



**DECEMBER 2017**

# CCW NEWS

A CORNELL CLUB OF WASHINGTON PUBLICATION

[www.cornellclubdc.org](http://www.cornellclubdc.org)

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## Cornell at the National Museum of African American History & Culture

It was a beautiful fall weekend for the much-anticipated Cornell at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC) with University President Martha E. Pollack. The Cornell Club of Washington (CCW), in cooperation with several other Cornell affiliated organizations, played host to the largest gathering of Cornellians outside of Ithaca this year. In a truly historic weekend, one thousand four hundred attendees flocked to the nation's capital from places far and near for a memorable evening at the



**A beautiful night view of the NMAAHC.**

NMAAHC. The weekend events brought to life the vision of Bob Day '56, who passed away in June 2017 at the age of 83. While Bob was unable to see the fruits of his labor, the realization of his idea strengthened the fabric of the Cornell community and embodied our founder's creed – to establish an institution where any person can find instruction in any study. The museum's focus on the African-American experience set the stage for reflection on our ideals as a society and our ideals as Cornellians.



**Friday night's welcome reception hosted by CCW.**  
Photo credit: Sathi Soma '92, '94

The kick off event began on the evening of Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, with a welcome reception hosted by the CCW at the host hotel for the weekend, the JW Marriott. The event was successful not only in bringing alumni from out of town under one roof, but also in reaching out to alumni living in the area who would like to become more involved. While the NMAAHC welcome reception will be the largest event CCW hosts this year, it also played a role in reinforcing the value of the smaller, more intimate events that CCW hosts year-round.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### Cornell Cares

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
More details to follow

#### Questions?

[programming@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:programming@cornellclubdc.org)

**Continued on page 2**

## Board of Directors 2017-2018

### President

Terry Horner '92 PhD '98

### First Vice-President

Katherine Stifel '87

### Treasurer

Elina Hum '79

### Secretary

Elisabeth Boas '71

### Vice-Presidents, CAAAN

Janet Cornfeld '72 (DC/MD)

Matt Nieman '98 (VA)

### Vice-President, Communications

Liz Herman '01

### Vice-President, Community Service

Laura Gonzales Meyers '04

### Vice-Presidents, Membership

Julia Buffinton '14

Drew Zukosky '13

### Vice-President, Programming

Jim Schoonmaker '74

### Vice-President, Scholarship

Lisa Burns Griffin '87

### Immediate Past President

Grace Jean '00

### Directors (terms to 2018)

Jill Fields '88

Christine Song '94, MBA '05

Katherine Rogers '01

Ali Wright '11, Law '14

Kwame Rodriguez MBA '15

### Directors (terms to 2019)

Toniqua Hay Gr '12

Linda Johnson '60, '63

Steve Piekarec '74

Chuck Schilke Law '88

Mel Zurn '93

### Cornell Club of Washington

2148 O Street NW

Washington, DC 20037

## Cornell at the NMAAHC – continued



Cornell University President Pollack

The next day's festivities began with the Mosaic Luncheon. Cornell Mosaic, in collaboration with the Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) and the College of Engineering, honored Lance Collins, Dean of Engineering, with the Mosaic Medal of Distinction. The Mosaic Medal of Distinction recognizes alumni, faculty, or administrators for their commendable impact or leadership in creating opportunities and access for diverse communities. The luncheon was followed by the main event - an exclusive evening at the museum! After opening remarks from President Martha Pollack and CCW President Terry Horner '92 PhD '98, and full-throated singing of our Alma Mater song led by Terry, we had free range of the museum. Dinner was also included at the Sweet Home Café, which served delicious Southern dishes.

For the many who were visiting the museum for the first time, they realized all too quickly how vast the exhibits were and how much information there was to take in. Those returning to the museum for a second or third time still found plenty of exhibits, if not entire floors, that they were not able to get to before. The museum offered something for everyone, whether their interests lay in the transatlantic slave trade, the civil rights movement, the rise of hip hop, sports, cinematography, or music.



Prof. Robert Harris at the John Lewis exhibit  
Photo credit: Sathi Soma '92, '94



Cornellians enjoying a night at the museum.

A group of a hundred or so alumni were able to attend a chat with Dr. Rhea Combs MPS '94, the curator for the museum, where she discussed her background, her work as a curator, some of her favorite exhibits and artifacts (including a picture of a young Harriet Tubman). Also, talks were held throughout the museum led by Cornell faculty members Kevin Gaines, W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of Africana Studies; Sandra Greene, Stephen '50 and Madeline '60 Anbinder Professor of African History; Robert L. Harris, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Africana Studies and Research Center; Noliwe Rooks, Associate Professor in Africana Studies and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Penny von Eschen, L. Sanford and Jo Mills Reis Professor of Humanities. Alpha Phi Alpha hosted an after party back at the JW Marriott, where people continued to celebrate the night away. Over food, drinks, good music, and dancing, Cornellians reflected on a wonderful evening and said their goodbyes. From alumni who graduated more than 70 years ago to alumni who graduated only seven months ago, the weekend events were attended by many, including faculty, deans, current students, family members, and friends. The museum served as the crucible for us to not only reconnect, but also to engage in a larger dialogue surrounding race, history and politics. While we again head back to our lives, some hundreds of miles away from each other, the weekend revitalized our Cornell spirit and strengthened the common bond that makes us proud Cornellians.

- Ali Wright '11, Law '14



## Cornell at the NMAAHC in Pictures

More pictures from the weekend celebration at the National Museum of African American History & Culture. Enjoy!

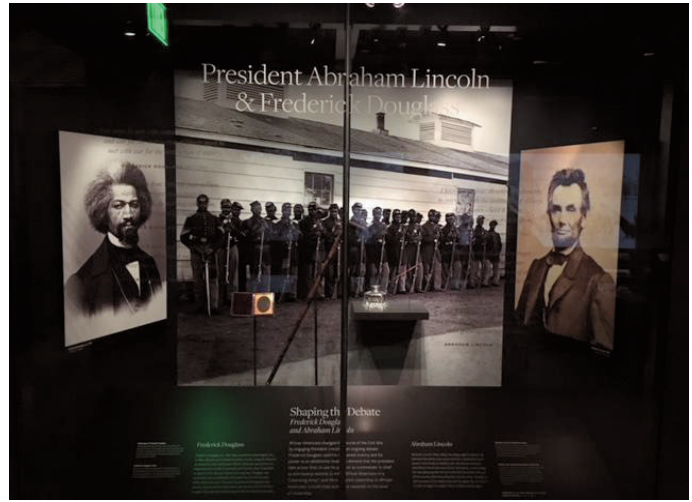


Photo credits: Sathi Soma '92, '94; Christine Song '94, MBA '05; Ali Wright, '11, Law '14.

## Honoring Past Presidents

Benson Simon '59, MBA '62 has Cornell roots that date back to the class of '07 --- 1907, that is --- when his granduncle, J. M. Fried of Vicksburg, Mississippi, received his Cornell degree in mechanical engineering. He had traveled all the way from Vicksburg to Ithaca because Cornell's mechanical engineering curriculum was as close as one could get to electrical engineering in 1907. Benson grew up in northern Manhattan, attended P.S. 98, J.H.S. 52 and the Bronx High School of Science. He graduated at age 16 and entered Cornell's electrical engineering program. Benson transferred to the College of Arts & Sciences, majoring in economics and also earned his MBA in 1962. In his final year of business school, he lived at Sage Hall, which had formerly been Cornell's oldest women's dorm. A new grad student, Mary Ellen Dahlen, also lived there. Both were elected to the student government panel of Sage, became good friends and, in 1965, Benson and Mary Ellen were married in DC. Benson had specialized academically in economics and business management, but President Kennedy's Apollo moon program fascinated him. In the final year of his MBA program, he took the Federal Service Entrance Examination to create the chance of a career in the space program. He was delighted to be one of ten young people selected by NASA headquarters in D.C. for its first formal management development program. Four years later, the U.S. President's Office of Management and Budget recruited Benson away from NASA, to oversee Executive agency budgets and management improvement opportunities. He wrote the paper recommending the legislation that converted the Post Office Department into a self-supporting agency of the U.S. government, and it remained self-supporting until recent legislation altered its financing system.



Benson Simon '59, MBA '62

Living in DC, Benson consulted a phone book to find the CCW number, which was the number of the grocery store run by Esther and Dan Bondareff '37, '35. Both Benson and Mary Ellen became quickly involved with CCW activities and board meetings. Esther asked Benson if he would be willing to serve as CCW's 10th President, to which he agreed. Mary Ellen also served as an officer, as CCW Secretary. When Benson served as President from 1979-81, the University was beginning to directly sponsor events in DC. As CCW President, he worked to coordinate CCW and CU events to avoid conflicts and maximize alumni participation. At the same time, what became the Johnson Graduate School of Management asked Benson to serve as the president for an association of its DC area graduates. But the most significant development for CCW at the time was the University's decision to establish a facility in DC where students from Ithaca could study. Benson and Mary Ellen, Esther and Dan Bondareff, Carol and Howard Epstein, and other local alumni assisted the University to find a location for what is now, the Cornell-in-Washington program. Cornell purchased the current building, and established the program in 1984. It also became the new headquarters of CCW. In June 2017, at Benson's 55th Johnson School reunion, the Simons were excited to watch, via "live-stream" from Florida, Esther Bondareff, now 102 years old, talk about the rewards of attending Cornell. To the delight of the audience, Esther said that Cornell gave her just what she needed: a husband and a career! Benson could not agree more, for Cornell had given him a wife and a career. And like Esther, Benson and Mary Ellen do their best to give back to the Cornell community through their years of devotion to CCW.

- Gladys Stifel '58

### CCW History

With the March 2017 issue of CCW News, we began a series to honor CCW's 32 Past Presidents.

After many years of two separate alumni clubs, one for women and one for men, the two boards approved a merger in December 1965, to create what is now the current CCW. The two presidents at the time, Edwin Miller '35 and Lori Eisenberg '50, completed their terms and Phillip Fleming '52 became the first president of the newly consolidated group for the 1966-67 year.

Visit [www.cornellclubdc.org/history](http://www.cornellclubdc.org/history) for more CCW history.

### Interview a Past President!

Would you like to see CCW honor a Past President? We are always looking for suggestions and interviewers.

Email us at [newsletter@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:newsletter@cornellclubdc.org)



## Past Event Highlights

### Walking the Battlefields: First and Second Manassas

On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, with a starting point in Vienna, VA, our bus carried 35 participants to the First Manassas Battlefield, the first of the Civil War. Joined by Professor David Silbey '90 of the Cornell University Department of History, our history lesson started en route as Professor Silbey noted several important points, including that the soldiers made their own uniforms and that sometimes, the color schemes made it difficult to know who was friendly to which side of the conflict. Once we arrived, we started our hike through the terrain. Bridging over from a limestone edged creek bed and walking between Henry Hill and Matthews Hill, we understood why passing over this land with 'green' soldiers posed an insurmountable challenge.

At that point in time, the Confederate soldiers were experienced in farming and hunting skills, and the Union soldiers were more often from cities without similar knowledge or skill sets. The rolling hills of the landscape and the height of corn growing in July of 1862 gave both the uphill and downhill soldiers a strategic visual advantage. "There were two battles fought on the ground ... Both of them can tell us much about the Civil War in 1861-1862. In the first Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas, as the Confederates referred to it), both the Union and Confederate Armies discovered that they had little idea of how to fight this new war", says Silbey.

The bus tour stopped for lunch at a local brewery where each participant learned about beer production and sampled the product. The Second Battle of Manassas was fought a year later and was covered in the second portion of the bus tour. Professor Silbey stated, "In the second Battle of Bull Run, the Confederate Army showed it had enough of an advantage over the Union that General Robert E. Lee, the army's commander, began to think about taking the fight to the north...we walked the fields over which both battles were fought to figure how both played out on the ground, how the soldiers experienced them, and how the Confederates won them." The history learned was non-partisan and a very thoughtful analytical view of the facts, which was quite salient when standing in the locations and walking portions on one's own. It is interesting to note that without preservation of Battlefield lands such as these in Manassas, the parklike historic and didactic memorial of these lands would be developed and lost to the area for public use as National Park lands.

Professor Silbey, now teaching at Cornell in Washington, is a Cornellian and military historian, focusing on modern warfare. His books include: *The British Working Class and Enthusiasm for War, 1914-1916* Taylor & Francis, 2005; *A War of Empire and Frontier: The Philippine-American War, 1899-1902*, Hill & Wang, Spring 2007; and *The Boxer Rebellion and the Great Game in China, 1900*, Hill & Wang, March 2012. He received his BA from Cornell and his MA and Ph.D. from Duke University.

- Katherine Stifel '87



Cornell and Columbia University alumni thanked our guide, Professor David Silbey, Cornell in Washington, (horizontal in the foreground & Cornellian himself), after leading us on an enthusiastic and thought-provoking tour. We paused, as the sun set over the Second Battlefield of Manassas, before heading back to DC.

## Events at a Glance

### Young Alumni Holiday Party



Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm to 10 pm

#### Questions?

Julia Buffinton

[jab684@cornell.edu](mailto:jab684@cornell.edu)

### DECEMBER

- 01 .....Ivy Singles Social Club Annual Holiday Party  
Questions: Charlotte Perry at [CharMPerry@gmail.com](mailto:CharMPerry@gmail.com)
- 02 .....Tour of Anderson House (The Society of the Cincinnati)  
Questions: [programming@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:programming@cornellclubdc.org)
- 04 .....CCW Book Club  
Questions: Liz Pomper at [ehp3@cornell.edu](mailto:ehp3@cornell.edu)
- 09 .....US Capitol Tour – Ivy Singles  
Questions: Sally Elsadek at [selsadek@gmail.com](mailto:selsadek@gmail.com)
- 09 .....Young Alumni Holiday Party  
Questions: Julia Buffinton at [jab684@cornell.edu](mailto:jab684@cornell.edu)
- 12 .....CCW Monthly Board Meeting  
Questions: Terry Horner at [president@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:president@cornellclubdc.org)
- 14 .....Boomers to Busters 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Happy Hannzamas Holiday Event  
Questions: Margot Ross at [margot.j.ross@gmail.com](mailto:margot.j.ross@gmail.com)
- 21 .....December Third Thursdays  
Questions: [kgstifel@earthlink.net](mailto:kgstifel@earthlink.net)

### JANUARY

- 09 .....CCW Monthly Board Meeting  
Questions: Terry Horner at [president@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:president@cornellclubdc.org)
- 18 .....January Third Thursdays  
Questions: [kgstifel@earthlink.net](mailto:kgstifel@earthlink.net)

Register for events at <http://www.cornellclubdc.org/events>

## Volunteer Corner

### Communications

Are you a fan of Instagram and Facebook? Help CCW with our communications efforts including our social media and email updates. Please contact [communications@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:communications@cornellclubdc.org).

### Community Service

We are always looking for community service ideas and volunteers! To learn more, contact Laura Gonzales at [communityservice@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:communityservice@cornellclubdc.org).

### Newsletter

Do you like to write? Do you like to edit? Do you want to interview a Past President? Then please join the communications team! We are always looking for writers, editors, interviewers, content and new ideas. To learn more, contact Christine Song at [newsletter@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:newsletter@cornellclubdc.org).

### Programming

The CCW Programming Committee welcomes suggestions for programs and volunteers to help with them! Please contact [programming@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:programming@cornellclubdc.org).

### Technology

Looking for people with website experience to help in the redesign of the CCW website. Contact Terry Horner at [president@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:president@cornellclubdc.org).



## Club Announcements

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### Tour of Anderson House (The Society of the Cincinnati)

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 a.m. to noon  
2118 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC

Join us for a Tour of Anderson House at The Society of the Cincinnati. An optional lunch will follow. Anderson House is a Gilded Age mansion built in Washington in the early 20th century that now houses the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Revolutionary War. Our tour guide will be CCW Member Dan Sherman (Cornell MS, PhD Labor Economics).

**Cost:** Members \$10, Non-Members \$15

**Transportation:** Dupont Circle Metro (Red Line)

**Questions:** [programming@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:programming@cornellclubdc.org)

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### Young Alumni Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Town Tavern in Adams Morgan  
2323 18<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, DC

Join fellow young alumni (Class of 2008 through 2017) for our annual holiday party. Kick off the holiday season with fabulous food, drinks, and music! Enjoy the open bar (beer, wine, and liquor) from 7-10 pm and hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening. Extended drink specials with \$4 domestic bottles and \$6 rail drink specials will continue until midnight. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for a short registration shift. We'd love your help, and it's a great way to meet everyone coming in! Cocktail or holiday attire is encouraged.

**Cost:** Before 12/9: Members \$45, Non-Members \$50, at the door \$60 (cash only)

**Transportation:** Woodley Park (Red line) or Columbia Heights/U St (Green line)

**Questions:** Julia Buffinton [jab684@cornell.edu](mailto:jab684@cornell.edu), Michelle Yanda [mry9@cornell.edu](mailto:mry9@cornell.edu) or Drew Zukosky [ajz37@cornell.edu](mailto:ajz37@cornell.edu)

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### CCW Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Cornell Center  
1341 22<sup>nd</sup> St., NW, Washington DC

Monthly Cornell Club of Washington board meeting. Open to all Club members and alumni.

**Cost:** Free, light dinner provided

**Transportation:** Dupont Circle Metro (Red Line)

**Questions:** Terry Horner at [president@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:president@cornellclubdc.org)

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### December Third Thursdays

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Hank's Oyster Bar Dupont  
1624 Q St., NW, Washington, DC

Following in the Spirit of Zinck's Night, join fellow Cornellians, who are in DC for a day or a lifetime, at a social event on the Third Thursday of each month. Get to know each other and unwind! Owner/Chef Jamie Leeds is a local DC community builder and Proprietor of Hank's Oyster Bar, named after her father Hank, opened in 2005.

**Cost:** Cash bar

**Transportation:** Dupont Circle Metro (Red Line)

**Questions:** Katherine Stifel at [kgstifel@earthlink.net](mailto:kgstifel@earthlink.net)

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***Do you have ideas for the CCW Newsletter? We would love to hear from you!***

***Email us at: [newsletter@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:newsletter@cornellclubdc.org)***

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## CCW News

Cornell Club of Washington  
2148 O Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
[www.cornellclubdc.org](http://www.cornellclubdc.org)  
[newsletter@cornellclubdc.org](mailto:newsletter@cornellclubdc.org)

**December 2017**

Moved? New email? Update your record at [www.cornellclubdc.org](http://www.cornellclubdc.org)

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### Welcome New CCW Members

Joanna Ain '05	Maddy Kadish '96	Jill Nunes '93
Whitney Cushing '09	Jeffrey Levine '78	Suzannah Park '97
Amy Garber '08	Yezy Lim '17	David Poland '89
Haejin Hwang '15	Marc Masson '17	
Yining Jia '17	Katherine Minnes '16	