

TEAA (Teachers for East Africa Alumni) Newsletter No. 37, July 2017.

Please send any changes to your contact information and/or items for the newsletter to Ed Schmidt, 7307 Lindbergh Dr., St. Louis, MO 63117, USA, 314-647-1608, <eschmidt1@sbcglobal.net>. Also, please note that TEAA treasurer and webmaster Henry Hamburger has a new email address: <henryhamburger@gmail.com>.

TEAA DOES DETROIT!

Thurs., Aug. 17 – Sun., Aug. 20, 2017

Our grand finale reunion is now only six weeks away. **Will you be there?**

As of this writing, more than 50 people have registered, and we have only two hotel rooms left at our special discount rate of \$139 a night, at the “People Mover” hotel. When those are gone the regular rate is \$199. Better hurry! Reservation info is below.

Detroit is really putting on a show for us. Not only are prominent city officials coming to welcome us, the biggest mosque in the United States (the Islamic Center of America in nearby Dearborn) has organized a special tour for us and is hosting us for lunch. And the 35th Annual African World Festival, a gigantic, African-inspired street fair, is scheduled for the entire weekend of our reunion. As if that weren’t enough, 40,000-plus classic cars and hotrods from the 1950's, 60's and 70's will be flooding the streets of Detroit throughout our stay – having come from across the USA for the 22nd Annual Dream Cruise. No wonder the *New York Times* says Detroit is a top ten place to visit this summer!

Our conference program includes these events, as well as custom tours of the Detroit Institute of the Arts, a world class museum with \$8 billion in holdings, and a fine collection of African art. We also have a special city bus tour being created for us by TEAAers who are scholars of the city and experienced guides. And we’ll have a chance to ride the Q-Line, Detroit’s brand new trolley system, just opened in May.

Of course, we will also hear from East African college students who are now studying in the Detroit area, and from University of Michigan and Michigan State professors of East African music, dance and art. We will also do Open Mike reports from TEAAers on what impact their time in East Africa had on their lives. We can make that judgment now, don’t you think?

So stop hesitating. Let’s go!

Here are all the links you need for more info:

To register for the conference: <http://tea-a.org/detroit/register.html>

To make a hotel reservation: <http://tea-a.org/detroit/hotel.html>

For more detail on the program: <http://tea-a.org/detroit/program.pdf>

TEAAers Coming: <http://tea-a.org/detroit/who.html>

If you have questions, or need help in registering or making a reservation, contact one of the committee members listed below. You can actually talk to a living person!

Mary Ryan Taras (248) 647-0753 or mrtaras@earthlink.net

Henry Hamburger (301) 320-4350 or henryhamburger@gmail.com

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Book that trip. Book = *We Were Walimu Once and Young*, our book of adventures. Buy it at Amazon.com. Proceeds to TEAA, memories to the heart. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1939423856/sr=1-1/qid=1498783383/ref=olp_product_details?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1498783383&sr=1-1>

Trip = Detroit17, our last round-up. If you haven't booked this trip, go immediately to www.tea-a.org. Reunion: Detroit, 2017 and register at the hotel and also with Henry. Details above.

While I confess to being a reunion junkie, I look forward to Detroit with great anticipation: to reconnect with those who shared our grand experience, to see a city on the rise, and to share all that energy that Mary Taras and her committee have generated. I'm going to the Arab American National Museum and the Africa World Festival at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History in addition to all the TEAA events. A special treat will be meeting our guest, Paul Nzalamba, who generously donated his "The Teacher" image for our use for all these years. Paul's other work can be seen on his website. Paul is a Makerere "old boy" himself.

I hasten to add that TEAA shall continue after the reunion. We shall keep the website active, and we shall continue to post newsletters. George Pollack will go back to Kenya to celebrate his second 79th birthday. Gene Child may have one more trip in him, and Emilee Cantieri is threatening to take a cruise including Mombasa so that she can hop the new railroad train to Nairobi. We have a fairly extensive Directory so that we can look up our colleagues by country of origin at posting (USA and UK), if "lost," if deceased.

As I continue to read books about East Africa, I am finding that others in our era are writing their memories, too. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o has written 3 books. His last, *Birth of a Dream Weaver*, deals with his Makerere days. *We Were Walimu Once and Young* comes on the heels of books by Americans Emilee Cantieri and Moses Howard. The Brits—whether teacher/admin types or settlers—have filled shelves. TEAAers Bob Gurney and Paul Cant each have at least two. Asians and particularly Goans (cf, Braz Menezes) are writing. All told a more diverse picture of East Africa 1945-1980 is starting to emerge in print. Then if you want to browse old photos, just start googling your favorite theme: <http://www.hapakenya.com/2014/10/28/vintage-pictures-kenya/> is a good place to start.

Let me end with a quotation from Edward Hower's long essay on his Makerere days:

You never get to re-live times like those— when you're twenty-two and believe you can do anything, go anywhere, and find all your discoveries fascinating. But I'll always be grateful that I had the chance to live among the people of Africa who helped me learn to trust the person I was then, and the one I was to become.

We are indeed part of the flow of history writes Elizabeth Bishop:
forever, flowing and drawn, and since
our knowledge is historical, flowing, and flown.

Be well, buy the book, and drink tea everyday, Brooks

The Book

We Were Walimu Once and Young: Snapshots of Teaching in East Africa, is a compilation of selected stories from the teaiki, edited by Brooks Goddard and available from Amazon in hardcover and Kindle formats. You'll want to have copies at least for yourself and family members. Here is the book description on Amazon.

"In the early 1960s—while young people were inspired by President Kennedy, civil rights advanced in the USA, and the Cold War overheated—575 US and 200 UK

teachers went to East Africa. These walimu—Swahili for teachers— signed up for two or three years. Many stayed longer. They came to teach secondary students and train new teachers. They endured culture shock, undertook voyages of discovery, and forged friendships to last a lifetime. They witnessed the lowering of colonial flags and the sun rising over newly independent states of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. *We Were Walimu Once and Young* collects personal stories from the Teachers for East Africa (TEA) and Teacher Education for East Africa (TEEA) experience. Written 50 years later, or taken from letters sent home at the time, these stories describe student and village life, adventures with flora and fauna and food, and journeys to explore remote parts of East Africa. Proceeds from this book will fund grants to secondary schools in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The schools determine their own needs, and there is a great need for textbooks, science laboratories, teaching aids, and recreational reading. The organization has raised \$270,000 for 190 grants since 2002.”

Brooks writes, “The shoebox of memories, experiences, artifacts, and associations that you have been carrying around with you for 50 years are now gathered in the book *We Were Walimu Once and Young*. And this is a shoebox that you can easily open and easily share. Start reading the book, and it will all come back -- delightfully so. So you can relive some of that past, unashamedly and rewardingly.

Here again is the link to Amazon, <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1939423856/?sr=1-1/qid=1498783383/ref=olp_product_details?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1498783383&sr=1-1>

Learning from *We Were Walimu Once and Young*, Brooks Goddard

Bringing *We Were Walimu Once and Young* to life has been a fascinating process. I have learned much about the great variety of experiences of those who served in East Africa. I have also learned how many of you and especially your children have gone outside of general culture to live in other places besides East Africa, who, or whose children, currently live outside the US/UK, and how casually we incorporated our East Africa experiences into our lives. Then something happened when we turned 70 and we wanted to review it all. This impulse I feel comes more from wanting to put our own personal lives in order than to boast that we climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. For whatever impulse moved the writers, the collected picture of our lives and experiences is both moving and informative.

Working with Annie Pearson of The Jugum Press in Seattle was a dream. After a career with Microsoft Annie has gone on a mission of her own: helping people get their memories and reflections in print. Using her understanding of software and marketing she guided me in the various steps of putting the book together. She claims that print-on-demand (POD) is one step away from word processing. You can test that assertion with your own material by going on CreateSpace.com. It was Annie who compiled the three indices at the back of the book which magically, as it were, recapitulates all our lives.

In the course of editing the book, I returned to *The TEA Experience* which was compiled by Emilee Cantieri and produced by Judy Lindfors in 2002. That book, printed in the old-fashion mimeograph technology (it exists in hard copy only), was financed by ultimate sales and several TEAAers’ generosity. There are about six copies of the reprint left and on sale for \$35 each, including postage. Contact me at

goddard@rcn.com if you'd like a book. In that book are personal reflections and photographs by TEAers, a history of TEA & TEEA, and a lengthy summary of our first reunion, DC01. There is really only about 30% overlap between the 2 books. Some background information to international education in general and TEA in particular can be found in *In the First Person Singular*/1993 by Jay Butts.

TEAA reunion, 22 March 2017, Princess Louise pub, Holborn, London, Clive Mann

We met at about midday, and the last group left at about 7 pm. As we have now come to expect, Dave Smith found an excellent venue for the event, and it also sold very good bitter!

This was the largest gathering so far - 8 all together - although Dave Marshall arrived too late for the photo. We could have been 12, but two being abroad sent regrets, another had double-booked, and a fourth was ill with a bad cold and didn't want to infect the rest of us.

Also, we welcomed some who had not managed to attend previous reunions - Fred Nixon, Jonna Robinson, Tore Rose and Larry Woelk. I hope they found it interesting enough to join us in the future. We are working on one for the summer in London.

As the drink flowed so did the *craic*. Gales of laughter frequently erupted from our corner. I had not seen Fred for 45+ years so much to talk about, and myself and some others were meeting our other three neophytes for the first time. Everyone had interesting tales to tell, and as usual the time galloped on, and when we left for home, we still had more to talk about and listen to.

Early on we had a book launch - Robert Gurney's *Absurd Tales from Africa* - and Bob read extracts from his work. Copies were signed and distributed.

Photos were taken on my camera by a helpful lady customer, but strangely only one was on the card. Perhaps a camera fault.

While we were carousing, unbeknown to us, a serious drama was unfolding at Westminster, probably less than a mile away. There was an apparent terrorist attack outside the Houses of Parliament leaving 5 dead (including the perpetrator) and many injured. None of our group discovered this until reaching home.

Our Summer Reunion in London is on September 1st. A venue is yet to be decided, but as usual the meeting will start 12:00-14:00 hours.

Clive Mann <clivefmann@gmail.com>

Emails from East African Head Teachers and Principals

Joseph Mwanisawa, science lead teacher at Moringe Sokoinne SS, Monduli, Tz. in Feb. 2017. Hello Henry, Good morning. I am happy to take this precious time to thank you and the entire TEAA team for the your love to us, Moringe Sokoine Community. We appreciate your cordial help to put to standard our two laboratories -- chemistry and biology. The work has been finished lately yesterday. I kept quiet because I waited for the entire work to be done.

We extended the work to make the floor as well. Part of the equipments and labour rose to 10,421,000 Tshs and after exchange from Dollars you sent to us, it came

out 7,700,000 Tshs. So the school administration has added 2,300,000 Tshs for equipments and labour and the floor which I have not gotten the cost.

Again as the community, we say thank you so much. Regards, Joseph.

Okunya Milton, principal at Wandiji SS near Homa Bay, Kenya, in early May. Our country is in the mood of elections and the noise in our towns is deafening, what with calls and cries of stolen nominations across the board.

On the other hand, we have just opened for another school term. Anxiety about possible unrest as was witnessed last year is frightening. We are taking all possible steps to ensure that our school remains peaceful. I have embarked on conflict resolution training for our student leaders, as well as early warning signals. I hope to forestall any eventuality nevertheless.

At the personal level, I continue with my radio presentation on leadership and writings. I will hopefully be holding forums for student leaders on 21st century Conflict Resolution Skills. In the last four weeks I have read and read again some of my favourite books, namely: Kenneth Kaunda's *Letter to My Children*, John Maxwell's *Sometimes You Win -- Sometimes You Learn*, Susan Mwangi's *Called to Serve*, and Chinua Achebe's *No Longer at Ease*.

Gertrude Ssekabira of Namirembe Diocese, reprinted from the Kampala Express of Feb. 4, 2017. [Gertrude is the former head teacher of MacKay College, the first school to receive TEAA financial support]

Namirembe diocese could be regarded as the mother diocese of the Church of Uganda, Uganda's Anglican church. It is the largest diocese in the country. Its foundations go back to the earlier years of Uganda's colonial history with the arrival of British missionaries in the late nineteenth century. It covers the districts of Kampala, Mpigi, Kalangala and Wakiso. And yet, as is the case with the general social state of affairs in Uganda, not all was right among the diocese's members.

In May 2016 one of the diocese's members, Gertrude Ssekabira, happened to visit two parishioners. What she discovered shocked her. The two elderly women lived in conditions of abject poverty and squalor. The tin roofs of their houses were falling apart or caving in. They did not have bathrooms, sanitary facilities or water. In one of the houses, snakes were discovered. They had been abandoned by their relatives. One of the women had even attempted suicide, due to the feeling of isolation and abandonment.

It became clear to Ssekabira that while the church had been preoccupied with its regular liturgical services and diocesan events, a significant section of the laity lived in conditions of desperation. Something had to be done about this. Most government social interventions over the last 25 or so years had tended to concentrate on the plight of the girl-child or the youth in general. However, there had not been any consistent attention paid to the elderly, particularly elderly women.

Ssekabira decided to initiate a project under the Women's Desk of Namirembe diocese that would address the despair that she had witnessed. The first step was to research into the needs of the two women and use that as the basis for creating an effort around their needs as well as the needs of women living in similar conditions.

A video documentary was produced in October 2016. When Ssekabira presented her findings to the church's synod, the synod and the Diocesan Council got concerned and immediately gave the proposed project their support and approval.

One of the first actions was for the church to set aside 20 percent of its Sunday offertory collection to the project. The Older Women's Project is expected to eventually become an official church project and the church hopes to coordinate the project with the Ministry of Gender. Other plans could involve Habitat for Humanity, a group that builds low-cost housing in Uganda and other developing countries. Namirembe diocese has now set up finance, resource mobilisation and executive committees to oversee the project.

As word of the project became public, volunteers in Britain became interested in offering their help and as of late January 2017, the first volunteers had started arriving in Uganda.

Stanley Muka, Ed Schmidt

I met Stanley in 1961 when we were both teaching at Kakamega School. Stanley was only a few years older than I, and we soon became friends. After Stanley and Jane moved to Kericho, I had the opportunity to visit them for a weekend and see a part of Kenya with which I was not familiar.

In 1963, I returned to the U.S. For a reason that I cannot explain, other than to say that it was because of my youth, I did not maintain contact with friends I had made in East Africa, so I lost contact with Stanley for the next 20 years.

Then in 1983 I returned to Kenya to work on a cookstove project with Reverend Peter Indalo, an Anglican priest working in Western Province. To get to Western, I took the overnight train from Nairobi to Kisumu, and as I was settling in for the journey, a man opened the door to the train compartment, and announced, "I think I used to know you." It was Stanley.

We spent much of the journey to Kisumu bringing each other up to date on our lives over the past 20 years. I was still a secondary teacher, in the United States, but Stanley had moved on to be Kenya's representative to UNESCO in Paris. And he and Jane now had six daughters!

From that chance meeting onward we kept in contact. In 2003, During the first TEAA reunion in East Africa, Stanley hosted a minibus load of us for lunch at Eshimuli Anglican Guesthouse in Butere. Two years later, when TEAA began making grants to schools in East Africa, Stanley arranged for Henry and me to stay at Eshimuli, meet the Board of Governors of Lunza Secondary School, and tour the school in preparation for the school becoming part of the grant program. Stanley continued to arrange these visits every other year through 2015. Our communication was often by email with daughter Jacqui in Nairobi.

On several of the most recent visits Stanley invited me to the family home where I again met Jane during the period of her dementia, and in 2015, Stanley took me to visit her grave. That year, he also took me to visit an older relative (uncle?) who claimed to be 106, I believe.

Seven or eight years ago, Stanley approached me about assisting a young man, Jackton Ambunya, with fees for his university education. Betsey Anderson and I helped

with the university fees while Stanley, and I believe Jacqui, helped with Jackton's other expenses. Jackton is now graduated and we are assisting another student.

Stanley died in May of this year following a bout with cancer. He has been a friend for many, many years. Farewell, my dear friend. I will miss you.

An Ag teacher/farmer returns to Kenya, Dan Beane

I went to Kenya with TEA in 1964 where I taught agriculture from September 1964 through December 1966 at Chavakali Boys Secondary School in Maragoli, about 15 miles south of Kakamega. Then I had a short term AID contract to teach agriculture at Kisii from January 1967 through April of that year. When I returned home to Iowa I did a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education and taught school 2 more years before returning to the family farm. I farmed with my brother for 45 years – and I'm still somewhat involved on the farm – especially at harvest time.

I have returned to Kenya about 20 times in the past 50 years. One year we took our two children, then aged 13 and 15, and enrolled them in all-African schools for one term. We led some church youth mission teams to Kenya where we built school buildings like a science lab and a home-economics building. My wife and I did short term mission teams on two occasions to help renovate a hospital. For several years we spent 3 months of the winter volunteering at a Bible college. (Having three months available was one of the perks of farming with a brother.) One winter we volunteered in a school in the slums of Nairobi. Over the years we had sponsored several children in Kenya and were able to visit all of them.

Most recently I visited my old school, Chavakali, in 2016 and again in April of this year. It has grown from 240 students when I was teaching to over 1,200 students now.

I have maintained contact with the man who was my cook in the 60's. This year I also visited one of my former students who finished school at Chavakali in 1965, had a very successful career as an accountant, and is now retired to his farm, putting into practice things I taught him 50 years ago.

When I was teaching agriculture in Chavakali I had a full line of farm machinery and tools, furnished by USAID, including the only gasoline powered Ferguson 35 farm tractor in Kenya. The tractor has not run for over 40 years. That, all too often, has been the fate for well intentioned farm machinery sent to Kenya where there were often no repairs. This particular tractor was the only one of its type in all of Kenya so no dealer had parts for the gasoline engine.

I'm thankful to TEA for organizing the program for teachers in Kenya. I've always considered those years in Kenya to be one of the highlights of my life.

[See "then and now" photos of Dan's cook, the former student, and the tractor, which is still at the school, by going to <<http://tea-a.org/hot/intro.html>>.]

Kitengesa Community Library

Kitengesa Community Library, near Masaka, Uganda, is a community institution founded many years ago by Kate Parry <kateparry@earthlink.net>, Kigezi HS, Kabale U, '69-'74, (TEA UK). Kate reports that the library is again hoping to hold an annual Health Camp if funds become available. Kate writes:

“To each of these camps we invite twenty young teenagers, who read and are read to, ask questions, eat good food, discuss why it is good, and of course, play games. They also learn how to do computer searches related to nutrition, for example, finding out why carrots are good for you. Dan, the librarian, has then built on the camp experience by forming a Youth Leadership Group from the graduates of the Camp whose members organize discussions of issues to do with HIV/AIDS and grow such crops as carrots in their own gardens.

“This year we would like to introduce another health camp, one designed for adult women. The women involved in our Family Literacy Project have asked for one, and I'm sure they are right: women need to know about health to look after their families. It is also important to look after their own health and that of their age group generally, because it is the middle-aged and the old who provide continuity to communities and a connection to their past.

“The camps will be valuable in themselves and will strengthen Uganda's community libraries generally; for the Kitengesa Community Library is not only an established local institution but also an exemplar for libraries in other parts of the country.

Report from South Sudan, Barry Sesnan

I have just spent a month in South Sudan (Juba, Rumbek, Bor and Yambio) evaluating an education NGO's projects.

In Yambio stands what must be the only statue to a pineapple. (but, who knows, in the US ...?) And the pineapples there are fittingly truly delicious, but to aficionados only those from a specific small group of towns outside Yambio gain the accolade.

In those days (at least around 1981) there was bus which went twice weekly, I think, from Juba to Wau via Yambio, Tombura and Raga. It was called the Pineapple Express. There was also a scheduled bus from Juba to Faradje in Congo (Zaire) from where there was a bus to Kisangani, which meant that for a brief period it was possible to get public transport (train, steamer, buses) from Cape to Cairo. Ben Haines of British Council Juba made sure that it appeared in Thomas Cook's international timetable (“The Man in Seat 61” website was not available).

Most days there is a solitary traffic policeman at this intersection using up energy giving physical directions to the occasional car or boda-boda. Being Yambio, a place where courtesy rules, drivers stop and go in order to respect him.

Flashback to about 1984: I drove with a couple of students who grew up in Uganda to Nzara from Juba to see the factories. In Nzara we came across a roundabout. The late Elisa, one of the students, had asked me to let him drive for a while and as we approached the roundabout, with no other traffic in sight, he proceeded to go left round the roundabout (as he would have in Uganda) instead of right. Lo and behold, a traffic policeman appeared from under a shady tree, delighted to have the chance to deal with a traffic infraction, after who knows how many days, weeks or

months. I took over his place under the tree as the students tried to deprive him of his big day by not arresting Elisa and making him wait till the next traffic court might convene. After about half an hour it all was settled (and I don't think money was involved, rather honour and respect for his important role).

NB: The factories closed in 1990 with the arrival of the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) who took their fuel for the war effort. They have never reopened.

Update, Jack Klenk

I am enjoying retirement, having left the U.S. Department of Education in 2009. July of this year will mark the 50th anniversary of my departure from Uganda in 1967, at the end of my three years there with TEA. This year, in May, my wife, Linda, and I took our daughter, her husband, and their daughter to Uganda. This was their first time in Africa. We arrived in Entebbe (every time I land there, I recall the excitement of arriving with our TEA team at the old airport in 1964), then went to Mukono/Uganda Christian University, Jinja/Source of the Nile, Mt. Elgon, Kampala, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kabale/Kigezi, and flew out of Kigali, Rwanda. While we were at UCU, our son-in-law taught a seminar on computer programming, and he has been invited to return. He and our daughter and granddaughter are thinking about how they can be involved in Uganda in the future.

A highlight of our trip was taking the family to the school on Mt. Elgon in eastern Uganda where I taught all those years ago, Sebei College. At the time I taught there (1965-67), the school was new and small and struggling, with just two or three forms. The area where the school was located was then so inaccessible that when Milton Obote exiled four ministers in 1966, he sent one of them to nearby Kapchorwa. The only way you could get to Sebei in those days was by a dirt mountain road that was always dangerous, especially during the rainy seasons. There was no electricity and no telephone.

Today, the school appears to be thriving. It became famous in 2012 when a graduate, Stephen Kiprotich, won the gold medal in the marathon at the London Olympics. The school now has over a thousand students at the O and A levels, and possesses modern buildings and facilities. The road up the mountain is now paved, making the area much easier and safer to get to.

One thing hasn't changed: the school's spectacular view over the landscape 3,000 feet below to as far away as Mt. Moroto and Lake Kyoga in the distance. The area is considered by some people to be the most beautiful location in Uganda, with its view, waterfalls, and lush vegetation. It has become a prime tourist draw, with lodging at Sipi Falls, near the school.

I serve on the board of Uganda Christian University Partners, the U.S. support organization for UCU. In August last year, Linda and I moved from our home near Washington, DC, where we had hosted many Ugandans over the years, to a retirement community near Richmond, Virginia, where we are closer to our daughter and her family. Although our relocation has reduced our time with Ugandans in the Washington area, the Internet allows us to be in frequent touch with people in and from Uganda.

TEAAers Create

J. Paul N, Cant. I have recently published the following books, available on Amazon, which might interest TEAA readers: *Views from an Irish Barbarian*, by Jonathan Bower, my pen name. This collection of essays includes some on U.S. policy and wars abroad.

Impasse in Tunis is a novel set in 1982, dealing with, among other things more personal, invasion of Lebanon, Falklands war, and Northern Ireland conflict.

Liz Dimock. *Women, Mission and Church in Uganda: Ethnographic Encounters in an age of Imperialism, 1895-1960s*. Series: Routledge Studies in Modern British History. This volume recounts the experiences of female missionaries who worked in Uganda in and after 1895. It examines the personal stories of those women who were faced with a stubbornly masculine administration representative of a wider masculine administrative network in the British Empire. Encounters with Ugandan women and men of a range of ethnicities, the gender relations in those societies and relations between the British Protectorate administration and Ugandan Christian women are all explored. The analysis is offset by the author's experience of working in Uganda at the close of British Protectorate status in the 1960s, employed in a school founded by the Uganda Mission. £84.00 20% Discount Available - enter the code FLR40 at checkout. For more information, <www.routledge.com/9781138228344>. The book is also available on Amazon.

Liz notes, "I would add that my work in Uganda in the 1960s with TEA is incorporated, specifically in the final chapter and more generally in reflexive mode throughout the volume. The cost is high, and sadly, this is now the norm for academic tomes, but the e-flyer does at least give a 20% discount!"

Bob Gurney's latest book, *Absurd Tales from Africa*, is available in print or ebook format from Cambria Publishing Co-operative, <<http://www.cambriabooks.co.uk/product/absurd-tales-africa/>> and from Amazon. The book "explores gleefully the grotesque and the absurd stories heard by the author from his time with TEA. The reader is invited to go with the surreal flow and enjoy the humor."

Another collection of short stories, *Bat Valley and Other Strange African Animal Stories*, will be out in July with the same publisher and will be available on Amazon. Other titles in the collection include, *The Gecko Man of Lugard's Fort*, *The Moth Lady of Tororo*, and *The Mount Elgon Waiter*, 23 stories in all.

Edward Hower. I recently published *What Can You Do: Personal Essays and Travel Writing*, my 11th book, which contains a 70- page account of my rather screwed-up Makerere year and my redemption (I hope) by teaching at a school in Bombo for southern Sudanese refugees. Some Makerere students started it; the Uganda government shut it down after about four months, but we got many of the kids out to local schools. The book is available on Amazon and my website, <edwardhower.com>.

Larry Thomas. In preparation for becoming 90 years old, I've been going through my files and gathering good material that hasn't been published and combined this with things that have been in print. So far, my efforts have resulted in the publication of two books of poetry and a revised and extended publication of my book of short stories.

The poetry books are *Be Not Proud* (poems of death and dying) and *The Games Children Play* (poems of growing up competitively). The short stories cover humor, love, good -- and bad behavior, the usual subjects of fiction. The two poetry books are always available through me at \$15 (includes P&H).. The short story book is not published yet, but will be available from the publisher -- Ligaia Press -- later this year. Larry Thomas, 174 Greenside Up, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, <LaurenceWT@aol.com>

Ron Stockton has written an account of his family's 50th anniversary trip back to Kenya and Machacos School where both he and Jane taught. If you had any connection to Machacos or know the Stocktons, you'll want to read Ron's account. Email him for a copy: Ronald Stockton <rstock@umich.edu>

The Ngugi Memoirs, Brooks Goddard

[Editor's note: As a slow reader who belongs to the book discussion group at my local library, I don't have many books beyond that one per month for the discussion. However, I recently read the three volumes of memoir by Ngugi wa Thiong'o. I found them quite enjoyable and feel anyone who was in East Africa in the 60s would also. What follows is a compilation of Brooks' reviews of the three books. Ngugi is currently a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature as well as the Director of the International Center for Writing and Translation at the [University of California, Irvine](http://www.uci.edu).]

Dreams in a Time of War: a Childhood Memoir/2010 is the story of the author's early years [he was born in 1938] up to his enrollment in Alliance High School as seen through the lens of his life. There is some nice Kenyan history here as well as insight into the connectedness of the USA and Africa. There is even a bit of nostalgia. Some complexity and some subtlety. I liked this book very much although I have not found the same satisfaction from his fiction.

In the House of the Interpreter: A Memoir/2012. This memoir, second in a series, details aspects of Ngugi's life at Alliance High School in Kikuyu, Kenya, very near Nairobi in starting in 1955. Ironically for us, the school's mission was based on Tuskegee and Hampton. The headmaster in Ngugi's time was Edward Francis (1940-1962) whom Ngugi sees as an enigmatic force in the school. The book goes back and forth between activities and ruminations at Alliance and the strong background of Mau Mau which Ngugi cannot escape. In July of 1959 Ngugi is on his way to Makerere in Kampala, the subject of his next memoir. As much as I love the subtext of the title, the book does not capture a mood like *Dreams in a Time of War*. But the author is growing up in very dynamic times, and we rarely get a view of a society in transition as we do from this articulate man

Birth of a Dream Weaver: A Memoir of a Writer's Awakening/2016 Memoir can be a wonderful vehicle for history and reflection, and not everyone can stretch their reflections out over 3 books covering 23 years. This volume covers the years 1959-1964, Ngugi's years at Makerere which coincided with the arrival of American and British students in the Teachers for East Africa/TEA project. Several of those Americans provided memories and photographs for the book. This memoir focuses on Ngugi's early development as a writer, noting that he entered Makerere as a colonial subject

and graduated as a free citizen. The tale is loyal to the title, and looming is the author's confrontation with Kenyatta and Moi. This is a writer who does not go gentle into any good night. I look forward to the next installment.

[Brooks' latest reviews of books about things African are available at <<http://tea-a.org/Brooks-books-June-2017.pdf>> and his earlier reviews, alphabetized by title, are at <<http://tea-a.org/cool/Brooks-Books-African-All-Jan2017.pdf>>.]

Your Stories, Niall Herriott and Colin Cooke

Niall Herriott. I set up an ecological consultancy business after a postgrad degree, worked in shellfish farming R&D, marine biology, conservation projects in farming, wildlife and forestry, also part-time 3rd level teaching, now retired and trying my hand at creative writing, also forest gardening.

Had a great get-together with Mike and Judy Rainey in Cork recently.

Colin Cooke. I was a TEA entering Makerere in 1966 and subsequently taught at Old Kampala senior secondary school. There I met my wife, Margaret Goodyear, who was on the staff. We married in Jan 1970 and were at that school until August 1973 when encouraged to leave by the British Gov't we were re-recruited to teach in Kenya at Nakuru High school. We were in Kenya for the next eight years leaving finally in December. We are still in contact with John Cotsell (entered Makerere 1965), Peter Ross (1966), and Martin Ryan (1966) and their wives all who subsequently taught in East Africa.

We've Heard From You

Stephen Butts. Ed, I read with equal parts sadness and gratitude your announcement in the newsletter that the next gathering of TEAA folk will be the last. Well done!

My father's love and appreciation for your and their work was apparent to me throughout the years since the program began. Of all his work in the course of a very long and variegated career I think he was proudest of the TEAA project.

Were he still alive, I'm sure he would want to salute you and the remaining members of the group. I wonder if on behalf of me and my sister, Anne, I might send you a short note to convey, as best I can based on his discussions with me over many years, his feelings and gratitude for the work that all of you have done, and if appropriate, to be read at your meeting in Detroit. Yours, and thanks, Steve Butts

Bill Cahill. Re Page 15 of Newsletter 36: Fran and I were the couple who met Dan and Millie Schultz by chance in Ireland in 2013. We were there visiting family (I have roots in County Sligo) and as a 50th anniversary trip. We had a fine time with the Schultzes.

I didn't do translation work in Kenya in the late 1960s but rather was busy co-authoring with David Michuki 4 years of Swahili as a second language textbooks, *Masoma ya Kiswahili* (8 volumes) for elementary school Kenya students. I also wrote solo a little Swahili-English dictionary, *Kamusi ya Kwanza -- Kiswahili Kiingereza*.

Sharifa Zawawi. Thanks for sending the newsletter. I won't be able to be at the reunion as I will still be in Zanzibar August 16.

Jim Gilson. My wife, Margery, and I participated in the 25th year anniversary gala dinner [celebration](#) of Tirana International School in Albania on Saturday evening, 22 April 2017. In the 1991-92 school year Tirana International School was the first QSI (Quality Schools International) school established outside of Yemen. In that first year no students enrolled until April of 1992 when a family enrolled two students for the last term, for half day only since the missionary parents wanted to homeschool their boys for part of their studies. TIS is the only QSI school that started with zero students, but today the enrollment is over 200 with a first class facility that was entered in the 2015-16 school year. [Jim is the founder of QSI.]

Ted Essebaggers. Remembering my trip back to the USA from Tanzania, leaving Mombasa by ship in April 1967 for Bombay and a month in India, meeting my parents in Landour and driving to Kashmir via Simla and Kulu Valley, then leaving India to visit Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawer, Pakistan before flying to Kabul for a few days, then on to Teheran, Isfahan, Shiraz and Khorramshahr. The Six Day War/June War (5-10 June) was on just as I wanted to enter Iraq at Basrah to pick up my MC---something I eventually was able to do--- and then I traveled by road by way of Teheran to Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium to England from where I reached my ship in Southampton to take me to New York. I arrived early August. Looking back, I regret not having had a travel companion. Little did I know at the time how terrible that short war was.

Jim Gilson. My wife, Margery, and I have finally moved to the USA after about 50 years or so overseas. We moved to San Diego in January of 2015. I continue as President of Quality Schools International (QSI), but have many good people doing most of the work, with QSI headquarters located in Ljubljana, Slovenia. For 2018-19 QSI has 36 schools in 30 different countries. The website is www.QSI.org.

I recall with fondness our two years in Moshi, Tanzania while I was teaching physics in Old Moshi Secondary School (1963-65). We had a 1957 VW bug in which we made trips to Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda as well as around Tanzania. Those were good days in East Africa. Sincerely, Jim Gilson

Fran Vavrus. Dear Brooks, I was in my office yesterday and found my autographed copy of *We Were Walimu Once and Young* in my mailbox. Thank you so very much for sending a copy to me. I have already started reading it and feel very connected to the stories of the former TEA members. They are lovely. I will share this with students and colleagues as we all try to carry on the important work that you and your fellow walimu began. All the best, Fran

Lilian Hayball on June 27. I am travelling back by air (4.5 hours) to Cyprus today from Maldon Essex, UK, where I stay with Mike's and my relatives, and see my nieces and nephew - all under 10, and folk, etc. It has been a very successful visit!

It is past 5 am, and at 4 am I was listening to the Goldhanger Estuary dawn chorus of wild birds that we hardly hear in Cyprus, hunters and shooters notwithstanding! Lovely. There are the inevitable seagulls (landgulls?) calling raucously; blackbirds, thrushes, wrens, sparrows, and a host of other farm and estuary birds

singing their little hearts out here. My relatives are lucky people, living as they do near farms and the wild estuary; do they know it? Maybe!

I brought the good sunny weather, but am leaving in light summer drizzly rain. Thinking of wrapping my suitcase in plastic -- am at my weight limit, and if it gets wet it will weigh in heavier!

I cannot get to Detroit in August, but wish you all a merry meeting. I shall try to get to the reunions here in the UK. Smiles, Lilian.

Anonymous. I now spend a lot of time on a four by six balcony where gardening is limited, but very satisfying. My partner for the last 45 years (we married 18 months ago, 39 years after she said she'd think about it) has dementia after an extraordinary run of advising workers who were losing their jobs because of plant closures and downsizing, to train them as peer advocates for each other and the other workers. Sometimes working with joint labor-management teams in closure situations, especially in the auto and steel industries, and occasionally using the peer model in workplace education settings all over the US and in Europe. Our world is smaller now. A four by six balcony is just about right. We laugh every day (I am shameless) and are grateful every day for our life, our family, our work and our love. There are worse final acts. Permit me to quote Barbara Kingsolver: "Here's what I have decided: the very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness. Enough to eat, enough to go around and the possibility that kids might grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed. That's about it. Right now I am living in that hope, running down its hallway and touching the walls on both sides. I can't tell you how good it feels."

The bottom line, we keep on doing what we do, maybe a little more thoughtfully and vigilant. And nurture everything around us. On the other hand, a larger garden would be nice.