



## CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

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Save the date! On April 14-17, 2016, the Yale '63-'64 Civil Rights Mini-Reunion will be held in Atlanta, GA. Please mark your calendars now for this landmark event, which will commemorate the Civil Rights Movement and the part our classmates played in it, and also look forward to the future. Importantly, it will celebrate the deep roots of the Movement in Atlanta as well as the many dimensions of African-American culture – music, art, and food – in that city. Jonathan Holloway, the Dean of Yale College and a distinguished Professor of African-American Studies, has already agreed to give the keynote address at the Mini-Reunion on April 14, 2016. Our classmates **Art Gilliam** and **Tom Greenspon** and his wife Barbara (who first met on a Civil Rights picket line in Tom's junior year) are among those planning the program for the Mini-Reunion. We look forward to seeing many of our classmates there.

The Atlanta Civil Rights Mini-Reunion is one of the first fruits of the partnership which our Class has entered into with the Yale Class of 1964, under the leadership of its energetic Class Secretary, Tony Lavelly. Our Class has many strong links to the Class of 1964, going back to our undergraduate years, and this partnership seeks to build on those links to do things that neither of our two Classes could do as well alone. Within the collaboration, we aim to preserve the intimacy of a classmate gathering. As always, dialogue, intellectual growth, and camaraderie

will be key objectives. Our joint activities with the Class of 1964 can range from joint Class lunches and dinners in particular localities, to mini-reunions like the Atlanta Civil Rights Mini-Reunion. If you have ideas as to activities that we could productively engage in together with the Class of 1964, please let us know about them!

The Class of 1963 was immensely saddened by the death of Mike Pyle '61, the captain and iconic symbol of Yale's undefeated and untied 1960 football team. Mike was an extraordinary athlete and sportsman and an example for many of our classmates, with whom he created bonds of friendship that lasted a lifetime. After graduation, Mike played on the championship Chicago Bears and was President of the NFL Players Association. Tragically, he suffered from dementia in his last years.

**Jud Calkins** reports: "On June 3, 2015, Pilar and I and son Rexford finalized the adoption of Cristina Elizabeth Calkins into our family. At eight months she is hale and hearty, with bright blue eyes and red hair (just like me as a shaver), and eagerly awaiting presentation to the Gang of '63 at the next Reunion. Recognizing that under the circumstances I'd better stay hale and hearty myself, I became a repeat entry in the annual St. Louis Senior Olympics on Memorial Day, taking gold in the football throw for distance and accuracy, the latter gauged by the number of strikes through a hole in a plywood board. I am pleased to say that my first in the distance made it five out of six in the years I have entered, although my distance has declined from 44 yards at age 63 to 35 yards at 73. One of these years I vow to practice in advance to get my numbers back up!"

**Pete Cressy** will step down as the President and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council at the end of this year. Pete noted that it has been a great third career. The Washington Post ran a

headline in the Style section saying that “the best job in Washington will soon be available.”

Pete says he knows more about Scotch and Bourbon than he ever thought possible, but remains an old fashioned beer drinker. He points out that he is particularly pleased that while the market share for spirits has grown by 25% during his tenure, underage drinking has dropped by nearly 30%. Pete intends, working closely with **Paul Field**, to keep the Washington, DC Class lunches and other programming on track. The next Class lunch will likely be in late October and, longer term, an event at Mount Vernon involving the new George Washington Presidential Library is under consideration. Pete and the Distilled Spirits Council have raised over \$5 million for Mount Vernon and Pete will become the Director of Executive Leadership Programs at Mount Vernon (on a part time basis) beginning in January of 2016. He will also do some teaching and fundraising for UMass Dartmouth, where he was Chancellor from 1993 to 1999.

**Tom Holahan** died in August 2007. His friends and family established a Fund in his memory that supports youth employment. Summer 2015 was the eighth year the Fund has helped support New Haven high school students working in New Haven’s parks. All of the students received a stipend from New Haven’s Youth@Work; the supervisors were paid primarily by the Tom Holahan Fund and other donors. These “park interns” cleared trails, planted trees, maintained playgrounds, and more – a win-win for New Haven and its public parks.

Sally Loeser reports that her daughter and her family visited **Gregg Loeser’s** freshman year roommate **John Blythe** and his wife Pam in Denver. Sally recalls: “Even before Gregg and I were married and John was an usher in our wedding, he would spend time at my house with my mother in New Haven. John has been a wonderful, loyal, and important friend to both Gregg and me over many, many years. Going way, way back when our girls were little we used to go to the

top of East Rock and have a fun, cheese fondue picnic! Looking back, I am also reminded of **Bill Porter**, another wonderful friend who also kept in touch after Gregg died in 1995.”

**Lanny Lutz** has started work with Hudson Energy, a supplier of natural gas and electricity. His job is to approach commercial enterprises to see if they’re using cost control programs for their energy needs. Lanny comments, “It’s a tough row to hoe, but not bad for an out-of-work actor continuing to seek acting gigs.” This summer, Lanny also visited his daughter and grandson in Paris.

**William von Raab** writes: “I have not got too much to say. I am just down here on my farm north of Charlottesville, trying to put a deal or two together and playing polo on my own field with my son Nicholas (U VA 2013) and a group of a dozen or so indefatigable friends.”

The Rev. **Stephen Robb Billings**, 74, of Haverford, PA, an Episcopal priest and advocate for those oppressed or in need, died on July 1, 2015 of lymphoma at his vacation home in Falmouth, MA. He had fought the disease since 2010.

Stephen grew up in Coral Gables, FL. He sensed that he might be called to minister in the Episcopal Church but initially dismissed the idea, feeling unworthy of such a calling. “Only later did I come to understand that it was not a matter of my worthiness, but rather of God’s purposes and Grace,” Stephen wrote in our 50th Reunion Class Book. As graduation from Yale drew near in 1963, Stephen was nominated to receive a one-year fellowship to the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He accepted the fellowship to test the vocation, and never looked back. He graduated from Episcopal Divinity School in 1966 and underwent clinical pastoral education at Worcester State (Mental) Hospital, which laid the foundation for a fulfilling and challenging life following Jesus Christ, as a priest.

Living out his calling as a priest was always grounded in the ministry of local congregations. From 1966 to 2006 Stephen served many local churches and agencies. He was curate at Church of the Messiah, Gwynedd, PA; Assistant Rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Ardmore, PA; Executive Director of Community Youth Services NGO (a drug and alcohol abuse prevention effort), Bryn Mawr, PA; Rector of the Church of the Holy Apostles and the Mediator, Philadelphia; and Director of the Department of Church and Community Ministries at Episcopal Community Services, the social services arm of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Stephen also served as a volunteer associate chaplain at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital; as a part-time psychotherapist; and as a teacher of pastoral care. He cared deeply about people, and advocated for those who were oppressed or in need, recovering from addiction, incarcerated, mentally ill, or marginalized. He made mission trips to Malawi in 2005, 2007, and 2009, and in his retirement years was an active volunteer at the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Stephen was a vital part of the Class of 1963. While at Yale, he sang in the Glee Club, served as manager in his senior year, and organized the Glee Club's European tour in 1963. In later years, Stephen created the memorial service by which we have remembered our deceased classmates at each Reunion beginning with the 40th, and organized the Glee Club's participation in our Reunions.

Stephen was an avid gardener, swimmer, runner, sailor, and (in his early years) bicyclist. He liked to do home repairs and repurpose found objects for creative, unexpected uses. He loved caring for his grandchildren and his pet dogs.

Stephen is survived by his beloved wife and chief collaborator, Barbara Morrison Billings, his daughter, Melissa J. Billings (Richard J. Soedler), and grandchildren Richard, Grant, Neil, and Jade, as well as three brothers, a sister, and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

**Dale Hershey** remembers: “The list of causes Steve adopted and pursued successfully is staggering. He worked with organizations, but he also aided people one by one. He could calm and reassure and reconcile. He knew how to do practical things. He stepped in when these skills were most needed. His broad, friendly smile, along with wise counsel, could put anyone at ease.” **David Boren** writes: “Steve was the best possible roommate, always thoughtful and kind and always there for Dale Hershey and me when we needed him. He was that way for the rest of his life.”

In recognition of **Mark Palmer’s** years of leadership in efforts to advance democratic institutions and human rights around the world, the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), with the support of Dr. Sushma Palmer, has established a new Mark Palmer Award for a member of the United States Foreign Service who has demonstrated “distinguished achievement in advancing democracy, freedom and governance through bold, exemplary, imaginative and effective efforts. The first recipient of the Award was Andrew Young of the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, Mali, who was recognized for advancing democracy and freedom under extraordinary circumstances, especially in Burma and Mali.

There will be a memorial service for **Stephen Baillie Parker** at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 4, 2015 in the chapel of Milton Academy, Milton, MA. Steve’s son Harrison will be

bagpiping at the service and afterward at the dedication of a copper beech in Steve's memory outside of the chapel. All classmates are welcome.

**Robert Francis Tomain** died on August 1, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, Bob graduated from Yale College in 1963 and received an MBA from Georgia State University. He married Marlene Galket, also of Pittsburgh, in 1963. After serving four years as a captain in the Air Force, he began a lifetime career in the mortgage lending industry, culminating in becoming CEO and Chairman of Home Federal Savings & Loan in Atlanta and Homebank, which became the largest home lender in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Under his leadership, innovative concepts were introduced to the industry. Ultimately, Home Federal became the first savings & loan in Georgia traded on NASDAQ. After the successful sale of the company, Bob held several directorships with local financial institutions. In 1996, he ran with the Olympic torch for the Games held in Atlanta. He is survived by his wife of 52 years; three daughters, Leslie Tomain, Robin Shelley, and Shelley Taylor, a sister, and six grandchildren. Bob will be remembered for his generosity, outspoken honesty, caring for those he deeply loved, and singing his version of *Blue Moon*.

**Jim Little** writes: "Bob was one of our roommates in Berkeley. He was a wonderful guy who valiantly fought mouth and then throat cancer for several years, enduring many procedures and much medical treatment. He participated in all of our Berkeley roommate mini-reunions over the years with **Dillon Hoey, Ned Mason, Lee Marsh, Nelson Levy, Rees Jones, Tom Fake, Dick Cheney**, Dick Ainsworth '64, Walt Macauley '64, and me. Bob started dating Marlene, who would become his wife of 52 years, while at Yale in 1960. I started dating my future wife, Molly, the same year. We have maintained a friendship with them all this time and got to see them most recently in March along with Nelson and his wife, Louisa. At that time,

Bob was on a feeding tube and spoke in a hoarse quiet voice, but he was full of life and spirit and flashed his old sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him.”

