



# bluELines

Winter '19/'20

Volume 15 Number 4

## President's Message



*Dear Fellow Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast,*

*As the new calendar year begins, I commend our YSC board for planning interesting events to foster new connections, old friendships, intellectual stimulation and the maintenance of ties to dear old Yale.*

*Our season began in October with a fun Welcome Back cocktail party. About 60 Yale alumni and friends gathered on the terrace of the Sarasota Yacht Club on Sunday October 27th to renew*

old acquaintances and make new friends at the annual Yale Club welcome back party. The evening was warm, but the cool drinks flowed as we conversed and enjoyed the soothing guitar accompaniment.

The season continued in November with an interesting and entertaining presentation by the Sarasota Orchestra, a convivial group viewing of *THE GAME*, and a fascinating talk about Sarasota archeology and pre-history in December.

We begin the new year with Anne Perkins' discussion in January of how Yale struggled to find its way with co-education. In February, it is your club's turn to host the annual Yale-Harvard-Princeton lunch. Our speaker is Beverly Gage, a powerhouse professor of 20th Century American History. Later in February we will have a private tour and lunch at the Ringling Museum and our new annual tradition of Feb Club Emeritus.

In March the Yale Glee Club comes to town, we host Yale Professor Greg Huber, chair of the Political Science Department, followed by a visit from the Whiffenpoofs of 2020. In April it's the Yale Day of Service, a lunch with Selby Gardens' head Jennifer Rominiecki, joint sponsorship with the Mt. Holyoke Club of the Suffragist Project at Florida Studio Theater and a planned elegant social dinner for members.

If you haven't paid your \$40 dues for this fiscal year, **please** go to the web site and do so. Not only will you be helping to defray the costs of your Club's activities, but you will be recognized in the Club's printed directory, have your own permanent name badge and save \$10 on the cost of each ticket for yourself and any guests for the aforementioned events.

With warm regards,

*Rick Lannamann*YC '69

[rlannamann@gmail.com](mailto:rlannamann@gmail.com)

203-219-496

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SAVE THE DATE—DETAILS TO FOLLOW</b></p> |
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February 21, 2020--1:00 Yale Ringling Museum Tour and Lunch

February 21, 2020--5-8pm Feb Club Emeritus

March 7, 2020-- 7:30pm Yale Glee Club

March 10, 2020—11:30--1:30 YCS lunch Professor Greg Huber

April 14, 2020--11:30-1:30 YCS lunch Jennifer Rominiecki

April 16, 2020--3:30-5:00pm Suffragist Project with Mount Holyoke

## A Reprise of YSC 2019 Summer Luncheons

Our Yale Club of the Suncoast By-Laws, Article 1 Purpose, states the Club “shall foster and advance a spirit of fraternity among graduates, former students, parents.....” Surely no YCS event accomplishes that purpose more than the June through October monthly YCS Drop-In Luncheons held on the 2nd Tuesday at Marina Jack. This year’s host of attendees would attest to wide ranging, stimulating conversations in the tradition of those held at Yale dining hall tables. While the discourse is unbridled in terms of imagination, it is always framed within the boundaries of true Yale courtesy.

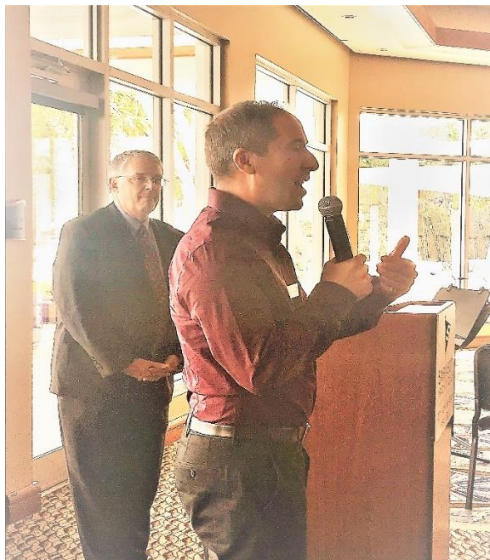
Below are a few photos taken at this year’s Drop-In events. Please mark your 2020 calendars for the second Tuesday of each month beginning in June for your summer YCS monthly luncheons and enjoy the best of Yale camaraderie.

- Brian Kelly '61



## **YSC Luncheon Speaker: Joseph McKenna Chief Executive Officer of the Sarasota Orchestra**

November 12, 2019



On November 12, 2019 the Yale Club of the Suncoast had the pleasure of hearing guest speaker Mr. Joseph McKenna, President and CEO of the Sarasota Orchestra. Joe joined the Orchestra in 2001 and has guided the organization through a period of unprecedented growth and change, including increasing the Orchestra's endowment corpus by more than ten million dollars. He spoke of the desire for the Orchestra, now in its 71<sup>st</sup> year, to remain a 'community Orchestra' and of the Orchestra's search for a new location and a new conductor to succeed Anu Tali.

A conductor search committee has secured nine guest conductors this season for the Discover Beethoven and Masterworks series in the hopes of finding the perfect successor. Concertmaster Daniel Jordan answered numerous questions about how the search process works.

The Orchestra has outgrown its current home and is diligently pursuing a larger facility that can match its need for a state of the art performing center. He confirmed that the Payne Park location was no longer being sought and that there is a committee dedicated to securing an appropriate setting.

Before hearing from Mr. McKenna, the YSC enjoyed a performance by the Sarasota Orchestra's String Quartet, comprised of Daniel Jordan (concertmaster), Christopher Takeda, (associate concertmaster), Rachel Halvorson (principal viola), and Natalie Helm (principal cello). In celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beethoven's birthday, the String Quartet artfully performed Beethoven's String Quartet N. 11 in F Minor, Op. 95, 1. Allegro con brio and IV. Larghetto espressivo- Allegretto agitato to the delight of the YSC audience.

Thanks to Joe McKenna and the Sarasota Orchestra String Quartet for a lovely luncheon.

*-Danielle Gladding*

## **YALE-HARVARD Football Game**

November 24, 2019

About 20 Bulldog fans and a similar number of Crimson loyalists gathered at Edie's Bar in Sarasota on November 24 to watch together on big screen TVs the 136th edition of THE GAME.

Yale trailed through most of the contest, which was delayed by a halftime sit-in protesting climate change. The climate change protest by a couple hundred protestors, organized by students from both schools, delayed the second half by nearly an hour before the protesters were peacefully escorted off the field by police.

After trailing the by an average of two touchdowns, Yale scored twice and pulled off an onside kick in the last five minutes to tie the score, forcing overtime. Harvard and Yale each scored, forcing a *second* overtime, in which the Bulldogs finally prevailed.

The dwindling numbers who stayed at Edie's to the end witnessed Yale's exciting 50-43 come-from-behind win. The Bulldogs (9-1, 6-1 Ivy League) celebrated their Ivy title 15 minutes after sunset in the unlit 105-year-old Yale Bowl.

Along the way, a Harvard freshman tied the all-time rushing touchdown record for The Game and led the Crimson to their third-most rushing yards ever. Yale quarterback Kurt Rawlings '20 set career records for passing yards and total offensive yards. The Bulldogs won a share of the Ivy League title, and Harvard finished their season below .500 for the first time in the 21st century.

- *Rick Lannamann '69*

## **YSC Luncheon Speaker: John McCarthy of the Gulf Coast Heritage Association and Historic Spanish Point**

December 10, 2019



Yalies arrived at the Sarasota Yacht Club on December 10, 2019 expecting to be regaled with tales of special operations derring-do from a true government special operator; but, as might be expected, he was called “out of town to an undisclosed location” at the last minute. Fortunately, John McCarthy was available to step into the breach and provide a fascinating account of one of the more unique features in our area.

If Sarasota County were to have an official historian, it would be John McCarthy. In fact, he held that very role for seven years during the 1980’s. More significantly, he has held every possible position with the Historical Society of Sarasota County over 33 years, from tour guide to President. As an environmental specialist, John was responsible for County coastal resource protection and coordination for eleven years and served as General Manager of Sarasota County Parks and Recreation for ten years until 2010. He is now the Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Heritage Association and Historic Spanish Point, a 30-acre historical museum and environmental complex on Little Sarasota Bay in Osprey.

John’s expertise includes Native American settlements, including a major site at Spanish Point. This led to the principal subject of his presentation to our Club—the 2016 discovery and ensuing study of a 7,000 year-old Native American burial site 300 yards off Manasota Key in the Gulf of Mexico. A perfect synthesis of John’s interests in history and environmental protection, the Manasota site has consumed him for the past three years.

One of three known offshore burial grounds in the world, the Manasota site is the only one where the remains were preserved in peat. Peat was an excellent natural preservative due to its anaerobic properties. Through photos and charts, John illustrated for us the painstaking process

of uncovering, measuring, analyzing and preserving the field that seven millennia ago was on solid ground. Near the end of our last ice age Florida was about twice as wide as it currently is; now the peat bog and the village it abutted are 20 feet underwater. John explained that Native Americans at Spanish Point wrapped their dead in cloth and buried them in the peat on a mat suspended in a tepee of intersecting, carved, wooden stakes, the tops of which would poke through the surface of the bog in the nature of prehistoric tombstones. Archaeologists have discovered similar rituals in disparate parts of the world. While not the oldest example of civilization in Florida (which traces back 14,500 years), this may be the most unusual.

Study and protection of the Manasota Key Offshore site, as it is called, has brought special challenges. Once word got out, divers could easily access the field from a small boat or from shore to plunder "souvenirs", requiring a network of telescopes, cameras, sail-bys and fly-bys to ward off human predators. Nature has caused its own problems, with shifting sands and currents tending to expose more of the bog and its contents before protective measures can be completed. Nevertheless, the State of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and many others persevere to study and preserve this newest addition to our rich cultural history.

Working on all aspects of this project has obviously been a labor of love for John, which he clearly conveyed to our rapt audience. Having only briefly set foot on Spanish Point from the water several years ago, I came away from John's talk inspired to explore that entire property and possibly Manasota Key as well.

*-Ken Schneier '74*

**YSC Luncheon Speaker: Anne Gardiner Perkins**  
**Author Of "Yale Needs Women"**



Anne Gardiner Perkins, '81 addressed over 90 members and guests at the Yale Club of the Suncoast's January 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Perkins, who was elected the first woman Editor in Chief of the Yale Daily News and is a Rhodes Scholar, spoke about her highly acclaimed book, *Yale Needs Women: How the First Group of Girls Rewrote the Rules of an Ivy League Giant* (2019). As Yale celebrates 50 years of coeducation at Yale College, this book is the first time the stories of the young women who were on the front lines of that historic event have been told.

Perkins' book is based on her award-winning scholarship, five years of archival research and over 80 oral interviews. Perkins, who holds a Ph.D. in history from University of Massachusetts (Boston), an M.A. from Harvard, and won numerous awards for her scholarship, has recovered and preserved a significant amount of the history of higher education. Yale's decision to admit women was the pivotal point in American elite higher education which until 1969 remained largely segregated on the basis of gender. As Yale and Princeton changed their admissions policies, other elite colleges and universities followed suit. In a very short span of years, American higher education became predominately coeducated.



The decision to admit women to Yale College was taken after a survey of men who had been admitted to both Yale and Harvard, but chose Harvard, revealed that the primary reason was the availability of coeds suitable for dating near Harvard while Yale men were inconvenienced by long distances to elite women's colleges. About 75% of the men chose Harvard over Yale in this era. Facing a serious economic and standards crisis threatening the future of Yale, President Kingman Brewster reluctantly began considering the admission of women. He was never fully supportive of coeducation. After Vassar rejected Yale's proposal to consolidate, Brewster received word that Princeton was about to admit women. Perkins said that she thinks that Brewster's competitive juices got flowing and he finally permitted the coeducation effort to move forward.

Perkins described the overwhelming situation facing these young women. Yale President Kingman Brewster had promised to continue Yale's policy of accepting 1,000 male leaders so that the women who entered Yale College were limited in number. The entering classes of freshman, sophomore and junior women numbered just over 500 in total, with 4,000 male undergraduates. Women on Yale's faculty were a small fraction and women in administration virtually non-existent. Elga Wasserman, PhD in Chemistry, who was charged with responsibility for the coeducation transition, never received a deanship or support from Brewster and, despite her Herculean efforts, remained peripheral to the insular centers of power surrounding Brewster.

Yale spent about \$500,000 in total to accommodate the entering women while receiving about \$2,100,000 in additional tuition from the women in the first two years, helping to reduce Yale's deficit of \$4.4 million. Alumni donations increased substantially as donors with daughters and granddaughters participated at higher levels.



Perkins described two of the five young women featured in her book. One, Lawrie Mifflin, established the first Yale women's varsity sports team, struggling to be allowed access to a practice field. The team practiced on the parking lot near the Yale Bowl after cleaning up the

garbage littering the lot following football games. Another, Kit McClure, was the first woman in the Yale Marching Band (trombone) despite objections from the director. Kit went on to establish an unheard of all-girl rock and roll band. Three other First Women were in the audience at the YCS event. Connie Royster, '72 (JE), YCS Vice President Elizabeth Spahn, '72 (Trumbull) and YCS member Barbara Blaine, '71 (Silliman). Connie and Elizabeth are also profiled in Perkins' book.

## **YALE'S NEW PROVOST—AND SOMEONE'S FUTURE PRESIDENT?**

On November 6, 2019, Yale's President Peter Salovey (himself a former Yale provost) named Scott Strobel to be the next provost, succeeding Ben Pollack, who has served in that position since 2013. Strobel is the Henry Ford professor of microbiology at Yale where he runs his own research lab. He is also no stranger to Yale administration, having been in charge of Yale's West Campus development as well as the new Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, which now occupies the western-most lower floors of Sterling Memorial Library.

What does a provost do? As we know (yes, many Yalies are Latinists), the term "provost" derives from the medieval Latin *propositus*, which denotes an authority in the Western church immediately beneath a bishop—"Second in Command" in modern parlance. While it is the job of the university president to set out large-picture goals and chart the university's course, it is the business of the provost to implement the goals, pay the bills, and generally make sure that the academic ship is sailing smoothly. Traditionally at Yale, the position of provost has gone to someone in the sciences or the "dismal science" of economics, as Keynes called it. Ben Pollack, Bill Brainard, and Nobel-winner Bill Nordhaus were three such economists. Among Yale scientist-provosts have been, in addition to Strobel, anthropologist Alison Richards and neuroscientist Susan Hockfield, and psychologists Peter Salovey and Judith Rodin. Money conscious economists are prime candidates for provost, and so are scientists because they usually run labs and thus have experience with budgets and government contracts.

But the provost must also have good "interpersonal skills" because he or she must interface with the chairs of all departments and the deans of all professional schools. Scott Strobel embodies everything that is needed by way of interpersonal expertise: he presents material clearly, challenges students and colleagues to think on their feet, and perhaps most important, is a legendary listener—he spends most of a meeting watching, learning, and thinking.

How do I know this? For four years I had the privilege of being Yale's Academic Director of Online Education, as well as the teacher of Yale's undergraduate humanities course "Exploring the Nature of Genius." In the first capacity, Scott was my boss; in the second, he was my helpmate—when the Genius course reached the subject of "Genius: the Discovery of the Structure of DNA," Scott graciously (and mercifully) took over the class. He held a hundred students mesmerized for an hour or so with the fascinating tale, full of ironies, of what led ultimately to Watson and Crick's Nobel Prize for what has been called one of the three most important scientific discoveries in human history. A spirited lunch with students would usually follow.

Finally, note something of which Yale is justifiably proud: The position of provost here has become a proving ground and stepping-stone for future presidents at other institutions of higher learning. Among those who went on to become distinguished university presidents are Hanna Grey (to the University of Chicago), Susan Hockfield (MIT), Judith Rodin (Penn), Andy Hamilton (Oxford and most recently New York University), and Alison Richards (Cambridge). (Note here, please, four prominent women.) The challenge for Scott Strobel will be to do a good job in his new assignment; the challenge for Yale will be hold on to someone of his talent and experience.

-Craig Wright, Professor Emeritus

## **In Memoriam**

**M. Weldon Rogers III** a member of Yale Suncoast and class of 1963 passed away peacefully in his sleep early on the morning of July 20, 2019 at his home in Boca Grande, FL. Weldon grew up in St. Louis, MO. After graduating from St. Louis Country Day School and Yale University, he began his career in banking at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company before moving to G. L. Ohrstrom & Co., both in New York City. His career advanced rapidly with a move to Missouri Portland Cement in St. Louis. He later became the owner and president of EckAdams, an office seating manufacturing business. Family was extremely important to Weldon. He loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and friends in Boca Grande, St. Louis, and other places. He enjoyed golf, tennis, travel, and people. He never met a stranger. Weldon is remembered for his faith in God, his eternal optimism, humor, boundless energy, and the way he connected with and cared for so many people. He is survived by his children Sandy Rogers, Didi Bowers, Caroline Rogers, and Sarah Watt and five grandchildren.

**Blake Flint**, 97, a member of Yale Suncoast and class of 1944, passed away October 26, 2019 in Sarasota, Florida (formerly of Winnetka, Illinois). He retired from the presidency of Barrett Electronics and prior to that, was president of The Boye Needle Company. He served as president of the Northern Illinois Industrial Truck Association, the Northbrook Chamber of Commerce, and the Industrial Truck Association. He was trustee of Eureka College from 1972-1978, and vice-president of the Northeast Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Blake was a devoted member of Church of the Redeemer. A proud graduate of Phillips Academy, Andover, and [Yale University](#), he also served in the Army in both the European and Pacific Theaters. He enjoyed tracing his ancestry back to Thomas Flint, who arrived in Massachusetts from England in 1636. Blake Flint was predeceased by wife Dolores, and good friends Bette Whitted and Kathleen Drake. Blake leaves behind his dear friend Jeanene Kortjohn. He is survived by daughters Diane Jessen (Art) and Barbara Krier (Jack), along with four grandchildren, their loving spouses, and five great-grandchildren. Services are private. Donations may be made to Tidewell Hospice Sarasota.

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