

PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Thomas Hassan, Assistant Principal

In mid-February, I drove to the seaside community of Marion, MA, to attend a memorial service for Katharyn Saltonstall Moore, who had died earlier that month, just a day shy of her 94th birthday. Kathie was also known as Salty, a nickname she shared with her first husband, William Saltonstall '24, who served as Exeter's principal from 1946 until 1963.

Kathie's was a full life, complete with a loving family that included five children, 16 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. During the summer, family members would often join her during her frequent sails on Buzzard's Bay, where her nautical skill and deep devotion to those on board were always in evidence.

Although Bill Saltonstall died in 1989 and Kathie later remarried (her second husband was Dr. Francis Moore, who died in 2002), she remained close to Exeter, often joining our emeriti/ae faculty members at opening assembly each September. I had come to know Kathie at the emeriti/ae luncheon held at the principal's house following the assembly. We would chat about the many times she hosted the very same event at an Exeter quite different in size and scope but very similar in its warm sense of community.

I also came to know Kathie through *Small Bridges to One World*, the book she had written about the two years she and Bill spent in Nigeria, where Bill served as a country director for the Peace Corps. I wanted to learn more about their decision to leave the Academy to devote themselves to community service. As acting principal during Principal Ty Tingley's sabbatical, I would have the privilege of delivering the talk at that September's opening assembly, and community service was something I wanted very much to talk about.

Kathie's vivid stories provided helpful background as I crafted my remarks. And in the Assembly Hall on September 9, Kathie heard me describe for today's students the compassion and courage she and her husband demonstrated in the 1960s. This proved to be Kathie's last visit to the Exeter campus, her home for so many years and a place where she had given so much to so many members of the Academy family.

At the memorial service, one of Kathie's daughters, Joey DuBois, spoke about her mother's innately generous nature: "She

truly loved people and believed in the basic goodness of us all. Each of us saw her as a personal friend and confidante, someone who made us feel good and competent and worthy. It's not that she judged us, but that she *believed* in us."

Exeter was fortunate to have Kathie in its community, and is fortunate today to have many like her: people who may not be in the limelight, but who are essential to the life and the success of our school. On page 8, you'll find an article about a national award the Academy received recognizing our sustainability program, an award that, together with trustee Paul Goldenheim '68 and environmental teaching fellow Jennifer Wilhelm, I was honored to accept. But I know just how much of the credit for this recognition goes to our facilities management, dining services and purchasing departments, to people like Bob Kief, Connie Simmons, Stan Babula, David Davidson and Kate Galemba whose ideas and hard work have made our sustainability program successful.

I am reminded how devoted our faculty and staff are on an almost daily basis. Last Christmas Day, my family and I found ourselves shivering after the heat went out in our Academy house. It was Gregg Willett from our facilities department who took time away from his own family to come fix our furnace. The only thanks he would accept from us, before he headed home to his young children was a warm piece of apple pie.

At Kathie's memorial service, the minister held up a Bible with an inscription dated December 1843 that had been owned by a Saltonstall ancestor. Tucked in the pages was a prayer, full of last-minute, hand-scratched edits, which Bill Saltonstall had written and read to Exeter boys during a morning chapel service. The minister noted that the last lines had special meaning for Kathie's life. Today, this prayer still carries meaning for many at Exeter who share Kathie's devotion to the Academy and its people.

We thank thee, our Father,
 For our houses, on this day
 When so many homes abroad
 Are devastated. We thank thee
 For the balance of freedom and
 Responsibility that this school seeks to maintain.
 We thank thee for our country
 And our people, when countries
 And peoples less fortunate are
 Undergoing such trial and hardship.
 Most of all, our Father, we thank thee for the
 Opportunities given each one of us to do our
 Parts as faithfully and well as
 We know how. May we have grace to meet the challenge
 Of thy good gift.
 Amen.



Exeter was fortunate to have Kathie Saltonstall Moore (1912-2006), wife of Principal Bill Saltonstall '24 (far left), in its community, and it is fortunate today to have many like her: people who may not be in the limelight, but who are essential to the life and the success of the school.

LOOK MAGAZINE/PEA ARCHIVES

Two people essential to the life and the success of Exeter are Assistant Principal Tom Hassan, who served as acting principal during the fall and winter terms, and Principal Ty Tingley, who returned from his sabbatical at the start of spring term.

