



# Class of 1967

## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

### June 1 - 4, 2017

July 10, 2017

THANKS FOR COMING

Dear Classmates,

As I write this, our 50<sup>th</sup> Yale Class of 1967 Reunion is a few weeks in the past, but the memories formed during those four days have not yet dissolved into haze. How quickly it has come and gone. And yet what a wonderful meeting of classmates, friends, spouses and guests.

Thank you all for coming. And thanks to those who helped with the Reunion. It was memorable. Altogether slightly more than half the classmates with whom we are in touch by mail or email joined us – 407 or so with 317 guests, for a total of about 724.

HISTORY AND ENTERTAINMENT: Kabaservice, Chauncey and Mauceri

“Where e'er upon life's sea we sail...” was very evident from the diverse comments by our six classmates who spoke of their own experiences. We also remembered Kingman Brewster with a retrospective by author and historian Geoffrey Kabaservice '88, who was joined by Brewster long-time special assistant Sam Chauncey '57. A highlight was Geoff's telling of the story of A. Whitney Griswold and his wife Mary heading for a New York concert, when President Griswold said to his wife, “I wish the piano was with us in the car.” He explained he left the tickets on the piano. But Sam Chauncey piped up and corrected the story, saying that he was in the backseat of the car when the conversation occurred, and that they were heading for a Yale-Princeton football game. You could almost feel the Brewster times, as, for example, when his son was arrested for possession of marijuana, and Brewster concluded that he would have to resign as president. Sam Chauncey spoke of this as Brewster's almost Victorian decorum. By the way, the identity of the student in the posture picture remains with the ages.

Illness nearly derailed John Mauceri's appearance, when we got the news on Thursday that he was experiencing a kidney stone attack. We believed there was a 95% chance he would not be able to join us. The only thing more miraculous than his lecture (“From Gershwin to Hamilton”) with audio clips was his amazing recovery from the kidney stone. Explaining the situation at the outset of his talk, he told of taking the recovered small stone to his doctor and asking, “Is this the little thing that tried to kill me?” His lecture was in itself an art-form and held us spellbound. It was recorded and will be on our website, with other reunion matters, in due course.

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## THE WHIFFENPOOFS

A special thanks to our Whiffenpoofs, and their pitch pipe Norm Hile. They appeared three times, first at the opening cocktail party at Benjamin Franklin College to help get us started, then at the standing-room only concert at Sprague Hall Friday night after our class dinner, and finally with a nostalgic sing-along Saturday night, concluding with "Bright College Years." All our class Whiffenpoof wannabees gathered around Norm Hile and the Whiffs that final evening as he led us through a number of songs. Thanks, Whiffs. Our class presented them all with the AYA award for distinguished service for adding so much enjoyment to so many reunions; our Whiffenpoofs are: Norm Hile, pitch pipe, Peter Beeson, Richard Berlin (who could not be present), Walter R. Buhl, Jr., Robert Burke, Erik Gann, Thomas Jones, James Manor, Geoff Neigher, Timothy Rice, William Tift, Charles von Stade and Mike Kail. Since Mike Kail already received an AYA award in 1992, the class presented him with a framed copy of the 1936 Whiffenpoof Song sheet music, arranged by Rudy Vallee.

### OPENING DAY: Class Speakers and Benjamin Franklin College

Our Reunion began with Gary Abrecht (former US Capitol police chief), Doug Schofield (traveler and now professor at a business school in Bhutan), and John Wilhelm (labor organizer and successful negotiator on the other side of the table from Yale) telling us of their experiences. Thanks for these vignettes and getting us started Thursday afternoon. John brought the presidents of some union locals whom he introduced.

Then we moved on to the first event ever held at the new, magnificent Benjamin Franklin College. Thanks to Ed Bass for helping to arrange for us to be able to use this venue. Patrick Pinnell '71, who designed more than 250 stone carvings, took many on a tour explaining their significance, many times with references to antiquity, as well as the stone carvings of the Yale men who became President. We had as guests at that party, President Salovey and his wife Marta Moret, Ed Bass, football coach Tony Reno (victorious over Harvard), basketball coach James Jones (to the NCAA for the first time in 54 years), and new Head of College Prof. Charles Bailyn and Dean Jessie Hill. I wonder how one might apply for one of those jobs. Frankly, at that point I could tell everyone was having such a good time, that we were going to have a lot of fun during the coming days.

### THE 50<sup>th</sup> REUNION CLASS DINNER

A word about the bagpiper at our pre-dinner cocktail party Friday evening. Our Association of Yale Alumni contact "and our chief operating officer" Jennifer Julier, to whom much credit goes for the success of the Reunion, told me that a bagpiper is a great way to move people. Elihu Yale was Welsh, not Scottish, but our bagpiper successfully moved more than 600 people from the Cross Campus cocktail party to Commons, as effectively as the pied piper of Hamelin. It was just amazing to see everyone follow him to our class dinner.

Peter Salovey, 23<sup>rd</sup> President of Yale, and his wife Marta Moret joined us for dinner, and he updated us on Yale. Handsome Dan XVIII (Walter) also joined us for a visit.

After our presenting the AYA award to the Whiffs during the Class Dinner, pitch pipe Norm Hile and class secretary Joe Briley joined me for the Class Dinner singing of "Bright College Years." We then presented the AYA award for distinguished service to the class to Randy Alfred, Victor Ashe, Frank Clifford, Rick Luis, Bill Mace, Don Metzger, and treasurer Peter Petkas. The Whiffs moved to Sprague Hall to prepare for their standing room only concert, where we soon joined them.

## GROVE STREET CEMETERY TOUR AND BREWSTER

I always find the Grove Street Cemetery a wonderful place to delve into Yale history, because a number of people for whom Yale Colleges are named (or a close relative) are there – Silliman, Trumbull, Dwight, Stiles, and Morse. We began Saturday morning with a trumpeter playing Leonard Bacon’s hymn (he of the class of 1820) which is sung at every Yale graduation and later Timothy Dwight’s hymn – all participated. We remembered Noah Webster, whose dictionary was a Yale project (later edited by President Noah Porter). As two of his grandsons died from wounds received at the same battle during the Civil War, fighting for opposing sides, it seemed appropriate to recite the Blue and the Gray, by Francis Miles Finch, class of 1849. It is a poem of reconciliation. Unlike Harvard, our war memorial at Woolsey Hall includes both those who died for the North and the South (“Love and tears for the Blue; tears and love for the Gray”). Marty Snapp suggested placing a wreath at Brewster’s grave, and Sam Chauncey described how he laid out the grave site, selected the plantings and the inscription. We encountered history first hand Saturday morning.

## MORE CLASSMATE EXPERIENCES

Saturday afternoon, Victor Ashe (former Ambassador to Poland), Henry Jones (former federal magistrate judge from the south), and Jorge Dominguez (Harvard professor and Cuba specialist) talked about their work and insights. Victor spoke about how he got his appointment, Henry about growing up in the old South, and Jorge about matters related to the Cuban Missile Crisis that we had not heard before.

## THANKS TO MANY

I want to thank a lot of people for their ideas, help and many different kinds of contributions. At our Class Dinner I asked those who had served in the Armed Forces of the United States to stand, in honor of Karl Marlantes, and in memory of our two classmates who perished as a result of the Vietnam War and whose names are on the Woolsey Hall memorial, namely Biff McKellip and Lloyd Wells. It is amazing how many of our classmates were in the service.

Our reunion committee was very effective:

- Barry Bardo as attendance chair, putting together a group of classmates first to encourage other classmates to write an essay for the class book and then to attend the reunion itself;
- Bill Mace, for attending with me various reunion planning sessions in New Haven, including the 1966 class reunion to scope things out, for helping with many decisions, and for first contacting John Wilhelm about speaking;
- Don Metzger, for designing our memorabilia, including Elihu Yale button, shirt, umbrella, tote bag and an amazing 18-month calendar with lots of Yale data;
- Dave Richards, for undertaking the Book Display of class authors in the nave of the Sterling Memorial Library, editing the brochure of book articles, and organizing the creative object display at Davenport;
- George Lazarus, for many speaker ideas, including the recommendation that I read Kabaservice’s book, *The Guardians*;
- Rick Luis, for many ideas and consultations on speakers, his labor on the class book (of which he was an editor) and other matters; and
- Andy Skodol, especially for his guidance on speakers.

Our class officers led the class over the last five years: Class Secretary Joe Briley, who kept us organized with phone conferences, perhaps three every two months, and then in the final months, weekly

conferences, and furthermore, acts as our master of the web; Peter Petkas, who sends out our dues notices and reports, and keeps our finances in shape; Marty Snapp, our esteemed and longtime corresponding secretary, who writes our class notes in the *Alumni Magazine*; and Rick Luis, who serves as our representative to the Association of Yale Alumni and writes an extensive report every November. It is hard to describe how much work there is behind the scenes.

There were many other special contributions, to name a few:

- Jennifer Julier from the AYA, the AYA staff and the reunion clerks;
- John Mitchell, planning and conducting the Friday memorial service at Battell Chapel, with Ron Meister and Bob Riedel, working with him; the hymns and music were magnificent; many remained to hear the final piece: Widor's Toccata from *Symphony for Organ No. 5* (it received a standing ovation); and of course the meaningful reading of names of those classmates who have died since the last reunion;
- Bob Allison and Paul Lamar, playing the piano in the Davenport Common Room, with Paul's alerting me to the movie, *To Be a Man*;
- John Jackson's arranging the display at the Art Museum cocktail party Saturday night of his paper currency from the 1840's to 1930's - another kind of art;
- Josh Morton's *Mayday* 1970 documentary;
- Randy Alfred's help with a number of matters;
- Philip Rosenthal's digital exhibition in Davenport of his photographs from prior reunions and from the class book;
- Greg Jorjorian for arranging a morning thanks to Barry Bardo for his leadership in canvassing;
- Barry Bardo, Bill Mace, George Lazarus, and Dave Richards, with me, introducing our speakers; and
- My wife Susan Gottshall.

#### THE CLASS BOOK AND CLASS GIFT

The Class Book editors under the leadership of Mike Kail, namely Frank Clifford, Rick Luis, Bob Miller and Tom Whalen, turned out a magnificent product which received countless plaudits; thanks for the many months of editing, arranging and organizing, and for asking for special essays from a few class members. One can spend hours reading it, and gaining so much more information about our classmates. Many at the reunion expressed amazement at the organization and scope of this book. And thanks again to those who were class canvassers (see their names on the Class Dinner program) for helping secure individual essays as well as attendance.

One can only be astounded at the size of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion class gift from our class to Yale. Standing with Yale President Salovey were gift co-chairs Bob Anestis, Dick Pechter, Mike Slater and honorary co-chairs Ed Bass and John Jackson to announce the result. The gift was in the amount of \$152.3 million, about 20 million above the closest such 50<sup>th</sup> gift. The Gift Committee Members are also listed on the Dinner program. In addition, the Yale Alumni Gift Fund co-chairs were Barry Bardo, Chris Chapin, Dave Herzer, and Dick Lawler. The Alumni Fund agents are also on the Dinner program. Thanks to all of you from the class of 1967.

#### HOW WE DID HISTORICALLY AND SEE YOU IN 2022

When Dink Stover arrived at Yale, circa 1911, he described his experience as he walked through Phelps Gate: "And this is it - this is Yale," he said reverently, with a little tightening of the breath." I do not know whether that was our experience then - perhaps it was with a little apprehension. But that is now long gone.

We began Yale in 1963 with perhaps 1030 or so (there are about 1025 pictures in the *Old Campus*). Around 130 are no longer with us; about 900 survive, of whom 100 wish not to be disturbed. So our target was to see how many could join us of the remaining 800. As noted, about half of those attended our Reunion, some for the first time at a class reunion. I compared this with the Class of 1797, of whom there were 37 graduates, with 24 surviving at the time of their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1847, and with 12 actually attending – in other words, 50% of their living alumni. At that reunion they knelt in prayer, exchanged signatures, and the Class Secretary wrote that not an eye was dry.

Lyman Beecher was one of those 12, the abolitionist father of Harriet Beecher Stowe. I advised Pres. Salovey that he could rest easy at the mention of alumnus Lyman Beecher. There is no credible evidence that he condoned, participated in or otherwise profited from the Slave Trade. (But he was a mortal and had his likes and dislikes – he could not abide drunkards or Unitarians). And Beecher's mentor President Timothy Dwight had a jaundiced view of student behavior. His advice: "The path to the gallows is gradual and so it is with the ill conduct of students at this college." Perhaps nothing changes.

What a talented and interesting class. Even a candidate for his party's nomination for the presidency – George Pataki. Remember the Whiffenpoof song was at the top of the hit parade in 1937, so our own Whiffs should take heart.

"Where e'er upon life's sea we sail: For God, for Country, and for Yale!"

Thanks, all. See you at the 55<sup>th</sup> in 2022. Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Gottshall". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Tom Gottshall, Reunion Chair