

# Yale Club of the Suncoast

## ELines Newsletter

VOL. 20 ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2023



## Welcome Back!!

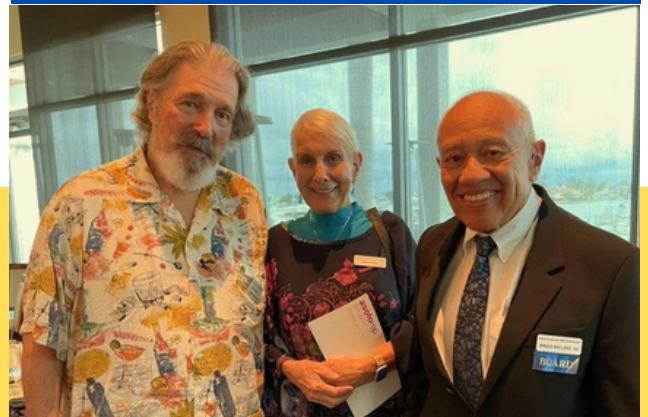
The Welcome Back party was a great success with record attendance including several new members. Moving the party from October to November, when more people are here, paid off! New president Bruce Ballard welcomed all and previewed our season-opening lunch featuring Peter Rothstein of the Asolo Repertory Theatre.

## A New Look...

New board members Barbara Blaine and Nurit Sonnenschein were assigned newsletter duties, and we hope this new format and look will help us engage more readers and help connect area alumni to each other. We have added a few survey links to learn more about our group and we hope to hear back from all of you. Please click on the links provided and have some fun with your responses!!

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## YCS Event Recap

Sarasota's Asolo Repertory Theatre has an exciting new Producing Artistic Director in Peter Rothstein, who spoke at our November luncheon. He has been busy learning what shows play well to a Sarasota audience, even "reading" the audiences at previews and revamping some shows based on previews just before they open, a daunting task. He mentioned upcoming shows, including *Twelve Angry Men*, a play now done as a musical and with updated humor to reflect today's current views, especially on women. Peter also shared stories of his childhood and his time as artistic director of Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis and how these have influenced his current theatrical views. Thanks to Peter for a delightful and insightful program.

On November 14, 2023, Frank Samponaro, shown with wife Marcia, was presented with a plaque honoring his outstanding service over many years to the Yale Club of the Suncoast







## Increasing Engagement

We'd love to hear from all Yale Alumni in our area!! Our regular in-season meetings are speaker luncheons held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Are you interested in other activities, times or locations? Would you like to connect in smaller, informal, interest-centered groups? Meet up at sports, educational or cultural events? Play a round of golf or pickle ball? Please let us know how and where you'd like to connect with your fellow alumni, or if you're doing anything of note that others might want to join [HERE](#).

## Seen in the Yale Daily News:

**Yale Presidential Search Student Advisory Council to host "listening sessions"** for undergraduate, graduate and professional students in the coming weeks to share their visions for the incoming 24th president.

**Yale expands free online courses offerings.** Yale Online is a catalog that brings together a collection of courses offered to degree and non-degree seekers around the world. "1.4 million learners enrolled in our courses on Coursera in 2022," Lucas Swineford, executive director of digital education at the Poorvu Center, wrote to the News. "We are on track to enroll 1.62 million learners in 2023, a 15.6 percent increase." Yale Online courses are offered at [/online.yale.edu](https://online.yale.edu).

**The Yale College Council academic policy team has proposed several policy revisions** to the administration, including increasing max number of credits, extending add/drop period, improving student advising and Credit/D/Fail reform. To track the proposals, click [HERE](#).

## American Sign Language 3rd Most Popular Language on campus



In the spring of 2018, when American Sign Language was first offered at Yale, 20 students registered for the course. This fall, there are 257 students registered. The course's growth falls in line with national trends reflecting a growing popularity in studying ASL. Moreover, it is the only language in the top 10 that saw increased enrollment from 2016 to 2020, with 2020's 68,590 enrollees representing a 4.6 percent increase.



## All About You!

In this section, we will report on results (anonymously, of course) of short mini-surveys of our area alumni. This is intended to be fun and to work as an ice breaker when we see each other in person! Got a special talent? Lifelong ambition? Favorite spot in the area? Answer the 3-4 fun questions each issue then tune in next time to find out more about your fellow Suncoasters!

**[Click HERE to take our first All About You Survey!](#)**

## Upcoming YCS Events

- December Luncheon with John McCarthy, VP for Regional History at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. December 12, 2023, 12:00 pm. Purchase tickets [HERE](#)
- January Luncheon with Arne Westad, Elihu Yale Professor of History and Global Affairs. January 9, 2024, 11:30 AM. Purchase Tickets [HERE](#)
- Docent-led tour of Ringling Museum, January 24, 2024. Time TBD.
- Yale Harvard Princeton Luncheon, February 4, 2024. Harvard Hosts. Location and speaker TBD.



**A scene from the Yale-Harvard game watch party on November 18. Yale won 23-18 in an exciting nail biter!**

## Yale Trivia:

**WHO IS THIS  
YALE CUTIE?**

(ALSO PICTURED IN  
"INCREASING  
ENGAGEMENT" ABOVE)



- A. YODO ("YOGA DOGA")
- B. OFFICER HEIDI
- C. GORGEOUS GOLDIE

See answer in next issue!





**Murray Biggs**, Yale University semi-retired Adjunct Associate Professor of English, theatre and film, will be conducting a theatre weekend in Sarasota February 2-4, 2014. The three plays covered will include The Lehman Trilogy at the Florida Studio on 2 February, Inherit The Wind at the Asolo Rep on 3 Feb, and A Soldier's Play at The Westcoast Black Theatre on 4 Feb. Also included are three lectures by Professor Biggs, scripts of all the plays, a dinner on Friday, light refreshments at other times, and lively group discussions. A similar weekend will be held from 9-11 Feb, but that is already fully subscribed. If interested, you are invited to contact Professor Biggs at [murray.biggs@yale.edu](mailto:murray.biggs@yale.edu), or 203-997-6493. Alternatively, you may wish to contact Nick Baskey at [nick.baskey@gmail.com](mailto:nick.baskey@gmail.com) or 941-349-0374 who can provide further details.

## YCS Community Bulletin Board

In this section, we plan to list cultural, sports, educational or other activities in which our club members are involved or interested, along with any contact info (submitted by, connection to event, location, time, contact) provided. As the next issue will be out mid January, please provide info regarding any late January to late March events in the "Increasing Engagement" section survey. This may turn out to be a calendar insert if there is enough interest in meeting up at non-Yale-specific events!

*If you are participating in or attending an event or activity that you would like others to know about, please use the survey form to enlighten us!*

ELines will be published 3 times per year. The next issue will be out January 19, 2024. Please submit upcoming events, past event recaps, and any items for submission prior to January 12.