

Scatterings

WINTER 2022



Baby Gillie Schmidt-Quee '22 being supported by her mother Jennie Schmidt on the entryway sign taken in 2005.



Adult Gillie Schmidt-Quee '22 smiling in front of the old oak tree for her student ID.

A Lifelong Scattergoodian

By: Gillie Schmidt-Quee '22, Berquist Scholar, based on college essay themes

The line between my community and my home has always been blurred. Since I was born, this school has been written into my world: a place my family would eat meals, where I would long to play with highschoolers, and where different staff would always be bopping in and out of our home. Even at a young age, I felt the importance of community, and how shared values were crucial in shaping it.

After seventeen years living in an evolving community I have learned some hard truths. First, conflict is important: it inspires growth, both per-

sonal and institutional. One conflict I encountered was when I became a ninth grader. I shifted from staff-brat to student and found myself more vulnerable than ever before. Because I had to share my home, my Dad was no longer just my Dad, but a teacher, and my neighbors were not just neighbors anymore, they were administrators. That year, I felt a strain between my home life and my social life. Navigating friendships proved difficult, as did learning how to exist in a new way in an old place. This experience helped me gain a sense of independence and self advocacy.

Additionally, central values and traditions are what keep a community together. During COVID, Scattergood was disrupted. We no longer ate family style, socialized together outside of school, nor explored the outside world. Our community looked and acted very different, but felt the same because we emphasized our values: opportunities for silence, hands-on learning, and artistic pursuits. COVID revealed the work we had to put in to maintaining community in difficult times. Through this, deeper connections were created, and a care for this place we all call home.

Above all else, Scattergood has taught me to stay present, and look for joy. In the long winters, I find that joy in the dining room through the constant rotation of warm cookies and card games. In classes, I find joy in engaging with my peers, and always asking bizarre questions. I find it during crew when all the dishes are done, and everyone is busy doing their own tasks, all for each other. I see it in the dorm hallways, when we are all laughing over nothing funny. Like everything Scattergood has taught me, I will carry this found joy as I prepare to leave my lifelong home.



Young **Gillie Schmidt-Quee '22** riding on the shoulders of her father and current Farm Manager **Mark Quee** at the Farm Work Day in August of 2008.

John Does Crew

Video Editing By: Heiko Strack '24

John Does Crew, a video series that began earlier this year, provides the opportunity for members of our extended community to follow current Head of School **John Zimmerman** as he experiences different crews around campus. If you would like to watch the series, please click [this link](#).



Peer-to-Peer Learning via Scattergood's Crew System

By: Annabel Higgin-Houser, Wellness & Activities Coordinator

I have the privilege of leading the best crew on campus, Upper Main Crew. We clean the auditorium, social room, the main lobby, and its attached bathrooms. While other crews are raking leaves or organizing classrooms, our crew is scrubbing toilets, sweeping floors, and washing windows. We make the most used space on campus clean and presentable. Crews at Scattergood change slightly year-to-year; this year, crew looks different in a whole new way: middle school students are all assigned crews. Though the middle school opened last school year, COVID-19 precautions kept the middle school and high school students very separate. Now, middle school students are shoveling, mopping, and taking out the trash right alongside high school students and staff, while still being mindful of COVID-19 precautions. Bringing middle school students into the community has brought an excited energy and enthusiasm that is palpable in every activity the whole school community is a part of, especially crew. Many different combinations of middle school and high school students have been on Upper Main Crew and each group brings new opportunities for high school students to be leaders and middle school students to bring their brightness and enthusiasm.

The most beautiful moments I have gotten to witness on Upper Main Crew are when middle school students are learning a new cleaning skill, whether it's how to properly hold a broom or the best way to scrub a toilet and a high school student is right there ready to assist them and show them the way. Similarly many of our middle school students are extremely talented cleaners and show off their skills to the high school students on our crew. For

example middle school student **Henry Criswell '27** washes his neighbors' windows regularly, so the other crew members and I had a lot to learn from him.

Most crews have a standard set of daily tasks they complete, on Upper Main crew the students whiz through that list quickly and then get creative about new ways to improve their designated area. Students have worked together to create photo walls, clean out the sound booth in the auditorium, deep clean the well loved furniture in the social room, and so much more. It is such a joy to watch students from 6th grade through 12th grade work together to make this school their own. Crew is a unique opportunity to step away from the rigid roles of teacher, high school student, and middle school student and into the roles of community members who show their love for this place by caring for the spaces we use everyday.



Middle School student **Julian Weckmann '26** and staff member **Annabel Higgin-Houser** after cleaning the auditorium as part of Upper Main Crew.



The first Meeting for Worship of the new semester was with an attention to music. Over Zoom, students and staff were invited to compile three of their favorite songs in a shared document. **Sabra Crock '22** took the time to compile these community favorites into a playlist! Follow [this link](#) to discover some of the songs our students might be playing during crew. The community's taste in music might surprise you.

New Staff Highlight: Ben Heller

By: Katie Herbert, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Katie: Hi Ben! Can you give a brief introduction of yourself?

Ben: My name is Ben Heller, and I am originally from a small town, Melrose, Minnesota. It was there that I developed some of my favorite passions: farming, working with young people, and sports. I think these are really the three main passions that I enjoy doing in my free time today. Additionally, I had some really great teachers in high school that ultimately led me to a calling in teaching. I received my Bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College—just down the road from Scattergood—and graduated in 2020. The following year I volunteered for a program called the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Juneau, Alaska. I worked at a youth center for at-risk teens and youth.

Katie: And why did you come to Scattergood?

Ben: A culmination of farming, teaching, and working with young adults all led me to Scattergood. Having the opportunity to work in a place where I could bring all of my interests together, along with the hands-on learning and the personal relationships between staff and students, was a huge draw for me. Getting to practice on the farm what I spent years of my education—both formal and informal—building up to has been invaluable to me.



Ben moments before eating a cake made by students **Max Fauchier '22**, **Evelyn Bergus '24**, and **Moose Koester '23**.



From left to right: **Sadie Kirschenman**, **Dana Foster**, **Dani Evans-Schreiber**, **Sabra Crock '22**, **Ben Heller**, **Lily Jampoler '23**, **Baz Vande Hey '22**, **Miles Knake '23**, **Lorenzo Bolles-Rioux '23**, **Esu Vande Hey '23**, **Keya Beamer '22**, and **Evelyn Bergus '24**. Ben addressing the school during Farm Term Presentations of Learning.

Katie: Wow! It really seems like you have found your happy place in Scattergood. Can you give a description of your job here?

Ben: I have a lot of different responsibilities, and I really enjoy that I have these different roles. One of my jobs is working on the farm. I am learning a lot from **Mark Quee**. Mark is incredible, super experienced, and smart and willing to listen to my crazy ideas, but more importantly he reigns me in sometimes when my ideas might be unrealistic. On the farm, I do a lot of work with the livestock. I am hoping this upcoming year to be involved with not only the livestock but also the vegetable production. I am also a teacher. I teach three different classes here at Scattergood. I teach Biology and Advanced Biology. I love having the opportunity to teach biology where we are—with a farm and restored prairie—and be able to use the outdoors as a part of my classroom. I also teach a Physical Education course each quarter. It has ranged from classic gym games to weight lifting to something called Farm Team, where we go out to the farm to assist in chores like harvesting and moving the animals. Along with all of this, I also dorm sponsor every third weekend. This part of my job offers me the chance to interact with the kids outside of the classroom. I really enjoy this part of my job since both students and I get to know each other as more than just teacher and students. We get a more complete picture.

Katie: And with all of that, what has been the most rewarding part of your job?

Ben: When I see a student connecting with the farm or with other parts of the natural environment around us. This connects my passion with the students I teach, and watching that moment happen is really rewarding for me.

Katie: Do any memorable stories stand out from your first semester working here?

Ben: I think there are a lot of memorable moments from my time here so far. But one of the moments that really stands out for me was from the all-school Farm Work Day. The job that I had been assigned with a bunch of students was to trim the sheep's hooves. Our job was to essentially wrestle the sheep, hold them on their backs, and work as fast as we could. It was so cool to watch students who don't typically interact with each other having an absolute blast while working with the sheep. I think that might be my most memorable moment so far.



Ben and Heiko Strack' 24 working in tandem to trim sheep hooves as part of the Farm Work Day in August of 2021.

“ Our job was to essentially wrestle the sheep, hold them on their backs, and work as fast as we could. ”



Ben Heller smiling down in the basin for his staff ID photo.

Katie: I remember that! What a good moment. I know this might be a hard question, but what are you looking forward to at Scattergood?

Ben: I am looking forward to so many different things on so many different levels. Mark has gotten a grant to create an orchard out of uncommon trees such as Asian pears, nectarines, and sweet cherries. We are going to get to experiment with planting these trees and do what a lot of people aren't doing in southeastern Iowa. I am also excited about the long-term possibilities that come with starting up some sports teams again. We have some students that I think would really benefit from these opportunities, and overall I think it would be great for fostering community on campus. I also have a project in mind of building a small rock-climbing wall that could be used by staff and students as an alternative form of exercise. This could lead to opportunities to go on climbing trips around the Midwest. This is a very long-term goal, though, since I need to get the rock-climbing wall funded and built first. As for short-term goals, I am continuing to design and execute lesson plans that involve the farm and the prairie as much as I can here. In addition to all of this, I am really looking forward to my Intercession trip to Big Bend National Park. I am going with a small group of students and Mark to southern Texas where we are going to be doing some intense backpacking.

Katie: That all sounds really exciting! Onto my final question. Why do you think people come to Scattergood, both staff and students?

Ben: I think there are lots of different reasons as to why people come to Scattergood. I think some are very similar to mine, but others are very different as well. There are a lot of positives and negatives to the public school system. I went to public school and loved it, but one of the larger negatives is that there is a lack of connection between teachers and students at times. This affects teachers' abilities to understand what students are truly going through, which can affect their ability to push their students to their full potential and not let people slip through the cracks. I think that Scattergood offers an alternative to this. It offers the opportunity for people to be seen as complex wholes and be accepted for who they are.

Katie: I think that is the perfect answer. Thank you so much, Ben, for taking the time to talk to me today!

Ben: Thank you!



Ben Heller listening to his student **Sigourney Bradshaw '23** present findings from their Farm Term class titled "Seed Saving".



Hello members of the Scattergood Community! In preparation for Sweet Week, the staff have begun thinking of fun activities we could engage our students with to bring laughter and joy. As a part of this, we would love for you to be our "polled audience" for a fun game of Scattergood Family Feud! All you need to do is click on the "[FAMILY FEUD](#)" icon above and give your answers to these Scattergood-themed questions which will then be categorized for the game. On behalf of our students, thank you so much for your participation!

Class Spotlight: Food & Religion

By: Dani Evans-Schreiber, Social Studies & Humanities Teacher,
Camp Scattergood Director

At Scattergood, our humanities electives allow students to explore reading, writing, art, culture, design, etc. through the lens of any number of topics. Once a year, one of these humanities classes is a religion course, and students take either Quakerism or a religious studies elective. This year, for the religious studies elective, I taught a course titled Food & Religion. As a class we studied topics like Kosher and Halal food laws, the practice of the Eucharist, and Native American food traditions. By learning about different religions and the food practices, students drew



Student **Lily Jampoler '23** works in the Scattergood kitchen to prepare latkes for the Hanukkah meal.



Students from Food & Religion sitting around a menorah enjoying their Hanukkah meal.

connections between beliefs and dietary practices. For example, students were able to see how the practice of non-violence in Jainism influences the vegetarian food practice. We put these topics to practice in an ethnographic study of a Quaker meal at Scattergood and in cooking a Hanukkah meal together, pictured here. Students ended the class by making a menu that taught other students about a specific religion or religious holiday and their foodways, helping to tie together the connections between religious beliefs and religious foods.

Camp Scattergood: Summer 2022

Camp Scattergood is a day camp located here at Scattergood Friends School for campers entering 1st-6th grade. We provide campers with a day full of exciting outdoor activities, engaging them in age-specific activities taught by professional teachers. We believe in the importance of both nature and community, which we incorporate into our programming. Each day your camper can expect to swim in the pond, engage in imaginative play, grow their creativity through arts and crafts, and snack on farm-fresh organic produce. For more information you can visit [our website](https://www.scattergood.org) or email us at camp@scattergood.org. Themed sessions run for one week (Monday-Friday). Early registration of \$250 ends on March 12th, so register soon. Space is limited!

- **Mythical Creatures** June 13 - June 17
- **Spy School** June 20 - June 24
- **Under the Sea** June 27 - July 1
- **Witches and Wizards** July 11 - July 15
- **Alien Planets** July 18 - July 22

Scattergood's Donor Crew

By: Roy Helm '76, School Committee Co-Clerk

When I reflect on my time at Scattergood, I often think about crew and the impact that it has had on my life. There were crews that I didn't care too much for as well as crews that I enjoyed, which sometimes had more to do with the others on the crew than the actual task at hand. The crew I think I enjoyed the most was Bread, which was an individual endeavor, and encompassed different elements of prep work, clean up, baking, and more clean up. There was always a sense of self-satisfaction in the accomplishment of sharing a good batch of bread with the community. Although I wasn't that aware of it at the time, the act of effort given for the benefit and enjoyment of others is what brings the most fulfillment to life—the more we share, the more our lives are enriched and our spirits are raised, much like a good loaf of bread.

This is but one element of crew that has been carried forward into my life, another being my participation on the School Committee. It is through this commitment that I have found a way to not only give back to a place that has given me so much, but also be offered a means to reconnect to the school. Service on the School Committee often reminds me of the positive impact Scattergood has on individuals. It is in sharing whatever work that needs to be done that we can reduce the burden of labor: by lending a helping hand to take on the responsibility to participate, in a physical or ethereal sense, for a common goal or outcome.

What I appreciate about the concept of "Donor Crew" is that it allows us to actively participate in the crew process again by supporting Scattergood. Normally, when we think of supporting the school, we tend to think in monetary terms, whether through Annual Fund donations, Planned (Estate) Giving, or designated donations. If you haven't joined Donor Crew yet this school year, please consider doing so [online](#). And yes, the school can always use these generous contributions; however, these are not the only ways to participate in Donor Crew, as it's not just about the money, especially since we all have different capabilities to share that resource.

There is also a need for "gifts in kind" and volunteers for work projects on campus. Another opportunity to participate lies within being a vocal advocate for Scattergood by mentioning it to families in your community. Express the positive aspects of your experiences with the school. Granted, we have all likely had some challenging times at Scattergood, but that also comes with developing the skills to cope with adversity and to grow as an individual. For me, this highlighted the importance of community support.

It also goes without saying that you can "scatter good wherever you go." Although Scattergood is a Quaker school, many who attend are not Quaker. The Quaker values, however, are expressed and demonstrated in every aspect of the school, from the curriculum to the residential program, from the farm to the prairie, from the moments of silence to the Meetings for Worship. Mutual Quaker experiences like these allow us to remain connected throughout our lives, which ensures that many generations to come can benefit



Roy Helm '76 enjoying life.

from the gifts Scattergood has to share. This extends to everyone who interacts with the school including students and their families, staff members, and School Committee members.

I think we can all appreciate that the school is maturing and adapting to the current environment. Even with these changes, the Spirit of Scattergood exists in all of us. Let's all participate in Donor Crew, so that we can keep sharing in this wondrous experience long into the future. Not only does the world need Scattergood (and Scattergoodians!), but we need it too.

Are you a detail-oriented, tech-savvy person looking to volunteer your time for the Scattergood community? If so, we have the perfect opportunities for you. We are currently in the process of digitizing [Scattergood Friends School 1890-1990](#) in hopes of providing more people with access to this wonderful history of our school. However, one step of the process requires a large time commitment: each chapter needs to be reviewed for spelling and grammatical errors that might have resulted from the scanning process. Please reach out to development@scattergood.org if you would like more information about how you could lend a helping hand.

Embodying Scattergood's Values

By: The Hilgendorf Children

The Hilgendorf family was living in Mankato, Minnesota in the Vietnam War era when Clarence and Margaret Perisho introduced them to Scattergood. Kay was especially attracted by the tenets of Quaker education, and Ralph loved to promote sustainable agriculture. The family was new to practicing Quakerism, and all four of their biological children were enraptured upon meeting Scattergood students at Northern Yearly Meeting and at Scattergood. The eldest, Kris, was a prospective student in 1973, the same year the family moved to St. Paul. Thus began a ten-year period of Hilgendorf students at Scattergood.

During most of that era, it was an eight-hour drive each way at the start of the school year, Thanksgiving, Winter break, Spring break, and end of the school year. Ralph took additional trips to the school during his many years serving on the School Committee, including as Clerk. That's over 700 hours of driving time, almost all of which was done by the family's mother, Kay Hilgendorf. Kay was constantly in the background, supporting blind Superman Ralph in his more direct service on committees and boards to serve worthy causes like Scattergood. There were times that the winter roads were so bad Kay would find herself sleeping in the van somewhere near Mason City waiting out a storm. Once, Cherry's stereo flew off the truck, never to be found. Another time, they saw a lone tire moving along the roadside, keeping pace with the vehicle. Turns out it had fallen off their trailer. Heroically, Ralph braved the frigid temperatures to change tires with his



Ralph Hilgendorf (left) and then Director **Peter Ewald** walking to Meeting for Worship for the class of 83 graduation ceremony.

bare hands, as he had to do it by feel due to his blindness. He was blinded when he crashed his airplane on the farm at age 17.

Because of the relative proximity of Scattergood and the Twin Cities, many Scattergoodians would spend their breaks at the Hilgendorf household, along with the throng of deaf foster siblings, Hilgendorfs, refugees, and others already living there. Mountains of popcorn and many root beer floats were enjoyed at such gatherings.

Ralph and Kay died two months apart in the summer of 2021. The surviving Hilgendorfs donated \$10,000 to Scattergood to honor their parents' commitment over the years. Kris, Cherry, Betsy, and Dhaivyd are eternally grateful for the experiences, lessons, and connections that Scattergood brought to their lives.



The Hilgendorf family. Top, from left to right: **Kris '77, Cherry Flowers '79, Betsy '81, Dhaivyd '83, Larry Wichern.** Bottom: Ralph, Kay

Hello Friends,

My name is **Dana Smith '97**, alumnae and former staff member ('06-'08). I am currently the Director of Advancement at Willowwind School, an independent preK-6 (formerly K-8) school in Iowa City. Willowwind is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022, and we would love to reconnect with old friends. Much like Scattergood, Willowwind has always focused on progressive education, personal growth, and community, so it's not surprising that many Willowwind students have gone on to thrive at Scattergood. It is my hope that by reaching out through *Scatterings*, Willowwind School can reconnect with these mutual alumni.

Once a Willowwinder, always a Willowwinder. Whether you were a student, staff member, parent, or friend of the school, we encourage you to visit willowwind.org/50th where you can look through photo albums and let us know what you've been up to. Be sure to save the date for Willowwind's 50th anniversary event on Saturday, October 15th, 2022. Until then, sign up for the *Branching Out* newsletter and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

In friendship and gratitude,

Dana Smith '97 (she/her)
Willowwind School
Director of Advancement
danas@willowwind.org

P.S. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. I look forward to helping you reconnect with your Willowwind School community during this milestone year!

Seeking Willowwind School Alumni & Friends



1972 - 1985
Fairchild St.



1985 - 2007
Johnson St.



2007-2022
Dover St.

We're celebrating 50 Years in 2022!

— **RECONNECT** —

Learn more at willowwind.org/50th.

If you would like to send in updates for the next issue of *Scatterings*, you can do so at [this form](#). Updates can also be sent to development@scattergood.org

Community Updates

Flo Francis Friender '59 just stepped down as President for ten years of the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Association. She is still gardening, albeit more slowly and active in the Kalamazoo Quaker Meeting via Zoom.

Merle Maynard '09 has married Gabriel Dorfsman-Hopkins and will soon finish graduate school in Counseling Psychology with licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Sharon Uwanyuze '14 is currently completing her PhD in Engineering at the University of Connecticut.

In Memoriam

Anna "Ann" Celia (Rosedale) McDonough '45, March 23, 2021, Port Charlotte, Florida. After graduating from Scattergood, Anna received a B.A. from William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa and an M.S.E. from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She married Chester Norman McDonough in 1952. Her hobbies included Ham radio, camping, bowling, and watercolor painting. Survivors include her three children, six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. [Link to obituary.](#)

Ellen Havre Weis '75, July 27, 2021, Altadena, California. Ellen attended the University of Iowa to study writing after she graduated from Scattergood. Ellen then went on to become a published author, advertising and public relations consultant, lecturer, and founder of the Museum of Mod-

ern Mythology in San Francisco, California. Survivors include her husband, son, mother, sister, and brother. [Link to obituary.](#)

Kathryn "Kay" Joy (Muggaberg) Hilgendorf, August 7, 2021. Kay lived a life of service. Her commitment to helping others could be seen in everything she did. She received the Friends School of Minnesota *Collins-Fieldseth Award for Exceptional Volunteerism* as a result. More about Kay's life can be read in the article titled "Embodying Scattergood's Values" (page 9). Survivors include children **Kris '77, Cherry Flowers '79, Betsy '81, Dhaivyd '83**, and Larry Wichern, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. [Link to obituary.](#)

James "Jim" McIntosh, August 30, 2021, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jim's first teaching job was at Scattergood during the 1960-1961 school year. He went on to receive his PhD from Yale in 1966 and taught there for multiple years. Jim then joined the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan where he spent the rest of his career involved with different departments and programs. Notably, Jim served as the director of the Department of American Culture. Survivors include his wife and daughter. [Link to obituary.](#)

Lois Elaine Strickler, Grinnell, Iowa. Lois earned a degree in Business Education from McPherson College. She and her husband Gayle lived in multiple states, during which Lois worked various jobs, including teaching. Lois raised her two children with love and support. One child, **Mara Strickler '95**, shared a touching story of the role Scattergood played in their family during the memorial service for Lois, which can be [viewed here](#). [Link to obituary.](#)



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