



Retirement Association of Portland State

Portland State University
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Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:30 am to 5:30 pm

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Nancy Chapman describes the importance of smell and touch in the memory garden in SE Portland she helped build and continues to tend. Chapman was one of five RAPS members participating in a panel discussion Jan. 20 of volunteer activities in Portland and beyond. See story on page 2. Photo by Larry Sawyer.

February program

Mel Gurtov to speak on China's rise

Mel Gurtov, professor emeritus of political science and editor-in-chief of the international journal *Asian Perspective*, will discuss "The Best and Worst of China's Rise" at the Thursday, Feb. 17 RAPS meeting, to be held in Rooms 328/329 Smith Memorial Student Union.

This event is also our annual potluck, so come at 12:30 pm – note the earlier than usual start time -- with a favorite cold dish to share, and enjoy a potluck lunch and conversation with your fellow RAPS members. Plates, utensils, coffee and tea are provided.

Please call Maya Burton, RAPS Office Manager, at 503-725-3447 to tell her what you plan to bring. The program with Professor Gurtov begins at 1:30 pm.

--Joan Shireman

President's Message

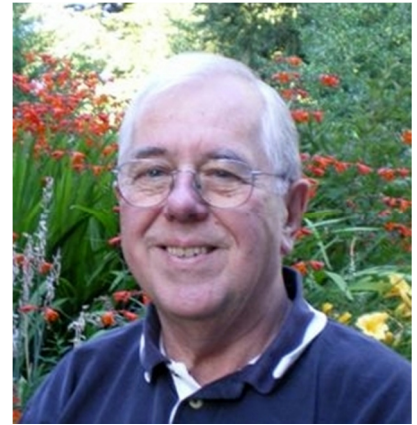
Those of us at the RAPS meeting on Jan. 20 heard several different aspects of the benefits of volunteering, both for individuals and for the community. RAPS colleagues talked about a wide span of work from building community facilities and teaching in foreign countries to more local pursuits such as helping at a library or advocating for children in foster care. In each case the individual volunteer was part of an effort to support and improve an institution, a service or an individual life.

Earlier in the month a group of PSU students, Student Leaders for Service (SLS), helped organize a massive effort to make Martin Luther King Day a "Day On," rather than a "Day Off." Students in SLS make a commitment to serve 10 hours a week at a local organization providing direct services to address community needs. They joined volunteers from seven other higher education institutions in the region staffing dozens of projects, honoring Dr. King's memory by encouraging people to work together to improve the community. The jobs ranged from removing graffiti, in cooperation with the North-Northwest Business Association, to sorting and delivering food donations with Northwest Portland Ministries. Another group pulled ivy and planted native species in Tryon Creek State Park.

SLS currently is sponsored by PSU's Center for Academic Excellence and University Studies. It serves as an entry point for community-based organizations to partner with the University.

One other noteworthy volunteer group you should know about is The Oregon Idea. This is a coalition of small business owners, CEOs, community leaders and alumni of Oregon community colleges and universities who share a common vision for the state's higher education system. You can see what they are up to at www.theoregonidea.org.

-- Clarence Hein



Volunteerism knows no boundaries

RAPS members describe volunteer efforts at home and abroad

At the RAPS program meeting on Jan. 20, five of our members discussed their volunteer work, demonstrating that involvement in the needs of the city does not stop at retirement. A wide variety of volunteer activities were described, both at the local and international level, and the commitment of these volunteers was evident.

The work of two panelists focused on meeting needs of those with few resources. First, **Marge Terdal** described two trips, sponsored by her church, which took needed supplies and labor to Guatemala and to Brazil. In both countries, participants worked on a variety of tasks ranging from teaching children to building a community center. The audience was impressed by the hard work of the volunteers and the amount accomplished; the questions about logistics suggested that others might be contemplating such work.

Jan DeCarrico then described her work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in foster care. She gave the audience an overview of the program and activities provided by volunteers, and then described her own work with a family of five children. She spoke of the underfunding of the child welfare system, leaving

caseworkers without the time and resources to meet the needs of each child, and talked of how volunteers can help fill that gap. More than one audience member left with a brochure about the program and questions indicating interest in exploring it as a volunteer opportunity.

Susan Jackson described her work with the Multnomah County Library. She talked of how, with her many years of library experience, she wanted to do something different within the library, and decided to work in the library's gift shop, which raises money for the library. She also had artifacts to show—a mug, cards, and bookmarks which the audience was invited to take, giving those who took one a 10 percent discount in the shop.

Nancy Chapman spoke of her work, spanning several years, in building a memory garden. The garden, located at 104th just off SE Powell Blvd., is designed for those having difficulty with memory, and uses smell and touch, as well as sight, to reach individuals. Plants are in raised beds, so those in wheelchairs can experience them. In

continued on page 3

RAPS club reports

RAPS Hikers get out their snowshoes

The hikers group met in January for a potluck, hosted by Robert Vogelsang, and program planning. Hikes have been planned for February through November. They include local, coast and Mt. Hood hikes. All hikes are planned for the second Friday of the month.

On Friday, Feb. 11, we will hold our first ever snowshoe hike. We will hike the Enid Lake area from the Glacier View Snow Park below Government Camp. If it is wet or raining at this 3500 foot level, we will snowshoe the ungroomed Sahalie Falls trail near Mt. Hood Meadows. Both trails have small elevation gain/loss. Snowpark permits are required for all vehicles. Emphasis will be on snowshoeing but cross country skiers are welcome.

We will carpool at 9:00 am from the SE corner of the Gateway transit center parking structure on 99th between NE Glisan and Halsey. Confirm your participation to Larry Sawyer at 503-771-1616 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net.

--Larry Sawyer

Bridge Group shuffles and deals Feb. 8

The RAPS Bridge Group meets at 1:00 pm Tuesday, Feb. 8. For further information, including the venue, call Colin Dunkeld, 503-292-0838. Please call no later than Friday, Feb. 4.

--Colin Dunkeld

Book Club reads widely about Frida Kahlo

The RAPS Book Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 1:00 pm at the home of Mary Brannan, 6901 SE Oaks Park Way, Slip #13 at the Oregon Yacht Club in Portland. Contact her at brannanmg@comcast.net or 503-239-1077 to RSVP and for directions. NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE. We are meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month rather than the third Tuesday.

We will discuss the life and works of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, sparked by her appearance as a "real" character in *The Lacuna*, which we read for December. Since so many books have been written about Frida Kahlo, each of us will read a book about her rather than all of us reading the same book. This will provide a variety of perspectives of her life and should make for an interesting discussion. One option is *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*, by Hayden Herrera, which provided the basis for the movie *Frida*.

Looking ahead to March, we have selected the Pulitzer Prize winner *Tinkers*, by Paul Harding.

--Mary Brannan

PSUAA to recognize alumni, faculty achievements

Outstanding achievements and contributions of PSU alumni and faculty will be recognized Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the Alumni Association's annual PSU Salutes event, held in the Grand Ballroom of The Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Ave. from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

This year's recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Achievement award is Sherril B. Gelmon, Professor of Public Health and Chair of the Division of Public Administration, College of Urban and Public Affairs. Four other alumni awards will be presented at the event, which features a reception followed by the presentation of awards.

Cost is \$20 per person, \$15 for PSUAA members. Register by Feb. 18 on line at www.pdx.edu/alumni or by calling 503-725-4948.

The Alumni Association has been recognizing the outstanding achievements of alumni, faculty and friends of PSU since 1988. Several current RAPS members have been honored at past ceremonies, including Wilma Sheridan, Steve Brannan, Charlie White, Johanna Brenner and Joan Shireman.



PSU Alumni
Association

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

--Mary Coniglio

RAPS Volunteers . . . continued from page 2

In addition, the plants are familiar ones, encouraging memories from childhood or early gardens. Her description was vivid, her pictures beautiful.

Steve Brannan reviewed his many years of work volunteering for Portland State in gathering the history of the institution. He showed us the recently published pictorial history, *Portland State: A History in Pictures*, told us of the new section on history on the University's website (www.pdx.edu/ourhistory/), and described plans to encourage each department and school to record its history on its website.

In addition to the panelists, Charlene Levesque talked with RAPS members about RAPSU (Retired Associates of Portland State University), clarifying some of the differences, describing the program of RAPSU, and inviting RAPS members to join RAPSU. Richard Brinkman also told members of a library history project he hopes to develop.

--Joan Shireman

PAST TENSE

A walk through the PSU Park Blocks: Past and Present

The South Park Blocks are the oldest parks in Portland and go through the heart of downtown. They were donated to the city in 1852 for public use by Daniel Lowndale, a Portland landowner and tanner. Landscaping of the park blocks began in 1877 with the planting of 104 Lombardy poplars and elms to form a 12-block tree-lined street, SW Ninth Avenue.

The *Oregonian* has called the Park Blocks Portland's "extended family room" and *The New York Times* declared the area to be "literally at the heart of the city's cultural life." Every block contains public art. The latest art piece, *Holon*, was made of white Indiana limestone by Oregon sculptor Donald Wilson and installed in 2004 at SW Park between Harrison and Hall. *Farewell to Orpheus*, the bronze statue and fountain created by the late PSU art professor emeritus Frederic Littman, was installed in 1973 at SW Park and Montgomery.



Before: Bulldozers remove pavement in the Park Blocks by College Center (now Smith Memorial Student Union) in 1972.

When Portland State moved to downtown Portland in 1952, it developed around the South Park Blocks, initially at the site of the old Lincoln High School (now Lincoln Hall). Ever since, the Park Blocks have served as the University's hub. Early on, though, parked cars around the Park and buildings, coupled with free flowing traffic, interfered with

pedestrians and helped, in part, to spur a redesign of the campus in 1972.

During that year, the southern six blocks, from Market to Jackson Streets, were closed off to vehicular traffic. The streets were demolished and replaced with walkways, benches and seating areas, resulting in a beautiful green space under a canopy of trees in the middle of campus.

Since 1973 the Park Blocks have provided a refreshing and peaceful urban environment for students, staff, faculty, and the community at large to enjoy. The Park area is now used as a meeting place, an outdoor study area, a space for art events, concerts, summer graduation, festivals, speakers, food carts, and even a Saturday Farmers' Market.

The Park Blocks are an example of a cooperative venture between Portland and Portland State, with the city owning the property and the University maintaining and controlling its use.



After: With the renovation completed in 1973, walkways and seating areas transform the space opposite present-day Smith Memorial Student Union.

--Mary Brannan and Steve Brannan

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.

In memoriam: John Olney Dart, 1921-2010

Editor's note: In May 2005 John Dart submitted his self-written obituary to RAPS member Vic Dahl, asking that it be held for publication in the *RAPS Sheet* after his death. He died in Green Valley, AZ Dec. 7, 2010. An article by Vic Dahl in the December 2010 edition of the *RAPS Sheet* covers Dart's community service in Green Valley as a Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer and includes additional information about Dart's life.

John Olney Dart was born on May 19, 1921 to Raymond and Kathryn Dart in West Palm Beach, FL. At age six his family, including brothers Dwight and Richard, moved to Cuba where his father was manager of a large sugar cane plantation. In 1932 his family moved to Molson, WA where his father was owner and manager of a gold mining operation.

John grew up in the backwoods of North Central Washington just south of the Canadian border, enjoying hunting, fishing and skiing. He graduated from Molson Union High School in 1938. After working in the mine for a year (and gaining his Eagle Scout badge), he entered Central Washington College in 1939.

In 1942, shortly before receiving his degree, he enlisted in the army and was sent to Fort Bragg, NC for basic training. He was sent to the 103rd Combat Engineers of the 28th Infantry Division, which was shipped to the British Isles in October 1943. The division was sent to France in July 1944 and participated in numerous battles as a part of the 1st Army. It was chosen to parade through Paris to celebrate that city's liberation.

The division then moved into Luxembourg and Germany. Dart was a member of the combat team that was the first allied troops to enter Germany and reach the Siegfried Line. During the Battle of the Bulge he was wounded and captured Dec. 19 near Wiltz, Luxembourg. After long marches in very cold weather, little food, miserable train rides and suffering from dysentery, he reached Stalag IIA, just out of Neubrandenburg, weighing just 105 pounds. From there he was sent to a large state farm where he worked until liberated by the 6th British Airborne on May 2, 1945.

After returning to the States and spending a 75-day furlough recuperating at home, John returned to duty to discover that he lacked one point of the number required for discharge. After a month at Fort McDowell in San Francisco Bay, he was discharged and returned home to Molson.

In January 1946, he returned to Central Washington, graduated in June, taught school in Cle Elum and entered

graduate school in the geography department at the University of Washington. He married Marcella White in 1947, received his MA in 1948, attended a summer field camp at UCLA and taught fall quarter at the University of Oregon in 1949.

In 1950 John accepted a position at Portland State. The first geographer and first geologist hired by the institution, he taught at the shipyards location until the college moved to Lincoln Hall in downtown Portland in 1952. As the college became a full degree-granting institution and developed a formal faculty governance structure, he was elected to the first faculty senate and the first President's Advisory Council.

He received his PhD in 1953 and in 1954 made his first hire, Clarke Brooke, for the expanding geography department. John was promoted to assistant professor in 1954, associate professor in 1956 and full professor in 1959. He originated the Urban Studies Certificate and became the first Director of Urban Studies. As the college developed and programs were added, the Urban Studies Certificate program model was adopted by the area studies in Middle East, Central Europe, and Latin America.

In 1962 Dart was named chairman of a committee attempting to interest the Peace Corps in PSC's capabilities in developing a Peace Corps training program. Little progress was made until Congresswoman Edith Green was asked to intervene. Very soon Portland State was awarded a training contract.

Dart was asked to develop the training program, hire the staff and become the Director of Peace Corps training. He was reluctant to leave Geography, which had developed into an eight-person department granting BA and MA degrees but the Peace Corps presented an interesting challenge and he accepted. The first group, 20 nurses to be trained for service in Turkey, arrived the summer of 1963. They were followed by other groups to be trained for various duties in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and West Pakistan.

Soon after the beginning of Peace Corps training the college decided to consolidate all international programs under a single administrative unit, International Programs, and Dart was asked to be its first director. Although PSC was a young institution, it had developed a number of significant programs. The Middle East and Central European Studies programs were funded by the federal government; academic year programs had been

continued on page 6

Committee seeks nominations for outstanding staff, faculty

The RAPS Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Retired Faculty and Staff Awards. The awards will be presented at the annual President's Luncheon to be held Thursday, April 12, at University Place.

Awards recipients are selected based on their achievements since retirement in at least three of the following categories:

- ◆Service to the community
- ◆Service to the University
- ◆Professional/career achievements
- ◆Service to RAPS

Nominations will be reviewed by the RAPS Awards Committee: Marge Terdal, chair, Priscilla Blumel and Bob Tufts. Both members and non-members of RAPS will be considered.

Nomination forms are due March 24. They may be obtained by calling Maya Burton, the RAPS Office Manager, at 503-725-3447 or emailing raps@pdx.edu. In addition, forms will be available at the February and March RAPS meetings. For questions, please contact Marge Terdal at 503-244-5714 or terdalm@pdx.edu.

John Dart . . . *continued from page 5*

established in Pavia, Italy and Zagreb, Yugoslavia; summer programs were running in Mexico, Spain, and Japan; and campus programs included Latin American Studies, Teaching English as a Second Language, and a special training program for beginning Saudi Arabian students funded by the Saudi government.

In 1967 Dart decided to return to the Geography Department to assume the best position in any university—a full professor with no administrative duties. In addition to teaching and writing, he found time to develop proposals for new types of sabbatical leaves and phased early retirement, both of which were initially opposed by the administration but have become standard programs benefiting faculty and administration.

Fortunately, his efforts to establish a phased early retirement began in the early 1970s and by the time he was ready to retire a system was in place. He retired in 1983 and taught seven summer sessions before completely leaving PSU. In 1987 he and Marcy moved to Green Valley, AZ where they continued to reside, returning to Portland each summer to maintain contact with friends.

RAPS Directory to be revised

An updated version of the RAPS Directory will be available to members this fall. The current directory was published in August 2008, creating a lack of contact information for a substantial number of members who retired after that date.

Membership Chair Larry Sawyer, who is spearheading the revision, supplied the following information:

INFORMATION WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT A MEMBER'S CONSENT.

We will publish the following information:

- 1) Name (and name of spouse if applicable)
- 2) PSU department
- 3) Home mailing address
- 4) Home and/or cell phone number
- 5) Email address

You may elect to withhold information on any of these five listings.

Information will be collected by phone or e-mail. If you gave your consent for the previous directory, the consent will be extended to the new directory unless you choose to withdraw it.

A notice of the directory revision will also be sent to RAPS members for whom we have email addresses. If you have email but don't receive a message from us, we either don't have it or have an incorrect address on file.

If we receive no response to our request for updated information, we will consider this a refusal and your name will not appear in the roster.

To update your information, confirm that your listing in the current directory is correct, or instruct us to withhold certain information, please send an email to raps@pdx.edu or leave a voice mail message at the RAPS Office, 503-725-3447.

Scholarship funds always a welcome gift

Help build the RAPS Scholarship fund and gain a tax deduction in the process. Any amount a member wishes to contribute helps build the fund. Checks may be made payable to the PSU Foundation and sent to Maya Burton, RAPS Office Manager. The mailing address is RAPS, Portland State University, PO Box 751, Portland OR 97207-0751.