



CCW News

A Cornell Club of Washington Publication
Editor-in-Chief: Matthew S. Lynch '14

February 2019

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Interview with Michelle Vaeth

Just before hosting Cornell's new associate vice president for alumni affairs at CCW's 2018 Holiday Party, I sat down with Michelle Vaeth '98 to discuss her return to the Hill. Throughout our chat, we discovered many shared experiences including our love for Cornell's music programs, the pumpkin hijinks atop McGraw Tower, and Cornell's regional alumni clubs. We started by chatting about her first six months on the job.



Michelle Vaeth '98, associate vice president for alumni affairs

"It's such an honor to be working for Cornell, especially in this position in Alumni Affairs." On her first day in the job, June 18, 2018, she literally had chills as she drove through campus on her way to the Alumni Affairs office at Seneca Place in downtown Ithaca. "What a dream come true to serve Cornell and our incredible alumni. It's especially sweet to be here given that my sister, Dr. Kathleen Vaeth '94, is also working for Cornell as a senior lecturer in Engineering! My husband and I just closed on a home in Fall Creek, and we look forward to exploring all that Ithaca has to offer!"

We also talked about fond memories of our respective musical organizations—the Cornell University Glee Club and the Big Red Band—because so many students and alumni come together at Cornell over music. Michelle was a flute player in the Big Red Band, and one of her favorite memories is marching in the Sy Katz '31 parade in the Fall of 1994. "I just marched again in the 2018 parade—what a big event this has now become!"

Aside from the many activities she participated in, her favorite memories are actually quite simple—loud belly laughs with her roommate of four years, Susan (Rademacher) Nilsen '98, being at the top of the list. "A favorite extended memory was when the pumpkin made its mysterious appearance on top of McGraw Tower during the Fall of my senior year—and stayed up there for months!" There was such a sense of curiosity about how the pumpkin got up there. According to Michelle, "this added a level of whimsy and levity to campus that makes me smile to this day."

We wrapped up our chat with a topic near and dear to us both—the critical importance of Cornell's regional clubs for alumni engagement. Michelle "grew up" as a Cornell volunteer through a regional club, and she ultimately served as president of the Cornell Club of Southwestern Ohio.

We both have experienced firsthand the role the clubs play in bringing Cornell closer to our alumni and meeting them where they are in their lives now. "I think the clubs will play a critical role in enabling us to continue to do this, and to further bring programming and experiences to our alumni that resonate—including lifelong learning, student stories, young alumni engagement, and celebrating Cornell's diversity and traditions." CCW looks forward to Michelle's next visit to our vibrant club!

By Terry Horner '92 PhD '98

Mark Your Calendar

Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners

Thursday, February 21st
Ben's Chili Bowl (U St.)



Honoring Past CCW Presidents:

Lois Berkowitz '59

"Cornell has played a very important part in my life," said Lois Berkowitz '59, who was President of CCW from 1992 to 1994. "I met my late husband Ed at Cornell, we moved to Washington because of Cornell, we found our house through Cornell friends, and we were both great supporters of CCW."

Lois, a freshman, and Ed, a senior, met shortly after she arrived on campus. They dated for a while but lost touch once Ed began law school. Lois became an English major, joined Sigma Delta Tau sorority, served as a V-P (dorm counselor) at Risley Hall, and volunteered with Cornell United Religious Work (CURW). After graduating, Lois joined an advertising agency in New York City.

After about a year, she re-met Ed (again through a Cornell connection). They married in 1961 and moved to his hometown in New Jersey, where she became a copywriter at WCTC, the local radio station.

A lifelong Manhattanite, Lois didn't enjoy small town life. At the suggestion of her Cornell roommate, they moved to Washington in 1963. While working here at WGMS radio, Lois joined the Cornell Women's Club while Ed joined the all-male Cornell Club of Washington.

Both became active in club activities, served as Board members, and ultimately became CCW Presidents after the clubs merged in 1965. They attended the opening of the Cornell Center, worked on numerous events, and made many lifelong friends through the club.



Lois Berkowitz '59

Lois's favorite club activity during the time of her tenure was the Washington Priority, which she helped organize in 1986. This was a career fair and mentoring program set up by CCW in conjunction with the Cornell Career Center in Ithaca.

Seniors who wanted to work in Washington after graduation were invited to DC during spring break. After applying through the Career Center, students were assigned a mentor in their chosen career area who met with them to offer guidance and support.

The club also held several workshops for the students, during which alumni panelists discussed living in DC and finding typical Washington jobs. Then everyone socialized. This successful event ran for almost ten years. In 1993, during Lois's presidency, record numbers participated: 120 students and 125 mentors. It was a wonderful way for students to become aware of CCW. It was also a great way for alumni of all ages to meet and mingle.

In addition to sponsoring the Washington Priority, the club was beginning to focus on ways to enhance women's roles in the work place. An Alumnae-Senior Women's dinner was held each year, and during Lois's tenure, the club sponsored an exciting panel discussion with Cornell women who had pioneered in their fields, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

During the late 1960's and 1970's Lois worked from home as a freelance writer/editor, getting articles into *The Washington Post*, *The Washingtonian*, and other publications and creating written materials such as newsletters and brochures.

In the 1980's she narrowed her focus to education issues, more specifically parent and community involvement, working full time for the DC Public Schools and for nonprofit organizations that worked with parents and community volunteers.

Since retiring in 2007, Lois has pursued her interests in archaeology, volunteer work, travel and education. She also maintained her connections with Cornell over the years, attending CCW events and alumni reunions, enjoying Cornell Outdoor Education trips, and participating in a women's book group of Cornell alums. She is a life member of CCW, life member of the Cornell University Council, and a Bondareff Award winner.

Board of Directors

President

Terry Horner '92 PhD '98

First Vice-President

Katherine Stifel '87

Treasurer

Elina Hum '79

Secretary

Elisabeth Boas '71

Vice-Presidents, CAAAN

Janine Lossing '89 (DC/MD)

Matt Nieman '98 (VA)

Vice-President, Communications

Liz Herman '01

Vice-President, Community Service

Laura Gonzales Meyers '04

Vice-President, Membership

Ali Wright '11 JD '14

Vice-President, Programming

Jim Schoonmaker '74

Vice-President, Scholarship

Alex Payne '09

Immediate Past President

Grace Jean '00

Directors (through June 2019)

Alejandro Alemán '89

Janet Cornfeld '72

Toniqua Hay MPA '12

Linda Jarschauer Johnson '60 MS '63

Justin Kondrat '14

Matthew Lynch '14

Steve Piekarec '74

Filiz Serbes JD '88

Chuck Schilke JD '88

Mel Zurn '93

Directors (through June 2020)

Joanna Ain '05

Kwame Campos Rodriguez MBA '15

Lisa Griffin '87

Christine Song '94 MBA '05

Dan Murphy '96

CAAAN Announcements

CCW Thanks Janet Cornfeld '72 for Longtime Service to Cornell

Janet Lynn Cornfeld '72 recently stepped down as the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN) General Chair for DC/ Suburban Maryland. Each year, more than 12,000 alumni worldwide volunteer with CAAAN, meeting with thousands of Cornell applicants to help personalize the admissions process and assist the University with recruitment and enrollment. Janet began her involvement with CAAAN 45 years ago as a Committee member and subsequently assumed the role of Committee Chair and then General Chair, leadership positions she held for more than two decades. She also has served as CCW Vice President for CAAAN for many years, and she will continue as a CCW Director during the coming year.



Janet Cornfeld '72 (front center) with CAAAN Committee Chairs Susan Ebner '77 JD '80 (Potomac/Rockville), Janine Lossing '89 (Bethesda/Chevy Chase), Lisa Griffin '87 (Silver Spring/Gaithersburg), Robert Scarlett '13 (Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties), and Judy Kopff '68 (DC) (missing is Scott Kauff '93, co-chair Potomac/Rockville)

In 2010, CCW presented Janet with the Bondareff Award in honor of her long and distinguished service to CCW, to the DC metropolitan area CAAAN program, and to the University, where she served multiple terms as a member of the Cornell University Council. Janet's successor is Janine Peyser Lossing '89, who has been the CAAAN Committee Chair for Bethesda/Chevy Chase for several years.

We thank Janet for her unwavering dedication to Cornell, and we welcome Janine to her new position!

Judy Kopff '68 Receives CAAAN Award

In other CAAAN news, in September, Judy Gleklen Kopff '68 received Cornell's 2018 CAAAN Chair of the Year award, selected from a field of dozens of nominations. Judy is the long-time CAAAN Committee Chair for Washington, DC. For more than 40 years, Judy and her husband, Gary Kopff MPA '71, have hosted CCW's annual "Frosh Send-off Supper" at their home in Cleveland Park. Judy also is a Bondareff Award recipient, honored by CCW in 2005.

Congratulations, Judy!

By Lisa Burns Griffin '87

Past Event Highlights

Two legs, good...four legs, also good, at the Cornell Cares Pet Rescue



Richard Hill, Susan Hill '82, Regina Martinez, Virginia Martinez '20, Tina Atwell '00, Katherine Stifel '87, Deborah Thompson '94, Simon Ringle, Russell Chomiak '06, Barb Fallon '11 and Donna DeSilva '82

On January 5th, CCW community service volunteers offered early morning relief to dogs at the Eden Center at Seven Corners in Falls Church, VA. They walked dogs, cleaned crates, and bathed younger pups to ready them for an afternoon adoption event in Rockville. It was remarkable how much local neighbors and volunteers could help with the rescue of countless creatures simply by helping this facility, its inhabitants, and future pet parents. The [Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation](http://www.lostdogandcatrescue.org) (LDCRF), like CCW, is a 501c3 and was incredibly grateful for the assistance of our helpers. Time volunteered to the rescue, whether little or continual, all adds up to success.

By Katherine Stifel '87

Glee Club Celebrated 150 Years of Cornell Music Making in January

On Friday, January 11th, the young men of the Glee Club were welcomed to Washington, DC by local alumni sponsors at a reception hosted by Tony Brown '90 in the private dining room at Macon Bistro, his lovely restaurant on Connecticut Avenue. After spending a night at the Omni Shoreham hotel, the Glee Club performed on Saturday evening at The Music Center at Strathmore Hall in Bethesda, Maryland under the direction of Robert Isaacs, Cornell's director of choral activities. It was a wintry DC night, but more than 600 people showed up to cheer the Glee Club—proving that all in attendance had survived an Ithaca winter or four! The Glee Club performed such classics as Chesnokov's Spasēniye sodēlal and the spirituals Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel and Got a Mind to Do Right before nearly a hundred Glee Club alumni joined on stage to sing Franz Biebl's Ave Maria and some classic Cornell Songs. The concert concluded with women alumni of the Cornell Chorus joining for the Evening Song and Alma Mater. The celebration continued in the atrium of Strathmore for a champagne and dessert reception that I had the honor of chairing. As Glee Club President during the January 1991 East Coast tour, I fondly remember the warm welcome from Washington-area Cornellians when we sang at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall, and it was an honor to help extending that warmth to the current members of the Glee Club during their Sesquicentennial Tour. Our thanks extend to the chairmen of the concert—Gil Keteltas '86, Bryce Hall '99, and Dileep Srihari '00—and the many other sponsors who underwrote the concert and hosted the young men on Saturday night!

Terry Horner '92 PhD '98



Glee Club in Concert at Strathmore Hall, 1/12/19



Members of the 2018-19 Cornell University Glee Club sing at reception hosted by Tony Brown '90 at Macon Bistro.

Third Thursday International Washington DC Dinner Series



Left to right:
Alessandro Macri Law '02, Shoon Chung '09, Subasish Bhowmik '13, Sarah Kim '13, Abby Lin '08, Katherine Stifel '87 and Kevin Mu DVM '18

In January, our Washington DC International Small Dinners series selection was Lebanese Taverna (DC). Faire included Lebanese wines, baba ganoush, lamb fattēh with yogurt and pomegranate, as well as other succulent dishes. Servings of goat, venison, peppers, and cabbage reminded us of foods we enjoyed when we were growing up.

We compared hometowns, why we chose Cornell, adventures in Ithaca, and career trajectories. A desire to meet Cornellians of all ages through local alumni Clubs stood out. We spanned 31 years including a Cornell couple, at least two undergraduate Colleges, two graduate Schools, Cornell in Rome and CIW.

Join us in February!

By Katherine Stifel '87

Events at a Glance

Cornell Adult University Discount Through 4/1/19

This spring, Cornell Adult University (CAU) will give a \$250 registration discount to new-to-CAU adults who, when signing up for a Summer 2019 class, indicate that they were referred to CAU by me, Elisabeth Boas, a "CAU frequent flyer."

This summer, I will be on campus all four weeks, living in the dorm, taking advantage of as many campus and local facilities as I can-- Hangar Theatre, gorge walks, library and museum exhibits, vet school visits, Dairy Bar, Cayuga Wine Trail, and perhaps a sunset drive toward Seneca Lake 's restaurants, and, and, and, and.....

Online registration for CAU Summer 2019 classes has begun, and you may explore the online catalog [here](#).

When YOU register online, place Elisabeth K Boas in the "How did you hear?" field where prompted. (For added credibility, twice remember a pesky S where you might put a Z.)

To qualify for the \$250 per adult discount, I must tell you...
...YOU must be new to CAU (not have been a summer-or off-campus participant)
...YOU must register for the summer week before April 1, 2019

Questions?

Contact Elisabeth at ekb7@cornell.edu

February

- 2...[CAAA 2019 NYC Pan-Asian Banquet](#)
Questions: diversity-aad@cornell.edu
- 8-10...[CALC 2019](#)
Questions: diversity-aad@cornell.edu
- 12...CCW Monthly Programming Meeting
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 12...CCW Monthly Board Meeting
Questions: programming@cornellclubdc.org
- 21...[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinner Series](#)
Questions: Toniqua Hay MPA '12 at tbh44@cornell.edu
- 23...[Round-Robin Mixed Doubles Tennis Party](#)
Questions: Kuni Matsuda at kmatsuda@Konterra.com
- 25...[7th Ivy / Seven Sisters Chess Social](#)
Questions: Kuni Matsuda KMatsuda@Konterra.com &
Bob Kolodney bobkoLive@gmail.com

March

- 3...[CCW Song Tradition 2019](#)
Questions: Katherine Stifel Arts '87 at kgs6@cornell.edu
- 12...CCW Monthly Board Meeting
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 12...CCW Monthly Programming Meeting
Questions: programming@cornellclubdc.org
- 16...[Ivy Singles Potomac Overlook Nature Hike](#)
Questions: Bruce McBarnette at brucemcbarnette@gmail.com
- 17...[Yoga Class with Julia Hellmich '11](#)
Questions: Alex Payne '09 at apayne331@gmail.com
- 21...[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinner Series](#)
Questions: Laura Meyers '04 at Lmg38@cornell.edu

Volunteer Corner

Communications

Are you a fan of Instagram and Facebook? Help CCW with our communications efforts including our social media and email updates. Contact Liz Herman at communications@cornellclubdc.org

Community Service

We are always looking for community service ideas and volunteers!

To learn more, contact Laura Gonzales Meyers at communityservice@cornellclubdc.org

Finance Committee

Do you have a background in accounting or tax law? Or want to become more familiar with these areas and how they work in the non-profit context? Then please consider joining us!

Contact Elina Hum at treasurer@cornellclubdc.org

Programming

The CCW Programming Committee welcomes suggestions for programs and volunteers to help with them! Contact Jim Schoonmaker at 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

Nominations

Interested in serving on the 2018-19 CCW Board of Directors? Consider being nominated to serve as a director. Contact Eliot Greenwald at nominations@cornellclubdc.org

Upcoming Events

Cornell Asian Alumni Association 2019 (CAAA) NYC Pan-Asian Banquet

Saturday, February 2nd at 6:00 pm, Golden Unicorn, NY, NY

Join fellow Cornellians, friends, and family to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the accomplishments of honoree, Vikram H. Dewan '76, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Zoo. This event includes an authentic eleven-course Chinese banquet, open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and cultural performances. A portion of the ticket price goes toward funding the CAAA undergraduate scholarship program.

Contact: diversity-aad@cornell.edu.

Cornell Alumni Leadership Conference (CALC) 2019

Friday, February 8th - Sunday, February 10th, Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA

CALC is a unique opportunity for alumni to participate in leadership training sessions, share best practices drawn from your own volunteer experiences, hear updates from key administrators and faculty presenters, network with other Cornellians, and learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities available both near and far. This year all of this happens and MORE!

Can't make it to Boston? Attend [online](#)

Contact: Alumni Affairs at alumniaffairs@cornell.edu or 607-254-7150

Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners

Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 pm, Ben's Chili Bowl, Washington, DC

Join fellow Cornellians and friends for a casual meal at Ben's Chili Bowl in the Shaw neighborhood of northwest D.C. It is known locally for its chili dogs, half-smokes, and milkshakes, and has been an integral part of the neighborhood's history since its founding in 1958.

Contact: Toniqua Hay MPA '12 at tbh44@cornell.edu

Winter Indoor Round-Robin Mixed Doubles Tennis Party

Saturday, February 23rd at 6:50 pm, YMCA Arlington Tennis & Squash Center, Arlington, VA

We invite you to join us for one of the most popular IVY / Seven Sisters alumni and their guests tennis party for players of all levels and ages over 18*. It is an enjoyable way to socializing and networking tennis event. You can come and leave at any sessions (40 minutes each).

Contact: Kuni Matsuda at KMatsuda@Konterra.com

Ivy/Seven Sisters Chess Social

Monday, February 25th at 6:45 pm, Sandbox DC, Washington DC

We invite you to "Chess Social", all alumni and their guests of Ivy / Seven Sisters, for players of all levels and ages. This is an enjoyable occasion to socialize, and network with IVY / Seven Sisters alumni and their guests, and to take part in casual games. You can come and leave at any anytime.

Contact: Kuni Matsuda at KMatsuda@Konterra.com or Bob Kolodney at bobkoLive@gmail.com

CCW News

Cornell Club of Washington
2148 O Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
www.cornellclubdc.org
newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

February 2019

Moved? New email? Update your member profile at www.cornellclubdc.org

Do you have ideas for *CCW News*? Or corrections? Email us at: newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

Event Venues and Speakers Needed

Do you have a meeting space that CCW could use for lectures or receptions?

Do you know a local Cornellian who would be a great speaker?

Contact Jim Schoonmaker at programming@cornellclubdc.org

CCW News

Do you know a local Cornellian who should be featured in a future newsletter?

Contact Matthew S. Lynch at newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

New CCW Members December 23, 2018 – January 25, 2019

Yoomie Ahn '94
Justin Choi '17 ENG '18
Cailan Culigan Putko '08
Richard Dominguez
Alicia Flanagan GRAD '18
Danielle Foster '13
Deborah Greenside '80

Chloe Gulati '17
Emmanuel Hales JD '18
Lili Herrera GRAD '04
Marian Katz '72
Abby Lin '08
Alice Mascette '76
Catherine Oertel GRAD '05

Mar k Oh '93
Luke Opyd '18
Robert Putko '08
Judy Racoosin '87
Jessica Urbelis '06
Chialing Yang
Tessa Yu '18