Retirees Learn about the Johnson Museum of Art

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Cornell Retirees Association was held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at the Ramada Inn of Ithaca. The weather forecast was not great, but it turned out to be a cloudy, yet dry day with sun appearing as we headed home.

We noted that retirees seem to becoming less interested in our luncheons as the number attending dwindles a bit each event. Please keep in mind that Cornell Human Resources subsidizes the cost of each meal, so we can keep the cost low for retirees. We welcome your comments on topics, speakers, and venues for events.

Since this is designated as our Annual Meeting we tried doing a little business here and there as the meal went on, rather than waiting until the very end. Everyone stayed for the speaker and door prize drawing! We had two guests from the Division of Human Resources in attendance: Michelle Artibee, Assistant Director of Work/Life and Linda Croll Howell, Director, HR Analytics and Work/Life. The CRA bylaws state that the June luncheon should be an Annual Business Meeting. Due to decreasing attendance at the June meeting over the past several years, we may want to change that and we needed to bring this possibility before the membership. No one objected to this possible change. People seemed to enjoy meeting and greeting each other as we enjoyed a nice Chicken Francaise meal with cheesecake and seasonal berries for dessert!

Frank Robinson, the retired Director of the Johnson Museum of Art, is the current representative from CAPE (Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti) on the Cornell Retirees Association Board. He highly recommended today’s speaker. Carol Hockett is the Coordinator of School and Family Programs at the Johnson Museum of Art. The Education Programs at the museum work with elementary and secondary students in local public schools as well as with students in detention and residential treatment centers. Carol shared a powerpoint with photos of different groups of students learning about art and the work of the museum. This is a very unique way to reach students in general, and especially those with special needs. Carol graciously took many questions from the audience. It was a most interesting program! Linda Terry was the winner of the door prize...a large chocolate “Emergency Bar.”

As a follow-up to this presentation, CRA will offer a free guided tour at the Johnson Museum in August. We hope to see you there and at the CRA Annual George Peter Memorial BBQ to be held at CRC Park on 9/8. ~ Jeanette Miller

Upcoming Health Plan Changes for Endowed Retirees

Upcoming changes to the Retiree Health Plan for endowed retirees include: new Health Care Plans, a new Medicare plan, called the Medicare Advantage Plan, and new dental/vision coverage. The Open Enrollment Period is Oct 17-Nov 4. There are no changes at this time for the contract college health plans. Letters were sent to endowed retirees at their home addresses in September. Enrollment kits will be mailed in early October. Town Meetings will be held October 24-27. Retirees can meet with Benefits staff and Aetna/Ameritas representatives. (See Benefits Town Meeting schedule at right.)
Retiree Spotlight: Randy Bowman

One Man Has Close Ties To Cornell - And Lansing!

Randy Bowman was born, raised, and still lives in Lansing. He graduated from Lansing High School and went to work at the Smith Corona Plant in Groton. He took carpentry classes at BOCES and decided to become a carpenter’s assistant for a while, following in his father’s footsteps. When the carpenter he worked for sold his business, Randy decided to take a job with the Lansing School District on their Grounds Crew.

Soon marriage and family life beckoned and Randy decided he needed a steady, year-round job and became a member of Jim Kidney’s custodial staff at Cornell. Jim was well respected and well known on campus and was helpful in Randy becoming a member of the Cornell University Police Department in 1977. Randy had some experience as a volunteer fireman and EMT and this seemed a good fit. It must have been as he stayed with the Police Department until retirement in 2012. Randy worked as a University Service Officer where he served as a sort of Community Ambassador.

By nature, Randy is a kind and caring person who is friendly and outgoing. He likes to be helpful wherever he is. He has found two different jobs in retirement that seem to offer him the opportunity to reach out to others in service as well.

Not one to sit around with nothing to do, Randy quickly found post-retirement work with Enterprise Rent-a-Car as a driver delivering rental cars to where they were needed. He also enjoys the game of golf, so he found another “home” at the Cornell Golf Course where he has worked as a Starter for the past four years. He currently works for Maguire Automotive picking up or delivering cars from other dealerships along the East Coast to the Midwest for Maguire customers.

The Bowman family has many members who have enjoyed employment at Cornell. Randy’s father retired from the Carpentry Shop, his mother worked in the Print Shop, his sister works in Arts & Sciences at Goldwin Smith, and a sister-in-law worked in the College of Human Ecology in MVR.

Randy and his wife have two children and three grandchildren, who are the main focus of their time when they are not playing golf or tending to their very busy retirement schedule.

Wellness: Healthy Aging Fitness Testing

One of the great benefits Cornell Wellness offers its recreation members is physical fitness testing in a group setting for older adults. This group test follows the Fullerton Functional Fitness Test protocols as well as the NASM Squat Assessment, Trunk Rotation, and Reach Test. The tests are well-researched, recognized internationally, and provide a picture of the overall strength, stamina, flexibility, coordination, balance, and posture of adults aged 60 years old and up.

Cornell Wellness believes in the social benefits of exercise and provides the testing in a group atmosphere that is non-competitive and fun. You must have a current Recreational Membership (formally called Wellness Membership) to participate.

Monday, November 7, 9-10:30 AM

Register for the Healthy Aging Fitness Test online at: https://recreation.athletics.cornell.edu/wellness/membership/healthy-aging-program.

United Way Campaign is Underway

Thousands of people on and off campus will be giving to the United Way this year, and we hope you will too. The United Way supports 42 agencies in Tompkins County and the surrounding area that offer programs for senior citizens, resources for cancer patients, day-care referrals, legal help, and countless other services that benefit our co-workers, families, and neighbors. Cornell faculty, staff, students, and retirees are generous supporters, providing nearly 40% of United Way’s funding in Tompkins County.

All donations go directly to designated agencies, and aren’t used for United Way overhead or operating expenses. If you have a favorite local organization, you can designate your contribution to support it. If you don’t live in Tompkins County, and want to help an agency in your home community, you can do that through Cornell as well.

Learn more about United Way at http://unitedway.cornell.edu/. Thank you for your support!

Oct 7: Cornell Orchards Apple Picking/Tour

Friday, October 7, 1:00-2:30pm, meet at the Cornell Orchards. Are you curious to know where “Cornell Apple Cider” really comes from? Take a tour to see what’s behind the scenes including the grading line, storage, and cider press. Pick apples and see our onsite store with goodies galore! Register at: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3mjh55SfRcEv16R. For information, visit the Cornell Orchards website at: https://hort.cals.cornell.edu/about/facilities/cornell-orchards.
A Hot Day for a BBQ

On Thursday, September 8, many Cornell retirees gathered for the Annual George Peter Memorial BBQ. Over the years, we’ve had different types of weather, but never as hot as it was this year. It was between 88-90, but no rain! The anticipated rain waited until we were safely home that day!

Bob’s BBQ provided a delicious chicken BBQ with salt potatoes, cole slaw, dinner rolls, watermelon and beverages. We had all of the side doors to the pavilion open wide and that provided nice cross ventilation. Bingo players arrived early to get a start on their games! A huge thank you to Dominic Versage for calling the Bingo games and many thanks to Jimmie Merrill for providing many unique prizes. There were lots of winners. Jimmy also helped with Bingo and was responsible for the boxes for the Steve Garner Day of Caring on September 15. Retirees donated 173 items. THANK YOU!!

As always, June Niblock graciously manned the nametags and registration table. Bruce Rich again set up his sound system so that we could hear the Bingo numbers and announcements from Keri Johnson, Cornell Wellness specialist, who reminded us about the Healthy Aging program. Kathee Shaff, CRA coordinator, gave a preview of upcoming health benefit changes for endowed retirees. (See article on page 2.)

What a nice way to either end the summer, or begin the fall! See you next year!  ~ Jeanette Miller

“Grand Tour” at Johnson Art Museum

On Saturday, August 6 about 25 retirees met in the lobby of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art for a guided tour. We divided into two groups with retired Director Frank Robinson guiding one group and our June Luncheon speaker Carol Hockett guiding the other group. One group started on the 5th floor and worked their way down as the other group started on the lower level and worked their way up. We saw some very interesting displays and actually met on the main level an hour later.

We learned that the 5th floor houses mainly art from Southeast Asia, including the countries of China, Korea and Japan. American tourism in Japan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries contributed to the collecting of Japanese art & design. This was most interesting and each with a lot of history of the different countries expressed in their artistry. These displays include paintings, sculptures, and historic artifacts.

The Matthew Schreiber “Crossbow” exhibition (see photo at right) provided a fascinating laser light experience named after a roller coaster in New Jersey! Through the simple presentation and manipulation of light one feels temporarily suspended with everyday reality left behind for a while.

No Boundaries: Aboriginal Australian Contemporary Abstract Painting is an exhibition that showcased many works by Australian artists, some very abstract and almost unimaginative. One in particular looked like a giant red fingerprint!

As you enter or leave the museum there is a large overhead display of LED lights which is constantly changing and is visible by day or night. (See photo). This alone is worth a trip to the Johnson Museum.

We are very fortunate to have such an amazing facility here on the Cornell campus. Be sure to visit the Johnson Museum website at: http://museum.cornell.edu/ for ever-changing displays.

Most exhibits are on loan from collectors of art or the artists themselves. The museum has 35,000 works of art on display or in storage ready to be presented. This was a great experience for all! For museum information, call 607-255-6464 or send an e-mail to museum@cornell.edu.  ~ Jeanette Miller

Visiting the Johnson Art Museum
114 Central Avenue  Open: 10AM–5PM
Ithaca, NY 14853  Tuesdays–Sundays
Closed Mondays.  Admission is free.
2016 CRA Fall Luncheon: Thursday, November 3, 2016, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Ramada Inn, 2310 N. Triphammer Road, Ithaca (in front of Mall) Doors open 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, speaker at 1:00 p.m.

Cooler temperatures are upon us. Fall is here! Students are back, football is underway and the campus is as busy as ever! Please join us for the Cornell Retirees Association Fall Luncheon. We are very fortunate to have Kyu Whang, Vice President of Infrastructure Properties and Planning (IPP) as our speaker. IPP is committed to providing the highest quality service to faculty, students, staff, alumni and visitors. VP Whang will share with us some background on campus architecture and how it has evolved during the past 30 years. **Deadline to RSVP is October 26.**

*Luncheon Menu includes a choice of:*

- Roast Turkey/Country Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Sweet Peas/Mushrooms OR
- Gluten-Free Penne Pasta Primavera with Marinara Sauce (vegetarian/gluten-free)
- Rolls/Butter (gluten-free rolls available upon request), Pumpkin Pie or Ice Cream. Coffee/Decaf/Tea.

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**Cornell University**

**Cornell Retirees Association**

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