

To All People Who Ever Served as Staff at JWS

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Most of us received quite a shock last October when JWS was closed due to low enrollment and financial shortages. For me, I guess I always had a naive belief that Woolman was a "survivor", having weathered nearly perpetual lean times financially, and some crises of community issues far greater than what we faced last Fall.

Another belief I have always had, perhaps not as naive, is that working at John Woolman School has had a profound effect on the lives of all the staff who passed through, for however long or brief a time. I am hoping that, just like the students, we absorbed enough of a portion of the faith and ideals of the school's founders, and even enough of the spirit of the person for whom the school was named, that our lives post-JWS have been nourished for the next tasks and careers. The world we face in the immediate (and probably long-range) future still desperately needs the lessons of non-violence and community we all tried to learn and teach, however imperfectly, in our time at Woolman.

I have offered to be the liaison for Staff Alumni of JWS. We are now officially considered a part of the JWSAA. I hope that you will write to Wombats in the Real World, either directly, or through my address below, to give an update about your life and work now, and to make sure we have accurate contact information about you.

With appreciation and respect,

Brian Fry