



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

January 2023

I've gotten quite a few responses to my comments on the month of January. I'll put them first for continuity. And I'll have something to say about February next month.

Forgive me, but I have to share with you a quirk, bear with me: several months ago I was having difficulty adding your pictures to the newsletter. After some frustrating attempts, I discovered that they had to be in JPG format, not JPEG format. This month, I carefully got all photos in JPG format, no success! Turns out they had to be in PNG format. For many years I have felt that Harvard needs to hire MIT people to do our computer work. This advice has not been well received.

On to the news!

Betsy Peltz:

Alice Abarbanel, Betsy Pelz and Jill Weisell are working on the **Radcliffe College Alumnae Written History Project - Class of 1966**. Cliffies, please be looking in **mid February** or so for an invitation from HAA to participate. This project is linked to the Radcliffe College Alumnae Oral History Project and will be archived in the Schlesinger Library. Our Red Books focus on our lives since 1966. In contrast, the focus of both the oral and the written histories will be on our lives at Radcliffe. We look forward to your participation.

Fredricka Mann Friedman:

Dear Tom and Cathy, First, Happy New Year and I hope that 2023 proves fruitful for both of you. Secondly, I so apologize for not staying in contact, although I do read everything you compile...so, thanks for all that you are doing.



My son, David Walden Levin '91 (from John Levin's and my marriage...definitely a big "plus" for our 9-yr. marriage) has unfortunately been quite ill, off and on, since 2018, when he suffered his first coma, unknown origin, then a 2nd brain tumor, etc etc. He had his first large highly malignant brain tumor at age 13, 4 brain operations, tons of radiation...no MRI or targeted radiation in those days.

BUT, he survived, went from being no.1 in his class, IQ 200, undefeated quarterback for his 8th grade team, to barely able to put a rational idea together. Well...we don't accept defeat, so I re-taught him, he recouped his intellectual cognitive abilities and off to Harvard on his own at age 17, captain of his intermural sports team (though no diving for him...enough crap having hit his brain...haha), then American University on a doctoral teaching fellowship, working as an aide part-time for Senator Wofford and part-time manager at CVS for extra money. Then...a lagging brain infection took its toll, he came home, taught part-time at Philadelphia U and Delaware County Community College 'til he could no longer. Cancers just don't give up, but neither do we. So David now lives with me, I am his fulltime, 24/7 caretaker and medical coordinator since my specialty is neuropsychology (as well as family therapy), and I know him and his brain. Anyhow, I don't want to put any of this online, not fair to David's sense of privacy and, anyway, everyone has their own "issues" to deal with; and my fulltime job both at home and in the friendship universe is to build up people's spirits, keep them all positive, always looking forward to rebuilding, new discoveries of self-fulfillment, not focus on or load anyone down with more negativity, or our current challenges.



Conclusion: So, why am I telling you this????(1) First I wanted you to know that Harvard, my experiences and friendships there were and still are paramount to my life, an amazing cornerstone in my growing up and adult life, as it has been for so many of us. One of these days, I will contribute to your monthly manuscript. Just...waiting until...? (2) Secondly, I started keeping in touch with and was enjoying re-connecting with Elaine Ammerman, from Virginia, before David's current health concerns, and am having trouble re-connecting this year. Thus, I wondered if you have any info on her. Thanks, if you made it through my above saga. My best wishes for you and your families to stay safe, healthy, and hopefully to see you at the next reunion...with a song and a dance, of course! I have another concert, a benefit for mental health , in the planning stages... as soon as COVID lets up enough to allow this indoor event. Meantime, I practice and keep the double pirouettes looking good...so I don't fall off the stage in the middle of a Puccini aria...haha. Happy New Year. L'Chaim,



Freddy (aka Dr. Fredrica Mann Friedman)

Hilary Josephs:

Cheer up! There's no reason to bemoan the month of January. Here is a pic of my husband Lew absorbed in putting together a 1000 piece picture puzzle he received for Xmas. As for me I am re-reading David McCullough's bio of Harry Truman for my book club. About 1000 pages and totally riveting.

Lew finished the puzzle in less than a week. He's very organized, very systematic.



Tony Scholl:

January's OK. Snow: two feet yesterday here in Peterborough NH. No electricity but reasonably warm (27f).February likely to bring sub-zero, dark gray mean clouds, ice, snow, S.A.D.

Whitney Pidot, Sr.:

I am just finishing my last year of a third term as mayor of Jupiter Island in Florida. It's been an experience, but I am looking forward to a more relaxing, so-called retirement. Meanwhile I've collected three antique Model T Fords and plan to play with them more in my enhanced leisure. I do all the mechanical work on them myself. Here's a photo of my latest acquisition – a 1910 Brass Era Model T Roadster. It's fun owning a car tht is older than we are.



T.D. Allman:

Snow in Lauzerte! First time in 33 years, at least.
Neige à Lauzerte! Première fois en 33 ans, au moins.
Cependant, pas de neige à New York.
Meanwhile, no snow in New York.

[NYC's Snowless Winter Marches On: Why Is This Happening? - THE CITY](#)



Shelby Allen:

It's meant everything to me to be counted as a member of this class. For one thing, I could work on class reunions. My experience doing that, and the classmates I got to know, have guided and focused me since our 25th.

A play this month on Cape Cod, continuing elsewhere was sparked by some conversations I had after a 50th reunion panel. Would you go see a show on this, I asked people. I'm going to add music. Hell yes, they said. That got me going, and with the help of the theater gods, the show is up and running:

an honest-but-upbeat look at Topic A, aging. Attaching some publicity. Classmates can email me if they want to know where else to see it.

A surprise to me and I bet to everyone: the fruits of aging ripen slowly but are worth waiting for. May you find them.

Ruthe Lew (left), Shelby Allen and Stephanie Miele will perform "Not Done Yet: A Play With Music" on January 24 and 26 at the Falmouth Public Library.

Article from Cape Cod's newspaper The Falmouth Enterprise:

The premiere of the new play "Not Done Yet: A Play With Music" by Falmouth playwright Shelby Allen is planned for Tuesday and Thursday, January 24 and 26, at the



Falmouth Public Library. Start time is 2 PM both days. The play will be presented in the Hermann Foundation Meeting Room and is free and open to all.

The play deals with the topic of aging. Ms. Allen said her prompt for writing the play was simply coming to the realization that we are all aging. "People are living longer and as I was thinking about it, reading about it, talking about it and observing it," Ms. Allen said, "it was clear to me that this a new life stage."

Ms. Allen said that in her own life she had good role models for aging, with relatives who maintained an active lifestyle. "It's always been clear to me since childhood that older was better and why wouldn't it be? You know more. How can that not be good?" she said.

Aging is an enormous, almost overwhelming topic. "George Bush going skydiving on his 80th birthday to show that he's still got it—that's not what I'm talking about," Ms. Allen said. "There's something else going on when you become old and I don't think society or individuals have addressed it. It just seemed natural as a theater piece.

"I've always been interested in what has kept various people going. One thing about age, everyone ages differently. I believe that you become more of who you are."

As to whether she views the play as a comedy or a drama Ms. Allen replied, "I hope people will laugh while they are thinking." Appearing in "Not Done Yet: A Play With Music," along with Ms. Allen will be Ruthe Lew and Stephanie Miele.

Ms. Lew has performed and directed a variety of shows on the Upper Cape. Most recently she directed a stellar production of "The Sunshine Boys" at Eventide Theatre Company last fall, and she will be seen onstage from January 20 through 29 in the Falmouth Theatre Guild's production of "Harvey." Ms. Miele will be remembered by audiences for her tribute show, "Rodgers, Hart, and Hammerstein" performed at the Cotuit Center for the Arts in 2018 and more recently, "Mary and Ethel: a Tribute to Mary Martin and Ethel Merman" performed in 2021.

After becoming acquainted with the other two performers from mutual involvement in local productions, Ms. Allen said she wrote the play with Ms. Lew and Ms. Miele in mind. Joining the trio will be piano accompanist Roy Campbell of Hyannis. Mr. Campbell is a member of the Cape Symphony as well as professor of music at Bridgewater State University.

Having moved from Boston to the Cape more than a decade ago, Ms. Allen said she was "surprised and delighted" to find how rich the art scene is on the Upper Cape. Ms. Allen received support for the play from both the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod and the Falmouth Cultural Council.

A playwright, actor and poet, Ms. Allen's poems have appeared in many literary magazines, including Sanctuary, Wild Earth, New Millennium Writings, English Journal, Earthlight, Phoebe, The MacGuffin and The Brooklyn Review. Her essays have appeared in The New York Times and The Boston Globe. She is the author of "Crack Willow: Poems of Transfiguration," and is a past recipient of the Falmouth Museums on the Green Katharine Lee Bates poetry award.

John Temple:

Shelby Allen tells me that she forwarded to you a press clip about her new play, *Not Done Yet*. I saw the production yesterday and it was a delight from start to finish, full of juicy barbs about our shared stage of life and enthusiastically received by a sizable Falmouth audience! So hats off to Shelby and her effervescent teammates! Well done!

Richard Horvitz:

Nothing much new with me. I have been retired for going on 7 years now, enjoy retired life, and do not miss my work at all. I am still alive and well, still running regularly (on a treadmill in winter, and still on my factory original joints), and still keeping myself busy with reading, following medical and other items on the Internet, and taking care of my wife, things around the

house, and our pets (currently two Samoyed dogs, two Pomeranian "puffballs", and six cats: yes, the dogs chase the cats). Due to COVID and other issues we have not done any traveling recently, nor do we have any plans to do so in the upcoming future. We just stay at home much of the time, take OLLI emeritus education courses (still mostly on Zoom, but starting to be more and more in person now), and enjoy the company of each other and our pets.

Rod Hatter:

I am a little late at age 78 to be retiring from my law practice in Orange County, CA. But my lease in Laguna Beach ends in one week so here goes. My colleague will continue the practice from another location. Frankly, my clients have sent very little legal work in the past three months as everything and everyone seem to be on hold. I miss in particular the purchase and/or sale of franchisor / franchisee businesses. In general, the clients have simply retired and/or moved to Austin, Texas, which for a while anyway had a lower cost of living. For me, I still like looking out our bedroom window at the Pacific Ocean each morning. And driving 60 miles to see my grandchildren in San Diego. Amen for now.

Stephen Bergman:

"In July the last of my writing my fictions that mostly came from my real life as a doctor, under the pen-name of Samuel Shem. I started with my internship in 1973 called THE HOUSE OF GOD; second in 1997 was my residency in psychiatry called MOUNT MISERY; third in 2019 my going back into medicine called MAN'S 4TH BEST HOSPITAL; and finally the last, in 2023 (June), called OUR HOSPITAL. This last is situated in my home town, Hudson New York. We'll be launching it in Hudson New York, where I grew up, at the newly re-fixed Opera House, renamed Hudson Hall. To my astonishment, this series covers a total of 50 years! It will be the "real" medicine: after all these years I have believed that fiction, with just that "one step off of real," tells the truth. And it's the only way to change the mess we have now.

And a fourth medical novel, published in 2008 and set in Hudson New York and called "THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE." It is my slightly and shaded novel and "imagined" autobiography."

Gratitude!

SHEM

William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas continues to distract me from less pleasant matters. Here's a northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) enjoying a sunny winter day while perched on a hackberry tree.

This species is the state bird of Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas.



Leon (Sandy) Santiago:

The following is a letter I wrote to the *Harvard Magazine*, responding to an article in the December 2022 issue:

I enjoyed reading your 7 Ware Street column this month, which addressed limitations in the information provided in the annual report of the HMC and the annual letter of the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Focusing on the latter, I think Harvard has a ways to go in clarifying its educational goals and strategies, especially for the undergraduate program. Is Harvard dedicated to producing leaders to help meet the need for leadership of a global society that is facing unprecedented and existential threats? Or is Harvard just acting as a cream separator for the hiring offices of our financial system?

As an example of an effort in the direction of training future leaders, a number of American universities have established a degree program in philosophy, politics and economics- the PPE combination first offered at Oxford. Might it not make sense for Harvard to consider something similar? In addition to offering such a field of concentration, and more important, it might make sense for the college to impose for all graduates a requirement that the student have been engaged in some academic experiences that would require (1) awareness of the global physical and social environment and (2) thoughtful consideration of ethical issues. When I was an undergraduate (class of 1966), the Harvard academic experience was like a trip through an intellectual shopping mall. One was required to meet the requirements of a major and to take a quick look around at various broad academic areas; however, there was no requirement that we examine our own convictions or give serious thought to any issue on which there might be a need to take action in the real world. I don't question the value of my Harvard experience or of all the opportunities to learn that I was offered, but I think that at this moment in history the university is called upon to go beyond what it did in the past.

Will they print it? Who knows? But I hope that there are one or two of our classmates who will respond in some way, either in our newsletter, in the form of a letter to the Magazine or in some other way. It has been a long time since President Conant, and I think it is time for Harvard to once again assert some leadership.

The following is the reply to Sandy's letter:

Rakesh Khurana:

Dear Mr. Leon,

Thanks for sharing this your thoughts on the undergraduate curriculum. You raise such vital issues. They are things I think about daily— how can we best prepare our students to be citizens and citizen leaders for our society? Coincidentally, I participated in a class on this yesterday that the HBS and the Divinity School jointly sponsored.

As you likely remember from your time at the College in the 1960s, Harvard had instituted a program called "General Education" based on a report called "General Education in a Free Society", colloquially called "the Redbook". That report, during Conant's time, fundamentally changed how we think about undergraduate education. Over the years it's gone through some major changes including in the 1970s with the Core Curriculum, and in the mid-2000s with General Education. The faculty have reviewed and updated the requirements to meet new needs. And we're committed to continuing to reevaluate those requirements with exactly the questions you have mentioned.

I am particularly struck by your comment that our students should be asked to examine their own convictions. Considering and critiquing received ideas and taken-for-granted assumptions, and then figuring out what one really believes and is committing oneself to is our essential gets to the heart of a liberal arts and sciences education— to look at and test our own beliefs. I often talk about the mission of the College and ask students to see behind each other's eyes and understand another's perspective. As you note, our world needs students who can do this.

Your views on this topic are helpful to read, and I appreciate you sharing them. I wish you the very best and hope you will stop by University Hall to say hello when you are next in Cambridge.

Semper veritas,

Rakesh

In Memoriam:

'66	Leo Doherty	11/28/22	Sterling, MA
'66	John Strucker	5/31/22	Portsmouth, NH
'67	Robert Willig	10/21/22	Ewing, NJ

As always, respectfully submitted,

*Tom Black
co-class secretaru*