



# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

## AUAR EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019

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I am surprised how fast my two years as President of AUAR have gone by. I have enjoyed serving, but I am also looking forward to the next challenge - becoming Past President. This is the last time I will have to try to think up something to write in the newsletter.

I did wonder whether the AUAR Board was trying to tell me something when they scheduled Bill Considine to speak on leadership at our November luncheon. It was also a little disconcerting when our October speaker ended his talk by looking my way and saying, "Take a Hike!"

As Past President, I will still be attending the AUAR Board meetings. Our monthly meetings are not like the meetings I remember when I was employed. There are a lot of laughs and good times during the meetings, and afterwards we finish the discussions at lunch at the Akron Family Restaurant. Our lunches remind me of the question, "What do retirees call a long lunch?" The answer is a short lunch! However, much is accomplished at our board meetings. We plan the many social events; and, as members can attest, these events are well organized. With the help of many volunteers, all of our events run smoothly and efficiently. We also have watched over the finances, which I can report are in fine shape. Board members are very competent in carrying out the mission of our organization.

That does not mean to say that running the events is a walk in the park. Over the last two years, I have come to realize how much effort is necessary. Thanks to Program Committee chairs, Tom and Diane Vukovich, all goes well. Unfortunately, I found out how much work goes in to our luncheons, when Tom, Diane, and Ed Lasher were in Japan at the time of the October luncheon. I became the chief cook and bottle washer – preside over the meeting, handle the speaker requirements, and take pictures! All went well, except for acquiring the \$100 honorarium check for our speaker, Robert Grau. It was necessary for him to fill out three UA forms and get them back to me, so that I could get them to Accounts Payable. One week before the luncheon, I stopped by Accounts Payable to pick up his check. On the requisition form, we had specified that the check would be picked up. The check was nowhere to be found, and I finally was informed that it had been mailed to Robert Grau. I called Robert Grau, and he told me that in the many times he has spoken, he had never received the honorarium one week ahead of the speaking engagement. He told me he had cashed it, but he assured me that he would still show up!

Right when the fliers for the December 12 luncheon were to go out, we were informed that it would be necessary to move our luncheon to a smaller room. This was an example of Murphy's Law! Never before had a 14 piece orchestra been scheduled for one of our luncheons! Fortunately, Tom was in town, and he called the Aramark representative with a Youngstown offer that couldn't be refused. Our luncheon was moved back into our usual meeting room.

The future is bright for AUAR. Just think, in 40 years, our board will still be planning events, even though the board will be made up of twenty tattooed individuals sitting around the table with group discussions being handled by looking down and texting one other!

Well, just in time to turn the reins over to Dan Sheffer, I have acquired enough experience and knowledge of how our organization runs to effectively function as president. Unfortunately, now it is too late! Fortunately, under Dan's leadership, we are in good hands. He is a fast learner!



Neal C. Raber  
President 2017-19

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## In Memoriam

*Editorial note: Please alert us to any member of our "University Family" whom we have overlooked.*

With our condolences to their families and friends, we honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making the University a better place.

**Sandra Lee Collins**, 71, died November 27, 2018. Sandra worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Akron.

**Michael Francis d'Amico**, 75, passed away on October 22, 2018. He was a professor of Marketing at the University for nearly 35 years.

**Nina Edminister** passed away on September 13, 2018. She volunteered for many years at the International Institute and was a member of the University of Akron Faculty Wives Club.

**Reverend Dr. James T. Higgenbottom**, Sr. died November 11, 2018. He was a professor at the University of Akron and founded the South Street Mission, Inc. in 1972.

**George W. Knepper**, 92, died October 20, 2018. George was a Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus and University Historian at the University of Akron. Despite that George's first love remained the classroom, he did occupy many administrative positions on campus. Just a listing of a few of those in which he served during his career spanning from 1954 to retirement in 1992: Department Head of the History Department, Dean of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Educational Research and Development.

**Ruth E. Matty**, 68, passed away on August 28, 2018. At the time of her retirement, Ruth worked in the University of Akron Accounting Department.

**Gerald S. McFadden** passed away on August 31, 2018. Jerry, as he was known among his many friends, was the Director of Staff Personnel at the University of Akron. He also was the Executive Vice President of the Board of the Akron Symphony Orchestra and served on this Board for 49 years.

**Jack F. Mercer**, 86, died October 30, 2018. Jack retired as a Professor from C & T at the University of Akron.

**Isadore Newman**, 75, passed away on October 3, 2018. In his era at the University, Isadore was affectionally known to his friends as "All things Multiple Linear Regression" and retired from the University with 35 years of service as Distinguished Professor. Isadore always had a joke to tell you; sometimes it might have been funny.

**John Olive**, 89, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Akron, died September 13, 2018. Before arriving at the University of Akron, John taught Biology at the Ashland University. From 1970 until his retirement in 1994, he taught biology and conducted aquatic biological research at the University of Akron.

**Judy Spiers**, 71, died September 25, 2018. She worked 30 years at the University of Akron beginning in data entry and retiring as a Telecommunications Technician Specialist.

**Roger W. Strassburg**, 98, died November 7, 2018. Prior to arriving at the University of Akron, Roger had retired from the B. F. Goodrich Co. working in research and management. He also completed his second retirement at the University as an adjunct professor of Chemistry.

**James William (Bill) Taggart**, 74, passed away November 18, 2018. Bill taught Business Law and served as the Associate Dean of the Community and Technical College.

**Randolph "Randy" Vipperman**, 61, passed away August 27, 2018. He was an adult probation officer with Summit County and a lecturer in social work at the University of Akron.

**Pamela C. Winkler**, 71, passed away on September 16, 2018. She was a Senior Lecturer in Developmental Programs at the University of Akron.

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## Exploring the retirees' association web page.

If you haven't yet had a chance, why not take a few minutes and explore our web page. We regularly add information to keep you apprised of our group opportunities for socializing (luncheons and speakers, or special events in the Akron area), your benefits and the latest actions of the University of Akron Retirees Board. You might wish to know a bit of our history, or if you are having trouble sleeping, you may want to read our constitution just before going to bed.

The Association web site is located at: [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar). Enter this address one time and bookmark the page that opens for future visits. Some enter University of Akron retirees in one of the search engines on their browsers and then follow the results of their search to our web site.

Once in our AUAR home page, you can click on any of the topics listed on the left hand edge of the page to automatically go to information you are interested in reading. Topics include: History, Board Members (contact information), Constitution, Board Minutes, Luncheons/Speakers, Special Events, Newsletter (current and past editions), Announcements, Post-Retirement Benefits and Membership Brochure (information and application).

The home page also has a link to the contact list of all retired faculty and staff of the University of Akron.

If you have suggestion for items to include on our web page, please let us know.

# September Luncheon Attendees Learn About Panama

## -Speaker: Randy Pelton



**Randy Pelton and Tom Vukovich**

For the past 4 or 5 years, the September luncheons have featured travelogues presented by AUAR members who enjoy world travel. On September 12, 2019 Randy Pelton, a retired educator and journalist, joined the list. He, along with a Vukovich travel group, journeyed to Panama and Columbia in late February 2018.

Did you know that “Panama” is an indigenous word meaning “abundance of fish”? Randy explained the history of the Panama Canal, which is considered one of the world’s greatest engineering achievements. Started in 1880 by the French, the project was abandoned in 1888. Later taken over in 1904 by the U.S. government, the 50-mile long canal was completed in 1914. In 1977 the Torrijos-Carter Treaties provided a 20-year grace period from 1979-1999 when the canal was turned over entirely to the Panamanian government. A second larger canal was completed in 2016 by Panama. It was funded by a referendum voted on by the Panamanian people.

The trip was mostly on land with a 3-day stay on a 20-passenger catamaran. After traversing the first lock, the ship was permitted to stay several days in Lake Gatun where the group kayaked and visited an island. The ship then passed through the remaining two locks and completed the transit of the canal from the north to the Pacific Ocean on the south.

While on the land portion of the trip, the group visited the Ron Abuelo Rum Factory. They rode on ox carts to the factory area and, after touring the distillery, enjoyed some samples in the tasting room. They also walked through the Summit Botanical Gardens, which contained an aviary where we viewed the harpy eagle, with its distinguishing head feathers and 7-foot wing span.

A visit to the Embera Indian Village for a home-hosted lunch of fish and fried plantain was one of the highlights of the trip. These indigenous people live, just as their ancestors did, in thatched-roof huts that sit on stilts. They still practice century-old traditions of dance, basket weaving and producing gorgeous wood carvings, which many members of the group purchased.

Randy and Leslie Bain, who have degrees in Geology, were excited to find remnants of underwater volcanic activity called “pillow lava” during one of our nature walks.

The second part of the trip was to Cartagena, Columbia. The group stayed in the old walled town area near the San Felipe Castle and Fortress. Here they encountered friendly people and explored the culture of the Columbians and their historic treasures. One memorable stop was at the Emerald Museum, which, of course, ended at the emerald jewelry store. All of the female travelers brought home at least one of those brilliant green gems as a remembrance of their short trip to Cartagena.

Randy is an expert photographer, and his presentation contained many composite photographs, making sure that his trip was well documented.



**Carolyn & Richard Steiner**



**Dan Sheffer, John Heminger, & Bob Gandee**



**Michael Shuldiner & John Bee**



**Rita & Denny Klein with Speaker Randy Pelton**



**Tim Lillie, Sylvia Johnson, & Becky Michael**



**Bob & Georgia Ritchie with Jon Hawes**



# October Luncheon

## Five Million Steps: Thru – Hiking the Appalachian Trail

-Speaker: Bob Grau, aka *Buckeye Flash*

**Bob Grau**

Hopefully, you were one of the 50 attendees to hear Bob Grau tell us about his adventures hiking the Appalachian Trail; because he was both passionate and humorous in describing what he went through during the hike.

Twelve years after this college educator retired, he embarked on the journey of a lifetime. Prior to deciding to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail (AT), he was a non-hiker with no hiking gear! When his wife, Nancy, heard of his decision, she thought he had gone crazy. When a friend asked Nancy if she would visit him while he was hiking the trail, she responded, "He knows where I live!"

He began the hike on Tuesday, March 22, 2017 in Georgia and finished 170 days later on Wednesday, September 7, in Maine. The length of the hike was 2,181 miles, went through 14 states, and included 90 miles of mountain ascents and descents. Bob now belongs to a group of less than 25% of aspiring thru-hikers that are successful in completing the extremely arduous trek. He explained that thru-hikers choose a trail name. He chose Buckeye Flash, because of his tendency to be a fast walking Ohioan, who had degrees from Kent State University. He was accompanied on parts of his hike with *Pilgrim, Dead Man, Old Grandad, and Chainsaw*.

Bob's talk included many pictures taken while he was on the trail. We observed that the AT was nothing like what we envision a trail to be, when we think of the trails in the Summit County Metro Parks. Because the hike was so treacherous and dangerous, it is difficult to comprehend why anyone would want to leave their comfortable surroundings to spend a summer on the AT! Bob slipped and broke his ankle with 380 miles left in the journey and still finished hiking the final 380 miles through the treacherous terrain in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine.

Bob said that he would like to hike it again and that in the past after hearing his talk, some 10 people decided to attempt the hike. AUAR attendees seemed satisfied to hike the trail vicariously as Bob highlighted his encounters with bears, snakes, moose, and other wildlife. He brought along with him to the talk many of the supplies he used to complete the hike, and he set up his tent for us to see.

Afterwards, we were able to purchase a signed copy of his book, *Five Million Steps on a Journey of Hope: Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail* for \$15. 100% of book proceeds directly benefit the Christian Appalachian Project, a 501c(3) charity that aids destitute people living in Appalachia. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you can order it at [www.grauathiker.com](http://www.grauathiker.com).

Bob graciously finished his talk by telling us, "Take a hike!"



**Bob & Rae Leonard, Chuck & Helen Candea, & Katie Norman**



**Dan Sheffer & Mary Verstraete**



**Frank Thomas, Dan Sheffer, & John Heminger, Ready to Go!**



**Helen Campbell, Jim Stafford, Mary Ellen & Glenn Atwood, Charley & Jan Von Spiegel**



**Ali Hajjafar, Bob Gandee, & Loren Hoch**



**Speaker Bob Grau enjoying lunch with Dan Sheffer, Bob & Rae Leonard, & the Candeaes**



**Time to Eat**



**Shirley & Don O'Hara & Leslie Bain**



**William Considine**

## November Luncheon

**-Speaker William Considine, CEO Emeritus, Akron Children’s Hospital**

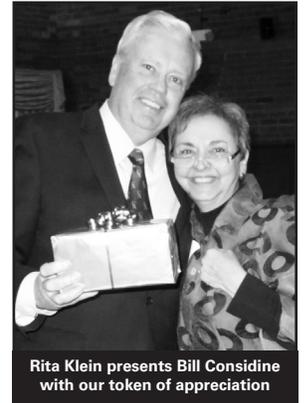
Mr. Considine’s opening remarks focused on his pride and love for both Children’s Hospital as well as The University of Akron, calling the University the very fabric of our community. He then began the story of how his recent book, “Leadership: Lessons from Miracle Children,” came about.

He traced his early experience with the word “leadership” and the difficulty in really defining what that meant. He shared with his audience his early personal experience with leadership beginning with Hoban High School and our very own University as an undergrad. His experiences in Graduate School and military service further molded his understanding of leadership that launched his career, first in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and then ultimately in Akron at Akron Children’s.

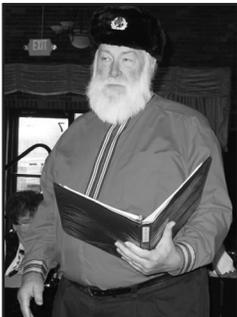
His formal understanding of “leadership” finally took center stage as he arrived to speak at Medina Hospital some years ago. He was under the impression that he was to speak on the early development of Akron Children’s. Much to his surprise, the program he was handed listed the topic of his address as “Leadership!” A true leader is never at a loss for a creative way to handle the unexpected. So, on the spot he decided to use the letters in the word “leadership” to bring to mind various characteristics of a leader that spoke to him. So he proceeded through the word, one letter at a time and following it with two leadership characteristics that started with that same letter.

This impromptu presentation found itself useful as the Leadership Academy at Akron Children’s was established and developed. Over time, he was urged to put his presentation into book form. If he wrote a book, he knew he wanted the book to have pictures, stories and to be short so he began roughing it out and sharing it with others. The finished project is now published, laced with stories of the children who touched his heart over his years at Akron Children’s. He now considers it a “thank you” to all the families he has worked with over the years.

Curious about the words he used to define leadership? Get the book! It’s an easy and inspiring read and all proceeds go to Akron Children’s Hospital.



**Rita Klein presents Bill Considine with our token of appreciation**



**Ken Kramer**

## December Holiday Luncheon

**-St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra**

Thanks to a former AUAR President, Velma Pomrenke, for suggesting the St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra to perform at the Holiday Luncheon on December 12, 2018. What a surprise awaited the 55 retirees and guests! The 14-member group is composed mostly of self-taught musicians. Many decided to learn to play these unique string instruments after attending a similar performance.

Ms. Jane Malackany, the orchestra director, explained that Balalaika means “play thing”, and that the instruments originated in Russia and Eastern Europe. The main instrument in most of the arrangements is the “prema domra”.

The group began with “Lara’s Theme” from the movie, “Dr. Zhivago”. This was followed by “Never on Sunday” and several Russian folk songs. We did not expect to be treated to the fantastic voice of Mr. Ken Kramer, a Kent State (Stark) retiree. Ken sang several songs including the “Volga Boatmen”, “Sunrise, Sunset” from “Fiddler on the Roof”, and “Oh Holy Night”. He then lead us in singing traditional holiday songs, ending with “Silent Night”. His deep, rich voice delighted everyone.

The group, who were dressed in colorful traditional Russian outfits, also brought in an assortment of percussion instruments. They distributed tambourines, wooden spoons, and clap boards to the members of the audience. We accompanied the orchestra in a tune called “Baltic Fantasy” and several other songs. The one-hour performance was over too soon!

The St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra is the only such group in Ohio. If you hear that they are playing somewhere nearby, treat yourself and attend a performance. You’ll love it!





**Pam:** Thank you for meeting with me. You have been on the board for a long time and are our chief photographer; it's about time for an interview!

**Ed:** Ever since its beginning in 1998. I was also the 3rd President, 2003-05. But whenever you asked for

interviewees, I hid behind. Finally I decided "how long can I hide," so here I am!

**P:** The years of your presidency were also times of some controversy, too, at the state level, as I recall. The State was having financial problems & eyeing the pension funds.

**Ed:** Yes, the State politicians wanted to use our funds for certain "investments" with their chosen companies, a change from our existing very successful agencies. It was quite a challenge!

**P:** Well, we got through it, and still have a reliable system. But now let's back up & focus on your history. You're originally a New Yorker!

**Ed:** Yes, I spent my first 17 1/2 years in Yonkers, then got my BS in Education at The State University of NY at Oneonta. Then I taught a year in an elementary school in Yonkers, and later, 3 years as media specialist at The Dickinson Public Schools in North Dakota.

**P:** I am still listening for a trace of that NY accent! But since then you have traveled around quite a bit for both advanced schooling and employment: Indiana University, an MS in Education & Specialist in Ed.; Doctorate from University of North Dakota New School of Behavioral Studies, 1971. These lead to some other positions.

**Ed:** I spent a year at Western Michigan U at Kalamazoo, filling in for a professor on leave.

**P:** Then the next year, 1972, you joined us at AU as Professor of Education & Director of the Educational Media Lab.

**Ed:** When I came to sample the Mid-West, I wasn't sure how long I would stay; I enjoyed moving around, and wanted ultimately to be only a few hours from the ocean. But after 3 years or so it dawned on me: I liked Akron and I should think about future retirement benefits, etc.

**P:** and you met Judy Noble.

**Ed:** Yes we were in the same building & became friends, found we had some common interests. Things led to marriage, kids, & now grandkids!

**P:** your interest in photography & media has been a great boon to the University & AUAR. You are our major photographer for our events, which we publicize in this newsletter. You are also an avid traveler, always with a camera close at hand. You have joined the many trips such as those sponsored by OAT with the Vukoviches, and listed 22 countries that you can remember visiting. Much to talk about there. Favorites?

**Ed:** That would be difficult to say; they were all meaningful. Africa was very different and exciting with its many alien settings! [probably the most alien;] China was really interesting for Judy and me. I happen to like Chinese food and it was just great having so many Chinese restaurants all around! Seriously though, China's history and landmarks, way too many to talk about now, were extremely overwhelming to the senses! The latest trip to Japan was also fascinating; I'm still marinating it. Travel & photography is a natural combination. Organizing photos allows you to remember things that otherwise fade away. It's a discipline, making a



**Ed and Judy at the Great Wall (China March 2006)**



**Ed and Judy in Ireland (May 2007)**

**photo record of a trip. I also feel better off with the guided tours. They take care of things & get you into special places.**

**P:** I do see a couple exceptions to that pattern: the year Judy spent teaching in England, you joined her at end of semester.

**Ed:** Well Judy had been there for awhile & knew her way around, plus no language barrier! We spent time in England, Scotland and Wales and some decades later, Ireland.

**P:** Also your daughter Kara got you over to Hawaii for a "destination wedding " on the beach!

**Ed:** We made quite a trip out of it. Took Amtrak to the coast, saw Seattle & had dinner at the Space Needle. We then flew to Hawaii & after the beach wedding took a helicopter ride over the volcano. The pilot played Johnny Cash's "Burning Rings of Fire" into our headphones. Not sure our fellow passengers appreciated it but I loved our pilot's sense of humor. Our helicopter had no doors so I was able to lean out & take pictures. Then we finished up with a cruise around the islands.

**P:** sounds like quit a trip! And once back in the States you took Amtrak east.

**Ed:** On our way back we stopped over at the Grand Canyon for 3 days. It had been on my bucket list. Amtrak was very pleasant.

**P:** Well, you have sure been around! I'm going to mention a few we didn't talk about so readers can ask for your advice if wanted: Israel, Poland, Italy, Scandinavia, Russia, Spain, Croatia, Ireland, and more! Also Alaska, Mt Rushmore, & up & down our East coast. So much to see!

**Ed:** Not done traveling yet! We like our location at Concordia also as it is half way between our daughters, Laura in Virginia & Kara in Indiana.

**P:** So we can count on you to stay in the game. Hurrah! I haven't mentioned the many other leadership positions you have held over the years starting in high school as treasurer of a Federation of Temple Youth groups, and then leadership positions at various universities including president of the Audiovisual Education Association of North Dakota and president of the UA Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, all of which helped prepare you for your busy years in Akron including the position of President of AUAR. We hope to keep you active as our major photographer so we too have a history that is not forgotten!



**Most recent, Ed in Japan (Oct. 2018)**



## Soup & Chili Supper 2018

A cool, rainy evening greeted the approximately 40 retirees and guests at the annual Soup & Chili Supper on Friday, November 2, 2018. Some new dishes joined old favorites at the Lodge at Goodyear Metro Park in Goodyear Heights.

Pam Rupert's Crab Seafood Chowder and Ali Hajjafar's Butternut Squash Soup brought new flavors and color to the buffet table.

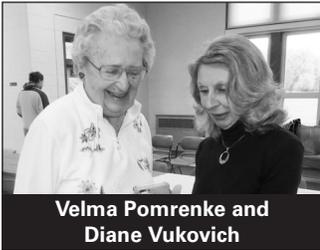
Healthy Minestrone from Sharon Gandee and Pasta Fagioli from Rita Klein, Tom Vukovich's Italian Sausage Chili along with Gaspacho offered by Antonio Quesada gave guests an opportunity to taste recipes with international origins. Rounding out the choices were Stuffed Pepper Soup by Judy Noble, Wind River Chicken Chili made by Roger & Leslie

Bain, Neal Raber's Rust Belt Chili, and mild but good Old Fashion Chili by Martha Hake.

Not much was left over on the salad or dessert table or in the crock pots as we cleaned the tables for BINGO. The "host caller" this year was a U.S. President who could not tell a lie – George Washington!

Tim Lillie and Kitty Endres, newly retired from The University of Akron, joined the festivities for the first time. Bob and Georgia Richie won the 50/50 raffle and donated their winnings to the AUAR Scholarship Fund. Thank you Bob and Georgia!

Plan to join us on the first Friday in November 2019 for great food and entertainment. Who will be our guest BINGO caller next year? It is always a surprise!



**Velma Pomrenke and  
Diane Vukovich**



**Bob Gandee, Bob Mravetz and  
Mel Vye**



**Loren Hoch, Rita & Denny Klein  
and John Miller**



**Jackie Raber and  
Sharon Gandee**



**Antonio Quesada and  
Ali Hajjafar**



**J.D. and Pearlmarie Goddard,  
Pam Rupert and Loren Hoch**



**Martha & Mel Vye**



**John & Betty Miller**



**Diane & Tom Vukovich**



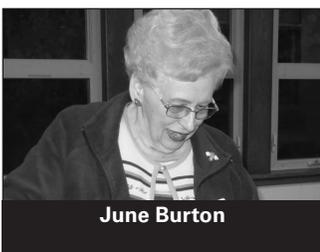
**Might that be George  
Washington**



**President Neal Raber**



**Pam Rupert and Loren Hoch**



**June Burton**



**Carolyn Cox inspects her  
new possession**



**Betty Miller shows off her prize**



**Charley von Spiegel  
introduces his new friend Ed**

## Fabulous Trip to Japan Surprised Travelers



Read aloud the following: “Itchy, Knee, Sun, She, Go, Rock, Hitch, Hutch, Q, Ju(do)”. You just counted to ten in Japanese! This was among our first language lessons during the beginning of a 14-day trip to Japan in early Fall 2018. But let’s back up a few weeks. The eleven UA retirees and friends had learned a few phrases from former UA President Matt Wilson and his wife Noriko at the Big Eye Japanese Restaurant prior to our departure. “Ohayo”, pronounced “Ohio” (Good Morning) and “Konnichiwa” (Good Afternoon) were easy to remember. Our lack of

knowledge of the Japanese language was not a hinderance during our Overseas Adventure Travel Tour with Fumi Endo as our trip leader.

After a short stay in Tokyo, it was off to Hakone for a 3-day visit. Other stops included Kanazawa, Kyoto and a daytrip to Nara. Three members of our group also took the optional extension to Hiroshima.

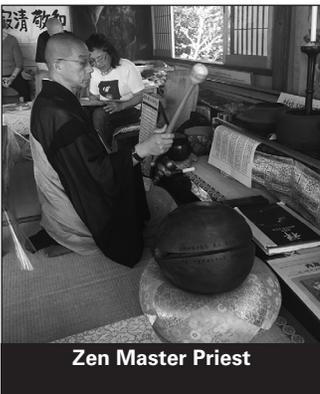
What did we see and experience? While many in the group were not interested in raw fish sushi, we did learn to make this iconic Japanese food with sticky rice and vegetables.

In the village of Ashigawa, we met four lovely ladies who taught us to make “hoto” noodles. At Goykayma Ainokura Village, a World Heritage Site, we strolled among 20 gasho-style houses. Many of these dwellings, with steeply pitched thatched roofs, are 100 to 200 years old. The oldest is said to have been built some 400 years ago. Later this same day we visited a papermaking establishment and made Japanese paper from the bark of the mulberry bush. Then we were entertained by locals who performed traditional dances.

While in Hakone, we experienced a typhoon and also had an excellent view of Mt. Fuji. We visited a master craftsman who specializes in creating elaborate patterns by inlaying wood pieces of different colors and types. The board with an inlaid design is then sliced into very thin sheets and attached to picture frames, small boxes, and pieces of jewelry.

The trip to Kanazawa was an unforgettable experience. We traveled by bullet train at speeds well over 100 mph. The lack of track noise and side to side motion plus the comfortable accommodations made the trip more like an excellent, first class flight. The second, shorter train ride was on a traditional express train. Here we encountered high school students who were eager to speak English with us. In Kanazawa we visited the Los Angeles Café and learned of the experiences of an evacuee from Fukushima. His town was abandoned in 2011 after a nuclear power plant failed and released radioactive materials into the environment. Later that day, we visited Togakuji Temple and spoke with a Buddhist monk about his religion. While in Kanazawa the travelers split into groups of 2 or 3 for a home visit. Each group reported different experiences organized by their Japanese hosts, but all agreed that they made new friends and enjoyed their short stay at these private homes.

The next stop was Kyoto, the former imperial capital of Japan before the emperor moved it east to Tokyo in 1868. Tokyo actually means “east Kyoto”. Here the group visited the Golden Pavilion, a rock and sand garden, a Shinto Shrine, and the Kyoto Imperial Palace. The group also took an optional trip, just to the south of Kyoto, to visit Nara, the first capital of Japan. Its Todaiji Temple is the largest wooden building in the world and houses two huge Buddha statues, one done in gold leaf and the other in bronze. Nara is populated by hundreds of tame deer, which are regarded as messengers of the Shinto God, Kasuga. On a side trip to Arashiyama, we visited a bamboo forest and the Senkoji Temple. The Temple was reached after walking along a beautiful river for a half hour and climbing up 200 steps along a winding path to the top of the hill. All of us made it! Here we met the Temple monk, Mr. Ohbayashi and learned about Zen, tea making and meditation. The experience and the view of Kyoto in the distance made the hike worthwhile.



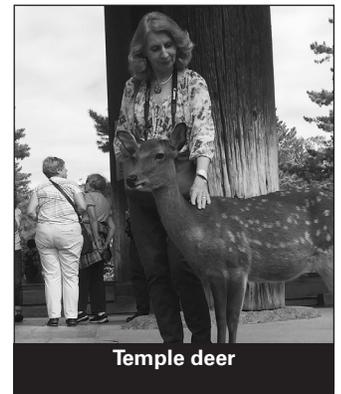
Zen Master Priest



Getting ready for a special 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration



Going Japanese



Temple deer

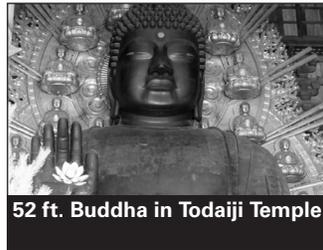
One extra evening activity was an eye-opener. We visited the Kyoto Station with a great view of the colorfully lit Kyoto Tower and a lighted staircase that reached up 4-5 stories. The backdrops of the steps contained lights that changed colors. When viewed from a distance, the staircase resembled a huge screen capable of showing pictures of people or scenery.

Many of the travelers became fond of Japanese food. We ate at several small restaurants, food courts and enjoyed moving around buffets to sample items with the locals. There are also McDonald's, KFC's, and many, many Lawson's and 7 eleven's. The people like to celebrate "western" holidays including Halloween, Thanksgiving (with KFC's fried chicken for dinner), and Christmas (despite the fact that less than 3% of the population is Christian). Except for our hotel in Kyoto, in which the rooms were quite small but adequate, the accommodations were spacious and not unlike those in the USA. The notable exception was the toilets! You have to experience the heated toilet seats and the bidet-like cleansing system. One needs to be very careful which buttons you push!

The culture of Japan and its people are what many of us will always remember. No graffiti, very clean streets and subways, no honking horns, no tipping, taxi driver in suits, ties and white gloves, etc. Respect and helpfulness abound! The historic and cultural sites were wonders to see, but the genuine nature of the people made a lasting impression.



**Mt. Fuji**



**52 ft. Buddha in Todaiji Temple**



**Lawson's popular in Japan**



**Sumo wrestling demo.**



**Our host prepares tea**



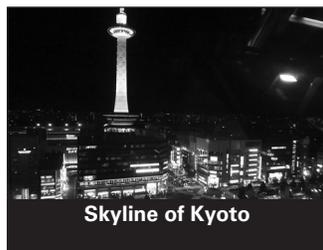
**Tom cutting noodles under supervision**



**Name in Japanese**



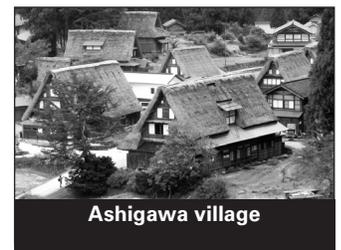
**Tom & Diane in proper attire**



**Skyline of Kyoto**



**Ed & Golden Pavilion, Shinto Shrine**



**Ashigawa village**

# FACULTY SENATE FALL 2018

## During the Spring Semester, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Adopted a resolution from the Executive Committee, requesting that the Administration provide rationales for the reorganizations it proposes, along with supporting data, including but not limited to data supporting the claim that the reorganizations will “more effectively promote and advertise degrees to potential students” and “direct students to the right degree or degree track more quickly and efficiently, increasing retention and graduation.”
- Adopted a resolution from the Executive Committee, requesting that the Administration allow sufficient time and provide adequate support for the affected academic units to meet to discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of reorganization and to determine the extent of any “educational and research synergies.”
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee, requesting that the administration Permit Degree Completion for Un-coded Students
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee, recommending approval of the proposal by the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education to merge its two remaining departments, into one department.
- Approved a recommendation from APC that Faculty Senate vote to formally object to the procedures used in the recent Academic Program cuts on the grounds that administration did not share governance in the final decision-making phase of the process. Specifically, administration did not:
  - 1) Use appropriate and available mechanisms to ensure that information used to make decisions was factually correct,
  - 2) Allow the University community the opportunity to respond before supposedly irreversible actions were taken,
  - 3) Allow individual programs to address items unique to their programs that would have resulted in better-informed decisions, or
  - 4) Act in accordance with its own numerous verbal assertions that no cuts would be made on the basis of the outcomes of this process.
- Approved the following admission policy changes for ELI and other international students
  - 1) International students who wish to enroll at UA for an undergraduate degree will no longer be required to present an ACT/SAT score to be considered for admission, but will be recommended. Admission acceptance or denial would be based on high school performance (according to each country’s equivalency of a high-school diploma) and other valid and predictive indicators of potential for academic success.
  - 2) International students who need help with English proficiency would be permitted to enroll in UA’s English Language Institute (ELI) regardless of nonimmigrant status (as long as their status does not prohibit study), and independent of whether or not they intend to pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree at UA.

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### AUAR Membership, Human Resources • The University of Akron • Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325

If you haven’t renewed your AUAR membership for the 2018-2019 year, it is time to do so. Don’t forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below. If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

**Name:** First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are **\$12.00**; make checks payable to “**AUAR**”  
Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_; make checks payable to the U of A Foundation

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

E-mail Digest SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday to faculty, staff and contract professionals. The digest contains announcements of all events of interest on campus. Retirees who would like to keep up with UA activities and receive the digest in their inbox can do so.

To be put on the guest list of recipients of the digest, send an email message to [bobk@uakron.edu](mailto:bobk@uakron.edu) (Robert Kropff). Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.

## December Holiday Luncheon 2018



Neal Rabe and Diane Vukovich



Yvonne Brooks and Mark Auburn



Susan Hughes and Jacki Wilbanks



Nancy Mulhauser, Diane Kunz and John Mulhauser



Jan & Charley von Spiegel

## UPCOMING EVENTS WINTER 2018/2019

**February 13 Luncheon**  
Larry Williams  
UA Director of Athletics

**March 13 Luncheon**  
Tim and Barbara Osyk,  
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

**April 10 Luncheon**  
Kathy Fernandez, "Zoar: The Story of an Intentional Community"

**April**  
Annual Road Trip TBA

**May 17**  
Lobster & Suds Party

### BOARD MEETING 2019

January 24	April 25
February 28	May 23
March 28	June 20

The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o Talent Development & Human Relations Department, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4730.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. The AUAR Executive Board meets at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month at the UA Alumni Office in InfoCision 203.

If you have questions about the organization or to keep abreast of events and issues pertinent to all UA retirees, visit our website at [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar). The newsletter editor, Dr. Pamela Rupert, can be reached at [pamelarae2004@aol.com](mailto:pamelarae2004@aol.com) or 330-928-1810.



The 2018-2019 AUAR Board

If you are interested in entertainment within the Akron area, check into our web site and view the events listed under the Special Events Menu. Just Log on to [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar) and click on the Menu "Special Events" or type [www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot](http://www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot)

### Our Motto

People say interns and new hires are the promise of the future.  
Let's not forget that retirees are promises kept.

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2018

