

Peg Board

THE MAGAZINE OF DARROW SCHOOL
SUMMER 2025



DARROW'S TAKING OFF

Head of School Andy Vadnais on the wing—a reminder that learning at Darrow knows no ceiling.



OUR MISSION

Darrow School is dedicated to serving students with diverse backgrounds and abilities. We build on each student's individual talents and interests to inspire and build confidence in their success in college and life.



Peg Board

THE ALUMNI EDITION

Darrow is the only school in the United States located on the site of a historic Shaker village.

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A POTENTIAL MISSING PIECE?

By Andy Vadnais

The Mount Lebanon Shakers left more than just historic buildings and a beautiful landscape when they transferred their property to The Lebanon School in 1930. They also left, perhaps, one of the most important examples in American history of the benefits of community living. C. Lambert Heyniger and his wife sought to emulate this sense of community when they purchased the school in 1938 and changed its name to Darrow School, in honor of the first family, that of David Darrow, to gift their extensive farm holdings to form the beginnings of the Mount Lebanon Shaker community here.

In 1904, in the last public statement of the Mount Lebanon Shakers, North Family Eldress Anna White and Leila Taylor published *Shakerism: Its Meaning and Message*. In their introduction, they wrote:

Shakerism presents a system of faith and a mode of life, which, during the past century, has solved social and religious problems and successfully established practical brotherhoods of industry, besides freeing women from inequality and injustice. To this, there must be added that it has banished from its precincts monopoly, immorality, intemperance and crime, by creating a life of purity, social freedom and altruistic industry. A system that has rendered such a service to mankind merits attention from all thoughtful people, whatever may be their position in life. That the Shakers, through the teachings of their faith, have wrought out a practical solution of many social enigmas of the time, is admitted. It now remains to fit the principles embodied in this faith to the needs of the great world.



Darrow School has always sought to incorporate Shaker values into its ethos, regardless of the changing social fabric. Equality of the races and sexes, acceptance of all, compassion, and tolerance have always been hallmarks of Darrow. They still are.

In my second tour of duty on this Mountainside, it strikes me that there is one more Shaker belief, perhaps the most important, that over the last 30 years or so has been lost here - the belief that human consciousness survives physical death.

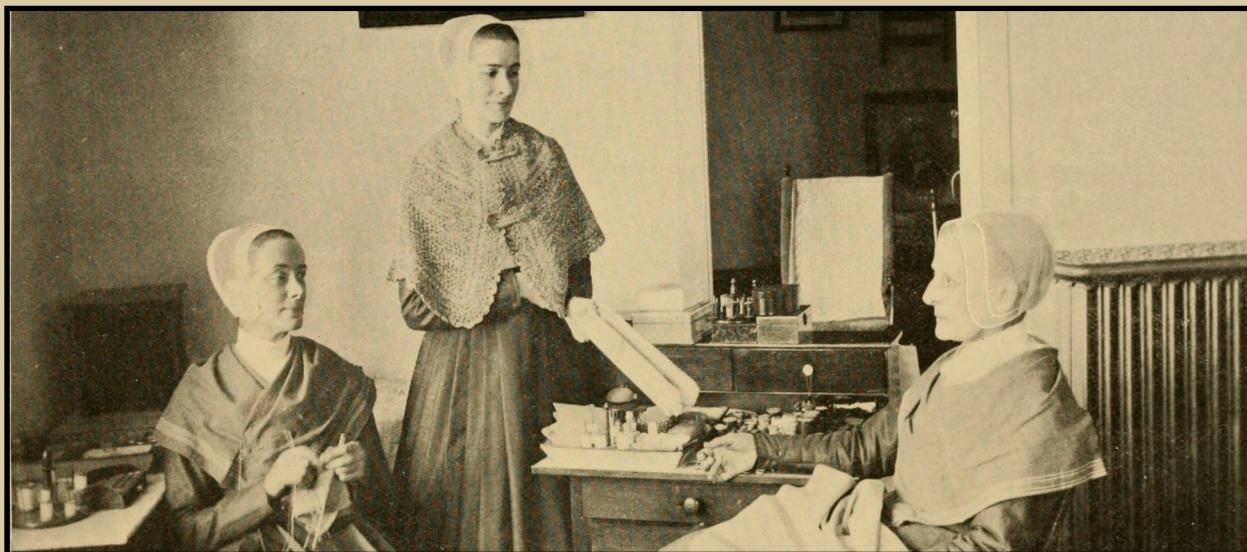
The truth of the matter is that Shakerism cannot be understood without acknowledging this curious fact. Regarding Ann Lee's (the Shaker foundress) many gifts, the early Shakers had this to say:

*Among her peculiar gifts . . . was the power to read the mental tablets
and their record of the Past.*

Eldress Anna White once wrote:

*Shakerism was founded in Spiritualism. Its very essence and life principle is that of conscious continuous
action and reaction between the worlds of spirit and of sense.*

Put another way, the Shakers - and their sense of community - depended on a reverence for the power of the unseen.



In all honesty, I'm not sure what to do with this. After working for over 35 years with adolescents, I can say with certainty, something is clearly missing in the lives of our young. Extreme anxiety, eating disorders, depression, social anomie are now more than common. Many blame technology and social media. I get that. However, these trends were in evidence before 2007 with the widespread dissemination of the smart phone. There is no question that technology exacerbated these trend lines; however, there is more to this issue than just technology, in my opinion.

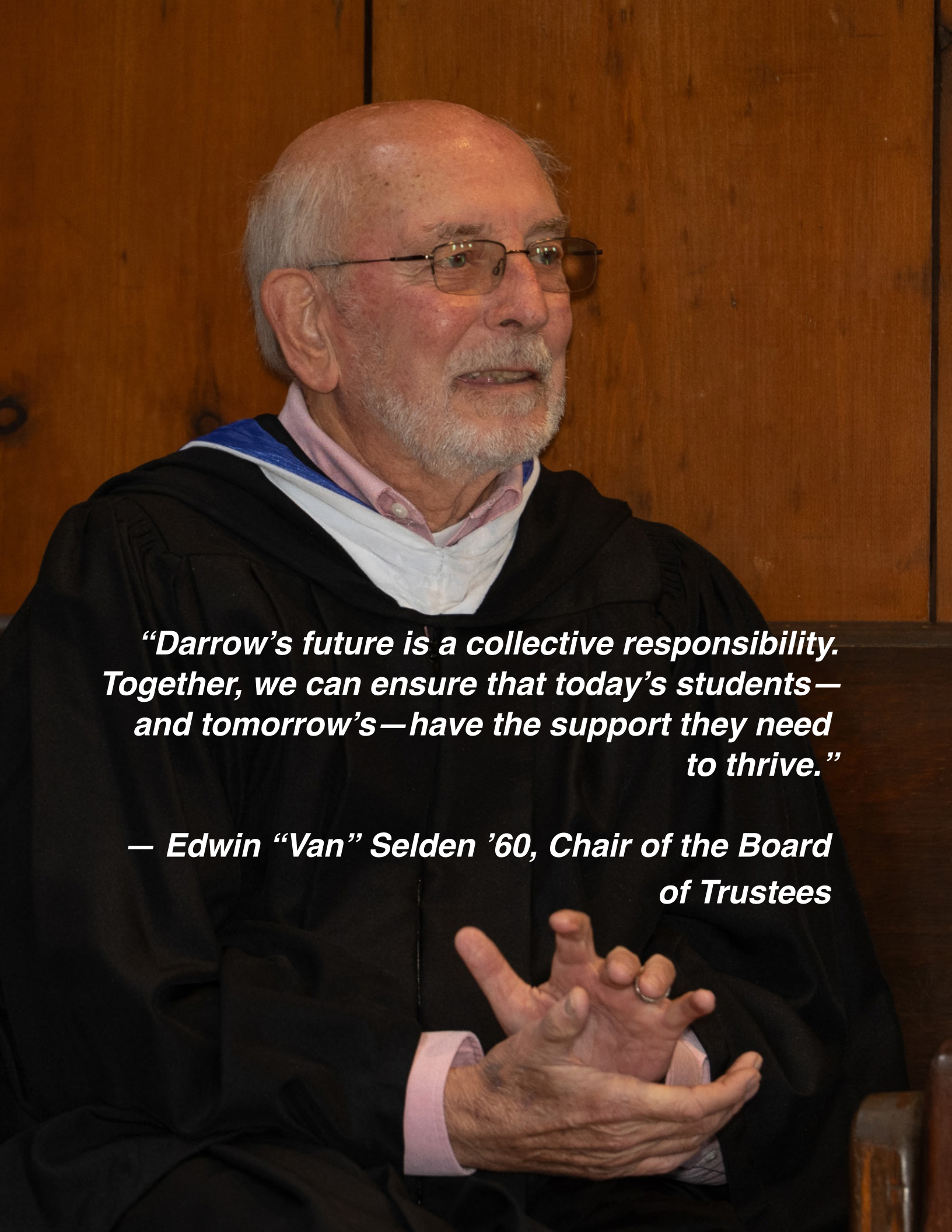
Forces being unleashed today will create further confusion. Global climate change and Large Language Model artificial intelligence will create situations that pit human need against human greed.

Would an acknowledgement that the unseen world - whatever that may be - has importance even today make a difference for our kids? I often wonder. When my wife, Nancy, and I were on the Darrow faculty in the 1980s, Sheldon Flory ("The Rev") held ecumenical services each Sunday morning in the Chapel (The Tannery). These services were always sparsely attended. However, over the years, I came to realize that they were nevertheless valued by the students and faculty.

Today, we have a Quaker-style meeting each Friday morning - a time for community members to reflect quietly. I'm wondering now if we should be doing a bit more in this regard. Are we doing a disservice to our community by not being more intentional about acknowledging the importance of the unseen?

Please hear me. I am not advocating for a return to any type of denominational religious services. That would never work. I am simply wondering what, if anything, we can do to help our young feel more grounded in the world we have created for them.

I welcome your thoughts. If you have an opinion about this and are willing to share, please reach out to me. My email address is vadnaisa@darrowschool.org.

A photograph of an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a black academic robe over a white shirt with a pink collar. He is seated and gesturing with his hands while speaking. The background is a wood-paneled wall.

“Darrow’s future is a collective responsibility. Together, we can ensure that today’s students—and tomorrow’s—have the support they need to thrive.”

— Edwin “Van” Selden ’60, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Letter from the Board Chair

Darrow's graduation in May, followed by Reunion, was both inspiring and humbling. To watch students take their next steps toward adulthood, and then see generations gather at Reunion to share stories of their lives after Darrow, reminded me how powerful this community is.

This year, I experienced it all from a different vantage point. In the past, I was a participant. Now, as a Trustee and Chair of the Board, my responsibilities are different. I carry the responsibility of ensuring that Darrow finishes each academic year with strength, ready to begin the next with confidence.

Darrow—like any institution—has a public image. Ours is one of distinctiveness: a strong community, shaped by Shaker heritage, rooted on the Mountainside. Each of us remembers Darrow in our own way. It may not be our classes we think of first, though certain faculty stand out. Instead, we remember moments—conversations by the firepit, goals scored on the soccer field, making maple syrup, Hands-to-Work, or lifelong friends discovered here.

I think of these things too. And I also think of the work ahead—a balanced budget, facilities in need of restoration, and a growing endowment. These are what will secure meaningful memories for the alumni of the future.

In this issue of the *Peg Board*, you will read about our focus on the future. Trustees, faculty, staff, and alumni have come together to create a clear, concise roadmap for the next three years.

PROGRESS IS ALREADY UNDERWAY—

- Darrow has been reaccredited with strong support for our mission and educational experience, along with valuable recommendations for continued growth.
- We are launching the Atlantic Coast Hockey Academy (ACA), a school-within-a-school model that will expand revenues.
- Plans for new dormitories (p. 29) are being designed by a Darrow graduate and his NYC architectural firm, SHoP Architects.
- Mountain bike trail system are being built on the Mountainside (p. 24), connecting to others across the Berkshires.
- New archery and music programs will begin this fall.

We are not the only school facing uncertainty. But Darrow has always been a place of imagination and resilience. Together, we can push forward and ensure that today's students—and tomorrow's—receive the support they deserve.

As Board Chair, I must emphasize—Darrow's future is a shared responsibility. We need your support and ideas. Contact me at advancement@darrowschool.org. Just as Save Darrow raised nearly \$3M, *foreverDARROW* must raise even more to balance budgets, strengthen our facilities, and grow the endowment. The challenges are real—rising costs and global uncertainty—but Darrow is resilient. With dedicated faculty, committed trustees, and engaged alumni, we can and will celebrate our centennial in 2032.

We look forward to celebrating with you.



B

A



the TRACK at new balance
Facility Access
ZONE B
COACHES / TRAINERS / MEDIA
This credential is for identification
and access to the track. It
must be worn at all times.



From the Desk of Trustee Tuck Barclay '72

For 93 years, Darrow School has relied on its Board of Trustees to lead, guide, and support the evolution of the school we know today. Many alumni, parents, and friends have asked: What exactly does the Board of Trustees do?

As I begin my third year on the Board, I want to share our story, honor trustees who have completed their service, welcome new colleagues, and invite more of you to consider stepping into this work alongside us.

Honoring Recently Retired Trustees

On behalf of the Darrow community, I want to express deep gratitude to three trustees whose service has made a lasting impact:

Christian Masters '82 – Served for 12 years (four terms), most recently as Co-Vice Chair of the Board and Advancement Chair, a role he played for many years. Christian also gave countless hours of his professional expertise as a videographer, creating videos for marketing purposes and events. He contributed significant equipment to the school. While no longer a trustee, Christian continues to strengthen Darrow's community ties, particularly with the Shaker Museum in Chatham, NY.

Peter Raff '71 – In his one term on the Board, he brought invaluable construction expertise to the Facilities Committee and continues to guide restoration efforts on the historic interior ceiling of the 1827 Meeting House.

Peter Cholakis '72 – Before serving on the Board this past spring, Peter co-led the Save Darrow campaign in late 2023 and early 2024, and helped revitalize the Class Agent program alongside Peter Wadsworth '72, enhancing alumni engagement.

We thank them for their dedication, leadership, and steadfast commitment to Darrow's future.

WHAT THE BOARD DOES

The Board of Trustees carries ultimate responsibility for Darrow's well-being. Trustees—

- Safeguard the school's mission and values
- Employ and support the Head of School
- Have fiduciary responsibility for the sustainability of the school
- Through committees, they support the administrative team

According to our Bylaws, the Board must include between 9 and 23 members. Trustees are elected by a two-thirds vote and serve three-year terms beginning July 1. Darrow's fiscal year is July 1-June 30 of the following year. Much of our work takes place through committees, including Governance, Finance, Advancement, and Facilities. Risk Management, Audit, and Investment Committees are subsets of the Finance Committee. Marketing is a subset of Advancement. Alumni Relations and Head's Support and Evaluation Committees are additional committees not specified in the Bylaws. Occasionally, people with specific expertise are invited to be on a committee as non-voting members. Committees meet, usually by Zoom, between full Board meetings, which are three to four times a year, in person on campus. Additional Zoom meetings are held, as needed.

Why I Serve—and Why You Might

Serving as a trustee has deepened my appreciation for how fully Darrow serves its students. It has challenged me to grow, broaden my perspective, and form lasting friendships with fellow trustees, Head of School Andy Vadnais, and the faculty and staff who sustain this community.

We are eager to grow our Board. Darrow needs alumni, parents, and friends who bring expertise in finance, law (particularly New York State), marketing, strategic planning, governance, and historic

preservation. If you are interested, I encourage you to reach out to me by email: tuckbarclay@darrowschool.org or to Governance Chair Meagan Ledendecker by email: meaganledendecker@darrowschool.org—or complete our Darrow Alumni/Friends Questionnaire [LINK HERE](#).

Welcoming New Trustees

Alexandra Adame '94

Alexandra Adame is an entrepreneur and was a business owner in New York City. She brings sharp strategic insight and a passion for supporting Darrow's mission. After arriving at Darrow as a junior and graduating in 1994, she went on to study English and Chinese history and language at Centre College in Kentucky and SUNY Purchase.

She worked in fashion retail and public relations for more than a decade, representing European luxury brands, before launching her own fashion/entertainment business in 2007. The venture was the first of its kind and ran successfully for 10 years.

Alex is an active member of Fashion Group International and volunteers with the Montefiore Medical Center, Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation, and The Blue Hill Troupe. She brings experience in public relations and fundraising. Her primary interest as a trustee is alumni engagement and events.

Alex lives in Greenwich, CT.

Amber Mao Flude '05

Amber Mao Flude is a British–Japanese content and customer-experience project manager at Apple, with more than 15 years of global experience across fashion, publishing, technology, and real estate. Fluent in English and Japanese, she has lived and worked in Tokyo, London, and New York.

Mao has a BA in International Liberal Studies, Brand Management & Public Relations from Waseda University (Japan) and a MA in Arts Policy and Management from the University of London (England). Her experience in digital advertising, content management, and project coordination, working across global teams and managing high-impact initiatives for leading brands, including Apple, along with her passion for Darrow will serve the school well.

Amber lives in New York City with her husband, Dan, and 6-year-old daughter, Eleanor.

LaShaundria Traylor '14

LaShaundria Traylor is a technical chemist at Agilex Fragrances in New Jersey, where she works at the intersection of chemistry, creativity, and consumer experience. A graduate of Rutgers University–Newark, with a BA in Biological Sciences and Anthropology, she translates complex formulations into market-ready scents that deliver both performance and appeal.

LA's expertise spans product development, quality assurance, and R&D collaboration, with a growing emphasis on sustainable and naturally derived ingredients. Known for blending scientific precision with olfactory artistry, she thrives in environments that challenge convention and demand practical results. Outside the lab, she experiments with botanical extractions, explores the future of clean beauty, and mentors young scientists.

She lives and works in New Jersey.

Joseph "Joe" McGovern

Joe McGovern is Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires, bringing more than 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience to the role. A Pittsfield native and Taconic High School graduate, he began his career at the Pittsfield Boys' Club as a youth supervisor, where he was once honored as Youth of the Year.

Since then, he has held senior positions across multiple youth-serving and community organizations, including Executive Director roles at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County (MD) and Greater Westfield (MA), as well as the Northern Berkshire United Way. He later served as CEO of the Northern Berkshire YMCA before returning home to lead the organization where his professional journey began.

A graduate of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, McGovern is widely respected for his strategic leadership, long-standing dedication to youth advocacy, and commitment to strengthening communities. His non-profit experience and deep roots in the local community will add considerably to the Darrow Board.

Other current members of the 2025-26 Darrow School Board of Trustees: Edwin "Van" Selden '60, Chair; Daniel "Dan" Holt '92, Vice-Chair; William "Bill" Horowitz '71, Treasurer; Nancy Wolf Austin, Secretary; and Meagan Ledendecker P '21, '26 [Matthew Bianco-Splann '09](#)

A Trustee's Perspective

Bobby Castro '05

My Darrow journey began in 2001, when I arrived as a freshman. Four years later, I graduated with memories and lessons I still carry today. After earning a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Architecture, I built a career in construction management for New York City public schools. (fix spacing/format)

A little over a year ago, I returned to Darrow in a new way—this time as a member of the Board of Trustees. My connection to the school had been quiet for a while, but when I felt ready to give back, I reached out to former Head of School and trustee Nancy Wolf Austin. She encouraged me to apply. After interviews and consideration, I was honored to join the Board.

Now, as Chair of the Facilities Committee, I've seen firsthand how much work happens behind the scenes to sustain Darrow's mission. It's a level of dedication not always visible to the community, but essential to the life of the school. My hope is that by sharing more of what we do, others will be inspired to step forward with their own time, talents, and energy.

If you care deeply about Darrow and want to help shape its future, there is a place for you at the table. We need people ready to collaborate, problem-solve, and champion this remarkable school.





BUILDING A PROGRAM, SHAPING A CULTURE

Abby Streeter Brings Competitive Edge to Darrow Girls Basketball

By Phil O'Donoghue '74

When Abby Streeter arrived on campus, Darrow didn't have a long tradition of high-level prep basketball. What it had was potential—and one very determined new coach.

At just 26, Abby brought with her an impressive basketball résumé: eight years of AAU, two seasons at Lawrence Academy, six years of Division I play at URI, Hartford, and Rutgers, and a professional stint in Japan. She'd already coached at the college level. So when Darrow Assistant Men's Coach Brandon West reached out about a new opportunity to lead the Girls Basketball Program, Abby listened.

She was quickly won over by Athletic Director Kris Magargal's vision for athletics at Darrow, and Head of School Andy Vadnais' deep appreciation for Darrow's Shaker heritage. "Darrow took a chance on me," Abby says. "And it paid off."

That's not bragging. In her first season, Abby led the team to a 20-10 record and a spot in the New England Prep

School AA Athletic Conference championship game—a major achievement for a young program competing against some of the region's most established teams.

But for Abby, Darrow is about more than basketball. "Being part of a team is not easy," she says. "But here, everyone is a Darrow kid." That means

“***Want to know where the Runner-Up trophy is? In a box in the corner. I'll put a trophy out when it's the championship one.***”

academics come first. Players attend study hall, meet weekly with Academic Coach Maude Rich, and follow Abby's clear rule: "If your work's not done, you're not playing."

Abby builds her team the way she played: with grit. She values effort over flash. "I don't just look for ability," she says. "I look for quality. Are they diving for loose balls? Are they leaders?"

And they're not just athletes—they're part of the Darrow community. Her players join in Hands-to-Work, take pride in the school's history, and get the full boarding school experience. "When I'm recruiting, I love showing players the photos in the library from when this was the Mount Lebanon Shaker Society," she says.

As for that championship game? Darrow lost to powerhouse Worcester Academy, and Abby hasn't forgotten. "I've played that game in my head 600 times," she says. "Want to know where the Runner-Up trophy is? In a box in the corner. I'll put a trophy out when it's the championship one."

That's her goal—and the message she gives every player she coaches: "What are your goals? And what are you doing every day to make it happen?"

Growing Up Darrow

A Senior Year Reflection

Introduction—Setting the Scene

For most seniors, graduation is the finish line. For Violet Corral, it's also a farewell to the only home she's ever known. A lifelong resident of the Darrow campus—where her mother has served in many roles and now leads as Dean of Students—Violet is writing her final chapter at a place that has always been her backdrop. Entering her last year is equal parts exciting and surreal. “It feels like standing on both sides of the doorway at once,” she says. “I know the rhythms of this campus better than anyone, and yet I’m also about to step away from them.”

Looking Back—Growth and Milestones

Her earliest memories on the Mountainside are of running across fields where the Shakers once gathered, watching older students as if they were larger-than-life. She also recalls fondly accompanying her mother to the Living Machine, fascinated by the way it connected science, sustainability, and daily life. By the time she joined officially as a ninth grader, she carried a quiet confidence about the campus, but high school stretched her in new directions. Stepping into leadership—mentoring younger students, shaping student activities, and especially her role as Art Prefect at the Joline Arts Center—proved

transformative. “It wasn’t just about responsibility,” she reflects. “It was realizing this community trusted me to lead.”

Present Moment—Intentions and Responsibilities

Now, as a senior, Violet is intentional about savoring her last year. She leans into leadership by supporting underclassmen, showing them what it means to

belong, and making space for their voices. At the Joline Arts Center, she nurtures creativity—her own and that of her peers—helping to keep the arts a vibrant part of community life.

Looking Forward—Hopes and Legacy

Next fall, Violet plans to pursue studies in the social sciences, with a vision of community-centered work.

Darrow, she says, prepared her by teaching that leadership comes from listening as much as from speaking. “I hope people remember me as someone who was always rooted here, but also always ready to help.”

Conclusion—A Year of Meaning

Asked what advice she’d leave future students, Violet doesn’t hesitate—“Grow into this place, and let it grow into you. If you give yourself to Darrow, it will always give back.”

*Grow into this place,
and let it grow into you.
If you give yourself to
Darrow, it will always
give back.*



The 2024–2025 End of the School Year— In Photos

From gallery walls to concert halls, from the stage to the softball field—this year our students reminded us what it means to create boldly, think deeply, and show up with heart.

We celebrate the artists, musicians, athletes, and performers who made 2024–2025 unforgettable. Whether standing before a canvas, behind an instrument, or gripping the bat in extra innings, they brought curiosity, courage, and imagination to everything they touched.

At the Mass MoCA Teen Invitational, our student artists didn't just exhibit their work—they questioned form, redefined boundaries, and explored the restless space between idea and expression.

In the Dairy Barn Theater, the Jazz Band and the Darrow Music Collective filled the rafters with sound—smooth, daring, alive. The Spring Concert wasn't simply a performance; it was a study in collaboration and courage.

The Darrow Theater Collective's Scene Night carried that same charge—four plays, four worlds, each driven by young actors unafraid to risk vulnerability. The laughter, the silence, the standing ovation—all proof that storytelling still matters.

And then came the diamond—another Girls Softball Championship, another reminder that persistence and joy travel well together.

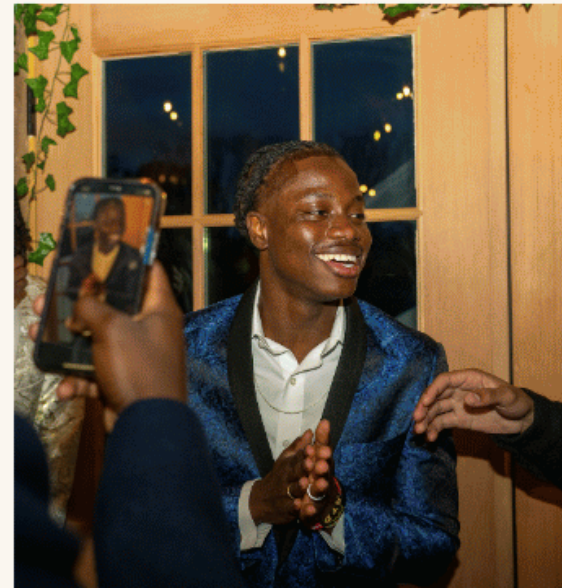
Just as the year drew to a close, Prom 2025 at The Ruins at Sassafra Farm offered one last moment of magic. Under the open sky, students danced among the stone walls and summer air—celebrating friendship, endings, and everything still ahead.

Through it all—art, music, theater, athletics, discovery—our students gave us a year that will linger in memory and spirit. These photographs hold that rhythm, the pulse of a community always in motion.

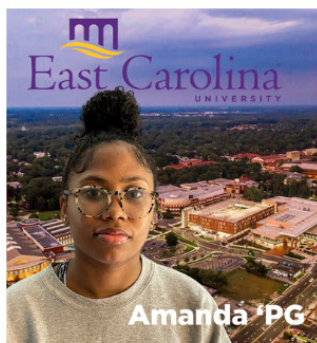
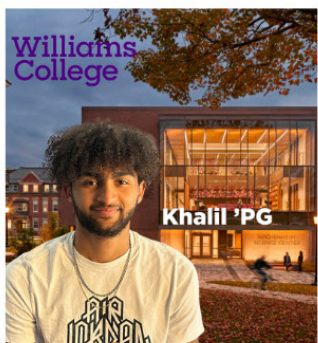
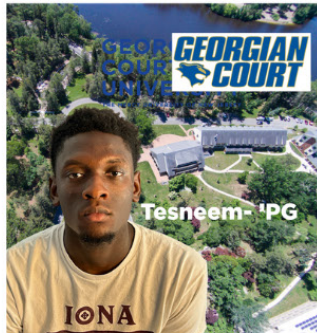
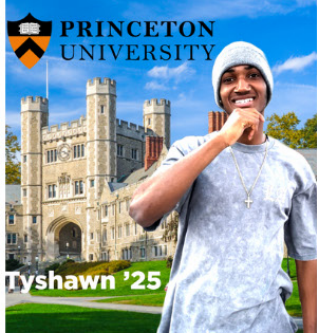
Darrow, Hands-to-Work, hearts to home.



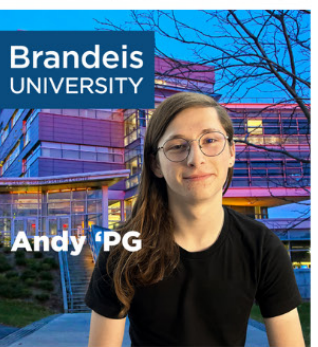
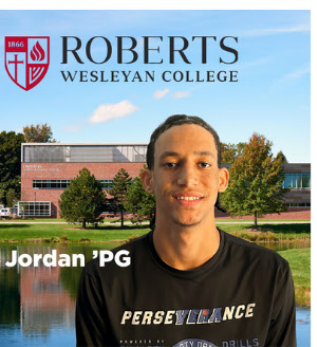
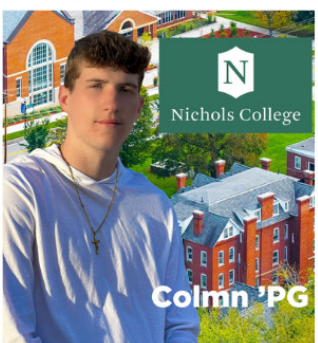
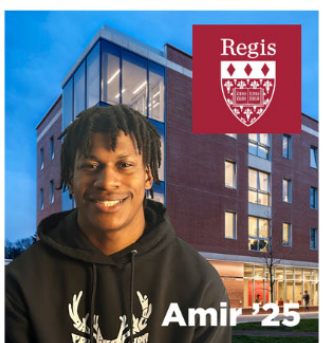
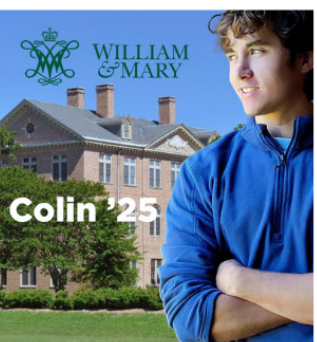








CLASS OF 2025



ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE

The Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Co-Salutatorians

On a ridge once known as the Holy Mount—where Shaker builders raised timber for endurance, not display—Darrow continues to honor work done with purpose. This spring, three seniors rise from that tradition, distinct in talent yet united by a shared instinct for substance over spectacle—to think deeply, act thoughtfully, and leave the place better than they found it.

Colin Cartwright, Valedictorian

Leadership can fill a room without raising its voice. For three years, that has been Colin Cartwright. From Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, he has served as Student Body President, Core Leader, and Rho Kappa member—leading with clarity, empathy, and quiet resolve.

Known for his thoughtfulness

and steady moral compass, Colin embodies curiosity grounded

in care. This fall, he will attend William & Mary, carrying with him the calm conviction that shaped his community.

Daniel Lim, Co-Salutatorian

Daniel Lim makes excellence look effortless. A four-year student from

Berwyn, Pennsylvania, he blends rigor with composure—as Core Leader, scholar, and Rho Kappa member, he leads by earning trust, not attention. A cornerstone of Darrow’s championship soccer team, Daniel inspires through humility and strength. Faculty describe him as creating “space for others” and moving ideas forward with quiet confidence. This fall, he will attend the University of Virginia, bringing the same steadiness that defined his time on the Mountainside.

Esmeralda Ortiz-Rodriguez, Co-Salutatorian

From classrooms to studios to the softball field, Esmeralda Ortiz-Rodriguez has been a force for inclusion and imagination. A four-year student

from Carteret, New Jersey, she served as Senior Representative, Core Leader, and Rho Kappa member—helping shape a culture where student voice leads with purpose. A three-time

softball champion and gifted artist, she’s known for compassion, courage, and creativity. This fall, she will attend Case Western Reserve University, continuing the advocacy and artistry that have become her hallmark.

“*Head of School Andy Vadnais reflected, Colin, Esmeralda, and Daniel embody the spirit of Darrow through their excellence, leadership, and integrity. Their commitment to learning and to the good of others stands as an example for all who follow.*”











**TRAILS
THAT LEAD
SOMEWHERE**

When we introduced the *foreverDARROW* plan last year, we framed it around a simple but powerful idea: that our future depends on smart, sustained investment in People, Place, and Program. Rooted in our Shaker values and shaped by today's realities, *foreverDARROW* isn't just about survival—it's about making Darrow a destination again. A school that thinks differently. A school that acts with purpose. A school that thrives.

Today, we're proud to share a tangible sign of that plan in motion and more about what lies ahead.

PEDALS AND POSSIBILITY—THE MTB PROJECT

Just below Route 20, on a stretch of campus that had long gone unused, construction was completed on a 1.5-mile professionally built mountain bike trail system and pump track—thanks to the generosity of a Darrow alum who believes in what we're building. These trails, designed for both beginner and intermediate riders, were completed by the start of the school year and will serve as a cornerstone of Darrow's new Mountain Biking Program.

But this isn't just a new recreational outlet.

This is the kind of investment that creates momentum across campus—enhancing the land, enriching student experience, and expanding our reach. It's opening up new ways for students to engage with the outdoors, launching a Mountain Biking Program that complements our athletics offerings, and inviting prospective families, alumni, and summer partners to see Darrow in a new light. It even improves access to

our sugarbush and surrounding woods—reinforcing our commitment to stewardship and sustainability. And it made visible the Shaker cemetery on that hillside, ready for signage to identify its importance as part of the Mt. Lebanon Shaker's history

"This is exactly the kind of smart, mission-driven step we envisioned when we launched *foreverDARROW*," says Andy Vadnais, Head of School. "It brings people together—alumni, students, potential partners, and prospective families—and gives them a reason to come to campus, to stay on campus, and to connect with what makes this place special."

From the Community— Shaker Ridge Trails

Launched in 2023, the Shaker Ridge Trail initiative is developing a 25-mile, purpose-built mountain bike network in Hancock and Lanesborough, Massachusetts, near Jiminy Peak. Once complete, the trails will be free and open to riders of all ages—creating a new hub for outdoor recreation and tourism in the Berkshire-Taconic region.

Learn more at shakerridgetrails.org

Darrow is fortunate to sit at the southern end of the [Shaker Ridge Trails](https://shakerridgetrails.org), a 100+ mile system currently under construction across more than 600 acres of

adjacent land, making Darrow's trail network a natural gateway. The Shaker Ridge Trails system is poised to become one of the premier outdoor trail experiences in the Northeast—and Darrow will be right at its edge.

That's also why we prioritized building a pump track—a dynamic, looped skills section of trail designed to help new and younger riders build confidence, balance, and control in a fun and low-pressure environment. It's not just a playground; it's an entryway. Riders can develop essential skills on the pump track, then head straight onto the trail system to put them into practice. While cities like Pittsfield have explored similar projects, limited resources have delayed progress. At Darrow, we had the opportunity—and the vision—to make it happen now.

In short: this is *foreverDARROW* at work. It's a new trail system, yes—but more importantly, it's a new way forward.

It represents a shift in how we think about opportunity. Rather than waiting for students to come to us, we're creating experiences that draw them in—with authenticity, purpose, and joy. It reflects a Darrow that is outward-looking and imaginative, building programs that meet students where they are, while staying rooted in who we've always been.

It's also a new way forward because it shows what happens when alumni investment and institutional

vision align. A Darrow graduate believed in the plan, saw the potential, and took action. That partnership set something powerful in motion—proof that when the community believes in the future, transformation follows.

And finally, it's a new way forward because it reminds us that Darrow doesn't need to be everything to everyone. It needs to be exceptional at being Darrow—a school

that thinks differently, learns experientially, and grows through relationships and environment. The trails are a literal path, yes—but they also symbolize a more confident, collaborative, and sustainable future.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND POSSIBILITY

The MTB project is just the beginning. Across campus—and across the Berkshires—we're developing smart, values-aligned partnerships that do more than check boxes. They deepen learning. They expand visibility. They invite connection.

Here's a glimpse of what's coming into view:

- A pilot program at Pittsfield Airport, where students will explore aviation and aeronautics in partnership with local pilots and airport staff.
- A STEM initiative at Lebanon Valley Raceway, tying real-world motorsport engineering and physics to classroom learning.
- A growing relationship with the Pittsfield Boys & Girls Club, where Darrow students are not only



From the Community—Shaker Ridge Trails

In fall 2023, a new collaboration took root in the Berkshire–Taconic region—the Shaker Ridge Trail initiative. This ambitious project aims to build a purpose-designed mountain bike trail network just a few miles from the New York border, in the towns of Hancock and Lanesborough, Massachusetts, adjacent to Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort.

When complete, Shaker Ridge Trails will offer more than 25 miles of professionally constructed, free-to-ride trails open to bikers of all ages and abilities. The network will serve as a hub for outdoor recreation in the northeast—drawing riders, families, and visitors to the region while boosting local tourism and access to the outdoors for everyone who lives, works, or explores here

The Same Direction

From the Peg Board Archives

In the Fall/Winter 2017 *Peg Board* feature *Pathways*, two alumni and a former faculty member embarked on a life-changing, cross-continental journey by bicycle—4,000 miles of grit, reflection, and purpose. What mattered most wasn't how far they traveled, but what they discovered in motion.

That same current runs through *Trails That Lead Somewhere*—curiosity turned outward, purpose turned real. The landscape is different now, but the direction is the same.

[Click here to read *Pathways*](#)





Extending the Line— Designing What Comes Next

Some stories don't end—they evolve. When Matthew Bianco-Splann '09 returned to the Mountainside this year, it wasn't as a visitor but as a newly appointed Trustee and architect whose work now converges with the place that shaped him. A member of the acclaimed New York City firm SHoP Architects, Matthew and his colleagues are partnering with Darrow to imagine how the campus can grow while remaining true to its essential character.

The timing felt inevitable, as though the Mountainside itself had been waiting for the conversation to resume. As Darrow advanced plans for new student housing under *foreverDARROW*, Matthew joined the Board, bringing both professional expertise and a lived sense of what makes this community distinct—a school defined by intention, restraint, and an abiding respect for craft.

For Matthew and SHoP, design begins with purpose. "Architecture is about how people live together," he said. "At Darrow, that means creating spaces where community isn't just possible—it's built in."

Together, Darrow and SHoP are shaping the concepts for three new dormitories—human-scaled, light-filled, and seamlessly woven into the rhythms of campus life. Shared spaces and porches are conceived as extensions of the classroom, places for conversation and reflection. The materials—wood,

slate, and stone—draw from Shaker craftsmanship, where form and integrity are inseparable.

Recently, partners from SHoP joined administrators and trustees on campus for their first planning session—a day spent walking the grounds, sketching ideas, and listening to the stories embedded in the landscape. The discussions balanced practicality with reflection, focusing on how to build forward without breaking continuity, how to interpret Shaker principles through a contemporary lens, and how to ensure that every new structure deepens, rather than dilutes, the spirit of the Mountainside.

At Reunion, some of you may have seen Matthew share early renderings with alumni—a quiet but unmistakable full-circle moment. Watching a former student now help shape Darrow's physical and strategic future carried more than symbolism; it revealed a living thread of continuity. On the Mountainside, the line between past and future isn't something to bridge—it's something we build on together.





***“Labor to make the way of God
your own. Let it be your inheritance,
your treasure, your occupation,
your daily calling.”***

—Mother Ann Lee

Shared Ground

*Darrow and the Shaker Museum Launch a New
Artist-in-Residence Program*

There’s a certain quiet that settles on the Mountainside—not absence, but presence. Not stillness, but attention. It’s old. Older than the School. Older than the 1824 Second Meetinghouse, with its hand-planed clapboards and timeworn steps. Older even than the cracked Shaker floorboards in North Family that still remember how to creak in the dark.

The Mountainside drew the Shakers not just for the land, but for something else. A quiet charged with purpose. A stillness that asked to be answered.

Into that silence—Hands-to-Work.

This fall, Darrow School and the Shaker Museum will launch an Artist-in-Residence program. A real one. No velvet ropes. No lecture-hall cameos. No curated creativity in glass boxes. This is immersion. Invitation. A rewilding of what it means to make.

But more than a program, it's a gesture. A rebuilding. For years, the relationship between the school and the museum—two stewards of this rare, magical, beautiful place—has been marked more by distance than connection. Shared ground, divided purpose.

The program is in its early stages—scaffolding, not structure—but the vision is clear. A working artist will live at Darrow. Not as a guest, but as a participant. A building. A studio. A key. A sense of space, both grounded and open. And a campus full of students who are watching closely and already suspect that real learning doesn't sit quietly in rows. The artist will make work. The students will see it happen. And more than that—they'll be part of making it happen.

The Shakers Had It Right

They believed labor could be sacred. That beauty wasn't ornamental—it was structural. That the line between life and work, form and function, devotion and design could be erased entirely.

This program doesn't replicate those values. It reactivates them.

In a world addicted to velocity, the Shaker aesthetic is often mistaken for minimalism. It isn't. It's clarity. It's precision. It's the refusal to waste time or wood or words.

That's the bar being set. Not for nostalgia. For relevance. This isn't a school with art. It's a school composed like art. Intentional. Always in progress.

To be clear, this isn't about bringing art into Darrow. It's about recognizing it was always here. Under the surface. In the scaffolding. We're not grafting something on. We're exposing the grain.

Art at Darrow isn't extracurricular. It's infrastructural. It's not a break from thinking. It is thinking.

The residency won't be confined to a studio. It will spill outward. Into classrooms. Into casual conversations. Into the way a student begins to see the angle of a branch, the design of a joint, the language of a sketch. The artist's presence won't add culture. It will amplify what's already here.

The artist won't commute. They won't Zoom in. They will live on campus—wake to the same fog, eat the same meals, walk the same uneven paths. They'll hear students' questions. And they'll ask their own.

Not every artist will teach. But every one of them will be a lesson.

Early Days, Long View

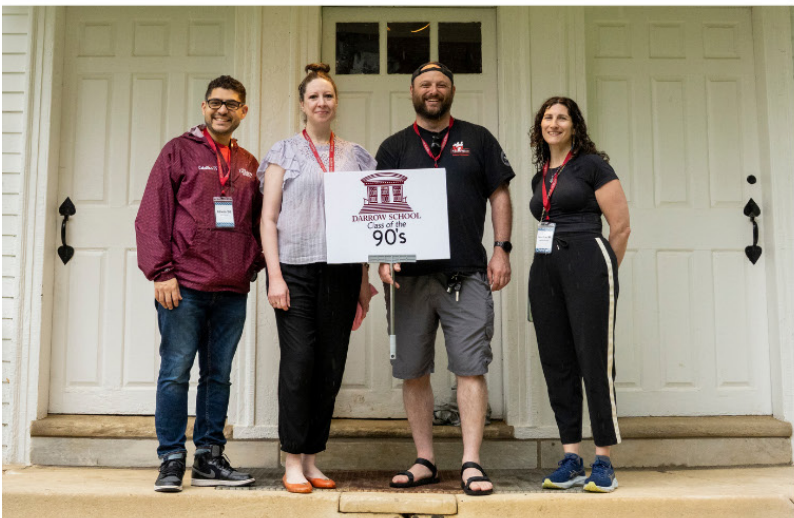
We're building slowly. The first residency is imminent. The shape of what's to come is still in motion. But already, something is happening—buildings long unused are being looked at differently. Spaces are asking to be reinhabited. Eventually, this program will extend beyond the Mountainside. Exhibitions. Collaborations. Apprenticeships. Public works that leave visible marks.

But right now, it begins with a single artist, a single space, a single season of attention. Not flashy. Not finished. Just real.

Which, for Darrow, has always been more than enough.

Josh Sarantitis is leading the initiative on the Shaker Museum side. An internationally recognized public artist, Sarantitis is known for work that is deeply collaborative and community-centered—less about what's made and more about how and with whom it's made. He brings not just vision, but alignment. This isn't an artist looking in. It's an artist stepping in.

His first proposed resident is **Zach Lihatsch**, a sculptor and blacksmith based in Arizona, whose work with Dry River Forge blends tactile force with philosophical weight. His practice lives in the intersection of tool, form, and thought—very much in the Shaker spirit. This is not craft for show. It's craft as inquiry. Craft as discipline.





Reunion wasn't nostalgia. It was proof. Proof that the Darrow spirit isn't something you remember—it's something you live, and carry forward.

Alumni returned from every corner of the country, some for the first time in fifty years. And yet the moment they stepped onto the Mountainside, the years collapsed. That is the hold Darrow keeps.

Even when the schedule shifted—Sassafras Ruins was rained out—Darrow showed up anyway. Carol Reichert led a tour through the site, turning a cancellation into discovery. That's this community: resilient, resourceful, unwilling to miss a moment together.

The Spirit That Built This Place

Rev. Quentin Chin's Memorial remarks reminded us of what the Shakers knew—that community is not an accident, but a practice. They called it Hands-to-Work. They lived it through peace, inclusion, and the conviction that diversity strengthens the whole.

That same conviction runs through Darrow today. Our students arrive from across the globe, each carrying a piece of the "secret sauce" Rev. Chin named. Together, they become not only scholars, but bearers of resilience, empathy, and peace.

This is *foreverDARROW*—the living thread from Shaker hands to Darrow students, from yesterday's gifts to tomorrow's promise.

Relive and Recommit

We've gathered the photos. Share them. Add yours. Let the moments speak.

[View the Reunion Photo Album](#)

But don't stop there. Reunion is not a weekend—it's a charge. The *foreverDARROW* Fund is how we turn memory into momentum, ensuring that the spirit we celebrated together continues to shape every student who climbs this Mountainside.

Every return visit matters. Every gift matters.

Join us on the Mountainside for our next Reunion—June 12–14, 2026. We can't wait to welcome you back.





Photo by Jane Feldman '74

Why We Came Back

Reflections from Reunion 2025

There's something about Darrow that stays with you. Whether it's been five years or fifty, the pull to return is strong—for the memories, the friendships, the landscape, and the sense of belonging that's hard to describe but easy to feel once you're back.

At Reunion 2025, alumni from across generations came together, not just to reconnect with each other but to reconnect with the place that helped shape who they are. Here, three alums reflect on why they came back, what they found, and what Darrow still means to them.

Amber "Mao" Flude '05

Returning to Darrow after 20 years felt like stepping into a dream I didn't know I'd carried with me. The campus was more breathtaking than I ever remembered—no longer just the backdrop of cold rain and grey skies, but a place of quiet splendor.

As I stood by Tannery Pond, the view was unchanged, as if time itself had paused. The scent inside the Tannery was exactly as it was twenty years ago—a sensory thread connecting past and present. It filled me with pride to share this place with my family, to say, "This is where I went to school. This is where I grew."

I felt a flicker of nervousness before seeing my classmates again, but the moment we reunited, it vanished. Their warmth, their laughter, the unmistakable light in their eyes—it was all still there, just as it had been when we were teenagers. Their spirits hadn't changed. I felt deeply grateful to still call them my classmates.

One of the most heartwarming moments was watching my six-year-old daughter instantly bond with my classmates' children. Seeing them play together in the Science Center and the Dairy Barn—spaces once so familiar to us—was something truly special. It felt like a beautiful continuation of the Darrow spirit, passed from one generation to the next.

I hold deep gratitude for Kirk Russell—my mentor, my guide, and the person who first opened the door to Darrow for me. I often wish I could have introduced him to my husband and daughter, to show them the man who forever shaped the course of my life with his kindness, wisdom, and belief in me. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the paths we take and in the heart of this community he helped build.

Tim Waters '75

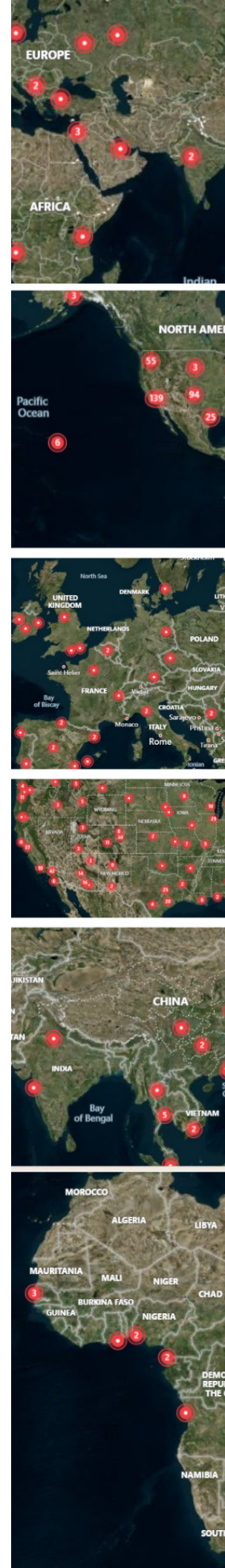
"So...where are you going to high school this coming year, Tim Waters?"

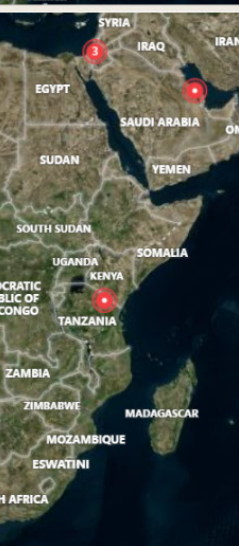
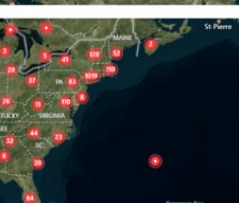
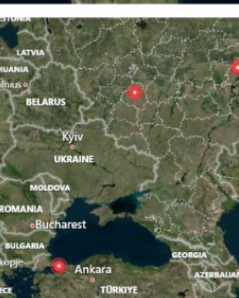
That question was presented to me in late August 1972, at a family dinner outside Estes Park,

Colorado. Reverend William H. Hudnut Jr., a dear family friend, asked the question and then declared, "We'll discuss after dinner."

After the dishes were cleared, he said, "My son Bill went to the Darrow School, and Darrow made him the man he is today." Ten days later—sight unseen—I was on a bus from Albany, NY to the Darrow road.

I arrived at Darrow on September 10, 1972





and left June 5, 1975. In that time, I found my path, I found my people, I found my place. I found peace, happiness, love. Darrow was the right place at the right time. It gave me a nurturing and caring environment. Sure, there were tough times, difficult relationships, and frustrating situations. But people got over things. We moved forward with respect. It was a big family, all navigating the 1970s together.

Fifty years is fifty years—but also the blink of an eye.

Darrow helped me learn to communicate with others, quiet my thoughts, and be gentle and courteous. I believe it saved my life. Had I stayed in California and gone back to public school... things had to change.

Darrow gave me music, art, creativity, and lifelong connections. It taught me the beauty of simplicity and the power of kindness.

Tis the gift to be simple,
Tis the gift to be free.

That's what Darrow means to me—and to many others.

Mike Floman '72

During the 2025 reunion, memories rushed into my head as I lay on a bed in my old room in

Brethren's, where I spent my last two school years. I looked for signs of my two spirit brothers who are no longer with us, Nick Crumm and Russell Kleinchnect. I kept an eye out for them my whole time on campus this

past alumni weekend. Just memories kept surfacing. All three of us

sprouted there. Roots were deepening, growing, unknown to us as free souls living in another

turbulent time in America. The landscape protected us here. We roamed the woods under the cover of darkness.

I carry them now forever, and that night light we traveled in is still with me as I make my art outside at night. I was introduced to the

darkroom at Darrow and got involved in photography.

That activity saved me and gave me purpose—unbeknownst to me at the time, it was my beginning as an artist working with analog photography, a passion

that continues to this day.

There were amazing teachers who surrounded me, supported me, even though I paid little attention to that important relationship. My soul was nurtured at Darrow by them, and it rests in that Shakered landscape. It's why I come back. I became at Darrow.

The wonderful memories I have bring me back home to the mountain time after time. Besides the brothers and sisters who were part of my Darrow years—and who I still enjoy reminiscing with—I've met newer alumni who are amazing folks, undoubtedly born in our ways as I was, on our shared mountainside.

Darrow forever, please.

“
***This is where I
went to school.
This is where I
grew.***

—Amber "Mao" Flude '05

”

Keeping the Connection Alive

by Sara Van Deusen

An Indelible Mark

Although the scene is around sixty years old, it carries the potency of adolescent joy: after an evening's snowfall, Headmaster Joline, wearing laced-up leather boots and a hooded parka, declares at breakfast, "No classes today, boys, just shoveling." Another vision, that of several students playing guitars and banjos in the sugar shack, alights in "a cloudy haze of sweetened steam." Dave Thompson '65 recounts with detail such vignettes from his time at Darrow. Serene vesper services, learning how to prune apple trees and plant a vegetable garden during Hands-to-Work, and knee-high piles of vividly colored leaves conjure up an experience that inspires awe. As Dave and I speak over the phone, it is manifest how significant Darrow remains to him.

As a Class Agent, Dave Thompson revels in these memories. Dave and his co-agent, David Groth, endeavor to parse their peers' sentiments and history while encouraging them to reconnect with each other, as well as with Darrow. A true labor of love, the

work of a Class Agent is rooted in a desire to engage with and learn from the past to make the most of the present.

Two Heads are Better than One

Dave emphasizes the benefit of having a co-agent throughout our conversation. A partner in crime can also be a lifeline—from

“It's about staying in touch with people you shared Darrow with and love. [...]”

a shoulder to cry or laugh on to someone who understands the need to blow off steam—of reciprocal support and productive brainstorming. Sharing a mission can put things into perspective. The issues of missing classmates and a lack of updated contact information are slightly less frustrating to deal with when someone is by your side.

Dave and David have created their own newsletter for the class of '65. The writing is both entertaining and informative, sprin-

kled with what Dave deems "mini memory motifs" to aid classmates in remembering "Darrow's influence on their lives." Efforts such as this prove successful with time and traction: a handful of classmates from whom the Daves hadn't heard since graduation responded positively to their '65 newsletter last winter.

A Lifetime of Connection

Ned Groth '62 kindly sent me a short history of the work he has done to reconnect with his classmates. As a class communicator, Ned chronicled decades of newsletters, phone calls, and Reunions, as well as a class website. This website, noted below, is a treasure trove for anyone interested in Darrow history, memories, and updates from the class of 1962. Encouraging and supporting strong rapports is the name of the game for this class. In highlighting the role of a "class network maintainer," rather than "agent," Ned provides a gentle reminder of what matters most: community-first, fundraising-second. Rebuilding peer-to-peer connections fosters Darrow's legacy more successfully



David Groth '65 and Lawrence Werner '65—celebrating their 60th Reunion.

than asks for contributions do.

When reflecting on the purpose of his role and his success in keeping his class connected, Ned provides a direct thesis: "It's about staying in touch with people you shared Darrow with and love. [...] The mission should be 'Let's not lose each other as we move through the next stages of our lives.'"

Help Darrow Stay Darrow: Start with Your Class

The value of rekindled relationships seems to outweigh the frustrations of Darrow's Class Agents, although, as Dave Thompson wryly states, "The pay scale could be better." An innate love of Darrow and a willingness to maintain connection and mutual support are the only requirements for this crucial role.

Darrow's Advancement Office is currently working to redefine and clarify the ins and outs of Class Agent work. We will also be sending out more frequent reports and communications to Class Agents in order to aid them in their endeavors to engage with their peers. Dave and Ned could not incarnate their roles better. Here, there is no "Class Agent Mold" to which one needs to conform. Rather, all are granted carte blanche to share their love of Darrow.

A link to Ned's website: <http://www.darrow62.com>.

Many thanks to Ned Groth '62 and Dave Thompson '65 for their time—and for their love of the Darrow community.

Your Class Called... It Wants a Class Agent!

**There are 30 open spots,
from the Class of 1944 all the
way to 2024.**

**If you've got a love for
Darrow and a knack for stay-
ing in touch, you're halfway
there.**

**Let's grow our network —
join the Class Agent team!**

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

As a cherished member of the Darrow community, you're an essential part of its story—past, present, and future. We want to keep you in the loop with all things Darrow: news, event invites, alumni connections, and more!

Updating your info is quick and easy. Just click **HERE** to make sure we've got your latest contact details. Don't miss a moment of what's happening in our amazing community.

Lessons in Diversity

What Darrow Taught Me

By Jacqueline Hymes '78

I've always been curious about people—about what makes us different, and what brings us together. I grew up in a Black neighborhood and went to school with all Black students through elementary and junior high. Then, in the late '70s, I got an academic scholarship to attend Darrow. I was following in the footsteps of my brother, Phillip '73, and my sister, Cynthia '76.

Being one of the few Black students at Darrow, I did feel isolated at times. I remember one moment in particular—a racial encounter with a faculty member. It was intentional, it was negative, and it stuck with me. More than anything, it scared me. But I didn't let it stop me. I kept going.

At the same time, Darrow fundamentally prepared me for college. I was prepped on living on a campus, meeting new people from different walks of life, residing in a dorm, navigating elevated academics, and knowing how to approach and talk with faculty. I met so many people from so many places. It was an extraordinary experience I will never forget.

Funny how life works. My career ended up revolving around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Coincidence? Fate? Maybe a little of both. I even wrote two children's books to help young

kids understand and talk about difference. The first one, *Bees Don't Sting Brown People*, took me on a book tour in Singapore and opened the door to other readings and signings. The second was called *My Twin Friend*.

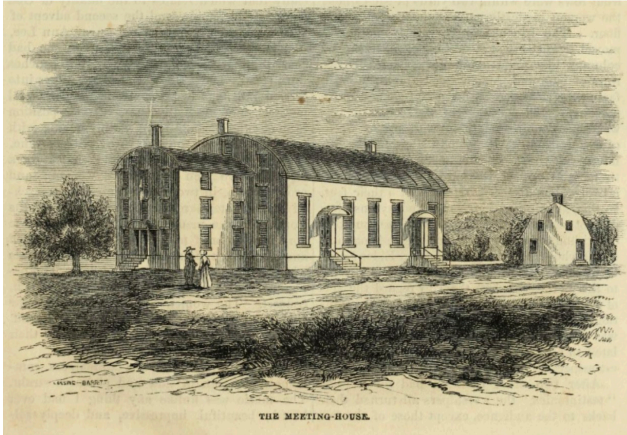
Looking back, my time at Darrow gave me some hard lessons—but also gave me strength. It helped shape who I became. After Darrow, I served five years in the Air Force working in Avionics Management, then spent most of my civilian career in Equal Employment Opportunity. Eventually, I earned my PhD in Workforce Development and Education at The Ohio State University.



TV

2

The Mount Lebanon Shakers



In 1786, on the ridge the Shakers called the Holy Mount, they raised their first Meeting House—and from it spread an idea more radical than politics. Here was a community that welcomed those the young Republic often cast aside—Jews, Black Americans, anyone drawn to faith through work. They rejected war, spurned the gallows, and built a ministry where women and men ruled as equals.

By the 1820s, their gardens had become laboratories—belladonna, sage, poppies, valerian—pressed into tinctures so pure that physicians across the country demanded them. One medical text called their products simply “the best.” Their precision inspired neighbor Elam Tilden to found one of America’s earliest pharmaceutical companies, whose remedies included an extract of medicinal cannabis.



Even their water ran ahead of its time. Wooden pipes carried it before 1800; by 1845, aqueducts stretched for miles, piping across state lines before the nation had even imagined public works. Their clothing, too,

spoke its own order—garments for worship, for travel, for toil. Visitors saw four hundred Shakers in white, singing in austere harmony, moving with disciplined grace—and left not bemused, but moved by the beauty of it.

Authority, too, was redesigned. Two men and two women held equal power. Families of a hundred lived self-sufficiently, guided by balance. Twelve virtues. Seven principles. All practiced, never preached. Their chairs, cloaks, orchards, and herbs became national shorthand for excellence.



By 1947, only seven Shakers remained at Mount Lebanon. Yet their order still endures—in the Meeting House timbers, in the aqueducts, in the belief that equality, rigor, and peace can be lived.

Today, the Holy Mount is Darrow’s campus. Hands-to-Work isn’t a motto. It’s inheritance.

“The ridge” refers to the elevated land in New Lebanon, New York—specifically the rise known as the Holy Mount, where the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village was founded. It’s the same ridge that now forms the Darrow School campus.

A Roof for the Ages—Darrow's 1824 Meetinghouse Restored



At the heart of Darrow's campus rises the 1824 Shaker Meetinghouse—today the Heyniger Memorial Library, and perhaps the most iconic building in the school's Shaker heritage. For two centuries, it has stood as a gathering place: first for worship, now for learning. Students cross its threshold daily to study, research, and find quiet amid shelves of books, all under a roof that has weathered generations.

Last fall, that roof was renewed. A raised-seam metal crown in Colonial Red now gleams across the campus green, replacing tin-plated iron sheets installed in 1904. More than a practical repair, the project secures the future of the Meetinghouse as the intellectual center of Darrow.

Echoes of the Past

The Meetinghouse itself was a response to growth. The Shakers' original 1785 structure quickly proved too small. Elder Rufus Bishop recorded the strain in his journal—

"The present number of believers is much greater than at any former period, so that for a number of years past our little meeting house could afford room for only a part of the believers to labour at once, admit[t]-ing there was not one spectator; and when there is 6 or 7 hundred spectators it is truly distressing."

By 1822, he concluded that a new building must rise.

"It is concluded to build the meeting house of wood... to have a porch on the south end—have a round roof, and have the house of the bigness first proposed."

Two years later, the Meetinghouse stood complete—its round roof signaling resilience, its broad hall opening to a wider world.

Stewardship in the Present

Today, the Meetinghouse remains true to its origins: a place where community gathers, though now in

the service of scholarship rather than song. The new roof is a statement of stewardship. Choosing Colonial Red honors the Shakers' tradition of beauty through simplicity while ensuring the structure remains watertight and enduring.

A Future Under Red Eaves

Students reading in the Heyniger Memorial Library may never think of the thousands who crowded into its halls two centuries ago—but the continuity is there. What began as a sanctuary of worship now shelters a sanctuary of learning. With its new roof, the Meetinghouse stands renewed, ready to see Darrow's community through another century of ideas, conversations, and discovery.

Click [HERE](#) to submit a class note for publication in the next issue of the *Peg Board*. We'd love to hear your updates—whether it's a new job, graduation, marriage, birth, alumni gatherings, or any other news you'd like to share!

1959



Harry Savage

Larry Van Meter, Edwin (Van) Selden '60, Nancy Wolf Austin, and their spouses, were recently spotted with Harry Savage '59 celebrating at his birthday party—a mini- Darrow reunion that proves friendships from the Mountainside age well.

1962

Edward Groth

"In May, Sarah Ward and I joined Peter and Virginia Gorday for two weeks in France. Based on the Île Saint-Louis, we explored Paris, with side trips to Versailles and Chantilly. The Gordays also made it to Chartres and Giverny, though a passport snag brought us home a bit early. Highlights included more museums than we can count and a lively Vivaldi concert at Sainte-Chapelle. Altogether, a memorable trip—and now that all four of us are back in Athens, Georgia, we're glad to see each other regularly again."

1965

David Groth, Larry Werner, and Mark Curry

They returned in June to celebrate their 60th reunion. For Groth, the familiar sweep of the valley brought back a flood of memories—matched only by the energy he felt on campus. "What stood out most was the passion the Darrow community has for preserving its legacy," he said. "It was a fantastic weekend, made even better by sharing it with old classmates."

1969

Culver Tefft

Culver spent eight years converting Veterans' folder documents to digital files, making it possible for doctors, nurses, and staff at any VA facility across the country to easily access information and better care for Veterans. Retired in 2021—but just as busy as ever. Currently deep into genealogy work, which Culver describes as "like putting together a picture puzzle... and the cat knocked a couple of pieces off the table."

1973

Dave Halperin

"My wife Carol and I are living in San Miguel De Allende, Mexico,. and recently adopted a street dog we named 'Chica'" She's become a great replacement for our three children who live far away—and we don't have to save money for her college education. A new chapter in our lives."

1975

Fred Allebach

"Moved to Santa Rosa, CA, and liking it very much. I recently completed a three-month trail project on the Sonoma Overlook Trail with AmeriCorps students—we installed 58 sandstone steps (each weighing 600 pounds!) along with retaining walls. Currently in New Jersey for the June heat wave, where it feels like 121°F. In August, I'll be heading to Great Basin National Park and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon."

1977

Dwight Howes

"Sara and I moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to our daughter, Cate, and her husband, Charlie—and a bit closer to our son, Jack, who lives in San Diego. We love it here. No goats so far."

1998



Sophie Rutnik

Sophie Rutnik '98 returned to campus with her children—Jameer (15) and Giuliana (13)—and her parents, Andy and Janet. Now General Manager and Director of Sales at Grande Bay Resort, Sophie reminisced about her Darrow days, recalling her senior year as student body president, her time in Hinckley, and playing both soccer and softball.

2011

Sarah Hafey

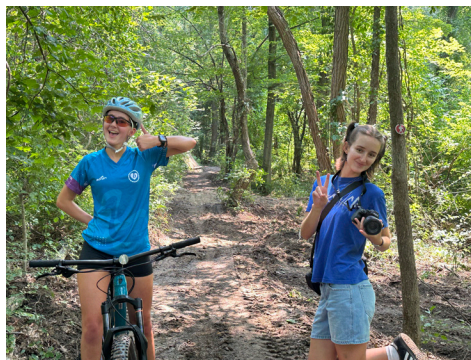


Sarah made a surprise return to the Mountainside this past summer. She recently joined the Board of Trustees at the Montessori School of the Berkshires and is now a new homeowner, active volunteer, and advocate for her local community in Watertown, CT.

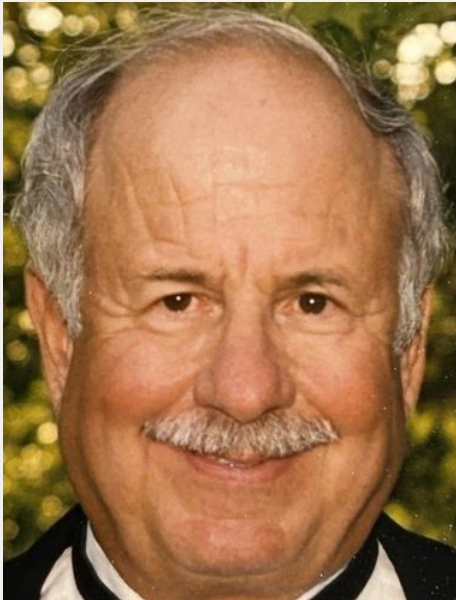
2021

Willow Covendecker

Willow graduated from Wheaton College this spring and has returned to the Berkshires to continue telling stories that celebrate learning and creativity. She recently joined the Montessori School of the Berkshires as a Content Creator and has contributed images to Darrow's website—<https://www.darrowschool.org/student-life/mtb>



In Memoriam



Herman "Sandy" Fellingner '53

Herman (Sandy) Fellingner passed away peacefully on August 28, 2025, surrounded by loved ones at the Hospice of the Western Reserve. Born on June 2, 1935, in Cleveland, OH, he attended Darrow School, Washington and Lee University, and John Carroll University following his service in the U.S. Army. Sandy built a long career in the insurance industry in Cleveland and was known for his love of tennis, golf, and bridge, achieving the rank of Life Master. He is survived by his sons Lewis (Stacey) and Robert (Megan), five grandchildren, his sister Edith Fellingner Hirsch, and longtime companion Nancy Cousins.

Roger King Glenn '57

Roger Glenn passed away peacefully at home in Lake George on January 22, 2025. Born in North Creek, NY, he graduated from Darrow School before serving as a sergeant in the Army National Guard. Roger built a successful career in construction management and entrepreneurship, founding Canvas Covers Cushions Specialties. An avid skier

and outdoorsman, he earned a National Appointment from the National Ski Patrol in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Lynda; sons Tim and Kurtis; grandchildren Kyle and Kendall; and brother Randolph.

Ivan Narodny '65

Ivan Narodny, 78, passed away on June 22, 2023, at Schneider Regional Medical Center. Funeral arrangements were under the care of Dan Hurley Home for Funerals and Cremation Centers of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix.



Herbert Thayer West '67

Thayer West passed away peacefully on February 28, 2025, at the age of 76, with his children by his side. Born in Charleston, WV, and raised in New Canaan, CT, he attended Darrow School and graduated from the University of Denver in 1971 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. An avid fly fisherman and paddle player, he was a beloved friend and devoted father remembered for his good humor and love of the outdoors.

In Memoriam



Alexander Bernstein (attended 1974)

Alexander Bernstein, son of legendary conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein, passed away at the age of 70. A devoted educator and arts advocate, he led Artful Learning, Inc. and The Leonard Bernstein Center for Learning, advancing his father's vision of arts-based education. Though he did not graduate, Bernstein spent time at Darrow School in 1974, where he made a lasting impression.



William Philip Krause '83

William Philip "Phil" Krause passed away on May 23, 2025, after a courageous year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Known for his wide smile, dry wit, and adventurous spirit, Phil shared a lifelong love of the outdoors and spent over 30 years as a paramedic in Richmond, VA, and Worcester, MA. He is survived by his wife of

31 years, Rebecca "Blaze" Krause, his children Emma and Will, his sister Gwen, and extended family.

Alan Kinnear Boyle, Former Faculty

Alan Boyle, former Darrow School faculty member and decorated Vietnam veteran, passed away on July 28, 2025, at the age of

78. A recipient of the Purple Heart, he later earned degrees from Amherst College and Brown University and taught at Darrow School and Lenox Memorial High School. He is remembered for his love of learning, history, and the outdoors.



David Dashiell, Former Faculty

David Dashiell, 71, passed away on May 4, 2025, after a brief illness. A gifted photographer and arts administrator, he worked for The Bidwell House Museum, The Mount, and Darrow School, and his photography appeared in The New York Times and Architectural Digest. Beloved for his gentle spirit and wry wit, he is survived by his husband and partner of 24 years, Norton Owen.



Leaving a Legacy, Building a Future

Earlier this year, as we celebrated my father's 80th birthday, the conversation turned—unexpectedly but inevitably—to legacy. We talked about the things that matter most—family, values, and what we want to leave behind. It wasn't a financial planning conversation, though that came later. It was about meaning. About stewardship. About impact.

That conversation has stayed with me, especially here on the Mountainside, where the idea of legacy is everywhere—etched into the Shaker stones beneath our feet and echoed in the stories of Darrow alumni who still carry the school in their hearts. And it's what the Darrow School Legacy Society is all about.

The Darrow School Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a lasting commitment to the school by including Darrow in their estate plans. Whether through a bequest, retirement plan designation, charitable trust, or other planned gift, these individuals are ensuring that Darrow's mission endures for future generations.

Their gifts are deeply personal—some supporting scholarships, others preserving our historic campus, strengthening arts and athletics, or growing the endowment. But together, these commitments form the quiet foundation of the *foreverDARROW* initiative—a movement to secure the school's long-term sustainability through strategic investment in People, Place, and Program.

Planned giving is more than a financial decision. It's a statement of belief—a way of saying, "I see the value of this place, and I want it to thrive beyond my lifetime." You don't have to be an alum to feel that way. I'm not. Neither is my father. But we both believe in what Darrow stands for—a school that honors the individual, nurtures creativity, and builds community rooted in honesty, humility, and joyful simplicity.

If you've already included Darrow in your estate plans—or are considering doing so—we invite you to let us know. Every gift matters. Every legacy helps shape the one we all share.

To learn more about the Darrow School Legacy Society—or how planned giving can support *foreverDARROW*—please contact Phil Darrin in the Advancement Office—darrinp@darrowschool.org



*forever*DARROW

Limited Edition T-shirt



If you've fulfilled your Save Darrow pledge, you're eligible for a limited-edition *forever*DARROW T-shirt. Simply scan the QR code, complete the form, and select your size. We'll do our best to match it, but quantities are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To qualify—your pledge must be paid in full and the form submitted by December 31, 2025.

This shirt was made possible by a devoted alumnus, inspired by the extraordinary generosity of this community. We're proud to share it—and prouder still to count you as part of it.

Haven't fulfilled your pledge yet? There's still time. Complete your gift and submit the form by the deadline—we'd love to include you.



REUNION

Save the Date



June 12-14, 2026





**Know someone who'd
thrive at Darrow?**



**Have them reach out to our
Admissions Department to
learn more.**

(518) 704-2760

admissions@darrowschool.org



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 7:00 PM

Join Darrow's Virtual Town Hall to hear what's new on the Mountainside—discover the exciting progress underway, ask questions, and learn more about where we're headed.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER and join the conversation.