

BEGINNING OUR 73RD YEAR TOGETHER AS A BAND OF BROTHERS, THE AFFABLE DARTMOUTH CLASS OF 1953.

While relaxing out on our veranda overlooking Lake Mary about fifty yards beyond, the delight of reminiscence set in reflecting on these seven decades of being part of this wonderful class and their families, and then the light beamed at me with the question "What better way to express that than the inimitable Bruce Sherman's poem, a Band of Brothers, Dartmouth 1953.

Nothing could say it better, and here it is:

A Band of Brothers-Dartmouth 1953--- Bruce Sherman '53

*The Year Was 1949...a Beautiful Serene September,
Our Class Was Takng Form....Every Friendly Member.
We Were '53's...a Band of Brothers Born That Special Year,
With the Next Four Years Brought to Our Attention, So Clear.
Settling Into the Business of Learning Was Our Mission,
But We Also Honored the College Cherished Traditions
Even "Wet Down" That Left One's Derriere "A Bit Burning"
Then Went Four Fast Years, Diplomas in Hand, All Yearning
When Ike Launched Us on Graduation Day into the World
"You are Leaders" the General said, and Our Flags Unfurled.
And Many of Us Have Had Lives That Did Some Special Things.
And For Most, We've Found What We Sought, Yes Everything
In 2022 Our Ranks Are Thinning as Each Completes the Course.
We Have Lived as "Men of Dartmouth", a Very Positive Force
"Another '53 Reporting Sir" and to Saint Peter We Will Say
"We've Scheduled a Renuion Here, Just Not Sure Of The Day"
All of Us Aren't Quite Here Yet-- Eventually All Will Be"
And On That Day the Bells of Heaven Will Ring So Merrily
Eleazar Will Be There That Very Special Day of '53 Tomorrow
Then All Will Stand as He Leads us in "Vox Clamantis in Deserto"
And We Are Confident That All 726 of Us Will Be Ever So Keen
To See The Blessed Plan Happen That Paints The Peary Gates Green
As Each of Our '53 Brothers Arrives, St Peter Will Note On The Scrolls
The Names of Another Brother From the Dartmouth 53 Band of Souls.*

The Dartmouth 1953 Band of Brothers at an Earlier Reunion



The Dartmouth 1953 Band of Brothers at Our 65th Reunion in 2018



When the Class cruised the Mississippi in 2005, Professor Donald Pease, an expert on the magnificent Ted Geisel series, commented that the Class of 1953 was the most affable class he had ever experienced to that time at Dartmouth and in addition to enjoying the cruise, the continuous parties, he lectured several times on the Geisel phenomenon. We have never forgotten him and his stories and always felt so honored that he felt every bit as much a member of the Band of Brothers as do we, We have a spot for you Professor at the Grand Reunion near the Green Pearly Gates..



The Baker Library with the Weathervane of Eleazar and the Big Chief is THE landmark for returning Dartmouthians driving up Rte.5 from White River, and it has always been the center point of sight at our outdoor festivities at various Dartmouth celebrations. At our last reunion, Joanne and I along with my freshman and sophomore year roommate , Don Perkins, walked across that magnificent campus on a late September day admiring the assemblage of memories from the Hanover Inn to Dartmouth Hall to Webster and then that glorious Baker Library and its grounds and attending buildings. Don opined that a brief glimpse of that cascade of memories brought to life the joy of those years on campus, and the many years around the world where the Band of Brothers met, sometimes planned and during our service to America time, sometimes just happened and anywhere in the world. But the genesis of the memory begins with that view of those very special gems of architecture on a “Soft September Sunset”

News of Classmates. During the lovely holiday season of Hanukah, Christmas, and the New Year the news is that we are all spending time with our families in whatever we do and trying to dodge any of the restrictions that the Pandemic may have imposed and, consequently, we have only tidbits of news to share with you wonderful brothers of 53. However,

another music buff, Dr. Mark Smoller, and I exchange emails several times a week on commentary or new discoveries of the wonderful “library” of artists that are available on YouTube, and Mark is still actively tinkering on the piano keyboard for his senior citizen clientele, hey that’s us, with sing along songs of the ages just as he did at our reunion three years ago. We have unearthed some fabulous concerts of various artists and orchestras. each in our preferred communities but it is abundantly clear that Andre Rieu and his magnificent orchestra, choir, and soloists from Maastricht in Holland, and with the young Amira as soloist, lead the pack on preferred choices of magnificent artistry. Mark and I exchange emails sometimes at one in the morning, not from any Pub where we might have tuned in, but from our computers right here at home, and though Mark the Music Master has many selections that he relishes playing, I believe here is the link to his favorite, Andre Rieu and the young Dutch soprano, Amira, singing O Mio Babbino Caro. <https://youtu.be/s9PQ7qPklUM> C’est Magnifique!!

With my Irish ancestors migrating from a part of the Emerald Isle that is called the Ancient Land in County Wexford, I tend daily to activate the charming voice of the Celtic Women, one of whom, Maegan Walsh, looks just like our daughter Jennifer whom I took to Ireland some time back to compete in the Milltown Malbrae music festival and here is a link to one of their gems. Being penned up by the Pandemic hasn’t slowed down the love and pursuit of music, and it is ABUNDANT of YouTube at no charge. What a blessing for the senior years, or any years, and here is the link to a Celtic Women rendition.

<https://youtu.be/QHi7xw8gpJo>

In addition to Mark, am in frequent touch with Blair Law on areas of common interest associated with the handling of the Pandemic, and Bruce Sherman on a vast array of subjects including Schooner cruises out of Portugal, Skiing at Zermatt for Nonagenarians, that’s us, and the magnificent Poem Bruce composed to capture the essence of the camaraderie of this great class; the poem captures it all for our class and as a third generation Dartmouthian, probably many others. I caught the bug from my beloved Dad, ’19 and Thayer ’20. We also hear from Perry Free from time to time on some political issues, from both Ron Lazar and Dick Fleming during their periods of recruiting donations, Ralph Heinz for the Arizona view of the world, Peter Bridges with continuing publications relevant to his illustrious career in the Foreign Service, Gerry Grady always with an Irish twist to the disasters of the day, Donna Reilly who keeps us current on Hanover affairs, Harlan Fair regarding the Put Blodgett memorial program, Dan Boyd on TDChi reminisces [we are the only 53’s left except for Boyd Johnson], and a number of our widowed classmates including Connie Clery, Arlene Bloomer, Lore Dodge, Jane Cartmell and the amazing Donna Reilly. Please send us your pictures and your news. Lots of room for all and the price is right. ’53 Out!!!! Not yet, and the 70th is only a couple of years away. Tons of love from Lake Mary, and the joy of the memory is forever.

All the best,

Dave Halloran aka Brendan, not Brandon, from Bally T’Heige, County Wexford, Ireland.