

Donald Clayton Johnson ('61)

Bangkok, Thailand

Occupation: Retired from the American military. Working on a documentary of my Combat Search & Rescue teams efforts in the "Vietnam War" - actually the Second IndoChina War. Skydive California when in the USA for business. Surf Indonesia for fun and relaxation. Motorcycle around Southeast Asia.

Family news: Four siblings left as Mom (Lois, who did a lot of fund raising efforts for the HHS when we were going to the Riverside beginning of the school. Dad (Jerry, involved in the entertainment industry) passed on thirty years ago. Siblings are: Heather, Holly, and Jill

HH influence: Kept me inquisitive about life and living. Learning paramount even though formal education ended; there is always "homework" to be completed even though school has ended. Maintain a skeptical mind.

Alumni activities: That would be a long "drive" for me from Bangkok, Thailand. But would like to see the school again. The last time I was there was for Noah Williams (my homeroom teacher) retirement. So saw the new campus after the move from the old circumstance.

Susanne Mokslaveskas-Lambert ('73)

Valley Village, CA

Occupation: I am currently working as exhibition coordinator and art transport liaison for a Culver City based company.

Family news: My son Julien is a Senior at Highland Hall, Class of 2010 !!

HH influence: All-ways.

Alumni activities: I liked the multi-class Octoberfest. It was wonder-full to see people from other classes. How about an alumni garden day where we work?

Giselle Teller-Holt ('73)

Newbury Park, CA

Occupation: Chemical dependency counseling.

Family news: I have been accepted to a doctoral program which starts in October. I will be working towards a PhD in Clinical Psychology with a Somatic Psychology emphasis.

HH influence: HH taught me to focus on the whole person: body, mind, emotions and spirit. I take that with me into the work I do by treating addiction by treating the whole person.

Alumni activities: Partay!

Kim Emanuel ('73)

Montclair District Oakland Hills, CA

Occupation: Currently a Semiconductor Device Engineer >> a branch of electrical engineering specializing in micro/nano scale technologies. Previously an art director/graphic designer in the advertng industry. Small business producing very natural hand made gourmet soaps. Beginning to design electronically sensitive gates that respond to human presence.

Family news: Lina the cat. Bob the cat. Simon the dog. Several unnamed Gold Fish and a fat Koi.

HH influence: Every day and in too many ways to count Highland Hall presented me with a balance of my creative and analytical aspects >> it is what makes an engineer/artist possible.

Alumni activities: Available to discuss paths into Advertising/Graphic Arts or Electrical Engineering with your students. I have been successful in both paths and would be happy to share experience.

Thor Biberman ('73)

San Diego CA

Occupation: Reporter, San Diego Daily Transcript

Family news: My son John graduates high school next Thursday. He will be headed off to Dartmouth in the fall. How time flies.

Alma Hecht ('73)

San Francisco CA

Occupation: Sustainable Landscape designer, Second Nature Design,
<http://secondnature.bz>

Lia Sargent ('74)

Hollywood, CA

Occupation: Actor, Voice Actor - but, many interests; theatre, dancing, music, gardening, hiking, walking, horse riding, photography, movies, shooting pool- wish i was a champion, racing cars- wish i was a champion, animals -love them all, nature - insane about her, rain especially, trees & wild flowers. Also friends, family & random acts of kindness.

Family News: My sister Athena lives in Switzerland, and owns a book store. My father Joe, is still directing movies. My Mother, Mary, lives in NYC, she still an actress and a fabulous mother and friend. My cat, Babie, is 19 years old and runs around like she's 2. And I am Auntie Lia to all my friend's children - who are the BEST!

HH influence: Most definitely. I am a better person for it. I think outside the box all the time and it takes me places most people don't have the tools to go. HH offered that to me - nourished that in me.
The unfortunate thing is; I can't throw anything away..I find use for just about everything.

Alumni activities: Not sure what your needs are. please tell me and 'll see if I can be of any help.
if Theatre and Music and Dance are part of any activities then most likely yes. Or writing names tags for people. ;-)
seriously.

Julie Weitz ('75)

Santa Monica, CA

Occupation: TV Agent in television, representing writers, directors, producers and actors

Family news: I have two beautiful children, a daughter 17 a son 15. My son plays the violin quite seriously in two significant orchestras, my daughter is a madrigal at her school, and president of the board of her youth group. My wonderful husband of 20 years is a concert cellist and principal player for the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and Calif Phil.

HH influence: Gave me the tools I need to interpret my world. Allowed me to be a great communicator both verbally and in the written word.

Paul Sonner ('75)

Lake Ann, MI

Occupation: I am artist/faculty at the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Interlochen Arts Academy; also Concertmaster, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, and Concertmaster, Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra. I also perform in many chamber music venues as well as solo.

Family news: Still married to the wonderful Sandra Apeseche.

Andre just completed his MM in percussion performance-New England Conservatory.

Evita graduates, with performance/academic honors from the Interlochen Arts Academy, on Saturday. She will be attending either Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, or Northwestern University (guitar performance).

HH influence: Yes, in every way imaginable, including the way I live, perform, and teach.

Alumni activities: Any that I would be able to attend, which is usually none. However, that could change at any time.

Shannon (Kelley) Farran ('75)

Rocklin, CA

Occupation: I have been working for State Farm as an Auto Claim Representative for the last 21 years. I first started in their office in Culver City. Transferring to their Woodland Hills, Northridge, and Westlake offices, over a 4 year period. Moving to Palmdale, I worked in the Lancaster office(11 years). Then to the Roseville office for these last 6 years.

Family news: After Highland Hall, I attended Patrick Henry Junior High, Granada Hills High School, Pierce College, and then off to Cal State Northridge (majoring in Computer Science and Sociology). My husband Bill and I have been married for 22 years, have a son Ian who is 12 (soon to be starting the 7th grade), and 2 young Golden Retrievers. Busy, busy, busy!!!

HH influence: Highland Hall widened my experiences in both music and art. Once I entered back into the public school system, these avenues were available. I continued to study and experience them in High School, College and at home. My son enjoys art himself, and while only entering his art project for the year book cover once(when he was in 2nd grade) he won.

Alumni activities: I enjoyed the first Alumni October Fest in 2008 and plan to return again in 2009. Last year I was fortunate enough to reunite with our class teacher Mr Monks and a few of my classmates. I have many, many class pictures, dating back from Kidergarten through our 8th grade. I'm hoping to get them organized and placed on a disc, to share.

Dana Mosher Lewis ('75)

Portland, Oregon

Occupation: I am a high school Spanish teacher

Family News: My husband, Tom, and I have two children - Michelle (23) who recently graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in Biological Anthropology, and Austin (16), a rising junior who attends the school where I teach. We also have a darling cat, Mija!

HH influence: Although I only attended HH for 1 1/2 years, the small, individualized classes there influenced my career choices and after several years teaching in the large, public systems I decided I much prefer the smaller private schools in Portland.

Alumni activities: Reunions in the Pacific Northwest?

Iris Eberle Glosson ('76)

Yorktown, Virginia

Occupation: I am a part time cardio kickboxing instructor at a YMCA and another local gym. Also substitute teach for a line dance instructor at times.

Family news: I am married and have two boys. Eric is 27 and is in the Navy. James is 22, and just graduated from William and Mary with a degree in Kinesiology.

My husband is an orthopedic Physician assistant.

My father, Gotthard Eberle (a retired Waldorf school teacher who once taught at Highland Hall) and my mother live in PA. and are doing well.

HH influence: I think exposure to the arts helped me discover my love for dance. At the time when I attended Highland hall there was a man (Mario) that would come and teach folk dancing.... and I found I really loved anything to do with music and dance.

Jonathan A Kanner ('77)

Santa Barbara, CA

Occupation: Senior Multi-Disciplined Engineer (A little chemistry, some mechanical and thermal analysis, some optics lately, lots of electronics, occasional light quantum physics) - I like variety.

Other fields of interest, music, particularly choral singing, anything outdoors, and especially theology.

Family news: Our grandson started school this year and our oldest granddaughter is in Jr high. Son-in-law is a perpetual student but also teaches at his local college so I only have to pay tuition for the children these days.

HH influence: Made me very interested in exploring a full variety of ideas. Introduced me to the arts and left me loving them. Helped me to be open to new ways and ideas without becoming overly credulous.

Alumni activities: Reunions, small to medium sized group activities, possible career & college mentoring with recent alum's getting guidance from older alum's. keeping up to date on other alum's

Tina Margulies McMinn ('77)

Thousand Oaks, CA

Occupation: Mom/Physicians Assist.

Family news: Matt Margulies is opening a restaurant, "Matteo's Pub" in Nevada City! Jolie is an incredible photographer in L.A. Tony is getting married to his long time love, Suzanne next year!

Mikey just got married to a Wonderful women, named Mai! My son Sean just became Editor in Chief for his senior year in H.S. My youngest, Will is a pitcher on his baseball team

HH influence: Completely. I think the way in which I relate to and understand people not only came from my family, but in a big part from my H.H. family!~

Alumni activities: Nothing now. I did go to our reunion, it was Wonderful!

Rhonda Rees ('77)

Encino, CA

Occupation: I have been a public relations specialist for the past 28 years. I am currently an independent, and have just written a book about how to do PR.

Family News: I was married, no children and am divorced. I have a relationship with a special person who lives over in the U.K.

HH influence: I majored in speech communication in college, and I have often used the skills that I learned over at HH to help me in my career.

Alumni activities: Anything and everything!!

Stan Galperson ('77)

West Hills

Occupation: Got my Doctorate in psych in '95. Have been Program Director at Tarzana Treatment Center for 13 years now.

Family News: Happily Married with four kids ages 14, 14, 14 and 19.

HH influence: In every way.

Alumni activities: Attended our 30-year reunion in '07. It was very cool.

Gina Eckstine ('78)

Woodland Hills, CA

Occupation: I am a singer and singing teacher.

I recently released a cd entitled "Everything I Have Is Yours," which is a tribute to my late father, Billy Eckstine.

Family news: I have a beautiful son, Gibson. He is a very creative and talented 9 year old boy. He plays guitar and loves and magic.

HH influence: Yes, the course of life that I have followed is a creative one, and HH was the basis and foundation that I have built my life on. I love the creative development that Waldorf education encourages. It is wonderful that creative kids, like I was, have a place to be nurtured and encouraged.

Alumni activities: Reunions

Win Weaver ('78) Tujunga, CA

Occupation: Yachts Sales, Repair and Maintenance, Auto Parts and Repair, Machinist, Picture Vehicle Rentals, Music Producer and Recording Engineer, Film Producer, Editor and Camera Man, Publishing, Computer Repair and Service, Electronic Technician, Electrician, Science, R & D on Zero Emission Technology

Family news: As a direct result of G. W. Bush and his failed tenure, myself and my family are in complete scramble mode in order to survive...

HH influence: Everything positive in my life is a direct result of my attendance to Highland Hall, and I give a great deal of credit to Mr. Brousseau (my teacher) for helping to spark my many interest that I have to this day. There is no way I would have survived in Public School, and at age 7, I knew that.

Sandrawati Wibowo ('78) Jakarta , Indonesia

Occupation: Employee of multi national company in Indonesia

Family news: Iam married and have 2 children : son 23 yrs, and daughter 16 yrs.

HH influence: After graduating from Highland Hall , I continued to University of Southern California (USC) and graduated in 1982 as BSC in Finance.

Alumni activities: News and information

Alexandra Carlyle Clark ('78) Monroe, Washington

Occupation: Co-producer of Last Leaf Productions, a non-profit touring theatre for Shakespeare in the Park, theatre for young audiences and dinner theatre entertainment for private parties.

HH influence: Music and theatre were a big part of my short time at HH, and they continue to be to this day.

Alumni activities: Unfortunately since I am so far away, I can rarely get to see anyone! I keep in touch with my class through email.

Elizabeth (Betsy) LaBounty-Yung ('79) Shadow Hills, CA

Occupation: Director of Shipping & Logistics for Matthews Studio Equipment Inc.

Clay Baker ('79) Portola Valley, CA

Occupation: CEO-Clay Baker Design, an interdisciplinary design consultancy. CBD's capabilities span a broad range of design disciplines, including: Traditional home design, remodels and additions, "Green High-Performance" home design, Modular Homes, custom furniture & cabinetry, industrial design, consumer products and packaging.

Family news: I'm currently working on a new startup company and my wife Mari recently became CEO of PlayFirst, INc. a gaming software company in San Francisco.

HH influence: Highland Hall provided room for a lot of creativity in my school work. When I was in 9th grade the woodshop was opened with Brian Doughty as the shop teacher. I've kept a woodshop of my own ever since and have tried to share my passion for woodworking with kids whenever I can.

Alumni activities: Class Reunions and mixers

Lisa Switt ('79) Oak Park, CA

Occupation: crossing guard & teacher

Family news: my father is still alive, my mother died 11 years ago

Marina Barth ('79)

Los Angeles, CA

Occupation: I am a licensed Chinese Medical Practitioner which includes Acupuncture, Chinese Massage, Chinese Herbal Medicine. I also have a BA Art so enjoy doing Acrylic Paintings of Dreamwork.

Family News: I am a single parent. My son is 21 now.

HH influence: HH absolutely did influence my artistic side. I always used to draw around the borders of my papers at school. I am really not very good at business marketing etc. as my artistic nature has always been foremost.

Alumni activities; It would be nice to see Andrea, Drew, Daniella, Lisa, Mathias, Davielle, those are the friends I remember most. (sorry if I spelt any names wrong).

Mikael (Magnus) Persson ('80)

Eslöv, south Sweden

Occupation: Labor market secretary, interested in overtone singing, creative expression such as video and photography, creating healing soundscapes and recording them, writing, coaching people, alternative health, gardening, permaculture, ecofriendly ways of living, vegetarian life style, yoga, chi gong.

Family news: I have a new family member my cat Sudde.

HH influence: Through the very inspiring teacher Dale Howard I opened my musical ear to classical music that I didn't usually listen to very much, previously.

Alumni activities: Since I live in Sweden, there won't be so many activities I can join in, but I have been tempted to fly over to LA when I have seen all the fun you have had :)

Susan Armstrong Selbrede ('81)

West Hills, CA

Occupation: owner of a digital print and graphics design business

HH influence: the way I view life... 13 years at HH, how can I not be influenced?

Alumni activities: We will need a reunion in 2011, but joining all years is a fun time

Michelle Teller Rosicky ('81)

Redondo Beach, CA

Occupation: Wedding Photographer

Family news: We're getting ready to build a house in the Hollywood hills

HH influence: HH developed my creative mind, imagination and taught me the Greek alphabet long before sorority row. I'm probably the only Jew who can harmonize to "The First Noel" (and lip sync any carol at that) and I'm also about to make a yarn toy for my cat, as learned in fifth grade....

Alumni activities: Social gatherings similar to the Oktoberfest, that was brilliant. I would love to be invited to the St. Michael assembly, that was always my favorite (loved the song).

Scott Dourian ('81)

Northridge, CA

Occupation: I am a district Sales Manager for a Uniform Service Company located in Los Angeles

Family News: I have been married for 11 years to a wonderful woman by the name of Terri and have a 6 1/2 year old daughter by the name of Ashley who I love dearly.

HH influence: Being creative, imaginative, expressing myself, and great friendships. Had a chance to see some of my classmates recently and had a wonderful time.

Alumni activities: I was at a alumni lecture not too long ago. Unfortunately I have not been able to make many of the events at HH because of my schedule, but visit the school frequently.

Anna Torti - Villano ('82)

Castaic, CA

Occupation: Regional Account Manager for Solid Concepts Inc.

Family news: Been married for 18 years with two kids - Son Angelo who is 14 years old and finishing up 9th grade and Daughter Daniella who is 11 years old finishing up 5th grade.

HH influence: Of course - Studied and received my BA in Graphic Design

Alumni activities: Went to the October Fest had a blast visiting all the people that I had gone to school with.

Richard Hodkinson ('82)

Agua Dulce, CA

Occupation: I am currently running a private jet Management, Charter, and Sales company with offices in Van Nuys and Scottsdale. we provide a turnkey flight department for individuals or companies that have private jets. When the owners are not using the aircraft we typically charter the aircraft out to help defer some of the ownership costs.

Family news: Unfortunately my father passed away May 16th. My mother who will be 91 in January is doing great.

HH influence: Many ways, I think I am more creative as a result of my education at Highland Hall. This manifests itself in many ways including business. I also feel I am more tolerant of my fellow man. I think Highland Hall produces better citizens of the world. This is probably a result of many things especially the family feel between students and staff.

Alumni activities: I spoke to some high school students at Highland Hall several years ago regarding business. It was a brief introduction, I told them what I did and then they asked questions. There were three other alumni there with me doing the same thing. I think it was good for the students and I enjoyed them as well. I would do this again if asked.

Jim McRea ('83)

Pretoria, South Africa

Occupation: Diplomat, supporting emergency communications systems at US Embassies and Consulates across sub-Saharan Africa.

HH influence: Yup. For instance, a good background in languages is important in my job, it is often important to be able to communicate in French (West Africa) German (Southern Africa) and sometimes in Spanish and in Russian, situation depending.

Alumni activities: Ones that happen in Africa...

Mindy Gaswirth Oswald ('84)

Winnetka, CA

Occupation: medical transcription/stay at home mom

Stacey Strausberg ('84)

Vancouver, Washington

Occupation: I am a Systems Engineer for Symantec Corporation. I specialize in Data Archiving and eDiscovery.

Family news: My son Ethan and I are healthy and enjoying each day together.

HH influence: Holistic view of seeing life.

Alumni activities: Class reunion

Manuel John Baca ('84)

Burbank, CA

Occupation: I am a Prop Man for film and television

HH influence: For work I've had to use many of the skills learned at H.H., some of which were Calligraphy and teaching actors how to use a dip pen, sewing, knitting, painting and drawing, music, gardening, helping writers with the different mythologies, and most importantly being able to use my imagination and create props with short notice.

Joan Kahn ('85)

Vermont

Occupation: Administrative work and database design

Family news: We have two children ages 9 and 5. We love living in Vermont, and don't get back to CA much any more.

HH influence: My children go to a Waldorf school. I have been on the board of the school and on various committees - so it is an ongoing theme in my life.

Alumni activities: I don't get out to CA - I would love to know if there are other alumni on the east coast.

Kelly McLaughlin ('86)

Gualala, CA - 75 miles N. of San Francisco

Occupation: I am currently working for my husband who is a custom residential architect here on the coast. I am responsible for his PR, marketing, and I consult on many of his projects with the interior finishes. I am also attending the Art Institute where I am completing a degree in Interior Design. Our firm's work can be viewed at www.mbwarchitect.com

Family news: My husband and I are celebrating our 3rd anniversary this month (although we've been together for almost 12 years now).

HH influence: Highland Hall was so supportive, creatively. The curriculum, the broad range of electives, and even the alternative classes tossed in like "Surveying" were so useful in helping me see how dimensional the world was that I was about to enter. I feel that this exposure to variety ignited a curiosity in me to continue learning throughout my adulthood.

Alumni activities: Due to my remote location and busy schedule, it's a little tough for me to say how easy it would be for me to attend any alumni activities in LA. But keep sending the notices - you never know when all the stars may fall into alignment and I'll be able to make it to something!

Damon Gold ('86)

Lake Tahoe, CA. (Tahoe city)

Occupation: recording engineer, sound for film mixer, videographer, photographer, cameraman, video editor, pro skier and pro snow kayaker. I live at Lake tahoe where i am lucky enough to be able to persue my passion in the recording arts, film making, photography and outdoor gravity sports.

Family news: we skied 100 days this year (individually)and so so far no injuries. whitewater kayak season is here along with skateboarding and mountain biking season we plan on spending time at the volcom skateboard park in mammoth alot this summer

HH influence: it got me into music and recording but not having computer training was a huge detriment. i dont care if Steiner did not teach it. if you are going anywhere in life you need to understand technology. a computer science class would have really given me a great head start

Alumni activities: alumni ski day. alumni wakeboarding competitions. alumni surf day oh yeah maybe an alumni base jump day too

Michele "Mitch" Farrant-Gordon ('87)

Vancouver, Washington

Occupation: Stay at home Mom. But I do some quilting for a local quilt shop. I make the samples that hang on the wall to show customers what classes are available.

Family news: I've been married for 17 years to my husband Richard and we have 2 kids. Allen is 12 and Vivian is 6.

HH influence: I love quilting and Grandma Williams was my first teacher. I made a pot holder which I still have and it was all done by hand.

Christopher Ernst ('87)

Cumming, GA

Occupation: Wireless Security Test Engineer

HH influence: Many

Wes Radulovich a.k.a. Wes Parrish ('87) North Hollywood, CA

Occupation: Fifth grade Math and Science teacher at Campbell Hall School in Valley Village. I also run a chess camp in the summer

Family news: My daughter Milla will be attending HH starting in September.

HH influence: It has a great impact in how I present information to the students in my classes. It probably prevented me from being a super competitive uber-jock, thanks for that HH. I can write with a fountain pen and I can shade, like a super-dorf hero. I feel comfortable peering through the eyes of others to look alternative perspectives to many situations.

Alumni activities: Dinners and Pow Wows

Sari Sherwood (Bearson) ('87) Glendale, CA

Occupation: Software Engineer, focusing on SAP software.

Family news: We have a new son, now 8 months old. Samuel Ryan Sherwood was born on 10.3.08.

HH influence: Appreciation of nature, color and green living.

Alumni activities: Reunion. Events where alumni of all years are invited that are not specific to events around the school (eg, graduation). Since I'm not familiar with the recent classes, I'm not really interested in going to the current year classes events.

Randi Wilson ('88) Tarzana, CA

Occupation: Just opened up a retail store in the Topanga Mall called Flip Flop Shops. Opening a 2nd location at Universal CityWalk in July.

Nicholas Bird ('88) Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Occupation: I am the Vice President of Medical Services for the Divers Alert Network. My primary area of medical interest is diving and hyperbaric medicine.

Family news: We escaped from Utah and are very happy in NC.

HH influence: I have a broader, kinder and more humorous approach to my interactions than many that I meet. I attribute this largely to my time at HH and the types of relationships that were formed during a critical time in my life.

Takeshi Suesada ('88) Hudson, New York

Occupation: Working at Triform Camphil Community. Living and working with people with (so-called) special needs. Speech and Drama. Faculty of the afternoon coursework. Workmasterbakery. Education for the young volunteers that come and work here, offering coworker orientation. Creating and celebrating Christian festivals of the year.

Family news: Married since 1998. Have two children. The older is in the 3rd grade at Hawthorn Valley Wadorf School. The younger goes to a Waldorf play group.

HH influence: The main lesson classes I received in highschool were eye openers! The way subjects were offered changed my view of life. Thank you! That is why I am still involved with Anthroposophy.

Jamie Corsetti (Trudeau) ('88) Eureka, CA

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant

Family news: I have been married for 11 years to my fabulous husband Roy. We have 2 girls, Madeline (8) and Megan (6).

HH influence: I would say that Highland Hall influenced my life by allowing me to meet some of the most amazing people I have ever met. It is those people and the experiences we have shared over the years that have made a positive impact on my life!

Alumni activities: Reunions.

Jeddrah Schmit ('88)

Studio City, CA

Occupation: Singer-Songwriter, Producer, Artist, Spiritual Guide, Artistic Consultant, Personal Assistant, Multi-Tasker, Girlfriend, Mother to cute rescue dog & townhome owner.

Family news: My Father is doing rather well right now in The Eagles, My Mom lives happily far-far away in Costa Rica, my Sister is building a fine career in the Fine Arts, my little Brother is a passionate musician & my Aunts, Uncles, and Grandmothers are all getting along well.

HH influence: I find it to be an extremely inspirational & challenging adventure to implement my deeply ingrained teachings of being creative and unique into the real world. Once you let down the barriers of your own fears of being 'your true self' it becomes a tranquil sea of communication with others... otherwise it's a choppy, thrilling ride into the beyond.

Alumni activities: Helping HH students understand corporate America and how they can enter the minds of others subtly to affect positive change in the world. I don't think HH has coined an 'activity' for this yet, but I'd be interested in participating if it is created.

Adela Schwab ('89)

North Hollywood, CA

Occupation: I work in Animation in Lip Assignment for the show's "Family Guy" and "The Cleveland Show". My job is to assign the mouths to every sound that is made.

I also do spiritual work as an intuitive and medium with private clients. adelalavine.com

Family news: My Father passed 10 years ago. My brothers and sisters are all doing very well and alumni themselves.

HH influence: My spiritual life I realize more and more is due to the magic that was introduced to me at a young age. As well as our guide teacher, is that right? In 12th grade helped me through the hardest time of my life, my mothers passing.

Alumni activities: Helping in other ways that may be needed or donation.

Tracy Stafford ('89)

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Occupation: hairdresser

Family news: they all live in Florida also

HH influence: it was an excellent school

Elizabeth Brownlow (aka Betsey Sparks) Culver City, CA

Occupation: Marketing Consultant. I have worked at Nestle for the past 9 years, currently consulting with PowerBar (owned by Nestle).

Family news: I have two children, a girl 5 1/2 years old and a boy 3 years old. My daughter is attending Ocean Charter School in West LA, a Waldorf methods charter school; it has been a wonderful experience for our family, and I have a new appreciation for the Waldorf training that I received now that I am seeing it from a parent's perspective!

HH influence: Appreciation for the arts, appreciation for different educational models, and a wholistic way of looking at issues.

Alumni activities: Class reunion, all alumni gatherings that group class years.

Audrey Day-Williams ('90)

Cambridge England

Occupation: Just quit job in online advertising to take a few years off to be a mom, which will start sometime in September.

Family news: Noah Williams IV will be a grandfather in September.

Abigail Rattay-Miller ('90)

Bakersfield, Ca,

Occupation: Infant Development Specialist. I work with special need children 0-3 years of age.

Family news: My son is learning to drive and I think I will loose all my hair before he passes the test!!!!

I'll be celebrating my 18 year wedding anniversary in the Dominican Republic (the first vacation without kids!)

HH influence: Way too many to describe!

Alumni activities: anything that spans several years

Monica Palma Smith ('91)

Santa Clarita, CA

Occupation: I am the Regional Director for a Foster Care and Adoption Program in North Hills, CA.

Family news: My husband and I just celebrated 12 years of marriage. We have an 8 year old daughter and 4 year old son.

HH influence: There are many, many ways in which my education at Highland Hall has influenced my life. Too many to note. But I do what I can each day to pass it all on to my children.

Alumni activities: Bring back the alumni softball games.

Heather Bre Kopitz Staley ('92)

Northridge, CA

Occupation: Just retired from a 12 year career as a fashion designer. Taking some time to paint & look for a good Phd program. Also very active in preserving wildlife especially wolves and working with the SPCA on animal rescues.

Family news: Married to HH alum 1994 Darren Staley.

HH influence: HH gave me a very broad education that has helped me learn several languages, understand different cultures & get involved w/ many different groups to better the planet.

Petra Wismeijer ('94)

Nieuw Amsterdam, Holland

Occupation: desktop publisher

Alumni activities: I'd love to hear what my former classmates have been up to lately...

Vanessa Hooper ('95)

Silverlake (near downtown LA)

Occupation: Last fall I graduated with a Masters in Architecture from SCI-Arc. I am now working on a project to develop schools for Burmese refugees in Mae Sot, Thailand. We currently have our 1st school under construction and I leave in June to do a needs evaluation for the 54 other schools, and to set up the framework for developing.

Family news: I am currently 5 months pregnant with my first child, due in early September.

Tedra (Goursky) Dobbs ('95)

Ladera Heights CA

Occupation: I am moving into my third year as the movement teacher at Ocean Charter School in Culver City, CA. I am looking forward to finishing my Waldorf teaching certificate and taking some administration classes. I also work for the Red Cross.

Family News: Mom and Dad are great and living in Modesto, CA. Keith graduated from the fire academy and bought a house with his long-time girlfriend. I plan on helping them out this summer. I got my Dads gift for painting. My husband is continuing his education towards his RN and works all the time.

HH influence: Waldorf education has had so many impacts on my life. It's the reason I wanted to teach. I guess I should really thank Gail Blair.

Alumni activities: Any sporting activity. Any activity that's less than \$20. :)

Lisa Torti ('96)

Las Vegas, NV

Occupation: Interior Designer/Artist/Jewelry Designer & Make Up Artist

HH influence: Definitely by encouraging my artistic side.

Alumni activities: Reunions

Rachel Pines ('96)

Portland, Oregon

Occupation: I have an MBA in not-for-profit management. Before I became a full-time mom I was the Assistant Director of a community Center in the Silicon Valley.

Family news: My husband, Itai, and I will celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary this year. Our son, Zachary will turn five in a couple of weeks and our daughter, Madeline, will turn two in July. We've got our hands full!

HH influence: I find that my parenting is influenced by my time spent at Highland Hall. I have vivid memories of water coloring with Miss Brenda - something I think about while I paint with my kids. I let my kids grow at their own pace (something I learned to value at HH) and I try to provide them with all of the creative outlets that I enjoyed at HH.

Amir Magal ('96)

Venice, CA

Occupation: Photographer and children's book Illustrator.

HH influence: I am always am sharing about my education in Highland hall. It has effected me in many ways. Thanks for being there in my life!

Jessica Tan (Seward) ('97)

Carson, CA

Occupation: looking for work in Corporate Risk Management.

Katherine Anne Pepper (Shapiro) ('97)

Las Vegas, NV

Occupation: massage therapist/esthetician

Family news: My son turned 9 in April!

HH influence: HH was and still is one of the most inspiring and influential experiences of my entire life. to this day i tell stories from my days at HH.

Alumni activities: everything I can but I work a lot so not very easy for me to get back home often...

Eva Greiner ('96)

Jena, Germany

Occupation: Clinical doctor (Neurology)

HH influence: Wonderful memories (Indian trip!!!), connection to the USA

Alumni activities: unfortunately not easy to participate because of distance from Germany

Jeffrey Hyatt ('97)

Chatsworth, CA

Occupation: I am currently working for MTA as a bus operator.

HH influence: I would like to send my son there.

Alumni activities: I always enjoy the activities when I have time and/or money to do them.

Frederica Rose ('98)

Seattle, WA

Occupation: Social Work

Alumni activities: A class reunion might be fun.

Sonja Williams ('98)

Mt. Washington, L.A.

Occupation: I teach middle school math and science in South Los Angeles.

Family news: Instead of having children I've joined the circus. Its twice as dangerous - and almost less diaper changing. We're putting on a big show this summer near downtown starting in mid June. Please come check us out: www.cirqueberzerk.com. clearly I never got over annual play production.

HH influence: Highland Hall has influenced all aspects of my life. I have no T.V. and instead constantly heap my plate with an unfathomable amount of creative activities. I approve of the creative, wild people I've chosen to spend my time with and I am ever grateful for those I am still in touch with from school.

Alumni activities: Art shows; Soirees;

Michael Di Massa ('99)

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Occupation: Working as a journalist since 2005, I've been with my current newspaper, the Sherwood Park News, since December. Previously, I worked for three-and-a-half years at newspaper in Pahrump, Nevada near Las Vegas.

Family news: Married May 3, 2008 and immigrated to Canada as a permanent resident on Nov. 27, 2008 to be with my Canadian wife, Coralie, in Edmonton.

HH influence: Karen Grant deserves a lot of the credit for what I'm doing. She provided me with encouragement about my writing in my senior year at Highland Hall. I also continue to have an appreciation for the arts, which I try to express through the photos I take while on the job and for fun.

Alumni activities: Unfortunately, I'm a bit too far away to fly down for activities.

Sarah Lundstedt ('99)

Eugene, OR

Occupation: I am graduating from law school and will start a year long judicial clerkship in Alaska in the fall.

Alumni activities: A class of 1999 reunion.

Justin Kern ('01)

Beverly Hills, CA

Occupation: Currently a Senior Job captain at Landry design Group. Designing, developing and monitoring construction of custom homes in a variety of styles. currently working on several projects in Los Angeles as well as overseas in Asia.

Kandis Gilmore ('01)

Rohnert Park, CA

Occupation: Work at an environmental non-profit called Community Clean Water Institute and as a research technician at Sonoma State University working on the pollination ecology of three endangered plant species that grow in vernal pools. Will be attending graduate school at Sonoma State in the fall for a Master's degree in Biology.

Family news: My brother, Kenny Gilmore, is on tour in Europe with a band called Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti. He recently completed a North American tour across the U.S. and Canada, including the Coachella music festival.

HH influence: Many influences.

Tiffany Sazzmann conn ('02)

Mar Vista, CA

Occupation: Hostess at the Enterprise FishCo. in Santa Monica

Family news: My husband and I are having a baby in December.

Katharine (Kate) Slater ('02)

San Diego

Occupation: Currently working on a Ph.D in children's literature and trauma theory at UC San Diego.

Family news: My mother recently retired from her position as business advisory director at the LA Unified School District. My father is still active in private practice as a psychologist. Both are well.

HH influence: My Highland Hall education was instrumental in shaping the person I am today; I know I would not be as musical, as imaginative, or as visually oriented as I am without my nine years of Waldorf education.

Lara Spade Toselli ('03)

Sacramento CA

Occupation: This September, I will be moving up to Sacramento to start the Rudolf Steiner College Master's program and training to become a Waldorf teacher. It will be a pretty big relocation project for spouse and myself, but we are both very excited.

Kira Weidner ('04)

Chicago, IL

Occupation: Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

Stephen Forner ('05)

Spokane, WA

Occupation: I a Mechanical Engineer wishing to specialize in energy analysis and conservation.

Alumni activities: I cannot think of an alumni activity I would not like to participate in.

Jacob DeMonte-Finn ('05)

At home in Northridge

Occupation: I am acting (represented by the Daniel Hoff Agency), going to school at CSUN, and recently changed my major to Cinema and Television Arts with an emphasis on multimedia production. I recently joined the Global Medical Brigades to go to Honduras to provide medical services to its people. I'm working on a fundraising party now (more below).

Family news: ... the party boasts a DJ, open bar, and an information booth where patrons can find out more about the trip and the program. All are invited! More info here: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=753974828#/event.php?eid=83171513250&ref=ts

As for my family: my brother Gabriel's artwork is out-of-this-world good. He'll be in Santa Cruz next fall.

HH influence: It has shaped my outlook on life and the world, and instilled in me the sense that I am obligated to do what I can to make that world better. I feel emotionally and spiritually connected to all I meet--all I see, even--and I have no doubt that my Waldorf education is responsible for that.

Alumni activities: Remember Side by Side youth camp? If you don't, ask the Fishmans (Fishmen?) about it. It was a camp for kids from Pacoima centered around the idea that children need and deserve mentors and constructive, creative activities to do with them. There was art, storytelling, outdoor play, music, singing, games--and at the end, we performed a play. It was truly beautiful.

Ian Axness ('05)

Oberlin, Ohio

Occupation: Student (graduating from Oberlin College in 5 days); Music (pianist, conductor, arranger)

HH influence: I recently started drawing casually, just for fun with markers or anything, and it just feels right! I guess that has to be a Waldorf influence!

Alumni activities: Class reunions-- I'm moving to NYC soon, so any Waldorf alumni get-togethers that happen there...

Erin Daniels ('06)

Salt Lake City, Utah

Occupation: I am currently the Outdoor Recreation Student Assistant at Westminster College. I am also an outdoor Recreation Trip Leader, Winter at Westminster Ambassador, and I have an Americorps job this summer with the Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) in the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Southeastern Utah. Environmental Studies Major and a Paleontology Minor.

HH influence: My whole entire education from Kindergarten to 12th grade at Highland Hall has influenced my life at every turn, and I am only where I am now because of it.

Alumni activities: Something interesting

mackenzie Howe ('07)

Azusa, CA

Occupation: I am a global studies major at Azusa Pacific University. I just finished a semester in downtown LA. it was an urban immersion experience requiring me to intern, live, and study in the inner city. I am now processing the past 3 months, getting ready to live in Azusa full time again, and working at a restaurant.

HH influence: My education at Highland hall is one of my favorite topics of conversation in college. The global studies department at APU is about the closest thing you'll get to experiential learning in college. I often see a clear difference in how i learn compared to my peers. I cannot count the number of ways waldorf has shaped me. I am truly grateful.

Alumni activities: I am interested in reunions, putlucks, forums, etc.

Zane Reynolds ('07)

Reseda CA (Parents House)

Occupation: I work at the Hammer Museum Part Time doing audio and video for lectures and events.

HH influence: Yes, Highland hall has taught me that all I really need to do is focus on my hobbies which is art and music--- and thats all I pretty much do. Its like living life without fear. Highland Hall has given me a true Jedi mindset for what it is I need to accomplish with my life. Nothing stops me from getting what I must get done.

Owen Galipeau ('07)

University of Redlands or at Home.

Occupation: The name of my emphasis is currently: Journeying Along the Road of Life; Discovering Creativity and Knowledge Through Literature, Writing, and Critical Studies. I am essentially focusing on literature and writing to further my skill in both fields so that I can go on to teach and write professionally. The title will probably change my senior year.

HH influence: Too many. Highland Hall and Waldorf education in general both helped me become a well-rounded student, and to look at the world from many different perspectives. It also gave me a strong humanistic outlook that has served me well in both inside and outside of academics.

Alumni activities: Something like the Soiree/Gala that was at the Waldorf's last year that gives alumni a chance to meet alumni from all years and share experiences and thoughts.
