

February 5, 2021

Dear YDS Classmates,

We start 2021 with the sad news of the passing of our beloved reunion leader, Jerry Kirkpatrick. Jerry suffered a fall late last year, and never fully recovered. He passed peacefully on January 11, holding the hands of his wife and daughter, and surrounded with our prayers of comfort and gratitude for his years of service to our class.

Just prior to Jerry's injuries, he shared with us his compilation of the **YDS Memoirs** that had been sent to him over the last few months. Jerry spearheaded this reunion project, and it brought him great joy to read each submission. He devoted hours of his time to formatting them together into this elegant document. We dedicate this work in his honor and share it with you now as a PDF at <https://tinyurl.com/yzybpx7b> for your own enjoyment. The document is the memories Jerry culled from the submissions received. If your content is not in this book, it is likely Jerry held it for our second reunion project, keep reading on. You are also invited to re-submit that information to the Alumni Office team at divinity.alumni@yale.edu.

A second compilation is also in the works – a **Reunion Class Book** to include each classmate's contact information, as well as a short paragraph about current activities or personal YDS reflections. We encourage you to visit <https://tinyurl.com/YDS70ReunionClassBook> by *February 25* to make sure you are included in this book, which will be printed and mailed to all classmates later this spring. This book will be a great way to reconnect with one another in anticipation of other reunion activities later this year. Respond soon before Cathie or another classmate reaches out to nudge you into responding. This will be a wonderful read and great way to reconnect with others in the class.

Our small committee is working on several virtual activities for this spring or early summer, which we will share as details come together. With the advent of the COVID vaccine, we remain hopeful that we might gather in New Haven this fall as the school hosts the more traditional Convocation activities as well. Our planning updates will also be posted on our class reunion website: <https://tinyurl.com/YDS1970Reunion>.

We are grateful to those who have responded generously to Cathie's winter fundraising appeal. We are pleased to report a total of \$235,944 has already been contributed for our 50th Reunion Gift since July 2016 by our classmates to both the YDS Annual Fund and our new Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship initiative, which has over \$26,000

committed. When we reach the \$50,000 mark on this fund, an additional \$25,000 will be added from the Dean's Scholarship Challenge Fund, bringing our fund to over \$75,000. If you have questions about ways to give, Debby Jagielow in the YDS Alumni Engagement and Development office is happy to help (deborah.jagielow@yale.edu or 203-432-3871)

We miss seeing you all dearly and look forward to gathering somehow in the months ahead.

All the best,

Phil Blackwell ~ philip.l.blackwell@gmail.com

Cathie Cipolla ~ cathiecipolla@gmail.com

Ron Evans ~ ronaldthomasevans@gmail.com

Sam Gladding ~ stg@wfu.edu

Roy Rhodes ~ rhodesr@kenyon.edu

Chuck Wildman ~ chuckwildman329@gmail.com

Note: this information was also sent via email on Friday, February 5. If you did not receive that email, the Alumni Office may not have a current email address for you. Please be in touch with them at divinity.alumni@yale.edu to make sure you receive future communications about our class activities.