

# '62/55TH IN VIEW

## Class of '62 Website Goes Live!

The class of 1962 has entered the 21st century! This summer we launched our new class website—[cornellclassof62.org](http://cornellclassof62.org)—where you will find virtually everything class-related

for the past half-century and counting at your fingertips.

Starting out on the home page with an introductory welcome letter from Class

President Ruth Bleyler, viewers have a choice of easy-to-use navigational tabs and subpages with which to explore the entire site. These tabs and subpages lead viewers on an intriguing journey through class and university activities and events from our earliest years to the present. Looking for old school friends? Click on the tab "Cornell Connect" and then select "Find Alumni." Want to read old class newsletters, our 25th and 50th Reunion yearbooks, or view the 50th Reunion video? They're all there under the "Archives" tab. Want to relive our class Reunions or view dozens of photos from

various Reunions? Bet you can guess which navigation tab will get you there!

But there's so much more to be found on this site. We've included a link to Cornell's alumni events calendar for you to check university-related happenings on and off campus, including those in your own locale. Want to know about all the class gifts we've presented to Cornell through the years? Well, then, select "Our Legacy" to find images of all those fabulous photographs in the class of 1962 photography collection at the Johnson Museum of Art, biographies of some of our class of 1962 Tradition Fellows, info on the Hoy Field Baseball Scoreboard, our environmental projects, and more.

We've included just about everything we could get our hands on from our university and personal archives. We're pretty sure, however, that many classmates have information, documents, memorabilia, and photos that would be wonderful additions to this website. If you have material you would be willing to share, please contact Judy Prenske Rich ([jpr33@cornell.edu](mailto:jpr33@cornell.edu)).

It is thanks to the hard work and persistent efforts of classmates Judy Prenske Rich and Ruth Bleyler, along with Laurie Musick Wright '75 of LMW Designs, that [cornellclassof62.org](http://cornellclassof62.org), is finally a reality. Check it out for yourself.

**Cornell Class of 1962** *Catch the Spirit!*

EVENTS CORNELL CONNECT ARCHIVES REUNIONS OUR LEGACY

**Welcome Cornell Class of 1962**

Dear Classmates,

Welcome to our new website! We are excited about this improved opportunity to communicate with you. We hope that you will find the site easy to navigate and that it provides you with useful and interesting information. Updated information will be posted when available. 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 or Judy Rich with your thoughts.

The website will be one more way for news to reach you. This site is not meant to be a substitute for the class newsletter or the class column in the *Cornell Alumni Magazine*, although it is a place where you will be able to find newsletters published since our 50th Reunion and a link to the Magazine, as well. Please continue to send news of your current activities for the column to Jan Critch.

I encourage you to ensure continued contact with the great Class of '62 by paying your dues. Class dues support informational mailings, the class newsletter, the New Student Book selection, planning for our next reunion, this website, and your important subscription to the *Cornell Alumni Magazine*. By paying your class dues we will be able to build our treasury and continue our communications with all of you. And, by adding an additional amount to our Class Gift Fund ("CGF" on the online form), we will also be able to continue our special class projects. The online option is just a click away!

Catch the Spirit of '62.  
Ruth Z. Bleyler, President

**CLASS OFFICERS:**  
(Click on a name to send email)

**President**  
Ruth Zimmerman Bleyler

**Immediate Past President**  
Alex Volmer

**Membership**  
Mike Duesing

**Treasurer**  
Marc Gerber

**Secretary**  
Alan Fishery

**Class Correspondent**  
Jan McCloyton Critch

**Reunion Chair**  
Neil Schilke

**Reunion Co-Chairs**  
Charlotte Jones Collier  
Evelyn Eskin  
Don Juran  
Frank Quirk

**Annual Fund**  
Ruth Horstapel Fortkamp

**Newsletter**  
Mike Elengrou

**Class Historian**  
Judy Prenske Rich

**CLASS COUNCIL:**  
John Abel  
Stephen Ashley  
Jeff Blumenthal  
Carly Van Buren Bomberger  
Chuck Bunting

**SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**

© CORNELL UNIVERSITY

**Cornell Class of 1962** *Catch the Spirit!*

EVENTS CORNELL CONNECT ARCHIVES REUNIONS OUR LEGACY

**Reunion**

481  
65  
74  
85  
96  
107  
118  
129  
140  
151  
162  
173  
184  
195  
206  
217

## Class Gift Fund

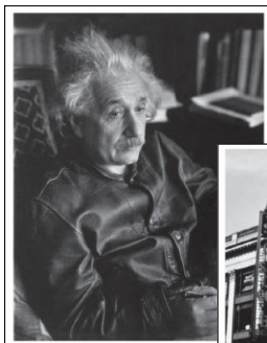
At our 50th Reunion the class of '62 presented the university with a check for the Cornell Annual Fund/50th Reunion Campaign of \$18,000,000—quite an impressive present.

But over these many years, we have contributed in another very special way: the Class Gift Fund.

Which is why your class council has voted to give \$10,000 to the Johnson Museum of Art to expand the Class of 1962 Photography Fund (currently 22 works by renowned lens-people like Edward Steichen, Lotte Jacobi, Andreas Feininger, and Bruce Davidson). Ours is the only class-supported photography collection at the museum.

And we have presented another \$5,000 check to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, continuing to support the Great Blue Heron nest cam project—live online streaming of nesting Great Blue Herons and the pond at Sapsucker Woods during nesting season. The cam also displays on a monitor in the Lab of Ornithology lobby.

Since graduation, our class has contributed more than \$100,000 to Cornell in areas of the environment, education, the arts, scholarship, and athletics.



## Minus Three Years and Counting

Wait a minute ... WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE! Didn't we just return from our 50th? That was just a few months ago, wasn't it?

Would you believe that was more than two years ago? And that we have fewer than three years until our 55th? If time does fly we must be on a jetliner! Which is why it is not too early at all for us to remind you to **SAVE THE DATE! Thursday-Sunday, June 8-11, 2017.**

Yes, there will be changes in the lineup as we count down to June 2017, but Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke and his veteran committee are already sketching the outline of a great weekend.

The university does not make a final decision until 2016, but our requested sites for class headquarters should be two terrific West Campus dorms—primarily the Alice Cook House, with any overflow to the Carl Becker House. Among the many attractive features: a dining room that seats 260 people and close proximity to transportation stops. Good for those of us not running marathons anymore. We can expect a repeat of the lovely buffet breakfasts we enjoyed at our 50th.

Frankly, it's hard to forget what great times we had at our welcome reception and dinner on Thursday evening—to say nothing of the

two fabulous get-togethers on Friday and Saturday nights. Especially Friday as we danced to the phenomenal Back Talk Band—that place was really jumping. Well good news, the Backtalk Band will be back, so polish up your dancing shoes! And don't say you're too old! Saturday night our dinner will be at the Country Club of Ithaca.

Another highlight of our 50th was the class symposium: "Remembering Our Days On The Hill." Well we can't tell you the topic for our next symposium just yet, but you can be sure it will be just as interesting and entertaining for our 55th.

We had tremendous interest at our 50th Reunion when we debuted a class authors' book signing. For our 55th, the book signing will be joined by a class artists' exhibit. You'll hear more about these in coming months, but if you have something to present you can look forward to showcasing at our 55th.

Oh yes, make sure your hair is styled and your makeup on because we're returning to our traditional class photo session. And we're all going to look great.

That's it for now ... but let's stay young and look forward to a great 55th for the class of '62.





# Neil Schilke: Leading a Full and Rewarding Life

How do you describe Neil Schilke? Well, he's quiet, unassuming, laid back—and a very smart guy. How else could this longtime and respected member of the '62 class council have risen to become general director, engineering, corporate staffs of General Motors Corporation?

This is the same Neil Schilke who in high school dug ditches for the Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) road department—even washed the boss's car. The same Neil Schilke who worked as a "cinder man" in a Cleveland steel mill. And who ran a drill press at a GM Chevrolet plant drilling

holes in cast iron transmission casings. Indeed, though Neil came from modest employment beginnings, he knew quickly that he didn't want to do those jobs for the rest of his life, and that he needed to continue his education to the highest level.

Which is why Neil earned his bachelor and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering at Cornell. He worked at GM all his professional life, especially at GM Research Laboratories.

During a 40-year career his abilities caused GM to choose Neil to lead a number of major engineering projects, including "probably the first production hybrid vehicle design in the industry" and creating a systems engineering capability for GM.

There's really no space for listing the number of awards and accolades Neil has received—we stopped counting at half a dozen. Nor the many technical and honor societies of which he's a member. The most prestigious is SAE, the Society of Automotive Engineers—an 80,000 member

organization for which he's served on the board of directors and, in 2001, as International President.

Neil has been a member of our Class Council for more than four decades, serving in several leadership posts, including past president of the class. And you'll be seeing his name in the years to come since Neil is the 55th Reunion chairman. We couldn't be in better hands.

Of course he hasn't done this alone. He and his beautiful—and equally smart—wife, Ro, have just celebrated their 51st anniversary. When asked what makes him tick, he again shows his wisdom:

"Ro. I always say that Ro helps me do everything better."

Today they live in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Their two "kids" are Kevin (44) and Karen (41) who've blessed them with four grandsons ranging in age from 6 to 19. Neil and Ro travel the world quite a bit, and they play a lot of golf. They indeed have full and rewarding lives.

As for us, his '62 classmates, our reward is to have Neil Schilke as one of our own.



Neil and Ro Schilke

## Class Briefs

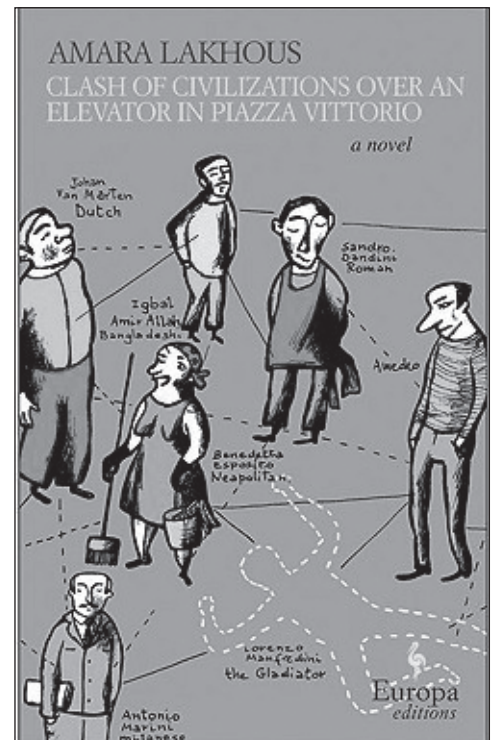
**Something to ponder:** In this digital age your class council is wondering whether hard copies of this newsletter should continue to be printed and mailed (which costs money)—or emailed to class members. What's your opinion? Please email Newsletter Editor Mike Eisgrau at [mikepr40@gmail.com](mailto:mikepr40@gmail.com).

- '62 -

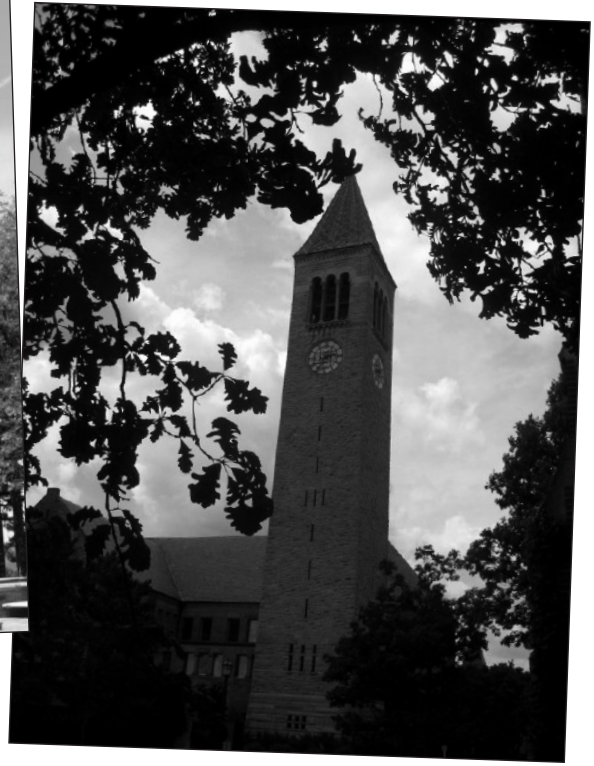
If you read *The New Yorker* magazine don't throw out the June 23rd issue until you read a marvelous story called "The Book Refuge." It's about the famous Argosy Bookshop in Manhattan—and the 50-year tenure of three sisters who have kept this New York treasure alive. One of those sisters is Adina Cohen, Cornell Class of 1962. It's a great read.

- '62 -

Speaking of books: The 2014 New Student (Freshman) Reading Project selection is the prize-winning *Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* by Amara Lakhous. It's a cosmopolitan intercultural murder mystery. It's available for free to dues paying class members. We hope you said "Yes" in February when you were asked if you'd like to receive the book. If so, your volume should come to you later this summer. If you didn't say yes—wait till next year—but don't miss out!



Here are two good reasons to read the article below ...



## Some Dues ... And Don'ts

That fabulous 50th Reunion, which many of you remember firsthand, did not come without a price. Over and above registration fees, there were many expenses that came out of your class treasury. Your class council has no doubt that the expense was all worthwhile, but we have to look ahead to refilling our coffers. That's why we're taking this opportunity to remind you—**don't forget to pay your class dues.** For those of you reading this who've already "ante'd up"—our grateful thanks.

But here's why we have to remind our other classmates: We have more than 400 dues-paying class members. That's less than a quarter of the known members of our class, and we really need to increase your participation. Right now, dues are \$55 for a single person, \$65 for couples, and \$30 for those who do not want to receive the *Cornell Alumni News* magazine. Those are small increases and, we feel, a minimal price to pay to continue the tradition of a great Cornell class. So dig out that dues card from the pile on your desk, and help us boost our numbers. You'll be glad you did. Thanks so much!

