

**William Newell** (Alexandria, VA; wfnewell@aol.com) helps the Cornell Club of Washington “by serving as chair of the CCW Book Award Program for high school juniors. This is my 30th year as chair. I enjoyed watching one of our winners be a winner on ‘Jeopardy!’ I have joined 50-plus clubs—high school, Cornell, and fraternal groups—and love to do genealogy research.” William had heart bypass and pacemaker installation and cataract replacement. He’s now having his right hip replaced. He gets satisfaction from his granddaughter and “being married to the same wonderful Hoosier for 44 years!” Best day at Cornell: “Meeting Prof. **George Conneman ’52**, MS ’56 (Ag Econ), and then working for him one summer.” **Sally Nellis** Kuehl (Rochester, NY; bksk74@frontiernet.net) writes, “I especially enjoyed two different trips last year. First, I visited Lisbon and Portugal, biked between paradors (inns) in Spain, traveled among islands by sailboat, and biked on the islands of Croatia. Then I traveled with CAU and the dean of Computing & Information Science on a tour of Silicon Valley, including Google, YouTube, Autodesk, and Facebook.”

I ran into **Russ Kagebein** (Plymouth, MN; mimi russ@comcast.net) in the fantastic gardens at Monet’s home in Giverny, France, in late May, during a trip we took to Normandy pre-D-Day. **Pedro Mata**, ME ’68 (Miami, FL; pfbm@aol.com) is chairman of Delfi Ltd. in Singapore, is involved in “real estate and advisory in Ecuador,” and visits friends in Miami and children and grandchildren in Westport, CT. “My first wife, Carol Morehouse, sadly passed away in 2018. She was a ‘townie’ from Penn Yan and Ithaca.” **Ron Bulmer** (Prescott, Ontario; ronbulmer@cogeco.ca) keeps busy on “several boards and international marketing consulting focusing on China and Russia.” His daughter Kathy is moving from Canada to Dallas with Frito-Lay. Ron gets the most satisfaction from “watching kids—Mike, Kathy, and Lori—progress in life with five grandkids (ages 12 to 22) following.” As for his best day at Cornell: “Never had a bad one, so no best.”

**Jeff Benjamin** (Nyack, NY; jeffbnj@gmail.com) “retired from full-time employment for a second time, this time as senior vice president, general counsel, and chief ethics and compliance officer of Avon Products Inc. But I continue to be engaged professionally on a pro bono basis in the ethics and compliance community and in support of democracy and governance—e.g., for the Brennan Center. Our five grandchildren now range in age from 4 to 7. Our daughter, **Lily Benjamin** Maissen ’00, is now an executive in HR at Regeneron, and our son, Ross, a translator of German literature, has recently completed a draft translation of Franz Kafka’s personal diaries.” As for what else he might be doing: “I wish I were a quarterback in the NFL but have none of the qualifications. We do hope to spend more time on Cape Cod.” Jeff’s satisfaction is supplied by “my wife of 44 years, Betsy, family, friends, colleagues, and two Cavalier King Charles spaniels.” Best day at Cornell: “Every day the sky was blue, especially after completing final exams.”

**Phyllis Bell** Jonas (Atlantic Beach, NY; phyllisbj@aol.com) keeps busy “attending classes, enjoying my eight grandchildren, dating (after being widowed again), and having time to ‘smell the roses’ and plant trees too! In May, I traveled to the former Yugoslavia following the path of Jewish migration. Joining me was Cornell friend and roommate **Joan Solomon** Weiss. Also, I went to AIPAC meetings in Washington, DC, in March and spent three weeks in Israel in November 2017.” Phyllis notes that Prof. **Urie Bronfenbrenner ’38** had the greatest impact on her at Cornell: “My professional career is

based on CD 101 and advanced courses from the CD/FR department. It was a privilege to study at Cornell.”

♦ **Richard Hoffman**, 2925 28th St. NW, Washington, DC 20008; e-mail, derhoff@yahoo.com.

**68 Susan Rosenfeld** Ledley (sledley@gmail.com) and her husband, Jim, recently moved to Greenwich Village and she is loving it. From her home on 5th Ave. it’s an easy commute to both the Met and the Brooklyn Museum, where she volunteers as a tour guide for New York children through an organization named Artworks. Although her daughters live far away, visiting Hillary, who just gave birth, in Denver, and Erica in Maui is wonderful. Sue and her Cornell friends **Victor** and **Janice Milkman Berlin** and **Miles ’67** and **Jeani Walton Haven** recently attended **Joy Kaufman** Karol’s grandson’s bar mitzvah in Boston and had a wonderful time.

**George Loranger** (georgeloranger@yahoo.com) and his wife, Sue, really get around, living about half the time in Hungary, wintering in Sarasota, FL, and living on a boat on Chautauqua Lake, NY, in the summer. For 22 years, George was the CEO of his family-owned high-tech plastics business headquartered in Warren, PA, with operations in Hungary supporting their European customers. The company also was the first to joint venture with the Hungarian government taking over former Soviet military bases, which they then converted into industrial parks. One of George’s five children, with some help from George, is now in charge of industrial developments in Hungary. With five children and 12 grandchildren and three residences, George and Sue lead a very busy life. George says happily, “Life is good.”

**James Gutman** and his wife, Kathy, just moved from their house in Laurel, MD, to live in a condo in a senior community in Columbia, MD, where Jim is semi-retired but still an adjunct assistant professor of writing at the U. of Maryland University College. Jim will be teaching a course in financial management for seniors this fall and has co-produced a Medicare Advantage conference for a private company each of the past two years. Jim still plays and co-manages a “geezer” baseball team and does volunteer work on healthcare issues for AARP-MD and Maryland’s State Insurance Assistance Program. Jim and Kathy’s daughter, Pamela, is an instructional designer for the Johns Hopkins U. Applied Physics Laboratory and has begun taking doctoral classes in that field at Columbia U.

**Susan Tafler** (suetafler@verizon.net) and her husband, Charles Koplik, have moved to Odenton, MD, to be near their grandchildren after living 50 years in the greater Boston area. Sue observes that judging from the people they are meeting at their adult (55-plus) community, she and Charles may be part of a national trend. **Frank Kelly** (frankoiskelly@gmail.com) and his wife, Diane, live in Centerbrook, CT, where Frank is the president of Kell-Strom Tool Co. Inc., which builds service tools for aircraft engines and sells specialty wire. Frank has a winter home in Naples, FL. He’s getting the greatest satisfaction these days spending time with his family, which includes three grandchildren that Frank says “keep us young.”

**Warren Chane** (chanew@gmail.com) and his wife, Victoria, live in Chatham, MA, on Cape Cod. Warren reports that the Sherwoods are scheduled to perform on Cape Cod on Sunday, September 8. He refers us to the Cornell Club of Cape Cod for details and suggests the performance is not to be missed. Please keep sending your news! We enjoy hearing from so many classmates. ♦ **Chuck Levitan**, clevitan22@comcast.net.

**69** What a wonderful 50th Reunion! First off, Mother Nature provided us with four “10” days—thank you, ma’am! Thanks to our diligent Reunion committee—**Cynthia Nixon** DuBose, **Barbara Schultz** Spencer, **Charlotte Hildebrand** Bernini, and **Gail Taggart** Finan—who organized three days of a wonderful class headquarters, meals, and programs for the 495 attendees. Of the 495, 313 were classmates, and 42 were alums from other classes—even eight grandchildren (future Cornellians, we hope) enjoyed the weekend. Thanks also to the folks at Alumni Affairs who helped guide the committee along these past few years.

Our Friday and Saturday class dinners were held in Newman Arena at Bartels Hall, one of many new buildings on campus—and with so many options to choose from during Reunion it was difficult to choose where to go and what to see. A highlight for this correspondent and husband **Jeff Riedl ’70** was a visit to Kroch Library’s Rare and Manuscript Collections in Olin Library. Did you know that Kroch is home to an incredible collection of items, including one of only five handwritten copies of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address? The very knowledgeable docents on hand gave us a quick tutorial on manuscripts through the ages—techniques, preservation methods, ink development, etc. Kroch is definitely a must-stop on your next visit to campus.

Uris Auditorium was packed for our class forum, “How the Music of the ’60s Shaped Our History.” Three panelists, Prof. **Kent Hubbell**, **Jeff Small**, and **Roy Little** gave us an amazing presentation on the great music of that decade. The forum included live music from the Back Talk Band, with **Larry Krablin** filling in with tapes from that era, and was most ably moderated by **Joe Cervasio**. Thanks to co-presidents **Alan Cody** and **Charlotte Bruska** Gardner for coming up with the theme for the forum. Well done, all.

From the class forum, we hurried over to Bailey Hall for the Olin Lecture, featuring former Congressman Steve Israel, now director of the Inst. of Politics and Global Affairs at Cornell, and classmate **Stephen Hadley**, former assistant to the president for national security affairs from 2005 to 2009, serving under then National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. The well-prepared and extremely interesting discussion centered on “raising the discourse and deepening understanding of domestic and international issues” was followed by a Q&A with the audience. Log on to Cornell’s website to learn more about this new institute launched this year.

Cornell Annual Fund representatives **Lee Pillsbury** and **Jay Noyes** once again did an outstanding job. With a goal of 600 donors, as of this writing we have 592, and a total class gift totaling over \$10 million. Among all the Reunion classes, the gift to Cornell was just shy of \$150 million.

Saturday Cornelliana Night in Bailey was the hottest ticket in town and featured the Glee Club and Chorus. During the concert, **Ruth Bader** Ginsburg ’54 wished the alums an enjoyable Reunion via tape from her Washington office. Congratulations to the Glee Club, the oldest student organization on campus, on their 150th anniversary. Many Glee Club alums came back for the celebration, all in red shirts, singing along either on stage or in the audience.

At breakfast on Sunday we elected the following officers for the next five years: co-presidents **Greg Baum** and **Bob Tallo**; vice president **Rich Nalevanko**; vice president of communications and webmaster **John Wilkens**, ME ’71; Reunion chairs Cindy Nixon DuBose and Charlotte Hildebrand Bernini; registration chairs **Larry**

and **Nancy Jenkins Krablin**; treasurer **Steve Tyler**; secretary **Ingrid Dieterle Tyler**; affinity chair **Jon Kaplan**, MD '74; class correspondent **Tina Economaki Riedl**.

We can't thank our class officers enough, especially co-presidents Alan Cody and Charlotte Bruska Gardner for their leadership these past five years. Your hard work and dedication made for a fantastic and successful 50th. Hats off to everyone! Log on to our website, Cornell69.org, for more Reunion info. Keep those cards and letters coming to: ❖ **Tina Economaki Riedl**, triedl048@gmail.com.

**70** Countdown is just NINE MONTHS until we gather on the Hill to celebrate graduating from Cornell in May 1970! Make a note of the dates for our 50th Reunion: June 4-7, 2020. It's very important to contact friends and classmates now! Connect with every '70 classmate and friend you can think of to plan meeting in Ithaca in June 2020. Keep those ideas and suggestions coming to our amazing 50th Reunion chairs, **Sally Anne Levine**, JD '73, and **Cathy Forster Hogan**, for our week-end party and celebration. Volunteers interested in helping with our 50th Reunion (either before or during), contact Cathy and Sally Anne at this special 50th Reunion e-mail address: Cornell70Reunion50@gmail.com. And, as always, check out our '70 sites: our class website, [cornell70.org](http://cornell70.org); our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/Cornell70](http://www.facebook.com/Cornell70); and our Twitter page, [www.twitter.com/CornellClass70](http://www.twitter.com/CornellClass70). Have you moved recently, or do you have a new e-mail address? Please update your contact information at: [cornellconnect.cornell.edu](http://cornellconnect.cornell.edu). When Cornell (and the Class of '70) has your current info, you will receive our future 50th Reunion and Class of '70 communications. Let's work together to make this our best '70 Reunion ever.

**Charlie**, JD '73, and **Debbi Gerard Adelman** '71, MS '74, are enjoying retirement and stay active in the dance world through board activity, attendance, and support. Spending time with daughter Karen, son and daughter-in-law **Mark '05** and **Amy Green Adelman '06**, and twin grandsons Eli and Andrew ('36?), who are all residents of NYC, brings them great joy. Charlie and Debbi help organize annual Pi Lambda Phi mini-reunions, most recently in January 2019 in South Florida with classmates **Steve Steinberg** and wife Jenny, **Steve Meyerson** and wife Linda, **Stuart Lemle** and wife Marian, **Art Litowitz** and wife June, and **Becky Van Buren**, widow of **Jeff Baer**, and her husband, Steve Blatt. They hope to see many classmates at our 50th in June 2020!

**Jim '69** and **Vicky Bovee Ramakka** attended Jim's 50th Reunion in June 2019. Hope you will both attend Vicky's 50th next year! Vicky is happily retired from a career in post-secondary education administration. Now she is enjoying the freedom and time to write creatively. Vicky has published articles in local, regional, and national magazines, and some of these have won awards for personality profiles and feature magazine stories. In addition, she has been drawn into photography and volunteers as a site steward to monitor an archeological area in northwest New Mexico that has petroglyphs made by residents from Ancestral Puebloans to early Navajo to Hispanic settlers. Vicky's first full-length novel, *The Cactus Plot*, is a murder mystery with a botanist heroine who uses her knowledge of plant ecology to discover the culprit.

**Thomas '69** and **Jean Myers Smith**, MS '72 ([jean.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:jean.smith48@gmail.com)) continue to live in Glen Allen, VA, where they are enjoying their retirement. One of their daughters lives nearby. In March 2016, Jean and Thomas welcomed new grandson Caleb James to the family. He

is the second son of Cornellians **Chris '04** and **Emily Smith DeBolt '04**. They have been doing some traveling, including going to Ithaca for Tom's 50th Reunion this past June, and they plan to attend our 50th next June. Jean reports that they are finally going to California in 2020. The trip, which has been on their bucket list for some time, will include time at Yosemite.

**Paul** and **Betsy Reed Guthrie** (Novato, CA; [BetsyGuthrie@comcast.net](mailto:BetsyGuthrie@comcast.net)) are both retired, Paul from work

James said he gets the most satisfaction from making a difference with his students and seeing his grandchildren. He'd love to come back to campus, just to "walk around and soak it all in."

**Thomas Nally** ([tnally@abettercity.org](mailto:tnally@abettercity.org)) wrote, "I'm continuing what I have been doing for the past seven years"—which is working with A Better City in Boston on a range of projects. He also continues to serve as president of his neighborhood association in Brookline

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JEFF BENJAMIN '67

as a software development manager and Betsy as a project manager. She is becoming a hospice volunteer and is interested in becoming an end-of-life doula. "Retirement has taken Paul to some interesting places. He has written a book, *The Wrong God*, which is available on Amazon, and built several light sculptures for our camp at Burning Man, which we have been attending for eight years. Our inner hippies are still alive and well." They love to hike and camp, although they confess that they have finally purchased a used RV (mostly for Burning Man, but also because tenting has become more and more arduous). In April 2018, Betsy and Paul took a dory trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon with OARS. This year, they're planning a trip to Scotland to visit the Guthrie Castle and take in the excavations on the Orkney Islands before they disappear into the sea.

Betsy and Paul have two grandchildren living outside D.C., as well as a daughter living close to them in California. The first person Betsy met at Cornell was her freshman roommate, **Sharon Huey** Persbacker, followed by **Sharon Gerl** in the room next door. They have all stayed in touch over the years. Betsy reminds us that in those days, Dickson 6 was all women and we had an 11 p.m. curfew during the week. If Paul and Betsy had a day in Ithaca, they write, "We would climb the clock tower, walk around the Arts Quad, complain about new buildings where there used to be grass, and then realize what we sound like and shut up and start appreciating them. We would also visit the suspension bridge and gaze down at the gorge." Their last stop would be a visit to Taughannock Falls. Betsy and Paul attended our 40th Reunion in June 2015 and hope to come to our 50th. ❖ **Connie Ferris Meyer**, [cmf7@cornell.edu](mailto:cmf7@cornell.edu); tel., (610) 256-3088.

**71** Congratulations to **Andrew Tisch**, named one of the recipients of this year's Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award for his extraordinary service to Cornell!

"I'm in my seventh year in my second career as a journalism professor at Georgia College & State U.," reported **James Schiffman** ([james.schiffman@gmail.com](mailto:james.schiffman@gmail.com)), "and I just got tenure. In my previous life as a working journalist, I was a reporter for UPI and the *Wall Street Journal*, and a writer/editor for CNN Int'l. My daughter, **Jessica Schiffman Gaulton '05**, is a practicing neonatologist in Philadelphia and has two beautiful children, Addie, 3, and William, 1-1/2. My son, Daniel, is a user-experience designer living in the Bay Area."

and is grateful that he can contribute to his local community. Checking in from Baltimore, **John Sawchuk** ([jasawchuk@gmail.com](mailto:jasawchuk@gmail.com)) said, "I just retired after 40 years of cosmetic and family dentistry and am now cleaning out old junk in the basement until it's warm enough to play tennis outside." Even with his cleanup chores, John said he enjoys not being on a rigid daily schedule and being able to spend more time with his grandchildren. He hopes to be doing some traveling soon with his wife, **Gioia (Marchetti) '73**.

**Rodo Sofranac** ([rodowrites@cox.net](mailto:rodowrites@cox.net)) sent news from Phoenix about his latest children's book, *The Red Tail on the Arizona Trail*, which he co-wrote with his wife, Susan. Rodo said he hopes the book will increase awareness of the Arizona Trail and encourage stewardship of the trail and other natural lands. To learn more about the book and Rodo's other work, visit his website: [rodowrites.com](http://rodowrites.com). He said he's glad he can stay in touch with fellow Cornellians both through this column and at meetings of the Cornell Club of Arizona. "They are wonderful relationships!" Another accomplished writer from our class, **Howard Rodman** ([howardrodman@gmail.com](mailto:howardrodman@gmail.com)) has been busy promoting his new novel, *The Great Eastern*, "a sprawling, lavish anti-colonial adventure, set in New York, London, Paris, India, and the North Atlantic in the late 1800s," which was published by Melville House Books/Penguin Random House. In June, Howard appeared at author events at the Hammer Museum and Book Soup in Los Angeles and the Center for Fiction in Brooklyn, NY. His book is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or (better yet) your local independent bookstore.

I heard from **Arthur Mintz** after Reunion 2019, who said he was glad to see classmates **Dot Preisner Valachovic**, **John Henrehan**, and **Craig Ewing**, MBA '72. Arthur was there to attend CRC events and sign copies of the book he co-wrote with me, **Jim Roberts**, *Forever Faithful: Celebrating the Greatest Moments of Cornell Hockey*, at the Cornell Store. Our book chronicles 24 of the greatest games played by the Big Red men's and women's teams, including the men's celebrated victory over Providence at Lynah Rink on March 6, 1979. In that game, the team rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the third period to win in overtime. The game-winning goal was scored by **Robbie Gemmel '79**, who attended his 40th Reunion this year. Arthur said he was glad to see Robbie and reported that they spent a half-hour reminiscing about "several topics, part Cornell hockey-related and part how the last 40 years have played out."