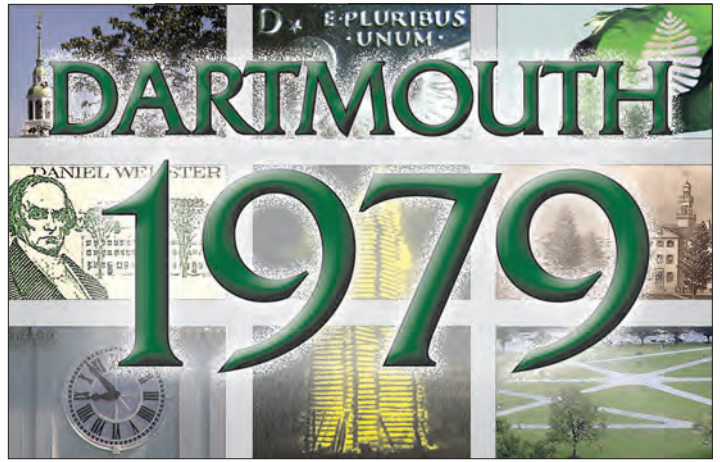


Newsletter – February 2018

Class of the Year: 1997, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017

MAKING A SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE IMPACT ON SOCIETY



At our Matriculation ceremony, Dean Ralph Manuel reminded us that with the privilege of a Dartmouth education, we would be expected to make “a significant, positive impact on society.” I remember those words like it was yesterday. And I’ve always felt it was my personal mission to live up to that expectation.

This issue of our class newsletter is dedicated to classmates who have given tirelessly of their time, experience and, yes, treasure to organizations and activities that **make our communities stronger** and that **serve the public good**. The profiles herein are but a sample. We know there are many more classmates who have engaged themselves in community or public service of some type.

Perhaps a good number of you are, like me, “serial volunteers” who have a hard time saying no when asked to serve—whether it is coaching a youth sports team, raising money, teaching a class, or serving on a board. We often get as much out of our service as others get from it. To all of you who are doing what you can to serve the global community, we say “thank you.”

David Van Wie, Newsletter Editor davidvw@maine.rr.com ❖

OUR CLASS PROJECT: DARTMOUTH PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Given the theme of this newsletter, it is fitting to remind you that our Class Project is financial and volunteer support for **Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS)**.

This alumni-supported program was started by the Class of 1959 more than 20 years ago. DPCS is a program within Dartmouth’s Center for Social Impact (formerly the Tucker Foundation) which plays a very important role in today’s undergraduate experience. Its unique mentoring model supports people in greatest need, such as in our inner cities and poorer rural areas. Programs are designed to create transformative experiences for undergrad interns, for alumni mentors, for the community service organizations involved, and for the people they serve.

DPCS places undergrads in community service internships and pairs them with our classmates across the country to serve as their mentors. Mentors provide personal support and interaction to help the undergrads get acclimated to the area, think through the broader impacts of their service internship, support them in times of need, and perhaps provide professional networking benefits.

Over 50 of our classmates have mentored over 60 DPCS interns throughout the years. The connections allow Class of 79 mentors to maintain a link to the current undergraduate mind-set in Hanover and, perhaps, an opportunity to participate directly in the community service effort. Most participants will attest that being a DPCS mentor is quite a rewarding experience. Mentored interns become part of our class’s extended family.

Our class officers decided several years ago that our class would assume the mantle of financial support for DPCS from the Class of 1959, which was declining in numbers. Dartmouth’s Center for Social Impact aspires to double the number of community service internships offered through the College.

We encourage you to support this cause with both financial support for our Class Project and to answer the call when asked to “mentor” a DPCS undergrad intern in your area. You can donate to the Class Project on our class website: 1979.dartmouth.org

*For more information about our Class Project,
Contact Jim Wasz -- jwasz1979@gmail.com ❖*

PLEASE PAY YOUR CLASS DUES

Hellllloooo '79s!!

As your class treasurer, I want to apologize for being such a pest about paying your class dues, but, heck, it's my job. That said, for all of you who have paid already—**THANK YOU!!**

For those of you who haven't, PLEASE go to the class website (1979.dartmouth.org) and click on the Pay Your Class Dues option on the right side of the home page, or under the Pay it Forward tab along the top. Or, email me and I will send you a link (ellen.opp@gmail.com).

Your class dues help us all stay connected, fund our Memorial Book program, and so much more. At the time of this writing, we have received dues payments from only 38% of the class. I know we can do better—so please respond with your \$40 payment!

THANK YOU!

Ellen (Gomprecht) Oppenheim ❖

Dartmouth College photograph.



SAVE THE DATE Homecoming 2018

October 26-27, 2018
Football vs. Harvard

Friday: Bonfire & Dartmouth Night Parade
Saturday: Class of 79 Tailgate

See the Fall Foliage!

CHICAGO'S HISTORIC SHEDD AQUARIUM

JOHN GILBERTSON



The Shedd Aquarium photo is from Creative Commons.
The photographer is Marco Verch.

John writes: "In May 2018, I will complete my 3-year term serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Shedd Aquarium Society. I have served as a member the Board of Trustees of Shedd for the past 18 years, and will continue serving as a Trustee after passing the baton next year to our new Chair."

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is one of Chicago's most popular cultural institutions with focus on animal care and wellness, conservation of ecosystems and water, and education. Its mission is "*Sparkling compassion, curiosity and conservation for the aquatic animal world.*" Shedd also serves as an industry leader among zoos and aquariums in North America and globally.

Shedd Aquarium originally opened on the Chicago lakefront in 1930. Annual attendance is around two million. Along with tourists and local visitors, Shedd hosts hundreds of school field trips each year, totaling 200,000 students or more from Chicago Public Schools and surrounding school districts.

John has served as trustee for several non-profit organizations both before and after retiring (in 2015) from his day job, including a private secondary school, a national ballet company, a large urban hospital, a minority student sponsorship and mentorship program, and a metropolitan charitable foundation. "Shedd has probably been the most interesting, most inspiring and most satisfying, thanks to the leadership team and staff who are extremely dedicated to our mission, and serve Shedd superbly every day," John emphasized. ❖

www.sheddaquarium.org

ADVOCATING FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

BY SUZANNE (CARR) SHEPHERD

Being told that your baby has Down syndrome is an unforgettable, wrenching experience. When the doctor gives the expectant or new parent this diagnosis with outdated, overly negative information about Down syndrome, or no information, then fears and ignorance take over and a wrenching experience becomes overwhelming.

I was in this position 20 years ago when my husband and I were told that our newborn son, Jack, had Down syndrome. When I asked for information, the floor nurse gave me an outdated flyer about Down syndrome that told me Jack would never read, write, walk or talk. Totally false, but, at that moment, I didn't know any better.

As Jack got older, I became active with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas (DSACT) and, as Healthcare Chair and then President, tried to improve the way new parents were getting the diagnosis. As an attorney working for a large hospital group in Austin, I made dozens of presentations to doctors and nurses on the importance of giving accurate, current information about Down syndrome to new and expectant parents along with

the diagnosis. None of this was political; I often said I wasn't pro-life or pro-choice, I was pro-information. Some doctors saw the need to change and some didn't. I was making the case, but new parents joining DSACT still reported awful experiences when they had received the diagnosis.

So, in 2015, I teamed up with another parent of a teenage boy with Down syndrome. Vilma is a former state legislator, and I had contacts with DS organizations across Texas. With a ton of elbow grease, we achieved passage of the Texas Down Syndrome Information Act, which now requires doctors to give current, accurate information about Down syndrome to new and expectant parents when a diagnosis is made.

Parents who know their child can learn to read will see their child differently and will take the time to teach him or her to read. And Jack at 20 is now a funny, capable freshman in a non-degree, four-year program at George Mason University in Virginia. He's my inspiration in working to help new parents who are starting their journey of raising a kid with Down syndrome. ❖

Homecoming 2017

A festive crowd for our class's 60th Birthday celebration at Homecoming prior to our march as 2017 Class of the Year at the front of the Dartmouth Night parade before the bonfire. For more pictures of Homecoming & 60th Birthday event, go to our class website at: 1979.dartmouth.org ❖



SUPPORTING REFUGEE FAMILIES

BY BEN RILEY

My wife, Janet, and I have had the wonderful experience of supporting two recent refugee families, one from Burma and one from Afghanistan. Both families live in Oakland, and Janet and others coordinate a team of 50 or so volunteers from our Catholic church who have done everything from move the families, take them to medical appointments, obtain benefits, and help with school. One happy day for me was walking two of the Burmese kids to their first day of school!

It's been so inspiring to see how the families develop, learn English and become self-sufficient Americans. I even wrote a song about the experience!

I include a photo from this past New Year's Eve where we celebrated mass and enjoyed a meal with the Burmese family and other volunteers. If anyone's looking for an amazing and incredible worthwhile volunteer opportunity, I suggest calling your local Catholic Charities or similar organization, and asking how you can help a family of our newest Americans. ❖



79th Day Mini Reunions; Think Global, Party Local AND... 79th Day MICRO Reunions, like so...

Between March 17 and 20, hold up a green 79 something, say "60 is the new 39!" and get someone to snap away. Send pics and a few words to Adam Samuels ahsamuels@sbcglobal.net. Before you'll know it...a virtual reunion

MiniRs	Event:	Venue:	R (to this person) SVP:
Atlanta	Thu, 3/22, 6:30, Cocktails and Dinner (with 78-82s)	Seasons 52, 90 Perimeter Ctr West	Steve Dorvee: Stephen.dorvee@agg.com 404-873-8680
Boston	Fri, April 6, 6:00, Cocktails and heavy hors d's	Ed Kania's (cool) house; 175 Brattle Street, Cambridge	Libby Roberts: libbyinboston@gmail.com or Ames Abbot: AmesAbbot@comcast.net
Chicago	Thu, 3/15, 6:00. HOP on the Road, presentation and music	Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art at 220 E. Chicago & some bar after.	http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/events/chicago-il-hop-road, for info, call Nancy Wilder at 773-750-5014
Colorado	Sun, 3/25, 3-6, Finger food and drinks. (need a place to stay?)	Home of Diana "Bug" Lawrence; 15100 Foothill Rd, Golden	Bug: dianalawrence@msn.com or Anna Burack Wilson: annaburackwilson@gmail.com
Maine	Thu, 3/15, 5:30, Drinks, apps and fun. All classes welcome.	Sebago Brewing (211 Fore Street, Portland)	Dave Van Wie: dvanwie@maine.rr.com
Santa Fe	Thu, 3/15, 6:00, Drinks, etc	Bourbon Grill, 104 Old Las Vegas Hwy	Stacy Quinn: ssquinn1072@gmail.com
NYC	Thu, 3/22, 5:30, TMex 'tail/apps	El Rio Grande, 160 E. 38th St	Carl Briscoe: carlbriscoe@mac.com
NorCal	Sun, 4/8, 10:30 hike, 12:30 brunch	Warming hut @Chrissy Field; Arguello (Presidio Officers' Club)	Paul Krupka: pkrupka56@icloud.com
BC	3/18-23, anytime	Skiing at Whistler; contact Tim to join	Tim Higgins: timhiggins@comcast.net
SoCal/LA	Wed, 3/21, 6:00 for beer and beer	Santa Monica Brew Works at 1920 Colorado Ave	Rich Pugh: rpugh82857@aol.com, Bob Foster: bfostergolf@gmail.com
Utah	Sat, 3/17, 3:00 Fun.	1249 W Hailstone Dr, Heber City	Billy Mitchell: whmitchell79@gmail.com, 603-996-1420
Wash, DC	Thu, 3/29, 6:30 Drinks/Dinner	Pi Pizzeria, Penn Qtr, 910 F St, NW	Burr Gray, burrgray@aol.com

RSVP...ASAP!!! For more details and updates, go to 1979.dartmouth.org "Mini Reunions"

Third Monday Foundation

For most of his career since med school, **Bill Holmes** has worked in the developing world delivering surgery and other medical services. Just in the past five years, Bill has worked in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and South Sudan, among many other places. He returns to the U.S., between postings, for about two weeks each year.

In 2004, in honor of Bill and his amazingly selfless work, a group of his Alpha Delta fraternity brothers incorporated **Third Monday Foundation (TMF)** and began making annual donations to the Foundation. In 2007, TMF began making annual grants. Over the past 11 years, TMF has made over \$225,000 in grants to 20 small non-profits around the world, including \$42,000 in 2017 grants. Most of TMF's supporters are Dartmouth AD alums or family.

TMF generally supports grass-roots international children's organizations which don't have access to U.S. charitable money and where 100% of grant monies support or aid at-risk children. These are typically organizations with which Bill or other TMF directors have worked and/or have direct insight. Many Alpha Deltas from the classes of 1976 to 1982 support TMF; in addition to Bill Holmes, the founders and members of the TMF Board from the Class of 1979 include **Dave Daniels, Tim Ehram, Doug Hodge, Ben Riley and Dave Wilson.** ❖

If you'd like to find out more about Third Monday Foundation, please visit the website at

www.thirdmonday.org



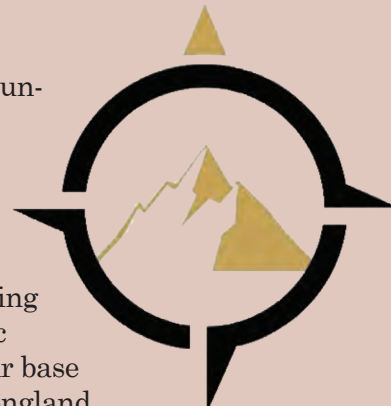
*"A foundation
built by friends to make
the world a better place
for children."*



Helping Heroes at the Azimuth Check Foundation

Mark Nawrocki and four veterans started the nonprofit **Azimuth Check Foundation.**

Azimuth Check Foundation helps active duty military, veterans, and first responders with disabilities by providing challenging year-round athletic activities from their base in northern New England.



"We have developed an affiliation with Adaptive Sports Partners of The North Country and are planning our first event: Helping Heroes Ski Day at Cannon Mountain," Mark explained. "My oldest son serves as an Army Ranger and I was processed recently for an Army Reserve posting as a physician," he added. ❖

azimuthcheckfoundation.org



*Dr. Bill
Holmes
at work.*

A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

BY T. WEYMOUTH

Coming out of law school, I chose Hogan Lovells (at the time, Hogan & Hartson) in large part because of the law firm's exceptional commitment to pro bono. 33+ years later I'm still there and grateful for the pro bono (and other) opportunities that the firm and our clients have afforded me. These days most large law firms are justifiably proud of their pro bono programs. In 1984, we were unique in having established (in 1970!) a freestanding pro bono practice with a partner, associates, and legal and administrative staff who devote 100% of their time to pro bono.



T. Weymouth and a colleague flying to Haiti on a State Department plane to do pro bono work.

Our commitment to pro bono has expanded with the growth of the firm, from a relatively small DC based firm to a global firm with about 2,500 lawyers in more than 40 offices worldwide. Each year our lawyers devote more than 120,000 hours to pro bono legal services for individuals, non-profits and communities in need around the world. Additional information about our pro bono practice is on our website at:

www.hoganlovells.com/en/citizenship/pro-bono.

In my own pro bono work as a young lawyer, I focused on asylum cases. My most memorable case was representing "Noor," an accomplished Afghani civil engineer who became a mujahedin freedom fighter after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. After being severely wounded in battle, Noor was transported on horseback over the mountains to Peshawar, Pakistan and somehow found his way to the United States. Noor qualified for asylum, which requires showing that the individual has a well-founded fear of persecution if s/he were to be returned to his/her home country. Noor and I stayed in touch for a long time; for years, he sent me a very thoughtful Christmas card and gift.

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, our firm was asked to help with establishing the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), which was tasked with reviewing and approving reconstruction projects financed by donations from the international community. We legally formed the IHRC and continued to serve as the entity's outside general counsel.

I was fortunate to be our lead lawyer on the matter, making about a dozen trips over several years to the ravaged island nation. Our work ended in 2012, when the Haitian legislature did not reauthorize the IHRC. The work was incredibly challenging (and often frustrating), with our accomplishments never reaching our high aspirations, but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

In 2011, I was asked whether I'd like to be considered for the Pro Bono Partner position. Upon short reflection, I decided I was ready to transition from my billable practice as an international trade lawyer and devote myself fulltime to pro bono. It was a leap of faith, but one I've never regretted in the six years since I was chosen for the position.

I devote a lot of time to our **Empowering Girls and Women Initiative**, which we launched in 2015 to address gender-based violence and to support educational and work-related opportunities for girls and women. As part of the Initiative, we have partnered with more than forty organizations that focus on these issues.

In brief, my pro bono work has allowed me to use my law degree to help those in need and, in the process, greatly enriched my own work and life experience. The need is vast and those of us of us at a certain age are well-positioned to make a difference. I'm always interested in connecting with classmates who are interested in getting involved in public service. ❖

DENVER'S COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

BY GEMMA LOCKHART

When Denver's *Commission for People With Disabilities* called for assistance with photography and writing, I answered the call.

The community service that followed has made me a better person.

Nearly one in five people in the nation live with a disability. I was surprised at that, but also surprised how efforts at problem solving are fortified with new talent when people who see and know life from outside the box are at the table.

Work on the Commission creates a vibrant energy that makes sure that Denver is a community where democracy is strong and government equally serves all people. A door or ramp or touch button gives people with disabilities freedom of movement and dignity of public access the same as you and me. ❖



Gemma Lockhart (left) with Denver's Commission For People With Disabilities.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – NORTH OF THE BORDER

FROM JIM STEIN

Jim Stein reports that he is working with **Habitat for Humanity**, mostly in Edmonton, Alberta – both in the usual hands on “builds” but also in developing “a new approach whereby we can integrate their wonderful work providing home but in rental communities as opposed to ownership.”

“Participating in the builds is truly a wonderful experience that is rewarding both short term and long term – expanding one’s sense of community. I highly recommend it for those of us that have a bit of extra time or want to make that bit of time and get huge bang for the buck,” Jim said. “Back in the day I was no fan of Jimmy Carter but I have to admire and respect his initiative and determination with regards to Habitat for Humanity. He and Rosalind are truly inspirational. You Yanks do come up with some good ones.” ❖



ROCKIN' THE RETIREMENT

THE GIFT WE GIVE OURSELVES

BY CAROL GIEG

As so many of us know, volunteering is a gift we give ourselves; we receive far more than anything we might offer. I am amazed at the strength of so many marginalized and vulnerable people to survive.

Before retiring, I was my employer's representative in establishing a Family Justice Center (FJC). FJCs provide advocacy and resources to victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), previously known as domestic violence.

I volunteered at Juvenile Hall teaching and visiting adolescents. Fleeing homes rife with violence, they'd joined gangs in search of a "family" they could call their own. Most had cycled through the Hall at least four times, usually beginning at age 12 or 13. The boys considered going to "Juvy" a rite of passage into adulthood, or a place to get three square meals a day. The girls fled from sexual abuse by adult men in the home and joined gangs too.

I worked with an advocacy group that was involved in transitioning those kids aging out of the Hall. We went to the City Council to seek approval to build a home where boys could live and learn how to become productive citizens. Local residents convinced the Council to withhold approval, so we appealed the decision and brought a few boys who had successfully transitioned from another such facility. After the boys described their experiences and the advantages of having food, shelter and training, the Council voted unanimously in our favor.

Now living in Solano County, I've found there are many opportunities to volunteer. I solicit and deliver donations to

a shelter for women and children who are victims of IPV. Donations to Solano County's FJC are appreciated. But, there are still many living on the streets, hungry and alone. A group of us also provide meals through the "Feed the Hungry" program at a local church.

To acknowledge these "invisible" women, I (you knew this was coming) wrote a poem to them over the holidays:

You women who suffer such hardship,
Dedicated to your children remain.
Though sometimes fearful and lonely,
You rarely, if ever, complain.

Forging onward in spite of adversity,
Determined to find a way,
Inspiring hope for your children and loved ones,
That tomorrow will be a better day.

Happy holidays to each and every one,
To your children and loved ones too.
Hopefully in 2018,
You'll finally have some time for you!

Given different circumstances, I could be in the same place as these women, but I would not be as brave as they are.

Congratulations to those of you who are rewarded through volunteering and keep up the good work!



TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS:

Our spring newsletter theme is **TRAVEL – Pre & Post Graduation**. We'd like to hear news about your recent travels **'round The Girdled Earth**. Or submit a story about a memorable trip with a classmate, either as an undergrad or after graduation. Dig out those photos from LSA or FSA and take us back in time. **Text & photos due April 15.**

The fall newsletter theme will be **Annual Traditions With Classmates**, so be sure to get some good photos and tell us about your annual event! **Text & photos due August 1.**

And don't forget our standard content categories:

Give A Rouse For...

Art & Lit Reviews

Rockin' The Retirement

An Interview With...

From The Heart

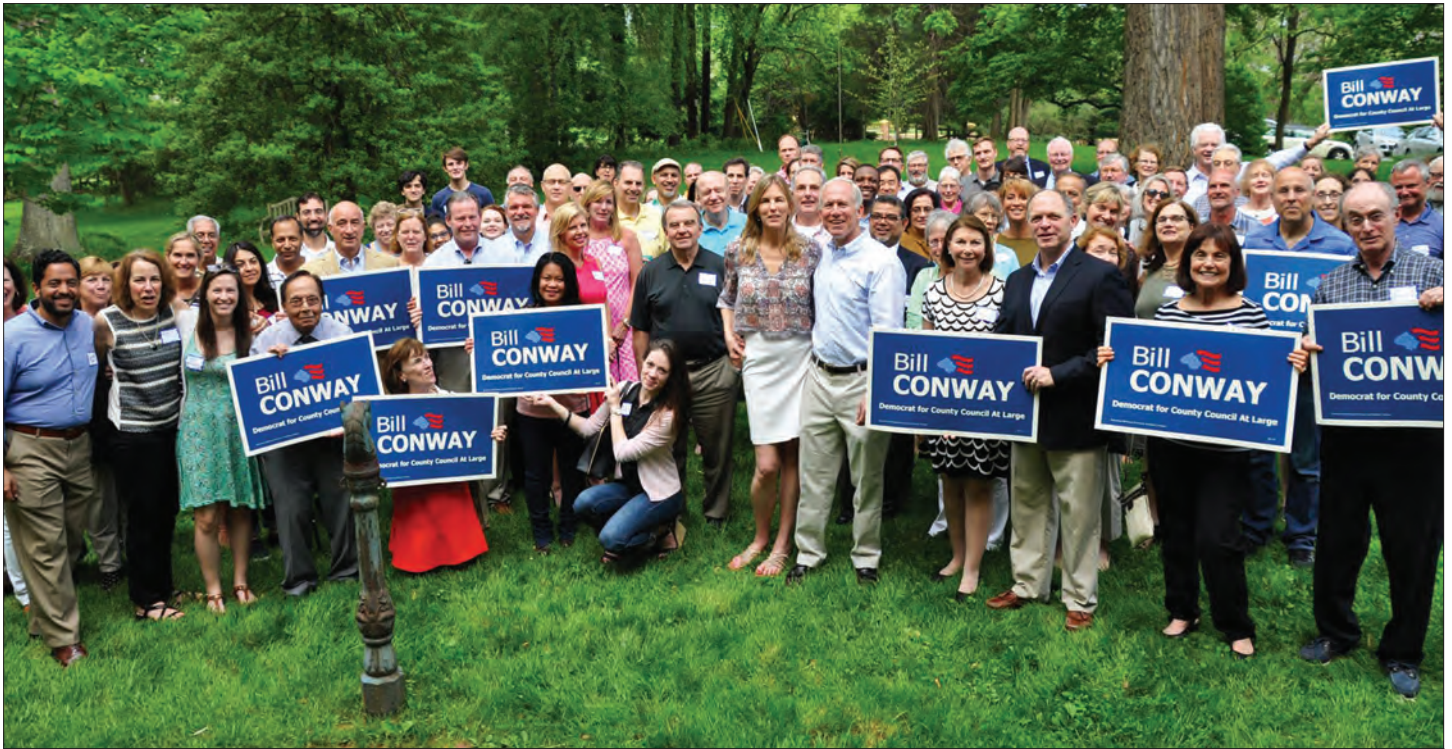
Notices/Announcements

Send your content to: davidvw@maine.rr.com



ROCKIN' THE RETIREMENT LIFE AFTER LAW FIRM: RUNNING FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY (MD) COUNCIL

BILL CONWAY



Upon his recent retirement from his energy law practice at Skadden Arps in Washington, DC, Bill Conway was inspired by national political events to try to have his own significant, positive impact at the local level by running for an At-Large seat on the Montgomery County Council (Mo-Co in local parlance). While county government isn't such a big deal in many states, in Maryland county government is where a large chunk of important policy decisions are made.

Bill's wife, Diana, has been active in MoCo politics for many years. As a Maryland pundit commented: "Bill Conway has gone from being Diana Conway's husband to being perhaps the one non-incumbent candidate that his rivals say is most likely to win." Bill is already making waves.

His campaign motto is "Finding Common Ground." The website says, "Today we live our lives in political echo chambers, and it's no wonder that our country – and our County – are so divided. There is a better path for public discourse."

For more information about Bill's campaign, see billconwayforcouncil.com Good luck, Bill! ❖



AROUND THE GIRDLED EARTH UNCORKED IN ITALY

BY ELEANOR SHANNON

After 13 years of living between Italy and the US, I'm going ex-pat in 2018 in a stone farmhouse, just outside the wall of Pienza in southern Tuscany. I spent seven years in Milan, five years on the Portofino peninsula in the fishing village of Camogli, and in 2016 moved down here, thanks to a number of friends. I'm on a sunny southern slope, between the wine towns of Montalcino and Montepulciano, looking out over the Val D'Orcia and the Monte Amiata, an extinct volcano that the ancient Etruscans believed was home to their gods.

During the years in Italy, I earned my yoga teacher certification, became a professional wine sommelier (Associazione Italiana Sommelier) and started my own wine and travel blog *Uncorked In Italy* (www.uncorkedinitaly.com). I'm also just starting to train as a 5 Rhythms Dance teacher after 10 years of dancing. (www.5rhythms.com)

Life feels full and beautiful. I'm living my dream for sure and am looking for ways to share my experience with others.

In 2018, I'm offering retreats for women in June and September in a castle on the Amiata called *The Goddess Uncorked* (<https://www.goddessuncorked.com>). The retreats are about calming your mind and coming to your senses...experiencing natural beauty...doing yoga...relaxing with massage...learning about organic/biodynamic/natural Italian wine and visiting winegrowers...tasting and learning about olive oil...cooking with a Michelin starred chef...wandering through a 30-acre outdoor sculpture museum...staying in a Renaissance castle...eating organic "farm to table" meals...baking bread...making pecorino cheese...etc.

Would love to have '79s join in!



The view from Eleanor Shannon's front yard.



Eleanor Shannon is looking decidedly uncorked in Italy.

AROUND THE GIRDLED EARTH

SHE BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE!

CAROL FROST

In January, **Carol Frost** completed a 3+ year rotation as Division Director for Earth Sciences at the **National Science Foundation** in the Washington DC area. She'll return to her faculty position at the **University of Wyoming**, first teaching in **UW's London Semester** program in the spring, then back in Laramie in the fall.

She looks forward to exchanging her dress suits for geologic field wear--ice axe, bear spray, and cool sunglasses! ❖



Carol Frost is the glamor of the Rockies in her cool sunglasses.

In The Blogosphere

Polly Ingraham: Polly writes a thoughtfully eclectic blog called *The Pastor's Wife*. She writes about nature, education, social issues, her continuing passion for ice hockey, and sometimes even religion:

www.pastorswifeblog.com

Eleanor Shannon: As mentioned in *Round The Girdled Earth*, Eleanor writes a wine and travel blog:

www.uncorkedinitaly.com

Joe Asch: For over eight years, Joe has been writing a daily blog about the College. During the week he provides news, commentary, criticism and praise for the College on the Hill, enlivened with history, culture and travel on weekends.

www.Dartblog.com

Gina Barreca: Gina writes a weekly syndicated column for the *Hartford Courant* and a regular blog for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*:
chronicle.com/blogs/conversation/author/rbarreca/

Phil Oden: Since April 2016, Phil has been entertaining interested readers with his chronicle of the restoration of his antique house on Cape Cod called *Laughing Gull Hill*. While the project is largely complete, fans of *This Old House* will enjoy Phil's blog here:

laughgullhill.wordpress.com

David Van Wie: Check out Dave's chronicle of his six-week fly-fishing & literary adventure called *The Storied Waters* tour, which he is turning into a book. Other topics include environmental issues:

www.watchyourbackcast.com

If you know of other blogs by our classmates, please send along a link to davidvw@maine.rr.com

❖

SELAMTA FAMILY PROJECT

Several 79s and their spouses including **Jim Wasz**, **Matt Donovan**, and **Debra Mitchell (79a)** have converged via separate paths to support the Selamta Family Project in Ethiopia, an organization that creates “Forever Families” made up of 8-10 orphans (all comers taken) and marginalized women who serve as mothers and aunts for the orphan children. Selamta “builds constellations” of homes to provide schooling, health care and a supportive community network for these families.

Matt reports that a young Selamta woman, Yezena Degu Donovan Endeshaw, sponsored by the Donovan family for the last 9 years, recently won a national award from *She’s The First* organization (www.shesthefirst.org), which supports females who are first in their family to finish high school. Yezena received a four-year scholarship to Brewster Academy in New Hampshire. Matt and Jim were planning to bring her to Dartmouth in January to speak to Dartmouth’s *She’s The First* chapter.

They will also meet with the King Scholar Leadership folks in the admissions office to introduce them to the Selamta Model and hopefully form a working relationship to support other children of secondary education age.

Jim Wasz serves as chairman of the Selamta Board of Directors. Jim and his wife, Joy, sponsor a Selamta girl, Tigist Girma, who also won a national award from *She’s The First*. Unfortunately, Tigist could not get a travel visa that would have enabled her to visit the US. ❖



A Selamta Family: Haileselassie House



Yezena

Coming Soon:

79TH DAY OF THE YEAR MINI-REUNIONS

Watch your mail and email for announcements about the upcoming **79th Day of the Year** gatherings and instructions to submit photos for mini, micro and virtual reunions!



For more
information:

selamtafamilyproject.org

