

MS. STEIN: Now we're going to turn to Wanda Holland Greene, who is our program chair. It's a lot of work to put one of these programs together. I'd like to give special thanks to her and to her committee, Dennis Bisgaard, Janet Durgin, Charlotte Rea, and Jacqueline Smethurst. Thanks to all of you, and we're looking forward to this program.

MS. GREENE: Thank you, Ellen. Good afternoon, everybody, and allow me to join the chorus of voices who have already welcomed you to the 89th annual meeting for NAPSG. What a tremendous blessing and a privilege it is to be here with all of you as we take a few days to savor the beauty of the Napa Valley and bask in the warmth of friendship and collegiality.

I have to confess that I'm a regular at the Silverado, making my way here for restoration and recovery when the mantle of headship and motherhood feel heavy on my shoulders. Somehow, it's that delicious combination of a lavender sugar scrub and a deep-tissue massage at the spa that seems to work wonders for my body and spirit.

But the reason for this Silverado visit is quite different, and while it is true that I have already been to the spa twice, this time I'm here at the Silverado to connect, not to disconnect. This meeting is a get-together, not a get-away. We are here to learn something new. We are here to be reminded of the things which we may have forgotten. We are here to be challenged. We are here to be affirmed. We are here to be inspired. We are here to be stretched.

I love the Oliver Wendell Holmes quotation that reads, "A mind, once stretched, never regains its original dimension."

The intention of the program committee is that each presentation will change the size and the shape of your thoughts and perhaps enlarge the concepts within which you envision the future of your schools, and as the program chair, it is my desire that at the end of our days together, you will feel elated because your time has been well spent.

So thank you, again, to Bruce and to Ellen and to the wonderful program committee for their enthusiastic support and steadfast commitment throughout the past year. I'll come back and introduce the film at 5:00, a little bit thereafter, but I will say for now that we put the program together to keep you interested. I think sometimes, as we become administrators, we forget about good teaching, varying instruction, differentiating modes and methods, and sometimes we do the same thing over and over again. Hence, a film rather than an opening speaker.

There will be music. There will be poetry. There will be film. You saw art. Thank you, Ellen. There will also be PowerPoint and lecture for everyone else who still leans perhaps toward the left brain. But I will also say this, and I loved hearing you, Joan, say this: That this meeting is also about fellowship. You know, we can fill up the program with lecture after lecture or even poet after poet, but the reason we come to NAPSG is not only for what is written but is also because of what is unwritten, because we are texts to be studied and read, and we can connect with each other. And I want to publicly thank Jerry Katz, who is the head of school at the Park School, and who is my mentor and brought me to NAPSG for the first time. And part of the reason why I'm here today as a head of school is because I was in the company of other incredible people. So thank you, Jerry, for that and bringing me here.

So I will say to all of you who are not heads of school, who are associate members, keep coming. And all of you heads of school who are here for the first time, this is truly one of the most rejuvenating experiences, and

that's why we haven't filled up all the white space on the paper. You can have your spa treatments; I have done that, too. But really, take time to be with each other, reconnect with the people whom you love, and connect with some people who you do not know.

We hope that at the end of these wonderful days together, you will feel that your creative juices are flowing, that they will flow back to your respective schools. I'm just delighted to have had the opportunity to lead this effort. Thank you so much.