From the CRA President: An Update on Retiree Programming

~Jeanette Miller

Statistics show that retirement is on the rise across the United States! Cornell currently has over 5400 retirees, including 4250 living in New York state, and has a large percentage of employees eligible to retire now and within the next five years.

One of the issues Cornell faces, as a university that wants to keep its retirees engaged, is how to address the diverse needs and interests of all retirees. There is complexity in balancing how we engage those who retired 20-30 years ago, recent retirees, and those who are considering retirement. This means new ideas, new events/activities, and new ways of communicating to retirees.

If you’ve attended any recent Cornell Retirees Association (CRA) Luncheons, you noticed attendance has been steadily decreasing. Whereas luncheons used to draw 150 attendees, they do not seem to be as popular as they once were. In the past three years, numbers have steadily declined. The CRA Board has discussed this issue and also consulted with Cornell Human Resources (HR).

HR supports the CRA. Traditionally CRA holds three luncheons and a BBQ every year. Retirees and guests pay a nominal fee at registration and HR has paid the remaining cost. As part of the university’s commitment to retirees, you will no longer be asked to pay to attend events (beginning with the new fiscal year, July 1, 2017). However, as Cornell begins to offer more events and activities to retirees to meet their diverse needs and interests, there are likely to be fewer luncheons throughout the year. Please note—if there is an event where transportation is involved or costs are unusually high, retirees may be asked to pay a small fee.

Over the upcoming year HR and CRA will offer a variety of events and activities geared for retirees (see sidebar on right). CRA plans to end the current 2016-2017 fiscal year with the CRA Spring Luncheon on May 11 (see details on page 4). This will be the last event that will have a charge to retirees.

Communicating to the most retirees in a timely manner is of utmost importance. Email is the fastest way to announce events and share important information. To ensure that you receive timely information on a regular basis from Cornell, while also addressing sustainability and fiscal responsibility, we are moving to an electronic newsletter for retirees. After much discussion, the CRA Board approved a motion to go to a monthly electronic newsletter with a printed/electronic annual update. Therefore, this is the last printed newsletter that will be mailed to retirees. The money that is saved from printing and mailing will be used to support more events and activities of interest to retirees.

The monthly electronic newsletter will be available on the HR website at hr.cornell.edu/retirees and can be printed. If you do not own a computer and the only way for Cornell to communicate with you is via U.S. mail, please complete the request form on page 3 and mail it back to us. We will try to accommodate a limited number of paper copies, but we cannot guarantee how frequently you will receive a newsletter at this point in time.

SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Events

March 25
Grandparents Movie Day at Cornell Cinema
See page 2 for details.

April 6
Museum of the Earth Guided Tour
See page 2 for details.

May 11
CRA SPRING 2017 LUNCHEON
See page 4 for details.

If you are not receiving regular email communications from the Cornell Retirees Association, please see information on page 3 to update your email address.

We are excited to be partnering with HR to increase offerings, improve our communications, and of course make luncheons/events free of charge. Please contact me (jlm12@cornell.edu) or Kathee Shaff, Program Coordinator (krs4@cornell.edu), with suggestions of events/activities that you’d like to see offered.
Check Out Campus Club at Cornell
~Linda Story, Member, Campus Club Board of Directors

With retirement comes an abundance of choices. The transition into retirement begins with much dotting of i’s and crossings of t’s on significant documents. With basic wellbeing in place, there comes the lovely freedom to expand one’s social connections and engage in new pursuits.

Like the Cornell Retirees Association, Campus Club at Cornell offers exploration of opportunities through more than 20 social- and activity-oriented groups.

Campus Club’s remarkable social network of activity groups, educational lectures and service began 117 years ago, when faculty wives collaborated to “welcome newcomers to the campus and to promote friendship among the women at Cornell,” and now, among all women of Ithaca. Since that time, Campus Club at Cornell has broadened the mission of the organization and welcomes women from all life experiences. While the organization is not sponsored by Cornell University, it celebrates that academic environment of Cornell and other educational institutions.

Activity Groups

Popular activities include: book groups, gourmet gatherings, gardening, performers, quilting, game nights, hiking and more. Each year volunteer leaders initiate new offerings for the 350 members, such as “Imagining Retirement,” “International Women’s Friendship Group,” and What Do You Know?”

Linda Wagenet, former Senior Associate in Development Sociology, transitioned in 2010 to retiree and is an active member of Campus Club. She particularly enjoys her weekly Bridge group, and travels with the Wanderers group on excursions to Upstate points of interest.

Karen Kindle was Vice President for Research at Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research when she retired two years ago. She took up a friend’s invitation to look into Campus Club’s Bridge, Quilters, and Diner’s Groups. Now she finds community in all three. She says, "Since people who are working may not have explored interests outside of work very deeply, they may find it hard to imagine a fulfilling retirement." So she imagines, and defines, what she’ll enjoy in her future by trying out appealing options.

Outstanding Lectures

Campus Club sponsors five lectures each year, featuring local experts. See diverse topics, speakers and dates online.

Social Gatherings

The festive December Winter Tea always provides a warm gathering for members. The May Spring Luncheon includes a fine meal, and a compelling speaker.

Join us at the September kickoff meeting to learn more about the organization. Meet group leaders and members, all in the energizing process of choosing connections and explorations for the new season.

Check out campusclub.cornell.edu to learn more.

March 25

Free Admission. Must pre-register.

104 Willard Straight Hall, lower level
For Cornell retirees/current employees and their grandchildren. (Limit of 2 adults, 4 children.)
Free popcorn & beverages. Special appearance by Touchdown the Bear. Door Prizes include a week of Cornell Athletics Cubs camp (value $300).
Pre-registration is required. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/Movie-Day-3-25-17. Email worklife@cornell.edu with questions. Early arrival is suggested. Parking options/accessibility details will be forthcoming.

April 6

Museum of the Earth Guided Tour
Thursday, April 6; 1:00 pm
1259 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850
Free Admission. Must pre-register.

CRA invites you and a guest to visit PRI/Museum of the Earth for a tour of the multi-level facility. Transportation is on your own. Admission is free, courtesy of Cornell Human Resources. Registration is required. First-come, first-serve. Space is limited. Meet inside main entrance. Register at: https://tinyurl.com/CRA-Museum-Tour-4-6-17.

The Museum of the Earth is a natural history museum that was created in 2003 as part of the Paleontological Research Institution, which studies the history of the Earth and its life. The museum’s 8,000-square-foot permanent exhibition takes visitors on a journey through 4.5 billion years of history, from the Earth’s origin to the present day.
Cornell Retirees Learn About Campus Architecture

On Thursday, November 3, the Cornell Retirees Association met for our annual fall luncheon and a most interesting presentation on Cornell campus architecture and how it has changed over the past 30 years.

One hundred retirees and guests enjoyed a traditional “Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner” of turkey and all the trimmings—a favorite among attendees—including pumpkin pie for dessert!

Kyujung Whang, Vice President for Infrastructure, Properties and Planning gave an excellent presentation on the continuing changes in new construction on the campus since 1986. Most of us remember some of the buildings that were here when we came, and the ones that were built during our Cornell careers, and now we know what is behind the planning and design of this campus!

VP Whang is an architecture graduate of Syracuse University and also has a Project Management Certification from George Washington University. He has been at Cornell for ten years. He is a licensed architect and professional planner, and is currently serving as Cornell’s Interim University Architect. He oversees eight departments including: Engineering and Projects Administration; Campus Planning; Facilities Management; Energy and Sustainability; Transportation and Mail Services; Contract Colleges Facilities; Cornell Real Estate; and Finance and Information Technologies. Needless to say, he is a busy man.

According to VP Whang, the current trend is to renovate existing buildings rather than new construction which will keep the architecture as it was originally, but modernize the older structure. The program was followed by many questions from the audience, which must indicate that the audience was interested and attentive! A most enjoyable day for the retirees.

~ Jeanette Miller

Editor’s Note: Kyu Whang has accepted the position of vice president for facilities at Princeton University. His last day at Cornell was January 20, 2017. CRA wishes him the best!

CAPE 2017 Spring Lecture Series

Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium, 10:30-11:30am

- March 16: Juan Hinestroza, Fiber Science — Can nanotechnology be fashionable?
- April 18 (Tuesday!): Marion Nestle, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University and Visiting Professor of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell — Food Politics 2017: A Personal View.
- May 18: Tom Gilovich, Psychology, TBA

Newsletter Paper Copy Request Form

☐ Please check here if you do not have computer access and the only way to communicate with you is via U.S. mail.

Name________________________________________

Address_____________________________________

City, State, Zip________________________________________

Please mail completed form to:

Kathee Shaff
Cornell University Retirees
337 Pine Tree Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Email Address Update

If you receive email notices about retiree events, you will receive the new monthly electronic newsletter and no action is needed. To update your email address, please complete the update form here: http://tinyurl.com/Retiree-Update.

Cornell Wellness Healthy Aging Program Renamed and Expanded

The Healthy LIVING Program?! Yes, you read that right! The Healthy Aging Program is now going by a new name: The Healthy Living Program. We decided to make a quick word change, to make a positive impact on the program. We hope you like it!

A Recreation Membership is needed to attend any Healthy Living class. Memberships are available to staff, faculty, retirees, and their spouses/partners. For details, visit wellness.cornell.edu.

Classes include: Spinning, Strength Training, Gentle Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, Restorative Yoga, Walking Group, Circuit, Barre, Ripples, Zumba Gold, Sit & Be Fit, Pilates, and new this semester, Cardio Dance!

Descriptions and additional information, including class schedules, can be found online at wellness.cornell.edu or by contacting Keri Johnson, Wellness and Fitness Specialist, and Healthy Living Program Coordinator, at kaj84@cornell.edu or 607-255-3886.
CRA Spring 2017 Luncheon

Thursday, May 11, 2017, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn, 2310 N. Triphammer Road, Ithaca
Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, speaker at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us for the Cornell Retirees Association’s Spring Luncheon. The featured speaker will be Walter Gable, Seneca County historian and co-author of *The Seneca Army Depot: Fighting Wars from the New York Home Front*. Walter was a high school social studies teacher for thirty-two years prior to becoming the county historian. Copies of the book will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to the participating local historical society.

Our Luncheon Menu includes a choice of:

- Meat Lasagna with Cannoli for dessert OR
- Vegetarian Gluten Free Pasta Alfredo with Fresh Fruit for dessert

Both meals come with garden salad, garlic bread, and coffee/tea/iced tea.

Name: ___________________________________________ Meat Lasagna or Vegetarian Pasta Alfredo
Guest: ___________________________________________ Meat Lasagna or Vegetarian Pasta Alfredo

If special diet/accommodation, please list and include a phone number: ____________________________

Cost is $10 per person, payable by check to Cornell University. **Reservation and payment deadline is April 28.** PLEASE NOTE: All lunches must be pre-paid. There are no refunds. Seating is limited. No RSVPs will be taken after April 28. Free parking. In case of inclement weather, call 607-255-0388 or check your e-mail for postponement or cancellation information.

Total reservations __ @ $10.00 each = $ _____ Please make check payable to "Cornell University."

Mail form and check to: Cornell Retirees Association, P.O. Box 431, Ithaca, NY 14851

**Luncheon reservation deadline is April 28.** We hope to see you there!

Editor/Production: Kathee Shaff, Retiree Communications Coordinator, Human Resources, 337 Pine Tree Road, 607-255-0388, krs4@cornell.edu