



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES MARCH-APRIL 2015

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Several places are still available on the *Class of 1963 Tour de France* September 2-28, 2015. **Jon Larson, Jim Thompson and Jere Johnston** (the Barge guys) report: “We have filled 39 of the 42 available places on the two canal barges. So far we have 32 touring the Loire Valley and Versailles, 34 joining us for Normandy, and 37 gathering for a week in Paris. We have several more openings and we welcome classmates to join us for the barges and for any of the four tour legs of Normandy, Loire Valley, Versailles, and Paris and the Class Dinner at the historic Cercle de l'Union Interalliée in Paris. The full four legs together over 17 days are priced at close to \$6,700 per person double occupancy (excluding airfare). By arranging this trip ourselves, we have reduced the cost of this unique trip by 40% under the typical rate that would be offered by a tour operator.” For information about joining the Y63 Tour de France, please e-mail Jon at jon_larson@hotmail.com.



Elissa Arons continued the tradition of post-Harvard-game parties that she and **Dan Arons** established by giving a cocktail party for Yale '63 classmates at her apartment on Memorial Drive in Cambridge after the Harvard game on November 22, 2014. Following an exciting game whose outcome was in doubt until the last minute, the following classmates gathered together: **David Barry, Bob Dickie, Hank Higdon, Mark Horlings, Erik Jensen, Jerry Kenney, Eben Ludlow, Avi Nelson, Lea Pendleton, Guy Struve, Neil Thompson, Michael Wilder, and Joe Wood.**

On November 17, 2014 **David Boren** celebrated 20 years as President of The University of Oklahoma. He is believed to be the longest-serving president at a statewide flagship public university in the U.S. David is also marking 47 years in public service, having also been Governor and U.S. Senator – the first in Oklahoma history to serve in all three positions. David says, “For Molly and me, these have been the happiest 20 years of our lives. To be able to invest your life in the next generations in a place which you love is rewarding beyond measure.”

Jud Calkins writes: “The Lord giveth and taketh away. In mid-summer of 2014, my twin son Tucker Calkins was suddenly taken away, as previously reported in this space. Thereafter, on November 7, 2014, Pilar, Rexford (now 12 years old), and I welcomed a newborn into our lives, Cristina (Pilar’s middle name) Elizabeth (my mother’s name) Calkins. She is already out and about, taking in two performances last week of Hairspray, featuring her big brother in a prominent song and dance role. Cristina is healthy and thriving and looking forward to reunions with the lads of ’63.”

Steve Goulding relates: “By now Peggy and I should be in Tucson, missing Illinois’ winter. I hope to be flying around in a two-seater with her, as the ‘children’ are now running the business. We may be leaving Illinois if the mega hog farm goes in across from our country home (or if the business climate gets worse). We just got back from Belize, our third dive trip of 2014. Diving has been one of our passions, along with flying, duck hunting, and Da Chicago Bulls.”

Bob Hanson reports: “After 25 years, Arlene and I came to the difficult conclusion that the daunting task of running a 1,400 acre ranch in northwestern Wyoming was too much to handle at our respective ages. Also a consideration was the fact that last winter's storms created a potential threat to our health and well-being, since we had 86 inches of snow in February alone, and were completely cut off from the outside world for close to two weeks. Had there been a medical emergency, it is doubtful that we could have been pulled out. We made the decision to move to Arizona, and I can report that we bought a beautiful property in Cave Creek, a lovely community in the desert foothills just north of Scottsdale. We swapped 1,400 acres for 4.5 acres, and have a lovely forest of Saguaro cactus on the property, as well as a pool and all the usual Arizona amenities. Yes, we know that it gets brutal in the middle of the summer, but I'll be smiling when I read later this winter of all the blizzards in the northern climes. If that move wasn't enough, we can also report the October marriage of our son Robert, Class of 2002. It took place in Cancun – a great place for a destination wedding. Now all three of our children are married, and we are blessed with five wonderful grandchildren.”

An unclaimed picture of an 18-year-old girl named Alice Isaac, taken during the Nazi occupation in 1943, recently turned up at a photographer's studio in Amsterdam. Incredibly, researchers in Holland were able to track down her nephew in Seattle, freelance journalist **Ronald Holden**, to confirm her identity. Ron writes: “Tens of thousands of Jews who lived in Amsterdam were deported to death camps in the late summer of 1943. Alice never picked up her prints, which were no doubt intended for false papers, because she too was captured and interned at Bergen-Belsen.” Also held at Belsen was her classmate Anne Frank, who succumbed to typhus just weeks before the camp was liberated by the British. But Alice Isaac survived, and was

reunited with her sister (who had emigrated to the US before the war broke out); she attended college, married, and became a high-school language teacher in California. She eventually retired to Arizona and passed away this year at the age of 89. With the discovery of the unclaimed photograph, Ron has now undertaken a new assignment: to honor the Holocaust victims, including his aunt, whose stories were never told. Here's a link to Ron's blog post: <http://www.cornichon.org/2014/10/nobody-knows-me.html>

Bill Kramer says: "I continue to work and enjoy it. I also enjoy the Class Notes and all the continued contact resulting from the 50th."

Doc LeHew reports: "I'm planning to get married on December 19, 2014 to Terrie Van Lengen. We will continue to live in Naples, FL. Retirement is suiting me just fine."

On November 5, 2014, **Tom Lovejoy** received the New York Botanical Garden Gold Medal in the presence of all five living medalists. On December 3, 2014, Tom received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The award has been presented only ten times, and this was the first presentation to a scientist. Tom says: "My grandfather-in-law, Charles Seymour, was Colonel House's assistant at the Paris Peace Conference, so the award has even a little extra meaning for me."

Avi Nelson continues to host political talk shows on radio (WRKO – Boston). He also publishes an occasional op-ed piece in the Boston Herald.

Ken Porter, Jon Larson, and wives Sally and Karen enjoyed spending an evening in October with **John Lahr** at his book signing stopover in San Francisco while on his five city American publicity tour for his latest book, *Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh*, which also included Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, and New York City. We were joined in the famous old American Conservatory Theater's Geary theater by a large crowd of interested readers and theater goers for an evening conversation with Carey Perloff, Artistic Director of A.C.T. John was available afterwards for book signings.

Brian Salzberg was elected a Fellow of the Optical Society (OSA) "for development of optical methods in cell physiology and neuroscience, including the discovery of voltage-sensitive dyes and calcium indicator dyes, and functional imaging using these probes". Since the early 1970's Brian has pioneered the application of optical methods to cell physiology and neuroscience. In 1972 he and his colleagues discovered the first molecular probes of membrane potential, the merocyanine voltage-sensitive dyes. This was followed by optical recording of action potentials from individual neurons and then multiple-site optical recording of membrane voltage, which paved the way for functional imaging of the nervous system. Brian and his colleagues then introduced the first calcium indicator dye (Arsenazo III), which led to the development of fluorescent calcium indicators. Other contributions included the first recording of voltage changes from vertebrate nerve terminals, the discovery of light scattering changes in these terminals, the detection of robust intrinsic fluorescence changes from these same terminals,

which help us to understand the coupling of action potentials to mitochondrial activation, and the discovery of extremely rapid mechanical "spikes" in nerve terminals.

Charlie Soule writes: "My wife, Frankie, died after a long 12-year case of Alzheimer's. Her case was the centerpiece of our discussion group on Alzheimer's at the 50th Reunion. Her long decline with no hope makes me believe in euthanasia."

Dick Teitz has been in Tbilisi, the capital of the Georgian Republic, since September 2014, working as a special consultant to the Ministry of the Environment (like the U.S. Department of the Interior), developing a marketing plan for international eco-tourism in the Protected Areas (aka national parks). Dick reports: "Tbilisi is an interesting city, with buildings from the middle ages, and alongside them KFC, McDonald's, Nike. In my free time I visit museums, try ethnic restaurants, and go to films and concerts. Tbilisi has a population of almost a million and a half, and there are a fair number of cultural activities. I rent a room and board in a newish high rise in the western outskirts of the city, and there are a few running trails I jog in the hills. To get to work is a bit over an hour (after a mile walk to the bus stop) by minibus, and I'm in the office 9 to 6. I leave home around 7:30 and get home 12 hours later. I speak so-so Georgian, but a number of my co-workers are English speakers so we manage." Dick spent an evening with our classmate **Lance Fletcher** and his wife, who have lived in Tbilisi since the early 2000's, advising the Georgian government on legal and education infrastructure systems.

We have just learned that our classmate **Richard Norman Neubert** died on October 14, 2010. At the time of his death, Richard lived in Falls Church, VA. As recalled by his younger brother Stephen, Richard was a handsome, charming and "cool" young man who was generous to the point of inviting him to join Richard and his date for a college weekend in his freshman year at Yale, as well for a month-long driving trip cross-country during the summer after his junior year. He was also a devoted husband to his wife Deborah and a loving and supportive father to his two daughters, Alexis and Katherine. He lived in a variety of places during the various phases of his life, from New York City to Los Angeles to Western Massachusetts to New York City again and finally to Northern Virginia/Washington, DC. His talent as a writer and artist infused his work as an editor for the Yale Daily News, as a screenplay writer and documentary filmmaker, and as a marketing communications writer and manager. He endured his illness with courage and grace, and he is greatly missed by his family.

Warren Hoge recalls Richard Neubert as follows: "In the years before we arrived at Yale, Dick Neubert and I had become such close friends that we arranged to room together freshman year. We had formed that friendship in a summer community on Fire Island where our families had cottages, and we both got jobs as pot washers in the kitchen of a ship that went to five European and North African ports over the summer of 1960. Always adventurous and a little reckless, Dick almost brought that journey to a quick and ignominious end by shouting 'Man Overboard!' one late night in the middle of the Atlantic and causing the captain to summon all 300 hands on deck and demand that the culprit confess. No one did, and the truth has remained a secret until now. At Yale, Dick cut a distinctive and alluring figure. One of the handsomest members of the class, he accessorized his Byronesque good looks with a shock of

unruly hair, rumpled three piece suits and a book always clutched under his arm. Tall and very thin and walking in a head- held- high way that seemed to further elongate him, he strode across campus with a tousled purposefulness that suggested he was always going to be one step ahead of the rest of us English majors in finding creative pursuits. Sure enough, after graduation, he went West and became a Hollywood screenwriter and rakish squire to movie stars. I envied him and always felt a little special for being in his presence.” **Len Chazen** remembers: “When I spent a summer in the late 60’s at the Rand Corporation working on communications regulation, Dick was my glamorous Hollywood friend. He had just finished a well-received documentary on the Los Angeles skid row, and he seemed to know all the glamorous young people in Hollywood. Being the wonderful person he was, he found plenty of time to hang out with the policy wonk from New York. We had great times in Santa Monica that summer and whenever a scandal erupted, Dick was there to give us the inside story.”

