

Message from the Director

News Flash! Walden's next Teacher Training Workshop to take place August 1-7, 2006

by Seth Brenzel

"An understanding heart is everything in a teacher, and cannot be esteemed highly enough. One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feeling. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

— Carl Jung

Walden and JCC alumni, when recalling their time at camp, are invariably grateful to the teachers who inspired them — to pursue music as a career or avocation, to sing in a choir, to teach music, to become a composer. While they might have memories of the curriculum or of specific pieces they wrote, it is this critical element of warmth that Walden faculty and staff possess that is a consistent theme in alumni remembrances.

What has sustained the warmth of our summer music program over so many decades, through so many different teachers and musicians? I believe one of the sustaining elements is the intimate size of the program and the unparalleled individual attention that this size enables. This summer, with fifty students and nineteen full-time faculty and staff, the student:faculty/staff ratio was 2.6:1, a truly remarkable statistic.

Providing such individually focused attention is necessarily expensive, and while tuition may seem high (now exceeding \$5,000 for 5 weeks), it actually covers just 65% of Walden's costs. Many students cannot afford to pay more than a portion of their tuition, and our scholarship fund ensures that Walden's programs remain accessible to all qualified students regardless of their ability to pay. As the need for aid grows, we are increasingly grateful to those who give so generously to Walden's scholarship fund.

When the faculty and staff gathered in June for orientation, each of us shared with the group what we hoped to bring to the summer, what specific gift or offering we would make to the community. I said that I would bring a sense of gratitude, a gratitude to those who give so much to Walden personally, musically, financially, and creatively. It's the power of that gratitude that fuels me in my work and clearly motivates the faculty and staff as well.

Included among these supportive individuals is our remarkable board of directors, now led by Ellen Bernard; Ellen took over as chair from the inimitable Laura Mehiel, who stepped down after nearly six years as chair (see *tribute article page 3*). All of us in the Walden community thank Laura for her service.

Thanks are also due to outgoing board members David Drucker, David Saslav, and Jim Moberley, who lent their considerable energy and wisdom to strengthen Walden's foundation during each of their board terms. This summer we welcomed two new board members: Lia Fernald and Andrew Jacobs. Lia, a cellist, is a professor at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health and Andrew is a Walden alumnus and attorney practicing in New York City. Both are already contributing to the work of Walden's board, and we look forward to their continued service in the years to come.

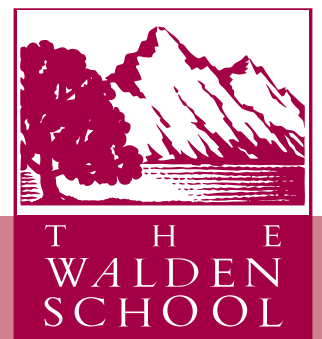
In closing, I'd like to say a special thanks to Walden's faculty and staff — who teach inspiring classes, who train teachers in creative music making, and who make the Walden magic happen each summer. Each of these individuals has an understanding heart, truly a "vital element" in the experience of Walden students.

May each of you, during this Thanksgiving season, find numerous blessings for which to be thankful.



Recitative

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Creative Giving “Look Ma, No Checkbook!”

by Esther Landau

Twice annually you receive an appeal letter from Walden, asking you to support the important work done all year long to keep this remarkable program growing and thriving. You are consistently generous with Walden — sometimes making gifts twice a year — but there are undoubtedly times when you aren’t able to give as much as you might like. There are some simple ways to give to Walden that don’t involve your checkbook, however.



Consider these options for helping Walden meet its budgetary needs with minimal effort (and expense) on your part.

Matching Gifts — More Bang for Your Buck

Some employers have a matching gifts program — does yours? Donor Leslie Stephens has always submitted for her company’s matching gifts. As she puts it: “Why would you not? You feel passionately about an organization and want to support it. You determine what you can contribute. The corporate matching gift programs allow you to increase that donation by 100%. It takes you 5–10 minutes to complete the paperwork and you have doubled your donation.”

Long-time Walden supporter David Ruschke’s gifts are also matched by his employer, Medtronic. “Medtronic has a strong commitment to its mission — helping people regain their health. And part of that commitment is a commitment to education generally. Walden was not

on the list of educational institutions given on Medtronic’s intranet, but all I had to do was submit a very brief application, really just the school’s name and its educational/charitable status, and it was approved for matching grant status. I guess I

did it because I like to see employees taking advantage of such matching grants from their employers whenever possible.”

Gifts In Kind

An “in-kind” gift is a gift not of money but of goods or services that are of use to the recipient. For example, Walden has received in kind support from a designer who contributes some of his time without a fee, and a winery that donates wine for fundraising events.

Recently Elizabeth Clarkson, an employee at HP, helped the Walden office obtain a new printer, a heavily used and valuable item, at a steep discount. She described the experience of in-kind giving as “simple,” explaining: “HP has a great

gifts in kind program that lists out the various pieces of equipment employees can give at discounted rates. I simply contacted Seth and Malcolm, inquired as to what would be the most useful to Walden, and then filled out the HP form. Walden staff did all the rest of the work; I did nothing but enjoy the fact that I could help Walden in a new way.” If you have an in-kind gift in mind, be sure to contact the Walden office first to make sure it will be a good fit.

Recruitment

In addition to financial contributions, The Walden School can always benefit from referrals to interested young musicians and music teachers — potential applicants to our programs. Most applicants hear about the program through people they know — be sure to tell your friends, family, and colleagues about the quality education and warm community you found at Walden. We will happily provide you with brochures and other materials to aid in your recruitment efforts.

We hope you’ll consider giving to Walden through one of these simple but nontraditional methods. With matching gifts and in-kind gifts, you can put away your checkbook (for now!) and start giving to Walden “outside the box”!

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FOR THE STUDENTS, ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF THE WALDEN SCHOOL AND THE JUNIOR CONSERVATORY CAMP

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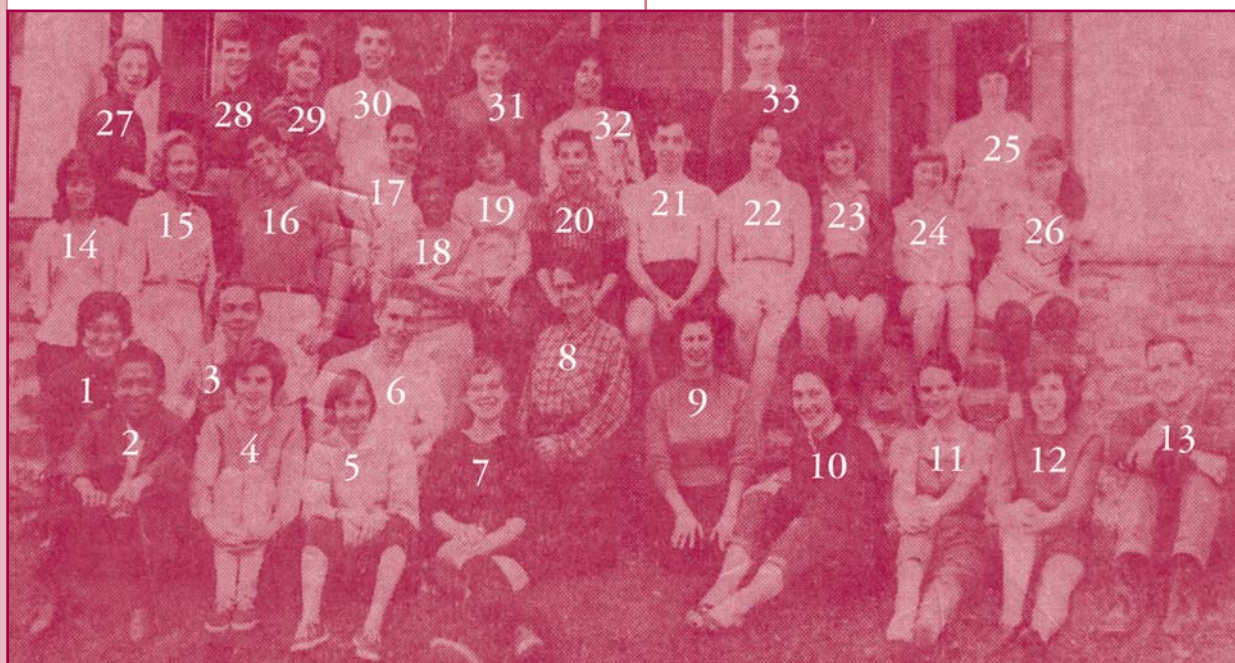
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JCC Corner



1. Janet Grady?
2. Reynaldo Reyes
3. Tom Baker
4. Fiona Murray
5. Joanne Cohen
6. Robert Weaver
7. Ruth Young
8. Mrs. Cushman
9. Shari Fleming

10. Flora Cushman
11. Trish Lawtor
12. Judy Temkin
13. Frank Murray
14. Marilyn Braune
15. Ann Callaway
16. Bruce Renshaw
17. Vivian Davis
18. Nansi Carroll

19. Angela Moore
20. Martin Wilkes
21. Eddie Max
22. Amy Catlin
23. Mary Ann Polk
24. Ellen Hoffman
25. Leonore Max
26. Linda Wilder
27. Nancy Richardson

28. Jean Calloway?
29. Lisa ?
30. John Immerwahr
31. Humphrey Evans III
32. Eleanor Schwartz
33. Noel Felde?

Announcing *Recitative’s* newest feature: JCC Corner! We will use this space to publish photos, brief anecdotes, and the names of Junior Conservatory Camp alumni with whom we’ve lost contact. We welcome submissions of photos and writings from JCC alumni. Given our space constraints, we won’t be able to publish everything, but we’ll try!

This photo, sent to us by Geoffrey (Scott) Lapin, a former student of Grace Newsom Cushman, is from a *Baltimore Sun* article: “Maryland Musicians at Summer School,” on August 5, 1962. With help from Geoffrey, Linda (Wilder) Blondel, and Marilyn (Braune) Crispell, we have identified almost everyone in the photo. Can you help us fill in the blanks? Contact Esther Landau, Walden’s Development Manager at (415) 648-4710 or email at elandau@waldenschool.org.

Tribute to Laura Mehiel

by Esther Landau

From her earliest days as a student at Walden to her continuing service on Walden's board, and particularly during her recently concluded term as Chair of the Board of Directors, Laura Mehiel and The Walden School have enjoyed a very beneficial symbiotic relationship. Laura attended Walden every year from 1974–1981. She served on the summer staff in 1984 and 1985 and returned as faculty in 1986. In 1994, she took over as Business Manager from then-retiring Lynn Hebden, and served on the administration until 1998, when she joined the Board of Directors. In 2000 she became Treasurer and then served as Board Chair from 2001–2005.

From Talented 9-Year-Old...

Identified as an excellent candidate for Walden by her teachers in the Peabody Prep, the 9-year-old Laura felt an instant affinity for Walden. Walden School co-founder Lynn Hebden says: "She was, from the beginning, an excellent student and a charmer." Cindy Harkum says: "I remember Laura as a young girl in my musicianship classes at the Peabody Prep and at early Walden. I used to call her Little Miss Mehiel. She was mature and a pleasure to teach." Those early days at Walden in Reisterstown, Maryland, were heady ones for Laura. Her mother, Gloria Mehiel, remembers that while she had Laura come home on weekends, that "obviously it was me and not her that needed her home," and that Laura was always certain she was missing something fun back on campus.

Pat Plude, Director of the Teacher Training Institute, has known Laura since she was a young student at Walden — during the years when the school was in residence at The Mountain School in Vershire, Vermont. "I have watched her grow from a bright, creative child, to a hard-working, ambitious young woman, and into a mature leader, whose calm, confident style has guided Walden so effectively these many years. Laura has become a trusted colleague, whose friendship I will always cherish."

...to Seasoned Administrator/Board Member

Pat Plude recalls: "I have so many fond memories, especially from our early years of working together as members of Walden's new administrative team in the mid 1990's. In those days, before we had an office, we stuffed envelopes at our kitchen tables, saved money by stringing together conference calls through interlocking 3-way connections (the people on the ends could never hear each other!), and marveled that new students were actually finding us on this new-fangled thing called the Internet! Walden seemed to operate on a wing and a prayer in those days, but we worked hard, laughed all the time, and held our hope out as a shining beacon. The Walden community has several people about whom we say with great sincerity that, 'The organization would not be what it is today, were it not for that person's commitment and service.' Laura Mehiel is one of these people."

Getting the Job Done

In 1984 Laura returned to Walden as a staff member and was initiated into all the behind the scene activities. Lynn Hebden remembers: "Fortunately she's a quick learner and a great organizer because in 1985 when I was undergoing chemotherapy,

Laura had to do everything by herself including taking care of four-month-old Laura Quist. Laura Mehiel has a great sense of what has to be done — and she does it. When Laura became chair of the Walden Board, I knew things were in capable, loving hands. She believes in Walden and is committed to its future."



New Board Chair Ellen Bernard describes Laura as a dynamo: "Even while she works 80-hour weeks, she is thinking, planning and scheming Walden — bylaws, organizational charts, menus for events, ingredients for events, cooking utensils for events, COOKING for events, renting and driving vans filled with furniture for the flea-market fundraiser early on a Sunday morning, checking in with you via cell phone from the car on her way home at 9:00 p.m. the day before a committee meeting, scouring lists for new organizational donors, writing minutes, and so on."

Executive Director Seth Brenzel (WS '85–90, staff and administration '94–present) describes Laura as "simply one of the most diligent people I've ever worked with. She's tireless. During the early stages of the Board of Directors, and just as we were expanding our development efforts, Laura would frequently leave a development meeting with a few to-do items, and then return with not just the little errands accomplished, but also with long lists of foundation donor prospects, detailed donor history analysis, and sometimes, even completed grant applications. And she'd do this without fanfare or expectation that someone would notice, although we all did — and wondered how we could ever keep up!"

Distinguished Board Service and Mentorship

Laura's wide-ranging experience with Walden makes her an ideal board member. Seth Brenzel explains: "As a board member, she has so many skills and facets that she brings to the table. She is one of the first alumni of The Walden School, after the School changed over from the JCC to Walden — so she always has the student perspective in mind. She has been on the summer staff and faculty, and so is as interested in the details of the summer program's operations as she is in the big-

ger picture aspects of Walden. She has taught musicianship at the Peabody Preparatory and so is tuned in to the expanding work of the Teacher Training Institute. As an engineer, she has a terrific mind for solving problems, often building a process on the spot for leading the board through complex decision-making."

When Cindy Harkum and Ellen Bernard joined the board, Laura made sure they were all staying at the same B&B and sharing a car. Ellen recalls: "She immediately made us feel welcome and focused on the strengths we could share with the board, creating a space to help us feel comfortable contributing as newcomers." Echoing Ellen's comments, Cindy says: "It has been a pleasure to work with Laura on the Walden board. She took me under her wing and helped me the first few years, answering questions and encouraging me."

Meatballs to Die For

No one talks about Laura Mehiel without eventually getting around to her skills in the kitchen. As Walden's Academic Dean and fellow board member Leo Wanenchak tells it: "It may sound trite but actually what astounds me the most is how she magically creates feasts for Walden events. David and I have helped Laura bring the contents of her car into our house for Walden functions. The first time I did this my mind was loudly proclaiming: 'This collection of goods and kitchen gadgets is not going to produce the edible festival anticipated by the 60 guests arriving very shortly.' Laura and her assistant chefs Gloria Mehiel (Mom) and Colleen Mills (Mom's friend) then worked like a finely tuned machine working at super speed level turning out a feast for the finest palate. Magic can only explain how these artful savories could have possibly come into being from the odd parcels brought in from Laura's car. I see her commitment to Walden demonstrated by creating this magic again, and

again, and again, and again." Cindy Harkum laughingly remembers: "One evening she came to my house for dinner. When I invited her she asked, 'What are you cooking?' She came with additional ingredients and ended up cooking dinner for us! My family still asks when Laura is cooking for us again."

Gratitude

Gloria Mehiel comments: "The Walden School had a huge impact on who Laura is today. Laura is a better person today for having been associated with Walden and the wonderful people who have been a part of the school. She just didn't want to let go, and I think that is why she is still so involved."

While Walden clearly means a great deal to Laura, there is no denying Laura's equally "huge impact" on Walden. Everyone at Walden is deeply indebted to Laura for her contributions over the years. Seth Brenzel proclaims: "Three cheers for Laura! While her term as board chair may be ending, the board and the organization are fortunate that her board term has several more years to it. We look forward to further work and collaboration and to many, many more years of her involvement. I think we'd all miss her too much to ever let her go too far away."

As Ellen Bernard puts it so well: "For someone with such small feet, she's left awfully large shoes to fill... Thank goodness she considers Walden a second home." Laura will always have a home at Walden.

"There are several people in the Walden community about whom we say with great sincerity that, 'The organization would not be what it is today, were it not for that person's commitment and service.' Laura Mehiel is one of these people."

— Pat Plude

"While there are many who have helped move Walden forward over the years, Laura's unique combination of hard work and profound care for Walden puts her among those without whom Walden simply would not be the thriving, steady and successful organization that it is."

— Seth Brenzel

Amazing and Delightful

by Seth Brenzel

A week before I left San Francisco, Malcolm and I hosted a “Monadnock Musical Migration” event at our home to mark my annual pilgrimage to Walden. In the days that followed, nearly 70 other students, faculty, staff, and administration began their own migrations to Dublin, New Hampshire, Walden’s summer address since 1983.

This annual gathering of creative young musicians, teachers, and mentors to form an artistic, supportive community is the event by which many of us set our calendars. This summer certainly did everything to meet and even exceed our expectations. And despite the unusually hot and humid weather, during which we often felt like we were in a tropical rainforest, students’ musical creativity abounded.

The 2005 Walden School Concert Series consisted of five exceptional and remarkably varied programs. Our first concert featured Matthew Hunter, Berlin Philharmonic violist, Junior Conservatory Camp alumnus, and now, thanks to his daughter Emily, new member of the Walden parent community. He performed with pianist Estela Kersenbaum-Olevsky, with whom he has been collaborating for more than 30 years.

The excellent PRISM Saxophone Quartet gave us our second concert of the season, playing seven new works by Walden faculty, commissioned by The Walden School for this concert. The ensemble’s residency, supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, included several open rehearsals, where Walden students could observe collaborative dialogue between these professional performers and composers.

The folk trio Cross Country, comprising long-time Walden faculty members Carol Thomas Downing, Ned Quist, and John Yankee, gave an outstanding concert at Walden, featuring American folk songs, spirituals, original works by the performers, and traditional music from Europe and the Caribbean. Non Sequitur, returning for its fifth summer as Ensemble-in-Residence, performed an electrifying program of music, including several works by the performers, and premiered dozens of new student compositions during Festival Week.



Preparations for the stunning end-of-summer Choral Concert, led by Leo Wanenchak and Shawn Crouch, were enhanced by a visit from renowned composer, arranger, educator and choral conductor, Alice Parker. At the suggestion of JCC alumnus Bob Weaver, Walden invited Ms. Parker, a long-time collaborator with the legendary Robert Shaw, to lead the community in one of her signature “Community Sings.”

This summer’s Forum Moderator and composer-in-residence, Russell Pinkston, was simply a

delight. He made a wonderful addition to our community, even helping bake cookies for a post-concert student reception. His knowledge of a wide array of musical genres — he was once in a rock band and is now a professor of composition at the University of Texas, Austin — were of great benefit to Walden’s young composers. We are glad to now count him among Walden’s friends.



Walden’s dedicated teachers taught a rigorous and inspiring set of courses this summer. The faculty, led by Academic Dean Leo Wanenchak, included Marshall Bessières, Shawn Crouch, Nick DeMaison, Renée Favand, Caroline Mallonée, Aurora Nealand, Alex Ness, Loretta Notareschi, Sam Pluta, Dan Shaud and Bill Stevens. Together they taught nine sections of the Musicianship Course, ranging from work in acoustics and intervals through Loretta’s advanced analysis class and Bill’s course in extended harmonic language (a.k.a. jazz) musicianship.

As they do every year at Walden, this year’s composition faculty encouraged their students to improvise, listen broadly, analyze, write etudes and short pieces, and create new work for Composers Forums.

This year’s “specialty” enrichment classes ran the gamut. Alex brought the varied rhythmic and melodic languages of Indian Music to the curriculum, and Nick’s Sound Design class had students integrating music with film, visual art, and other media. Loretta gave an in-depth literature class on Stravinsky, and Dan taught a lively course in improvisation. Walden’s highly successful and popular computer musicianship classes helped students create new sound worlds through the computer.

Rounding out the curriculum for all of us — faculty, staff, students and administration — was the amazing experience of singing with The Walden School Chorus, led by Leo Wanenchak and assisted by several Walden faculty. Chorus is our time to make music together every day, as well as learn good ensemble habits, vocal health, singing technique, diction, and choral repertoire. Students and alumni invariably describe singing in the chorus as one of their most potent memories of Walden.

It’s the magnetic mix of music and community that draws us all to Walden each year. The things we share — the hiking, dancing, swimming, Goodnight Music, lazing about on the lawn, doing “hand over hand” drills, and creating new work — will tide us over until next year’s migration.

Teacher Training

by Pat Plude

While Walden students were practicing musicianship drills and composing this past July, twenty-seven music teachers gathered just down the road at Keene State College for a workshop presented by The Walden School Teacher Training Institute. The teachers came from as close by as Peterborough, New Hampshire, and from as far away as Florida and California. Among them were choral directors; public and private school teachers; collegiate music theory instructors; studio instrumental teachers; and teachers with special credentials such as Waldorf, Montessori, Suzuki, Orff, and Kodály.

For five days the teachers kept to a rigorous daily schedule that included three hours of Musicianship, one hour of Solfège/Rhythms, and ninety minutes of Computer Musicianship. They used *The Walden School Musicianship Course: A Manual for Teachers* as the basis for their study, as well as a recently completed supplemental text applying Walden’s creative, interactive methods to the subjects of solfège and rhythms. Several evenings found the participants creating “Happenings” or playing “Exquisite Corpse” in lively group improvisation sessions. The teachers also traveled to Walden’s



Teacher Training participants, including alums Jed McGiffin and Russel Nadel, performing a group improvisation

summer program campus in the middle of their session to take in a student Composers Forum and, in typical Walden style, found themselves participating. One spirited group of teachers performed an inside-the-piano piece entitled *Dr. Steinway*, complete with rubber medical gloves and a surgeon requesting salad tongs to perform his inside the piano “operation.”

At the end of the week the teachers said farewell to their newly formed close community of friends and colleagues and returned home to rest and process all they had learned and experienced. Several of the teachers, including a public middle school music teacher and choral director, a private piano teacher, a Montessori teacher, a computer music composer and educator, and a community music school violin teacher, have since enrolled in The Teacher Training Institute’s new Certification Program, where they have already begun working with Walden Teacher Training faculty on a tenth-month Practicum. Each Practicum is designed collaboratively by the certification candidate and the Teacher Training Institute faculty and is intended to help the candidate adapt Walden philosophies and methods to his or her specific teaching situation during the 2005–2006 academic year.

One participant of the 2005 teacher training workshop expressed his enthusiasm for the opportunity to enrich his teaching with the Walden approach by writing, “The workshop has changed my view on music, technology, and life.” And another exclaimed, “When I came home I felt like I had new ears and new confidence. I felt very alive...” The Walden Teacher Training faculty (Pat Plude, Pam Quist, Tom Lopez, and Leo Wanenchak) are likewise grateful for the opportunity to work and make music with such wonderfully creative music educators.

Alumni, Faculty & Staff News and Goods

The Walden School welcomes news and information from members of the Junior Conservatory Camp and Walden communities to include in our newsletters. News may be sent via mail or email. We will publish your contact information only if you specifically request that we do so. Please send info to alumni@waldenschool.org or The Walden School, 31 A 29th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110. We reserve the right to edit submissions and regret we cannot publish all information provided.

The folk trio Cross Country, comprising former Walden School faculty members **Carol Thomas Downing**, **Ned Quist**, and **John Yankee**, regrouped this year after a nine year hiatus. Their tour included a concert in Keene, New Hampshire, which drew an enthusiastic crowd of young musicians from Walden's summer program as well as the Teacher Training Institute workshop. Their Baltimore performance was very well attended and a large following of Walden parents, alumni, and donors were present, including **Alice and Joe Giles**, **Barbara and Chuck Mallonee**, **Margo and Jim Vincent**, **David and Vickie Rudow** (JCC '71), **Matt Hankins** (WS '90-91) and his mother, **Brian Carper** (WS '88-89), **Mattie Rogers** (WS '87-91), and **Rosie (Hollander) Sood** (WS '85-87, '89), among others.

Several Bay Area Walden alumni and faculty gathered for an impromptu dinner at Benihana Restaurant in San Francisco in August. Present were **Seth Brenzel** (WS '85-90, administration '94-present), **Malcolm Gaines**

(administration '99-present), **Loretta Notareschi** (WS '95, staff '97, faculty '98, '00-05), **Alex Ness** (staff '03, faculty '05), who just started a PhD program in composition at NYU, **Steve Flynn** (WS '01-04), off to Lawrence University in Wisconsin, and **Michael Rosen** (WS '04-05) now a freshman at Oberlin.



L to R: **Malcolm, Alex, Seth, Michael, Loretta and Steve**

hair down to her neck, dark eyebrows and deep blue eyes. She smiles and is very alert and curious.

Marilyn (Braune) Crispell (JCC '60-64, visiting artist '04) was awarded a 2005 music composition fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Shawn Crouch (WS '93-96; staff '97, faculty '99-00, '02, '05) was profiled in the *Miami Herald* prior to the Miami premiere of his new chorus and orchestra work, "The Road to Hiroshima: A Requiem." Shawn will lead the Walden choral program during the summer of 2006 while **Leo Wanenchak** is on sabbatical.

Rachael Elliott (Visiting Artist '03), the bassoonist for Clogs, has just wrapped up a successful summer

on the faculty of the Kinhaven Music School. She will now be dividing her time between Vermont, where she teaches at the University of Vermont, and New York City. Visit www.clogsmusic.com for upcoming performances.

Steve Flynn (WS '02-04) played this

summer with the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra oboe section in Marseille, France.

Danny and Ruth (Halikman) Franklin (WS '84-89 and current Board Member) just gave birth to a girl, **Phoebe Rose Franklin!** Phoebe was born in the early morning on September 13, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz and measuring 21 inches. Ruth and Phoebe are both doing wonderfully.

Bryarly Furlong's (WS '83-84) husband **Rob** returned safely from Bosnia in 2003 and the couple moved to Texas. Bryarly still cherishes the time she spent at Walden and hopes to hear from her friends: bryarly@mindspring.com

Stacy Garrop (WS '87-88, faculty '96) has won the fourth annual Raymond and Beverly Sackler Music Competition Prize. Her proposal to write a work for chamber ensemble earned her a \$20,000 cash prize and a premiere performance next spring at the University of Connecticut. Garrop's submission was one of 90 entries received. As of this writing, she had also just received a Barlow Endowment Commission.

Dawn Denham Haines (WS '77-79, staff '98) was seen at the Cross Country concert in Keene on July 15 with son **Sam** (age 9) and husband **Brian**. Dawn is finishing up her MFA in creative writing and teaches full-time at the University of New Hampshire.

Gregory Hammann (WS '86-88) is opening a new restaurant called Mastro's Ocean Club in Crystal Cove, Newport Beach, CA, where he is the General Manager. Check out www.mastrosoceanclub.com for the menu.

Michael Johanson (WS '79-86; faculty '89, '93-96), his wife **Malou**, and 3-year-old son

Ethan have just moved to Portland, Oregon, where Mike is Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Lewis and Clark College. Mike and Malou helped found the Northwest Music Academy, which currently offers instruction in piano, voice, saxophone, composition, and musicianship.

Monika Kottenhahn (WS '83-'86) is working at a non-profit science company in Pennsylvania. In her spare time she writes music and recently released an album of songs. She has been performing in the Delaware area in various bands.

Geoffrey (Scott) Lapin was a student of Mrs. **Cushman** from 1956-67, and is currently a cellist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and an award-winning author. You can read Geoffrey's essay about studying with Mrs. C. on the Walden website at: www.waldenschool.org/about/lookingglass.shtml.

Jonathan Miller (faculty '01-'02) announces his new website: www.bignewmusic.com. He says: "The site is a space in which I can place my music and various collaborations with filmmakers and other artists. There are short films, music scores, over 100 mp3s and info on the site." He invites comments.

Hamilton Sims (WS '99-02) is excited to have transferred to Berklee College of Music in Boston. She made the change last December and is studying songwriting.

Jeffrey Stanek (WS '00-02) worked at an arts camp in New Jersey this summer teaching piano and composition and "overseeing a henhouse full of unruly children." He says that while it wasn't Walden, he was happy to give back in some way to something that was important to him.

John Weaver (JCC faculty '51-68, visiting composer '97, Advisory Council '02-present) retired this spring after 35 years as organist at Manhattan's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. His brother **Bob Weaver** (JCC '62-63) writes that in August he went to John's 50th and final concert on the Kotschmar organ in Portland, Maine. "It was truly a great affair. There were at least 1,000 people there — they opened the second balcony (for possibly the first time for an organ concert). He was presented with the keys to the city and the Governor of Maine declared August 2 as 'Dr. John Weaver Day.'" In addition to Bob, as well as John's wife **Marianne**, JCC alumni **Jerry Maddox**, **Ann Weaver** and **Tom Baker** were all present for the event.

Many Walden alumni, faculty, staff and administration joined **Molly Pindell** (WS staff & administration '99 - present) and **Dave Wilkens** for their wedding in Stowe, Vermont, at the Trapp Family Lodge. The setting couldn't have been more beautiful — clear blue skies, rolling green hills, and inspiring vistas. Dave and Molly



Molly Pindell and David Wilkens

invited the assembled Walden School singers to sing perennial Walden favorites *Non Nobis* and *Sanctus* in their ceremony.



Anne Deane Berman and Jeff Cohen

Anne Deane Berman (WS '77-80, faculty '85, 96-99, Board '98-00) visited with **Jeff Cohen** (WS '72, faculty '74-75, '78-79, '98, Advisory Council '02-present) when in Paris recently.

Shayla Cheeks (WS '92-94) has been working at Bethany Christian Services, an adoption and birthparent agency, since receiving her degree in social work in 2001. She says that The Walden School broadened her tastes in music and that she uses the tools gained through her Walden School choral training while working with choirs at church.

On October 10th, **Alice Rachel Coxe**, a beautiful, healthy baby girl was born to **Stephen Coxe** (WS '80-84, faculty '86-96, administration '95-96) and **Mariana Szklo** (WS '78-84). Stephen says she has a full head of silky black

Donor Spotlight: Hugh Osborn & Claudia Wallis

Compiled and edited by Esther Landau

When Walden donors Hugh Osborn and Claudia Wallis happened upon Walden in 1999 through an internet search for a music camp for their son Nat Osborn (WS '00–03), they were delighted to discover a program so closely aligned with their own vision of what education could be.

Claudia is a graduate of Yale University, where she was a philosophy major. She has spent most of her career as a journalist at *TIME Magazine*, specializing mainly health, science and lifestyle stories. In 1995, she helped launch *TIME for Kids* and served as its founding editor for nine years.

Hugh grew up in the Philadelphia area and attended Swarthmore College. He currently creates marketing programs and Internet applications. He has a passion for educational reform which is partially inspired by witnessing Nat's experience at Walden.

Hugh says: "Nat had shown talent in music and was interested in composing. When he was four, he wrote his first song, a ditty about Japanese beetles. Soon after that he told us, 'I have a thousand tunes come into my head every day.' So, when he got older, we thought we would try a music camp."

"I had seen summer camps of various stripes, but I had never seen a communal commitment to creativity of this kind. It blew me away."

— Claudia Wallis

Claudia describes her first impressions of Walden: "I vividly remember coming to Walden for my first Festival Week. I sat in the auditorium and heard an extraordinary variety of music: choral pieces, string quartets, compositions for digital



The Osborn-Wallis Family

audio tape and percussion, some of it by young middle schoolers, some of it remarkably sophisticated. But what impressed me every bit as much as the students' creative accomplishments was the thoughtful discussion that followed each piece, the respect shown by each student to the others and by faculty members and the musician who hosted the evening. They made incisive comments. They asked questions. And it was done in the most supportive way imaginable. All of it honored the creative process. And it reflected a social bond that tied this creative community together. I had visited many schools through my work; I had seen summer camps of various stripes, but I had never seen a communal commitment to creativity of this kind. It blew me away."

Claudia also recalls being strongly affected by witnessing Goodnight Music, a long-standing Walden tradition. "I watched this group of fond friends and faculty members form a circle around the piano, arms over shoulders in a kind of group embrace. Then they sang farewell to the day's musical pursuits. I cried then, and I cry now just thinking about it."

When Hugh heard the performance of Nat's final Walden composition, a string quartet entitled *Gitanos* (Gypsies), he was struck by the parallels between the structure of the work and the impact of Walden on Nat. "The first violinist starts the performance with a solo in the hallway outside the concert hall, and then walks to join the other musicians on the stage. After a period of feeling each other out, the musicians get in sync. The first violin plays a beautiful theme, and then all four instruments spiral up to a finale. To me, it represented Nat's journey at Walden: the outsider who, despite his initial apprehension, is welcomed by a community, finds himself and is therefore able to express the powerful song within. It is also the journey we all seek — it was extremely moving."

As to why they give to Walden, Claudia explains: "Walden is a unique and precious place. How many programs are there that teach thirteen year olds to compose music, to write it down by hand, and then have it performed by professional musicians? It's a place that demands both creativity and discipline. And that's the most winning combination I can think of. To support this kind of instruction is to give a gift to the next generation of Americans."



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InterNetzo's Inaugural Appearance

Those of you with email addresses in our database were undoubtedly delighted to receive Walden's first online newsletter in July. *InterNetzo* is scheduled to publish between issues of *Recitative*, providing an up-to-the-minute report on the summer from New Hampshire as well as a winter update from the office in San Francisco. If you didn't receive it and you think you should have, we may have an out of date email address for you. If you want to check it out before subscribing, go to www.newsletteronline.com/newsletter/10061/2395.html. To subscribe, write to us at newsletter@waldenschool.org. Be sure to include your name and preferred email address in the body of the email.