



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

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Elissa Arons will continue the tradition of post-Harvard-game parties that she and **Dan Arons** established by giving a cocktail party for Yale '63 classmates following the Harvard game on November 22, 2014 at 1010 Memorial Drive, Apt. 11E, Cambridge, MA 02138. If you will be attending, please e-mail Elissa at elissaarons@gmail.com to let her know that you will be there. We look forward to seeing many classmates there.

The Class's undefeated freshman football team of 1959 gathered for its 55th reunion in New Haven on the weekend of the Yale-Army game, September 26-28, 2014. This group, which has made it a practice to welcome every class member who came out for the team back in 1959 (more than 100 of our Class did), is virtually unique at Yale, we believe, in its size and longevity. This year, 16 team members came back and could have fielded a full slate of players. Here is the lineup: Backs: **Hank Higdon, Jerry Kenney, Denny Landa, and Dave Weinstein**; Receivers: **Fred Andreae, Larry Gwin, Hank Hallas, and Ian Robertson**; Interior linemen: **Erik Jensen, Peter Kiernan, Dave Mawicke, Jim Thompson, Pete Truebner, and John Younger**. Honorary team members **Vic Sheronas** and **Guy Struve** were also there.

A full range of activities was enjoyed: visiting the Yale football team's Friday practice session in the Bowl, Friday night cocktails and dinner at the Barcelona Restaurant, lunch and watching the game from fine seats in the Kenney Center, and cocktails and dinner at Mory's following the game. (Thank you, **Chris Getman**, '64 AND '63.) Additionally, the team enjoyed meeting with Rich Marazzi, author of the newly published history of the Bowl on its 100th anniversary, and **Jerry Kenney** was kind enough to present each team member with a signed copy of that book. Speaking of the Bowl's 100th anniversary, one team member noted that, as ancient as that stadium seems, more than half of its life has occurred AFTER our class members played there.

It was a terrific weekend, enjoyed by all. There was widespread sentiment among those present that Yale's upset victory over Army did great credit to the enthusiasm, recruiting prowess, and coaching abilities of Tony Reno and that the Yale football program is on the path toward restoring its reputation for a quality and winning football program in the Ivy League and beyond. If by chance any 1963 class member reading these notes who came out for freshman football back in 1959 has not been receiving e-mails and other notices/invitations involving the team, and wishes to be included, please alert Ian Robertson at ianrobco@earthlink.net so that you can be added to the team mailing list.

On a beautiful Fall day in central Virginia, our classmate **Wick Murray** led his third Civil War exploration for the class at the Spotsylvania Battlefield. We delved into the moment that General

Grant took command in the East, transforming the Army of the Potomac into the instrument that defeated the Army of Northern Virginia as Grant continued to develop many elements of modern military strategy. The outing was ably managed again by **Paul Field** with “Wikipedia” signage decorating the bus. Classmates who attended included **Paul Field, Michael Freeland, Marc Lavietes, Wick Murray, Alan Parker, Jay Rixse, Jon Rose, Herb Rosenthal, Guy Struve, Fielding Williams,** and **Jim Wetmur.**

In August 2014, **Paul Field** and three others celebrated his eldest brother-in-law’s second knee replacement by hiking the remote Dingle Peninsula in Ireland. In six days, “The Four Geezers” hiked 81 miles over three mountains, around beautiful beaches, and through tiny villages where time has stood still. Paul reports that “the walk was challenging, the food was remarkable (the best fish I’ve ever had), and the wonderful people were the best part.”

Steve Hall reports from India, where he is on assignment with Bechtel: “Life here is mostly work, eat, and sleep while Tracy finishes up her B. Lit. back in Cambridge at Harvard Extension. The only thing of note recently was a weekend trip to Mumbai to see the Gate of India and the Taj Hotel. I had wine and calamari in the Harbour Bar and watched the ferries arrive and depart from The Gate. There were whiffs of Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in the architecture, and the ferries were strangely reminiscent of the European side of the Bosphorus in Istanbul. This was ground zero in the terrorist attack of some years ago.”

John Lahr’s biography of Tennessee Williams, profiled in a previous Class Note, is one of the nominees for the 2014 National Book Award for nonfiction.

On September 15, 2014 in Washington, DC, Freedom House and the Council for a Community of Democracies hosted a major foreign policy conference in honor of our late classmate **Mark Palmer.** This event, on The Challenge of Authoritarianism in Putin’s Russia and Across Eurasia, inaugurated the newly-created Mark Palmer Forum on Advancing Democracy, which is designed to honor and advance Mark’s impressive legacy in furthering democracy and human rights across the world. Among other activities, the Mark Palmer Forum will support democracy and human rights activists globally and host periodic events focused on major challenges to democratic governance. The capstone of these activities will be a major foreign policy conference each year on September 15, which has been designated by the United Nations as the International Day of Democracy.

Stanton Samenow has published a revised and updated paperback edition of his book, *Inside the Criminal Mind*, first published 30 years ago. New material in this edition includes: an exploration of the Internet as a rapidly growing arena for criminal activity; an expanded discussion of how drug manufacturing, distribution, and use provide unique opportunities for intrigue, excitement, and financial gain; an examination of two different homicide cases in which the perpetrators came from opposite backgrounds, highlighting Samenow’s findings that the criminal mind cannot be blamed on social upbringing; a new chapter on the sex life of the criminal, arguing that sex crimes have little to do with sexual fulfillment; an examination of the scarcity of successful insanity pleas; a closer look inside prison walls, offering a vivid picture of what employees at correctional facilities encounter every day; a radical new approach to anger management based on Samenow’s research and clinical practice; and updated findings of genetic and biological research into whether some people are “wired” to become criminals. *Inside the Criminal Mind* is published by Broadway Books, with a publication date of November 4, 2014.

Yale Kneeland III died suddenly on August 25, 2014. He was a graduate of St. Paul's School, Yale College, and NYU's Institute of Fine Arts. Yale worked as a conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for many years. He is survived by his wife Judith Cotton, son Timothy Cotton, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews. **Leonard Chazen** remembers Yale as follows: "I was introduced to Yale in the spring of our Junior Year when the Elihu 1963 delegation had its first meeting. Yale had started out with the Class of 1960, taken time off to serve in the military and work in business, and was now back in New Haven to get his college degree. He seemed like a man of the world who had been dropped into a group of inexperienced boys. At our weekly Monopoly games with **Dick Neubert**, Yale would tell me. 'It's not enough to earn a living; you have to make "keeping money".' I now see that Yale was talking about private equity before it even had a name. To someone who wondered what he would do with himself when he got out of college, Yale's vision of life was totally dazzling. Years later, I discovered that Yale had left business early and had spent most of the past five decades as a curator at the Metropolitan Museum. Although by then I had learned that people's lives take unpredictable turns, I wasn't ready for this: the tough-talking Yale Kneeland had become one of the world's leading experts on decorative arts. At lunch at our 50th Reunion, my wife and I talked to Yale and his wife about their travels in Morocco, and they offered to help when we were ready to plan our long-deferred trip to North Africa. That would have been a great excuse to get back in touch with Yale. Unfortunately, it never happened, and then I learned the news that Yale had died over the summer."

Jerald L. Stevens died at his home in Chester, VT on September 5, 2014. Jerry loved ideas, people, and community. Active as a volunteer in the neighboring town of Grafton, he expressed his love of books and learning as a trustee of the Grafton Library, his enjoyment of a good party through his promotion of the Grafton Day Celebration, and his willingness to cause a ruckus in passions like his alternative plan for the abandoned Red Church building. Although variously describing himself as an atheist and a Buddhist, he was active at and a deacon of the Grafton Church. Jerry was ever curious about and generous with others, and appreciative of their individual perspectives, insights, and strengths. He was a confidante and catalyst for many, including his partner Michelle Dufort, four siblings, children Jake, Peter, Will, and Kate, his former wife Barbara, and their six grandchildren.

Swimming and his keen intellect led Jerry from Bloomington, IL to Yale. He graduated from Yale College in 1963 and from Harvard Business School in 1967, and worked in private finance. Jerry was appointed at age 33 as Welfare Commissioner and then Secretary of Human Services by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Five years later he became the Vice President of Finance and Administration at Yale University. Jerry returned to the private sector as President of Vanguard Investments in 1983. He retired to Vermont in 1994. Always an athlete and lover of things physical, Jerry played rugby in college, ran the Boston Marathon in the 1970s, biked to work before it was cool, and became a master club rower in his fifties. Last year he was still bench-pressing 200 pounds.

Jerry's roommate **Phil Stevens** recalls: "Jerry was smart – and wise, and he was truly a loyal friend. In my experience, friendship was a special thing for him – friends came first. It was exactly like that in early September, a few days before he passed, when I phoned him. Kate answered, and advised me that he was weak . . . but he picked up the phone and in a strong voice, sparked by obvious delight at talking to me, he told me of his condition, and plans, and alternative plans for his

own demise. Indeed, in the words of Dylan Thomas, Jerry was not going to ‘go gentle into that good night.’ My friend, I will miss you.”

Another of Jerry’s roommates, **John Lahr**, recounts: “About 18 Christmases ago, my family and I rented a house in Vermont to be with Jerry, who had cancer and who, it was thought, would not see out the year. The stubborn bastard has only just this month decided to leave us. Those extra nearly two decades were gravy. Jerry was, by any measurable standard known to man, eccentric. He was incorrigible, insatiable, irrepressible, smart – very smart – fierce, funny, unmoored, unabashed, human. He was also, it must be said, dangerous. It was hard to walk the streets with the guy either in Vermont or in Manhattan. ‘Hi ya,’ he’d say to people, mostly attractive women. You sometimes had to walk behind him or even away; it was just too embarrassing. But Jerry was undaunted. He sailed through life propelled by his own whims and his own whimsy. Of course, there was a shadow to Jerry; his compulsions and his rustication in the country broadcast anxieties he preferred the world, and maybe even himself, not to know. But he met life with courage and vigor and wonderful humor.”

Joseph Martin Wikler died on September 19, 2014 in Portland, ME, where he had summered for the past 23 years. Joe practiced law for only two years before following his passion for investment research, and taking the advice of one of his law school classmates that it was preferable ‘to be paid by the idea, rather than by the hour.’ By the time he was in law school, Joe could be found in one of three places – the library studying, the gym working out, or the Bache office watching the tape (no CNBC yet). After several years in the Chief Counsel’s Office of the IRS, he decided to turn his avocation into a vocation and was hired as an entry level analyst with an advisory firm in DC. He stayed for six years, becoming a partner and a Certified Financial Analyst. He then left to join a start-up investment advisory firm, The Rothschild Co. of Baltimore, where he was Director of Research and eventually the Chief Investment Officer. Over the next 20 years the firm grew and was then acquired by United Asset Management. Joe retired in 1994, although he continued working as an independent analyst. Joe was President of the Baltimore Security Analysts Society and was well known in the Baltimore investment community. In retirement he joined the Board of Directors of the Fortis Mutual Funds. After Fortis was sold he was invited to the Board of The Oppenheimer Funds, where he was a director until his death. He was also on the Board of the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore. For the past ten years Joe sponsored a Case Competition for business and finance majors at the University of Maryland. An active weightlifter and tennis player, Joe was especially proud of his home court in Harrison, ME, where he enjoyed more than 20 years of competition and camaraderie. He is survived by his wife Madeline (Brown ’65), daughters Judy Rose Sensibar (Brown ’90) and Karen Ruth Wikler (Brown ’91), and four grandsons.

Peter Jennings Wood passed away on September 5, 2014 at his home in Midlothian, TX, from complications relating to lung cancer. Born in 1941, Peter met Carol Gerling in Yosemite Park in 1964, and they were wed exactly three years later. Peter learned a love of architecture from his father and discovered a passion for education after graduating from the Yale School of Architecture in 1971. This led him to a career that included the University of Texas at Arlington, the American Institute of Architects, the University of Nebraska, the University of Houston where he held positions as Associate and Assistant Dean and Dean, and finally Prairie View A&M. His long career also included service in the Army as a Russian linguist. In 2001, he was awarded Educator of the Year by the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Peter is survived by his wife Carol, his children James, Anne, and Charles, and three grandsons. He is remembered by family,

colleagues, and friends as a man of integrity, great sense of humor, always encouraging others, wonderful host and trip planner extraordinaire – the last being a trip to Yosemite to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his and Carol’s meeting.

