



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

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Class of 1963 lunches and dinners are being held regularly in cities around the country. The cities where Class lunches and dinners are taking place, and their organizers, are as follows: Denver (**Erik Jensen**, ejensen@crccllc.com, and **Wally Grant**, wallygrant@msn.com); New York (**Mike Koenig**, michael.koenig@liu.edu); Philadelphia (**Michael Freeland**, freelanm41@comcast.net); the San Francisco Bay Area (**Dick Moser**, dmoser@fwdassoc.com), and Washington, DC (**Peter Cressy**, pcressy@discus.org). The Class lunches and dinners are a great way to stay in touch with classmates and meet new friends. If you are in or near one of these cities, and are not currently receiving e-mails about Class lunches and dinners, please let the organizers know.

Jud Calkins's son, Tucker Ross Calkins, died peacefully in his sleep on June 30, 2014 at the age of 43. Tucker was a lawyer in Los Angeles and a graduate of Ladue High School, the University of Missouri, and Quinnipiac University School of Law. He will be remembered for his infectious enthusiasm and ready grin, his passion for politics, history, and sports, and his adventurous travel.

Mike Koenig and his wife Luciana Marulli took a three week Yale Educational Travel trip to the Five "Stans" (all except Pakistan and Afghanistan). Mike reports: "The trip was extremely interesting and rewarding. Who knew that a millennium ago Uzbekistan was the intellectual capital of the world, with Avicenna, Al Khwarizimi (as in algebra and algorithm), and Al Biruni (who scooped Copernicus by centuries). The trip was very well organized, and our trip companions were delightful."

John Lahr's biography "Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh" will be published by Norton in late September. Early favorable reviews include the following from Bill Bryson: "Splendid beyond words. It would be hard to imagine a more satisfying biography." Information is available at www.tennesseewilliamsbiography.com John will be going on a five-city tour (LA, SF, Chicago, Boston) which kicks off in New York at the 92nd St Y on September 29, 2014.

Frank Nora writes: "Immediately after graduation I served 3 years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps ('Seabees'). I then earned my MSCE at MIT in 1967. Over the next 34 years I tried my hand at construction management, 22 of those years being with my own general construction company. In 2001 I fulfilled my life's ambition and started my own one-man

consulting engineer practice, specializing in structural engineering. Concerning my years at Yale I guess I could be classified as one of the members of the 'weenie' category, meaning that I didn't smoke, drink or date. I was lucky to have a roommate named Bob Bienvenue. Bob put up with my extreme immaturity during Freshman year. He certainly should have kicked my butt on several occasions that year. Bob once defended me when his Deke brothers asked him why he roomed with a 'weenie'. His response was that despite the fact that I was a 'weenie' I was still a 'nice guy'. God bless decent, honest Yale men like Bob. Dale, my wife of 49 years, has been every bit as patient and understanding as Bob Bienvenue. We have two sons, a daughter, two daughter-in-laws, but sadly no grandchildren.

Bill Reed serves as President of the Keene Valley Library Association. Bill reports: "Our building, completed in 1896, much beloved in our community, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are undertaking a major 'transformation of our space to bring up to date all the many and varied services the library will be providing over the next decades. We find it very exciting and interesting to consider what a library such as ours should be, going forward. Libraries today are becoming as much community centers as sources of information."

Pennell Rock writes: "Sometimes I feel out of place among the lawyers, doctors, financiers, and professors who make up the body of our class as it now coheres. I began to diverge from that mentality as soon as I graduated and wanted to explore alternatives to the mid-Atlantic worldview of our formation. Over seven years I pushed as far as India, the land of primordial alternatives, where I had my fill of non-Western thinking. Recently I was invited to speak at a conference in Kerala sponsored by INK, a subsidiary of the TED talks, to extol the genius of India to an audience of trendy Indians who are psychically fleeing to the West. Since the talk was for an Indian audience, those still rooted in mid-Atlanticism may want to watch it twice, doing the little 'mind-experiment' at the beginning to figure out what the hell I am talking about." The talk can be found on Youtube.com under William Pennell Rock, or at <http://youtu.bexhKSESjIFfA>

John Sack has published the second, expanded edition of his "Mystic Mountain", a guide for transforming our wisdom years. John contends that the current elder explosion has opened a door to unparalleled soul work, the wisdom that comes with age. In clear, nonacademic language he seeks to stir the boundless spirit dormant in each of us. For those yearning to live as closet contemplatives, he lights the mystic path as it shines through the larger journey from birth to return. "Mystic Mountain" also draws on wisdom traditions worldwide, piecing together the fragmented shards of Truth held by each, and draws as well upon his own experience as a Trappist monk and Hindu yogi. Print and Kindle versions can be found at Amazon.com. Also, so far on Kindle only, John has posted the first five short stories in a series called "Trappist Tales" (with more to come). John and his wife, author Christin Lore Weber, live at Casa Chiara Hermitage in the mountains of southern Oregon.

Cameron Smith and his wife Seymour spent January-March 2014 volunteer-teaching English in Dong Ha, Vietnam, which is only a few kilometers south of the former Demilitarized Zone. They taught at a private school founded and paid for by a successful local information-technology entrepreneur who decided to devote himself to the education of elementary and

high school children. He, the staff, and students work 7:30-5:00 Monday-Saturday, and a significant number of students come in Sunday for extra lessons. Several of the weekday English classes were after 5:00 in order to make them two hours long. With this intensity, students learned our language, which is about as far from Vietnamese as you can get, very quickly. Native English speaking teachers would always be welcome because it is very difficult for even university-trained local teachers to get across our difficult pronunciation and word-stress. Cameron and Seymour find it hard to overstate how welcoming and kind the people old and young are. Cameron and Seymour plan to teach in Indonesia in January-March 2015 and would welcome any contacts that classmates have there.

John Tuteur won reelection to his fifth term as Napa County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk with 69% of the vote in a contest where he was outspent by his opponent. John has now served Napa County for 36 years and is hoping for many more years of service. During his tenure the county became the first in California to place its grantor-grantee official records index online back to the first documents from 1850. For his next term, John is working with his dedicated staff to commence electronic recording of documents.

Daniel L. Arons died on August 6, 2014 at his home in Cambridge, MA, following a courageous 18-month struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Elissa (Beron) Arons, his daughters Rebecca, Dara, and Abigail Arons, and his grandchildren Eli and Tessa Fastiff and Hazel, Leah, and Rose McDiarmid. After college, Dan graduated from Yale Medical School, and completed residency training at Boston City Hospital and a Diabetes Fellowship at Thorndike Labs of Harvard. He practiced at a community teaching hospital in Cambridge, MA, and later joined an academic primary care program at Massachusetts General Hospital and became a faculty member at Harvard Medical School. Dan relished teaching and also was an old-fashioned family doctor, caring for one and two generations of patients, some of whom he had known for over 40 years. He was still caring for patients a few weeks before his death. Dan loved Yale, and was outstanding in his service to Yale, receiving the Yale Alumni Fund Chairman's Award and the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Dan was the Co-Chairman of the highly successful 50th Reunion Gift Fund, a member of the AYA Board of Directors, and a faithful member of the Class Council for many years. Dan and Elissa pioneered the Class tailgate parties in conjunction with Harvard games in Cambridge, a tradition which will continue. Remembrances of Dan by classmates are posted in the In Memoriam section of our Class website, www.yale63.org, and only a few can be quoted here. **Bob Barker** wrote, "Dan always seemed an island of calm in a sea of turmoil. He had a wonderful, gentle sense of humor, and a gritty stoicism that served him well even as his illness progressed." **Richard Rosenfeld** recalled, "From his medical practice to his relationship with family and friends, Dan's life was a life in service to others. As a beneficiary of his kindness and his friendship, I will never forget him." **Ron Sampson** wrote, "Our class will miss his kind presence and good counsel."

Christopher James Elkus died peacefully at his home in Ligonier, PA on July 16, 2014, following a long and progressive illness. He is survived by his wife Gretchen M. Elkus; his son James M. Elkus and granddaughter Sonya R. Elkus; and his sister Peggy H. Elkus. After graduating from the New York University School of Business, Chris lived in New York City, where he worked as an investment manager for large corporations and organizations such as the

United Nations. He served as President of the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a multi-service organization that has served people in need in the East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. Upon his retirement to Ligonier, PA, he founded Waterford Capital Management. Chris was an avid sportsman, traveler, and lover of the outdoors. He enjoyed skiing, fishing, hunting, golf, squash, and tennis. **Bill Petty** recalls: "We first met in the fall of 1959 and both rowed on the First Freshman crew. We have lost a fine classmate, and I will miss his humor and insights."

Bryan Rogers died at home on May 28, 2013, after a lengthy illness and in the care of his wife Cynthia, and his son Kyle. After receiving M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, Bryan held positions at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State University, and Carnegie Mellon University. Both a practicing artist and a writer, he published and exhibited his work both nationally and internationally. Bryan was appointed Dean of the School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan in 2000, and was the School's longest-serving Dean, serving until 2012. The current Dean of the School, Gunalan Natarajan, said: "For those who worked closely with Bryan, he is remembered most for his wry and often wicked sense of humor, his grace and devoted friendship, his love of music and reading, and the many acts of kindness that he performed without expectation of thanks or recognition."

A special forum on democracy was held in Washington DC on July 14, 2014, the birthday of our late classmate **Mark Palmer**, to honor Mark's vision and his legacy in promoting the establishment of democratic institutions and practices around the world. The forum was hosted by the Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD), a leading democracy NGO which Mark served as Vice President of the Board of Directors, and was moderated by our classmate **Steve Steiner**. Over 40 democracy experts and activists and close professional associates of Mark took part in this special forum, which was planned as the informal start to a series of substantive events that will seek to advance and institutionalize Mark's inspiring legacy in this field. Participants noted, among other things, Mark's leading role in the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy and its network of democracy institutions, as well as his leadership, as United States Ambassador to Hungary, in giving moral support to the Hungarian democracy activists who opposed and eventually brought down the Communist regime. Mark later led the way, under CCD auspices, in the publication of a "Diplomats Handbook on Democracy Advancement", which numerous governments now use as a training manual for their diplomats. Subsequently, Mark also led the way in the publication of a similar practical handbook for military officers around the world. The next step in efforts to advance and institutionalize Mark's legacy will be a forum hosted in Washington by Freedom House on September 15, which will focus on the state of governance in Russia and the repercussions of Russian actions in Ukraine on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This will be followed by future forums which address, among other key international issues, the state of Internet freedom and the crises in the Middle East.

