



SUNY Retirees Newsletter

Bonus Features

Spring/Summer 2015

From Philosopher to Filmmaker: A Peek Behind the Movie Curtain

Gary Cox, SUNY Geneseo Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and documentary director/producer, tells the story behind four stills from the first half of his forthcoming documentary for the Finger Lakes Museum on the wine and grape industry in New York's Finger Lakes region:

"Late in the 19th century, Great Western Champagne, produced by the Pleasant Valley Wine Company of Hammondsport, NY from native American hybrid grapes, repeatedly won awards in prestigious European competitions – as detailed towards the bottom of their poster [below]."

"Pleasant Valley's principal competitor was Hammondsport's Urbana Wine Company, later known as Gold Seal, which conducted business from its very large stone wine cellar, the architectural gem of the Finger Lakes."



"Also important in the decades before national Prohibition, when large crews were needed to harvest ripe grapes by hand, was Widmer's Wine Cellars of Naples, NY."



"In the nineteenth century, transport of grapes and wine by steamships was standard practice on several of the Finger Lakes."



Cox screened "Collision Course: Wine and Temperance in New York's Finger Lakes" (part one of an eventual two-part documentary) for the SUNY Geneseo Emeriti Association. Attendees found the film very interesting.



Advice for Purchasing a Digital Camera

by Sharon Cramer, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, Buffalo State College

Put "buying a digital camera" into your favorite Internet search engine and you will receive the guidance you need to think through your purchase of a new digital camera. Here are two examples of advice from experts:

- The website for PC Magazine (www.pcmag.com), posted a very helpful article by Jim Fisher, "How to Buy a Digital Camera" (3/3/2015). You may view this perfect place to start at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2403874,00.asp>.

- Joshua Goldman and Lori Grunin, in their article for www.cnet.com entitled "Camera buying guide: The most important things to know when shopping for a camera" (10/4/2013, updated 11/25/2014) analyze choices in terms of how the camera will be used (family portraits, sports, landscapes). Read the article at <http://www.cnet.com/news/camera-buying-guide/>.

The photography section of a local bookstore or library is another resource. Beginning with *Photography for Dummies* or *Digital Photography for Dummies* on up through advanced resource books, you will find help in guiding you in your camera purchase, as well as stimulate your imagination about possible subjects for your photographic adventures. Every year, new photography books are published. Thumb through several to gather tips on what features are "must-haves" for your new camera.

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Find a Photography Club Near You!

Umbrella Organizations: Multiple Clubs are Members

Photographic Federation of Long Island: a voluntary non-profit organization of camera clubs from Nassau and Suffolk counties and the five boroughs of NYC (22 clubs) – www.pflionline.com

Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Clubs – www.nfrcc.org

Photographic Society of America (1897) – www.psa-photo.org
(Contains links to member clubs throughout the U.S., including New York State)

Canadian Association for Photographic Art – <http://capacanada.ca>

Examples of Photography Clubs throughout New York State

Manhattan Miniature Camera Club (1933) – www.mmcc-nyc.org

Park West Camera Club (1937) – www.parkwestcameraclub.org

Flushing Camera Club (1970) – www.flushingcameraclub.org

Manhasset-Great Neck Camera Club (1951) – www.greatneckcameraclub.org

Westchester Photographic Society (1948) – www.wpsphoto.org

Color Camera Club of Westchester (1951) – www.colorcameraclub.org

Adirondack Hiking Photography Group (2013) – www.meetup.com/Adirondack-Hiking-Photography-Group/

Capital Region Photography Meetup Group (2008) – www.meetup.com/tcrpmg/

Saratoga Photography Club (2012) – <http://www.meetup.com/SaratogaPhoto/>

Schenectady Photographic Society (1931) – www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com

Syracuse Camera Club (1886) – www.syracusecameraclub.org

Syracuse Photographers Association (2006) – www.meetup.com/Syracuse-Photographers-Association/

Two Rivers Camera Club, Binghamton (2010) – www.2rpc.com

Camera Rochester (1970) – www.camerarochester.org

Rochester Area Nature Photography Meetup Group (2007) – www.meetup.com/naturephotography/

The Rochester Digital Photography Meetup Group (2008) – www.meetup.com/The-Rochester-Digital-Photography-Meetup-Group/

The Last Word

Transforming Retirement

by Patrick C. Cullinane, President, AROHE

Is America missing a treasure? Is higher education also missing treasured opportunities? Every year tens of thousands of faculty and staff retire from full-time work in higher education and transition to next-life chapters of 20 to 30 years. Many leave healthy, still productive with valuable institutional knowledge and a continuing desire to be engaged and continue contributing to the best interests of their institution. It is time for this untapped resource to be engaged for the mutual benefit of the institutions, their faculty and staff, and society at large. It is time to transform our vision for retirement in higher education.

What is AROHE?

AROHE, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education, is committed to transforming retirement in higher education. Our mission is to champion transformative practices to support all stages of faculty and staff retirement and their mutually beneficial engagement and continuing contributions. AROHE is a dynamic network of 100+ organizations, representing over 100,000 individuals that include retired faculty and staff associations, campus-funded retiree centers, emeriti colleges and other lifelong learning centers as well as campus departments such as human

resources, academic affairs, development/ advancement and alumni relations.

AROHE fosters the development of campus-based organizations and programs for retired faculty and staff. AROHE promotes a culture that recognizes, encourages, and values retired faculty and staff's continuing contributions to all aspects of campus and community life. AROHE offers advice and consultation on how to make the retirement process – both the preparation for retirement and the actual transition – a more productive and less stressful life course change. AROHE,

incorporated in 2002 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, is unique in that it is the only organization specifically focused on retirement and retirees in higher education.

“The Retirement Problem”

Higher education faces a “retirement problem.” First, colleges and universities across the land urgently need help in facilitating retirement of their aging faculty. Second, individual faculty members and senior staff especially need personalized assistance in the sometimes unsettling process of retiring from academic institutions – preparing for it, passing through the transition itself, and then fashioning a meaningful third age of continuing creativity and service. And third, the issue of retirement in higher education has national implications in terms of failure thus far to take full advantage of the tremendous resource that an active retired professoriate and staff represent.

Across North America the 78 million baby-boom generation has begun to retire – 8,000 baby boomers every day in the USA; faculty and staff in higher education are well represented in this group. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (94--Monthly Labor Review--November 2007), there are 1.54 million post-secondary teachers in the United States

The professoriate especially is visibly “graying.” This population is both living longer and staying longer in full-time employment. In 2013 a sixty-five-year-old white female college professor could expect to live to age 85.5. [Table 7. Life expectancy at selected ages, by race, Hispanic origin, race for non-Hispanic population, and sex: United States, 2013, CDC FastStats website.]

Freedom from a statutory retirement age in the United States has affected academic retirement more than retirement from business or industry. *The Impact of Uncapping of Mandatory Retirement on Postsecondary Institutions*, (NYU, New York, NY) (*Educational Researcher*: Accepted, June 24, 2013) noted that “...Although

only 11% of faculty who were subject to mandatory retirement remained after age 70 (those with special arrangements), we find after the law changed that 60% of faculty no longer subject to mandatory retirement are expected to remain employed beyond age 70...”

The Retirement Opportunity

A few programs have begun to emerge to address this trend. A key to success appears to be that they have ways to support senior faculty in the process of approaching and transitioning into retirement. Such programs focus on making retirement a positive step into the future for faculty rather than a surrender of so much that they hold dear, a bridge to a preferred future vs. a plank off the campus ship.

AROHE excels both in facilitating the process of retiring and in the development of campus programs and retirement organizations that, in effect, provide faculty and staff a new administrative (and often quasi-academic) unit within the university and programmatic options for mutually satisfying transitions.

AROHE has functioned very effectively as a retirement coach and adviser for faculty and staff because it understands why academics and staff resist retirement. Once economic concerns are out of the picture, it is the psychosocial aspect of retirement that figures most prominently. And, unlike in other professions, academic professionals and senior staff/administrators in particular don't refuse to retire out of fear of boredom. Rather, research has shown that the most important factor keeping faculty and senior staff from retiring is simply overwhelming job satisfaction as stakeholders in a community of thinkers and institutions created to develop greater good for society. Most say they love what they do and cannot easily conceive of not doing it.

Academics and senior staff face retirement as the loss of a community that has given them their identity, and thus their very sense of self-worth. A truth seldom spoken aloud in a national culture that enshrines individualism is that the

life of the mind is essentially, unavoidably, but also splendidly, communal. For these reasons AROHE believes academic retirement is fundamentally different.

Transformation Benefits

Higher education across America stands to benefit enormously if its retired faculty and staff are organized. These are highly educated and talented people, whose personal skills and professional expertise fairly demand to be channeled into productive activities. The evidence suggests, however, that only structured campus-based options and retirement organizations can manage the very substantial job of compiling, coordinating, and managing this richness of human resources.

This situation, moreover, has profound implications for the nation. Our academic retirees – scholars, researchers, teachers, administrators, directors, clerical staff, and others – are among the best and the brightest citizens of this republic. They are without question the best-educated among us; they constitute a corps of intellectual and professional expertise the nation can ill afford to let lie fallow during the decades that each could be of service to our national culture.

AROHE Services and Programs

To address these challenges and opportunities, AROHE provides a variety of services to its member organizations. For members who are forming new retiree organizations or developing new programs for retired faculty and staff, the association offers resources, including a Start Up Kit, geared toward newly-established groups. For more mature organizations that are striving to improve or expand their operations, AROHE offers opportunities to share successful practices and network with other members. Current services and programs include:

- **A biennial conference** is AROHE's most significant undertaking. It brings retiree organization leaders from across North America together for two full days of workshops, forums and networking opportunities.

- *AROHE Matters* is an electronic newsletter

that is sent every other month to AROHE members and non-members. The newsletter includes such items as links to useful resources, descriptions of successful practices, results of surveys and profiles of AROHE members.

- **The AROHE website** (<http://arohe.org>)

- o An online member directory allows members to search for and seek assistance from other member organizations that will be most aligned with their needs.

- o An **online discussion forum** allows members to share ideas or to ask questions of other members.

- o **Member-shared resources** in six different topical areas: programs and events, awards and recognition, fundraising and scholarships, volunteers and service, communications and marketing, surveys and reports, organization management and pre-retirement programs.

- A new mentoring program pairs new or less-experienced members with more experienced members for one-on-one consultation.



*Patrick Cullinane
President, AROHE*

Come Join Us

We want your input. Share your ideas, needs, and concerns at info@arohe.org. Join AROHE and help us transform retirement in higher education.