PRESIDENT’S MID-YEAR REPORT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are five months into the 2015-2016 activity year for the Campus Club at Cornell and I hope you have been taking advantage of and enjoying the many events and activity groups that are available. Our membership currently stands at 321 with an influx of 55 new members this year. We welcome new comers throughout the year so please feel free to extend invitations to other women in the Ithaca area who are interested in expanding friendships and participating in interesting activities.

We started off the activity year in September with a Coffee at Moakley House where activity group leaders were available to discuss their groups and sign up members. In keeping with the changes in technology, the Campus Club is working on providing on-line membership registration and payment of dues on our website at www.campusclub.cornell.edu.

The Holiday Tea in December was a resounding success at its new venue at Coltivare. For those of you who missed the crème brulee or chocolate mousse, be sure to arrive early next year!

Also well attended were the September architecture walk and the October lecture on Success and Luck. We hope you’re saving the dates for the upcoming lectures on March 1st by Rachel Lampert and April 5th by Ithaca College Professor Wasyliw. And as the brochure says, “unless there is a crisis in Ithaca or he is invited to the White House”, we’re looking forward to Ithaca’s Mayor Myrick being our guest speaker at the Spring Luncheon on May 5th at the Ithaca Country Club.

I’m sure I speak for all of you in thanking our group activity leaders for all their efforts in making their various groups fun, interesting, welcoming and well organized. They make it happen! There are 20 groups this year including the newly formed group, “Just Coffee”, which meets biweekly. A special thanks also goes to this year’s 14 Board members who help carry on the 116 year history of the Campus Club at Cornell.

Again, check out the website for updates on membership, lectures and programs, activity groups and other Club related information.

Enjoy,
Gail Carruth
President
Activity Group Reports

Bird Study
The Campus Club Bird Study Group is going strong! We started our Tuesday morning field trips in September at the Laboratory of Ornithology and were treated to great views of wood ducks, herons, and a mink (sometimes mammals want to be admired, too!). The mild autumn weather facilitated our trips to Montezuma National Wild Life Refuge where we were able to identify approximately 30 different species of birds. Other outings this autumn included Dryden Lake, Shindagin Hollow, Myers Point and Salt Point. Our final field trip in November at Stewart Park offered us a wonderful sighting of a merlin (falcon) heading south to warmer climes.

This winter we are having monthly educational programs. In December, one of our members Diane Traina gave a talk (which included her lovely photographs) on the birds of New Zealand. In January, Candace Cornell from the Friends of Salt Point presented an informative and humorous talk on the osprey at Salt Point and around the Cayuga Basin. We have two more presentations coming up: one in February by Ian Davies on the Laboratory of Ornithology eBird program and one in March by club member Laurie Rubin on the birds of Thailand. Our spring field trips will begin at the end of March. If you’re an “early bird” and want to shake off the winter doldrums, you are welcome to join us.

If you’d like to participate in our group, please contact Rochelle Woods (rewoods112@gmail.com) or Laurie Rubin (lrubin55@verizon.net)).
Bridge for Intermediate Players

The Wednesday morning bridge group continues to be a popular activity. We are usually filled to capacity each week, although we do lose some folks in the winter months to places that are much warmer than Ithaca! This year’s group includes not only several continuing players, but also several new players. Although our long-time mentors, Gail Leibovich and Birgit Anderson, are both traveling extensively this year, when they are in town they continue to provide us with excellent guidance and instruction. If you enjoy a fun game of “social” bridge, this is a great activity in which to participate.

For more information, please contact Patty Apgar (kp.duty@frontier.com) or Janice Brown (jmb14@cornell.edu).
Monday Afternoon Book Group
The Monday Afternoon Book Group is a lively group that has had an interesting fall. We have continued to read a mix of fiction and nonfiction beginning with this year’s Cornell read, Vonnegut’s Slaughterhouse Five, and most recently our ambitious and timely book, Isabel Wilkerson’s The Warmth of Other Suns. Our discussions are always enriched by our members’ varied experiences, enthusiasm, and openness to each other’s ideas.

*If you would like to join us, please contact Marcia Jacobson (marcia.jacobson@gmail.com) or Barbara DiSalvo (bdisalvo@twcny.rr.com).*

Monday Evening Book Group
Our group has met monthly and read some very interesting books! We just had our annual dish to pass dinner which is themed on our January book; this year its British foods and our book is The Girl on the Train, a real thriller. We all look forward to getting together in mid-winter to share interesting food and discuss our latest book. Spring will bring more interesting book choices: we read both fiction and non-fiction and always have lively discussions in a member’s home each month. Come and join us!

*For additional information please contact Laura Andolina (andolina@aol.com).*

Thursday Afternoon Book Group
The Thursday group is blessed with excellent reviewers, gracious hosts, terrific bakers, and members who enjoy reading. New members and/or guests are always welcome...come check us out any time.

*For additional information, please contact Lila Olson (lilafolson@aol.com).*
Canasta

Canasta Group is Recruiting!
We meet every Friday morning at 9:30 am to 12:00 noon in the Kendal Cafe - a place outside the Blue Heron dining room with tables for four - easy place to set up as many tables as we need. We are prepared to teach anyone who would like to join us or update anyone's skills. I can send an email copy of the rules to anyone who is interested. This fall we've met almost every Friday with a group that comes as much as they can - some are traveling and some go to warmer climes in the winter but will be back in the spring. We enjoy each other's company very much. We had a nice lunch at the Heights before Christmas just to celebrate our group. This is our sixth year and we have become good friends who would welcome your participation. Come and try us out.

Just come on ahead on Friday morning, or contact Madeleine Hemmings (madeleine.hemmings@gmail.com) or Claudia Melin(ckm6@frontiernet.net).

Diner's Group

The Campus Club Diner's Group has met monthly since September, with the lovely "Cocktails Over Cayuga" at the home of Ayako and Mike Timmons. Since then, we have had "Dining in Denver" in October, "Greek Festival" in November, and a very festive "Holiday Brunch" with 32 people sharing the meal at Hope Horst's home. This is one of the few groups in Campus Club that includes spouses/partners, and has been very successful with that inclusion. All meals use the prepared cookbook and share expenses. The attached photos were taken at the Holiday Brunch.

For more information about the group, contact Nancy Ridenour (nridenour@twcny.rr.com) or Linda Story (linda@cleartheway.com)
More of Diner’s Club
French Conversation Group

This group aims at helping French-speaking members at all levels to exchange experiences and interests in a venue opened to CCC members. We usually meet on the third Thursday of each month between 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. at a member’s home. Our current venue is at Kendal where several members live and where lunch can be ordered and parking is available.

Our conversations cover themes such as literature, the arts, travels, holidays, anecdotes, expressions or any other topic suggested by the membership. New members are invited to sign up for the Group during the CCC Fall Coffee in September where I look forward to greeting you.

*For more information contact Marguerite Layton (mlayton557@aol.com).*
Games

An eclectic group of women gather biweekly to play games, enjoy treats, and visit. All are welcome to join us for card, word, and board games. We have fun, laugh a lot, and sometimes are a bit competitive.

If you would like to join the group please send an email to Raf Chew (rafchew@yahoo.com) or Nora Shang (nshang3@gmail.com).

Pictionary, Rummikub, and Reverse Charades
L to R: Lena, Ornit, Kaisa, Cheryl, Nadine, Sarah
Standing: Masha, Jan

There are always yummy treats to try
L to R: Sarah, Kumari, Cheryl, Kaisa, Jan, Ornit, Mary Lee

Newest favorite – Code Names
Gardening
The Gardening activity group has had a fun and educational fall in 2015. In September, we met at member Sue Martin’s house for a plant swap, schedule planning get-together, tour of her lovely garden, and general gardening exchange of best practices and ideas (see picture below). These are always a great first gathering, allowing us to reconnect with former members and to get to know and welcome new members. I (Ellen Lane) took home lovage, which I had never used before, and it is my new soup addition with a subtle anise/celery flavor.

Our October meeting was a visit to the home of Ithaca Bonsai Club president and bonsai collector and teacher extraordinaire, John Wiessinger. We saw representatives of his 250 plus bonsai collection arranged on his back deck, framed by the echoing glorious fall colors of the woods behind. John taught us the basic principles of bonsai, training, trimming, and potting. I know he inspired many of us to give it a try--especially since container gardening is the path to follow once a gardener’s yard is full or one has limited outdoor space for in ground plantings.

Our December meeting found us eating a shared salad lunch, followed by a gardening-themed holiday gift exchange that became as wild a free-for-all as a bidding war. Garden lights, trowels, gloves, carts, pots—all quickly came and went as each gift was opened and then swiftly coveted by the next member. But I got a delicious dinner of oyster mushrooms out of the grow-your-own kit I took home.

In January we viewed garden travel photos from group members, and in February we will be looking ahead to spring by making a garden-themed pottery craft. In March we will be meeting at Baker’s Acres for a succulent container garden workshop, and in April for a trip to Owego to visit Tioga Gardens and enjoy lunch on the deck of The River Rose Café, which overlooks the Susquehanna River. May finds us at another salad lunch/plant swap, and the summer months we spend touring local and more distant private and public gardens.

In general, the gardening group meets the 4th Friday of the month at 10am. Come join the fun while we share our triumphs and flops, knowledge and questions, all while enjoying each other’s company.

For more information contact Ellen Lane (ellenelizlane@yahoo.com) or Joan Lawrence (jlawrence30@twcny.rr.com).
Geocoaching
The Geocaching group is an enthusiastic and adventurous group of ladies, who have been busy exploring the local area using GPS coordinates to find cleverly hidden Geocaches. Out on their quest to find Geocaches they have hiked trails, searched along urban streets, and met some challenging and interesting terrain.

For more information contact Sarah Sutton(sarahgunnz@hotmail.com), Delia Kenkel(deliakenkel@yahoo.com) or Ornit Grossman(ornit.grossman@gmail.com)
Hiking and Cross Country Skiing

Our group meets every Monday morning year round to hike or ski, depending on the weather. The average outing lasts between two and three hours, although some hikers prefer to hike for a shorter period of time. We either walk from that spot or we car pool to the day's chosen hiking location. Places we've hiked this fall have included Buttermilk Falls, Treman and Taughannock State Parks, parts of the Finger Lakes Trail in Shindagin Hollow, Kennedy State Forests, the Bock Harvey Preserve in the Connecticut Hill area, part of the Abbott Loop in Danby State Forest, the Waterfront Trail, the Cascadilla Gorge Trail and trails near Fall Creek in Varna.

We are about 80 women in our group but not everybody hikes each week. In average we see about 17 hikers each week with some regulars and some women showing up only ones or twice a year and everything in between.

As hunting season started on November 16 we stayed out of the woods and hiked locally in the plantations, through Campus or downtown until we will be having enough snow for skiing. Many of us are hoping for enough snow for Cross Country Skiing.

For more information contact activity leaders: Barbara Nussbaum (barbnussb@gmail.com) or Ann Schissel (annschissel@gmail.com).
Imagining Retirement

Imagining Retirement meets monthly to expand ideas, information and connections that will enrich the experiences unique to this transitional phase of life.

Gatherings always include group discussion and sharing of ideas led by community leaders who highlight resources and options specifically useful to older adults. Fall / Winter topics have already included organizing / downsizing, lifelong learning, the aging-in-place model of a virtual retirement village, and identification of interests for volunteer or encore careers.

We meet the second Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. at Kendal. Campus Club members are always welcome to join us.

For more information contact activity leaders: Robin Dubovi (robinad@twcny.rr.com), Linda Story (linda@cleartheway.com), Paula Twomey (paulat@twcny.rr.com).
International Women’s Friendship Groups

First Wednesday Group
The First Wednesday Friendship Group this year has about 30 members from 20 countries (including the USA) who meet on the 1st Wed of each month, October thru June, 7:30 PM at member homes. So far we have had a program about Tanzania, an evening of sharing games we played as a child (and also playing a hilarious game called Reverse Charades – a game currently available in stores or online), and the Annual Potluck with Spouses/Guests.

If you would like to join the group please send an email to Raf (rafchew@yahoo.com)

Program on Tanzania given by Margaret at Swapna’s home
Seated L to R: Margaret, Sara, Ayako, Karen, Swapna, Barbara, Anita, Ines
Standing (1st Row) L to R: Johary, Ornit, Debbie, Eeva, Kumari, Jan, Lena, Asu, Luisa
Standing (2nd row) L to R: Joke, Mia, Florianna
Third Wednesday Group
Our International Women Friendship Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, usually in a member's home which the group enjoys. We have a core group of 12-15 members who attend fairly regularly while others come when they can.

We are an active, friendly group whose members come from 11 countries and some of us have been in the USA for many years.

There is always plenty of lively conversation and on most occasions we have a program given by either one of our members or someone from the community (this years' programs are Nova Scotia, The Refugee Crisis, Carnaval, Philippines, and National Parks). Our biggest event takes place in December with a Sing-Along and a dish-to-pass. We end with a dish-to-pass with husbands and friends in May.

Our evening meetings always conclude with delicious refreshments brought by two members. Experience has shown that some of the most successful meetings are those where all members are given the opportunity to talk on one special topic.

And.. last but not least, we have lots of fun and enjoy each other's company. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US.

For more information contact, Elke Schofield (elke.schofield@icloud.com) or call (607) 272-9476.

From left: June, Stella, Ines, Lois, Danielle
Just Coffee  *(New Activity in 2015!)*

Just Coffee is the newest Campus Club Activity Group! If you love coffee and conversation then this is a group for you. No prepping, no hosting, just show up. All you're responsible for is buying your own coffee.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 10 AM. Initially the group met at different coffee shops in town, but with an abundance of tables and easy parking, Ithaca Bakery at Triphammer Marketplace has become our regular meeting place.

*If you would like to join the group and receive the email notices please contact Raf (rafchew@yahoo.com).*
Performers’ Group
The Performers’ Group is an activity group for Campus Club members who play an instrument or sing, and who wish to share their music with others in an informal setting. Our membership includes listeners who do not perform but who enjoy the gathering of amateur musicians to hear interesting and often memorable programs of mostly classical music. We encourage performance on a variety of instruments and levels.

Our first meeting this year included a wonderful and varied program of music by Schubert, Corrette, Gabrieli, Loeillet de Gant, Chopin, Debussy, Brahms, and Dvorák. We were treated to outstanding performances on piano and recorder, after which we enjoyed seasonal refreshments.

We welcome new members, both performers and listeners. If you would like more information or have questions, you may contact one of our activity leaders:

If you would like more information or have questions, you may contact one of our activity leaders:
Charette Wheelis (charette1042@gmail.com) or JaneDieckmann(dickjane201@gmail.com).
Quilting

The Campus Club Quilt Group is changing and growing. In the past two years we have welcomed eight new members. They bring their skills and talents to our meetings. What a treat!

Our programs have included how to make microwave bowls and nifty placemats. We have added chenille quilting to our skills and will have a program about the "Art of Color" in quilts.

We are finishing 2 quilts to be donated to the ALS Hope and Dreams project plus 2 more for the Palliative Care Unit at Cayuga Medical Center.

For additional information please contact, Kelly Behan (kellybehan@aol.com) or Carol Halseth (carolhalseth@yahoo.com).

Shakespeare on Video

For additional information contact activity leaders: Sylvia Williams (273-9035) or Betty Postle (844-8089).

Wanderers

The Wanderers group organizes 5 local day trips each year. We choose destinations that usually have historic, unusual and/or unique characters. We have a very large group and trips often fill up shortly after the trip announcement. To date we’ve held 3 trips and will have 2 more in May and June.

In September Ellen organized a trip to the Trumansburg area. It included Gourdlandia in Eco-Village, Hammerstone Carpentry School for Women, lunch at the Taughannock Farms Inn, New Park Hotel and Ithaca Children's Garden,

We visited Hammondsport in October that included a private tour of the Glenn Curtiss Museum, and the restoration hangar, lunch and visit at the Bully Hill Vineyards. We ended the trip with a visit to the Goff Creek Pottery where we saw many whimsical clay sculptures and critters.
In January Elke led a trip to few religious institutions in town. They are St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, Temple Beth-El, lunch at Taste of Thai and the Namgyal Monastery.

Please feel free to contact any of the planning committee members with questions, feedback and suggestions! Lisa Watkins (lisawatkins8@gmail.com, Marge Kline (klinemarge@gmail.com), Ellen Lane (ellenelizlane@yahoo.com), Elke Schofield (elke.schofield@icloud.com), Raf Chew (rafchew@yahoo.com) and Nora Shang (nshang3@gmail.com)

Writing
The Writing group is currently on hiatus. Please contact Carolyn David at mmechopin@att.net with suggestions or if you are interested in joining or resuming the group.
Ukulele

It's a consensus....we're having fun!

At our recent weekly practice, 3-5 pm at Kendal, nine of us enjoyed learning a new song in two parts, Tonight You Belong to Me. Emoretta Yang provided the arrangement and helped us learn it together. We have welcomed beginners and added their enthusiasm to the group. Several members have taken lessons on the side, always helpful for beginners as well as for those who want to learn special techniques. By providing sing-along's for Kendal holidays, and joining others at Porchfest and the Ithaca Parade we are able to focus on playing as a group while we continue to just play and sing songs members choose.

For additional information please contact, Ruth Hopkin (rah27@cornell.edu).

Yoga for Life & Health

For additional information please contact, Mary Ann Bowman (maryannb@lightlink.com) or Ayako Timmons (ayakotimmons@gmail.com).
And finally, a word from the Campus Club Board:

It has been our pleasure to serve the members of the Campus Club at Cornell this year. We hope that all of you have enjoyed the events, activities and programs that the Club provides, and that you will consider becoming more involved in the leadership of the Club in years to come.

Thank you!

Seated: Wendy Blanchard, Gail Carruth, Susan Seaver
Standing: Nora Shang, Raf Chew, Nancy Richards, Colleen Schiefen
Not Present: Linda Uhll, Deborah Dawson, Marcie Robinson, Lisa Sahn, Rhoda Janis, Barbara Nosanchuk & Sandi Lowe

Board Members: Marcie Robinson & Barbara Nosanchuk
We Look Forward to Seeing All of You at our
Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Ithaca Country Club
Thursday, May 5th

The Mayor Speaks!

Svante Myrick, Ithaca’s energetic young mayor since 2012 will talk with us about his experiences as mayor and his hopes and plans for Ithaca’s future.

http://campusclub.cornell.edu/