

**TEAA (Teachers for East Africa Alumni) Newsletter No. 36, January 2017.**

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**DETROIT - TEAA GRAND FINALE**

August 17-20, 2017

Mark your calendar for a Detroit visit, August 17-20, 2017. Here's why.

Fifty-six years ago, the first of us went to East Africa to teach. We went before the Peace Corps teachers – we are their proud predecessors! More than 600 of us went in the next ten years. In 1999, Ed Schmidt decided to find us all, and in two years he had located more than 400 of us. We are can-do folks.

Our first reunion/conference was held in Washington DC only nine days after the 9/11 attacks. About 130 of us came to that stunned city. The Peace Corps had planned its 40<sup>th</sup> reunion for that same weekend. They cancelled, but we came.

In 2015, at the Minneapolis Reunion, TEAAers voted to make the 2017 Reunion our last in-person gathering. That's sensible. We are not as young as we once were. But we are still people who rise to a challenge.

Let's see if we can match that 130 number who came to the first reunion!

If you've been to any of our nine previous reunions, you know that they are fun and informative – and amazing as, in casual conversation, we find out what a varied,

interesting and accomplished group of people we went to Africa with. In fact, many of you have already said you are coming to Detroit. [Who's Coming: <http://tea-a.org/detroit/who.html> ] But if you've never been to a reunion – if year after year, you've said, "I'm too busy now. I have conflicting plans. My best friend can't make it. I'll go next time." – this is your last chance!

And we are meeting in a wonderful city. Detroit is in renaissance. *The New York Times* has listed it in 9th place on its list of 52 must-go places for 2017. Only ten of the places are even in the US! In keeping with our trend-setting history, we posted a description of Detroit's many attractions on the TEAA website last December. <<http://tea-a.org/detroit/attractions.pdf>>. Detroit has everything -- great art in its museum (the Rivera Murals!), thousands of classic restored cars on its streets during our weekend (The Dream Cruise!), and wonderful parks along its international river front. Also on our weekend, Detroit is holding the 35<sup>th</sup> African World Festival, an enormous street fair which celebrates the African diaspora with music, dance and food. The city would be well worth a visit, even if we weren't meeting there.

As for our program, we will have group meetings on the mornings of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but in the afternoon and evening we will be out and about doing different things – a guided Detroit Institute of Arts visit on Friday afternoon to see their African art collection and the famous Rivera murals. And the African World Festival on Friday evening. On Saturday a city tour in the afternoon and a farewell dinner in the evening. We have planned optional activities too. On Thursday afternoon, before the welcome reception, we will offer a tour of the Islamic Center in Dearborn led by Local Committee Member Ron Stockton. (Did you know that Dearborn is among the largest Muslim communities in the USA?) On Sunday afternoon there's an optional trip to see the Tigers play the Dodgers in a major league baseball game. (Watch the website for the fully detailed program, coming soon: <http://tea-a.org/> )

Please note: in this schedule, there is plenty of time to socialize with old friends so call them! Urge them to join you! And there will be time to make new friends too. We all have a lot in common. Come and explore the connections.

Here's how:

### **Registration for the Reunion**

The fee is \$155 if you were in TEA or TEEA and \$95 for family members and guests.

Mail a check payable to TEAA to:

Henry Hamburger/6400 Wynkoop Blvd./Bethesda MD 20817

### **Reservations at the Hotel**

We are at the Courtyard by Marriott in Downtown Detroit, sometimes called The People Mover Hotel, because the city's popular monorail runs right through it with a station on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. It links the hotel directly to many of the most popular attractions. We have reserved a block of rooms for 5 nights August 16 through 20, at the conference rate of \$139 a night, but the actual conference nights are August 17-19.

### **On-Line Hotel Reservations**

For more hotel info and on-line reservations, click here or enter in your browser <http://tea-a.org/detroit/hotel.html>

### **Hotel Reservations by Phone**

Call 1-800-321-2211 and give the name of the hotel (Courtyard by Marriott Detroit Downtown) and name of the group (Teachers for East Africa Alumni) to get our group rate (of \$139 a night).

**President's Message**, Brooks Goddard. [Read book reviews by Brooks, many of them on things African at <http://www.tea-a.org/cool/1-recent-reads.htm>]

Does not Charles Dickens's opening of *A Tale of Two Cities* sound appropriate again? Let us look forward. Detroit17 promises to be electric because we shall be in a city on the rise with riches to show off, because we shall be together to rekindle friendships, and because we shall renew our hope in the good works for the Bright Continent. Personally I am especially eager to see the African Festival at the Charles Wright Museum (<http://thewright.org>). In fact, I am going a day early and staying a day late at those great rates that Reunion Chair Mary Ryan Taras obtained for us at the Courtyard Marriott Detroit Downtown hotel. The fact that Jim Weikart has ordered in a case or two of Tusker is even more incentive to go (and, yes, we can serve ajiri ice-tea also).

If it will fit easily into your luggage, do bring an artifact (or a picture of one) that rekindles memories of your East African service. For me that is a Samburu milk gourd with its leather straps and bead decoration. About once a year I take off the top and breathe deep (not a smell others relish). Then I'm back in Maralal or some other Northern Frontier District (NFD) spot, the sky is big, the air crystalline, the night sky luminous. We can share artifacts and stories.

For reading I must mention three books. First, *Africa's Child* by Maria Nhambu who attended MN15. This is the story of a child left at a Lushoto, TZ, orphanage at age 4 days who has grown into a vibrant person. Nhambu has 2 more volumes of memoir to complete. Buy the book at <http://marianhambu.com/wp/> and cherish it. Second and third, two books from the 80s, *Bwana Karani* by Mervyn Maciel and *In Teleki's Footsteps* by Tom Heaton. These are admittedly "niche" books. Maciel's is about his civil service in Kenya from 1947 to 1966 and portrays the commitment and dedication of the Goan community to Kenya (Maciel is still alive in UK where he went in 1966 after Africanization). Heaton (now deceased) retraced the path of Teleki (1886) from Pangani in TZ to Voi in KE to Nairobi across the Loita Plains, to Nyeri, to the NFD and back to Lake Baringo. He observes action, he narrates history, and he endures hardship. Ngugi's third book of memoir, *Birth of a Dream Weaver*, documents his years at Makerere with a few shout-outs to TEARs Frothingham and Lindfors.

Finally, my last request for your written memories, your Teaki(s). It's all at <http://www.tea-a.org/nyea/hyperbook.html>. There are other links at the "Story Project" menu. I hope to have the Teakis published in time for Detroit17. To be included you must submit your tale(s) to Henry at [henryjh@comcast.net](mailto:henryjh@comcast.net) by **March 1, 2017**. After months of inertia, more stories are coming in. JUST DO IT! Ya kuonana, Brooks

### **On Our Website, Henry Hamburger**

Detroit, site of the 2017 TEAA Reunion, is #9 in the NY Times list of *52 Places to Go in 2017*. Sharon Hartmann has written a fabulous account of what's great in Detroit. This too is easily reachable from <http://tea-a.org/attractions.html>

Reunion Information on making hotel reservations and on payment of the registration fee to TEAA is all at <http://tea-a.org/detroit/hotel.html> If you are deciding whether to stay an extra day before and/or after the 2017 Reunion, don't forget that those two nights also get the low TEAA group rate at the hotel.

TEAA is not done yet! Notes and photos from our 2016 doings are at <http://tea-a.org/hot/intro.html> Also accessible from the website are the 171 stories from 83 TEAA authors and the list of 190 grants totaling \$269,000 to East African secondary schools by TEAA

The entire TEAA website can be seen from <http://tea-a.org> If it gives you any trouble, please let me know at [henryjh@comcast.net](mailto:henryjh@comcast.net).

### **Next UK reunion, Clive Mann <[clivefmann@gmail.com](mailto:clivefmann@gmail.com)>**

It's time to think of another reunion. It seems that those most interested in these great events are permanently or temporarily in the London area. Therefore I am suggesting one in London in the second half of February. Hopefully Dave Smith will be around to find us a good location with his encyclopaedic knowledge of watering holes. Comments please!

Any one who is not normally in the area but is passing through, particularly from outside UK, please let us know. Perhaps one can be arranged at a time to suit you.

Bob and I have been thinking about a reunion north of the border, and would travel up. A number of you are resident in Scotland but dispersed. If this is of interest could you suggest where this might be?

Hope to see at least some of you soon. These events never disappoint.

### **Recent Emails from East African Head Teachers and Principals**

Maxwell Engola, head teacher of Leo Atubo College near Lira, Uganda, on October 29. My regret for the delay to send these documents [receipts] and photos [of books and lab equipment]. I got a simple fracture on my left leg while playing football with the students and could not walk but I've gotten better now. However, the books [purchased with TEAA funds] were successfully delivered though with some delays as some books were out of stock. The S.4 candidates have also successfully started their exams which have been running for two weeks now.

And on December 18: I have not been in position to continue with the exams marking exercise due to the sudden death of my father who passed on yesterday. I therefore returned home this morning for his burial arrangement due on Friday. He was such a wonderful father to us. The Lord had given and has taken. Maxwell

Rose Kalerwa, principal of Bungoma Baptist Girls School. Hello Mr Schmidt, I hereby confirm that our school account was credited with the grants which translated into KSh. 107,790.60. On behalf of the entire Bungoma Baptist girls High School fraternity, we are so grateful for the support. We have made the orders of the books and will send the

details once they have been delivered. Thank you so much, and please pass our appreciation to the entire TEAA fraternity. God bless. Rose

Ndesamburo Kwayu, head teacher of Moringe Sokoine SSS, Monduli, Tz. Dear Mr. Henry, We send many greetings to you and to the Board of Directors at TEAA. Hope the winter in your place does not "harm" you too much. We closed school and now few of us are hanging in the office to make sure parents get the academic reports of their children while on holidays.

Thank you for the \$ 3,700 you wired to Moringe SSS to renovate the chemistry laboratory. Thank you!! The money is in the bank here in Monduli. We hope the money will alter the current status of our chemistry laboratory thus impacting positively the academic status of our school in the area of science.

As usual we will keep you posted. Best regards at Advent. Kwayu.

Okunya Milton, principal of Wandiji SS near Homa Bay, Kenya. Friends, I am fine and doing well. Our students are writing their national exams under very new rules and very strict conditions. But we are happy to say that we can see some sanity being restored into our system.

We received the shock of your election results. The mood here is depressing but the majority must have their way. Do think of us even as the times change.

Ombeni Ndos, head teacher at Nkoaranga SS, near Arusha, Tanzania. Dear Henry and all TEAA team, Greetings from Nkoaranga Secondary School. I'm very happy to express our thanks to you for the support which you gave the school in this year, 2016. For sure, you have done a lot for this school, especially by providing science books and laboratory equipments. Your aids really enabled the students to study comfortably, particularly in science subjects.

In fact, now we are at the Christmas holiday from 2nd of December 2016 until 9th January 2017. All students are now back to their homes.

I wish you and the TEAA team all the best in this Christmas and Happy New Year 2017. Ndos

**Transformation in Teacher Education in Tanzania**, Frances Vavrus, Professor of Comparative and International Development Education, U. of Minnesota. Adaptation from a Powerpoint presentation by Ed Schmidt.

In the last newsletter, the highlights of the first part of MN-15 keynote speaker Dr. Frances Vavrus' talk were described. She presented the findings of research centered around the TEA program in the 1960s. In the second part of her presentation Fran described a project she has been heading up at Mwenge Catholic University (MWECAU) in the Arusha area and later expanded to Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU), located inland from Tanga.

The project, called the Teaching in Action Program (TIA), addresses a goal in the World Bank's *Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP) II, July 2010-June 2015* of "improving the equitable provision of teachers and the quality of teaching in mathematics, sciences, and languages. The objectives of this component are

deployment of teachers to rural areas; improved instruction in mathematics, sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics), and languages; and better teaching practices.”

In addition, Tanzania’s 2010 *Civics Syllabus* for secondary schools (with similar revisions for other subjects) states: Teachers should “apply participatory and learner centered teaching strategies” and develop in students “higher level thinking skills and capabilities.”

Learner-Centered Pedagogy (LCP) is described with different terms and emphases but has in common 1) learning as active process of inquiry, 2) students and teachers as learners capable of constructing knowledge, and 3) teachers as facilitators creating conditions for students to “learn to learn” and to develop critical thinking and analytical skills. The continuum of LCP ranges from a less learner-centered classroom where instruction is chalk & talk, where the teacher is the sole authority and knowledge is fixed, to a more learner-centered environment featuring independent or group inquiry, knowledge as fluid, and the teacher as facilitator of learning.

The Teaching in Action (TIA) Program consisted of workshops and school-based mentoring on LCP and content knowledge for Tanzanian secondary school teachers. (You can see clips from TIA 2009 on YouTube under “Teaching in Action Tanzania.”) In practice, teachers created low-cost teaching aids and developed lessons that demonstrated appropriate use of LCT methods to teach specific content.

Under the TIA Research Project, 23 teachers from six private high schools in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions participated in TIA 2010. The purpose of the research was to explore how Tanzanian teachers understand and implement LCP.

Results of the research include: 1) Teachers’ attitudes toward LCP and their practices of it are profoundly shaped by the working conditions in schools. 2) Teacher and teacher educators’ conceptualizations of intergenerational authority and of knowledge are often in conflict with LCP. 3) Policies and programs designed to improve teaching and learning in Tanzania need to recognize these practical and conceptual conflicts.

Of particular interest are two quotes from teachers: “...the students have a textbook and the students see the pictures in the textbook, but you only have five textbooks for a class of 70 students. It becomes difficult because you have to draw the picture so that the students can see the lesson.”

“We are spoon feeding. We write everything on the board and tell them to copy. But, if we have enough textbooks and the children can make their own notes, then they will learn.”

Teacher educators felt it was difficult to apply LCP in practice. Currently, there is an emphasis on definitional rather than applied/practical knowledge (in national exams, for example). It is a challenge for students to generalize knowledge from one context/example to another.

Looking ahead to future educational development, Dr. Vavrus questioned the process of finding Tanzanian partners and partner institutions for long-term, mutually-beneficial engagement, especially given that views on pedagogy (and other matters) may differ. Also, with the needs as great as they are, how does one decide where to invest time, energy, and financial resources when there are multiple possibilities.

**I'm Still in the Field**, Barry Sesnan, TEA UK in Kenya '68-'69. Adapted from Barry's end-of-year letter

Greetings for the New Year. The year of Trump and (maybe) Brexit. Brexit is worrying for people like me because much of my work – apart from that with UN -- is at least implicitly based on my being an EU citizen. And often explicitly.

2016 was another year of living in generally good hotels in job locations, and living between-times in a small rented apartment in Nairobi. I have made moves to go back to Uganda where all my furniture is but at the end of the year this was still at the level of scouting for houses. All that living in hotels, plus lack of discipline on my part, meant that I regained 8 kg of what I had laboriously lost.

In the first part of the year I worked with my colleague Ciceron in Guinea with UNICEF on Out of School children and youth, basically similar to what I did in Mali the year before, preparing a policy for the government on how to handle the increasing drop-out from schools as economies change and the quality of education falls for the vast majority of youth who can't afford private schools. In Mali the year before and in Guinea at this time the feedback from our surveys showed large numbers who felt that formal school was not giving them anything useful. Families said it was better for their children to work than to waste time at school. In these circumstances migration is very tempting. Guinea is, sadly, yet another potentially very rich (minerals) country with a very poor population. But it has wonderful fish restaurants. Like so often with consultancies the admin processes in Guinea dragged out and I finally got paid 'only' four months after finishing.

I went to Somaliland to work on the re-opening of two boarding schools targeting boys and girls from nomadic families. They had been destroyed in the wars and are now being rebuilt with generous donor money. My role was on the 'soft' side. Drawing up school rules, interviewing teachers and, still to be finished, but delayed, training the teachers. Boarding schools are not common in Somaliland and strict parents in this very religious society need a lot of persuasion to allow their girls to attend them. The challenge with the teachers (who are invariably only teaching because they have not yet found something else to do) was well illustrated on the wall of one of the classrooms in a good school with the painted slogan: **Roma was not building in day**. It seemed to have been there for years and had never been challenged or corrected, or possibly even read.

The very good work the Ministry team is doing on the hard side – new buildings, connected schools, solar lighting and so on -- has to counterbalance a very weak and uncommitted teaching force. We need to work hard on that, especially as the Ministry prefers to keep the salaries low so they can take over when the donors finally leave.

I also went twice to Rumbek in South Sudan to continue my occasional work on a communication skills handbook for young South Sudanese in a small Jesuit-run vocational institute, training people for basic maintenance of plumbing, electrical (solar and generator) and building. That is supported by Slovak church funds! *Hailstones in Rumbek; the brief storm damaged 5 UN planes, several WFP lorries and many solar panels.*

Then to Rwanda and Uganda, not on jobs but trying to work together on youth issues with fellow NGOs and to see the new massive refugee crisis in Uganda. I am writing a concept paper on how to reduce the need for migration through training centres with flexible modules and short courses, as well as enabling courses such as use of computers, driving and languages. We call them Echo Bravo Centres recalling the network of centres we set up in the nineties when the radio call sign was 'Echo Bravo' representing Education Base.

The rapid spread of smartphones, by the way, is changing the landscape of training for the better. Anyone interested in this could read my Concept Paper, and I will soon be moving to access crowd-funding for pilot centres in Mali, Congo and for the refugees.

Overall it was a better year for me in terms of consultancies, but I realised that I did not plan well for this time of semi-retirement and the erratic way I get or do not get jobs -- not to speak of getting paid. As some of you know this caused me crises. The effort, and occasional humiliation, of trying to extract payment can sometimes wear me down.

In recent years I have got to UK in July or August partly to do administrative things like renewing or updating visas and other documents. This year I couldn't risk going with wonky eyes. In Africa I can always get someone to walk with me if I go out, but in UK I would have been reduced to only crossing roads on the green man! I got my Kenya multiple visa in Nairobi for the first time, but I need to go to UK soon to sort out my pension. Being resident or not resident has become an issue now. The years of UN work (when I paid taxes to UK) and all my national insurance payments seem to mean less than they used to. I also greatly regretted missing the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration in Abingdon of old friends.

So what else? A colleague in Congo got arrested for sharing a video I sent him of anti-Kabila chants at football matches.

I met up with several old friends who are still hanging on like me -- people who remember the camaraderie of the days in remote areas when there was no phone or computer. (The first time I introduced students in Juba, in the early eighties, to very basic computers I was criticised by a colleague from a major NGO for introducing students to something not culturally appropriate that they would never use!) Indeed, we used to be affected by the developmental and humanitarian political correctness of the day that said that villages were natural and cities were not; that walking around as a nomad was somehow intrinsically better than living in a slum; that a rural health centre was better than an equipped hospital in a central place; that self-employment was always better than a job with a wage. In 1994 I wrote an AIDS manual in Uganda and was criticised by the Director General of the Ministry for showing people in cities, not surrounded by goats and barefoot children.

In a lighter vein, in alcohol-free Somaliland I discovered apple and malt-flavoured non-alcoholic beer (Bavaria 0.0%) which became my tippie of choice though it's probably still too much sugar for a diabetic. In Somaliland mobile money is even



more developed than in Kenya because bundles of Somaliland shillings are too heavy to carry around. Money transfer at 1% to anywhere there is a Dahabshil office has killed off both Western Union and Moneygram (and worried the CIA).

Somaliland, totally peaceful by the way, continues to be like a commercial offshoot of Dubai -- everything is available including very cheap cars. The Somaliland diaspora funds much of what goes on as the economy has virtually no natural resources and little agriculture, apart from sheep, goats and camels. There is nevertheless a building boom and lots of private schools and hospitals. As everywhere in Africa cities are growing exponentially. Most Somalilanders will soon live in just four towns, if they do not already.

Hargeisa has regular huge traffic jams and international flights to Dubai and Addis Ababa giving it good connections on reliable airlines to the rest of the world. Very unlike the Russian Antonovs we used in the early days with the pilot drinking and eating pizza at the joystick, one wing being welded while refuelling goes on on the other side. Somalilanders have positive memories of those of us who were with them as they rebuilt their country and I find that there is still a welcome and nice working environment when I am there.

Though Rumbek in South Sudan has not had the war and killing of much of the rest of South Sudan, it has been affected by the collapse of the currency and the increasingly dangerous and impassable roads. South Sudanese pounds have gone from being 2 to the dollar less than ten years ago to being 75 to the dollar now. Anything imported, including most medicines, is out of the question. Areas with little agriculture are suffering from famine. Many cattle people do not slaughter their animals which represent stored wealth used to pay bride price, and even the slightest droughts affect them greatly. Luckily, in the past few years the whole of East Africa and much of Southern Sudan have had abundant rains, especially in the El Niño year. Uganda, Kenya and even Juba are much greener than we used to know.

For the rest of South Sudan and Northern Uganda where I went a couple of months ago, it is a terrible repetition of the situation in the nineties. The new war is ethnic and indescribably awful, affecting people who had been totally peaceful and are now squeezed between two factions to which they do not belong.

Huge numbers are arriving in Uganda, many are of the next generation of those who fled the fighting in 1990s. On the positive side, it is interesting to note that the refugee influx is being handled more professionally and with more dignity than 25 years ago. Buses pick people up at the border, and the reception camps are very well organised. MTN [mobile phone company] even has a mobile mobile-phone mast on a lorry erected in the Bidibidi headquarters of the aid effort. Part of this improvement is the result of learning over the years, and part is attributable to the Uganda authorities who are usually regarded as having the best refugee policies in the world. Refugees in Uganda may work, cultivate, attend school -- most of which even neighbouring Kenya denies refugees these days. There is no polemic like in Europe, there are no people smugglers and there is strict adherence to the rule of remaining in the first country where you arrive. And very little money, so refugees are just as poor as their Ugandan hosts. Nothing like the money spent on Syrians.

However, they have nothing to do, though some schools have already (re)opened and the Windle Trust is there helping out. For me it would be fitting to go back to work with them like before if funds can be found to set up the kind of centres we had before. Some are still open but diminished after years of peace. We (Echo Bravo) have done a survey and shown what a training and resource centre could do to get young people on track again.

Finally, on the way to the camps we passed Lodonga RC mission where years ago, throughout the LRA and refugee crises a man called John Andruga made terra cotta heads in his compound, for which I was often his informal agent. He had been a refugee himself in Sudan where I first met him. He made "interesting heads" of different tribal groups and usually they were life-size and modelled on a real person. I took a box of them to Khartoum once for an exhibition and the room boy carrying the box to my room in the hotel ran off screaming when I opened them -- they looked so realistic.

On a whim we stopped at Lodonga on the way back from the camps and I looked for John, and found him. His eyes are bad, he has stopped making the heads, and his son was not interested in doing it.

Coming year? More of the same, or, I hope, more direct work on youth out of school and on hybrid courses of work and study for them. We are looking at Mali, DR Congo and the refugees.

### **Some East African Experiences, Joel Watne, Arusha SS, Arusha T (1C)**

[Joe writes, "Hi Ed, After several years of procrastinating in response to your requests for stories of our experiences in East Africa, I finally bit the bullet and wrote down about a dozen for you. Hope this helps. -- Joel" What appears below is only the first half of Joel's stories. Look for more in the next newsletter.]

#### **East African Railways Curry**

While at Makerere College in late 1961, I ate at a table with a number of Goans, including some from Arusha, Tanganyika, where I was being posted to the Arusha Indian School. Once a week, the meal included curry, with which I was entirely unfamiliar. I liked it and assumed that I now knew what curry was.

Then came the train ride from Kampala to Nairobi and Moshi. The Sikh waiter brought me the menu, and I confidently selected a curry dinner. He soon presented me with the meal, and I took one bite. It was instantly obvious that this fiery stuff was not at all similar to the Makerere cuisine. I started gulping all the cold water within reach to put out the flames, and the waiter did a pretty good job of suppressing his laughter.

#### **A Painful Arrival In Arusha.**

While riding the East African Railways from Kampala to Nairobi and Moshi, I spent a lot of time leaning out the window enjoying the passing landscape, especially when crossing the Rift Valley. I developed the most severe case of sinusitis I have ever heard of by the time the train reached Moshi and I got a ride to Arusha. By then, my forehead was swollen, my eyes almost swollen shut, and the pain was excruciating. I was taken straight to the hospital, where I spent three days under morphine while the

medical staff cleared up the sinusitis problem. Fortunately, the rest of my time in Arusha was far more pleasant than this inauspicious start.

### Diversity In Arusha.

When I was assigned to a school in Arusha, it was the Arusha Indian School, which served the Asian population of Hindus, Sikhs, Sunni Muslims, 3 sects of Shia Muslims, Goans, Jains, Parsees—plus one Tanzanian African, one Somali and one Greek, the son of a Greek Orthodox priest. After Tanganyika's independence, it was renamed Arusha Secondary School, and the African component of the student body greatly increased. The first year, the headmaster was a Pakistani Sunni who disliked Brits—and by extension, Americans—but was fond of Scotch. He was eventually replaced by an African Catholic. I went from being rated the worst teacher in the school to the best by the simple change in who wrote the evaluations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani headmaster made me coach of the soccer team despite my lack of familiarity with the sport, and also coach of the field hockey team, about which I knew even less. I pretty much let the team members decide who should be captain and decide who would play what positions, since they obviously knew more about the subject than I. A problem arose on the soccer team when some players complained that the captain (the headmaster's son and a very good student) was favoring Muslims in selecting starters. He responded by resigning, and I let the team choose their captain, which the headmaster felt was a decision I should dictate. I told the team that I did not care which religious community a player came from and that we should be fielding the eleven best players we had, even if it meant eleven Hindus, eleven Sikhs, eleven Sunnis, eleven Shiites or eleven Goans, although it would be highly unlikely for any of those possibilities to be the case. There was no more visible religion-based friction on either the soccer or field hockey teams, and working with them was a very enjoyable experience.

My Goan contacts at Makerere College led to meeting members of the Arusha Goan Association, and they let me play club field hockey with them to learn the game. This led to my becoming the only non-Goan member of the Arusha Goan Association, a Norwegian-American Lutheran sticking out among all of those Asian Catholics.

But there were some limitations on inter-communal action. When we had a school program for the parents, part of the talent show included an Indian stick dance in which the dancers hold a stick in each hand and clack them together. We had two versions of the same dance, the first by Hindu girls in red saris, and the second by Ismaili Muslim girls in pastel blue and pink saris.

### A Good Look at Kilimanjaro.

Arusha is on the south side of Mount Meru, at about 5000 feet above sea level. The mountain reaches 14,968 feet above sea level, rising from a surrounding plain at about 3000 feet above sea level. A dormant volcano, it probably was much taller before an explosive eruption thousands of years ago blew out the northeast part of it, leaving a crater that is open towards Kilimanjaro, about 30 miles away, and about a mile taller.

I led a group of my students to the top of Mt. Meru, which took about a day. We rode in a truck to the end of a road up the western side of the mountain, and hiked up to a hut at the tree line—about 12,000 feet. We got a few hours rest there, before starting

for the top about 3 a.m. Each of us packed his own lunch, and one of my Sikh students amazed us all with the super-hot green peppers he ate like popcorn. His eyes watered; his nose dripped—and he kept on popping them into his mouth. All of the other students were also Asian, and used to far spicier food than Americans, but they watched him in open-mouthed astonishment.

Before dawn, we started the hike to the top. No technical rock climbing was involved. The surface was loose scree that made the task similar to climbing a gravel pile. We would take three steps forward and pause to catch our breath, sliding backwards about two steps. It took until noon to make that last 3,000 feet. Once at the top, we sat on a rock protruding over the crater, dangling our feet over the edge, and looking down at the ash cone in the crater several thousand feet below. Ahead of us, across the intervening plain, stood Kilimanjaro, the tallest free standing mountain in the world, and a truly magnificent sight.

After about a half hour of enjoying the view, I noticed that thunder clouds were forming nearby and thought that an exposed mountain top did not seem to be a particularly enticing place to be during a thunderstorm. The descent along the same route we came up was very quick. We would take two steps, then plant our feet and slide down about twenty feet or so, and repeat the process. It took only twenty minutes to get back down to the tree line. However, the sharp scree shredded the sides out of the sneakers I was wearing, but they were the only casualty of the trip.

**View from the Eastern Side of the Pond**, Richard Price. St Joseph's College, Chidya (later known as Chidya SS), near Masasi T (TEA UK 4B -- stayed to 1970)

[When I asked Richard if I could put his letter in the newsletter, he replied, "I hope it won't upset people who don't agree with me. It seems to have become difficult or even impossible to disagree with people without getting demonised (demonized) on social media!"]

Hello Ed,

Happy New year to you too! But I cannot ever remember feeling so uncertain about what the year ahead holds for us all.

As someone who was made homeless by a Nazi bomb and whose parents saw Europe go to war not once but twice in their lives, I was very distressed when Britain voted to leave the European Union.

Too many of my fellow compatriots seem to have forgotten that one of the reasons for setting up the EU was to prevent Europe from ever going to war again and, with all its faults the EU has, so far, succeeded in that aim. Indeed, given the new threats that now confront us all -- terrorism, climate change, food security, etc. -- the case for remaining within the EU to try collectively to tackle them seemed to me to be stronger than ever. I thought that it would be much better to stay in the EU and work from within to reform it.

So the Brexit vote and then the election of Mr Trump make me very apprehensive about the future -- not so much for us because we are nearing the exit, but for our children and grandchildren.

On a more optimistic note I do hope your TEAA reunion goes well. It must be great to get together and share memories and update each other on current contacts in Tanzania.

I am still in touch with several Brits who worked in the south of Tanzania (Mtwara region) and we do get together from time to time. I am also still in touch with one of my Tanzanian students. He blames me for the fact that as careers master I told him not to apply for a job at the Telecomms, but instead to continue studying for higher school certificate. He did that and eventually qualified as a doctor. He and his wife have visited Britain several times and always come and stay with us at the end of a tour round several places that support medical and educational work in the south of the country.

I took my family back to the south of Tanzania in 1996 and we received such a warm welcome.

Best wishes, Richard. Cambridge, UK. Makerere 1964-65, St Joseph's College, Chidya, Tanzania (near Masasi), 1965-70.

### **Your Stories, John Filby and Paul Haslam**

**John Filby.** Makerere College School, Kampala, U '67-'69, (TEA UK)  
Life after TEA: Thinking I'd got 'abroad' out of my system, I followed the standard career path in England, becoming a deputy head in Derbyshire. A year on a Commonwealth teacher exchange in Perth, WA, changed my perspective somewhat. Two years with the English Schools Foundation in Hong Kong was followed by Malawi, Dubai, Malawi again (as Director of Bishop Mackenzie International School, Lilongwe) and finally Ghana (as Principal of Ghana International School, Accra). I retired to Derbyshire in 2004.

There have been distant echoes of my TEA years. In Hong Kong, I was chatting at a parents' meeting to a Tanzanian diplomat; she turned out to have been taught maths by Sandy Tringham, one from my TEA year. In Ghana, a newly-arrived parent from Uganda came to see me. I asked him about his own education. Not only had he attended Makerere College School but also, to our mutual delight, been a resident of Northcote Hall during his university days.

People who knew me in Kampala need to know that Heather and I separated in 1977; Sally is now my wife of some 36 years.

**Paul F Haslam.** I did my Dip Ed at Makerere in 1966-7 and then was posted to Trinity College, Nabbingo, where I succeeded Pat Gill as Chemistry teacher at Trinity College, Nabbingo, Kampala. I did two contracts at Trinity College. During my second contract I met up with a young lady from Northern Ireland who had come to teach at the College, having taught previously in Western Cameroon after graduating from Queens University Belfast.

We married after our return in June 1972. We came to live in Northern Ireland in 1974 and have been here ever since, living through the "Troubles." We have 3 sons, two of whom are married, and have 2 grandchildren. I took early retirement in 1998 and have never regretted it. I think that there may be some TEAs here in Northern Ireland but have no names.

### **We've Heard From You**

Pat Patterson. Ed, After reading the whole newsletter I deleted it. However, there was one item I had intended to save—your story about your snakebite. A good friend lives in the Phoenix area, and two years ago he stepped on a rattlesnake and was bitten. He had a lot of problems with that wound, and it took a long time for his leg to heal. I think your experience was worse. So can you send me your snake story again? I want to share it with that friend, he will certainly empathize with you.

Here in Thailand I have had some snake incidents, but never bitten. One close encounter was in my own yard when I almost stepped on a cobra. Fortunately he was a young one and slow to form his coil before striking. I was carrying a garden hose and threw it down towards the cobra, and I ran off. The cobra also retreated, never to be seen again.

I hope you are fully recovered now. Best regards and thank you, Pat Patterson

Emilee Hines Cantieri. Emilee reports that she and her husband Gerald spent a lot of time traveling this year: cruises in the Caribbean, the UK, and Hawaii; college and family reunions; and a road trip through the Caucasus. Emilee's mystery novel, *Shadows on a White Wall*, is now on Amazon both as an e-book and paperback.

Don Knies. 2016... like for the rest of the world, this has been a strange and unusual year for us. For Mo and me life goes on pretty much the same [in Dorset, England]. Not much travel any more, she is busy as always, doing all the driving, fighting the never-ending battle with house and garden. For me still the enjoyment of good books and music, good food and drink, good friends. For both of us the struggle with slow deterioration which comes with advancing age. I had my 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, quiet no fuss (but I'm looking forward to a big bash on my 90<sup>th</sup>).

I have nothing to say about the political scene in America except to wish my fellow Americans good luck, and to think perhaps I'll be better off in England for these next four years. The Brits certainly have their problems but even in their worst dreams they wouldn't be Trumped.

[Don further reports that the Christmas goose at daughter Holly's in Belgium was delicious, though Mo, being vegetarian, abstained. Life these days centers around family and the visits of friends.]

Ted Essebaggers. We have had a busy and interesting year with a recent long trip to America in October and November to visit friends in Seattle, Portland, California and Tucson. While in Tucson we enjoyed the reunion of Ted's Kodaikanal School class and a gathering of cousins and Ted's sisters Margie and Mary. Both events were special and memorable. Along the way from California, we took in the wonders of Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Death Valley and Hoover Dam---all for the first time. Maja continues to volunteer at our senior center, does exam proctoring at a high school, never misses quilting cafe twice a month, and enjoys doing her handicrafts. She has also knitted sweaters and caps. Ted loves his fly fishing and photography, singing in his choir, and being on his iPad and laptop. He volunteers at the local library helping foreigners with spoken Norwegian. We both enjoy having our four grandchildren and their families close by and watching the children develop. We continue to spend many

weeks at the summer place. We love being close to the sea for our morning swims, fishing from the dock and taking short boat rides.

Ed Rubin. I often remember Lee Smith at this time of the year. He was instrumental in introducing me to the Teacher Education in East Africa Project. He inspired me with his knowledge of Swahili and what our project was all about. I was impressed with the fact he had been with Teachers College, Peace Corps, TEA, and, in my time, TEEA. We toured together throughout Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Anita Hayden. Wanted to let everyone know that a former teacher from Denmark at Machame died late last year. She was not TEA but many people knew her. She was Birgitte Madsen. A truly great person and friend to me.

Betty Coxson. Pam Angstman, president of the historical society in Buffalo Center, Iowa, reports that Betty, who is secretary of the group, spent several weeks in a nursing home in the town. Betty is now at her niece's house in Forest City, Iowa, but she may be going to another niece in California at some point. You can write her or send a card to the Forest City address, which is in the Directory Update at the end of this newsletter.

Malcolm Maries. Joy and I have moved to the UK for the time being, partly so that I can have a replacement hip operation to fix an earlier unsuccessful job done in 2013 in the Philippines. Unfortunately, the National Health Service is totally overburdened, so I'm not expecting a quick fix. However, please don't bin our Philippine address as that is still our family home. Hopefully, I'll be hobbling back there before long!

Finally, a very Happy New Year to you and yours. Thanks for all your and Henry's work. It's much appreciated. Best regards, Malcolm (1B)

Dan Schultz. I was in Tanzania at Malangali Government School in 1963-64. We were in Ireland in the Fall of 2013 and met a couple from California who, over dinner, we found were in the TEA project. We shared many memories. He stayed on in Kenya and did some work translating books from English to Swahili and we even spoke a little Swahili while on the trip. He taught at a community college in California. I had a similar career in New York State. I am interested in writing an article about TEA for the ECCSSA Journal as it deals with a variety of topics associated with education. Anything that you could either send or point me to about the history of TEA would be appreciated.

Brian Van Arkadie. I'm writing from the terrace of a game lodge in Serengeti where this morning we saw at least ten lions, a leopard, a cheetah, a column of about 1,000 buffalo, six different antelope species, giraffes, numerous elephants, wart hogs, baboons and a profusion of birds. The Tanzanians running the lodge and the tour are all wonderfully well trained - the food and service is great. Seem to be more game than when I was here thirty years ago -- the one exception is the rhino which are very few and far between.

Last week I finished teaching a course at a new college in Bagamoyo and the students, just out of high school, are a fine group of young people. I see nothing to be pessimistic about in Tanzania.

Merry Xmas and Happy New year to you all. -- Brian.

Martha Manley. This past summer we were three weeks in Tanzania and Kenya. Time to take our daughter and grandson on Safari in Selous, Ruaha, and Zanzibar. We also revisited Iringa and Ifunda. Francis and his assistant at Global Outreach showed us around the computer learning center in Iringa. They seem to be doing a good job of giving the school kids there access to computers – both live and as a resource for textbooks.

We visited the church in Iringa where we were married in 1965. We also visited our old school, Ifunda Secondary Technical School. They have grown considerably, and seem to be functioning. As most schools in that part of the world, they are struggling with skills and resources. Interesting memories. Martha

**Obituaries.** Byron Birdsall, Jorney Brooks, Larry Olds, Leigh Proudfoot, Robert L. Wendel

Byron Birdsall, in December 2016. National TTC, Kyambogo, Kampala U (TEEA3). Byron married Lynn Sternberg in 1960. They were accepted into TEEA in 1966 and posted to Kampala, Uganda, an experience which Byron called a "golden time." They loved it there and stayed for four years. It was in Uganda that Byron started painting professionally and selling pictures for \$40 each -- which went a long way in 1967! They spent a year at Galu Beach in Mombasa before returning home.

They took their time returning to the U.S., stopping in Bombay, Sri Lanka, Macau and Hong Kong. It was in Hong Kong that Byron fell in love with the work of Hiroshige and Hokusai and started copying their classic Japanese techniques.

After returning to Seattle, Byron got a job as art director of the public television station in Pago Pago, American Samoa. After two years of heat and humidity, they returned home to Seattle, and Byron accepted a job as Creative Director for an advertising agency in Anchorage, AK. This was the beginning of his life-long love of Alaska, the beauty of the wilderness and the special people who live there.

Byron said: "A dream come true. That is what Alaska has given to me. Incredible beauty for subject matter, and a receptive public have combined to allow me to do what I love best, painting all day, every day for more than 41 years."

Byron's legacy is the stunning beauty of the Alaska landscape of mountains, water, city and sky. His moons over the mountains will forever be called a Birdsall moon. He painted what he saw and he loved it.

Byron and Lynn's daughter, Courtenay, lives in Skagway, Alaska, and is an artist in her own right. Son Joshua is a designer and builder of homes in Minneapolis. In 1998, Lynn died of cancer. And in 1999 Byron reconnected with an old college sweetheart, Billie Jean Winship, and they were married for 17 years.

Published in The Seattle Times from Dec. 11 to Dec. 14, 2016

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/seattletimes/obituary.aspx?n=byron-birdsall&pid=183054039&fhid=13942#sthash.v7qfNlo0.dpuf>



Johney Brooks (TEAA6), on Oct. 1, 2016, in Athens, NY, at 83. Johney was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Her career included high school science teacher, superintendent, university professor, Peace Corps Director, and US Diplomatic service in Tunisia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Guyana, Turkmenistan and Papua New Guinea. She served at the World Centre of the Baha'i Faith in Haifa, Israel, and continued in retirement to work in the local Baha'i Community in the greater Albany, New York, area and did community volunteer work. Johney is survived by a daughter, Alexis Brooks De Vita of Houston, Texas, and a son, W. Abdullah Brooks of Reisterstown, Maryland. Published in the Daily Freeman on Oct. 5, 2016

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyfreeman/obituary.aspx?pid=181733957>

Larry Olds, on October 13th, 2016. Makerere College School, Kampala and Teso College, Soroti U (1A). After college, Larry joined TEA and began his life-long work in popular education. Larry was a strong proponent of this democratic and participatory approach to education in which personal stories move to shared experience and collective understanding. Larry's time teaching in Uganda was transformative and his commitment to social justice issues blossomed. He began to explore his vocation as an educator that included deep involvement with the alternative schools movement in the 1970's, and in 1974 he began a career at what is now Minneapolis Community and Technical College. He retired from MCTC in 2000 but his work continued, through discussion, support, and correspondence with a wide network of educators. Over more than 40 years Larry built an amazing community on the southeast corner of Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis in his beloved duplex that he and his partner Dorothy Sauber purchased with friends. In this big house on the park, he welcomed friends and strangers of all ages to his table in support of their interests, work and life decisions. His sense of community spilled out into what was affectionately called "the compound" where those who lived nearby shared meals, stories, and garden space.

Larry also made many connections through his life-long interest in sports and is credited with organizing the first Ugandan national basketball team.

*Read the complete obituary in the Minneapolis StarTribune, published on October 22, 2016 at <http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/162424/?fullname=larry-olds>*

Leigh Proudfoot, on May 30, 2015, in California. Meru School, Meru K (69-74).

Leigh was born in Australia and grew up in a new suburb in Melbourne. After college, Leigh was accepted to the Teachers for East Africa program. His travel mate, Tony Troughear, has said that Leigh's love of travel might have started the spring day they flew out of Sydney together in 1968, going to Uganda to study teaching. In 1969 Leigh was posted to teach Math and Physics at the Meru School in Kenya. He lived in East Africa for six years, where he made lifelong friends.

When Leigh returned from Kenya, he was posted to a school in Tennant Creek, Australia. Tennant Creek was where Leigh met his wife Jan. In 1978 he and Jan moved to California to be close to her family, and were married the same year. Leigh and Jan raised four children.

Leigh loved to explore the world and visited every continent at least once. Over the years Leigh took his kids to visit Kenya, Europe, Canada, Russia, Mongolia, China,

and Australia. With family members, he visited Papua New Guinea to see the gathering of hundreds of painted warriors for the annual Goroka Show.

One of his children said of him, "He loved traveling the world and introducing himself to strangers and learning all about them – where they came from, where they've been, where they're going. He's made friends in every corner of the Earth with nothing more than the power of his personality, his curiosity, and his effortless good nature."

<http://legacyfuneralcare.com/obituary/leigh-proudfoot/>

Robert L. Wendel, on November 2, 2016. Songea SS, Songea T (3A). Bob was a retired professor from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is survived by his wife Rita and two children, David Wendel and Catherine James. Former spouse, Mary Jo Wendel wrote, "An adventurous traveler with a compassionate world view, Bob lived and worked in both East and West Africa in the 1960's. Always a faithful father, Bob taught his children steadfast values and participated actively in their young lives.

[www.oglepaulyoungfuneralhome.com](http://www.oglepaulyoungfuneralhome.com)

**Directory Update. New entries:** **John Filby**, 'Stonerows', Stonerows Lane, Ashover, Derbyshire S45 0HE, UK Phone: (+44)1246 591646 (landline), 7817560701 (mobile), [filbyja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:filbyja@yahoo.co.uk), Dip. Ed. Makerere (Northcote Hall) '66-'67, Makerere College School, Kampala, U '67-'69, (TEA UK). **Paul Haslam**, 17 Hillview Ave, Prehen, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT47 2NU, Tel: 02871347728, Mob: 07792289205 <[seniorhas@gmail.com](mailto:seniorhas@gmail.com)>, Dip Ed at Makerere in 1966-7, Trinity College, Nabbingo, U, 1967-71 (TEA UK) **Dan (and Millie) Schultz**, 14 East St., Skaneateles, NY 13152, 315-685-7079, <[schultz@cayuga-cc.edu](mailto:schultz@cayuga-cc.edu)>, Malangali Government School, Mufindi, Iringa T (3)

**Changes to existing entries.** **Betty (Elizabeth Bowe) Castor and Sam Bell.** New address: 3435 Bayshore Blvd., #1601, Tampa, FL 33629 **Betty Coxson.** Currently staying with a niece at: 212 West L St, Forest City, IA 50436 **Jack E. Humbles.** New address: 2600 E 7th Ave. Apt 19, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 **Robert (Bob) Greenwood.** New data: POB 1249, Ukunda, Kenya, no email, **R. E. (Bob) (and Paddy) Gurney.** New email; <[bob@robertgurney.com](mailto:bob@robertgurney.com)> **John (Jack) Dugan (and Linda) Klenk.** New data: 10201 Locklies Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060, Jack's cell: 703-507-5720, Linda's cell: 703-975-2148, Jack's email: [johndklenk@gmail.com](mailto:johndklenk@gmail.com), Linda's email: [klenklinda@gmail.com](mailto:klenklinda@gmail.com) **Clive Mann.** Better email: <[clivefmann2@gmail.com](mailto:clivefmann2@gmail.com)>

**Malcolm Maries.** Temporarily in the UK awaiting hip replacement surgery at: 1 Baird Court, Station Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1RB. **John W. (Jack)**

**Schober.** New address: 8200 Southwestern Blvd Apt 709, Dallas, TX 75206-2110

**Valerie Spake.** New data: 2950 23rd Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, 916-952-3550, <[valspake@gmail.com](mailto:valspake@gmail.com)>, (daughter of Lacy Spake [deceased] and Pat Spake) **Edwin J**

**(Ed) Williams.** New data: P.O Box 556, Hawley, PA 18428, 856-404-2018, <[ewill@ptd.net](mailto:ewill@ptd.net)>