



Focus On...

Friends of Woodstock School, Inc.

An independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the educational mission and purposes of Woodstock School

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15

November 2017

An Occasional Newsletter

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CHICAGO IN 2018!

2018 Annual Meeting & Reunion
July 20 – 23, 2018
At DePaul University's
Lincoln Park Campus
Clifton – Fullerton Hall – our housing
2350 N. Clifton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Student Center – our events and meals
2250 N. Sheffield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois



Lots more to come!

We hope to have registration open in early January.

2018's ALUMNI ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY!

We are thinking about...

Glacier National Park Getaway!

Monday, July 23rd through Friday, July 27th, 2018

2018's Activity would leave Chicago aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder (an overnight in roomettes), then three days lodging at the historic Glacier Park Lodge in Glacier National Park, and finally on to Seattle aboard the Empire Builder (an overnight in roomettes) where you would disembark.

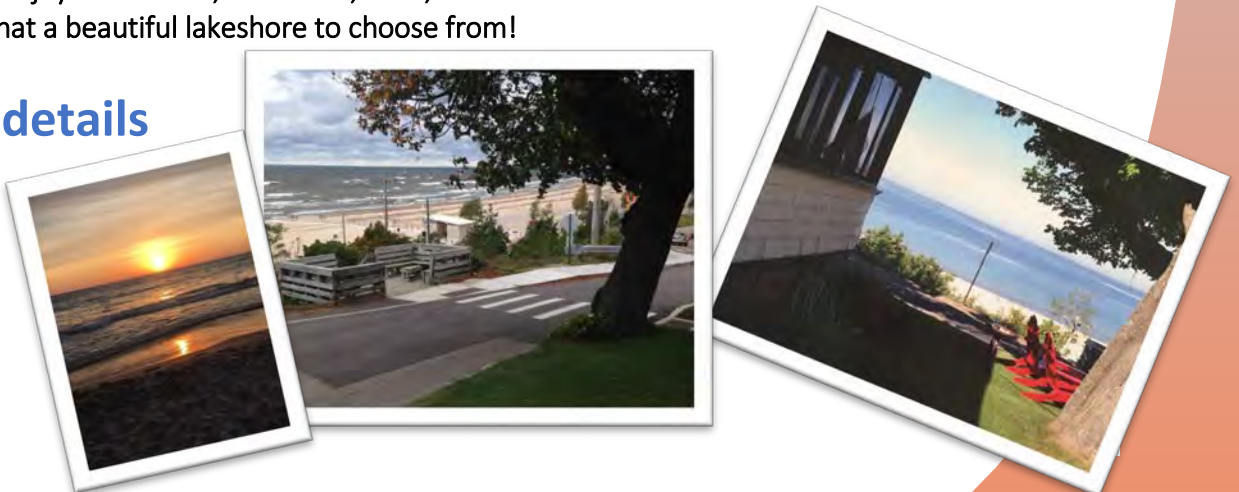


Or...

A Waterside Getaway Home on Lake Michigan
Monday, July 23rd through Friday, July 27th, 2018

Just relax, enjoy each other, the water, sand, and local activities. No town or site has been chosen yet, but what a beautiful lakeshore to choose from!

**More details
soon!**





Photos courtesy of Bruce Browne, Class of '70, Marlin Schoonmaker, Class of '67, and Philip McEldowney, Class of '59.

DO YOU LOVE PHOTOS?

Thanks to our local Planning Committee and many others, we had a wonderful time at 2017's Annual Meeting and Reunion and the Windjammer Maine Coastal Cruise aboard "Victory Chimes." We've also loaded photos of 2017's Worldwide Woodstock Day Gatherings. View hundreds of terrific 2017 photos in the Flickr section of FWS' website. Go the Alumni Tab and then drop down to Flickr Photos.

From Iris Hunter:

The Class of 1971 met for their 46th reunion July 31st through August 6th, 2017. Mike Singh graciously hosted us at his beautiful farm house built in 1753 outside the town of Princeton, Massachusetts.



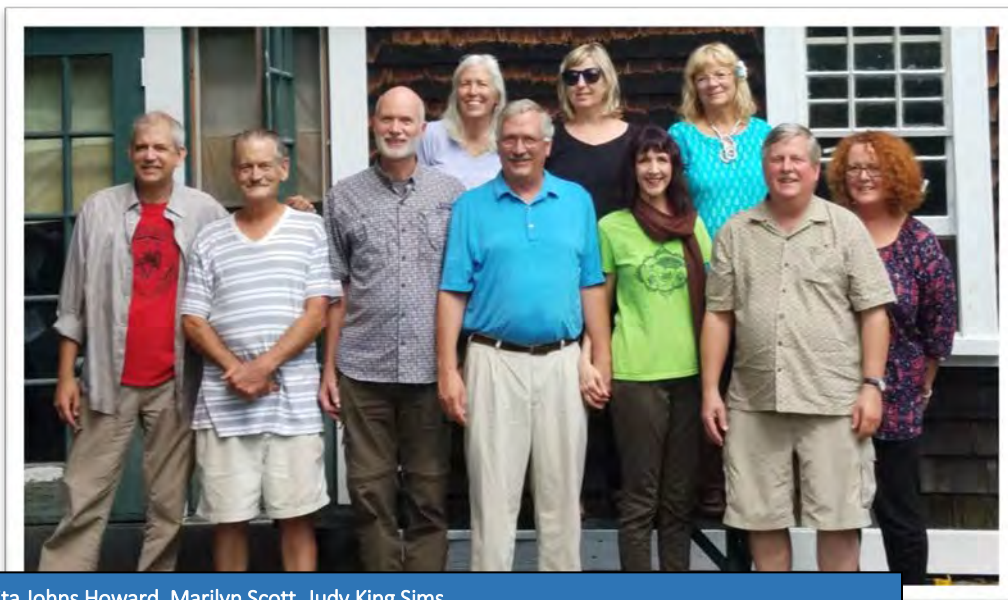
Some came a week early to clean, landscape and ready the house for the onslaught. We cooked, we cleaned, we laughed and danced and ate and cooked some more. There were slide shows, haircuts courtesy of Marilyn(!), great music, and a chance to see some of Mike's films. We had special guests which included Ameeta Alter who masterminded our Barra Khana (SO DELICIOUS!!!), Steve Alter, Shibani Alter, Bruce Browne (who BTW, can still recite the entire ingratiating and groveling initiation speech that all Freshman had to recite to the seniors), Dean Johns, and our other host extraordinaire – Raj Singh.

The Class of 1971 commune was amazing and we very much missed our classmates who could not be with us. Our attendees (class & special guests) included:

Ameeta, Shibani, & Steve Alter
Tim & Karen Bauman
Bruce Browne
John & Karen Davis
Marty Allen & Tom Dickinson
Iris Hunter & Ron Gagnon
Anita Johns & Don Howard
Dean & Kristin Johns

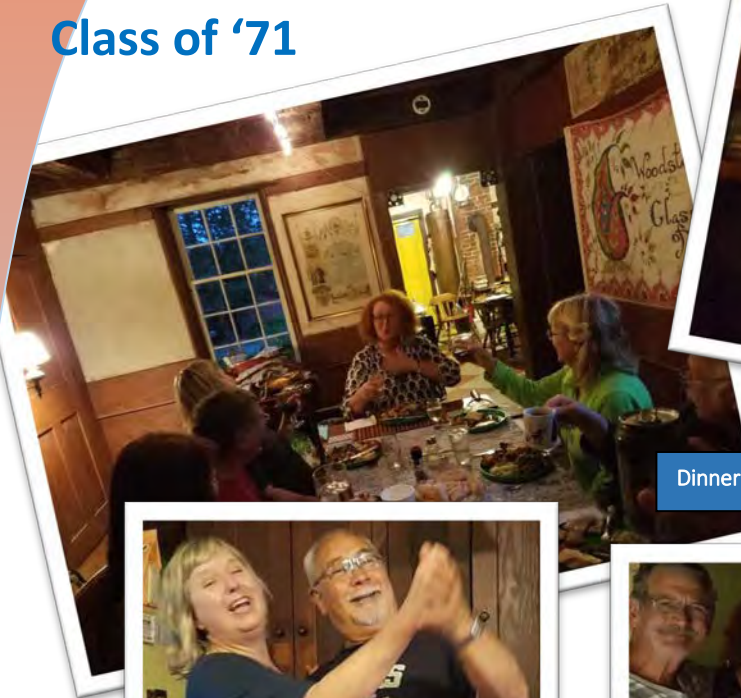
Jennie Riddle & Bill Holland
Victor Schoonmaker
Bill & Susan Scott
Marilyn Scott
Joanna Lancaster & Mike Singh
Rajinder Singh & Joanne
Judy King & David Sims
Brooks & Betsy Taylor

Bom Bom Bom Bulay!!!

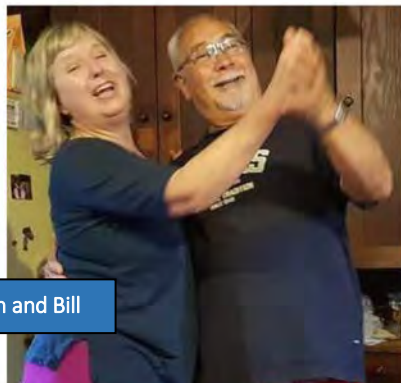


Back row: Anita Johns Howard, Marilyn Scott, Judy King Sims.
Front row: Mike Singh, Tim Bauman, Bill Scott, John Davis, Iris Hunter, Brooks Taylor, Jennie Riddle.
Marty Allen Dickinson and Victor Schoonmaker attended but are not in this photo.

More Photos from the Class of '71



Dinner and Dancing!



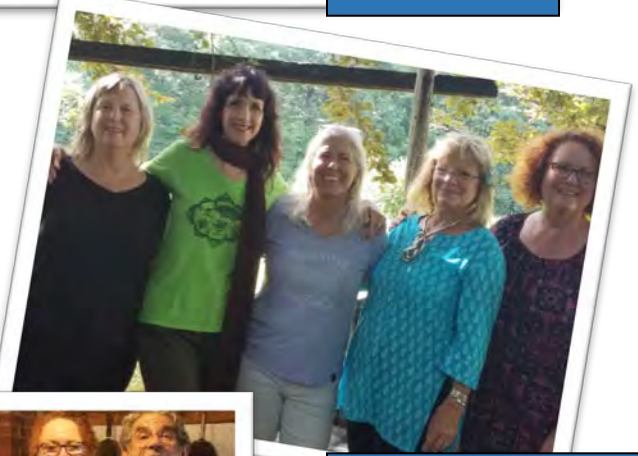
Marilyn and Bill



In the French Room



Brooks, John, Mike, Bill, Victor



Marilyn, Iris, Anita, Judy, Jennie



What a view!



Jennie and Rajinder

Class of '67's 50th Anniversary Trip to India

Photos courtesy of Marlin Schoonmaker, Tim Larson, Max Marble, Sarah Rice and Jon Maxon



Thanks to **Marlin Schoonmaker** for this wonderful account of an amazing trip!

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness and many of our people need it so sorely on those accounts. Broad, wholesome charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Mark Twain - "The Innocents Abroad / Roughing It"



Upon arrival in Delhi we were treated to a Sudhir Prakash sponsored sumptuous welcoming banquet at Claridges Hotel on 23 September and quickly proved that the Class of 1967 does not vegetate in little corners of the earth.

True to standard Woodstock form, nothing proceeded in a straight line with all in attendance at one time. Some arrived earlier and were waiting in Landour for the Delhi party to come up on the Shatabdi Express. They had to wait a little longer until we toured Delhi sites of Chandni Chowk, Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar.



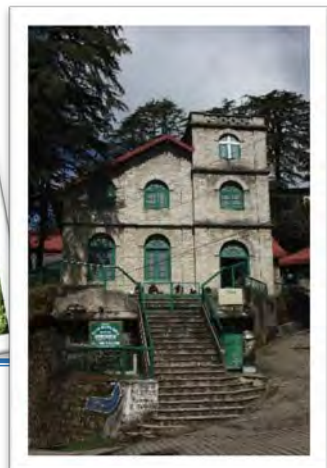
In Mussoorie, on the recommendation of the Class of '69, we stayed at Ivy Bank and filled the place. There is magic when you can step out of your room with a first cup of tea to see the sun breaking through the mist and clouds to reveal the Woodstock campus and then to see it all disappear as late monsoon mist flows up from the Doon.

With Peter Reynolds and Barbie Norrish Reynolds and their two grandkids, Harry and Lily, we walked the eyebrow above Landour Community Hospital into the Edgehill campus where Barbie's parents lived and managed the facility. Edgehill is now part of the Woodstock School greater campus and will be renovated into needed staff housing in the next five years. Max and Sally Marble along with Marg Groff joined us on the trail to our first stop, Woodstock's gate.



Then to the Centre for Imagination where our classmate Ruth Warren Seefeldt's daughter Amy Seefeldt shared her vision and efforts for the CFI. The class spread out through the School to visit class rooms, the new gym, the alumni office and then down to the quad for lunch in the new quad dining room. To glance across this space and see 24 classmates and spouses enjoying lunch was pretty special. A visit to the dorms was followed by a gracious and delicious dinner at the Principal's residence where Jonathan and Sue Long welcomed the class. A walk back to Mullingar on Tehri Road at night topped off our day.

After breakfast the second full day, the Class walked the back chukar past the graveyard, Kellogg Church, Sister's Bazaar and down to Tehri Road.



Our destination was Flag Hill which is now Jabharkhet Nature Reserve. We broke into two groups and met at the top. Lunch was at Ishq Café at Jabharkhet for the Garwhali Thali. Yes, stinging nettle subsi and ganja seed chutney. A rare meal.



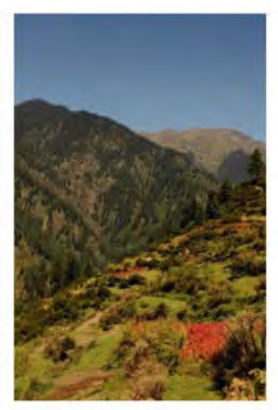
A short walk to Hanifl for an excellent briefing by Kutty Krishnan on all that the Hanifl Centre does. Stephen Alter hosted the class for tea at Oakville and a marvelous talk about the Himalayas, books and his recent Corbett book. Many headed for Sister's Bazaar for camping goodies and then a slow walk over to Rokeby where we filled the back room of Emily's. Conversations were easy and filled with discovery of each other's lives.

Our third day was a bazaar shopping day, packing for our next adventures and a chance to see Marg Groff's new drawings at her wee cottage. We are looking forward to a show in the PNW in 2018 after she returns to Washington State. We finished the day off with a visit to a Gurdwara, Mosque and a Jain Temple in the Landour Bazaar followed by dinner at the Brentwood Hotel near Picture Palace.

On the fourth misty Mussoorie morning, the class split into the Har ki dun trekkers and the Cave and Fort travelers. The weather was the greatest risk for the Har ki dun trek because we had covered other contingencies through arrangements with and advice from Kutty Krishnan at Woodstock's Hanifl Centre. Many of the outfitter's guides have taken Outdoor Leadership courses at the Hanifl Centre. Led by Marg Groff, that band of 13 went off for a great trek adventure.



Their first trekking day they had to navigate a landslide which added a four km diversion that tested everyone from teenagers Harry and Lily Romer to our two colleagues well into their 70s. The weather held clear and sunny, the outfitters superb and the views endless and rewarding. The Class made it to Har ki dun and back. Here are photos of the trek courtesy of Tim Larson.





The Caves and Fort touring group of seven were off to Aurangabad as our starting off point for the legendary Ellora and Ajanta Caves. This was new territory for us. Aurangabad and Ellora did not disappoint us on the first day. A long weekend filled the Caves with Indian tourists visiting these legendary caves carved into and down from a rock cliff shelf into Jain, Buddhist and Hindu caves.

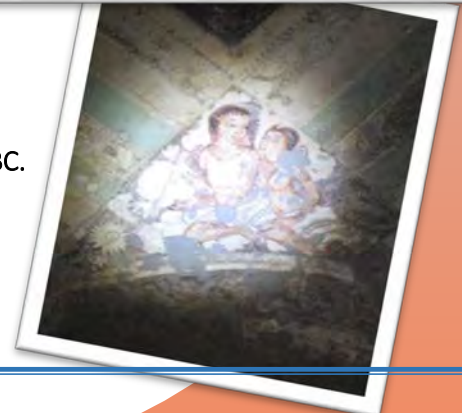
Stunning pillars and formal rooms cut out with simple iron chisels, hammers, and years of labor. Long lines and cell phones lifted high for selfies have changed the domestic tourism scene. An excellent guide made a big difference.



Upon return to Aurangabad we had a tour of Ranjit Dass' Nath Valley School and enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Principal's home. Ranjit is on the WS Board and a distinguished teacher at Woodstock for 10 years who has gone on to be recognized as one of India's elite educationalists. It was a thoroughly enchanting evening that set us up for the next day's visit to the Ajanta Caves.



Crowds, standing room only on shuttle buses, and a long walk gave way to remarkable murals in Buddhist caves dating back to the 2nd Century BC. The scope of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu history in this place is staggering. Often the best decorative paintings were on the ceiling. We saw the signature of John Smith who rediscovered the caves in 1819.





We were then off to Burhanpur for an overnight stay. The next day on a long drive to the Ahilya Fort in Maheshwar we chanced upon an epic migration of pastoral nomads with their migrating herds, vividly painted bullock carts and herds of goats, sheep, cows and horses migrating from the Deccan to Rajasthan after the Monsoons. These might be Rabaris from Gujarat or others from Rajasthan. [Max's video](#) captures this spectacle and the Muharram festival at the Ahilya Fort where we stayed for four nights. The Ahilya Fort was remarkable. The Palace part of the Fort was remarkable. Here are a few photos.



The Har ki dun trekkers and the Caves and Fort travelers rejoined in Delhi for an overnight. Oh, the stories we had to tell each other over dinner and breakfast! Then we were off to Darjeeling to meet our classmate Sudhir Prakash, his son Anshuman, Class of '91, and daughter-in-law Husna Tara. Husna Tara was pivotal in designing the Glenburn Boutique Hotel. After the 105 day Darjeeling bandh or strike we were the first guests at Glenburn. We learned about tea and went to Darjeeling to be guided through the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute by Dorjee Lhatoo, one of India's legendary climbers. Kanchenjunga appeared both in the early morning and one delightful later afternoon.





The contrasting experience from trekking in Uttarakhand and walking through legendary stone caves to the comfort of Glenburn could not have been greater. The range of experience in India is intense.

After four nights at Glenburn, the class was driven through the congestion of Siliguri to the Bagdogra airport for departures to Delhi and Assam. Those flying to Delhi had Agra, the Taj, a mini tour of Rajasthan and Delhi shopping to close out the Class trip. Two of us went off on a trip to Assam and Nagaland. It was a remarkable Class trip that celebrated Woodstock, the Himalayas of Uttarakhand, the ancient heritage of Ellora and Ajanta, and finished with an exquisite celebration of Sudhir and Darjeeling tea. In so doing we rediscovered anew how much we cared for each other. Zmbxa!!



Who was there (alphabetically)

Georgia Carter and Tom Carter, Lauranne Banard Cebulak, Gail Classen and Lloyd Classen, Margo Warner Curl and Sue Flink (Margo's friend), Lucy Dorenfeld, Marg Groff, Tim Larson, Herbert Jim Litchfield Jr., Max Marble and Sally Marble, Sudhir Prakash, Anshuman Prakash '91 – Sudhir's son, Husna Tara Prakash – Sudhir's daughter-in-law, Barbie Norrish Reynolds and Peter Reynolds, Sarah Rice and Jonathan Maxson, Lily Romer and Harry Romer, Jack Roseberry and Kathy Christy Roseberry, Marlin Schoonmaker, Sue Scott Swanson and Ron Swanson.



Tom Alter, Class of '68

Photos courtesy of Michael Singh, Class of '71.
Taken during the Reunion at UCLA in 2016.

With Tom's passing on September 29, 2017, we would like to share these words from John Alter. John has written a beautiful ode to his brother, *The Ten Section Ode to Tom*, of which this opening poem, *Prayer Flags at Sun Rise*, is a small part.

And John's words from another part of the Ode...

Come home but the spirit roams, *come home*, in your mother tongue, and your brother holds his breath. Love is wisdom. The door opens.

Prayer Flags at Sun Rise

Gathered for the epilogue we console each other, October opening its hymnal to *amazing grace*. You have called us, each in our mother tongue, & given each, as if on a prayer flag, our own word. My word is brother. Spoken, it unlocks such treasure. Memory and hope, your life of which this moment is epilogue, joy and such bitter sweet sorrow. Once more O my brother

I would play on the new grass beneath the hallowed trees and sky outside our mother's window, once more climb the hills and steep ravines and find at nightfall stars and *wind in the willows* wind at Dodi Tal across the high meadows stirring, fish in the living water... but, be still... you step onto this final stage and lift your hand for silence, and we hear each in our mother tongue, you speak our name more softly than moss on the tombstones, more surely than our face in the morning mirror, joyful bantering even, intimate, abstract, elated. And in the hushed silence you make behind you as you step away we find each other, speaking each other's name, the words you have given becoming a chorus, *amazing grace*. Prayer flags at sun rise.

CENTRE FOR IMAGINATION



THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN



We learned so much during 2017's Annual Meeting and Reunion about plans for the Centre for Imagination and the Campus Master Plan and will be sharing so much more with you in the coming months!!

Watch for our mailings and email blasts – SOON!

Woodstock presented these short, beautiful videos at the Annual Meeting and Reunion so click on the links to see them again or enjoy each for the first time. These are both YouTube videos.

[Be a Part of Woodstock School's Future](#)

[Woodstock's Vision and Philosophy](#)

Interested in Becoming an FWS Board Member?

Joining our Alumni Committee?

We still have several openings on our Board and Alumni Committee. Join us and help FWS support Woodstock!
If you are interested, please contact David Wheeler at the FWS office:

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Photo courtesy of Tim Larson

