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YALE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST

MINNESOTA, WESTERN WISCONSIN, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

yaanw.org

yaanw@yaanw.org

December 2016

a member-supported organization

Thoughts from the President

At the recent alumni association conference in New Haven, President Salovey spoke emotionally about the potential impact of the new Trump administration on Yale. Whatever your views about the election, these are President Salovey's concerns:

1. Yale is a pre-eminent research institution. She receives substantial funding from the National Institutes of Health. Yale and its faculty may well be seriously threatened with the loss of research money by the new administration.
2. Yale is a non-profit entity, and therefore exists tax free on both the state and federal level. In a rare show of bipartisan agreement, both parties—at both the state and federal level—are talking seriously about taxing the Yale endowment. This will have a major impact on the operations of Yale as an institution
3. Many of Yale's students come from foreign countries. A change in federal immigration policy could have an impact on the nature and composition of Yale's student body.

If you have concerns about these issues, please reach out to your representatives in Washington.

Ron Goldser '75

Keep up with news at Yale: <http://news.yale.edu>

Get on the YAANW Facebook page! 

Make your contribution to YAANW today! 

Join the YAANW LinkedIn Group! 

Upcoming Events

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Dec 4: **SPCS Concert**

Dec 6: **French Table**

Dec 6: **Paint Nite (TCAN)**

Dec 9: **Protector of Osmir**

Dec 11: **Knitting**

Dec 14: **Holiday Happy Hour (TCAN)**

Dec 24: **PSP**

2017

Jan 8: **PinKU Japanese**

Feb 11: **Habitat for Humanity**

Feb ??: **Feb Club**

May 20: **La Boheme, MN Opera**

May 23: **Dean Gregory Sterling, YDS**

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Meet Handsome Dan XVIII



Alumni Schools Committee

We NEED alumni from any Yale school interested in interviewing prospective Yale College students from all parts of Minnesota, western Wisconsin and along the Dakota and Iowa borders.

Interviewing has proven to be an excellent way to connect with the next generation of Yale students. We hope you can join us and the many other alumni interviewers. Resource and training materials are available.

Time commitment – on average, four applicants per year. For more information, please email Malcolm McDonald (St. Paul) malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net, Tony Leung (Mpls.) TNLeung@mnd.uscourts.gov, or Jon Tilburt (Rochester) Tilburt.Jon@mayo.edu

BULLDOGS ON THE LAKES

Summer Internship Program

Many of you are aware of our summer internship program, Bulldogs on the Lakes (BOTL). <http://bulldogsonthelakes.org> We host approximately 15 students each summer, providing them world class internship experiences, and housing them together for an enjoyable bonding experience. Occasionally, we will feature some of their comments from the program. Most students come from outside Minnesota, and all are paired with alums as mentors. BOTL is one of the best Bulldogs internship program in the country! We would love to have more mentors for the summer of 2017! Kudos to Bill Messinger, '67, Bob Sidenberg, '69 and Malcolm McDonald, '58, for all they do to make this program possible. Here are some thoughts:

While I was at MicroGrants, I worked in some of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods in the Twin Cities. Through my work, I was able to help them, even in small ways. I came to understand a wide variety of people and got to know the struggles of their lives. These relationships were incredibly enriching, and I hope to continue this work in the future. – Monica Hanratty '18, MicroGrants intern, 2016

For me, the experience made me less nervous about what I've chosen to do with my life. Teaching is the way I've found to do the greatest amount of good in a way that's meaningful to me. I got to watch my students grow, and I grew attached to them in only 4 short weeks. – Sasha Rae-Grant '18, Hmong College Preparatory Academy intern, 2016

The most rewarding aspect of this program was living together with other Yalies in one apartment building. It was not only convenient to meet up and plan potluck dinners, but also comforting to always have company close by. Another enjoyable aspect of the program was biking as the primary mode of transportation to work and other places around the city. – Nayeon Kim '17, Advocates for Human Rights intern, 2016

Report from The Association of Yale Alumni Annual Assembly

By Rick Luis, '67

The Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) Assembly of November 2016 was widely anticipated to be a celebration of Yale's pre-eminence in the arts, featuring a look at how each of the major arts disciplines developed into their own graduate departments, where they stand today, and how they view their futures. And all that was accomplished skillfully, through excellent presentations.

In line with prior Assemblies, the Thursday plenary program featured the Deans of each School (Art, Architecture, Drama and Music), who presented overviews of their departments. There followed short presentations by "Future Leaders in the Fine Arts", eight students and faculty members (two from each discipline), who shared their ideas and experiences through illustrated presentations on current projects and courses about which they are passionate.

Thursday afternoon presented the delegates with a wide variety of "Fireside Chat" Breakout Sessions, two from each School, facilitated by faculty members and teaching assistants, followed by "Behind the Scenes" Interactive Sessions at each School.

The Friday Programs on Class, Club, and Special Interest Group leadership and activities, including an AYA Overview presentation from new Executive Director Weili Cheng '77 were all presented well by AYA Staff. A few of the more interesting details about the planned program outlined to this point will follow.

The Assemblies typically provide detailed looks at the subject area chosen for the theme the first day, and updates the second day on AYA Staff views of managing delegates' constituencies. While Yale followed the Assembly's script as planned, the days were overshadowed by reaction on the campus to the stunning victory of Donald Trump in Tuesday's election.

The real story of the Assembly days at Yale was how the Yale community processed Trump's win. In general, students tried to understand what had happened and how to move forward. There were several demonstrations (all peaceful and respectful), many in support of groups who had been criticized during the campaign. The Yale Daily News headline on Wednesday read, "Trump Wins Presidency." Another article had as its header, "Victory leaves students reeling." Various signage and chalk art sprang up around the campus, especially in the plaza between Sterling Library and the Cross Campus. The most prevalent chalk quote was "Love Trumps Hate."

One issue was whether the University would authorize Deans' excuses from completing assignments or tests. Yale rejected that approach, but some faculty members will give excuses anyway, on a case-by-case basis. President Salovey remarked that he did not feel that it was appropriate to give students a pass on exams because of election upset, a view he reported was shared by the Dean of Yale College. He suggested the news media had overplayed this as the exam pass was an issue in only four classes out of many.

Yale's Administration provided many opportunities to help students work through the election result, including a journalism symposium presented by media panelists representing right, left, and centrist viewpoints, and a panel of history professors who presented reasons behind why Trump won and suggestions for help in moving forward. There also was a recital by Shades, Yale's African-American a capella group, devoted to love and solidarity.

President Salovey was presidential indeed at his Friday presentation of University priorities, when he inspired the delegates with a reminder that we all need to elevate the political discussion as we figure out how to move forward and channel any anger productively. He reminded all that Yale's policy on free speech, as stated in the Woodward Report of 1974, still applies. That is, all at Yale need to tolerate even offensive speech to encourage a diversity of opinion. Most were moved by his eloquence and defense of these

traditional standards of discourse. In response to a pre-written question, Salovey insisted that the departure of the former master of Silliman and his professor wife (remember the Halloween incident) was not in any way forced and indeed that Yale desired that they stay.

Friday was Veterans' Day. A small testament to the continued existence of free speech were displays of flags between Berkeley College and William L. Harkness Hall, on the way to Commons, one of which had a sign for the "Yale GOP" and across the walk the other bed of flags having a sign for the "Yale Democrats."

The President mentioned the strength of the Schools of Art, Architecture, Drama, and Music, as well as the humanities. He and Yale also take great pride on the tremendous efforts to bolster Yale's efforts in the sciences. He noted that Yale must be at the top in some of these areas to remain a great teaching institution. He also mentioned that the Gibbs Laboratory on Science Hill was coming down and that something like one billion dollars was going to be spent in that area. So there is much development on the science side.

Although distancing himself from college rankings, Salovey noted that Yale was always in the top 3 but that its ranked order was hurt because some of its arts faculty do not have advanced degrees, suggesting these calculations should not be taken too literally.

Graduate Architecture Student Tess McNamara spoke enthusiastically of her experience in a "Rome Seminar" when she sketched architecture for 30 days. The program is funded by Ed Bass to foster an appreciation of Western Civilization. The offering resembles a revival of the Grand Tour, for students only.

Weili Cheng's Friday presentation included a report on the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for Yale alumni communities. 7100 alumni attended last year's reunions. 166 Yale Clubs exist throughout the world. Strategies were presented and "equity" was advanced in addition to "equality." Diversity of race, gender, and age were mentioned.

Another somber, but welcome sign of Yale's overall attempt to heal came at halftime of the Football Game against Princeton. Assuming Mrs. Clinton would win, the Yale Precision Marching Band had rehearsed a spoof about Hillary, which was scrapped for a patriotic Veteran's Day observance conveying a message of coming together. [You can watch it here](#). In contrast, the Princeton band went ahead with the usual Ivy League insults against the opposition. Although the home team won the "Battle of the Bands", Yale's young and injury-depleted football team, too small and too slow, was crushed in the main event by the Tigers 31-3.

A few highlights of the Assembly program:

- The Arts Deans all reported that while fewer than five percent of applicants are admitted, their yields (percentage accepting admissions offers) are over 90 percent;
- Farah Al-Qasimi '12, '17MFA showed arresting photos from her native United Arab Emirates portraying women struggling to find or express freedom where they can within a male-dominated culture;
- Professor of Acting Beth McGuire and Drama Grad student Lauren Banks MFA '17 led a fun, interactive "Fireside Chat" breakout on Actors' Accents as a Vehicle for Empathy that had the audience trying their best to convey varieties of English conveyed in British and African dialects;
- The guided hard-hat tour of the construction/expansion project that is transforming old Hendrie Hall (where the band rooms and WYBC Radio were in the 60s) into the ultra-modern Adams Center for Musical Arts;
- A rehearsal for the Yale Repertory theater production of Seven Guitars, which won a Pulitzer for August Wilson, directed by Timothy Douglas '86 MFA;
- During the Assembly, a ceremony was conducted renaming the Dining Hall at Calhoun College after Roosevelt Thompson '84, a Yale football star and our first African-American Rhodes Scholar. The renaming helps heal any rift lingering after Yale's decision to retain the College's name.



PinKU Japanese Street Food

Jan 8

4:00 – 6:00 pm

20 University Ave NE, Mpls

Xiaoteng Huang (Cornell '11) and John Sugimura opened PinKU Japanese Street Food in Northeast Minneapolis this summer to rave reviews. Join us (and other TCAN schools) for a sampler of their most popular dishes. X and John will talk about their concept, food, decor, and the process of opening a new restaurant in the Twin Cities.

When: January 8, 4-6 pm

Location: [PinKU](#), 20 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Cost: \$25 (includes Jumbo crispy shrimp on rice, Potstickers, and Spicy Tuna on Crispy Rice; additional items and drinks available for purchase off the regular menu)

RSVP: <http://tcan-pinku.brownpapertickets.com/> (tickets are limited—RSVP soon!)

Questions: denise.levitan@aya.yale.edu

Habitat for Humanity

Feb 11

8:30-4:30

North Minneapolis

Come build houses! We are looking for 10-13 volunteers on Saturday, February 11 from 8:30 to 4:30. We will be doing rehab construction - working on interior finishing and trim work in North Minneapolis. We can be warm while we watch progress being made! Check out all the work Habitat is doing in the Jordan Neighborhood of North Minneapolis [here!](#)

Sign up with and/or ask questions to Vicky Stoneman, Vicky.Stoneman@s-sm.org.

Feb Club Emeritus

Date, Time and Place TBD

What is **Feb Club Emeritus**? Nothing complicated. An international series of multi-generational parties every night from February 1-28, in cities, towns, and incorporated entities around the world where Yale alums, significant others, friends, relatives, and random party-crashers answer the question "what college were you in?" in a relaxed, informal setting just to have fun with a group of people who share something in common. The inaugural Feb Club Emeritus, in 2008, was a worldwide affair where thousands of alums from the classes of 1945 through 2007 got together in cities from Seattle to Shanghai, from Paris to Philadelphia. Nothing formal, no fundraising, no speeches, just casual, laid-back parties hosted by random alums of all ages, shapes and sizes. Twin Cities alumni and friends are getting in on the fun again this year!

OUTSTATERS!!! Set up your own Feb Club! Calling on Rochester, Duluth, Fargo, Grand Forks, Madison, Sioux Falls, Eau Claire!!!

Questions to Denise Levitan denise.levitan@gmail.com or Max Musicant, max.musicant@gmail.com

MN Opera: La Boheme

May 20, 2017

7:30 pm

Ordway Theater

Come hear the Minnesota Opera in one of opera's premier events—La Boheme. We will have a dinner and a presentation to before the performance. Watch this space for more details.

Dean Gregory Sterling, Yale Divinity School

May 23, 2017

TBD

Dean **Gregory Sterling** of the Yale Divinity School will be coming May 23, 2017 to speak to our Yale alumni and the larger community. Dean Sterling will come for an evening event that will be hosted by YAANW. Details are still being developed. Dean Sterling is highly regarded and is very involved in interfaith discussions domestically and around the world as well as issues as broad as faith and sustainability. We are very pleased we have received such a commitment so far in advance from the dean of one of Yale's oldest and most established professional schools. See <https://yalealumnimagazine.com/articles/3431/new-div-school-dean-is-a-preacher-scholar>.



French Table

Dec 6

6:00 pm

Cave Vin

Join us for our now annual Fete de Noel. This year we will be partying at Cave Vin, 5555 Xerxes Ave., Minneapolis. Please bring a holiday gift costing around \$10 with a French theme. We will draw lots and exchange presents. And, of course, there will be much merriment.

Once a month, fellow Francophiles meet for a fun evening of talk. All levels of French are encouraged and welcome. RSVP to Ron Goldser at rgoldser@gmail.com.

Yale Alumni Knitting Group

Dec 11

2-4 pm

Northfield Yarn

Contact: Cynthia Gilbertson at cfgilbertson@mac.com or 507-645-4327

The group typically meets at the creative fiber-crafts store of Yale alumna Cynthia Gilbertson, called [Northfield Yarn](#), in Northfield, MN. Join other alumni and friends, experienced or otherwise, who share an interest in fiber-crafts. Interested persons are welcome at any time.

People Serving People

December 24

11:30 am

[People Serving People](#) (PSP) is a homeless shelter in downtown Minneapolis, serving children and their families. The next day of service at PSP is **December 24 at 11:30 am**. YAANW has a small group volunteering to serve meals at PSP (11:30 to 1:00). If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ron Goldser at rgoldser@gmail.com.

This is, of course, Christmas Eve. It would be an excellent time to provide service to those who may be wanting on this special day.

YALE ALUMS IN THE ARTS

DECEMBER 4, 3:00 PM

[Saint Paul Civic Symphony](#), with Music Director Jeffrey Stirling (Yale '81), presents a FREE CONCERT featuring soloists from the Minnesota Opera's Resident Artist Program singing extended excerpts from Puccini's, "La Bohème." The orchestra also performs music from Poulenc's ballet "Les Biches" (The Does).

Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Woodbury. (spcsmusic.org)

DECEMBER 9, 8:00 pm

THE PROTECTOR OF OSMIR

Impossible Salt (Ron Goldser is on the Advisory Board) returns to the stage this December with a brand new work! *The Protector of Osmir*, created in collaboration with the Minneapolis Music Company, explores the nexus of power, ego, and fear.

Showtime: December 9, 8:00 pm, 2016 @ Nautilus Music-Theater, 308 Prince Street #190, St. Paul. Dinner before the show next door at Tanpopo, at 6:00 pm. Director Emilia Allen will speak at a dinner gathering. For details and to RSVP, contact Ron at rgoldser@gmail.com.

The town of Osmir is thriving. Business is booming and the locals are contented. So why would the town's Protector abruptly relinquish her power? And why are the citizens of Osmir so reluctant to take her place? With one brave young woman at his side, the skeptical new Protector must grapple with the town's startling secret: a wolf terrorizes the town. As the Protector and his deputy unravel the mystery of the monthly attacks, they discover that the problem might be closer to home than they believed possible.

FOODIES!!!!

TBD

Our next FOODIES!!!! event will be a holiday fest in early December. Stay tuned for an email with details on our next event.

See also the upcoming TCAN event at [PinKU Japanese](#).

Please join us for the Yale Foodies group. We are meeting monthly to explore the Twin Cities' wide variety of interesting restaurants featuring food from around the world. We will focus on restaurants at which people will pay no more than \$20-\$30 per person--and sometimes less! --and rotate around different parts of the Twin Cities.

Young Alumni

YAANW has a special focus on the needs and interests of young alumni in our territory. Whether this is simply social, networking, or about meeting other Yalies when you are new in town, we hope to reach out and connect with younger Yale grads (college or any professional school) and them with each other. Join the Twin Cities Alumni Network Young Alumni Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TCANYA>. If you are interested in participating in another gathering or event, or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Max Musicant, max.musicant@gmail.com or Denise Levitan, denise.levitan@aya.yale.edu.

Yale Book Award

Each year, we ask high schools throughout our territory to nominate an outstanding rising senior for the **Yale Book Award**. The criteria allow high school teachers and counselors to identify the student whose academic prowess, community involvement, school service and personality single out those students for recognition. This year, we gave awards to 76 high schools, with a number of volunteers attending the individual ceremonies to present the award in person.

As always, we can use additional volunteers to present these awards. This is a good opportunity for outstate alumni to be of service to Yale and YAANW. Questions: Denise Levitan denise.levitan@aya.yale.edu.

Twin Cities Alumni Network (TCAN)

Join alumni from other local alumni clubs at various events hosted by their clubs. (Amherst, Brown, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, MIT, Northwestern, NYU, Penn, Princeton, Smith, Stanford, Virginia, Wharton, Williams, Yale, Interclub and IvyLife.)

Check the TCAN website for upcoming events: <http://www.twincitiesalumninetwork.org>

Join the TCAN LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4075580>

Like the TCAN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TwinCitiesAlumniNetwork>

PAINT NITE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. (paint time is from 6 to 8 p.m.)

Location: Barre Minneapolis, 528 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Sponsored by: Georgetown and Penn Clubs

Cost: \$40 includes the canvas, paint, use of all supplies, and instruction by the artist. You can also borrow an apron to keep your clothes clean or bring your own. Food and drinks can be purchased from the restaurant.

RSVP: Samantha Cook, samantha.cook@gmail.com or 612-747-2592

After you RSVP, please either:

a) Submit \$40 via Paypal to drutman89@gsb.columbia.edu or

b) Send check to Dan Rutman, Penn Club MN, 6728 Rosemary Lane, Edina MN 55439 (please make check payable to Dan Rutman and write "Paint Nite" in memo)

Details: The Georgetown and Penn clubs invite all TCAN clubs to a private Paint Nite event on Tuesday, December 6th, at 5:30 p.m. at Barre Minneapolis in downtown Minneapolis.

Paint Nite inspires people to connect creatively. We'll gather at the Barre Minneapolis (a block from Target Center) at 5:30 p.m. You'll hang out, meet people, order a drink and/or food if you want, but you'll do something else, too. You'll get a blank canvas, bright paint, and a guiding artist who will instruct you how to paint the painting below "Starry Nights" from 6 to 8 p.m. The painting is yours to take home to hang, gift or continue to work on. We have a total of 40 seats available on a first come, first served basis, so please reserve your spot soon. The ticket price is \$40 and food/beverages can be purchased from the restaurant. This way, you can choose to eat or drink whatever you'd like. No painting skills are necessary, so don't be shy and please come join us.

HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Time: 5:00 to 7:30

Location: The Bulldog Northeast, 401 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis

Sponsored by: University of Chicago Booth Club

Cost: \$10 by Dec. 7; \$15 after Dec. 7

RSVP: Purchase tickets at

http://www.cvent.com/d/7vqcl0/4W?_ga=1.173463843.1896248361.1479104932

Contact us: Tom Brinkmann, Booth Club President: tbrinkm1@chicagobooth.edu

Details: Celebrate the holiday season by meeting fellow Twin Cities alumni and enjoying delicious food. Join us for networking in the private back room at the Bulldog Northeast. The ticket includes a variety of appetizers; a cash bar will be available. Space is limited; reserve your ticket by December 7 for an early registration discount.