



November 2012



Thanksgiving Practice in Gratitude

By Christine Ashley, Head of School

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is probably my favorite holiday but not for any traditional reasons. I like the name "thanks giving" and the meanings within (and the fact that there is no overgrown animal or man gifting children candy).

I grew up with a mother and father who taught me that being grateful for everything and all things was a core value. I loved hearing my mother utter grace before the Thanksgiving meal using her decidedly thick Scottish accent.

*Some hae meat and canna eat,-
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit.
-Robert Burns*

At age 14 I got my first job as a dishwasher in a family-owned restaurant so that I could provide for my own clothing allowance. Through a process of somewhat stereotypical

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[Upcoming Events](#)

[Thanksgiving Break](#)

November 17 to 25

[Holiday Break](#)

December 15 to January 6
(some administrative offices will be open)

[Scattergood Open House](#)

Saturday, March 30,
1 to 3 p.m.

[Scattergood Food Fundraisers](#)

Wednesday, Feb.13,
5 to 10 pm
Short's Burgers Eastside,
521 Westbury Drive,
Iowa City

existential angst and questioning, I came to a pivotal understanding at age 19 that I needed to cultivate a life of awareness and purpose. That knowledge sent me into a kind of tailspin as I began to redefine my life purpose. Over the course of the next year while living in Nepal with Tibetan nuns and refugees, I knew I had much to be grateful for and I had to take action.

Since then, I have delved into a daily practice of gratitude. Saying "Yes!" to life, even in the midst of difficulties, is tough but it gets easier when there is a habit of saying "Yes!" and "Give thanks and praise!" on a day-to-day basis. There are a few nuggets I have gathered along the way, and they make a tremendous impact in my life:

I can express gratitude in big and small ways.

It helps me appreciate those around me.

Practicing gratitude encourages me to *take action* even when times are hard.

It is something I have to cultivate, especially during hard times, but seeing the light within the darkness is what makes difficulties bearable.

This practice has been essential in helping me lead a more balanced life filled with highs and lows, and though simple, the practice has had a profound impact on my life. Try taking a breath over the course of the next few wintry months, and practice acts of gratefulness in ways that are meaningful to you. At Scattergood, we actively teach that all of us can lead a simple life and one with integrity and purpose. We have the means to be positive influences for change. It all starts within, and it starts now.

In Peace,
Christine

319.338.7743

**Sunday, March 17,
4 to 9 pm
Devotay
117 North Linn Street
Iowa City
[Click here for Devotay](#)**

**Wish List
Storage units for
Art Building**

**LCD projector for
Library Classroom**

**Alumni who will hold an Open
House in your area. Contact
admissions@scattergood.org**

**Many thanks to all
Scattergood alumni,
especially Class of 2012,
for making last month's
Scattergood Day Weekend fun
and a great success!**

**Thank you, Hills Bank and
Coralville Public Library, for
hosting Scattergood displays in
January and February,
respectively.**

**If you know of another venue for
Scattergood, contact
development@scattergood.org**

**Scatterings is an online
publication from the
Development Office.**

Artist Rebuilds Scattergood Kiln

For Shumpei Yamaki, the journey from Kamakura, Japan, to West Branch has been eventful.

The Scattergood ceramics teacher and dorm sponsor left his home city that has a population density of 11,000 per square mile for Iowa cornfields and rich soil that he uses for his own creations. En route to West Branch, Shumpei worked as a dancer in Philadelphia, studied archaeology in Wisconsin, and pursued an MFA in ceramics at The University of Iowa.

"It has been quite a journey, but one I've really enjoyed," said the artisan and conservationist. "I feel free to communicate with my own language through art."

Shumpei's work is mostly wheel-thrown and wood-fired. It has been described by one art critic as organic, utilitarian, and rustically poetic in its simplicity and nuance. In West Branch, Shumpei built his own wood-fueled anagama, an ancient type of cave-like pottery kiln that was brought to Japan from China via Korea in the 5th century. At Scattergood, Shumpei led the deconstruction of two kilns last spring, laid the foundation over the summer for a new kiln, and, together with students and Facilities Manager Mark Shanahan, has reused materials from the original kiln to improve and rebuild a new structure this autumn.

Many of Shumpei's new ceramic pieces are featured in an exhibition at the Ceramics Center in Cedar Rapids. He said that each piece has found its own journey that began with mud and clay from the patch of earth to a final destination with unpredictable twists and turns.



Editor
Rüdiger Rückmann,
Development Director

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The New Kiln and its Rewards

By Alejandro Rubinstein-Nadeau, Class of 2014

One of my classes this quarter is Kiln Building. I began last quarter, despite my initial resistance to a project involving manual labor before PE class.

At this point, we have cinder block walls for the outside of the kiln, the firebox (where the fire burns), the wares section (directly above the firebox where ceramic pieces are fired), and are working on the arch of the flue to the chimney and the Gothic arch to close the ware/firebox area. We still need to build the chimney and complete other finishing touches.

It's pretty cool how varied the work has been. Even though most of it has been laying bricks, we have still needed to overcome spacial challenges, think about heat dynamics when building and choosing materials, and learn carpentry skills to build the wooden arch forms.

I think that "blue collar" trades in our society are often heavily undervalued when in reality it is these jobs that improve our quality of life. It is nice to be able to learn these crafts and the importance of working with one's hands.

Improvements Above and Below Ground Enhance Scattergood's Farm



Last year, we brought in a new tractor. This year, we are building!

The old red shed has been cleared and buried.

The farm well is now tested, shock chlorinated and flushed.

New plumbing lines have been laid to all farm outbuildings and the cottage, facilitating water supplies for animals and

people who live and work on the farm. Possibilities for water lines to the crops are being reviewed. The water pressure is the best in has been in several years.

Ground will soon be broken for a **vegetable packing facility**. The new building will greatly improve cleaning and storing of produce that feeds our community. Its impact will reverberate in the planning, planting, and delivery of our farm products.

You can help! Please let me know if you have any questions about these developments. Your input and support are greatly valued. We need to outfit our vegetable packing facility. Total contributions of \$20,000 will bring in a cooler, washing facilities, and heating and cooling. Please call or write Rüdiger Rückmann, Development Director, 319-643-7621 or development@scattergood.org

News from Friends & Alumni

Updates

Linn Stone '67 recently sponsored a quilt show that included some of her quilts in Rosamond, California. Linn also hand lettered and designed fliers for the show.

Mickey Greenberg '79 wrote: "Hello, fellow Scattergoodians, what's new? Much is the same here. I've served as staff occupational therapist in a few Chicagoland skilled nursing facilities for quite a number of years. As part of a rehab team, I'm teaching, or listening, with empathy, humor, and my own brand of irreverence, usually in a balanced way, to help folks get better, more independent and homeward bound.

I'm also still throwing pots on the wheel, Scattergood style, that has long been a favorite outlet for me. Clay makes me smile. But what really makes me smile a lot lately is that my eldest son, Ponda, and his partner Lyela have made me a grandfather. Bolingo Mafany was born October 1, 2012, ten fingers, ten toes, class of '30. This kid's gonna change the world. He's already changed mine, in a good way."

Margie Figgins '83 and Jay Roth (father of **Stacy Roth '08**) were married this past October. Margie welcomes contact from friends: mfiggins@scattergood.org

Publications

Copies of **Callie Marsh's** book, *A Lively Faith: Reflections on Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)* and **Don and Lois Laughlin's** book, *Friends for a Lifetime*, are available through the Scattergood Development Office. Both the Marsh and Laughlin families are longtime friends of Scattergood who have been involved with the school and West Branch Monthly Meeting for decades.

Scattergood community member **Ben Bruch** has recently been included in the newest edition of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* and *Keltische Forschungen 5* for which he co-authored the article *New Perspectives on Vocalic Alternation in Cornish*.

Born to

Martin Orimenko (staff '78-80), a daughter: Lilah Jade Orimenko last September.

Deceased

Paul Wagner, husband of **Carolyn Smith Treadway '51** and stepfather to **Dorothy (Treadway) Matthews '80**, **Dan '75**, **Brian '76**, and **Irving Treadway '84**, passed away last August. Paul was a member of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting in Ohio.

Doris Rockwell '58 of Monteverde, Costa Rica, passed away early this month. One of Doris' schoolmates wrote: "She was at Scattergood only one year, her junior year, but those who knew her loved her. She was a feisty redhead, but I can't remember any temper to go with it."

Carolyn (Hamm) Around '61 last September. Carolyn was active in many environmental and Quaker community service organizations and was a longtime teacher in Boston and Chelsea elementary schools. She spent three years as a teacher at a relocation camp in the central highlands of Vietnam in the '60s.

In later years, she worked with her husband, David, a pediatrician, during service trips to Nicaragua.

Scattergood Friends School & Farm
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