

'62/55TH IN VIEW

55th Reunion: Sneak Peek of our Scheduled Events!

If you think two years is a long time—just ask members of your Class Council.

They are already on deadline for putting together another great Cornell Reunion: our 55th. And if you are reading this, which obviously you are, you are ahead of the game—hopefully in decent shape so you can **SAVE THE DATE: Thursday–Sunday, June 8–11, 2017!**

We had nearly 400 class members, spouses, kids, grandkids, and friends for our 50th.

Now, although we'd love to, we don't expect to repeat those numbers, but early indications are **we're going to have quite a crowd celebrating our 55th on The Hill—and we want you to be part of that group.** There may be plenty of reasons for not attending, but there are four good ones for doing so: the four great years we had encountering, and benefitting from, the Cornell experience.

We're not going to let you forget the date. Our wonderful **Class Correspondent, Jan Crites**, is reminding you with every great class column she writes.

So **here's the planning** as of two years out: Tentatively our **Class Headquarters** will be in the West Campus Dorms—probably at the **Alice Cook House**, with any overflow at the **Carl Becker House**. Alice Cook has a beautiful dining room capable of seating 260 people. And we'll be supplied with the plentiful buffet breakfasts we enjoyed at our 50th. Almost as important: The West Campus is very close to transportation stops, and that will help us with our mobility, especially with otherwise-difficult parking on campus.

Then there's what we'll be doing—

and that's plenty. **Thursday evening** we'll have a **class welcome reception and buffet dinner**, followed by a get-together at the class dorm as folks check in. Our **Class Symposium on Friday** will rival our 50th. In that regard **Evelyn Eskin**, our Symposium chairperson, would love to hear your ideas. Reach her at evelyneskin@mac.com.

Get your dancing shoes ready because **Friday night** we're going to have a **gala class dinner and dance with the fabulous Backtalk Band**—what a great evening they gave us at our 50th! We'll follow that with a concert by the **Cornell Chorus and Glee Club**. On **Saturday night** we'll switch venues because our **class meeting and dinner** will be held for the first time at the **Country Club of Ithaca**. And how could anyone miss **Cornelliana Night at Bailey Hall?**

If you have an **artistic bent** here's your chance to get noticed by some very discerning people—your classmates. We're planning an **exhibit of artwork** by our members. If you are interested in exhibiting your art you can contact **Nancy Clark** at nwc8@cornell.edu.

Speaking of great pics here's another heads up: **We're returning to our traditional class photo session.** So make sure you've done your hair and makeup to look fabulous for 55!

One last note: We really want you to be involved—even this early—so if you have any ideas on how to make the 55th even better, our great **Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke** wants to hear from you. Email him at neroschilke@aol.com.

Our 55th should be another terrific weekend for the Class of '62, and we want you to be there!

Judy Rich



Think about this: the “engine” we call the Class of '62 can't run without sparkplugs. That being the case, one of our finest sparkplugs is a lovely ball of high-test energy named Judy Rich.

Judith Prenske Rich—“Judy”—has been a valued member of our Class Council since 1987. Speaking of class, Judy has plenty of that. She's been Class Secretary, Class Vice-President, Class Historian—and Editor-in-Chief of both our 25th and 50th Reunion Yearbooks. To say nothing of being the longtime Chair of the Class Gift Fund Committee.

Whether they came out in hard copy (for our 25th in '87) and also in digital (for our 50th in 2012) those yearbooks were monumental undertakings. It's no understatement to say each was years in the making.

Judy was the right person for the job. At Cornell she majored in housing and design and journalism. She received her masters from Hunter College and then, in Judy's words, “after graduation I followed a traditional route for women of my generation. I went to work at a publishing house as an editorial assistant, but left after 10 months in order to have time to
(continued on page two)

Judy Rich, cont'd

write the 'Great American Novel' and, incidentally, to have summers off."

Judy spent seven years as a teacher in East Harlem (with summers off), wrote short stories and magazine articles, "half of that novel," and was Director of Communications and the writer/editor for *The ECFS Reporter*, the alumni publication for the Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools, for 18 years. She was also co-founder and co-director of Save Our Seashore, a nonprofit advocacy group involved in monitoring coastal conditions along New York State's Atlantic coastline.

Romance came into her life when, a few years after graduation, she met Bruce Rich '60, a New York lawyer. They had two great kids: daughter Stacey ('93, Wharton/MBA '99), and son Daniel ('96, Emory Law/JD '04). But tragedy struck when Daniel died of a brain tumor at the age of 31. Says Judy "This was an excruciatingly painful loss that we are still struggling to live with. But life, alas, does go on."

And Judy's life indeed does go on. She and Bruce are serious tennis enthusiasts, going so far as to rent an apartment in Paris for two weeks so that they could attend the men's final of the French Open. And, at last count, Judy had racked up 11 trophies playing "very amateur tennis" at New York's Fire Island where they have a summer home. "There is still life in this aging athlete."

No doubt there is still a great amount of life in this class spark-plug. As Chairperson of the Class Gift Committee, Judy has spearheaded the donation of \$10,000 to the Class of 1962 Photography Fund at the Johnson Art Museum. A recent Museum purchase of a photograph by famed photographer Gordon Parks will be added to 22 other pictures funded by the class.

As usual in profiles of outstanding members, there is much more to be said about Judy Rich. Suffice to say she continues to be a tremendous asset to our class after more-than-a-half century. She is, she says, "Truly grateful for the many very dear, very wonderful Cornell friends" who are still in her life.

And, of course, "the summers off."

A Picture Is Worth ... Preserving

For many years, through the efforts of the Class of '62 Photography Fund, the Johnson Museum of Art has been the beneficiary of nearly two dozen iconic photographs.

This year, the Johnson wins again. Chairperson Judy Rich and her Class Gift Committee, working with Nancy Green at the museum, have garnered another great photo to join the 22 already there. It's by famed photographer Gordon Parks. The photo and its caption speak for themselves.



Gordon Parks
American, 1912-2006
The Fontenelles at the Poverty Board, Harlem, N.Y. (printed ca. 1967)
Gelatin silver print
Collection of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University
Acquired through the Class of 1962 Fund for Photography
2015.003



A Young Woman Who's Our "Fellow"

She's the first of her family to go to college. Not only that, she's a first-generation American, born and raised by her mother in Flushing, a community in the New York City borough of Queens. The rest of her family lives in Ecuador.

Say hello to Diane Tarira, class of 2018. Diane is this year's recipient of the Frank and Rosa Rhodes Class of 1962 Cornell Tradition Fellowship. The Fellowship will provide Diane approximately \$5,900 to help pay her expenses as she combines study, work, and extracurricular activities.

Diane says getting into Cornell was unexpected, overwhelming, and, for someone with her background, an immense amount of pressure.

But she adds: "All my doubts about attending Cornell vanished when I visited for Cornell Days. I truly felt like I belonged at Cornell and that I was exactly where I should be."

Diane has finished her freshman year, but she's still searching for the right major. She's narrowed her choices down to three: Computer science, information science, or psychology. It's a tough decision, she says,

with so many majors from which to choose.

Our Fellowship recipient is quite a talented young woman. At Bayside High School she was in the music program as a vocalist, but then learning to play the piano—to say nothing of teaching herself to play the ukulele, guitar, and saxophone. She's known English and Spanish since birth, but learned Latin in high school. One of her goals is to study abroad, so she's learning Italian!

Diane says she's passionate about education, has privately tutored neighborhood children and worked as a teacher's assistant in high school. As a Cornell Tradition Fellow she volunteers in education-related activities including hosting prospective students.

Her feeling: "I truly believe providing a good education to everyone will solve many of our world's problems



such as poverty."

In a lovely note to our class Diane says: "As a first generation (in my family) college student ... without your generosity I would never have been able to attend Cornell. I can't imagine a better place to obtain an education. I wish you much happiness and success. Thank you."

And that wish for happiness and success goes right back to you, Diane, from the Cornell Class of 1962.

Class Briefs

We may be nearly 55 years out—some might call us "old school"—but CU '62 is definitely hi-tech. We're pretty sure most of you are too, so we urge you to visit our class website at: www.cornellclassof62.org. As we near Reunion you can keep up to date on all the plans and excitement of '62–55.

With that in mind we're asking again for your thoughts. Do you think the class newsletter should continue to be printed and mailed OR should it be all-digital and emailed to our members? Please let us know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically and dispense with the hard-copy version. You can drop an email to **Newsletter Editor Mike Eisgrau** at mikepr40@gmail.com.

- '62 -

Engines of all kinds run on fuel. **The Class of '62 engine runs on dues.** Have you paid yours? Frankly, they're pretty reasonable: \$55/year for singles, \$65 for couples, and only \$30 for those who don't want to receive the *Cornell Alumni News* magazine. **So dig out that dues card** from the pile on your desk—or go to our class website—and **put some fuel in our tank! Thanks.**

- '62 -

We're looking for you! We need the help of all those who came back for our 50th to reach out to classmates who did not attend because we definitely want them with us for our 55th. If you know of such class members, please email their names and what info you may have to **Katie Kaufman** at sk4212@aol.com. Better still—get to them in person and make the pitch!

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Be sure to visit our official Class of '62 website ...

Welcome, Cornell Class of 1962!

Dear Classmates,

Welcome to our website. We are excited about this improved opportunity to communicate with you. We hope that you find the site easy to navigate and that it provides you with useful and interesting information. Most important of all, we can now keep you up-to-date with all of our plans for our 55th Reunion, led by Neil Schilke. Our goal is to keep you connected to the class while you await our next reunion in 2017. Please explore the website and let us know if you have any suggestions or questions. Contact Ruth Bleyler (rzb3@cornell.edu) or Judy Rich (jpr33@cornell.edu) with your thoughts.



www.cornellclassof62.org

The official newsletter of the class of '62 at Cornell University.