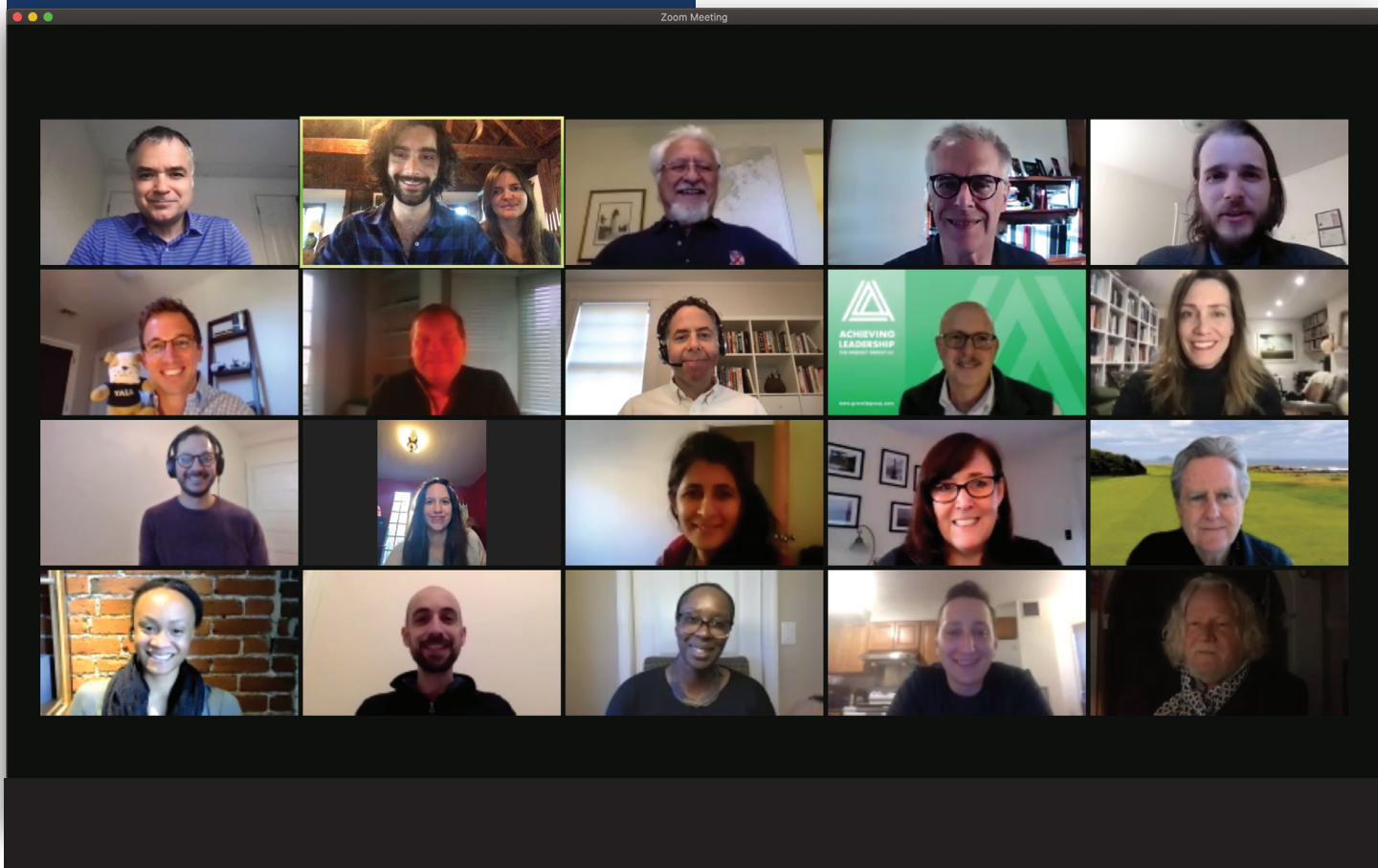


Yale

Boston



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

From the President



Dear friends,

I find myself facing a shortage of words. It is a condition from which those who know me well can attest I seldom suffer, but when faced with the enormous task – the burden and the privilege – of putting the last year down on paper, I do not know how I could do it justice. Everyone who reads this now has lived through it, and has no need of any further explanation; anyone who reads it in the future will likely have as much difficulty imagining what has occurred as I have describing it.

This year, which took so long as it was happening, in retrospect seems at times to have vanished in a blink – as though the whole thing had looped back on itself, depositing us all at some point late last spring, mere weeks after we had begun, although it took us many months to get there. “Strange” is apt but inadequate, “difficult” is accurate but so much repeated on our atemporal journey that most of us would be content not to hear it again for a while. As a society, we experienced an earthquake, a great, deep rumbling as things we took as too foundational to think about cracked and sheared beneath us. The world shook, and for a time, fell silent.

We have all lost important people in our lives during this year. In cases too woefully ingeminate to contemplate, we have lost them to the virus itself. In many others, it has been to the ordinary course of human life, and we have suffered the further loss of separation from those we cared for in their time of greatest need, or in our time of grief. And to an extent that I do not believe we yet fully appreciate, we have felt the heartwood fibers of all our relationships cloven by distance, and the unwelcome substitution of computer screens for hugs.

Ordinarily, this message is about the state of the Yale Club and not the state of the world, but everything we have done this past year has been under the shadow of the world’s intrusion. As we begin to rebuild our lives (and reassemble ourselves), I take pride in how well this community has weathered that storm.

It was our vice president, Andrej Barbic, who first proposed that we cancel our monthly happy hour last March. The rest of the board rapidly concurred, and soon things of far greater consequence would be closed or cancelled, from Yale’s campus to the Boston Marathon. As students faced a sudden order to return home with little provision for how, Yale alumni from around the world pulled together to offer temporary housing, transportation, and financial assistance, first to our future fellow alumni in New Haven, and in time to students facing similarly dire straits wherever we could be of assistance. Far more help was offered than would ultimately be needed, in part because Yale and other universities recognized their initial mistake and began making resources and accommodations available for students who could not easily leave. Having too much support available is the very best kind of problem to have, and that cascade of alumni generosity was the finest moment for the sons and daughters of Eli that I have had the privilege to see.

Locally, we adapted quickly to the switch to virtual programming. Rob Greenly ran weekly online gatherings for the first three months of the pandemic, which functioned like group therapy sessions and welcomed alumni from a dozen time zones. Switching Second Thursdays to an online format made it easier for people from outside Boston’s immediate environs to participate, and knit together the

commonwealth's Yalies, regardless of geography, to a degree we had never seen before. Similarly without precedent during my time on the board, were the sizable uptick in volunteers for the Service Committee we experienced last spring and the number of self-nominations we had for the board last summer. Seeing the world in disarray, person after person in our community did what came most naturally and offered their time and talents to others.

We made a point of fostering extramural partnerships, freed from the constraints of location. We joined with seven other Yale clubs to revive the century-old practice of an all-New England alumni gathering, with some help from the YAA. All the local SIG chapters sent representatives to our welcome reception for a kind of grown-up extracurriculars bazaar, a practice we hope to continue once we can hold that event in person again. We extended invitations to our virtual events to alumni in the Worcester area who had been without a local Yale group for many years, and ultimately welcomed them fully into our community of Yalies across eastern Massachusetts. We broadened our horizons to consider guest speakers from out of state, and found our inquiries to everyone from current Yale professors to David Gergen and Handsome Dan XIX answered with warmth and generosity.

In sum, the Yale Club is as strong as one could hope for it to be. Memberships have not fallen off, revenues fell but expenses fell with them, the board of directors is larger than I have ever seen it, the committees are well staffed, and we have maintained a vigorous schedule of programming even when it has required some creativity to do so.

Gratifying as these things are, they are all silver linings, belonging to a year I believe we are all looking forward to leaving behind. I am hopeful that we will be able to carry the best lessons of this time with us as we reopen the world and return to a semblance of normal life. I aspire to maintain the connections within our community that the pandemic has helped to forge, by ensuring that we continue to offer programming accessible to all Yalies in our region of responsibility, from the Merrimack to the Blackstone and from the Connecticut Valley to the sea. I am encouraged by the demonstration we have received of our community's strength and resiliency, and I shall do everything that is in my power to ensure that the Yale Club is worthy of the people it serves.

In short, I am alive with ambition for us. I hope, and intend, that we may make a kind of gravitational slingshot out of this pandemic, emerging on a new trajectory with purpose and resolve, driving at a higher speed toward a bright future ahead.

For Club, for City, and for Yale!

Brian D. Hoefling ES'12
President of the Yale Club of Boston



In Memoriam: Linus Travers '58 (1936-2020)

Linus Travers '58 was an exceptional leader, mentor, and friend to generations of alumni, both within the Yale Club of Boston and through a dozen other Yale organizations. He was a credit to the name of Yale, generous with his time and hospitable to all. His passing last November was an immeasurable loss to our community. *Requiescat in pace.*

Profits & Losses 2020

Annual Meeting 2020

Income	
Book Awards Reserve 2019	4,077.15
COVID-19 Donations	460.32
Dues	547.41
Dues & Contributions	6,326.89
Event Receipts	
153rd Anniversary	657.49
David Gergen Virtual	615.70
Feb Club	461.72
Hockey 2019	275.56
Hockey 2020	595.36
Uncategorized	767.90
Total Events Receipts	\$ 3,373.73
Total Income	\$ 14,785.80
Gross Profits	\$ 14,785.80
Expenses	
Book Awards	1,537.05
Book Awards 2020	539.91
Events Expense	
154th Anniversary	538.01
Feb Club 2020	443.04
Hockey 2019	1,000.00
Other Business	15.85
Total Events Expense	\$ 1,997.00
Miscellaneous	162.78
Office	
Bank Service Charges	381.40
Bardos	5,864.66
Fees	.32
Website	36.94
Supplies	15.95
Telephone	122.32
Total Office	\$ 6,421.79
Paypal fee	300.00
Professional Fees	
Accounting	2,200.00
Total Professional Fees	\$ 2,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 13,218.53
Net Operating Income	1,567.27
Net Income	\$ 1,567.27

Planning a virtual annual meeting while we were still getting the hang of online events was daunting, but we were fortunate to have help in the form of Prof. Jay Gitlin '71, a longtime friend of the Yale Club and current professor of history, known among other things for teaching a seminar on Yale and America.

It was Jay who suggested that the focus of the talk be the fiftieth anniversary of May Day 1970, a seminal moment in Yale history when the university was at the nexus of nationwide racial and political conflict galvanized by the New Haven Black Panther trials. As protesters and activists of every stripe descended on the city, Kingman Brewster famously opened Yale's campus to them, likely averting the destruction Harvard had experienced from similar demonstrations the previous month. He also publicly expressed his doubts that the imprisoned Black Panthers could have a fair trial, whether in New Haven or anywhere in the country, words that made him a notorious symbol of the decline of the university or a sympathetic ally and peacemaker, depending upon whom one asked.

At last June's lecture, we were treated to a much more on-the-ground view. Jay helped us recruit Henry "Sam" Chauncey '57, who was special assistant to Kingman Brewster in 1970 and played a significant role in steering Yale through the rough waters of the May Day rally. His insights into what was going on behind the scenes were supplemented by Jay's recollections of the day as an undergraduate, and in the Q&A by those of others who had been students at the time.



In addition to the lecture, we elected five new board members and presented former club president Rob Greenly SOM'83 with the Harvey N. Shycon '43 Alumni Award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to our community over the years as a mentor, collaborator, and leader. We particularly highlighted the dedication he had shown in getting the Connecting with Yalies series up and running, the considerable effort that required of him on a weekly basis while we were all struggling with the pandemic being a perfect encapsulation of Rob's commitment to volunteer service. He was the ninth recipient of the award, the highest recognition presented by the Yale Club of Boston, and it was richly deserved.



Photo (right): In 1970, Yale celebrated its 269th commencement, just weeks after the campus and New Haven were gripped by the May Day protests.

2020-2021 Leadership

Officers

President (president@yaleboston.org): Brian Hoefling ES'12
 Vice President (vp@yaleboston.org): Andrej Barbic GRD'01
 Secretary (secretary@yaleboston.org): Alexander Michaud DC'17
 Treasurer (treasurer@yaleboston.org): Nickolaus Groh SOM'13
 Asst. Treasurer: Jessica Miles GRD'17

Directors, by Term Expiration

June 30, 2021
 Karen Bellinger SY'91
 Nickolaus Groh SOM'13
 Brian Hoefling ES'12
 Jennifer Madar SM'88
 Andrea Zurita SOM'19

June 30, 2022
 Daniel Arias GH'15
 Qi Cao MC'17
 Yuri Cataldo DRA'08
 Thomas Meyer SOM'98
 Alexander Michaud DC'17

June 30, 2023
 Robert Allsion MC'67
 Andrej Barbic GRD'01
 Thomas Carey TC'69
 Frederick Isbell ES'82
 Gregory Kenman TD'67
 Jessica Miles GRD'17

Committee Chairs

Communications (communications@yaleboston.org): Alexander Michaud DC'17/Brian Hoefling ES'12
 Events (events@yaleboston.org): Karen Bellinger SY'91/Frederick Isbell ES'82
 Finance and Audit (treasurer@yaleboston.org): Nickolaus Groh SOM'13
 Membership (membership@yaleboston.org): Andrej Barbic GRD'01
 Outreach (outreach@yaleboston.org): Yuri Cataldo DRA'08
 Service (service@yaleboston.org): Brian Hoefling ES'12
 Young Alumni (youngalumni@yaleboston.org): Qi Cao MC'17/Steve Le Breton DC'17

Committee Reports

Events

Early in the pandemic, the club sent out a survey to its members, soliciting preferences for the frequency and subject of virtual events that we might hold under lockdown. The responses reflected the fatigue that the community was already feeling with video-conference-based programming; the majority of participants suggested a frequency of 1-2 events per month, with a preference for Yale-affiliated speakers and alumni social events. We followed this mandate closely throughout 2020.

Continuing to hold our Second Thursdays Happy Hour online proved to be an important touchstone for the community. Not only has it provided a consistent monthly forum for fellow alumni to socialize, but it has also attracted a larger and more diverse group of participants than we saw in person. We were especially excited to see the attendance of alumni who are normally situated in Massachusetts but were quarantining elsewhere, as well as current undergraduates.

Ironically, the pandemic enabled events that wouldn't have been possible were it not for the widespread embrace of virtual programming. Case in point, one of our most successful events was our webinar with David Gergen '63, which had been many moons in the making before the pandemic. In a timely conversation shortly before the 2020 elections, David discussed the resilience and budding leadership of America's younger generation, the impact of service on the nation and oneself, and other topics related to American civic and political life. We were able to welcome over 60 attendees to the live stream.

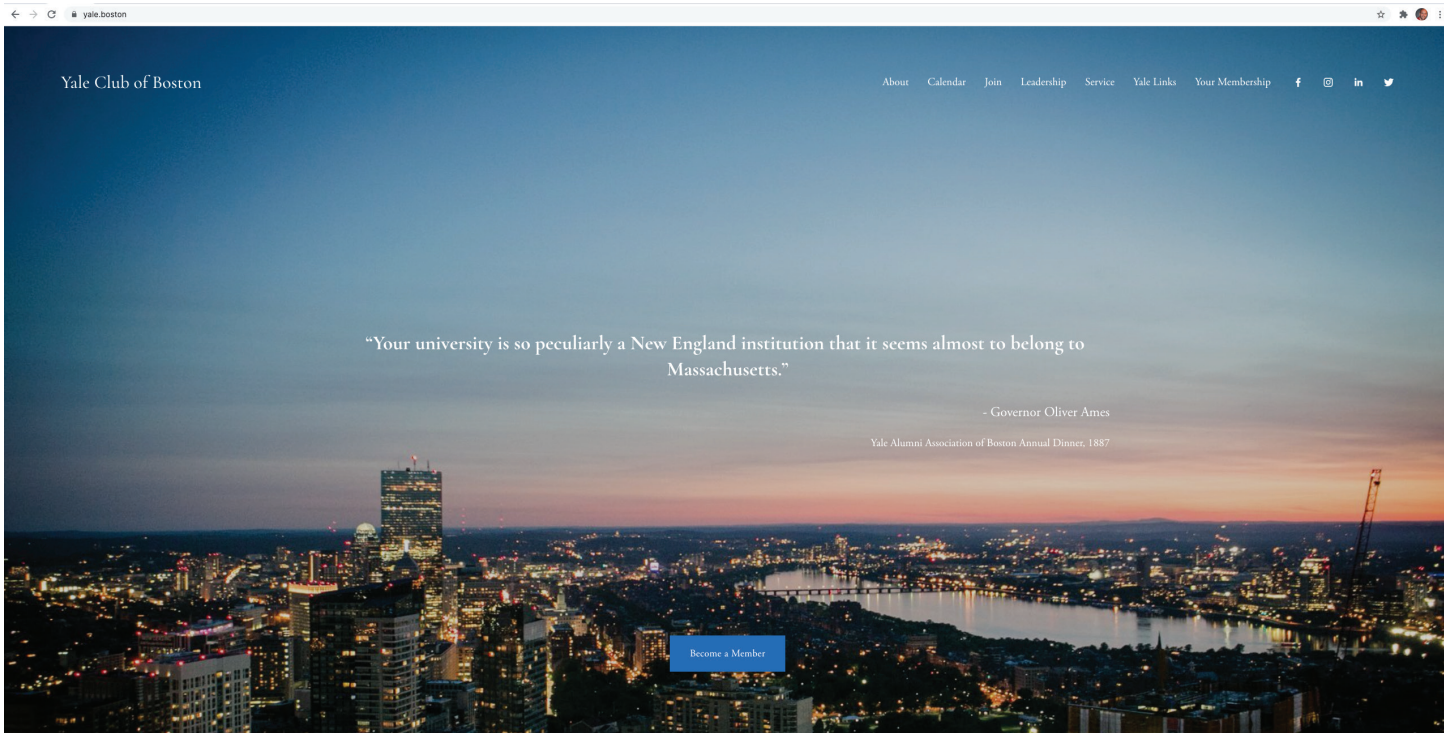
We also promoted events held by institutions affiliated with local alumni. From debates hosted by the Princeton Association of New England, to a virtual tour of the US Constitution, to a live cocktail class taught by our club president, Brian Hoefling '12, YaleBoston made an effort to bring Yalies activities that would connect them with the wider world. The events committee is proud to have had the opportunity to facilitate community through these exceptional times.

The Outreach Committee leads programs of the Yale Club which aid current or prospective Yale students. We run initiatives directly in Boston and serve as the liaison to others from Yale, such as the Yale Book Award and Community Service Fellowships. During the pandemic, we expanded the book award program to cover 115 Boston area schools and we are pushing hard to do more in 2021.

Interested in helping us expand our initiatives? Email us at outreach@yaleboston.org to get involved!

Outreach





Communications

At the start of the pandemic, the Communications Committee recognized the need for a robust digital communications strategy during this period of isolation. As a result, over the course of the last year, the committee doubled in size, incorporating additional volunteers with professional expertise in communications. This has enabled us to revitalize our social media presence and maintain a near-weekly cadence for email blasts to the YaleBoston community.

Discussion of upgrading our website predated even the pandemic, but in late 2020, the board approved a proposed budget and vision for a new site. In early 2021, the site went live at the domain www.yale.boston, and was met with enthusiasm by the Yale alumni community in Boston and beyond. In addition to providing an aesthetic upgrade, we believe the new site improves the member experience, better enables the club to deliver member-exclusive benefits, and reduces the administrative overhead of updating site content.

The committee is proud to have risen to the challenge posed by the pandemic. We believe YaleBoston's digital infrastructure has never been stronger, and that this will serve us even when club activities are once again held in person.

And what would a communications update be without a shameless plug to connect with the club on your favorite social media platforms? Find us at @YaleBoston on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



Connecting with Yalies While at a Distance

Careers, Life, and Yale (CLY) is a committee of the Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors established to bring alumni back to campus to share life experiences with students. A second focus of the committee is to connect alumni with each other to share life experiences and support each other through career and life transitions. Rob Greenly, MBA '83 started the alumni-to-alumni portion of the committee with a fellow alum. During the spring of 2020, Rob and other alumni leaders were planning a series of home-based salons to connect alumni with each other in smaller intimate settings.

At the start of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, Rob realized CLY no longer could run home-based salons. He started a weekly "Connecting with Yalies While Physically (and Socially) Distancing" Zoom meeting to provide Yale alumni and friends a forum to connect, while honoring social distancing. First piloted with YaleBoston, Connecting with Yalies continued as a core YaleBoston offering through the Spring, with alumni joining in from across the US and around the world.

From the end of March to the end of June, well over 350 alumni registered for a Connecting with Yalies session. Approximately 200 Yale alumni attended at least one of the fourteen weekly sessions.

In March, the sessions focused on how people were handling the sheltering in place and isolation. The series evolved to exchanging ideas and strategies for staying connected and positive while distancing. From the end of May through June, discussions turned to more sobering and difficult conversations about racial injustice and social unrest and what steps Yalies were taking in response in their local communities and the world at large.



Before the Pandemic: Yale Jewish Alumni Association of Greater Boston in 2020

The Yale Jewish Alumni Association of Boston arranged two events in 2020 before the pandemic hit. Philippe Bloch'84, M.Ed. facilitated a dynamic discussion on the "Brief History of the Coat-of-Arms of Yale University" or, "Why Christian Ministers may have chosen a Hebrew Inscription and Old Testament Reference to symbolize their University."

Phillippe kept a living room full of alumni enthralled at the home of Frank Aronson'69 with a diligently researched history of Yale's coat of arms. Philippe explained the significance and subtle differences between the Hebrew *Urim v'Thummim* and Latin inscription of *Lux et Veritas*. He made connections to present day academic discourse, the State of Israel, and our sister university in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



The last event of the year before the lockdown that the Yale Jewish Alumni Association of Greater Boston scheduled was group attendance at "We All Fall Down," a play at the Huntington Theatre about a family preparing for Passover. Yalies and others in the audience were treated with an engaging and enlightening "actor talk-back" after the play, where themes of family, Judaism, sickness, health, truth, and secrets were all addressed.



Other Local Groups Serving Yale Alumni

Association of Asian American Yale Alumni Boston Chapter - aaaya.org/contact

Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance New England Chapter - newengland@yalenonprofitalliance.org

Yale Black Alumni Association - ybaacommunications@gmail.com

Yale Blue Green Boston Chapter - ybgboston@gmail.com

Yale Jewish Alumni Association (Non-Regional) - yjaa18@gmail.com

Yale Veterans Association Boston Chapter - yalevetsboston@gmail.com

YaleWomen Boston Chapter - boston@yalewomen.org

Yale Club of Cape Cod - yaleclubofcapecod@gmail.com

Yale Club of New Hampshire - yaleclubofnh@gmail.com



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