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On Saturday, January 21, 2017, the Class mounted a combined 75th birthday party and “Lafayette day”, a follow-on to the Mount Vernon “Washington day” last May. We gathered at 4:00 PM at an exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York City on Lafayette and Abolition. There we were treated to an engaging and detailed presentation by Olga Anna Duhl and Diane Windham Shaw, the curators of the exhibition, on Lafayette’s lifelong engagement in the cause of Abolition. We then repaired to the New York Yale Club for a reception and dinner that lasted from 6:30 PM until well after its scheduled 10:30 PM finish. After dinner Yale Professor Steven Pincus provided an illuminating talk on the intertwined nature of abolition and the patriot cause in the 18th century. The evening continued with an animated conversation in the Grill Room. In addition there were docent-guided tours of the Frick Museum on Saturday and Sunday. The attendees were Brenda and **Jim Biles**, Nelun de Silva Wijeyeratne and **Michler Bishop**, Susan and **Charles Cheney**, Rosemary and **Norm Dawley**, Gene and **Charlie Dilks**, Jo Anne and **Paul Field**, **Richard Foster**, Constance and **John Gillespie**, Olivia and **Warren Hoge**, Luciana Marulli and **Mike Koenig**, Frankie and **Joe Lastowka**, Karen Kennerly and **Nelson Luria**, Pat and **Troy Murray**, Jane and **Lou Pataki**, Susan Choate Petrey and **Rod Petrey**, Carole and **Fred Pritzker**, Susan and **Jon Rose**, Mary and **Peter Rousselot**, Lynn Reiser and **Fred Schneider**, Elisa and **Victor Sheronas**, **Guy Struve**, **Lawrence Tierney**, Penny Neill and **Mike Toomey**, Liz and **Tom Wehr**, Brigid and **Jim Wetmur**, and **Joe Wood**. The event was organized by Mike Koenig, Nelson Luria, and Fred Schneider.

Jim Baird’s wife, Peggy Flanagan Baird, age 74, passed away on January 13, 2017 at their home in Huntsville, AL. The two were married in Oak Ridge, TN in 1967. Peggy earned a B. Mus. degree from Western Kentucky University in 1963. While Jim was serving in the US Army at Sandia Base in Albuquerque in 1970, she received a M. Mus. Ed. degree from the University of New Mexico. Peggy was a private teacher of piano and flute for nearly 50 years and a scholar of the historical development of musical instruments. She lectured on the latter subject at the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments and at many national conferences. She was in attendance at seven of our ten reunions, giving a talk entitled

“Enduring the Boola Boola” for the Class Wives’ Colloquium at our 40th Reunion. Jim writes, “In contrast to the wonderful companionship I have known for the past 50 years, my own companionship, which I am now forced to experience, fails to compare.”

Martha and **Ed Dennis** were featured and pictured in a January 14, 2017 New York Times article about the initial investors in the musical “Jersey Boys”. Martha and Ed invested \$10,000 in the show when it first opened at the La Jolla Playhouse in California. Martha was quoted as saying: “When we tell people we’ve made 22 times our investment, their eyes get big, like they did with tech investing. They have to lose four or five small investments before they realize it’s not so easy. ‘Jersey Boys’ is such a unicorn.” When **Jon Larson’s** Class of 1963 British Isles tour group was in London in September 2016, Martha and Ed arranged for the group to see “Jersey Boys” and to go backstage after the show to meet with the cast.

Steve Hall reports: “I have had a series of grand-nieces for years now. And MSGT Samuel Rigoli Hall (Ret) and his wife, Anne, finally gave me a granddaughter a year ago last July. But I finally woke up to the fact that my oldest grand-niece having a child makes me a great-great-uncle! This was a grand-niece by marriage (my late second wife). The newborn’s name is Bret Aaron Josef-Poinier. He has been born for a few months now. I guess I am getting slow off the blocks now!”

Effective January 1, 2017, **Hank Higdon** combined his executive search firm, Higdon Partners, with RSR Partners. Hank is now Vice Chairman of the Asset Management Recruitment and Advisory practice of RSR Partners. Hank explains: “I was recruited by Russell Reynolds (Yale ’54) into the search business in May 1971 and spent 15 years with Russell Reynolds Associates (six in New York, then four years in Houston, followed by five years in Los Angeles). I returned to New York and founded a firm in 1986 that evolved into Higdon Partners. Higdon Partners is a boutique executive search firm, which has focused on the asset management industry, serving clients who manage money around the world. Clients have consisted of leading sovereign wealth funds, endowments and foundations, family offices, private equity firms, hedge funds, corporate pension funds, and large mutual funds and traditional money managers. We have also conducted searches for members of boards of directors and independent mutual fund trustees. After 15 years of working personally with Russell Reynolds, and then 30 years apart, Russ and I have now reunited and combined our firms. RSR Partners was founded by Russ Reynolds (Yale class of 1954) after he built Russell Reynolds Associates into one of the largest four recruiting firms in the

world. I look forward to working on high level searches with important clients of the firm, and contributing in any way possible to the continued growth and success of the firm. It is an incredibly exciting and satisfying profession as we help others, and I cannot imagine having more fun than we do, nor can I think of a better group of people to work with.”

Jeff Johnson reports: “In September 2016, I had open heart surgery – a new aortic valve and a triple bypass. The doctors and nurses at Hartford Hospital did a splendid job, and, thanks to the unstinting support of Diane, my wife of 50 years, I am now well on the mend. Our travels recommenced in February 2017, with a trip to our house in Santa Fe, NM, and a holiday in Belize.”

Tim O’Connell writes: “It is now over two years since my last intensive radiological/chemotherapy combo treatment which according to all signs was successful in battling jaw cancer into remission. Thanks to Smilows and Yale Medicine’s Cancer Centers.”

Ron Sampson recounts: “A couple of weeks into my retreat to Australia from the northern winter I had the now annual pleasure of getting caught up with **Norm Etherington** and his wife Peggy Brock in retirement in Adelaide. In addition to a biography of the British explorer and naturalist Frederick Courteney Selous, Norm has recently had published by the Manchester University Press, in its prestigious Studies in Imperialism series, a book which will be on my reading list for the next sojourn Down Under, majestically titled *Imperium of the Soul: The Political and Aesthetic Imagination of Edwardian Imperialists*. Peggy will have the *History of the Aboriginal People of South Australia*, which she edited and co-wrote, published by the end of this year. Construction of the new Palazzo Etherington, architected by one of their sons, has been held up by the usual fraught permit process, but will commence soon and result in a touch of modernity in a wonderful Adelaide precinct bracketed by the Anglican St. Peter’s Cathedral and the equally sacred Oval, one of the holy sites of world cricket.” Norm’s book explores the work of writers Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad, Rider Haggard, and John Buchan, along with the composer Edward Elgar and the architect Herbert Baker, and their mutual fascination with Lawrence of Arabia. The book will be released in the US on February 28, 2017, and is available there through amazon.com or Oxford University Press.

Fred Schneider donated a cloisonné-enamel triptych to the Yale Art Gallery last fall in honor of his October 2016 Yale Law School 50th Reunion, which Fred co-chaired. It was produced in 1964 by a distinguished German-American enameler, Margaret Seeler, who titled

it "Path of Destruction," with Biblical scenes relating to crime and punishment. It is on display in the Modern and Contemporary Art and Design gallery on YAG's Third Floor.

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Guy Miller Struve, Secretary
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
450 Lexington Avenue, Room 3032, New York, NY 10017
E-Mail: guy.struve@davispolk.com
Class Website: www.yale63.org

