



## HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

March 2023

March newsletter!

**Peter Brooks:**

### **Meet the Amirzads**

Here are Abraham and Fakhria Amirzad with four of their five children, flanked by my wife Mary and myself. Originally from Takhar Province, Afghanistan, they got to Kabul and made it onto one of the last flights out after their country fell to the Taliban in August, 2021. Abraham is a Registered Nurse who was in medical school on track to become an M.D. when he and his family had to flee. Staying would have been fatal, since he worked for the military, treating soldiers who had fought against the Taliban.



The Amirzads were among thousands of Afghan families temporarily housed in US military bases, such as Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. We heard about them from another Afghan family living near us in Walnut Creek, California.

With support from **RefugePoint**, a Boston-based NGO, we formed a **Sponsor Circle** with three of our neighbors under an innovative program launched by the State Department, where five private citizens can provide an alternative to the overwhelmed agencies tasked with refugee resettlement. Our little group provided the initial funds, and committed to taking responsibility for facilitating the family's access to health care, education (including English for the adults, who did not know the language), housing, finances, social services and benefits, transportation, employment and at least 7 other areas of life. We were amazed at the outpouring of support from our community, and our circle expanded to involve more than 50 volunteers and almost \$100,000 in funds donated from people who got no tax deduction for their person-to-person generosity. We owe special appreciation to our friend and neighbor, **Emily Karakashian, '73**, whose skills and energy were an indispensable help to our efforts, especially with the Amirzad children's medical needs.

15 months later we are still on the same journey, which has been fascinating and rewarding. In January of this year we learned that what we had been doing was regarded as a sort of pilot for a much bigger concept, announced by Antony Blinken as the **Welcome Corps**. Coinciding with the announced launch of the Welcome Corps, Mary Brooks, as spokesperson for our Sponsor Circle, was interviewed by **The New York Times** [New York Times 1-18-23](#) and **CNN**, <https://vimeo.com/795947959>. The Times sent a photographer to meet the Amirzad family in their new home and school.

I encourage our fellow citizens to consider joining the Sponsor Circle model and the Welcome Corps. It's even more needed now than it was when we started, as one can plainly see!

And it's a living demonstration of the concept I promoted in my 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Talk, coined by my mentor, Dr. Carol Weyland Conner: ***All of Us Taking Care of All of Us.***

[Photo credit: Rachel Bujalski/New York Times]

**William Neaves:**

Photographing wildlife at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas continues to distract me from less pleasant matters.

Here's a greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) basking on a cold morning by exposing dark skin on its back to the sunlight.



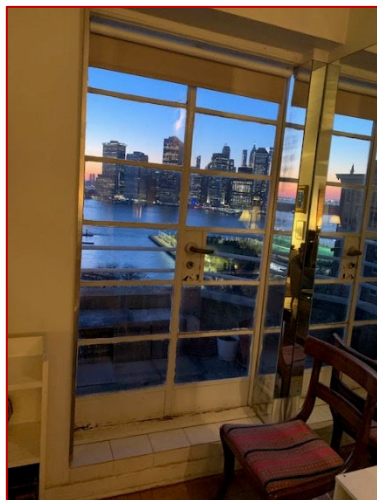
**T.D. Allman:**

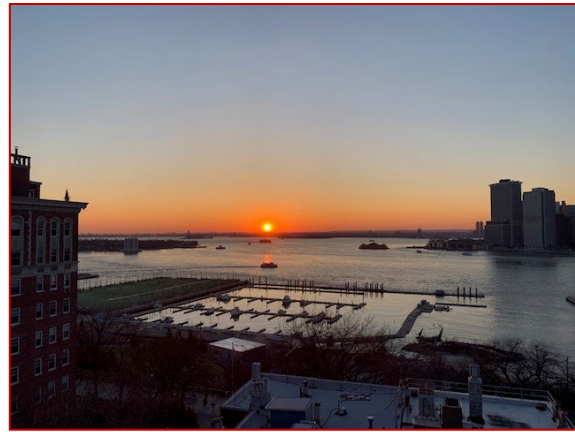
True West / Véritable Ouest

20 March 2023 / 20 mars 2023

Sunset seen from Brooklyn Heights on the Vernal Equinox  
Coucher du soleil vu de Brooklyn Heights à l'équinoxe de printemps,

Vive le déroulement de l'année! / Enjoy the seasons as they pass!





**David Warsh & I** think the choice of Tom Hanks as speaker is splendid!

**In Memoriam:**

**Lloyd MacDonald:**

So sorry to have been informed today of our classmate and my close friend,  
**Phil Dearborn's**, recent passing. Link to his obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/philip-dearborn-obituary?id=51212378>

'65	Francis Mercer	9/16/2019	Omaha, NE
'65	Edward Seaton	12/26/2022	
'65	Margery Meyers	10/29/2021	Chevy Chase, MD
'65	Thomas Lee	2/23/2023	New York, NY
'66	Joseph Ryan	10/25/2019	Beverly, MA
'67	Kevin Loughman	3/18/2021	
'67	Douglas Raymond	1/24/2023	Ambler, PA
'67	Bradford Taylor	2/03/2021	Peterborough, NH
'67	James Rousmaniere	12/11/2022	Roxbury, MA

Diligently submitted by,

Tom Black  
co-class secretary