

## FOOT Newsletter 2019

Dear FOOT Leader Alums,

Spring 2020

I hope wherever you are, you are safe, healthy and sadly, maybe even alone. Our times are scary at the moment, and I move from being optimistic, in that we will beat this Covid-19, to having panic attacks about what might be ahead of us. The important thing is that you somehow stay connected to the ones you love -- so lots of emails, texting, FBing, and telephone calls. I was having a hard time getting this finished, but then I thought it would be important for you all to have the news of each other. Please remember that most of this news came from before the Covid-19 hit the US, so it may seem as though we were living on a different planet. And, in some ways, we were.

Also – sadly, I must report the passing of two remarkable FOOT Leader Alums, Kashka Kubzdela '90 and Jeff Grigg '99.

**Kashka Kubzela:** Kashka passed away in February after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. Throughout her illness, she was determined to face it head on, getting second opinions, and trying different treatments. She kept her love of nature by going for walks outside as long as she could. She lived near DC and worked at the National Center for Education Statistics, which collects, analyzes and makes available data related to education in the U.S. and other nations. Kashka was always interested in education, but most of all in connecting with people. This is from **Roger Wynne '88:** Joanna Rosen and I had the pleasure of having Kashka as a freshman on our trip in the fall of 1986, FOOT's second season. She was a remarkably positive person. That following winter—I think around Valentine's Day—she circulated a poem to all of us on that trip. (see below) As a sign of those times, she printed it in the then-distinctive Mac font on pink paper and delivered it to our rooms. It was an ode to the power we draw from friendship.

Here is Kashka with her daughter Nicola. Left: at Cilla's Sky Acres farm in Vermont at a FOOT Leader Reunion. Right: More recently, with Nicola, who is now in college.

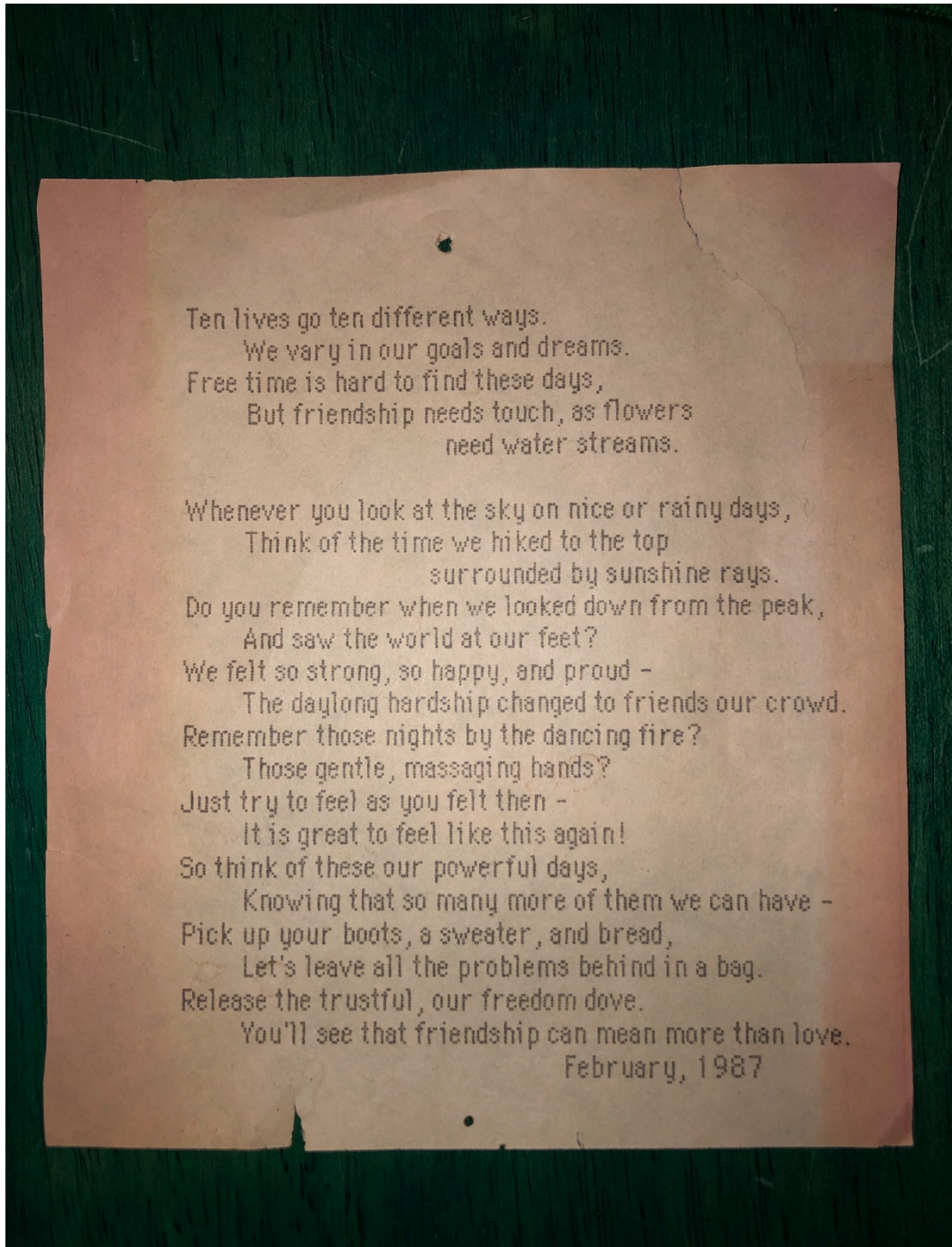




On her FOOT trip 1986  
Photo provided by Andrew Lederman



The poem Kashka shared:





Kashka's FOOT trip



FOOT Leaders 1988 with Kashka in the middle

