



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

February 2022

Enclosed, our February newsletter:

Tony Kahn has been doing interviews with our classmates for the last several years, 23 to date. If you would like to be interviewed by Tony, please email him directly at: TonyKahn@gmail.com.

Housekeeping note: The Harvard template that I use to produce this newsletter doesn't deal with PDF or videos. So, if you send me a PDF, I take a picture of it and post that (see Madeline Holmes below). With videos, I can give you the link (see T.D. Allman below). Cut and paste it to watch (it's worth it).

Also: The format of this newsletter seems to come out fine on my phone and Ipad, not so great on my computer with the broader screen. I'll see if that can be fixed.

Betsy Peltz:

Last year I spent every other week away from home and husband to be my 12 year old grandson's remote school special ed aide. Milo has Down syndrome. His sister managed her year of remote school herself, but Milo needed help staying on task. My co-grandmother did the alternate weeks.

I am a retired English teacher, so I actually loved the work. Milo and his sister live in Arlington, Massachusetts, and Milo's remote sped program was excellent (if you had a couple of grandmothers with time on their hands.) We are all very grateful to his teachers - of whom there were 9 whom I met via the computer monitor in the course of the year. One we saw every day for two hours, and every day Milo also did two hours of independent homework for her. We also had regular-ed classes: art, gym, music, and computer science, as well as special ed speech and O.T.

The teachers went all out. I cannot praise them enough.

What I learned from these people was - a lot. I note in particular the unparalleled importance of movement breaks in the school day. "Go Noodle" and "Koo Koo Kangaroo" were essential to Milo and me.. That is - these are short, funny, entertaining You Tube movement videos. They helped Milo so much I was stunned. I did them right along with him, and I could see the difference in my own engagement in the long school day. We often did 5 or 6 of these or even more in the 6 hour day, and I welcomed them. "Go Noodle" was a revelation.

These are aimed at K-8, but I see now how valuable it would have been if I had included a short funny movement break in all my high school classes.

Milo is in Junior High now. I was very worried, for all sorts of reasons, that the transition would be a disaster. But no. His new team is terrific, so that helped immeasurably. But I think the very close family time for a whole year gave him a lot of strength.

Which brings me to the whole "grandmother" argument. The Hanza in Africa demonstrated that in hunter gatherer societies, grandmothers are very important to family success. But I argue that

grandchildren and their families in our present society also do better when they have a grandparent who is active in their lives.

When I taught seventh graders, we did journaling. And I noticed then - 30 years ago - that kids who wrote about their grandparents tended to be more involved in school life. They were not necessarily A students, but they were somehow more confident. Sociologists among you would perhaps argue against my method of forming an opinion, but then, my experience with Milo bore out my hunch that extended family strengthens kids.

I did not grow up with an active extended family. So this is all new to me.

Milo, who struggles with committing to work, used to announce to me, whenever he had a big remote school success, that he was once again "Mr. Phenomenal" from "Phenomenal Land." Now back at school and in the gigantic junior high, he remarked to me that he is still "king of phenomenal land".

In a way, being away from home off and on all last year at 77 was very difficult. It was very tiring, it required a lot of flexibility and adaptability on my part, it imposed a lot of loneliness on my husband, and it was difficult to keep up to date on all the requirements of daily life at home. But my husband and I both agree - it was a family necessity.

And I see, after "my year of living dangerously," the critical importance of the extended family for American children. Any societal change that keeps kids in closer contact with parents and extended family is to be welcomed. So - in our family - the Pandemic brought this strange and welcome reward.

Bill Hill:

On February 3 we were blessed with the arrival of a second grandchild, this time a granddaughter: Mackenzie Hill Engman. Our daughter Natalie and Mackenzie are both doing fine. Joyce and I have switched from following international politics to helping with care for a three year old and newborn. We are the happier for the switch.

Steve Berman:

My wife Carroll and I are currently in Morgantown West Virginia where our daughter is teaching at the University. She and her husband have gifted us with a new baby granddaughter, a lovely reason to be away from our Oregon home and exploring new territory. If anyone would like to connect with us while we're here I can be reached at 541-324-2681, or [steveberman @mind.net](mailto:steveberman@mind.net)

Elayne Archer:

Sometimes at night I light candles and watch them in the front window. It's the closest I get to meditation. Thoughts stream through my mind and lines of poetry. Yesterday, I thought of an incident that occurred when I taught English composition and literature to mostly African American and Latino/a students at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

During one class a student challenged me:

"How will these stories help me get a job?" she asked. It was one of the few times I had the right answer. "They won't help you get a job," I declared. "They'll help you when you don't have a job or when you're going through hard times."

A few years later, I got a call from this student, telling me she was newly unemployed and wondering how to start the process of looking for a new job. That morning, while having her coffee, she had pulled the short story collection from a bookshelf and read many of the stories.

She had felt so comforted, she said, so happy to be “out of herself,” so tuned in to different realities. She thought, “This is what Elayne meant about literature helping me when I don’t have a job, when I’m having a stressful time.” I have always cherished this memory.

Elayne Archer:

Images of winter outside my Brooklyn home. The tall fir tree out back looks like a druid priest, its lower branches laden with snow. When I shake the snow loose, I hear a soft “swoosh” as the branches rise. The branches of the forsythia bush remind me of Shakespeare’s “bare, ruin’d choirs where late the sweet birds sang.” But then birds start to assemble—sparrows, chickadees, and blue jays—all facing in one direction. A cardinal alights, facing them—a red-robed choirmaster about to lead this “parlement of foules” in song. Meanwhile the days grow longer. The lights on a bush out front go on now an hour before it is dark. I feel like Keats’s “watcher of the skies,” looking to see the sun return and spring come.

Catherine Nichols:

I have served some seven years on the RCS Foundation which supports the Choral Society in a variety of ways including attending concerts when possible, helping them with financial and tour planning, and giving grants for their tours, singing lessons, and various other needs.

Several of us from our decade have enjoyed serving and are about to rotate off the Foundation in June. The Committee is comprised of a remarkable group of singing women. Formerly our meetings were in person three times/year. For now they are on zoom. I’ve found it stimulating to be in touch with current undergrads and learn about their musical activities. Anyone from our class who might be interested in joining the Foundation Board?

William Neaves:

Priscilla enjoyed watching wildlife on our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas. Here is a mourning dove on 21 February 2022 – second only to cardinals, her next most-loved bird.



Randy Lindel:
Tony Kahn Classmate Interviews - so far this year, Tony has added wonderfully edited interviews (6-8 mins.)

with classmates Ben Portnoy and Steve Berman and added a compiled clip of other interviews with him

(Tony in his own voice). This wonderful library has now grown to 23 interviews. Check it out at hr66.org > Our Class > Classmate Interviews or directly at:

<https://1966.classes.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=239>

Classmate Publications - while you're visiting the hr66.org website, be sure to also check out the Our Class > Classmate Books section for historic and most recent classmate publications. If you have a new book (or an older one that's not listed, but still in print), send info to this newsletter and to webmaster@hr66.org. The listings are linked directly to Amazon for ease of ordering copies. A direct link to this page is:

<https://1966.classes.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=108>

Michael Lang:

As the pandemic continues, so does our publishing venture. Along with a colleague in Dublin, Ireland, we are preparing our third book of stories and advice for families whose lives have been upended by the pandemic and for whom stress and conflict have intensified. Last year's book included pieces by over 90 contributions from 17 countries, with essays in 9 languages.

We are hoping to increase those numbers for this year's book. The title is *More Family Conflict During a Pandemic: We thought it was over, and then...* The books are sold in digital and print formats on Amazon. All proceeds from the sale of books are donated to international charitable organizations working with families. Submissions are due by April 1. Please contact me to learn more. mlang@mediate.com:



Fred Lowenfels:

With some extra time on my hands in my "semi-retirement" as general counsel of Trammo, Inc. (starting on July 1, 2014, after 40 years on the job), I tried to find a way to help with the legal problems faced by Afghan refugees seeking to obtain legal status in the United States. While I don't know much about immigration law, I thought I could learn enough to be helpful. A group known as HIAS (founded in 1881 as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) has a pro-bono program to assist refugees coming to US. HIAS's original mission was to provide meals, transportation and jobs for Russian Jews arriving in Manhattan. Today HIAS provides assistance to refugees all over the world. I signed up for their on-line orientation course for lawyers and started to look at the opportunities to represent asylum seekers. It quickly became obvious to me that the knowledge of immigration law and procedures necessary to be an effective advocate was way more than I could quickly learn.

Another program at HIAS is research on the conditions from which refugees are fleeing from specific countries. For example, HIAS commissioned research on current conditions for the LGBTQ community in Afghanistan. In Honduras, HIAS looked for reports to show the current conditions in Honduras for individuals who are HIV+. HIAS uses these reports to assist their pro-bono lawyers representing refugees, who must prove to US immigration authorities that they face danger or death if they are forced to return to their homelands.

I found a notice seeking a report for conditions in Cameroon in East Africa for Anglophones or for people from the Anglophone regions. Here was an obscure topic, for sure. Coincidentally, I had recently been communicating on WhatsApp with a former mentee, whom I will call NF, from Harvard who was visiting his 91 year-old mother in the Anglophone region of Cameroon. He had sent me photos of the astonishingly underdeveloped conditions there, compared to the advanced situation in the Francophone regions of the country. I had assisted NF when he

graduated from Harvard in the late 1980's obtain jobs in the financial sector in NYC. Today, he lives in South Africa with a very influential wife and is a hugely successful businessman. But that's another story.

So, I volunteered to do the research, which involved finding government reports and information, NGO reports, and news articles and reports. The linguistic battles in that country originated from its tortured colonial history when the British and French divided authority. The Department of State is aware of the problem and issued a long, detailed report in 2018 on the situation. But there is nothing I could find in the US press.



In 1972, the French speaking authorities took over the entire country. The Anglophone portion of the country in the southeast gradually lost control over government functions, including particularly education, as the French speakers sought to suppress English speakers. A successionist civil war broke out in 2016, with armed Anglophone separatists seeking to establish an independent, English speaking territory. The result has been devastation to the medical infrastructure. Separatists have effectively shut down the education system in the Anglophone region by force of arms. Anglophones have sought refuge in neighboring Nigeria, which, of course, has its own problems. Extra judicial killings of civilians by both sides have been condemned but continue. There appears to be no end in sight to the bloodshed

T.D. Allman:

Lake House

15 febrero 2022

Venerada y Esquisita Dama Mercedes==

¡Qué video tan extraordinario usted ha compartido conmigo!

Acepte amablemente, querida señora, las seguridades de mis más profundos y afectos agradecimientos.

Saludos muy respetuosos, como siempre, queridísima Mercedes!

(Tom's note: The below link is to a video included with T.D.'s comment)

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=1b3c8ebf82&attid=0.1&permmmsgid=msg-f:1724852311514705960&th=17efe809e5d87028&view=att&disp=safe>

John Diamante:

San Francisco, this sad Valentine's Day--

. . . that our dear classmate, Caroline Balderston Parry
(from anticipated call, just now, by friend Ramona Moon)
surrounded by family and beloveds singing,

at her home, in Ottawa,
taken by the pancreatic cancer, Friday, Feb 11th....

...tall, laughter-spreading, bossy, brilliant, Quaker mover,
mother of distinguished musicians, loving wife,
sister of humanitarian brother assassinated during Reagan's Central American
wars,
recruiter to our Phillips Brooks House--St Marks Settlement House, Roxbury,
Boston, community street work,
Movement spirit,
skilled and sought healer and counselor in congregations of several venues,
May Pole dance and rituals scholar,
writer, artist and creative
celebrant of life...

too soon, too soon
sweet Car-o-line

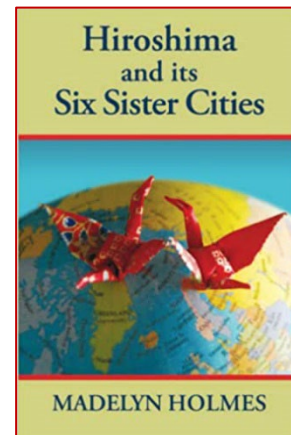
no email, please--fraught with other deaths at this time, phone welcome

John Diamante
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Madelyn Holmes:

Her new book *Hiroshima and its Six Sister Cities* is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

**In Memoriam:****Eileen Blumenthal Kahan:**

I just learned that **Caroline Balderston Parry '66** lost her fight with pancreatic cancer yesterday, 2/11, according to the post on CaringBridge by her relatives. Those of us in the '66 Art Group had the pleasure of hearing her talk about her collages on 2/1 with energy and enthusiasm. She was a creative soul who will be missed.

Tom's note: If you go to [Caringbridge.org](https://www.caringbridge.org), and type in Caroline's name in the search box, you can read more.

Charles Pyne, AB66, on 12/21/21 at Norfolk, VA, survived by Betsy Pyne at 187 Seekonk St., Norfolk, VA

James Kindler, AB66, on 12/16/21 at Ossining, NY, survived by Rosemary Kindler at 16 Rockledge Ave. Apt. 7E2, Ossining, NY

Miss Michele Cruvant, AB67, on 6/21/20 at Baltimore, MD

Mrs. Sandra Thompson Nayak, AB67, on 12/09/21, survived by P.R. Nayak at 12 Orchard St., Belmont, MA

Hubert E. Sapp, AB67, on 2/14/21 at Augusta, GA, survived by Jane Sapp at 514 Rocky Ridge Blvd., Douglasville, GA

Bernard Bradstreet, AB67, on 1/02/22 at Southborough, MA, survived by Carol Bradstreet at 51 Richards Rd., Southborough, MA

I'll be back next month when I might be able to show you my skiing pictures!

Tom Black
co-class secretary