

From the Head of School

Reflecting on the Success of Fall 2020



**Head of School
Aliya Ranginwala**

A time of reflection is upon us as we successfully complete our first semester of a very challenging year. Though there have been a number of difficulties, as a community we have stepped up to these challenges.

With the realization in Spring that this pandemic would likely continue into the near future, it was imperative for us to make sure that we would be in the position to bring our students back to our campus. We collected all the necessary PPE for the school. It took a lot of thoughtful consideration to figure out what our new campus layout would look like and how to utilize all the outdoor space.

All the efforts and research that went into that process are a distant memory now and I can still recount the terrible, panicked feeling I experienced when I was informed of our first positive COVID-19 case and I had to issue the first quarantine. There was a little sense of defeat at that moment, remembering that we cannot protect our little community 100 percent.

Our teachers have met the many challenges of teaching virtual only, in-person and virtual simultaneously, and in-person only. We quickly acquired the necessary technologies and teachers learned to work with the new technologies and programs. By mid-fall our students were able to continue to learn

through this pandemic virtually or in person.

We have made it over a number of bumps and our students seem to be progressing very well. This fall, we were able to have a wonderful Halloween parade with parent spectators on Facebook Live and in person. We also had a successful online pie sale. Our music teacher worked with our students in creating a virtual music program and our 7th and 8th-graders produced a radio program under the guidance of Beth Dixon and Todd Spahr which was broadcast on WYSO. Our students still have other traditional competitions yet to come, such as Science Fair, Power of the Pen, Geography Bee and History Bee. Earlier this month we had our traditional Spelling Bee with parent and student spectators online.

Moving into our second semester, I feel confident that though the pandemic has not yet subsided there is light at the end of the tunnel, as the vaccine rollout has started and our staff will soon have access to the vaccine. We will continue to be vigilant about our protocols as we move forward with in-person classes. We are proud to say that we have no evidence of person-to-person transmission of the virus in our school. All positive cases were from outside sources. We will get through this difficult time and provide as much normalcy as possible for our students going forward. We are looking forward to our annual Hearts & Hands Auction being virtually in May and our Summer Enrichment Program is now in the works to return this summer. Thank you for allowing us to partner in the education and development of your children. 🌟

Second Semester Calendar

February 1

Second Semester/Third Quarter Begins

February 5

Second Quarter Report Cards Go Home

February 6

Power of the Pen

February 11

Parent Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7 p.m.

February 12

Conference Make-Up Day, No School

February 15

Presidents' Day, No School

March 5

Third Quarter Interim Grade Reports

March 24

Ridgewood School Geography Bee, 10 a.m. (5th-8th Classroom Bees will be held week of March 8.)

March 29-April 2

Spring Break

April 9

Completion of Third Quarter

April 12

Fourth Quarter Begins

April 29

History Bee (Grades 6-8)

May 7

Fourth Quarter Interim Grade Reports

May 16-21

Hearts & Hands Auction

May 31

Memorial Day, No School

June 9

End of Fourth-Quarter Grading Period; Graduation and Passing of Classes, 7 p.m.

June 10

Last Day of School, Field Day, 2-hour Delay

June 11

Teachers' Workday

Looking Back at Fall Semester 2020!

Although it was not “business as usual,” the Ridgewood School community worked together fall semester and allowed teachers and students to focus on teaching and learning. The accompanying photos show their success!



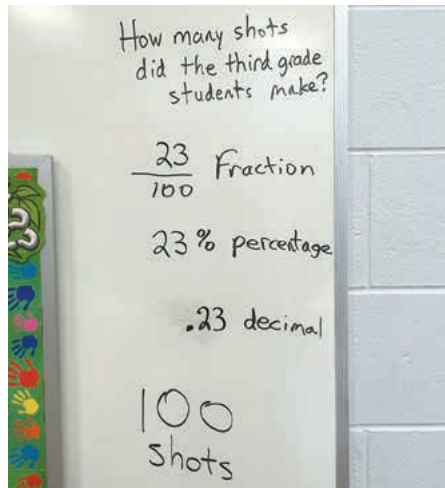
Aug. 26: Welcome to Ridgewood School!



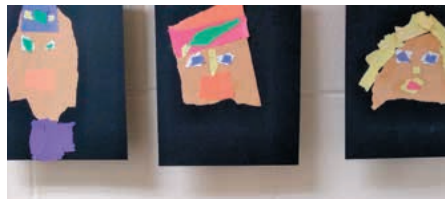
Sept. 15: Kindergarten students create maps and learn about their communities.



Sept. 24: Open-air band practice under a tent during the time of COVID-19.



Sept. 24: Third-graders practice their four shots while developing their math skills.



Oct. 3: First-graders create amazing portraits!



Oct. 8: Upper-level language arts students develop their vocabulary and understanding of adjectives by creating menus for restaurants they would like to own.



Oct. 30: It can't be all work! The preschoolers line up to march in our Halloween Parade. The upper level

students will greet their “littles” with personalized signs and cheers while parents, grandparents, and friends look on from behind the schoolyard fence.



Nov. 2: Grades 5–8 Spanish students learn about *Día de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead, a Mexican tradition in which loved ones who have passed away are remembered by building an *altar de muertos* using mementos, photos, and objects of the deceased. Our students' *altar de muertos* were created in memory of several notable Hispanics.



Nov. 8: U. S. History students produce a video of their reenactment of the Battle of Saratoga.



Nov. 24: More fun times! Crazy Hair and Hat Day!



Nov. 26: Fifth-graders thoughtfully plan a meal for friends – creating a grocery list, calculating quantities needed – and the cost of these items, and learning how coupons cut costs when shopping.



Dec. 3: Kindergarten and first-grade students take an “in-school field trip” and learn about twentieth-century artifacts, such as boomboxes, rotary phones, typewriters, cameras, milk bottles, etc.



Dec. 9: Students create *chia* portraits in art class.

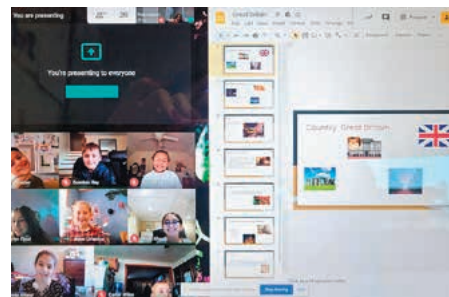


Dec. 11: Having completed their study of *The Sword in the Stone*, the armies of

King Pellinore and Sir Grummore prepare to face off in mock battle.



Dec. 12: Seventh-graders learn in science class how matter moves through the ecosystem.



Dec. 19: Fourth-graders use what they learned about the Google slide program, the research process, note-taking, and citing research materials in reporting about different countries and their winter holidays.



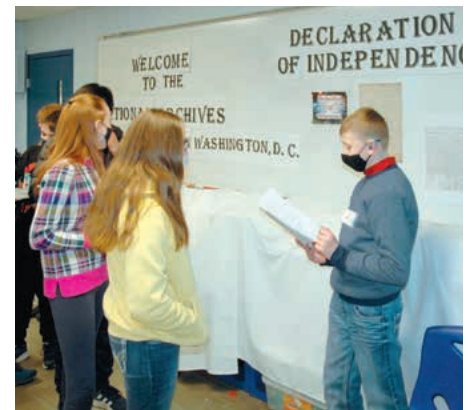
Dec. 19: Preschoolers bake gingerbread cookies.



Jan. 12: Third-graders report the facts and characteristics of various U. S. states they’ve studied in social studies.



Jan. 13: The works of author-illustrator Eric Carle inspire kindergarten students to create their own paintings of bugs.



Jan. 16: The fifth-graders invited other students to take an “in-school field trip” to the National Archives and Records Administration and learn about the importance of the documents and records it houses. 🌟



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Student Council Report

While it has been a challenging year for families, students, and staff alike, Ridgewood's Student Council members have continued to make an impact at school and in the community.



Student Council's Alzheimer's Walk at Ridgewood School

Beginning in September, Ridgewood students, unable to help with the Alzheimer's Walk at Wittenberg University, held their own Alzheimer's Walk at school and raised \$905 for the Alzheimer's Association.

October was an especially busy month for the Student Council. In early October, it sponsored a Ridgewood schoolyard scavenger hunt with clues written by Mr. Sauter. Ridgewood's 5th-8th grades participated in the fun-filled event. Having the fastest time, the 8th grade was rewarded with an ice cream and pizza party.

October also included Student Council's annual fundraisers for the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund (BCEF). The Student Council's annual



Eighth-graders planting flower beds as part of the Keep Clark County Clean program.

bake sale and other events raised \$860 that was donated to the BCEF of Clark and Champaign Counties. Eighth-graders also helped with the Keep Clark



Student Council's treat bags and cards for children at IHN Homeless Shelter and Project Woman.

County Clean program and planted two gardens along Fountain Boulevard.

In late October, students made Halloween cards and treat bags for children at the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Homeless Shelter and Project Woman. The annual upper-level



Along the haunted trail built by the eighth-graders.

Halloween Bash was held outside the school building this year and featured a haunted trail that was set up by the eighth-graders and Mr. Sauter. The Halloween Bash also included games, dinner, a costume contest, and prizes..

In early November students worked



Student Council building desks for

with the Babian family to build and donate desks to students who needed appropriate workspaces in their homes. Later that month, students made 100 thank-you cards for veterans and donated \$300 to Honor Flight, an organization that flies veterans to visit their service memorials in Washington, D.C. During Thanksgiving week, students delivered more than 60 pies (thanks to families who donated pies



Student Council President Zöe Bisdorf and alumnus Ibrahim Ranginwala '18 loading Thanksgiving pies for delivery to IHN Homeless Shelter and Project Woman.

through the school's annual pie sale) as well as seven boxes of Thanksgiving-related food items to the IHN Homeless Shelter and Project Woman. That week the Student Council also collected \$315 for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Before winter break, in response to this year's increase in local homelessness,

Academic Accolades



Student Council President Zöe Bisdorf with check for Second Harvest Food Bank.

a needed-item collection was held for the IHN Homeless Shelter. As a result of that effort, the Student Council delivered 237 pairs of socks, 66 pairs of underwear, 4 shirts, 35 deodorants, 39 bars of soap, 14 containers of shampoo, 11 bottles of body wash, 10 tubes of toothpaste, 29 toothbrushes, 216 containers of baby wipes, and a \$100 donation to the Shelter. Treat bags, cards, and cookies were also dropped off for children at IHN and Project Woman.

During the fall, students made and delivered Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas cards to local nursing home residents and enjoyed window visits with the residents. Although it was difficult, the Student Council was able to host some student events outside the school building or in a number of classrooms with safe distancing and protective gear. These events included Ping Pong League, two video game tournaments, and a Frisbee Golf League. These events along with sales from the school store helped the Student Council raise money for each of its monthly-designated charities.

As is always the case, these accomplishments would not have been possible without the support and generosity of the Ridgewood family of students, parents, grandparents, staff, friends, and alumni. Student Council looks forward to new opportunities in 2021 to serve its school and community, opportunities that will continue its student members' growth as team members, organizers, responsible citizens and leaders. 🌞

DAR Essay Contest Winner!

We congratulate Zöe Bisdorf on winning the eighth-grade essay contest sponsored by the Lagonda Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The subject of Zöe's essay was the Boston Massacre. Her essay will now be entered in the DAR's state essay competition. Zöe will read her essay to the Lagonda Chapter's members at a luncheon in March and will receive a cash award and medal. Congratulations, Zöe! Well done!



DAR Essay winner Zöe Bisdorf

Spelling Bee Champions!

Ridgewood School has a rich tradition of outstanding spellers, including Anna Varghese '93 (*see Alumni Spotlight, page 10*) and Mini Chadha '83 who went on to the national competitions in Washington, D.C.! On January 21, Ridgewood's top spellers from grades 4–8 competed for the title of 2021 Ridgewood School Spelling Bee Champion.

The ten competitors included: fourth-graders, Annia Ameer and Mylo Frazier; fifth-graders, Fadhila Ashraf and Nicoletta Gianakopoulos; ixth-graders, Usayd Ashraf and Thaila Braddy-Cockran; seventh-graders, Mary Cunningham and Mason McGuire; and eighth-graders, Aaron Harris and Brendan Russell.



Congratulations to this year's winners (l to r) Brendan Russell, first place; Mylo Frazier, second place; and Mason McGuire, third place!



Ridgewood School Spelling Bee Room Champions (l to r) Brendan Russell, Aaron Harris, Mason McGuire, Mary Cunningham, Usayd Ashraf, Thaila Braddy-Cockran, Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, Fadhila Ashraf, Annia Ameer, and Mylo Frazier.

Ridgewood School Alumni Awards



Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69



Patrick E. Field



Thalia C. Pavlatos



Ruth Kunkel Bayley



Scott A. Thacker '69



Sally Abbott Pomputius



J.M. Pomputius



Pauline N. Chakeres

Distinguished Alumni Award

Our annual Earth to Table Dinner and its recognition of the recipients of our Distinguished Alumni Award has become a much-anticipated fall highlight. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to host our annual dinner last fall; nevertheless, we moved forward and announced the recipients of our 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award: Springfield native, Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69 and former Springfield resident, Scott A. Thacker '69.

Ms. Lampe is the retired President and CEO of 3G Graphic Solutions, a dedicated community servant who currently serves as a trustee of Ridgewood School, and a nationally recognized sports person.

Mr. Thacker, now a resident of San Francisco, California, serves as CEO and a board member of Ivory Consulting, the software and consulting company that has helped define the modern equipment finance industry. He serves as chair of the board of trustees of the Equipment Leasing & Finance Foundation and on the boards of a number of organizations that provide educational and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Honorary Alumni Award

Last winter, the Board of Trustees of Ridgewood School established a new honor, an Honorary Alumni Award, to recognize individuals who, although not Ridgewood School alumni, model the qualities and institutional loyalty

we respect and work to cultivate in our students. In October, because of the pandemic, we relied on the families and friends of those who were to be honored to present our Honorary Alumni Awards on our behalf.

Our six inaugural Honorary Alumni include: Ruth Kunkel Bayley,* Pauline N. Chakeres, Patrick E. Field, Thalia C. Pavlatos, Sally Abbott Pomputius, MD and J. M. Pomputius. MD.

We congratulate our 2020 Distinguished Alumni and our first six Honorary Alumni! We look forward to celebrating them along with 2021 honorees at this fall's Earth to Table Dinner.

**It is with a sense of great loss, that we report the death of Honorary Alumna Ruth Kunkel Bayley who died on December 25, 2020. See "In Memoriam" on page 11. ☀*

Out in Our Great Outdoors!



New table and benches for the grove.

Many of you have probably noticed the benches and table beneath the trees in the northwest corner of the campus. They are the work of Mr. Paul Sauter, our upper-level language arts teacher. These pieces, as well as the new picnic tables outside the second-grade classroom and the benches in the Land Lab were built by Mr. Sauter this past summer. His work was part of Ridgewood School's efforts to establish classroom spaces outside the building that would provide fresh air and readily allow for social distancing. Throughout the fall, Ridgewood students greatly enjoyed having classes outdoors and using the furniture Mr. Sauter built.

During the past two summers, Mr. Sauter has also worked at clearing the Land Lab. This fall, students happily created signage identifying and guiding people to different parts of the Land Lab. We thank Mr. Sauter for the many improvements he has made to our campus. He writes about his work below.



Entrance to the Land Lab.

Over the past two years, significant progress has been made in reviving one of Ridgewood School's greatest assets – the Land Lab, a small patch of woods adjacent to the school where a little stream quietly flows. The most challenging part of this project was (and still is) the removal of honeysuckle (*Lonicera*). Most people know that honeysuckle is a highly-aggressive invasive species. It out-competes every native tree, bush, and flower in temperate climates. It's the first to get its leaves in spring and the last to lose its leaves in the fall. Honeysuckle grows quickly and everywhere, and the seeds and branches are alluring to birds and beasts. Removing it is downright near impossible!

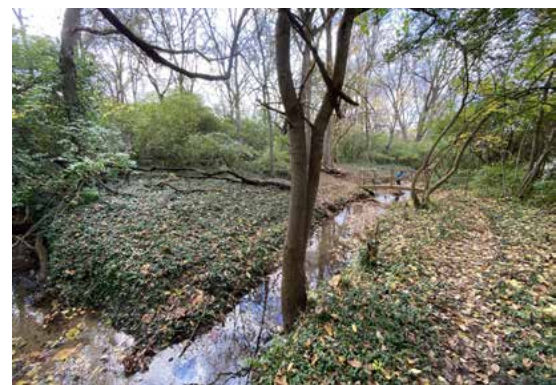
During the summer of 2019, my summer class began working on clearing the Land Lab. My students provided the elbow grease that it took to build a looming pile of ripped-up honeysuckle in the parking lot. That work continued this past summer, except without students. Nevertheless, it gave me something to do during the “great boredom” of the pandemic and also gave me an excuse to purchase some tools I'll probably never use again. This past summer, I was able to create a much larger, more ominous pile of honeysuckle, dead ash trees, and barbed wire – all to prepare for safer outdoor classes with the students while restoring the natural environment.

The removal of the interior honeysuckle makes way for new native trees and flowers to grow. Sunlight can now make its way to the forest floor and, within a few years, we will see a rejuvenated Land Lab scattered with wildflowers and tree saplings. This begins the start of the cultivation and management phase in which students and volunteers can remove new honeysuckle sprouts, help identify and preserve new saplings, and eventually monitor stream-water quality and biodiversity.

The Land Lab isn't just for Nature; it's also for us! Earlier this school year, the students helped map and name the various locations and trails within the Land Lab. Names like “Deadwood Trail,” “Waterfall Way,” “The Ivy Pass,”

and “Hackberry Hill” are welcomingly posted. The options for customization are limitless out there! Benches, tables, and shelters now provide a welcoming environment for recreation and learning.

There's something historically profound and classic about children at play at school in the woods. It's hard to pinpoint, but the images of the schoolhouse we see in paintings, or the pictures we conjure up in our heads when reading older novels in which the schoolmaster hosts a lesson in the shade of a sycamore glade – these visions we find enchanting. Learning and playing in the Land Lab will, I hope, create for the students long-lasting childhood memories, as if they were etched in stone.



A stream runs through it.

The laughter and revived energy I see students exhibit in the Land Lab makes it all seem worth the time and effort it's taken. The wood offers a Kingdom of Imagination, where nature puts trivial, vain technology in perspective and often becomes a masterful tutor in itself – directly sometimes, but subtle always. It's a stark contrast between other schools' cold, cinder block walls, windowless rooms, and the stereotypical, draconian lecturing we often hear nightmares about.

This is why we are so lucky at Ridgewood School – to have a place in nature we all can share. Once we step in, a whole new world reveals itself! But, in fact, it's not a “new” world. It's the world. It's the natural world that we constantly take for granted. What better place to explore it, to learn from it, and to cherish it than at school?! 🌞

Two Special Performances!



With families and friends not being able to assemble for our annual winter music program, Ridgewood students and Ridgewood music teacher Ms. Dawn Naill, although somewhat restricted by COVID-19 in their choice of instruments, provided an entertaining online performance for everyone. If you missed it, you may view it at ridgewoodschool.org/videos.



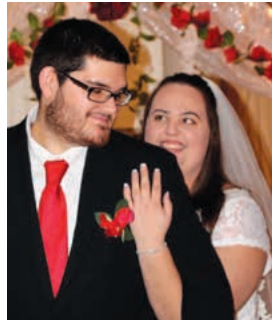
Seventh and eighth-graders working with Ridgewood School friends, Ms. Beth Dixon and Mr. Todd Spahr, wrote and produced a clever adaptation of Clement Moore's classic, *The Night Before Christmas*. Our students' adaptation, Radio Show: "The Cough Before Christmas," was broadcast on WYSO on December 27. The script, a COVID-19 inspired treatment of Moore's familiar work, is great fun and the actors' performances are outstanding! It can be heard by going to ridgewoodschool.org/videos. ☀

Would You Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email?

Please send your email address to either cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org or to chreynolds@ridgewoodschool.org. Thank you!

Announcements

Congratulations and Best Wishes!



Jenna and Sean



Colleen, Cody and daughter Rebecca

During winter break, two of our teachers were married. We extend our best wishes to Jenna Carter who married Sean Clagett on December 12 and to Colleen Huey who married Cody Woodcock on December 19!

Summer Enrichment Program

Mark the dates for our Summer Enrichment Program on your calendars: June 28–July 2, July 12–16, and July 19–23. Watch for additional information regarding our programs on our Facebook page, in materials that will be sent home with students, and on our website.

Hellos And Goodbyes!

After our last newsletter went to press, Ms. Sylvia Phillips joined our faculty as our Spanish teacher. We want to introduce and welcome her at this time. Bienvenida!

With the mid-year resignation of our librarian Ms. Laura Perenic, Ms. Pattie Fuschino, our teachers' aide, will serve as librarian for our lower-level students. Ms. Beth Dixon will return this spring and offer upper-level students the Botvin LifeSkills Training program. We thank Ms. Perenic for her work during the fall, welcome back Ms. Dixon, and look forward to Ms. Fuschino's work with our lower-level students.

We extend a belated welcome to Ms. Lisa Reynolds, RN who is Ridgewood's new school nurse. Ms. Reynolds, the mother of alumni Morgan '17 and Christian Reynolds '19, worked diligently last semester to ensure everyone remained healthy!

The students and staff are enjoying having John Linardos, Jr., Chef at Springfield's Linardos Villa and parent of fourth-grader Alyse Linardos, here as part-time chef. Welcome and thank you, Chef John! ☀



Sylvia Phillips



Pattie Fuschino



Beth Dixon



Lisa Reynolds



John Linardos

The Ridgewood Fund

Your generosity makes the impossible possible!

The Ridgewood Fund annual campaign is in full swing! Beginning July 1 and concluding June 30, the funds raised are a critical part of the school's budget. Like all ISACS-accredited, private, independent day schools, tuition alone does not cover the annual cost of a STEM Plus Ridgewood education.

Please support our students! Your contribution will make a profound impact on every student's daily school experience. Every dollar counts! Every

gift matters, no matter the amount! We are committed to being a responsible steward of the funds entrusted to us.

Please go to ridgewood-school.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund and charge your donation to your VISA, MasterCard or AmEx, or mail your check, made payable to Ridgewood School Association, to the attention of Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504, or call 937.399.8900, Ext. 5, to be connected to the Development

Office. Be sure and ask your employer if there is a corporate matching-gift program!

Please join the remarkable individuals below on The Ridgewood Fund Donor Honor Roll! Every name is a statement of support of the school's mission: Ridgewood School creates a vibrant and personalized learning environment that cultivates the intellect, creativity, and character of our students. 🌟

The Ridgewood Fund 2020-21 Donor Honor Roll

as of January 31, 2021

Premier

Randolph H. Deer

Patron (\$1,000+)

P.J. & Lisa Miller, *In Memory of*
Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43
Mark '67* & Cyndi Robertson
Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83* Syed
The Thacker Family

Partner (\$500+)

Dan '55 & Judy McGregor
Stacy Owens '88
Anna M. Varghese '93

Supporter (\$250+)

Jonathan & Melanie Bisdorf
J. P. Dahdah '89, *In Memory of*
Dr. Salim O. Dahdah
Jenny Lee Deer
Robert & Tami French
Michael Hackett
Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69*
Michael & Lisa Loftis
Mel Marsh & Rick Rutan
Cameron & Jamie '90 McGregor
Justin & Tera Mohler
Asha Morgan Moran '84 &
Marty Moran
Drs. J. M. & Sally Abbott Pomputius
A Ridgewood School Friend
Billy & Mendy* Simmons
David & Jessica Swingle
Angelique Walker-Smith '72, *In Memory of*
Rev. Roosevelt V. Walker &
Rev. Elder Geneva Willis Walker

Friend (\$100+)

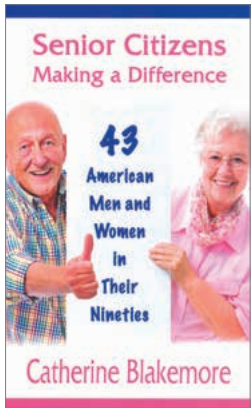
Mary Foster Allardyce '51, *In Memory of*
Sylvia Beasley Snyder '51
Mohamed & Arbia Ameer
Catherine Corry Blakemore '45
Bill* & Deanna Brougher
Susan Brougher
Bryce Hill, Inc., *In Memory of*
Ruth Ray
Ms. Vivian H. Carter
Brock & Jenni '92 Cox
Steve & Kris Culp
Dr. Larry & Kim Fish
Mike* & Rachel Fissel
Peg Foley* & Wes Babian
Anne & Corwin Georges, PhD*
Matthew & Shelly Grisson
Jim & Bonita Heeg
Calvin & Tiffany Hunter
Leandro Maloberti & Rachel Kutzley
New Carlisle Family Practice
Thomas F. Prendergast
Angus M. C. Randolph
A Ridgewood School Friend
Adam* & Tiffany Russell
A'Dymond Sammons '18
The Siddiqi Family, *In Memory of*
Nadeem Siddiqi '92
Kathy Skinner, *In Memory of*
Aric Thornburg
William & Mary Thornburg, *In Memory of*
Aric Thornburg
Katherine "Kitty" Wildman, *In Memory of*
Corrine Nolte Wetherbee '26
Marta Wojcik* & Kevin Rose

Associate (\$25+)

Christian '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer
Vijay & Saba Kassaye Bathija
Katie Hoefling Brant '97
Ashley K. Catanzaro, *In Honor of*
Claire Catanzaro and Christopher
Knowlton '83, and *In Memory of*
Mike Catanzaro
JoEtta Cooper
Clare Georges '05
Debra S. Jacks
Jason & Patricia Jordan
Clayton O. Klein
Michael & Margery Koveleski
Kyle Levine '92
Thomas E. Lynch '77
McMann, Smoot, Riddle Insurance
Agency, *In Memory of* Ruth Ray
Mary S. Miller '49
Paul and Susan Nelson, *In Honor of*
Corwin Georges, PhD
Angela Portis
Nathan & Kayla Robinson
Rick & Joy Rogers
Jeffrey & Jackie Rood
Michael & Mindy Skinner
Punky Turner
The Vandiford Family, *In Honor of*
Christopher '07 and
Chandler Vandiford 🌟

*RSA Board of Trustee

Alumni Spotlights



Catherine Corry Blakemore '45

published her latest book in the fall of 2020. The newest work of the prolific author and former policy analyst for the U.S. Congress, *Senior Citizens Making a Difference: 43*

American Men and Women in Their Nineties, examines the contributions being made by individuals who are ninety years old or older. Catherine, a graduate of Wellesley College, holds an MA in education from the University of Colorado-Denver and an MA in economics from the University of Michigan. Congratulations on your latest book, Catherine!



John W. Pettibone '55, retired executive director and curator of Hammond Castle Museum in Gloucester, Massachusetts, presented a lecture-demonstration, "The History of Medieval Arms and Armor," at the Hammond Castle Museum on August 28, 2020. John is a graduate of Wittenberg University.



Greg James '69

serves as the assistant director of employee accommodations at San Francisco State University. Greg who is fluent

in Mandarin Chinese and earned an MA in East Asian Studies from Stanford University holds the Professional in Human Resources Certification.

Sarah L. Rogers '70

is executive director of Heritage Montgomery, a non-profit organization serving a state-certified heritage area in Maryland. Heritage Montgomery promotes local history, culture, and natural areas and fosters stewardship and connection to Maryland's heritage. Sarah holds a master's degree in Semiotics/Language and Communications Systems from Antioch College.



Bethany Heeg Gray '89

is an environmental educator, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, and Ambassador for the National Wildlife Federation. Bethany consults and leads workshops and programs for national, regional, and local organizations promoting citizen science and backyard wildlife habitat. As president of the Glen Helen Association, she led the Association in its recent purchase of Glen Helen from Antioch College. Bethany is a graduate of Wittenberg University, *summa cum laude*, with a BA in education and special education. She also holds an MA in history from Columbus State University.



Rahul K. Reddy, MD, MHS '89

is a vitreoretinal surgeon practicing in Arizona with Associate Retina Consultants and an

assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix. Dr. Reddy, nationally recognized as an outstanding physician, speaks frequently at national meetings of The American Society of Retinal Specialists and The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

Dr. Reddy has served as lead investigator in multiple clinical studies for Uveitis, age macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Reddy earned his BS, *cum laude*, at the University of Cincinnati, his MHS at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and MD from the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo.

Scott Martin '92

is chief investment officer of Kingsview Wealth Management in Chicago and holds the Certified Investment Management Analyst designation from the Investments & Wealth Institute.



A graduate of Denison University where he majored in economics and French, Scott who is a contributor to Fox News has been featured in print and broadcast media such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Washington Post*, and *Vanity Fair*. He is a former columnist with *TheStreet.com* and is a volunteer with The Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago. Scott was named one of Chicago's Notable Financial Advisers by *Crain's Chicago Business* magazine.



Anna Varghese, MD '93

is a board-certified medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

and specializes in the care of patients with gastrointestinal cancers of unknown primary origin. Her research focuses on finding better treatments and therapies for pancreas cancer, colorectal cancer and biliary cancers.

Dr. Varghese received her BA in Molecular Biology and her MD at Case Western Reserve University.

Elizabeth Reynolds Clinton, PhD '96

is serving as the director of Acute Psychological Services within the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and co-director of the Pediatric Medical Psychology Program at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She is an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Elizabeth received her BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan, and her MS and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Lena Syed '15

has become a significant social media influencer. *The Cincinnati Enquirer* featured Lena last December as one of “Five Ohio TikTok accounts to follow.” In early January of this year, Lena posted

a TikTok video featuring Springfield’s Ironworks Waffle Cafe. Her video quickly had 500,000 views! Within a day, lines formed at the café, in a month that the owners had thought would be “slow for business.” Lena is a sophomore at George Washington University majoring in business. During the pandemic she has been a part-time contact tracer for the Clark County Health Department. ☀️

In Memoriam

Martha Louise Tuttle Horner '35, one of our oldest alumnae, died on September 8 at the age of 96. After graduating from Ridgewood School, she attended Springfield High School and then Wittenberg College from which she graduated at the end of World War II. Following college, she worked for several years in her family’s Springfield business, Tuttle Brothers. In 1949 she married John R. Horner.

Mrs. Horner was a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority, Clark County Audubon Society, the Kiwanians, Springfield Dental Auxiliary, Grace Lutheran Church, a volunteer at Community Hospital, and a Clark County archery champion. We extend our sympathy to her sons, John and Thomas, and their families.

After several years of failing health, **Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43** passed away on September 28. Barbara is survived by her husband Dale and their three children: Lori Young, P.J. Miller, and Molly Stoll and their families. Barbara was a graduate of Springfield High School and attended Rollins College and The Ohio State University.

She was an avid golfer, bridge player, and lover of dogs who served for fifteen years as a consultant for Doncaster Clothing. She was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and Young Woman’s Mission. We extend our condolences to her family.



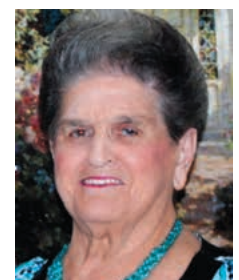
Barbara Korn '48 spent forty years working in various positions at Wittenberg University. She was a member of the Highlands United Church of Christ where she was an active volunteer and later attended the High Street United Methodist Church in Springfield. Barbara’s kindnesses are remembered by her family, friends, colleagues, and members of her church. Barbara passed away on September 8. She is survived by two nieces and their families to whom we offer our condolences.



The Ridgewood School family was saddened by the death of **Ruth Kunkel Bayley, Honorary Alumna**, who died at the age of 100 years, seven months and 24 days, on December 25. Ruth was an inaugural Ridgewood School Honorary Alumna. Our students were charmed by Ruth’s personality and energy when they would visit with her. She was a model for them of a person who lived life fully. She was an artist, the author of seven books, an avid sports fan, an expert cribbage player, and supporter of numerous educational institutions and organizations.

Ridgewood’s “Naughty Bench,” located in the Pavlatos Family Atrium, is dedicated to the memory of her late husband Robert G. Bayley who attended Ridgewood. Ruth is survived by her daughter Martha A. ”Marti” O’Connor, a grandson and granddaughter, a great-great granddaughter and two great-great-grandsons.

For twenty-seven years **Marie Henderson** was the head cook at Ridgewood School and affectionately known to all as “Cookie.” Alumni remember her fried chicken as one of their favorite meals. On the Thursdays when fried chicken was on the menu, “Cookie” would arrive at school at 4:30 a.m. to begin lunch preparations. Mrs. Henderson died on September 14 at the age of 90. We extend our sympathy to her three





the light of learning

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Ridgewood School Association meetings are open to the public and occur on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Ridgewood School.

Hearts & Hands “Online” Auction 2021

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, for the second year in a row, our Hearts & Hands Auction will be an “online-only” auction. The Hearts & Hands Auction is our school’s major, annual fundraiser. The funds generated by the auction help provide our students an outstanding educational experience.

We are excited that Ms. Kary Iddings, parent of eighth-grader Gary, has volunteered to chair this year’s event! This year’s theme is, “It Takes a Village.” This proverb truly describes how Ridgewood’s families, faculty, staff and supporters work together on behalf of our students.

In addition to a variety of amazing silent auction items, the auction will feature a raffle with three popular prizes. This year’s dedicated “cause” will seek donations for the construction of a shelter house on campus to be used as an outdoor classroom and for student gatherings.

It is important to note that the money raised for the much-needed lunch tables at the 2020

auction until we are ready to use the new tables. Since returning to school last fall, students do not eat lunch together in the Carpentieri Commons due to the need of practicing social distancing. Students now eat lunch at their desks in their respective classrooms, like students did decades ago.

Therefore, purchasing lunch tables has been put temporarily on hold.

We will keep you updated on the lunch tables.

Auction Chair Kary and the Auction Committee need volunteers for this

important event! If you are willing to volunteer,

please contact us at

[ridgewoodschoolinfo@](mailto:ridgewoodschoolinfo@ridgewood.org)

ridgewood.org or call Bonita

Heeg, Director of Development at 937.399.8900, Ext. 5. We look forward to having you part of the team!

More details will be forthcoming! ☀



It Takes a Village

Save the Dates! The Hearts & Hands “Online” Auction: May 16-21, 2021

