



SINCE 1883

YALE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST

MINNESOTA, WESTERN WISCONSIN, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

<http://yaanw.org>



YAANW is a member-supported organization

March 2014

President: Bob Weisenfeld, '71
VP, Young Alumni: Emilie Hitch, '01 (on leave)
Secretary: Ron Goldser, '75
Treasurer: Nick Johnson, '74

Thoughts from the President

Dear Yale Alumni, Parents and Friends,

I write now about two seminal events in the life of YAANW, one celebrating our past and present, the other our future. Though they are both noted at the outset of this e-newsletter, each deserves special attention.

As I have noted in previous newsletters, YAANW has just celebrated its 130th birthday, making us one of the oldest Yale Clubs in the country, and, if I may say so, one of the most well-regarded of Clubs, thanks to your good works and those of the many who came before us. As noted in the announcement below, we have chosen to celebrate our history with a special event that:

- Speaks to YAANW's history in the region;
- Connects us in a different way to Yale with a presentation by one of Yale's more distinguished professors and scholars, Dr. Charles Hill; and
- Complements our impact on the region with the more international perspective that Professor Hill will provide.

We look forward to having you join us on May 15.

I have also spoken in these pages about our engagement in a strategic planning process to help chart the future direction of YAANW. We have noted as well that we have taken advantage of a comprehensive survey to help us in our task. Thanks to your responses and the information provided, we are now positioned to move to the next step of our process. Before we do, though, we thought you'd be interested in the feedback you provided about how we are, and are not, serving you, and how we can

address and adapt accordingly. You will find below, then, a summary of your responses.

We welcome your thoughts and questions about both the 130th anniversary celebration (please contact Bill Opsahl at billyo18@att.net for more information) and/or the strategic planning survey (please follow up with me at bweisenfeld@gmail.com).

In the meantime, let me once again thank you for your commitment, time and interest in YAANW.

Sincerely,

Bob Weisenfeld, '71
President, YAANW

130th Anniversary Celebration!

Come join us to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of YOUR Yale Club on **May 15**, tentatively at Windows on Minnesota, 50th Floor of the IDS Center in Minneapolis. Our club founding coincides with the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge. We will have several presentations, including Professor Charles Hill, Yale Distinguished Fellow in International Security Studies. Professor Hill is a diplomat in residence and lecturer in International Studies at Yale University. He is a career minister in the U.S. Foreign Service, serving in a variety of roles such as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Middle East at the State Department, Chief of Staff of the same, and executive aid to former U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz. For more information, see his CV at <http://jackson.yale.edu/hill-0>. If you would like to learn more about the event or help with planning, please contact Bill Opsahl billyo18@att.net

YAANW Survey Results

In an effort to better understand the YAANW community and to be best positioned to move forward with a strategic planning process, we conducted a survey from July through October, 2013. More than 1800 surveys were distributed, with roughly 1200 online and just over 600 via hard copy to those for whom we lacked email addresses. Total responses were 214 for an overall response rate of 12%, a very high rate of return for requests for information such as this, reflecting the level of interest in YAANW. Survey responses were anonymous.

The following is a summary of survey findings:

Survey respondents: The vast majority of those responding to the survey are Yale alumni (92%). Most are Yale College graduates (59%), followed by the Divinity School (11%) and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (9%). A vast majority reside in

the Twin Cities metro area (82%). About 1/3 of respondents are aged 45-64, 1/3 65+, and just 1/5 less than 34. A majority are employed full time (55%); 1/4 are retired and active.

Alumni involvement:

- Attending a YAANW event is the most popular means of involvement (60%);
- Yale Alumni Schools Committee interviewing is second most popular (38%).
- 55% of respondents have not attended any YAANW events in the past year; 18% have attended 3 or more events.
- 46% report not knowing many alumni in the area;
- 57% would like to be more involved in alumni activities; and
- 70% would like to meet more alumni.

Challenges to event attendance:

- Many feel events are not relevant to them (47%);
- Many simply don't have time to attend alumni events (43%);
- 2/3 tend to feel events are not scheduled conveniently for them.
- 24% feel events are too formal;
- 29% feel events are too expensive; and
- About 1/3 are neutral on both formality and expense.

Events of interest:

- The largest percentage of respondents would be attracted to Yale Faculty Speakers, Local Yale Alumni Speakers, and Informal Social Gatherings.
- Proximity, speaker caliber, topic range and convenience are most motivating for attending YAANW events

Communication references: Regarding preferred mode of communication, email is most strongly preferred; about 1/3 does not use Facebook or the YAANW website; few report interest in Twitter. The vast majority feel communication frequency is just right. 50% are "moderately" to "completely likely" to access online presentations, if available, with the majority preferring access for viewing at a later time.

Next Steps: The YAANW Board is currently using this input to guide our strategic planning process. Our goals are:

- to build on our strengths;
- to grow and adapt as challenges and opportunities suggest; and
- to otherwise determine how to best serve our YAANW community.

Yale Book Award

Do you have a favorite high school in the YAANW territory? Each year, YAANW honors a top student at many high schools with the YAANW book award. If you are interested

in sponsoring a book at a high school of your choice, or want to present the award this spring, contact Ron Goldser at rgoldser@hotmail.com.

In addition to volunteering to present an award, we welcome your contribution of \$50 to support this important program. Send it to: YAANW c/o Nick Johnson, Treasurer, 1818 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Bulldogs on the Lakes

Employers Needed for Yale Summer Internship Program

Bulldogs on the Lakes is a summer internship program for Yale undergraduate students, founded by Bill Messinger and Malcolm McDonald from the Twin Cities. It provides challenging paid internships, introductions to the community and its leaders, alumni mentorships, and events of interest. It is a meaningful summer for the Yale student and a great networking source for the employer. Internship dates are May 27 – August 1, 2014. We are also always looking for Yale alumni to serve as mentors for our interns.

Current employers include:

United Strategies

Headwaters Foundation

Grassroots Solutions

Microgrants

National Youth Recovery Foundation

Community Reinvestment Fund

Hmong College Prep Academy

Council on Crime and Justice

Advocates for Human Rights

KFAI Radio Station

Juxtaposition Arts

For more information on how to post a job or mentoring, please contact Jennifer Knutson at 651.209.760 or jen@BillMessinger.com.

Yale Day of Service –SAVE THE DATE MAY 10TH

The Yale Day of Service will take place May 10th, and we hope you can participate whether or not you have been involved in the past. Bring yourself, family and/or friends and join Yale Alumni around the world in providing service to others in our local communities. Projects involve a commitment of 2-3 hours, and there will be a potluck lunch following at the home of one of the YAANW board members for all to join in who can. Currently, we have five volunteer sites in the larger Twin City metro area. More info on the sites to come. If you would be interested in setting up a site outside the metro area, please contact Vicky (see below for contact info).

Sites will be available later this month for sign up at www.yaledayofservice.org We will be assisting at the sites available last year as well as adding one or two new ones. See below for one we would like to add. Maybe you can help us get it off the ground:

While we will be returning to many or all of the sites we previously assisted, this year Yale is asking us to place an emphasis on including sites that provide service to veterans. We think this is a great idea and would like to add such a site to our MN (and surrounding area) Day of Service. To do so, we need an interested person to help organize the site/activity and be on site for the DOS (May 10). The site could be an organization assisting veterans (VA or PTSD clinic) or organizing assistance with resume writing, job counseling etc... There are a myriad of possibilities and can be tailored to your interests. If you would be willing to take on this role (which should really not take too much of your time), please let me know. Many thanks. Vicky Stoneman 507.339.2897 or vstoneman@s-sm.org

Yale Alumni Knitting Group

When: **Sunday, March 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**
Saturday, April 12, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

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

Preferred but Optional RSVP to: Cynthia Gilbertson at 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 Alumni Book Club

What: The Swerve...How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt

When: **Sunday March 16, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

Where: Arne Sovik, 1201 Yale Place, #707 Mpls, 612.338.2981

People Serving People

The next day of service at People Serving People (PSP) is **March 22 at 11:30 am**. YAANW has a small group volunteering to serve meals at PSP -- <http://www.peopleservingpeople.org/> -- once a month, on the 4th Saturday at lunchtime (11:30 to 1:00). If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ron Goldser at rgoldser@hotmail.com.

In addition, PSP offers tutoring opportunities with children. We have not yet started this aspect of our developing relationship with PSP, but would like to. Let us know if you are interested (contact Ron Goldser at rgoldser@hotmail.com).

Forestry School & Environmental Studies/School of Management Happy Hour

There will be a Yale FES/SOM sponsored Business + Environment happy hour **March 25th from 5-7 pm** at Gluek's downtown Minneapolis. You all are of course invited. Evite at: <http://www.evite.com/event/01CEKPRJZ5GATIYKEPDTY6WJAUN2Q>

French Table

When: April 1 at 5:30

Where: Vincent, a restaurant, 1100 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis

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@hotmail.com.

Alumni Schools Committee

We are interested in 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 at malcolmmcdonald@comcast.net or call 651.387.7050.

Yale Asian Alumni Reunion

When: April 11-13, 2014

Where: New Haven, CT

Celebrating 160 Years of Asian Alumni at Yale

Register [here](#) now and stay tuned for all the latest updates:

Contact Cynthia Yuan Lee at 612.730.0711 or cynthiaylee@gmail.com

An update on a very successful Feb Club.

Feb Club Emeritus is an international series of multi-generational parties where attendees answer the question "what college were you in?" not "what business are you in?". Feb Club gets together in a relaxed, informal setting just..... to have fun with a group of people who share something in common. This year, Feb Club was held on February 28 at Gluek's in downtown Minneapolis.

A great time was had by all. About 20 people attended, from a variety of classes. Some were returnees, and some were new folks. Lots of smiling faces.



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/groups.php?m=3&y=2014>

Event: The Economist Correspondent Jon Fasman - Why it is So Expensive to be Poor

Date: **Thursday, March 13, 2014**

Time: 6:00 p.m. Networking, 7:00 Speaker Presentation

Location: Dorsey & Whitney LLC, 50 S. Sixth Street, 15th Floor, Minneapolis 55402

Sponsored by: Harvard Club of MN

Cost: \$15

RSVP: www.harvardmn.org, or Deb at 612.871.2914

Contact us: Lauren Boulware, lboulware@aol.com