



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

bluELines



November 2014

Volume 10 Number 3

Welcome Back Party



Nearly seventy members and guests attended the annual Welcome Back Party held at the Sarasota Yacht Club on a delightful Sunday evening.



[A Note from the President](#)

Dear Fellow ELI's of the Yale Club of the Suncoast,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back for the 2014-2015 season of the Yale Club of the Suncoast. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, our colleagues have organized great programs this season. Note that all Club luncheon meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except that the February Yale-Harvard-Princeton Luncheon will be held Friday, February 6, 2015 at Michaels-on-East in Sarasota. **All of the meetings, except the February luncheon, will be held at the Sarasota Yacht Club on John Ringling Boulevard just east of Plymouth Harbor.** The price of the luncheon this season is \$25, payable at the door.

Membership Renewal Form. If you haven't yet done so, please complete the Annual YCS Membership Form that was sent to you in September and enclose your check for \$40 plus your donation for the Alumni Schools Committee (ASC)/Book Award Program. The ASC activities, including the Book Award Program, are our Club's most visible support of Yale College and have been very successful to inspire bright local students and their parents to give serious consideration to Yale. We also plan to join in the Yale Day of Service, other local events such as touring the Ringling Museum special exhibit, and an evening dinner or reception in April 2015 so that working members and younger recent grads may participate more easily. Please return the YCS Membership Form as soon as possible in order to assist us to begin

production of the 2014-2015 Membership Directory. We strongly recommend your choosing the e-mail only option in Club communications, as this drastically reduces our communications costs. And remember, it is only by e-mail delivery that you can enjoy the full dimension in color and clarity of this *BluELines* newsletter, so ably edited and produced by Elaine Gustafson, '86 MSN.

Your participation and your ideas are what make our club a meaningful experience for all. Please share with me, or any of our Board or Officers any ideas you may have to enhance our Club and programs. I can be reached at 941.735.6538 or at markomag.mm@gmail.com. I very much look forward to welcoming you back whenever you next join us for a Club function.

Kind regards, Mark J. Magenheim, '71MPH, YCS President

[New Member Report](#)

The Yale Club of the Suncoast has 14 new members since its membership directory was updated in December 2013.

The new members are: Viktor Boed, Robert Brink '55, Philip Gaynes '67 OPH, Lisa Hamilton '95 DIV, Frederick Hard '55, Clarence Jones, Richard Koerner '50, Mary Kasher '86 PhD, Yves Prechac '72, Jeffrey Sells '76 MD, Gregory Shaffer '71 MAR, Fritz Thiel '63, Rod Watson '68, Philip Werdell '63. Eight of these fourteen new members responded to the

Yale Club's September 2014 mailing sent out with a letter by Mark Magenheim.

The 2013 membership directory has 144 members, so with the addition of 14, the Yale Club now has 158 members. However, some renewals have not come in as yet. It is estimated that the Club will have approximately the same number of members this year as previous.

A number of new members have already attended Yale Club events so we have had the pleasure of meeting them. We would like to extend to each of our new members a very warm welcome.

Beverley Wadsworth, Membership Chair

[Yale-Harvard Game](#)

By the time you read this, the Yale Bulldog football team may own a share of the 2014 Ivy League title. However, the chips may fall, the Yale Club of the Suncoast and the Harvard Club of Sarasota continue the tradition of gathering to watch The Game, this year on Saturday, November 22, at Bodega Charley's on Hillview Street in Sarasota. While the name of our venue has changed, the site has not, as Bodega Charley's has taken over the space occupied by Ocean Blues, our host for the past several seasons. We trust the name change will bring us new, and improved, results.

2014-2015 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 11, 2014: Monthly luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Meet Professor Robert Barylski, former Dean of New College and expert on Russia/Eastern Europe, speaking on “Ukraine, the EU, and the Soviet Shadow”.

Saturday, November 22, 2014: THE GAME (Yale-Harvard) Viewing Party with the Sarasota Harvard Club at Bodega Charley’s Cantina at 1936 Hillview Avenue, Sarasota, viewing party starts at noon; live NBC Sports-TV.

Tuesday, December 9, 2014: Monthly luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Meet Professor Steven Tauber, Chair of the USF Dept. of Government and International Affairs, speaking on post-2014 Obama Presidency. First “Yale Sale” Day.

Monday, December 15, 2014: Tour of the Ringling Art Museum special exhibit “Behind Closed Doors: Art in the Spanish American Home 1492-1898”, with lunch to follow in Treviso Restaurant on the Grounds.

Tuesday, January 13, 2015: Luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Meet Professor Murray Biggs, Yale Drama School and English Dept., specializing in Theatre Performance, Film studies, and Shakespeare. Second “Yale Sale” Day.

Friday, February 6, 2015: Annual Harvard-Yale-Princeton Luncheon at Michael's on East. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at noon. This year's host is Princeton University. Details TBA

Tuesday, March 10, 2015: Monthly luncheon at Sarasota Yacht Club. Meet Maestro Anu Tali from Estonia, the new conductor of the Sarasota Orchestra. Third "Yale Sale" for April 25th Yale Day of Service

Tuesday, April 14, 2015: Luncheon **or dinner** and annual YCS meeting: Sarasota Yacht Club. Meet Dr. Howard Dean, former Governor of Vermont, Chair of the Democratic National Committee and is currently a visiting scholar at Yale.

Saturday, April 25, 2015: Yale Day of Service in Sarasota honoring local Veterans.

Sunday, April 26, 2015: Special Event: LeBarge Sunset Cruise from Marina Jacks, Sarasota. Details TBA

Tuesday, May 12, 2015: Monthly luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Speaker TBA.

"YALE SALE" DAYs for BOOLA BOOTS

As part of our YCS commitment to the Yale Day-of-Service in honor of local veterans, your YCS Board has endorsed a new program to raise fun and funds for our contribution in 2015. Specifically, we are

committed to raise funds for boots for homeless veterans in our community. Vouchers for “BOOLA BOOTS” will be presented by the YCS at the Veterans Stand-Down to be held April 25, 2015 in downtown Sarasota. One of the ways in which the YCS plans to support this program is through **YALE SALE Days** at YCS meetings.

With works of art and crafts from YCS members and friends, we will offer these items for sale at our monthly luncheon meetings beginning December 9, 2014. YCS artisans involved to date include Betty Griggs, (watercolors), Karen Kopp, (quiltings), Adriana Herrera (wife of Mark Magenheimer, YCS President), (hand-crafted silver jewelry) and at least two other local artisans, (jewelry and pottery and sculptures). Proceeds from the Yale Sales will be devoted entirely to the purchase of “**Boola Boots**” for local homeless veterans.

YALE SALE Days will be held December 9, January 13, March 10 and April 14 before and after monthly luncheons at the Sarasota Yacht Club. In addition to purchasing these unique *objets d'art*, YCS members are invited to make check or cash contributions. As a benchmark, the YCS Directors propose a \$25 donation per member to meet our YCS goal.

So bring your wallets and checkbooks to upcoming YCS luncheons, and take home beautiful artisan creations by and for YCS members. With our thanks to participating YCS artisans for your generous contributions in support of **BOOLA BOOTS** for Veterans!

Invitation to New Exhibit at Ringling Museum of Art

December 15, 2014

Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast and their guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the exhibit entitled “Behind Closed Doors: Art in the Spanish American Home, 1492-1898” at the Ringling Museum of Art on the morning of Monday, December 15, 2014. Lunch in the museum’s Treviso Restaurant will follow the tour. Those attending will see the first major exhibition in the United States to explore the private lives and household interiors of the Spanish New World elite from the time of the conquest in the late fifteenth century through the end of the colonial period in the nineteenth century. The focus is on the home as the major repository of fine and decorative art. The exhibit consists of approximately 160 painting, sculptures, prints, textiles, and decorative art objects. Most of these works are from the renowned collections of the Brooklyn Museum, but paintings from the Yale Art Gallery are also included. A member of the Ringling staff will provide us with an introduction to the exhibit, and we will then be free to view the individual works on our own.

Lunch will be served at 11:30. The menu includes an entrée; coffee, tea, or a soft drink; and rustic apple tart for dessert. Please indicate a choice from among the following three entrees for each member of your party:

Gulf of Mexico Grouper Sandwich, Fresh local grouper, lightly grilled, served on a brioche bun with cucumber dill tartar sauce

Grilled Sirloin Pizzaiola, served on warm, cheesy polenta, topped with bell peppers, tomato, and roasted garlic

Treviso's House Made Pasta, pasta and preparation change daily

Plan to arrive at the Ringling Visitors' Pavilion by 9:45 on the morning of Monday, December 15. The cost of the event is \$27 per person. To reserve mail checks payable to the Yale Club of the Suncoast by December 9 to:

Frank Samponaro, 9409 Forest Hills Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238

Please indicate a choice of entrée for each member of your party

If you have questions, call Frank Samponaro at 941-966-9115

YCS Promotes Yale at Sarasota County's Annual College Night



Brian Kelly, Ken Schneier and Oliver Janney manned the Yale table at Sarasota County's annual College Night at Robarts Arena on October 1st. Over a hundred colleges and universities participate in the event, which gives our club's Alumni Schools Committee an opportunity to explain the benefits of a Yale education to students and their parents. This year an especially large number of motivated students and their families kept our team fielding questions throughout the event.

This event is one of several in which the Schools Committee in our area.

November 11, 2014 Speaker: Robert Barylski PhD



UNDERSTANDING THE UKRAINE, THE CRIMEA AND PUTIN'S DILEMMA

The speaker for the November meeting was Dr. Robert Barylski, retired professor of political science from the University of South Florida. A widely acknowledged expert on Russia, Eastern Europe and southwest Asia, Dr. Barylski has appeared on NPR and participated in a number of seminars at Southern Command in Tampa as well as having a reputation

for outstanding teaching at USF. He has personal awareness of the Ukraine and the Crimea from family ties to the region.

Dr. Barylski began his talk by linking American naval patriot John Paul Jones to the Crimea. Jones served as an admiral in the navy of Catherine the Great and was responsible for the victories that drove the Turks and the Ottoman Empire out of Crimea in the 18th century. Subsequently, the Ukraine and Crimea were considered a part of Russia although Russians thought of it as “little Russia.” Needless to say it has always been important to Russia and has now become the focus of modern Russian foreign policy.

Russia today is less and less a democracy as the Putin regime has taken on the trappings of the age of the Czars in practice and pageantry. Increasingly, authoritarian rule has replaced early hopes for a true democratic nation as Putin advances his theory that nations need strong authoritarian leadership. This approach has been applied in Russia and helps define the approach to seizing the Crimea in the summer of 2014 and the subsequent support for separatists in eastern Ukraine seeking to align more closely with Russia and break the link to the Ukraine government. The Russian support of the separatists has fueled desertion from the Ukrainian army and tightened Russian influence in eastern Ukraine.

But all of this has left Putin with problems. “Russifying” the Crimea is a legal nightmare for the Putin government. There is no land access directly to the Crimea from Russia and the surge of Russian influence into eastern Ukraine stopped short of creating a land route south

through Donetsk to Crimea. The reason for Putin agreeing to a cease fire and halting operations for making a route to Crimea is one of the great current mysteries, possibly something that will be solved in the spring of 2015 with a renewed military effort more forcefully supported by Russia.

The current stage of events in Ukraine help illustrate the problems when an oligarch like Putin or a Hitler takes actions totally dependent on personal power and without considering the consequences of countervailing power that can be exerted by other nations. The sanctions that have been imposed on Russia because of its adventurism in Ukraine are having an increasing impact on its main source of revenue from oil and gas and capacity to have access to western bank capital for economic growth.

Dr. Barylski concluded his presentation by noting the need for more pressure to be brought by European allies. He indicating that the US approach has had an impact on Russian adventurism.

Submitted by Peter French

2013-2014 Speaker Reports

Our 2013-2014 Season was capped off with two extraordinary women as speakers, the first at our April 2014 gathering was Dr. Linda Schwartz , Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for Connecticut and Assistant Secretary Designate for Policy and Planning for the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and at our May meeting we were treated to a presentation by the new Sarasota Chief of Police, Bernadette DiPino.

Dr. Linda Schwartz

Linda Schwartz is described as a soldier's soldier. She was recruited as a nurse in the Vietnam era and she had to wait for an opening as women had a 2% quota in the armed forces (a number that is now 24%). Dr. Schwartz's Vietnam experience has defined her career for more than four decades.

Today the scope of need and the challenges of providing services to military veterans is great. Connecticut has become a model for meeting those needs but there is still more that must be done as the state operates under the principle of "no wrong door"! This means support must be found in multiple ways to meet a litany of challenges to ensure that vets get what is needed, the biggest problem "getting them through the door" and having less clogging of emergency rooms. It is not easy as

a majority of vets do not use veteran's services for health care and wind up in the private sector that may be ill equipped to diagnose their needs.

To quickly review the national scope of Veteran's Affairs challenges, Dr. Schwartz profiled all major combat since World War II, noting number served, number still surviving and, beginning with the Vietnam War, the number of women who served. In Vietnam, there were 265,000 women among 9 million combatants. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, there were 160,500 women among 1.1 million combatants.

Attention was then turned to the serious issue of PTSD, which has been a reality at least since World War II and how PTSD poses issues today, especially for women. Women were originally not able to be classified with PTSD despite combat experience. Only troops with a critical "combat infantry badge" (CIB) were eligible for diagnosis despite both men and women experiencing similar conditions. A most poignant part in the presentation was the results of a survey of Army nurses:

- How often were you close to small arms fire? 93% of the time
- How often were you attacked or ambushed? 89%
- How often were you surrounded by hostile civilians? 87%
- How often were you subjected to incoming rockets? 86%

When one respondent was asked how long this was endured, the response was "every day for 365 days!" As Dr. Schwartz says, war is not for the faint of heart.

With specific reference to women soldiers, they were victimized twice by first experiencing such horror and then being denied treatment

because they did not have the “CIB”. Now the rules have changed. The plight of women warriors is being acknowledged with all the work that must be done for all veterans. The keys to success that Dr. Schwartz brings to her new post as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning will be to make those services life altering. There is importance in camaraderie with fellowship, and overcoming a sense of isolation from the community or that no one cares. These vets must overcome communication difficulties with everyone but fellow military. Major logistical problems that include the complexities of (1) navigating the system, (2) knowing what is available, (3) getting access to services, (4) reduction in time for appointments and (5) shortening of distances vets have to travel for services. Finally, there is a great need to overcome the fear of being stigmatized by the result of traumatic brain injury. She noted that to make this all work there is an urgent need for volunteers.

With the carefully drawn and sobering picture provided by Dr. Schwartz, the Club was made aware of how even a small contribution for the April 26th “Stand Down” is important.

Submitted by Peter French

Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz

Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning



Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz was confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning by the Senate on September 16, 2014. In this role she oversees the Office of Policy and Planning's mission to serve as VA's principal advisor on all matters of policy and organizational strategy; providing VA decision makers with the advice, counsel, and support necessary to fulfill the VA mission.

Prior to her confirmation, she served as State Veterans Affairs Commissioner of Connecticut since 2003 and was known for her strong advocacy for Homeless Veterans, Veteran Suicide Prevention, and Women Veteran issues.

Dr. Schwartz served during the Vietnam War, was a member of the United States Air Force (1967-1986) and served on Active Duty and as a Reservist. She retired in 1986 after sustaining injuries in an aircraft accident while serving as a USAF Flight Nurse. After her military service she earned a Masters in Nursing from Yale and went on to achieve a Doctorate in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine through the

VA Vocational Education Program.

Dr. Schwartz led several major research initiatives and served seven years on the VA Scientific Advisory Committee Vietnam Veterans Longitudinal Study. From 1989 to 1998 Dr. Schwartz served in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on several subjects including Veterans Mental Health and Women Veterans issues. She has been elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. She was also elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 2001.

Dr. Schwartz was instrumental in the construction and 2008 opening of the John L. Levitow Health Center in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, which provides care to Veterans with chronic diseases. Her many honors include the National Commendation medal of Vietnam Veterans of America for Justice, Integrity, and Meaningful Achievement; the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains; and induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Bernadette DiPino, Sarasota Chief of Police

Bernadette DiPino became the new Chief of Police for the City of Sarasota on January first of this year. Chief DiPino applied for this position after deciding to take a "Deferred Retirement Option" from the Ocean City, MD police chief's position which she had assumed in 2003. She is a fourth generation law enforcement officer who began her career with the Baltimore County Police Department in 1985. She

moved to the OCPD in 1988 and advanced through the ranks reaching the rank of sergeant in 1995, lieutenant in 1998, then major and finally chief. Ocean City is Maryland's second largest city where the average summer population swells to 260,000 and perhaps 350,000 or more on the weekends.

Sarasota's Chief of Police Bernadette DiPino believes in community policing and wants people to call her directly. Her father and grandfather were in police work in Ocean City, MD and she followed in their footsteps. She offered some tips for avoiding crime. Reduce burglaries by locking your car and your house doors. Be aware of your surroundings. Dirty areas with broken windows attract crime. Chief DiPino intends to provide the best service possible with prompt response. The police will be courteous and build trust with community relations that solves problems. Putting the homeless in jail is not an answer. We need to provide transitional housing and jobs. Chief DiPino does not favor combining the city police with the county Sheriff's Department. She sees no savings but a loss of service and slower response. She has cut her budget and sees possible pension changes. Information about crime is gathered on the internet and the use of DNA information is good. Chief DiPino suggested attending the Citizen Police Academy where more can be learned about police work.