



**Brotherhood** - is not a one year commitment, it is a life-time commitment.... We took an oath to remain brothers. An oath is something that cannot be taken back, that's what makes it an oath. We may have outgrown pounding down beers but you can never outgrow your commitment and the bonds of brotherhood.

**From the President:** Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I first walked through the doors of Phi Sigma Delta in March, 1964, It is hard to believe that almost 50 years later, I am still involved with these "brothers of my beloved fraternity". The bonds that we all made while under the "sheltering tree" of Phi Sig are indeed strong and I dare say stronger than those of many other fraternal organizations.

It has been a distinct pleasure to remain active in our organization and frequently commune with so many of you, both via the Internet and in person at our various reunions and get-togethers, I just wish I could reach out and shake some of our missing members, or members who seem to have turned a disinterested ear to our group.

I think I speak for everyone when I say that all of us who have remained active firmly believe in the old saying "The more the merrier". There is nothing we like better than to see someone return after many years and rejoin us.

Many of us are looking forward to the reunion that Gideon has worked on so hard. We are gathering in Orlando this January and I know I speak for everyone by saying this should be one of the best ever. It is still not too late to make a reservation to come to Orlando, so we are hoping that more people can arrive.

I also want to take this opportunity to again thank Stan Kittredge for all his yeoman's work in coordinating the newsletter, keeping us all in touch over these many years and looking over our finances. He has, and remains, the glue that binds us all together, I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing as many brothers as possible this January.

Fraternally yours, Bill Troupe '67

**From the Treasurer:**

Our January reunion is now less than a month away!! Gideon has done all the research and has invested a ton of time to make the reunion a resounding success.

The reunion information and links to the hotel are:

Dates: Friday Jan 11, 2013-Sunday Jan 13

Location: Point Orlando Resort, 7389 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 407-956-2000 or 866-994-6309 [www.thepointorlando.com](http://www.thepointorlando.com)

Schedule of events: Please contact Gideon if you are interested in playing golf. Many brothers are staying before and after the reunion to take advantage of golf and many of the other Florida attractions.

Friday: dinner at the poolside Cabana Time: TBA

Saturday Breakfast followed by the annual (Brothers only) house meeting Time TBA

Saturday afternoon "Schmoog fest" Hotel lounge 1:00 Come prepared with your best Phi Sig story

Saturday dinner: dinner at Boston Lobsterfeast 8731 International Dr just a 5 minute drive from the hotel. 407-248-8606

Bostonlobsterfeast.com

Please, even if you are not attending and have not yet RSVP's please do so. It would be great to hear from you and it also gives me a chance to verify your address.

Some of the luminaries that have already made reservations include:

- ' 67 Tom & Sue Andre
- ' 70 Marty & Diane Berkowitz
- ' 70 Fran & Nancy Bourdon
- ' 71 Dave and Laurie Callahan
- ' 67 Jon & Cheryl Campbell
- ' 71 Marc Cantor
- ' 68 Jay Cohen
- ' 68 Jack Earle & guest
- ' 70 Bruce Erickson
- ' 66 Earl & Rosemary Finley
- ' 68 Ralph & Roberta Goldfarb
- ' 70 Mark & Norma Goodfriend
- ' 65 Ed Hanson
- ' 64 Dave & Mary Ellen Hautanen
- ' 72 Stan Kittredge
- ' 70 Joe & Sheila McGrath
- ' 66 Tom Mosco
- ' 69 Kevin & Peg O'Reilly
- ' 70 Gerry Principe
- ' 69 Gid & Patricia Rechnitz
- ' 68 John Ryback
- ' 70 Craig Shuffain
- ' 70 Benn & Beverly Titleman
- ' 67 Bill & Linda Troupe

As you can see we have every class year from 1964 to 1972 represented.

**Brother Biography:** Since 2005 newsletters have included biographies on Brothers. This year's point man on the January reunion is Gideon Rechnitz so I thought he would be the appropriate one to highlight in this issue. -Stan



1966 GIDEON A. RECHNITZ 2012



Gideon Rechnitz, class of 1969

Some of my fondest memories are of my years at Phi Sig. The mid to late 60's were a remarkable time and I dreaded graduating. Unfortunately, I didn't read Rick Fortier's manual, "How to Turn a 4 Year College Career into 8 Years of Unmitigated Bliss". After graduation, I moved to Boston, where I roomed with Ralph Goldfarb and went to work for Lenny Nyer's dad, driving a cab for Town Taxi. My career escalated to parking cars at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and then to working with Kevin O'Reilly at his brother's real estate firm. It was hard work, renting apartments to the hot young stewardesses coming to Boston. In the fall of 1971, Bobby Singer, Ralph, his new bride, Berta and I went on an extended trip to Europe and Israel. We had a great time and drove thousands of miles throughout Europe ending up by taking the ferry from Italy to Greece. We saw the moon over Delphi, the Acropolis and gorged on french fries and Ouzo in Athens before getting to Israel. I think some of Bobby's hash is still buried in the front yard of my aunt's apartment in Tel Aviv.

After returning to Boston, I went to work for a division of Britannica, selling books door to door, eventually becoming the sales manager. My alcoholic boss (who else would make me the sales manager) then dragged me with him to Chicago to sell Arizona lots to Chicagoans. Unfortunately, his liver gave out within 4 months and after he died there was no reason to stay in Chicago. I hit the road and for the next few years sold lots in recreational communities in Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In 1975 I wound up at Shawnee Resort in the Pocono Mountains as one of the pioneers of timeshare sales. That's where I met my wife, Patricia. We lived and worked there for three years. In June we returned to Shawnee, after a 34 year absence, because my daughter, Charise, got married there. It was a wonderful wedding and homecoming rolled into one.

In April 1978, Pat and I moved to Atlantic City to start the first timeshare resort there, just one month before the first casino opened. We watched huge buildings get demolished in a cloud of smoke to make room for new casinos and were part of the huge crowds lining up to play slots and blackjack. Marrying Pat on Veterans Day, 1978, was the icing on the cake.

We moved to St Pete Beach, FL in 1979, where I became sales manager of the Breckenridge timeshare resort. During our first few years here, Pat and I were blessed with the birth of our daughters, Charise in 1981 and Fallon in 1984. I'm happy to say that both have turned out very well, despite the obvious handicap of being born as my daughters. Charise is the dean of freshman resident life at Ursinus College, near Philadelphia, and Fallon is getting her Masters at NYU and working for a social media marketing company.

In 1987 I started my journey as a serial entrepreneur with a timeshare resale company. A telemarketing room of 30+ salespeople called timeshare owners all over the country and signed them up to help sell their timeshares. That gravy train sputtered out after about three years, due to so many others jumping on that bandwagon. In addition, some excesses on the part of my salespeople, got me involved in a suit with the FTC, which we eventually settled. From there, I was involved in laundromats, career guides, advertising products, fundraising, Christmas Tree lots, liquor inventory control for bars and other businesses I can't even remember. My career in creative real estate started with flipping contracts on houses. After a while, I built up a rental portfolio of 80 single family homes. Then the real estate boom

hit and "wannabee" investors crawled out of the woodwork. Those were the days when if you were breathing, you got a loan. The real estate feeding frenzy caused me to sell my entire rental portfolio.

I re-invested my money in houses that were going into foreclosure. I'd buy a house at a huge discount, catch up the mortgage, rent the house back to the seller and give them the option to buy it back from me at a predetermined price. That worked well for many families, but not for those that couldn't get their act together. Because it was an unusual transaction, we videotaped every closing, so if we ever needed to we could prove we disclosed every aspect of the transaction. Unfortunately, despite watching the videos, a Legal Aid attorney with no regard for the truth filed two identical suits against us. To make a very, very long story short, in the first case, the judge dismissed every charge. In the second suit, another judge dismissed every charge except one. We went to trial on the one charge and the jury disregarded the video and ruled against us. That obliterated any confidence I had in the jury system. We now have two different verdicts on the same

allegation and after hundreds of thousands of dollars this sad affair is still not over.

The good news is that it's a great buyers market in this part of Florida. Houses can be bought for about 1/2 of what it would cost to build the same thing. For the last couple of years I've been using all my available cash to buy blue collar rental houses and now have a nice portfolio generating good cash flow. My working time is spent selling houses that it makes no sense to keep, buying more houses and managing the 60 we currently have. When I'm not working, I'm participating in one of my two passions, playing golf or doing landscape and nature photography. I expect to continue doing all three until my final curtain call.

**News about our Brothers and Address Changes:**

Robert F. Littleton Jr ' 71 was one of four people recently honored by the UMass Alumni Association for contributions to community and their professions. Dr. Littleton is the Founder and President of The Evergreen Center and Founder of Criterion Child Enrichment. Bob's lifelong commitment to improving the quality of life, through learning, to infants and young adults with special needs has made a tremendous impact on the communities in which he serves. Read about it on our website's TidBits page.

Len Nyer ' 69 has relocated from Rochester, NY to his home town of Framingham, MA 01701 and can now be reached at: 861 Edmunds Rd Apt 138, 508-309-7119 or [leonardnyer@gmail.com](mailto:leonardnyer@gmail.com)

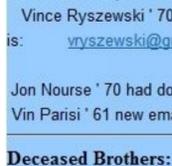
Vince Ryszewski ' 70 has begun a fight with cancer but reports the outlook for a complete cure looks good. His new email address is: [vyszewski@gmail.com](mailto:vyszewski@gmail.com)

Jon Nourse ' 70 had double knee replacement 12/5/12 and is completing rehab at this time.

Vin Parisi ' 61 new email is [kmparisi@verizon.net](mailto:kmparisi@verizon.net)

**Deceased Brothers:** Word has reached us of the passing of Brothers

Rich Dalquist ' 74 and Dave Graves ' 69,



unfortunately little information is available.

Benn Titleman ' 70 has asked me to include his recollections of Dave Graves.

1st Lt. Delta Co.  
3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry 173rd Airborne  
Phi Sigma Delta, Alpha Mu

Dave Graves '69, was a pledge along with Bob Jackson and real close to George Wood. Dave adopted the old drum room in the attic, put in a desk and a bed in front of the window. He spent a lot of time there and I often wondered if he had given up his dorm room. Dave ran circles around everybody when we played sports. He never seemed to run out of breath. He told me it was from growing up in the thin air of Colorado Springs until he was seventeen. As you may recall, Dave was about 5'7" and solid. He played football for the Air Academy High School team and was also a pretty good gymnast. He worked out with the UMass

team, in hopes of obtaining a scholarship that never materialized. Dave enjoyed listening to Linda Ronstadt and Janis Joplin. He seemed to have a way with the pretty girls.

Dave worked at the Newman Center, cleaning out the personal quarters of the priests each weekend, but he never seemed to have enough money. Finally, he threw in the towel and joined the Army. Dave explained to me that he went through AIT because, even though he would surely see combat, he would be better prepared for survival. I remember him visiting while on leave and demonstrating how to "kill" three metal chairs and a lamp in less than three seconds. Rather impressive.

I kept in touch with Dave while he was overseas and when he came stateside, he smuggled me onto the base to stay with him in his private quarters. He must have had a pretty good rep as no one ever bothered me. After his discharge, the government kept paying him a check for a year, so he could afford an apartment, car and time to catch up on what he had missed. Since Dave had lived with his sister during his senior year of high school, he settled close to her in Milford. I was a permanent guest at his place for the six months before our adventure west. He taught me how to get by on only four hours of sleep a night, appreciate, hot tea (!) and the affection of older women.

Although he lived in hell for two years, I can say that I never saw any indication of any sort of problems resulting from his experiences. Dave and I spent many nights together in that apartment. He shared with me what it was like and what he had to do. As I recall he proudly told me about the bevvy of rejects of all backgrounds and colors, that he molded into his platoon. It sounded like a cross between "The Dirty Dozen" and "Combat". While listening to him say with pride how few casualties they experienced, I could sense his confidence, leadership abilities and that his men most likely, trusted him to get them through it all. Dave spoke with such confidence. He knew that he would make it back home.

Dave motivated me as well. I had no intention of ever going west of Philadelphia. Also, I had never worked on the engine of a car, but Dave and I bought a couple of cars and accompanying Chilton's Manuals. We tore those cars apart and made them purr. Dave was a perfectionist. When he was finished tuning his car, he put a glass of water on the hood and you couldn't see any vibration. In fact, it was so quiet that one couldn't be sure whether the engine was still running at a stoplight. We were ready for our trip west.

Remember, back then a long trip for us was over the state line for a packie run. Dave told me that he planned to return to Colorado, establish in state residence and then finish his degree at CU, Boulder. I came along because I had nothing better to do. We headed out together in November of 1971. I drove a '65 Grand Prix and Dave pulled his Uhaul behind a '67 Chevy. We parted ways in Denver and I continued on to California. We never spoke again.

Further research by Stan found that Lt. Graves was a U.S. Army Green Beret and decorated Vietnam combat veteran. Dave received the Bronze Star for combat action in Vietnam while with the Army Airborne in 1970.

**Scholarships:**

Once again this year we will be able to award several scholarships to active students. Thank you to all who send in your dues and donations to keep not only our scholarship program funded but also our general fund which allows us to pay all our expenses.

Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the web site or obtained from Chairman John Cycz 413-665-7089 [jlcycz@verizon.net](mailto:jlcycz@verizon.net). Applications are due to Stan prior to our business meeting at the January reunion. Mail to John Cycz at 23 Capt Lathrop Dr So. Deerfield, MA 01373 or hand deliver to Stan at the reunion. Any association member who is current in his dues may nominate one or more dependents.

**LETTER TO THE BROTHERHOOD FROM THE B.A.R.F. COMMITTEE - Winter 2012**

Since the beginning of the Brothers Helping Brothers concept and the subsequent information of our B.A.R.F. as an alternative support resource for brothers in need, there has been a constant evolution and improvement in our purpose and actions. We are more connected than ever and we are more aware of issues that are affecting members of our group.

We know of several brothers that are dealing with medical issues. Some are at crossroads in their personal situations that may affect their quality of life. Some are dealing with serious legal issues. Our Brotherhood has demonstrated, individually and as a group, a remarkable ability to support our own, regardless of what the situation may be. No surprise. We were, we are, and we always will be a special group, with a special bond.

We have two requests. To the best of my knowledge, none are in need of financial support at the present time. We had a very active, generous response to our initial fund raising requests. Although we have a substantial fund of over \$5000.00, I want to ask that if you send in your annual dues, that you consider adding an additional \$10/\$20/\$30 designated for the B.A.R.F. fund so that when that day comes, we will be able to make a substantial assistance to a Brother's need.

1. Make the check payable to - Phi Sigma Delta Alumni
2. Memo- Benevolent Fund
3. Mail to Stan Kittredge, Association Treasurer, 399 Old Farm Rd, Franklin, Ma 02038

We have demonstrated our ability to respond to any need. But we are always concerned about those that we do not hear about, whether it is emotional, physical or financial support that they need. So we remind you all that we are our brother's keepers and we need each other's help to watch out for one another. If someone needs a brother, contact one of us. Thank you.

Fraternally, Your Board of Trusty's John Cycz, Kevin O'Reilly, Bill Troupe, Mike Parker, Ralph Goldfarb

Web-Site: The Phi Sigma Delta of Zeta Beta Tau UMass Alumni web site remains up and running. Please check it out if you have not seen it lately at [phisig.atspace.com](http://phisig.atspace.com) (no www). Lloyd Bristol ' 74 has done a fabulous job creating this site and adding many new items. Scholarship applications are available on the site. If trouble with link, try <http://phisig.atspace.com> 2011 photos of the reunion at the Cape are up! Check out the military service your fellow brothers gave their country. Look at the USA map of where brothers reside. Try the TidBits page for nostalgic items and Announcements page for recent events. Website changes made weekly so check often.

**Association Dues:** Dues for our Association are strictly voluntary but as you know it does take money to make our Association work. I believe every one of you will agree that our time together has been well worth the \$10.00 annual dues. Please remember that in order to have a vote at our meetings you must be a member in good standing. If you are unsure of your dues status give me a call at 508-528-1107 or drop me an email [kitco1@comcast.net](mailto:kitco1@comcast.net). Mail to: 399 Old Farm Rd, Franklin, MA 02038 Thanks, Stan

**Mini Winter Reunion:** Plans are made to attend a UM Basketball game at the Mullin Center on January 5th. Stan is the point man for tickets. Only \$10 and after the game Bertucci's for a meal and PSD stories! Join us by contacting Stan for tickets.

PLEASE if you receive a copy of this newsletter by U.S. Mail it is because I do not have your email address. Please forward your email address to me at: [kitco1@comcast.net](mailto:kitco1@comcast.net) We much prefer to email it then to copy and snailmail it at a cost to the treasury.

Fraternally, Stan Kittredge ' 72 508-528-1107