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Sacred Land

THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST LIGHT respect all living things. With the formation of the Native Land Conservancy, Inc. (NLC) native peoples are now protecting all of the animals and wildlife that live on their ancestral lands. Barnstable Land Trust is proud to partner with the NLC on the nonprofit's first acquisition by holding a perpetual conservation restriction (CR) that permanently protects the land.

When NLC founder Ramona Peters was a child, she remembers hearing her parents and grandparents talk about saving land. That wish became reality in 2012 with the establishment of the NLC, the first Native American-run land conservation group east of the Mississippi.

"For generations people wanted to do this," Ramona said, "but survival was challenging. They didn't have the time or resources but they all had a vision to preserve the land. I carried that vision my whole life. We are finally at a place where we can do this."

Three years after its formation, the fledgling land trust received its first parcel of land: 1.37 acres off Shoot Flying Hill Road on the Barnstable/Centerville line. BLT holds a CR on the land. Norman Hayes conveyed the land to the NLC "...in honor of both the Wampanoag people, 'People of the First Light,' and the first European settlers of this part of Cape Cod...with the hope that the land in its natural state, and the spirit of the trees, birds and animals

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BLT's Jaci Barton;
Ramona Peters,
NLC Founder;
Leslie Jonas,
NLC Treasurer;
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NLC President



thereon, will engender peace among all peoples.” As proof of the adage that everything is connected (especially on Cape Cod!), Norman’s father, Stephen Hayes, was a BLT founder and a member of the first board of directors.

“[My father] loved the land and the creatures of the Cape,” said Norman. “His favorite expression was, ‘If you take care of the land, it will take care of you.’” Norman grew up in Centerville and spent his career as an environmentalist. In 1999 he conveyed a CR to BLT on a nine-acre parcel off Old Neck Road in Barnstable, which helped facilitate the creation of the Cape Cod Pathways as it runs from Cape Cod Community College to Phinney’s Lane.

This wild land that Norman donated to the NLC is historically significant. The woodlot is the southern-most remnant of the historic “long lots,” which stretched from Lake Wequaquet north to Barnstable Harbor. The land, an important lookout for both Native Americans and early settlers, features a grove of white pines, indigenous lady slippers and classic stone walls.

“BLT received its first gift in 1984, a year after its founding. We are delighted to have a new partner that shares our goals and values,” BLT’s Jaci Barton said. “We hope to see the NLC succeed in preserving open space, too.”

Historically, the Wampanoag tribe has given away its rightful lands; now tribal members are in a position to receive land. An essential element of the Conservancy’s mission is the spiritual component of land protection. “The land holds memories,” Ramona Peters acknowledged. “It holds the history of where we lived and what we did.” 🐾

For more information about the NLC, visit www.nativelandconservancy.org.



PERSPECTIVE

ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF after the creation of what was then the Barnstable Conservation Foundation, the Founding Fathers and Mothers hired their first Executive Director. It was 1985 and I was the person they chose to carry out their vision!

The Town had just finished its first Open Space Plan and it mentioned the need to “form a private land conservation land trust.” The vision was then – as it is now with Barnstable Land Trust – to provide a private alternative for land conservation that could work together with and independent of the Town. Our common goal was to preserve the open spaces that protect the natural resources of our community.

For 30 years, with the support of many mentors and donors, BLT has prospered. Along the way we’ve lobbied for funding sources like the Cape Cod Land Bank and Community Preservation Act. We’ve developed strong partnerships with government officials, community leaders and other non-profit organizations – all in an effort to preserve as much land as possible to protect the fragile nature of our Town.

Today, BLT is the proud steward of 1075 acres and we’ve helped preserve many more acres throughout the community. BLT has a Future Fund that helps sustain us, a Green Fund that helps us preserve critical parcels, and a Land Management Fund that helps ensure we are able to maintain the land that has been entrusted to our care.

Broad-based community support is what makes our land-saving initiatives possible. The

depth of commitment from our loyal members and supporters is humbling. I often say that we could never have been so successful without that heartfelt support. Barnstable is truly a community that cares!

A few years ago, I signaled my desire to step back from my role as BLT’s Executive Director. As fate would have it, a project near and dear to my heart came into focus. The land around Lowell Park had been on the community’s priority list since 1983, the same year BLT was formed. Although it took longer than expected, the outpouring of community support enabled us to bring the “Keep Lowell Park Green!” initiative to a successful conclusion – preserving water quality, community character and an irreplaceable cultural treasure.

Soon there will be a changing of the guard. An Interim Executive Director, Pamela Danforth, has been named to take over the leadership of BLT. I won’t be in the corner office, but as BLT’s new Land Protection Specialist, my attention will be strategically focused on what I am most passionate about...preserving land!

Please join me in welcoming Pamela to her new role. I hope you will give her the support you have shown me all these years and help BLT make a sustainable transition that will carry us forward for the next 30 years.

Warm Regards,



Vision Statement:

To ensure that Barnstable’s land, water, natural resources and character are sustained and valued for future generations.

– adopted by the BLT Board in July 2015

2015 PROJECTS



View from Commerce Road

CONNECTIONS TO THE LAND

PROTECTING THE PRISTINE salt marsh of Maraspin Creek in Barnstable Village has long been a community priority. In June residents Will and Cassie Swift donated a 2.32-acre parcel, adding to the scenic mosaic that is a central feature of the village.

Will is emulating his godfather, Herbie Lovell, who donated a 1.4-acre salt marsh parcel on Maraspin Creek to BLT in 1993. Helping to preserve water quality in the marine ecosystem was a personal goal of the beloved local fisherman.

The land was part of the couple's 4.6-acre homestead, which the Swifts purchased in 2009. While clearing for a garden, Will had a thought: *Why not donate the salt marsh to BLT?* "The deer use it more than we do," he quipped. "From BLT's signs we'd see on walks we took around Commerce Road and Millway, we knew BLT owned other parcels in the area."

The land is an oasis for wildlife. The Swifts have seen deer, fox, rabbits, raccoons, woodchuck, coyotes and bats. "We are very lucky," Cassie added. "It is a mini-ecosystem with so many birds...nesting Baltimore Orioles,

hawks, osprey and hummingbirds."

Will is a native Cape Codder with deep roots in the community. In the early 1800s Will's maternal great great-grandfather (Jones) bought the land where the Swifts currently reside. His

paternal grandfather moved to Barnstable in the 1930s; his great-grandfather lived in Yarmouth Port in the 1800s and owned the *Yarmouth Register*. The next generation continues the thread; his daughter and her two boys live in the house where Will was born, and his son lives nearby.

Will's uncle built the Swifts' current house in 1972. When the previous

owners (who aren't related) put the house up for sale, Will and Cassie grabbed it, bringing the land back into the family.

"The house offered the perfect opportunity for me to do the kind of gardening I really wanted," he said. The couple's bountiful late summer garden proved how "green" his thumb truly is. Visitors, in fact, aren't allowed to leave without at least one gigantic bag of freshly picked vegetables.

Continued on next page



2015 PROJECTS



A southern California transplant, Cassie believes in the importance of protecting land...even land that appears undevelopable. “We all know that it could be built on,” Cassie said, “if someone had enough money and perseverance.”

BLT’s Jaci Barton agreed. “Regulations that protect land change all the time,” she noted. “This gift of salt marsh will permanently protect the scenic character of Barnstable Village and benefit us all – humans and animals alike.”

CIRCO LAND ACQUISITION COMPLETE AFTER NEARLY A DECADE!

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF! It took nine and a half years for neighbors to settle a title dispute. When it was finally resolved, BLT accepted a gift of .12 acres on Circo Pond in Hyannis. The parcel has now been “remarried” to the 5.58 acres of freshwater marsh with fringing upland, originally donated to BLT by James Circo on December 29, 2005!

In 2005, the BLT Board voted not to accept the portion of the land in question. The remaining 5.58-acre parcel with clear title, however, was deeded to BLT. In the meantime, landowners wrangled over legal issues. Although we were in contact with neighbors and helping as we could to solve the dispute, the issue was out of BLT’s hands. As time passed, we wondered if it would ever be settled. Now the project is complete and an easement allowing access to the pond for maintenance is in place.



Years ago shifting sands closed off an estuary and formed a coastal dune off Estey Avenue. In 2005, as a plan was prepared for the donation, the un-named pond received a name – Circo Pond. 🐾

2015 PROJECTS



PRESERVING THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

ROB AND JANE MICELI have lived on the Cape for 31 years. Both were teachers in the local school systems. When they bought their eight-acre lot in Cotuit in 1984, the owner was apologetic. “The lot,” he said, “could not be subdivided.”

The Micelis loved the idea of having a large lot overlooking an abandoned cranberry bog. “It has been a great place to raise our sons, Matt and Luke,” Jane said. “Growing up, they were always outdoors.” The kids take after their parents who are both avid bicyclists.

The forested upland overlooks an abandoned cranberry bog, and is a unique mixture of holly, beech, oak and pine. The land contains a certified vernal pool where spotted salamander egg masses have been found. There is a rare “quaking bog,” a floating mat of tangled roots and rhizomes that supports thick accumulations of sphagnum moss, providing critical habitat for plants and wildlife.

Over the years, Rob and Jane had thought about preserving their land where they have

seen critters such as deer, fox, river otter, hawks and great blue herons. In 2013, they attended a conservation options workshop sponsored by BLT. They learned about Massachusetts’ new Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC), which they could combine with the federal income tax deduction. “We knew then it was the right time,” Rob explained.

As they started examining the possibilities, the couple discovered there *was* value in the land they had always thought could not be built upon. They were surprised to learn there was actually enough upland acreage to subdivide and build a second home.



By then the idea of selling off a lot and having a house nearby was overshadowed by thoughts of conservation. According to Rob, “A conservation restriction turned out to be the best option for our conscience.”

The state tax credit helped put money in their pocket to pay some of the associated costs. “It was the early stage of the CLTC and

Continued on next page

2015 PROJECTS

it took a long time with surveying, politics, engineering, etc.”

In fact, the Micelis are pioneers. According to BLT’s Jaci Barton, “They are only the second landowners in Barnstable to take advantage of the state’s tax credit. After carving out a building envelope for their existing home, they donated a conservation restriction to BLT on the remaining 7.25 acres.”

The Micelis are tickled they could do this. “We protected the land so that no one can ever

build on it,” said Jane. “The bottom line is that we love the land the way it is.”

The Miceli Conservation Restriction is named in honor of Rob’s late parents, Lawrence A. and Candida V. Miceli, for the benefit of this generation and generations to come. The landscape is full of errant cranberries and high bush blueberries that Jane loves to forage. Now the wild edibles will continue to be turned into delicious jams and jellies. 🐾

WE DID IT: “KEEP LOWELL PARK GREEN!”

WITH THE SEPTEMBER DEADLINE looming, an August fundraising event was held at the Cotuit Center for the Arts. Three times, BLT’s Jaci Barton asked the crowd to repeat after her, “Failure is not an option.”

Invited speakers Tony Capo, Bob Butkus and Bill Richardson regaled the crowd with stories about how summers playing for the Kettleers changed their lives. That night the seeds were sown for the culmination of the \$1.8 million campaign to “Keep Lowell Park Green!”

BLT reached its September goal thanks to more than 1600 donations, including the Town of Barnstable Community Preservation Act and Cotuit Fire District. However, due to unforeseen issues, the closing was forced into extra innings.

Perhaps you heard the roar of the crowd when BLT finally reached home base on December 18, 2015!

The Cotuit Kettleers’ organization deserves a shout-out and special thanks for “hosting” our outreach and education campaign at every

home game during the 2014 and 2015 seasons. And we are especially grateful to Attorney Bernie Kilroy (Kettleers’ pitcher 1960-66) who generously provided legal guidance.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Casey Dannhauser, who showed up at every home game eager to answer any questions about Lowell Park, including Kettleers’ trivia. And to the stalwart “Keep Lowell Park Green!”

Committee members John Riordan, Stacy Reinhart and Anne Gould – and especially Tom Burgess, Maryjo Boden and Mark Robinson – who met almost weekly to strategize and carry out initiatives. Thank you!



Without the support of the Lowell Family members who believed in us and gave us the time necessary to secure the funding to purchase the 19 acres, this important environmental, cultural and community treasure may have been lost.

Look for an invitation to join us in June to celebrate! 🐾

2015 PROJECTS

New Partnership:

BLT & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

FOR THE FIRST TIME in its history, BLT is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod. The nonprofit housing organization, which provides affordable home ownership, acquired a three-acre parcel of land on Sesame Street (really!), off Oak Street on the West Barnstable/Centerville line. The parcel was subdivided into three lots, two of which now feature sites for new affordable homes for people. Habitat for Humanity decided to offer the third lot to BLT as habitat for wildlife. It is part of an abandoned cranberry bog and near other protected open space.

“Habitat was excited to work together with BLT on our Sesame Street project. It just made sense,” said Leedara Zola, Habitat’s Director of Land Acquisition and Permitting. “We had a parcel of land that was suitable for two homes and it worked best for the site to cluster the homes. The site has an environmentally sensitive area so we located the homes away from the wetlands and habitat area, and looked for a good steward for those resources. We were pleased that Barnstable Land Trust was willing



to take this on, and feel there is a complementary relationship where we can work together synergistically.”

In 1985 the Town purchased the nearby Whelan Conservation Area, which is just west of Sesame Street. The recent gift from Habitat is great wildlife habitat bordered by a small stream that runs along its northern edge. The stream connects to three ponds that feed Lake Wequaquet and the Bumps River Corridor, which ultimately feed fresh water into the Centerville River estuary.

A split rail fence has been installed along the edge of BLT’s land to ensure that the habitat is not disturbed. 🐾

PRIORITY HABITAT DONATED BY DOHERTY FAMILY

IN DECEMBER, three parcels of land on Katherine Road in Centerville were gifted to Barnstable Land Trust by the eight children of the late John and Katherine Doherty.

The three lots total 1.47 acres. A one-acre parcel is a marginally buildable upland lot, composed of a classic Cape Cod pine and oak forest. Its steep slope down to wetlands would make development difficult but not impossible. The remaining two parcels are wetlands that are part of an almost ten-acre ecosystem where the groundwater

springs up to create the headwaters of the Centerville River, one of the Town’s major wetland corridors.

Each of the Doherty gifts lies within State Designated Priority Habitat for rare species and is identified as part of a State Designated Critical Natural Landscape. All of the land is within the Centerville River Watershed and provides vital habitat for a wide array of species including herring that run up the river each spring to spawn in Long Pond and Lake Wequaquet.

Family member Maureen O’Donnell

explained that their father built a number of homes in the Centerville River Estates. He named Katherine Road after his wife and daughter and named two other roads for daughters Joan and Maureen.

“The lots have been in the family for a long time. Everybody was in agreement about donating them to Barnstable Land Trust,” Maureen said. “Because of the names of the roads, this is a very special area to us. Our parents certainly would have been pleased about the donation.” 🐾

Tax Incentives for Conservation

FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION PERMANENTLY RENEWED

FROM 2006-2009, changes in Federal tax deductions spurred ten Barnstable landowners to protect their land with a conservation restriction (CR). The changes in the law first expired in 2007, were renewed, and then expired again in 2009.

Last year the changes became permanent! The 2015 law now allows landowners to deduct up to 50% of adjusted gross income (instead of the prior 30%) and permits a carry forward of the unused portion of the deduction for 15 years (instead of five).



In 2007 Walter Ungermann placed a conservation restriction on 25.24 acres of his land in West Barnstable, protecting wetlands, woodlands & meadows

STATE TAX CREDIT FOR MASSACHUSETTS LANDOWNERS

IN 2012, Massachusetts enacted a new law that provides a state tax credit for landowners who protect their land. You don't have to have a primary residence here; you just need to own land that is deemed important for conservation...and, of course, you need to be willing to protect it!

Now, landowners who engage in conservation transactions with nonprofit land trusts, towns or other agencies may be eligible for a refundable state income tax credit worth up to \$75,000 in cash.

The type of transaction – land gift, conservation restriction, bargain sale, reserved life estate – is less important than the characteristics of the land itself. The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs must certify that the land is significant to protect drinking water supplies, rare species and other wildlife habitats, agriculture or forestry, recreational opportunities and scenic or cultural values of state or regional importance. In addition, the land must be permanently protected by the transaction.

An appraisal is needed to justify the land's market value and establish the credit amount. Title to the land must be clear. The state will refund any unused credit in the first year. Not only could your state income tax be wiped out for that year, but the state will then issue you

a check for the difference between that year's tax and \$75,000 or 50% of the appraised value, whichever is less.

The process can be time consuming so interested landowners should "get in line." For more information, call Jaci Barton at 508-771-2585.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES

BY GIFTING YOUR LAND to BLT or protecting it with a conservation restriction, you reduce development potential. That, in turn, can significantly reduce local property taxes while you continue to enjoy the environment that nourishes you.

Make Conservation Part of Your Financial Plan

Preserve all of your land or set aside a parcel for possible future development, holding on to a nest egg that could provide income at retirement or for unforeseen circumstances. If you don't need to cash in on that nest egg, you can restrict the second parcel later. In the meantime, take solace in the knowledge that your sanctuary will remain a quiet oasis for people and wildlife while protecting its unique character.

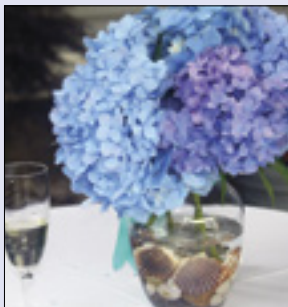
Save the Date...

22ND ANNUAL *Gifts from the Sea* ~ July 17, 2016 ~ Willowbend

BLT's 2015

Gifts from the Sea

An Elegant Evening!



Nearly 200 people attended BLT's premier fundraiser, *Gifts from the Sea*, which was held July 19th at the beautiful Willowbend Country Club. An extraordinary array of unique silent and live auction items, delectable foods, succulent raw bar, upbeat sounds of Stage Door Canteen, and the amazing support of our local community combined to make it a stellar event. Over \$115,000 was raised, helping BLT to continue its important work.

"We are ever so grateful to everyone who supports BLT's *Gifts from the Sea*," said Jaci Barton, "Community support is priceless and we express our deepest appreciation."

Special thanks to *Gifts from the Sea* committee co-chairs Nancy Ridley and Polly Dana-Schumacher for their leadership and vision, and to the committee members for their commitment and energy. Thanks also to the individual and business donors, generous sponsors and our many volunteers. Indeed, it takes a village!



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Sincere thanks to the more than 100 donors who contributed items to Gifts from the Sea. We appreciate your support.

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 Winspire
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Special thanks to the generous donors who stepped up to the plate for Fund-A-Cause: **“Keep Lowell Park Green!”** \$22,700 was raised in support of BLT’s efforts to protect the 19-acre “green wall” of trees surrounding the Cotuit Kettleers’ ball field. You helped us bring this project home!

Keep Lowell Park Green “tree people”:
 (l-r) Casey Dannhauser, Pieter Burgess & Tom Burgess



Mission Statement:

BARNSTABLE LAND TRUST is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the open spaces, natural resources, and unique character of Barnstable for future generations.

Annual Meeting 2015

MORE THAN 70 PEOPLE attended Barnstable Land Trust's 32nd Annual Meeting to review the year's accomplishments and learn about land preservation initiatives on the horizon for 2016. BLT President John Miller thanked Board members, staff and attendees for embracing and supporting BLT...and for having the "bravery to come out on a blustery Friday, the 13th!"

Election of Officers and Directors

John Miller, President

Terrie Reilly, Vice President

Stacy Austin Reinhart, Treasurer

Polly Dana-Schumacher, Clerk

Newly elected to the Board: Karen Daley

Re-elected were: Brendan Annett and Susanne Lavoie-Lagace

Thanks to retiring Board members for their countless hours of service:

Lee Ann Hesse, 2008-2016

Tom Mullen, 2003-2016

James O'Connor, 2009-2016

Sheila Place, 2011-2016



FOUNDERS' AWARD RECIPIENT

Judy Desrochers, President of Meetinghouse Farm, Inc.

BLT's award is given annually to "an individual, organization, business or governmental agency for having the vision to empower the people of Barnstable to preserve the essence of Cape Cod – its open spaces and natural resources, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife."

Gil Newton, chairman of BLT's Founders' Award Committee, described West Barnstable resident Judy Desrochers as someone who "has dedicated her entire life to protecting natural landscapes." An educator, environmental advocate and activist, Judy served on the Conservation Commission during much of the 1970s, a time when open space preservation was just taking root. A longtime member of the West Barnstable Civic Association, she served as a director and president.

Influenced by economist E.F. Schumacher's book *Small Is Beautiful* and a visit to Schumacher College in England in the late 90s, Judy returned home and joined the grassroots campaign in 2000 to purchase the Conant Property on Rt. 149 in West Barnstable. Seven years of volunteer activity blossomed into Meetinghouse Farm, Inc., a community-based nonprofit that fosters horticultural and agricultural values and practices. "Throughout

the process, Judy worked tirelessly to make that happen. As a lifelong teacher Judy helped others appreciate and understand why we need these special places," Gil said.

Upon accepting the Founders' Award, Judy described BLT's "very special connection" to the Farm. "We were clueless about how to start a nonprofit," she said, "and there was Jaci to help mentor us. BLT actually gave us a temporary home as we began the long journey." The relationship continues to this day with Judy leading various tours at Meetinghouse Farm as part of BLT's popular Walks & Talks program.

"It is a gift to have the joy of connecting with like-minded people who understand the value of nature and the importance of preserving that natural landscape," said Judy. "Congratulations to you [BLT members] for all you do, and thank you so much for recognizing the Farm and my work." 🐾

SPECIAL EVENTS

2016 Dates to Save!



2nd Annual Tour de Barnstable
May 15, 2016

3rd Annual BLT Green Run
August 7, 2016

2nd Annual Yellow Dog MusicFest
September 17, 2016

2nd Annual Run the Field
October 2, 2016

Visit www.BLT.org for more information

*In 2015, several unique events supported BLT's mission to preserve open space.
Thanks to the organizers, participants, sponsors and many volunteers!*

TOUR de BARNSTABLE

In May, BLT teamed up with Patrick Lentell of Sports Event Management Company for the first-ever Tour de Barnstable. More than 250 bicyclists participated in the 32-mile ride. Starting at Aselton Park in Hyannis, cyclists rode through all 7 villages.

Sponsors

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Merrill Lynch
Prime Motor Group
Sea Sports Cape Cod

BLT GREEN RUN 5K

BLT's 2nd Annual Green Run in August attracted nearly 250 kids and adults who walked or ran to raise funds to "Keep Lowell Park Green!"

Sponsors

Archi-Tech Associates
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RUN THE FIELD 5K

In October inclement weather gave way to sunny skies for runners and walkers to come out and support BLT on the grass runways of the Cape Cod Airfield in Marstons Mills.

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YELLOW DOG MUSIC FEST

It was a beautiful day in September for BLT's Yellow Dog MusicFest. More than 250 people got sand between their toes to celebrate BLT's new partnership with Boston's Berklee College of Music. Seven bands performed at the Craigville Beach Association, combining nature and music to enjoy Cape Cod's unique environment. Special thanks to Sarah Mayo and Pamela Danforth, who conceived of and carried out the amazing event, and to Geoff Woolley and John Howe for their financial support. And thanks to the Sturgis Charter School and Barnstable High School students. **Stay tuned for a repeat performance on Sept. 17!**

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The great work done by BLT
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The wonderful summer programs
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— **Bill Richardson**, Kettleers '67,
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and US Ambassador