



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2018

We are still bathing in the warm afterglow of our remarkable (and record-breaking) Free 55th Reunion, which was held from May 31 through June 3, 2018 in Branford College in New Haven. Thanks to our Class Webmaster, **Jon Larson**, you can now relive the Reunion in numerous photos and videos posted on the Class Website, www.yale63.org. Also posted on the Class Website is the report and analysis of the Class Survey which was presented at the Reunion by **Jere Johnston**. If you have other photos and videos of the Reunion, please send them to Jon Larson at jon_larson@hotmail.com, so that he can include them in the Class Website for the enjoyment of all.

Also posted on the Class Website is the most recently updated list of the members of the Class of 1963 Support Network (Classmates on Call). (The Class Support Network list on the Class Website is password-protected; the password is simply [yale63](http://www.yale63.org).) The Class Support Network includes more than 75 classmates, spouses, and widows who have volunteered to share their experiences with others in the Yale '63 family who are experiencing problems such as illness, grief and loss, restrictions on life activities, or straitened financial circumstances. It

says something very good about our Class that so many of us have offered to help others in this way. The Class Website contains not only an alphabetical list of the members of the Class Support Network, but also an alphabetical list of the subject matters listed by the members of the Class Support Network. If you don't find the topic you are looking for in this list, please e-mail Guy Struve at guy.struve@davispolk.com, and he may well be able to suggest a classmate who can be helpful.

Lowell Dodge and wife Diane completed a new home north of Boulder, CO, close to their daughter Allison and son-in-law Oliver's organic farm. Lowell makes furniture in a woodworking shop in his barn and enjoys views of Longs Peak and a 10-acre lake. He has stopped mowing wide areas near trees and water to allow habitats for bugs, birds, and wildlife generally to emerge, augmented by plantings of critter-friendly native shrubs and trees. Great horned owls, osprey, blue herons, and numerous other bird and animal species already in residence will have added protection, and others will hopefully move in. Diane and Lowell recently launched a family foundation making grants to nonprofits implementing innovative approaches to improving early childhood education and developing other potential pathways out of poverty.

John Gilleland is in China, where he is helping to start a joint venture with the Chinese to work toward the goal of zero carbon. The joint venture combines the efforts of CNNC, China's largest nuclear power company, with those of TerraPower, Bill Gates' company focused on improving civilian nuclear power. John writes: "Bill has a great way of inspiring you to work enormous hours without asking you to do so. Thus I continue to work more than full time. For this work, we have been privileged to have occasional use of Yale's exceptional Beijing facility, which serves as a kind of neutral ground for discussion of serious topics."

Steve Gunther writes: "I have nothing wonderful to report other than going through an eight-month golf season without once breaking 80 and a three-month hockey season with only a couple of goals. At least I never got hurt at golf, but I did take a nasty slap shot on the inside of my right knee right on my varicose veins from a 30-year-old big guy that had me limping for three months. I do not play with anyone else who has varicose veins! Still practicing, but mostly hand surgery now."

Gar Murtha reports: "I transitioned from Senior Status to 'Inactive Status' last fall after 22 years as a federal judge in Vermont. I was on Senior Status for several years with a reduced caseload. I no longer have a courtroom or staff, but can take on cases in Vermont or other districts if I choose to do so, and

may sit on courts of appeals if asked. So far, I have been far from inactive, and enjoy the freedom to fill my day with other mental and physical projects. I recently spent a very enjoyable day with **Dave Hilyard.**”

Bruce Edmund Kiernat of St. Paul, MN passed peacefully on April 22, 2018. Born on June 20, 1941, he is survived by Elizabeth (“Sandy”) Moore Kiernat, his wife of 50 years, and by his children R. B. Kiernat and Betsy Zakrajsheck. Bruce was a graduate of Yale University and University of Minnesota Law School. He loved and enjoyed his family, Franconia, reading, trivia, travel, and flowers.

Thomas R. Welch died at his Chicago home on May 9, 2018. After Fessenden School, Tom enrolled at the Taft School before matriculating at Yale. As an undergraduate, Tom sang with The Alley Cats. His undergraduate major was Architecture and he stayed in New Haven, earning his Masters in Architecture from Yale in 1968. He joined the prominent and historic Holabird & Root firm in Chicago, working on many significant projects in his native city. He also travelled the world for the firm designing major hotels in Bogota, Colombia and Kuwait. Tom was bright, articulate, and witty, a real raconteur. He was a superb host and personally cooked everything ever served at his wonderful dinner parties. Tom was a highly respected leader of the Yale community in Chicago. He served on the Board of Directors of the Yale Club of Chicago for over 20 years. He chaired

several events on architecture and was always in demand to speak on the history of Chicago architecture. He will be missed by generations of fellow Yalies in Chicago. He was urbane, generous of spirit, and a loyal friend.

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