

February 2022
Campus Club Newsletter
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/campusclub/>

Mid-year Report from our President

Mid-winter greetings to everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and enjoying the break from the wintery, frigid weather we have been having the last few weeks. Just when we thought that things were going to ease up with Covid restrictions, the Omicron variant arrived and threw us all into turmoil again at the end of last year. Well it seems like we may be able to see each other's faces at grocery stores and other public places very soon (the Governor lifted the indoor mask mandate as of Feb. 10th, but Tompkins county has not). What a liberating experience that would be after being masked for almost two years! I was beginning to think that masks would be part of our dress code for the next year or so.

The past two years have been very challenging for all of us, personally, professionally, and socially and for those with small children it has been especially hard, keeping them safe from Covid at the same time trying to give them a somewhat normal childhood experience. Through the pandemic we have all become adept at utilizing the internet, from booking vaccination appointments to grocery shopping and a whole new vocabulary has emerged; telemedicine, contactless delivery, curbside pick-up and services like Instacart have literally changed the way we shop. Keeping Campus Club up and running during these tough times has also been a challenge, but thanks to the Activity Leaders who have used their resources and creativity to keep their groups going, we have had a very active fall/winter season. Zoom has been a saving grace for many groups, keeping members connected even when they are traveling in different time zones or even on the road! I am so happy that we have been able to provide visual communication with our

members through our activities and programs, so that those who have been homebound can stay connected. We currently have 288 members who have either newly joined or renewed their membership and we welcomed 30 new members, who found us through our website and through word-of-mouth. Last year we changed our membership period to cover the whole year, from September 1 through August 31, so that members will be covered by our policies through the summer.

We were very fortunate that in September, Campus Club was able to have an in-person Open House for our Activities sign-up and registration at Stewart Park. We were blessed with good weather and a great turnout, and learned that the large pavilion at Stewart Park was a great venue for our sign-up event (except for the huge steps at the front entrance!), and the sandwiches and coffee were not missed by many.

As the state-wide Covid policies keep on changing, we are planning on our first in-person program on Saturday, February 26th at 7pm at Lifelong, in downtown Ithaca. The program is titled: The Changing Paths of American Music Making and will be given by Dr. Deborah Justice, Managing Director of the Cornell Concert Series. We hope many of you will join us for this special program. All details for this event, including Covid protocols, will be announced in the CCC ListServ email, so please be on the lookout. As for the coming months, we still have two more guest programs in March and April and hope that this year we will finally be able to host a social event before the program year ends in May.

We hope that you will continue to support the Campus Club at Cornell and invite your friends to join as well. Members are what keeps this organization alive and running. Sadly, we lost two longtime members this past fall, [Christina Wu](#) and [Kathryn Torgeson](#) (you can read their obituaries when you click their names).

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with our hardworking Activity Group Leaders and our dedicated Board members, who have stepped up to keep Campus Club running during these challenging times!

Wishing everyone a great 2022!
Stay healthy and safe,

Misao Johnson
CCC Board President 21-22

P.S.: If you want to start a group activity, please let us know and we'll facilitate it.

**Board Members at work at the Fall Open House
Sept. 9, 2021 at Stewart Park**



L to R: Misao, Ellen, Liz, Zoe and Eliza (missing Kyra from photos)



L to R: Ornit, Amy and Sharon



Karen and Zoe

Activity Group Updates

Bird Study

Tuesdays 8:45 AM Fall and Spring

Start up again at the end of March or Beginning of April 2022

Contact Carol Cedarholm ccedarho@gmail.com
Suzanne Aigen suzanne.aigen@gmail.com

This past Fall 2021 the CCC Bird Study Group met nine times, taking in-person walks at places where we could remain physically distanced and still see lots of birds. Although forced to cancel three walks due to rain, we were able to extend our season to just before Thanksgiving. Thirty one group members participated in at least one walk. COVID-safe protocols were very much on our minds and integrated into our practice.

During the winter, we alerted members to interesting online presentations by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cayuga Bird Club and others. We plan to resume our weekly walks on Tuesday mornings beginning in late March or early April, and continue through early June. Destinations, in or near Ithaca, with adequate parking space for all our cars (since again we won't be carpooling), will include Stewart Park, Salt Point, and Lime Hollow, among others. We may take an extended trip to Montezuma depending on the Covid situation. We are a fun loving and bird loving group. **JOIN US!!!**



Book Group I

3rd Monday, 2 PM via ZOOM

Contact Anne Hobbs withane66@gmail.com
Marcia Jacobson marcia.jacobson@gmail.com

The Monday afternoon book group has continued meeting through the pandemic. We are meeting on ZOOM and have been surprised and pleased with how well this is working. We have enjoyed seeing each other again, even in this limited way. We recently read a timely and fascinating (if a bit heavy on the science) book by Walter Isaacson called The Code Breaker. It's the story of Jennifer Doudna, who developed a tool to edit DNA. Our February book is, Caste, by Isabel Wilkerson, also an incredibly timely book that goes beyond race to explain disparities we live with in the US.

Book Group II

2nd Thursday at 1:30 PM via ZOOM

Contact Dodie Kunz dodiekunz3@gmail.com

We have continued to meet via Zoom, but still enjoy the chatting with very interesting ladies. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. Our February choice is Anxious People by Fredrik Backman. In March we will be reading Women Rowing North by Nancy Pipher. We have two more meetings, the last being May.

Book Group III

3rd Monday 8 PM via ZOOM

Contact Laura Andolina andolina@aol.com

Monday evening Book Group is humming along with an interesting book every month to discuss! We just discussed Matt Haig's new book, The Midnight Library, and most everyone really liked it! We are meeting via ZOOM, with anywhere from 12 to 18 members logged on at any given point. We anticipate staying with ZOOM this year through June. Still, we have great discussions and some great books yet to come, including The Only Woman in the Room, by Marie Benedict, which is a fascinating look at the early life of Hedy Lamar, the actress, who was born and raised in Austria as well as The Plot, Klara and the Sun, and Hamnet later in the spring! Join us!

Bridge (Intermediate)

Wednesdays 9:30 to Noon

Contact Patricia Holmes pholmes2@twcny.rr.com
Erna Westwig rwestwig@stny.rr.com

The Bridge Group was going strong until the first week of December, when Covid cases were increasing at such a rate that we decided we should take a break from face to face. I am hopeful that by early February, things will have slowed down some and we can meet again in person. Full vaccinations, plus boosters are expected, and of course, masks. Eager to get back to the table!

CCC Road Cyclists

Thursdays at 1 PM Fall/Spring and Summer at 9 AM

Contact Kris Hodges minnswede@gmail.com
Marcie Robinson mrobi1586@gmail.com

Made it through another road biking season during the pandemic with an enthusiastic group; touring Lansing, T-burg, Dryden and of course Ithaca. While winter has just gotten started, we look forward to another great spring, summer and fall on our lovely roads. Please contact us if you'd like to be a part of it.



CCC Waterfront Trail Cyclists

Thursdays at 1 PM Fall/Spring and Summer at 9 AM

Contact Jan McCarrick janithaca@gmail.com
 Kathy Hopkins kathy1122@gmail.com
 Ruth Hopkins rah27@cornell.edu

We were fortunate that vaccines became available just before the biking season started and we chose to require our members to be fully vaccinated to join us on Thursday bike rides. The weather was also warm and we were able to start the season early in March. On June 24 we biked through Stewart Park and got to see the storm destruction up close. What a mess!



September is beautiful, though this year we did not get much foliage. On our ride, we discovered the new bicycle rest area and repair station at the intersection of the WFT and Black Diamond Trail.

Conversational Spanish

Mondays at 3:30 - 5 PM via ZOOM and outdoors, weather permitting

Contact Jane Leff janeleff134@gmail.com
 Kris Hodges minnswede@gmail.com

After meeting at various lovely outdoor locations around Ithaca, the weather (and COVID) forced the Conversational Spanish group onto Zoom, where we have been meeting weekly. Please consider joining us for informal discussions in Spanish.



Conversational Spanish
(L to R) Top Row: Kris, Jane and Rachel - Bottom Row: Nancy

Games

Tuesdays at 10 AM

Contact Raf Chew rafchew@yahoo.com

The Games group has been meeting in person on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday during the warmer months, and via ZOOM on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. With the rising number of

Omicron cases **Games is currently meeting every Tuesday on ZOOM from 10 to noon.**

As much fun as it is to play games in person, we have enjoyed playing the games listed here online in conjunction with ZOOM

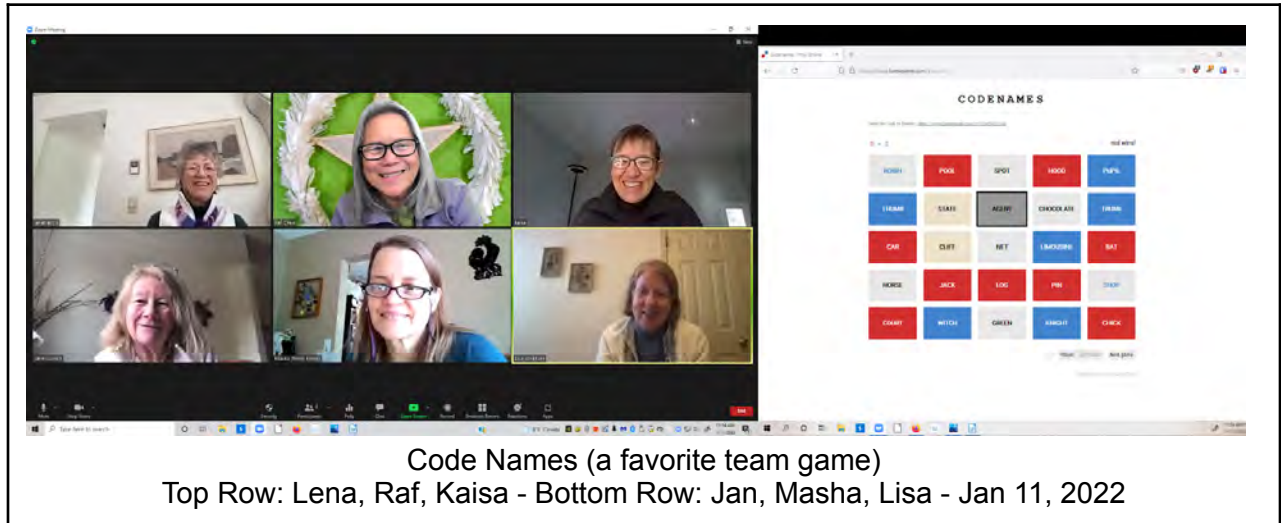
- Azul (a tiling game - <https://azee.mattle.online/lobby/rooms>)
- Card games (like Euchre, Hearts, Pinochle, Spades, etc. - <https://www.trickstercards.com/>) that are much easier to play online. The computer keeps track of everything: dealing, scoring, and not allowing illegal moves.
- Drawing games (<https://skribbl.io/> and <https://drawbattle.io/>)
- Jigsaw puzzles for multiple players (<https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/>)
- Rummikub (<https://www.gamepix.com/play/rummikub>)
- Word games (<https://oneword.games/>)

There are more games we have tried but not listed here and we keep finding new ones to try.

Send Raf an email <mailto:rafchew@yahoo.com> if you would like to be added to the list.



Marianne, Leslie, Jan, Masha and Raf (taking the photo) playing Mexican Train, Jun 22, 2021



Garden Group

Usually 4th Friday at 2 PM via ZOOM

Contact **Ellen Lane** ellenlizlane@yahoo.com
 Joan Lawrence jlawrence30@twcny.rr.com

The Garden Group enjoyed the warm summer and fall months meeting outside and in our members' gardens in 2021. We, enjoyed a celebratory reunion in June under Marge's ancient white oak, a festive lakeside garden tour and potluck at Linda's back deck (we even ate s'mores!), two different lotus pond visits in August and September at Dawn and Nancy's, and a garden tour/advisory session at new member Iris's lovely converted inn, and a peek down the street to ACNARGS member Marlene Kobre's garden extraordinaire. Once the weather turned cold, and the pandemic still proved too concerning, we joined Cornell Botanic Garden for our November meeting on their Sustainable Forest Initiative, and in December to learn about Plants of the Winter Solstice.

We will start the 2022 winter and spring with a variety of gardening topics and tours via Zoom and hope to gather once again for more fun area garden tours, once the warm weather allows.



At Marge's backyard under her ancient oak tree.



In front of Linda's house by the lake.



Dawn's lotus pond in bloom



Dawn's backyard pond

Gourmet Diners'

Contact **Nora Shang** nshang3@gmail.com
 Alice Kops portia95@amklegal.com

Due to COVID, the Gourmet Diners' group has been on hiatus since January 2020. We resumed activities last fall and received strong interest at the CC Fall Open House sign-up. We continue to use the 2019-2020 cookbook since we did not complete the year. We gained many new members this year, which is bringing new energy and vitality to the group. We've been able to hold a monthly event continuously since September.

Alice Kops hosted our kick-off event, Tapas and Other Hand-held Food, on her beautiful deck on September 18th. Twenty people were in attendance and enjoyed the excellent food, camaraderie and scenery. The menu included delectable hors d'oeuvres such as the garden-fresh shrimp cocktail, bacon wrapped dates with goat cheese and pecans and ginger tuna skewers, to name a few.

Nora Shang hosted the Taste of India dinner on October 15th. Twelve gourmands huddled around her big Chinese round table and enjoyed delicious dishes such as Lamb Curry, Roasted Aloo Gobi and other Indian staples.

Drucy Glass hosted the Russian dinner on November 12th. Twelve people enjoyed a delicious meal. Drucy and John were great hosts and their kitchen/dining area was cozy and warm. Everyone agreed that we should continue to get together as much as possible.

Hope Thorn-Horst once again hosted the annual Winter Holiday Brunch on December 12th. While the overall number was reduced due to the pandemic, it still felt like a celebration and was a wonderful success! The dishes all complimented each other and the sparkling wine made it festive. Hope did a wonderful job providing a lovely venue and the “kitchen crew” made sure we left her home in perfect condition.

Lorraine Johnson hosted the Moroccan dinner on January 15th. Eight people gathered and enjoyed the well-crafted and savory dishes. In addition to the fine food and conviviality that evening, we shared the excitement over Buffalo Bill’s historic win. We are grateful that the Gourmet group is thriving after such a long pause. We hope to continue the gatherings that foster friendship, and interesting conversations, over the joy of dining.





Hiking and XC Skiing

Mondays at 9:20 AM

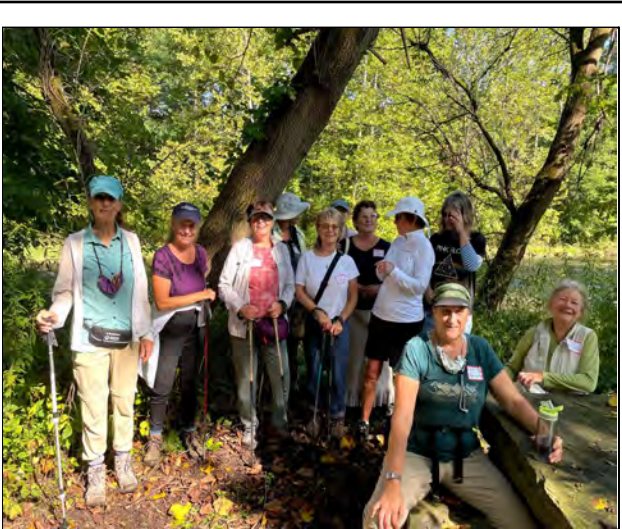
Contact **Barbara Nussbaum** barbnussb@gmail.com
Emily Tracy emilytracy@hotmail.com

As one of the long-time activity groups within the Campus Club at Cornell, we are happy to report that we continue to enjoy the fellowship of our returning members as well as the new members who have added additional ideas and excitement to our group. Our group started hiking again this past spring and we resumed our weekly hikes in September after the Fall Coffee. Most of the time we offer two different hikes each Monday morning: One group hike of about 2 – 3 hours and up to 6 miles and a second easier option of up to 90 minutes hike in gentle terrain with few steep hills. We don't carpool and we always meet at the trailhead. Hikes have included Buttermilk State Park, Treman State Park, Taughannock State Park, the Black Diamond Trail, FLLT Roy Park Preserve, FLLT Ellis Hollow Preserve, Lime Hollow Nature Center, Sapsucker Woods, Cornell Natural Areas in the Monkey Run area, the Botanic Gardens, Cascadilla Creek, and others.

We have just started skiing in Mid-January, and we are looking forward to more skiing this winter. Even if the snow is absent, we still hike in the winter and delight in the hidden waterfalls we discover throughout the area. It is never too late to join us, so come and enjoy the fresh air and company. You will discover that indeed, "Ithaca is Gorges".



Barbara and Emily



Fall Creek 9-21-2021



Arboretum 10-21-2021



Skiing at Yellow Barn 01-21-2022

Just Coffee

Fridays at 10 AM via ZOOM

Contact Raf Chew rafchew@yahoo.com

From May thru early December 2021, Just Coffee members enjoyed meeting in person every Friday at 10. We met most of the time at or near the Small Pavilion in Stewart Park in all types of weather. When the temps got a bit colder we began meeting at Ithaca Bakery. Due to the Omicron variant, we had to go back to meeting via ZOOM. We are all looking forward to meeting in person as soon as COVID numbers drop significantly.

So for now Just Coffee meets Fridays at 10 on ZOOM.

Send Raf an email if you would like to be added to the list <mailto:rafchew@yahoo.com>



May 21, 2021 at Eeva's backyard



June 4, 2021 at Elaine's patio



September 10, 2021 at Stewart Park



September 17, 2021 at Stewart Park



October 1, 2021 at Stewart Park



October 29, 2021 just in front of Ithaca Bakery, Triphammer



Nov 19, 2021 inside Ithaca Bakery



Dec 3, 2021 inside Ithaca Bakery

MahJongg

Contact Barbara Adler barbara.adler@gmail.com

We have suspended our weekly games until we all feel comfortable being inside with others.

Once the Omicron situation changes we will resume our Monday games.

Performers

Contact Jane Dieckmann dickjane201@gmail.com
 Charette Wheelis charette1042@gmail.com

The Performers' Group is an activity group for Campus Club members who play an instrument or sing, and who wish to share their music with others in an informal setting. Our membership includes listeners who do not perform but who enjoy the gathering of amateur musicians to hear interesting and often memorable programs of mostly classical music. We encourage performance on a variety of instruments and levels.

Although we have not been able to meet in recent months, we look forward to resuming this activity as soon as it is safe to do so.

We welcome new members, both performers and listeners. If you would like more information or have questions, you may contact one of our activity leaders.

Pianists Mary Berkelman and Margaret Hobbie at Performers' Group meetings:



Quilting

First Wednesday of the month from 1PM - 3PM

Contact Sarah Hatcher sshatcher@gmail.com

The Quilting group is currently meeting in person at the Village of Lansing Community Room (2405 N. Triphammer Rd.) on the first Wednesday of the month, 1-3pm. Parking is at the back of the building housing the community room.

Ukulele

Fridays 3 to 4:30 PM via ZOOM

Contact Ruth Hopkins rah27@cornell.edu

The Ukulele group has gone indoors wearing masks and learning multi part tunes that allow mask wearing...no singing. Examples of our multi part tunes include Pachelbel's Canon, Ashgrove, and Ashogan Farewell. We've used the downtown library and member home's and look forward to singing in the park next spring!

Wanderers

Contact Nora Shang nshang3@gmail.com
 Raf Chew rafchew@yahoo.com

Due to COVID, the Wanderers Group was on hiatus since January 2020. We resumed activities last fall and received strong interest at the CC Activities sign-up. Even though we scaled back the fall trip (kept it closer to home, minimized carpooling, and limited the number of participants), it was a resounding success and a full day. Due to the recent uptick of Omicron cases in Tompkins County, we will not hold a winter trip but hope to resume in the spring so we can include outdoor components.

The fall trip took us to Interlaken on September 23, 2021. We began with a visit to Lively Run Goat Dairy, where Susanne, the owner, provided an interesting presentation, a barn tour and a most delectable (goat and cow cheese) tasting under a big tent.

We then continued to the Countryside Amish Market, a one-stop destination for locally grown seasonal produce, bulk foods, greenhouse selections etc. Many of us left with

packed cars. We had a delicious lunch (from a preset menu) at Johnny's Kitchen in Lodi, a cafe that was recently converted from an ice cream stand. After lunch we gathered for a guided tour by member Barb Stewart and her husband, Harold Stewart, from the Interlaken Historical Society. We gained new insight and knowledge from the historic documents, photographs and artifacts at the Community Life Museum and the Farmer's Museum. Even though we ate throughout the day, we ended the trip with a sweet note from Cayuga Lake Creamery. 26 people signed up but we had a couple of last minute cancellations.



Cheese tasting at Lively Run Goat Dairy



Goats at Lively Run



Lunch at Johnny's Kitchen



What Do You Know

Contact Karen Koyanagi k2koyanagi@yahoo.com
 Raf Chew rafchew@yahoo.com

We are currently not meeting in 2021 - 2022.

Yoga for Life

Wednesdays 8:30 - 10 AM via ZOOM

Contact Ayako Timmons ayakotimmons@gmail.com
 Kathy Hopkins kathy1122@gmail.com

Led by Gisela Konrad, an independent certified yoga instructor since 1983. The purpose of this class is to achieve a sense of balance and health in both mind and body. Our class has continued with attendees from as far away as Bolivia and Finland.

Fee: \$15.00 per class.

SERVICE GROUP UPDATE

English as a Second Language

Contact Anita Christiansen anitag99@gmail.com

The ESL service group has bravely weathered the pandemic, and continues to honor the 50+ year tradition of providing conversational English classes to the Cornell-affiliated community. This year, our volunteers are teaching a mix of in-person and virtual ESL classes, helping Cornell-affiliated spouses, students, and visitors to improve their English as well as learn about the US, and stay connected to each other, Ithaca and Cornell. We have students from all over the world: Taiwan, Japan, Italy, Chile, India, China, France, Egypt and more, enriching our lives and theirs.

HOSPITALITY GROUP UPDATE

International Friendship Groups

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30 PM via ZOOM

Contact Jette Lundgren henriette.lundgren@gmail.com
 Raf Chew rafchew@yahoo.com

Since 2020, both Friendship Groups (1st and 3rd Wednesday) have joined together for programming, once a month, either via Zoom or in safe/outdoor spaces.

As one group, we mix our programming up between conversational topics, learning something new, in-person activities (weather and virus permitting), and travel report presentations.

This last year, we talked about the 2021 Inauguration Day, how we met our spouse or significant other, tips & tricks for surviving this past year of the pandemic and other conversational topics. We learned from Inés, Tamara and Elke about the long history of our Friendship Groups that started in 1947!

We were lucky to safely meet up in person at Stewart Park in May twice (also to say farewell to Jing-Ting who moved to California with her family) and at Linda's Lake House for a potluck & campfire in June. In August, we gathered again at Stewart Park for a potluck picnic, sharing an (international) dish each. What a feast it was!

This Fall, we switched back to monthly meetings via Zoom, chatting about our dream trips (when we can travel again), and listening to Ornit's travel report on hiking around volcanoes in Iceland. November brought us an unexpected pleasure as we managed to safely meet with a small group at Raf's home to learn all about baking and decorating a Bûche de Noël. The session was live-streamed and recorded so that many more women got to enjoy the session.

We completed the year with an evening of sharing holiday traditions in December.

Send Jette or Raf an email if you would like to join us.

Friendship Sharing Holidays

From Top left to Bottom right: Raf, Jette, Barbara, Elke, Florianna, Lena, Charlotte, Inés, Calista, Vilasini



Bûche de Noël Baking & Decorating (at Raf's)

Starting from front left: Raf, Kumari, Jette, Wendy, Lena, Gail, Jan, Ayako, Ellen and Janie



Friendship Potluck & Camp Fire (at Linda's)



Starting from front left: Elke, Deb, Inés, Eeva, Rachel, Jan, Kaisa