

CLASS NOTES

40s

Nancy Meyer Russell '47 writes from New Hampshire that she is teaching woodworking to children ages three to five at a local Children's Center. The children choose wood from the shelves, and use saws, hammers, nails, drill and screw with battery driven tools and install wheels made on Nancy's drill press. They make anything they dream up. "It is the most fun I have all week," claims Nancy. "I am sure this part of my life is an extension of PDS!" Last year, the board of the center planted an Amelanchier tree (serviceberry) in her honor.

Nancy is a hospice volunteer and sings and plays guitar when needed. She is also a member of Caregivers, and takes folks to appointments and other places. Her husband, Pat, just turned 83 and still works as a part-time physician.

Nancy and Pat love New Hampshire. They have a four-year-old Great Dane/St. Bernard mix that is getting a bit much for them to handle. If anyone would like to adopt him, please let Nancy know.

50s

Dr. Joaquin Mascaro Sacristan '55 writes from Mexico that he is director of the oncology unit at Hospital Español. Joaquin's aunt, a professor at Vassar College, wanted each of her nieces and nephews from Mexico to spend a year or two with her in Poughkeepsie. Joaquin attended PDS for the 1952-1953 school year for 6th grade. His sister, Pilar Mascaro Sacristan, and cousins Dolores, Maria Josefa, Antonio and Emilio Sacristan all attended PDS during the years they spent with their aunt in Poughkeepsie.

Joaquin graduated from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) Medical School in 1966 and did postgraduate work at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London, England. His favorite PDS memories are of

building a medieval castle and a "house of horrors" in the barn behind Spaulding House. His favorite teachers were Ursula Barnes and Mr. Smith for biology.

John Ellsworth '56 writes that he attended PDS from 1954 to 1956 as one of a group of 14 boarding students who lived at High Valley, a farm in Clinton Corners, NY. The farm was purchased by Julian and Olga Smyth to start a boarding operation for students attending PDS. High Valley was a boarding "adjunct" to PDS during the school year and a summer camp during the month of July. High Valley later became a school independent of PDS.

The school closed in 1986 and High Valley is now The Center at High Valley, a place where homegrown arts and celebrations flourish. The Center, run by Julian and Olga's son, Douglas Smyth '53 and his wife, novelist Elizabeth Cunningham, offers informal circles for poetry, storytelling, singing and crafts, where everyone is welcome and can participate. It also hosts house concerts, jook joints, dramatic performances and earth-centered celebrations.

Anne Beaman '56 writes that she is living in Gorham, NH, a small but lovely and friendly town in the "Nawth" Country. Anne served in the Peace Corps as an English teacher in Nigeria from 1963 to 1965. This inspired her to become an anthropologist. She focused on East Africa, with a camel-herding tribe called the Rendille. "This and my Peace Corps experience completely rearranged my world view."

One late October afternoon a couple of years ago, Anne's phone rang. The caller was the son of her primary Rendille host. "When I realized who the caller was, I was amazed! He was calling from Norway, this son of a camel herder, and he asked whether I could send him a picture of the father he had never met! He was working toward a degree in social work at a Norwegian university, with the goal of reducing hostilities in Northeast Africa!"

"This son of a herdsman is fluent in several languages and reads and writes those languages. He has wonderful motives and sent me a lovely picture of himself and his fiancée. He calls himself Stephen. (I don't know his Rendille name.) Next he will be entering a program to get him up-to-date-on electronic technology."

Anne worked as a licensed clinical psychologist from 2006 to 2012. She says that her life has been interesting so far. She doesn't know what the next chapter will be – but she is grateful for PDS, her favorite of all her schools. PDS “gave me wings.”

60s

Ellen Finkelpearl '66 is the Helen Chandler Garland Professor of Ancient Studies and Professor of Classics at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. Ellen earned her B.A. from Princeton University and M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. One of Ellen's favorite PDS teachers was Sue Day Pease, who taught Latin and ancient history (Ellen teaches Latin). Another favorite was Jeff Weiss, who taught biology and led Ellen into vegetarianism after allowing the class to discuss the morality of dissecting frogs in science class. Ellen's still a vegetarian! She fondly remembers John Runette, her 9th grade English teacher, who introduced her to the serious reading of literature. "We had debates with him about the interpretation of Sophocles' *Antigone* that lasted beyond the school hours and which I still remember." Mrs. Hubner, the art teacher, was also a general favorite. "Many of my memories are of revolution and unrest, local and international; it was



the '60s. PDS fostered all this in positive if painful ways, I thought."

On October 18, 2013 **Jeh C. Johnson '67** was nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the post of Secretary of Homeland Security. Jeh, who served as general counsel for the Defense Department during Obama's first term, had left government service in 2012 and had returned to private practice with the firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Jeh graduated from Morehouse College and Columbia Law School.

Michele Ribble '69 just became a grandmother and is loving this whole new world!

70s

Since 2002, **Tom Finkelpearl '71** has served as the executive director of the Queens Museum of Art, which operates as a cultural crossroads in America's most diverse county through art programs, community organizing and educational outreach. Tom was previously deputy director at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center during its merger with the Museum of Modern Art. He has also worked as the director of New York City's Percent for Art Program and as executive director of The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. His book *Dialogues in Public Art* (MIT Press) was published in 2000. His forthcoming book, *What We Make: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation* (Duke University Press), is dedicated to the teachers who had the greatest impact on his life, including Jeff Weiss, his 7th grade science teacher at PDS. Tom received a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.F.A. from Hunter College, CUNY.

Charles (Chuck) Furnival '73 writes that it's been a long journey since he attended PDS from grade 4 through grade 10 (1964–1971). After leaving PDS, he finished high school in Illinois and California, completing his education at San Francisco State University and Excelsior College in Albany. In San Francisco, he worked as a singer/musician/printing-mailing house manager. He then moved to Florida where he has worked in the field of social work since 1985. "I have spent most of those years working in adolescent residential substance abuse treatment programs. The last ten spent as a residential

substance abuse therapist in West Palm Beach until I had a career-ending heart attack in 2009. That was a pretty stressful career path I chose. I earned the gratitude of countless clients and the respect of my peers in the form of the Professional of the Year award from the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association in 2005.”

Now winding down his career, Chuck stays involved working with developmentally disabled adults. “Life in Florida has been good, my health has been pretty much restored and I have had a rewarding and useful career. I stay involved in social and political causes and I pursue a couple of pointless hobbies fanatically (automotive history, antiques, music, literature, the Miami Marlins). I have always been grateful to Poughkeepsie Day School for pointing me in a good direction when I needed it and for providing a quality education in the process.”

Chuck enjoys following PDS through the website and on Facebook, especially his posts back and forth with head of school Josie Holford. Through Facebook, Chuck has reconnected with a few classmates. It has been great fun for him after 42 years, and he would love to hear from any others. He hopes to be able to visit PDS and catch up on changes since life was centered at 39 New Hackensack Road.

Bob Van Meter ’73 writes that after 25 years working as a community organizer and community based developer of affordable housing, in 2008 he became executive director of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation’s Boston program, where he lends money and make grants to support community based organizations. He and his wife, Pam, have lived for 18 years in the New View cohousing community in Acton, MA, which he helped to develop. “I remember fondly a course at PDS on utopian communities where we read *Walden Two* and talked about our ideal community,” writes Bob. “Perhaps that set me on the course that led to my career in community development and to cohousing. New View is intentional but not utopian. It was a wonderful place to raise our two daughters. They are now both in their 20s, so we are empty nesters.”

Peter Brownstein ’78 is living in Salt Lake City and working as a stay-at-home dad, taxi driver, chef, domestic engineer and part-time machinery appraiser. His children are 12 and 14 years old and Peter and his wife are teaching them all about social activism. Peter credits

what he learned at PDS for his belief that “values and morals are the key in our family life.” After volunteering for five years on Ski Patrol at Park City, Peter has shifted his time to the Boy Scouts where he is leading the local charge towards inclusion. His wife is advocating on air quality and gun “safety.” Peter states, “We are both proud to be called activists. I’ve finally joined both Facebook and LinkedIn.”

Douglas Elmendorf ’78 is the director of the Congressional Budget Office. Before joining the CBO, Doug was a senior fellow and the Edward M. Bernstein Scholar in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution. He was previously an assistant professor at Harvard University, a principal analyst at the CBO, a senior economist at the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers, a deputy



Douglas Elmendorf ’78

assistant secretary for economic policy at the Treasury Department and an assistant director of the Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board. In those positions he worked on budget policy, Social Security, Medicare, health care issues, financial markets, macroeconomic analysis and forecasting and other topics. He earned his Ph.D. and A.M. in economics from Harvard University, where he was a National Science Foundation graduate fellow, and his A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University.

Emilie Rudin Smith ’76 has been an oncology staff nurse at Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa, CA, since 1995. She and her husband, Rick, are avid skiers and their daughter is a sophomore at California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, CA.

80s

Daniel Falk '84 (formerly Daniel Falik) is owner/president of Camp Huntington in High Falls, NY, a co-ed, residential program serving children and young adults with special learning and developmental needs. The program is designed to maximize a child's potential, locate and develop strengths and hidden abilities. Dan's favorite PDS memory is juggling at graduation and his favorite teacher was Don Fried.

After 20 years of writing plays, **Rob Handel '86** recently expanded his career to include the writing of opera libretti, beginning a three-year residency in the Composer Librettist Development Program at American Lyric Theater. Rob remains a resident playwright at New Dramatists and head of the dramatic writing MFA program at Carnegie Mellon University. His play *A MAZE* will return this winter for a second run in Berkeley, CA. Rob lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, poet Joy Katz, and their son.

Geetha Murthy Holdsworth '86 lives in Santa Fe, NM with her husband, Amos, and daughters Indira and Devi. Geetha is serving as the interim principal at Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences, a pre-k through grade 8 Expeditionary Learning School, and is teaching middle school English.

Andrew Innes '87 is senior product development manager at Harvard Business Review and CEO at



Andrew Innes '87

Anomia Press. Andrew started Anomia Press in 2009 to manufacture, market and distribute "Anomia," a card game he invented. Since hitting the market, Anomia has gone on to win a number of prestigious toy industry awards and has sold over 100,000 copies within the United States, Canada and Australia. In September 2012, Anomia Press released its second game, "Duple." Outside of inventing new games, Andrew is actively pursuing international licensing agreements and is very excited to see the French and German language editions of Anomia released throughout the European Union in 2013.

A graduate of Oberlin College, Andrew is also a singer, songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist (saxophones, harmonica, guitar, piano, dobro, musical saw, washboard and some other stuff!) who performs with the AKE Trio.

90s

Mika Dashman '93 is an associate at the law firm Fishman & Mallon, LLP in New York City. Her practice includes tenant-side landlord/tenant and consumer rights litigation. In early September, Mika had a great visit with classmate Jason Berry in Split, Croatia. Mika reports that Croatia is gorgeous and Jason is truly the host with the most!

Julia Hausman '97 and her husband, Rob Harris, moved back to Woodstock this year after a decade living in California and Brooklyn, NY. Julia is a midwife at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, NY.

Karly Nihal '97 is a youth educator for the Young Adult Abuse Prevention Program (YAAPP), a division of Family Crisis Services, a domestic violence resource center in Portland, ME. Karly firmly believes that all transformation begins with education and awareness, and that through helping to educate youth about a problem that is vastly ignored, we can inspire actual change. Prior to this pursuit, Karly taught English as a second language in the Boston area working with middle and high school youth from many different countries.

Darin Ricco '97 has been living in San Diego and selling real estate since 2002. He writes, "I live on Dog Beach, in Ocean Beach, San Diego with my three dogs and

girlfriend. I organize an annual community event and block party known as “Muir Fest” (named after our block, Muir Ave), which features more than 20 bands from San Diego and Los Angeles. It has become the event of the summer in Ocean Beach. I travel annually to Costa Rica to visit my mother, who lives there, and return to Woodstock every holiday season to be with my father.” Darin remains grateful to Liz Vinogradov for her guidance and support throughout high school.

John Rudikoff '98 is general counsel at MASS Design Group, a not-for-profit organization that develops solutions to improve health, economic and social outcomes using architecture to build a better, more equitable world. John served on MASS’s board of directors from its inception until 2013, when he resigned to join MASS full time. In addition to overseeing MASS’s legal affairs, John manages their development and marketing efforts and serves as corporate secretary to the board of directors.

Prior to joining MASS full time, John spent two years in private practice concentrating in general litigation defense. Previously, he served for five years as an Assistant District Attorney at the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, where he founded the Environmental Crimes Unit within the Rackets Division. He directed numerous multi-agency investigations, identified environmental liability and criminality, led complex prosecutions for environmental crimes, negotiated seven-figure settlements and the remediation of environmental degradation and acted as the lead attorney on 12 trials and numerous grand jury investigations. John received his B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.

Laura (Cowan) Osborne '99 lives in Alexandria, VA with husband, Luke, and sons Sean (4) and Zachary (9 months). Laura is an early childhood special education teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools.



Laura (Cowan) Osborne '99

00s

Elann Danziger '01 writes that he is living in Brooklyn, NY, owns three dogs and is engaged to be married next July. He hosts a podcast, *Lost & Rewound*, is a licensed real estate agent and has acting work that can be found online at vimeo.com/elann and youtube.com/symantiks.

Yali Lewis '01 has joined the faculty at Avenues: The World School, headquartered in New York City, teaching middle and upper school art. Previously Yali was at The Dalton School, where she taught high school art courses



Yali Lewis '01

in drawing, design and printmaking and guided students in independent studies and senior projects in art writing, printmaking, drawing and painting.

Yali has also been an adjunct professor in the department of art and design history and theory at the New School University in New York, where she taught a course on global issues in design. She had previously taught world art history in the same department as a teaching fellow and earlier was a teaching assistant in the department of photography.

Before entering the education profession, Yali worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., first in the curatorial department of photographs and then in the department of exhibition design. She also has held positions at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Yale University’s Beinecke Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Yali received a B.A. from Yale University in fine art and history of art and an M.F.A. from Parsons, The New School of Design.

Yali is also a working artist and shows her work at museums and galleries in the New York area. She works across a variety of media, including photography, video, sculpture and painting. Her writing about art has been published in various magazines and journals. She enjoys biking and often rides to school from her home in Brooklyn. She dreams of one day biking across the country with her camera.

Samantha Hoe Melo '02 was married in August 2013 and is owner and director of the Pennsylvania Academy of Dance in Sewickley, PA., which enrolls more than 200 students.

Daniel Raugalis '02 married Alyssa Hallmark this past June in Poughkeepsie. Dan's best man was **Noah**



Daniel Raugalis '02

DeBiase '02. Daniel currently works at PDS on the Information Technology Help Desk. Alyssa works for Anderson Center for Autism. In attendance were **Sarah Montgomery '02** and Dan and Anita Jones.

Cara Hueston '03 recently earned her Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from Binghamton University. Cara has moved to Cork, Ireland for a post-doctoral position examining the effects of stress and brain inflammation on cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and depression.

Sasha Pearl '04 left PDS after her junior year and moved to New York City. After a handful of unremarkable jobs and a few disappointing classes at community college, Sasha left the city and returned to the Hudson Valley in 2005. She has worked as a film projectionist, baker, farmer, lighthouse keeper, cook and as an apprentice in

various trades. She currently lives in Dutchess County with a nice man and a small dog and works at Sol Flower Farm, growing 40 varieties of vegetables and flowers. Sasha plays music and enjoys crafts and games.

Matt Buccelli '06 and **Kathryn Buccelli '08** ran into **Nancy Meyer Russell '47** of Monhegan Island, ME last August and they had a great time listening to Nancy talk about when Elizabeth Gilkeson was director and how her sister had attended PDS in its first year.

Amie Rose Anderson '06 is teaching first graders at The Calhoun School, a progressive pre-K through grade 12 private school in New York City. She is also leading a committee to research the implementation of digital portfolios.

Rehana Ahmed '08 graduated from Ithaca College in December 2011 and works at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She is considering beginning an MBA in healthcare.

Talia Steiman '08 graduated from Hamilton College in 2012 and just started graduate school this fall for her Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Purdue University.

Elizabeth Moulic '09 graduated from Smith College last May where she majored in government and French studies with an unofficial Middle Eastern Studies minor. This past August she headed off to New Mexico where she is living in downtown Albuquerque and working at the University of New Mexico's Truman Health Services, an HIV primary care medical facility. Elizabeth works in the Outreach, Prevention and Testing Department at the clinic. She is developing a support group for HIV positive women at the clinic and training to do rapid testing for HIV. Elizabeth enjoys living in the Southwest and hopes to live and work there for a few years. The Moulic family has relocated to Anchorage, Alaska where her father is an engineering professor at the University of Alaska.

Jasper Weinburd '09 graduated from Bard College in May and received the President Leon Botstein Prize, given to a graduating senior with a strong academic record across the disciplines who has been judged by the faculty to have demonstrated intellectual ambition, creativity and integrity. He has entered a Ph.D. program in mathematics at the University of Minnesota.

10s

Preston Kemeny '11, a junior at Princeton University, is involved in ¿Shruggers?, Princeton's first and only completely open performing arts coalition. ¿Shruggers? is an umbrella organization that currently encompasses the improvisational comedy group, Lobster Club; the theater troupe, Orpheus; the dance company, Beatnik; and the a cappella group, Acappellago. Each of the ¿Shruggers? organizations has a weekly workshop and hosts one show per semester.

Preston is "a velociraptor who wasn't cast in Jurassic Park, a werewolf between full moons, Inuit Malcolm X, a mosquito who gets drunk on blood, Steve Jobs' ghost, the Were-Loch Ness monster, Hillary Clifford the Big Red Dog and Zombie Hitler." He couldn't be more excited!

Max Hegley '11 is a junior at Sarah Lawrence College. He's still studying theater and will be working professionally this fall for New York Stage and Film in New York City.

Max Owen-Dunow '11 spent his summer working for the Christine Quinn mayoral campaign in New York City. Max is a dean's list student at Wesleyan University and is spending the fall 2013 semester studying abroad in Paris, France.



Max Owen-Dunow '11 is spending the fall 2013 semester studying in Paris, France — this is the view from his window.

Peter Enriquez '12, a sophomore at Brown University, is currently drafting a proposal to create his own major entitled "Independent Concentration in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Music." Peter must show that there are significant research and practical opportunities in this field. Additionally, Peter is a co-coordinator for Brown's chapter of Partners in Health Engage team, a member of Mariachi de Brown (Brown's mariachi band) and was featured on a local hip-hop album produced by Brown students and picked up on a few hip hop blogs. He's also a member of the Brown Jazz Band, the Brown Meditation Community and a photographer for Brown's New Scientist Program.



CLASS OF '93 REUNION

Members of the Class of '93 gathered in August for a reunion hosted by **Daniel Gray** at his mom's house in Bearsville, NY, the site of their senior party! Class members in attendance were **David Castro Diephouse**, with wife, Rachel Castro Diephouse, and their two children, in from Pennsylvania. Up from New York City were **Mika Dashman** and boyfriend Sylvan, **Nathaniel Antman** and partner Jerry, and **Swati Khurana** and her two daughters. **Justin Peone** came over from Rosendale and **Jason Berry** and his partner Maki Glucina came in from Split, Croatia especially for this event.

Tate (Dan) Hausman '94 and wife, Shawna Kaplan Hausman, and **Rahm Rechtschaffen '94** and wife, Eve Fox, also joined the group, along with PDS teachers Jonathan Heiles and Joan Mathies, who surprised everybody by rocking in! Unable to make it were **Hillary Hoffman Harvey**, **Jonah Sachs**, **Dennis Valencia**, **Mike Scimeca**, **Chloe Rolnick Bland**, and **Jared Finklestein**, who sent their best! And of course, the late **Garth Zenie** was there in spirit.

PDS ALUMNI on Facebook



Poughkeepsie Journal

Students from Dutchess, Ulster and Orange counties and China attended today's graduation ceremony today at the Poughkeepsie Day School, where 22 seniors each got a chance to participate.

Check back for video and see Thursday's Journal for the full story:
<http://pojone.com/1a3WfP1>



Poughkeepsie Day School Alumni Association shared Ruth Cunningham's photo.
 August 28

PDS teacher and parent Raymond Cunningham at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom 50 years ago today. Thank you to Ruth Cunningham for sharing this picture of your father.

Raymond Cunningham at the March on Washington in 1963



Micah Moore

Joshua Denali Benner PDS2010 spent his Spring Quarter in Beijing

<https://undergrad.stanford.edu/programs/bosp/explore/beijing>



Elizabeth Vinogradov

Great piece written by a PDS alum, Karly Nihal - of particular importance to our young women and men.

PLAYING CAROLINE: My experience of portraying the victim of dating violence in an educational...

worldpulse.com

I took a job, one that I had unknowingly been searching for, as a dating violence awareness educator.

COME VISIT PDS!

College-Age Alumni Panel and Reception on January 8, 2014

PDS alumni currently in college are invited to speak to current juniors and seniors about their transition to college. This annual event, sponsored by the development and college counseling offices, is taking place in the Kenyon House student-faculty center.



From left: Leo Antelyes '12 (RPI '16); Peter Enriquez '12 (Brown '16); Julia Raphael '12 (Johns Hopkins '16); Max Owen-Dunow '11 (Wesleyan '15); and Alyssa Klein '12 (Connecticut College '16)

2014 Commencement and Reception on June 11, 2014

Alumni of all ages are encouraged to attend the commencement ceremony and celebration. The graduates will appreciate your support, and faculty and administration will be overjoyed to see you!



From left: Spencer Hardy '12; Brittany O'Halloran '11; Max Hegley '11; Max Owen-Dunow '11; Calle Knight '11; Riley Feehan '12; and Natalie McKeon '11.