

Alumni and Friends Newsletter November 2024



Moon over Putney, November 7, 2024. Photo credit Lynne Weinstein

Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

Thursday morning, November 7, the school came together to sing. We do this every Thursday. Students and faculty filed in after milk lunch. We sat in a circle, in community, seeing each others' faces in the late morning light. Jenna Rae, one of our music directors, stood in the center of our circle. She reminded us of the power of music, and of the importance of art, not just as cornerstones of the Putney experience, but of our humanity.

We sang. Our hearts lifted as our voices rang, and squeaked, and lost and found the beat. We came together in singing, as we have always done at Putney. The voices of the generations—your voices—were with us in that space, too. Thank you for being a part of this community and for the ways you stay connected to the school and to each other. May we all continue to feel this connection, deeply.

Dona nobis pacem.

The Sing Book: What Are We Singing, and Why?



Speaking of Sing. The Sing book has taken many shapes over the years, and alumni from different generations have their own version of it in their minds. Co-Music Director Jenna Rae is asking the important question of whether the book in its current form reflects Putney's community and values as understood in 2024.

Jenna has created a survey and will spend a year or two asking these questions, listening to your

responses, and crafting a Sing book that does indeed reflect our whole community. In her words, it will be "multifaceted enough to have something to offer everyone in a way that appreciates our diversity."

Alumni are invited and encouraged to join this conversation. You can [fill out this Google form](#) which lists all of the songs in the current book, and vote for whether they should stay or go. You can also reach out to Jenna directly at jrae@putneyschool.org if you have specific thoughts to share, and/or would like to be more involved in this process. Jenna says, "I hope very much to also add to our collection of songs, both to add to the book, and through other means of media, so if you have suggestions, please be a part of this conversation."

Faculty Art Exhibition on Display Through December 9



Tim Ellis

Courage to Try: Postcards from Uncle Eddie, 2024

Maple, peastone

12"x12"

The English department chair builds furniture. A science teacher crafts necklaces. The rowing coach paints vivid, captivating scenes from his native Uganda. The math teacher upcycles and sews her own camping gear. Our art faculty show you their chops. And more.

Following the (literally) electric Johnny Swing '80 show last month, the Michael S. Currier Center Gallery now bursts with the colors of the school's faculty. A broad spectrum of creativity jumps out at you—subtlety begs for quiet contemplation, grief and joy are on display, and fine

woodwork begs to be touched.

It's worth a trip to campus to see this faculty art show, which is on display through December 9. Thank you to the 20+ faculty whose work make the show possible, and to Lynne Weinstein, who curates our exhibitions.

Dan Crotty '12 Named Obama Foundation Scholar

Dan Crotty '12 was recently named an [Obama Foundation Scholar at the University of Chicago](#). Dan works with two local non-profits—Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center and Chicago Therapy and Wellness—that focus providing on basic human needs, including food, shelter, housing, and employment—to marginalized communities.

From the Obama Foundation website, "Dan aims to leverage the Scholars program to learn how to responsibly engage local communities and navigate



existing systems to enhance access to free, low-cost, and accessible mental health care, particularly in underserved areas like the South and West Sides of Chicago."

The Obama Scholars program "empowers individuals with a proven commitment to service with the tools they need to make their efforts more effective, to identify innovative

solutions to complex global problems, and promote change through values-based leadership."

Congratulations, Dan, and thank you for doing this important work.

Step Inside Putney's New Dorms



Both of Putney's new dorms are open and housing 40+ students and four faculty families total. They were the most sought-after dorm request for student housing this year, and students' excitement for them is clear. Last spring, residents of the Sarah and Geoffrey Gund House (called Gund House by the students) gave us a video tour of their new space. Their shared sense of responsibility as early inhabitants set a high bar of care for the dorms, and is lovely to behold. [Take a few minutes to enjoy the tour.](#)

Since the dorms' openings (and since making the video), students have taken ownership of adding art to the common spaces, plants to the common rooms, and other touches that make the dorms truly feel like home.

Hepper House and the Sarah and Geoffrey Gund house have transformed the Putney experience for their residents. We are grateful for the generosity of our

lead donors and all the people who stretched to make the construction of these dorms possible. As we work to raise the remaining funds necessary to fully pay for the dorms, we encourage you to consider helping Putney reach that finish line. Please [reach out to the development team](#) if you'd like to partner with Putney to help complete this project.

"The Soprano Lucy Shelton Makes Waves in Opera at 80"

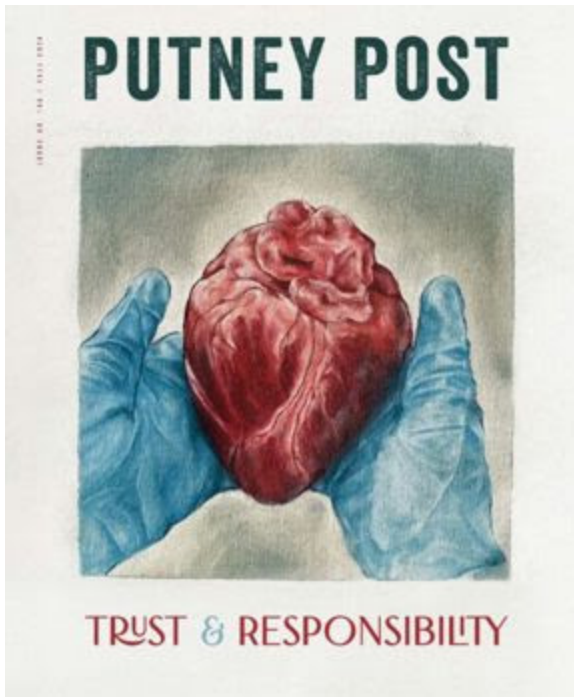


Ahmed Gaber for the *New York Times*

The *New York Times* ran a feature story on Lucy Shelton '61 just yesterday. Lucy will star in the world premiere of "Lucidity," which opens tomorrow at the Abrons Arts Center. An excerpt from the article is below, and you can [read the full story online](#).

"On Thursday, Shelton, 80, takes center stage at the Abrons Arts Center in the world premiere of "Lucidity," an opera about identity and dementia, composed by Laura Kaminsky, with a libretto by David Cote. With a score that calls for a multitude of expressive registers, including floated lyricism and sprechstimme, musically notated recitation, the work is tailored to Shelton's undiminished dramatic strengths. It's also a testament to her continuing dedication to her craft."

Fall 2024 Putney Post Available Online



Most people reading this email have already received the print copy of the fall Putney Post. For those who prefer to read it online, [the issue is now available here](#).

Password? The password for the alumni notes, as always, is elmsaver.

Next deadline? If you'd like to [send an alumni note](#) for our spring 2025 issue, the deadline is January 21. We would be happy to hear from you.

Update your information? If you are not receiving the Post, or would like to go paperless, you can [update your information here](#).

Putney Events and Alumni Connections



Above: Putney alumni and friends gather over great pizza at Robert's Pizza and Dough Company in Chicago

We hope to see alumni and parents on the road (and here on campus) in the coming months. You can find full event details and RSVP at putneyschool.org/alumni

Shanghai

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Beijing

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The events in Shanghai and Beijing will be from 6–8 p.m., with admissions events preceding at 5 p.m. Find full event details at putneyschool.org/alumni

Tokyo

Natsuko Seto '03 will be organizing a Putney event in Tokyo sometime around the new year. She is also helping to launch ongoing Putney alumni group in Japan. Natsuko hopes to enable members of the group to contact each other when necessary and organize events when Putney people visit Japan from abroad. If you are interested in attending an event and/or being a part of a Putney alumni group in Japan (including Japanese students who live elsewhere), feel free to [reach out to Natsuko](#). She would love to hear from you.

Young Alumni Professional Networking Events

Boston and New York City

First week in April

Putney will once again join a group of New England schools for two professional networking evening events. Last year's events were Putney's first opportunity to join, and we look forward to expanding the number of alumni who attend, and the industries represented. We are especially excited to bring arts, theater, culinary arts, and fashion into the conversation. If you're interested in representing Putney and leading a roundtable conversation about your work in any industry, [we'd love to hear from you](#).

Reunion

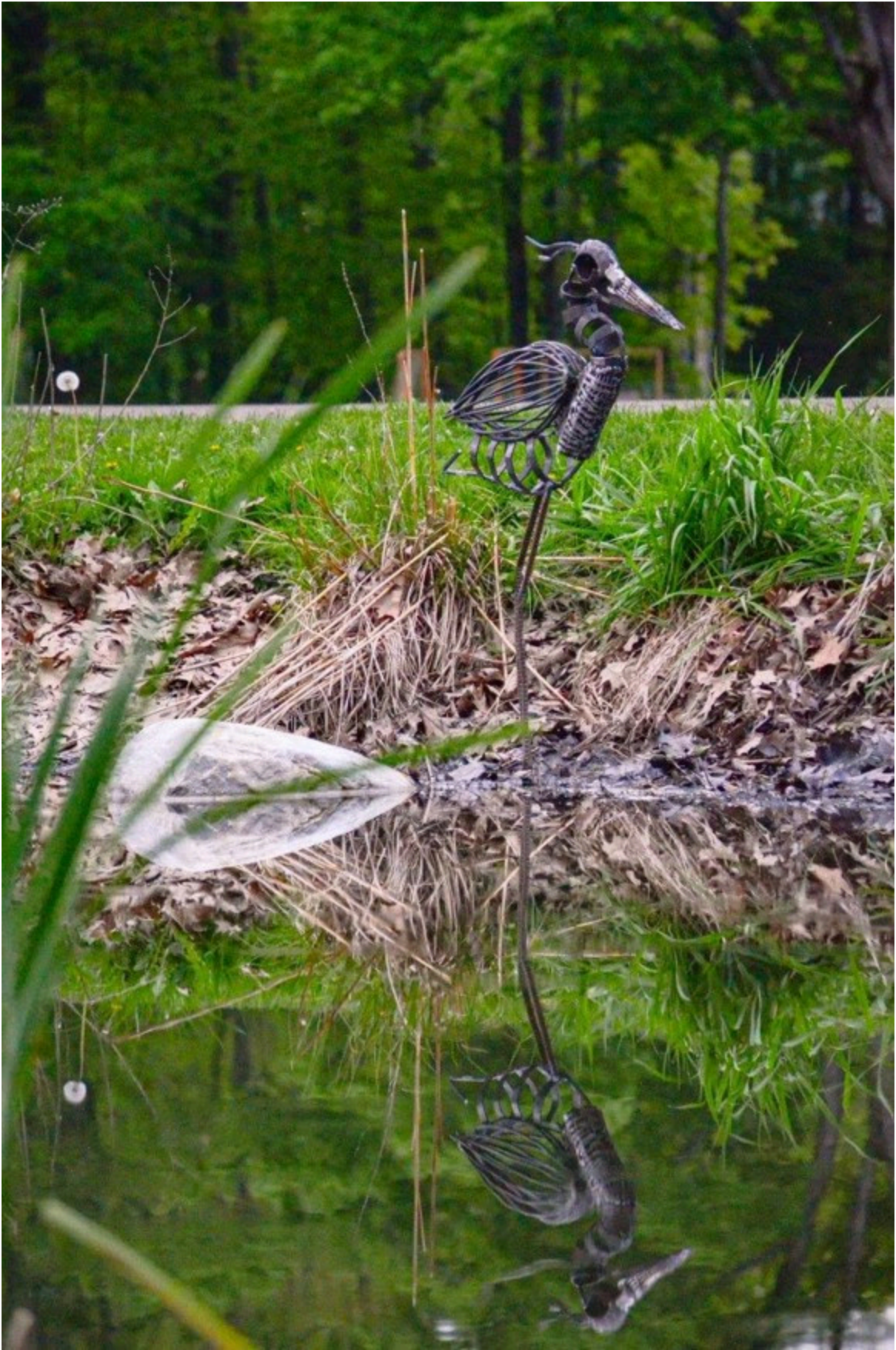
June 6-8, 2025

Classes of 65-66, 75, 90-91, 99-02, 08-10

Registration opens April 1, 2025

[Reunion website](#)

Student Art Around Campus



Calem '27
Blue Heron, 2024
Steel

Calem '27 took his first metal working class as a ninth grader in the fall of 2023. Nine months later, he created this heron sculpture in his Sculpture 2 academic class. Watch out, fish. Blue Heron is watching you.



Stay in touch:

Please use this [link to update](#) your information and preferences with The Putney School.
[We welcome your feedback.](#)



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