A photograph of a person standing on a rocky, vegetated hillside. The person is shirtless and wearing dark shorts, with their arms outstretched. The background is a dark, stormy sky with a large, dark, swirling cloud formation. The foreground is a rocky slope covered in green and yellow vegetation.

*Safeguarding this fragile earth,
our island home.*

**KREITLER ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
TO BE ESTABLISHED AT VIRGINIA SEMINARY**

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The Kreitler Environmental Lectures



The Kreitler Environmental Lectures are being established at Virginia Theological Seminary and will be held every other year. The Kreitler Lectures will explore the ways in which one's appreciation and stewardship of the environment are enhanced by informed theological beliefs. The speaker at the Kreitler Lecture will be invited to participate in the life of the Seminary community during the time he or she is on campus.

The Kreitler Environmental Fund, when the Kreitler Environmental Lectures are fully funded, also will be used to support some of the following initiatives. These initiatives will be introduced, at such time and in such frequency as income becomes available, in the order in which they are listed below.

Environmental Study Resources: Acquisition of additional resources such as papers, videos, books, and films for the study and research of issues related to theology and the environment, to enhance and broaden the collections at the Bishop Payne Library and the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Seminary.

The Kreitler Environmental Fellowships: To be awarded to a member of the Episcopal Church on an every other year basis, who would be in residence at the Seminary for one month. This fellowship would enable the recipient to pursue research and writing initiatives related to the Church's response to current environmental crises; with a goal towards developing sermons, articles,

courses, or retreats that would enhance a parish or community's appreciation and stewardship of the environment through informed theological beliefs. By their presence and interactions with students and faculty, the Kreitler Fellowship recipients will provide opportunities to deepen the Seminary community's understanding and appreciation of why, from a Christian perspective, the environment matters.

The Kreitler Environmental Scholarships, to provide financial assistance for a student or member of the faculty of the Seminary to participate in a significant international or national consultation, conference, or event related to the environment, on a per need basis.

The John Henry Kreitler and Muriel Gwillim Kreitler Environmental Fund, to be known as The Kreitler Environmental Fund, is being established at Virginia Theological Seminary by Peter Gwillim Kreitler, class of 1969, and his wife Catharine B. Kreitler, members of their families, and friends, in memory of John (Jack) Henry Kreitler and Muriel (Billie) Gwillim Kreitler, the parents of Peter Gwillim and John (Jay) Taylor Kreitler.

“The Kreitler Fund may have the potential to enable many graduates of Virginia Seminary to help conserve and preserve the environment, thus empowering them to keep God’s creation from collapsing.”

The Rev. Peter Gwillim Kreitler, VTS ‘69

Our family has initiated this Environmental Fund because Virginia Seminary has had a long and distinguished heritage of sending men and women into the world in service to God throughout all of God’s creation: a missionary heritage that has placed clergy in the military, hospitals, churches, schools, and a variety of other institutions at home and abroad. This legacy has inspired the Kreitler family and friends to help foster and embolden new leadership informed by a strong environmental ethic that will help form a sustainable model for the future. The mission of the Kreitler Environmental Fund will be to empower clergy with this ethic so that all forms of ministry are informed by the care of creation.

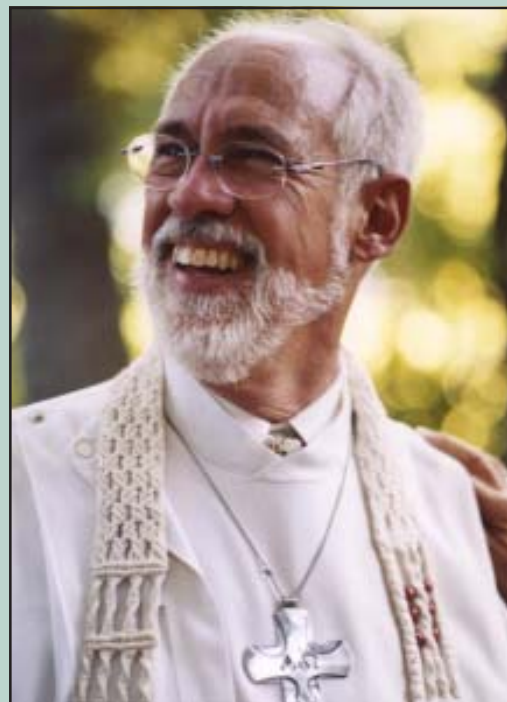
Our parents, Billie and Jack Kreitler, always had a great love of the Episcopal Church and God’s natural sanctuaries from Cape Cod to the Florida Keys. They knew both as essential to a healthy quality of life for all generations and bestowed this ethic upon their immediate and extended family.

We feel they became increasingly concerned that future generations would not inherit as healthy an environment and they encouraged me, my brother Jay, and all our family in our desire to preserve the places we love.

Jay and Elizabeth, as residents of Annapolis Maryland, and as world class scuba divers and sailors know the beauty of the waters of the earth first hand. Katy and I realize that nature influences our lives and we like being restored in healthy, clean places like the mountains of California or the waters of Nantucket Sound.

I dare say this is the sentiment of our entire extended family. We are privileged to be able to enjoy a healthy environment, and preservation is crucial.

As we asked what we can do to protect that which we love for future generations, part of the answer came with our knowing Virginia Seminary’s desire to provide education about the environment for their theological students. This is exciting on lots of levels, but the multiplier effect is most prominent here. That is, each member of the clergy will go



The Rev. Peter Gwillim Kreitler, VTS ‘69, Minister for the Environment in the Diocese of Los Angeles, is creator of the Southern California television series Earth Talk Today (www.earthtalktoday.tv) and a prominent leader in environmental understanding.

into ministry with a deeper understanding about the fragile nature of God’s island home and will be able to reach thousands of individuals in congregations throughout the country.

The Kreitler Fund may have the potential to enable many men and women graduates of Virginia Seminary to help conserve and preserve the environment, thus empowering them to keep God’s creation from collapsing. Honoring our parents so that their values are remembered by future generations has become possible through the generosity of Virginia Theological Seminary. The Kreitler Environmental Fund may become a vital part of the education of thousands of men and women through the years, and additional contributions will have a significant role to play in bringing this to reality.

We believe that the preservation of the environment is going to require serious attention of all academic institutions from now on. We hope that many individuals, other than family and friends, will want to contribute to this fund through the years.

John Henry and Muriel Gwillim Kreitler

Jack and Billie Kreitler were both born in 1916. The Kreitler seniors lived in New Jersey, and Jack's family was very active in local politics and the YMCA. Raised as a Presbyterian and active as a young man, the church was always a part of his life. He attended Blair Academy where he was student body president and captain of several sports teams. He went on to graduate from Brown University, prior to enlisting in the Navy to serve in the Atlantic theater chasing German U Boats in PBM seaplanes. Upon returning to New Jersey following World War II, he went to work in the family machinery making business named after his great uncle, Henry Ruesch.

Billie, raised in Connecticut, attended the Miss Porter's School and Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Her family belonged to the Congregational Church and were very active in philanthropy throughout their lives. Her dad was asked to be Secretary of State during the Governorship of John Trumbull, but he chose instead to spend the years after his retirement serving as a Potentate of the Shriners, creating scholarships for worthy inner city youth, and establishing YMCAs in the Hartford Region.

Jack and Billie Kreitler grew up learning the importance of giving back to their local community. Also, the church was important to them both throughout their 54 years together. When they settled in Short Hills, New Jersey, in

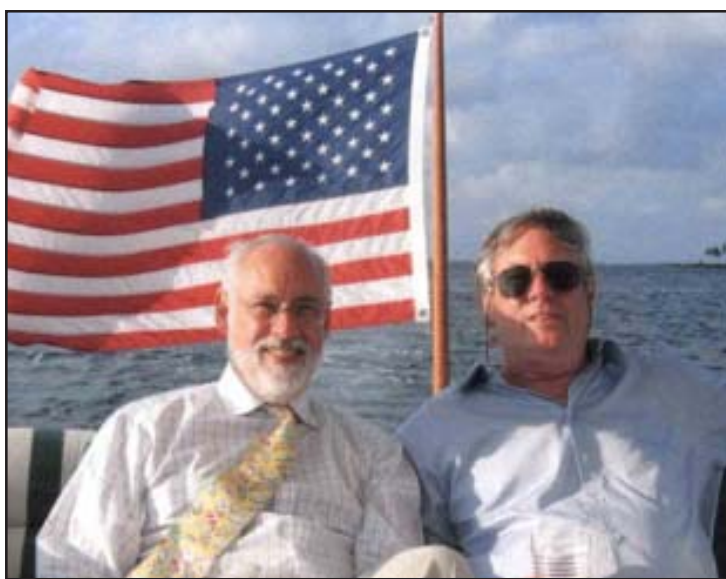


Billie and Jack Kreitler

1945, there were three organized churches: the Roman Catholic, Mormon, and Episcopal. They embraced the Episcopal Church as a good meld of Congregational and Presbyterian thought. Jack taught Sunday school, served on the vestry, and for many years during retirement was the head of the Ocean Reef Chapel in Key Largo Florida. Billie was always an advocate for the less fortunate as well as the environment throughout her life. Together they were well respected for their dedication to church, family, and community.

Jack and Billie instilled in their two boys, John (Jay) and Peter a similar ethic. Jay and Peter were raised at Christ Episcopal Church in Short Hills under the tutelage of the Rev. Herb Cooper. Because of their parents, Jay and Peter throughout their lives have had both a strong environmental ethic and recognition of the importance of service to the community. This tuning fork of meaning has always guided their professional careers.

It is appropriate that they honor their parents by establishing **The Kreitler Environmental Fund** at Virginia Theological Seminary. It is their intention to spearhead the growth of this fund so this and future generations of students will benefit from the wisdom of those who blend theological thought and environmental sensitivity.



Peter and Jay Kreitler on Nantucket Sound.

“It is vitally important for those who would be leaders in the Church to understand the responsibility we have to safeguard ‘this fragile earth, our island home.’”

I thank the Kreitler family and their friends on behalf of Virginia Seminary for the extraordinary commitment they are making in establishing **The Kreitler Environmental Fund** here at Virginia Theological Seminary in memory of John Henry Kreitler and Muriel Gwillim Kreitler.

The Kreitler Environmental Fund is a wonderful tribute to the Kreitlers, as well as a splendid new resource for this community. It is vitally important for those who would be leaders in the Church to understand the responsibility we have to safeguard “this fragile earth, our island home,” as creation is described in one of our beautiful Eucharistic prayers. This generous gift will enable us to equip men and women for the critical work of environmental stewardship in the congregations and neighborhoods in which they live and carry out their ministries.

The Kreitlers have the heartfelt thanks of the entire Seminary community for this extraordinary expression of their own ministries and their commitment to the ideals fostered by their parents.

The Very Rev. Martha J. Horne

The Episcopal Church Calls for Enhanced Environmental Stewardship

Resolutions passed at General Convention 2006 encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education. By reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by moving towards the replacement of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources, parishes and individuals can help work for a healthier, more just, and sustainable Creation.



The Kreitler Environmental Fund

has been initiated by members of the Kreitler family and friends.

Contributions to support this important ministry may be sent to

**The Kreitler Environmental Fund
at Virginia Theological Seminary
c/o the Very Rev. Martha J. Horne
3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria Virginia 22304**

**For more information please write or call Edwin K. Hall, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
at 703-461-1711 or ehall@vts.edu
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