's Girls' Leadership Institute (GLI), there's a lot of space to think and a lot of space to explore. Girls can find their inner self and strengthen that; they get their roots before they're blown around a lot."

GLI programming rests on six pillars: communication; social-emotional intelligence; acting; ethical decision-making; collaboration; and cultural competence.

Leadership is about connection and relationships," Ms. Doyle says. "Something that's unique to Kent Place, that's really been infused into the school and is central to its mission, is that we teach from the perspective of leadership. Students come away understanding that leadership is an action you can flow in and out of. There are times you step forward, but sometimes leadership is allowing someone else to step forward.

"Really, it's based on mentorship," she says. "It's adults mentoring the high school students and the GLI student counselors, who then mentor the students going through the program. It's deliberate design: it's not learning; it's practicing."

Ms. Doyle says that when she speaks to Kent Place alumnae, they cite the confidence they acquired here. "And it's not empty confidence," she says. "It's a true belief in themselves and their voice — that their voice matters."

"In college," says Dr. Galambos, "our alumnae sit in the front row and they never look behind them. They're not held back. In fact, for many, confidence soars — partly because the transition isn't an academic hurdle, but mainly it's the result of the skills they learned here about showing up, raising your hand, speaking up, taking part. That pays off tremendously when they go for a degree."

According to the ICGS, girls school graduates are six times more likely to consider majoring in math, science, and technology compared to girls who attended coeducational schools. Increasingly, the classrooms where Kent Place alumnae sit in the front row are in STEM disciplines. "In 2011, 11 percent of our seniors intended to study a STEM major," says Dr. Galambos. "With last year's class, that was close to 50 percent." She attributes that rise in part to the Center for Innovation, the school's facility for STEM and interdis-

“In college our alumnae sit in the front row . . . They’re not held back. In fact, for many, confidence soars — partly because the transition isn’t an academic hurdle, but mainly it’s the result of the skills they learned here about showing up, raising your hand, speaking up, taking part.”

ciplinary education, with courses in topics such as cryptography, at the intersection of math and computer science. Students lead an annual hackathon and our advanced computer programming and engineering courses have grown exponentially in recent years. In fact, the National Science Foundation statistic for female first-time college freshmen indicating a STEM major is 28 percent.

“Research has shown that when we have environments that remove some of the constraints that are put upon us by socialized norms, most often gender roles, we start to see an increase in girls and women with a disposition toward STEM,” says Evelyn Hanna, Interim Director of the Upper School and Director of Curricular Innovation and STEM.

As part of the STEM program, Kent Place celebrates National Engineers Week in February, though, says Dr. Hanna, “in truth, we keep the celebration going year-round.” In the Upper School, a panel of women engineering professionals talked about their experiences; college students who are pursuing an engineering degree spoke to Middle Schoolers.

“Hearing alumnae talk about the impact Kent Place has had on them as they’ve been navigating their undergraduate experiences and engineering was just remarkable,” Dr. Hanna says. “They weren’t prepped in advance, but just chatted with our students about what it means to take the skills they learned at Kent Place and the content knowledge they learned and lean on them, especially in their first year in college. They’re making sure their voices are heard, they have no fear of raising their hands — and they’re even kind of alarmed that this isn’t the norm among their classmates. And that translates into any discipline, whether you’re in the humanities or the arts or the social sciences.”

Dr. Hanna says meeting those alumnae demonstrated to current students that “we’re living the Kent Place mission to empower girls to be confident, intellectual, ethical leaders who advance the world.”

For Wendy Sanford, there was no question about whether a girls school was a good choice for her daughter, who graduated with the Class of 2018. Mrs. Sanford herself is a graduate of Nightingale-Bamford School, a girls school in New York City, as was her mother. Third-generation girls school alumna Megan Sanford ’18 has taken

the confidence Kent Place gave her into the world of investment banking as an analyst at TD Cowen Inc., in New York City.

“I found my voice at Kent Place,” Megan says. “Being in an all-girls environment, I wasn’t afraid to speak up. I wasn’t afraid that people would judge me for what I was saying. I was very close with my classmates and enjoyed the camaraderie. It wasn’t a daunting environment.”

A three-sport athlete, Megan captained the field hockey, ice hockey, and lacrosse teams. She says making all-school announcements about the teams at Morning Meetings honed her public-speaking skills and bolstered her self-confidence.

When she looked for a job after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Megan was drawn to the biotechnology investing team she joined at TD Cowen because it was largely female. “Finance in general is male dominated,” Megan says, but her team is “definitely not like the rest of Wall Street. I think it’s a good environment to be in, being surrounded by women supporting other women.”

Megan entered Kent Place School in second grade. “She loved every minute of it,” her mother says. “She got an incredible education. She thrived academically. She thrived athletically, and she was able to have leadership roles in so many different areas. The students aren’t afraid to be bright women and strong women. Honestly, that’s what we wanted for Megan, and we got it.”

At Kent Place, Mrs. Sanford says, “the girls can just be who they are. They can be silly, they can be funny, they can be serious, they can be crying. They have such a support system. It’s not always easy, of course. But they’re kind, they’re thoughtful. They have each other’s backs.”

On weekends, Megan often spends time with other KPS alumnae who have landed in New York City. “They’ll be my friends for life,” she says.

Evelyn Hanna saw that in action at a recent eighth-grade award ceremony. “Every time a name was announced,” she says, “there was this overwhelming applause and excitement. Students were hugging; they were excited for one another. It’s that idea of sisterhood. Nobody’s clawing to get past someone else. Each girl is supported.”

Head of School Dr. Galambos echoes that sentiment. “Last year, I attended Kindergarten recess once a week, and I was very, very nervous about the girls on the monkey bars, because I tend to see everything through a risk-and-liability lens,” she says, shaking her head a bit ruefully. “One day, two girls — Mariela and Elizabeth — were on the bars. Elizabeth, who was very adept on the monkey bars, was holding Mariela up so that she could cross. And I said something along the lines of, ‘Elizabeth, it’s so great to see you helping Mariela.’ And Elizabeth said, ‘Dr. Galambos, this is what we do. We hold each other up.’ There are many meanings to that lovely story. You know, we figuratively hold each other up. And I thought, ‘Wow, that’s really the power of the experience. That’s what we do here. We hold each other up.’”

Catherine O’Neill Grace, a writer based in Boston, taught English at two independent schools for girls, National Cathedral School, in Washington, D.C., and Buffalo Seminary, in upstate New York.

Choose Your Own Adventure

BY ERIN PETERSON | PORTRAITS BY PETER CHOLLIICK

THE KENT PLACE CURRICULUM has long been outstanding and relevant, with every course meeting or exceeding honors-level requirements. But Julie Gentile, Assistant Head of School for Teaching and Learning, wants students to consider those courses to be launching pads, not destinations.

That's why Kent Place gives every student an opportunity to do deep, individually guided projects. "When students are able to select their course of study, invest their time and energy in ways they choose, and present their outcome to an audience, their sense of pride and accomplishment is unparalleled," says Ms. Gentile.

They also develop an array of skills that will benefit them beyond graduation: they learn to manage their time over a months-long period, they follow a single line of research to its natural conclusion, and they embrace failure as an essential part of the process.

Five students tell us about their recent work — and some of the lessons they learned along the way.

→ IF YOU DECIDE TO
**inquire about
the stories of
immigrants in
your community**
TURN TO PAGE 37

→ IF YOU CHOOSE TO
**understand our
world through the
lens of literature
and history**
TURN TO PAGE 38

→ IF YOU CHOOSE TO
**delve into the
nuanced world
of bioethics**
TURN TO PAGE 39

→ IF YOU OPT TO
**build your software
skills on a high-level
research project**
TURN TO PAGE 40

→ IF YOU DECIDE TO
**make meaningful
mathematical
connections**
TURN TO PAGE 41



LUNA MARKELS '23

“The stories I’d read weren’t as distant as they seemed.”

Luna Markels has always known more about immigration than most students her age — her grandparents came from Mexico, and she spent three years in Mexico City during elementary school, when stories of people emigrating to America swirled around her.

Still, she knew she was only scratching the surface. That’s part of the reason she worked with Spanish teacher Sandra Medina to craft **an independent study** with in-depth oral-history interviews, conducted in Spanish, of three immigrants in the local community. For her final project, she created a short video that told participants’ stories in their own words — and in their native language.

Luna conducted interviews with people from Mexico and Guatemala. She also spent two weeks over the summer at a UCLA film program, which gave her the tools to whittle down hours and hours of on-camera interviews to a polished, three-minute video.

The intimate, face-to-face conversations, says Luna, gave her a new understanding of the challenges that many immigrants face in coming to America. “I had no idea they had gone through financial struggles and even near-death experiences,” she says. “It showed me that these stories I’d read weren’t as distant as they seemed.”

Luna says she’s now far more comfortable asking people questions about their lives. For example, over Spring Break, when she saw her grandparents, she spent time talking with her grandfather about his early years. “I asked him more about his experiences, and we had an hours-long conversation,” Luna says. “I’d never have had that conversation without this project.”



CASSIE MILLER '24

**“We focused on one thing —
but from new angles.”**

The Plot Against America, a novel by Philip Roth that conjures up a world in which Charles Lindbergh defeats Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, has earned its way onto many English-class reading lists. But for Cassie Miller, who read the book as part of her **Cumulative Humanities Project**, a traditional literary analysis of the novel was just the starting point.

The Cumulative Humanities Project — completed by every 11th-grader — provides students the chance to choose from a carefully curated list of about 100 books, then analyze them from the perspective of literature, history, and even media studies lenses with the support of their English and history teachers.

Cassie used the literary lens of ecocriticism to study the novel’s depiction of American antisemitism. She researched the history of psychiatric care for soldiers during World War II, which was relevant to one of the novel’s main characters. She also watched a John Huston documentary about posttraumatic stress disorder among World War II veterans. “I really enjoyed getting historical and other contexts that I could apply to the novel,” she says.

She worked closely with English teacher Jennifer Dwyer and history teacher Lawrence Seid, who helped Cassie to hone her research topics, find the right sources, and synthesize literary and historical material to craft nuanced and interdisciplinary arguments.

For Cassie, the project made her realize that there are worlds to uncover in everything she studies. “It was great to focus on one thing,” she says, “but from new angles or by bringing in new elements.”

PHILIP ROTH THE PLOT AGAINST



NICOLA MURUNGI '25

“I learned to challenge my initial reactions.”

Nicola Murungi was listening to a talk by the neuroscientist Joseph Knoedler as part of the “Gender and Bioethics” theme for this year’s **Bioethics Project** when she first heard about dimorphic genes. These genes are expressed differently between the sexes of almost all species, including humans, and can lead to sex-based differences in disease. Whereas research on these genes offers the potential to develop sex-specific medical treatments, it could also further specific

types of sexism. Nicola was eager to explore the topic further.

For her project, she worked with Bioethics Project Director Karen Rezach, Bioethics Project advisor Lisa Goldman, and science and bioethics teacher Maura Crowe to investigate the scientific and ethical implications of doing research on these genes.

With help from researchers at the Georgetown Bioethics Research Library, she dove into the literature, often finding far more nuance than she initially predicted. “I would often have a visceral reaction to things — I would say, ‘Oh, this is right’ or ‘this is wrong,’” she says. “But what the bio-

ethics process emphasizes is the importance of considering all points of view. I learned to challenge my initial reactions.”

And while she learned a great deal about the topic itself, Nicola says she also values the skills she built as she worked with her teachers to expand her view, called on classmates and Bioethics Projects alums to tackle frustrating challenges, and learned how to manage her time for the massive, yearlong project. “The process can be quite tough at times,” she says. “You’re up late, things aren’t working. But my classmates and I went through these things together. We celebrated one another’s successes.”



CHARLOTTE BETZ '23

“I did an engineering project using the same software as industry professionals.”

Starfish cling to watery surfaces with the help of tiny suction cups. But when the water gets rough, there's another attribute they rely on to keep them secure: their shape.

Those were the findings of Charlotte Betz '23, who replicated the work of a University of Southern California researcher for a **student-designed research project** she did with Interim Director of the Upper School Evelyn Hanna. With Dr. Hanna's help, Charlotte conducted a literature review and connected with a Rutgers researcher about a chemical property known as "hydrophobicity." She also learned a handful of new software programs to create a 3D model of a starfish and test how water flows around the shape.

Charlotte says the process of learning the software and getting it to do what she hoped was often frustrating, but it also gave her a new sense of resilience. "I ran into failure so many times, but I knew I would get over it if I just kept picking myself up," she says.

She completed the project, which culminated in a presentation to her classmates. It even had a bloopers slide with some of the failures that came along with her ultimate success.

She now has her sights set on double majoring in mechanical engineering and robotics at Carnegie Mellon University, where she'll be a freshman this fall. "Overall, I'm really happy that I was able to do an engineering project where I was using the same software as industry professionals," she says. "The opportunity to do something that felt real was important to me."



ISHANI WADHWA '23

“The goal wasn’t to arrive at an answer.”

After sailing through AP Calculus and Multivariable Calculus, Ishani Wadhwa had proved she was good at finding solutions to tough problems. But when she enrolled in **Research in Advanced Mathematics** with Ralph Pantozzi, she had to jettison all of her ideas about what being “good at mathematics” actually means.

“The goal with any specific project in the course wasn’t to arrive at an answer or to approach it in any one specific way,” she says. “With some exploratory problems, there was no guarantee that there even *was* an answer.”

Among the projects they undertook as a class were disk-moving “Tower of Hanoi” puzzles, paper-folding “folding dragon” problems, and a range of topics linked to number and graph theory.

For her self-selected project, she teamed up with a few classmates to analyze potential outcomes of a two-person strategy game, including maximum payoffs and losses. “We played the game ourselves, constructed 3D graphs representing the games, and drew out cross sections for critical points,” Ishani says. “I enjoyed being able to use mathematical concepts that Kent Place had taught me over the years in ways that I had never imagined.”

Ishani appreciated the meaningful mathematical connections she made — they’ll be helpful in the courses she takes at the University of Pennsylvania this fall as she pursues her dream of becoming a neurosurgeon — but she was even happier to learn how to achieve excellence in the face of uncertainty. “In any STEM-heavy field, you’re going to have a lot of exploration,” she says. “It made my perspective a lot more realistic.”

As STAR approaches its 100th performance,
Kent Place celebrates and honors both the
event's continuity and its evolution.
Here, we reveal the remarkable efforts
that have helped make it one of the
school's most beloved traditions.

BY ERIN PETERSON

A Century of
STAR



1924-2023



Artistic director Edel Thomas knows there are few evenings as meaningful and full of emotion for many students and alumnae as is the annual STAR concert. So each year, when Ms. Thomas arrives at the Field House on the night of the performance, she leaves nothing to chance: She times the evening with the precision of a Swiss watch: “I have an eight-page agenda with every detail. It’s timed down to the minute,” she says. “It’s taken years to develop, and I’m always adding to it.”

It’s this attention to detail that gives students the confidence they need to focus exclusively on the music for the 90-minute program without worrying that they’ll miss a cue or misplace their shoes. Everything — *everything* — has already been addressed.

If Ms. Thomas’s procedural rigor seems extreme, it’s for good reason. Despite the help of a team — among them the Dean of Students, student presidents, STAR parents, departmental colleagues, other faculty, and the communications, facilities, and advancement departments — she carries the weight of a century-old tradition on her shoulders. This December, STAR will celebrate its 100th year, and Ms. Thomas is eager to maintain and strengthen its reputation for excellence.

Head of School Jennifer Galambos says the school prioritizes STAR through numerous institutional decisions. For example, Kent Place commits significant resources and makes major school-wide schedule changes in the weeks leading up to the performance to accommodate extra rehearsals. “We know that the way we spend our time, our energy, and our resources reflects what we value,” she says. “And we place a tremendous value on the time-honored tradition of STAR.”

THE EVOLUTION OF AN ICONIC CONCERT

STAR got its start in 1924 as a simple Christmas concert put on with faculty and student musicians. It has evolved to become a nonsectarian performance and an integral part of the Kent Place experience.

Students and alumnae of all ages recognize the distinctive elements of STAR: the padding about of the performers in their stocking feet, the reverence from the audience, flickering candles, and the day-before-Winter Break date that lends a unique energy to the evening.

Yet for all of the aspects of the event that have provided a sense of continuity over time, STAR has always been something of a laboratory for change and improvement.

For example, years ago, the growing student body led directors to swap the once iconic star shape that students assumed for the performance for more traditional risers. Real candles were replaced with fire code-friendly battery-powered versions. And the traditional cottas and black bows were simplified to white turtlenecks and black skirts or pants.

The music itself has seen a similar mix of continuity and change. “O Holy Night,” for instance, has been performed almost every year and continues to be a favorite among many students and alumnae. And to create a meaningful performance for today’s student body — which has a wider range of faith and spiritual backgrounds than ever before — new and more expansive musical choices have been added. The repertoire now includes traditional Jewish songs and contemporary pieces with lyrics from poets such as Amanda Gorman.

Themes, too, get updated to reflect the moment: 2021’s “From Darkness to Light” was an apt manifestation of pandemic uncertainty; the theme for 2023, “Cherish the Past and Embrace the Future,” is a nod to the 100-year milestone.

Every change, minor or major, has been undertaken with careful consideration. The larger goal is to maintain the spirit of the event while helping all students — musically inclined or not, religious or not — feel a part of, and a contributor to, this essential Kent Place experience.

Building this sense of ownership and community among our students is a responsibility Ms. Thomas takes seriously. Although half of them have a musical background, she

never forgets the courage and commitment of the other half. She understands that they’re in unfamiliar territory for an important institutional event. “If somebody put a field hockey stick in my hand and said, ‘You’re part of the team now, go get the ball,’ I wouldn’t have a clue what to do. I’d be overwhelmed — especially if you put me on the team with a bunch of athletes who already know what they’re doing,” she says. “So I try to craft the program to make sure that everyone feels that they’re an important part of the performance.”

EVER HIGHER

Ms. Thomas, now in her 32nd year at the school, continues to push herself and others to make STAR the best it can be. She still scrawls notes to herself on the program on the night of the performance to make tweaks to that evolving, eight-page document. “Maybe we need to have someone turn off the lights at a certain point, or we have to make sure the aisle is wider,” she says. These are some of the tiny adjustments she’ll make for the following year.

Her work continues in January, when the team debriefs. She also thinks about themes and mines her network and other resources to come up with just the right mix of music. “We want to create opportunities to showcase students,” she says, whether that’s highlighting a talented violinist or selecting an orchestral piece that gives a larger-than-normal brass section the space to shine. In recent years, the growing orchestra has enabled Ms. Thomas and her team to think more expansively about musical choices.

The result, year after year, is a performance that evokes awe and appreciation. Dr. Galambos says she saw it her very first year as Head of School, when her high school- and college-age family members joined her at the concert. While they were initially resistant, it wasn’t long before they were converts. “They were absolutely mesmerized,” she recalls. “As we walked home that evening, they asked me if they could come to the concert every year.”

It’s this magical experience that Edel Thomas is always aiming for, and STAR is one of the things that makes her proud of what she’s accomplished over her three decades. “I love that we’re able to celebrate 100 years,” she says. “And I also want to look ahead: How can we best move into the next century?”



“The hush as we processed”

I remember Mr. Culver telling us not to croon like Bing Crosby. I remember the excitement of trying to get our black bows pinned on straight. I remember the hush as we processed into the church in Summit, because that’s where we performed when I was in high school. It’s one of the most special traditions I’ve ever had the pleasure of participating in.

—JESSICA (PUKASH) SCHWARTZ '87



WHO PARTICIPATES IN STAR?

Every Upper School student participates in the performance, whether she protests she can’t hold a tune or is a member of a KPS choral group or the orchestra. This experience is a powerful collaboration. Since 2004, alumnae have been invited back to join the students, usually performing a signature song. Their participation has enhanced the bond between current students and the alumnae family, and they’re always warmly welcomed.



“Marching solemnly through the wooden hallways”

My favorite memory is marching solemnly through the wooden hallways, singing “Masters in This Hall” in our white-and-black robes, holding our candles, across the pathway into the night and into the gymnasium, seeing our families, and forming the STAR.

—KATHY COOK '71



WHY IS STAR QUIET?

One aspect of the tradition of STAR is its silence. In the Field House, students are in stocking feet as they walk to their spots, and the audience holds its applause until the end of the 90-minute performance. But why? The quiet enables everyone to take a journey with the performers through the songs and fully embrace the beauty of the music.

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP
Margery "Marnie" (Follinger)
 Davies '48 paid homage to her late friend and classmate Jo (Smith) Davenport, who often had a solo in STAR, with the gift of an original choral work composed by Susan LaBarr. The result was *Orion*, about the constellation shining in the dark, and it saw its world premiere by the Chamber Singers at STAR 2021.



STAR OR THE STAR?
 If you ask two alumnae, you'll likely get two answers. We've used them interchangeably for decades, but whether STAR or The STAR, it's the same powerful performance.



THE PROGRAM COVER
 The cover of the program is designed by a student. It's very hush-hush — until it's unveiled during a STAR rehearsal. The artwork, usually capturing the theme of that year's performance, is always dynamic. In the past few years, the designers have dabbled in digital art to create spectacular programs.

PROGRAM

PLEASE HOLD YOUR APPLAUSE UNTIL THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND REFRAIN FROM USING CAMERAS AND VIDEOS OR AUDIO RECORDERS. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

SONG FOR JUSTICE (FROM TUVAYHUN)

By Kim André Arnesen
Meraki Chamber Ensemble and Chorus
Soloist: Abigail Wall '23
Cello: Charlotte Pao-Lipsich '23
Viola: Sofia Keri '23

ANI MA'AMIN

Arranged by Caldwell and Ivory
 (Sung in Hebrew)
 Chorus
Soloist: Gabrielle Liberman '24

NOËL DES ENFANTS

By Claude Debussy
 Chamber Singers

WINTER SONG

By Sarah Baceller
 Kent Place Singers

TO SIT AND DREAM

Text by Langston Hughes
 Music by Rompharyse Powell
 Chamber Singers

GENESIS

By Rossini Gallante
 Orchestra

RECONCILE

By Kyle Pederson
 (Sung in English and Swahili)
 Narrated text from poetry by Amanda Gorman
 Chorus
Soloist: Sophia Gattino '23

THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS

Text by Sara Teasdale
 Music by Kevin Menley
 Chamber Singers
Oboe: Evelyn Heber '24

I CHOOSE LOVE

By Mark Miller
 Chorus
Soloist: Lily Favre '23

WHERE THE LIGHT BEGINS

By Susan LaBarr
 Chorus

O HOLY NIGHT

By Adolphe Adam
 Arranged by John Rutter
 Orchestra, Chorus, and Alumnae
Soloist: Sara Jeffrey '23

A LIVING SONG

Text 19th century
 Music by David Branner
 Kent Place Singers

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

By Antonin Dvořák
 First Movement
Meraki Chamber Ensemble

COME DANCE AND SING

Shaker folk song
 Arranged by Joan Szymko
 Chorus
Dancers: Elina Kappas '23, Mackenzie Thompson '23, Libani Wadlow '23

O LOVE

Text by George Matheson
 Music by Elaine Hagenberg
 Chamber Singers

ODE TO JOY

From Symphony No. 9 Op. 125
 Ludwig van Beethoven
 Orchestra

GAELIC BLESSING

Katie Moran Bart
 Chorus

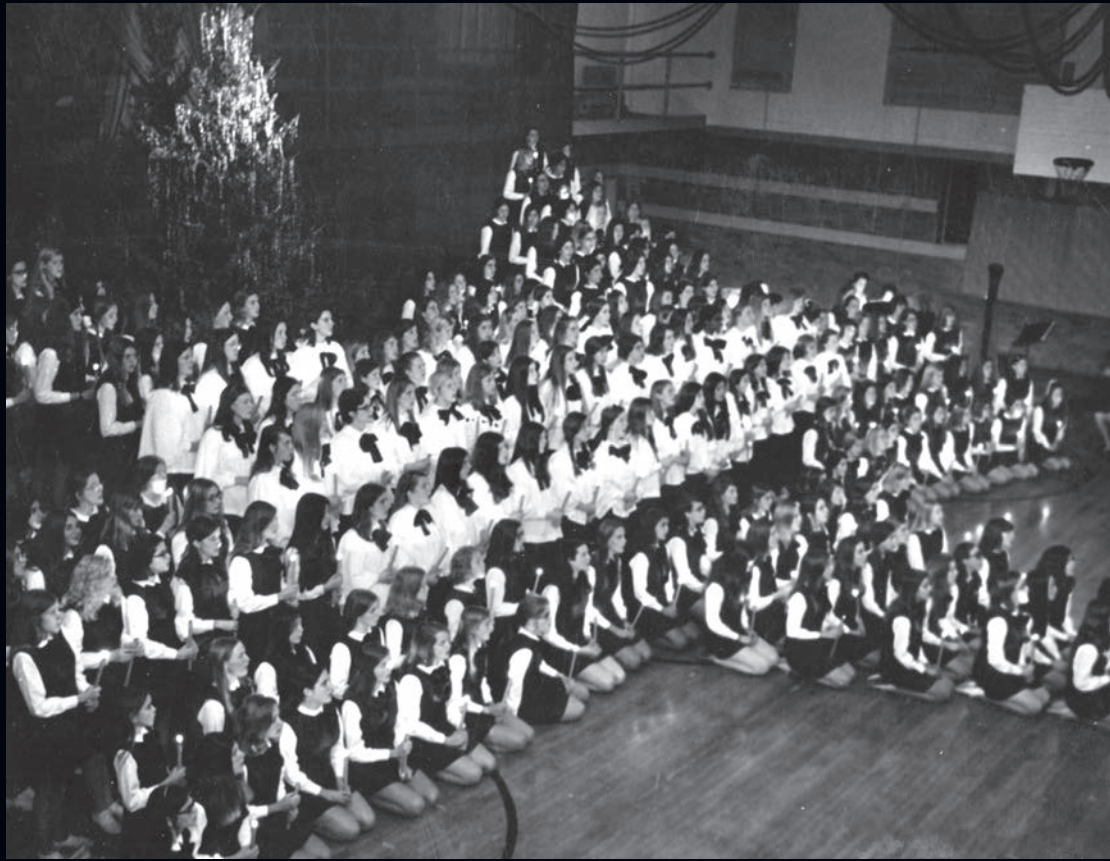
“I applaud efforts to make it more inclusive”

I remember memorizing all the words to all the pieces we sang — both Upper School and Glee Club. I realize now that its Christian theme was difficult for many of my classmates, and I applaud efforts to make it more inclusive while keeping the beauty and the magic.

—JUSTINE (JAY) HOFFMAN-SCHMITT '54

**DID YOU SAY
BAGPIPES?**

During her time in the Upper School, Catherine Gilhuley '20 closed out each STAR playing the bagpipes, and ultimately found herself at many National Bagpipe competitions. Could there be a return performance for this century milestone?



“Moved to tears”

As the parents of two Kent Place graduates and the grandparents of three current students, we’ve been to many STAR events. Last December, we were excited to attend because our oldest granddaughter, Reilly Dangler ’26, is a soprano in the Kent Place Singers. Although we expected to enjoy a lovely concert, we were unexpectedly moved to tears by the breathtaking choices of songs, the quality of the singing, and the performance of the orchestra.

—MARCIA AND ART CORNELL
P '84 '96 GP '26 '28 '30





SNOWED-OUT STAR
 It was the STAR that never was. After two months of rehearsals, a major snowstorm closed the school and STAR 1995 was postponed until after Winter Break. Alas, on the day of the rescheduled concert, the blizzard of '96 blew in, forcing the cancellation of STAR. According to *Cargoes*, seniors — understandably — took the news hard. Says Elizabeth Rowland '98, "I wish we could have just carried the candles around school for the day."

THE SHOW MUST GO ON
 What do you do during a pandemic when there's an annual musical event? Livestream, of course! STAR 2021, with guests limited to senior parents and everyone masked up, was broadcast — in all its splendor — to thousands of alumnae and friends, many of whom hadn't seen a performance since their own time as students.



“I still know the words”

I still know the words to many of the traditional songs we sang in the early 1990s. When I hear them during the holidays, I can sing along.

—GABRIELLE (COSTANZO) LONG '93

★ **SAVE THE DATE**
STAR 2023
 will be on
 Wednesday,
 December 20.

KEEPING PACE

CONNECTING THE
KENT PLACE FAMILY





Members of the Class of 1974



Coral Butler Brooks captures a joyous moment with Nancy Van Duyne '76

Dear Alumnae,

Greetings from Kent Place!

Since 1894, our school has been a center of learning, fostering a strong sense of belonging and shaping girls to advance the world. Kent Place is the thriving community it is today in no small part because of the dedication of our alumnae, who have left an indelible mark on our history. Every one of you has played an integral role in our growth.

This, our 129th academic year, promises to be an exciting one. Our faculty and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure an enriching educational experience for our students, blending tradition with curriculum innovation to prepare them for the challenges of the future.

As always, we'd love it if you'd participate in the various events and activities that will take place throughout the year. Whether it's a regional get-together, STAR, Alumnae Visiting Day, or Alumnae Weekend, your presence will provide immense value to our students. Your wisdom and your insights are important inspirations to the next generation of leaders.

Our alumnae community is a vibrant network of accomplished individuals who make a positive impact in their respective fields. To facilitate communication and en-

gagement, the Alumnae Association and the Advancement Team serve as a hub for information, updates, and opportunities. Our new alumnae e-newsletter and our private LinkedIn group make it possible for you to be current on what's happening on campus, access resources, and make connections with fellow alumnae. We encourage you to see us as a conduit for collaboration, mentorship, and lifelong learning.

In this magazine, we've profiled a few of our talented alumnae around the world (page 54); to find out what your classmates have been doing, please turn to Class Notes (page 57).

On behalf of Kent Place, I extend my gratitude to each of you for the support you've shown over the years.

We look forward to seeing you on campus or on our travels across the country.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Coral".

Coral Butler Brooks
Director of Advancement

Endless Possibilities: Learning from Alumnae



As a Kent Place student, you never know what path you'll follow, and the possibilities are endless. For Rachel Rosenthal-Sadow '01 P '36, it was no different, and that's exactly what she returned to campus to talk about with Upper School students.

Rachel spoke about her trajectory from Kent Place to Stanford University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in history, and to Columbia University for a master's in journalism. She then embarked on a journalism career that led her to Asia for more than eight years.

Rachel is a member of Bloomberg's editorial board, covering healthcare policy. Before that, she was an editor and columnist at Bloomberg Opinion and a reporter and editor for the *Wall Street Journal*, where she covered economics, markets, and finance. She has worked in New York, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

"I was humbled by the profundity of the students' questions and the way they think about the world around them," she says. "It was a pleasure to connect on issues that are front-of-mind for them. Despite what the calendar says, it feels like I was in their shoes not long ago. There really is something intangible that ties together KPS women throughout the generations."

STUDENTS FOR THE DAY. Physics, English literature, art history, environmental science? Which subjects interest you? Alumnae returned to campus in early spring as students for the day, joining Morning Meeting, attending classes, participating in a workshop on ethical decision-making, learning about wellness at KPS, and singing with the Chamber Singers. They chatted with current students comparing Kent Place then and now, and wrapped up the day with a friendly game of kickball on the turf.



GUIDE US, TEACH US EVER. Extending hearty congratulations to Sheila (Nugent) Carter '80 P '23 and Aimee (Cullen) Reali '91 P '23 '29 as they celebrate the graduation of their daughters, Mary Carter and Cece Reali, respectively.



AN INSTANT CONNECTION

Cherished traditions link generations of Kent Place alumnae, and one of them is bestowing the class ring to sophomores. In March, when this year's students received their rings, Erynn Murphy '17 was on campus to talk to them about what her ring means to her.

"After receiving my ring," she told the sophomores, "I wore it like it was any other piece of jewelry, but this one was more special . . . I encourage you to continue to wear your ring proudly and remember what it means to you, because I'm sure each of your rings carries a unique experience. And as you meet new people and they ask about the ring, share your special story with them."

KENT PLACE CONNECTS

Across the Country and Around the World

Kent Place alumnae live around the globe, following varied career paths and pursuing diverse interests. Wherever they live, however, and whatever they do, they carry on a tradition of lifelong involvement with their alma mater and its community. In addition to participating in events and returning to campus for reunions, they connect with fellow alums in their cities, host students visiting their countries, and form their own networks of local alumnae. As both a student and an alumna, you have access to this network forever and the opportunity to make priceless connections.

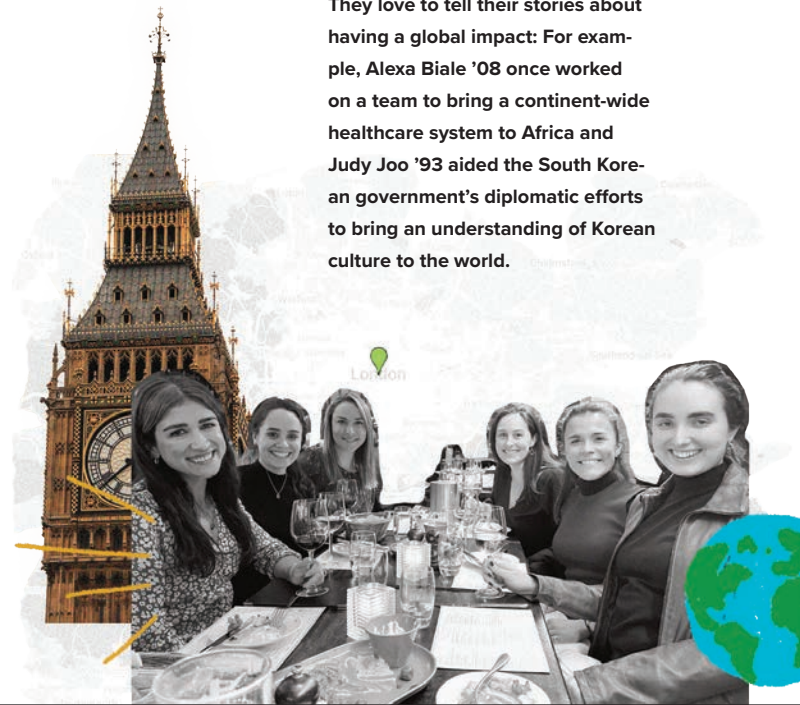
Following are just a few stories of widespread KPS engagement. Near or far, wherever you are, you'll find a KPS community!

SWITZERLAND. When 15 students and chaperones landed in Lucerne in June 2023 to learn about STEM in Switzerland and Germany, they had the perfect host: Vanessa King '89, living and working in Switzerland for more than a decade, enthusiastically signed on to help organize activities and host the students for dinner. Now the CEO of Tenpoint Therapeutics, Vanessa has held numerous positions at STEM-related companies, and with her husband arranged a tour of Pilatus Aircraft and a meeting with an international group of women aerospace engineers. Students said they loved having an alumna to learn from so far from home.



MADRID. For the first time since 2019, the global learning trips resumed when a group of 21 Upper School students traveled to Spain to explore major cities and practice speaking the language. Even though they live 3,500 miles away, Kent Place alumnae were there to meet their younger KPS sisters. 2020 classmates Clare Buckley and Lizzie Herr, in the capital through exchange programs at Georgetown University and Hamilton College, respectively, joined the students in the area of La Plaza del Sol. The young alumnae spoke about their current experiences and explained how their own global adventures at KPS inspired them to further their love of language and culture during college.

LONDON. Alumnae in classes from 1940 through 2014 live across the pond, and whether sitting down for dinner or exploring Tate Britain, the women enjoy getting together — with one another and with Head of School Jennifer Galambos and Chief Advancement Officer Coral Butler Brooks when they come to town. They love to tell their stories about having a global impact: For example, Alexa Biale '08 once worked on a team to bring a continent-wide healthcare system to Africa and Judy Joo '93 aided the South Korean government's diplomatic efforts to bring an understanding of Korean culture to the world.





WASHINGTON, D.C. When several years ago 2015 classmates Madison Mastrangelo and Emily Tevebaugh moved to the nation's capital and attended KPS's Green and Gold on the Road events in their new city, they realized how many other alumnae lived in the area and the connection they had with them, regardless of class year. Later, the two started Kent Place in the DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia). They held their first event in April 2023 at Shop Made, where a group of 10 alumnae participated in a candle-making workshop, working with local female artists to create custom scents. They plan to continue building a community of alumnae in their area.

OBERLIN, OHIO. Emily (Barton) Hopkins '87, associate professor and chair of creative writing at Oberlin College, worked closely with Noa Segal '17, who was a creative writing minor at Oberlin and TA'd for one of her courses, "The Oulipo and Constraint."

LOS ANGELES. Laura Scarano '06 became involved with the Kent Place alumnae community in her area after joining LARC (the Los Angeles Regional Chapter). In 2019, when Kent Place organized an event in L.A., Laura helped out by inviting other alums on the West Coast to attend. As an employee of UCLA, she noticed that Patricia (Marks) Greenfield '58 was a distinguished professor of psychology there. Patricia couldn't participate in the event, but the two women met for lunch — and the rest is history. Given their mutual passion for visual storytelling, they attend film screenings together throughout Los Angeles.

Graduating decades apart led to numerous conversations about how different Kent Place was culturally and how positively it has evolved from the '50s to the 2000s. Laura says she's proud to be an alumna in no small part because she's among generations of strong-willed and intelligent women, and that her friend Patricia embodies those characteristics to the fullest.



SUMMIT. In May 2023, alumnae returned to campus to meet with seniors to help launch them on their own journeys across the country and around the world. Panelists Nya Earrusso '12, marketing and communication manager, Newark City of Learning Collaborative; Leslie (Bauknight) Nixon '98, associate vice president, community relations, Victoria's Secret; Winifred Smith-Jenkins '94, director of early learning policy and advocacy, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ); and moderator April C. Bauknight '95, attorney, talked about their unexpected paths to their own careers, imparted advice such as "It's okay to change your mind, change your major, change direction," and answered questions to help prepare the students for life beyond KPS.



Lisa posting an article after a bike ride to find a rare bird on the edge of San Francisco Bay

Lisa M. Krieger '73

The recipient of environmental writing's most prestigious prizes — Columbia University's Oakes Award and the Scripps Howard Edward J. Meeman Award — Lisa Krieger is a San Francisco Bay Area journalist writing about science, the environment, and medicine for The San Jose Mercury News and previously The San Francisco Examiner/Chronicle. Lisa also teaches science journalism with the graduate-degree Science Communication Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Lisa earned her degree in biology from Duke University.

I blame my journalism career on a corpse in a hospital.

I was a premed student at Duke, working long hours on tedious tasks in a pathology lab. As a token of appreciation, my boss offered the most coveted of opportunities: Come see an autopsy. So I joined a circle of experts around an elderly dead woman on a table.

As we watched the dissection, my thoughts were drawn to the person, not

the process. Had these soft breasts nursed a baby? What tasty meals created such huge rolls of yellow fat? I pondered a large scar on her leg. As a girl, had she been in a car accident? Fallen off a horse? Tumbled out of a tree?

It was then that I realized I was headed in the wrong career direction. I loved the stories about medicine more than actually doing it.

Lesson 1: Know Yourself

So as graduation approached and my classmates celebrated their bright futures, I traversed the state of North Carolina in my blue VW Hatchback, stopping at every small newspaper in search of a job.

Things looked bleak. No one wanted to hire a science geek from a fancy school. Finally, on the last stop of my trip, an editor at a tiny paper on the rural Outer Banks took mercy. If I could start the day after graduation, he said, the job was mine.

Journalism was thrilling. It had always been my secret passion, starting at Kent Place during the turbulent '70s, when we watched the Watergate hearings on a TV in a back classroom.

When history teacher Elaine Schwartz recommended an article about the Vietnam War in *The New Yorker* — “Fire in the Lake,” by Frances FitzGerald — I was stunned by its beauty. *A woman can do this?* I thought. *Become a journalist?*

But I had been flummoxed about how to make it happen; the route to medical school was straightforward. Only when that door slammed shut did the door to journalism open.

Lesson 2: Persist

Truth be told, I was woefully ill-equipped to cover car crashes, murder trials, political campaigns, and zoning debates. On the career ladder of daily journalism, I made a lot of missteps.

But over time, my nerdiness became a strength, not a weakness. No one else in the newsroom wanted to write about microbes and galaxies, walruses and redwoods, floods and wildfires. The beat was all mine.

Lesson 3: Find a Niche

Now, at a major daily, I've had a front-row seat for the best and worst of experiences. I've seen Mars rovers, embryonic stem cells, and rare frogs. I've met Nobel laureates and young men dying of AIDS. I've visited the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, California's parched Central Valley, and tsunami-flattened Sri Lanka.

Lesson 4: The World Is Amazing. Lean into It

For those lessons, I give thanks to an anonymous woman on an autopsy table.

1942

Emily (Churchill) Wood
emily_wood46@hotmail.com

1947

Anne (Campbell) Dowell
annedowell@triad.rr.com

Our class likes to stay in touch! If you continue to give me your notes, I'll send them in for our column.

Betty (Correll) Durling stays in her lovely house on the river in Whitehouse, NJ, much of the year and goes to Vero Beach, FL, in cold weather. She and her children have a large group of Black Angus cattle and many calves. Betty likes to play bridge and walks every morning and evening. She has seven great-granddaughters and one great-grandson, who was born in early 2023. She remembers The STAR as very beautiful and thinks fondly of picking daisies for the Daisy Chain.

Evelyn (France) Kalagher is doing fine in Bennington, VT. She likes to cook, so she doesn't often go to the clubhouse for dinner. Her niece lives nearby in Brattleboro, and her nephew lives in Alaska, on the San Juan Islands. Evelyn has a pond close to her deck out back and has ducks, ducklings, geese, and small turtles. Her memory of The STAR is marching in to "Adeste Fidelis" and "Silent Night" and "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella."

Nancy (Vreeland) Waits is doing very well in Florida. Her daughter Christy is retired. She has a son, George Jr., and another daughter, Mary, who is a nurse, and all live nearby. She's in a high-rise retirement home in Winter Park, on the eighth floor, with a wonderful view. She attends every exercise class it offers and most meals and usually walks without a walker.

Nancy Purdy and I had a nice phone chat. She's doing pretty well in her retirement home in Basking Ridge, NJ. She reads, watches TV, and walks her cute spaniel, Henrietta, most days. She has help during the day and usually eats meals in her apartment.

Kathanne (Harter) Webster called and says she is doing well in Dedham, MA. Her daughter, Lucy, is moving from Belgium and hopes to buy a house near the shore. She's now living with Kathy and that's great — Lucy often cooks their meals. Kathy also enjoys going with friends to the clubhouse dining room. She walks with a

walker with a little seat. She's getting repairs done at their house on the lake and hopes to go there this summer.

Helen (Preus) Mairs called and sent a nice email. She had appendix cancer last fall and was in the hospital for a week, but is okay now. She continues to sing, exercise, and enjoy the many activities in her high-rise apartment in Saint Paul. Preusy and her children are planning trips to their cabin on Lake Superior this summer. "One grandson is at Middlebury," she says, "and the other is going to Washington University this fall. Julia will be home soon from winter in Palm Desert. Elizabeth is enjoying retirement; Heidi is also retired and comes back and forth from Texas; Rob continues working in Saint Paul." Her favorite memories of The STAR are the wonder of all the candles and the thrill of singing "Ideo."

Bobbie (MacWhinney) Schneidewind enjoys her eighth-floor apartment in her retirement home in Atlanta. "Our spring has been beautiful and I walk in our gardens each day," she says. "Our local family usually get together Sunday evenings for supper — I hope soon outside, so the 2- and 5-year-old great-grandchildren can run around. We're ready for our annual trip to Hilton Head, where 18 of us will gather for our favorite week of the year." She remembers The STAR as being very special.

Giovanna (Mancusi-Ungaru) Breu and her husband are fine. They live in Lincoln Park, a very nice section of northern Chicago. Her sister, Diana, 13 years younger, lives in France. Diana has been on a trip out west in Washington state and will be going east to spend five days with Giovanna. Giovanna's daughter, son-in-law, and 9- and 10-year-old granddaughters will come from their home in Texas — the girls have never met Diana. Giovanna will turn 93 August 21, so she's the youngest in our class. She and her husband enjoy going to the opera and concerts by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Eleanor (Rathbone) Nichols lives in The Cypress, a nice retirement home in Charlotte, NC. Her oldest son, William Jr., lives nearby. We had a short but nice phone chat and she sounds like she's doing quite well.

Sue (Savage) Speers is thrilled that her latest great-grandson, Lucas, arrived Feb 27, 2023. He joins his 2-year-old brother, Mateo. Their

parents are grandson Chris and his wife, Rosy. Sue says she doesn't like being the mother of a grandfather! Her youngest grandchild graduates from Hobart. He's a political science major and was captain of the men's tennis team. Sue's mobility these days is limited and she uses a "rollator" to get around. She'll go back to her house in Center Sandwich, NH, for the summer. Her oldest son, Will, and her neighbors drive her around. She well remembers The STAR as she was to be one of the "points" but came down with chickenpox. The next year she and Preusy were in the octet singing "The Holly and the Ivy."

1950

Liz (Dun) Colten
lizcolten@aol.com

Penny (Burley) Thomas
mbtedt@gmail.com

Phyllis (Tilson) Piotrow: I'm fine, and my children and grandchildren are all doing well. It's hard to believe that my offspring are now essentially retired; Diana is still doing some architectural renderings and teaching watercolor painting and Steve is coaching school tennis teams. I still write a biweekly column in the local paper but am now famous here not for any accomplishments but instead because I was awakened at midnight by a policeman standing next to my bed telling me to get dressed as a cottage nearby was on fire and I might have to evacuate if the wind changed. It didn't change and I wasn't evacuated, but it made a good story and I took grim but good photos of that fire and another nearby for the newspaper. Fortunately, no one was hurt but the ruins of a house fire are horrible to look at. Life is full of unexpected events even at age 90!

1951

Mary-Carey (Bachmann) Churchill
mcchurchill@gmail.com

Apologies for no notes last issue. Of course, I can't remember why I didn't write. This time, I've contacted everyone I could find. If you didn't hear from me, please let me know.

Joyce (Cudlipp) Wiggin reports, "Mitch and I are chugging along, doing fine. Where we live is delightful." That's independent living in Maryland, near daughter Darby. Mitch is 97! He's a study in how no exercise and an appreciation of fine wines make for a long life. Joyce does

In Memoriam

Georgia (Trainer) Hawley '37
April 20, 2022

Helen (Chase) Pyke '49
January 1, 2022

Mary (Barber) Marsden '51
October 27, 2022

Sally (Needles) Toffey '51
June 15, 2023

Connie (Moench) Goodman '54
April 1, 2023

Judith (Hofmann) Richter '57
November 30, 2022

Patricia (McMichael) Holmes '58
January 23, 2023

Suzanne (Krauss) Treacy '58
July 11, 2023

Ellen (Borkow) Gohacki '65
September 17, 2022

Becky (Chamberlain) Revelle '69
May 2, 2023

Margaret "Peggy" Nusser '71
June 18, 2022

Laura (Gruen) Lester-Taylor '73
December 9, 2022

Cynthia (Connell) Storer '88
February 4, 2023

Hillary Cooper-Piputtana '94
June 11, 2023

physical therapy to stay strong so, she says, "I can push Mitch in the wheelchair 500 yards up the road to the dining room. It saves \$45 each time!" Go Joyce! She just enjoyed her 90th birthday at a party with family and friends.

M. J. (Cabrera) Shaw at this writing is at home in Stowe, VT, preparing for her granddaughter's marriage. Her big home is a destination for her nine grandchildren and friends during ski season, and in summertime too. Always the avid golfer, M.J. now takes a cart and is never satisfied with her score, but, I can tell you, she plays well. At least she doesn't walk and carry her bag

anymore! Ugh. The Shaw tribe is growing. M.J. reports the birth of her first great-grandson, in February, and another is due in June.

Henrietta "Henri" (Simler) Buch writes from her independent-living community in St. Louis: "I continue to manage the on-site 9 x 18' greenhouse. My success rate of avoiding 'overwatered' plants is good, and I'm known as the Plant Doctor. I enjoy playing in a very successful Chimes group. My youngest daughter, a medical office manager, has a gorgeous flower garden nearby. We work as a team: She designs/buys, I pot/prune, she plants/waters. Her husband also helps. Adjusting to the Midwest has been interesting. The snow total this year was 5 inches, but I'll remain a 53-year Connecticut Yankee."

Alvene (Farrell) Carpenter and Larry are well. They divide their time among Morristown, Nantucket, and the Baltusrol Golf Club. A good life.

Becky (Kincaid) Mathewson writes, "I'm doing just fine. Very busy with



Kent Place Emeritus Trustee Sally (Needles) Toffey '51, of Vero Beach, FL, and Kennebunk Beach, ME, passed away peacefully in her home on June 15, 2023, with her loving husband, Jim, by her side as he had been since they met in 1947. Sally was an active member of the KPS community for decades, serving as Trustee and attending many alumnae events over the years. Sally generously donated two bronze sculptures, Little Sisters (pictured here) and Tug-of-War, that reside on campus and are beloved by the community. We thank Sally for her years of generosity and commitment to Kent Place and we extend our condolences to Jim, their children, and all of Sally's family and friends.

an elected position in my church. Also, my home seems to be a hotel for family who want to visit or are passing through Southern California. Alaska [Becky was an annual salmon fisherwoman] is no more due to COVID, and the RV is pushing 30 . . . My family is happy. There are graduations — high school and college — and a new great-grandchild."

Thank you all for writing and talking. Loved hearing from you! Yours truly is fortunate enough, as I write this in May, to be able to go to Portugal next week with friends for a three-week jaunt. Later, in summer, I'll stay in Newport with daughter Carey and her husband, avoiding the hurricane season in West Palm Beach. Family, including six grands, are all fine, facing the vicissitudes of life. At home, I'm a croquet nut. The National Croquet Center is here, a beautiful facility with 12 perfectly manicured courts and plans to add six. I write a newsletter for the club and one for my condo.

As I compile these notes, I think of the great friends and memories from Kent Place days. We got a strong leg up on education, didn't we? I sometimes think of the many stories (more like escapades!) that make me LOL. I was always on the edge of some kind of trouble . . .

Just after my notes were due for *Keeping Pace*, **Sally (Needles) Toffey** passed away on June 15, 2023, in Vero Beach, FL, with her beloved Jim holding her hand. Sally loved Kent Place. They were always generous benefactors for Kent Place, including the statue outside the Primary School. Our heartfelt condolences to Jim and their families.

1954

Marianna (Ruprecht) Mitchell
mariannarmitchell@gmail.com

Ricky (Kaplon) Adams: Is it possible that all of us are approximately 86? Wow! I live in Milwaukee with my second husband, Don, and two dogs, one wonderful, almost-14-year-old Clumber Spaniel, Lucia, and an okay Lancashire Heeler named Eduardini. Don and I are still participating in and running dog events of various kinds, with both our own dogs and those of others. Life isn't all that exciting but it's very satisfying as long as we keep our health. I remember KPS fondly,

both educationally and as a great foundation for the rest of our lives.

Peg (Askew) Clarke: As for my life here in Florida, because I'm quite bionic, physical therapy, fun with the kids and grandkids, and I even met one of my two great-granddaughters. Seven of the cousins met here for a "reunion" set up by Bill. Thank heavens Geoff was here (bless working remote) and was a huge help. Daughter Melinda lives in town, as does one of my granddaughters. It's such a pleasure to have them around frequently. I'm blessed to have the kids visit from time to time and Lin to be here all the time.

Ellen (Smith) Corbett: I'm very sad to report that my dear friend and classmate Connie (Moench) Goodman died in April, just a few months after having been diagnosed with lung cancer. I first knew Connie in grade school and we were friends throughout Middle and Upper School at Kent Place as well as at Smith College. We kept in touch over all the years and in more recent times shared our first ride in a hot-air balloon and trips to both Russia and Morocco. Connie was a very interesting and intelligent woman, a compassionate and loyal friend, and lots of fun to be with. In the weeks before she died, we talked on the phone several times. She was strong in the face of her illness and grateful for the time it allowed her to spend with her two children. She was especially thankful for the wonderful and long life she had led.

As for me, we took a trip to Costa Rica earlier this year, and that was fun. Still play a lot of croquet and have also taken up bocce, not to mention being a Wordle fan. Two upcoming trips to New England this spring — one high school graduation and one college. Do you think we can get a group together for our 70th?

Julie (Abrams) Dunbar: All is well here. Moved into a condo in Old Saybrook, CT, during COVID and love it. In the process of rebuilding our condo on Sanibel Island, which was destroyed by Ian. Lots of grandchildren's weddings this year, which is fun. I see Sheila (McDermott) Pardoe '52, who was at KPS a few years ahead of us, when we visit the Jersey Shore. Always nice to reminisce.

Caroline (Seager) Weymar: Helmut and I are now permanent residents of Massachusetts, so we spend more than

six months a year on the island. The rest of the time we're in Princeton. Currently, we're lucky to have two of our nine grandchildren living with us. One is a substitute teacher and starting grad school; the other has moved out of the city to take advantage of his firm's hybrid work-from-home policy. It's a constant wonder to see how much energy people in their 20s have. It's also a good mental challenge to try to figure out what they're saying. It's not just that we're hard of hearing; they have a whole new vocabulary! All the best to KP '54-ers.

1958

We heard from Toby Holbes: "It's with a heavy heart that I report the passing of my mother, **Patricia (McMichael) Holmes**, on January 23, 2023. She spoke very fondly of her time at Kent Place."

1959

Elizabeth (Budd) Bugliari
bugliarie@gmail.com

Elizabeth (Budd) Bugliari: Miller and I are still living on our "farm" out in Tewksbury Township. Down to two donkeys and one Irish setter. We have 10 grandchildren — six girls and four boys — I have to keep a chart . . . they're wonderful! One is at UCLA, one at Boston College, and one at Colgate. They all have straight A's or close, and I keep wondering where my A's were.

1960

Anne (Sonnekalb) Iskrant
anne@iskrant.com

Sue Hand lives at Carleton-Willard Village in Massachusetts. She says making friends is easier now, having largely healed from two operations. She's writing, including a novel she wrote while recovering, about guess what? A retirement community! Recommended novel: *The Swimmers*, by Julie Otsuka, a Japanese American writer, beautiful prose, funny/sad book partly about getting older. Movies: *Heaven Can Wait*, an oldie with Warren Beattie and Julie Christie, hilarious with a fabulously tender ending. Sue says she misses her old friends from KPS.

Jeanie (Blackmar) McLerie writes from Silver City, NM: She and her husband, Ken Keppeler, have lived in that "very cool, artistic small town" for 25 years in their own "homemade house." She's back teaching fiddle,

which she missed during the COVID years, as it was her anchor to families and children. Ken and Jeanie still play local gigs — farmers markets, restaurants, the Santa Fe TradFest and the ABQ Folk Festival. They're in their ninth year on their radio show, *Roots and Branches*. They've given up European tours, as Jeanie says Europe is not ADA-friendly, and she now walks with a walker or cane due to arthritic ankles and other injuries. She has read lots of books on her Kindle and recommends Sarah Bernhardt's biography by C. W. Gortner and *Jacqueline in Paris*, by Ann Mah.

Sandy (Lee) Simmers came to visit us in Ardmore, PA, in her new hybrid truck. We checked out a Padel court, a racquet sport she hasn't yet played. Still pickleballing. She's busy on the farm gardening, mowing, replacing gates, repairing fences, and critter-proofing the chicken coop. Sandy was about to pick up six laying hens to replace the ones the fox got last year. She recommends a Korean drama, *Crash Landing on You*.

Lilian (Eken) Najarian writes from New York and Sanibel, FL: Her family was finally able to return to Sanibel, "my favorite spot in the world," she says, after Hurricane Ian. They did their best to help various businesses that were open: restaurants, nonprofit environmental organizations. Her husband was about to celebrate his 90th birthday with family and friends. Lilian recommends books by Geraldine Brooks: *Horse, March, Caleb's Crossing* (her favorite), and *The Secret Chord*.

Winnie (Hesson) McCormick writes from Vermont: She enjoys independent living at Williston Place near Burlington and raves about the activities, people, and staff. She walks a lot and volunteers for NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness). Her son and family live nearby and three teenage granddaughters are active in sports and drama. Her daughter lives in Virginia and is a successful young-adult author with a book coming out next year. One of her daughter's children was graduating from Virginia Tech and the other, she says, makes "amazing art and loves to cook for her family, providing menus and atmosphere."

Your scribe, **Anne (Sonnekalb) Iskrant**, still lives in "the ancestral homestead" in Ardmore. As many of our classmates have grandchild-

ren graduating from college, my grandson Lucas is graduating from kindergarten! I've had some medical issues, dealing with metastasis of breast cancer. Still paddling on a dragon boat team but have cut back on regattas. I got interested in people from the book *American Castle*, by Denise Kiernan, especially Frederick Law Olmsted and Gifford Pinchot, and have followed their lives in biographies and now my book club is reading *Spying on the South*, by Tony Horwitz (late husband of Geraldine Brooks). I also like the Korean dramas.

Anyone want to write the next column? I'm ready to give up sole authorship.

1963

Louise (Hall) Grauer
louise.a.grauer@gmail.com

1964

Gail (Giblin) Flynn
gailgiblin29@gmail.com

1965

Dr. Janet B. W. Williams
jbwwny@gmail.com

1966

Linda "Lindy" (Burns) Jones
finallylbj@gmail.com

Nia (Eldridge) Eaton: I so enjoy these COVID-initiated Zoom calls to catch up with my classmates — at least one positive. Savoring every day given me. I have a new man in my life, a 4-year-old boxer, Future, who's giving me laughter and love since I lost my 13-year-old little old lady last summer. Privileged to work four days a week at Winterthur, Henry Francis du Pont's country estate, museum, and gardens, and volunteering at Brandywine Museum of Art. Both feed my love of art and history and provide intellectual stimulation . . . which I need in my dotage. Just need WD-40 for the aching joints.

Fran (Griffith) Laserson: I'm loving life in Vero Beach. I recently joined the board of directors of the Indian River Community Foundation, which helps to direct \$100 million in assets to worthy social services. I've also joined Betsy (Busch) Crosby on the board of the Sea Oats Garden Club. In March, **Muffin (Krieger) Slonaker**, **Pam (Schick) Kelsey**, and **Chris (Gibbons) McKay** joined us for four days of local adventures.



THEN & NOW: CLASS LOUNGES

Always a swirl of laptops, conversations, student decorations, and the impromptu dance party, the class lounges offer each grade in the Upper School a space to call its own. During free periods and at the start and end of each day, students gather here to catch up with friends, meet as a class, or just hang out. The archive image (top) is from 1987 and the one on the bottom is a photo of the senior lounge after it was refreshed last summer by 1982 alumna Nancy (Gorman) Dougherty's team at Studio 1200 [photo credit: Stuart Tyson]. What do they have in common? A designated place for sisterhood!

What was your favorite memory of the class lounges? We'd love to hear about it; please email communications@kentplace.org.

Kris (Mellor) Conley: The biggest news is that my granddaughter Ruby has made her college decision and will be going to Pratt Institute. She's planning to major in fine art. Hard to believe she graduated from high school. I took a trip to Las Vegas in April to watch my twin grandsons in a tennis tournament and enjoyed some family time when they weren't on the court. I'm going to visit them in Washington in June. I've started a widows social group. We got together for brunch/lunch at a restaurant and had a wonderful time just chatting. At the suggestion of one member, we're calling the group "To Be Continued." The weather is finally warming up and I'm eager to get my garden going. It's not a big one, but

I enjoy sitting on the patio with my morning coffee and reading in the afternoon and taking in the colors.

1968

Barbara Wiss
barbarawiss@gmail.com

It hardly seems possible that five years ago we gathered at Kent Place for our 50th reunion. It was a festive occasion full of laughter, talking, and reminiscing. This year, our classmates told stories of their creative talents and families.

Nizette (Brennan) Krebs continues her career as a sculptor, creating gardens, plazas, and fountains on commission for public and private spaces, as well as memorials and smaller sculptures for exhibitions. I



Amy (Meislin) Pollack '70, a children's-book author, returned to the place where she was first inspired to write — the Kent Place Primary School. Amy visited the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms to read from one of her books and lead writing workshops to foster creativity and explore the art of storytelling. The character Jelly Bean was first imagined by Amy when she was in fourth grade and was the inspiration for *The Adventures of Jelly Bean* and *The Further Adventures of Jelly Bean*, published almost 60 years later.

"My teachers from Primary School through Grade 12 were very inspiring and always encouraged creativity from all their students. I see that inside Kent Place's classrooms today, too."

After Amy read a passage, she asked the girls to write their own ending or a new story, and then invited them to read to their classmates. When she asked if anyone dreamed of publishing her own stories, many hands shot up into the air.

"My advice to students who are aspiring authors, or have any other passion or goal," says Amy, "is to be bold and follow their passion."

can't wait to visit Nizette's studio, the Sculpture Studio at Glen Echo Park, and hear more about her family. Daughter ZZ is earning a reputation in the Los Angeles contemporary art scene for her installations using lasers and projections and is also a proficient welder and stone carver. Nizette's son, Rockne, is also in California and swims in the Pacific, skis at Mammoth, goes trekking, and works as a paralegal in San Diego.

In February, **Addie (Bernheim Firtel)** and husband Bobby welcomed grandson Sky, who joins big sister Rory. Addie and Bobby enjoy their new home and its gardens, which are resplendent with color after the winter rains. Addie's roses are magnificent. She continues to quilt and paints in acrylics and is the grandmother of a young man who lives and paints in London. Perhaps there's an art exhibit in the works?

Cathy (Stickney) Steck is living in New York City, where she roams the parks with Rory. I love seeing her photographs of the city. She's also an avid theatergoer. Cathy's son Will and his wife, Kat, live in Denver, and daughter Emily lives in London, where she's an actor and screenwriter. Will coaches a hockey team at the University of Denver, works in financial services, and is opening a bistro this summer.

Martha (O'Neil) Lindeman calls herself a "pictures-and-words kind of gal." Hence her immersion in Storyworth, an online subscription service that results in a compilation of stories and related pictures into a book. "Storyworth is a research project, the world's longest homework assignment, and a trip down memory lane all rolled into one," she says. In answering a recent

homework question about her first big trip, Martha surprised me with a picture of the two of us in Hawaii as teenagers on a fabulous adventure.

Gail Shearer is also a user of Storyworth, having completed her homework assignments in 2017. Gail and I just had a visit in her beautifully landscaped garden, where native plants, flowers, lettuces, peas, and tomatoes thrive. I nibbled at the kale and arugula growing in the lettuce tower. Delicious!

Gail, **Patti (Rossiter) Ravenscroft**, and I enjoyed a festive December lunch at a French restaurant. We reminisced about the wonderful trip Patti organized for a group of our Kent Place classmates to Normandy and heard about her plans for Les Liaisons Délicieuses, a small travel company Patti established in 1994. Wouldn't another trip with Les Liaisons Délicieuses be fun?

Laura (Griffith) McDermott writes that in a ceremony funny, serious, and full of love, her daughter, Lauren McDermott, married Billy McKeveny in Vermont in October 2022. Lauren's five nephews (Laura and husband Rick's grandsons) served as her bridesmen. Lauren and Billy live and work in San Francisco.

Kathy (Van Cleve) Kuhns writes, "We continue to live in our 1796 home in Greenwich, despite many friends moving to warmer climates. We have four adorable granddaughters thanks to John's two sons from his previous marriage. Lt. Dylan Kuhns is based in Iwakuni, Japan, and spends six months a year flying in an F/A 18 Super Hornet on the USS *Ronald Reagan* (he's the weapons officer; ugh). I had a great visit with him in Japan in April. Casey was offered a free ride

from BC to get an MBA and took it. John and I escaped to Tanzania in October, four days in Zanzibar (birthplace of Freddie Mercury), and then to the great migration in Serengeti with a group of friends, including Barbie."

As for me, **Barbara Wiss**, I'm healthy and happy. On a nice day you can find me walking in the woods, in my neighborhood, or on special occasions in the open spaces in Colorado. I'm eagerly anticipating the next adventure, whatever that may be. I can't wait to try Storyworth and an app called Artifacts, which Gail has been telling me about for months. Both involve family, stories, and memories to be passed on to loved ones. I'm forever grateful for the wisdom imparted by and the camaraderie of my Kent Place friends.

1969

Gay (Garth) Legg
gaylegg@gmail.com

Carol Cowan: I'm enjoying being retired, although not doing quite what I anticipated pre-COVID. Happy that spring is now here and I can get back outside and gardening. I'm busy working on a remembrance garden at church for those in our church family and the broader community who lost their lives during COVID as well as on 9/11. We had a tree that people tied ribbons around for both those tragic events but unfortunately it became diseased and was taken down; hence, the remembrance garden. We have the ribbons and they'll be buried in the garden. It's very rewarding. My 50th college reunion was in June, as it was for most of you. Where does the time go? Thinking about our class members no longer with us. Best to all!

1970

Harty (Platt) du Pont
hartleydupont@aol.com

Lisa Schmucki
lisaschmucki@gmail.com

Judy Chamberlain: I was all set to write a happy note that Karen and I are fine and had an amazing Viking trip to Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand in January. However, I now find myself on the way to St. Louis as my sister Becky (Chamberlain) Revelle '69 died suddenly of a heart attack this morning, May 2. We are devastated, and I keep thinking that if I say it out loud or type it enough times, I will believe it. Becky was a year ahead of me at KPS and always my closest friend.

Katie (Green) Snowdon: Still smiling, thinking of our September Maine reunion. Who knew a bunch of old ladies could have so much fun! The year 2023 has been good so far; Dick and I traveled to Jordan (Petra) and Egypt for most of February and saw real oldsters; back to Nantucket for the summer followed by my son's wedding in Charlottesville in October. Let's plan for our next get-together. Jersey Shore perhaps? Love to all.

Liz (Allen) Post: Now in Basalt, outside of Aspen, and still skiing, biking, and hiking. Best to all '70s!

Lisa Schmucki: The Wisdom Circle Dinner, hosted by Head of School Jennifer Galambos, was an opportunity to celebrate the 50th reunion of our Little Sister class. The Ethics Institute is amazing! My company, edWeb.net, has hosted two programs featuring KPS staff and students so educators around the country and the world can learn about their work. The programs were "Integrating Ethics Into All Aspects of a K-12 School Community: Be

Ethical Everywhere” and “Artificial Intelligence in Schools: Allow or Prohibit? Ethical Considerations for Educators.” You can visit www.edweb.net to watch the recordings.

1971

Deborah Besch
debvett@gmail.com

Susan Cory: After 40 years running a residential architecture practice in Cambridge, MA, I'm enjoying retirement — it's given me more time to write mysteries with an architect sleuth. My sixth book in the series will be out this summer. Dan and I enjoy taking our puppy and adult kids to the lake house in the Adirondacks.

Janet (Yeaw) Carhart: I'm thrilled to say our third grandbaby just put in his appearance! Hayes Everett Carhart was born on Sunday, May 7, cruising in at 11 lbs. 13 oz.

Kathy Cook: The Class of '71 has 70 reasons for feeling gratitude this year: another milestone in our lives. Chris and I have finished our house in North Truro and will spend the summer there after a trip to Paris. I invite you all to come by for a cocktail. Here's to love and good health. Onward!

Jamie Gifford-Modick: There was a memorial service for Peggy Nusser in Bernardsville in March; she passed away in June 2022. Pam (Baker) Harding, Robin (Cavallaro) Weber, Rosy Dackerman, and I were able to attend on Zoom. Her sisters, nephew, and friends were all present. It was a typical, rather gloomy New Jersey March day, but it was filled with joy and, yes, laughter, celebrating Peggy's life. So many adventures, mishaps, and crazy times we all shared with her. And oh what fun we had! Being with Peggy was always an adventure. What many of us didn't know was how courageous she was, despite her struggles — be it skydiving, Outward Bound, or getting her master's in social work. She's already missed but not forgotten.

I visited **Lisa (Hall) Brooks '73** in Barrington, IL, where she lives. Friends for 68 years! And I had dinner with **Rosy Dackerman**.

Deborah Besch: Our biggest adventure this year was going on a Viking ocean cruise with **Liz Parker** and **Evie (Edwards) Fenn** and our hubbies. Liz and Mark met us in Rome and Evie and Peter joined us in Athens. It was a great cruise that focused on Mediterranean antiquities, such as

Pompeii, the Acropolis, and Troy, and ended in Istanbul. After the cruise, we spent a few days in Lisbon and Evie and Peter met up with us there. Liz and Mark had to go home because Liz was scheduled to travel to Antarctica a week later with her daughter, **Katherine Parker-Magyar '05**. In general, we're loving retirement, spending time with friends and family, and confining our travel to North America for the rest of this year.

Happy 70th birthday to all our 1971 classmates. Live long and prosper!

1972

Lili (White) Durling
lilidurling@gmail.com

1973

Kent Place learned that **Laura (Gruen) Lester-Taylor** passed away on December 9, 2022. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

Debbie (Peet) Riplinger: I retired from my job of 20+ years at the International Equestrian Federation in June 2021 and am loving retirement. With our three sons living on three different continents (one in Bali, one in the D.C. area, and one here in Switzerland), I especially appreciate having more time for family visits. Some highlights of the past year were spending the month of November in Bali and a three-week trip to D.C., during which my sister **Sissy (Peet) Walker '67** and I drove up to New Jersey for KPS Reunion Weekend. Thanks to those who attended our Class of '73's 50th; it was so much fun to catch up with you all. Sissy and I also enjoyed a drive through New Vernon, seeing some of our favorite spots.

1974

Cathy Slichter
cathy.slichter@gmail.com

1975

Patti Neale-Schulz
pattischulz1919@gmail.com

1978

Patricia (Friedman) Marcus
balibliss@yahoo.com

Cindie (Cline) Jamison: I recently retired as chair of Tractor Supply Co. but remain as chair of Biglots and a director at Office Depot and Darden Restaurants. My four sons are grown now, living in L.A., Chicago, London, and Nashville — very scattered!

My ski-obsessed husband continues to rack up 100+ days a year on the Colorado slopes; the rest of the time we're in Chicago. Our blended family of seven kids is now up to 10 grandchildren and counting. I like grandparenting more than just about any job I ever had.

1980

Melinda Blanchard: I'm currently acting in *Mary Poppins*; earlier this year I was in *The Happy Journey*, by Thornton Wilder. Loving life on the eastern shore of Virginia.

Sheila (Nugent) Carter: Over the holidays, I hosted a dinner in honor of **Heidi Daniels**, who ended up Zooming in with **Lyle McCoy**. We had a lot of laughs! **Joy Kay**, **Lori Shaw**, **Abbie Seifert**, **Lee Ann Stratford**, and **Linda Woods** were there as were **Beth (Barba) Hamerschlag** and **Sara Dougherty** from the Class of 1981. Lori and I connected in person with Heidi this spring at the Black Horse Tavern. In other exciting news, my daughter, Mary Victoria, graduates from Kent Place this June. She loved the school — made wonderful friends and had fantastic teachers and coaches. Be well, everyone!

1981

Kathryn (McDaniel) Nanning
kathryn@nanning.com

Ann (Grunewald) Fort: I'm still in Atlanta and still practicing law. For the first time in 30+ years I now live outside the city limits, in Decatur, in a great older home where Bruce and I can walk to restaurants, the post office, and so on. If we want a cheeseburger, we make ourselves walk a 1½-mile round-trip to get it. Our twin daughters are now graduated from college (Bryn Mawr and Emory). The Emory daughter, Catherine, has a KPS alumna friend — **Sofia Tartaglia '19**. It warms my green-and-gold heart to have this connection back to KPS, as it's been so long since I left New Jersey, and Atlanta doesn't have a school like it. Hope to have some travel news soon!

1982

Tracey (San Filippo) Henick
tahenick@aol.com
Nancy (Gorman) Dougherty hosted a mini-reunion at her home in February. Classmates in attendance were **Lisa Manshel**, **Ramelle Massey**, **Kristina (Horn) Wright**, **Lisa (Hillner)**

Stafford, Nancy (Ambrose) Wentz, **Karen Britton**, **Diana Lynch-Hickey**, **Carolyn Montgomery-Forant**, and **Hildy (Rivera) Jackson**.

1984

Jennifer Thomas
meezertee@gmail.com

1985

Karen Little
rucr8tive@aol.com

1987

Ginny (Boyer) Losito
glosito@me.com
Shannon (O'Boyle) Maxwell: We've had an exciting few months. In October 2023, our son, Brennan, wed the love of his life, Savannah Syms, in a ceremony in New Hampshire officiated by my husband (apparently all you need is a license) and then enjoyed a fun-filled [continued on p. 65]



Pinny (Bristol) Kuckel '71 became the author (and illustrator) of a children's book, *Freddy's Gifts*. Published in May 2023, it tells the story of **Mommy and Daddy Moose**, who take **Freddy** on a long journey to meet his relatives and to thank them for the gifts they gave him when he was born. The Moose family starts out before sunrise and returns very late at night. Their journey takes them over mountains, through a meadow, into a forest, past a pond, to the ocean, and by a lake. Each relative **Freddy** meets is as individual and colorful as the gift they gave. After thanking them all, a tired **Freddy** returns home, climbs into bed, and realizes what the best gift was.

Pinny has many relatives and friends with whom she enjoys laughter and games. One of her goals is to bring out the joy of the child within every one of us. Congratulations, **Pinny!**

ALUMNAE WEEKEND 2023

Cheers to the Years

We rolled out the red carpet for a celebration of Kent Place alumnae on the weekend of April 28–29. More than 100 guests, from the Class of 1958 to the Class of 2018, came together on campus to commemorate milestone reunions, renew friendships, honor achievements, and relive great memories. The following pictorial shows the events that took place, but more important, it tells the story of the smiles, laughter, and hugs that were in abundance.



The sounds of laughter:
2013 classmates Anna
Fountain, Elizabeth
Robillard, and Olivia Lima



1. A highlight of the weekend was a dinner hosted by Head of School Jennifer Galambos for the Class of 1973 to welcome them into the Wisdom Circle, a special distinction given to alumnae on the occasion of their 50th Reunion. Alumnae who already received this honor joined them. Pictured: 1973 classmates (standing) Kim Young, Carol Waag, Sarah (Gordon) DeGiovanni, Dana (Marquardt) Van Hook, Tara (Lester) Reynolds P '05, Betsy (Haas) Anderson, and Francine Lynch; (sitting) Anne (Baird) Scotland, Suzanne (Schmidt) Schneck, Lisa Krieger, Susan (Weissglass) Morgan, Liz (Rumery) Chiminec, Debbie (Peet) Riplinger, and Peggy (DePodwin) Harwood

2. The Class of 1973 joined fourth-graders for a Pen Pal tea and discussion of Kent Place then and now: Here, Suzanne (Schmidt) Schneck '73 chats with students.

3. An all-class social at Piattino, a restaurant in Summit, was a fun way to close out Friday evening: Pictured: 2018 classmates Atinuke Lardner, Ayana Leelasena, Sophie Huttner, Piper Eccles, Lucy Lynch, Abby Jonathan, and Angela Maliakal

4. Saturday-morning brunch provided updates on the tremendous work happening at Kent Place and the school's plans for the future.

5. The DEIB Alum Council hosted BCA alumnae and current students for a meet-and-greet.

6. Jachele Vélez '07 presents the Alumna Community Service Award to April Bauknight '95 (see the sidebar on page 64 for Alumnae Award recipients).

7. Green Key student guides took alumnae on tours around campus, showing them their classrooms, world-class laboratories, libraries, and class lounges. Here, the Class of 1973 explores the campus.

8. A walk down memory lane at the archives display: Laura Cohen '03 is all smiles as she looks at class photos.

9. The celebration culminated on Saturday evening with cocktails, dinner, and dancing in Mabie House. Pictured: 1993 classmates (back)

Marcella (De Biase) Finkel, Courtney (Mead) Nagle, and LaRaye Brown; (front) Kris Juncker, Marisa (Giannullo) Treglio, Gabrielle (Costanzo) Long, Heather (Dawson) Alexander, Joan (Thompson) Wilson P '25, Stephanie (Burlington) Daniels, and Christine (Matlaga) Slattery P '28 '30.

10. Photobooth fun: 1998 classmates KC (Anthony) Artemenko, Meredith (Tomason) Taylor, Lauren (Worthington) Morse, Maria (Fekete) Brugg P '28 '30, Kathy (Tucker) Kennedy, and Amy (Todd) Klug P '29

11. 2003 classmates Jenny (Dodson) Mistry, Aliyah Cromwell, Nicole Habba, Stefanie (Giuliano) Abhar, and Jackie (Offray Garrity) Ellison

12. Hugs were plentiful as classmates reconnected, sometimes after many years: 1973 classmates Dana (Marquardt) Van Hook and Carol Waag

13. Celebrating their first KPS reunion: 2018 classmates Piper Eccles, Julia Chandonnet, Erin Cronin, Anna DeLuca, Megan Traudt, and Chloe Gonyea

ALUMNAE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alumnae Association recognized four graduates for their exemplary contributions to their careers and communities. These women embody the Kent Place mission to empower girls who advance the world.



Lisa Krieger '73 was honored with the Barbara Wight Biddison '30 Distinguished Alumna Award for her success as a journalist, writing about science, the environment, and medicine for *The San Jose Mercury News* and *The San Francisco Examiner/Chronicle*. The recipient of environmental writing's most prestigious prizes — the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism's Oakes Award and Scripps Howard's Edward J. Meeman Award — Lisa also teaches science journalism at the graduate degree Science Communication Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her series "The Cost of Dying," an account of her father's final days and needed reforms to the American end-of-life experience, was awarded first place in four major journalism contests. Read more about Lisa on page 56.



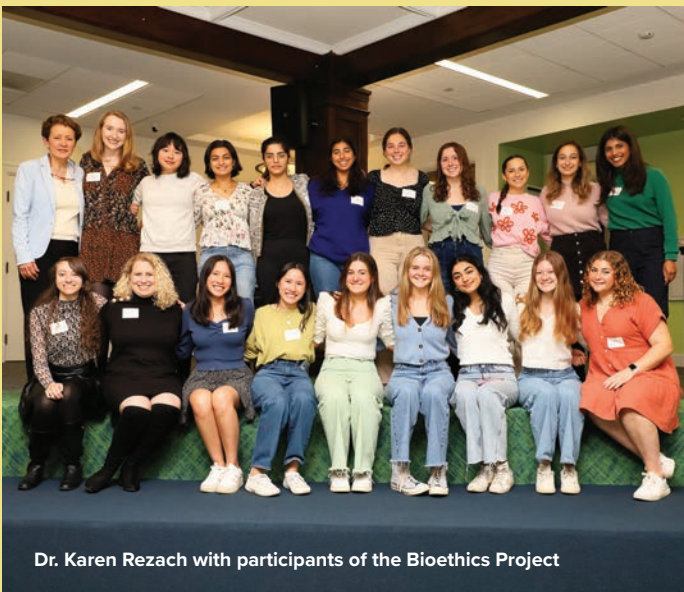
Jenny (Dodson) Mistry '03 received the Alumna Professional Achievement Award for her work as vice president of Programs and Partnerships at the National Institute for Reproductive Health, where for 11 years she has supported organizations and policymakers engaged in proactive policy work on the local and state levels. She is the creator of NIRH's Local Reproductive Freedom Index initiative, a first-of-its-kind report that evaluates 50 cities and counties on their policies related to reproductive health, rights, and justice. In addition, Jenny is a cofounder of NJ SEEDS Alumni Alliance, the official alumni association of NJ SEEDS, a nonprofit that prepares motivated, high-achieving, low-income students for admission to private schools and colleges across the country.



April C. Bauknight, Esq. '95 received the Alumna Community Service Award for her work as an attorney. Her private estate law practice specializes in creating and maintaining generational wealth through real estate closings and estate planning. April is driven by her passion for helping others establish and secure financial peace and freedom. She graduated from Duke University with a double major in public policy studies and political science and a minor in Spanish. After a year working with the Council on Affordable Housing, in Trenton, April entered Rutgers University School of Law. She worked in a variety of legal fields before finding the right fit: helping her clients create and maintain wealth for their families.



Sophie Huttner '18, Young Alumna Award recipient, studied global affairs, with a particular interest in migration and refugee studies, at Yale University. She has worked with asylum seekers in legal settings and is especially interested in investigating the root causes of migration, as well as the role of the state in combating gender-based violence. Sophie is now a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where she'll earn a master's in refugee and forced migration studies.



Dr. Karen Rezach with participants of the Bioethics Project

HONORING 10 YEARS OF BIOETHICS

A decade's worth of alumnae returned to campus to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Bioethics Project. Guests were welcomed by Dr. Karen Rezach, Director of the Ethics Institute at Kent Place School, heard remarks from Dr. Jennifer Galambos, Head of School, and listened to presentations from Bioethics Project Scholars Mariana Do Carmo '13 and Sophie Huttner '18. Each year's project and participants were recognized and honored.

The Bioethics Project, a first-of-its-kind offering in secondary schools, is a signature program of the Ethics Institute at Kent Place School. It's modeled after the Hastings Center's research methodology, which emphasizes the importance of bringing together stakeholders and experts to explore the ethical and social implication of a particular bioethical issue. Selected students are paired with mentors from Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics, who provide guidance on the broad aspects of their individual topics and the ethical framework that must be considered. The contributions the students make to the field of ethics are then presented at the annual Bioethics Project Symposium, which is open to the public.

[continued from p. 61]

reception in D.C. the following week-end. In November, I had a great visit/girls weekend with **Nora Sherriff** out in San Francisco and then in January, we brought our daughter, Morgan, to Antwerp, Belgium, to study for the second semester of her junior year and caught up with the wonderful **Tori (Brown) Van Keer** and her husband after not seeing her in more than 30 years!

Erika Amato: After devastating personal losses and a long COVID-fueled hiatus, I'm happy to report that my stage career is back on track. My dear friends **Kim (Kanner) Meisner** and **Virginia (Boyer) Losito** came out to the Argyle Theatre in Babylon, NY, this past fall to see me as Madame Baurel in *An American in Paris*, which I followed up with starring as Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*, at the Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach, FL, which **Andrea (Carson) Tanner '91** attended with her dad! Next up, I'll be in the ensemble and understudying the lead role in the world-premiere musical *Summer Stock* at the Goodspeed Opera House, in Connecticut.

Jennifer Dorsey: Every year the Organization of American Historians and the Japanese Association for American Studies, with the generous support of the Japan–United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures and seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in the collegiality of the host institution. I'm one of the recipients of the 2023 Japan Residency, and will spend the month of June at Aichi Prefectural University, near Nagoya. I'm a little nervous but mostly excited. Looking forward to sending a report on my return.

Kirsten (Westlund) Carangi: The year 2022 was one of highs and lows. Adam and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary and that of BEAM (our lighting-design firm) and traveled to France and Barcelona to celebrate with friends and Aries and River. But my mom suffered from lung cancer all last year and passed away on her birthday in September after our trip. I thought about letting classmates know, as being a "lifer," some may remember her working at the KPS bookstore in the early '80s. On a happier note, Aries won the PA State Ice Hockey Championship in goal, and is graduating from LaSalle

and River is graduating from Waldorf and will enter LaSalle in the fall.

1988

Melissa (McCarthy) Madden

melissamccarthy@me.com

Our classmate **Cynthia (Connell)**

Storer passed away unexpectedly on February 4, 2023. She was one of my first friends at Kent Place when I arrived in ninth grade, and she quickly took me under her wing. Cynthia had so much more confidence than I did as a freshman: She was super smart and wickedly funny, and I thought she was the coolest. She introduced me to Led Zeppelin and her love for Duran Duran.

Cynthia was a very loyal friend, so it's no surprise that she spent much of her adult life cheering other people on. Longtime friend **Lexie (Stanton) Knox** writes that, in addition to her professional career in public relations, "Cynthia was committed to volunteer work. While she stayed home to care for her two children, Ellie and Pete, she volunteered at their schools, was active in Junior League, and spent as much time as possible at the Denver Botanical Gardens, which she often called 'her favorite place on Earth.'

"Cynthia's greatest joy in life was her children. She took tremendous pride in their accomplishments, and her warm eyes and bright smile are clearly seen in both of their faces. Cynthia was hopelessly in love with her first grandchild, Mila Wachholz, who was born June 6, 2022. After becoming an official empty-nester this past fall, Cynthia went back to work, this time in education at Steek Elementary School in Denver. Her love of children was paramount, and she was eager for the opportunity to help students thrive."

We extend our condolences to Cynthia's husband, Jim, her children, the rest of her family, and friends.

Mercer Reeves: In May 2023, I completed my master's in clinical mental health counseling, and I work as a therapist at SARA (Sexual Assault Resource Agency) here in Charlottesville, VA. I've thoroughly enjoyed my graduate program, but it'll be good to get back into the workforce. I missed seeing everyone for this year's reunion, but I look forward to the next time we all get together. Best wishes to all.

Sloane (Albright) Castleman: I'm thrilled to wrap up an incredible first year as head of school at San Jose

Episcopal Day School, in Jacksonville, FL. I absolutely love everything about this sweet community — the faculty, staff, and our students and their families. The community is mission-driven and wholehearted in a joyful approach to teaching and learning. I feel blessed to be in this place at this time and am excited about what the future holds for our school.

1989

Vanessa E. King

squamlake@gmail.com

Kate (Alton) Kaynak: My twins graduated high school! Aliya started at UVM in the fall and Taner at Emerson. Aliya and I went to Paris for a week (she'd missed the trip with her French class due to COVID). We had a wonderful time!

1990

Maren (Eisenstat) Vitali

mevitali@comcast.net

1991

Andrea (Carson) Tanner

acarsontanner@gmail.com

Sally (Lewis) Meisner: After 14 years as a math teacher and Grade 7 dean at The Spence School, I'm making a move. I'll be the new head of the middle school at The Rodeph Sho-

lom School, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I look forward to immersing myself in a new community and taking on new challenges.

Amy Allen: I recently got together with a group of Kent Place alumnae when my sisters and I hosted a bridal shower for Rose Allen '07 in Brooklyn. It was wonderful to be together with so many vibrant, interesting young women, all of whom shared the bond of a KPS education and friendship with Rose. On a personal note, I've had my seventh poem published and am plugging away at writing more and submitting more. The creative writing offers a nice break from my day job, which often includes résumé work for professionals of all ages and help with college essays for high school students.

Bayne Gibby: I live in Los Angeles, working as an actor and writer. Please say hello if you make it out to the West Coast.

Allison Fitzpatrick: We had a mini-reunion at my "25th birthday" in Spring Lake, NJ, with **Maribeth Carroll**, **Katina Houvouras**, **Liz Hines**, and **Melissa Phillips** in March. My sister **Maryliz (Fitzpatrick) Myers '94** and niece **Katie Weir '08** were also there to celebrate.

It was great to catch up with everyone and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, March Madness, and our big birthdays.

GREEN AND GOLD

Come Say Hello!

We're excited to make even more alumnae connections this year. Please join us if we're going to be near you! If you have questions about any of the events, do get in touch with **Lainey Segear**, Senior Director of Community Engagement, at segearl@kentplace.org or (908) 273-0900, ext. 335, or visit www.kentplace.org/alumnae-events. Note: Dates and locations are subject to change.

GREEN AND GOLD ON THE ROAD

- September 19: Boston
- October 18–20: Washington, D.C.
- November 26–30: London
- January 29–February 3, 2024: Florida
- February 26–29: California

ALUMNAE PROGRAMMING

- December 14: New York City Gathering
- February 5, 2024: Alumnae Visiting Day
- April 26–27: Alumnae Weekend

1992

Jill Martin: I visited Karey Kessler in Seattle to attend her younger son's bar mitzvah.

Nicole (Fabian) Engelke: In May 2023, I received my doctorate in educational leadership, administration, and policy from Fordham University. I'm now the associate head of school for teaching and learning at Far Brook School, in Short Hills, NJ.

Marriages

Mary Zabriskie '04
to Tim Shipman
November 19, 2021

Lydia Deutsch '06
to Robert Gilroy
May 13, 2023

Claire Austin '08
to Matthew Connors
October 8, 2022

Julia Sann '09
to Tanner Thul
April 29, 2023

Tara Nicola '10
to Scott Rata
July 3, 2022

Erin McDonnell '11
to Blake Sundel
April 1, 2023

Births

Kate (Mattern) McGee '97
a son, Theodore Robert McGee
October 14, 2022

Mary Zabriskie '04
a daughter, Emilie Victoria Shipman
September 5, 2022

Alexandra (Spicehandler) Skowronski '05
a daughter, Frances ("Frankie")
Lee Skowronski
June 8, 2022

Samantha (Cohen) Kaczmarek '07
a daughter, Shaina Ruth Kaczmarek
November 29, 2022

Samantha (Jones) Kane '09
a son, Emmett Jones Kane
November 16, 2022

1993

Courtney (Mead) Nagle
courtney.a.mead@gmail.com

Gabrielle (Costanzo) Long: Thirty years! What a great reunion gathering — Kristine Juncker, **Heather (Dawson) Alexander, Jane Herships, Courtney (Mead) Nagle, Joan (Thompson) Wilson P '25, LaRaye Brown, Marisa (Giannullo) Treglio, Marcella (DeBiase) Finkle, Chrissy (Matlaga) Slattery P '28 '30, Kamilah (Ross) Heartwell, Stephanie (Burlington) Daniels,** and I attended. Stephanie and I had performed a scene from Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in Bob Pridham's class, and forever after have called each other by the characters' names, Nora and Kristine. We went to see the Broadway production before Reunion. We also had time to walk around ever-evolving downtown Summit and fondly recognized a few businesses from years ago.

Kris Juncker: I'm still in D.C. with the Smithsonian, but have moved to the Office of Sponsored Projects (grants management). My portfolio includes the new Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, which needs to be built, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, in Panama. I work on a lot of conservation science research proposals and it's very exciting to see increasing support in climate-change research and prevention. It's amazing to think we were among the first generations of recyclers!

Susanne (Santola) Mulligan: I had made plans for my annual "adult spring break" before I knew it was Reunion Weekend and was sad to miss the chance to reconnect with my class. I enjoyed the texts from Gabrielle Costanzo and Stephanie Burlington checking to see if I was going to be able to get to campus. And what a treat to come home to a picture in my mailbox of me and Gabrielle and others, among them **Kate Gibson '94** winning a trophy for something — I'm guessing JSA? I will not be re-posting the picture LOL, but my kids had as big a laugh as I did. Thank you, Gabrielle, for the memories! Hope to see you all next time.

Cherie Alcott: Sorry to miss Reunion, but hoping to make the next one. My son, Gregiri, (can't believe he's 9!) spent spring break on Gasparilla Island, in Florida. It's a nice tradition for us.



Lauren (Bouffard) Young '00 celebrated the 10-year anniversary of her heart transplant by running the New York City Women's Half Marathon in April. After months of training, Lauren crossed the finish line to raise money for the Cedars-Sinai Heart Transplant program, where she was transplanted in July 2013. Classmate **Ashley (Pinakiewicz) Smallwood** got to run with her to celebrate this milestone. Pictured: Ashley and Lauren post-race, with their daughters, Millie Smallwood and Francie Young.

1994

Christina (Dughi) Tonzola
ctonzola@gmail.com

Shannon (Barry) O'Grady: I'm proud to report that after a successful production of D. W. Gregory's *Radium Girls* in the fall, in my second year as theater director for Salisbury High School, in Allentown, PA, I led my department to win the Air Products Education and Community Impact Award at the Freddy Awards on May 25. It's presented to "the school that best connects its musical production to other areas of academic study and/or a community project or event." With our production of *9 to 5*, we studied the history of equal rights and equal pay, examined the changes in workplace-harassment policies, and brought in representatives from Turning Point Lehigh Valley to lead a workshop in self-love, self-care, and recognizing red flags in relationships. I feel privileged to have worked with such kind, receptive students and with such an incredible nonprofit like Turning Point to better the community, which is already warm and supportive. Having such lovely families and a fantastic administration has made my second year even better than the first.

1996

Rachel Platt
racheldplatt@gmail.com
Amy (Zucker) Kohen
amykohen@gmail.com

1997

Kate (Mattern) McGee
katemattermcgee@gmail.com
Thank you to Kate (Mattern) McGee for volunteering to serve as Class Secretary. Welcome, Kate!

Kate (Mattern) McGee: In October 2022, we welcomed our fifth child, Theodore Robert, aka Teddy. He joins Jamie (11), Alex (9), and Casey (7), and is watched over by his late big bro Lukey.

Anne (Nisula) Draddy: I left New York with my husband and dog (Riggins) almost three years ago and moved to Maine. It was a total life change and, thankfully, all for the better. I work in Portland and live in Freeport and am loving "country life" — something I wasn't sure I'd be able to say after living in New York for so long.

Elizabeth (Sudler) Sobel: Hello to all my classmates. Things are very busy, fun, and loud at our home in Far Hills. I'm an attorney by profession. My husband, Jon, and I have four children: Ben (10), Sam (8), Brooklyn (7), and Jesse (4). We also have a menagerie of nine horses, three dogs, two cats, and four turtles. I'm in touch with **Lindsay (Weinschenk) Wake** whenever she's visiting from London. I would love to see more of the rest of you, too.

1998

KC (Anthony) Artemenko
kcartemenko@gmail.com

1999

Iris Blasi
iris.blasi@gmail.com
Cynthia Keenan
cindy.keenan@gmail.com
Barbara Mellen: Social justice has been in the forefront down here in Florida. I've been active fighting against book bans, domestic violence, and laws harming our LGBTQIA+ citizens. I've joined the advisory board of the Haven domestic-

violence shelter, have been active with the Florida Freedom to Read Project, attended the Women's March in D.C. last July, and support those who are fighting against these unjust laws. All this, in addition to coaching my son's baseball team, PTA, starting a Navigator Scouts Troop, and working full time means I've kept very busy in the last few years. Looking forward to a summer trip to England to see **Pam Mellen '01**.

2000

Christine Ryan

ceryan@gmail.com

Ashley (Pinakiewicz) Smallwood:

Paris (Martin) Quintana and I met up in Washington, DC, in May. She participated in a focus group I ran at the National Children's Museum. It was great to have her expertise and to bond over kids and experience design.

2001

Kimberly (Frye) Alula

kfrye05@gmail.com

Sara Pickett-Tucker

saralispickett@gmail.com

2002

Erin Sauchelli

e.sauchelli@gmail.com

2003

Gina Ferraioli

ginaferraioli@gmail.com

2004

Laura Kleinbaum

lkkleinbaum@gmail.com

Mary Zabriskie: A lot has happened over the last few years. I got married in November 2021 to Tim Shipman — we met in San Francisco, where I was living at the time. We moved to Boston and bought a house in the suburb of Wellesley in 2020. Most recently, we had a little girl, Emilie Victoria Shipman, who was born September 5, 2022, at 6 lbs. 4 oz. and 18¾ inches. Emilie is on the go, crawling everywhere and loving her time with Grammy (Edee Zabriskie, my mom), who retired a few years ago from teaching at KPS and moved up to the Boston area. Absolutely loving this season of life (with its many changes)!

Lauren Fakhoury: I'm piloting my company's (Brightworks Sustainability) new remote-work policy and living in Italy for a couple of months.

Megan Grobert is planning to visit me on the Amalfi Coast.

2005

Cara Manket

cara.manket@gmail.com

Alexandra (Spicehandler) Skowronski:

I welcomed a baby girl, Frances Lee ("Frankie"), in June 2022. My daughter Stella is enjoying her role as big sister. We live in Morristown, NJ, with my husband, Ted.

2006

Danielle Auriemma

dvauriemma@gmail.com

Lydia Deutsch

lydia.deutsch@gmail.com

Lydia (Deutsch) Gilroy: I had two title changes in 2023. In April, I became partner at my law firm, McElroy Deutsch, where I practice corporate defense litigation, and on May 13, 2023, I married Robert Gilroy at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, with a reception at Hamilton Farm Golf Club. We live in New York City.

Laura Scarano: Still in Los Angeles, I started a new role at the American Film Institute as its director of Leadership Annual Giving. I continue to produce feature films on the side.

2007

Nida Abdulla

nida.11.abdulla@gmail.com

Caitlin Black

cblack@fandm.edu

Sara Santos

sarajosantos@gmail.com

Jachele Vélez: In February, I moved back to Manhattan from D.C. to take a job with the NBA as associate counsel for the WNBA and the G League.

Samantha (Cohen) Kaczmarek: My second daughter, Shaina Ruth Kaczmarek, was born on November 29, 2022.

2008

Allison Oberlander

oberlander.allison@gmail.com

Claire Austin: I'm celebrating eight years working at NYU, now as a leadership trainer and coach. Matthew Connors and I got married on October 8, 2022.

2009

Courtney (Alpaugh) Simmons

courtney.simmons513@gmail.com

Allison Goldberg

atg813@gmail.com

Samantha (Jones) Kane: My husband and I welcomed a son, Emmett Jones Kane, on November 16, 2022. He brings so much love and happiness to our lives. He has also become fast friends with Katie Cummins's son, Teddy.

Julia Sann: I wed my longtime love, Tanner Thul, in April 2023, in a small ceremony in Jersey City with Torrie Williams and Maggie Mauro by my side. I'm a pediatrician, now practicing in Westfield, NJ.

2010

Carly Uhlman

carly.uhlman@gmail.com

Tara Nicola: This year has been incredibly busy. I married Scott Rata on July 3, 2022, in Springfield, NJ, and classmate Geena De Rose was my bridesmaid. I also recently graduated from Harvard with my PhD in higher education policy.

2011

Lizzy Miggins

lizzymiggins@gmail.com

Malina Welman

malinawelman@gmail.com

Erin (McDonnell) Sundel: I married my college sweetheart and best friend, Blake Sundel, on April 1, 2023. We felt fortunate to celebrate the best day of our lives with family and friends, including some Kent Place classmates. Our next adventure will take us to Boston, where I'll begin residency after just graduating from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. My husband and I welcome any KPS friends who find their way up north.

Neeley Lawrence: I defended my doctoral dissertation this March, earning my PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in government with a concentration in American

politics and methodology. I'm now a senior project director at SSRS (a social science research firm) based out of Philadelphia. While I still work remotely from Texas, I hope to make more-frequent trips back to the tri-state area.

Mira Korber: On May 12, I graduated from Vanderbilt Peabody College with a master's in public policy in K-12 education policy. I continue to run a tutoring company specializing in scholar-athletes, particularly equestrians, based out of Ocala, FL.

2012

Victoria Criscione

victoriaacriscione@gmail.com

Kerrigan Dougherty: I started at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2022 and am the first openly nonbinary person to matriculate.

2013

Collins Hilton: I just graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education with my MSED in independent school education and theater. I spent a lot of time thinking about KPS and Mr. Pridham as I did my thesis on fostering belonging in introductory theater spaces.

Juliette Norrmen-Smith spoke on behalf of UNESCO in a presentation titled "What is a responsible use of data in education?" She explained that for responsible and purposeful uses of learning data, it is necessary that the industry work together with actors in local governments to contextualize their digital education solutions.

2019

Isabella Racioppi: I'm attending Princeton for a master's in engineering.

CLASS NOTES DETAILS

- Notes will be collected via Google Form. You will receive a link to this form from your Class Secretary or, if your class doesn't have a secretary, directly from the school.
- Digital photos should be a high-resolution JPEG image (1M or larger) with a caption. We request that photos include alumnae (with the exception of newborn photos).
- Editorial staff will edit, format, and select all content based on space constraints and will work to incorporate as many notes and photos as possible.

MOMENTS

1. 1957 classmates Judy (Miller) Colie, Bee (Newman) Thayer, Barbara (Biddulph) Preston, and Molly (Harding) Nye at lunch in summer 2021 at a restaurant in Plymouth, NH

2. Jeanie (Blackmar) McLerie-Keppeler '60 and her fiddling friends

3. 1960 classmates Sandy (Lee) Simmers and Anne (Sonnekalb) Iskrant with Sandy's new hybrid truck

4. Addie (Bernheim) Firtel '68 and family

5. Martha (O'Neill) Lindeman '68, husband Tom, and their family in January 2023

6. 1968 classmates Patti (Rossiter) Ravenscroft, Gail Shearer, and Barbie Wiss in December 2022 in Bethesda, MD

7. Laura (Griffith) McDermott '68 and husband Rick with their daughter, Lauren, and her husband, Billy McKeveny, at the couple's October 2022 wedding in Vermont

8. Liz (Allen) Post '70 and husband Bill with Liz's mom (age 97), sister Bev, and nephew Stewart

9. Liz Parker '71 P '05 and her daughter, Katherine Parker-Magyar '05, in Antarctica in January 2023

10. 1971 classmates Deborah Besch, Evie (Edwards) Fenn, and Liz Parker P '05 on the Greek island of Rhodes in January 2023

11. Kathy Cook '71 and Chris at the Red Inn

12. Jamie Gifford-Modick '71 with Lisa (Hall) Brooks '73 in Barrington, IL

13. 1971 classmates Rosy Dackerman and Jamie Gifford-Modick

14. Debbie (Peet) Riplinger '73 celebrating her retirement

15. Peggy Nusser '71, who passed away in June 2022

16. Cindie (Cline) Jamison '78 with her grandkids: "best job ever!"

17. 1982 classmates at a mini-reunion at the home of Nancy (Gorman) Dougherty P '12

18. Shannon (O'Boyle) Maxwell '87 and her son, Brennan, at his wedding

19. 1987 classmates Shannon (O'Boyle) Maxwell and Nora Sherriff in San Francisco

20. 1987 classmates Tori (Brown) Van Keer and Shannon (O'Boyle) Maxwell in Belgium

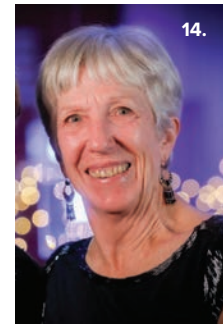
21. Erika Amato '87 as Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*

22. Kirsten (Westlund) Carangi '87 and family at Senior Hockey Night

23. Sloane (Albright) Castleman '88, head of school, San Jose Episcopal Day School, Jacksonville, FL

24. Kate (Alton) Kaynak '89 and "mini-me" daughter Aliya in Paris





25. Amy Allen '91 and other Kent Place alumnae at a bridal shower in Brooklyn, NY, for Rose Allen '07

26. 1991 classmates Maribeth Carroll, Katina Houvouras, Allison (Fitzpatrick) Weir, Liz Hines, and Melissa (Phillips) De Vries celebrating Allison's birthday

27. 1992 classmates Jill Martin and Karey Kessler in Seattle

28. Cherie Alcott '93 and son Gregiri on Gasparilla Island, Florida

29. Teddy McGee, son of Kate (Mattern) McGee '97

30. Jamie (11), Alex (9), Casey (7), and Teddy (6 months), the children of Kate (Mattern) McGee '97

31. Elizabeth (Sudler) Sobel '97 and crew

32. 2000 classmates Paris (Martin) Quintana and Ashley (Pinakiewicz) Smallwood at the National Children's Museum, in Washington, D.C.

33. Mary Zabriskie '04 with husband Tim Shipman and mom and former faculty member Edee Zabriskie P '04 at her wedding on Cape Cod

34. Emilie, daughter of Mary Zabriskie '04, smiling for her 7-month picture

35. Alexandra (Spicehandler) Skowronski '05 with husband Ted, daughter Stella, and new daughter,

Frances "Frankie" Lee Skowronski

36. Lydia (Deutsch) Gilroy '06 and new husband Robert Gilroy

37. Samantha (Cohen) Kaczmarek '07 with her husband and daughters

38. Emmett Jones Kane, son of Samantha (Jones) Kane '09

39. Teddy Dooley, son of Katie (Cummins) Dooley '09, and Emmet Kane, son of Samantha (Jones) Kane '09

40. Julia Sann '09 on her wedding day, with classmates Torrie Williams and Maggie (Black) Mauro by her side

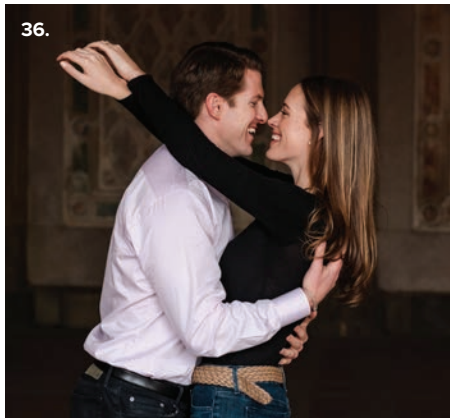
41. Tara Nicola '10 and her husband on their wedding day

42. Tara Nicola '10 and classmate Geena De Rose

43. Blake and Erin (McDonnell) Sundel '11 on their wedding day

44. The wedding celebration of Kerrigan Dougherty '12, child of Nancy (Gorman) Dougherty '82 P '12, to Frances Webb, in Baltimore





15 MINUTES WITH . . .

REBECCA (RACUSIN) ALMOG '02

Violinist Rebecca (Racusin) Almog '02 enjoys a versatile career as a chamber musician, orchestral player, and soloist and is founder and president of Jackson Hole Chamber Music. She now plays regularly with the New Jersey Symphony and has played with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. Rebecca was a member of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and principal player of the Grammy-nominated ensemble Inscape Chamber Orchestra. She was also on the orchestra and chamber music faculty at the Wintergreen Performing Arts Festival and Academy and performs at the Grand Teton Music Festival. She earned her BA from Harvard University while studying at the New England Conservatory and her MM from the University of Maryland's School of Music.

When did you start playing the violin? I started when I was three and a half, and my teachers began preparing me early on to be a professional musician. Even though I had many interests — both academic and extracurricular — I loved music more than anything else. I credit my time at Kent Place for encouraging me to continue my liberal arts education at a university in addition to my violin studies at a conservatory. There was never a question in my mind that I'd pursue a career as a concert violinist.

What accomplishment are you most proud of? I've been fortunate to perform with incredible orchestras and small ensembles in some of the most beautiful venues in the United States and abroad. Recording a Grammy-nominated album with Inscape Chamber Orchestra was one of my best memories. I'm most proud, however, of founding Jackson Hole Chamber Music, a Wyoming-based music festival. It's been rewarding to develop this nonprofit concert series from an idea to a destination for the country's elite classical musicians. Now in its sixth season, JHCM has given me a creative outlet not just as a performer but also as an artistic and executive director.

What does a typical day look like? One of the things I love most is that no two days are ever the same. Some days I'm performing on stage at NJPAC with the New Jersey Symphony; other days are spent practicing in my home studio. Some of my most inspiring days are performing in the Grand Teton Music Festival and rehearsing with colleagues overlooking the mountains for Jackson Hole Chamber Music. When I'm not playing music, you can find me on adventures with my two children, Arielle (6) and Joshua (4), and husband Daniel.

What's your favorite memory of performing at KPS? The STAR is such a special concert. I always looked forward to the candles, white turtlenecks, buzz of excitement while lining up in the breezeway, and processing into the Field House. In my senior year, I was invited to join the Chamber Singers for Ceremony of Carols. Performing the most coveted piece as a singer in my final STAR is something I'll never forget.



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—PEARL D. '30

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updateinfo@kentplace.org

**“I HAD TO ACCEPT THAT I WASN’T GOING TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING IN EVERY
PAPER, BUT I LEARNED THAT I COULD ALMOST ALWAYS GET SOMETHING OUT OF
EVERYTHING I READ.”**

—CHARLOTTE BETZ '23 REFLECTS ON A RESEARCH PROJECT SHE DESIGNED TO UNDERSTAND HOW A STARFISH'S SHAPE INFLUENCES ITS
MOVEMENT IN THE WATER. SHE STRETCHED HERSELF TO READ CHALLENGING ACADEMIC PAPERS ON RELATED TOPICS.

To read more about her work, and to learn how Kent Place students work with faculty
to tackle meaningful independent projects and coursework, see page 40.