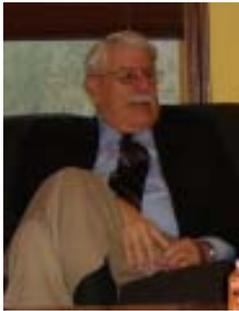


Wellsprings Friends School

Autumn, 2006

Inspiring Consultant Visits

by Dennis Hoerner, School Head



From October 22nd through the 27th, Wellsprings was blessed with the charming and insightful presence of William D. Ravdin, a consultant from Philadelphia who assists smaller Friends schools, at no charge other than expenses. During a very full week, Bill visited classes and talked with students and staff. He met with Trustees, with parents, and also with members of the Eugene Friends Meeting (EFM) and the Eugene Mennonite Church (our gracious landlords).

Trustee Hanna Still was impressed by Bill's "profound leadership." She notes that "each session was geared spiritually, insightfully, to the group assembled... Bill has incredible ability to guide each group to the central focus of concern for that gathering."

At the EFM gathering, Bill observed how unique Wellsprings is among Quaker high schools, with our deep focus on the needs of students who have 'fallen through the cracks' of the public school system. As Trustee and EFM member Sakre Edson reports, Bill also shared some stories of how Wellsprings teachers touch kids' lives, and quoted a parent who said that Wellsprings "saves families" not just kids. During his meeting with a small group of parents, Bill asked them to say what Wellsprings means to them in a word. The responses: 'empowerment,' 'included,' 'self-esteem,' 'outstanding,' 'gift'; 'compassion and acceptance'; 'respect, freedom, responsibility.'

Bill's background is much more extensive than I can summarize here, but some highlights are: his decades of service on a half-dozen nonprofit Boards; service on the Finance, Membership, and Development committees of the Friends Council on Education; and many years of *pro bono* consulting with Friends schools. He has extensive experience in all aspects of fund raising including annual giving, capital campaigns, foundation grants and proposals, constituent relations, and development office management, as well as in Board development and strategic and financial planning.

Bill will be back for another visit in the early spring. Just as he repeatedly referred to Wellsprings as "extraordinary," so the Wellsprings folk who spent time with Bill found him to be extraordinary in the depth and grace of his leadership. We are very grateful to Bill, and very excited as we walk together towards the unfolding future of Wellsprings Friends School.

Event Calendar

November

4

ManiFest III

15

Thanksgiving Dinner

17

OMSI Assembly
'Snakes Alive'

20

Family Night

23-24

Thanksgiving Break

29

A Christmas Carol
Hult Center

December

15

Holiday Party

18-2

Winter Break

January

3

Classes Resume

29

Community Service



Sounding Off

by Max Headley ('08)

James Napoli is a nice guy. Short and scruffy, but nice. He went to Ithaca College in the state of York, the New one. He got his BA in Music with a Minor in Anthropology there. After college, James worked for a year at Cornell University as an audio archivist. Cornell is home to the world's largest natural sounds library, from crickets to whales, squirrels to lions. Now, James is a teacher at Wellsprings Friends School. A Science teacher, to be exact. When not listening to the calls of the wild, James spends his Monday and Wednesday afternoons teaching "Breaking the Sound Barrier," a class on the physics of sound. A class with the intended purpose to "teach the basics of sound, have a good time, and blow up some stuff." So far this year James's students have learned how sound waves work, what decibels and amplitudes are, how a Tuvan throat-sings,

disassembled and reassembled speakers, discussed the healing properties of sounds, seen a speaker system with enough power to rip itself apart, and more. The class has plans to look at the future of sonic weaponry and to take a trip to the Hult Center to get a firsthand feel of the acoustical properties of a really, really big room.

James's ability to keep the class on topic and to connect abstractions to everyday life is a precious commodity in a school filled with independents like Wellsprings. The students attending the class find it to be a cornucopia of information, and the positive atmosphere is conducive to learning. I wonder what we're gonna talk about next class. Whatever it is, maybe it can fix my headache from all the loud noises.

Versatile Yancey

by Tina McMurrin ('07)



September 10th marked the fourth anniversary of Yancey DeYoung being the Wellsprings Office Manager. After several years of being the Education Coordinator at the Center for Appropriate Transport, she decided to make a change. She explains, "I found that Wellsprings' philosophy aligns with mine almost exactly. I was very excited to be asked to work somewhere that I could immediately support. How they treat students, staff and the community is fantastic."

The job description for Yancey is pages long, which is one thing she likes about the job. "I get a chance to vary my work day: work at the desk, do dishes, do some bookkeeping, do building repair, just to name a few. It keeps my day interesting and definitely busy." She also teaches one class per term, usually Personal Finance, Yearbook or a history class that focuses on

minorities in the United States.

Yancey is one of the six fulltime staff at Wellsprings and feels like her position gives her many ways to support the school. "I really get a chance to offer my strengths to this community. I am fortunate to have an opportunity to help create a school community that truly serves students. I couldn't ask for anything better."

Observes school Head and office mate, Dennis, "Yancey's versatility and commitment make her an essential part of the Wellsprings community. Students love to talk and joke around with her. Teachers deeply appreciate her reliability to meet their requests for classroom supplies, student transcripts, and the like, not to mention the occasional latte."

Volunteers Make all the Difference

My Experience at Wellsprings

by Robert Jacobucci

As a retired physicist, I was working as a volunteer through the Foster Grandparent Program. My first assignment had been teaching at the John Serbu Youth Facility working with at-risk students on probation or parole, helping them graduate, get jobs, and perhaps go onto college. After a year and a half of that challenging work, I thought I would try a change of pace and I began looking into the area's alternative schools. After an enjoyable conversation with Dennis Hoerner, it sounded like teaching at

Wellsprings might be a pleasant experience. So, I signed up. Little did I know that I was about to embark on a most unexpected and exciting adventure!

“Robert knows so much about everything! He is great to have around.”

-Jordan ('09)

Wellsprings is unlike any school I had attended in my own youth. Having grown up in the mainstream school systems of the 1950's, Wellsprings presented me with a new view in the possibilities of education. From their “Morning Circle” where the entire school gathers to discuss and share topics of mutual concern, to the stimulating settings of the classroom, I found myself learning more each day about life, education, and most importantly, the character of today's youth. There was much more being required of me than just teaching science and math!

Having read A.S. Neill's Summerhill in my college days, the ideals of a truly student-oriented school had remained with me as only a noteworthy “theory”—until Wellsprings. Here many of these lively principles are put into daily practice—with inspiring results! I find myself on my toes discovering and learning every day, making my own education at Wellsprings surprisingly intensive. I hope that the students have learned as much from me as I learned from being in their company!

They're a great bunch of kids, and it is a heartwarming boost to my spirit to be greeted every morning with a sincere chorus of “Good Morning, Robert.” Likewise, it has been a delightful privilege to work in the company of capable and caring educators.

I am a much better person for having contributed, even in my own small way, to this vibrant community. I was fortunate to be a genuine part of an extended family where learning, sharing, and caring are the standard fare. This worthwhile endeavor left me with the unmistakable feeling that this is the essence of life. Thank you, Wellsprings.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all our volunteers for their generous contribution of time in the classroom.

Janet Kollstrom for her knitting expertise!

Craig Costello for the work on the mod, in the office and substituting as needed!

Mary Moffat for her work in art class!

Sam Smith for being rock solid in math and bagels!

Lawrence Siskind for his interest and involvement in classes!

Robert Jacobucci for his input, dance and ping-pong!

A Musical, Magical Meal

by Hanna Still

Food is a cultural product; it cannot be produced by technology alone... a healthy culture is a communal order of memory, insight, value, work, conviviality, reverence, aspiration... It clarifies our inescapable bonds to the earth and to each other.

—Wendell Berry,

The Unsettling of America



On October 20th, members of the Wellsprings community were able to once again recreate the magic of Wellsprings Friends School at the Morning Glory Cafe in an evening that truly exemplified the spirit articulated in those words of nature loving poet/author Wendell Berry.

Parents entertained with calming Middle Eastern music from 5:30 to 7:30pm. At the second seating, students from the “Singing/Songwriting” class performed—for the first time—their original songs, and were enthusiastically applauded. Following them, two teachers and their fellow band members entertained. Cheers for all the musicians, especially the brave students!

Ten students from Wellsprings volunteered their time and energy to make the night a success, half of them working as kitchen helpers and half as servers. A week after the dinner I asked several students how they felt about working at high speed for four hours. Their replies: “Actually, it was quite exhilarating; made me think I might be able to get a restaurant job before long; it was satisfying to feel competent.” “We all seemed to know good people manners.” “All the guests were kind and friendly, which made the time go very fast.”

That evening, in the middle of carrying several plates laden with dinners to customers, a serving student passed by one of the Wellsprings Trustees. Without even slowing her pace, the student said to the Board member, “It is absolutely amazing all you do for us; we are so grateful to you!”

There were no lonely strangers amongst the dense gathering of Wellsprings Friends School supporters around tightly packed tables in the cozy restaurant. We were united in an inescapable bond one to another, fed by loving chef Gail’s hands, served by radiant young students, inspired by youthful com-



posers, and absorbed into the transforming spirit of Wellsprings fellowship.

We especially offer our thanks to Gail and Katya, owners of Morning Glory, whose son Colin graduated last June after four satisfying years at Wellsprings. Though their son is no longer a student here, they created one more Benefit Dinner out of their love and appreciation for the school. As a result, the Wellsprings treasury came \$1,800 closer to the budgeted goal of raising \$39,500 before June 30th.



ManiFest III: Feed the Demon! **Dedicated to Mani Shimada (1987-2003)**

by James Fox and Miya Shimada

What a powerful night we had at ManiFest! Despite the rain, about three hundred people, including many from the WFS community, gathered at the WOW Hall on November 4 for a night of wild music and a celebration of Mani's life and spirit.

The show opened with Necryptic from Eugene. Necryptic knew Mani, and their set soared into the stratosphere. Next came the well-known local metal band, In the Name of God. They played wildly and generously dedicated a song to Mani and even to us, his parents. Exhausted Prayer, who came all the way from L.A., followed them. They were the highlight of the show. The music was fast, loud, and expansive. The mosh pit was crazily wild. Then, Tormentium, which includes Mani's friends, concluded this year's ManiFest. They tore it up.



We tried to envision this year's ManiFest as an opportunity to recognize our own demons. We wanted to look into the possibility of feeding our demons rather than fighting them, so that we could turn them into allies. Were we able to do it? We will let everyone who attended be the judge of this. What we know is that the whole night at the WOW Hall was positive. Something was happening.

It was also so satisfying to see that ManiFest is becoming a place where people can unite and many of us from the Wellsprings community can reunite. Members of the larger Eugene community were able to interact with and meet our students and parents. Students who graduated from Wellsprings several years ago came to the event and saw old classmates and met many of our new students as well. Our bonds were widened and strengthened.



We would like to express our warm appreciation to all who supported ManiFest. All of the success of ManiFest comes from your kindness! We hope that ManiFest will grow every year and continue to be a reminder of courage, compassion, and community bonds.

Mani's parents, Miya and James

Listen to Freedom

by Ayashe Ruiz ('10)

My mind, body, and soul, tell me to run,
run and never look back,
run so hard and so fast that nothing
can stop me,
to go bare foot, to run non stop,
but I can't,
I can't just abandon my family,
so I have to tuck it deep down,
far away,

I have to hide it,
try to lock it up,
make it so it can't get away,
try to bury it,
I have to stay here,
try to hid it for another year a month
a day however long it will stay,
and maybe next time I'll be able to listen...
...listen to the freedom.

Ways to Support Wellsprings....

- ✓ **Volunteers** provide much needed assistance around the school. Contact Yancey if you have some time to offer and would like to find out how you can help.
- ✓ **Financial Contributions** are welcome anytime, but in particular twice a year, fall and spring, we appeal to the friends and supporters of Wellsprings to open their wallets as well as their hearts. General fund financial support from the community is *essential* for the continuation of our work.
- ✓ **Stock Transfers** Several contributors to Wellsprings find this to be one of the most attractive ways to give to the school. We have a DTC account whereby we can receive any amount of stock, small or large. If you risk a large capital gains tax by selling stock, it may be an advantage to donate your stock to Wellsprings, a non-profit organization, for the tax deduction. Contact Trustee and Treasurer, Hanna Still, at 541-345-5588 for details.
- ✓ **The Mani Shimada Memorial Fund** was set up to honor a well-loved student who died suddenly in 2003 from bacterial meningitis. A designated portion of the fund is available each year to support on-going Wellsprings projects. To contribute this way, your check should be made out to the school with "Shimada Memorial Fund" in the memo line.
- ✓ **Automatic Monthly Payments** You can easily arrange for a regular payment of a specified sum to be made to Wellsprings on the day of your choice. Just contact your financial institution.
- ✓ **Donated Items** from pens and pencils to couches to sports equipment, etc., are always appreciated. Call the office if you have something to give that you think we might be able to use.

In addition, did you know that you can automatically have contributions sent to us when you shop?! It's all done electronically, and *there is no cost to you*. The following programs are easy to use and benefit Wellsprings with little effort.

eScrip: After registering your credit, debit or store cards with eScrip, each time you use those cards at participating merchants, Wellsprings will receive a percentage of your spending. You can register at www.escrip.com.

Albertsons sponsors local schools through their Community Partnership program. Simply register the school code through your preferred savings card at www.albertsons.com.

Washington Mutual has a program called WaMoola for Schools. Please contact a representative of Washington Mutual if you are a member to sign up for this program.

I would like to support Wellsprings Friends School right now! Please accept my tax-deductible check for the amount of \$_____.

Name _____

Mail donations to:

Address _____

Wellsprings Friends School
3590 W. 18th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wellsprings Friends School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible.