



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

May 2025

Our May newsletter:

Fred Lowenfels:

I suggest you publicize the effort by Crimson Courage to enlist Harvard alumni to sign an amicus brief in support of Harvard's litigated fight against. Here is another website regarding this effort to support Harvard

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_kzAvVvDbt6X7IAb677scvoLFX0pYPSHcL84CH1RmByl0Ww/viewform

Ben Dunham:

Here's a new item about the publication of an updated and revised version of my article on Ukraine. I am pleased to report that my article about Ukraine, originally published in early March by the American Committee for US-Russia Accord and reprinted by Massachusetts Peace Action, has been newly published in a revised and updated version at James Carden's The Realist Review website:

<https://therealistreview.substack.com/p/on-ukraine-president-trump-has-left>

Randy Lindel:

Crimson Society Class Reunion June 5-6 The "every year" Crimson Society reunion is a great opportunity for our class to get together - enjoy special programming and participate in Alumni Day. Already registered from our class are Tom Black, John Bogdasarian, Bill Gregor, Judy Gregorio Grove, Bill Hil, Randy Lindel, Fredrica Mann Friedman, Stephen Myers, Leslie Shaf, Mitch Sikora, Charlie Smart, Donna Gibson Stone, Bob Walton and Frank White. Please join us. More info and registration is at:

<https://alumni.harvard.edu/reunions/haa-crimson-society>

Mimi Gerstell:

Many classmates will feel anger and contempt at my having voted Republican in 11 out of the 15 most recent presidential elections. At this point, however, Trump has alienated me to the point where I would certainly vote for SOME Democrat for President. My favorite would be Larry Summers, even if he's a little too old. Or hey, how about Alan Garber! Oh well, dream on...

Paul Merry:

Latest note to Pres. Garber:

Dear Alan:

At the risk of overburdening you with alumni correspondence, I write again to reassure you of my continuing support for your and Harvard's courage in facing the increasing onslaught of the Trump administration aimed at controlling the university along with many of America's other irreplaceable institutions of learning. I hope Harvard's leadership keeps in mind in this dark hour that Harvard has unique capabilities that equip it to provide the services our government

has often found it needs. And I hope some means exists for Harvard to join with other universities and colleges whose support may demonstrate that we are not in this fight alone.

I was also glad to hear that Harvard sought legal relief from the scandalous, indefensible D.H.S. action against its international students, and even more pleased to learn of Judge Burroughs' decision, which was the only right one. Harvard is entitled to the equal protection of the laws just as any other person, as well as its First Amendment rights.

In maintaining its independence, Harvard provides not only critical support and leadership for the academic community, but also for American democracy itself. Democracy succeeds best where power is decentralized, where independent voices of differing kinds and persuasions can find avenues to be heard. By contrast, one of the most characteristic features of totalitarianism is its drive to concentrate all power in a single central source. The present administration's assaults on not only the academic community, but on other key institutions of our democratic society, like the press and broadcast media, the legal community and others, makes clear its aim of consolidating power in its hands alone. Only by maintaining their independence can these critical institutions fulfill their democratic truth-telling role.

The wholly hypocritical nature of the attacks on Harvard is eloquently demonstrated by the conduct of the chief executive himself, whose refusal to condemn the blatantly, unambiguously anti-Semitic chants and public avowals of the Charlottesville demonstrators was widely publicized. The administration's attitudes since further establish beyond question the cynical, pretextual and largely unsubstantiated allegations of antisemitism raised against Harvard. The chief executive's life-long history of bigotry and racial discrimination, including formal federal legal action against him earlier in his life establishes the hypocritical, anti-American motivation driving these efforts. The true victims of this campaign will be the American people.

Thanks again for your and Harvard's courage and strength.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Singal:

Tom, after reading the various replies to your question about where to live at our stage of life I noticed that one option wasn't mentioned – moving out of a house that has become too large and into an urban apartment. That is the choice my wife and I made seven years ago, and we have been extremely happy with it. We now reside in a three-bedroom unit with just under 2,200 square feet on the twelfth (top) floor of a building that began its life as a department store in the very heart of downtown Rochester, New York. We are high enough to have a view of the city skyline as well as the hills in the surrounding countryside. Even better, we can walk to almost everything the city has to offer, from concert halls, theatres and cinema to a variety of high-quality restaurants. There is a terrific food court on the first floor with Chinese cuisine, pizza, soup-and-salad and Mediterranean fare. We also have an exceptionally well-stocked fitness room and a roof terrace to gather with neighbors, as well as a lounge area for periodic social events organized by the building.

A special pleasure is the diversity of our neighbors. They fall into all age brackets and represent many different racial and ethnic backgrounds. We tend to have a special bond with our fellow empty nesters but also like to interact with the 20- and 30-somethings who we chat with in the hallways and occasionally get together with socially. I can't imagine that would happen in any other setting.

We did consider independent senior living, and may look into it again as we get older, but the fact is that we enjoy nearly all of the amenities it would offer for a small fraction of the cost. Our apartment has only one floor, and of course all external maintenance is provided. We do not have to shovel snow or mow the lawn. If we need repairs the maintenance staff is typically at our door an hour after we file our on-line work order.

I doubt that any senior living facility could offer better emergency health care—when one of us had a medical crisis a year ago we called 911 and the EMT's were here in literally two minutes (a big advantage of living in the center of the city). If we need care assistance we can easily contract for health workers to come in. And again we have the food court right in our building if we don't want to cook meals.

It is true that the cost advantage of an apartment will vary considerably by city and the nature of the building, but in our case I calculate that our monthly expense is about one-third what a senior living community would run for a lot more space.

To say the least we are happy we are no longer in a large, multi-level house where we were responsible for the upkeep. We are also pleased that we are getting a very different, non-institutionalized experience before what may be the inevitable assisted living or skilled nursing facility in our future.

An urban apartment may not be for everyone, but I did want to make sure that those considering their options are aware that it can be quite appealing.

Daniel Santo Pietro:

When I graduated from Harvard, I received a Fulbright to study in Brazil for a year. I ended dedicating 42 years to working with nonprofits to help low income people throughout the world. It meant I would not retire as a millionaire, but I sold the family home we built in NJ for a nice profit.

Unfortunately, I bought a new Condo in Perth Amboy, a wonderful town of working people including immigrants. The builder had promised to construct a lovely community, but he rescinded his agreement and moved his money to NYC real estate. I lost money, but decided to return to San Diego where I grew up as a teenager, and still had family. It has been a paradise except for the price of housing. I compensated by abandoning having a car. Fortunately, it meant I walked more, but mass transit gets me to most places I want to go, especially the beautiful beaches where I lower my blood pressure regularly. In my eighties my health is fine. I too am increasing my annual donation to Harvard now that they are the principal bulwark to defend higher education. I hope to be around to see us return to normal politics and end the plague of Maga. I plan to be at the Sixtieth reunion.

Nona Walker:

I have sad news to report. On April 18 my husband and best friend Chuck Kropp passed away after a year-long struggle with pancreatic cancer. He is deeply missed.

John Diamonte:

San Francisco, May 22—

Subject: 47 and factota (Miller, Noem, *et al.*)*

Escalation: HU Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification revoked, "effective immediately."

Object: Harvard University, destiny's most appropriate (qualified, resourceful, capable) antagonist, and allied institutions of learning. Stakes: Republic of the United States of America, Constitution, rule of law, grace of knowledge, education and opportunity, disgraced by lying, ignorance and impoverishment.

Theaters: Judiciary, press and media, electorate.

*Done screwed the pooch, now.

Cf. Jump the shark.

Nice to be above ground (despite loss of so many beloveds, musicians, icons), isn't it? As so many of us war babies are. Must've been something in the water—what, of the Charles?!

Crimson Courage: Expected no less. Terrific to see, fully dimensioned. Warn't whistling nixie here or being arrogant in what I feel is recognizing apex of confrontation between republic and repugnants, now, and what better, fitter champions than John and Mother Harvard. Even should the battle reduce the University materially for a phase, or epoch, shant be fatal, and citizens—Crimson and others' courage and movement—will prevail.

Don't Zoom (well, once, for (Tom Silk's?) but hope to link up with Kathleen or some other alum who'll connect Tuesday and I can sit in ~ or, just as good remotely listen; guess it may be broadcast on some channels?

Best would be someone who'll host an occasion and have the Zoom on a large/projected screen!

Perhaps you two had an inkling, too, when the Administration threw down on (us), fortnight ago. Here it is. Exciting to be alive, now, for this, in Reagan's showdown sense: (Nichols & May: Enough of this foreplay....) If there's going to be a , let's get it over with.

Been sick with grief over Israel's horrors. Impotent, as bystander to Ukraine's valor. But this, as one of the 400,000, epic.



Lloyd Macdonald

Below a picture of Henry Louderbough and me in the Budapest Public Library (which is located in a sumptuous former royal mansion) while we were part of a Harvard Alumni Travel tour of Eastern Europe earlier this month. Henry and I did not know each other in college but had a great time among the other Harvard travelers on a fascinating and expertly organized trip



Virginia Morris:

This is of my grandson Leo (center, in mask, holding his flowers, in front), and family and friends, last Friday after his 'promotion ceremony' from 8th to 9th grade, in Production Design, at the Fox Theatre, by the Oakland School for the Arts. (This is also the high school where am teaching the playwrights' class!) Love, peace- to you and to all classmates- in this difficult time.





William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters (e.g., Trump's illegal assertion of control over higher education). Here's a white-winged dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas on 5/23/2025.

Tom Black:

I found this picture in a book of sermons by Bill Neaves' wife thought you all should see who keeps sending these wonderful wildlife pics.



Also, photos from Commencement.



The Commencement ceremony is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFlo795BXb4>



In Memoriam:

'66	Maxwell Evans	3/18/25	Houston, TX
'66	Harry Wilson	3/02/25	El Paso, TX
'66	Christopher Cherniak	3/13/25	Cambridge, MA

Tom Black

co-class secretary