



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

March 2024

By the calendar, we are in springtime, and daylight saving time! Also, time for our March newsletter:

Santiago Leon:

It is wonderful at the age of 79 to feel like I am at long last in synch with the times – at least within the Harvard frame of reference. Specifically, here is a comment I submitted the *Times* or the *Post* on February 22:

The enormous interest in admission to a small number of “elite” colleges derives from the fact that such admission is viewed as a ticket to membership in our national elite, exclusion from which is a disaster. What does this say about a nation whose founding documents proclaim that “all men are created equal”? Do we really want to be a country in which a small group of people are showered with privileges, and the rest of us lead lives of precarity? We should devote more energy to building a country in which life is good for everyone. If a few schools are going to be viewed, and to view themselves, as having the role of polishing a group of graduates who are going to have a disproportionate share of assets and influence, then these schools should be measured in terms of their production of responsible leaders. Looking around at the current state of our society, including our economy and our environment, it is evident that if indeed we live in a meritocracy, we need to review our definition of merit.

And here is a paragraph from an article by Derek Bok in the March/April issue of the *Harvard Magazine*:

Finally, one of the most effective ways to build the confidence of the public would be to embark on a visible effort to improve the education of students. Two such improvements seem particularly appropriate for elite universities, whose graduates are especially likely to eventually occupy positions of importance in government and the professions. One of these possibilities would be to devise a truly successful model of civic education, and the other is to develop an effective way to help all students acquire a knowledge of practical ethics and a proficiency in moral reasoning. While there are plenty of courses on each of these subjects, neither one is currently studied in most colleges by all or even a majority of undergraduates. Yet most professors agree that both are either “very important” or “essential” parts of a liberal education. At this time of acute concern about the condition of our democracy and diminished confidence in the leadership of our major institutions, a visible effort by elite universities to strengthen these subjects and teach them to larger numbers of students would surely be beneficial and appreciated by the general public.

Andrew Levy:

Hello fellow classmates. for a number of years, i have been struggling to find a short story which we read in my Gen Ed section in freshman year. my recollection is that the author was either Mark Twain or Charles Dickens, but i could have that wrong. in the story, a man asks god to grant his one wish: something like, to have the greatest life he could possibly have. god hears the man's wish/prayer and strikes him dead. when the man, having died, confronts god and asks why god struck him dead, god responded by saying that he had surveyed all the possible futures for the man, and his immediate (and painless?) death was the best the man would get. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

tx for considering.

Russell Maulitz:

Kristine Billmyer and **Russ Maulitz** just spent a little over two weeks touring Viet Nam from above Hanoi down to the Mekong Delta. First time there for Russ. It was a Smithsonian tour, very nicely packaged in partnership with Boston's "Odyssey" group. Suitable mix of arduous (*hot hot hot*, in February!) and cushy bits. Having been over-run in a not so good way, that country's over-run with Americans now in a better way: oddly, given what we did to them, they like us, and not just because "you bring the dollars." How the worm do turn. Photo attached. We head back to our home in Italy in a couple of weeks. Please let us know if you're planning to be anywhere near southern Tuscany this spring.



Stuart Walker:

Nani Walker, daughter of Stuart Walker', 66, won the Academy Awards for short documentary, "the last repair shop" for which she was the executive co-producer

Steve Bergman:

In the *Harvard Magazine* that just came out with a lovely long piece of Steve Bergman—but it's mostly about SAMUEL SHEM, under which name I write all of my work, under Craig Lambert. It's called 'Diagnosis by Fiction—a whole word through our time, and all of my books, including my new one, OUR HOSPITAL, and starts with my first novel: THE HOUSE OF GOD GOD. A treat! I've finally finished the 40 year writing, four books, THE HEALING QUARTET—4 novels that stick together.



Link to the article:

<https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2024/03/feature-steve-bergman-samuel-shem>

William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters. Here's a pair of red-eared sliders on 3/23/2024 basking on the bank of the Salt Fork of the Brazos River at Priscilla's Kent County ranch in Northwest Texas.



T.D. Allman:



From Paul Muther:

A few of us heard today from **Roberta Mundie** (and Paul's) daughter Emma that there will be a memorial service for **Roberta** at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco on April 6 at 1:00 pm. The service will be approximately one hour, followed by a reception from 2-4 in the Lounge at Calvary. Emma's message expresses gratitude for all who have cared for Roberta during her lifetime and made up a part of Roberta's many friendship circles, and all are welcome. In addition, there will be either a Zoom stream of the service, or a video available and Emma will send a video link after Easter. Anyone interested in attending or viewing are invited to contact Emma at: rcmundie@gmail.com.

From Max Evans:

With great sadness, I report the death of our classmate, teammate and friend, **Leo Swift**. A link to his obituary is:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/leo-swift-obituary?id=54577300>

From Paul Lanken:

Sadly, I am reporting the death of a good friend and our classmate, **Peter K. Haff**, on February 3, 2024.

[Duke Flags Lowered: Professor Emeritus Peter Haff, Distinguished Geologist, Dies | Duke Today](#)

Per his family's wishes, donations in Peter's memory, would be welcome - especially, in the Mojave Desert Land Trust ([Mojave Desert Land Trust | Every.org](#)), which was the site of his geological field work.

Max Evans reports the death of **Charlie Murray**:

From **Randy Lindel**: I hadn't heard about Charlie either, but he passed away January 29. I had heard that he wasn't in very good shape the past couple of years. Here's a link to his obituary in The Boston Globe:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/charles-murray-obituary?id=54265514>

From **Ken Siccitano**: Max, thanks for this sad news. Charlie, **Don Epstein** and I roomed together all four years, joined by **Ron Wilson** the last two. I am now the only one left. Randy is right about his struggles with Parkinson's. He was lonely after Judy died and went downhill. I occasionally volunteered to take him to lunch or take lunch to him but he put me off for the last 3-4 years or more. As a result I haven't seen him in at least that long. He and Leo were close, closer than Charlie and me. I saw Leo a couple of times a year and he would say he got the same refusal. The only way I knew about Charlie's deterioration was through my daughter who knew his daughter and would relay that his condition was poor and getting worse. So sad to see our friends suffer like that.

In Memoriam

'65	Donald Skolnik	12/28/23	
'65	Dean Peckham	8/20/23	New Haven, CT
'66	Gordon Price	12/26/23	Hamilton, ONT
'66	Lynn Saul	02/22/19	
'66	Amandi Echezona	1/31/24	Nigeria
'66	Joseph Solomkin	11/04/23	Cincinnati, OH
'66	Daniel Morris	07/27/23	Keizer, OR
'66	Daniel Goodenough	02/01/24	Henniker, NH
'66	F.T. Field	01/14/24	Canada
'67	Richard White	09/14/23	Bakersfield, CA
'67	Gregory Peters	02/10/24	Burlington, MA
'67	Gebhard Schweigler	12/01/23	Marietta, GA

This being the Easter season, I feel it appropriate to quote Jesus Christ who said, "Take up your cross and follow me". I think our cross to bear is the loss and sorrow we experience when friends and acquaintances names appear here.

Tom Black
co-class secretary