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What does not change: Mindy Aloff and I just celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary. I’m still making my way through the world primarily through reading and writing; still prefer long walks to any other form of exercise.

What has changed me most: Raising our daughter Ariel Nikiya, born in

1985.

What’s been going on: After our first stint at Yale and Vassar, Mindy and I went to study English at Buffalo. A year in London was followed by almost a decade in Oregon, where I coordinated the Portland Poetry Festival, taught writing in kindergartens, colleges, and prisons, worked in City Hall, and wondered at the mountains and woods, while Mindy began her career as a writer on dance.

I returned to Yale in 1981 to study at the School of Management. After SOM I worked in New York city and state government for seven years, mainly on human resources policy. I helped write the City’s first full-scale plan to house the homeless and remain involved in private efforts to offer safe and decent transitional housing.

I have the pleasure these days of working at a small think tank, Work in America Institute, where I am Director of Policy Studies. My portfolio includes studying adult literacy, work-family connections, and urban affairs. My daily commute on the train gives me the chance to read and write; I’m currently working on a series of personal essays on topics from robotics through Northwest poetry.

Mindy’s assignments take her to the theater about five times a week; when the worlds collide, the two or three of us even go out some nights together.

Voices from Yale: Classmates and friends; theater carpentry; the reading room at Beinecke; Louis Martz shouting “Save the greensward!” at tractors fac- ing Sterling; the kind and living words of John Hersey in the master’s study at Pierson. Ever-present.