



SINCE 1883

# YALE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST

MINNESOTA, WESTERN WISCONSIN, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

<http://yaanw.org>  
[yaanw@yaanw.org](mailto:yaanw@yaanw.org)

**YAANW is a member-supported organization**

November 2015

President: Ron Goldser, '75  
Secretary: Rudy Hokanson, '74 M.Div., '81 MBA  
Treasurer: Nick Johnson, '74

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## 'tis the Season

As yearend approaches, many of you will consider your charitable contributions for the year. I ask—and encourage—you to think of all the programs YAANW underwrites, and to help us pay for these programs.

In particular, many of you are aware that we lost our good friend Bill Opsahl this year. The Board has created a special fund in his memory, to use on projects that would be near and dear to his heart. You can earmark your contributions to this fund if you desire. Please use the link above to contribute or mail your check to our Treasurer, Nick Johnson, 1818 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis MN 55405.

Thanks for your consideration.

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## Thoughts from the President

From those to whom much is given, much is expected.

Read the news. Ask yourself: what are you doing to improve our social construct?

I had the privilege of attending the one man show put on by Yale Drama School graduate Roger Smith at the Penumbra Theatre. It was a very moving expose of Rodney King, in the context of many of the greater social issues of today: race,

violence, police brutality, education. It served as yet another reminder of our great responsibility to make our society a safer, more inclusive, more welcoming, more productive place.

We have an amazing collection of individuals, talents and resources in this loose affiliation we have resulting from our connection to Yale. We have 156 current students, 739 undergraduate alumni and 1,024 graduate school alums. Our strength is our diversity. Let's use it to its highest and best possibilities.

Ron Goldser, '75  
President, YAANW

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## **WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Webster is thriving! The morning literacy hour is an outstanding opportunity to connect with children, one on one and in small groups. Wednesday afternoon enrichment is another hour long opportunity to use your talents to nurture our next generation. And the lunch program will begin soon.

We need your help!!

Volunteers must sign up through the Minneapolis School District.  
[http://volmps.mpls.k12.mn.us/vol\\_info](http://volmps.mpls.k12.mn.us/vol_info)

For more information, and to volunteer, contact Ron Goldser at [rgoldser@gmail.com](mailto:rgoldser@gmail.com).

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## **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. Interviews can now be conducted over the internet. We hope you can join us and the many other alumni interviewers. Resource and training materials are available.

Here's what one interviewer (Dorothy Whalen) has to say about the process:

### **Why I Volunteer to Interview Prospective Students**

"Both my husband and I are Yale graduates. I interviewed prospective students for several years before our son applied to Yale. However, he (our son) never received an interview. We were furious. I was so angry

that I stopped volunteering altogether. After a couple of years, though, it occurred to me that the real problem was that ASC simply does not have enough volunteers. I decided that I either could be part of the problem or part of the solution. I chose the latter and I am happy I did. But we need more volunteers. Every prospective student deserves an interview. It does not take a lot of time but it is vitally important. Please consider volunteering this season.”

Time commitment – on average, four applicants per year. For more information, please email Malcolm McDonald at [malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net](mailto:malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net) or call 651.387.7050.

### **Upcoming Special Programs**

**November 11 noon** Minneapolis Club. Annual meeting and financial panel. Panelists will include Steve Wellington, '71, John Taft, '77, MPPM '81 and Jim Steiner, '82. Tickets are \$40. Please make reservations with Dr. Larry Schuster at [SchusterClinic@aol.com](mailto:SchusterClinic@aol.com) or 952.920.8386.

**November 20 and 21** Yale women's hockey  
Yale's women play Gophers at Ridder Arena November 20 at 6:00 and November 21 at 7:00.

We have a block of tickets to create a small, but loud, cheering section for the Yale women on FRIDAY NIGHT, November 20. Tickets are \$12. To purchase tickets, go to <http://alumninet.yale.edu/clubs/mn01/hockey15.html>. There will be a gathering with the team after the game at the RADISSON ROSEVILLE HOTEL.

For more information, contact Rick Luis at [luis@luislegal.com](mailto:luis@luislegal.com) or Denise Levitan at [denise.levitan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.levitan@gmail.com).

### **November 21 Yale vs. that other school football game**

Note that the time has been moved back to 1:30 to allow for national TV coverage. Harvard Yale game set up for Joe Sencer's with a 1:30 Central Standard Time kickoff and the chance for lunch ahead of kickoff. Doors open by noon.

**December 3** Dr. Peter Schulam, who was recently appointed Interim Director, Smilow Cancer Center at Yale New Haven Hospital <https://medicine.yale.edu/cancer/about/director.aspx> will be visiting our club. We will have a reception at 5:00 (light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar) and presentation at 6:00 pm at Windows on Minnesota, IDS Center, Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <http://alumninet.yale.edu/clubs/mn01/schulam.html>. For more information, contact Malcolm McDonald at [malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net](mailto:malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net) or 651.387.7050

**New Year's Eve:** look for details on New Year's Eve with the Minnesota Orchestra!!

**This spring:** look for an event with the Minnesota Opera Company!!

## **Yale Alumni Knitting Group**

When: **Date to be announced**

Where: Northfield Yarn, 314 Division St., Northfield, MN 55057

Preferred but Optional RSVP to: Cynthia Gilbertson at [cfgilbertson@mac.com](mailto:cfgilbertson@mac.com) or 507.645.4327

The group 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.

## **Yale Divinity School (YDS) Alums**

**Sunday, November 8** 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Discussion: “Divine Radiance: Keeping Faith with Beauty” (The 2015 Spring Edition of Reflections); leader will be Ken Freed, Yale '83 M.M '87 Ken plays viola with the Minnesota Orchestra and may bring his instruments. Where: Lunds, West Lake Street (612-825-2440), Community Room RSVP to [rhokanson@gmail.com](mailto:rhokanson@gmail.com) If you don't have your hard copy of the magazine, please go to <http://reflections.yale.edu>

(Lunds makes the use of the room free but does request that any food or beverage consumed be purchased at the store and we wish to honor that.)

Our next group after the November 8 discussion will be at the **end of February or in March**. Howard Bell will lead a discussion on The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt More details and materials will be e-mailed this winter.

The focus of the group is networking and sharing. The group is open to spouses and friends and other Yale alums that have interest in YDS and the subjects we focus on. Any questions can be directed to Rudy Hokanson.

## **Young Alumni Happy Hour**

Smack Shack MPLS (mezzanine level)

603 Washington Ave.

**November 10 6:30 pm**

Please RSVP by Monday, Nov 2 by emailing Suzannah Skolnik-Smith at [sfs26@cornell.edu](mailto:sfs26@cornell.edu) or via the facebook event page.

Questions to Denise Levitan, [denise.levitan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.levitan@gmail.com)

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.

KEEP UP WITH THE YOUNG ALUMS ON FACEBOOK!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TCANYA>

If you are interested in participating in another gathering or event, or have any questions, please contact Max Musicant, [max.musicant@gmail.com](mailto:max.musicant@gmail.com) or Denise Levitan [denise.levitan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.levitan@gmail.com)

### **People Serving People**

The next day of service at People Serving People (PSP) is **November 28 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](mailto:rgoldser@gmail.com).

PSP is a homeless shelter in downtown Minneapolis, serving children and their families.

### **French Table**

**When: November 3 at 5:30 pm**

**Where:** Vincent, a Restaurant, Minneapolis

This is likely our last French table at Vincent, since he is moving on to other endeavors! We will find another place starting in January. Your input is invited. All levels of French are encouraged and welcome. RSVP to Ron Goldser at [rgoldser@gmail.com](mailto:rgoldser@gmail.com).

French table Christmas party will be on **December 1 at 6:30** at Meritage in St. Paul.

### **FOODIES!!!!**

**When: November 11, Wednesday, at 6:30 pm**

**Where:** Tinto Cocina and Cantina, 901 W. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408

**RSVP:** Nov. 4 (we'll do our best to expand to accept those who don't RSVP in time, but it may be harder on a Friday night) to Hari Osofsky: [hosofsky@umn.edu](mailto:hosofsky@umn.edu)

Please join us for the second event of a 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. Our first event was such a fun cross-section of our Yale community, with 35 people from many different classes in attendance. Our second event will be at a fantastic new Latin restaurant, Tinto, <http://tintompls.com/>, which in addition to amazing food has terrific cocktails, wine, and beer (so no need to bring this time). Like last time, Hari will work with the owner to put together an interesting meal that will feature a wide range of dishes and can accommodate dietary restrictions--please let Hari know if you are vegetarian or have any other restrictions so that the menu can be planned accordingly.

### **Calling All Lawyers**

On October 20, a group of 9 members convened at Little Szechuan after the Scalia lecture for lively discussion over plates of Chinese food and beer.

We hold meetings quarterly. Our next meeting will be sometime early next year. Please send suggestions for topics and venues to Dorothy Whelan at [whelan@fr.com](mailto:whelan@fr.com)

### **Forestry School Alums and Environmental Scientists!**

If you are an FES grad, have an environmental degree, or are otherwise interested or engaged in work connected with those fields, keep your eyes on this page for the next gathering of the FES Midwest Alums Group! If you have an entrepreneurial idea in the energy or environmental arena, this is the place to come. Questions or comments to Victoria Thompson [victoria.thompson@outlook.com](mailto:victoria.thompson@outlook.com)

### **Yale Alums in the Arts**

The Minnesota Orchestra is playing the *Home Alone* sound track with the movie Sunday afternoon Nov 29. The image of actor Macaulay Culkin's "oh no!" face is the stuff of movie legends, and what's equally memorable about the holiday classic *Home Alone* is its magical score by music marvel John Williams! The score earned Williams one of his incredible 49 Oscar® nominations, and what better way to enjoy the 25th anniversary of this family favorite than with the Minnesota Orchestra performing the music live to the film.

For more information, see [http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/buy/tickets/browse-calendar/eventdetail/543/-/home-alone-in-concert-with-the-minnesota-orchestra#.Vi\\_JDWvrx1E](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/buy/tickets/browse-calendar/eventdetail/543/-/home-alone-in-concert-with-the-minnesota-orchestra#.Vi_JDWvrx1E) or contact Ken Freed at [kenfreed007@gmail.com](mailto:kenfreed007@gmail.com)

### **Yale Alums in the News**

Pakou Hang, is the founder and executive director of the Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA). HAFA was featured recently in the Pioneer Press. Please see the articles below to understand the essence of the work.

[http://www.twincities.com/business/ci\\_28913659/hmong-farmers-work-get-local-produce-stores-schools?source=email](http://www.twincities.com/business/ci_28913659/hmong-farmers-work-get-local-produce-stores-schools?source=email);

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/10/10/hmong-farmers-produce-markets>

<http://www.hmongfarmers.com/>

### **Yale Career Network**

Yale has started a new career network!! You can find information here: [https://yalecareer-csm.symplicity.com/attachments/191/Yale\\_Career\\_Network\\_FAQ\\_-\\_Alumni.pdf](https://yalecareer-csm.symplicity.com/attachments/191/Yale_Career_Network_FAQ_-_Alumni.pdf) If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Yale at [career.network@yale.edu](mailto:career.network@yale.edu) or by calling 203-432-0805 and asking for Stephanie Glover.

## **YAANW LinkedIn Group**

YAANW now has a LinkedIn Group! Join the group! Have a job you are trying to fill? Looking for a job? Communicate with fellow alums and use LinkedIn for all it is worth.

## **Courses & Lectures Direct from the Yale Campus**

Did you know that you can access a plethora of outstanding lectures and symposia by Yale faculty? Just visit [Yale's YouTube](#) channel and you will see a listing of offerings. While most are from the archives, occasionally there are live productions from the campus in New Haven. Subscribe to stay informed!

## **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, such as the one noted below:

<http://www.twincitiesalumninetwork.org/groups.php?m=3&y=2014>

**Event:** Former Medtronic CIO James Dallas: "Mastering the Challenges of Leading Change"

**Date:** **Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**Time:** 4:30pm - 7:00pm

**Location:** Schulze Hall - University of St. Thomas, 46 11th Street South, Minneapolis

**Sponsored by:** LifeSciences Alley and Harvard Club of MN

**Cost:** \$49 (special discount)

**Contact us:** [admin@harvardmn.org](mailto:admin@harvardmn.org)

**Details:**

James Dallas, retired CIO of Medtronic, Inc. has written his first book on change leadership. TCAN alumni are invited to attend at the LSA member price of \$49, which includes the reception and the book. To obtain the discount, use this promotional code when signing up: HARVARDCLUB

See event details and sign up here:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-for-james-dallas-mastering-the-challenges-of-leading-change-registration-18938684114>

**Event:** Mozart's "The Magic Flute"

**Date:** **Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

**Time:** 6 PM

**Location:** Ordway Music Theater, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul

**Sponsored by:** Harvard Club of Minnesota

**Cost:** \$50 - \$60 (MN Opera limited-time offer)

**Contact us:** [james\\_p\\_richardson@msn.com](mailto:james_p_richardson@msn.com)

**Details:**

Mozart's timeless comedy sprouts wings and flies in this boundary-busting production by Komische Oper Berlin and the British theater group 1927. Fantastical animation, synchronized with live performance, sets a surreal stage upon which a quirky cast of characters explore love, truth and the pursuit of enlightenment. Minnesota Opera remounts the show that thrilled audiences of all ages and still has the critics talking.

The Minnesota Opera is offering generous discounts for this event: \$60 in Section B (normally \$125) and \$50 in Section D (normally \$75). To obtain this discount and to sit in the block of seats reserved for us, please call the Minnesota Opera box office at 612-333-6669 and identify yourself as a participant in the Harvard/TCAN Magic Flute event. This offer is available only through November 9, so be sure to call soon!

The event includes pre-opera festivities:

6:00-7:15 Gather in a reserved section of the Marzitelli Foyer (second floor). A few words from Nina Archabal, Harvard grad and General Director of the Minnesota Opera.  
Cash bar.

6:30-7:00 Continue socializing or wander over to Opera Insights, hosted by audience favorite Minnesota Opera Head of Music Rob Ainsley. Enjoy a free, fun and informative half-hour session which includes an overview of the characters and music, historical and cultural context for the opera and highlights to watch for during the show.

7:30-10:30 (approx.) The Magic Flute

Presented in co-production with LA Opera.

Sung in German with English translations projected above the stage.