

How Ya Gonna Save the World NOW, Bulldog?

Running Chat Comments during Zoom Session May 30, 2020

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 01:04 PM

Test question

From Thomas Weil to Everyone: 01:04 PM

What would be the last hard-copy magazine or periodical for which you would cancel your subscription?

From Clyde Nolan to Everyone: 01:05 PM

The Atlantic

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 01:05 PM

Art in America

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 01:06 PM

The Nation

From Dave Stuart to Everyone: 01:06 PM

The Boston Globe

From Bill Mertens to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Washington Post

From David Zincavage to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Covertside (Journal of the Master of Foxhounds Association)

From Andrew Weltchek to Everyone: 01:08 PM

My last daily would be NY Times. Monthly would be the NY Review of Books.

From Greg Abbott to Everyone: 01:08 PM

Also Washington Post

From Robert Blank to Everyone: 01:08 PM

The New Yorker

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 01:09 PM

Tie between The Atlantic & The New Yorker

From Fred Karp to Everyone: 01:10 PM

New York Times, then The New Yorker

From David Zincavage to Everyone: 01:12 PM

OK, too much stupidity for me already. Have fun, self-important leftie airheads.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 01:13 PM

Sorry you feel that way, David. It helps to keep an open mind.

From Doug Connor to Everyone: 01:13 PM

David! Are you saying you have nothing to learn and no interest in listening??!?!

From Mark Fulford to Everyone: 01:13 PM

Dave Z hasn't changed much. Must be a little irascible seeing what his ilk has done to us.

From Doug Connor to Everyone: 01:15 PM

I guess David is committed to the "ad hominem" argument as a basis for informed opinion! :-)

From David Beckmann to Everyone: 01:25 PM

I'd like to make a point: That we're well-equipped to contribute to political change, and that our activism and generosity is needed now more than ever.

From Charles Gates to Everyone: 01:26 PM

Can you recommend specific actions that individuals can pursue, in addition to the obvious working for the defeat of Trump. Is anyone else convinced that he is a Russian agent? That has been clear to me for years.

From Steve Wagenseil to Everyone: 01:28 PM

I do not believe that Trump is an active, waiting Russian agent. But he is clearly an unwitting co-conspirator...

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 01:28 PM

Pick a Senate swing state and get involved.

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 01:29 PM

I think Trump falls in the category of useful idiot for the Russians.

From Fred Karp to Everyone: 01:29 PM

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

From David Poppel to Everyone: 01:32 PM

I would like John Whiston to help us all consider how we can help make unions more robust and more respected so as to play a greater role in addressing the many issues he has noted... we need to know how to help the unions help themselves or get in better position to achieve their noble ends. Our attitudes as a non-union class may be interesting

From Bruce Parker SM'70 to Everyone: 01:32 PM

New Yorker 11 May 2020 article about Greenwich & the accommodations of the rich.

This speaks eloquently to the progression of income inequality. Sobering & enlightening.

From Thomas Kaufmann to Everyone: 01:32 PM

Why do people think that what has happened has happened in the US?

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 01:33 PM

My career has to a great degree paralleled Eric Hardt's. I do speak Spanish fairly well. I would never disagree with the deep-seated disadvantages people of color and lesser resources face generally and in their adventures with the medical system. My personal experience is, however, if one works to overcome perceived barriers with others different in some way from us, there isn't much one can't do. At least for medicine it is in the final analysis relational. My Spanish breaks down some of the initial barriers with my Latino patients, but more important and more powerful has been acknowledgment and helping with all the fears, concerns, hopes we all share.

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 01:34 PM

It would be useful for someone to copy and distribute all the contents of this chat box after our panel meeting

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 01:35 PM

I grew up in small town CT, in a community that extended to a wide range of (white) socio-economic classes. Malcolm Baldrige was a well-known local resident; Arthur Miller and Alexander Calder lived in the next town. Today you'd be hard put to find a community that has not self-segregated, and the upper classes simply don't encounter people of limited means.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 01:38 PM

It has also been my experience that the worst of corporate medicine can be a steep mountain to try to scale while trying to sustain meaningful relationships. I have had the opportunity to work within corporate systems that somehow value what we work for, but they have faced an even greater survival challenge.

From Mel Currie to Everyone: 01:38 PM

Eric Hardt, as roommates freshman year - Did the fact that I'm African American ever come up? I don't think that it did. Refresh my memory.

From David Beckmann to Everyone: 01:39 PM

Miriam, you might ask several panelists to name specific ways we can right now help to defeat Trump and Trumpism? 85% of our class disapprove of President Trump.

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 01:41 PM

Wasn't John Bolton a classmate? Can we organize a panel with the 15% of our class that doesn't disapprove of Trump.

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 01:43 PM

If you're looking to get involved, start here:

<https://roganslist.blogspot.com/>

For electoral action, here you go:

<https://swingleft.org/take-action>

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 01:43 PM

Mel, as your roommate, I think I tried to be nice, "treating everybody the same," but stereotyped you as a working class black athlete, so although we were polite, we did nothing together. Sorry. Love you now, including your new book, "Just Before Too Late".

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 01:43 PM

I think Steve's idea is great. I simply can't understand (outside personal greed) how anyone of our classmates could take that position and would be really interested in knowing the answer

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 01:44 PM

Am I naïve to think that we cannot address this issue if we don't understand what makes that 15% tick? Maybe those who have worked in psychology could help.

From Carl Eifler to Everyone: 01:44 PM

Does Steve mean a panel that can openly ignore the fact that those that don't read history are doomed to repeat it?

From Thomas Kaufmann to Everyone: 01:44 PM

I think Steve is right.

From Reid Detchon to Everyone: 01:45 PM

Eric, are you aware of any organized national movement to raise white voices in support of #BlackLivesMatter?

From David Poppel to Everyone: 01:45 PM

If David Z is being labeled as an archetype of the 15%, what does it say about him/them that he walks out on us in a peeved manner while, I believe, most of us would want to converse together even with the opposition, especially if they have a more "educated" background to complement our own.

From Stuart Cohen to Everyone: 01:45 PM

Coming out of an era of hyper-capitalism, perhaps it is time for the pendulum to swing in the other direction. And might we, with our history of privilege, help nudge that pendulum by attempting to influence at the wealthy end? Fewer people to influence, though well insulated from criticism. Leverage who we are and who we know.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 01:48 PM

I may have just been clueless and it should have been more in my mind, but having grown up on the Southside of Chicago, a Chicano/Japanese neighborhood of LA, but then having to live during High School in suburban KC, I found Yale such a damned relief, I think I blanked it out except for intrusions the summer of '68 and senior year. There was a lot more going on outside of the Yale campus that I should have been paying more attention to throughout that time.

From Nat Brown to Everyone: 01:48 PM

I am a career Infectious Diseases physician living in the SF Bay area, still the global HQ of saving the world. My current activity with that goal is I am working on clinical development of a potent, safe antiviral medicine for COVID-19.

From Nick Keefe to Everyone: 01:48 PM

The failure of our generation to fulfill the promise of the Civil Rights movement is the big black-eyed elephant in the room. What do the panelists think of a Truth and Reconciliation process a la South Africa? Could we – should we – press for such a process for the US?

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 01:48 PM

Reid, many good white voices these days, lots of local stuff, but not familiar with a national group supporting BLM with the spirit of "antiracism". I considered a large arm tattoo, but wife vetoed.

From Thomas Weil to Everyone: 01:49 PM

Another for John Whiston... Do you see a difference between the absence of unions in private industry, which has had a profound impact on wages, as opposed to municipal unions, which can be blamed, not altogether unfairly for excessive local taxation?

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 01:49 PM

Kudos for the panelists for their inspiring personal journeys! We are all capable of personal transformation and contributions to social change. Assuming that Trump and the Senate Republican majority can be vanquished, can the panelists comment on the prospects to rebuild US society on a more just basis, in the ashes of COVID?

From Bill Mertens to Everyone: 01:52 PM

Is electoral reform a linchpin to change? Three things seem obvious: Gerrymandering, the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, and the electoral college.

From David Beckmann to Everyone: 01:52 PM

Could three of our excellent panelists suggest specific ways to help defeat Trump and Trumpism now?

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Thanks to Llewellyn and others who have discussed financial and labor issues... in terms of leveraging national institutions for greater income equality, the US Federal Reserve to my knowledge is the only central bank in the world to have job creation as part of its mandate.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 01:53 PM

I agree with Ed that art and politics are intertwined. I just watched for the first time “Harlan County USA” on Criterion. The documentary was inspiring but also made me sad as I realized how little — if at all — we as a society have progressed since the 1970s.

From Llewellyn Miller to Everyone: 01:55 PM

In addition to advocacy of minimum wage — advocate for paid sick leave requirement (CC Conrad)

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 01:56 PM

The financialization of the economy and the segmentation of society has made it far easier for those in power to ditch the idea that we are all in this together and everyone is entitled to a piece of the pie. The depression and WW2 did give that to our parents’ generation, but it didn’t survive into ours.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 01:58 PM

I would like to hear the panelists talk about David Beckman’s question about how to defeat Trump and Trumpism?

From Jeffrey Lewis to Everyone: 01:58 PM

For those interested in the wage issue, there is a really good film entitled "Waging Change" focusing on the living wage movement among food service workers. You can probably find it on the Internet.

From David Poppel to Everyone: 01:58 PM

I feel that our parents (that WWII “greatest gen”) would be appalled and deeply saddened to see how the world they help structure post WWII has been dismantled to a large degree.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 01:59 PM

Curious to know how many besides the panelists are still working full time for social change vs. “retired” or semi-retired. I’m still engaged organizing poor and working class tenants in HUD subsidized housing to save and improve their homes in the Boston area and in the US through the National Alliance of HUD Tenants. Can people respond, in chat?

From Mark to Everyone: 01:59 PM

Yes. One or two specific ideas would help.

From David Beckmann to Everyone: 01:59 PM

President Trump is a result, but now also a huge cause of our problems.

From Reid Detchon to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Michael, I'm retired but still engaged in advocacy/protest on climate change

From Mark to Everyone: 02:00 PM

I couldn't say it better.

From Jim Conroy to Michael Kane: 02:00 PM

I'm one. Disability rights. I'll never stop. National museum is needed, too, for learning and memory.

From Andy Coe to Everyone: 02:01 PM

I agree with Dave Poppel re: our parents’ generation and how they must look at what we collectively have done to the world. I am most distressed that for all the hope we had and

brought that we are in the process of leaving the world worse off for our children and grandchildren. The sooner we can get our leadership to the AOC's of this country the better we will be.

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 02:01 PM

Mel, Yale should have helped us start those conversations. I hope they do better now.

From Stuart Cohen to Everyone: 02:01 PM

Can anyone speak to leveraging our experience in corridors of power to influence the powerful to broaden their awareness beyond their own little lives to the greater good?

From Jeffrey Lewis to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Response to Michael: I'm continuing a 45-year career as a lawyer representing working people and retirees in obtaining pension, disability, and medical benefits, especially through class actions targeting abuse and negligence of large corporations and financial institutions in managing pension, 401k, and other employee benefit plans.

From Thomas Weil to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Are we staying away from charged political issues because we don't want to offend anyone, or it could get out of hand, or we all presumably feel the same way?

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Unions, public education, and fair elections have been under assault by moneyed interests since we left Yale. The fight is political – the energy of the left, which has been generally directed into social issues during that period, has only recently (with the advent of Trump) been re-directed into electoral politics. The lesson is, if you don't do politics, politics will do you.

From Reid Detchon to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Andy, I agree – but don't totally discount the progress that has been made since 1970 – women's rights, environmental awareness, LGBTQ, etc.

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:03 PM

Change in US political leadership is a necessary but insufficient requirement if we are to avert unacceptably adverse impacts of climate change. I say this as someone who has studied the ocean/climate system for the past five decades and still serve (purportedly) as a senior advisor to my state governor and the US govt on these topics.

From Stu Gardiner to Everyone: 02:03 PM

The Trump Administration has revealed how easily our constitutional democracy and its institutions can be corrupted or destroyed, the classic reversal of the principle of a government of laws not men. Apart from working to replace the elected officials who are promoting plutocracy, what can we do to fortify these institutions against future would-be autocrats?

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:03 PM

I haven't been asked officially for my opinion in this state since the prior governor... not by this administration.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:04 PM

I recall from a sociology course I took on race relations my junior year that a continuing debate was how malleable prejudice is. For me the question remains whether it is strictly learned, does it reside along with other political views somewhere imbedded in our genomes, is it simply a philosophy or a characterologic disorder, etc., etc.

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 02:04 PM

Re: Zincavage – plus ca change...

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:04 PM

Climate change and politics are inseparable. You can't have change in one without the other changing as well.

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:04 PM

Not in this country at any rate.

From Bruce Parker SM'70 to Everyone: 02:05 PM

I do not know if I am retired, but certainly on sabbatical due to the danger to me of Covid-19. I am spending the new time on American College of Emergency Physicians' sections addressing: Rural medical care, opiate addiction, climate change effects on medicine, and injury prevention.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:06 PM

But, Wayne, are we too old?

From Carl Eifler to Everyone: 02:06 PM

Alex – Prejudice is partially a derivative of our imbedded tribal instincts that helped humans survive in the beginning, but ironically plague us now.

From David Poppel to Everyone: 02:06 PM

Political astuteness – another area where some of those in the union movements do have a heads up on us. The best of them know how to energize and organize.

From Nat Brown to Everyone: 02:09 PM

If Phil Howard is with us I hope he will speak up about his organization to reduce partisanship

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 02:09 PM

WE ARE NOT TOO OLD. There is so much to learn, so much we can do. We bring gravity, experience, and our own self-knowledge gained through many years. If you're angry, you're needed.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:10 PM

In the context of specifics, I appreciate the lists and links offered by Fred Karp and Wayne Liebman. And Nick Keefe's consideration of movement towards a Truth and Reconciliation initiative – something like this is going to be essential to healing our communities, nation, and world once (as we hope) things change. How do we leverage this group to move toward and build something that is a real addition to these specifics?

From Reid Detchon to Everyone: 02:10 PM

After 40 years of working in Washington, I am persuaded that political change only occurs from the bottom up and the idea of "persuading" incumbent lawmakers (except with threats or money) is a complete chimera.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:10 PM

I've been teaching at UNC about reporting on climate change for the past 5 years. I can talk about how 20-somethings are activated about change.

From Charles Gates to Everyone: 02:10 PM

Could we create a special interest group to continue this dialogue going forward with an end to actually doing something impactful.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:10 PM

Carl, good to hear from you. Interesting that some feel the same about this "disorder" we call now days "ADHD". Mel Levine, academician up at Boston Children's (the affiliate of that accursed institution up near Boston) has a humorous reflection about that. In general, he proposed those with ADHD millennia ago were the overly sensitive, overly reactive protectors of the tribe.

From Jeffrey Lewis to Everyone: 02:11 PM

I agree with Reid.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:11 PM

Can we at a minimum collate specific suggestions that have come up in this discussion, and make them available to the group at large?

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 02:12 PM

An interesting old study showed that among Hispanic patients, you were much less likely to get a flu shot if you had LEP (limited English proficiency) per census data. Are LEP patients less likely to get tested now for COVID19? Will they still be left behind when vaccination is available? We need the data to fix the problems.

From Ed Wasserman to Everyone: 02:12 PM

I wonder if we should be careful about a too casual assumption that the political directions of this group are emblematic of Yale's or even the Class of '70's politics. I'm impressed by the robust presence of the Yale of Bush/Bolton/Kavanaugh in civic life. During my 15 years as class secretary, I was struck, not infrequently, by an undercurrent of broadly conservative opinion that I'd hear from when comment veered leftward. All of that is to say, for me, that this particular group is very special, but perhaps less representative than we'd like to think.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:13 PM

Flip – It could be titled, "The World According to Yale '70, Inky's Boys".

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:13 PM

Also agree with Reid!

From Hunter Morrison to Everyone: 02:13 PM

I have been a city planner since leaving Yale and have spent the bulk of my career working in the Great Lakes industrial cities of Cleveland and Youngstown, both places profoundly damaged by deindustrialization since Reagan. I continue to work with the city of Youngstown as it confronts the impacts of COVID on our local economy. At the ground level, I am profoundly concerned with the economic pain that will come to our community this summer when the modest unemployment benefits, PPP, and eviction moratorium ends. I fear that we are faced with a recurrence of a "long hot summer" painfully reminiscent of the late 60's. And we are led now by leaders that throw gas on the fires.

From John Boak to Everyone: 02:13 PM

Perhaps we can publish a summary as part of the currently developing Appendix to the Greatest Hits book.

From Peter Sheras to Everyone: 02:13 PM

I am struck with my feeling of community with so many of my classmates forged at Yale, perhaps courtesy of our protests and action. It is the power of this affinity that can forge

us as a collective force toward change. The key is continued and regular communication with each other. How can we use this exact moment in time to forward our collective capability using the unique perspectives and positions we hold? It is the present that can produce the future for which we hope.

From Stuart Cohen to Everyone: 02:14 PM

Whether you agree with him or not, we all should be aware of what our classmate Phil Howard is doing. His organization is Common Good. He's devoted decades to the effort to restore human responsibility in government systems. Commongood.org

From Richard Schwartz to Everyone: 02:15 PM

I also agree with Reid. From living in Washington for almost 50 years, I have learned that almost all congressmen make about 99% of their decisions based entirely on what will get them re-elected.

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:15 PM

I agree that much like smoking, the younger generation is "sold", but unfortunately Greta got it right, we don't have much time to avert catastrophe. A decade plus or minus a few years at most and demography won't help in time

From Paul Chapman to Everyone: 02:16 PM

Peter, the attack on science in recent years is a huge challenge. For years I have been a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists and would recommend that all who can, join and become active. It is one of many actions one can take. Ultimately, I agree that a change of power in DC is crucial to turning the tide.

From David Beckmann to Everyone: 02:16 PM

On average, the people who filled out the survey have \$3.5 million in assets. Our money can have a big impact, if we are willing to use it.

From Thomas Heller to Everyone: 02:18 PM

"Stopping the money pipeline", a movement championed by 350.org and other environmental organizations, has to be a focus now that science is being marginalized. 350.org is pressuring Chase Bank and other banks, insurance companies, etc., that support the fossil fuel industry. Encourage classmates to participate.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:19 PM

Thanks, David, for concretely making the point I was trying to make. Yes, let's use our assets — which most Americans and certainly younger Americans don't have — to make a difference.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:20 PM

I too was struck about the \$3.5 million in assets on average for our Yale class. If we could donate an average \$1 million each, that would be \$1 billion for grass roots social change movements. That would help! Maybe the Class of 1970 could create a fund, and a committee to distribute it?

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:21 PM

Rather than create another fund, why not choose one that has the greatest potential to make a difference??

From Thomas Weil to Everyone: 02:22 PM

Perhaps Scotty could comment on this. I have the sense that the evangelical right has a very strong influence on politics. Why don't moderate and liberal churches effectively balance that force?

From Steve Wagenseil to Everyone: 02:22 PM

Michael — I for one certainly have nowhere near that kind of money, but I'd be happy to contribute to something worthwhile..

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:24 PM

To Rich Schwartz – Somewhat hopeful is what I've found working with the state legislature in CT – they are somewhat more responsive to their individual constituents. State legislators, unless long-time and focused on your area of interest, want and need to be educated about a great deal. The Republican party in states other than CT have really focused on state legislatures over the last 30-40 years and it has borne fruit.

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:24 PM

I saw Tom's comment and I do have one friend (a respected IPCC scientist) who is effectively proselytizing about climate change science to Christian groups in TX and elsewhere. Look up the work of Katherine Hayhoe and her minister husband. They tell me they are making progress and are listened to. Their popular book makes the case that if you were seriously Christian you have to address Climate Change.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:24 PM

To Tom – hard to choose just one. Today's panel has mentioned climate, health, institutional racism, food insecurity, income inequality, unionization, raising the minimum wage, housing, electoral defense/reform. All of these have strong grass roots movements and struggling underfunded organizations and all deserve support.

From Eric Hardt to Everyone: 02:24 PM

Easy to support immigrant women at the Found in Translation website. A little can go a long way providing child care, food, mentoring, etc for these special new Americans that can help out health care system, as proven.

From Paul Chapman to Everyone: 02:25 PM

Regarding climate change, YaleBlueGreen, our college's environmental sustainability interest group has asked the administration to divest from fossil fuels. Please sign our petition that you can find on the YGB website. As many have observed today, we have to think globally and act locally. <https://yalebluegreen.org/initiative-sign/>

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 02:28 PM

You don't have to be or act alone. It's important to have a local group or community. There are many now. Join one and talk to others. The Indivisible movement (Indivisible.org) is a good example. It's essentially led by middle-aged librarians.

From Paul Chapman to Everyone: 02:28 PM

One dimension of the racial and class divide in the country is gun violence. A disproportionate number of the nearly 40,000 Americans who die from gun violence each year are black and Hispanic. I am on the board of the Giffords Center to Prevent Gun violence and would urge those interested in this issue, especially the lawyers in our class, to become involved. <https://giffords.org/>

From John Meininger to Everyone: 02:29 PM

How many of our class have been board members or executives of companies that closed domestic production and/or relocated production to China? How much of our portfolios have been tied to China? Have we coped with that question and how does this discussion deal with it going forward?

From Nat Brown to Everyone: 02:30 PM

Rather than one big fund, I suggest classmates contribute to organizations in their community, or national organizations, that work to improve education for adolescents (especially high schools), toward goals of helping young people understand the importance of multicultural community and “real history”, not the pabulum in HS civics courses. A good start is “Lies My Teacher Told Me”, by U of Vt emeritus professor James Loewen.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:30 PM

Presidential and Senate elections are all important. Local and state, too. Engage.

From Peter Ortner to Everyone: 02:31 PM

I am not entirely sure the world isn't better off with the USA less of a global power and China more of one. Ambivalent on that point.

From Scotty McLennan to Everyone: 02:31 PM

Tom, the public voice of religion when we were at Yale (Coffin, MLK, Chavez, etc.) was liberal. Since Jerry Falwell, Moral Majority, Christian Coalition came to the fore in the 1980's the dominant religious public voice has been conservative/evangelical. We on the religious left have been struggling for a long time to find our public voice, and to convince “secular” allies on the left that progressive religion can and should have a role.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:31 PM

Yes, Michael, hard to choose which group most deserves our support. All those that you mention do deserve support. I may end up trying to aggregate my resources and focus on ONE senatorial swing state as Wayne Liebman suggested. The important action is to do something with whatever resources you have — be they financial, volunteering, writing, etc.

From Richard Hays to Everyone: 02:31 PM

To Scotty's point: Evangelical Christianity has been hijacked by a calculated political movement that is completely foreign to Jesus and the heart of historic Christian theology. Most so-called "evangelicals" who support Trump are almost completely theologically illiterate.

From Richard Schwartz to Everyone: 02:33 PM

We are in the midst of an incredibly important presidential election. I'm hoping that Trump has been so patently awful that he will shift American politics to the left, up and down the ballot. If not, I think our country is really in trouble. So the most important thing we can do now is participate in federal, state, and local politics.

From Richard Smith to Everyone: 02:34 PM

A large part of the appeal of conservative religion is the premise that “we have the answers”. Liberals are in a very different place and accept far more ambiguity – there are a lot of fearful people out there and what do we have to offer them?

From David Poppel to Everyone: 02:34 PM

Richard (and Scotty), from a Jewish background, much “lapsed”, but having tried to pay attention to the history and philosophy/theology of Christianity, I think you make an excellent point that speaks to a truly sad turn in point of view and purpose

From David Johnson to Everyone: 02:34 PM

Assuming we have a second zoom session on this topic in 6 months or so, might it be possible to devote a portion of the time to break out sessions on specific topics... racial inequality, climate change, health care, gender equity, etc.?

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 02:35 PM

Excellent comment by John Whiston. As I said before, we need to find ways to engage with the 15% of our class – and our respective communities – that either support Trump or hate us windbag lefties more than they dislike Trump

From David Poppel to Everyone: 02:36 PM

Maybe, from this group today, we can self-nominate several to focus on each of several such areas so that greater direction and clarity of purpose and suggested plans might be delivered to a larger group at a future Zoom meeting

From Andrew Weltchek to Everyone: 02:37 PM

While I believe in respecting those who disagree with me, I am more interesting in working with those I agree with to beat the others.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:37 PM

I agree that the most urgent priority for our resources (time, money) now is to change the political terrain this fall — at every level. The possibility for any kind of progressive change beyond COVID depends on that.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:38 PM

Re: Stuart's comment – not either/or – but both at local and at national and global higher levels.

From Jeffrey Lewis to Everyone: 02:38 PM

Agree with Michael and Andrew. While it is fine to engage one-on-one with folks with whom we disagree, it is far more important to mobilize the vast majority and to ensure their right to vote.

From Thomas Kaufmann to Everyone: 02:39 PM

We do have classmates like my roommates senior year who are in the category Stuart is describing, but it is not possible to talk about such things easily with them. On the other hand my good friend and roommate John VanScoyoc (read his comments in the Hits book) is probably not with us because he is running for local council in Brookline and the election is next week.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:40 PM

Re: Llewellyn's comment – not directly convincing people with wealth or power, but by example and demonstration. Therein lies the challenge, of course.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:40 PM

Boy, I have to say, I've had the same experience as John Whiston with some of my suburban KC High School Classmates. I have to see what I consider their outrageous political comments on Facebook. I've found it best to continue to relate around what we agree on, largely personal human issues, like family, grandkids, loss of loved ones. Perhaps my naivete, but maybe that is the one way to approach them as other frail humans, not political targets.

From Stuart Cohen to Everyone: 02:40 PM

Not talk them into giving up wealth, talk to them about other kinds of awareness, and the consequence of thinking more broadly. Plant a seed. Maybe help a little?

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:41 PM

Yes, exactly.

From Thomas Kaufmann to Everyone: 02:41 PM

Wise words from Alex and Llewelyn

From Jim Conroy to Everyone: 02:42 PM

This session has inspired one old blue, me, to get politically involved in spite of my disgust with the process. Pennsylvania HAS TO go blue. I'm going to look for a leverage point(s) at which I and my family can make a difference.

From Reid Detchon to Everyone: 02:43 PM

Yay, Jim!

From Stu Gardiner to Everyone: 02:43 PM

The way to persuade the rich and powerful is through their wallets. These folks are deeply into greed, no matter how old they are. Make it more profitable for them to promote liberal values and they will do it. Sorry I can't offer specific methods.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:43 PM

Kudos to Jim! Pennsylvania is absolutely essential!

From Robert Blank to Everyone: 02:44 PM

Winning in November is essential. Adopt a swing state and put all your efforts into that. In CT, where I live, we have "adopted" PA.

From Randy Helm to Everyone: 02:46 PM

I just moved to Maine, partly (though not entirely) so I can vote to replace Susan Collins in the Senate. If I was REALLY dedicated, I would move back to my native Kentucky so I could vote against McConnell.

From Paul Chapman to Everyone: 02:46 PM

Alex, thinking about having difficult conversations and climate change in particular, I think the Yale Center on Climate Communication is the nation's best resource on this issue. Importantly, about 70% of the country agrees climate change is an existential threat and we are responsible. The Yale CCC has guidelines on how to talk about the issue and move some of the 30% to understand the facts and respond accordingly.

From Robert Blank to Everyone: 02:47 PM

McConnell will never lose. Alas. Let's just try to make him Minority Leader.

From Phillip Dibner to Everyone: 02:47 PM

Starting at campaign web sites, it can go slow. Lots of need now for phone banking and postcarding, etc. But once you're engaged, it's easier to find the people you want to talk to. Apologies if I'm belaboring the obvious.

From Andy Coe to Everyone: 02:47 PM

This has been a great session. Kudos to all who organized it but more importantly the voices and comments of all are inspiring and hopeful. Agree that the November election is ABSOLUTELY critical to our future and we must be involved. Kudos again to the Class of '70. Thanks.

From David Poppel to Everyone: 02:48 PM

Make donations to those who are running in opposition to the McConnells and the Collinses in November. Act Blue will get the money to whichever candidate you wish. Senators represent the nation as well as their states, so cross state lines with your money. You have standing.

From Paul Chapman to Everyone: 02:48 PM

Thanks to Ed and the inspiring panel for your good work. About the cultural divide in the country, I recommend a couple of books: Arlie Hochschild, “Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right”, and Colin Woodard, “American Nations: A History of the Rival Regional Cultures of North America”. Both works make the point that our divide is not a simple red-blue state matter but one with deep historical and cultural roots. I hope we can continue the conversation.

From Clyde Nolan to Everyone: 02:49 PM

Just heard that troops are deploying from Ft. Bragg to Minneapolis. November is CRITICAL to prevent a military regime.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:49 PM

Paul - I've in fact been surprised how many of my relatively conservative friends have begun to become concerned about climate change. My daughter, who is a lawyer with NRDC, makes great points without being argumentative when meeting with skeptics.

From David Poppel to Everyone: 02:49 PM

Thanks to all the panelists and to all the participants who attended and helped us review these many timely issues.

From Randy Helm to Everyone: 02:49 PM

I would just like to pat myself on the back because, for the first time in fifty-four years, I let Llew Miller speak without interrupting him!

From Jonathan Bass to Everyone: 02:49 PM

For better or worse, the awfulness of Trump may be our best hope for a more progressive politics at the national level. Had there been a less repugnant Republican in the WH, I suspect he or she would be headed toward a second term. Trump, hopefully, isn't.

From Tracy to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Helpful discussion. I haven't had much contact with Yale, but it's helpful to hear the parallel experiences people have had. As a Yalie and white guy, I have been given privilege, and have worked to share it with others, reach out to people who are not like me, and get to know them and find ways they can be empowered. To me, what I can do now is connect with people one-on-one and be a foot soldier to help elect forward-looking candidates.

From Jeffrey Lewis to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Agree with David's last comment. You should add Mark Kelly in Arizona and Bullock to the key ones.

From Stu Gardiner to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Second Paul's suggestion on Arlie Hochschild's book. I heard her speak at U.C. Berkeley recently and she's got a lot of powerfully useful information and advice.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:50 PM

At our 35th Reunion, we circulated a petition opposing Bolton's nomination to the UN. More than half the participants signed. It was a factor, I think, in blocking the Senate's confirmation, and leading Bush to make a recess appointment. If Bolton's book helps end Trump's reign, we should do a new petition thanking him for his service to the country.

From Tom Linden to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Great discussion both via video and chat. Thank you, everybody. I really love this class.

From Thomas Kaufmann to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Thanks, Ed and the panel and all of you.

From Steven Miller to Everyone: 02:51 PM

Thanks to all: Areas of follow up:

*Provide a list of all the organizations with which we are all associated that promote social change (at various levels, local, regional, national and international)

*Provide a list of bullet point areas of work or bullet point vision statements

*Provide a list of ideas of how we engage (should we?) with those who support or do not actively fight Trump

From Bill Mertens to Everyone: 02:51 PM

Nice summing up, Ed.

From Michael Kane to Everyone: 02:51 PM

Dave Johnson's suggestion for break out groups on a follow up Zoom call is a great one

From Wayne Liebman to Everyone: 02:51 PM

Great conversations today, thanks to Ed, Miriam, Ben, and the panelists.

From M. Alex Geertsma to Everyone: 02:51 PM

This was great. Thanks so very much. I feel a bit younger.

From Hunter Morrison to Everyone: 02:52 PM

Ed, et al, thanks for putting this forum on and contributing to our collective knowledge and establishing new connections going forward. I hope we will be able to continue this conversation going. The next 6 months will be critical to our country's future and having an opportunity to develop a broader understanding of what's happening will be very valuable.

From Steve Wagenseil to Everyone: 02:53 PM

This all reminds me greatly of the late-night BS sessions we enjoyed on campus. Nice to know we can still brainstorm in a productive manner.

From Tracy to Everyone: 02:54 PM

Topic to discuss: Using privilege progressively.

From Robert Blank to Everyone: 02:55 PM

Trump will tie it up.

From Bill Mertens to Everyone: 02:55 PM

Your presence was a great contribution, Miriam. Thanks.