



The Denver Waldorf School Alumni Association Newsletter

We're Turning 40...

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE GYM!

September 29th 2014 will be the official 40th anniversary of The Denver Waldorf School. Started by three visionaries, Diethart Jaehnig, Ina Jaehnig and Joan Condon, DWS has become a shining example of what Waldorf education can be.



Our extraordinary Alumni serve as a continuous reminder of the enduring value of a Denver Waldorf education. From professional musicians, industrial designers and educators to world travelers and world record holders, DWS Alumni are actively engaged in the work of making our world a better place for the next generation. With the strong support of our Alumni, we can make the dream of providing a complete Waldorf curriculum to our students a beautiful reality. The next 40 years starts now.

IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF DWS

In 2009, The Denver Waldorf School completed an extensive campus master planning process to answer three questions:

1. What does a full Waldorf curriculum look like at DWS?
2. What spaces and resources need to be added to realize this full curriculum?
3. Does the current campus fit these needs?

The initial Campus Master Plan (CMP) determined the need for a gymnasium/festival hall, as well as dedicated spaces for Eurythmy and the performing and practical arts. Many spaces in the current building would need modification as well, to better serve the community. The CMP also concluded that all of this could be accomplished at the current site.

In 2012, a feasibility study conducted by the Board of Trustees concluded that the school would have the capacity to bring the CMP to fruition in two phases. The first phase would include the construction of a gymnasium/festival hall and practical arts classrooms. The second phase would add the performing arts spaces. Both phases would also build in additional parking as well as address repairs and modifications to the existing building. It was also projected 10 or more years would be necessary to complete both phases.

In early 2013, the Board hired the architecture firm, Shears Atkins and Rockmore (SA+R) to create a concept design from the CMP to begin the process

IN THIS ISSUE



Colorado State Fiddle
Champion Katie
Glassman '95



Ph.D. candidate and
high school history
teacher Terrill Legueri
'01

Strides for Stars Mayfest

Join current and alumni families for a fun-filled day in the park with DWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2014 Senior Class Play

You Can't Take It With You by
Moss Hart & George S. Kaufmann
at The Bug Theatre,

3645 Navajo St., Denver

Thursday, Mar. 6th, 2014 @ 7 pm

Alumni Happy Hour @ 5:30 pm at
[Patsy's Inn](#), 3651 Navajo Street

Saturday, Mar. 8th, 2014 @ 7 pm

Alumni Association Party

at the Richthofen Castle

Friday, May 2, 2014

7020 E. 12th Ave., Denver

4th Annual Strides for Stars Walkathon & Family Mayfest

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Senior Project Presentations

Thursday, May 15, 2014

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Class of 2014 Graduation

Friday, June 6, 2014

towards a final design. The board also approved moving forward with a Capital Campaign to begin raising funds to build phase one.

In November of 2013, The Denver Waldorf School was made aware of the Denver Christian School (DCS) selling three of their campuses as part of a consolidation plan. After touring two of the three campuses, it was determined that the campus at Evans Avenue and Pearl Street already included all of the items listed in the original Campus Master Plan, and could be a great fit for DWS.

In December of 2013 DWS pursued the option of purchasing the DCS campus at Evans and Pearl. On February 11, 2014, Denver Christian Schools accepted the offer from DWS and the two organizations are currently in contract negotiations.

GROWING INTO THE FUTURE: NEW CAMPUS, NEW POSSIBILITIES

Purchasing and relocating to this new campus would give our school a permanent home close to the original neighborhood where DWS began in 1974. This building and campus offers all of the items planned for in the CMP, including a gym, a performing arts venue, music classrooms, and additional space for increased High School enrollment.

The campus is situated on a full city block with plenty of parking, and is adjacent to extensive public playing fields and parks. This new campus will allow DWS to improve our performing arts and movement curriculum, strengthen our athletic programs, and much more.



Aerial view of Pearl Street campus

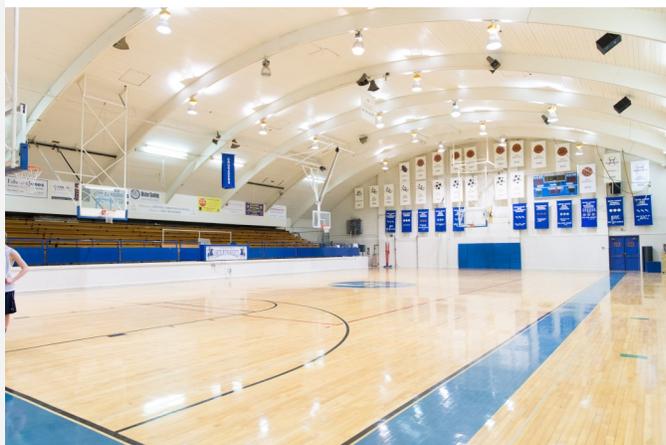
Best of all: the acquisition of the DSC campus will allow The Denver Waldorf School to immediately realize the goals of the Campus Master Plan for *less* than the cost of expanding the existing campus over the next 10 years.

How can this become a reality? Those of you who lived through the move to the current location know that our entire community must pitch in to accomplish all of the tasks and to fund the endeavor. Fundraising is already underway to raise more than \$4 million as part of the phase one of the Capital Campaign. Our ability to purchase the other campus depends on us reaching this fundraising goal.

Can you help us by making a pledge toward our Capital Campaign?

[Donate to the DWS Capital Campaign by making a 3 -5 year pledge.](#)

For more information and to schedule a one-on-one conversation, please contact:
Ben Drotar, The Director of Development develop@denverwaldorf.org or 303-777-0531 ext.107



Larger gymnasium, Pearl Street Campus



Theater/Performing arts stage and smaller gymnasium, Pearl Street Campus

Timeline:

THE DENVER WALDORF SCHOOL'S FIRST 40 YEARS



Early 1970s

The Jaehnigs introduce Waldorf Education to the Denver area and host small gatherings in their back yard.



1974

The Denver Waldorf School purchases its first building in the Platt Park neighborhood. The Jaehnigs mortgage their own house to help finance the purchase of the building.



1991-1992

School building was expanded to better accommodate the middle school and add a Eurythmy room.



1995-1996

The first High School classes meet in coffee shops and in a rented retail space.



1999

DWS graduates the first 12th Grade class.



2003-2004

DWS purchases the current building at 940 Fillmore St., housing pre-K through 12th Grade in one building for the first time.



2006-2009

Campus Master Plan developed and completed. It is estimated that it will cost \$10-\$12 million to bring to fruition.



2012

Feasibility Study concludes that the school could raise \$3-4 million and accomplish the CMP in two phases over a period of 10 or more years.



2013

Capital Campaign initiated to raise \$4 million towards Phase One of the CMP. SA+R architects hired to finalize the design for a redesigned campus in Congress Park.



February 11, 2014

Contract negotiations begin on DWS offer for new campus.



August 27, 2014

First day of school, potentially at new campus at 2135 Pearl Street.



Alumni Profile: Katie Glassman '95

By Ben Drotar, Development Director



Two-time Colorado State Fiddle Champion and singer-songwriter Katie Glassman has been thrilling audiences with her special Western Swing sound for well over a decade. This spring, her band, Katie Glassman & Snapshot, will release their first album, *Dream a Little Dream*.

“It all really started with my time at The Denver Waldorf School. I remember playing duets with Ina Jaehnig. She and the rest of the teachers also encouraged me to follow my own path, which is part of the reason I also started to sing,” Katie recalls.

When Katie was 16, she started working as a freelance musician with local bands. “I started playing with bands in bars back when smoking was still allowed inside! My dad would take me to the gig and stay until I was finished.” Katie continues, “I freelanced for bands for the next 10 years. I was also part of the Dixie Land Band at CU and a group called the Shades of Blue. It was all great experience.”

In 1998 she won her first fiddle competition and has won several times since, including the at the National Western Stock show in Denver this year.

It has taken years of hard work and dedication for Katie to get to where she is today. Katie came to The Denver Waldorf School when she was in first grade and stayed through eighth grade. She started playing the violin when she was in 3rd grade and immediately fell in love with it.

In the 8th Grade, Katie started giving other students violin lessons. “I was already helping others with playing violin, so I decided to turn it into a business when I was 13 or 14. Looking back at it now, and seeing other children that age, I kind of laugh to realize how young I was. But I really enjoyed doing it.”

When asked if she was considered a prodigy as a child, she quickly demurs, “No, I’m just a person that really loves to play violin and sing and write songs. I’ve always loved it.”

One of Katie’s first students was fellow DWS student Bridget Law, who now plays with her own local

KATIE GLASSMAN, *CONTINUED*



band called Elephant Revival. She also taught Ben Hedman, whose father, Kit has done the photographs for her album covers and promotional materials.

“Teaching and doing lessons is very rewarding to me. Today, I have approximately 25 students ranging from 4 - 70 years old. Many of them are successfully competing at the national level, which is really great,” Katie says.

Katie Glassman & Snapshot features fiddle, accordion, piano, guitar, upright bass

and three-part vocal harmony. “Our sound is a western swing that’s like Rosemary Clooney and Billy Holiday meet Lyle Lovett and Asleep at the Wheel,” Katie explains.

Dream a Little Dream can be purchased starting March 4th through her website www.katieglassman.com as well as on through iTunes and CD Baby. If you purchase the album directly from her website, Katie will personally autograph the CD! ✨

CRITICS RAVE ABOUT KATIE GLASSMAN:

[Colorado Public Radio interview >>](#)

[All About Jazz review >>](#)



Katie Glassman & Snapshot’s first album, “Dream A Little Dream” will be available on March 4th!

Album release party — Saturday, March 29th at Dazzle Jazz Club in Denver (9th and Lincoln).

Shows @ 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm



SIGN UP & CONNECT

Please visit the [Alumni Page](#) of The Denver Waldorf School website to fill out your **Alumni Contact Form**.

Just a few bits of information will help us know how to stay in touch with you with all the special updates and events for Alumni.

Alumni Profile: Terrill Legueri '01

By Molly Burke
Community Development Coordinator

FOUNDER OF ORIGINAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER, *WOOD, WOOL & WAX*



As a doctoral student in Political Philosophy and high school history teacher, Terrill Legueri '01 knows a thing or two about the importance of accurately recording the past. So when we stated in the November issue that this was the first effort to organize an Alumni Association, Terrill gently reminded us of an important point in DWS Alumni history – the 2005 publication of the original Alumni newsletter, *Wood, Wool & Wax*.

“I felt that Alumni really wanted to see what everyone was up to, so when Kristi Frahm [the Development Director at the time] approached me about putting something formal together, I took on the challenge,” Terrill recalls.

Currently in her second year of teaching philosophy, literature and history to 10th graders at the Mesa Preparatory Academy in Phoenix Arizona, Terrill draws on the storytelling skills she learned at DWS to engage her students.

“The ability to tell a good story is an essential skill for a teacher, because it makes your message compelling and meaningful for the students,” she says. When she completes her doctorate, Terrill hopes to one day bring

this skill to a career as a college professor.

Terrill has long believed that DWS Alumni bring a historical perspective that can be highly valuable to strategic planning for the school’s future. She helped create an Alumni seat on the Board of Trustees and served for a year.

“I was only 22 when I was serving on the board. It was sometimes a bit intimidating and humbling – sitting in a room with what felt like a bunch of philosophers! I had to gain their respect,” Terrill noted.

“It was a really interesting time to be involved, because the school was deciding whether to keep the high school.” After Terrill’s year term ended, the alumni seat was filled by David Oppenheim. The Board is now actively looking to fill the Alumni seat.

Terrill came to DWS in first grade in 1989 from Parzival Shield. In 2001, her graduating class had just 8 students. “In 9th grade, I left DWS and went to public school for less than a year.” Terrill remembers.

“I thought I wanted something a bit different after being with the same people for 8 years. It was a bigger school a different social scene. But in the end the classes just didn’t inspire me, so I came right back to DWS and really enjoyed my high school experience.”



Junior Class production of *Our Town*, 1999-2000.

Continued on page 7 >

Watch Terrill talk about what makes The Denver Waldorf School special >>



TERRILL LEGUERI, *CONTINUED*

Terrill attended Grinnell College in Iowa and received a bachelor's degree in Political Science. "When I went to college I took as many different kinds of classes as I could. When the time came to pick a major, Poly Sci just made sense, since it matched my activism for the environment, human rights and mental health awareness."



Terrill and the radical cheerleading group perform for the Feminist Action Group during Love Your Body Week at Grinnell College

In college, Terrill also became a leader of a radical Cheerleading organization. "We were 'on-call' to support campaigns for social justice and other important causes. We came up with these great routines that really helped to communicate the group's message."

One of her fondest memories of her time at DWS was that of Mr. Baker and his water gun. "Mr. Baker always had some new, silly nickname for me – Pterodactyl, Terrible – and he would drive by the coffee shop in his car and ambush us with that darn water gun! On the last day of school one year, there was a school wide water fight. We all tried to team up against Mr. Baker, but no matter what we did, he always seemed to have the upper hand."

Terrill hopes that the Alumni Association continues to grow and becomes strong. "There is no place like The Denver Waldorf School. I hope that every Alum joins in as part of the association and helps to support the school well into the future." ✨

Terrill shared these photos with us from Mr. Fordham's 1st Grade class, circa 1989-90:



[Check out the original issues of Wood, Wool & Wax on the Alumni Association](#)



SHARE YOUR STORY

**New job? New degree?
Marriage or Civil Union?
Children? Big move?
Exciting adventure?**

**Send your updates to
communicate@denverwaldorf.org**



Make *Strides for Stars* at the 4th Annual Walkathon & Mayfest

By Matt "Woody" Woodhull, Development Coordinator

It's that time of the year again -- find those running shoes and start stretching your legs, because *Strides for Stars* is right around the corner. On Saturday May 3rd, 2014, The Denver Waldorf School will host its 4th annual *Strides for Stars at Mayfest* event in Cheesman Park. The day will include food, games, music, theater, and of course, Alumni, friends and family.

Strides for Stars will kick off with a 5k fun run in the morning and walkathon throughout the day, all within Cheesman Park. Walk a lap for the teacher who got you through 1st to 8th grade, walk a lap for that wooden spoon made in woodshop you still use, or walk a lap so that future students can benefit from the Waldorf curriculum.

Make your mark in the fundraising competition between individuals as well as teams. The Alumni Association is full of potential team members and already has a competitive advantage in this regard! Forming an alumni team is a great opportunity to reconnect before the weekend's events even begin. If anyone is interested in starting a team please reach out to mattwoodhull@denverwaldorf.org for more information.

Who: Alumni Families
What: 5K, Walkathon & Fun filled day in the park
Why: Celebrate & Support The Denver Waldorf School
Where: Cheesman Park
When: Saturday, May 3

Join in the Maypole dance, get your face painted, grab some lunch, or sit back and enjoy the 7th Grade play all the while enjoying the company of the DWS community. Alongside the 5k and walkathon, *Mayfest* highlights lessons and activities derived from the Waldorf curriculum for everyone to enjoy.

Strides for Stars at Mayfest is one of The Denver Waldorf School's largest fundraisers of the year. No matter how you choose to participate, don't miss this year's event – it's sure to be a great day in the park!

Visit stridesforstars.denverwaldorf.org to get started!



Spring Alumni Events

Alumni Happy Hour & Senior Class Play

Grab a drink and a bite to eat with Alumni friends at Patsy's Inn and then enjoy the Class of 2014's performance of *You Can't Take It With You* at the Bug Theatre!

When: Thursday, March 6th

Happy Hour @ 5:30 pm | Performance @ 7:00 pm

Where: Patsy's Inn, 3651 Navajo Street

& the Bug Theatre, 3645 Navajo Street

Who: DWS Alumni, Former Students and Families



DWS Alumni Gathering at the Richtofen Castle

Join DWS teachers, Alumni and Alumni families for a fun evening visiting with old friends and classmates!

Robert Jesperson, Sylvia Atencio-Jesperson, and Molly Warga '03 are hosting a gathering for The Denver Waldorf School Alumni Association at their home, the historic Richtofen Castle in Denver.

When: Friday May 2 @ 6:30 pm.

Where: The Richtofen Castle, 7020 E. 12th Avenue, Denver

Who: DWS Alumni, Former Students and Families

Casual attire

RSVP to Ben Drotar, develop@denverwaldorf.org or 303-777-0531 ext. 107



Get involved >

With your help, our Alumni Association can become a thriving community of individuals who share the common bond of a Waldorf education. We welcome your ideas and participation!

> Become a Class Representative

Do you stay in touch with former classmates? Would you consider working together to gather contact information and stories to share with the Alumni Association? Contact Ben Drotar, Development Director, at develop@denverwaldorf.org to get started.

> Share Your News

Send us information about your personal or professional news so that our community can celebrate with you. Send your photos, announcements and news to share to communicate@denverwaldorf.org

> Find us on the web

Please visit the [Alumni Page](#) of The Denver Waldorf School website to fill out your Alumni Contact Form. Just a few bits of information will help us know how to keep you up-to-date about news and events for Alumni.



MISSION

Founded on Rudolf Steiner's humanitarian curriculum, The Denver Waldorf School awakens and inspires students' critical thinking, emotional intelligence and artistic expression, preparing them to bring relevant contributions to the world.

VISION

The focus of our work is the development of the whole human being. To further this aim, we strive to provide a beautiful, cohesive campus that radiates learning, working and playing while attracting and expanding full and diverse enrollment supported by abundant resources. We enthusiastically work and serve in the world community as stewards of social renewal.

