



'62/50TH IN VIEW

Has It Really Been 50 Years?

The answer to that question is **"you bet-cha!"** Every one of us reading these words should feel proud—very proud—because we have survived! Which is why, as we told you eight months ago, **there is nowhere else you should be from June 7–10 this year than at the 50th Reunion of the Cornell class of 1962.**

If you remember nothing else from this newsletter—you must remember those words above. We will be celebrating—big time—half a century of our lives since leaving the hill. You may hesitate about attending our 75th or 100th—you may be too busy—but you absolutely cannot miss your 50th, a historic gathering of your classmates.

What a celebration it will be! Your class council and Reunion team recently held

their final meeting in Washington, D.C., before the big weekend. After years of planning and hard work, we have a great program planned for this coming June, and we don't want you to miss anything. You won't be lonely—we expect more than 500 class members, spouses, significant others, and family members will be coming back to Ithaca for four days of fun and remembrance.

That fun and nostalgia does indeed start on Thursday afternoon. After you check in at the beautiful Court-Kay-Bauer Hall, you can head to the Call Auditorium at Kennedy Hall and see a video documentary called "1962 Memories on the Hill," which is Phil and Maddy Handler's years-long

effort based on interviews with classmates about their time at Cornell. Stick around after that for a classmate panel about those days moderated by CU '62 retired federal appeals court judge Harry Edwards.

When that's over, you'll be at the right place, Trillium (in Kennedy), for a great welcome reception and a "Spanish dinner" buffet, which will be one of the first chances you'll have to meet, mingle, and eat with old friends and classmates from your school days.

Your Friday will begin bright and early with a great Continental breakfast from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at our tent outside class

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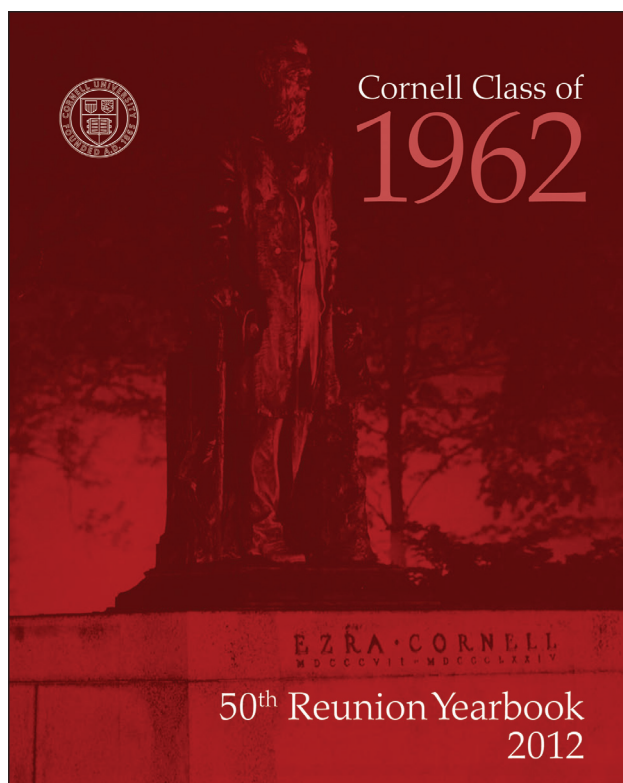
A 1962 "Tome for the Ages"

Wow, check this out: If you think Gibbon's *Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire* was a massive undertaking—wait until you see the 50-year history of the class of 1962!

Editor-in-Chief Judy Prenske Rich, who produced our 25th Reunion book with her co-class historian, Peter Slater, has outdone herself this time around with a volume so large that, in its two formats on one CD—flip book and PDF—it takes up 408 pages in full color! This tome contains not only classmates' biographies and responses to the questionnaire, but also the history of the class including Reunion photos, stories, and reminiscences; and documentation of class leadership and our remarkable legacy of giving and service to the university.

The *50th Reunion Yearbook* CD will be sent to all classmates with the Reunion registration mailing this spring. If you are ready to tackle the hard-cover version, our *50th Reunion Yearbook* will also be available for purchase by classmates online from amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Costs and details for ordering the print version will be forthcoming in the registration mailing.

We owe a very big "thank you" to Judy and Peter (editor of "The Class Speaks" and "Reunion Stories"), for an effort that has been years in the making. Great job!



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headquarters. The food will be good—the conversation will be even better. However, make sure you are done in time to take a stroll across campus to the Call Auditorium for the fun and informative class of 1962 symposium. It's titled "Shall We Meet Again at 100? Suggestions for a Long Life." Its moderator is none other than your '62 classmate—and personal health columnist for the *New York Times*—Jane Brody. After 50 years, we can still learn some things about happier years to come—from Jane and professors Brian Wansink, author of *Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think*, and Karl Pillemer, author of *30 Lessons on Living: Tried and True Advice from the Wisest Americans*.

A (we hope) beautiful Friday afternoon can be spent wandering the campus, attending many affinity group events—fraternities and sororities included—and just marveling at the many changes since 1962.

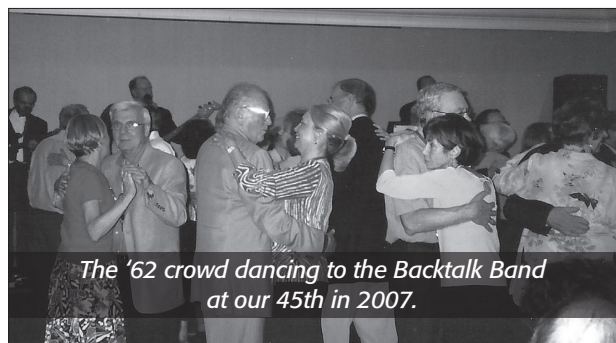
But be sure to get back to the dorm (if you need to—remember, it is our 50th) for a bit of a rest before heading to Newman Arena in Bartels Hall for a class reception followed by our gala dinner dance with the great Backtalk Band. We have a goal to equal or surpass the number of people "cutting a rug"—did we say that?—to the fabulous music provided by this outstand-

ing group at our 40th and 45th Reunions. They were so good that we had to invite them back for another great evening. That night, we may (no promises) get a visit from President David Skorton.

You'll have plenty of time to dance and digest Friday evening, but be sure to get a good night's sleep—for you will be up early again on Saturday and, fortified with another great breakfast buffet, you'll be out attending the many activities and get-togethers of affinity groups and other campus organizations. This year, President Skorton's "state of the university" speech should be quite interesting, as he describes Cornell in 2012 and brings us up to date on many exciting new initiatives.

By Saturday afternoon, you'll be ready for our traditional class picnic. This time, it is located by the ponds at the F.R. Newman Arboretum in Cornell Plantations. We'll be welcomed by Plantations Director Don Rakow, and we'll be in for the second great musical treat in 24 hours—a visit from the famed Cayuga's Waiters!

After lunch, you can take off on your own, or stroll across the Plantations lawn for the 2:30 p.m. Treman Memorial Concert featuring the Cornell Glee Club's popular a cappella group, The Hangovers.



Make sure, however, you are at Newman Arena in Bartels Hall by 6:00 p.m., or shortly thereafter, because that's where we'll have another great evening of food and fun with a dinner entitled "Around the U.S.A.—An Americana Sampler," featuring Tex-Mex, Pacific Rim, and New Orleans Cajun cuisine. Campus traditions will follow our fun, including Cornelliana Night at Bailey Hall and those ever-popular beer tents. We're told they're no longer the focal points of Reunion, but how can you pass up at least one draft?

All too soon, it will be Sunday morning, and our class will gather for our farewell breakfast. Sunday breakfast is filled with a bit of sadness and nostalgia. After all, many of us have been coming back to the hill for a half-century, and that we've come for our 50th is a great accomplishment.

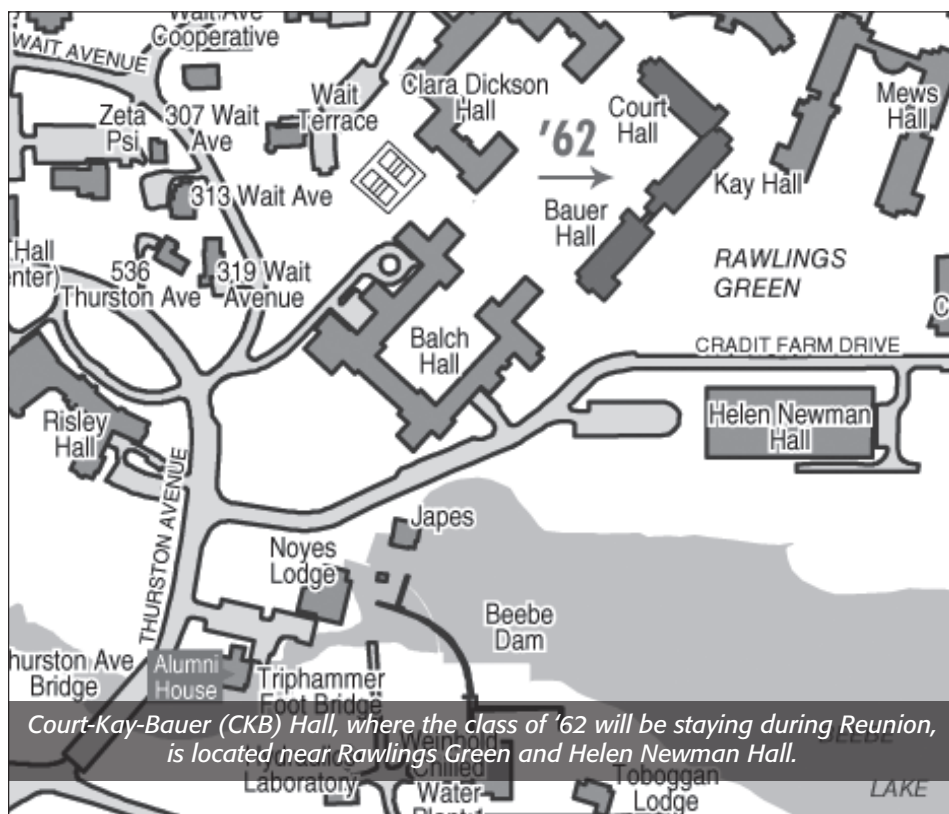
However, this great class of 1962 does not stop here—not at all—because shortly, your class council will be making plans for our 55th, which you should be planning to attend!

Presidential Thoughts

As I near the end of my decade-long tenure as president, I want to tell you what a pleasure it has been to work with your class council, navigating a few tricky issues, but also sharing in many successes—among them, the creation of a class constitution. I have greatly enjoyed participating in the governance of our class. I believe that your council has done an excellent job of providing our class with top-flight thinking and actions. We can be proud that other classes look up to us for excellence in many areas including our newsletters, our website, and perhaps, most importantly, our giving to Cornell. Our photographic collection at the Johnson Museum and the scoreboard on the baseball diamond are only two of many gifts—both in kind and monetarily—for which the class of 1962 can be proud.

Finally, I strongly encourage you to attend our 50th Reunion. It has been superbly planned by Reunion Chair Ruth Bleyler and her team, and promises to be a fantastic weekend!

Alex Vollmer '62



54—Not 50—Years Ago ...

I remember my mom was crying as she and my dad pulled away from dorm six in their 1955 red and white Oldsmobile 98 four-door, hard-top convertible. My mother's thought, "What will become of my baby in this strange place?" My father's thought, "Even with a partial state scholarship—how in hell will I pay for all this?"

Yes, the year was 1958. You've seen many of these statistics before: average U.S. income: \$4,650; average home value: \$30,000; buy a Ford for anywhere from \$1,967 to \$3,929; gas was 24 cents a gallon; a half-gallon of milk, 42 cents; Libby's tomato juice, five 46-ounce cans for a dollar; and a postage stamp: 4 cents.

Introduced to the world: Visa and American Express cards, the Ford Edsel, the first U.S. satellite in orbit, Sweet 'n' Low, Pizza Hut, and the hula hoop (100,000,000 sold). Elvis went into the Army; the Brooklyn Dodgers went to Los Angeles and played their first season. Oscar for best picture: "Gigi"; the Grammy went to "Volare." And, pundits called it an "economic recession" when unemployment edged above 5 percent. Want more? Movies included *Auntie Mame*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Vertigo*.

The Everly Brothers sang "All I Have To Do is Dream," Elvis had "Hard-Headed Woman," and The Champs sang "Tequila." Born that year were Ellen DeGeneres, Lorenzo Lamas, Sharon Stone, Alec Baldwin, Kevin Bacon, and Madonna.

And, into this world—in September—we became the freshmen at Cornell. **For the boys:** university halls—dorms one through six (the "cafeteria"—such as it was—in dorm one); meeting your roommate (mine was Freddie Vasquez de Valera, a gangling string bean with bad acne who was happy, but so lonely for his girlfriend that he disappeared for weeks at a time—and disappeared for good after that first semester); the early morning treks up Libe Slope for those 8:00 a.m. survey courses in Goldwin Smith Hall (any of you remember Professor Edward Whiting Fox and his world history survey course? Boy, did he make money off his textbooks!). Chino pants—"ivy styled"—and ROTC shoes that were \$7.98 a pair.

For the girls: Clara Dickson and "Grisly Risley" halls off Triphammer Bridge—"gracious living" with "sign-outs" and "sign-ins" with frosh curfews at 10:30 p.m., except for two "late nights" every week.



Skirts and blouses at dinner, singing the alma mater and "Evening Song." No men allowed upstairs—OK, down in the lobby. To earn money, I had my own dance band. We played our first gig in the basement at Risley—something called a "sock hop."

For the boys and the girls: "Panty raids" at the girls' dorms (pretty racy!); a kiss on the suspension bridge (better do it, or the bridge will fall!); and haute couture names for campus wear: "grubbie," "casual," "tweedie," "neat," and "smooth."

There was much more facing us as we matriculated. It was a whole new world where one professor told me, "This is not high school anymore. We're not going to hold your hand. You can work hard and have fun. The key to campus life is balance."

In 1962, a very proud mom looked on at our graduation—and at me—and knew what had become of her baby in this strange place.

Mike Eisgrau
Cornell '62

Thanks to Some Financial Sluggers

Over the past year, a special committee of 20 of your classmates embarked upon an impressive project to identify and contact some generous classmates who could make our 50th Reunion financial contribution to Cornell a gift that the university would long remember.

Committee leaders Fred Hart and Myra Maloney Hart are happy to report that the efforts of their group are producing some very gratifying results.

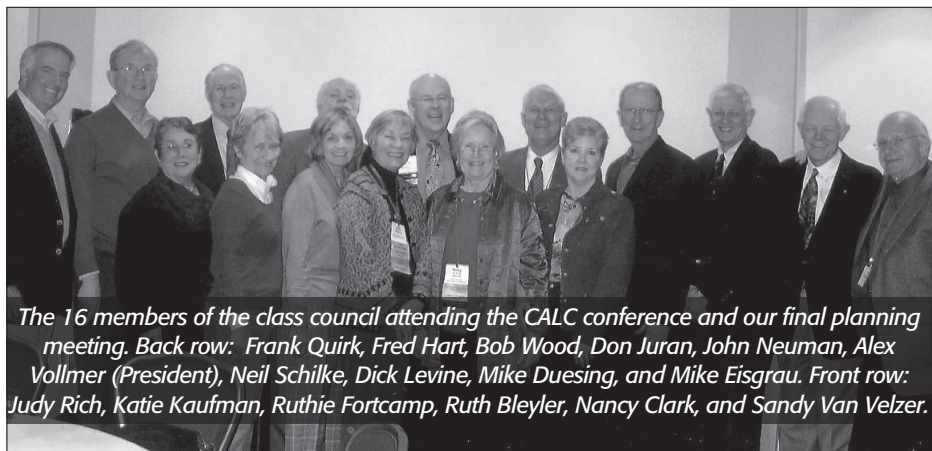
As of the end of January, 350 donors have pledged a total of \$15.7 million—a really impressive amount. They've "stepped up to the plate" in a very big way and have set a great example for the generosity of the class of 1962. **We thank them so much.**

Exhibit A: The Literary Table

Well, you may not be Stephen King, and we don't promise any book signings. But, if you've been the author of one or more books over the years, you may have a chance to exhibit your work at our 50th Reunion.

Classmate Jeff Blumenthal would like to hear from you. His email address is djb36@cornell.edu. If Jeff gets enough interest, he will be able to set up a book table at our dorm headquarters and give you a chance to show the literary talents that you've exhibited over the years.

Jeff needs to know pretty soon, since our final plans are taking shape. Get in touch with Jeff as soon as possible if you'd like to share your work!



Let's Get Together ...



35th



25th



45th



... Join us at our 50th Reunion in June!

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