



Retirement Association of Portland State

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10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Past President / Membership Chair

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Among the merrymakers at the RAPS Holiday dinner Dec. 16 are, clockwise from left, Robert Vogelsang, Leif Terdal, Marge Terdal, Terri Cummings, and Bob Lockerby. After dinner, RAPSers were entertained by singer/guitarist Paul Barkett, a PSU alumnus. Photo by Larry Sawyer.

RAPS members enjoy holiday gathering, look forward to January 2011 program

The RAPS holiday dinner was held at the Multnomah Athletic Club Dec. 16. The evening was a delightful mix of elegant holiday decorations, excellent food, music, and a chance to chat with friends.

The MAC was beautiful with its extravaganza of Christmas trees, collection of Santas, and holiday arrangements on every dinner table.

Music was provided by Paul Barkett, playing acoustic light rock music. His performance drew many compliments from an appreciative audience. His songs were delightful, demonstrating his skill as a vocalist and as a guitarist. (See related story and photo on page 4.) RAPS members also enjoyed the chance to talk with old friends. It was a good event for the holiday season.

Volunteerism focus of January program

The RAPS January meeting will take place on the usual third Thursday of the month, in this case Jan. 20, in 228 SMSU. The program offering is a panel of RAPS members talking about their experiences doing volunteer work in the community. There will also be time for audience members to talk briefly about their own volunteer work. Come at 1:00 pm for light refreshments and socializing; the program begins at 1:30 pm.

--Joan Shireman

President's Message



The first item on my list today is a major league "thank you" to Joan Shireman and Mary Brannan for engineering the traditional RAPS holiday gathering at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Dec. 16. It was an excellent opportunity to greet old friends and chat over good food and drink.

If you've been following higher education news lately, you know there are white papers, commission reports, and other suggestions for the State Board regarding the future of our university system. Of course, the University of Oregon has put forward its own (some might say self-centered) proposal requiring the state to "front" \$800 million in bonds for its exclusive use.

Many of these reports and suggestions will be carried to Salem during the coming legislative session. This year will be particularly critical for our institutions, especially those without a winning football team. I believe we need to ensure that voices for reasonable and constructive higher education alternatives are heard in Salem.

If you want to help deliver the message, you should think about attending a training session for PSU Advocates on Saturday, Jan. 8, beginning at 8:00 am in 327 SMC. We'll hear from PSU administrators, Chancellor George Pernsteiner, PSU lobbyists and state legislators as well as participate in a mock lobby session. If you are interested, call the Advocates office at 503-725-8210.

Finally, we have learned of the pending retirement of Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). An important presence on campus for nearly two decades, Dean Kaiser has overseen the tremendous growth and development of CLAS, including the addition of many master's and doctoral programs. The search process for a successor begins this month with the expectation of having a new dean in place by fall term.

I wish you all the best and hope to see you at a RAPS event in the coming year.

-- Clarence Hein

Our traveling retirees: Marge Terdal forges friendships in India

In November I traveled to India with the Washington, DC Friendship Force Club. Friendship Force is an international organization started by Jimmy Carter in 1977; its goal is to enable people to make friends through homestays and thereby contribute to peace in the world. As a member of Columbia Cascade Friendship Force, I get regular updates on exchanges that have space for others to join.

I left home early the morning of Oct. 30 and arrived in Mumbai, India 25 hours later. Our group of 16 stayed the first two nights at a luxury hotel in Mumbai, giving us time to rest from the long flights, get acquainted with one another, and take a brief tour of Mumbai. I shared a room throughout the trip with Helen, who lives in Edmonton but was born and raised in India. Our bus tour of Mumbai covered a wide range of sites—from the outdoor area where the city's laundry is washed manually to the hotel where President Obama stayed four days after we were there.

On the second day we traveled by train to Nashik, an industrial city about 100 miles northeast of Mumbai. Members of the Nashik Friendship Force club greeted us



Marge Terdal's palm was painted in Nashik, India as part of the Diwali festival of lights celebration.

enthusiastically; and our hosts for the week, Sanjay and Neeta, drove Helen and me to their home. The first week of November was a major holiday, Diwali, a five-day festival of lights. Several mornings we woke to the sound of fire-crackers, and one evening we watched fireworks from a terrace on the third floor of Sanjay's home.

The Nashik Friendship Force club took us on several day trips to places of interest—a Hindu temple, a temple with a huge gold-

continued on page 4

RAPS club reports

Book Club: 'Let the Great World Spin'

The RAPS Book Club meets Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 2:00 pm at the home of Betsey Brown at Holiday Park Plaza, 1300 NE 16th Avenue in Portland. Contact her at 503-280-2334 or aebport@hevanet.com to RSVP and for directions. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE.

We will discuss *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. The book is described as follows on the inside cover:

In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunning portrait of a city and its people, connected in ways they don't yet even know.

Let the Great World Spin captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence—awakening in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal.

Looking ahead to February, we have selected *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo* by Hayden Herrera.

--Mary Brannan

RAPS Hikers: Planning 2011 hikes

Still in planning mode, RAPS Hikers will meet in mid-January at a hiker's home for a potluck and planning session for hikes to come in the new year.

For additional information, contact Larry Sawyer at 503-771-1616 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net.

--Larry Sawyer

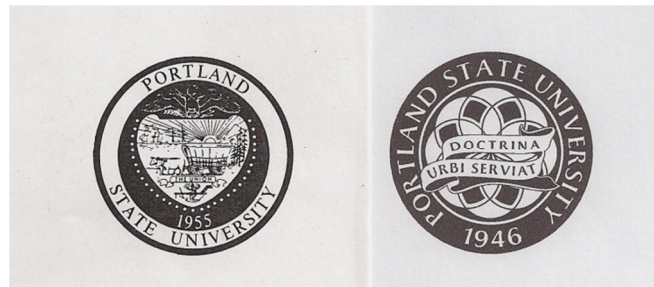
Bridge Group: First deal of the year Jan. 11

The RAPS Bridge Group meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, Jan. 11. For further information, including the venue, call Colin Dunkeld, 503-292-0838. Please call no later than Friday, Jan. 7.

--Colin Dunkeld

PAST TENSE

Pres. Ramaley champions redesign of seal



1969-1990

1991-present

Judith Ramaley was hired in 1990 to be the seventh President of Portland State University – and the first female President in the Oregon University System. During her tenure (1990-1997), she greatly impacted the movement of PSU toward its identity as an “urban university.”

One of Dr. Ramaley's early initiatives was to revise the university seal (required on official university documents such as diplomas and certificates) to reflect PSU's urban mission. At a meeting of her Executive Council, President Ramaley said that she would like a new seal with a motto that would be consistent with the university's developing mission. John Cooper, Professor of English, suggested "Let Knowledge Serve the City."

President Ramaley approved the suggestion. Robert Kasal, Professor of Art, was delegated the task of designing a new seal, and Rod Diman, Professor of Spanish, Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and probably the best Latinist on the faculty, was asked to produce a Latin translation, which he did: "*Doctrina Urbi Serviat.*"

The intended message was that the University, as the seat of knowledge, serves the city. Included in PSU's mission statement is this sentence: "PSU values its identity as an engaged university that promotes a reciprocal relationship between the community and the university in which knowledge serves the city and the city contributes to the knowledge of the university."

The new seal was officially adopted in 1991.

--Roger Moseley, with assistance from Jack Cooper

PAST TENSE features glimpses into Portland State's history. To submit a story (or an idea for one), email the RAPS History Preservation Committee at raps@pdx.edu.



Paul Barkett, a graduate of PSU, entertains RAPS members following the December holiday dinner at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Photo by Larry Sawyer.

Editor's note: Steve Brannan introduced Paul Barkett at the holiday dinner Dec. 16. Impressed with Barkett's music as well as his PSU-related community service, I asked Steve to reprise his introduction for the RAPS Sheet.

Paul Barkett traveled and performed as a full-time singer, guitarist, and recording artist for over 20 years. He eventually pursued another career – higher education -- and went on to achieve an M.S. in Special Education at PSU. Paul was drawn to special education several years ago after serving as a counselor for persons with disabilities at the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Summer Camp Program. PSU partners with metro area Kiwanis clubs in providing this outdoor program, which was created by RAPS member Steve Brannan in 1972 and continues to thrive today.

Paul is currently teaching in the Portland Public Schools serving young adults (ages 18-21) with disabilities who are transitioning to careers, college, and independent living. He continues to perform in the Portland area and volunteers to play for campers with disabilities every week during the eight weeks of Kiwanis Summer Camp. Paul has been playing and singing at the camp for about 20 years -- a major commitment by a PSU alumnus to community service!

Paul said he loves to play and was excited to be able to play for RAPS. He revealed that during the holiday season his most notable achievement is trying to remember the words and chords to Christmas songs. This was not a problem for RAPS members who enjoyed hearing his wonderful voice and guitar playing that -- to their delight -- took them beyond traditional holiday music.

--Steve Brannan

Marge Terdal's travels . . . cont. from p. 2

covered Buddha, a Christian church, a Meditation Center (where our guide was a young man from Sisters, OR), caves carved by Jain 2000 years ago, a winery, a mineral museum, and even a visit to the mayor's office. Along with several lunches and dinners, we had many opportunities to get to know other members of the club and to appreciate their generosity and hospitality.

After the one-week homestay our group traveled several hours to Aurangabad to visit world famous caves in Ajanta and Ellora. Each is a complex of several huge caves carved out of rock between the second and eighth centuries AD by Buddhists, Hindus, and Jains. The walls of the Ajanta Caves are decorated with thousands of frescoes. Inside one of the numerous Ellora Caves is the world's largest monolithic temple carved out of the mountain by removing 20 million tons of rock.

We next flew to the southern tip of India. In this area we learned about the influence of early explorers from Portugal, Holland, and Britain. To my surprise 40% of the population in the state of Kerala is Christian, and there is even a Jewish synagogue in Cochin. We enjoyed two relaxing days at a resort on the Arabian Sea waterfront, including a small-boat cruise in the backwaters and a chance to watch Kathakali performers applying makeup (it took over an hour) before their evening performance.

Over the next week, we had many long bus rides on narrow roads crowded with trucks, buses, motorcycles and cars, with bathroom stops few and far between. Highlights of that part of the trip were a nature walk at a game preserve, a tour of a spice plantation, and visits to several Hindu temples honoring Shiva, the Destroyer god. I was particularly impressed by a massive relief carving on rock, once covered by sand, depicting deities and animals from Hindu fables.

When we reached Chennai, formerly Madras, some flew back to their homes, while nine of us flew north to Delhi. This part of India was the center of Muslim rule in the 12th to 16th centuries. In Delhi we visited one of the largest mosques in India. At the Fortress Palace outside of Jaipur, we rode on elephants up to the gates of the fort on top of a hill. In Agra we saw the impressive Taj Mahal. Then it was back on the bus for a seven-hour drive to Delhi Airport, and another 25-hour flight back to Portland. I arrived home in time for Thanksgiving dinner.

--Marge Terdal