Beyond the Green
Class of 1998 Newsletter

photo credit: Sam Fox '20

Winter/Spring 2017

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KATE GOLD

From the Editor  kategold98@gmail.com

Since we’re on the subject of service and volunteering, I’ll say a few words about my involvement with our Class over the last few years. I initially answered Jo’s open call for reunion assistance five years ago (!!) and have obviously found it to be a pretty satisfying use of my non-existent spare time, since I’m here writing this today. After our 15th reunion, one of my oldest Dartmouth friends commented that she was surprised that I had gotten all “alumna-y” since I hadn’t been an active member of the class prior to that.

Renewed proximity to Hanover and a desire to have an activity separate from my daily life (my spouse and I both work at the same rural college, as do most of our friends) spurred my initial email to Jo, but that’s not what keeps me here. I continue because the opportunities to connect with ’98s I never met during my Hanover years and members of other classes provide the spark I sometimes find lacking in my day to day “adulting”. There’s a level of intellectual and social engagement that I so loved as a student that I get to revisit and expand on as an alumna. This community is absolutely amazing, and I feel very fortunate to grow my “Dartmouth experience” more broadly than I could have anticipated 20 years ago.

Okay - blah blah blah, sunshine and roses, what’s the point?

Here it is: this is a great time for you to also stick your toe in the water of Dartmouth Alumni community by taking on a reunion-related role for our 20th Reunion -- now only 15 months away! I have a cadre of classmates who want to participate, and I’m looking for a few more who want to step in and take charge of one of the action areas (catering and swag, in particular). It’s not scary, it’s well supported by the College (and by me), and bringing it all together in Hanover is fun and rewarding. If you’re not sure and want to ask some questions before committing, drop me a line. — Kate

JO GOLUB

President’s Corner  jo.golub@gmail.com

Happy Spring, ’98s! It’s been a turbulent winter– from crazy weather, to unpredictable news cycles, to just general disruption. I, for one, am looking forward to spring and a bit of renewal.

First, I want to thank everyone who participated in December’s fundraising drive for SEAD! We did not hit our (very lofty) goals, but we were excited to get contributions from classmates that helped us cover a big chunk of the class’s yearly donation to SEAD.

This Spring, we are running our 4th annual 98th Day of Service event. It is scheduled for April 8 and 9, and those days are no longer so far away anymore! I’ve reserved some spots at the Alameda County Food Bank, so that other ’98s in the area can join me for a few hours of volunteering. What will you do to help commemorate the day? Please participate, by volunteering with an organization, by cleaning out your closets and donating a pile of clothes to Goodwill, or just by making a monetary contribution to the Class Project with SEAD.

We’re looking forward to hearing about how you participate, and maybe even seeing a few good photos!

Have a great Spring! — Jo

If you are interested in organizing a small 98th Day gathering and need help with communications and contacts of local alums, contact Katey, Jo, or Kate!
Hello, everyone! First of all, let me say thank you to everyone who has paid class dues and made a donation to our class project with SEAD this year. All the good things we do as a class are only possible because of your support, so I can’t say it enough - thank you!

Financially we are in excellent condition. We’ve received over $10,000 in dues payments and donations for SEAD, and our dues participation rate (as I write this in late February) is 20%, which is outstanding. You can make a dues payment at any time by using the PayPal link on our class website – http://1998.dartmouth.org

Most of you have used PayPal this year, which is the cheapest way for our class to accept dues payments. As you know, we’ve stopped accepting credit cards, which saves us hundreds of dollars in processing fees, keeps expenses down, and saves money for mini-reunions and another awesome issue of our award-winning class newsletter.

One of the most frequent questions I get from people is: “Have I paid my dues this year? I can’t remember!” With all that we have going on these days -- kids, families, careers, and life in general – it’s no wonder we can’t keep track. As a result of your feedback, we decided to post a list of people who have paid class dues on our class website. Thanks to our webmaster, Jasson Walker, for making that happen.

Last but not least, class dues and donations to SEAD are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. Our class is a tax-exempt non-profit organization – specifically we are a category 501(c)(3) organization as defined by the IRS. So if you have not filed your taxes yet, and you’re looking for a great way to reduce your contribution to Uncle Sam, think about paying your class dues and making a contribution to SEAD (also on our webpage)!

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**REUNION IS COMING!**

To celebrate our 20TH in style, we need **VOLUNTEERS** from the Class:

**SWAG CHAIR**

Have a talent for finding the perfect souvenir?
Enjoy working with classmates?
Have mad shopping skills?

We are looking for someone to help make our 20th Reunion memorable by giving all the ‘98s who attend something (or some things) special to commemorate the occasion.

**CATERING CHAIR**

Have opinions about food and drink?
Willing to actively communicate with the other Chairs regarding food and beverage needs at events and with caterers regarding menus and pricing options?

We are looking for someone to help make our 20th Reunion delicious. Proximity to Hanover is a plus, but not a necessity. We do recommend the recruitment of other classmates to the Food and Beverage committee.

**A note on the Chair responsibilities:**

We already have a small host of classmates who are willing to serve on committees, but in order to keep the train moving and on schedule for our arrival in Hanover, June 15-17, 2018, we need a few brave souls to take lead on our refreshments and souvenirs.

Chairs would be responsible for communicating with the Reunion Chair (Kate Gold) and with other committee chairs regarding progress and plans. This work will begin over the summer of 2017, and will require monthly check-ins September-December. Chairs will need to communicate with appropriate vendors and work with Reunion Treasurer (Stu Davidson) regarding budget and payments.

Additionally, we are looking for a cohort of classmates who would be interested in **helping communicate** with others about attending the reunion, and then help serve as the welcoming crew at our class tent in Hanover. These volunteers would coordinate with our Registration Chair (Rachel Drew), and efforts would begin next Spring as we open the online registration leading up to the big weekend.

Contact Kate Gold kategold98@gmail.com if you are interested or have more questions.
Nearly 20 years out from graduation, some updates don’t fit neatly into Green Gossip, and not everyone has the time or inclination to play a full 20 Questions. A Few Words More is our new short essay feature. We’d love to know what has influenced you and the choices you’ve made since our Dartmouth days. Until we’re on the Green again swapping stories in person, we’d love the chance to learn from you, to reconnect and share a peek into your lives.

Lara Hoffman, one of our awesome executive committee members, asked two classmates to respond this month: Alaska-based adventurer and science teacher Kim (Rogers) Leslie, and California-based marathoner extraordinaire and Mandarin immersion school founder Marlene (Sheehan) Dandler. These two friends have vastly different lives, but both have inspired us. We hope they inspire you too, and hope to hear from more of you in future issues.

If you’re interested in participating, please contact Lara Hoffman - larahoffman@gmail.com

A Few Words More

Kim (Rogers) Leslie ‘98

Let’s start with a simple but oh-so-important question: “When do you feel the most alive?” Sip on that for a bit... savor it... Come on, you went to Dartmouth; odds are good that you know how to sip and savor everything from a great book to a great bev, right? So what do you think?

For me, the answer has always been, “when I’m outside.” More than that, it’s when I’m outside on what feels like an adventure, exploring and being slightly (or sometimes greatly) challenged. But I haven’t always known that. I have been wooed by the massaging of creature comforts, the bling of recognition. I’m a Dartmouth graduate for goodness sake – isn’t my name supposed to be somewhere other than my utility bill? But somewhere deep down, during that 6th grade camp solo sit, and that freshman trip night hike, and my first backcountry ski traverse, I felt a series of vibrant sparks that mindful reflection and action has woven together into glorious and fortunate life choices.

So now I live in Alaska with my husband and daughter. We’ve never owned a home, I don’t have any fancy stocks (although that Roth IRA my dad suggested I start in 2000 might still be out there somewhere), I don’t have any fancy clothes, and my daughter just asked me, “Mama? Are you old for a mom?” “Why do you ask, Indigo?” “Well, your face seems awfully wrinkly and peel-y compared to some of the other moms.” “Hmm... well, I get a lot of sun playing outside, and I don’t wear make-up, and I’m 40... that’s what you get.” “I love you, Mama.” “I love you, too, sweet one.”

Now being outside and going on adventures is my daily life. In the mornings I fat bike to school with Indigo singing Yellow Submarine at the top of my lungs in the thicker parts of the forest so bears know we are coming. After work I throw on a dry suit and pump up my inflatable paddle board and cruise the bay, greeting sea otters and bald eagles and migrating salmon. On weekends I take to the mountains with friends and family, hiking and skiing familiar trails and blazing new ones. During the summer I board float planes and pack raft remote rivers, or sea kayak hidden coves, or backpack stretches where no human foot has likely trodden before. I feel vibrantly alive most days, and I drag as many people with me as I can to enjoy this wondrous planet we call home.

Mind you, I realize this life isn’t for everyone. Friends have said, “Your life sounds so adventurous – part of me wants to quit my job, leave it all behind, and just come play in the wild... but it stresses me the f@# out to even think about it!” Imagining our class all wearing Carhartts and Xtratuf boots and conking flailing salmon on the head makes me smile big. It’s not about my life. It’s about savoring the question, and living the answer.

Cheers to feeling alive.
Marlene (Sheehan) Dandler ’98

While I loved my years at Dartmouth, I can’t say I was proud of any athletic achievements there. I also never took on impressive leadership positions or got particularly involved on campus. Surprisingly, living in a close-knit California beach community for the last 15 years has given me the space I needed to grow and take new risks, make mistakes, and find my passions.

In 2002, my husband Andres Dandler ’97 and I moved for his job to a smallish Southern California enclave along the coast, where we knew literally nobody. While I would have felt comfortable living anonymously in a big city like London, Singapore, or New York, becoming a stay-at-home mother of three and maneuvering a minivan through the suburbs was a picture of myself that I had never anticipated! After a time in our new home, loneliness drove me past my initial shyness, and I began to reach out to others and try new things that have now developed into great loves.

I never made it onto a Dartmouth athletic team (or, to be honest, ever saw myself as much of an athlete), but at age 34 after my third child was born, I took up marathon running on the beach for exercise. I started off running at a snail’s pace, but slowly began to speed up, and had fun pushing my limits without pressure. As I improved, I joined a local running club where I made many friends, and then began working weekly with a coach. I got faster than I ever dreamed possible and now enjoy competing in marathons around the country each year. Much to my surprise, my coach even thinks I might qualify for the next Olympic trials. Regardless of whether I continue to improve, running with my neighbors-turned-close-friends along the Pacific, complete with regular whale and dolphin sightings, is a daily source of joy for me.

I was a less than committed student of Mandarin at Dartmouth, and my enthusiasm waned even further after a sweltering FSP summer in Beijing. But once I became a mother, I realized that fluent Mandarin was an incredible gift I could give my children. As many of my multilingual Dartmouth friends had attended language immersion schools, I felt that this type of school would be key to achieving fluency. The problem was that no Mandarin immersion schools existed in our area.

Although I had no experience whatsoever in education or in running a non-profit, I realized that the only way my kids would have this opportunity was if I started a school myself. So with some trepidation, I began spending all my free time researching, talking to educators, and scouting out potential locations—this groundwork led me to found a small, no-homework Chinese immersion school called Seashore Academy. Running an elementary school has been a real learning experience—full of many highs, lows, and challenges I never knew I’d face. But I’m thankful that Seashore continues to grow, and now has even expanded to provide Mandarin Chinese instruction to some well-respected private schools nearby.

Back in 2002 I was not at all pleased about having to move to this seaside community, but today I truly appreciate the freedom living here has given me to constantly learn and challenge myself. And I am grateful for the amazing support of my husband, Andres, the good health of my three kids, Paul (11), Fiona (9) and Jasmine (7), and the fun and inspiration from dear friends, old and new.
I'M A '98 VOLUNTEER

Today I served @

Dartmouth Class of 1998
98th Day of Service

TAKE THIS PAGE WITH YOU AND SNAP A PIC TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM!
#D98Day #Dartmouth98
FOURTH ANNUAL 98TH DAY EVENT
April 8 & 9, 2017

Do something philanthropic and community-minded in honor of our class.
Keep it simple or go all out. It’s up to you — just let us know!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

• Sign on to our class website: 1998.dartmouth.org to donate to our class project (SEAD).

• Clean out your pantry and donate to a local food bank.

• Clean out your garage or closets and donate to the Salvation Army, Dress for Success, etc.

• Go to a local park, or down your street, or to a local beach, and spend 30 minutes picking up trash.

• Sign up to run or bike in a benefit race on April 8 or 9.

• Reserve a spot (or more than one and bring a friend!) at a local volunteer organization like a food pantry or soup kitchen, an animal shelter, a home for the elderly, or a hospital for kids.

MAKE IT A MINI-REUNION!

• Bay Area 98th day event: Alameda County Food Bank April 8, 1-4pm contact Jo Golub, jo.golub@gmail.com

• Boston area folks - the Dartmouth Club of Boston happens to have a volunteer opportunity at Room to Grow, 142 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA - 10AM-Noon. “Join with fellow alums for a volunteer event at Room to Grow in Boston’s Back Bay neighborhood. Volunteers will sort and inventory clothing, toys, bedding and book donations from the community as well as assist in displaying them in Room to Grow’s baby boutique. There is space for up to 10 participants (aged 12 and over).” Contact: Lisa Shin, Lisa.Shin@tufts.edu

• New York City: Ellen Halstead is coordinating a Central Park litter pick-up April 8, 10 am to 3 pm. Meeting location to be determined. Contact Ellen for details. ellen.halstead@gmail.com

NOT ALREADY CONNECTED TO AN ORGANIZATION?

Here are some places to start:
Almost any urban place: www.volunteermatch.org

OneBrick has chapters in:
(http://cityname.onebrick.org/)

Bay Area:
http://sfbay.onebrick.org
http://www.volunteerareabay.org
https://www.handsonbayarea.org

Boston:
www.bostoncares.org
www.allforgood.org
www.volunteerboston.org

Chicago:
www.chicagocares.org
www.handsOnsuburbanchicago.org
www.onegood deed.org

Philadelphia:
http://philadelphia.onebrick.org/
http://volunteer.phila.gov/

Los Angeles:
http://www.allforgood.org/volunteer-opportunities-in-los-angeles-ca
www.laworks.com

DO GOOD & HAVE FUN
serve
Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small town in New York State, surprisingly in Northern Westchester, called South Salem, with no sidewalks and no streetlights and a real small town feel (ask Jennifer Greene Abbey!) I joke here in Israel that it has too many trees and not enough Jews to make it on the map for “Jewish Geography”!

Why did you choose Dartmouth?

Dartmouth was my first choice. I applied early, and didn’t apply anywhere else. I was drawn to the setting. I was struck by the laid-back atmosphere and the feeling of peer support rather than competition that I heard about from current students.

Where did you live freshman year?

I lived in the River–Hinman 4th floor, and I roomed with Alex Vogel.

Where were you most likely to be found during your years in Hanover?

I spent winters at the Skiway when I could, teaching telemark skiing. And each year had a different rhythm: between top-of-the-hop, collis, lone-pine or Baker. I also only lived on campus Sophomore fall (after Freshman year), and that was it, so I spent time in my apartment. I lived with Kevin Pivnick from Junior winter through graduation at 13 South Park in one of the best apartments in Hanover.

Your favorite food while at Dartmouth?

Wow--here’s something I haven’t thought about for a while! Even though I’m vegetarian for over 20 years, I loved that French Dip from the Hop, and almost any soup from Collis.

What was your major? What decided you on that choice?

Religion. I was inspired by a class I took Freshman Fall with Susan Ackerman: Religion 4-The Religion of Israel, and it started me on a path of asking questions about religion that I was never really exposed to before. I was fascinated by the Jewish roots of the Christian world that I lived in, and then through opening my ideas to the Ancient Near East--beginning to explore the ancient world in which Judaism emerged.

Who were some of your strongest influences or mentors at Dartmouth?

Susan Ackerman and Elud Benor in the Religion department. Even though I only took one class in the Education department, I was fortunate to be in Randy Testa’s amazing class (I think it might have been Ed 20). The Moosilauke Trailwalk my freshman fall also had a profound influence on me. I also loved all of the ballroom dance classes I took with my brave dance-partner Nora Bryan!

Knowing what you know now, anything you would have done differently during your Hanover years?

What a great question! I certainly would have ramped up the intensity of almost everything! Taken more classes in more departments, made more efforts to connect with more classmates and amazing people in Hanover, especially the faculty. I sometimes imagine what would have happened differently. I actually was a walk-on Freshman fall for the Lacrosse team, but after about a month it became clear that my future was not there, but if I had stayed, my Dartmouth career would have been very different, and I’m not sure I would have had the chance to get to Israel.

Were you involved in Hillel while at Dartmouth and did that influence your decision to pursue your masters of theology?

I was pretty involved with Hillel my freshman fall, but was disappointed by how small and uninspiring Dartmouth Hillel was that quarter, and didn’t do much at Hillel for the rest of freshman year as I knew that I was going to Israel sophomore winter and spring. After sophomore summer, I was again off campus on the Religion FSP in Scotland junior fall. Once I got back to Hanover for junior winter, I was not very interested in Hillel, but since I was becoming more connected to my own Jewish practice, I began to go more for services. By senior year, I spent more time in the new building, but never took any formal leadership role.

The main influencer for my Masters was a desire to pursue the academic side of religion, seeking to earn my doctorate and stay in academia—and not the practical side of Jewish practice. It is an uncommon combination that I was both
pursuing the academic study of religion while I was become more actively religious in my practice.

You attended Harvard Divinity School after graduation. What do you think were some of the most important lessons you learned there?

Harvard was an amazing place to be a graduate student. There was a freshman at Dartmouth our senior year who transferred out of Dartmouth to Harvard for his sophomore year, and we both moved down to Cambridge in the fall of ‘98. He thought that we had both traded in our Dartmouth Green for Harvard Crimson. I told him that he was abandoning the Green, and I would never turn my back on it!

But Boston was an amazing city to be a graduate student, and at Harvard, I had the entire Harvard Universe open to me, which was a profound blessing. I developed great friendships and academic colleagues. Personally, my time there was also a critical phase for me in my own religious growth as I connected with a vibrant, exciting and engaged Jewish community which was a real inspiration, and it had nothing to do with my academic work.

You called yourself a “Reform-raised nice Jewish boy” but chose to be ordained as an Orthodox Rabbi. What are some of the differences between Reform and Orthodox Judaism and what compelled you to change?

It took me a long time to finally accept the 'label' of being Orthodox. Despite the challenges that I still feel with a few aspects of the theology, on the whole, I find Orthodoxy much more compelling, intellectually rigorous and self-reflective than the small corner of Reform Judaism that I was exposed to. I feel that I never had the opportunity to meet inspiring and highly educated Reform leaders. When I got to Israel and discovered an entire universe of rich intellectual study as well as inspired spiritual practice, I was enthralled. Something about the total commitment and organic wholeness of the Orthodox lifestyle was also deeply compelling for me on both an intellectual and spiritual level. Despite some of the challenges with a few issues, I prefer to push against them from within the Tradition, rather than remain on the outside.

You also spent a little more time in academia - as a campus rabbi and instructor at Colgate. What were some of the highlights of that experience, and what made you leave?

My year at Colgate as both a visiting Professor and Jewish Chaplain was an amazing year. I was at a moment where I was debating within myself about going into the clergy or continuing in academia, and the opportunity arose to try my hand at both (while being underqualified for them both!) It was a temporary position as the Rabbi at Colgate was taking a year of leave to finish her dissertation, so I took the opportunity.

What a great year of diving deeply into teaching in the classroom, and running the Jewish community on campus! I learned a ton about myself, and also about effective experiential education. I loved being present and a role model for my students, and it was a gift to be so close to them in age.

I recall sledding one Saturday with some of my students, and the roommate of one saying, ‘It’s so cool that the rabbi is out sledding with us!’ I learned about how powerful it can be for college students to meet someone a few steps ahead of them who is open and honest about his own path of self-discovery, and I realized what a privilege it was for me to spend a year exploring real questions about values and identity with them.

I am still in touch with a number of my students from that year. I remember that when I arrived, we had a wonderful non-Jewish student who had a work-study job preparing the Sabbath meal in the kitchen at the Jewish center on Fridays. I said to my students that if we are going to eat that meal, we are going to cook it together! So I made it clear that I would be in the center all day on Friday—we opened all the windows, started blasting Grateful Dead music, and students would come in and out during the day to help cook, bake challah and hang out. It was a great decision, and a sweet way to connect with students. I had one senior guy who was too 'cool' to come to Shabbat dinner, but we would spend time on Friday schmoozing about questions of Jewish identity while baking chicken!

I also loved being part of the larger academic community and doing some interfaith work. I got involved with a men’s group there and we did a number of conversations in the fraternities about masculinity and relationships.

Towards the end of the year, my predecessor decided not to return, and they wanted me to stay, but I felt like I had to move on. It was a socially isolating year as I spent all my time with students, and even the young faculty (who were still at least 5 years older than me) were very busy with their next career move. It was also lonely as the only religious Jew in the entire area. I sadly refused their offer, and went on for my next adventure in Israel!
How did you learn about Nesiya and what drew you to the organization originally?

Nesiya was an interesting opportunity that came up as a summer job in the middle of my master’s. My roommate at the time had heard of the program through a friend and suggested looking in to it. At the time, Nesiya was running a summer teen Israel program that was based on hiking and wilderness experience, and that seemed like a great opportunity for me to go back to Israel, to teach and guide, and to spend time outdoors.

I didn’t deeply internalize the powerful message of Jewish Unity and Diversity that was the core of the ideology, nor did I know anything about the role of arts and creativity in this kind of experiential education (another pillar of the work)—I was motivated initially by more self-centered ideas of getting back to Israel and spending time outdoors. I had no idea that over the next four years I would develop my skills as an experiential educator and find my calling both as a guide, a rabbi (eventually) and facilitator of group dynamics and character education.

What made you decide to relocate to Israel?

When I returned to Israel after my year at Colgate, I came for a year of intense study to try to determine if I would pursue rabbinical or doctoral studies back in the US after this year. I had no idea how much I would fall in love with Israel—the People, the Land and the lifestyle! After a few months, I knew that I would stay for a second year, and at the beginning of my second year, it was clear that I wanted to stay in Israel. The Land is incredibly beautiful with a history that goes back 4000 years. As a Jewish person, the connection to the Homeland of my people is incredibly powerful, and to build a life in what I affectionately call, “The Real Bible Belt” is beyond words.

What’s a typical day (if there is such a thing) look like for you?

It depends on the season and if I am out in the field with a group, or based in the office. If in the office, my day starts at about 5:15 am when I head to synagogue to study for a half-hour and for morning prayers. I arrive home at 6:45 to help feed, dress and shuffle our three older kids to the school bus, and take the fourth to kindergarten. My wife and I commute together on most days to Jerusalem (about 20 minutes north), where she leaves me at work.

Most of my day is balanced between communicating with educators and clients and building meaningful educational programming. I spend much of my time in front of the computer writing curricula and programming while also maintaining relationships with our alumni and donors. I am also always looking for new relationships and opportunities to support our non-profit. Around 5:15 I head out to take a bus home and the evening hours are spent with the kids working on homework, dinner, baths and bedtime.

Since many of my contacts are in the US, some evenings I’m back on the phone or email for a few more hours after my kids go to sleep. During the summer or when I have a group in Israel, I’m mostly on the road, either guiding or overseeing my staff as they work with the teens that are visiting Israel. I’m communicating with the parents back in the US and providing support for the teens and my staff, while guiding and teaching. When I’m away, my family will often join us for the weekends.

How does living in Israel compare to life in the States? Anything you miss? Anything you really don’t miss?

Oy! What a question! And the timing is a little crazy! I’ve been living in Israel since 2001. That’s a long time. A great deal has happened in America (and Israel) since then. Often times when I look at the teens I am working with, they don’t remember 9-11, and the truth is, that I’ve been in Israel since before 9-11 and feel like there are deep shifts in American consciousness that I have missed by being away. That is a wild feeling, especially when I am back in the US and feel like a foreigner.

The biggest difference is that here in Israel, being in the Jewish Homeland, the default position is Jewish. The rhythm of the year is based around the Jewish holidays (you have to look for a Christmas tree and there is no Christmas music in the main public arena!) Furthermore, we are in the Middle East, which is a very different culture. Hospitality is critical, and sharing opinions on everything is essential. The seemingly ‘abrasive’ mentality here is much more alive, and there is very little ‘political correctness’, for better or for worse!

The questions of the Peace Process and the future of the region are not theoretical—they are real-life, and even though my children are still young, the army is full of young men and women that are the children of my friends, colleagues and neighbors. The terror attack three weeks ago killed my neighbor. Everybody is deeply affected by almost all of the events here since we are a tiny country.

I miss skiing and live-music, but life here is very intense, vibrant and rich, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything!
How do you and your wife manage life with four kids, and do you find any differences in the general attitude toward parenting in Israel vs. in the U.S.?

In our community, four children is a relatively small family! My wife is also in education and works full time at a local high school. One of the huge differences is that our community and family are deeply involved with the raising of our children. My wife is Israeli, and her mother lives in the same town as we do, about a 7 minute drive and 45 minute walk. She picks up our children one afternoon a week. My wife’s sister lives 10 minutes away and we often help out with one (or more!) of their 5 children, and her other sister lives 25 minutes away and is also a resource for us and we are for them (and their 7 children!). The community is also a source of support and we invest a great deal in parenting and family. As an example, my boys’ school has invited professionals from a parenting clinic to do three sessions with the parents about parental authority. Family and parenting are very important issues for our community in particular, and in Israel in general. We find that we choose to spend our ‘free time’ with our children and are very involved in all aspects of their daily life. Yes, our time is full and there is not a great deal of leisure or vacation time, but it is an incredible blessing to actively raise four kids to build a better future.

What do you do for fun these days?

Fun is often with the kids, whether it is studying together, or going on a trip around Israel. My 41st is this week, and my wife surprised me with tickets to see Les Miserables in Tel Aviv last week, so we got a babysitter and went out to dinner and the show. We recently finished building our first home, so we spend time putting the finishing touches on it.

What are you watching/listening to/reading lately that you would recommend?

I’m almost done reading CS Lewis’s autobiography, which is an amazing glimpse into his development as a thinker and a believer (if you have not spent time reading some of his essays and books other than Narnia, you are missing a real treasure), called Surprised by Joy.

I also recently discovered Holly Bowling, an amazing young woman pianist in the Bay Area who does adaptations of Grateful Dead music for solo piano--check her out!

I just finished reading Teaching as an Act of Love, by Richard Lakin, who was a school principal in the US for many years and moved to Israel in 1984 to continue his peace activism and work. He was sadly murdered in a terror attack in Jerusalem last fall. His optimism and love suffuses every page of the book, and I only heard about him after he was killed and wanted to read his book.

If you’re able to come to our 20th reunion, who would you be most hoping to see there?

I have reconnected with some folks through facebook over the years, and a few more through my travels fundraising and recruiting for my program--I’d love to connect with more old friends in Hanover, and certainly to meet the many folks that I did not get around to building relationships with over our four years at Dartmouth. There are many names in the Alumni Newsletter and Magazine that I do not know well or at all, and I would welcome the opportunity to connect with them! Other than that, it would be great to see all of my old friends again. But if I can’t make it, please come and visit Israel! I know a great tour-guide, and our new home has a big guest apartment!

THANKS, FIVEL!
College Connections:
A student’s take on the new House system

When I first read about the new Houses, I wasn’t sure about the idea. I kept hearing about how it was supposed to fix the problem of the D Plan, but none of the classmates I talked to seemed to think that actually was a problem. When Jo and I had lunch with our SEAD student Rachel Muir ’20 while attending Class Officers Weekend back in September, and I asked Rachel what she thought. Her comments made me consider it from a different angle. She told us that without the structure of the House and the activities, it was way too easy for some students to hide in their rooms and interact only through their electronics. Back in our Hanover days, the Internet was barely a thing, and social media was yet to come. We had to get out of our rooms, if only to check our mail for packages ordered from actual paper catalogs.

Armed with that perspective, I wanted to know what a more seasoned Dartmouth student thought about it, and Jo was crafty enough to recruit her nephew and twist his arm a few times so we could get an insider look at the new system. — Kate

Thank you to Jeffrey for humoring curious alumni!

What are you most excited about in regard to the Houses?

I think there are two things that excite me most. The first is the opportunity to get to know intimately students in other years and social circles; the second is the ability to use the new facilities as study spaces. The Houses provide new open-floor spaces that double as social hangouts for students who live in adjoining dorms – so not only do I get an easy, accessible place to do homework that isn’t Baker-Berry, I get a place to meet other people who wouldn’t normally cross my path during my day-to-day activities.

What are folks saying about this on campus?

Opinion on the new housing system seems to be supportive – people are excited about the new spaces, and a lot of the programming that goes on within each housing cluster is really enjoyable. Last term Allen House had several events that provided free, delicious food and fun activities (bubble soccer, pumpkin carving, etc.). So most students are in support of that. Most of the negative opinions about the housing system cite the fact that you are obligated to live in your particular, assigned cluster for the remainder of your time at Dartmouth (unless you live in a Greek house or off-campus), and that many view the housing system as a threat to Greek life in general.

Do you think this is more necessary today than it might have been 20 years ago?

I don’t necessarily think it is more necessary today. It seems to me that the housing system introduces a new campus climate that will take several years to mature. I think Dartmouth is eventually aiming to emulate something similar to Yale or Rice University’s dorm system, where the hub of social life revolves around residential colleges and not in Greek houses. Many believe that it’s a step in the right direction (whether they are pro-Greek life or not).

How has the transition gone for you and your House so far?

Fantastic. I live right next to the new House Center on Gold Coast, so I’m exposed to Allen House programming very often. I think being with my friends (who applied in a group with me to live together) is awesome, and the sense of community continues to develop quickly. I also really enjoy the fact that there are two graduate school students living on my floor – they’re great for application advice or life advice in general. The transition phase will continue for quite some time, I think; at least until the students who were at Dartmouth when the Housing system was in place are gone. But I don’t believe that the transition phase will necessarily stop until the administration believes that the social hubs of the school have shifted to the new program centers.

What do you think alumni should know about the House system?

It’s a popular new initiative that many students have found fun and beneficial – not only in terms of programming, but in terms of meeting new people. The new buildings on Gold Coast (called “the Cube”) and next to the football field (by some, called “the Clove”) are awesome.

— Jeffrey Fastow ’18
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Reunion and Class Logo

Graphic artists!

One of our 20th Reunion presents to the class will be a new logo to add to our visual identity and “branding” in the Alumni Relations circles. Because we have so many talented ’98s, we wanted to give our classmates the first invite before exploring other venues to get this ready to use in the year leading up to June 2018.

If you are interested in working with the Executive Committee on developing and executing our logo, please get in touch with Jo Golub or Kate Gold as soon as possible. We will keep the request open until May 1st, and then will move on to plan B if no classmates are interested.

We know your time and talents are valuable, so we are interested in providing a reasonable honorarium or making arrangements for credit towards reunion attendance. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to get in touch!

Examples of other Reunion and Class Logos:

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Mini-Reunions
with Katey Ritrovato Dadakis

Hi all!

Most of the current mini-reunion focus is on our 98th Day activity, and my sense is that we’ve all been extremely busy over the last couple months. I know I have!

We have a few plans percolating in the background in New York and Los Angeles, so hopefully we’ll be able to communicate more on that soon, but don’t forget that mini-reunions can happen anywhere that ’98s want to gather.

If you would like help finding other ’98s or alums from our reunion cluster in your local area, please give me a shout.

kateyritro@gmail.com

Green Gossip ‘98
with Kate Gold

Classmates continue to join the Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/groups/Dartmouth1998). We’re up to 438 as of March 1st. Feel free to post Dartmouth-related news or events on the page—we love to hear from you informally between newsletters and DAM issues.

Kara Paldino checked in at the end of January: “I wanted to pass on a cute picture from last week when I had some great visitors to my house in Miami Beach, FL! Alex Reitman Brown visiting from London with her two kids Jacob and Maya, then there is me with my two kids Livia and Jackson, Carrie Langsdorf Weinstein visiting from San Francisco with her two kids Charlie and Teddy, and Sara Tullis Wester with her three kids Drennen, Ella and Jack (the Westers also live in Miami and we see them frequently). It was great to spend time with everyone!

Jo passed on the news that Rob Nutt and his wife Sara welcomed a new little one into the world - Margaret Dunning Nutt - back in December. Congrats to you!

Unai Montes-Irueste checked in after the Club and Group Officers Weekend (CAGOW) with evidence of more ’98 excellence. Unai, Matt Anderson, and Kenji Hosokawa all made an appearance, and I didn’t get the details in time for print, but one of those pictures definitely looks like Kenji received an award. Nice going! Way to represent, gentlemen.
On January 22nd, Jaime Bedrin posted to our Facebook page: “Who Marched?” And I think it was our most responded-to thread ever. I’ve reprinted a handful of the photos that classmates posted. To see more, check in on Facebook. There were so many great ones I just pulled a random few.

Please note that our next issue will be an electronic edition only—look for the email from Jo in June, and as always, updates can be found on Facebook and our Class website.

Be well!
TOP ROW | Kara Paldino’s Miami mini-reunion || Reunion is coming! || Kenji Hosokawa at CAGOW || 2nd ROW | Danielle Doctor at the march in Phoenix || Carlo Corti and family in Oakland || Unai and Kenji and another club officer at CAGOW || 3rd ROW | Annie Eckstein and her wife in DC || Lisa Core and friends in Boston || Matt Anderson with Unai at CAGOW || 4th ROW | Jonathan Drew’s view of the Boston march || Natalie Garza and her boys at the Houston march || Rachel Drew and Christina Buschmann in DC || Folks, thanks for sending your photos and sharing them on our Facebook page. It makes the newsletter a lot of fun to put together and to read, too. The next issue is planned for June - an electronic only version - so watch your email or our class website around then!
A FINAL SHOUT OUT FOR OUR 98TH DAY:
April 8 and 9, 2017
Check for ongoing updates for the 98th Day on our website and Facebook page.
Get ready for the 98th Day Challenge!
#D98Day #Dartmouth98

CHECK FOR UPDATES BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND CLASS WEBSITE!


This newsletter is made possible by your Class of 1998 dues, so please continue to support its publication. Thank you.