

## Alumni and Friends Newsletter March 2024

---



*Two happy students moving into their room in the newly opened Sarah and Geoffrey Gund House this week.*

Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to spring! The bustling energy of the season is palpable, with students back from March break, sunny days with frisbee on the lawn, and probably a snowstorm sometime in the next week or two. We're excited to share the latest from the school with you: new dorms (now inhabited!), Putney events (Pete Stickney!), alumni in the news, updates on the Sing it *Forward* campaign and the Annual Fund, and more. Life at Putney hums along, and we always love hearing from you. Stay well, and enjoy the sunshine.

---

## A Pillar of the Community

Peggy King Jorde '76 Recognized by Preservation Society of New York



Last week, Peggy King Jorde '76 received the [Pillar of New York Award](#) from the Preservation Society of New York. Peggy has spent decades working in cultural heritage and preservation, and was instrumental in protecting and creating [New York City's African Burial Ground National Monument](#) in lower Manhattan. "It's a human experience. It goes beyond race," Peggy says of the site. "These are sacred sites with incredible dimension and significance." In recent years, Peggy has worked to preserve an unmarked mass burial ground on St. Helena in the South Atlantic,

where an estimated 9,000 formerly enslaved Africans are buried. That experience is captured in the PBS/POV film, [A Story of Bones](#), for which Peggy acted as consulting producer.

Hear directly from Peggy about her work [in this video](#) from the Preservation Society of New York.

---

## "The World is Going to Hell"

And What Paige Norris '16 is Doing About It



Sustainability work requires science skills, and data can tell a story. Paige Norris '16 has turned a lifelong interest in environmental studies into a graduate school scholarship through Northeastern University's Roux Institute Alford Scholars Program, where she is building her foundation for a future career in renewable energy. She uses data science to tackle real-world issues, including waste reduction in the manufacturing industry. Learn more in [Northeastern's recent feature of Paige and her work](#).

---

## New Art Department Chair

After teaching abroad for fifteen years at international schools, Robin Muller first joined The Putney School as a drawing and painting teacher, and more recently stepped into the position of Art Department Chair. With an extensive background in progressive education, she brings a strong focus in professional development, curriculum coordination, and cultural awareness.



Muller would like to deepen the art department's interdisciplinary collaboration by, for instance, co-teaching a course with a science teacher or coordinating units of study with other classes to facilitate overlapping lessons.

"We have complex problems in the world to solve right now, and you need a lot of different ways and approaches to thinking about those problems," Muller said. "And the more that we can get people having conversations and problem-solving across disciplines, I think that we have a better chance at our future."

[Read more](#)

---

## New Dorms—Move-In Day!



*Groundbreaking ceremony for Hepper House, June 2022. From left, Board Chair Josh Laughlin '82, Sarah Gund '60, Judy and Allen Freedman P'83, G'16, '22, former head of*

*school Emily Jones, Gregory and Lillian Whitehead P'12, '14, Johnny Caldwell '46 breaking ground, Tim Caldwell '72, Sverre Caldwell '73, Peter Caldwell '74, Peter's daughter, Alexa, and granddaughter, Carter.*

Putney broke ground on its new dorms in 2022. Less than two years later, students and faculty have started to move in. The spaces are bright, welcoming, clean, efficient, and warm (or cool, depending on the season). Putney recognizes and thanks our early investors in these dorms, Sarah '60 and Geoffrey Gund, Allen and Judy Freedman P'83, G'16, '22, and the Roaring Brook Foundation, whose generous support gave the project essential momentum and financial backing. Our gratitude goes out to so many others who added to their generous support.

The Sarah and Geoffrey Gund House, named by Geoffrey [in remembrance of Sarah](#), welcomed its first students last week. [Hepper House](#), named by Sarah and Geoffrey in honor of Hepper Caldwell '46, will be complete in the next month or so. In all, the dorms will house 44 students and four faculty families, and will move Putney closer to its goal of becoming a net-zero campus. Moreover, the dorms support the vision outlined in the master plan of moving Putney's residential program to the outer rim of campus, and centering academic, arts, athletic, and student support facilities within the heart of campus.

### **Moving Forward with Sing it Forward**

Putney thanks everyone who has supported the [Sing it Forward campaign](#) thus far. With \$27.5 million raised of our initial \$35M goal, we are seeing the impact of your generosity; from our new dorms, to funds that support the student experience, to the seeds that will grow our new theater. Putney secured a low-interest mortgage to allow the dorm project to move forward; that said, Putney's lack of institutional debt has been a key to our financial stability, and we hope to erase this debt as quickly as possible. Philanthropy is essential to this recipe. If you would like to help us get to the finish line of the Sing it *Forward* campaign, please reach out to [Kalya Yannatos](#), Development Director, or [A'ja Hall](#), Gift Officer.

---

## Your Chance for Some Putney Maple Syrup!



"Keep the wheelbarrow in front of you," says Putney's Farm Manager, Pete Stickney, as he guides new crew members in the task of shoveling out the barn. Although aimed at the barn newcomer, these words of advice apply to many of life's challenges—whether you're shoveling manure, resolving a relationship issue, or completing a task.

Pete is stepping away after 28 years of working with Putney students and has played a central role in possibly the most important lesson Putney students take with them: the value of manual labor and showing responsibility towards those who rely on you—whether it's the animals in your care or your fellow crew members.

As we prepare to send Pete on his way, consider making a gift to the [Annual Fund](#) in his honor. Pete will be drawing 10 names to receive a bottle of this year's Putney maple syrup, so email [Carlotta Cuerdon](#), Assistant Director of Development, by March 31 to have your name put in the sap bucket (gift not required). If you're one of the lucky winners, you'll be able to toast Pete with a shot of pure Putney gold.

---

## Putney Events

Professional Networking, Pete Stickney, Reunion, and More



### **Professional Networking Events**

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Boston

Thursday, April 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in New York City

Join us for in-person professional networking events in Boston and New York. Hosted by Putney and a handful of other peer New England independent schools. Learn more and [RSVP here](#).

### **Zoom Event for BIPOC Putney Alumni**

Sunday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Following up on the February 12 peer schools event, we are hosting one just for Putney alumni. Less of a panel discussion, more of a conversation. We hope you'll join us. [Please register here](#).

### **Putney Reunion in Tokyo**

April 20, 2024

Time and location to be determined

Libby Holmes will be attending

Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to attend. (Share it with friends, too)

Email [Natsuko Seto '03](#) for more information.

### **Putney Reunion in Seoul**

April 26, 2024

Time and location to be determined

Libby Holmes will be attending

Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to attend. (Share it with friends, too)

### **Pete Stickney Celebration (via Zoom)**

Tuesday, May 14, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Raise a glass to Pete Stickney as he closes out his Putney chapter. Bring a barn story to share. Moderated by Noah Hoskins. Register to attend by [filling out this short form](#). We'll send you a Zoom link. And you can always register later by visiting [putneyschool.org/alumni](https://putneyschool.org/alumni).

## Reunion 2024

June 7–9, 2024

Classes of 50-54, 67-69, 74, 84-85, 03-07, 14-16

Registration opens April 1, 2024

[Reunion website](#)

---



Stay in touch:

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

[We welcome your feedback.](#)

