[Giant Steps in Art Therapy: Art of the Brave]

WEST HAVEN - The Giant Steps Program is an arts-driven outpatient mental health program for Veterans connected with VA Connecticut Healthcare. The mission of Giant Steps is to promote the wellness and recovery of Veterans by providing opportunities for creative expression, and connection with others so they can rediscover personal strengths, manage stress, build resilience, enhance self-empowerment and find meaning and pleasure in their lives.

**CLICK HERE THEN SCROLL TO THE "GIANT STEPS" GALLERY TO VIEW IN FULL SCREEN**

**Tony Arnold** is a Marine Corp Veteran. His artwork is highly influenced by his experience as a Vietnam Veteran. In 1967, after graduating high school, Tony joined the military and promptly served a tour in Vietnam. He was seriously injured while on patrol, then retired from the USMC, receiving a purple heart. Tony endured several years of hospitalization and many, many surgeries to recover from his physical wounds.

However, he shared, "...it took longer to recover from my invisible wounds," and for many years after his service, he saw the world in black and white, keeping a metaphorical wall of protection / isolation around himself. He found it difficult to trust anyone and was unable to find beauty in the world anymore.

He rediscovered his artistic ability - and the beauty in life - when he began attending an art therapy group for Veterans called **Art of the Brave** in the Giant Steps Program at the VA in West Haven. Through his vivid, life-affirming, and often large-scale paintings, it is apparent he was able to tear down the wall of isolation and mistrust, rediscover his strengths, and find meaning in the world once again.

**Contact:**
Laura Spinelli, MA, ATR, LPC
Director, Giant Steps Program
VA Connecticut HCS
laura.spinelli@va.gov

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**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Counseling & Support Services is a free, confidential program provided by Magellan Health Services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The support you need is a call or a click away! This program offers Yale employees and their families unlimited phone support and up to six in-person counseling sessions per issue for each family member to effectively handle issues related to: Stress management, Workplace issues, Child care providers, Adoption resources, Elder care providers, Grief and loss, Changes in family relationships, Finances, and Work-Life services. Read more on Page 4.

**YALE-WEST POINT CIV-MIL SERVICE SYMPOSIUM 21-22-APR @ US Military Academy West Point**

**REGISTER HERE**
"Complete Itinerary Enclosed"

Contact: **Henry Kwan, ’05 MA**
Director, Shared Interest Groups Association of Yale Alumni
203-436-8494
henry.kwan@yale.edu

**PRESIDENT’S REVIEW 04-MAY @ Payne-Whitney Gym New Haven, John J. Lee Amphitheater**

**CLICK FOR DETAILS**

Contact: **Maggie McNulty**
Senior Administrative Assistant
Naval ROTC
203-432-8223
margaret.mcnutly@yale.edu

**GOLF OUTING 20-MAY @ Yale Golf Course New Haven**

**REGISTER HERE**

Veteran / foursomes discounts! Click image below to view complete itinerary of activities.

GOAL: 90 reservations
[Yale NROTC Leadership Symposium] 07-08-APR-2017: Learn from leaders and your peers in the world-class environment that Yale University has to offer. The Yale NROTC Leadership Symposium promises to be the vanguard in discussing the dynamics of leadership and security in the context of a rapidly evolving military and world. Keynote Speaker: General Stanley McChrystal, U.S. Army (retired), Founder, McChrystal Group, and other distinguished speakers below:

Admiral Michelle Howard, U.S. Navy
Vice Chief of Naval Operations has served for over 33 years, during which time she became the first African American woman to command a ship, the USS Rushmore... Continue Reading

Vice Admiral Mike LeFever, U.S. Navy (Retired),
Senior Adviser, McChrystal Group served in the Navy for 38 years, including as Director of Strategic Operational Planning at the National Counterterrorism Center... Continue Reading

Vice Admiral Melvin Williams, U.S. Navy (Retired),
Associate Provost for Military and Veterans Affairs, GW served 33 years as a submarine officer in the Navy, including as Commander of U.S. Second Fleet and Commander of Submarine Group Nine... Continue Reading

[VFV 12150’s Great War Dinner] 07-08-APR-2017: The Great War Dinner, a centennial commemoration of the United States formally entering World War I, will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Trinity Bar & Restaurant, 157 Orange Street, New Haven. Internationally acclaimed author, distinguished historian, and Yale Grand Strategy Professor Paul M. Kennedy will be the keynote speaker. Seating is limited and advanced tickets are required for this exclusive fundraising event; tickets may be purchased online or from the organizers for $30. *Raffle / Cash Bar*

Menu / Celebrated Chef + Trinity Co-Owner Shane Carty:
1800: hors d’oeuvres in the banquet room
1900: buffet dinner including roast beef, chicken marsala, vegetarian lasagna, Carty’s signature Shepherd’s Pie, dessert, and coffee.

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[Visit the YVN Website to find out more about this month’s Spotlight Member, Chris Mihok, Lt Col, USAF Retired. Learn about his first assignment out of college as a Missile Launch Officer in charge of ten Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, earning his MBA... Continue reading here]

Chris Mihok, Lt Col, USAF Retired

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[Click on items to link to further details where available.

- 07-08-APR: 2nd Annual Yale NROTC Leadership Symposium, Yale Campus
- 08-APR: VFV 12150’s GREAT WAR DINNER, Trinity Bar & Restaurant, New Haven
- 22-APR: AID S Walk New Haven *Complimentary Registration for YVN Affinity Group Members*
- 28-APR: AFROTC Dining Out, TDBank Sports Center, Quinnipiac University
- 04-MAY: YVA President’s Review, Payne-Whitney Gym
- 06-MAY: YVA Yale Day of Service, West Haven VA Hospital (Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center)
  *Family-Friendly*, tentative time: 0900-1300
- 22-MAY: USAF / USN Commissioning, Battell Chapel, 1630-1730
- TBD: YVN Vietnam Veterans Memorial Spring Cleaning, Long Wharf New Haven

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[Have a suggestion for next month’s interviewee? Contact: Marinda Monfilston Diversity Program Coordinator Office of Diversity & Inclusion 203-436-5628 marinda.monfilston@yale.edu]

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[Have a suggestion for next month’s interviewee? Contact: Ben Walter Faculty Support Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies 203-432-9794 benjamin.walter@yale.edu]
[Liaison’s Ledger with Jack Beecher: Why ‘Veterans Count’?]

In the Fall of 2016 we began an initiative we called, “Veterans Count at Yale.” There were two main reasons for the initiative; first and foremost, Yale leaders wanted to clearly communicate their regard for those who have served in the military and who now work or study at Yale and second, to attempt to obtain an accurate and complete count of the number of veterans at Yale.

Since there is absolutely no legal obligation for anyone to inform the university that they are a veteran we can’t have an accurate count unless our veterans voluntarily identify themselves – so we need the help of every veteran to complete the count. The more we know about how many veterans we have on campus, the more likely we will be able to provide appropriate support when and where it is needed.

It is important to note that the women and men who served in the United States Military have specific protection under United States labor laws and cannot be discriminated against based on their military service. The Office for Equal Opportunity Programs will manage any issues of discrimination should they arise.

Employees wishing to identify themselves as veterans can do so quite easily in the Workday system. Click here for more detailed instructions to guide you through the process.

Of note: If you wish to designate more than one category you have to save the first selection and repeat the process to select the second. The wording for each of these is determined by the government so Yale cannot change the category wording.

If you have any questions about how to do this, you can call the Human Resources help desk at 203-432-5552 and they will walk you through the process.

You may also email: equalopportunity@yale.edu for further assistance.

The important thing is to make the selection and urge your veteran friends to do the same. As we seek to improve our support of veterans it will help to know who they are and how many work and study here.

In the coming months, I look forward to hearing from you and your colleagues about issues of importance to you.

-Jack Beecher

Contact:
Jack Beecher
Yale Veteran Liaison
203-432-0879
jack.beecher@yale.edu

[Hail + Farewell] Kim Raseman

The Yale Veterans Network extended a Certificate of Appreciation Kim Raseman USA ’67-’71, in honor of his retirement and tireless service to Country, Yale, and YVN. Be on the lookout for his emeritus contributions to our newsletter in the coming months, discussing this Veteran’s life after retirement. Thank you for your service, Kim!

Click here to learn more about Kim’s life and time at Yale in this archived interview from 2016.
About The Yale Veterans Network Affinity Group

The vision of the Yale’s Veterans Network (YVN) is to make Yale University the employer of choice for veterans, reservists, and guardsmen while creating a Yale community of veterans and veteran leaders; to support and encourage the career development and growth of all its members. The YVN will serve the veteran community nationwide through national and local community service events.

Join our mailing list by contacting: angela.malerba@yale.edu

Attend monthly meetings, Lunch Served, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1200 - 1300, 55 Whitney Avenue, AFROTC Hanger, 4th Floor, New Haven.

Have a hot topic or guest you would like add to our monthly agenda? Inquiries for Featured Topics and Speakers can be sent to: santo.galatioto@yale.edu or michael.wagner@yale.edu for prior approval.

YALE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Counseling & Support Services is a free, confidential program provided by Magellan Health Services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The support you need is a call or a click away! Call 1-800-327-9240 or visit www.MagellanHealth.com/member.

Instructions follow below.

This program offers Yale employees and their families unlimited phone support and up to six in-person counseling sessions per issue for each family member to effectively handle issues related to:

- Stress management
- Workplace issues
- Child care providers
- Adoption resources
- Elder care providers
- Grief and loss
- Changes in family relationships
- Finances
- WorkLife services

2. Follow the instructions below:
   - Click on “New or unregistered user” in the “Member Sign In” box on the right-hand side of your screen.
   - Enter “800-327-9240” as your program or plan toll-free number in the designated box on the next page and click “Continue.”
   - Select “Yale Counseling and Support Services” and click “Continue.”
   - On the next page, you can either register by completing the required fields, or you can click “Continue Unregistered” to access information on the website.

A Message from Mike Peel:
The Importance of Affinity Groups

Vice President of HR, Mike Peel recently sent the below communication to all Yale managers describing the importance and relevance of Affinity Groups for employees. He encouraged managers to allow employees to attend events during business hours, as they benefit the entire University. We are extremely proud to have the support of Mike and HR in our goals to make Yale a better place to work, and look forward to increased flexibility by of managers in allowing their employees the ability to attend YVN events that may overlap with their working time.

If your manager has any questions, be sure to direct her or him to Chief Diversity Officer Deborah Stanley-McAulay.

Click Here to view the full message.