

*About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "as soon and as often as we can get around to it." Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' lives and activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information.*

*Because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, and not all of our classmates have e-mail, and the deadline for articles for our class notes section in The Bulletin is almost two months before it's published, there will be duplications and gaps in what is included here, what is sent by e-mail or "snail mail", and what appears in The Bulletin.*

*Send items for The Bulletin and this Newsletter to: Wee Smith, 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 -- Tel/FAX 860-464-8425 or e-mail to jdsbridge@aol.com.*

#### Class of '53 Life Line Fund

Our class established our Life Line Fund to be able to provide financial support to '53 classmates or widows who are in extreme financial need. Initially, we wanted to maintain it with the Alumni Association so that contributions to it would be tax deductible. We received several opinions and interpretations on the "tax deductibility" of such contributions, some said that they *should* be "tax deductible" and some said that they *should not* be. The most authoritative opinion, however, was that contributions to it would *not* be "tax deductible. Therefore, rather than using the Alumni Association as the repository for our fund, we decided to use our own Class of '53 bank account for it.

Thanks to the generous contributions for this fund from many of our classmates, our class was able to make a \$4,000 grant and a \$3,000 loan to a widow whose current income is limited to just her Social Security checks.

Contributions to our '53 Life Line Fund should be made payable to "CGA Class of '53" and mailed to Wee Smith (19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339).

#### 12th Annual Jay Flanagan - Wee Smith Men's Invitational Golf Tournament

Fifty-nine were able to play in this year's three-day event (May 24 to 26) at Elmridge Golf Course in Pawcatuck, CT, including: Bob Benson, Mike Boggs, Gene

Bowers, Rick Cueroni, Hank Fisher, Jim Grabb, Gerry Lipsett, Jim Shelton, and Wee Smith. Unfortunately, for the first time in 12 years, we had some "serious rain" so that we could only play two 9-hole rounds. Jim Grabb described it best when he said, "while we only got to play one-third of the golf, we had almost 100% of the fun and fellowship".

#### '53 Pacific Northwest Micro-Reunion

Following Dan and Sue Briganti's return from an Alaskan Cruise on August 13th, Kirk and Jackie Greiner and Ed and Joyce Nelson are planning a "Class of '53 micro-reunion" in Seattle for our classmates who live in the Pacific Northwest area. The details are still being worked out, but they are hoping that at least Dick Donnelly, George Everett, Bud and Betsy Mathieu, and Nat and Dimpny Spadafora will be able to attend.

#### Potential '53 2006 Mini-Reunions

Tentative plans are being considered for our class to possibly hold two '53 mini-reunions next year: one in Germany in the spring of 2006 and one in Gettysburg, PA in the fall of 2006. More information about these mini-reunions and questionnaires to determine who might be interested in attending them will be mailed to all classmates this fall.

#### "Misc. Bits and Pieces" of interest about our other classmates (listed in alphabetical order)

Paul Arnold has been cast in another play, *Collateral Damage*. It was written by a British playwright and is the story of Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber. Paul plays Timothy's father, Bill McVeigh. Paul and Donna Jordan (who attended our 50th reunion with him) will be married on December 10th. Bob Lynch will be Paul's Best Man.

In March Ken and Eve Barrett took a small ship cruise around the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. It was primarily a nature voyage with opportunities to closely observe sea lions and whales in their natural habitat.

Roger and Shirley Bascom will be spending the summer in Slinger, Wisconsin (just northwest of Milwaukee) and will return to Venice, FL in late September. They can be reached on Shirley's cell phone (941-223-0412) or via e-mail at rebascom@comcast.net.

Mike and Kaye Boggs will be taking an Alaskan Cruise this month.

**Paul Bouchard** retired and is "just taking it easy" after teaching High School math for 22 years. He said he's "doing pretty good, just my share of arthritis".

Things are going well for **Dan and Sue Briganti**. In June he received a consulting contract from the CG to analyze and recommend solutions for some electrical problems on a major cutter in Portland, OR. They will be spending most of July on a trip to Italy with their daughter and family and Dan expects to be able to hold his own with the Italian language, after completing five short courses at the local community college. In August they will be taking an Alaskan cruise.

**Roger Britt** flew to Denver, CO in June to visit **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder**.

Our sympathies are with **Bill Bruinsma** on his brother Richard's death in Michigan. Bill arranged for and attended Richard's burial in an impressive ceremony at the Fort Custer National Cemetery.

In April and May, **Bill and Ann Clark** took an 18-day grand tour of Spain. On June 27th, their grandson, Michael Higbee (son of Pat and Joy Higbee '86) was sworn in as a member of the Class of 2009 and thus, he became the first "third generation member" of our class to attend the Academy.

**Sandy Crouch's** daughter, Sue and her granddaughter had a very serious accident in Houston in June and are lucky to be alive. They both had concussions when another vehicle slammed into their driver's side door at 40 mph and their car's side air bags failed to deploy.

In April and May **Rick and Beth Cueroni** enjoyed a trans-Atlantic cruise from Fort Lauderdale, FL to the Canary Islands followed by port calls in the Mediterranean. They spent three days in Rome before flying to New England for an extended visit and then returned home to Atlantic Beach, FL.

**Ed and Becky Daniels** will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 20th. They took a trip to Alaska in May (a bit early) to celebrate it because August is a prime month for hurricanes and they didn't want to venture too far from their New Bern, NC home, in case they needed to be there to "mop up"!

**Ed Farmer** has recovered from the fractured leg he suffered last year in India and is now power walking up to three miles and swimming at least a 1/2 km per day.

**June Flanagan** (242 Highland Ave., Winchester, MA 01890) spent two weeks in

the hospital in February for an undetermined intestinal problem and to complicate matters, her stomach lining was being irritated by the medication she was taking. Thankfully the cause was determined NOT to be cancer! With her inimitable sense of humor, June said, "I think I'm going to recover!"

Just as **Frank Frauenfelder** was recovering from the infection that developed following surgery to repair his damaged Achilles heel tendon, he had an emergency triple by-pass operation on February 28th. It coupled with the effects from his Parkinsons Disease put him in a long term rehab facility in Lakewood, CO where he celebrated his 77th birthday on July 2nd. Mentally and socially Frank is doing fine, but he needs some physical assistance with his daily activities. Cards and notes should be sent to him at his home, 23505 Bluestem Dr., Golden, CO 80401.

Read the attached article and you'll understand why **Jim and Shirley Grabb** are justifiably proud of their son, Paul, who is a pediatric neuro-surgeon.

In May and June, **Bud Grader** spent a month in Afghanistan helping design an economic assistance project and then went to his place in the Pyrenees for a couple of weeks before returning home to Marblehead, MA.

In March, **Kirk and Jackie Greiner** made an around-the-world trip. They flew from Seattle and joined the *QE2* in Hong Kong. Then traveled on it to Dubai, UAE making stops at Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India. From Dubai they flew west home, (17 hours in the air plus 5 hours between planes in Amsterdam). Our sympathies are with Kirk whose Mother died in February at the age of 99-1/2.

**Ralph and Diane Hill's** correct e-mail address is: [2hillsensei@charter.net](mailto:2hillsensei@charter.net). In May, while driving from their home in Whittier, CA to their "second home" in Venice, FL, they stopped to see **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder** in Golden, CO. In July, the Hills will be driving to Mass. to visit their son.

**Roger Holmes** reported that his oncologist has called a halt to the periodic CAT scans of the last 8 years. He noted, however, that non-Hodgkins lymphoma is a blood immune system cancer, somewhat like leukemia, and has a tendency to return after 7, 10, 15, who knows how many years. He added, "I'm counting on maybe an asteroid wiping out us all before I have to worry about



it." Roger and Esther celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 30th.

**Clay and Jan Hughes** had to delay their annual trip to Tucson because he had an old nemesis show up in the form of a bleeding ulcer. It put him in the hospital for five days, three of which were in the ICU. Thankfully, a biopsy taken of it showed no cancer!

On May 2nd, **Jim and LaVerne Irwin** flew to Arizona to attend one granddaughter's confirmation and another's H.S. graduation. They returned home from Arizona on May 26th, and the next day drove to North Carolina to attend one of their grandson's H.S. graduation. On June 27th, Jim had back surgery to correct a disc problem.

**Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr** were in motion much of May and June. In May, they attended their granddaughter's graduation from Radford University in the far southwest part of Virginia, near the Tennessee and North Carolina borders; took a side trip through the mountains to Asheville, NC to see the Biltmore Estate; and had lunch with **Joe and Moira Kelly**. In June, Bill and Betty Ruth drove to Wisconsin. His mother had died in February and the trip to Wisconsin was to settle her affairs. They plan to be home at Sandbridge Beach in July and are expecting visits from their sons and their families and some of their Wisconsin relatives.

**Steamboat Lewis** says he is doing fine after having a minor stroke in April. To prove it, he and **Adele** enjoyed a trip to Atlantic City in May. Because he's still taking Coumadin he has had to temporarily discontinue the chelation treatments that he was receiving in Mexico.

**Bill and Dixie Linn** are enjoying the arrival of their tenth grandchild, **Ellie Linn**. She was born March 30th and lives just two blocks away in Elk Ridge, UT. Their oldest granddaughter was married in June.

In May, at the Convention of the Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Pacific and Southwest, **Bob Lynch** was appointed Vice Chancellor of the Diocese.

The Town of Stratham, NH remembered **Graeme Mann** at its annual meeting in March with the enclosed page from its annual report. In June, **Barbara Mann** made a trip to Turkey with her daughter, Emily, who had been invited to attend a wedding there.

**Harry and Barbara Oldford** have reserved a place at the Winter Park Towers Continuous Care Community, which is much like Fleet Landing in the Jacksonville, FL area. It may be a year or more before they move, but

in the meantime, they are downsizing their possessions in anticipation of moving into a residence about half the size of their current home.

**Roger Mowell's** left knee "plum wore out" so he had it replaced. He said that with **Jerry** as his primary care giver, his recovery is going well.

**Hal and Sheila Olsen** continue to enjoy good health and a variety of activities. They are now in their 11th year of leading tours of Annapolis, MD and calculate that together they have logged more than 2,500 miles on the streets of Annapolis and the Naval Academy. In the past year they have added three granddaughters and one great-grandson and made a third trip to Ireland with plans for yet another visit there.

**Nina Rowland** has returned to Canada (9-1700 Pritchard Rd., Cowichan Bay, B.C., VOR 1N0) from Phoenix, AZ for the summer. On July 1st, Nina, her children, and **Ernie's** children, along with some friends, scattered Ernie's ashes in Cowichan Bay which Ernie had so enjoyed in the last years of his life.

**Bill Russell**, said that between taking the time to take care of his Mother's house in San Rafael, CA as well as his and **Margie's** own home in VA. his golf game is "on hold for now". He's happy, however, that their sons, **Neil** and **Mitch** CGA '82, are more than making up for his share of time on the golf course.

**Andy Saunders** bought a new computer and decided to get DSL so he has a new e-mail address, *axelrod120@fuse.net*. He said, "My golf game is in the unpredictable stage. If I can putt I can't drive, if I can drive, I can't chip. A good day is breaking 100, but I enjoy the outdoors and I do have fun." On September 14th, **Andy and Reba** (3932 Spring Rock Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45251) will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a 12-day Hawaiian vacation.

In May, **Bob and Mimi Schmidt** enjoyed a wonderful three-week vacation in Hawaii. In June, while they were out for dinner with their entire family present (celebrating their son Stephen's and daughter-in-law Lisa's third wedding anniversary), they had a scare when Mimi collapsed and was unconscious for a minute or two. She was rushed to the hospital by ambulance and kept overnight, but the doctors could not find anything wrong with her and could not explain what had caused it.

**Tom and Gerrie Sing's** condo building suffered considerable damage last fall when Hurricanes *Frances* and *Jeanne* hit Jensen Beach, FL dead on and *Ivan's* floods didn't help. The internal repairs needed have been delayed until the outside repairs can be completed. They expect to have them all completed this summer so that they will be able to use it this winter.

**Jane Smith** is doing fine after having a decompression laminectomy in May and her L4 and L5 vertebrae fused. She and **Wee**, and **Pete Erwin** and **Jessie Anderson**, attended Conn. College Class of '55's 50th Reunion. Then the Smiths then flew to Minn. to attend their twin granddaughters H.S. graduation. In June, **Wee** spent a few days visiting **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder** in Golden, CO. On July 2nd, **Wee** and **Jane** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

**Ted Smith** (6443 Gerard Court, Falls Church, VA) had a total left knee replacement in February. He said his new knee is great and maybe he'll have his right knee replaced next year, "when I hurt more", as his surgeon suggested.

**Fred Sponholz** (21949 Calverton Rd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122) has been taking Tai Che to see if he can strengthen the surrounding muscles and tendons of a partially torn tendon in his ankle. He is still volunteering one day a week in the Cleveland court system interviewing and assigning community service to all kinds of criminals. He also volunteers at a hospital in Painesville, OH where he is developing facility maintenance and inspection plans for the various hospital systems. The hospital had lost many of its staff due to personnel cuts so Fred is actually filling a paid slot but he doesn't get paid. On May 11th, Fred turned 76 and received a new set of golf clubs for his birthday.

**Ilma Striker** (P.O. Box 70, Haymarket, VA 20168) had her left hip replaced in May. She said that Arty's son, John, who has been receiving chemotherapy for AML (leukemia), "is not able to work much and easily gets depressed, but all in all, he is starting to look like the John we all know. Hopefully, he will stay in remission."