



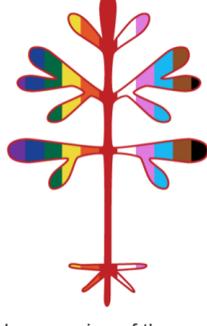
# News from Simon's Rock

MARCH 2021



## Support Campus Pride Week at Simon's Rock, March 28 – April 3

Under the theme "Explore the World, Discover Yourself, Celebrate Pride," Simon's Rock invites the wide community of Rockers, parents, and friends to honor our Campus Pride Week. Simon's Rock will celebrate diversity and inclusivity with student and campus community events scheduled throughout the week. To support the formative work we do at Simon's Rock, we invite all community members to donate during a special Pride fundraising appeal. A group of alumni donors has pledged a \$1-to-\$1 match if we can raise \$25,000 between March 28 and April 3. As a special incentive, we will send a limited edition rainbow version of the Simon's Rock tote bag for all donations of \$100 or more.



Want to get in on the Pride appeal early?

> [Visit our giving page and designate your gift by typing "Pride."](#)

## We're Listening: Please Complete the Alumni Survey

Check your inbox! Rockers from all class years should have received the 2021 Alumni Survey earlier this week. Your feedback on our four-minute survey is crucial as we plan for activities and outreach through the end of the pandemic and beyond. If you've already submitted your responses, thank you! If you're planning to do it today, thank you! If you missed it, we will be sending it out again later this week.

## ICYMI: Watch the 24th W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Lecture

If you missed the annual W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Lecture last month—or if you'd like to see it again—you can [watch it on our YouTube channel](#). The Lecture is given each year by a distinguished individual whose own achievements carry on the legacy of Du Bois, the civil rights leader and scholar born in Great Barrington. This year's talk, "Storytelling in Times of Crisis: Using the Past to Fight for Justice in the Present," was delivered by Dr. Shana Russell, a scholar, organizer, and assistant professor of English at [BHSEC Newark](#).



## Ian Bickford Named President of American University in Afghanistan at Kabul

Dr. Ian Bickford—founding Dean of Bard Academy from 2014 to 2015 and Provost and Vice President of Simon's Rock from 2016 to 2019—became President of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) on March 1. The AUAF is Afghanistan's only nationally accredited, private, not-for-profit, non-partisan and co-educational university. Dr. Bickford is an AA graduate of Simon's Rock and was the first Simon's Rock alumnus to hold the office of Provost and Vice President. [Read the full announcement.](#)



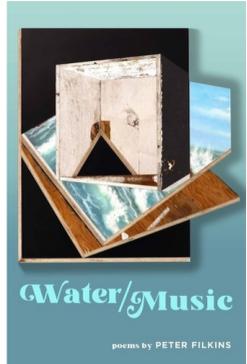
## Next Alumni Zoom Meet-Up: April 1

Join our dedicated hosts David Segil '00 and Valerie Ferrier '94 for the next Alumni Zoom Meet-Up. Each month, Rockers from all classes are invited to meet up on Zoom to reconnect from the comfort of home. The next gathering is scheduled for **Thursday, April 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET**. Join us and come ready to share your Simon's Rock stories. For more information and the meeting link, contact [advancement@simons-rock.edu](mailto:advancement@simons-rock.edu).



## New Poetry from Peter Filkins

In support of his new book of poetry out on April 6, *Water/Music*, Peter Filkins, Richard B. Fisher Professor of Literature, is participating in a nationwide virtual book tour. Simon's Rock will host a [virtual reading with Peter](#) on Monday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m. ET, which is free and open to the public. [Read more about Peter's new book and forthcoming readings.](#)



## Wanted: Your Simon's Rock Story

Help us fill the Simon's Rock Archives with alumni stories. Archivist Erin Donahue makes it simple, using an interview process inspired by StoryCorps. We invite you to share your unique experiences at this unique college. Contact Erin at [archives@simons-rock.edu](mailto:archives@simons-rock.edu).

## Pets of Simon's Rock

Meet Kenobi, "the pandemic pup." His humans are Shani Ferguson '85 and Lionel Artom-Ginzburg '88.

Got a cute pet pic you want to share? Send it along with your name, entering class year, your pet's name, and your contact info to Rebecca Wehry, [rwehry@simons-rock.edu](mailto:rwehry@simons-rock.edu).



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