

Yale Class of 1963 55th Reunion Survey

Survey period: May – September 2017. Total Responding: 247

Work and Retirement

1. Are you working or retired?

a. I'm working regularly at a full- or almost full-time job	54	22.1 %
b. I'm in transition to retirement	48	19.7 %
c. I'm fully retired, doing things largely unrelated to my former employment	142	58.2 %

2. Retirement presents opportunities to do new things. How important are each of these things to your definition of retirement?

a. Traveling to broaden my horizons		
Not at all important	13	5.3 %
A little important	64	25.9 %
Pretty important	83	33.6 %
Very important	72	29.1 %
Average: 2.9		
b. Spending more time with spouse, family member, or close friends		
Not at all important	1	0.4 %
A little important	6	2.4 %
Pretty important	71	28.7 %
Very important	152	61.5 %
Average: 3.6		
c. Caring for children, grandchildren, or other family members		
Not at all important	23	9.3 %
A little important	44	17.8 %
Pretty important	77	31.2 %
Very important	75	30.4 %
Average: 2.9		
d. Leading a more leisurely life at home or near home, without a rigid schedule		
Not at all important	25	10.1 %
A little important	55	22.3 %
Pretty important	101	40.9 %
Very important	46	18.6 %
Average: 2.7		
e. Volunteering at a not-for-profit (hospice, Habitat, church, school)		
Not at all important	49	19.8 %
A little important	71	28.7 %
Pretty important	61	24.7 %
Very important	45	18.2 %
Average: 2.5		

f. Outdoor activities (hiking, skiing, bicycling, golf)		
Not at all important	15	6.1 %
A little important	63	25.5 %
Pretty important	83	33.6 %
Very important	64	25.9 %
Average: 2.9		

g. Indoor activities (read, Internet, crafts)		
Not at all important	5	2.0 %
A little important	50	20.2 %
Pretty important	109	44.1 %
Very important	58	23.5 %
Average: 3.0		

h. Developing a new skill or mastering a new area of knowledge		
Not at all important	26	10.5 %
A little important	70	28.3 %
Pretty important	78	31.6 %
Very important	51	20.6 %
Average: 2.7		

3. What is your marital status?

a. Married or in a similarly committed relationship	217	88.2 %
b. Divorced/separated	16	6.5 %
c. Widowed	9	3.7 %
d. Single	4	1.6 %

4. Did you attend our 50th reunion in 2013?

a. No	48	19.8 %
b. Yes	194	80.2 %

5. Do you know that the 55th reunion in 2018 will be totally free for all classmates?

a. No	19	7.8 %
b. Yes	225	92.2 %

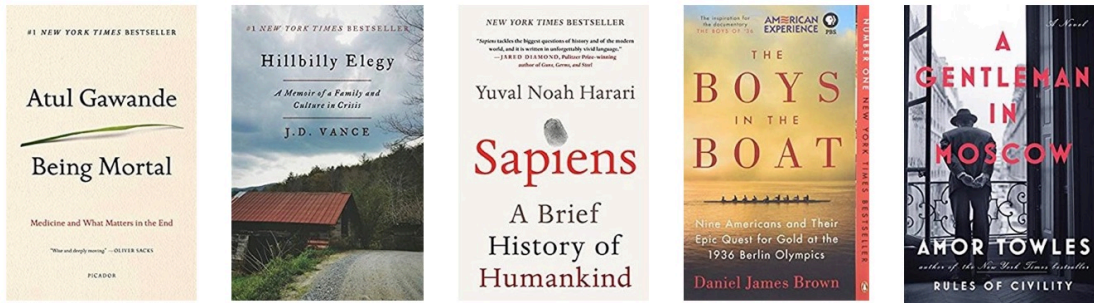
6. Do you plan to attend our 55th reunion in New Haven, May 31-June 3 2018?

a. No	39	15.9 %
b. Unsure at this time	33	13.4 %
c. Yes	174	70.7 %

Leisure Time

7. Books. Is there a book or two you have read in the last year that you would strongly recommend to classmates? If yes, write the title and author here.

Classmates recommended a very diverse set of books. Here are the five titles recommended by four or more of our classmates.



8. TV. Are there television shows, other than the news, that you try to watch regularly? If yes, write the names of a few shows here.

2/3 mentioned particular shows. Very diverse list of shows watched regularly.

- Sitcoms (from Blue Bloods to re-runs of Frazier) and serial dramas (from Designated Survivor, NCIS and Madam Secretary to Game of Thrones, Homeland and House of Cards)
- News (network news, PBS News Hour, Sunday morning panels, CNN – especially Farheed Zaccharia. Only 2 mentioned Fox news. A few mentioned news parodies: Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah, John Oliver)
- 23% Arts & Culture, especially PBS shows, from Masterpiece Theater to specials like Vietnam.
- 10% Sports – mostly NFL, MLB, or Tennis.
- 8% Don't watch TV

9. How much do you depend on each of these media to keep you informed about national and world news?

a. Radio: national (e.g., NPR)

A little	98	39.7 %
A lot	106	42.9 %
Average: 1.5		

b. Radio: talk shows like Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity

A little	72	29.1 %
A lot	11	4.5 %
Average: 1.1		

c. TV: network news (ABC, CBS, NBC)

A little	94	38.1 %
A lot	75	30.4 %
Average: 1.4		

d. TV: cable news (CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, etc.)		
A little	79	32.0 %
A lot	123	49.8 %
Average: 1.6		

e. Newspaper (print version) - national (NY Times, WSJ, etc.)		
A little	69	27.9 %
A lot	147	59.5 %
Average: 1.7		

f. Newspaper (print version) - local/regional		
A little	67	27.1 %
A lot	103	41.7 %
Average: 1.6		

g. Web news e.g., cnn.com, nytimes.com, wsj.com, reuters.com, or other online newspapers and news services		
A little	73	29.6 %
A lot	115	46.6 %
Average: 1.6		

h. Weekly news magazines (print) (US News, Newsweek, Time, etc.)		
A little	100	40.5 %
A lot	51	20.6 %
Average: 1.3		

10. How often do you 'surf' the web looking for interesting things, reading the news, etc.

a. Rarely or not at all	52	21.4 %
b. Occasionally	82	33.7 %
c. Quite often	109	44.9 %

11. Do you use email to communicate with friends and family on a regular basis?

a. No	11	4.5 %
b. Yes	233	95.5 %

12. Do you follow friends and/or family on Facebook?

a. No	175	72.9 %
b. Yes	65	27.1 %

Fitness, Activity, and Health

13. How would you rate your health?

a. Poor	3	1.2 %
b. Moderately poor	13	5.3 %
c. Good	131	53.5 %
d. Excellent	98	40.0 %

14. Do you have any serious medical conditions that limit your activity?

a. No	188	77.4 %
b. Yes	55	22.6 %

15. How often do you exercise in these ways?

a. Take walks or other light exercise

Never	7	2.8 %
1-3 times per month	27	10.9 %
1-2 times per week	53	21.5 %
3 or more times per week	141	57.1 %
Average: 3.4		

b. Take part in vigorous exercise

Never	49	19.8 %
1-3 times per month	35	14.2 %
1-2 times per week	64	25.9 %
3 or more times per week	83	33.6 %
Average: 2.8		

c. Take part in strength training (lift heavy weights or use strength equipment)

Never	107	43.3 %
1-3 times per month	35	14.2 %
1-2 times per week	50	20.2 %
3 or more times per week	31	12.6 %
Average: 2.0		

Politics

16. In the most recent presidential election for whom did you vote?

a. Hillary Clinton	160	66.1 %
b. Donald Trump	46	19.0 %
c. Other	26	10.7 %
d. I did not vote in this election	10	4.1 %

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president thus far?

a. Approve	36	15.0 %
b. Disapprove	204	85.0 %

18. How about Congress. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your legislators are handling their responsibilities?

a. Approve	43	18.2 %
b. Disapprove	193	81.8 %

19. Under the current administration will life be better or worse for Americans by 2020 than it was under Barack Obama?

a. Worse	151	62.7 %
b. About the Same	46	19.1 %
c. Better	44	18.3 %

20. On most issues, with which party do you identify?

a. Democratic	115	47.3 %
b. Republican	61	25.1 %
c. Independent	46	18.9 %
d. I am indifferent to party preference	21	8.6 %

21. In the last ten years have you actively supported a political candidate or party in any of these ways? It can be in local, regional or national arenas. (check all that apply)

a. Donate money	167	94.9 %
b. Volunteer to assist a party or candidate (make phone calls, send emails, organize the office, etc.)	58	33.0 %
c. Other: _____	16	9.1 %

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

22. When you think about the things you are most happy about accomplishing in your life thus far, in what areas of life are they? (check all that apply)

a. Job	208	86.3 %
b. Marriage and family	216	89.6 %
c. Health (perhaps surviving some disease)	101	41.9 %
d. Sports	65	27.0 %
e. Military service	48	19.9 %
f. Other: _____	52	21.6 %

23. Describe in 1-5 sentences one of the accomplishments about which you are most happy or proud.

Open-ended responses in the appendix

24. If you wish, describe in a few sentences a second accomplishment.

Open-ended responses in the appendix

25. Thinking about your career overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with what you have achieved?

a. Very dissatisfied	11	4.5 %
b. Moderately dissatisfied	11	4.5 %
c. Neutral	4	1.6 %
d. Moderately satisfied	84	34.6 %
e. Very satisfied	133	54.7 %

26. Do you think your children will be as well off as you are when they retire?

a. Not as well off	69	28.3 %
b. About the same	104	42.6 %
c. Better off than I am	47	19.3 %
d. I don't have any children	24	9.8 %

27. What's on your To Do List for the next 5 years? It could be nothing. It could be something small like learn the piano or improve your golf game. It could be visiting someplace. It could also be something quite ambitious like start a company. Describe in a few sentences one or two things that are high on your list.

Open-ended responses in the appendix