

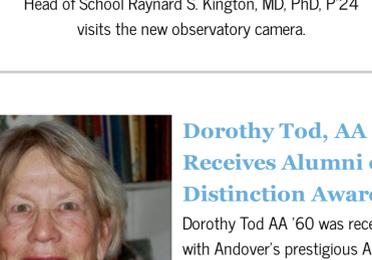
**A Newsletter from the Abbot@Andover Committee  
Spring 2022 Edition**

*"...celebrating and facilitating interaction among alumnae and perpetuating Abbot's spirit within the Andover Community"*

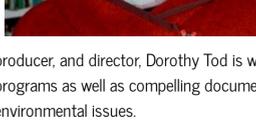
**A Note from the Chair: Noreen Markley AA'73**

At the forefront of female education, including the study of the sciences, Abbot Academy added an observatory dome to Abbot Hall in 1875 to enhance the Academy's ability to study the stars. Given Abbot's history of educating women in the scientific fields, it is no surprise that the new CCD camera at the Phillips Academy Observatory was funded by an Abbot Academy Fund grant.

The new gift was highlighted in an Andover Instagram post accompanied by the photo below. "Students in Ms. Odden's astronomy class welcomed Dr. Kington to the Observatory to take a look at Venus and the new CCD camera."



Head of School Raynard S. Kington, MD, PhD, P'24 visits the new observatory camera.



**Dorothy Tod, AA '60  
Receives Alumni of  
Distinction Award**

Dorothy Tod AA '60 was recently honored with Andover's prestigious Alumni Award of Distinction, the purpose of which is "to recognize and honor alumni of Phillips Academy or Abbot Academy who have served with distinction in their fields of endeavor." An award-winning film editor, producer, and director, Dorothy Tod is well known for her work on children's television programs as well as compelling documentaries that shed light on timely social and environmental issues.

Tod began her film career editing footage for CBS's popular *Captain Kangaroo* and PBS's groundbreaking *Sesame Street*. She has produced and edited more than 300 short nature films featuring animals in East Africa, SeaWorld, and the San Diego Zoo.

A pioneer in her field, Tod established Dorothy Tod Films in 1972 where she created several award-winning and highly regarded documentaries. *What if You Couldn't Read?*, is her 1980 documentary that explores how a businessman hides his illiteracy for years but then finally learns to read. Her 1981 film *Warriors' Women*, provided a moving insight into the impact of the Vietnam War and its aftermath on families. In 2000, Tod produced and directed *A Dyslexic Family Diary*, which chronicles a mother's 18-year struggle to get an education for her bright dyslexic son.

To read a short interview conducted by Beth Humstone AA'66 on how Dorothy feels Abbot affected her life and career [click here](#).

The Abbot@Andover Committee is excited to continue the conversation with Dorothy Tod AA'60 on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7 p.m. ET.

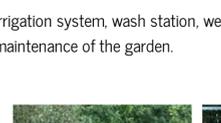
[Details & Registration](#)

**Treasures From the Abbot Archives: Do You Have...?**

You'd be surprised to hear that you may have a piece of Abbot history that would be very helpful to researchers trying to learn more about our school's history. If you'd like to let us know about what you might have relating to the topics below, please reach out to [saraingram222@gmail.com](mailto:saraingram222@gmail.com). Thank you- we are grateful for your interest!

**Abbot Songs:** Please consider alerting us to any Abbot songs/music materials you may have. As an example, the archives [has one of the three prayers](#) sung before breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Does anyone have the other two? Or the song for Miss Ritchie or the Bondes?

**The Secret Garden:** Perhaps Abbot's "Secret Garden" was so secret that you weren't aware it existed. Or, maybe you not only knew of the garden but you also have memories (large and/or small) and photos to share.



**Abbot Academy Fund Updates**

**The Abbot Learning Garden:** The Andover student gardening club was active all last year planting, maintaining, and harvesting the Abbot Learning Garden. Andover's Food and Agriculture class also regularly visited the garden and had a harvest day, followed by a cooking demo and taste test on-site (see photo to the left). A group of students is working with the Community Engagement Office to bring elementary students to the garden through the Youth Development Organization (YDO) program.



Through the winter, students will help design informational signage for the garden, as well as procedures and instruction manuals for the irrigation system, wash station, weeding and pest management, and general maintenance of the garden.

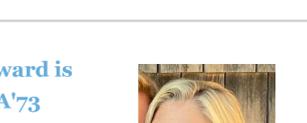


**Garden of Eaton, Part 2:**

Construction of the Pan Center destroyed the entire front of the "Garden of Eaton." An AAF grant last fall helped replace the garden's tulips and daffodils, but unexpected road widening work took away everything else in the garden. A second grant restored the garden to its former beauty as seen in the photos below.



*Before*



*After*

**A Distinguished Service Award is given to Marcia McCabe AA'73**

Marcia McCabe AA'73 won Andover's Distinguished Service Award in September 2021. This award is presented annually by the decision of the Academy Resources Committee of the Board of Trustees to volunteers whose services to Andover have been distinguished by commitment, uniqueness, and effectiveness. Their efforts on behalf of their school provide an inspiring example for all Andover volunteers.

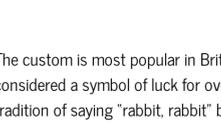


*Marcia McCabe  
AA'73*

Marcia McCabe's volunteer roles have spanned so many programs and committees that she is known to and respected by decades of volunteers. Based in New York, Marcia has hosted annual *non sibi* projects with Meals on Wheels for more than 10 years. Her energy and involvement have been important factors in drawing together area alumni for the Academy's annual 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Todd A. Isaac '90 Memorial Basketball Game.

While Marcia's *non sibi* spirit and commitment to Andover embody the aspirations of the merger of Phillips and Abbot academies, she maintains an especially strong connection to her classmates and the Academy, legacy. Marcia has served as a class secretary since graduation, helping to create a tight-knit group of Class of 1973 alumnae. She currently serves as co-chair of the Class Secretaries Committee of the Alumni Council and also as a class agent since 2008. Marcia is a former member of the Abbot Academy Association (2000–2003) and the Andover Development Board (1990–1998).

Over the years, Marcia has been a consistent and generous donor to Andover. For example, she donated a dressing room to the Tang Theatre when the space was renovated in the early '90s. Her dedication, positive attitude, and warm personality make her an esteemed member in any Academy venture.

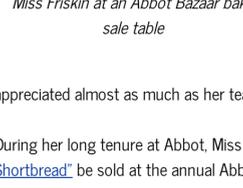


**Why Abbot Rabbits Say  
"Rabbit, Rabbit"**

While you were at Abbot you likely learned to say "rabbit, rabbit" out loud on the first day of every month to ensure good luck. But, did you know this ritual exists far beyond the Abbot gates?

The custom is most popular in Britain and North America. Although rabbits have been considered a symbol of luck for over 2,000 years, it's impossible to pinpoint when the tradition of saying "rabbit, rabbit" began, but the first instance to be found in writing occurred in 1909. Variations of the words used in the practice do vary with "rabbits," "white rabbit" and "rabbit, rabbit, rabbit" also spoken.

And don't worry! If you forgot to say "rabbit, rabbit" on the first of the month, you can say "tibbar, tibbar" ("rabbit, rabbit" spelled backward) and still have good luck.



*Miss Friskin at an Abbot Bazaar bake sale table*

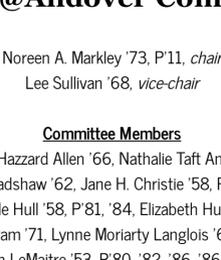
**Abbot Edibles - A Step Back in Culinary Time**

Kate Friskin's "[Scotch Shortbread](#)"

Kate Friskin, Abbot Faculty Emerita, was the music instructor to many Abbot girls from 1922 to 1961. Her record of thirty-nine years of passionately teaching instrumental music and overseeing musical theatre productions at Abbot is admirable. However, Miss Friskin's talents as a baker were appreciated almost as much as her teaching skills.

During her long tenure at Abbot, Miss Friskin would make her famous "[Scotch Shortbread](#)" be sold at the annual Abbot Bazaar. She always "sold out" and used the proceeds for the music program. Sandra Castle Hull AA '58, P'81, '84 recounts that the large circles of shortbread (to be divided into quarters) would sell for \$1 with several girls pooling their change to buy one.

As a gesture of gratitude for her teaching, Elizabeth, "Betsy" Parker Powell, Trustee Emerita, AA '56, P'84, '90, GP'19, has generously donated a practice room in the planned music building, in memory of Miss Friskin.



**Abbot@Andover Committee**

Noreen A. Markley '73, P'11, *chair*  
Lee Sullivan '68, *vice-chair*

**Committee Members**

- Blakeman Hazzard Allen '66, Nathalie Taft Andrews '59,
- Mae Concerni Bradshaw '62, Jane H. Christie '58, P'85, '87, GP'24,
- Sandra Castle Hull '58, P'81, '84, Elizabeth Humstone '66,
- Sara Ingram '71, Lynne Moriarty Langlois '62, P'90,
- Cornelia Weldon LeMaitre '53, P'80, '82, '86, '86, '87, GP'13, '16
- Chandri Navarro '82, P'15, Susan W. Peters '75, P'09, '12
- Lori Goodman Seegers '73, P'05, Ruth Sisson Weiner '66, P'97, '01



Phillips Academy  
180 Main St.  
Andover, MA 01810

[Discover Knowledge & Goodness](#)

