



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

June 2025

I've been receiving correspondence from our fellow classmates concerning Harvard and the federal government. The message is always, "this is for your eyes only." It's a sensitive topic, and I get it. Nevertheless, wading in toward the deep end of the pool, I recommend the latest issue of the Harvard Magazine (harvardmagazine.com) and go to the section called John Harvard Journal. Once there, click on the red "John Harvard Journal" and seek out the article that gives a precis of the two studies/polls that were conducted. Let me know what you think.

The other thing on my mind was another survey. We had good response from the retirement home question, so, emboldened, I thought I might ask us, "how many doctors do you have?" Is that too invasive?

OK, enough from me. On to the news:

Paul Merry:

Greetings friends and family:

I appreciate your kind tolerance of my recent emails; let me know if you have had enough. And in an attempt at forestalling that day, here's another, in a different tone:

I was thinking it might be time to inject a lighter note concerning Harvard's dire situation. So ...
Ten Thousand Men of Harvard, updated:

Ten million folks of Harvard want victory today;
'cause we know that over ignorance, Fair Harvard holds sway!
So then we'll vanquish the tyrant's men,
And when the game ends, we'll sing again,
Ten million folks of Harvard won victory, today!

Peter Stocker:

My wife Terry and I are having a very similar experience as Dan (Dan Singal) and his wife. We moved to a townhouse in downtown Sarasota. No outside maintenance, close to all benefits of downtown, a diversified community, our own private elevator. We will look at some senior living possibilities, but for now we feel lucky.

Peter Johnson:

Three years ago my wife & I left our NYC apt. for an apt. on the CA Central Coast in view of the sea. We're in a combined rental-condo complex with a variety of tenants, young & old. Down the street is a retirement-only community, both independent & assisted living. Up on the hill is an all assisted-living place. Back in the woods is a hospice, which has an entrance sign but no exit. As we age, we can move down the street, up the hill and into the woods.

Charles Wyzansky:

Ted Widmer tells us that the current standoff between the Trump administration and Harvard "sets off historical trip wires" ("[Harvard defeats tyranny. \(At least, it did 250 years ago.\)](#)," Ideas, May 18). In 1954, at the height of the McCarthy era, the President of the Harvard Board of

Overseers, Charles E. Wyzanski Jr. (my father), addressed the governing boards of Harvard and Yale. His remarks, from his book "Whereas: A Judge's Premises," are excerpted below:

"We are told that we have the right to exclude those who are not like ourselves, and others who embarrass us by their manners, or lack of patriotism, or their low concept of civic duty, or their philosophies, or their effect on our financial supporter or the hostility they arouse toward our institution and ourselves. If the troublemakers are persons we would not have as partners, why must we have them as associates incurring liabilities at our expense?"

"To this the answer lies in the basic noble conception of a university. It is not and must not become an aggregation of like-minded people all behaving according to approved convention. It is the temple of the open-minded. And so long as in his instruction, his scholarship, his relations with his associates and juniors a teacher maintains candor, and truth as *he* sees it, he may not be required to pass any other test. *Veritas* is his shield and defender. [For students and societies alike grow by their] power to deal candidly with ideas every kind without fright, or suppression. Openness is the climate of intellectual advance. Exposure is the road to maturity of character. Thorough examination and cross-examination are the best techniques as yet devised for uncovering false doctrines as well as false witness."

Mary Mackey: (she sent me 2 submissions, listed chronologically)

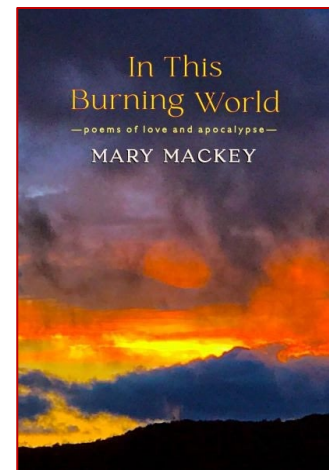
My new collection of poetry *In This Burning World: Poems of Love and Apocalypse* has just been published by Marsh Hawk Press. In these poems, I attempt to imagine not only what the world will be like as the Earth's climate changes, but how we can preserve joy and compassion in times of catastrophe. Given the difficulties, so many people are facing right now, I've decided to donate profits from sales of this book to charity.

In July, I will be going to Rio de Janeiro to attend SOLCHA (The Latin American and Caribbean Society of Environmental Historians). As far as I know, I'm the first poet they've ever invited. I'll be on a panel entitled "Agricultural Landscapes, Science and Technology Amid Global Environmental Challenges," and will talk about "Landscapes of the Future from a Poet's Point of View" and read some poems from *In This Burning World* including "Mocking Cassandra" (which is about prophecies ignored) and "O Pantanal Em Chamas/The Pantanal In Flames" (which is a lyrical consideration of the fact that the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, is now so dry that 3,372 fires were registered there from January to June 2024, an increase of 2,000% from 2023).

Harvard is going to be well represented at SOLCHA, since Professor Gabriela Soto Laveaga will be on the same panel giving a talk entitled "Fertilizing the Desert: Drought in the space of Agricultural Abundance." If any of you are going to be in Rio in July, let me know; and we'll go down to Copacabana, sit around drinking the milk of green coconuts, and try (and probably fail) to figure out how to save the world from burning up like a badly toasted marshmallow.

#2:

In the past, publishers gave writers a publicity person and send them on book tours, but those days are long behind us. Authors have to do their own publicity these days, so I've been spending the month of June doing readings, posting on various social media sites, and giving talks about my new collection of poetry *In This Burning World: Poems of Love and Apocalypse*. (Marsh Hawk Press). My favorite gig was at The Sitting Room, a library established by retired Sonoma State Professor J.J. Wilson in her own home. The house contains an extensive collection of work by women writers and a great backyard for literary events. In my spare time I've been canoeing on the American River, hiking around San Francisco Bay looking at birds, and trying to stay sane after I read the news of the day.



William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters (e.g., Trump's dismantling of US foreign aid).

Here's a Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas on 6/18/2025.



Daniel Kleinman:

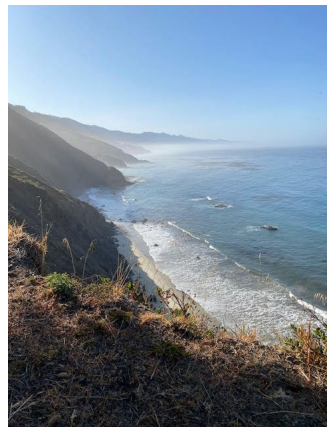
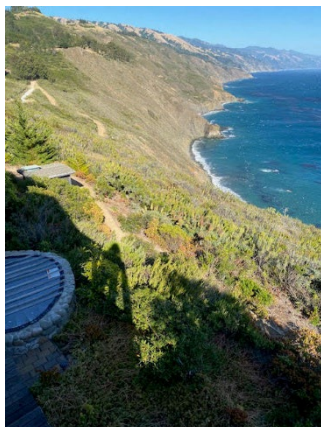
Dan is shown here with 2025 Travelers Championship tournament winner Keegan Bradley.

Dan is the long time Board Chair of the tournament which has raised more than \$55 million for over 200 Connecticut charities since its inception in 1952.

It is one of eight annual "Signature" events in the PGA TOUR with a total purse of \$20 million.

Virginia Morris:

Thank you Big Sur for renewal: may we all help one another get through this summer solstice, love Ginio (virginia)



Fred Lowenfels:

Continuing a tradition started after our 25th Reunion, the original ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) classmates David Keidan, Jeff Tarr and Fred Lowenfels were joined by new members Andy Levy and John Jacoby for a meal in midtown Manhattan on a beautiful spring day.

Our waitress was impressed that a bunch of 81 year olds could still walk, talk and eat. Next lunch in four months. If other local classmates want to join in, you can send an application to any of us.



These next photos are of **Alumni Day** when 9,000 alums returned to sample the festivities.





In Memoriam

The HAA hasn't sent me the latest yet. I'll include it next month.

Tom Black
co-class secretary