



HARVARD CLASS OF 1947

Summer 2014 Newsletter

PERMANENT CLASS COMMITTEE

First Marshal

THOMAS L.P. O'DONNELL

Second Marshal

ROSWELL B. PERKINS

Third Marshal

SIDNEY F. GREELEY, JR.

Secretaries

MYRON S. SIMON

BENJAMIN D. SOBLE

Class Treasurer

WILLIAM J. MAHER

Class Committee

GREGORY H. ADAMIAN

LOUIS J. APPELL, JR.

EDWIN R. CHYTEN

JOHN D. CLARK

ALAN S. COHEN

URSULA CORBETT

PAULINA COWEN

VICTOR J. CRITCHLOW

ELIOT GORDON

ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

WILLIAM F. HENNESSEY

FRANCIS R. MAHONY, JR.

HAROLD L. MAY

J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, II

HERBERT F. REGAL

WILLIAM B. TYLER

GEORGE VOSS

CLIFTON R. WHARTON, JR.

NORMAN L. WHOLLEY

Should we continue the Newsletter? Our question in the last newsletter has led to a welcome number of answers that have blown away the dust of “who needs it?” and “no one writes in.” The letters or a word from our three Class Marshals **Rod Perkins, Tom O’Donnell** and **Sid Greeley**, and letters/messages from **Win Arias, Jack Clark, Vic Critchlow, Bob Dodson, Bob Grosby, John Howison, Dave Snow**, and class widows **Lois Poole** and **Betsy Freeman** gave very positive answers. Later in this issue are reports from Win and John and the letter from Betsy that are further reasons for our newsletter’s existence.



“In the Winter Edition 2013 you ask: ‘Should this newsletter continue?’

In my view the answer is a clear and resounding ‘yes’! I disagree with Chuck Thompson’s view to the effect that the newsletter should not wind up as a list of obituaries. The obituaries can be both important and interesting. At the same time, the survivors should be more generous in contributing updates and observations – and I am a bit guilty in this respect. I somehow feel that the older we get the more we need to communicate with each other.

Thanks for all you do!”

All the best, **Rod Perkins**

“ I heartily agree,” **Tom O’Donnell**

See notes below for more comments.



Please use the following new address to submit your contributions, (letters, notes, etc.) Classmates all over the country, no, all over the world want to know what you are doing!

Myke Simon

60 Seminary Ave. Apt. 272

Auburndale, MA 02466

E-Mail is Preferred; mssimon4749@gmail.com

Or continue to send your comments with your 2014 H’47 Class Dues to Bill Maher, who will forward them to us. No, the dues stay with Bill.

Thanks, Myke, Newsletter Editor

Ben Soble, Business Editor

Speaking of dues, classmates who have sent in their 2014 dues can ignore the next sentence.
 Dues remain \$30 and should be sent to
William J Maher, Treasurer P.O.Box 1152 North Falmouth, MA 02556

Bill has obtained the status of our two memorial funds:
 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)

Class of 1947 Memorial Scholarship Fund

Principal as of June 30, 2013	\$85,788
Gifts added in FY 2013 (5 donors)	9,900
*Market Value of Fund as of June 30, 2013	155,417
FY2013 Distribution	6,669

Charles D. (Chuck) Thompson Memorial Dean’s Fund for Undergraduate Financial Aid

Fund Principal as of June 30, 2013	
\$90.51 Gifts added in FY 2013 (3 donors)	3622
*Market Value of Fund as of June 30, 2013	93,785
FY2013 Distribution	4,342

* Market value is the individual fund’s share of Harvard’s total endowment market value at the end of the fiscal year, June 30. The market value shown in this report is net of the annual distribution.

After the attack at the 2013 Marathon Race, we held our breath as the 2014 Race came around. The spirit was high and some 33,000 runners and would-be runners showed up to race. There was a mob scene at the starting area in Hopkinson, MA, but they were started in groups according to ability. (As I write this the day after, there probably are still a few just reaching Heartbreak Hill in Newton.) That the event was peaceful, the biggest in history, and the first won in years by an American citizen, Meb Keflezighi, left the group at our spring party delighted.

Our Marathon Day spring get-to-gether was hosted by **Ben and Thelma Soble** and attended by the following: **Roz and Ed Chyten, Polly Cowen, Eliot Gordon, Pat and Sid Greeley, Alice and Bill Hennessey, Bill Maher, Kate and Frank Mahony, Tom O’Donnell, Rose and Myke Simon, Annie and Bill Tyler.**

We have been calling this “the Marathon Party” for want of a better name. It was started some twenty years ago and kept going yearly as long as he could do it by classmate Herb Regal. Herb ran it in his back yard, doing all the roasting and providing all the extras. Herb is presently housed in an institution and he can no longer attend. The suggestion was made that we recognize his contributions by naming our spring event the Herb Regal Patriots’ Day Party. Comments?

Pete Seeger: I think it was the summer session in 1943, when we very fresh freshmen had hardly got used to summer studying, and did our best to look for alternatives, that Pete Seeger came to Harvard and gave a talk in Emerson Hall. He sang songs to illustrate that the working population was getting a bad deal, that the working class was in a heck of a bad way in war time as well as when the country was at peace. As I remember, several of us went back to the books, humming. Does anyone else remember that study break?

Ben Soble reminds us that the football season is almost upon us:

THE GAME 2014

On November 22 this Yale event will take place at Harvard Stadium at 12 noon. As usual, the game will be preceded by an all class lunch spread at the Gordon Indoor Track, just across from the stadium. This buffet is in fact a complete meal, i.e. chowder, salad, main course, dessert and coffee. A cash bar is available. This can be a great opportunity to enjoy a mini-reunion with those of us who are still agile enough to climb the steep steps of Harvard Stadium and enjoy the game. Seating at the spread is arranged on a class by class basis. Let's show some class spirit and make a good showing for the class of 1947. Ben

CLASS NOTES and MORE

Jack Clark let us know where he stands: "Please continue as long as possible. Numbers are dwindling but the letter remains as a deep point of interest. I and all others appreciate and applaud your efforts, Best!" Jack

Vic Critchlow wrote, "Thanks for the Newsletter, Greetings to everyone"

Pete Grady, (John C. Grady), sent us a message that he has changed his address to 52 Lafayette Place, Greenwich CT 06830

Speaking of spring-time, **Bob Harrington** sent a note to cheer us up. "What a horrific winter you have all had — it has to get better for you soon." And then reminded us that the Northeast didn't have it all. "Our community was really belted by an ice storm. Clean-up not expected to be completed until June or July." That from Aiken, South Carolina, mind you!

A note from **Lois T. Poole** (widow of Gordon Poole):

"I find the obituaries very interesting, but understand that the whole newsletter shouldn't be just that. Perhaps a good balance which you have done very well." Lois 2280 Stockbridge Ave. Woodside, CA 94062

Bob Dodson wrote, “ An excellent newsletter is the issue that just arrived, although it is headed Winter 2013. I hope the letter will not be discontinued, at least not soon. I missed the luncheon last fall. I intend to be there in November this year. Enclosed is my \$30 check for H’47 dues. I hope to see you, Bill, in the fall if not sooner.” Bob

One of the problems that a newsletter faces is that its heart and soul is dependent on the flow of material from its readers. **Win Arias** has responded to the needs of the Newsletter and given us an important report on what he is doing to fill a serious lack in the health industry.

“As a Triple Emeritus (Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine and the NIH) and currently a NIH retired annuitant, I conduct research on liver disease and direct a novel effort to help address a major global medical problem: *how to bridge the rapid, ever-increasing and extraordinary advances in basic biology and engineering with their application to human health. Kollath, a 20th century biologist, stated the problem succinctly: ‘ Much is known but unfortunately in different heads.’*

“The public demands that its large investment in science eventually results in improved human health. For the past half-century, advances in biology and technology have occurred logarithmically; however, their application to understanding and treating human disease has proceeded arithmetically, thereby creating an increasing gap. Reasons for this gap include a shortage of physician-scientists, who bring a unique perspective to their research because they have knowledge of human disease, and difficulties in teaching advanced biology to physicians and pathobiology (disease mechanisms) to basic scientists.

“Many public and private initiatives seek to increase the number of physician-scientists and MD/PhD students and there is increased funding for ‘translational medicine.’ However, all programs designed to help bridge the gap assume that, if research funding is disease-related, communication between scientists and clinicians will automatically occur. The role of education and communication is infrequently emphasized. Without efforts to instruct basic scientists about pathobiology and clinical problems, and clinicians about new research possibilities, efficient communication is unlikely.

“Nobelist Tom Czeck, former Director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, summarized the challenge: *‘It is self evident that scientists working on problems which may have clinical relevance should know about the disease and how it affects people.’*

“In a 1987 New England Journal of Medicine article, we described a program to train PhD students and scientists in the pathobiology of human disease. Twenty-seven years later, this concept has expanded to 17 countries and over two dozen major North American graduate and undergraduate institutions.

“Every major medical school has a PhD program; however, the participating students, fellows and scientists usually have little or no contact with clinical colleagues. Beginning at Tufts University School of Medicine and, in 2001, at the NIH, we established a program to train PhDs in the pathobiology of human diseases. The major feature is a Course in which ~20 major human diseases are presented in the format of a live patient, a clinical investigator and a basic scientist. The goal is to excite PhDs with major unsolved problems in human disease. Now in its 14th year at NIH, “Demystifying Medicine for PhDs” continues to be successful. Over 800 NIH personnel register annually and attend sessions on site, on-line or via the NIH Videoarchive, which is available worldwide. The Course has been replicated...and in some cases translated...in 17 countries and over two dozen major North American medical research centers, universities and a few undergraduate colleges. Use our web site (Google: Demystifying Medicine) to access the Course, power points, references and background information. Over 1200 copies of two CDS made of selected sessions have been distributed worldwide. Success in the Course has resulted in it becoming a permanent training component of the NIH Clinical Center.

“Classmates interested in the larger problem of bridging the gap and the Demystifying Medicine Course in particular can obtain details from our web site, and publications (and DVD which I am pleased to provide (ariasi@mail.nih.gov)).

“In addition, classmates are welcome to visit the NIH which is an amazing ~500 acre campus of 16,000 people and 52 buildings in suburban Washington, DC. Its 32 onsite Institutes constitute the intramural program which receives about 13% of the NIH Budget. The major portion goes to support biomedical research in institutions around the country and the world. The world’s largest research hospital (250 beds) is located at NIH. All patients participate in research protocols embracing a wide range of diseases, diagnoses, therapies and genomics. I am not alone in believing that NIH is the best national investment of public funds. Come visit and see for yourself! You can also learn much more from the NIH.gov website.” **Irwin (Win) Arias, MD**

John Howison has provided our class with a thoughtful description of his career. (ED: We wish other members of the class would do the same.) “This, my first report to the Class of 1947, is by way of response to Malcolm Gladwell’s argument in ‘David and Goliath’ that an undistinguished student might do better to attend a merely “good” college rather than a top-drawer place like Harvard. After an unremarkable stay at Harvard, a career as a Foreign Service Officer, and nearly four decades in retirement on the ancestral acres in Texas, am I glad I went to Harvard? You bet I am.

“Given my remote North Texas origin and WWII career as a B-24 navigator and POW, Harvard probably let me enter (as a junior) because I was a plausible answer to its wish to do right by veterans and to salt its largely Eastern student body with a few from the outback. Given my prewar study at a community college and credits offered for my military experience, I graduated

only sixteen months after my January 1946 arrival in Cambridge. That I was named to the Harvard Advocate and thus remember John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch is possibly a minor distinction.

“Of course I was impressed to sit in lectures by world-famous professors, but I have always suspected I learned more from my classmates than from my B-average performance in my ‘Government major.’ Thanks to both, I acquired a smattering of acquaintance with the intellectual world and the liberal arts, and was deemed prepared to begin a career in international affairs. The Foreign Service continued my education with years spent at Princeton, George Washington, and the Naval War College, and on loan to the faculty of Morehouse. In the Foreign Service I nearly always received the assignments I asked for (Kabul, Istanbul, Ankara, Rome, Monrovia, Washington), and acquired the acquaintance with the third world that seemed to qualify me to head the working-level staff at the US Mission to the United Nations and to end my career as an alternate US Representative on the UN Security Council. Along the way, I toured the Soviet bloc, was a spear-carrier to Cyrus Vance on his mission to the eastern Mediterranean when he prevented the threat of a Turkish invasion of Cyprus from triggering World War III, and came to regard Israel as our most important ally.

“The Class of 1947 was an early chapter of a fulfilling personal life. In the Foreign Service I met and married the mother of the three children who have done me so proud, and after her decease married another outstanding helpmeet who shares my active interest in community affairs. I now hope to finish another slice of Harvard education, the HAA1X course.

Contra muros, mater rubicolla”

A letter from **Betsy Freeman**, (widow of **Don Freeman**,) addressed to The Harvard Class of 1947, reminding us that classmates are not the only ones who have a say with respect to the Newsletter. She wrote:

“WE are still here!

Dear Friends,

“OF COURSE you should continue the Harvard Class of 1947 Newsletter.

“May I suggest you resort to a bit of email? It is a very recent method of communication which has caught on quite well.

“WE, the Wives, Widows, Children, Grand Children, Great Grandchildren and Friends are still all out here. You addressed the newsletter to us, then you wrote on as if no one was left on this earth to listen to what you had to say.

“We have had to march on (as my husband of 58 years, Don C. Freeman often said) with ‘a

smile for the troops'!

“We are all out here reading, writing and doing some necessary financial ‘rithmetic. Maybe we all need to know what our counter partners are accomplishing and/or enjoying even in the wounded state of absence of those we love who have already used their obituaries.

We do not want you to forget or neglect our need to receive the Class of '47 newsletter. We are still newsmakers in our own way. Besides many of us have not been completely left behind all alone. We have children, grandchildren and great grands who are viewing the world and participating as we ourselves once did with great gusto. Even if our gusto is diminished a tad we are still at the game of life. Perhaps we can let you know what our offspring are thinking about the world and the people in it. Try us and the next generation too. We/They may be painting a thrilling Van Gogh under a moonlit night or writing a new Bible which condones same sex marriage. You never know. We may have married our caregivers or our handsome physicians, even though most handsome, rich MD's are already taken. Furthermore if Joe Biden might do it maybe we will run for a high office of the land. Our possibilities are nearly endless indeed. We may be drinking from our saucers because our cups runneth over.

“If you furnish us with a handy email address you will probably be rewarded by return email from one of our mobile devices. Not to worry, we have written down those blankety, blank passwords and we are able to find them and use them as soon as our various batteries are charged!

“Enclosing dues, but email does not require any presorted first class mail cost.

“Truly yours, awaiting the next issue of Harvard Class of 1947.

Betsy Kelley Freeman (Don Clair Freeman's widow)

““If you turned down my suggestion of email, my home address is 91 Warrior Drive, Tryon NC 28782. Don's address is Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA if you happen to be in that gorgeous area.”

ED: We emailed Mrs. Freeman, requesting a copy, if still available on her computer, of the above as an email letter, but while we were waiting for an answer, decided to type her letter with our usual two finger dexterity. We desire that any typos and other mistakes be forgiven. And we ask again that email be used whenever possible for your notes, manuscripts, et al. Our impatience was rewarded with an email letter. Thank you.

Bob Grosby wrote, "If it goes to a vote I vote to continue the class newsletter, notwithstanding the recent lack of participation. Perhaps the format might be changed to 'on line' wherein classmates will have a more and better opportunity to interact with one another. The format might best be decided by a classmate well versed in the world wide web or perhaps we could use the facebook format, a Harvard thing. This will make things easier for the Secretary.

"I have not participated because there is really nothing of interest to others to report. I am healthy, live in the mountains of North Carolina summers, and in warm Palm Beach County winters. I read, play golf and enjoy four wheeling on mountain logging roads. Life is good. <bobblowingrock@aol.com> "

A note from **Art Hartman**: I'm still doing my best to build a middle class in Russia. Donna and I are enjoying our summers in France. Greetings to you all. Will possibly see some of us at our Grandson's graduation. Regards, Art Hartman

We are very sad to report that **Emily, Bill Maher's** wife died on Mother's Day. She was surrounded by most of their very large family. The many Harvard '47 events that she and Bill hosted have made her a deeply appreciated member of our class. Our deepest sympathies to the Maher Family.

A letter from **Dave Snow**:

"For me this has been a full year since January 2013 of the worst health that I have experienced in my 87 years of life on this planet, with a faint during a hot early morning shower at our condo in Bonita Springs, FL, last year, a smashed left shoulder and concussion, a medevac out of a Naples hospital to return to home in NH where the threatened surgical repair of the shoulder yielded instead to a three month stay in a rehab hospital in Concord. There two months of shoulder immobilization healed the fracture, and then six weeks of intensive physical therapy restored full useful shoulder function. However in April a dangerous, rare, and difficult to diagnose auto-immune skin disease cropped up, a bullous pemphigoid, which took four dermatologists to diagnose and only four weeks ago did high-dose steroid medication turn the thing around, so that now there seems to be clear sailing ahead. Euphoric that I was improving, four weeks ago I fell while carelessly turning on my painful blistered feet and came crashing down to fracture my right wrist. This required hospitalization and surgical repair, and only this past week has the cast come off, a light protective brace has temporarily been applied, and I am back to the computer and even typing. While all this was going on, my Edna sold our condo in Florida, sold our rather new little house in Bow, NH and bought a large apartment in Birch Hill Terrace, a great continuing care facility in Manchester, my home town.. Now we are both ensconced there contentedly, and our new address is 200 Alliance Way, #206, Manchester, NH 03102. Phone 603 518 5877 DnESnow@aol.com."

ED. Dave, That must be the worst paragraph I have had to type of the travails of a friend. Watch out for small rugs in your new digs, use a cane or, better, a pair of hiking poles when you walk outside, and don't go out in winter. We will need you in good shape for the 70th.

“Myke, thanks for your reply. Things here are going very well indeed, and I am gaining every day. The big thing of which to beware is overconfidence, so I move with great caution and foresight, being sure that there is a wall, or a car, or a building nearby to grab hold of! I have abandoned the walker, and use the cane only out-of-doors, and Edna, my eagle-eyed watchlady, hovers closely. I have not driven now for about two years, since with only one seeing eye, and doubts raised by the Motor Vehicle Registry, I decided not to renew, and instead I have the best driver in the world take me everywhere. Life continues to be very good, in fact precious, and we do plan to live for at least twenty more years. At least! “ **Dave**

Myke Simon reports, “Big news in the Simon family; We have finally changed our residence. We had moved in August, 1968, we moved out September, 2013. Yes, the grand old (1903) shingle style 13 room house had done its duty in raising three children, (son Harvard AB'85, PhD.'91, daughter Conn College BA '76, daughter, Dartmouth, BA '78, Harvard SPH MS '80) and keeping us out of the rain and snow for all those years, and I hated to leave it. Still, it is harder now to mow the lawn and my fingers are no longer as dexterous in fixing the little things that go awry in any house. Most important, it's high time for Rose to lead an easier life. We still live in the City of Newton now, but in Lasell Village, a retirement community of about 200 people, connected with Lasell College.

Paul Kitsche wrote, “ Harvard Magazine's recent obituary of our classmate **Pete Steffens** evoked in me a couple of memories which even those who didn't know him may find interesting.

“I knew Pete best when we roomed next door to each other in Leverett after the war--I with the swimming team, he with Don Watt, Jr., who later took his father's job as head of the Experiment in International Living, and Doug Allanbrook, a musician who led the music program of St. Johns College in Annapolis for many years.

“I found Pete one day busy at his fireplace, burning page by page the draft of his senior thesis in medieval European history. ‘No one is ever going to give a rap about this obscure topic,’ said Pete. As I understood it, he graduated with honors in General Studies anyway, a fact not noted in the obituary. Pete's daring left his neighbors breathless, but was consistent with the contempt for formal education which his father Lincoln Steffens describes so thoroughly in chapters 15 to 23 of his Autobiography. (Pete also had a sense of humor, which Lincoln didn't.)

“The other memory is of sheer grit. Pete dove for the varsity swimming team. In one key respect he lacked the build for it: his hips were almost as wide as his shoulders. Front and back

flips (low in scoring) were o.k.,but twists (the highest score producers) were almost impossible. So Pete soldiered on, taking his lumps in scoring but enjoying the sport as much as if he had been designed in heaven.

“Like many of our late classmates, Pete Steffens was a delight and an inspiration, who lives while we survivors live.”

Among the items which have accumulated since the winter issue we find a Christmas letter dated 2013-2014 from Gordon Tait. It is a pleasure to hear from him again after a long interval. The message speaks for itself.

“As I age, time and activity slow down considerably. The best I can do now is to put the 2013 Christmas in the past and wish you a Happy New Year. Yes, I am that far behind.”

After an interval his message continues:

“I stumble along with the help of a cane and exercises at the local branch of the Cleveland Clinic to keep my heart healthy and my lower back free from some of the constant pain I experience. I check the daily paper for obits and the health advice column written by a Boston MD, sometimes the comics. More serious reading includes the likes of Jean Smith’s book on Eisenhower.

“So, a New Year full of peace and love, and I mean every word of that greeting!.” **Gordon**

IN MEMORIAM

Our classmates, our room mates, our friends, we grieve when they depart.

Samuel R.Campbell, Jr.	12/08/2008	South Hampton, NY
Raymond H. Chase	12/08/2013	Venice, FL
John C. Kent	02/18/2013	Lexington, MA
Phillip Luks	01/03/2014	Concord, CA
John C. Regan	01/23/2014	
Pete S.Steffens	08/23/2012	Nanaimo, BC
Archibald Stuart	04/05/2014	West Hartford, CT

A Letter to the Editors of *the Boston Globe* from **Joan Soble**, a daughter of **Ben Soble** was called to our attention. Joan has been a prize winning teacher in Cambridge for over 30 years. Her letter was in answer to a newspaper story about the lack of diversity, i.e. non- white teachers, in Massachusetts schools.

She states that to get ‘top notch’ teachers requires a system to help new teachers, fresh from college, get the experience and training a great teacher needs. A teacher in Massachusetts requires a masters degree to attain a professional license and receive a livable salary. The low salaries new teachers earn, and the high cost of graduate school training which will give them a masters degree are working against the growth of a cadre of “top notch” non-white teachers.

This may be a problem in every state in the union, but Massachusetts has a thing about having the best education facilities in the country, and had best look to the advice of a teacher who knows where the problems are.

HIER

The French for yesterday is “yair”
At least that’s how they say hier there,
Although they spell it more like “hair.”
Now there’s a fascinating pair,
The two words: yesterday and hair.
Are you aware that if you stare
Where yesterday your hair was fair
You might discover no hair there,
Or if not bare, hair might be rare.
Perhaps one hair; at most a pair?
It makes you swear that life’s unfair.
In fact you want to tear your hair.
If there were only hair to tear.
But wait, you say you do not care?
You think that bare is debonair
And having hair to wear is square?
If so, please practice laissez faire
On us who feel so au contraire.
So do I care to bear more hair?
You bet your cher sweet drearier.

Carl Lindblad, Jr
From “For the Fun of It”
Neponset River Press
Westwood, Massachusetts