



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES MAY-JUNE 2020

A committee of classmates headed by **Jon Larson** and supported by the Class Council has made plans for a Yale Class of 1963 San Francisco Gathering from September 28 through October 3, 2020. The headquarters of the Gathering will be at the Tiburon Lodge in Tiburon, CA, just across the Bay by ferry and the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. Jon and his committee have planned a wide choice of activities in and around San Francisco, and have left plenty of time for relaxation with classmates, discussion groups, cocktails, and fine dining. The schedule is flexible and designed so that classmates can choose and pay only for preferred activities. More than 60 classmates and partners are already signed up and another 25 at this date have indicated that they also hope to come. This will be a great opportunity for us to be with old friends and to make new ones. For more details about the San Francisco Gathering and a signup form, simply go to the Class Website, www.yale63.org. We are especially encouraging classmates who have missed Reunions in New Haven in recent years and also our widows to join us and reconnect in this relaxed and informal “Gathering” of classmates sharing our bonds of history, the present, and the future.

Tom Lovejoy reports: “Interesting and challenging times: In May 2020 I was appointed Scientific Director of George Mason University’s newly established Institute for a Sustainable Earth. In mid- October I received the Medal of the Rio Negro from Brazil’s National Institute of Amazon Research (INPA is the Brazilian acronym). On October 28, 2020 I was invited to speak at a meeting of Amazon Governors at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican.”

Eric Steele exhibited one of his sculptures at The Art Institute of Chicago during January and February 2020. Eric writes: "Since the mid-2000's I have produced abstract constructions of fabricated steel, often square tubing, shaped and perforated by torch. These metal sculptures explore the relationships between the disintegration of urban structures and rhythms of nature – man-made climate change versus the ordinary decay of physical things and cycles of growth and death. The specific piece in this exhibition, Chancel Shadows, alludes to the powerful, though deteriorating, religious structures of the past and our search to orient ourselves within the moral universe. It is part of a series called Urban Stele."

Al Sturtevant reports that his son Charles, Yale '01, is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies at Davidson College in North Carolina, where he specializes in Political Anthropology, Bolivia and Indigenous Politics, and Race and Ethnicity.

John Calvin Goldthwaite died on January 2, 2020 at Valley View, Goshen, NY following a protracted illness. John graduated from Phillips Andover Academy in 1958, going on to Yale University where he was a Scholar of the House his senior year. He graduated in 1963 and served in the US Coast Guard reserves. John then went to New York to work at McGraw-Hill Publishers doing editorial work. But his real love was writing, so he started free lancing. He married Leila Davis in May of 1971 and in 1973, Jessica was born. He wrote several children's books for the publisher Harlin Quist. One, *The Kidnapping of the Coffee Pot* (under the pseudonym, Kaye Saari), was mentioned as one of the notable kids' books of 1975 by the New York Times. *The Natural History of Make Believe*, published in 1996, won the Harvey Darton Award 1996-1997 for the best book on an aspect of the history of British Children's Books. In

1999, John suffered a heart attack which left him disabled for the next 20 years, unable to write. He is survived by his daughter, Jessica Goldthwaite, his former wife and friend, Leila Goldthwaite, family, and many old friends.

From David Willis, '62: "I met John freshman year in McClellan Hall and we later shared an apartment in New York City. His curiosity about animals and the natural world, (particularly the oddities – both in the wild and in New York City) was relentless and always most stimulating. The following recollection from Dick Turner, '62, illustrates this." Dick: "In July of '1978, my children and I had driven East to see my folks, and my son Marc and I drove up to Cornwall-on-Hudson to see John and climb Storm King Mountain. Marc was only 7, it was a hot day, and the mountain proved a formidable climb for someone so young (and for his out-of-shape father). Marc became fatigued and whiny. It was Goldth who turned the tide. He was kind and empathetic in a way I'd seen when we were in college. Marc calmed right down and listened wide-eyed as Goldth promised that if he persevered to the summit we'd see the large airborne hawks who frequented Storm King and they would be 'something you'll have in your memory forever, whenever you want it.' Although there were wisps of cloud beneath us when we reached the top, there was a particularly impressive raptor swooping the thermals. Marc is now 49 and has frequently brought the scene up over the years." **Jim Courtright** adds: "I remember John Goldthwaite from the year we were Scholars of the House, and always admired his ability to write so very well and to comment about the possibility of writing children's books."

William C. Petty, III died on January 13, 2020 of complications from pneumonia at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, VT. Born in Port Chester, NY, Bill

graduated from the Kent School in 1959 with honors and from Yale University in 1963 with a B.A. in History. Bill was a member of the Scroll and Key Society and rowed crew at Yale all four years. In his senior year he was Captain of the Yale Heavyweight Crew Team and his passion for Yale crew continued throughout his life. In 2010 Bill was responsible for identifying and recruiting Steve Gladstone, one of the premier rowing coaches in the United States, to become Yale's Head Crew Coach. After Yale, Bill went to the Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. He was commissioned on November 22, 1963 and served for three years in the Navy as LTJG on the USS Tanner and USS Shasta. After the Navy, he joined the Wall Street investment firm of Dominick & Dominick. He then worked at Estabrook Capital Management, followed by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company for 12 years, then returned as a Director to Estabrook in 1985. He retired in 2018. Bill took great pride in his family and was a loyal and caring friend to many. He was a Trustee of Kent School, always a loyal supporter of his alma maters, and a member of the Yale Club of New York City and the Lawrence Beach Club. Bill had a sharp intellect and a keen sense of humor, and was a devotee of his many interests, including rowing, music, reading, and any time spent on the water. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy (Dowling) Petty, his two sons, Jonathan C. Petty and Timothy D. Petty, and four grandchildren.

David Culver, Luke Fouke, Paul Neill, and Jon Truslow and their spouses attended a memorial service celebrating Bill Petty's life on February 1, 2020 at The Kent School Chapel in Kent, Connecticut. Luke Fouke and David Culver spoke at the service reminiscing about their 60+ year friendship with Bill starting at The Kent School in 1955. A cavalcade of other speakers told numerous stories highlighting Bill's unique personality. Most recalled his dry, witty, and frequently irreverent commentary about people, institutions, and topical events. And they all

noted his lifelong passion for Yale Crew, and observed that he didn't mince words about people and situations he thought were out of line, but that he was level-headed, controlled, and slow to anger. Bill was someone you could always count on for wise counsel and advice, frequently delivered with quaint aphorisms like C. S. Lewis's maxim: "Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking" or Mark Twain's: "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

Mike Griffel writes: "Bill Petty had a way of making you feel appreciated, of listening to your remarks and stories with the greatest of interest, of proving his kindness with deeds as well as words. He was upbeat and hard-working, a loving family man, and a devoted friend. Bill was strong and courageous, dealing with misfortune nobly, even with a smile on his face." **Bob**

Hetherington recalls: "Rowing crew was at the center of Bill's life at Yale. He was one of the heavy lifters. He generated power for the boat. He was also a good teammate. His optimistic spirit kept everyone moving forward. After Yale he kept in touch. He had a gift for friendship."

Paul Neill writes: "I met Bill freshman year at crew tryouts, and we remained friends ever since. In recent years we've talked regularly, and gone to some Carnegie Cup regattas in Derby. Bill's clever wit never left him despite injuries, and if I didn't reach him by phone, there was always a cheerful and witty message prompt." **Stan Riveles** remembers: "Bill was a big man with a big personality and an abundance of personal warmth. His blunt speech, sense of humor, and friendship made for memorable encounters. Bill and Nancy, his wife and friend of almost 50 years, were a great team. If they did not finish each other's sentences, they agreeably disagreed. As stroke and Captain of the Crew our senior year, Bill was a physically imposing figure. Yet his physical limitations in later years never seemed to diminish him or inhibit his personality and positive outlook."

Guy Miller Struve
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
450 Lexington Avenue | New York, NY 10017
+1 212 450 4192 tel | +1 212 450 5192 fax
guy.struve@davispolk.com

