



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES MARCH-APRIL 2019

Leonard Chazen reports: “My work life has had a remarkable change recently. Thanks to a chance encounter in a sandal shop in Saint-Tropez, I renewed contact with a former client, the general counsel of a European financial group, which subsequently hired my firm to be their lead corporate counsel. I’m supposed to be the legal advisor, while younger lawyers handle transactions, but as the manager of this client relationship, I get involved in everything. This means I’m working harder than I have in at least ten years: not exactly how I planned to spend my late 70s. But I believe the great challenge for those of our vintage is to remain engaged by life and to keep our brains active, and for that I’m prepared to put in some late nights at the office.”

Leo Damrosch writes: “In March I’ll have a new book out from Yale University Press, entitled *The Club: Johnson, Boswell, and the Friends Who Shaped an Age*. It was truly an astounding constellation of talent – there are chapters on Edmund Burke, Edward Gibbon, Adam Smith, Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and others. Yale is planning to feature it as their lead book for the season and will promote it strongly. I’ve had a wonderful experience working with everyone there, on previous books on Jonathan Swift and William Blake as well as on this one.”

Peter Kiernan’s son Ryan was married on October 6, 2018 to the lovely Marie Wilkerson. Ryan and Marie live in San Francisco, where Ryan works for Cloudflare and Marie for Eventbrite. Following the couple’s honeymoon in Italy, Peter, his wife Kathy, and daughter Clare visited Ryan and Marie to spend Thanksgiving week with them in San Francisco and the Napa Valley.

Steve Steiner brought his professional career to a close on July 31, 2018, thereby completing over 51 years of service. Following a 36-year career in the U.S. diplomatic service, the last several of which were focused on nuclear arms negotiations, Steve served an additional eight years at the Department of State working on democracy, human rights and women's rights

issues. He spent the past seven years on the staff of the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he helped to develop programs to empower women in countries that have gone through violent conflict and worked with young men in those countries to persuade them to accept a peaceful narrative of masculinity, respect the rights of women and girls, and act as peacebuilders in their families, communities and countries.

John Tuteur reflects on his 40 years of public service: “When I was elected Fifth District Supervisor in Napa County, CA in June 1972, the only county computer was a big box in the basement of the administration building and phones were still plugged into the wall. During my eight years on the Board we adopted a General Plan that protected agriculture and open space; directed growth into urban areas; increased governmental efficiency and upgraded our facilities. I also learned the value of listening; exploring the concerns of both sides and arriving at a fair decision. I have applied those same principles since my election as County Assessor in June 1986. At that time, staff in the three property tax departments were hand-typing numbers on 6,000 tax bills. By December 1, 1987 we implemented a new, integrated computer system that automated those functions - a system that Napa and 30 other counties who joined us over the past 31 years are still using today. In 1998 the Board of Supervisors asked me to bring a consolidated department into the 21st century. The consolidation added Recorder, County Clerk, and Registrar of Voters to my Assessor job. Now the public can view our documents back to 1850 on public computers, and we have the nation’s most advanced election system at our vote centers. I have enjoyed every day of the past 40 years working with our dedicated staff to help our property owners, residents, and voters. On January 7, 2019 I will begin my fifth decade serving Napa County with a continuing commitment to fairness and integrity.”

Gerrit John “Gerry” Blauvelt, M.D. died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on November 11, 2018. The cause was idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, an incurable lung disease. Gerry practiced medicine in San Francisco for nearly 50 years, beginning as an intern at Pacific Presbyterian in 1967. Among the first psychiatrists to open an office in the San Francisco Financial District, in the early 1980s, he practiced through June 2018. He served as an Associate Clinical Professor at UCSF. Gerry was born in Shaker Heights, OH, and was educated at University School, Yale College, and University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He

continued his education with a psychiatric residency at Langley Porter, UCSF, and spent time at Littlemore Hospital in Oxford, England, learning Maxwell Jones's approach to therapeutic communities. This approach informed his years of public service working with psychiatric outpatient groups, including 20 years as medical director of a geriatric program at the San Francisco Family Service Agency, where "Dr. B" enjoyed tending the garden with his patients. Gerry is remembered for his probing questions, not always gentle and sometimes sly, but always with compassion and a genuine interest in what others truly thought and felt. Gerry enjoyed sailing and being on the water, especially at family homes over the years in Centerport, Long Island; Cotuit, Cape Cod; and Duck Cove, Tomales Bay. He loved clamming and taught his grandchildren and anyone who was uninitiated how to dig in the mud with their toes. He felt fortunate to share most of his life with his high school sweetheart, Sandra (Blair) Blauvelt. He is survived by his wife Sandy; his daughter Molly, his son Andy, and four grandchildren, all of whom he adored.

Lancelot Fletcher writes: "My beloved wife Carolyn Clark Campbell died suddenly on July 26, 2018. She passed away without pain or suffering, in the midst of talking about how happy she was and about all the things she wanted to do in the future. Carolyn had been writing her autobiography. She had already compiled hundreds of pages of notes and references. It was a project in which I was much involved because, due to her aphasia, she needed me to edit her draft into regular prose. She spent hours every day on this project. Sometimes it was hard for me to interrupt her to serve breakfast or dinner. On this occasion she was telling me what a wonderful life she had led, how happy she was, and how excited she was about all the things she was doing and would be doing in the future. We embraced, she said, 'I love you!' Then she said, 'I am feeling very tired,' and suddenly Carolyn collapsed and I could feel that all the life had left her body. Of course I am sad that this beautiful person with whom I had the privilege of sharing so many years is no longer available to touch and kiss. But I know that Carolyn would want us to remember her, not with sadness, but with joy. After suffering a devastating stroke in 2005, the first sentence she spoke to me after she began to regain the power of speech was, 'I am happier now than I have ever been!' That is what Carolyn would want to be remembered for.

Carolyn's death was not a surprise. Her cardiologist had told us last November that she was in the terminal stage of heart failure and that she was likely to die very soon. The way Carolyn died – suddenly, without any pain or suffering, in the middle of expressing happiness, satisfaction with her life and love for me – was a blessing.”

Dennis Noel Harshfield passed away on June 1, 2018 at the Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach, FL. After graduating from East High School in Sioux City, IA in 1959, he attended Yale University from September 1959 to May 1962. He graduated with a B.A. in General Science from the University of Iowa in 1965. Dennis served in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1970. He received an Associate Degree in Computer Science from Jones College in Jacksonville, FL in 1974. He worked in computer programming for Atlantic Bank, First Union National Bank, Wachovia Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank. From 1978 to 1988 he was responsible for the application programming for the online network which covered the state of Florida. Thereafter, he worked on programming for Automatic Teller Machines until his retirement in 1999.

Geoff Martin and **Doug Dick** write: “We are sorry to report the death, on October 15, 2018, of **Joel C. Magyar**, our roommate in Davenport College and lifelong friend. Joel was most recently living in Fort Myers, FL with Obie Bailey, his husband and partner of over 50 years, who passed away earlier this year. Joel arrived at Yale from Harrisburg, PA with an extensive collection of LPs, a preview of his lifelong love of musical theater. Later on, Obie and Joel were among the producers of “My One and Only” on the New York stage. After they moved to Florida, the two of them made regular theater visits back to Broadway to keep current. Joel was a serious stamp collector from boyhood; in recent years, his collection filled a small den with many shelves of well-sorted albums. His skill with mathematics led him to a career as an insurance actuary, first with New York Life, and later as a Vice President with Integrity Life in its developing days. He was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. Joel was highly intelligent, with a wonderful sense of humor. He was friendly, open, and trusting, and had a kind consideration and acceptance of people, which never changed as he got older. We had just been making plans to get together more often, so his passing is especially sad. He is greatly missed.”

James Cornelius McCormick died peacefully on May 28, 2018, surrounded by his loving family, after a long and valiant struggle with multiple health problems. Jim grew up in Manhattan. Due to his father's untimely death when Jim was not yet two years of age, he was raised by three adoring women, his mother, aunt, and grandmother. He attended The Collegiate School in New York City and went on to Yale University, where he was a member of the Glee Club and the Alley Cats. He received an M.B.A. from NYU Business School and was involved in institutional equities sales for most of his professional life, notably at Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder and Drexel Burnham Lambert. Kindness and humility defined Jim; he was a true gentleman and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He will be remembered for his sharp wit, generosity, and understanding of history and its role in shaping global events past and present. His gifts for creating endearing nicknames and silly song lyrics will always bring smiles to his family. Jim resided in Madison, NJ for 45 years before moving to Harding Township, NJ two and one-half years ago. Jim is survived by his devoted wife of almost 50 years, Kathleen Willis McCormick; his son Sean and daughters Marjorie and Ellen; and three grandchildren.

Steve Steiner reports: "The American Foreign Service Association's Mark Palmer Award for the Advancement of Democracy, named to honor the legacy of our classmate **Mark Palmer**, was presented this year to two young Foreign Service officers for their particularly adroit and courageous work under intense pressure to advance the prospects for democracy in Pakistan and China. In addition to the American Foreign Service award honoring Mark, Freedom House in Washington, DC has established the Mark Palmer Forum for the Advancement of Democracy, an annual combination of conferences, roundtables, and other events involving policymakers, academics, subject matter experts and frontline activists. The Forum honors the legacy of its namesake, a courageous diplomat, Presidential speechwriter, and tenacious advocate for democratic freedoms worldwide. The most recent conference was hosted in Washington by Freedom House and the Hudson Institute on October 24, 2018, and focused on China's increasingly sophisticated efforts to subvert democratic freedoms through the application of 'sharp power'."

Gordon Grand "Gordy" Thorne died on June 27, 2018 at home, Bramble Hill Farm, Amherst, MA. Gordy was an artist, a maker of things. He experimented, discovered, played,

lifted, worked wood and stone, defined and defended what it is to create. He was very aware that his life had a freedom because he was born to abundance. He wanted to take as many people along with this abundance as possible. At first he created open spaces in which people could develop and show their art work. So the third floor of Thornes became Available Potential Enterprises, A.P.E. It was used by dancers, artists, actors, writers, and children for discovery and making things. He and his wife came to think of their part of the third floor of Thomes as an open field. Their interest in preserving space expanded to land. They started a foundation called The Open Field Foundation, which bought the Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst, MA. Its mission was to support young organic farmers, and to encourage children and their families in the exploration and experience of the natural world. After leaving Thornes, the next open space was 123 Main Street, Northampton, MA, a place right on the street, all windows. The space became Window. His last and largest project was his involvement in the Arts Trust at Hawley Street. Gordy never wanted to be the center of attention. He would leave a present in a special place so that you would find it on your own. This was his gift to you – that he kept giving you back to yourself. Gordy is survived by his wife Anne Love Woodhull, his son Ben and daughter Nell, and six grandchildren.

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