



## CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES JULY-AUGUST 2019

**Doug Allen** has had his latest book, *Gandhi after 9/11: Creative Nonviolence and Sustainability*, published by Oxford University Press in India in January and in the U.S. in February. Doug's central claim is that Gandhi, when selectively appropriated and creatively reformulated and applied, is essential for formulating new approaches that are more nonviolent and more sustainable and that provide resources and hope for dealing with our contemporary personal, national, and global crises. In April, Doug had the honor of being invited to deliver the keynote/valedictory lecture at the International Conference on "The Gandhian Way: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?" sponsored by the Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of the University of Delhi and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (Teen Murti). Doug writes that the fact that he dared to make the strenuous trip (which took 40 hours each way after cancellations because of the India-Pakistan air space crisis), and that he had a full schedule of nonstop activities every day in India with lectures, meetings, and interviews, was a great victory after his eight months of severe chemo and radiation treatments in 2016 (and he remains cancer-free).

**Jerry Bogert** and the Milbank Foundation have given a total of \$3 million since 2012 to support the palliative care program at the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven. Their most recent contribution is funding a mobile team to travel to six of Smilow's care center locations across Connecticut. Jerry said: "Dr. Jennifer Kapo is doing innovative work with

palliative care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. We are very pleased to support the expansion of this program to even more patients in the Yale network.”

**Leo Damrosch’s** book on Samuel Johnson’s circle received a rave review in the Sunday *New York Times*, and received the following praise from the biographer Richard Holmes: “Damrosch’s glorious study take us on a brilliantly animated Grand Tour of the whole Johnsonian universe, with its ever-expanding galaxy of stellar personalities. He revisits not only the old glittering Club Land familiars like James Boswell, David Garrick, Edmund Burke, and Sir Joshua Reynolds, but also intriguing lesser known luminaries such as Johnson’s early portrait painter Frances Reynolds (younger sister of Sir Joshua), his secret confidante and confessor Hester Thrale, his black servant Francis Barber, his pornographic friend John Wilkes, and his ‘infidel’ opponent David Hume. Shrewd, good-natured, and endlessly informative, Damrosch makes a spell-binding guide. He narrates with a compelling mixture of provoking gossip, shrewd commentary and masterly scholarship. He is so intimate and engaging, that I could well believe he once drank punch and compared notes with Boswell at the Mitre Tavern.” **Ridge Hall** adds: “This dazzling review will come as no surprise to those of us lucky enough to spend two years with Leo in the History, the Arts and Letters major program.”

**Bill Greenwood** reports: “Commander **Hank Wood**, former Navy pilot and Vietnam vet, stopped by our place in Sequim, WA recently. He looks great but is suffering from his wife Sandy’s passing on January 7, 2019. We had a great dinner with Sammy and conversation just flowed.

“The experience made me recall the many good times that we have had with Yale classmates here on the Olympic peninsula, not far from the Pacific but very far from New Haven. We moved to Seattle in 1974. It was far from where we both grew up and we have fond memories of family and friends. When we see anyone from the Class of '63 it is always cause for celebration.

“Most recently we have had visits from **Bill MacArthur** and **Tony Knowles** – both of whom have had magnificent careers. Bill has a law degree but found himself successfully involved in real estate long ago. For many years he has donated his expertise to developing countries in the world – like rejuvenating Vietnam. He has a few fewer addresses today. The places in rural Connecticut and Maine are gone, but he and his delightful wife, Luz, still have a home in Orlando (near Bill's business office) as well as a nice place in NYC and a beautiful Paris apartment. To me, Bill has always been the smartest guy in the room and he is a generous soul. His Paris retreat is available to old friends and children of old friends. Our son, Trevor, and his wife thoroughly enjoyed his generosity.

“As most of you know, Tony Knowles started with us in '63 but, with time as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, ended up graduating with the Class of '68. In the dusty basement of Pierson he used to produce an outstanding hamburger – and even today he can get quite poetic on the right way to make one. In time, that particular skill took him to the Downtown Deli in Anchorage which was located across from the State House. He ran for Mayor and served in office for eight years. Then he became Governor of Alaska for yet another eight years. A few years ago, he told me: ‘If I can just hold on a bit I think I can make it through life without having a real job!’ Tony married the absolutely gorgeous Susan (a Vassar girl) who is a powerful and

effective person in Alaska, as well. Meanwhile, most of their kids have moved to Seattle and daughter Sara and her husband have opened a new restaurant called HOMER. Our son, Trevor, who owns and runs three Tuscan-style restaurants in the Seattle area, says it is terrific.

“Roe and **Bill Sanford** have been here twice in the last several years, each time on their way to somewhere else. Roe is a gorgeous girl and is in great shape, as is Bill – a Yale oarsman who worked his tail off to stay in the boat. Although Bill is retired, Roe and he are determined to see as much of the world as they can. So, they are off and running; rarely home. We had some wonderful evenings with them late last summer.

“Emily and **Bob Myers** stopped by for a memorable few days a few years ago. You may remember Bob as a first-rate and dedicated skier. Bob spent most of his career at the Mayo Clinic and, over time, became recognized as one of the country’s top urologists. He has truly seen the world as a medical expert and has lectured in too many countries to count. Now, he continues to volunteer that expertise from his and Emily’s new home in New Hampshire. A sweeter guy than Bob does not exist.

“A little too long ago, the lovely Ginni and **Ross Mackenzie** came by for a sensational three days. In our freshman year Ross did his level best to train me to be a Buckley conservative. He did well. But while I have moderated considerably over time, Ross is still the same stubborn Ross of our freshman year. You might remember that he was Vice-Chairman of the News and then went on to become a syndicated columnist via two Richmond newspapers and for years and years has been the “Conservative Voice of the South.” We share a love of good spy stories and he can hit a golf ball a mile.

“Some years ago, **Pete Maffitt** joined us for a few days with his wife Holly and their kids. We had a great time and Pete stays in solid touch with a broad range of friends on a broad range of issues via email.

“Sammy and I have been lucky to spend solid time with Patsy and **Cliff Swain** and their wonderful kids. Over the years – and beyond visits to Sequim – we have twice skied together in Aspen for a week or so with our combined families. And Cliff and I have twice brought our sons to Bandon Dunes in Oregon for 36 holes a day of some of the best golf in the country. I think of Cliff as a so-so right fielder but at Yale he was a tough and aggressive rugby player. He is tough, plays a beautiful game, and hits the ball hard. At Bandon Dunes we were regularly outdriven by our twentyish sons by nearly 100 yards. He enjoyed a superb law career and his kids have married and most have stayed near the family home in Chestnut Hill.

“Our little town of Sequim exists in farming, logging, and fishing country. Sammy, who always looks to me like a gorgeous 24, is in great physical shape and is utterly devoted to the older people in the area. She stays in constant touch with 20 to 25 folks who just need help in their everyday lives. And she gives it. She also manages a series of popular concerts at our church (MUSIC LIVE) and the proceeds go to a number of causes in the area. She takes great care of me, our fabulous dog, Shorty, along with our son and daughter and six grandchildren.”

**Steve Hall** reports: “My posterior left hip replacement surgery on February 19, 2019 went fine. As of mid-April I am almost off the walker.. Docs and rehab say I am doing better than average.”

**Hank Higdon** writes: “Erika and I enjoy attending our grandchildren’s sporting events, including 17-year-old Casey O’Brien, a member of the U.S. National Under 18 Girls Team in Ice

Hockey. In January 2018 we traveled to Moscow, Russia to see the team win the Gold Medal in the World Championships (9-3 over Sweden). In January 2019 we traveled to Japan to see the team lose to Canada in overtime in the Finals, settling for the Silver. Casey last year committed to the University of Wisconsin to play ice hockey, although she is still only a junior in high school. Casey was recently named Player of the Year in high school hockey in the entire country. Her two older brothers respectively play varsity soccer for Amherst College and varsity ice hockey for The Berkshire School. Our other grandkids are also very active and showing promise.

“I continue in executive search, having combined Higdon Partners (an independent search firm for 31 years focusing on asset management) in January 2017 with RSR Partners, a dynamic, growing midsized firm founded by Russell Reynolds. The firm has great young leadership and wonderful future. Life is good!”

**Wick Murray** has been honored by the 2019 Samuel Eliot Morison Prize of The Society of Military History. The Prize “recognizes not any one specific achievement, but a body of contributions in the field of military history, extending over time and reflecting a spectrum of scholarly activity contributing significantly to the field.”

**Langston Snodgrass** reports: “Since last summer I've finished ‘final’ editing of four novels I've written in the past five years, well received by everyone who’s read them. Now I need to find literary agents for them, a challenging task. The first novel features a woman who is sexually abused from childhood into her early thirties but survives and triumphs. Two other novels feature gay male characters working through various challenges that gay adolescents and young adults have faced and still face. The fourth novel features a gay male social worker trying to understand why he remained in a relationship with a man who was

basically likeable, kind, and good but also turned out over time to be more than a little sociopathic as well as a paranoid schizophrenic who did just fine, if he took his meds. I'm also working on a small book about everyday ethics and morals for those who want one in today's America (if anyone does!). I still have a lot to do in life and I'm glad that I think of myself as only 57, not 77."

Elissa Beron Arons, the widow of **Daniel Arons**, writes: "Daniel and I downsized to a beautiful apartment on the Charles River in Cambridge in 2013, with a picturesque view of the Boston skyline, backlit by sunrise. We knew he was ill when we moved, and he lived there for ten months. Daniel worked with devotion, seeing patients and teaching Residents at the Mass General Hospital until a month before his death, August 2014. I have continued practicing Psychiatry/Psychoanalysis part time in Cambridge. Our three daughters, their husbands, and five grandchildren (ages 6-14) in San Francisco and Cambridge, miss him, but carry on with their rich full lives. All of them are well and give great joy. I am in a relationship with a retired architect, a lovely man (despite having gotten his graduate degree from Harvard, not Yale!), also widowed after a long marriage. We both feel fortunate in this wonderful, loving second chapter, unexpected at our age."

**Robert Patrick ("Pat") Murphy** died on February 19, 2019 at the Winchester, VA Medical Center. Pat was preceded in death by his beloved companion of almost 30 years, Diane Lowe Ferguson. He is survived by Diane's sons, James and Reed, and Diane's grandchildren. Pat is, most likely, survived by his adopted daughter Letitia, from whom he was estranged for many years. He was preceded in death by his adopted son Torin.

Pat grew up in Fairfax County, VA, where he attended public school. He graduated with a degree in English in 1963 from Yale University, which he attended on a Navy ROTC scholarship, and was then commissioned as a regular officer in the U.S. Navy. The Navy, as he was fond of saying, in its infinite wisdom, decided that "Eng" was a fungible abbreviation, and so he was assigned exclusively to engineering duties. His last assignment was as Engineering Officer on USS. LaSalle (LPD-3). After completing his active duty service in 1967, Pat attended graduate school at the University of Virginia, receiving an M.A. in 1968 and a Ph.D. in 1971, also in English. After teaching English at the University of Idaho for six years, he decided on a change of careers.

Pat graduated with a J.D. from Duke University Law School in 1980. He practiced law in Houston, TX and Washington, DC for 25 years, mostly for large multinational firms. He attained a national reputation in immigration and nationality law, and was the 1996 recipient of the Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award presented by the American Immigration Lawyers Association ("AILA") "for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law." Pat wrote and spoke frequently on immigration law, and for ten years was the editor-in-chief of the Immigration Law Handbook, the course materials for AILA's annual conference.

Pat retired with Diane to Shenandoah County, VA, where they both became immersed in the county's rich history. This interest manifested itself in the 2013 publication of *The French and Indian War in Shenandoah County: Life on the Inner Frontier, 1752-1766*.

Pat Murphy was something of a Renaissance man: Navy officer, college teacher and published scholar, lawyer and legal writer and editor, and local historian. In a kind of reverse if not perverse humility, he never referred to himself as "Doctor Murphy".



**Paul Field** remembers Pat Murphy as follows: “Pat, **Ron Sampson**, and I went to Falls Church High School together and then on to New Haven. Pat was a brilliant and private person who ultimately found great happiness with his partner Diane Ferguson for 25 years. After she passed away recently, Pat moved to a smaller condo and continued alone with the help of two daily helpers. I called him about a month before he died, and we had an hour-long chat. He had found his happiness with his partner and was quite brave about dealing with life alone and ailing.”

**William Conrad (“Willy”) von Raab** died in Charlottesville, VA on February 20, 2019. Willy was born in New Rochelle, NY and raised in Roslyn, NY. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1963 and Bachelor of Law from the University of Virginia in 1966. During the Nixon Administration, Willy worked as a Director at the Cost of Living Council from 1972-1973 and Executive Assistant to the Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration 1973-1975. From 1977-1979 he served as Vice President of Administration and Finance at New York University. In 1981 he returned to Washington, becoming the Commissioner of the United States Customs Service during the Reagan Administration until 1989. Willy aggressively championed the “War on Drugs” and challenged the importation of pornography and the exportation of military contraband. In his later years, living on his farm in Madison, VA, Willy was active on numerous boards and with the Piedmont Environmental Council advocating for land conservation. Willy is survived by his wife of 20 years, Lucy S. Rhame; his daughter Alexandra Lambert von Raab and her daughters; and his son Nicholas Christian von Raab.

**Guy Struve** recounts: “I remember Willy von Raab not only for his strong conservative views, but also for his well-developed and wicked sense of humor. Willy discovered very early

that I was a perfect straight man, and I can still see the smile and glint in his eye which announced that yet another zinger was about to come my way.”

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