



## Class of 1963 Alumni Notes November-December 2023

**Troy Murray** reports: “With the books finally closed on June 30, 2023, your Reunion Gift Committee reports that 70% of our classmates contributed \$50,224,514 to Yale, the fourth highest amount ever raised for a 60th reunion. This included \$516,907 donated to the Alumni Fund. Of the three Class of 1963 Funds, the Yale College Scholarship totaled \$425,609 from 37 Classmates; the Jackson School Fellowship, \$922,688 from 35 donors; and Athletics, \$251,083 from 13 donors. Among other factors, our very successful Reunion appears to have inspired an especially large flurry of last-minute contributions.” Immense thanks are due to the Reunion Gift Committee Chairmen – Troy, **Ian Robertson**, and **Martin Wand** – for their energy and dedication.

**Jon Larson** writes: “All classmates are invited to join a Y’63 Hawaii Cruise/Tour, June 5-15, 2024. 36 of us are already planning to spend ten days together cruising and shore touring the Hawaiian Islands. We are holding a group of adjoining staterooms grouped together high up on the 9th deck. June 5-8: Three days on Oahu staying at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki and sharing planned activities and dining: Pearl Harbor, Polynesian Cultural Center, Hawaiian Luau, Bishop Museum, a sail on Kaneohe Bay, a drive through a tropical jungle, and an around-the-Island drive including North Shore beaches. June 8-15: Seven days on board the NCL Norwegian Cruise Lines Pride of America sailing around the Islands including four stopovers for optional guided shore tours: one on each of Kauai and Maui and two on the Big Island. And of course we plan to share as much spare time as possible dining, socializing, sharing life stories, and relaxing together. We have reserved additional cabins available at the same 45% discount off the full price listed at sailing time. This is a popular time of year with good weather to travel to Hawaii. You can make a reservation with a refundable \$300 deposit. More details are posted on our web site at [www.yale63.org](http://www.yale63.org) . Please contact tour leader Jon Larson at [jonlarson99.jl@gmail.com](mailto:jonlarson99.jl@gmail.com) for more information and to book a reservation.”

**Mike Lieberman’s** new novel, *Anvil Hopewell*, is available on Amazon in print and Kindle versions. Mike writes: “Hopewell is an unlikely hero, a poet whose life is on the skids.

As the novel opens, Hopewell is a Yale undergraduate in the late '80s. It was great fun inventing a fictional Yale for the novel's protagonist. Apologies to classmates who actually worked for the Yale Daily News."

**John Rogers** reports: "Still working full time at age 83. I may be the only Yale-educated licensed Civil Engineer in California!"

**Hugh Alexander Campbell, Sr.** died on July 22, 2023 in Louisville, KY. Alex graduated in 1963 magna cum laude from Yale University, with an undergraduate degree in Politics and Economics, and in 1966 from Yale Law School. While at Yale, he received several academic and leadership awards, including election to Yale's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and he also served as Class Secretary for a time. In the eight years after law school, Alex served as counsel to Kentucky Governor Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt, as Assistant Attorney General to Kentucky Attorney General John C. Breckinridge, and with Mr. Breathitt after his term as Governor in a Ford Foundation funded initiative addressing rural poverty in the United States. Then, for over 40 years, Alex practiced corporate and transactional law in the Louisville office of the multistate firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP. A cradle Episcopalian, Alex served multiple terms as vestry member and Senior Warden in his family's parish and in appointive and elective roles connected with the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky and related institutions. One of these important initiatives was chairing the search committee that resulted in the election of the Rt. Rev. Terry Allen White in 2010 as Bishop of the Diocese. Alex is survived by his beloved wife LaForrest Cody Campbell; their sons Peter Barnett Campbell and Hugh Alexander Campbell, Jr.; and one grandson, Hugh Alexander Campbell, III.

**LaForrest Campbell** writes: "Alex cherished his Yale and Yale Law School days. One of his fondest memories was the trip to France with his classmates – an extraordinary trip to Normandy and Paris. He would have been so proud of what the Class accomplished at the 60th Reunion."

**Dr. Thomas Michael Fake** passed away on June 2, 2023 at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE. Tom attended Yale for one year, and finished his bachelor's degree at the University of Iowa. He went on to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, graduating in 1968.

Following his schooling, Dr. Tom opened his practice in Denison, IA, owning it for 43 years. He married Idamae Brandenburg in 1978. Dr. Tom and Idamae volunteered their time as missionaries and traveled to Africa and the Philippines, where he provided dental services to the less fortunate. He loved all sorts of fishing, especially fly fishing and bass fishing. In his younger years he also enjoyed golf and hunting. One of his favorite pastimes was reading, and he was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan. He is survived by his wife of over 44 years, Idamae Fake; his children, Randi White, Dani Fake, Robert Carmichael, Stephen Brandenburg, Diane Winey, and Debra Vosika; six grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

**Jim Little** recalls: “Tom and **Dick Cheney** were recruited as student athletes by a Yale alumnus in Casper, WY, and joined our Class in the Fall of 1959. As a Freshman, Tom was proud to be a left-handed quarterback on the undefeated 1959 Bullpups. However, coming from Wyoming to Yale was difficult for Tom and, although he made a number of friends at Yale, he never felt that he fit in. He preferred the great outdoors and hunting and fishing to the constraints of the intensely developed East Coast. Through our Berkeley group, we stayed in touch with Tom and his wife. He was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor that we all enjoyed.”

**Christopher H. Getman** died after a brief illness on July 9, 2023. His wife of 59 years, Toddie, was by his side. (Although Chris was a member of the Class of 1964, he was an important part of our Class too, and with the permission of the Class of 1964 we are remembering him here.) Chris lost his father in World War II when Chris was three. From that time on, the cultivation of meaningful relationships became a defining mission in his life. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a loyal friend, a joyful teacher, a community organizer, a generous philanthropist, a patron of the arts, a zealous – and somewhat wild – athlete, an energetic practical joker, a passionate server of good causes, and a relentless advocate for anyone who needed it. Although he had a reputation for mischief, he never strayed from his strong moral compass. He gave everyone the benefit of the doubt but was impatient of greed or cruelty. After graduating from The Hill School, Chris moved on to Yale University. Always grateful for the blessings in his life, Chris considered the opportunity to attend Yale among the greatest. After receiving his M.A. from Reed College and teaching at The Hotchkiss School for five years, Chris

returned to New Haven in 1970 to work for the Yale Alumni Association and coach football and basketball. The move back to New Haven marked the beginning of a lifetime of dedication to both the University and its surrounding community. His many accomplishments and the organizations he served are too numerous to list, but the highlight reel includes the Elm/Ivy Award; the Yale Medal honoring outstanding voluntary service to the University; the Mory's Cup; and the G.H.W. Bush Lifetime Leadership Award. Chris also served as Chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of The United Way and was the top fundraiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for more than 30 years. Chris is survived by his wife Evelyn (Toddie); his daughters Sheila, Hilary, and Julia; and six grandchildren.

**Willie Dow** writes: "Chris made New Haven his adopted home. He directed his energies to countless projects affecting where he lived. He was the longest-serving member of the Board of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, a leader of the United Way, was involved in environmental projects and the Special Olympics. He was, we will all remember, one of the laboring oars in saving Mory's. And as the cherry on top of that sundae, for 30 years he kept and maintained several iterations of Handsome Dan. Not surprisingly, Chris was honored with the Elm/Ivy Award symbolizing efforts to strengthen relationships between the City and the University. Most of all, he was just an all-around good guy." **Ian Robertson** shares: "In 2019 I was sitting between Chris and Ben Balme at the Blue Leadership Ball. Ben mentioned that he had been granted an unplanned leave of absence in his Junior year. I said, 'Don't feel bad, Ben. I had two unplanned vacations.' Chris chimed in and said, 'I had four more than both of you together.' Both Chris and Ben were Blue Leadership Ball honorees. Just goes to show. This May Chris abandoned his Rhode Island hospital bed to attend our football lunch prior to '63's 60th Reunion. We count him as one of our own even though he chose to affiliate with '64. A wonderful man."

**Philip Pechukas**, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Columbia University, died on June 8, 2023 in Great Barrington, MA. Phil earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Yale in 1963 and his Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from the University of Chicago in 1966, and joined the Columbia faculty in 1968. He was a gifted theoretical chemist whose work in chemical reaction

dynamics and quantum chaos was deeply insightful and illuminating. Phil made a deep impact on Columbia through his service as Chair of the Chemistry Department during the design of a new building and was an extraordinary teacher and mentor to students. He was the recipient of many honors, including Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Humboldt Senior Scientist Award 1993-1994. Phil Pechukas was a unique individual, a gifted scientist and a talented writer with an ironic sense of humor. Phil suffered the painful loss of his two daughters, Fiona and Maria, who predeceased him. He is survived by his beloved longtime partner, Rachel Brier, a psychologist in Great Barrington; Rachel's family, Lauren, David, Hannah, and Jonah; his surviving children Sarah, Amy, and Rolf; and four grandchildren.

**Jim Baird** (no mean chemist himself) writes: "Theoretical chemistry has lost a towering figure." In a lighter vein, Jim adds: "During our Sophomore year, Phil, and the rest of us chemistry majors, took Chem. 32 Organic Chemistry. One of the toughest experiments in the lab involved the multistep synthesis of a special compound. At the end of the penultimate step, Phil had very little material left to work with. Before the lab, Phil had picked up his mail at Yale Station. On opening a letter from his girlfriend, he found a love poem which she had composed. After reading it, Phil was at a loss for a creative way to respond. Then he had an idea! He tore a page out of his notebook and fished through his lab drawer for an eyedropper. Horrified, we all shouted, 'Phil, don't do it!' He ignored us. He extracted a couple of precious drops from his already depleted product and dribbled the liquid onto the notebook paper. The result was an indescribable greasy spot. He signed the page 'Love, Phil.' and put it in an envelope addressed to this girlfriend. The rest is history." **Dave Mawicke** writes: "Phil and I were classmates from Junior High School through Yale. Phil was an accomplished theoretical chemist, but most of his pride was about the accomplishments of his students. He beat me regularly in golf, which we played weekly until I could no longer play. Cooking was a passion of Phil's. The local butcher and greengrocer were friends of his, and he had an extensive culinary library. Always trying something new."

**Benno C. Schmidt, Jr.** died peacefully in his sleep on July 9, 2023 in his home in Millbrook, NY. Benno studied History at Yale and, after graduating in 1963, went directly to

Yale Law School, where he graduated in 1966 at the head of his class. After clerking for United States Chief Justice Earl Warren, Benno spent two years working for the United States Department of Justice, and then joined the faculty of Columbia Law School. An expert in First Amendment law, Benno became Dean of Columbia Law School in 1984. Less than two years later, Benno was named as Yale's 20th President. In the words of *The New York Times*, "he was president there for six years, during which he fought with the faculty over painful but necessary budget cuts, changes that left many people bitter but the University better off in its finances and educational direction." Yale's current President, Peter Salovey, told *The Times*: "Benno was president during a really important transition for Yale. He helped push the university from being a college with strong professional schools into a university with outstanding professional schools and a college at its center." Benno left Yale in 1992 to become chief executive of Edison Schools. In 1998 Benno was put in charge of a rescue task force for the City University of New York. In 1999, Benno and his colleagues presented a plan to gut-renovate CUNY, and for the next 17 years, first as Vice Chairman and then as Chairman of the CUNY Board, he executed that vision. Benno served for many years on the Board of the Kauffman Foundation and the New-York Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, Anne McMillen; his son Benno C. Schmidt III; his daughters Elizabeth Hun Schmidt and Christina Whitney Helburn; his stepdaughters Leah Redpath and Alexandra Toles; five grandchildren; and two step grandchildren.

**Beverly Gunther**, the widow of our classmate **Steve Gunther**, remembers:

"Benno, **Dick Foster**, **Nathaniel Kingsbury**, and my beloved Steve all began their Yale journey in the Fall of 1959 on the Old Campus. These four classmates who became roommates were anchored by Trumbull College. In addition to serious study, they spent a good deal of time off playing hockey, darts, and pool. Steve would often say, 'Benno recovers so well academically from these all-nighters. I do not.' Females were allowed to visit for restricted weekend hours. Sunday midday dinner saw lots of women in the dining hall for a proper roast feast. Thus were the Trumbull years. I do not think that there was ever a Reunion that Steve and I missed. Each Reunion we had a tradition- dinner with Benno. What a blessing that we of Yale '63 were together at the Reunion!" **Dick Foster** writes: "It was Noon in September 1959. I was taking

my first NYC taxi ride. I was terrified. My co-passenger was Benno Schmidt, born and raised in NYC. He was chattering away as if we were having a nice lunch in a restaurant. Cars were whizzing by, brakes screeching, people in the walkway yelling at us, and Benno was talking about his class the day before with Harold Bloom. It was then I knew I was not in Chagrin Falls anymore. That was the day Benno became one of the most important mentors of my life. Benno was a rocket ship (and he had a rocket slap shot on the ice). He set the standard in my eyes; brilliant, wickedly witty, accomplished, and a very loyal friend.”

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