

YAM Class Notes for July-August, 2014 Draft copy

On April 24-27, 2014, there will be a mini-reunion of the Class of 1963 in Philadelphia, PA.

Classmates registered to attend include **Jay Brooks, Charlie Dilks, Michael Freeland, John Gillespie, Doug Graybill, Dale Hershey, Michael Koenig, Joe Lastowka, Doc LeHew, Nelson Luria, Jon Rose, Seymour Saltus, Brian Salzberg, Victor Sheronas, Guy Struve, Cliff Swain, Sam Taylor, Ty Welles,** and **Michael Wilder**. The mini-reunion committee, led by **Charlie Dilks**, has put together a fascinating exploration of the City of Brotherly Love, including the Barnes Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the National Constitution Center.

Leo Damrosch won the National Books Critics Circle award for biography for his life of Jonathan Swift, which was reported in a previous Class Note. The biography was also one of two finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in biography.

An exhibition of panoramic photography by **Gus Foster** and others will be held at 333 Montgomery Arts in Santa Fe, NM on April 25-June 2, 2014. Gus uses a large format panoramic camera to capture stunning large scale color images of the American landscape.

Jon Larson has published a two-part book. Part I, entitled "Self-Publish Your Own Book", is an easy-to-follow, step-by-step guide to using Internet resources to self-publish a book. Part II of the book, building on the catalog for the book exhibit at last year's 50th Reunion, is a celebration of Class authors and their books. Jon's book is available through amazon.com. Jon has generously agreed to contribute the net proceeds of the book to our Class Treasury.

Tom Lovejoy has been named as a Commander of the French *Ordre des Palmes Académiques* (the counterpart of the French Legion of Honor for educators and academics) for his “exemplary commitment to the protection of biodiversity through international collaboration with partners such as France.”

In this Class Note, we have to report the deaths of three classmates, making the space available even more inadequate than usual. For fuller obituaries and personal remembrances by classmates, please go to the In Memoriam section of the Class website, www.yale63.org. As a reminder, the In Memoriam section of the Class website is password-protected; the password is yale63

Darrel E. Ashcraft died on March 17, 2014 in East Taunton, MA. Darrel earned degrees from Yale, Concordia Seminary, Stanford University, and Simmons College. He taught religion at a high school and junior college, served as a Lutheran minister, and worked as a reference librarian. Darrel loved to sing in choirs, and appreciated organ music. He is survived by his wife, Linda, his son, Jeremy, his daughter-in-law Tedra, and two grandchildren. Linda reports that “Darrel was delighted to make his 50th reunion. He thoroughly enjoyed the organ tour at Woolsey, the dinners, seeing classmates, the song fest, and ALL the hoopla.”

Thomas A. Gildehaus died on March 10, 2014 in Orlando, FL. After earning an MBA in 1970 from Harvard, where he was a Baker Scholar, Tom worked in banking and investing before becoming Executive Vice President of Deere & Company in 1981. Thereafter, he was President and CEO of UNR Industries in Chicago, and Chairman and CEO of Northwestern Steel and Wire Company in Sterling, IL. After retiring in 2000, Tom devoted himself to his family, and was a leader in

philanthropic organizations, including the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, IA. **Hank Higdon** remembers Tom as a standout football player at Andover, whose Yale playing career was ended by an injury. In later years, Hank recalls, “I remember being so impressed with his maturity, wisdom, business savvy, fluency in Spanish, and worldliness.” **Erik Jensen**, another football teammate, remembers a long conversation with Tom before our 50th Reunion. Erik adds: “It was, in itself, a mini-reunion. I sincerely wish he had been able to join us. It is a good reminder that at this point we often don’t get a second chance.”

Michael T. (“Timo”) Gilmore died on March 3, 2014. Timo was Professor Emeritus of English at Brandeis University, where he had taught since earning his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1974. During his years at Brandeis, Timo wrote eight books and dozens of articles on 19th century American literature and culture. His scholarship paid particular attention to the relationship between literature and politics, and he brought to his literary studies the skills and learning of a historian and the deep political commitments that were already evident in his undergraduate years at Yale. Among Timo’s books were “The Middle Way: Puritanism and Ideology in American Literature” (1977); “American Literature and the Marketplace” (1985); “Differences in the Dark: American Movies and English Theater” (1998); “Surface and Depth: The Quest for Legibility in American Culture” (2003); and “The War on Words: Slavery, Race and Free Speech in American Literature” (2010). Timo’s lecture survey on 19th century American literature was a “must-take” course for undergraduates. At the time of his death, Timo was hard at work on a study of literary radicalism in his beloved Cambridge.