



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES MARCH-APRIL 2016

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The Yale '63 British Isles tour in September of 2016 has 36 confirmed with space available for up to eight more. It features 17 days (September 11-27) London to London via Wales, Ireland (south and north), and Scotland, and an optional three-day extension (September 27-30) to the English Lake District. Travel is by private motor coach, ferry, and rail. You can view the itinerary details and costs on our Yale '63 website (www.yale63.org). For availability and answers to any questions, e-mail Jon Larson at jon_larson@hotmail.com or Jim Thompson at jlthompson@mcanby.com. We are implementing the best features of our very successful Tour de France in September 2015, including a lot of personal time and emphasis on sharing and getting to know each other better in a more relaxed and intimate manner than possible at shorter mini-reunions.

On Harvard weekend, November 20-22, 2015, members of the 1959 Bullpups gathered to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the undefeated and untied 1960 Yale football team. Present were **Jud Calkins**, Wendi and **Charles Duncan**, Lynne and **Michael Freeland**, Chris Getman '64, Louise and **Hank Hallas**, Erika and **Hank Higdon**, Marcia Hill, **Mark Horlings**, **Jerry Kenney**, Kathy and **Peter Kiernan**, **Denny Landa**, **Dave Mawicke**, **Tim O'Connell**, Chris and **Stan Riveles**, **Ian Robertson**, Lisa and **Vic Sheronas**, Mayda Tsaknis and **Jim Thompson**, Paula and **Dave Weinstein**, and **Tex Younger**.

The weekend began on Friday with the Levering Luncheon at the Kenney Center, in which alumni football players from both Harvard and Yale broke bread together. After the luncheon, the group watched the Yale team work out and talked with some of the players. Friday evening, there was a cocktail reception at Mory's, and then the Blue Leadership Ball, where members of Yale's athletic community were honored for their athletic and leadership contributions to Yale.

Following the Harvard game on Saturday afternoon (which left everyone more determined than ever to continue the progress begun by Coach Tony Reno so that we can end Harvard's win streak), many members of the group went to the Quinnipiac Club in New Haven for dinner and to pay respects to Mike Pyle, the deceased captain of the 1960 team. Members of that team, including Tom Singleton, Hardy Will, and Bob Blanchard, remembered Mike Pyle with stories and events and pointed out the great difference he made to our undefeated season in 1960. Mike's daughter was there, as were his two grandsons. Also, at this event Charles Duncan presented Ian Robertson with the "Hands of Steel and All Heart" trophy for his special leadership of the You Guys, the team, and the Yale Class of 1963.

Doug Allen is in India for five months as part of his philosophy research sabbatical from the University of Maine. He is based at the spectacular campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in Chennai. In November and early December, he and his wife lived through the record monsoon, with the heaviest rainfalls and flooding in Chennai since 1901. In December, Doug delivered the keynote lecture for the International Summit on Peace and Harmony at Banaras Hindu University. His keynote was on "Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy of Peace and Harmony and Its Significance or Irrelevance for India and the World in 2016." The summit coincided with the arrival of the remarkable Walk of Hope/Manav Ekta Mission marching from the southern tip of India to Kashmir, 7,500 kilometers (4,660 miles), in 500 days.

Banaras (Varanasi) is the holiest Hindu city on the Ganges, and BHU is where Doug spent 1963-1964 after graduating from Yale. Doug was also selected as the first Visiting Academic Chair of Gandhian Studies at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in Mumbai. In February, he will deliver the Institute Lecture at IIT Bombay on “Is Gandhi Significant for India in 2016?” As part of his research project Doug is writing a new Gandhi-inspired book. He also hopes to complete a second book on the phenomenology of religion (interpreting meaning, myth, symbolism, religion, and violence, etc.).

Jerry Bogert writes: “Very happy to report that our oldest granddaughter, Madeline B. Bogert, entered the Yale Class of 2019 this fall.”

Bob Bradshaw reports: “This is probably my last year as a full-time employed person. Have added one more community service program. Am sponsoring four major initiatives, which enables me to work with about 50% of the senior class outside of class. Still teaching full time and learning more about our history with each assignment. Still digging for answers. Basketball tryouts have commenced. I get to help our varsity coach when time permits. We were odds-on to win a state championship next March until our All-American center tore his ACL one month ago. He had already signed with UConn. We will still be pretty good. And, of course, there are relationships to nurture – the real heart and soul of secondary school teaching.”

Val Dusek wrote in a letter published in the *Wall Street Journal* on October 30, 2015: “It’s a pity that Matt Ridley dismissed basic science (‘The Myth of Basic Science,’ Review, Oct. 24). Without the very abstract general theory of relativity, your GPS navigation system wouldn’t work. Without the abstract ideas of quantum mechanics, we wouldn’t have lasers and CD players. And without a basic understanding of the structure of the DNA molecule, we would have no chance of tackling many genetically based diseases.”

On December 3, 2015, **Rees Jones**, Molly and **Jim Little**, and Susan, Benjamin, and **Jon Rose** were among the 250 invited guests at the unveiling of the bust of former U.S. Vice President **Dick Cheney**. Jim Little reports: “The turnout of current and former government officials, congressmen, and senators was very impressive. The speakers included Senators Roy Blunt and Mitch McConnell, Congressman Paul Ryan, former President George W. Bush, and Vice President Joe Biden. All of the remarks were diligently prepared and sincerely given, thanking Dick for his long and dedicated service to the country. Each speaker inserted just enough humor to add some fun to the event. All of the speakers remarked on Dick’s love of family and each praised Lynne for her accomplishments. Dick was the last to speak and was humble and thankful to all (especially Lynne) who had helped him through his incredible journey. It was a very exceptional event.”

Avi Nelson has been elected to the Board of Directors of the MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Avi writes: “The passage of time has reinforced my long-held opinion that the world would be a better place if votes were apportioned by the number of feet.” Also on the board is John Carberry, Yale ’65.

After playing a role in nuclear arms negotiations during the last part of his 36 years in the U.S. diplomatic service, in 2002 **Steve Steiner** began a “second career” at the Department of State focusing on democracy and women’s rights issues. He played a part in shaping and implementing the Bush Administration’s Millennium Challenge Account Initiative, a new assistance program focused on countries willing to make the transition to democratic governance. In 2004, Steve started up the Department’s flagship program for Iraqi women, the Iraqi Women’s Democracy Initiative, which he led for five years. He likewise took on a leadership role in programs to empower the women of Afghanistan. Steve later served as the

Department's lead in U.S. efforts to counter human trafficking for purposes of forced and child labor. Since early 2011, Steve has been a member of the Gender and Peacebuilding team at the United States Institute of Peace. One of his key initiatives at USIP has been to train men in countries that have gone through violent conflict to accept a peaceful notion of masculinity, to be peace builders in their communities and to respect the rights of women. He is now starting up such a program working with young men in Afghanistan.

John K. "Jack" Irwin passed away peacefully on November 23, 2015 in Newport Hospital, Newport, RI, with his wife, Karyne Wilner, at his side. Since 1995, Jack owned and operated Forest Park Mobile Homes and the Redwood Management Company. Born on February 5, 1942, Jack graduated from Langley High School, Pittsburgh, PA in 1959 and from Yale College in 1963 with a degree in economics. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves as a First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, receiving an honorable discharge in 1975. Prior to owning Forest Park Mobile Homes, Jack worked for McMichael Yacht Brokers Limited in Mamaroneck, NY, as a consultant to the banking industry in New York City, and in corporate management and real estate in Boston, MA and Newport, RI.

Jack's numerous hobbies included sailing, photography, reading, and contract bridge. He enjoyed auto racing in Seekonk and baseball in Pawtucket, and was an avid fan of NASCAR and the Boston Celtics. In the past he was a member of the American Contract Bridge League and Race Committee Chair of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club. Recently he hosted an exchange student from China, Jiaming Li, for her junior year at Portsmouth High School. Jack is survived by his loving wife Karyne and his daughter Nicole, both of whom are grateful to have had the opportunity to experience his kindness, love, loyalty, and wisdom. He also leaves his brother, Jim Irwin of Canandaigua, NY, and his sister Janice Wagner of Wadsworth, OH. The uncle of

Steve, Linda, Joyce, and Rusty, and great uncle of Jenny and JJ, he enjoyed sharing time with them at many family get-togethers.

Doug Jenner recalls Jack Irwin as follows: “It was easy to become friends with Jack, and many of us did, because he treated everybody well, was not intimidated or overly impressed by anyone, usually had something smart or funny (or both) to add to any interaction, and had a wide range of interests. Jack's friends included scientific types like **Kirby Klump**, **Aaron Bloch**, and **Steve Wilson**, brilliant intellectuals like **Harry Silverstein** and **Fritz Thiel**, ultimate prepsters like **Ridge Hall** and **Jerry Bogert**, business and economic stars like **Pepper Stuessy**, **Doug Wickham**, and Jim Rogers '64, athletes like **Hank Hallas** and **Erik Jensen**, and a whole bunch of people I couldn't categorize except as great guys and good friends -- **Nichols**, **Laing**, **Milikowsky**, **Throop**, **Jeter**, **Ross** (nobody used anyone else's first name in those days). After Yale, I didn't see Jack for many years, until he and Karyne and Nicole came to Colorado for a visit about five years ago. The years melted away almost instantly. Jack, the essential bachelor for so many years, was extraordinarily pleased and proud to have a family at that stage of his life, and clearly it added a great deal of meaning to his life. We also had an enjoyable connection at our 50th Reunion, and sadly that was the last time I saw him.”

Hank Hallas likewise remembers being with Jack at the 50th Reunion: “Jack and his lovely wife were among the many highlights of that glorious reunion. I was personally very happy for him and how things worked out. We both weren't so sure back in the spring of 1963.”

Fritz Thiel remembers Jack saying at the 50th Reunion: “After years of moving from one business area to another and always being responsible for reports to a manager, I finally realized that I would much prefer to be my own boss. And given this thought, I decided that a mobile-home rental park would be just fine. Yes, my workers and I constantly have to deal with

standard recurring problems: plumbing, broken fences, damage one person has done to another's property, and so on. But we just deal with it. And owning the rental park allows me to earn enough to live decently and be fully independent.”

Terry Throop recounts: “I ran into Jack in Newport, RI in the early '80's. We reconnected easily and spent quite a bit of time together, during what I now know was a very stressful period before Jack began his most satisfying and rewarding years. When Karyne and he got together, his life was fulfilled. I regret that I didn't meet Karyne until our 50th Reunion, and our time together there was too short.”

On October 14, 2015, Freedom House in Washington, DC held the second annual Mark Palmer Forum for the Advancement of Democracy. The forum, established in 2014 to honor and carry on the legacy of our classmate Ambassador **Mark Palmer**, focused this year on the perspectives of front-line activists seeking to advance democracy in countries suffering under dictatorships and on establishing recommended priorities for the next U.S. Administration. Panelists and participants in the forum included senior U.S. Government officials, civil society leaders and activists, and prominent human rights defenders from authoritarian countries.

William C. Stifler III, a retired lawyer who had been chief real estate solicitor for the City of Baltimore, died on November 27, 2015 of complications from dementia at Symphony Manor Assisted Living in Roland Park, MD. After graduating in 1959 from the Gilman School, where he captained the baseball team and played varsity basketball and football, he began Yale with our Class. He transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1964. After graduating from the University of Maryland Law School in 1967, he clerked for Maryland Court of Appeals Judge William J. McWilliams. In 1968 he joined the Baltimore law firm of Niles, Barton & Wilmer, where he worked for nearly two decades. He subsequently practiced with Weinberg & Green and Semmes, Bowen & Semmes,

before being named chief real estate solicitor for the City of Baltimore in 2004. He retired in 2011.

“Billy was deeply committed to the intellectual and ethical pursuit of the law, and served for 15 years as Secretary of the Character Committee of the Maryland State Bar,” said his wife of 32 years, the former Ellen Keats, who is Executive Director of Development at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was active in numerous civic, educational, and museum organizations, and served on such nonprofit boards as Maryland Prisoners Aid, the Baltimore Montessori Charter School, the Baltimore Museum of Industry, and Gilman School. He was President of the Hampden Family Center for many years. Beginning when he was a young boy, he spent summers at the family home on Isle au Haut in Maine. He also maintained a deep interest in the history of the American South, and was a fan of the blues. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, William C. Stifler of Towson, MD; a daughter, Sarah L. Stifler of Los Angeles; a stepson, James W. Sibal of New Orleans; a stepdaughter, Allison S. Baker of Towson, MD; two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

George Nilson, the City Solicitor of Baltimore, recalled: “He handled significant and challenging deals with good cheer. He was just a lovely and delightful gentleman. He was well liked by the people he worked with in the department.” **Bob Grose** remembers: “Bill and I grew up together in Baltimore, and roomed together freshman year. I have a vivid memory of our parents dropping us off at the train station with our one suitcase as we headed up to Yale without them. That would hardly happen today. Unfortunately, Bill got sick and had to return home and was unable to complete freshman year. He remained a good friend for many years and he will be missed by his family and friends.”