

**69** I hope this finds all safe and sound amid this COVID-19 pandemic. Thank goodness for Amazon Prime, Netflix, Zoom, and FaceTime!

**Ingrid Vatsvog** Wachtler, ME '70 (Gig Harbor, WA) is still "growing and selling Pacific Northwest native plants—more people are thinking green, so business is good." She's up to five grandchildren, who are lots of fun. She wishes this COVID-19 would "fizzle out"—so do we. **Diane King** (Brewerton, NY) is busy "hiking, attending local events, working for the board of elections, staying physically active, and taking in theatrical shows." **John Frankenberg** (Woodstown, NJ) is back to the Scottish country dancing he first experienced in the upper room of Willard Straight Hall; he's also hiking, singing, and studying Spanish. **Gabriel Rothberg** continues to visit family and friends in Florida and New York from home in Los Angeles; he's busy with his ten grandchildren!

**Michael Smith** is still "playing with cars" at home in Wells, ME. He's currently planning his next vacation travel with girlfriend Liz—last year they did a motoring tour in California, visiting Tahoe, Yosemite, Sequoia, Monterey, and San Francisco. Daughter Dawn recently purchased an 8-year-old thoroughbred mare retired from track racing and intends to train her for the upcoming show season while rekindling her equestrian career. Michael has fond memories of the chili at Fall Creek House. **Merrie Nickerson** Krisl has retired from her 20-year volunteer job running the library for the kids at the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Center and is now volunteering with Schools of Hope, tutoring two second-grade girls in reading. Her Santa Rosa, CA, home has survived two bad fires, so she and husband Eric are working on "scanning all family photos so we don't lose them as friends have done." She's fortunate to have four grandchildren nearby.

**Ron Frers** has adjusted focus from his St. Petersburg clinical sports massage therapy to craniosacral therapy, working two days a week. "My plate remains full of clients as well as joy. I am extremely grateful for it all." He and his "lovey" spent time in Alaska last spring and visited his children in Charlotte. Ron was teaching assistant for the Upledger Inst. in Palm Beach Gardens. **Leslie DeGroff** is doing a little practice farming, complete with vegetable stand. He enjoys every day watching his grandchildren grow up and become productive adults. Stay safe everyone. Send your news to: ❖ **Tina Economaki** Riedl, triedl048@gmail.com.

**70** The time for our 50th Reunion has come and gone, and, as you all know, our weekend party on the Hill was canceled due to the worldwide coronavirus crisis. This turn of events is disappointing to so many Cornell alums. In addition, the 2020 Cornell graduates have not had their much-anticipated and hard-earned Commencement ceremony at Schoellkopf. As I write in late April, we are in the midst of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. My desire is that by July, when this issue is published, the extreme difficulties involving both the health of so many and our economy will have improved. It is my hope and wish that all of you, my friends and classmates, have come through this unprecedented time both safe and healthy.

Below you will find interesting news from our classmate **Beverly Tanenhaus** (tanula@comcast.net), who writes, "I know in the terrible scheme of things, it's trivial, but I'm really disappointed that we lost our 50th Reunion. Yet, it's somehow ironically fitting for the Class of 1970, educated through turmoil and upheaval. Remember the Straight takeover, the glorious sit-in at Barton Hall, the marches and teach-ins, the protest poems by Jesuit

Daniel Berrigan pinned to trees on the Arts Quad?" I had been reflecting upon our four years as undergrads at Cornell and all that we experienced, and then Beverly put many of my musings into her own words. Thank you.

Beverly and Michael Lundy were married on September 8, 2019 in Princeton, NJ. Cornellians on the guest list included **Judith Nowak**, MD '74, **Richard Barron**, and **Judy Ogden** '71, MPS '75, JD '77. Also attending were Dan Finlay and his wife, Linda. Back in 1969, Dan was Beverly's professor of 17th century English poetry. With no drifting or losing touch, Dan and Linda have been Beverly's dearest friends for five continuous decades.

Beverly's Cornell mentor was the late poet and English professor A.R. Ammons. She says that he was beloved and revered by his colleagues for his poetic genius and genial personality. In summer 2019, she and Michael supported Cornell professor Roger Gilbert as he created a weekend seminar on campus at Olin Library. The weekend celebration encompassed examining original manuscripts and correspondence. Prof. Gilbert is writing a biography of Ammons. Beverly and her former student **Jendy Murphy** '79 had their first reconnection in 40 years during that Ammons weekend. The seminar drew Ammons scholars, who Beverly says were charmingly inclusive to her, Michael, and Jendy, "the amateurs in their midst." The Ammons archives include six years of Beverly's "youthful correspondence" to Archie after her graduation from Cornell. She claims that her letters were "surely insignificant to scholars, but a nostalgic revelation to me." Earlier this year, Beverly and Michael, who live in Skillman, NJ, had planned to attend the May 1 launch of the A.R. Ammons Memorial Reading Series. However, since the Cornell campus was virtually closed, the launch will take place in spring 2021. The reading series will feature the work of undergraduate creative writing students.

**Keith Fuller** (fullerssd@gmail.com) and wife Gail live in San Diego, CA. Keith says that he stays active volunteering with Kiwanis, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), being part of his church's maintenance team, assisting the police department, and serving on local bicycle coalition committees! **Kathy Law Orloski** (Kathy.Orloski@gmail.com), who continues to live in Allentown, PA, tells us that her retirement means she has much more time to spend with her eight grandchildren. Sadly, Kathy's husband, **Rick, JD '71**, died earlier this year after a long struggle with Parkinson's.

**Martha Mattus**, PhD '74 (memattus@comcast.net) has also sent us sad news. Her husband, Bill Flynn, died in September 2019. Martha is continuing to deal with various tasks related to his passing. Since her retirement, she is busy with travel, visiting friends and family, and gardening and sewing as well. She is also pleased to have reconnected with her brother and sister. When asked about her favorite dining experience at Cornell, Martha related that she and her roommate would save up two dinner tickets and go to have steaks at the Statler Hotel on Saturday nights. This assured that they always had a date over the weekend.

**Linda Fentiman** (LFentiman@law.pace.edu) retired in late 2019 as a law professor at Pace U. Her focus was on criminal law and health law. Her husband, Arthur Levine, also retired in 2019, so they were able to travel for two months in Latin America later that year. Linda has been awarded a Fulbright grant to teach law in Delhi, India, in 2021. Meanwhile they divide their time between New York City and Miami. Their oldest daughter recently had a baby, and Linda and Arthur are thrilled to be grandparents. ❖ **Connie Ferris** Meyer, tel., (610) 256-3088; e-mail, cfm7@cornell.edu.

**71** As I write this column in April 2020, we are still in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. Since we had not received any news submissions from classmates by the time this column was due, I decided to share some class officer reflections and words of encouragement that were exchanged after a late-March online meeting. (The online videoconference was arranged as a substitute for a canceled in-person NYC meeting that same weekend.)

Our class president, **Barbara Brem** Noveau (bnoveau@gmail.com), had some great advice: "Be thankful for everything that you've got. Take the opportunity to tackle things that have been festering on your to-do list for years. Go for long walks, get a dog and train it, talk to neighbors you never talk to (from a safe distance has other benefits besides flattening the curve). Discover new ways to do old things, like registering voters by mail, having a virtual brunch, and cleaning your own house when the cleaners are sheltering in place..." **Gilda Klein** Linden (gk41971@yahoo.com) reflected, "We often forget how good our lives are and forget to enjoy what and who we have. I'm so anxious to return to some sort of normal existence, whatever that will look like. I miss my children and grandchildren, my friends, and the things we took for granted, like simple human contact. Spring is usually a time of hope and renewal—I hope it gets to New Jersey soon."

Others wrote about the ways they were trying to carry on in a world where "virtual" and "social distancing" had become the new normal. **Kathy Menton** Flaxman (kmflaxman@speakeasy.net) wrote, "We are having a virtual cocktail hour this evening and planning a virtual Seder. Just had two virtual birthday parties. Have had lots of things moved to Zoom including Italian class, book club, and various board meetings—also chorus rehearsals, although that doesn't work as well. Gearing up to sew some face masks!" **Martha Coultrap** (mfcoultrap@gmail.com) reminded us to be counted in the 2020 Census. She also reported that she and husband Harvey were having "a virtual birthday party for a friend tonight and we will get to see friends we haven't seen for a while from across the country. A friend up the road is cooking a turkey dinner for pickup tonight also, and we took beef stew to a 90-year-old neighbor who broke her leg in a car accident. We watch the birds at the feeder and the further emergence each day of the daffodil leaves since spring is just creeping in here in Upstate New York."

To round out the column, I also e-mailed a few classmates and asked them to share their news and explain how their lives had changed, at least in the short term. **Ken Vittor** (kenvittor@gmail.com) and his wife, Judith, are "hunkering down for the duration with our son Noah at our weekend house in Cold Spring in the Hudson Valley. Noah had been teaching English in China but couldn't return after the Lunar New Year break, so he is spending some unanticipated quality time with his parents. Our other son, Josh, is an attorney living in L.A. and working at home as an associate at Wilmer Hale. I spend my days on Zoom taking three literature and music classes at NYU and Juilliard, reading, and taking long walks on the beautiful roads near our house overlooking the Hudson. All things considered, not a bad place to spend time in a pandemic. I usually teach journalism law at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism in the fall, but I am uncertain how that will work this year. Judith's father passed away last week after declining for many months. As you can imagine, finding a funeral home able to take him at this crazy time in NYC was quite a challenge for Judith's family."