



## CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

Our Free 55th Reunion in May and June of this year was a great success. It was a success in financial terms as well: The full cost of the Free 55th Reunion was defrayed by classmate contributions made prior to the Reunion to the Class Treasury and the Reunion Expense Reserve.

In light of the success of the Free 55th Reunion, the Class Council has decided that our 60th Reunion in 2023, and all our subsequent Reunions, will likewise be Free Reunions.

In order to guarantee the financial viability of the Free 60th Reunion and subsequent Free Reunions, we will continue to ask classmates, beginning this Fall, to consider contributing not only the suggested Class dues of \$100 per year (which we have not changed for many years), but also a suggested contribution of \$200 per year to the Reunion Expense Reserve. While these are the suggested amounts, contributions in any amounts (higher or lower) will be gratefully received. As before, all contributions to the Class Treasury and the Reunion Expense Reserve are tax-deductible.

**Dick Ahlborn** reports that Queen Elizabeth has approved his induction into The Venerable Order of St. John. The Order dates back to the time of the Crusades, concurrent with the Knights Templar. But whereas the Knights Templar were warriors, St. John's members treated the wounded on both sides and ministered to the sick and hungry within local populations. They still operate the largest eye hospital in the Middle East, located in Jerusalem, and the St. John Ambulance Brigade numbers over 200,000 volunteers in some 40 countries worldwide.

**Paul Field** reports: “Thought you might be interested in how my August is shaping up so far. About three weeks ago I rode my bike the whole 41.5-mile North Central Rail Trail from York, PA to Cockeyville, MD, a few miles from my home. Then off to the Alaska wilderness for two weeks. Then a heart cath a week ago, 95% blockage in one of my arteries, stent inserted. Looking forward to an easier rest of the month!”

**Steve Hall** writes: “I am enjoying my tour here in Colorado. It confirms my decision to head here immediately after graduation. I feel comfortable in Colorado in a way that I have never felt outside of New Hampshire. I have learned several things: The annual precipitation for Pueblo, CO is only twice that of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Hailstorms are more frequent and more destructive than advertised. Fire danger is remarkably high. This year is particularly destructive, despite all efforts to minimize it. I recently had the opportunity to ride the Cumbres & Toltec R.R. from Chama, NM to Antonito CO. It was a rare chance to reach back into the late 1800’s to 1920’s. The direction of travel is important, since the grade from Chama to Cumbres Pass is about the steepest still existing anywhere in the US. The coal-burning steam locomotive in some cases drops down to a mere crawl or occasionally loses its footing. You can ride as a common passenger in the coach or in the First Class Parlor car, complete with adult beverages and snacks, the way the ‘swells’ from the East and Colorado Springs travelled. An all-day immersion.”

**Bob Hanson** writes: “Arlene and I just welcomed grandchild number seven, a son, born to Robert, Jr., Class of 2002, and his wife Sonia. Robert just joined the faculty at Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey, a school probably attended by some of our classmates. Despite our advancing age, we are still pursuing big game hunting, and have upcoming trips planned to England, Greenland and Alaska.”

**John Impert** reports: “My book, *Painters of the Northwest: Impressionism to Modernism, 1900-1930*, is now available from the University of Oklahoma Press. It is the 32nd book the Press has published on the art and photography of the West, but their first on the Northwest. I don't know of another university press than has made such a major commitment to regional American art. During the summer of 2018, I cycled from Krakow to Budapest, crossing the Tatra and Carpathian mountains. It's the tenth year that I've done a two-week cycling trip in Europe, and the twelfth that I've made a similar tour in the Western US.”

**Mike Lieberman** has published a new book of stories, *The Life Within Us*. Mike explains: “The premise of the book is that the stories we tell reflect our inner lives – our best selves and what Jung called our shadow, our worst fears and predilections. The unconscious is unruly, and the stories it constructs are more unruly still. In writing *The Life Within Us*, I have allowed it free rein. Hence these stories careen wildly. For starters, they veer from a confrontation at the Stella Maris Hotel in Trieste to a surreal encounter with a seductive cyber-

waif. You'll meet a guy who thinks Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* is the foothills of grandeur. Dozens of other voices chime in.”

**Bill Nordhaus** has been honored by the creation of a Chair of Economics at Yale, endowed by Petr Aven, the head of Russia’s Alfa-Bank, who first met Bill in 1990. The professorship will be named after Bill following his retirement, and until that time it will be called the Elihu Professorship of Economics. “So much of what I learned from Bill Nordhaus has influenced my views of economics and my life,” said Aven. “Through the endowed chair, I hope to perpetuate an intellectual tradition, personified by Bill, that demands methodologically sound, data-driven research.” Beginning in 1991, Aven helped advise Russian President Boris Yeltsin concerning Russia’s transition to a new economic model. Aven credits the 1992 book, *What Is to Be Done*, by Nordhaus and several Yale colleagues, with supplying a blueprint for his country’s economic reforms.

This year **Norman Sinel** published his first novel, *No Random Moves*. At the reunion his roommates **Denny Landa**, **Chuck Hellar**, and **David Weinstein** claimed to have read it and liked it. He is still waiting for comments from **Dave Keller** and **Wolf Dietrich**.

**Dan Waugh** reports: “One of our major projects these days involves the community music center which my wife Charlotte's best friend founded three decades ago and which now is in a capital campaign and a search for a new executive director. Charlotte is working hard on both; we are investing in the campaign from our retirement savings. The goal of the organization is to provide opportunities for participatory music for all ages and to ensure that lack of financial resources will not be an obstacle for that participation, be it in private lessons, ensemble playing, etc. By many standards, it is still a very small operation, but it has grown steadily and has reached out to a great many who would not otherwise have had music in their lives.”

**Walter George Alexander** of Roanoke, VA passed away on May 30, 2018. He served his country in the United States Army Reserves during the Vietnam conflict. Walter was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Yale University in 1963. He worked for Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company for over 20 years as Director of Information Systems. Walter was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Karen Swanson

Alexander. He is survived by five children, Walter Alexander, John Alexander, Richard Alexander, Karen Barrie, and Anne Skrzycki, 18 grandchildren, and other extended family. Walter was active in the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster for many years. He enjoyed spending time with his family and dogs. He shared a passion for building and flying model airplanes at the Roanoke Valley Radio Control Club with his three sons and grandchildren.

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