

PROVIDENCE Journal

Acclaimed New Yorker writer honored by alma mater Lincoln School

Friday

Posted Oct 23, 2015 at 11:15 PM

Earlier this month, Jane Kramer published an article in the New Yorker about the feminist activist Gloria Steinem.

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Jane Kramer graduated from Lincoln School back in 1955. But on Friday, the longtime staff writer for The New Yorker was walking through the school's halls.

"It's terrific to be back, I love this school," she said, sitting in the office of Head of School Suzanne Fogarty at the end of the day, adding the school gave her "a sense of my own life and my own choices as a woman and my own confidence."

Kramer has contributed to The New Yorker since 1964 and has published numerous acclaimed nonfiction books. On Friday, she received Lincoln School's Distinguished Alumni Award. Earlier this month, Kramer published an article in the New Yorker about the feminist activist Gloria Steinem and her new book, which she discussed at the school.

After graduating from the all-girls independent Quaker school, Kramer traveled the world from her home in New York to Italy, Vietnam, France and many other places. She said she's carried pieces of Lincoln School with her along the way.

Every Friday, Lincoln School students have a silent meeting, in the Quaker fashion, where they sit silently, and if they choose to do so, stand up and share something on their minds.

After leaving the school, Kramer headed to Vassar College, where there were no such meetings. So, with a group of friends who had also grown up with silent meetings, she signed up for golf, she said.

“Nobody else took golf besides the four of us,” she said, adding they would leave their clubs and “nestle under some trees,” and hold silent meetings.

“Boy did I miss them,” she said of the meetings, adding she now also meditates.

She also had a few things to share with the girls in a 10th grade English class, including “the gift of Lincoln, of an all-girls education,” which she identified as “finding your voice, as who you are, without the burden of the kind of competition” that co-education might bring.

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