Marjorie Hollister
Wilson ’36

Marjorie H. Wilson, 94, of South Bend, Indiana, died peacefully Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in the health care wing of the Sanctuary at St. Paul’s, where she had resided since 2008. She was born December 6, 1918, in Omaha, Nebraska, to the late Susan (Holdrege) and Robert R. Hollister. She married James M. Wilson, MD, on September 19, 1942, in Omaha. After a brief residence in Rochester, Minnesota, they moved to South Bend in 1947. Her husband preceded her in death along with a son, Christopher, in a tragic automobile accident on February 27, 2004. She was also preceded in death by a brother, Barrett Hollister. Marjorie is survived by her daughter, Nancy, and her son, Sandy, as well as five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

Marjorie belonged to the South Bend Country Club, where she participated in the women’s golf league, as well as the Junior League and the Women’s Literary Club. She was also a member of Colonial Dames of America, Northern Indiana Historical Society, and Michiana Regional Art Association, and was a Bridge Center regular in recent years. In addition to supporting Putney, she was a supporter of the South Bend Symphony, South Bend Civic Theater, and the South Bend Public Education Foundation. She served on the Memorial Hospital Women’s Board and volunteered in the Memorial Hospital Coffee Corner. A longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, she served as an Elder and belonged to the Women’s Association of the church.

Marjorie was a member of The Putney School’s first graduating class. An intrepid young woman, she was also one of two girls on Putney’s ski team (otherwise filled with boys), about which she once wrote, “We kept our hair tucked under stocking caps so no one knew we were girls!” In 1939, she climbed the Grand Teton, the largest mountain in the Teton range, accompanying a first cousin who just a week later set a speed record for that mountain. She continued to golf, play tennis, and ski throughout her life. In 2008, Marjorie donated one million dollars to Putney’s Field House project, a transformational gift that allowed the school to pursue its vision of building the net-zero energy, LEED Platinum-certified building that exists today.

Harry Brorby ’45

Harry Brorby was born in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Melvin and Rowena Brorby. He died June 29, 2012. After graduating from Putney, Harry earned an MFA from the University of Iowa, with an etching minor, under the direction of Mauricio Lasansky. He was a painter, printmaker, and teacher, whose work was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, Brooklyn Museum, Library of Congress, Los Angeles Art Museum, Walker Art Center, and the Seattle Art Museum. He won top prize at the Art Institute of Chicago’s “Chicago Show” in 1959. He lived near Holland, Michigan, with his studio overlooking the dramatic, deep blue waters of Lake Michigan.
Fred Hicks ’46

Fred Hicks died July 9, 2013, in Louisville, Kentucky, at the age of 85, a few months after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Fred was a University of Louisville professor emeritus in the department of anthropology, and a scholarship for foreign study in anthropology was established by the university in his honor upon his retirement in 1996. Fred was born in New Orleans but spent his youth in Connecticut. He was a veteran of the Korean War and a graduate of the University of New Mexico. He received a PhD from UCLA in 1963. Fred was active in the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Economic Anthropology, and is known for his study of social stratification in Paraguay and Aztec Mexico. He wrote or contributed to numerous academic journals, is the co-author of El Códice Vergara with Dr. Barbara J. Williams, and a contributor to the Handbook of the Aztecs, which will be published by the Oxford University Press.

Active in Louisville’s open housing movement in the 1960s and a long-time resident of its West End, Fred served in leadership positions with the Committee of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Southern Organizing Committee, and the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America, among others. He is remembered fondly as a lover of the opera and chamber music, a fine cook, and a superb storyteller.

Fred’s wife, Dr. Judith Joel, died of breast cancer in 1996. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Warren ’50 and Emma Hicks, of Georgetown, Connecticut, many colleagues in anthropology, and a broad circle of friends in the movements for peace and justice.

Sarah J. Johnson Shaw ’48

Sarah Jane Shaw rode off into the sunset March 18, 2013, at the age of 84. She had her horse waiting for her at the trailhead, picketed so he could graze while she finished up the last part of her life suffering the unpleasantness of Alzheimer’s. Now she has swung up into the saddle and started up the trail with her dog. Before getting out of sight, she turns back and smiles goodbye. Then she is off, up through the rolling grass-covered hills and into the canyon. She’ll ride through the silent pines until she reaches the lake in the high basin. She’ll water there and then head up the steep switchbacks, her reflection diffusing into the ripples with all the colors of the wildflowers. Up she’ll go, past the last drifts of winter and the white bark pines. Above tree line, she’ll follow the old cairns to the saddle between the peaks. Her hat pulled down tight against the biting wind, she’ll meet the crest, and, finally, cross over.

Sarah was born September 12, 1929. As a child she lived in Vermont while attending Putney. Her father died before she could know him. Her mother traveled the world. As a teenager, she lived in a log cabin with her sister at the foot of Storm Mountain in Colorado, long before Steamboat was even a dream. She got her degree at Colorado State University and worked as a map maker there. While mountaineering, she met Carlton Shaw. They married and moved to Bozeman, Montana, in the spring of ’56. They never left. She spent some 45 years raising and training horses near the mouth of Bridge Canyon. She rode with the Saddle Club, showed at the fairs, led 4-H groups, skied Bridger Bowl, snowmobiled, raised three kids, explored mountain trails, fixed a lot of fences, and trimmed a lot of hooves. She worked hard every day of her life. She was an artist; her favorite subject was her animals. She had a gentle way and was really good with her animals. Her mother and her brother preceded her in death. Her sisters, her husband, Carlton, her three children, and an extended family around the world remain behind.

Sally Penchoen Attridge ’49

Sally Attridge died on April 13, 2013, of cancer. She was 81 years old and lived in Fayetteville, New York. Raised in Skaneateles, New York, she was the daughter of Ruth and Austin Penchoen, and had a passion for animals, especially horses. She was an avid horsewoman and showed hunters and jumpers in the region in her youth. She attended Skaneateles Junior Senior High School until 1947 and graduated from Putney in 1949. She received a BA degree from Wells College in 1953, with a major in English. During her lifetime, Sally taught at Pebble Hill School in Syracuse, taught skiing at Toggenburg, directed the Campus Volunteer Center at Syracuse University, sold real estate, and wrote for the Eagle Newspapers. Sally also founded Anorexia Bulimia Support in 1981, the first agency addressing eating disorders in her area, and was honored as a Post Standard Woman of Achievement for Volunteer Service in 1984. For 25 years, she was active with the Mental Health Association of Onondaga County (with whom Anorexia Bulimia Support merged in 1993), serving on its board for several terms. She was the recipient of the President’s Award twice, in 1998 and 2007. She was a member of the Junior League of Syracuse, serving as president in 1970. Sally was an avid skier and tennis player into her sixties, and remained an avid golfer, gardener, and bridge player into late life. She enjoyed travel and exploring new places, theater events and concerts. Her husband, Bob, passed away the same day. Sally is survived by four children, six grandchildren, and a brother.
Margaret Neuberg
Bucky '50

Margaret Bucky, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and formerly of New York, New York, passed away May 25, 2013. Margaret was born August 13, 1932, in Mount Kisco, New York, to the late Alfred and Ethel (Barnett) Neuberg. She attended the Dalton Primary School in Manhattan, followed by Putney. Margaret earned her Bachelor’s degree from American University in 1971 and her Master’s degree from The John Hopkins University in 1972. She also studied at Columbia University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Margaret spent most of her life working as a freelance writer. Before moving to Kalamazoo to live with her daughter, Margaret split her time between New York and Connecticut. Margaret studied dance with Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, and Martha Graham. In the 1970s, she traveled to Israel by invitation of the State Department with dance pioneer Marian Chace, where she helped train mental health professionals in dance therapy and group dance therapy techniques. Margaret taught at the Light House for the Blind in New York City, working with blind children. She also taught in Brooklyn, working with autistic children. Margaret’s family was close friends with the world-renowned physicist, Albert E. Einstein. Margaret enjoyed painting and drawing, and was an animal lover. She leaves to cherish her memory a daughter, Christina Olinger, a granddaughter, Natalie, and special life-long friend, Patricia Selch of New York.

Peter Ribicoff '55

Peter Ribicoff, 76, of New York City, died at home after a long illness on May 3, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Mercedes, his two children, and three grandchildren, each of whom received a birthday poem from Peter every year. Peter and Mercedes lived in the same Manhattan apartment for more than forty-five years, less than a block from Central Park.

Peter Atchley '67

Written by Ruth Green ’67

Beneath the sprawling fig tree, a gift from Peter’s father, we slept together in a hospice bed in our dining room. Peter’s silver web stretched across the corner window, full of glitter leaves the children made when they were small. Just before dawn, Peter shifted in my arms and woke me. He and I looked into each other’s eyes. Peter’s eyes shone with a deep, infinite blue. His breath skipped and his pupils grew wide. Desperately, I wished myself deep into that last blue with him. Desperately, I dived into that infinite to snatch him back, but in a second the light dimmed, his eyes changed, and Peter died. Then our dear Trish, Peter’s step-mother, woke Samantha and Sacha and our nephews, Harrison and Keith, Mary’s sons. They gathered round the bed, held Peter, and said goodbye.

Peter had fought valiantly to survive. We witnessed his brave determination to stay with the family he cherished. We can hardly honor him enough for his courageous battle to stick with us. Family, colleagues, and his many, many friends prayed that Peter’s wonderful, rare, jovial presence would continue. In spirit, it will.

Peter was an extraordinary person, remarkable for his intellect, his geniality, his peculiar sense of humor, and his consistency in diet and dress. For four years at Putney, “Atchley!” was the heart cry that rose up from the assembly hall to the motorshed, from the classroom to the theater, whenever circuits shorted, projectors broke, or anything mechanical, automotive, or electrical ceased to function. He could repair, retool, or rebuild anything. Inventive in the arts, he was an accomplished clarinetist and composed on piano, keyboard, organ, and flute. Peter sculpted engaging small pieces in metal, wire, and stone. In Peter’s varied career he was a recording engineer for Apostolic Studios in NYC and designer and creator of a light screen which translated the visual images of film into music. He modified machinery and wrote software for Omega Optical, whose filters were used by NASA.

After teaching at Yale, Peter attended UMass graduate school. He devoted his software acumen to the development and perfection of the Langley-Ford/Coulter particle sizer with essential applications in medicine, research, and industry. Peter was distinguished by a patent for lifetime achievement as an author of software for this important invention.

Peter eschewed military involvement, refusing to sell his talents to Militech or any governmental operation. Ardent feminist, staunch LGBTQ ally, defender of human rights, especially children’s rights and creatures’ rights, Peter lived without prejudice of any kind. We are so grateful for his cheerful genius, egregious puns, raucous laughter, and all-encompassing friendliness. We will carry him in our hearts and minds forever.

See alumni notes page 66 for a poem written by Peter’s family

Editor’s Note: We receive news of deceased alumni through many channels; however, we do not always find an accompanying obituary. Two alumni fell into this category during the production of this issue, and we wanted to share their names:

Katrina Voorhees Berman ’37

Ranny Mitchell ’63
Ted Osius ’79

Since Ted attended The Putney School, his dedication to Putney has never wavered. Ted has given to Putney every year since his graduation in 1979, recently making this commitment a lasting aspect of his estate planning by naming Putney in his Will, and thereby joining Putney’s Legacy Circle. “Putney shaped my values; here I felt part of creating and maintaining an effective community involving everyone. Putney continues to champion progressive education and the ideals of making the world a better place.” As a diplomat and senior foreign service officer, Ted has continued to serve these principles throughout his life and work.

Ted’s philanthropy represents pragmatic as well as idealistic goals. Ted gave generously to the construction of the Michael S. Currier Center and the Field House, and to renovation of the Jeffrey Campbell Theater, helping to meet the school’s present needs. Citing the example of the enduring impact that his Putney classmate Michael Currier set for Putney alumni, Ted recognizes that Putney will use his money wisely to guarantee that Putney’s fundamental principles, so vital to the world today, can continue beyond his own lifetime.

Putney’s Legacy Circle includes alumni and friends who have included Putney in their retirement plan or Will. We hope you will consider supporting Putney this way.

For more information on making a planned gift to Putney, contact Brian Cohen, Major Gifts Officer, 802-387-6261 or bcohen@putneyschool.org.

Bequests ■ Life Insurance ■ Beneficiary Designation ■ Charitable Gift Annuities ■ Charitable Trusts

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