



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

February 2024

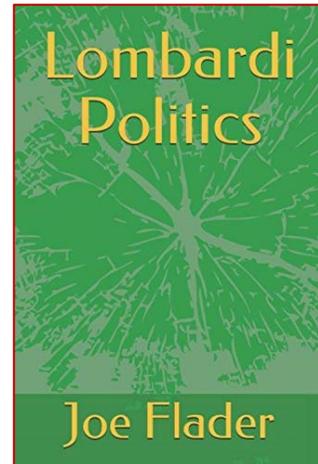
Herewith our February newsletter:

Joe Flader:

As another classmate has shared his memory of the JFK assassination, some might be interested in my experience of that event as related in my memoir, *Lombardi Politics* (Amazon 2019):

I learned freshman year that you could get "rush seats" at Friday afternoon Boston Symphony concerts for sixty cents. Though I was on a very tight budget (I doubt I spent more than \$10 on food in Cambridge outside the dining halls in my entire four years), I could afford that and I arranged my upper class schedules so I could go to most of those concerts. Much of the Friday audience was high society types holding the same seats for years. The rush seats were all of the top balcony except the first two rows. I'd get there two hours early with a book and a box lunch from the dining hall and wait in line until they started selling the tickets. There'd always be some older ladies near the line's front requesting "their seats at symphony," like the upper crust below, and they'd be upset on rare occasions when those particular seats were already gone.

At a concert in the fall of sophomore year, after the opening piece, there was a long pause and then stagehands handed out new music. The conductor, Erich Leinsdorf, announced that the President had been shot (gasps!) and the orchestra would play the funeral march movement from the Beethoven Eroica Symphony. At the end, Leinsdorf slowly lowered his arms and bowed his head, and there wasn't a sound in the hall for a long time. I wandered around during the intermission overhearing scraps of hushed conversation. Maybe half the audience returned after the intermission, and the president of the orchestra, a Cabot or Lowell or some such, announced that he thought the President would have wanted the concert to continue, so it would. A young Turkish pianist named Idil Biret was making her American debut playing the Rachmaninov Third Piano Concerto, a giant of the repertoire. I'm sure she played her heart out and I'm also sure I didn't remember a note of it the next day. To this day, I can't tell that story without choking up some.



Stephen Berman:

Greetings, classmates, With my wife, Carroll, I have recently moved to Corvallis Oregon to be close to our daughter Loren and our two-year-old granddaughter SylvieMarie Michelson. An Internet savvy friend has put my recent poetry online at

berman-poems.vercel.app

Anyone interested please feel free to browse.

Neva Goodwin:

I'm writing with an update about my Radcliffe roommate, **Connie Carden**, since she can't do it for herself.

In the fall of 2002 Connie had a fall from a horse. She was wearing a helmet, but the horse's hoof caught and cracked the helmet. She had a bad concussion, and was unconscious for 3 days. Over the next few years there appeared to be gradually recovering, but I learned later that her colleagues in the public interest law firm where she worked were covering for her – taking on extra work to allow her to keep on at a reduced pace. Then she fell while running around the reservoir in Central Park and had another black-out, and her mental deterioration continued.

After the death of her second husband, Bernie, Connie's daughter Elizabeth took on her care. Elizabeth and her husband have bought a house in Brooklyn NY where Connie lives on the first floor with a full-time helper, and Elizabeth, Matt, and their 4-year old daughter have the 2nd and 3rd floors. I recently found a wonderful music teacher who comes to their house and gives lessons to all four of them; at the piano Connie is able to recall some of the musical skill she used to have. However her mind and memory have been seriously impaired: there are not very many people whom she recognizes, she remembers little from the past, and, while she eagerly follows what people are saying, and seems to understand a lot in the moment, she may forget the beginning of a conversation before it ends. She generally speaks only a few words at a time, in a very soft voice. But for those of you who knew her beautiful, generous soul, that is all still there – along with unflinching honesty. She knows what she does and doesn't know, and makes no pretense.

Connie and I became best friends when we met in kindergarten, at the age of 4, and we continued to be best friends, often spending weekends together, during the 12 years when we were in different schools, but counting on the plan that we would both go to Radcliffe and be roommates there. We were both in girls' schools up till college; for me, entering the larger, less structured world of Harvard/Radcliffe was rather traumatic. At the time no one I knew had heard of prosopagnosia – face-blindness – and I didn't know that this was part of why the world was so confusing to me. I did know that I had the family dyslexia, which sometimes came out in place-blindness, but it was embarrassing to admit that I never became comfortable trying to find my way from Holmes Hall to the Harvard Yard. Connie was totally non-judgmental, and totally supportive; she quietly found classmates who were taking the same classes as me and made it easy for me to walk with them. I have grieved a lot for the parts of her that are lost, but find increasingly how much is still there; her loving sweetness, her humor, her directness, and her constant care for others.

Jude Larzelere:

My career as an artist working with quilted wall hangings is being celebrated at the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA Jan 16- April 27 2024. I'm attaching a link to their website with information and I'm also attaching a photo of my quilt that is featured in their announcement of the show.

[The Quilted Canvas IV:Details — NEW ENGLAND QUILT MUSEUM](#)



William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters. Here's a Northern Cardinal on 2/18/2024 at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas.



Editorial from the Crimson earlier this month:

“After more than \$500 million in giving, this past Tuesday, hedge fund billionaire and Harvard mega-donor Kenneth C. Griffin '89 turned off the spigot. Even if it loses Harvard hundreds of millions, Griffin's decision to pause donations is less costly by far than the more fundamental problem it marks: Much of America — maybe even most — agrees with him.

“To solve it, Harvard might be tempted to continue down the path of the past few months. Hide from controversy. Issue mealy-mouthed statements. Ignore inconvenient truths. Capitulate. That can't be. If donations continue to dry up, Harvard must not just tap-dance faster. It's time instead for Harvard to tell the world — and, yes, its donors — what we see first-hand every day: Harvard is not perfect, but it is still very, very good. In 2023 alone, researchers at Harvard made historic advances in quantum computing, cancer treatment, and astronomy. Harvard Economics professor Claudia D. Goldin became the first woman to receive an undivided Nobel Prize in economics. Harvard affiliates created a gene therapy that, like a miracle, restores hearing to deaf people. As witnesses to these accomplishments — and to the daily contributions of the hard-working and decent students and staff that don't make headlines — we have no doubt that Harvard remains a leader in higher education and a place where excellence abounds. To be clear, our critics aren't wrong to take aim. The last few months brought attention to serious faults at the University, some of its own creation. But misconceptions manufactured amid the media circus have grossly distorted the nation's picture of the issues Griffin and others identify. In this sense, making its case before the world requires that Harvard correct the record.”

In Memoriam:

'65	David Levine	1/11/24	Lexington, MA
'65	Bruce Borland	11/28/23	Lake Forest, IL
'65	Henry Wallace	12/11/23	
'65	Eric Lawrence	7/14/23	Sunset Beach, NC
'66	David Teele	12/10/23	Annisquam, MA
'66	Stephen Sohn	11/15/23	Auburndale, MA
'67	Richard Kenney	11/19/23	
'67	Joe O'Donnell	1/07/24	Boston, MA

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Black
co-class secretary