

## **URGENT NEWS BECAUSE WE ARE LATE!!!**

- ***New York: Luncheon--Thurs Dec 13 RSVP Cathy Callender 212-722-9225 Cocktails at noon; luncheon at 12:30. Please come!!! Yale Club 50 Vanderbilt Ave nr Grand Central Price \$53.00***
- **And, the annual Christmas luncheon for the Hanoverites will occur on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fox Dining Room at Kendal at 1130 with lunch served at 1230. Harlan Fair is collecting the fair, apropos, or one can pay \$25 at the door.**



Chapter 3 of our new cycle of newsletters is always a special one at Christmas time when so much is happening in the Holiday Season. Here is a quick summary, AGAIN to make sure we got it right!!!

- The annual Christmas luncheon for the New York area '53's will be held at the Yale Club on December 13<sup>th</sup> with Cathy Callender filling her marvelous role as "hostess with the mostest" and Bob Malin doing his gracious role of promoting this annual celebration of our '53 family.
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Since the reunion we have developed a new class website which will focus on the "Memory Lane" aspects of our almost seven decades' camaraderie and allows us to relive some of the great and fun moments of our journey. The site carries over much of the prior site but with an exciting new format that permits one to hear our "Hum" of the spring of 1953 and Ike's homespun comments to us at graduation and many other fun features. There are a lot of pictures of those who "have crossed the silent river" who will forever reside in our hearts and some of the uproarious events we shared. We are developing a plan to

provide a TV link to the site for our “snail mail” classmates who have been receiving major newsletters by mail which requires a very expensive formatting, printing and mailing operation from the college. If that does not work out notices will be sent with site access instructions they could use from a family or commercial computer. Grandkids know a lot about this digital stuff. We discussed this change at the Reunion class meeting. The temporary link to the new site which is still in development with lots of new pictures and “stuff” Will keep you posted on new additions with each newsletter

<https://stage.classof53.site/index.php/home-page/>

### ***Oldies But Goodies***

Here’s a couple of pictures of Fred Whittemore and a number of others of the Wall Street gang sent in to Bob Malin by Fred’s sons and passed on to you. There are many more which we will include on the ’53 Website. And, so good to see Pag sitting in the chairman’s seat!





**Bob "Mole" Malin providing some financial advice to Fred!**

And from Gib Warren a picture of President Hanlon and his lady with the Henderson's at reunion.



After the 65th, Mary Jane and Peter Bridges drove north to visit their friends Dorothy and Stearns A. "Tony" Morse '52 at the old Morse family farm in Bath, NH. Here are Mary Jane and the Morses at the 1849 covered bridge near the farm. Stearns is professor emeritus of petrology in the University of Massachusetts, and the son of our Dean of Freshmen.



And, from one of my favorite fun correspondents, RodgertheCertifiedCodger. Aka Rodger Ewy our Freshman Class Treasurer.

“Hi Dave, I'm having fun reviewing my time with IBM here in Boulder. Shea Tilman, prof at Auburn University (AL) drove here to interview me on my work at the IBM Boulder Design Center. He's putting together a comprehensive look at the outstanding graphic work we did in-house, a unique happening in American industry at the time ('70s and '80s). And it looks like Cooper-Hewett Museum in NYC is also interested! The C-H Museum is a design-oriented site embedded in a NYC baronial mansion!

Another fun thing is a book-in-making by an English author who is sorting out Colorado photographers of the '50s and '60s who had a special artsy-fartsy thing going on in the Denver area (yep, I was one). My role is to dig deeply into my mass of piled up posters and photographs and find something of significance for these fine people. I'm attaching some putative samples. Best wishes to you and Joanne for the Holidays,

*RodgertheCertifiedCodger*

And here is one of Rodger's “special artsy-fartsy” things that were going on in the Denver area in ancient times,



And here is one of Rodg's IBM posters from several decades ago that the researchers in the field find fascinating



And somehow it ended up on my computer screens so now I have the 53 Out motto "the shell must break before the bird can fly" Thanks Ro0g, we love it.

**If you click on the blue button below you will be entertained in a fascinating way by the Saskatchewan Line Dancing Champions!!!!**



SASKATCHEWAN LINE DANCING.mp4

And for a class that just loves “reuning” ’53 was back at it again at Homecoming just a couple of weeks after our 65<sup>th</sup>. The joy of this delightful weekend was captured in the words of our sage class secretary Mark and here he is! “The mist was rising over the glass-like river as I drove to the College this morning for the Class Secretary Association meeting. Meager flecks of browns and reds reflected in the water festooning the shore line and creating a counterpoint to its serenity.. It was easy to forget the turbulence in our world, and think back to a more gentle time, less complicated by the cacophony of our present life. The beauty of this place is that it has progressed with the times yet retained so much of what made it so appealing sixty-eight years ago. I note with pleasure the completion of the new Moosilauke Ravine Lodge. For many, its predecessor welcomed them for the first time to the great, wonderful, outdoors. From its Initial planning to its completion, Put Blodgett has been an instrumental contributor supplying his know-how as well as the majestic timbers from which this magnificent lodge has been constructed, We have been here in Hanover for a couple of weeks, and the leaves are at last creating their colorful landscapes.. Our class mates have returned to Dartmouth for Homecoming and our Class Meeting and Dinner ,a chance to once again share the magic of Dartmouth .With the Paganucci Room of the 1953 Commons readied the following arrived for either the meeting, the dinner or both: Bobby and Skip Adams, Put Blodgett, Allen Collins, Alice and Forrest Anderson, Peter Anderson, Margie and Russ Cook, Cynthia and Dave Donovan, Harlan Fair and Granthia Preston, Dick Fleming, Marita and Len Gochman, Lillian Goss, Holly Goss Betts and Paul Betts, Carol and Bob Henderson and their granddaughter, Noelle Henderson’20 , Barbara and John Kennedy, John Kennedy Jr. ’86, Liliane and Ron Lazar, Sharon Lazar’82, Elizabeth Watson and Bill Murray, Cynthia and Dick O’Connor, Marilyn Paganucci, Caroline and Jack Patton, Ann and Bob Simpson and granddaughter Kylie Simpson ,Thayer School,, Bobby and Mark Smoller, Joan and Bernie Sudikoff, Jeff Sudikoff, ,Jane and Joe Stephens (H), Jean Vitalis, Paige Whittemore ’20,and Jodie and Jack Zimmermann, Joan Collins and David McKee. Terrific Turnout, the 53 Norm

Al Collins managed to capture some of the pictures of the 2011 awarding of President George Bush's Doctor of Letters degree while writing his Collins Corner for this issue. Super Al and thanks so much—a memorable day it has been.

### The passing of President George H. W. Bush: Al Collins

As I sit here putting together this issue of Collins Corner, I am listening to the funeral of former President George H. W. Bush. This evokes many memories of his long term statesmanship, but two in particular are noted here. It was just seven years ago in 2011 when President Bush was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from Dartmouth under the tenure of our president, Jim Kim. The picture shows Jim Kim shaking hands with President Bush and Jim Wright and Barbara Bush in the background. George was about the same age as most of us at the time – 87.

The second picture was taken about 40 years ago in Hartford, Ct. We were a group organized to promote the candidacy of George Bush for president. He came to Hartford to visit with us and deliver a speech. Ronald Reagan won that election and George Bush then became Vice-president



#### Dartmouth Remembers Former President George H.W. Bush

Former President George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30 at the age of 94, is remembered as a gracious, energetic, and patriotic man by members of the Dartmouth community. The nation's 41st president was honored by the College in 2011, when he was presented with an honorary doctor of letters degree.



*To Allen Collins  
with best wishes*

*Gay Bush*

## Status of the Class of 1953:

During the 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion, several classmates inquired as to the current status of the class membership. Here's how we stand at the moment. We started in 1949 with 702 classmates. (Some figures show 704) As of today, we have lost 405 classmates or 57.7% with 297 remaining or 42.3% The message here is clear - take care of yourself and stay well!!! Regards to all, Al

## Breakout the magnifying glass and capture Mark's Magical Music

# Playing old songs, unlocking memories



**W**hen I walk inside, I am impressed with the quiet and serenity of the place. Its decorations are worthy of a fine hotel. I've come to a rehab facility to entertain residents for an hour or so on the piano. I am not a professional musician, but I perform well enough, and I exude abundant enthusiasm to stimulate my audience.

I play the songs my father taught me, which were popular during the time this crowd was most interested in music.

They are seated in wheelchairs, awaiting my arrival. Some are inert. Some are warming up their tambourines and maracas, or maybe checking them to make sure they work. Many of them stare blankly; boredom is often their byword. For some the syncopation of the piano will evoke remembrances; for others, it's a break from their long hibernation.

When I enter the large room, some of them stir. Some recognize me, and animatedly respond. Others look puzzled, wondering who I am and what I am up to. I have performed here many times in the past 16 years, so I know a number of them and have observed their gradual decline with age.

The piano is an old spinet whose keys are as cranky as some of the knees and hips of those I entertain. There is a metallic quality to its tones, which fits very well with the music I play. I must be careful not to be too exuberant, or a key here or there will not spring back into position.

After a brief introduction, I am ready to go. The music in my program spans from 1890 to 1930, with occasional pieces from later years. I will play 80 or more different songs during the hour to accommodate the shorter attention span of my audience and generally start with something upbeat. It's my attempt to awaken them all.

There is a sign of recognition in some who were at first confused with my being there. Some become conductors using their fingers as batons, creating their own time signatures; some tap their feet, while others sing without inhibition. There is life in them, as they rock in time to the music.

With each new song, more join the chorus. There are smiles, and there are tears as the songs elicit memories of their youth and their parents. One woman who has not communicated in weeks or longer, begins to tap her foot gently. Clearly recognizing the tune I am playing, she starts to sing the song. Some who know her are pleased to see her revival. Though it is only temporary, it is thrilling to see her enjoying this little bit of time with us.

Now that we have the attention of most of the audience, I alternate between very quick-paced songs and more gentle ones. There's a wide range of emotions as my audience reacts to the music. Above all, more and more of them are smiling. Many are proud to show they know the words to each song. Occasionally, an aide will dance with one of the residents. This always provokes a huge response.

One time a fellow rolled next to me and sat with his eyes glued to my fingers. I later learned that he had not spoken in three years. I messed up a song and quickly he said that I "screwed" that up, and also, they paid me too much money (I'm not

paid to perform). Unbelievable! Three years without a word, and that is what stimulated a verbal response from him.

At first the residents are easily distracted by any stimulus, such as someone entering or leaving the room. As I continue to play, they become more focused on the music. They are in full swing now. The room sizzles with emotion. I feed on their excitement and put everything I have into playing for them. I often go past my one-hour performance, but no matter how long I extend it, I sense their disappointment when the music stops.

Closing the show, I feel tired physically, but buoyed mentally and emotionally. Being able to entertain here is a great privilege.

As I say goodbye, they ask when I will return. I try to visit with each of them on my way out. I am their "matinee idol," and I love it. As eager as they are to have me back, I am equally as eager to return.

**Mark H. Smoller,  
Jericho**

**LET US HEAR FROM YOU** Letters and essays for MY TURN are original works by readers that have never appeared in print or online. Share special memories, traditions, friendships, life-changing decisions, observations of life, or unforgettable moments for possible publication. Email act2@newsday.com, or write to Act 2 Editor, Newsday Newsroom, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747. Include name, address and phone numbers. Edited stories may be republished in any format.

**Mark Smoller performs tunes for the elderly, who often surprise him by breaking their silence to sing along. He's shown playing at the Glen Cove Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation a few years ago.**

Dr. Mark Smoller writes for us, researches for us, reports on our Dartmouth lives for us, and now serenades us with the “hit songs” of our college days. Or perhaps our parents’ college days, or perhaps-----“????” And the above piece captures that gift that we all shared at reunion. Sorry for the magnifying glass to read, as did I, and it is worth that inconvenience. Could not find a suitable way to enlarge or compartmentalize so pick up that glass Sherlock—tis a delight.

Mark is also doing some book reviews by authors in the class and here are a couple by Donna Reilly and Dick Calkins that are eye openers

*Learning the Hard Way: A Caregiver's Struggle with Alzheimer's---By Donna Reilly*

It is an important book because of the universality of the illness. It earns its worth by the honesty and frankness of the author. It takes the reader through many emotions, a roller coaster so to speak, but in the end provides realistic insights to the care of Alzheimer victims; both the patient and the caregiver. It might be inappropriate to say this but I shall. The patient, one way or another has his or her needs fulfilled. The caregiver has no one to fulfill his or her needs, nor in many cases can she or he turn to anyone for advice. Mrs. Reilly has offered the opportunity for people to realize that they are not alone; that what they feel is similar to others going through the same journey. She allows them to rid themselves of guilt for the thousand and one things for which they blame themselves, and to understand that at some point they must shift their care to professionals as their loved one will be happier and healthier in the care of those professionals. She has given the caregivers permission to move forward with their own lives, and to realize that they count also. She has shared with caregivers her feelings, her reactions ,and how she coped, offering other caregivers reassurance that their inadequacies in curing this disease are not their fault, and their fears and frustrations are normal. And in the same vein, the patient’s action and reactions are not his or her willful doing. Above all, she has shared what she has learned- that what others think regarding her decisions and care is of no import as long as you feel you are doing the best you can. Ultimately this book, is not exactly a blueprint of how to live when a spouse becomes an Alzheimer patient because each person’s journey is somewhat different. It is, however, a liberating document which lays it all on the line with a loving understanding of the patient and profound consideration of the welfare of the

caring caregiver It is a book that should be read by all, as we are all affected one way or another by this horrible entity

## **Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt by Dick Calkins**

“Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt” is a compelling story. It is well written, and easy to read. Though it is a true case history, it reads like fiction and holds the reader rapt from beginning to end. Dick Calkins, as a young lawyer was assigned by the State Bar Association to represent a young man to appeal his conviction for being a participant in a gang rape. As Dick undertakes this task he uncovers many problems within the legal system itself. He takes you through his own emotional ups and downs as he encounters all sorts of impediments in his attempts to appeal the young man’s conviction. It demands consideration of the fairness of our legal system, and what it takes to overcome some of the biases which have been built into it. It is uplifting in a sense, and at the same time it is a sober look at a mostly neglected section of our society. It is an important book to read when you have an interest in our system of justice, in fact, in our entire social system. I enjoyed it, and could not put it down until I had completed it. I recommend it with great enthusiasm.

Marcus, you are amazing. Perhaps I should send you copies of my two books to critique “The Gathering of Angels” and “Soaring Through the Universe,” Both are pretty “heady” on spiritualism and the joys of exploring the spirit, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin summed it all up when he wrote “We are not humans having a spiritual experience; we are spirits having a human experience” Fun stuff!!

And now, another book and one by the active powder skier in the class, and in Dartmouth. Bruce Sherman aka Altabruce and here is his story. “Dave...my magnum opus...new book coming out this month from Outskirts Press and available on Amazon in Jan. “How Grandparents Can Handle Tough Issues...From Cults to Visitation!” Problems with a difficult daughter in law re Visitation motivated me to do some research. It’s a major issue for many...along with the fact that ...with escalating divorce and dysfunctional families...Grandparents are playing a growing role. Our social structure is breaking down! The good news is that I’m going to end my

alpine skiing history with a BANG...not a whimper. Starting with the first 2 weeks of March in Val d'Isere and then a place in Italy called Gressoney for Heli-Skiing the Monta Rosa Massif between Zermatt and Cervinia!! Then...maybe...the Valle Blanche in Chamonix. Dave...need some tips from you on Val...never been there. Merry Christmas...Happy New Year...Happy Hanukah. Powder Bruce.

PB can't help with Val as only skied there once, but we lived in SE Switzerland in Verbier for three years', 60m from the main lift and it seemed many of my customers came to see us---amazing!!! Great mountain and where the Swiss National Team trains. Close to the Aosta tunnel and we would train over to Italy for some of those hills you mentioned. Send us pictures please,

Some Memory Boosters from the 65<sup>th</sup>



**Our '53 Beauties---The Delight of the Reunion Celebration**



**The PPRC [Party Progress Review Contingent]**

And to Close Out this Chapter 3 in our journey from the 65<sup>th</sup> to the 70<sup>th</sup>, Tom Rush sums up our capacity to remember this fabulous journey that began in 1949 with his rendition of The Remember Song

----- <https://youtu.be/9yN-6PbqAPM?t=10>