

Dear Kroks and honored friends -

It's hard to believe that nearly a month has passed since our 70th reunion in Cambridge. I wanted to send a quick note once again thanking all of you for making it such a wonderful and memorable weekend.

The opening event at the Signet Society served the dual purposes of recognizing not just the immense contributions of Fred Heller '54, but the spirit of travel and touring and those who have made it all possible over the year as well. The Friday night Sanders concert featured amazing performances from Kroks from the earliest days all the way up to the current group. Our songbook rehearsal, banquet, memorial service, and all of the informal gatherings in between brought old friends together in ways that surprised and delighted everyone in attendance.

We've had some terrific momentum coming out of the weekend and we don't want to lose it. Let's stay connected, both with each other and with the undergraduate Kroks. We want to ensure a vibrant Krok community that doesn't have to rely on reunions for people to meet up, though I promise you all that Frank and Daniel will plan a great 75th (they just don't know yet that they've been drafted for the task). And the e-mail address archives@kroks.com remains very active; we've been encouraged by all of the photos and stories we've received so far. In fact, Steve Dostart, who has been managing the process, told me that we've gotten many never-before-seen tour photos from our patrons and sponsors around the world. We will try to find a way to share these with the everyone, as they will certainly take everyone back to those summers spent singing with - and for - your closest friends. In the meantime, Steve has created the following link to a dropbox that contains some photos from the reunion weekend for all to enjoy: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/42riewi3yno3e96/AACNsDH7N0Mrg5eJf56DSi3ba?dl=0>.

It's come to my attention that many of you could not hear the speech I gave at the banquet. It was stunning. Trust me. A veritable Gettysburg Address. The text can be found below; most important is the long and varied list of people I mention, all of whom played a huge part in making the reunion a success, and even more importantly, in helping to keep the Kroks such a special group of friends.

Nunc est Cantandum,

-Larry-

Good evening everyone. I'm Larry Wasserman, the President of the Board of the Krokodiloes. On behalf of the Board, I hope you've had a wonderful weekend so far and are looking forward to a memorable night of singing and reminiscing with old friends.

I promise I'll be brief.

To the Kroks of 2016 and the alumni groups, what a wonderful concert last night!

First, I have to thank our Reunion organizers, Daniel Du Comb and Frank DeSimone. They have done an amazing job planning this weekend and we are all incredibly grateful for their leadership and hard work. And they did it while holding down full-time jobs. I'm pretty sure they still have them, too.

Also, I'd like to thank Ben Nelson for coordinating our alumni group performances last night. And Andrew Cone who served as our boots on the ground, free safety who did all the little things that add up to make this weekend so special. And to Frank Zhou and Kevin Chow who helped out with a lot of the printed materials you've seen this weekend. And Jonathan Finn-Gamino who designed our gorgeous 70th Anniversary Poster. If you haven't had a chance to sign it, please make sure you do so.

To our Honorary Kroks here tonight, and our friends from around the world who inexplicably chose to come to Boston in early March, we thank you for making the literal and figurative journey with us. To the Midons, The Smiths, David Selikowitz, the Sayn-Wittgensteins, the Fengs, Pershing Sun, the Keller-Sarmientos, and Lina Sato and her family, our experiences as Kroks are more meaningful because of you. And to our friends who couldn't make it, Madame Taeko Matsuda, Zeke Solomon, Kumi Sato and Don Kanak, Treaty Bartley, Jim Nondorf, we hope to see you soon.

I'd like to recognize our board of directors and our advisers, all of whom not only had a hand in this weekend, but also help the undergraduate Kroks carry out their vision each year and make sure the organization remains evergreen. More on that in a minute.

We've got a big board so I'll go quickly:

Our Executive Committee: Co-President John Koenig, VP Daniel Du Comb, Secretary Rex Baker, and Treasurer Steve Dostart

A side note on Steve. His title of Treasurer does not do him or his work justice. Steve is the standard bearer for the board. He has chaired pretty much all of our committees, working on archives, finance, real estate, endowment, you name it. The generosity he has shown – generosity of his time and other resources, can't be understated. Steve, I owe you. A lot.

Anyway, on to the rest of our board.

Elijah Seton, Jeff Korn, and Lynn Weigel, all of whom have served as past Presidents.

Josh Bean '16, Tom Chalberg '99, Frank DeSimone '09, Bobby Flitsch '15, Andrew Hausmann '15, Fred Heller '54, Russell Horton '15, Bobby Kim '17, Mark Lee '02, Peter Lerangis '77, Arvind Narayanan '16, Ben Nelson '11, Benjamin Ory '15, Mike Paladino '17, Harrison Phelps '18, Coby Ryan '18, Paul Sagawa '85, Arnold Servais '70, B. A. Sillah '12, Clayton Thomas '06, Fraser Weist '18, and Peter Wu '16

And because I really just want this speech to be a ton of names, our advisors are:

Andrew Cone '11, Andy Kim '99, Ben Marek, Bryan Simmons '83, Cole Dutcher '10, David Orenstein '99 (also a past president), David Rosenzweig '86, Glen Howard '71, Gordon Bloom '82, Greg Craig '67, Greg Lau '99, Joshua Campbell '16, John Redd '84, Laszlo Seress '14, Matt Guard '02, Mike Sun '97, Morgan Wolbe '03, Peter Mansfield '76, Peter Miller '85, Swift Edgar and Tony Salewski '97

That's a lot of people. I think it speaks to the commitment our alumni have to the Kroks, and it's really an incredible thing.

A wise Krok once said, "you sing with the Kroks for a few years at the most, but you're a Krok alum for the rest of your life." If you're an Honorary Krok or one of our distinguished friends, supporters, or spouses, you, too hold this lifelong distinction. To me, this comes with a responsibility, the responsibility to ensure the connection between, and legacy of, the Kroks. The responsibility to keep us evergreen.

Singing in the Kroks gave me the opportunity to travel around the world and meet fantastic, generous people and go to places I still haven't been able to get back to. I was also honored to sing with incredibly talented people who became lifelong friends. The Kroks gave me confidence, a sense of belonging at Harvard, and the ability to do what I loved with people who have become so special to me and my family. I've lost count of how many Krok weddings I've attended – and performed at, including my own.

We all share this unique bond, this connection, of music and friendship and brotherhood. As our organization marches towards our 75th year of existence, the 100th isn't that much further away, and we owe it to ourselves and each other to commit to remaining connected. One of our initiatives this year on the board has been to roll out our searchable online alumni database (thanks Bobby Flitsch!) that I hope will keep Kroks across all decades connected with each other – whether it be for guys looking to sing in their home towns, get career advice, talk about crazy tour stories, or just check in on some guys who may be far away but who would love to hear from old friends and know that they are missed and loved. I hope that the database is a good start, but I urge each of you to stay connected to your old friends, and to connect with new friends who share the Krok experience in any way you can. I promise you your life will be richer for it. And that goes for our honoraries and friends too! In fact, on Thursday night Kirk Bangstad very kindly strong-armed David Selikowitz into offering up his Paris apartment any time my wife and I would like to visit. That's a pretty sweet deal.

Even more tangibly, the Kroks are connected by a lot of things – concert recordings, posters, tour videos, albums, group photos, diaries, Fly Club china. This is the physical manifestation of our legacy, yet some of it has gone temporarily missing, to no fault other than the passage of time. Tonight I'm calling on all of you to help. If you are aware of the whereabouts of any, let's call them materials, that you think should be preserved for posterity, please e-mail archives@kroks.com and we'll make sure they get into the right hands. Again, that's archives@kroks.com.

OK, now that the logistics are aside, let's have some real fun. As has become tradition at our reunion dinners, I'd now like to ask David Binger to say a few words. As you all know, David is

one of our founding Kroks and is fully aware that he is in mixed company tonight, though I doubt that'll stop him. David, come on up.