

YALE COLLEGE

CLASS OF 1963



FIFTIETH REUNION

**SCHEDULE OF
DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Friday, May 31, 2013 and
Saturday, June 1, 2013

Discussion Group Time Slot 1
Friday, May 31, 2013
2:00-3:15 PM

Biting Off History in 50-Year Chunks (Norm Etherington, norman.etherington@uwa.edu.au, Peggy Brock, p.brock@ecu.edu.au) – WLH 208

Our rear vision as 70-year-olds gives us a perspective younger graduates cannot aspire to. Most of us can remember the great public events of 1963, such as Kennedy's assassination, if they were yesterday. However, if we had spoken with graduates celebrating their 50th that year, many of them would have known people who sailed on the *Titanic* the previous year and been enthusiastic about Teddy Roosevelt's failed Bull Moose campaign. And suppose those 1913 grads had conversed with members of the class of 1863, for whom the Battle of Gettysburg and Stephen Foster's hits were equally vivid memories. Twenty similarly linked septuagenarians will carry us back to the Norman Conquest. It is a truism that time seems to move faster as we age. Thinking about history in 50-year chunks dispels the notion of the past as inaccessible, and reminds us of the importance of the links between generations in the deep experience of the human race.

China: Where Is It Now? Where Is It Headed? (Wellington Chan, wkchan@oxy.edu; Stephen MacKinnon, srjrm@yahoo.com; Sven Hsia, shsia@rooseveltinvestments.com) – WLH 201

China has experienced such dramatic changes in the 20th century, and particularly in the last 30 years, that pundits have coined the term "the rise of China" to describe it. Will China be likely to continue its "rise" and assert its leadership role in the world in the 21st century? What will this mean for China itself and for the rest of the world?

Dementia, Alzheimer's, and Mental Diseases – Coping and Caregiving – Cases, Issues, and Research (Charlie Soule, chassoule@aol.com; Gurney Williams, gurnout@westnet.com) – WLH 114

Many of us have had the experience of caring for a loved one with dementia, Alzheimer's, or mental illness, and it is predictable that more of us will in the future. This group will discuss the challenges of coping with these devastating illnesses and their consequences.

The Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability: The Search for Solutions (Ridgway Hall, ridgehall@gmail.com, Ian Robertson, ianrobco@earthlink.net, Tom Lovejoy, lovejoy@heinzctr.org, Bill Nordhaus, william.nordhaus@yale.edu) – Sprague Hall

One of the most popular discussion groups at the 45th reunion, this group will discuss our growing understanding, and the challenges, of environmental

issues. This will include overconsumption and pollution of our natural resources, climate change, ocean acidification and energy issues. We will discuss a range of response measures, including sustainable development, conservation, a carbon tax, and the economic and societal impacts associated with various actions and inactions.

The History of the Concept of Creativity (Dick Foster, rnf@millbrookgroup.net) – WLH 117

Aristotle and his followers through Descartes and Hume were taken with logic, both deductive and inductive. These systems provided the essential frameworks for thinking through complex issues for millennia. But in the early 16th century and accelerating through the 18th and 19th centuries the spirit of “creative” ideas – ideas which could be justified post hoc by the Aristotelian methods but not generated by them, began to take hold. Triggered in Europe by top scientists (von Helmholtz and Poincare) and in the U.S. by the American philosopher of “Pragmatism”, Charles Sanders Peirce, and quickly followed by William James (the first Dean of the Psychology Department at Harvard and brother to author Henry James), the notion of “creativity” as an extra-Aristotelian process began to take hold. The word “creativity” first was entered into Webster’s Dictionary in 1875. Today, more than a century later, we have an increasingly accurate and useful view of the creative process. The detectives involved in solving this mystery story have involved political activists in the Fabian party (Graham Wallas), famous novelists (e.g. Arthur Koestler), quantitative historians (Dean Keith Simonton), psychiatrists (Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi), CIA Analyst Trainers (Richards Heuer), cogitative neuropsychologists (Joy Hirsch) and many others, including quite a few at Yale. We have come a long way since Aristotle. The history is not only a history of this important skill, but a history of the way we look at and conceptualize ourselves. Creativity is thought by many to be the highest form of humanity. The idea has a long, controversial, insightful and fascinating history.

Key Domestic Issues Facing the Country (David Gergen, david_gergen@harvard.edu; David Boren, dboren@ou.edu; Tom Chun, thomas.chun.es.63@aya.yale.edu; Avi Nelson, a.nel@att.net) – Law School Auditorium

This discussion group will address the most important domestic issues facing our country, and how effective the different branches of government have been in dealing with them. Alternative approaches will be discussed, and classmates’ views solicited, with a view to having a lively, back-and-forth discussion.

Living a Nomadic Life (Reve and Susan Carberry, reve@carberrgroup.com; Eric White, ewhite@massmed.org) – WLH 112

Discussion leaders Reve and Susan Carberry, who sold their house and now live and travel full time in their motor coach, will be joined by Eric White. While still maintaining a fixed house, Eric loves spending many months on long distance hiking trails. The focus of the discussion group will be on what's required to create and maintain these particular nomadic lifestyles. The leaders are open to answering any and all questions relative to the good, the bad, and the ugly of living full or part-time "of no fixed abode" while exploring our great country.

Post-Retirement Careers (Joe Valenta (Real Estate), jrvalenta@earthlink.net, Nat Woodson (Startups/BOD), ndwoodson@aol.com, , Hank Wood (Government/VA), hansel.wood@va.gov, Dick Ahlborn (Consulting), dickahlborn@gmail.com, Erik Jensen (Engineering), ejensen@crecllc.com; G. Peter Morris (Executive Coach), grinnellmorris@bellsouth.net, Bill MacArthur (International NGO Work), wmacarthur@brooksville.biz) – WLH 120

This group will explore the objectives of post-retirement careers (e.g., challenge, learning, satisfaction, renewal, results, and simply happiness) and various means of achieving those objectives.

Vietnam (Paul Field, pfield@renegadecommunications.com, Mike LaFond, mlafond@sulloway.com, Wick Murray, wmurray1864@gmail.com; Douglas Allen, dallen@maine.edu; Larry Gwin, lgwin42@gmail.com) – WLH 119

Among the most successful discussion groups at past reunions have been discussion groups on Vietnam, which left an indelible mark on many classmates. Now that we are separated from the Vietnam War by almost half a century, and have experienced a number of more recent foreign wars, we can look back on Vietnam with fresh eyes and, perhaps, new insight.

The Yale-National University of Singapore College – Grand Initiative or Departure From Yale's Ideals? (Mike Skol, mikeskol@aol.com, David J. MacKenzie, akaeli@gmail.com, Jill Campbell, Yale Professor of English, jill.campbell@yale.edu, Michael Fischer, Yale Professor of Computer Science, michael.fischer@yale.edu, Bryan Garsten, Acting Chair of the Yale Humanities Program, bryan.garsten@yale.edu) – Law School Room 128

Just two months after our Reunion, the first college outside of New Haven to bear Yale's name – The Yale-National University of Singapore College – will be inaugurated. The experiment, designed to introduce the liberal education model to Asia in this dynamic city-state, is a signature element of President Levin's global vision for Yale. But it has its critics, including a good part of the Yale faculty, who question the human rights implications of juxtaposing *Lux et Veritas* with the strict authoritarianism characteristic of Singapore. Is this project in the great tradition of Yale innovative leadership in education, now operating in a world gone global? Or does it risk Yale's image? Should Yale's human

resources instead be concentrated in New Haven? Is the University adequately prepared for possible censorship, human rights or other problems?

Discussion Group Time Slot 2
Friday, May 31, 2013
3:30-4:45 PM

Challenges to U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security (Stan Riveles, SRiveles3@aol.com, Mike Skol, mikeskol@aol.com, Warren Hoge, hoge@ipinst.org, Jerry Bremer, bremerylpb@yahoo.com, Wick Murray, wmurray1864@gmail.com, Jay Rixse, jrixse@earthlink.net) – Sprague Hall

This panel will look ahead to examine U.S. national security strategy over the next decade. Terrorism and U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan dominated the decade after 9/11. As this post-9/11 era wanes, new problems challenge “Grand Strategy” in the broadest sense: What are our national interests and where are the resources to pursue them? Slow growth hampers the U.S. economy and weakens traditional allies (Europe, NATO, and Japan). Latin America, the perennial orphan of U.S. foreign policy, will likely loom larger in coming years, as the fastest growing market for U.S. goods, and because of concern over Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, with its broad ties to Iran, drug trafficking, money laundering and international terrorism. Change in the Middle East creates threats to political stability and energy security. Nuclear proliferation threatens Israel and the fragile military balance in the region. The rise of China raises the specter of a superpower competition in new form. Amid these challenges, the question is whether the U.S. will remain the “indispensable” nation to solving international problems?

Mahatma Gandhi Today (Douglas Allen, dallen@maine.edu) – WLH 113

Mahatma Gandhi, often considered the most admired human being of the 20th century, is also controversial and often outdated or irrelevant. In my own writings and lectures, I've maintained that when Gandhi is selectively reappropriated and creatively reinterpreted, he is an invaluable catalyst challenging us to rethink our dangerous and unsustainable approaches and to rethink what really motivates us to live well. As Einstein and King contend, we ignore Gandhi at our own peril. He challenges us to reconsider how most of us, who claim to be nonviolent, are very violent, and how we need a radical paradigm shift in which we rethink our views of what really motivates us, development, standard of living, progress, happiness, and meaningful existence. Gandhi-informed discussions about our present and future world are always challenging, lively, and significant.

New Directions? New Rewards? Keeping Score Without Money (Eric H. Steele, eric@erichsteele.com) – WLH 112

Everyone wants meaning in their life and value in what they do. Careers have their own rewards and value. Retirement raises the issue anew of what we will do with our time and effort that we view as valuable and meaningful, whether it's creating art, teaching at-risk kids, or advocating for a cause. This group will

discuss the what people have chosen to do in retirement. How do they discover what is meaningful to them? How do they define value? How do they research a new field, set realistic goals and measure success?

Personalized Medicine of the Future Depends on Omics (Ed Dennis, edennis@ucsd.edu, Larry Gold, lgold@somalogic.com) – WLH 114

The omics evolution began at the end of the 20th century with the sequencing of the human genome. The 21st century has already seen the development of comprehensive proteomics analyses and the emerging evolution is to metabolomics, which includes the identification and quantification of all of the molecular constituents of the cell including its nucleic acids, amino acids, sugars, and fats, where tens of thousands of distinct molecular species exist. Personalized medicine will depend on routinely measuring many thousands of proteins, lipids and other metabolites in blood, urine, and other tissues to identify diseases and monitor therapeutic treatments. How the explosive array of new diagnostics and predictors of disease outcomes coupled with comprehensive computerized health records will change the nature of the doctor-patient relationship and how we will cope with health, disease, and nutrition will be the basis of an interactive discussion among the participants. Should be of interest to physicians, scientists, and lay members/spouses of our class as we embark on a transformational decade in truly “personalized medicine”.

Russia: Where Is It Now? Where Is It Headed? (Peter Maffitt, pcmaffitt@gmail.com; Mike Haltzel, mhaltzel@jhu.edu; Tim Holme, tholme@tampabay.rr.com; Alan Parker, parker.alan@verizon.net; Dan Rowland, hisdan@uky.edu) – WLH 208

The years since the demise of the Soviet Union have been years of change for Russia. Now Russia is recovering some of its old assertiveness and some of its old truculence vis-a-vis the United States. What does this mean for Russia itself? What does it mean for the rest of the world?

Saudi Arabia: The Non-Petroleum Minerals Revolution Since 2006 (Steve Hall, sshall@bechtel.com) – WLH 002

This will not be a political, human rights, or regional conflict discussion, but will cover Saudi Arabia’s recent investment in mineral exploitation and infrastructure, how it is changing the face of the Kingdom, and why the Kingdom is engaging in this initiative.

Seasons of a Man’s Life – II (Jon Larson, jon_larson@hotmail.com) – WLH 119

We will discuss the “Seasons” in our lives, individually, and then piece together a more general pattern within which the various Seasons have played out in our own lives. Key will be to determine the purpose of our current “Season” and the Mentoring stage that Levinson discovered as key to our happiness now

which should be a key focus for each of us. How do we Mentor? We will build upon the ground-breaking research of Yale psychologist Daniel Levinson and his Yale staff who in 1978 published the ten-year study “*The Seasons of a Man’s Life*” documenting the lives of Yale men after graduation to create the then most ambitious account of the adult male life cycle. It is possible that the beginnings of a significant work of research could result, which might even tie into the 1963 50th Reunion Class Film being produced, further documenting directly the key life-changing experiences of this generation of men for ourselves, our families and loved ones, and those generations of men and women who follow. Also we welcome input from participants how to commence a “*Seasons of a Woman’s Life*” series using shared volunteer resources from the Yale community.

Secular Humanism: Living a Moral Life as a Non-Theist (Barry C. Keenan, keenan@denison.edu) – WLH 211

In the 50 years since graduation, what transformations have taken place in your personal moral values? Have any problems in the workplace or among others emerged from being a non-theist? In transiting the joyful and sorrowful passages of life, have you identified moral or spiritual values that are important to you?

S.O.S. – Secrets of the Sun: Millennial Meditations, Solar Spectrum Environmental Art (Peter Erskine, petererskine@earthlink.net; www.ErskineSolarArt.net) – WLH 117

Come *watch and discuss* Peter Erskine's new documentary film by director Michael W. Barnard at its World Premiere Screening. Join Peter on his tortuous, 20-year journey, as he tries to use the healing power of the rainbow to wake people up about climate change and mass species extinction. Step into his studio as he discovers a new art medium of sunlight and water, and then creates solar art installations in Rome, Berlin and LA. The film also features interviews with classmate, Tom Lovejoy – coiner of the term “Biodiversity”, Jonas Salk, MD, psychiatrist Judith Orloff, and Yalie, Paul MacCready, inventor of human powered flight and scientific mentor to the Secrets of the Sun project.

The Spiritual Journey (Bob Hetherington, rgheterington@gmail.com, Hank Higdon, hhigdon@hbm-llc.com) – WLH 120

Each of us is on a journey through life. When we think of the journey as spiritual we are asking the question: How is God present? Join us for an interactive discussion around the questions: What are you most grateful for about your spiritual journey and what are you least grateful for? After we listen to each other answer those questions, we will have a general discussion about the issues that have been raised. We will close with an opportunity for prayer.

Why Balance the Federal Budget? (Bill Nordhaus, william.nordhaus@yale.edu, Joe Valenta, jrvalenta@earthlink.net, Jerry

Kenney, jerome.kenney@gmail.com, Dick Foster, rnf@millbrookgroup.net)

– Law School Auditorium

One of the most important questions facing our Nation is whether and how to balance the federal budget. This group will address all aspects of this question – economic, financial, social, political, and ethical.

Discussion Group Time Slot 3
Saturday, June 1, 2013
2:30-3:45 PM

Aging and Death: Coping With Lifestyle Changes and Dealing With Our Own Death and the Loss of Friends and Family Members (Ken Porter, kpboola@gmail.com; Pennell Rock, pennell.rock@me.com; Bob Hetherington, rgheterington@gmail.com) – WLH 119

Topics will include philosophical, ethical, religious, and spiritual views, theories, myths.

The Challenge to American Education (Benno Schmidt, mcmillena@aol.com; David Boren, dboren@ou.edu) – Law School Auditorium

This group will discuss America's precarious position in education and talk about the big challenges looming: (1) we don't know how to educate well the fastest growing parts of our population, blacks, Hispanics, and poor kids; (2) the financial model in public higher education is broken and deteriorating fast as states put less and less financial support behind the public universities, which educate 80+% of the students); (3) other countries for the first time are seeing higher percentages of their populations complete college than is the US; and (4) for the first time in our history the coming generation will be less well educated than its predecessors. Can we turn these disastrous trends around? How? What if we don't? Does Yale have a role to play in this, or is it too small to be anything other than a footnote? In thinking about these questions the differences between Yale and CUNY, the two universities I know best, are quite instructive.

Depression and Its Effects on People's Lives (Tom Wehr, wehr.tom@gmail.com, Larry Gwin, lgwin42@gmail.com, Ian Robertson, ianrobco@earthlink.net, Denny Landa, DGL3176@aol.com) – WLH 120

This group will include people discussing their own depressions, how depression affected them, and, most importantly, how they survived it. It will also offer a research and clinical perspective on what is known about depression and what remains to be learned.

Gay Lifestyles (Langston Snodgrass, lsls@zwi.net) – WLH 112

This discussion group will focus on issues such as how gay lifestyles have changed since our graduation from Yale; whether and how gays have disappeared into the larger culture or whether there is still such a thing as “gay culture”, or both; the extent to which gays have acquired the basic rights available to “straights”; how gay men deal with a culture in which some individuals and organizations support them, but many others simply tolerate gays or actively oppose them in one way or another; and how gays perceive themselves as individuals and in relationship to the larger culture. Gay marriage rights are too large a topic to address meaningfully in the time available.

Is My Life a Story? (Carter Findley, findley.1@osu.edu) – WLH 114

I have been fascinated by the extent to which people can or do perceive their lives as constituting a narrative. I suspect most people do not, cannot, or do not want to, unless for some of the more heroic parts. Others may be working on their memoirs even as we speak. Desiring to see lives as stories is very common. Biography is one of the most popular genres of historical writing. The purpose of this group is to talk about whether classmates look back on their lives as having constituted a story.

No Longer in Good Health? How We Cope. (Dan Arons, darons@partners.org, Joseph Alpert, jalpert@shc.arizona.edu, Ronald Alessio Allison, ronaldallison@hotmail.com; DuPont Guerry IV, guerry@mail.med.upenn.edu) – WLH 208

When we left Yale 50 years ago our horizon was unlimited, and we took our good health and strong bodies for granted. Over the years, many classmates have died, some may now struggle with illness that limits activity, or require therapies that impact on daily lives. Some may have been told of a shortened life expectancy. How do we accept, adjust, and cope? The “philosopher,” Yogi Berra, once said: “The future ain’t what is used to be.” What practical steps do we take to deal with a new reality, a shortened future? What resources are available to assist in what may be the final phase of life? This discussion group is interactive and participants are encouraged to share their stories and advice.

Problems of Overweight and Food Addiction (Phil Werdell, pwevergreen1@gmail.com) – WLH 211

The discussion group on “Overweight and Food Addiction” will have two themes:

- 1) A significant part of the obesity epidemic is caused by food addiction. New science proves this. New treatment and public health policies are needed to deal with this. Phil Werdell, ’63, author of the treatment section of the new medical textbook *Food and Addiction* (ed., Brownell and Gold, Oxford Press 2012) and co-founder of the Food Addiction Institute (www.foodaddictioninstitute.org), will outline the fundamental issues (see link to summary of article in the Clinical Forum of the International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals); http://foodaddiction.com/Publications/acorn_brochure-FINAL.pdf
- 2) Some individuals who have not been successful with dieting, therapy or surgery have lost significant weight and maintained this for years by treating themselves as food addicted. Phil’s wife, Mary Foushi, who is the Executive Director of ACORN Food Dependency Services (www.foodaddiction.com) and who has lost 195 pounds and kept it off for over twenty years, will share her

personal story. Phil and Mary are both recovering food addicts and together have worked professionally with over 4000 late stage food addicts.

There will be a discussion of both personal recovery issues and the range of public health policy and treatment issues including the relevance of food addiction to the new APA diagnosis of Binge Eating Disorder in the DSM 5.

Relationships as We Age (Jon Larson, jon_larson@hotmail.com, Elissa Arons, elissaarons@gmail.com; Tom Greenspon, tsg@greensponassociates.com, Barbara Chain Greenspon, bcg@greensponassociates.com) – WLH 117

“The most precious gift to a (Yale) man is the love of a good woman.”
“The most precious gift a (Yale) man can give is his love to a good woman.”
Marriage vows are no longer “man and wife” but “husband and wife” (in heterosexual unions). Both have needs, and both have responsibilities in the relationship if it is to work over the long haul, especially into older age. Common problems include health issues (physical and emotional) in ourselves and partners, as well as our children. How can we stay fit enough, mentally stimulated, and sexually capable enough to sustain a nourishing relationship? How do we deal with the common problems of reality, stresses, depression, alcohol, declining cognitive function? Loss is rampant: divorce, deaths of friends, partners, children, serious incapacitating illness. How we adjust is important to mutual long-term satisfaction and comfort in our remaining years together.

The Return of NROTC/ROTC to the Yale Campus; Discussion and Reception at NROTC headquarters (55 Whitney Avenue) with Yale College Dean Mary Miller (2:45-4:15 PM) (Peter Cressy, pcressy@discus.org, Hank Wood, hansel.wood@va.gov, Dave Anderson, dca@dcalaw.net, Dick Ahlborn, dickahlborn@gmail.com, Chris Thiessen, crispint@cox.net, Joe Valenta, jvalenta@earthlink.net) – 55 Whitney Avenue

This discussion will center on Yale’s decision to bring back NROTC to the campus, restoring faith with past ROTC graduates; enhancing Yale’s service to country; faculty dynamics and curriculum; and the opportunity for today’s undergraduates to serve. This informal reception and discussion will include brief comments from Yale College Dean Mary Miller, who was instrumental in the return of NROTC to the Yale campus, and NROTC Commanding Officer Jamie Godwin. An informal reception providing an opportunity to toast this landmark decision will also be provided. Please note the special location at the NROTC wardroom, 55 Whitney Avenue. All former NROTC and ROTC classmates, veterans and interested classmates will be most welcome and urged to attend.

Volunteering in Developing Countries (Cameron Smith, camerons5@verizon.net; Dick Teitz, rst24755@yahoo.com, Bill MacArthur, wmacarthur@brooksville.biz) – WLH 113

There are various ways to volunteer in developing countries in ways that make a difference – teaching English as a second language, medical volunteering, building houses or other infrastructure projects, etc. This group will discuss the practical aspects of volunteering in developing countries, and will end with suggestions for those who want to get more serious.