

# ITINERA

## TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### The Play's the Thing

By Mary (Hengen) Lee, 1993

It was showtime. The cast of The Saint Paul City Players, a nonprofit theater troupe founded and directed by River Ridge alumna Maddie Cunningham ('18), had spent the summer committing their lines to memory and the past week in a blitz of intense, all-day rehearsals. Now they peeked excitedly and somewhat nervously from behind the curtains that stretched the length of the River Ridge library on one side, creating a makeshift stage. The room was filling up fast.

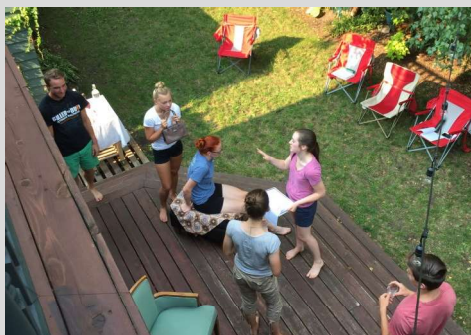


The 2016 production of *I Remember Mama*

Maddie, the oldest daughter of Trinity alumni Ben ('93) and Lucy Cunningham ('92) and the mastermind behind this, breezed about, calmly and graciously greeting guests as they poured in. Among the audience were parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends of the actors; River Ridge teachers (current and former); River Ridge students and alumni; and even students and alumni from other Trinity schools. There were bursts of laughter and snatches of conversation as people

caught sight of old friends, some of whom they had not seen in years. By the time the play was about to begin, there was standing room only.

As the lights dimmed and a hush fell over the audience, Maddie took her place in the director's chair, stage right, second row. She had spent many hours over the past year getting ready for this night, first reading and watching dozens of plays before finally settling on *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, then casting the parts, designing the set, dreaming up the costumes, blocking, and, of course, most recently, directing the rehearsals. But, tonight, her work done, all that remained was to watch it come to life.



The 2017 production of *And Then There Were None*

The opening scene took place in the living room of a large well-to-do home where Mrs. Stanley (high school senior and Maddie's sister, Kate Cunningham) and Mr. Stanley (Jack Michaud, Trinity senior) discuss the care of their distinguished guest, Mr.

(Continued on page 4)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Play's the Thing

Calendar

Alumni Feature

Veritas Journal Preview

Reunion News

2019/20 Alumni Events

Welcome Class of 2019

Faculty/Staff Spotlight

2009 10-Year Reunion



TRINITY  
SCHOOL  
AT RIVER RIDGE



# SAVE THE DATE

## SEPTEMBER

### Homecoming Games

September 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

## OCTOBER

### Trinity School Open House

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm

### Parent Visit Day

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am

### Junior Drama: *The Grapes of Wrath*

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

### Alumni Art Club Meeting

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

### Parent Visit Day

Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am

## NOVEMBER

### Parent Information Night

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Parent Visit Day

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am

### Alumni Visit Day

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Class of 2004 - 15 Year Reunion

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> in the evening

## DECEMBER

### Parent Information Night

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Christmas Fest Concert

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Junior Drama

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

### Alumni Volleyball & Basketball Games

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

## JANUARY

### Trinity School Open House

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

### High School Information Night

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Free Art Camp\*

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## FEBRUARY

### Winter Classic

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm

### Parent Information Night

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Free Coding Camp for 4th & 5th Grade\*

Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

\*Questions, contact: [Sarah Serdar](#)



## Where are they now?

John Gleason, 1998  
Owner of Bap & Chicken

### 1. What did your educational path look like after Trinity?

I graduated from The University of Saint Thomas in 2002 with a B.A. in Marketing Management.

### 2. What has your career path been like?

I have always been interested in the ability to use food, drink, ambiance and hospitality to create and manipulate life experiences for people. Many of life's moments happen around food. I find it fascinating that dining experiences can add so much to people's lives, often without them knowing or thinking about it. As I have grown as a leader and mentor to other managers and teams, the importance of creating positive work environments and places where employees can develop as people has become more essential to me. The hospitality industry is tough to work in. The days can be long, it is physically exhausting, and there are a lot of emotions, from interacting with difficult guests, to unruly co-workers, to a survival of the fittest mentality. However, the people in the industry also love it because it can be lucrative, you get to work with some of your best friends, and there is a joy and satisfaction from a job well done each and every day. As the leader of the restaurant it is my job to steer this unwieldy ship towards a few goals. The first goal is the creation of great experiences for our guests. The second goal, which I think is the most important, is creating an environment where each team-member feels appreciated and heard, where he/she wants to work hard and choose to do the right thing, and where each person can grow as a person and

an individual. The industry is constantly changing and as a leader it is up to me to monitor these changes and always be one step ahead.

I have been lucky to have had the opportunity to work and learn at corporate as well as independent restaurant groups. As a General Manager I have enjoyed working for such companies as Izzy's Ice Cream Cafe, Macaroni Grill, Masu Sushi & Robata, Giordano's Pizza, and Can Can Wonderland.



Eric Ostby '98 and John Gleason '98

### 3. When did you know you'd want to open your own restaurant?

I started cooking at a young age. I believe I needed to use a chair to reach the stove-top while cooking. I think in the back of my mind I always wanted to have a restaurant, and this desire became fully fledged during college when I had to decide between pursuing a career in marketing or management. I chose management and off I went to learn everything I needed to know to run a successful restaurant.

### 4. Where did you get inspiration for Bap and Chicken?

I enjoy food in all forms. This can be at home experimenting, cooking with friends, and dining

out. I try to go to at least two to four different restaurants each week and see what other chefs and the industry are doing. From street food to fine dining, I think that food when transformed into something for the dining public can be a true art form. When I travel, the itinerary is usually centered around what restaurants I will be visiting. I wanted to open a restaurant that would fill a need as well as be sustainable in the future. As an adopted Korean-American, I have an appreciation of the Korean culture as well as my American upbringing. As a foodie, I love to enjoy food from all cultures. I don't think of Bap and Chicken as fusion; it is the representation of who I am. Guests will see ingredients and menu items that are not strictly Korean or American. Bap and Chicken is a chef-driven, scratch restaurant that specializes in Bibimbap (Korean Rice Bowls) and Korean Fried Chicken. Bap means rice in Korean and I wanted to play off of the Midwest term "Chicken and Rice."

### 5. What has been the most rewarding thing or aspect of opening Bap & Chicken?

I think the most rewarding part of operating a small business is having the neighborhood embrace you and appreciate that you are part of the community. The Mac-Groveland neighborhood as well as the Twin Cities as a whole has largely been receptive and the feedback has been very positive.

### 6. What's your favorite item on the menu?

That is a hard question as I have spent so much time on menu-development that each item has its own history and appreciation. I would have to say that our Tofu Bap is growing on me. It is our only cold Bibimbap on the menu. We use instant ramen

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 1)

Whiteside (Peter Bittner, Trinity senior), who had fallen on the stairs outside their home and must remain a guest while convalescing. The audience was already



The 2019 production of *The Man Who Came To Dinner*

laughing. Maddie could relax.

The cast and crew of the evening's performance included some first-time actors as well as a core group of veterans who have been putting on these plays since 2012. Though Maddie bears the brunt of the work of putting on this kind of production, she learned early on that she must delegate significant production roles to other troupe members. Abby Theis, a senior at Trinity and an original cast member, is an expert at stage makeup. Jacob Theis ('18) arranges sound effects and coordinates music. Becca Joy Root ('19) and Maggie King ('19) have been stage managers in past productions. Most importantly, however, Maddie relies on the support and encouragement of her parents. Lucy, who took the lead role in her

college's theater production as a non-theater major freshman and later taught drama at Trinity, offers invaluable stage experience. Ben has worked tirelessly behind the scenes in technical support.

Maddie is currently pursuing a degree from MCTC in clothing design, but her first love has always been theater. She originally conceived of the idea of putting on a play with her friends the summer before her 6th grade year and, with a cast and crew of 8 friends, performed *Happily Ever After*, a one-act play in which some fairy tale characters meet up at a garage sale. This play was performed in the Cunningham family's backyard, with the deck doubling as a stage and the audience sitting around in lawn chairs.

As the years went on and the core group that comprised the troupe matured, their productions also grew in sophistication and scope, adding costumes, makeup, music, and sound effects. Ben and Lucy have admitted that the play takes over their house for a while each summer: the living room is lined with hanging rods where costumes hang and props and makeup are organized in piles around the sunroom. But the value this yearly experience brings to their family is well worth a little temporary chaos.

While performing in the outdoors

has always added a charming dimension to the theatricals, it has also often created interesting weather and lighting challenges. Further, as the productions grew in size, so did the audience. At the last outdoor performance, one guest who arrived late joked that she was too late for general seating and was relegated to sit in the "hosta section." For these and other reasons, Maddie decided to try a larger, indoor venue this summer and the library at RR was available. Given the number in attendance and the sultry weather that evening, this move turned out to be a good decision.



After the performance in 2013

After putting on six plays in seven years, Maddie decided to take a break from production the summer after graduating from Trinity. But this summer, sensing this tradition was something she needed to continue, she reformed the troupe. While she is hesitant to predict the future of the St. Paul City Players, if asked, Maddie will smile and say that further productions are not out of the question.

(Continued from page 3)

noodles (industry secret - they are tasty and versatile) with a home-made sweet and spicy sauce. Then we top it with kimchi, crunchy caulilini and radish with a marinated tofu. These flavors and textures work wonders together and it is the ultimate street food.

## 7. How did Trinity prepare you for life after high school?

I think that learning the ability to think critically while problem-solving has been vital in my successes. Thinking critically or analytically often means accepting those possibilities that others might not view as relevant or standard. I encourage my employees to think outside of the box when making suggestions and

during menu or operation development. When you don't constrain yourself, you can produce the unexpected.

## Bap and Chicken

1328 Grand Ave, St. Paul, 55105  
[bapandchicken.com](http://bapandchicken.com)



*A preview from*

# Veritas Journal

## On Thompson Pond

By Andrew Carr

Class of 2010 and Trinity Faculty Member

I want to describe a painting. It's of a partially fallen tree, leaning out over still water. The painting is unfinished. In fact, apart from a handful of studies, it hasn't even been started yet. For the moment it's primarily an idea. I want to try and describe this idea because in its development, in trying to find solutions to its particular challenges, I've come to a better understanding of the artistic process.

About a year ago I moved into an apartment in West St. Paul and began accustoming myself to a new space, and a new neighborhood. I hung pictures on the empty walls, and got a local library card. I started learning street names, and where the best restaurants were. But the first place that I really began to feel at home was Thompson Pond, just a couple blocks away. Even before I'd finished walking around it for the first time, I was already thinking about painting its reflections, and the plants submerged underneath the water. I was hesitant, however, to dive in too quickly. I wanted to get to know the place before I tried to capture any of it. You can tell the difference, I think, between the way an artist paints a stranger, and the way he paints his own brother. So after moving in, I kept working on older paintings, going down to the pond whenever I needed a break, to take a walk, or to read a book out on the dock.

Even after I started making tentative studies—little watercolors of the lily-pads and algae—there was one place I continued to visit without trying to depict. A short ways along the path was a wooden bridge that stepped over a murky stream. The slow water passed underneath and then spread out into a passage among reeds, before opening up onto the pond. Not far from the bridge was a tree that had fallen. Still alive, it leaned out over the waterway between the reeds, reaching a branch down towards its own reflection without quite touching it. Whenever I went for a walk around the pond I would stop at the bridge for a while and look at this tree.

To read more, visit the [article online](https://www.veritasjournal.org) at [veritasjournal.org](https://www.veritasjournal.org)

## 2019 Reunion News

**5 year reunion** - Class of 2014, look for more information coming soon!

**10 year reunion** - Class of 2009 celebrated their reunion on July 20th.

**15 year reunion** - Class of 2004! Your reunion is scheduled for November 27th. More information will be coming soon from Josh and Lauren!

**20 year reunion** - Class of 1999! Jon Lamers and Sean Ryan are working their magic to plan your event. More details coming soon!

**25 year reunion** - Class of 1994! Please let me know if you are interested in organizing your reunion this year!

Email me (Rachelle Wind) at [rwind@trinityschools.org](mailto:rwind@trinityschools.org) for more information.

## DID YOU KNOW?

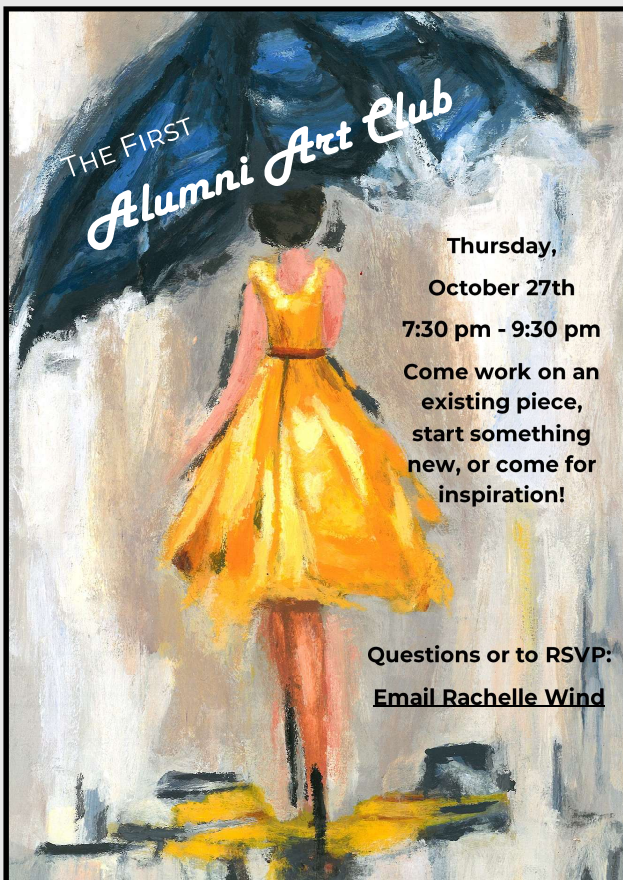
There are currently 12 faculty members who have taught at Trinity for 15 years or more!

There are 9 more faculty that have joined since then that are alumni of Trinity!

Come on in and say hi! The Alumni Visit Day is on Wednesday, November 27th from 11am - 3pm.



TRINITY SCHOOL  
AT RIVER RIDGE



Thursday,

October 27th

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Come work on an existing piece, start something new, or come for inspiration!

Questions or to RSVP:

Email [Rachelle Wind](mailto:Rachelle.Wind@trinityschool.org)

## ALUMNI VISIT DAY



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS IN THE LIBRARY; ENJOY VISITING WITH CURRENT STUDENTS AND FACULTY; RECONNECT WITH CLASSMATES; BRING YOUR KIDS!

Join us for

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Sept 19th - 21st

### Boys & Girls Cross Country

Thursday, September 19th

4:00 pm Meet

@ Levi Dodge Middle School

### Girls Volleyball

Friday, September 20th

5:00 pm JV Team

6:30 pm Varsity Team

@ Trinity School Gym

### Girls Tennis Co-op

Friday, September 20th

4:00 pm Match

@ St. Croix Lutheran High School

### Boys & Girls Soccer

Saturday, September 21st

9:00 am JV Boys vs. South St. Paul HS

11:00 am Varsity Boys vs. South St. Paul HS

1:00 pm Varsity Girls vs. Providence Academy

3:00 pm JV Girls vs. Maranatha Christian Academy

### Alumni -

Find Pat Buchanan, Athletic Director, for a free alumni meal ticket!

## ALUMNI GAMES

Thursday, December 26th

4:00 pm Volleyball Game

5:30 pm Basketball Games Begin







## *Congratulations Class of 2019*

We welcomed the class of 2019 to our alumni community on June 8th this summer! This class of 40 graduates sees 90% going to college in the fall (17.5% going to UST!), 7.5% off to volunteer for a year and 2.5% heading off to work. The class's valedictorian gave a beautiful speech. Please enjoy the excerpt below:

"This begs the question: what enables Lucy alone to catch sight of Aslan? She was traveling along the same path as her siblings; what makes her position any different? The answer to this question is of the greatest importance, for how are we supposed to do the will of the Lord if we, just as Lucy's older siblings, are unable to find Him? The Apostle Paul hints at the answer to this in his first letter to the Corinthians: "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." The reason Lucy saw Aslan, as simple as it seems, is because she was looking for him, in everything that she did. Her mind was never distracted from her true purpose which was to seek the Lion. When Paul says to do all to the glory of God, I believe our education plays a large part in that "all." If we view our education as pointless toil on the way to a career, we will be no better than Lucy's older siblings, distracted by their pride, attempting to find the correct path all on their own, and losing sight of their true purpose of following the Lion's direction. But if we view education in a more complete way, we will find that it unlocks a new and incredible way to seek God. In each of the classes that we take and the materials that we study, if we are truly seeking God with Lucy's intensity, we will begin to see facets of God's nature reflected in everything we examine. Every time we recognize the beauty of a poem, the elegance of a mathematical proof, or the complexity of relativity, we are really catching a glimmering shadow of God's beauty, God's elegance, and God's complexity. When we seek the Lord with purpose, our education can act as a mirror, reflecting aspects of God which otherwise we never could have recognized. If we brandish our education in this manner, it can become more powerful than we could have ever imagined."

### MEET THE FACULTY & STAFF

## ANDREW MENKE

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



#### **Tell us about yourself:**

I am a native of West St. Paul, and now live in Bloomington with my wife, Theresa, and two daughters, Cecilia and Georgia. All of us enjoy the great outdoors: hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, and checking out new parks. I am an enthusiastic sports fan and cheer for all Minnesota teams, desperately hoping for a championship each year.

#### **In a nutshell, what do you do at Trinity School?**

I work with the Trinity community to foster stewardship and advance the school's mission. Part of my job is to broaden support for Trinity and build relationships with families, alumni, businesses and leaders in the community.

#### **What is your favorite thing about Trinity School?**

In my role, I spend a lot of time with the parents. They are the soul of Trinity School. Without their stewardship, Trinity School would look like a very different place. It has been a pleasure in my first year to hear the parents' stories, ideas on fundraising, and why they choose Trinity School for their children.

#### **What are you most proud of?**

100% my family. From my wife, to my kids, parents and siblings, my family is amazing.

#### **What's the best meal you've ever had?**

I don't know if I can pinpoint something specific, but I am sure it had to do with pizza. Pizza is the greatest food, period. Don't @ me.



The class of 2009 celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> year reunion on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the old Trinity location!

**Back Row** (L to R): Hayden Kohaut, Ryan Landberg, Mark Olander, JT McManmon, Joe Rumpza, Luke Gross, Jonathan Frenz, Charlie Reinhardt  
**Front Row** (L to R): Peggy Horan, Emily (Lomax) Husby, Tyler Morley, Molly (Hodgdon) Rumpza, Sarah Ennis, Sadie (Casselius) Adderley, Courtney Anderson

## 2020 Class Reunions

Class of 2015—**5 years**

Class of 2010—**10 years**

Class of 2005—**15 years**

Class of 2000—**20 years**

Class of 1995—**25 years**

Celebrate your time at Trinity by planning your class's milestone reunion! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Rachelle Wind at [rwind@trinityschools.org](mailto:rwind@trinityschools.org). TSRR is happy to help you promote your event!

## STAY CONNECTED

Moved recently? Changed your email address? Have a class note to share?  
Keep us updated by filling out this [Google Form](#) or sending us an **email**.



**TRINITY SCHOOL**  
AT RIVER RIDGE

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