



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

November 2023

Herewith the November issue:

Harvard has been in the news, not flatteringly, and in that regard, I'm including a letter from Frank Nahigian, '55 to keep you in the know.

Frank Nahigian,'55:

I write to inform you of the following letter which we sent yesterday to President Gay in order to express our feelings about recent events at the college. We sent same also to a few of the admin closely involved. We feel it would be helpful for them to know where the alumni body stands on the subject issues, regardless which side they represent. We devoutly wish we could have conversations with the University but of course they have their hands full currently in their efforts to sort it out and restore civility.

The entire class will join together soon in a larger project in order to provide additional assistance to the University.

I write to you in order to share with our colleagues

President Claudine Gay
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

Dear President Gay,

The USA and Harvard have not been perfect but have striven toward perfection. The original sin of slavery was abolished women gained the suffrage and civil rights were enhanced while the standard of living for most Americans became the envy of the world. And Harvard segued from a regional school for a small segment of society into a leading international center of learning with a diverse faculty and student body.

Our time at Harvard and the 1950's were uniquely peaceful and promising. Watergate, the Vietnam war and the reaction to it spurred a spirit of criticism and activism. 9/11 and the unwise adventures in Iraq and Afghanistan aggravated the malaise but Harvard continued to flourish and to offer itself to students who would never before have been welcome or able to afford its bounty.

But starting about a decade ago, whether because of increased diversity or enhanced communications, disorder and lower academic standards accelerated at the University, both at The College and its graduate schools. Grade inflation and lower standards for honors and decorum exploded—Pat Moynihan called it “Defining Deviancy Down.” And Administrative Bloat metastasized.

On the one hand, free speech and inquiry declined (Harvard was recently rated as the lowest of all American universities by FIRE) and the due process rights of accused diminished. On the other, discrimination against Jews initially framed as criticism of Israel, grew as their % of the student body declined below the quota that President Lowell had tried to impose and the Administration seemed not to care. And then came Hamas / Gaza and the failure of Harvard to respond to unauthorized misuse of Harvard's name, to which the newly installed President initially spoke inadequately

Alumni are now pressing Harvard to restore civility and academic standards. We question whether Harvard will rise again to the occasion but hope it will do so, and we add our voice to demands that the administration and faculty recognize that there is much that must be done to reverse the recent trend.

Sincerely,

Peter Malkin 1955
Frank Nahigian 1955
Joshua Muss 1955
Richard Leone 1955
Al Rossow 1955

Andy Levy:

My classmates: I am profoundly concerned about dear Harvard and its leadership's failure to protect the institution. I will make this brief. I am not talking about micro-aggressions and triggers. I am talking about responding adequately to threats of barbarism and terror, globally and locally. Supporting free speech is of course important; it's not an excuse for jeopardizing Jews and others in our community. I speak as someone who has been vocal in my criticism of certain Israeli policies, so I am not a purist by any means. I also have empathy for the victimized Gazans and other Palestinians. Humanitarian aid must be given and protection for them, to the extent possible, is necessary. My focus in this post is the Harvard community: students, faculty, employees and alumni. What action items are being implemented IMMEDIATELY to insure physical and psychological protection of Jews (and all groups)? It is now more than 3 weeks after October 7, and so far, the best that has been done is some delayed equivocal words and for a promise to get good advisors. Not enough, and not timely enough. This is not just about Jews. It's about all groups. I have decided, at least for now, to cease all financial support for Harvard and Harvard Law School and revoke my testamentary gifts; I have informed Harvard. I feel that we must make our voices heard on these existential issues. I welcome hearing from any like-minded classmates. alevyg@gmail.com +1 917 968 9860

Florie Maynard:

I am so glad to be alive, healthy, surrounded by family, able to keep learning new things, painting, reading, cooking, hiking, and even reviving old piano skills however modestly. Radcliffe still impacts my life as I connect with a number of our classmates regularly. Thank you for asking this question during this holiday season when we hope for better news in many directions, but need to stay in tune with our own good fortune and for most of us, the hopeful lives of those we love.

Tony Scholl:

I am thankful for a great 2023. One highlight: a Sister-Brother family history jaunt from Maine to Virginia with, of course, a stop at (what use to be?) Stoughton Hall.

Jim Cormier:

I am thankful for many blessings; however, one stands out. It's the one I have enjoyed every day for the last 60 years, my friendship with Anne. We met on the MTA on a warm Spring evening in 1964, and later shared many "Cheap Date" evenings on the banks of the Charles eating grapes or cherries, sipping Carling's Black Label and planning a life together with children and grandchildren. Almost 60 years have passed and 5PM is our "Wine Time". The Charles has been replaced by several special places around our home, our deck, our backyard "fire Pit" (weather-permitting), or in front of our woodstove in late fall and winter. We share what's gone by and what's coming up but mostly enjoy sharing stories and insights about our

children (4) and grandchildren(9) because their journeys have been and still are part of our journey.

Mary Mackey:

My screenplay “The Stand-In” (adapted from my comic novel of the same title) is one of the official selections of The City of Angels Women’s Film Festival for best feature film script?

As for gratitude: I’m grateful for the joys in my life. There are so many I couldn’t begin to list them all.

Russell Maulitz:

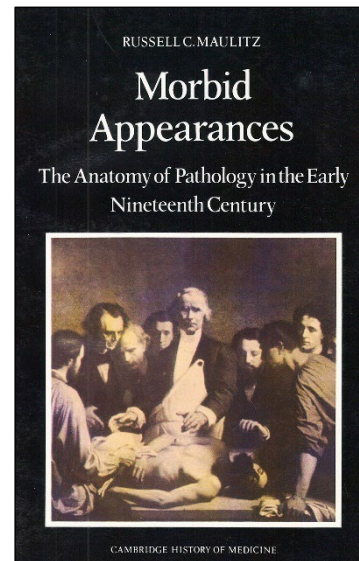
Two queries.

One, would you like to add the cover page of my now-ancient (1987) book on the history of pathology, to the otherwise-illustrious list [here](#)? (I also notice that my old buddy Alex Malezemoff’s name is misspelled there.)

Two, in the email put out by your HTML-authoring mail tool, in this case over Tom Black’s signature, after the "stay connected" message, there’s a series of social-media icons. At least in the one browser I’m using at the moment, I get a 404 message for all four of those apps. Please try it, both of you, and let me know, if you get the same result.

(ed. note) Anybody else have this problem?

Here is the book cover. By the way, I compounded the felony with Alex’s book. It’s not Malezemoff, it’s Malozemoff.



William Neaves:

I derive some consolation by photographing birds Priscilla loved observing prior to her untimely death on 8/30/2019.

Here is a photo made a couple of days ago of her favorite species.

Fred Lowenfels:

I have been the class representative for the John Harvard Society for many years. That Society recognizes and thanks donors to Harvard who have made provisions in their estate plans or current pledges to benefit the University. Our class now has 50 members of the John Harvard Society.

Each year, the University prints a very attractive card thanking John Harvard Society members to be mailed during the Thanksgiving holiday period. And each year, I would address a short note of thanks on the card addressed to our classmates. Here is this the front of this year's card:



Doctor Allman (aka T.D.):

Clean shaven in Malaga



In Memoriam

Barbara Livermore:

I was just informed by her sister that **Roberta Mowry Mundy** died last night - October 21 - in Baltimore, where her daughter lives. Class of 1966. Twelve of us from Briggs Hall have been having periodic Zoom visits and we will miss Roberta.

She had severe depression after her 2nd husband died (assisted suicide) a few years ago. It was frustrating to see her deterioration. I don't know the actual cause of death, other than depression and cardiac arrest. At \ last she's at peace.

Randy Lindel:

Our classmate **Dr. Steve Sohn** passed away at his home in Newton on November 15. He had a distinguished career as a plastic surgeon and medical entrepreneur. And he was a Patriot's fan of such depth that he could tell you the history of every player on the roster.

A memorial can be found at:

<https://brezniakfuneraldirectors.com/obituary-archive/dr-stephen-a-sohn/>
<https://brezniakfuneraldirectors.com/obituary-archive/dr-stephen-a-sohn/>

Elayne Archer

I am sad to announce the death of **Mary Bayley Fisk** in September of this year at her home in Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA. Mary left Cambridge after two years to marry Zack Fisk, HR class of 1964, with whom she had one child, a daughter, Rebekah. Mary completed her degree at San Diego State College. She moved to New York City in 1980 and worked for many years for the -United Nations. She went on peace-keeping missions to Namibia, Cambodia, and Croatia and also lived in the Hague while working for the International Criminal Tribunal. In retirement Mary moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea where she helped run the International Documentary Film Festival for the United Nations Association, Monterey Bay chapter. Mary and I did not know each other well in



Cambridge but I will always remember a phone message from her, “Do you live anywhere near Prospect Park West and 11th Street (where Mary’s daughter lived). Indeed I did, and we saw each other when Mary visited Bekah in Brooklyn. She sometimes “housesat” for us and said she loved sitting on our deck doing the New York Times crossword and patting our cat. She will be missed by her daughter, Bekah, and by her many friends and colleagues from around the world. Mary was a good friend. We often talked by phone over the Covid years. I will really miss her.

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| '65 | Malcolm Plunder | 10/11/23 | Kensington, MD |
| '65 | James Bell | 05/19/23 | Lebanon, NH |
| '66 | Stephen Levinson | 09/11/23 | Champaign, IL |
| '67 | Bonnie Wester Orr | 07/10/23 | Northern Ireland |

Thanks to all of you that provided your thanks; I'm thankful that I'm getting this newsletter out on November!

Tom Black
co-class secretary

Fortune favors the bold