
The Pen and Scroll

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LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

December, 2024



Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Lenox School,

Much has happened since our last Pen and Scroll. On the positive side, we had another excellent reunion and business meeting in October. The weather was excellent, and even the fall foliage cooperated, although it wasn't quite as brilliant as previous years. Shakespeare & Co was, as always, a warm, wonderful, and welcoming host. We celebrated four outstanding alumni for the Hall of Fame awards. We learned a ton about a new partner, *A Better Chance (ABC)*, and enjoyed a spirited and uplifting presentation by Francisco Tezén, President CEO of ABC. We learned that our new Curry Fund is off to a great start and positioned to support ABC. We learned that our investments at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation are growing and well managed and the outlook for our scholarship funds remains bright. And we enjoyed a great meal and conversation with so many friends and colleagues.

But also... much has happened that isn't quite so positive. One, for example, was the presidential election. About half of the voters are delighted while the other half are distraught... and this has deepened the divide in our country. (I hate to think that we're becoming the "Not-so-much-United States.") We need to get over this and work together to achieve common goals that benefit all Americans.

We've also experienced a continuation of unsettling weather. This summer, serious hurricanes wreaked devastation and death on Florida and even North Carolina. A number of our friends and classmates live in or have property there. Keep them in mind. Hurricane Helene hit Asheville, NC hard – today, parts of the city still don't have drinking water restored. Droughts in the northeast are causing wildfires... and even in New York City! In addition, fore-

casts for the northwest predicate heavy precipitation soon, possibly blizzards. All in all, the changing climate is causing "100-year storms" several times each year. Please keep your friends, family, and colleagues who live in these areas in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers. That guy upstairs pulling the levers is telling us something. For your own well-being, plan accordingly.



In closing, I ask that we remember the LSAA's scholarship initiatives, the students, and the supporting gift opportunities at this gift-giving time of year. Also keep in mind that "the end is near" – our last reunion is two years away.

Stay well. I wish all a rewarding, healthy, and joyful Holiday Season and a prosperous, safe, and Happy New Year. Drive safely!

Don Foster '63

The President's Message

"Back where it all began, with the people who shaped who we are."

~ Unk.



On the right - Bob Kline - '48 and Master.
On the left - Jay Montgomery '49 (his 75th legacy reunion year!) ... Together Again!

Absolutely incredible! It gets better every year! This reunion was characterized by the joyfulness and energy from all alums and friends as we joined our good friends and hosts from Shakespeare & Co. for this annual return to Lenox.

For a school closed now for over 53 years, this improbable gathering of the Lenox School Band of Brothers becomes the inevitable every year as we find our way back to our old campus in the Berkshires to enunciate yet again the enduring legacy and meaning that Lenox School, its motto, and the selfless and dedicated masters imparted to us.

Once again, our cup runneth over! The class of '64 thundered in for their 60th amidst a sea of other alums and friends honoring our alma mater, remembering those that are no longer with us during the 'Missing Person' ceremony, and rededicating ourselves to fulfilling the commitment to achieve the legacy fund goal so that the timeless lesson and legacy of Lenox School can carry on in perpetuity.

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The Great Lenox School Class of 1964



Table Set With Lenox School Flag for Missing Person Remembrance Ceremony

Arthur Richardson '64 led us in the annual reading of Howard Prestwich's ('61) timeless and poignant "Prayer For A Lenox Reunion." Howard's words truly touch our hearts and become more meaningful each year as we gather.

Here is an extract of this powerful prayer:

Eagerly we have travelled so far,
for surely as any Thursday in November,
this is a day of Thanksgiving.
For after all these years
Lenox school is in reunion,
and God, it feels great.

In Western Massachusetts,
 nestled in the Berkshire hills,
 she was but a small school.
 But on many a day,
 the golden sun shines on her.
 And it shines on me, and it shines on you,
 and it shone so brightly that day in June
 when we walked between the masters there.

So let us recall those days,
 but only those days when the sun was shining
 and our school mates were smiling.
 Thank you for the gracious gift of memory.
 Don't cry for us, Lenox School.
 The truth is, we never left you.

“Good parents give their children Roots and Wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what’s been taught them.”

~Jonas Salk

Lenox School, the Masters and families were essentially “loco parentis” for us while we attended; and Lenox School was indeed home to us. As such, when we matriculated (flew away) they gave us wings to fly in our chosen direction. But they also gave us roots. For many of us, that was the enduring motto of service.

The “roots” all came back during this reunion. While there were many highlights, one that truly stood out was both moving, meaningful and powerful in that it reminded us of the essence of Lenox School, its motto and the lessons and roots that our little school imparted to us.

Long before providing an outreach and opportunity to children from families or communities whose access to a boarding school education like Lenox was limited; and before it became more popular/ubiquitous and possible to open avenues for this, Lenox School was in the vanguard of this effort due to the wisdom of The Rev. Robert Curry.

Through the persistence and prescience of Headmaster Curry and the Masters of Lenox School early on, they connected Lenox School with *A Better Chance* as a founding member school for this effort at the outset.

To connect their foresight to our current efforts, we have

established the Curry Fund as a part of the Legacy Fund, that will now allow alums and others to make contributions in direct support of the following:

“The Curry Fund will support national organizations, such as A Better Chance (ABC), that broaden educational opportunities for students whose access to independent secondary schools has historically been limited. Lenox School brought boys together from many backgrounds, geographies, and ethnicities to live together, learn together, and understand and respect each other, all in service to others, long before other schools understood the importance of doing so.”

In this regard, we were honored to have ABC’s President and CEO, Francisco J. Tezén join us during the reunion luncheon and provide his perspective and comments regarding ABC and our reconnection with them via establishment of the Curry Fund.

We of course provided Francisco with a Lenox shirt and pin, thus converting him to an honorary Lenox Boy in the process!

From my last P&S, I want to reprise the extracted quotes I included from David Wood, as they are in 100% allegiance with our current Curry Fund initiative and reconnection with ABC:

“... by admitting ‘all sorts of conditions of men’ an interesting and often exciting community was created, and even today when alumni get together, there is a feeling that Lenox School was as much a cause as a school. Its motto still seems the noblest of them all: ‘Non ministrari sed ministrare’ or ‘Not to be served but to serve’ ... ‘But in a very real sense for me, Lenox School never died.’ ...”

This picture represents the very much alive Lenox School:



Francisco Tezén, President and CEO of *A Better Chance* addresses an attentive audience during the LSAA luncheon

None of this outreach effort is possible of course without the generous donations from alums and others, for which we are truly grateful.

In concert with this, there are members of the LSAA board who have relentlessly gone the extra mile to ensure that the fund drive in general was headed for success, and that this reconnection with ABC was made possible.

They have distinguished themselves by having a lifelong legacy of service to others throughout their careers, and stand as a living example the essential part of our motto: "Sed Ministrare" (But to Serve).

It was for their tireless efforts to support LSAA; and their dedication and lifelong example of service to others that they were honored as the latest inductees to the LSAA Hall of Fame.



Left To Right - Ira Colby '67; Fred Lavenberg '70; John Risley '67; David Nathans '68



Of course, there were so many other memorable and meaningful moments and events at this reunion, such as:

Shakespeare & Co's Allyn Burrows briefing us on current and future endeavors of S&Co; after

which we provided him with the David Wood Scholarship for their youth training program; as well as a donation to S&Co from LSAA as profound thanks for their warm friendship and assistance to LSAA throughout the many years that they have been a steward of the campus.

Joe Baker from Berkshire Taconic Community Fund provided an excellent review of the Lenox School Legacy fund
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handled by BTCF, as well as comments from his perspective on other economic issues.



What reunion would be complete without our hymn sing at Trinity Church?

There are now only two LSAA supported reunions left (2025 and 2026). 2026 will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of Lenox School (1926-2026). It will also be the finish line for meeting the goals for the Legacy Fund campaign.



The catering was incredible. Did I mention there was cake?

I urge you to donate what you can now as we are ever so close to achieving this Legacy Fund financial goal that will provide scholarships, donations, and support for maintaining the LSAA website in perpetuity in order to share with the world the history and legacy of our amazing school. This includes your history as well, as all the yearbooks and other information have been digitized and included in the website.

None of us are getting younger, so please stay well, and make it a priority to be with us for both upcoming reunions! In the interim, I wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Next Reunion: 17 - 18 October 2025 - Save the Date!

Bob Sansone '68

Bob

Treasurer's Report

First, thanks to those who contributed to our LSAA administrative fund and to our Legacy Fund at Berkshire Taconic. Those contributions are much appreciated.

As of November 18, 2024, our administrative fund looks like this:

Checking:	\$4,871.87
Savings:	<u>2,252.08</u>
Total:	\$7,123.95

Our LSAA funds are on deposit with the Community Bank in Barre, Vermont. Bob Sansone and I are the authorized signatories.

Reunion expenses and Reunion contributions (to Shakespeare and Company and to Trinity Church) were significant expenditures, so we're a little low on funds going into 2025. I expect year-end donations will help get us to a comfortable level once again. Those able to make (tax deductible) contributions to our administrative fund can send a check, payable to LSAA, at:

6130 N. Via del Tecaco
Tucson AZ 85718

I'll be in Arizona until May.

For those drawing from retirement accounts, please keep in mind that you can make a qualified charitable deduction (QCD) from your minimum required distribution (RMD), and still either itemize or take your standard deduction on your 2024 tax return. Doing it this way can achieve significant tax savings.

Best wishes to all for the holidays, and the upcoming New Year! Hope to see you in Lenox next October!

Edward A. Miller, Jr. '66
LSAA Treasurer
November 2024

Letters to the Editor

David Curry '65 writes...

When Lenox men return to campus, if they listen closely, they will hear Jeff Greiner's laugh at the soccer and lacrosse field but particularly at the hockey pond. Jeff was larger than life not only on our campus but on the opponents campus.

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There wasn't a thing he wouldn't do for his fellow students. I don't think there is a Lenox man who hasn't got a Jeff Greiner story.

As a fellow hockey player, me a defense, Jeff would advance on us and let that slap shot fly. I was some happy when Ed Gleason move Jeff from the line back onto defense. My ankles were relieved.

Good bye my friend. I will miss you. I hope we meet again.

David Curry '65

Rob Akscyn '65 writes...

For the past several years I have visited Shakespeare & Company seven times --- to learn how I could be supportive of their mission. As a result I know the leadership there quite well --- as we've had a number of great conversations (and walkabouts). As is my way (inculcated as an infantry soldier in the Army, beginning with being an airborne infantry sergeant in 1968, when I was twenty, and later an infantry officer after I graduated from West Point in 1973 (along with Bob) --- wherever I go for days-or-more, I 'walk the terrain' traipsing through just about everywhere within the square mile. Given I was at Lenox '61 through '64, I know the property there quite well, and each time I go back I do even more studying.

Among the topics I have discussed with the S&C leadership is their desire to add more residential space, as they mentioned that they could take on more students, if only they had the space to house them. As I have been studying the problem of homelessness for a decade, especially regarding vets (approximately 40,000 remain unsheltered) I have spent significant time designing and prototyping a room-sized tiny house prototype that is based on the structure of a Rubik's Cube. That design is now highly developed --- with a take-no-prisoners approach to reducing cost --- as it is cost that is one of the principal bottlenecks that prevents our cities to scale up to the scope of the national needs (the other bottleneck is zoning which is the purview of city councils).

And so over the course of a number of visits I proposed to the S&C leadership to consider the notion of constructing a number of "NiceCubes" and tucking them in various cubby holes around the campus, making some deer hunter inconspicuous (to extent desired) while others are deliberately 'glam': "hamlet's Hut", Goldilocks Slept Here, and other storybook appeal that not only would be fancifully fun, but

also bring in tourist traffic for overnight AirBnB stays --- as is now done for Lawrence Hall when space if available. And so I've continued to putter forward on this idea, incrementally nudging it forward each time I visit.

Akin to my familiarity with residential space needs, I am quite familiar with the financial status of the company --- as they bring that subject up every visit. This knowledge, combined with my wish to see St. Martins get back to being used (such as informal office space for S&C, as the library is one giant 'everyone hears everything' cubicle) I have spend approximately 80 hours total working inside the building, by doing a day or two of clean up activities each time I visit. Thus I know quite a bit about the state-of-the-building and the rate of progress one can make (hour by hour) using elbow grease to spruce up the building (which has to be done no matter the uses decided).

Along the way of doing cleaning, I conceived of a screenplay concept that I call "**The Lads of Lenox**" (synopsis below) that could possibly be a way for S&C to get significant funds from a major studio --- should it decides the story (or variant) I came up with is worthy of being produced. Among the fanciful notions I've considered for the plot, is that for old times sake, us old timers reenact the production of "Lord of the Flies" that we produced in the early sixties, written by Mr. Wood if I am correct) --- and to have that production be done inside the now-abandoned pool building (the pool now filled with sand for safety reasons --- and thus already a great set for this story as so much happens on a beach. Not only could great lighting be installed in the overhead roof for with-audience productions, but also the lighting one would wish for making a movie. In the ideal play (for which I have the original script --- and transcribing) would be performed every year, possibly with local youth (S&C works annually with kids who have gotten in trouble).

***** For the sake of your time, I now power down.

Look forward to your thoughts about the idea of developing the above outline more thoroughly, including with some photos, for prospective publishing in the Pen & Scroll,

Sincerely,
Rob

P.S. Here is a synopsis for "**The Lads of Lenox**"

"**The Lads of Lenox**" (feature film) tells the story of how the remaining graduates of "Lenox School for Boys", now in

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their twilight years, convened at their Berkshires-of-Massachusetts, long-shuttered alma mater --- and over the course of a summer of warm camaraderie and reminiscing restored the flagship building of their schoolboy years to its former glory (despite a villainous mortgage holder wishing to snare the campus for himself) in order to found a new Academy like the one that formed them and their lives --- sixty years earlier.

Their motivation was to found a new school --- "Lenox Academy for the Arts" --- in partnership with Shakespeare & Company --- to provide academic scholastics for young adults centered on the performative concepts of theatre (class instruction accomplished primarily by student presentations --- for a classically-structured curriculum).

Within its first two years of operation, the joint venture was off-and-running amassing an endowment well over ten million, an enrollment of three hundred 'happy-as-heck' young adults, and an astounding track record of academic achievement that resulted from letting students learn the highly-structured curriculum just as fast as they wish.

As a result of its achievements, the Academy now has a waiting list of thousands of young boys and girls from around the world who just can't wait to someday be 'part-of-the-pack'.

Playfully nicknaming themselves "Skunks", the students are deeply dedicated to the development of breakthrough social-and-engineering innovations --- for successfully addressing the principal challenges confronting twenty-first century civilization --- such as global warming and climate change, systemic poverty and societal discord.

Rob Akscyn '65

Other News

A Better Chance

On Reunion Saturday, we were delighted to welcome Francisco Tezén, President and Chief Executive Officer of A Better Chance (ABC) for lunch, followed by an address and a lively question and answer session. A graduate of Wesleyan University and The New School, Francisco spoke to us about transformative opportunity. He described how, as an eager young student in New York City, with a

supportive family from Peru and Georgia, the Oliver Scholars Program, an initiative inspired by ABC, redirected the course of his life by opening his eyes - and his access - to resources he had never known existed.

Francisco also spoke to us about the unique nature of Lenox's renewed and evolving collaboration with ABC. He noted that Lenox was one of ABC's original partner schools when ABC was established in 1963, sharing a vision of serving boys from many different backgrounds so that they could live, learn and play together. Sixty years later, Francisco stated that the LSAA, through its Legacy Campaign and the establishment of **The Curry Fund**, now can serve as a model for schools across the country, showing them how to engage their alumni to open doors of opportunity and experience for others.

~ John Risley '67 and Jeff Smith '70

Editor's note: ABC's newsletter is reprinted with permission.



FALL NEWSLETTER

[Website](#) | [Match Donation](#) | [Donate](#)

Dear John,

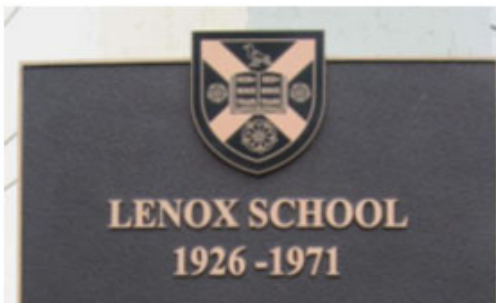
As the school year begins, our Scholars are embarking on exciting new chapters. While some are returning to familiar classrooms, others are stepping into new environments as they start their academic journeys. Meanwhile, our young Alumni are beginning their own adventures in colleges and graduate programs across the country. Each of them is supported by the strength of our community, united in the mission to help students of color access transformative educational experiences.

At our Member Schools, education extends far beyond the classroom. Scholars are immersed in an array of extracurricular activities that help them discover new passions and hone their skills. From sports like soccer, swimming, and tennis to creative outlets such as pottery and photography, students are encouraged to explore a wide variety of interests. Clubs and special interest groups—ranging from robotics and leadership to cinema clubs and chess—offer Scholars the chance to build meaningful connections with peers and pursue their passions in a supportive environment. These are the opportunities that A Better Chance strives to provide, not just to help students excel academically, but to foster personal growth and while preparing Scholars to be leaders.



Scholar Highlight

Tripp D., an eighth grader at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia is one of A Better Chance's many exceptional Scholars. At school, Tripp serves on the Athletic Advisory Council and the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Advisory Council, developing skills in analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Beyond school, Tripp was a top ten Atlanta Finalist in the Frank Ski Planet Green Science Competition and attended a STEM conference at Georgia Tech. We are thrilled to see our Scholars thrive, excel, and explore their passions. Explore more of our Scholar's highlights on [Instagram](#) and we encourage you to share your Scholar's accomplishments with us at media@abetterchance.org.



Member School Tribute

We are honored to highlight the Lenox School, one of the original 31 schools to partner with A Better Chance. Founded in 1926 by the Rev. G. Gardner Monks, Lenox was an independent boarding school for young men in 9th through 12th grades and



2024 Benefit Dinner

We invite you to join us at our 2024 Fall Benefit Dinner honoring David Grain and Hakim Thompson! This year, the dinner will be held at Gotham Hall in New York City on October 21st, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Our Benefit Dinner is our biggest celebration of

was located in Lenox, Massachusetts. Enrollment at Lenox ranged from 150-250 students.

Under the Leadership of the Rev. Robert L. Curry, who served as headmaster from 1946-1969, the Lenox School recognized and drew strength from a community of students of differing races, cultures, religions, ethnicities, and family backgrounds. Lenox hosted 23 A Better Chance Scholars during our earliest years.

Although the school had to close its doors in 1972, the Lenox School Alumni Association remains active and committed to its legacy of community and service by contributing to educational organizations throughout the country. With the youngest Lenox graduates now well into their 70s, the Alumni Association launched their Legacy Campaign in 2021 to help support organizations that are committed to expanding educational opportunities for students of color. A Better Chance values the Lenox School's ongoing support, and you can learn more about the school's history through their alumni website www.lenoxschool.org.

the year, where we gather to honor the progress we've made in expanding access in education—progress made possible through the steadfast support of our community. This event promises to be an excellent opportunity to connect, celebrate our Scholars, and enjoy an evening of dining and community-building.

This year's Scholar Award Recipients are:

Jeamilett Martinez - Judith Berry Award

Sofia Gauna-Torres - Nancy J. Lucas Award

Jaiden Jefferson - The Sandra E. Timmons Award

Our Visentin Scholar Award winners are:

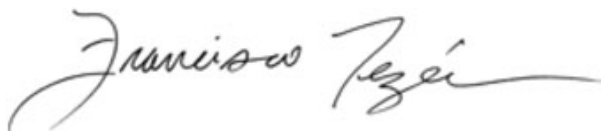
Arianna Nelson

Chloe Hayden

For additional information, sponsorship opportunities, and how to secure your ticket, visit: abetterchance.org/benefit-dinner or email development@abetterchance.org. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Celebrate with Us

In Service,



Francisco Tezén

President and CEO of A Better Chance

The Lenox School Centennial Funds Update

Our Centennial Legacy Fund, and the newly introduced Curry Fund, honors the School's tradition of service to others. The two funds are accepting contributions through Reunions 2026 and the 100th Anniversary of the School's founding.

Specifically, the Legacy Fund Mission Statement reads:

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

The Reverend Robert L. Curry Fund Mission Statement reads:

The Curry Fund will support national organizations, such as A Better Chance (ABC), that broaden educational opportunities for students whose access to independent secondary schools has historically been limited. Lenox School brought boys together from many backgrounds, geographies, and ethnicities to live together, learn together, and understand and respect each other, all in service to others, long before other schools understood the importance of doing so. Distributions from the Curry Fund will be used mainly to provide scholarship support to students attending such schools.

The Lenox School Legacy Fund intends to follow in the tradition of the LSAA current giving pattern in providing financial support for two-students annually at Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, for Trinity Episcopal Church, and for Shakespeare and Company, both of Lenox. These have been among the LSAA's core beneficiaries for more than 20 years. The Legacy Fund will also support the on-going maintenance of the website containing the history, important documents, and memorabilia of Lenox School. The Curry Fund intentions are much more focused; the investment returns will provide access for students primarily through scholarship support.

Reporting on the numbers, as November 10, 2024, more than 47 donors have contributed \$368,619 to our Legacy. The Curry Funds, opened in September 2024, has four donors and \$13,244 in gifts. Adding this to the \$51,500 in outstanding pledges promised over the next three-plus years gives us a combined gift total of \$433,363. We have

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reached over 72% of our \$600,000 goal in gifts and pledges with just under two years left in the campaign. Please know that an additional single planned bequest (made via will) of \$50,000 and a second unspecified testamentary gift is not included in these totals. We are incredibly pleased with the generosity of Lenox School alumni, faculty, family, and friends.

In conclusion, the Legacy and Curry Funds had a total appreciated balance of \$440,420 as of the last quarterly statement on September 30, 2024.

For any questions or additional information about the Curry Fund opportunity, please contact either John Risley '67 (413-531-7755 or jrisley2@comcast.net) or Jeff Smith '70 (917-494-5341 or jeffsmith230@aol.com).

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

Ways to Give to the Centennial Legacy and Curry Funds

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

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

Online Gifts: To make an online gift with a credit card, use the following links:

For Legacy: https://berkshiretaconic.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1676

For Curry: https://berkshiretaconic.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=4301

Cash/Stock/IRA Gifts/Bequests and Other Planned Gifts: To wire a gift of cash, appreciated securities, or a required minimum distribution from a retirement account, please

contact Kelly Sweet, Community Engagement Officer at BTCF. Kelly is also the person to contact for help with bequests or other planned and deferred gifts. Kelly can be reached directly at 413-717-7036 or at ksweet@berkshires-taconic.org.

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

~ David Nathans '68,
on behalf of the Centennial Funds Campaign Committee

Miss Hall's Students Named Pickett Scholars By Lenox School Alumni Association

Miss Hall's School announces that seniors Idalis De Jesus, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Willa Dowling-Paul, of Hinsdale, Massachusetts, have been named by the Lenox School Alumni Association as recipients of this year's Mansfield Pickett Scholarships.

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

Idalis, the daughter of Miosotty Baez and Ricardo De Jesus, is an Admissions Ambassador, Big, and Proctor. She is an active member in the MHS dance program and served on last year's Prom Committee. She has also performed with the MHS Theater Ensemble in the productions of *Men in Boats* and *Mary Poppins*.

Willa, the daughter of Sara Paul and Michael Dowling, is Senior Class President, an Admission Ambassador and a Big, and co-Head of the Jewish Affinity Group and of Grace Notes, the School's a cappella singing group. She is a captain of the varsity softball team, and she performed in the Theater Ensemble production of *Matilda*.

Mr. Pickett, who died in 1996, was beloved by students and faculty alike. The father of Tabitha Pickett Vahle, MHS Class of 1978, and grandfather of Wendy Panchy, MHS Class of 1985, Mr. Pickett taught Latin and English at Miss Hall's

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From L to R: Sky Goodrich (64); John Risley (67); Willa Dowling-Paul; Idalis De Jesus; Paul Denzel (67); Bob Sansone (68); Julia Heaton Head of School.

from 1973 to 1992. He also served as MHS Director of Development from 1973 to 1975.

The Lenox School Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the spirit and camaraderie of Lenox School, which was an independent, all-boy secondary school founded in 1926. The school operated on the grounds of what is today the home of Shakespeare & Company.

About Miss Hall's School

Founded in 1898 — one of the first girls' boarding schools in Massachusetts — Miss Hall's School is recognized internationally for its experiential leadership curriculum, service and internship programs, and inclusive global community. Miss Hall's is committed to its mission of inspiring and encouraging each girl to pursue the highest standards of learning and character; to contribute boldly and creatively to the common good; and to seek a purposeful life based on honor, respect, growth, and personal authenticity. Guided by this mission and sharpened by daily practice, Miss Hall's continuously reimagines girl-centered education to foster a pioneering intellectual spirit and authentic engagement among students and adults.

Located in the Berkshires, the School currently enrolls 205 girls in grades 9-12, with students from 23 countries and 11 states learning and living together as global citizens.

~ David Smith
Director of Communications
Miss Hall's School

LSAA Annual Meeting Minutes 19 October 2024

Opening remarks by Bob Sansone.

We received an update on the campus by Shakespeare & Co's Allyn and Steve. Presented below is a piece from the *Berkshire Eagle* describing some changes afoot.

LENOX — Five years ago, Shakespeare & Company hatched a vision to partner with a developer or other nonprofit to help clean up and revamp its 32-acre campus on Kemble Street. Much of its sprawling property is unused and pock-marked with several structures that have seen better days.

Now, real estate developer David Carver, a partner with CT Management Group in North Adams and Pittsfield, has stepped up to the plate with a collaboration that Shakespeare & Company is embracing, according to Artistic Director Allyn Burrows and Carver. Subject to a review and approval by the Lenox Zoning Board, the collaborative goal is to convert the campus into a condominium association to include the theater company's stages: The Tina Packer Playhouse, Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, the Roman Garden Theatre, and the Arthur S. Waldstein Amphitheatre.

"The idea is that Shakespeare & Company maintains its majority interest in the condominium association," Burrows explained in a briefing for *The Eagle* with Carver. "It's his brainchild. He would be the brains and we would be the brawn."

"It represents a shoring-up of our activities here, reinforces that we want to be right here on this property in a very vital way," Burrows said.

After a series of meetings, "it's evolved into something that may have legs going forward," Carver said.

The "CT" in CT Management stands for Carver, who runs the investment side, and his son-in-law, Peter Ticconi, who specializes in condominium management.

If approved by the Zoning Board, the development plan takes Shakespeare & Company "on the road toward continued stabilization," Burrows said.

"It's a concept a long time coming and waiting to happen," he said. "Because it also secures this property under the aegis of Shakespeare & Company, we feel that it really works well with our mission."

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"The concept is to keep these Great Estates together and intact," Carver said. "But there are more properties and square footage than Shakespeare & Company can really use. [The theater company] should be working on the theater business, not real estate."

For outside investors to come in and to solidify the theater company's ownership of the land, Carver said, the association would be created through legal documents creating a business condominium. For example, it could be called Shakespeare Village Condominiums, he suggested.

The theater group would own the condo units, while the association, run by Shakespeare & Company's board of trustees, would own the land. Condo purchasers would pay a percentage of common-area maintenance costs.

Carver emphasized that the theater company's trustees would remain in full control of the overall property, including open spaces and any new or renovated buildings on the site.

He stressed that the concept ensures that "nothing really changes in terms of control and ownership" because the theater company "owns all the condo units from day one and runs the association."

"They're in full control," Carver said.

What's the benefit and payoff for Shakespeare & Company?

"It gives us a lot of flexibility of ownership," Burrows said. "So even if we were to sell a bunch of buildings, Shakespeare & Company would own the majority interest, no matter what, of the physical plant on the property."

Burrows described the concept as "the difference between someone selling off and someone buying in."

"If someone wants to buy a building and fix it up, then they're buying into the whole project here, there's a kind of cohesiveness to it. We want to be really good stewards of this property, we want to make our activities here flourish in a way that really fits the community and keeps us as good neighbors," he said.

The condo units could be business or residential, Carver noted, "because under state law, a condo is a condo." "What a 'condo' means is all the land is held in common, run by a board of trustees. And then there are individual unit owners, more of a homeowner association because

everybody is responsible for maintaining their own building, and they can do whatever they want with the building. The condo association takes care of the land," he said.

Owners of a business or residential condo would pay a fee to the association, based on the square footage of the unit.

During a tour of the campus, the partners pointed out an undeveloped, four-acre rectangular parcel that fronts on Old Stockbridge Road, which would be ideal as a site for four individual, modest-sized one-story residential houses to fill a housing demand, especially for "older folks," as Carver suggested.

For that spot, the houses likely would be built on spec by Carver's company and sold as condo units on a self-contained portion of "Shakespeare Village."

The proceeds would be divided, according to a formula, between the theater troupe and Carver's company.

That would be phase one of the concept, laying the groundwork for "tons of business and residential possibilities for the theater to bring in other investors," Carver said.

One potential investment example on campus is the never-used, 6,000-square-foot swimming pool building built by the Bible Speaks group when it owned the property in the late 1970s and 1980s. That structure could be converted into a covered pavilion that Shakespeare & Company could use as an event space.

CT Management sees potential in renovating South Cottage, located near the 70 Kemble St. entrance, into two townhouse-style residential units. St. Martin Hall, designed by famed 19th-century architect Stanford White, also has considerable potential for housing after renovation, Burrows said.

The Zoning Board is expected to begin its review of the overall plan at a meeting to be scheduled in October. The Shakespeare & Company property is under an amended special permit dating back to the unsuccessful National Music Foundation plan for the site in the 1990s.

In 2000, the theater company bought the property, then nearly 63 acres, from the foundation for \$3.5 million. In 2005, Shakespeare and Company sold off about 30 acres for nearly \$4 million, including the Spring Lawn Mansion, to buyers who proposed to develop a hotel and restaurant there, but the project never came to pass.

Shakespeare & Company hopes condos and houses on campus hold the key to financial stability — they just have to get the zoning board to agree

~ Clarence Fanto, Berkshire Eagle

Reports -

Financial Report – Ed Miller
See separate article

Scholarship Donations Report - Bob Sansone, Fritz Eckel, and Paul Denzel.
See separate article

Lenox School Centennial Legacy Fund Update
See separate article

New Business

A special presentation from Francisco Tezén, President and CEO of **A Better Chance** and Q&A after Lunch

"Nomination and election of LSAA Board (directors and officers)."

LSAA Board: Directors Standing for Re-Election:

David Curry '65	Ed Miller '66
Paul Denzel '67	Bob Sansone '68
Dave Nathans '68	John Schneiter '68
Don Foster '63	Allen Sloane '67
Randy Harris '68	Jeff Smith '70
Fred Lavenberg '70	Oliver Kempton '70
Frederick Eckel '65	John Risley '67
Ira Colby '67	

The following individuals, per LSAA by-laws, are standing for re-election to serve as officers for the LSAA board for a 1 year term (expiring on Oct 18 2025):

Bob Sansone '68 – President
Paul Denzel '67 – Vice President
Ed Miller '66 – Treasurer*
Fred Lavenberg '70 – Secretary

All candidates were nominated, seconded, and approved by meeting attendees.

Lenox School Memorabilia, Digitization and Website Update – Bob Sansone

~ Fred Lavenberg '70, Secretary

In Memoriam

Christopher Kinchla '66

Christopher T. Kinchla, of Newton, passed away on December 20, 2023. Son of the late C. Everett Kinchla and Evangeline S. Kinchla; brother of Timothy T. Kinchla and his wife, Barbara; an uncle to James E. Kinchla and family, and Mark S. Kinchla and family.



Chris was the Owner of Beacon Hill Skate, Charles Street South, Boston. He provided roller skates, skateboards and all their parts as well as ice skates for all enthusiasts. Chris was an Honorably Discharged member of the U.S. Coast Guard. He was also a member of the New England Lacrosse Referees Association as well as a member of the Eastern Mass. Chapter of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association. He was an avid golfer and fisherman.

To share a memory of Chris, visit www.eatonfuneralhomes.com Eaton Funeral Home 781-444-0201

David George Tobler '70

David George Tobler of Brunswick, Ga. passed away the morning of August 24, 2024 at the St. Simons Island home of his son, Paul, and his family. David was born on February 22, 1952 in Bay Shore, Long Island N.Y. to Eugenia

Bailey and George Paul Tobler. He was the youngest of his siblings, Paul Effingham and Kay Madalyn.



David excelled in school and in athletics. He went to Harbor Country Day School in St. James, Long Island, then Lenox School for Boys in Massachusetts and graduated from George Washington University with a degree in history. The person

he admired most in history was our first president, and he felt lucky to have been born on the same day we celebrate Washington's birthday.

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

Among the sports David played in high school were football and baseball. He also grew to love golf, learning it from his father at an early age and quickly excelling at it. As an adult, there's nothing he liked more than to be out on the golf course on St. Simon's Island hitting an epically long drive. He passed on his passion for golf to his son Paul, who was his favorite golfing buddy. David also embarked as an adult playing rugby for nearly two decades as a member of the Golden Isles Hammerheads. He kept playing, as many ruggers do, until a massive leg fracture ended his playing career. Many of those teammates remain his best buddies to this day.

He married Catherine Grobert in August, 1984 on the beach on the New Jersey coast. They lived in Southport, North Carolina, where Paul David Tobler was born, and then after a few years moved to Brunswick where they lived on Union Street in an old Victorian home. David put many years into painting and restoring the house where his mother and grandmother eventually came to live, as well.

David worked in the insurance business for most of his life, first on Long Island with his father then in Brunswick in an independent company George had established. For a short time, he worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company but liked working for a small company more.

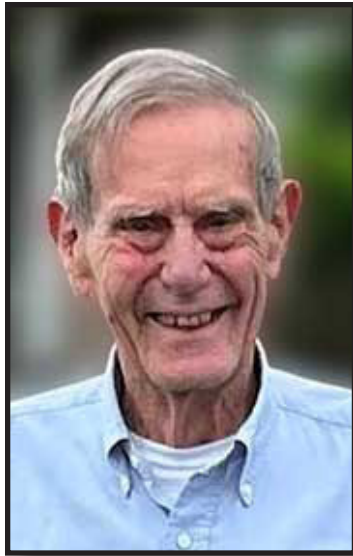
In recent years, he cherished being around his two grandchildren, George Paul and Grace Phillips. David is survived by them, their father, Paul (wife Carly), his sister, Kay, his nephew Forrest Liss, and favorite cousin, Jim Jones.

Frederick Charles Norton '52

Frederick Charles Norton, 90, of Valparaiso and formerly of Essex Junction, VT, passed away Wednesday, August 14, 2024. He was born August 7, 1934 in Tsingtao, China the son of John Randall and Josephine (Graves) Norton. A Veteran of the U.S. Army, Fred graduated from the University of Vermont and made his career as a chemist with IBM in Vermont. While in Essex Junction, VT, he was an active member at St. James Episcopal Church and then became a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Valparaiso. Fred was a Boy Scout Leader for many years sharing his enjoyment of the outdoors. Along with being an outdoorsman, he was an avid reader, history buff, and enjoyed trivia.

On October 22, 1960, Frederick married Alice Jean Gibbs who preceded him on December 25, 2020. He is survived

by his children, Ellen E. Roetker, John Randall "Randy" (Lori) Norton II, and David F. Norton; grandchildren, Josiah (Lyndsey), Jon (Carly), and Nicole Roetker, John Randall "Jack (Komal) Norton III, Clarice (Seiler) Hess, and Alex, Natalie, and Eric Norton; great grandson, Jameson Roetker; and many nieces and nephews of the Berger and Gibbs families. Frederick was also preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Josephine (Jere) Berger.



In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the Boys Scouts of America. Please indicate in memorandum of Frederick Norton of Essex Junction, Vermont.

Robert Beisler '56

Robert Beisler, 85, of Mahwah, NJ passed away peacefully at home on April 21, 2023 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was born in Englewood, NJ to Marcia (née



Stoughton) and Joseph Beisler and lived his early years in Bergenfield, NJ before moving to Harrington Park, NJ, where he later met and married Marilyn, his wife of 56 years. He served in the US Army from 1961-1964, stationed in Straubing, Germany. After leaving the Army, he worked as an avionics/electronic technician at Aircraft Radio Corporation in Boonton, NJ, Interconti-

national Dynamics Corporation (Kollman Instruments) in Englewood, NJ, Innerspace Technology in Waldwick, NJ and Tel-Instrument Electronics in E. Rutherford, NJ, retiring in 2013. After retirement he spent summers at his camp on Mooselookmeguntic Lake in Oquossoc, Maine, where he loved to fish and sit on the porch enjoying the beauty and tranquility of the Maine woods. He was a member of the

Saddle River Reformed Church (Old Stone Church) in Upper Saddle River, NJ and a lifetime member of Sons of the Revolution.

A kind and gentle soul, he was the beloved husband of Marilyn (née Egbert), devoted father of Susan and Robert (Kathleen) and Pop-pop to grandchildren Matthew, Daniel and Sydney. He is also survived by his brothers Peter of Cumberland, Maine, and David of Jamesville, NY, and his nieces and nephew. He was predeceased by his parents Marcia and Joseph Beisler.

Visitation will be on Friday, April 28, 2023 from 3-7 p.m. at Van Emburgh-Sneider-Pernice Funeral Home in Ramsey, NJ. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Saddle River Reformed Church in Upper Saddle River, followed by interment in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Geoffrey David Greiner '65

Geoffrey David Greiner, known affectionately as Jeff, passed away on November 9, 2024, at the age of 78 in Pahrump, Nevada. Born on December 10, 1945, in Torrington, Connecticut, Jeff grew up in Lenox, Massachusetts, where he completed his high school education.

Jeff served proudly in the Marine Corps, completing one tour in Vietnam, a testament to his dedication and bravery. After his military service, he embarked on a career as an Operating Engineer, a role that highlighted his hardworking and meticulous nature.

Jeff was known for his sense of humor, love for social gatherings, and irreverent charm that made him beloved by many. His personality was a beacon of joy in the lives of those around him.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Susan, and daughters, Sarah and Gina, and his brother Mike (Lenox '66). Jeff was preceded in death by his mother, Frieda, father, George, and sister, Judy. His legacy of love, laughter, and dedication to his family and country will be cherished and remembered by all who knew him.



Photo credit: David Smith, Miss Hall's School

Bob Sansone and LSAA members meet with families of Pickett Scholarship recipients Idalis De Jesus and Willa Dowling-Paul and MHS administrators.

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