



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

Due to the Covid-19 Delta Variant spike and the mandatory indoor masking required in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Yale '63 Gathering in San Francisco for September has been moved to May 9-15, 2022. All planned activities and venues will remain the same. We expect that most of the 75 classmates and partners who were confirmed to participate in September will join us in May, and there is room for additional participants. Please see the Brochure and Sig-Up Form on our Yale '63 Class Website at www.yale63.org for details. Or contact Jon Larson directly at jonlarson99.il@gmail.com to get any questions answered.

Jim Baird reports: "I am continuing to pursue my teaching and research, primarily because I didn't develop enough hobbies when I was young. I have three graduate students and two undergraduates working in the lab. I do the theory, and they do the experiments, and when they catch on, they do a bit of the theory themselves. I coach them until the day comes when they decide to do their own experiment to check some question that had not even occurred to me. At that point, I regard them as being ready to graduate!"

Bill DeWitt writes: "President Peter Salovey is doing a series of podcasts with individuals who have Yale connections, and whose professions or areas of expertise might be of interest to the Yale community. He reached out to me, as CEO of the St. Louis Cardinals, to see if I and my son, Bill, III '90, Cardinals President, would be interested in joining him to talk about baseball. We were more than pleased to participate. For those interested in listening, the link is <https://president.yale.edu/president/yale-talk/cardinals-and-bulldogs>. President Salovey is a passionate and knowledgeable baseball fan, as well as a sports enthusiast in general, and we enjoyed very much doing the podcast with him."

Tony Elson writes: "I am pleased to announce the publication of a new book (*The Global Currency Power of the US Dollar – Problems and Prospects*). This book continues a series I have written about different aspects of economic and financial globalization. In this one, I examine

the basis for, and the extent of, the dominant position of the US dollar in the global economy and the benefits and costs the global currency status of the dollar has created for the international financial system. I also consider the growing risks this arrangement will create for global financial stability in the future. In this light, I review the prospects for three alternative currency arrangements that could deal with some or all of the defects of the current dollar-centered reserve currency system: one is a shift to a multipolar reserve currency system involving the dollar, euro, and renminbi; another is an enhancement of the IMF's role as an international lender of last resort and provider of global 'safe' assets; and a third is the introduction of central bank digital currencies."

George Nilson writes: "Greetings from our 'new' home in the historic district of Chestertown, a charming and politically complex town on the Chester River in the upper Eastern Shore of Maryland. After living and working in Baltimore, I retired from the practice of law per the policy of my 4,200-lawyer firm (DLA Piper) on my 65th birthday and promptly unretired the next day to begin serving as City Solicitor for the next nearly ten years under two mayors. With a few glitches along the way, it was the best job I ever had (unless fair pay is the criterion). Having owned a series of second homes on the Eastern Shore for 25 years, my second wife Sarah and I and our growing pack of dogs settled in Chestertown after sampling St. Michael's and Tilghman Island. Since the end of my gainful retirement I have been the Board President of the Chesapeake Film Festival (50 or so films each year for the last 13 years) and a board member of Disability Rights Maryland. I am blessed with two wonderful sons and five grandchildren who live in Boston and Yarmouth, ME and a lovely stepdaughter who lives and works across the Bay Bridge."

Dave Ragaini reports: "Recently my wife Nicole and I completed a CD designed to (hopefully) bring a smile to those who might be, because of these times, a little down. We called it 'Nothin' But Happy', with Dave and Nicole (no last name) and we're pretty proud of it. It's a collection of standards, pop, and a couple of rock favorites of mine. It also has a song I wrote for Nicole in 1975, about six months after we met at a recording session in Montreal. It's called 'I Found a Girl', and, luckily for me, I've kept her, or rather, she's kept me, these last 46 years. We know

no one buys CDs these days; we did it for ourselves, and our family and friends, but the songs are available for streaming on most sites, and they're now up on YouTube. All the best to you '63ers, and your loved ones, from a guy who did enough to graduate, but probably spent more time on the golf course and the poker table than at the books.”

Christopher Hawley Corbett passed away peacefully in South Portland, ME on June 22, 2021, his 80th birthday, surrounded by loving family, a year and a half after a diagnosis of ALS. Chris was raised in Montclair, NJ, the third of four children, a proud Eagle Scout, avid sailor, and lifetime lover of the outdoors. As a young man, he discovered music, playing trombone in a 17-piece jazz big band and guitar and vocals in a classic 1950s rock band, and thereafter managing to join every sing-along or porch jamboree he could find – making music and encouraging merriment around campfires, at jazz bars, and in the living rooms of a wide network of friends. As he saw it, music was a wellspring of joy and togetherness, something meant to be shared. After graduating from Yale University in 1963, Chris served as a weapons officer in the U.S. Navy, spending four years on a destroyer escort based out of Newport, RI. He married Margaret “Peggy” Anne Fulton in 1967 and together they embarked on a life marked by community, family, and a shared love of nature. They raised three children in Andover, MA, instilling in them their passion for hiking, camping, skiing, travel, and reading good books. Chris earned an MBA from Northeastern University and became a plant manager at the Polaroid Corporation, directing manufacturing at three film factories during the heyday of the SX-70 instant camera. He then served for 16 years as Vice President of Operations at New England Business Services and went on to work as a consultant to manufacturing companies while also volunteering as an advisor to numerous nonprofits through the Executive Service Corps of New England. After losing Peggy unexpectedly in 1998, Chris began spending more time in Maine, where he ended up settling permanently. He dedicated himself to community service, helping youth build boats through the Maine Compass Project, becoming a founding member of the committee of Southern Maine Conservation Coalition, serving on the board of the Environmental Funders Network, and working to protect green spaces through several land trust organizations. For 22 years he also administered a mini-grant program for public-school teachers in honor of Peggy, who had been a chemistry teacher, raising and distributing more than \$200,000 to encourage creativity and hands-on learning in science classrooms. On a

hiking trip to Yosemite in 2001, Chris met and was instantly smitten by Manny Morgan, herself an avid outdoorswoman who happened to live in Maine. They married in 2007 and enjoyed an exuberant life together. They traveled the world, sailed, climbed mountains, and spent summers among many friends on Chebeague Island. Given a terminal diagnosis of ALS in the summer of 2020, Chris did what he'd always done, setting a determined example of how to live gracefully and joyously. His last months were spent in the constant company of friends and family, infused with music, laughter, and conversation. As his body grew weak, he opted to make use of Maine's Death with Dignity process, which afforded him the ability to die at home and without suffering. He will be remembered as hard-working, generous and gentle, even-keeled, deeply curious, open-minded, and always bent on having fun. Chris is survived by his wife, Manny Morgan; his children Stephen, Matthew, and Sara Corbett; his stepchildren Hoyt and Kim Morgan; and 11 treasured grandchildren.

Rees Jones writes: "Chris Corbett and I both grew up in Montclair, NJ, where we went through school together and were in a great troop of Boy Scouts which was an important activity since our scoutmaster inspired us to achieve and succeed. When we both were accepted to Yale it was natural that we would be roommates. Within our group of **Dave Hilyard, Walt Hunt**, and myself, he was the entertainer and calming influence. We couldn't have had a better fourth. His guitar skills were ever-present during our social activities. Post-Yale, Chris was a Navy officer, a successful businessman, an active outdoorsman and a great family man."

John Miller remembers: "Chris was a roommate, fraternity brother, co-manager of the TD snack bar, and Navy mate but, most of all, he was a close friend of 60 years.

During the summer following our Junior year, Chris, Joe Schwartz (Class of '62, fraternity brother and manager of the track team with Chris) and I traveled the country in a vintage station wagon from coast to coast and north to south. Wherever we stopped to camp, Chris entertained us and other campers around us with his guitar and large vocal repertoire, garnering new friends with his music and infectious personality. When it became apparent to

us during our Senior year that additional education wasn't in our immediate future but the draft was, we decided to enlist in Navy Officer Candidate School. Chris's poor eyesight was a definite roadblock to military service, but he memorized the standard eye chart and bluffed his way through the induction physical and subsequent OCS physicals! We ended up as bunk mates at OCS in Newport, RI. We were together on the parade ground when we were ordered to return to our barracks where we were informed of President Kennedy's assassination and told to prepare for what might be immediate activation. Luckily for Chris, his job as a weapons/gunnery officer was supported by a fire-control system that didn't require him sighting down the long barrel of a deck gun! We remained in touch after the Navy through annual gatherings at The Game, and our children became friends as we shared summer vacations at the Corbett Cape Cod "compound" and ski trips in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. After losing his wife Peggy in a tragic diving accident, Chris married Manny, with whom we shared adventures in our natural wonders throughout Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, including hiking, and mountain biking in Moab. Chris's body gave up on him due to the ravages of ALS, but his engagement and upbeat personality never wavered. Just a couple of days before the end, Chris was joined on the Anchorage dock in Portland, ME by friends and family to celebrate his life with music, dancing, laughter, and tears."

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