

## Alumni and Friends Newsletter January 2024

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*Students performing a scene from "Metamorphoses"  
in the Jeffrey Campbell Theater, December 2023*

Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

Winter invites a deep sense of inquiry, as focus often turns inward during the shorter days. Reflection remains an important part of what happens here on the hill, as is our communal sense of connection and the care we have for each other, this place, and the world around us. We are grateful for the wider connection and awareness that all of you offer. The dimensional mosaic that is the Putney community is strengthened by all the many ways we tend to and care for both our inner and outer landscapes, including each other. Thank you for being an integral part of Putney's ever-evolving story.

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# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Joy and Belonging



Putney students, faculty, and staff will gather and work together towards enriching and enhancing community and communication through affinity and identity groups.

Workshops in development for this event include:

The Backbone of the Civil Rights Movement • Five Pursuits of Learning: Equity in Education • Womanism & Women in the Black Panther Party • Indigenous Rights Activism and Struggles • Climate Justice • Black Joy • Joy, Cultural Practices of Care and Gratitude, and Community—Do We Have King’s Beloved Community? • Rhetoric and Racism • Conversation Through Conflict • Anti-Asian and Anti-Black Violence • Communities of Solidarity • Islamophobia and Antisemitism: What Do We Do When Hatred is on the Rise

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## Putney Bids Farewell to Pete Stickney; Launches Search for New Farm Manager



Long-time Farm Manager Pete Stickney will retire this year. Pete has led the farm with a steady hand for decades, and what he teaches through the farm program has touched generations of students.

“My family and I have been privileged to work with wonderful students, faculty, and staff from around the world while staying here in our hometown,” said Pete. “Now comes a time to look outward and to new adventures. I hope that my time at Putney has been a mutually beneficial experience. I will miss the people and the pastures.” Putney will host a Zoom event to celebrate Pete this spring, to give the legions of alumni a chance to celebrate him together.

If you or someone you know could be our next farm manager, here's [more information about the position](#).

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## Gallery Exhibition

*Three Perspectives:*  
Tracings, Trackings, Terrains

MADGE EVERS  
NANCY STORROW  
STEFANIA URIST



January 17 - March 3, 2024

***Three Perspectives: Tracings, Trackings, Terrains*** features work by [Madge Evers](#), [Nancy Storrow](#), and [Stefania Urist](#) and will be presented in The Michael S. Currier Center from January 17 through March 3.

The three artists focus on and re-imagine the natural world. Elements of plant life are used for inspiration, for the conceptual basis for their work and in some cases for the actual medium. The work includes spore prints, foraged invasive species, industrial materials, as well as traditional drawing and carved woodblocks. Drawing from nature, ecology, and the heart, the artists ask us to reconsider our surroundings.

Opening January 19, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at The Putney School.

[Read more](#)

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## Annual Fund and Campaign Update



At this time, we are halfway through Putney's fiscal year, and a little over halfway to the \$1.2 million goal to ensure the Annual Fund supports the operating budget with the amount expected this year. As many of you know, tuition is not enough to cover the full cost of educating each Putney student. Much of this is due to Putney's commitment to ensuring access, with 47% of the student body receiving some level of financial aid. Critical to Putney's ability to fulfill its mission, support for the [Annual Fund](#) remains essential.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up thus far this year—current parent and employee giving is robust at 35% and 33%, past parents at 12%, and alumni giving at 9%. We invite your participation, at whatever level you are able, as every dollar truly matters and your support is deeply appreciated.

A special shout-out to the 85 Putney fans who made gifts totaling \$26,980 during our end-of-December matching challenge. Thank you to our incredibly generous challengers who put up \$25,000 to match these gifts. In all, it was a banner three days for Putney and we're so grateful to our generous Putney community.

[Sing it Forward, A Campaign for Putney's Future](#) is humming along. As is construction on the dorms which students and faculty families will move into by early spring! A recent pledge of \$2 million for the dorms leaves us with just \$4 million to go to complete the \$18 million cost of construction. The black box theater project is next up, with close to \$1 million committed, and another \$5+ million to go. The student and faculty support elements of this campaign are 40% to the goal of \$6 million. Meeting these campaign goals would not be possible without the support of the Putney community. Thank you to those of you who have joined the chorus, and if you haven't yet, please consider this an invitation to help sing Putney forward!

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## Legacy of Generosity



### **Trustee John MacIntosh P '20, '23 on why Putney is part of his planned giving.**

We invite you to join [Putney's Legacy Circle](#) by including The Putney School in your estate plans. Doing so will have a long and lasting impact, allowing Putney to thrive for generations to come. Your support will ensure [Putney's Fundamental Beliefs](#) continue to guide us toward fulfilling our mission of creating a better world, one student at a time.

As a first step to explore how you might include Putney in your estate planning, we encourage you to visit our [gift planning page on our website](#) and consult your financial advisor. To begin a conversation, or to let us know of your plans, please contact [Director of Development Kalya Yannatos](#).

We are deeply grateful for those who have chosen this powerful, transcendent, and transformative way of expressing generosity and love for Putney.

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## **Alumna in the News**

In case you missed it, the [New York Times recently featured](#) Thulani Davis '66 and her brothers, who created the opera *X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. You can also hear Thulani's thoughts about the development of Malcolm X's life into an opera and how it amplifies his legacy in an interview with [The Paris Review](#).

Playwright, Grammy Award winner, scholar, novelist, librettist, journalist, poet, and more, Thulani has produced an interdisciplinary body of work that, in her words, "shares a passionate concern with history, justice, [and] African American life and is marked by the journalist's eye for the uncovered truth."



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## Putney Events



**Networking • Zoom Event with Pete Stickney • Putney Heads West**

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### **Three Networking Events**

*Putney will this year join three Northern New England Peer Schools\* events:*

- 1. Alumni of Color Panel and Networking with Peer School Alumni (Virtual)**  
February 12, 2024, 7–8:30 p.m. via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Details: This year's conversation topic is *Bringing Your Best Self to the School Community and Beyond*. Following the panel, attendees are invited to participate in a virtual speed networking session. Panelist and moderator information can be found [here](#).

## **2. Professional Networking in Boston**

April 3, 2024, 7–9 p.m.

[The Exchange](#), 212 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA

## **3. Professional Networking in New York**

April 4, 2024, 7–9 p.m.

[The Penn Club](#), 30 W 44th Street, New York, NY

Details: Putney is partnering with six fellow independent schools in northern New England to host networking receptions in Boston and New York City. Events will begin with a keynote address, followed by breakout discussions by industry, and closing with a networking reception. Stay tuned for more information as details are confirmed.

For more information, contact Alison Frye at [afrye@putneyschool.org](mailto:afrye@putneyschool.org) or call/text 802-258-1812.

\*The Northern New England peer schools events are hosted by Vermont Academy, Cardigan Mountain School, Dublin School, Holderness School, Kimball Union Academy, Pinkerton Academy, Proctor Academy, The Putney School, and The White Mountain School.

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## **Zoom Event with Pete Stickney**

Join us to raise a glass to Pete as he prepares to retire from Putney. Stay tuned for an invitation to this event, which will take place in late March. Details to be confirmed soon.

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## **West Coast Putney Events**

Putney people in California and the Pacific Northwest, we're heading your way in March for some in-person get-togethers, and we would love to see you! Everyone is invited to the events below. Please let us know if you'd like to come, share the news with your Putney friends in the area, and look for an email invitation in early February if you live on the West Coast.

### **San Francisco**

Thursday, March 7, 5–7 p.m.

Hosted by Laura Berner '92

### **San Rafael**

Friday, March 8, 5–7 p.m.



Backyard brick oven pizza making  
Hosted by Cyane Dandridge '84

### **Berkeley and Palo Alto Areas**

Saturday, March 9  
Details TBD

### **Pacific Northwest**

We are working on scheduling events in Portland and Seattle between March 11-13. Stay tuned!

### **Los Angeles**

Date TBC, likely: Thursday, March 14, 5-7 p.m.  
Hosted by Sarah Minot Gold '75

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Stay in touch:

Please use this [link to update](#) your information and preferences with The Putney School.  
[We welcome your feedback.](#)

