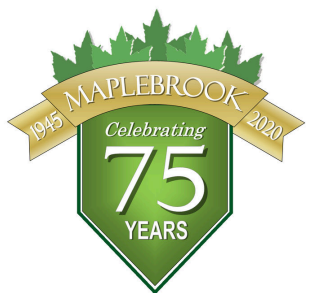


# *Carpe Diem*

75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

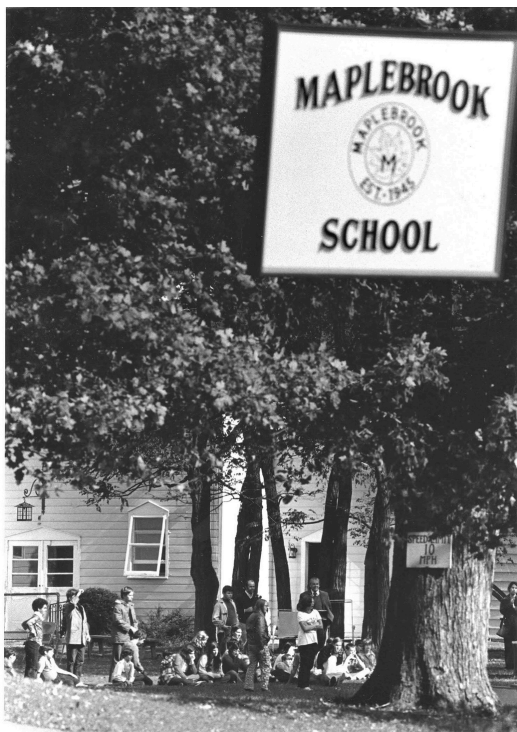


1945-2020



# Maplebrook School

## 75 Years Rooted in Education and Tradition



Our story is the story of generations of students, educators, and families who believe in the power of a Maplebrook education to transform lives—and who give heart and voice to our guiding principles: to create a community which values the individual, nourishes trust and confidence, promotes respect and understanding, encourages participation and helps build character.

This year, as we mark our 75th anniversary, we celebrate our educational roots; our abiding ties to Amenia and the Hudson Valley; and the thousands of lives Maplebrook has touched and changed since 1945.

Here are 75 stories, a mere sampling of the people, places, objects, gifts, discoveries, ideals, and events that have shaped—and been shaped by—one of the premier boarding schools for students who learn differently. Taken together, they provide a sense of Maplebrook's history and influence. They link generations past and present. And they point us toward the stories of wisdom, learning, service, and character that will continue to define us in the years and decades to come.

***Maplebrook was a relief for all of us in that here was an institution that understood and was designed to help each child to develop to his/her best potential. ~ Jim Perry, former parent***

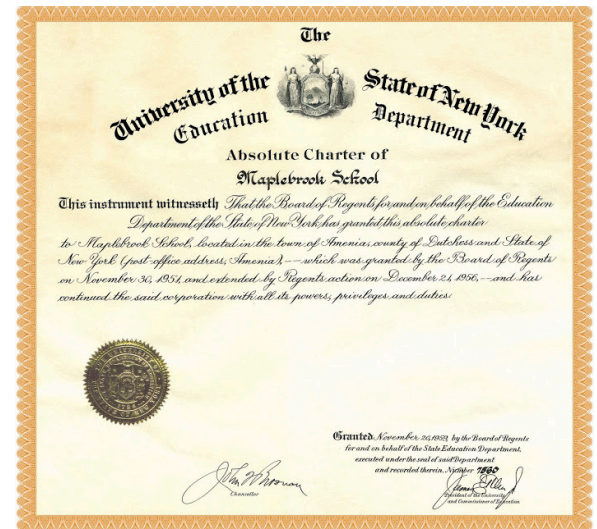


# The Genesis of Maplebrook: Origin Stories

1. **Secret/Viewpoint School** ~ In the 1930s, the hamlet of Amenia was home to a religious retreat for Christian Scientists called Secret. From that emerged a boarding school where prestigious families could send their children to escape a fate similar to the Lindberghs.
2. **Thompson Farm** ~ The current site for Maplebrook, Ed Thompson leased his chicken farm from Rex Armin, brother of Sunny Barlow, one of the founders.
3. **Second Boarding School for Learning Disabilities in NY** ~ Once the transformation from the Thompson Farm to Maplebrook School began, it became only the second private boarding school in New York state for students with learning challenges, joining The Gow School in suburban Buffalo.
4. **First Charter** ~ In 1951, the process began and a provisional charter from the Board of Regents was granted and allowed the school to award high school diplomas.
5. **Early Curriculum** ~ Maplebrook School was more than just book learning. In addition to reading, writing and mathematics, weekly classes consisted of posture and charm, conversations, and ballroom dancing. The emphasis on manners was evident and lasts into today.
6. **First Students** ~ Eight boarding students made up the first class to be educated at Maplebrook. This class included Johnny Merck, son of one of the founders, Serena Merck.



Viewpoint School students concentrating on their lessons



Maplebrook School Charter



Rex Armin in his office at Viewpoint



The Thompson Home

***I can't get over how beautiful this place looks and what wonderful opportunities for service are manifested at Maplebrook. ~ Sunny Barlow, Founder***

# Maplebrook's Amenia & the Surrounding Community

7. **Lake Amenia** ~ In July 1927, Frank and Walter Beekman opened the Lake Amenia development and called it "New York's Vacationland" for the wealthy of New York City. The time of the stock market collapse two years later failed to spare fanciful lake resorts such as this. All that is left is a stream and a road named after the resort area.

8. **Metro North Railroad** ~ In the early 1900s, the train carried students to and from the Amenia Seminary and Millerton high school in addition to providing a shipping mechanism for Borden Condensed Milk. The early railroad used iron for railroad construction and equipment as well as transporting pig iron from the Gridley Ironworks in Wassaic, NY.

9. **Borden Condensed Milk Factory** ~ In 1861, Gail Borden established his first large factory for condensed milk in Wassaic. Condensed milk produced here was supplied to the Union Army during the Civil War. It was manufactured under the name "Eagle Brand Condensed Milk" and is still sold today.

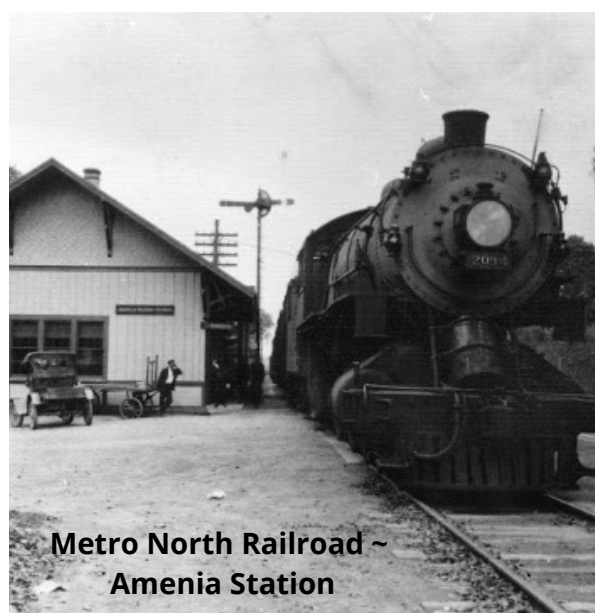
10. **Indian Rock Schoolhouse** ~ In 1858, a small barn was donated to the newly created School District 3. Blackboards were installed, a wood stove, desks and windows were added, and a teacher was hired. The children learned their ABCs there until 1927 when all the "common schools" of the area were centralized in the towns of Amenia and Millerton.

11. **Four Brothers Restaurant** ~ The Stefanopoulos brothers emigrated from Greece in the early 1970s. In 1976, the famous Greek salad dressing recipe was formulated and Four Brothers Pizza Inn was a huge success. A main staple for Amenia and her visitors, it has become a right of passage for all in the Maplebrook community to dine there when in town.

12. **May's Restaurant** ~ 1988 was the year Maplebrook dabbled in the food service industry. May's Ristorante was conceived as a source of income and a training site for students in the postsecondary program, but did not take off with the local community. On more than one occasion, Michael J. Fox would stop in for a meal from his home in Sharon, CT.

13. **Amenia Lion's Club** ~ The Amenia Lions was established in 1948. The LEO Club, a youth branch of the Lions, was established at Maplebrook to begin introducing our students to a life of serving others.

14. **ThinkDIFFERENTLY** ~ Launched by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro in 2015, the "ThinkDIFFERENTLY" initiative seeks to change the way individuals, businesses, organizations and communities relate to our neighbors with special needs. Maplebrook has been proud partners from the beginning.



FOUR  
BROTHERS  
PIZZA  
INN

An Amenia dining staple since 1976





# Voices from the Past

*At a recent meeting, I was asked what in my life did I value most, excluding my love of God, wife, children and grandchildren. Without hesitation I replied that being permitted to touch the lives of so many young people at Maplebrook. My time here had given meaning to my life and is the thing I hold most proudly in my heart. While I faced challenges and successes in other fields, they do not come close to the feeling of worthiness that I felt with the young people at Maplebrook.*

~ **Lon Adams, second Head of School**

*At a time when Brian's self-esteem was at risk, Maplebrook nurtured it and grew his sense of self-worth, his confidence and his independence. At a time when friendships and relationships matter most, Maplebrook opened that door and gave Brian friendships with students and faculty to last a lifetime.* ~ **Vicki Lemley, former parent**

*Some of my best memories of the school were graduations. Watching the students start scared and nervous in their first year blossom into more mature, self-confident people delivering a speech in front of an audience of 400 always amazes me.* ~ **Sarah Cahill, former administrative assistant**

*I enjoyed all the years I have been affiliated with Maplebrook and I am proud to say that Maplebrook has become one of the finest schools of its kind in the country.* ~ **The late Jerry Rossman, former parent/Board Chair (excerpt from The Partnership Years)**

*I fell in love with the school in the first week. Of course, I was homesick for awhile. I love Maplebrook, it's one of the finest schools there is."* ~ **The late Rick Howes, Jr. MBS '66 (excerpt from a 2003 interview)**

*At Maplebrook, the kids don't fear failure because it is not in the language of the school. My greatest hope is that Maplebrook will continue to meet the needs of students who feel left behind and unsupported.* ~ **Martha Moses, retired educational consultant**

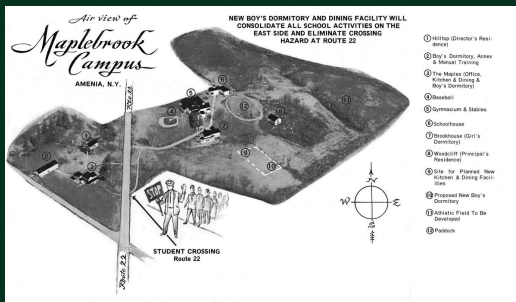
*Graduation day is my favorite day at MBS. When I enter the grounds on graduation day, I see the sense of accomplishment in the graduates faces, on the teachers faces and on the parents faces. Hearing the graduates speeches brings me so much joy and fulfillment. When I look at them I know that MBS gave them the stepping stones for a great future.* ~ **Linda Gregory, Foundation Chair and owner of Jack's Auto Service**





# Treasures from the Archives

In 75 years, Maplebrook has amassed an extraordinary collection of treasures—including maps, state documents, letters, diaries, and photographs. A treasure trove of history is available to help us make links, find facts and imagine more vividly the lives of those who came before us.



Campus map ~ 1960



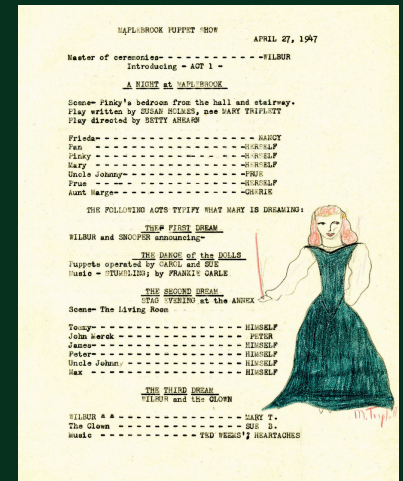
Barn prior to conversion to the Schoolhouse



Aunt Marge & Etiquette Class

"On behalf of the Alumni Association, I extend congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Maplebrook School. We are all proud to have been 'Maplebrookers'."

JOHN B. TREADWAY - '62  
President Alumni Association



Puppet Show Program ~ 1947

ALMA MATER

Our Alma Mater, to thee we raise our song,  
We'll never forget you, though the years be long,  
Our hands and minds you've nurtured and guided,  
day by day,  
Our feet you've led with kindness and set them on  
life's way.  
The Maplebrook Banner thus proudly we raise,  
With all our hearts to Maplebrook we sing our praise.

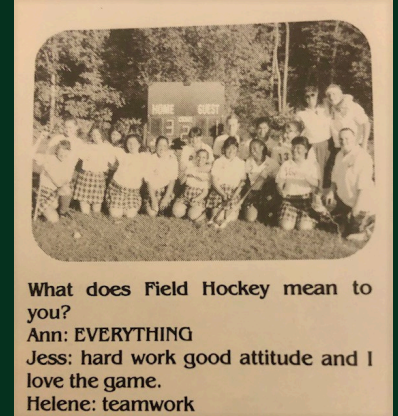
Maplebrook School Song



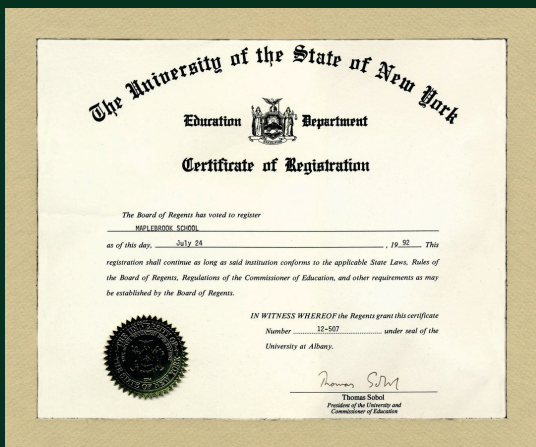
Original School Bell



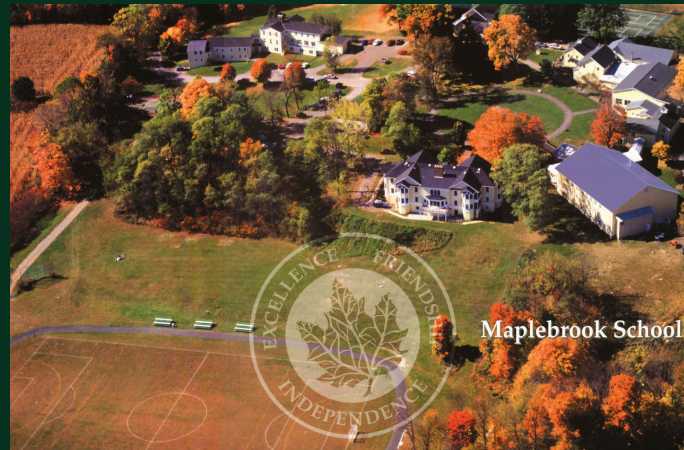
# Treasures from the Archives



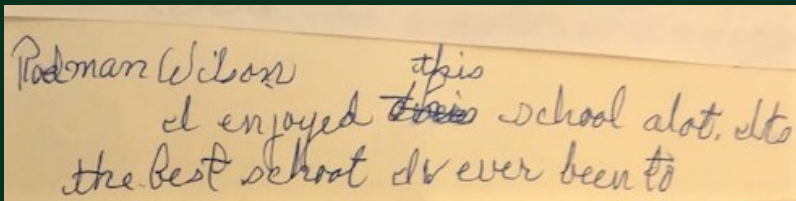
The Undefeated Field Hockey Team



Officially a New York State Registered High School



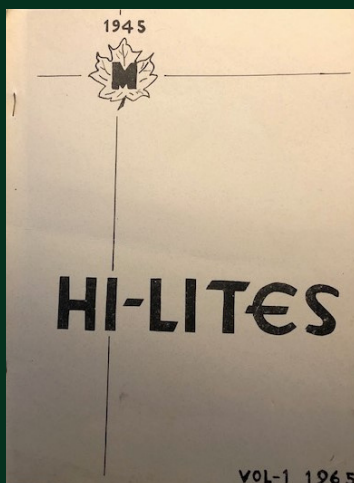
Campus Overhead ~ 1990s



Alumnus, Rodman Wilson's 1966 yearbook message



The cornerstone of Maplebrook School



The first yearbook ~ 1965



Friends visiting from K-PACE @ Daegu University, South Korea



# Lore & Lasting Traditions

15. **School Colors** ~ Green & White were the colors adopted to represent Maplebrook based on input from alumni to support the first Maplebrook Invitational Basketball Tournament.

16. **Yellow Buildings** ~ As you venture down Route 22, you cannot miss the swath of yellow buildings on both the east and west campuses of Maplebrook. In keeping with tradition, yellow was the color of the first building as a school, and to this day, all our buildings remain this bright cheery color.

17. **Grace @ Meals** ~ This has been the traditional blessing passed down for years, "Our hands we fold, our heads we bow, for food and drink, we thank you now."

18. **Etiquette Class** ~ Manners were a key component to a Maplebrook education. One Sunday a month, Marge Finger would have the girls serve tea to Sunny Barlow (founder) and others visiting for prayer group. The emphasis on manners was a carry over from Viewpoint. Weekly lessons included posture and charm, ballroom dancing and hosting skills.

19. **MillPond** ~ Named for a mill (complete with a millstone and small waterfall) and the home of Dr. Weeks, a local physician, MillPond is currently office and classroom space for the Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies Program. In the mid-'70s, Doc Weeks got a call, mid-snowstorm, to deliver a baby for one of the Maplebrook teachers. Because the snow was so deep, Doc Weeks had to walk down Route 22 to reach the campus.

20. **Mascot = Eagles** ~ Athletic Director, Richard Vassi, established the first Maplebrook Invitational Tournament (MIT) for basketball. We couldn't host other teams without proper school spirit, so in 1989, we forever became the Maplebrook Eagles.

21. **Maplebrook Prom** ~ To keep with the family-like tradition, the biggest dance of the year was meant for everyone in the school community. It was tradition for all faculty/staff, students, families and friends to converge, dressed to the nines, in the decorated gym for a night to remember. In the early '60s, each prom ended at midnight with the song, "Goodnight, Irene".



**Marjorie Finger Hall Girls' Dorm**



**Maplebrook Prom ~ 1980**



***The school is a warm and caring environment for students who need a little extra attention. The campus is homelike, which allowed for that feeling of closeness like a family. ~ Diane Cortese, former administrative assistant.***



# Places & Spaces



**Hilfiger Hall, Arts & Music Center**



**Swimming Pool ~ 1977**



**Etkin Environmental Center**

22. **Merck Chapel** ~ The Merck Chapel is a place of worship, reflection and quiet study; it serves as a house of prayer and a place of reflection for all students and staff to celebrate their religious, cultural and spiritual values.

23. **Rossman Hall & Thalheimer Hall** ~ During the Rainbow Capital Campaign, funds were raised and that is when we engaged in a bittersweet period. The demolition began and we bid farewell to the original chicken coop that had been converted to classrooms. The result was a state of the art educational complex that inspires learning even today. Rossman Hall currently houses our athletic building and academics are in full swing in Thalheimer Hall.

24. **Panichi Pool** ~ 1977 was an exciting time as the first pool was built in the middle of campus. Being one of the only schools in the area with an indoor heated pool solidified boarding school life. As Maplebrook expanded, a new natatorium became part of the Forging the Future Capital Campaign. Completed in 2017, the Panichi Pool housed in Nilsson Hall allowed for a more modern athletic complex.

25. **Art Gallery @ Maplebrook (AIM)** ~ What to do with an old pool building? Make an art gallery, of course! Through the creative expression of our Art Institute @ Maplebrook (AIM), staff have designed an amazing transformation from a pool to a museum-like space. Local artists, students from area schools and our own homegrown student artists display their creations for visitors to enjoy.

26. **Etkin Environmental Center** ~ With climate change at the forefront and to take advantage of our beautiful area of the Hudson Valley, the Etkin Environmental Center was born. Activity has been robust since 2014 that has included daily weather reports for the local radio station, providing vegetables for an incredible culinary experience in the dining hall, hiking on the 2 miles of campus trails or yoga in the yurt.

27. **Whalen Hall/Burnett Internet Café** ~ The Maplebrook administration and board envisioned more modern facilities as we moved further into the 21st century, we were afforded the opportunity for a more aesthetically pleasing dining hall. Thus, Whalen Hall came to life. Connected to Whalen Hall is the Burnett Internet Café, which is the hub of social activity on campus. Students and staff enjoy the entertaining nature of the coffee house atmosphere, dance floor, various games, movie area and even the outdoor fire pit.

*I am very proud to be affiliated with this school and what it has achieved for these very deserving young people and their families. ~ George T. Whalen, Jr., Trustee Emeritus*



# Places & Spaces Cont'd.



**Yurt ~ Outdoor Classroom**



**Swimming in the Panichi Pool**



**TLC (former Palmer House Inn)**

28. **MelBrooke/TLC** ~ Since the inception of Maplebrook, parents have struggled with future planning for their students. In the late '90s, some long-time Maplebrook parents purchased the Palmer House Inn across from the plaza in town and named the new program MelBrooke after their daughters, Melissa and Brooke. It provided a safe haven for their adults with learning challenges. As the years went on, these parents enlisted Maplebrook to manage the program forward. With a necessary rebranding, the Transitional Living Center (TLC) was born.

29. **Little Professors** ~ Since 1989, children enrolled in Little Professors Preschool on the Maplebrook campus. The philosophy was to offer child care services to both Maplebrook employees and those in the surrounding community. Once the program developed by Susan Anderson began to outgrow the building on campus, LPP moved to the TLC campus in a stand alone loft-style building to accommodate more students. For almost 30 years, Little Professors not only shaped young minds, but provided very valuable training for Maplebrook students learning the trade of child care.

30. **Hilltop House** ~ Since her appointment as first Head of School, Marge Finger lived on campus in Hilltop House on the west campus. Converted from a barn, the house was a focal point. Mrs. Finger began the Head of School traditions of hosting students in her home to emphasize the family-like atmosphere of boarding school.



**Hilltop House**

***It's simple. The more you achieve, the more you think you can achieve. This is the key to developing the kids' confidence. ~ Kathy Gallo, former development officer***



# Big Ideas

Maplebrook School has not just accomplished many things, but it has a true compass directing to good things worth accomplishing. While a small school, we can realize big dreams.



31. **Acquisition of our Absolute Charter** ~ In the fall of 1959, the final paperwork was submitted to the New York State Board of Regents to allow Maplebrook School to be recognized as a registered high school. In 1992, Dr. Fazzone and Donna Konkolics were instrumental in working with Albany to ensure the ability to award New York State high school diplomas to MBS graduates.
32. **Accreditation** ~ On April 1, 1990, the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) made their accreditation visit to Maplebrook. Then, in December of 2001, Maplebrook became additionally accredited by the Middle States Association for Colleges and School. Accreditation by these two entities remains today and verifies that the school has been held accountable by a rigorous process and by the highest of standards.
33. **International Interns** ~ For many years, Maplebrook has formed significant relationships with international organizations that provided interns in a variety of areas to gain more knowledge of students with learning disabilities and offering a flavor of cultural diversity to campus life. Since the late '80s, Maplebrook has hosted interns from Japan, Scotland, Ukraine, Sweden, and South Korea.
34. **50th Anniversary International Symposium** ~ Through the Maplebrook School Teacher Institute, speakers from the Socialpedagog College of Stockholm, Sweden, the Anderson Center for Autistic Children, and other key organizations attracted educators from other countries and across the US to learn the latest research in learning challenges. The symposium brought national and international recognition to Maplebrook that endures today.
35. **WMBS** ~ The year was 1982 and in a small studio attached to the gymnasium all of Amenia could hear the inaugural broadcast from WMBS Radio. While on the air, students spun vinyl, managed the engineering of the shows and insured that the most popular features (sports and gossip) were played during prime listening time.
36. **IASE** ~ The International Association of Special Education was an additional partnership that lasted many years and led to a successful collaboration between Maplebrook, university professionals throughout the world and a multitude of special educators. Several MBS staff served in leadership roles such as board members, journal editors and conference chairs. The most successful IASE Conferences were held in 1997 in Cape Town, South Africa and 2005 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

***My English was not so good, but the students helped me find other ways to communicate. Sometimes I am missing Japan, but I find working with Maplebrook students rewarding.*** ~ Ms. Sonoe Takigawa, former intern

# Big Ideas Cont'd.



37. **Diana Davis Spencer Foundation** ~ Philanthropy is not lost on many who have spent time at Maplebrook. The school is fortunate to benefit from the generosity of former parent, Diana Davis Spencer. With the help of her daughter Kim (Class of '90), Maplebrook has been able to host unforgettable alumni events and established a student organization to celebrate cultural diversity.
38. **Whitney Evans Staff Development Fund** ~ At the behest of former parents, Whitney and Jeanette Evans, a fund was established in their son's name to provide money for staff to attend conferences, workshops and/or college classes. This work, directly related to a staff member's work at Maplebrook, has allowed for the publishing of books, advancement of programming and an abundance of innovative ideas used to enhance our students' education.
39. **Conservatory of Tashkent, Uzbekistan Concert** ~ In partnership with local business, Segalla's Country Club, Maplebrook hosted a concert featuring the children's music school at the State Conservatory of Music in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The section of the school for talented children has trained students in music since 1934. This provided yet another cultural experience for Maplebrook's students.
40. **Samara Foundation/Maplebrook School Foundation** ~ In 1995, the Samara Foundation ownership was transferred from the Sollar family to Maplebrook and has served as a vehicle to award scholarships for students in need. Recently, as the foundation has expanded in its scope and fundraising efforts, the name has been formally changed to The Maplebrook School Foundation. The choice of "Samara" as a name was due to the fact that a samara is the seed of the maple tree.
41. **Rainbow Capital Campaign** ~ In the spirit of leadership, wisdom and determination the Board of Trustees voted in 2003 to undertake a \$3.5 million campaign that enabled the school to improve the boarding and educational experience for the students. With a lead gift from the estate of former student, Johnny Merck, the Rainbow Campaign realized new academic facilities, expansion of the CAPS Program, new athletic fields, the construction of the Merck Chapel, and opportunities to build the scholarship fund.
42. **Forging the Future Capital Campaign** ~ Initiated by the Maplebrook School Foundation in February 2011, the school raised \$5.5 million for building construction, renovations and enhancing the scholarship fund. Told by the capital campaign consultants in the planning process that we would be lucky to raise \$2 million dollars, the generosity and dedication of those involved in the school helped us surpass that goal and made us the amazing school we are today.

***I take my hat off to each and every one of the faculty and staff. It's because of them that miracles happen on Route 22 everyday. ~ Richard Lavoie, motivational speaker and long-time friend of Maplebrook***



# Wisdom & Learning

Explore the unique education offered at Maplebrook. This is merely a glimpse of the enthusiasm and vitality that define the Maplebrook experience. At the heart of this experience you will find our students and teachers working, learning, and exploring together in an environment that fosters the development of curious, lifelong learners.

43. **Character Education** ~ Integrated into the fabric of our culture is the 8 pillars of character adopted through input from parents, faculty/staff, and students. Students live by an honor code and conduct themselves through Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trust, Fairness, Faith and Work Ethic.



44. **Responsibility Increases Self Esteem (RISE) Program** ~ Developed by third headmaster, Dr. Roger Fazzone, this innovative program was developed as a tool to provide the structure that increases self-esteem and responsibility, as well as instill values that will enable students to make appropriate choices and enjoy life to its fullest. It remains the cornerstone to all we do at Maplebrook School.



45. **Postsecondary Programs** ~ In the mid-80s there was no additional educational opportunities for Maplebrook graduates, so in typical MBS fashion, a program was born. The Career Program taught basic vocational, social and independence skills. Throughout the years and with a visionary spirit, the program has been rebranded to be the Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Studies that added a college component and finally emerged into the current Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies. The mission never changed and continues to cultivate vocational passion and independence skills.



46. **Parent Retreat** ~ Planning for the future is daunting, especially for parents of students with learning challenges. Established in 2003, the annual Parent Retreat has been a resource for our families. We chose the term "retreat" rather than meeting or workshop because the focus is on one topic – planning for their student's future.

47. **Teacher Institute** ~ 1997 brought the creation of the Maplebrook Teacher Institute which provided training for teachers modelled after the methodologies used at MBS; namely, multisensory instruction, individualized tutoring and the RISE Program. Over the years, the Teacher Institute has hosted educators from the local community, throughout the US and from a variety of foreign countries.



48. **Publications** ~ Maplebrook has earned an international reputation as leading educators in the field of learning differences through publication of books, journals and articles. These include such titles as the RISE Program manual, *The Power of Social Skills in Character Development* and *Where Dreams Come True: the History of Maplebrook*.



# Wisdom & Learning

49. **On the Road, Spreading the Word** ~ For many years, Maplebrook has produced experts in the field on topics that were created right here on campus. Several faculty and staff have presented and trained our unique programs in 42 US states and 22 foreign countries.



50. **Community Minded**~ Giving back builds character and gives one an irreplaceable good feeling to help others. Since the beginning of Maplebrook in 1945, students have engaged in community service projects that benefit the community at large. From planting flowers around the Amenia fountain in the center of town to helping Habitat for Humanity, Maplebrook has always jumped in to lend a hand.

51. **Technological Advances** ~ So many new technologies have appeared in the past 25 years that have revolutionized the way Maplebrook students learn. Besides the internet's capacity for connecting each other, Maplebrook has experienced the advent from mimeograph machines, to copiers and from desktop computers to laptops, iPads and smartphones as daily tools for gaining the knowledge needed to succeed.



52. **Distance Learning Program** ~ 2019 brought with it a global pandemic in COVID-19. Because of the widespread nature of this disease, Maplebrook was forced to pivot from in-person learning to distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. It was unprecedented, but with faculty and staff teamwork, the students benefitted from the full MBS experience including a virtual prom and graduation.



53. **Student Workers at Maplebrook (SWAM)** ~ Second headmaster, Lon Adams carried on the tradition of student responsibility and caring for the school community begun by Marge Finger. Thus, began the SWAM program whereby students had a job/chore on campus that they completed in exchange for their allowance for the week. Mirroring the family-like atmosphere of Maplebrook, this tradition continues today.



***Thank you very much for everything. Maplebrook has also helped shape me to the person I am today and I will always be thankful for that. ~ William Tabicca, alumnus***

# Trailblazers & Influential People

Prepare to meet Maplebrook's diverse figures who accomplished incredible things. setting the path for the next 75 years. This is a sample of the people who left a path for others to follow and most importantly, people who built a better Maplebrook for us all.

## *Our Founders*



Marjorie Finger



Sunny Barlow



Serena Merck

54. **Marjorie Finger** ~ First head of school, "Aunt Marge" was the heart and soul of then Maplebrook Farm. She set in motion the home away from home atmosphere and provided a place that was more than just about academics. Marge Finger was a strong, determined woman who dedicated her life to making Maplebrook a success.

55. **Sunny Barlow** ~ Her care and counsel for Marge Finger made her the perfect partner to begin Maplebrook. She saw the value of the students with learning challenges under Marge's tutelage and was able with the help of her brother, Rex Armin, buy portions of the Maplebrook Farm to begin this special school.

56. **Serena Merck** ~ While her daughters benefitted from a Viewpoint education, her son, Johnny, had more challenges. Mrs. Merck, along with Mrs. Katherine Hyde, helped Maplebrook financially as they established themselves from a program to a school with a complete Board of Trustees.

57. **Lon Adams** ~ Maplebrook's second head of school, he was known as "Mr. Maplebrook". Lon came to Maplebrook from the midwest as a principal and grew to love Amenia and all the school stood for. Appointed in 1974 as headmaster, Lon immersed himself in the Maplebrook way of life, enhanced the academic cadence and put Maplebrook on the map as a leader in educating students with learning challenges.

58. **Dr. Roger Fazzone** ~ "Doc" began his Maplebrook career as a part time school psychologist coming to campus to do some light counseling and groups for the students. Little did he know that 40 years later, he would still be connected to Maplebrook. As a true visionary, he with the support of the Board of Trustees, helped turn Maplebrook around from its low enrollments by increasing the academic rigor and set it on the way to being one of the premier boarding schools for students with learning challenges.

59. **Donna Konkolics** ~ Hired as the principal in 1989, Donna shaped a substantive high school curriculum. Under her wise supervision, the curriculum at Maplebrook offered challenging, yet supportive academics and she ensured quality teaching. Donna was instrumental in beginning the process for Maplebrook to become accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Donna continued this quality as Maplebrook's fourth head of school.



# Trailblazers & Influential People Cont'd.

## 75 Years: 5 Heads of School



60. **Jennifer Scully** ~ Jenn came to Maplebrook by accident. Not knowing what a school for exceptional children was, she grew to love all that MBS stood for. Beginning part time in the day care, she worked her way up as a teacher, coach (boasting the only undefeated field hockey season in MBS's history), dorm parent, Dean of Admissions, Director of the Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies and is currently the fifth head of school.

61. **Ruth Bodner** ~ Aunt Ruth served her entire life teaching children and young adults how to face life's challenges. She was a dedicated and beloved houseparent at Maplebrook who touched the lives of hundreds of Maplebrook students from 1971-1987. Ruth was Mrs. Merck's ideal person to work at MBS. She was compassionate and totally consumed by the mission.

62. **Jerry & Eva Rossman** ~ Parents to Peter ('76), they knew instantly that Maplebrook was the place for their son. Aunt Marge put her hand on Peter's shoulder quelling his anxiety and thus began a long relationship between Maplebrook and the Rossmans. Jerry a devoted Trustee and Eva forever a Maplebrook advocate, they helped Maplebrook grow into the school it is today.

63. **Arnold & Siema Sollar** ~ Residents of New York City, Arnold and Siema found Maplebrook for their son, David. They dedicated much of their lives to championing the cause of care for students with learning disabilities. Always special and quiet supporters of Maplebrook, Arnold is still active in MBS causes and we continue to carry on Siema's legacy of intelligence and insight.

64. **Richard & Bettina Howes** ~ In the early '60s, Dick and Betty Howes were searching for a school for their son, Rick. As like so many others, they met Aunt Marge and knew they found the perfect school for Rick. Throughout the years, Dick and Betty served as volunteers, trustees and Rick was a dedicated employee of Maplebrook in the maintenance department until his retirement in the late '90s.

65. **Dr. Roger Moore** ~ The first elected president of the Board of Trustees in 1973 and led Maplebrook through 1987. Influential in the local community due to his dedication to Sharon Hospital, Dr. Moore's vision and wisdom created a foundation for Maplebrook leadership for decades.

***I remember both Jerry and I sobbing as we tried to depart on the first day. Maplebrook became Peter's lifesaver and his second home. There were no regrets. ~ Eva Rossman (former parent and friend of Maplebrook)***

# Trailblazers & Influential People Cont'd.

66. **George & Ann Whalen** ~ The Whalens, residents of Millbrook, NY held a fondness for Maplebrook for more than 20 years. This involvement was rooted in the fact that Ann was born and raised next to Maplebrook School. George faithfully served on the Board of Trustees for years and established a scholarship for students pursuing a career in the health care industry in Ann's name.



George and Ann Whalen

67. **Mark Metzger** ~ Always having a soft spot for people with disabilities, Mark joined Maplebrook's board in 1984. Serving as the chair since 2006, Mark is now Chair Emeritus. Mark was instrumental in offering his guidance and expertise to fellow board members and three of the five heads of school.



Mark Metzger

68. **Diane Cortese** ~ Arriving in 1978, no one had more personality than Diane Cortese. She was the academic administrative support and amateur Maplebrook historian. Diane has worked with all five heads of school in her MBS tenure.

69. **Lori & Ken Hale** ~ Fixtures in the fabric of Maplebrook, Lori and Ken have dedicated their entire professional lives to Maplebrook. Raising their family in the middle of campus, Lori has worn many hats since 1982. From speech therapist to Director of the Maplebrook School Foundation, Lori's heart glows Maplebrook green. Ken dutifully has served as the Business Manager since 1991 and continues to be a jack of all trades.

70. **Emma Pozza** ~ In the spirit of Aunt Ruth, Emma Pozza has been key to helping Maplebrook students gain greater independence for more than 30 years. Emma's touch with the alumni is second to none.

71. **Gus & Margaret Deister** ~ Alumni fondly remember Margaret and Gus Deister as key personnel at Maplebrook. Margaret was the comptroller for many years while Gus taught construction trades, was the editor of the yearbook and a regular jack of all trades.

72. **Priscilla Buckley** ~ Very much a behind the scenes part of the Maplebrook family, Priscilla was instrumental in helping Maplebrook with their special written projects such as the self-study for accreditation. She was an intriguing person who was an avid skier, loved bird shooting and ballooning.

73. **Charles Chiusano** ~ Current Board of Trustees chair, parent to Christine (2000), Charles has been an avid supporter of Maplebrook and our mission. As he says, "Christine may have graduated, but I never did."



Jerry & Eva Rossman with their son, Peter

74. **Mary Babcock** ~ Instrumental in developing the Maplebrook equestrian program, Mary Babcock used to trailer her horses to campus for students to learn to care for and ride. She helped create the annual art show which featured local artists and proceeds benefitted the equestrian program.

---

75. **Carpe Diem** ~ This magazine was named to commemorate how three women "seized the day" and established Maplebrook School.



# With Deep Gratitude

There would be no meaning to this celebration without mentioning others who have helped Maplebrook be as successful as it is today. It is with the deepest gratitude that we honor those who quietly made their mark and continue to touch the lives of everyone at Maplebrook.

Richard Thalheimer  
Garrison Keillor & Jenny Nilsson  
Bruce Etkin  
Tommy Hilfiger  
John S. Grant  
David Weinstein  
Olivia Farr  
Trina Whitridge  
Robert Audia  
Francis & Serena Hatch  
Judith Buechner  
Emil Panichi  
James McCann Charitable Trust

Karen & Bryan Fleck  
Lorraine Scuccimarra  
The VonStade Family  
Karen Jenkins Gibbs  
Barbara Ferkauf Dor  
Millbrook Tribute Garden  
The Hollander Family  
Frieda Thompson  
Linda Gregory  
George Hatch  
Dinah Buechner-Vischer  
David & Leslie Kirshner



## Heard 'round the Circle

***I have been blessed to be part of a wonderful team of board members, parents, staff and community friends to provide the best possible education for our students in the future. ~ Dr. Roger Fazzino, Third Head of School***

***It is exciting to see Maplebrook continue to grow and prosper as we observe our students thriving. ~ Donna Konkolics, Fourth Head of School***

***Maplebrook graduations are unforgettable. Where else can you watch Maplebrook students with poise and confidence thank family and friends, then go off into the world to be successful contributors? ~ Colleen McGhee, MBS administrator***

***Maplebrook is a jewel well worth preserving. ~ Whitney & Jeanette Evans***

***There is a reason from day one of our journey at MBS that I have referred to the Maplebrook Magic. ~ Judi Helfant, former parent***

# 1945 Was Quite a Year

- Truman was sworn in as the US President
- Germany surrendered unconditionally
- Detroit defeated the Chicago Cubs in the World Series
- Army beat Navy 32-13 in the annual gridiron classic
- Joan Crawford won best actress for her role in *Mildred Pierce*
- Pan Am announced a round-the-world flight in 88 hours at a cost of \$700
- A quart of milk was \$.16, minimum wage was \$.40/hour and a gallon of gasoline cost \$.21
- *Your Lucky Hit Parade* broadcast for the first time
- Percy Spencer accidentally discovers that microwaves can heat food
- Food trends included Cheerios, Betty Crocker cake mixes, Jell-O salads, deviled lobster and Spam
- Sentimental Journey by Les Brown with Doris Day was top of the hit parade
- Mattel, Inc. the toy manufacturing company was launched
- Maplebrook opened their doors and began the educational journey that has lasted 75 years.

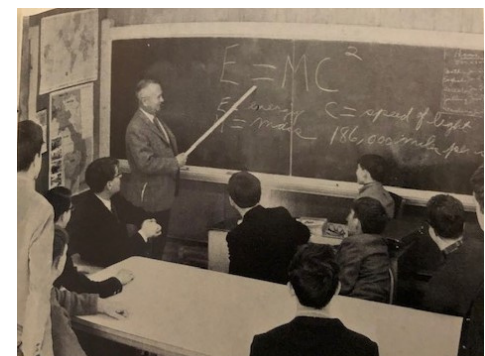
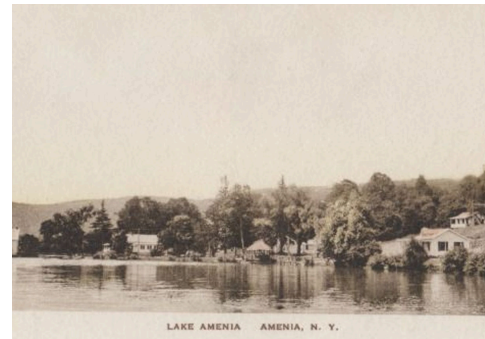


To the pupils of Maplebrook School:

"Memories are one of life's greatest treasures. The past evokes memories to be used in the present. The present produces memories for use in the future.

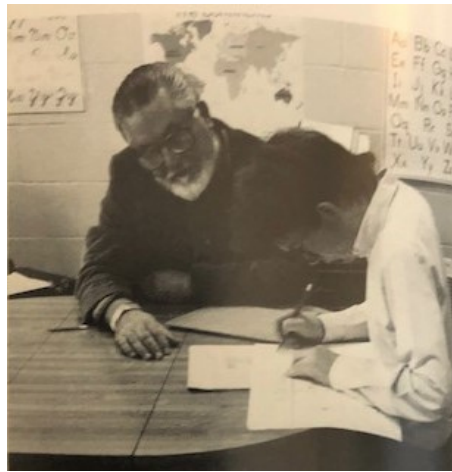
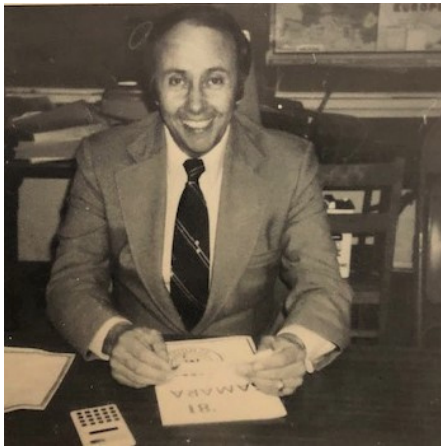
Our 25 years of service and gratifying results have proven this. May we continue to go down Maplebrook's Memory Lane for many years to come."

Lovingly,  
Director  
*"Aunt Marge" Finger*





# Maplebrook Through the Decades



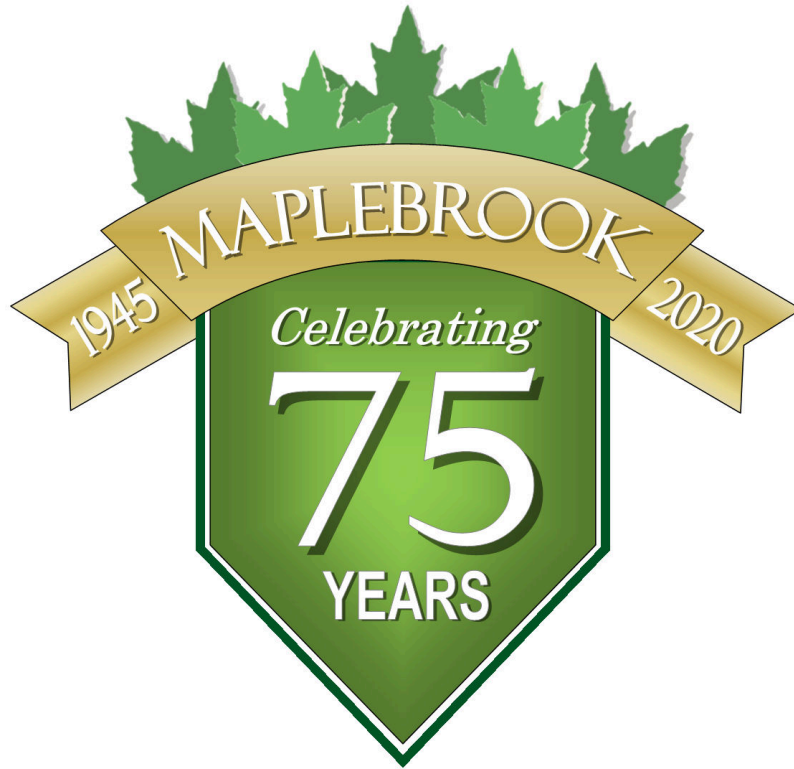


# Maplebrook Through the Decades



*I believe that we do make a difference in the lives of our students, past, present, and future. I am humbled to carry on the legacy of those who came before me. Thank you for being an important part of the Maplebrook family. ~ Jennifer Scully, Head of School*





# Maplebrook School

5142 Route 22

Amenia, NY 12501

[www.maplebrookschool.org](http://www.maplebrookschool.org)