



*Faculty Emeriti Association*

# **NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2020, VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1**

## **INSIDE**

From the President's Desk	2-3	Membership Report	14
About the Board	2-3	JMU Mineral Museum	15
FEA Members Volunteering	4-11	A Walk Down Memory Lane	16
Pandemic Activities	12-13		

# From the President's Desk

by Shelia A. Moorman, President,  
Faculty Emeriti Association

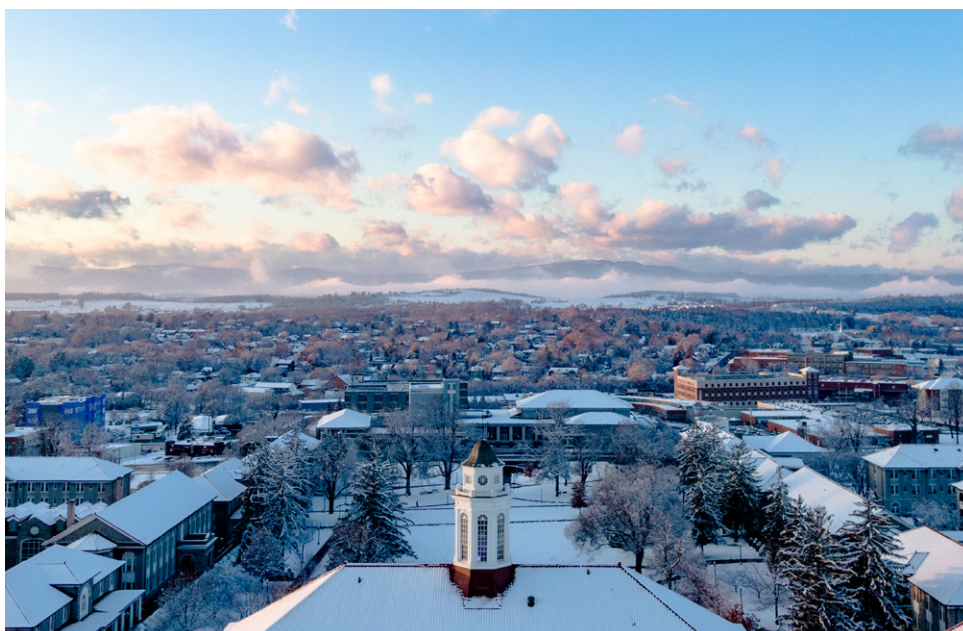
Holiday Greetings JMU Faculty Emeriti Association members,

On behalf of the 2020-2021 FEA Board, I wish you the best holiday season possible while remaining healthy and safe. While the challenges of the time remain, there is a twinkling light at the end of the tunnel. We look for relief from the pandemic and challenges of the past in the form of new national leadership, and the promise of a vaccine.

It's difficult to find words to express how much we have missed all of you and the wonderful times we share, but we will soon be together again. Hopefully this newsletter will be a reminder of what we can look forward to in the future; the food events, entertainment, lectures, bus trips, and all of the Interest Group gatherings.

Please note that Drs. Lance and Cindy Kearns will share a talk with our members via ZOOM on January 13th, entertaining us with stories and the details that led to the new JMU Mineral Museum that includes the recent \$16.8 million elite Via Collection donated to JMU. We are also setting our sights for the annual 2021 August Picnic marking a new beginning for our membership.

The Board met recently via ZOOM, and even though it was virtual it was heartwarming to see everyone, hear their voices and catch up with their daily lives. These volunteers are creative, giving, and energetic and I feel fortunate to serve with them. So, who are these Board members and "What Do They Do"?



## **President, Shelia Moorman, moormasa@jmu.edu**

The President serves a two-year term, and basically has oversight for all of the planning for events, group activities, newsletters, legacy grant selection, board meetings and communications. As per Past President Rex Fuller, "oversees means the president checks with Board members and JMU staff to assure the task has been completed. The buck stops you-know-where".

## **Vice-President, Kay Knickrehm, knickrkm@jmu.edu**

The VP backs up the President in her absence, attends Board Meetings, and oversees Membership. The VP generally agrees to run for President the next term. Ha! Ha!

## **Co-Treasurer, Bob Atkins, atkinsrc@jmu.edu**

## **Co-Treasurer, Terry LePera, leperata@jmu.edu**

The Treasurer deposits checks from sources such as dues and charges for emeriti events, and writes checks to pay for these events. The treasurer also maintains records of bank transactions, gifts to and dispersals from the JMU Foundation in our name and provides financial statements to the board and membership for approval as requested.

## **Secretary, Gary Chatelain, chatelgx@jmu.edu**

The Secretary takes minutes at each Board meeting, and provides them to the Board for correction and/or approval. The minutes provide a historical record for the Association.

## **Interest Group Coordinator, Mary Lou Wylie, wylieml@jmu.edu**

The Coordinator of Interest Groups is responsible for oversight of the various groups that we sponsor. This involves surveying members about their interest in participating and transmitting that information to the organizers, keeping up with the activities of the groups, finding new organizers when necessary, and helping establish new groups.

**Special Events Coordinator, Elizabeth Ihle, elizaihle@gmail.com**

The Coordinator of Special Events proposes and organizes bus trips to nearby locations for a variety of experiences such as museums, gardens, and theaters. The association generally offers two trips annually, coordinates with Sherry King and her staff for transportation, admissions, timelines, etc.

**Programs Co-Chair, Martha Ross, rossmk@jmu.edu**

**Programs Co-Chair, Steve Smith, smith3cs@jmu.edu**

The Programs chairs have oversight for major social events such as the fall, spring luncheons, the holiday gala, the Emeriti Lecture, and other social activities as approved. They bring ideas to the Board for approval, coordinate with Sherry King and staff, and have responsibility for facilities, entertainment, speakers, themes and so forth.

**At-Large, Steve Rollman, rollmasa@jmu.edu**

**At-Large, LaDhu Tynes, tyneslt@jmu.edu**

**At-Large, Daphyne Thomas, thomasds@jmu.edu**

At-Large Members of the Board attend all meetings, provide fresh perspectives. According to Steve, "when possible I provide advice; when not possible I attempt to provide comic relief". Daphyne, who joined the Board in July sated that she "does whatever Coach Moorman tells her to."

**Past-President, Violet Allain, allainvl@jmu.edu**

The Immediate Past-President attends all meetings and serves as a fountain of knowledge and experience to Board Members and the planning process.

**JMU Staff Liason, Sherry King, kingsf@jmu.edu**

Sherry King, Director and the staff of the Office of Parent Relations (Heather Davis, Tracey Kite, Crystal Matthews) support the Association in every way imaginable. They assist in planning, advise, set-up for and attend events and trips, send out mass mailings etc. Our newsletters are professional, colorful and creative thanks to the staff. We can't thank them enough for all they do to make our experiences special.

Sending you all a virtual hug, and wishing you all the best. Enjoy the color and lights of the holidays.

Warm Regards,  
Shelia



# Faculty Emeriti Serve Vital Roles as Dynamic Volunteers (PRE-PANDEMIC)

by Mary Lou Wylie, Interest Group Coordinator, Faculty Emeriti Association

Faculty emeriti members may be officially retired, but they continue to lead extraordinarily active lives as volunteers who contribute to countless local community programs, promote the vitality of James Madison University, and serve as leaders and advocates for their professions.

When I put out a request for information on volunteer activities of emeriti members, I was overwhelmed by the many responses, and several of them included in depth accounts. Below is a list of these members and their impressive range of endeavors. Following the list is an appendix with more detailed accounts, including contact information, from some of our members, organized in alphabetical order by member name.

Several emeriti continue to provide dedicated service to JMU as volunteers now. For example, the Honors College Advisory Council has a position set aside for emeriti faculty, and Violet Allain, Andy Kohen and Dave Pruitt have served in this role over the years. As a sponsor for a Valley Scholar, Becky Humphrey has been meeting with and mentoring one of the first students in the program. Several emeriti, including Tom Arthur, Kay Arthur, Clarence Geier, Louise Loe, Dave Pruett, Anne Henriksen and Mary Perramond, have taught Lifelong Learning Institute classes. Regular volunteer ushers at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts include Rex Fuller, Joyce Guthrie, and Katheen Sullivan. Some emeriti members, such as Violet Allain, even have volunteered to do the dirty work in weeding at the Edith Carrier Arboretum.

Continuing their involvement in professional activities proves to be an important component of retirement life to some emeriti. For example, Tom Arthur has directed a play each and every year at Court Square for the Valley Players, and Tom King has helped build sets for some of the Valley Players productions. David Brakke continues to serve on review panels for the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, along with being a member of various task forces for the Council on Undergraduate Research. David also lends his professional expertise to the Herring Gut Learning Center in Port Clyde, Maine, with a freshwater initiative, as well as connecting that group with a wide range of scientists in Maine. Kay Arthur has continued her research and publishing on Renaissance art. Ming Ivory serves on the Institutional Review Board at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Volunteering as an accreditation leader, evaluator, and commissioner with ABET, Harry Reif is a member of the group that accredits information systems, information technology, computer science, and cybersecurity programs internationally.

Many local community boards and agencies are sustained by the dedicated involvement of emeriti faculty, and all of our emeriti volunteers ask that others consider joining forces, because these agencies are in need of more volunteers. Terry LePera, Chris Bolgiano, and Rhonda Zingraff work at local food pantries, while Mary Lou Wylie prepares food for a soup kitchen program. Bill Voige and Bob Lembright are volunteer drivers for Rockingham County patients who need transportation to UVA Medical Center.

Immigrants and others learning to read English are grateful to Esther Minskoff and George Wead for their tutoring work with Skyline Literacy. Nancy O'Hare and Mike Deaton serve as court-appointed advocates in CASA. Terry LePera has been a volunteer at the Cancer Center, and Esther Minskoff has volunteered with Hospice. Public schools have greatly benefited from the volunteer efforts of George Wead, Kathleen Sullivan, Sandra Hopper and Frank Doherty.

Of course, Elizabeth Ihle is the purrfect volunteer for Cat's Cradle. Along with other members of the Shenandoah Valley Ukelele Society, Anne Henriksen regularly entertain the residents of area nursing homes and retirement homes. Tom King has been in the Izaak Walton League. Both Tom King and Chris Bolgiano have been in the Ruritans, Tom in Mount Crawford and Chris in Fulks Run. Arnie Kahn is involved with Faith in Action. Through their church, Susan and Jim Barnes fill student backpacks with food for students for the weekends and collect day-old bakery goods for a homeless shelter. Rhonda Zingraff and Mary Lou Wylie offer volunteer support to their local libraries. Chris Bolgiano works with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham NAACP. Dave Pruett is on the speaker's bureau for the Climate Action Alliance of the Valley. Sandra Hopper lives in Colorado, where she is a volunteer storyteller with the Broomfield Spellbinders, a member of the Singers of Anthem Ranch, and co-coordinator of the Garden Club at Anthem Ranch.

Numerous other local agencies have benefitted from having our members serve on their boards and committees, including the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care Center (Martha Ross), Valley AIDS Network (Violet Allain), Habitat for Humanity (Malcolm Lane), Gemeinschaft House (Kay Knickrehm, Violet Allain, John Stone, and Greg Versen), Downtown

Renaissance (Glenda Rooney, Steve Knickrehm, Violet Allain, and Mary Lou Wylie), Shenandoah Bach Festival (Jim Benedict), Arts Council of the Valley (Tom Arthur, Kay Arthur), Mercy House (Malcolm Lane), Skyline Literacy (Andy Kohen), Friendship Industries (Harry Reif), and Sierra Club Chesapeake Bay (Ralph Grove). Andy Kohen has been elected to serve on the School Board for Harrisonburg City Public Schools. David Diller has served as President of the National Lily Society.

We are so proud of our faculty emeriti who continue to share their time and talents with such dedication. James Madison University, our local communities, and many others have been the beneficiaries of their generosity.

### **Tom and Kay Arthur**

Both Kay and I have been on the Arts Council of the Valley board for a number of years. Kay has headed the Grants committee for the last several. I directed a play a year for the Valley Players at Court Square from before I retired until the year before last, twelve I think. We have hosted a number of Arts Council Fund-Raising dinners. Both Kay and I have taught, are teaching, LLI courses.

### **Susan and Jim Barnes**

Jim and I are enjoying doing volunteer work with our church, First United Methodist Church- Graham. We go to a local elementary school on Thursday afternoons and pack groceries into bags for students to take home. Teachers slip the bags into the students' backpacks on Friday so the children will have some food over the weekend. On Wednesdays we go to our local bakery and pick up all of the day-old donuts. The baker will not sell them, but he is happy to let us take them to the local homeless shelter. Each day of the week, someone from our Sunday School class picks up the donuts

and takes them to the shelter. I expect that Harrisonburg has a similar backpack program for providing weekend nutrition to school children. Our former church, Bridgewater United Methodist, has been doing a program for the needy children at John Wayland for several years.

### **Chris Bolgiano**

Volunteering has been a big part of my life, starting before I retired in 2005 but increasing since then. Below is my very wordy explanation, thanks for asking!

Club reporter, Fulks Run Ruritan Club. This is a national community service club, mostly focused on rural areas, based in Virginia. For the last 17 years, I have written monthly meeting summaries for the local paper "Club Notes" section, sent notices of club activities to the Ruritan Magazine, and posted announcements and photos of club events on the club's Facebook page. I also wrote the club's history for its 50th anniversary (2008), now in JMU Special Collections along with 50 years of archives that detail the many changes in rural life over those years. Membership is by invitation, and I was lucky enough to be invited by my mail lady after I met her a couple of times at the mailbox on my gravel road. It has been a great way to become part of this close-knit rural community.

Volunteer, Bergton Community Food Pantry. Once a month for the past 12 years I've helped clients to fill a shopping cart with food they need. Supported by seven local churches and two Ruritan Clubs, as well as donations from individuals, stores like Food Lion, and businesses like Cargill, this has been an eye-opener about the deep poverty in the Valley and the critical need for a higher minimum wage and universal health care. Anyone can volunteer.

Public Relations Chair, Harrisonburg-Rockingham NAACP Branch. Similar press and publicity activities as for the Ruritan Club over the past couple of years for this branch of the national NAACP. A wonderful way to meet new people outside my usual circles and expand my perspective and understanding of history and social justice. Anyone is welcome to come to monthly meetings and join.

### **Nancy Bradfield**

After taking early retirement in 2004, and having an interest in the medical community, I immediately signed up to volunteer at Rockingham Memorial Hospital. I was assigned to work in the Critical Care Waiting Room. When the hospital moved to their new facility, I have remained working in the CCU Family Waiting Room interacting with visitors and the CCU staff. I served on the SRMH Voluntary Auxiliary Board for ten years and as an officer for six years. The SRMHA holds various fundraising events to benefit the Comfort Toy Project (for our young patients and visitors) and other initiatives of the hospital, such as the Hahn Cancer Center's state-of-the-art linear accelerator for treating cancer patients. The Fundraising Committee plans multiple fundraisers each year, varying from vendor sales of jewelry to an evening at a winery with silent and live auctions. The Auxiliary invites community members who would be interested in participating in one or two fundraising events to call the Volunteer Office for information on how to join the Fundraising Committee which meets the first Thursday of each month.

### **David Brakke**

The world is full of a wide range of opportunities to volunteer and help

a wide-range of organizations. Mary Anne, who is a retired anti-trust lawyer, and I favor work with and on behalf of not-for-profit organizations, foundations and governmental agencies with non-political or religious agendas. She is a board officer for Generations United, an organization working to assist multi-generational families. That work has been very rewarding for her. She also has been representing the Maine Lobstermen's Association on a pro bono basis for many years in a variety of matters. I have often been contributing in writing and editing, as well as commenting on the science involved in Federal rule-making. I have served on many peer review panels for the National Science Foundation, usually one or two times per year. I have also done reviews for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. I have been involved in several taskforces for the Council for Undergraduate Research, including one on future directions and fundraising, have made several presentations their meetings and have conducted site visits and subsequent reporting on the impact of broadening participation institutes on campuses. I have been in conversations with the National Science Foundation on the future of science education and have been involved with two groups working on systemic change and facilities (the Accelerating Systemic Change Network and the Learning Spaces Collaboratory). I have been involved in a number of efforts to nominate JMU faculty members for various awards and have been very successful in nominating colleagues across the country to become Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In addition to the fore-mentioned work with the Maine Lobstermen's Association, I have been helping the Herring Gut Learning Center in Port Clyde, Maine in a number of ways. We spent time in the area in the summers and also visit

Dynamic Volunteers continued...

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at other times of the year. I have been helping the learning center with a new freshwater initiative and in connecting them with a wide range of scientists and others in Maine that I know and can be helpful in their work with middle- and high-school students. More globally, I have connected with the Environmental Protection Network, which has emerged from a large number of former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency employees.

Volunteering also can mean contributing to one's discipline in meaningful ways. It could involve a variety of ways to write, to mentor others, to review, etc. It could mean writing pieces for public benefit.

How do you get involved? You reach out. Sometimes timing doesn't work out, but other times it does. Draw on your networks and those of others.

For those interested in helping K-12 education in the area, contact Kerry Cresawn at JMU. If anyone is in the greater DC area (DMV), there are many opportunities to assist in schools, for example through a AAAS program in the sciences, and a very rich set of NGOs welcoming support and involvement.

### **Mike Deaton**

I (along with Kate Trammell, copied on this note) have recently finished our training to become CASA Volunteers (CASA = "Court appointed special advocate"). In that role, we will serve as advocates for children who have been placed in the foster care system and whose permanent home is yet to be determined. The goal is to place the child in a safe, loving, stable home as soon as possible so that they can have a fair chance at a healthy, happy life. CASAs work with children who have

been removed from their home because of illegal and unsafe conditions. The goal is to get them back with their biological parents, if those parents can demonstrate that they can provide "safe, loving, stable" home for the child.

During this evaluation process, the CASA worker meets with the child regularly, along with the child's foster parents, and with the biological parents. The CASA reports to the court on the progress of the parents toward providing the desired home and parenting conditions and also serves as an advocate for the needs of the child until their home situation is resolved. We provide a written report to the Juvenile Court Judge who rules on the case and our observations are an important input to how the court handles the case.

Folks interested in this opportunity can talk with the CASA coordinator (Megan Lacy). The website and contact information are found at <http://www.blueridgecasa.org/> (click on the VOLUNTEER link).

### **David Diller**

I have had a long relationship with the North American Lily Society, which Genie and I joined in the late 1980's. An older member, Vicki Bowen, who was also a member of the Potomac Lily Society and was the NALS Chairman of Judges Accreditation, was, for whatever reason, a big supporter of my NALS membership. It was she who asked me to allow my nomination for the Board of Directors of the organization, and a few years later to take her place as the Judges Accreditation Chair, both of which I did. A couple of years later she nominated me to become the U.S. Vice President, and the rest is history. All this activity followed my retirement from teaching at JMU in 1992. At the time NALS

always had two Vice Presidents, one from the U.S., the other from Canada, and the presidency of the organization alternated between the two countries with a term of two years. When the time came for my preceding U.S. VP to take up the reins as President, he declined to do so at a winter meeting of the Board. The Board then said I just had to do the job, so from the summer of 1997 to 1999 I was the President, duly followed by my Canadian counterpart.

I assumed that my official duties for the North American Lily Society were over. Genie first showed undeniable lapses of memory early in 2003, but we still went to the international lily shows and conventions for a couple of years or so. As with dementia generally, and I feel certain hers was Alzheimers disease, the decline is often slow, but relentless. She died at age 90 in 2011. I had inherited ranch land in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado, following the loss of several of my relatives in Texas and in Colorado. The division of properties in those two states with my five sisters was completed in 1990, while I was still teaching. Genie wanted my property to all be in Colorado, and it is. We came here annually for periods of two to ten weeks in the summer, often traveling around the state and other parts of the American West with friends from Harrisonburg. After Genie died, I considered moving to Colorado. She would never had chosen to live in such a sparsely populated rural area, as she had always been a town girl with a very active social life. Our son and his family had moved from Pennsylvania to a house on the ranch that had been occupied by the ranch foreman, and ultimately I decided to leave much-loved Harrisonburg and build a new house quite near the older one. I moved to Colorado in 2013 and into the new house towards the middle of 2014.

Perhaps two years after I moved in I learned that the annual NALS show and conference would be held in Calgary, Alberta. It's perhaps a two-hour flight from Denver, and I decided to go. I had been an accredited lily judge for a long time, otherwise I would never have been the Chairman of Judges Accreditation, so I was welcomed back into the fold and invited to judge in the show. I've gone back every year, most recently in Boston. Not long after the Calgary show I was informed that one of the Board of Directors members had resigned because of the disability of her husband, and I was asked to serve out the remaining two years of her three-year term. I agreed to do so. At the end of that term the Nominating Committee asked me to agree to a full term, and I declined largely because of my advanced age. All the same, they came back the next year lamenting the difficulty of finding anyone to serve on the Board, and I reluctantly said yes. So now I will complete the second year of my term, followed very shortly by my 93rd birthday anniversary if all goes well. It's absurd, of course, to still be attempting to be useful in the organization, and this is absolutely the last term I will serve even if I live to 100. That, then, is the outline of my volunteer service following my retirement from teaching.

### **Frank Doherty**

One volunteer activity I perform weekly may be of interest to other emeriti faculty. Each Thursday morning I volunteer as a mentor at my wife's elementary school near Elkton. Between 8:30 and 12:30 I spend time in four third and fourth grade classrooms mentoring a few boys. Mostly what I do is sit with the little guys (and occasionally little girls) and help them with their work. At the same time we get to chat about their lives. These little guys have been

identified by the school as being in need of a consistent male presence. It's the most important thing I do weekly, but the most challenging. Usually I take a nap when I get home. Just last week I was helping in one of the classrooms with math questions. One of the little guys, when I mentioned his name, said to me, "You know my name, why?" I said, "because you are special." He was shocked. After helping him I said I needed to go to another classroom, and he leaned over and gave me a hug. That made my day!

I have a background that helps me work with these children, but it's far from necessary. I taught elementary school years ago and was an elementary school guidance counselor for a few years. Schools have changed a LOT since I taught, but there are always kids who need a friend. That's really what I am: a friend. You need a heart for children and have a little time to spend with them. Schools are desperate for men and women who love kids and are willing to spend a little time with them.

I would be glad to talk with anyone who might be interested in mentoring. I can be reached at 540-271-2321 or [dohertfj@jmu.edu](mailto:dohertfj@jmu.edu).

### **Ralph Grove**

I volunteer in a couple of places here in Norfolk, where I live now.

First, I'm a member of the Sierra Club Chesapeake Bay Group, and am one of the local group leaders. We're involved in environmental justice, legislative advocacy, and local outings, and I do all of those things. For example, I'm leading the local legislative advocacy team that communicates with city and state elected officials about environmental issues and needed changes. I'm also on

the environmental justice team that works with marginalized communities that are victimized by polluting industries, in order to help them develop the political and social muscle to stop further degradation of their environment.

Second, I lead the environmental team at my church (Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists), which is involved in education, reducing our environmental footprint, and engaging with the community. For example, we're part of a group working on cleaning up the Elizabeth River, a branch of which runs next to the church property.

### **Ming Ivory**

I have, for over 10 years, served on the Sentara/Rockingham Memorial Hospital's Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. Federal law requires that institutions doing research using human subjects have such a board to approve research and assure that human subjects are treated fairly and safely. These Boards are composed of members with special expertise in research in the case of the RMH Board, Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists typically serve. I had served for many years on JMU's IRB, and its chair (David Cockley of Health Sciences) recommended me, through the JMU-RMH Collaborative to the RMH Board. I did both for a while. After retiring in 2015, I continued my membership on the IRB as one of the two "community members" (The other is a clergyman).

The Board meets once a month (recently, only once every two months, as the volume of research done by RMH staff has decreased) to review the research protocols submitted by clinical researchers at the hospital. We enforce the requirements for "Informed Consent". Any human being involved in a research project is

entitled to know what the research is about, what risks it entails, who are the responsible investigators, and what procedures will be used, in language they can understand. Their consent must be freely given, and not coerced in any way. For example, we do not allow researchers to make employment advancement or other perks contingent upon participation in the research project. While modest payments to participants and to doctors may defray costs or compensate them for lost time, we watch to see if they cause conflicts of interest. Special conditions apply, of course to minors, prisoners, the handicapped, and other vulnerable populations; and we make sure that the research will hold personal information provided by subjects in secure ways, and destroy it as soon as practicable.

I have found over the years that my background in social science methodology, math and science are utilized in this volunteer work, that it allows me to learn new things every time, and gives me insight on the medical establishment in the community. I enjoy my service immensely. Many times, RMH is involved as one site among hundreds across the nation and internationally, participating in a large study. One issue that arises is the overlapping of the various IRBs and how we should handle that, while at the same time protecting the local community's interest in local medical research and health care. I'd be happy to talk with anyone interested in these issues, or in working on an IRB.

### **Becky Humphrey**

I volunteered to sponsor a Valley Scholar who lived in New Market with his grandmother. One of their favorite things was for me to take them to lunch at Southern Kitchen where we had some

great conversations. I encouraged him in 9th through 12th grades to do his very best. I feel it was a very rewarding experience to me and the two of them. I highly recommend it. He had very low writing skills and I encouraged him a lot in that area.

### **Arnie Kahn**

I am currently Secretary for Faith in Action (FIA), working with members from a variety of faith communities to improve the lives of those who lack power in our community. As you probably know, we just finished working on judicial reform (keeping juvenile offenders out of the criminal justice system, hiring a criminal justice planner, reduce/eliminate the city and county jail fees) and are now pursuing affording housing issues. To get involved, ask your religious institution to let you be a representative to FIA or, if your religious institution is not a member, suggest they join FIA. I have been a member for a year and one half and have learned a lot about social justice problems in the city/county and met some wonderful people of all faiths.

### **Tom King**

I am not sure that you mean the kind of volunteering I have done. I have spent a lot of hours directing, doing lights, building scenery, and acting at the Valley Playhouse. Before and after retirement, but not now, I was a member of the Mount Crawford Ruritan Club and the Izaak Walton League. I held several offices in each organization and still volunteer to help with the Ruritan's annual lawn party. All three organizations would be delighted to get volunteers. You pay to belong to the Izaak Walton League and the Ruritans and both are VERY conservative politically and very few members are educated beyond high school. The Izaak



Walton League and the Mt. Crawford Ruritan, however, are good avenues for breaking out of the JMU cocoon and getting to know the actual surrounding community.

### **Joan Kindig**

I was honored to serve on the Newbery committee (best American book of the year) a few years back and did all the reading while I was on sabbatical. Reading, as you know, is not a group sport so I reached out for a volunteer spot to get out of the house. :-) I started working at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Arts Center (the largest collection of Australian Aboriginal Art outside of Australia) once a week ever since then.

### **Kay Knickrehm**

I am on the board of Gemeinschaft Home. I have Doris Pye to blame for this! Sometimes it feels like a real job – deadlines and all – but I enjoy it. I never had that much interest in criminal justice, but now I find the work of GH to be fascinating and I have learned a lot. Also since many of the people involved with the board and with volunteering are Mennonites, I have come to know a segment of our community I didn't really know before. Greg Versen and John Stone have also become involved in fundraising for the home and it is fun to work with them.

### **Andy Kohen**

I've actually done a few volunteer things since retiring, including being on the advisory committee for what is now the JMU Honors College for about 6 years. Dave Pruett and I were the 2 emeriti on the committee otherwise consisting of JMU alumni and alumnae. The group advised the Program Director (and now Dean) on long term plans, solicited donors for scholarships for Honors students, and served as reviewers of candidates for the various scholarships offered by the Program (now College).

Dynamic Volunteers continued...

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Another of my volunteer activities was serving on the Board of Directors of Skyline Literacy for about 8 years and as the Treasurer for 6+ of those years. Along with helping the organization streamline and computerize its financial record keeping and financial management practices, I worked to promote several fund-raising events including Golfing for Literacy that has become a staple annual event. I was part of the executive committee of the Board and assisted in hiring new executive directors and recruiting new Board members as older members cycled off. The Board meets monthly and each member is expected to serve with at least one of the 4 standing committees, depending on their interest and expertise. Many Board members also participate in the actual work of the organization as tutors in English, teachers of US history and government to prepare adults for becoming naturalized American citizens, or as mock interviewers for applicants for citizenship. I can provide contact information for anyone interested in pursuing membership on the board or working as a tutor.

### **Malcolm Lane**

Mercy House

I just completed 6 years as a board member and 5 years as vice president of the board for Mercy House, a local shelter for homeless families with Children. It is by far one of the best run local charities that has helped over 600 families in its 32 year history (founded in 1987) and recognized for excellence in the state of Virginia. The board is one of the best boards on which I have ever served. Mercy House is looking for board members as well as volunteers for committees and activities at Mercy house. Faculty emeriti can contact Shannon Porter, Executive

Director, at 540-432-1812 or [sporter@themercyhouse.org](mailto:sporter@themercyhouse.org) for information about volunteer opportunities.

Central Valley Habitat for Humanity

I am currently on the board of directors for the Central Valley Habitat for Humanity (CVHfH) that also was founded in 1987. The local affiliate of Habitat International is building homes in the area for lower income families with children. We are currently in the process of completing 5 new homes in the area with two dedications of homes planned for the next month. CVHfH is also looking for board members and volunteers for both building activities and for various committees. Faculty emeriti can contact David Wenger, Executive Director at 540-833-4544 or [david@centralvalleyhabitat.org](mailto:david@centralvalleyhabitat.org).

Both of these local 501C3 organizations are top quality and have many opportunities for volunteer service.

### **Esther Minskoff**

When I retired, I volunteered with Skyline Literacy. I served on the Board and eventually became President. I taught English to non-English speaking immigrants. My most interesting experience was with D who was an illegal immigrant from Guatemala. To escape the dangerous, poverty-stricken life there she paid \$5,000 to a "coyote" to take her to Los Angeles where she had a brother. She experienced great danger traveling on train tops, buses, and walking through the desert. She got to LA and was put on a plane to Harrisonburg where she had another brother. She paid for an illegal social security number to get a job at a local turkey plant where she had health insurance which covered a serious health problem she had. After the plant was raided, she lost her job and her

health insurance. She was so motivated to learn English and eagerly did all the homework I gave her. I learned more from her and the plight of the immigrant than she learned from me. Like most JMU retirees, I live an insulated life with my social contacts being very much like myself. Working with immigrants exposed me to people very unlike myself, people who are unfairly being vilified now.

If you're interested in volunteering with Skyline Literacy, call 433-0505. They provide intensive training in teaching English.

More recently, I've volunteered with hospice. I chose this because of personal benefits my family received from hospice volunteers. I volunteered at Sunnyside because of my mobility problems. I had a surprise experience there with 80-year old S who had dementia. Whenever I visited, she'd sleep or stare into space. She was minimally responsive. On my last visit, she shocked me. She was sitting up in bed and wearing lipstick. She asked who I was which was the first time she'd shown any interest in me. When I held her hand, she said I felt warm and asked if I was sick. She told me to get into bed with her and she'd make me well. We chatted the whole time I was there. As I was leaving, she said, "Don't go. Please stay." S died the next week. To me, this shows how little we know of dementia, which is the plague of old age. Spending time with Sue presented me with "philosophical" issues like the quality of life and death and dying. She enriched my life. There are different agencies that provide hospice care in Harrisonburg. I volunteered with Legacy Hospice 434-970-7776. They provide appropriate training and close monitoring.

### **Nancy O'Hare**

I am a CASA volunteer and have been for two years. A CASA is a court appointed

Dynamic Volunteers continued...

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special advocate working with foster children to ensure the child is in a safe and secure foster home, and to mentor that child as needed. Training involves three days a week for approximately six weeks, followed by a test and swearing-in ceremony at court. Reports are provided periodically to the judge of the Domestic Relations Court.

This is the most fun and most rewarding volunteer effort in my experience. If you are a Dr. Phil enthusiast, you may have heard that his wife, Robin, is the national spokesperson for CASA. Please email me for further information.

### **Dave Pruett**

1) I've been on the speaker's bureau of the Climate Action Alliance of the Valley, and have given a half-dozen talks or more over the years since retirement: at churches, Rotary and Kiwanis, EMU, and the Coffee Club. (This has led to thrice co-teaching a climate change course for LLI, with Les Grady of CAAV. LLI is close to volunteer work :) )

2) I've also been involved in helping Valley Friends (Quaker) Meeting reduce its carbon footprint and achieve net-zero status (nearly). The process spanned five years, and for two of those I co-clerked the Meeting's Carbon-Reduction Committee.

Suzanne, on the other hand, is much more involved even though not retired. In particular, she is one of the movers and shakers of PEER-Leaders at HHS, an organization for immigrants and refugees that builds community and resilience. Great gift to these folks and the community.

### **Harry Reif**

I have volunteered as an accreditation leader, evaluator, and commissioner

with ABET, the group that accredits Information Systems, Information Technology, Computer Science, and Cybersecurity programs internationally. JMU has multiple programs accredited by ABET. The organization welcomes professionals from education and industry. It's a fun job; lots of work, but lots of rewarding contacts as well as providing a way to further the profession and see firsthand what is currently happening with teaching.

I also volunteer as a Board Member for Friendship Industries, a local company that works to provide employment opportunities for special needs and special circumstances adults.

This volunteer work, please trying to run a business might help explain why I'm unable to participate in more faculty emeriti activities. Best wishes to you and thanks for the work you do to keep our organization active and relevant.

### **Martha Ross**

I have served on the Board of Directors for Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center off and on since the early 80's. I have been president the last 6 years, HRCDC was established in 1971 by a group led by Mildred Dickerson, who was my mentor when I first came to JMU. The mission of the child care center has always been to serve all families in the community who need child care by offering a sliding fee/tuition scale based on a family's income. The program was originally housed at Asbury Methodist Church and most recently at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church. Based on the success of Dancing with the Stars of the 'Burg over the last ten years, we have been able to purchase a property in downtown Harrisonburg, design a building and now are in a building campaign that will allow us to construct a new center and

expand the age range of the children we currently have, to include infants, toddlers and before and after school care for older children.

If anyone is interested in learning more, serving on the board or making a donation to HRCDDC, they can contact me. Also check out the center's website <https://www.hrdaycare.org>

### **Bill Voige**

For more than 15 years, Bob Lembright and I have been volunteering for the Rockingham County Transportation Program, which provides transportation to medical appointments for county residents who need it for whatever reason.

Our clients are split about half-and-half between those whose appointments are in Harrisonburg and those who are going to the UVA or Fishersville hospitals, so the time commitment varies from as little as four hours to more like eight or (rarely) ten hours. The county provides a vehicle (usually a late-model Impala) and detailed directions for the journey. I believe there is also a van for patients who use wheelchairs, but I don't do those trips anymore. Volunteers are never obligated to make a trip that might make them uncomfortable. The office where you pick up the vehicle is just off Rt. 11, just outside the city limits.

The work is very rewarding, and I can honestly say that I have developed real friendships with a handful of the patients I've served multiple times. Some of them do, however, have their little quirks; it keeps life interesting! Almost every patient I've served has been grateful for the service and has said so.

The woman who runs the program, Linda Dove, is a true public servant. She almost always contacts potential

Dynamic Volunteers continued...

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drivers at least a week in advance and never gets upset if you aren't available or just don't want to do a particular trip. I'm guessing I've driven about 10 times a year on average. One of the little perks of the program is the occasional opportunity, when a UVA patient has a long appointment, to have lunch or do a little exploring in Charlottesville.

They need volunteers! If you're interested, you can contact Linda or one of her coworkers at 540 432-8646. I'll also be happy to answer any questions you may have about the program or my experiences.

### **Bill Walker**

Bonnie and I are pretty active re: volunteer stuff. To begin with the community we live in has many committees which help defray the HOA dues. I have been on several over the 13 years we have been living here most notably the Building and Grounds Committee which oversees (and actually does) projects that enhance the community, e.g. landscaping projects, minor (and some major) building repairs, etc. Apart from the committees, I belong to an in-community group of old farts like myself who have built Habitat houses (9 so far) and do house repairs for folks in the area who can't afford to hire outside help. As an example, we have done many ramps for folks to aid in their getting access to the outside via wheel chairs and the like.

### **Rhonda Zingraff**

Since my retirement at the end of July, I've added a couple of volunteer activities to my little portfolio. Because I had already been active with my local church, including serving as their treasurer, I was asked to take over as the treasurer of the Open Door Food Pantry which operates here in Mount

Jackson. On top of the clear gratitude that stems from having a role to play in feeding people, I've found this to be a rich source of new knowledge about a community I had not had a lot of time engage with during my busy years at JMU. Taking in contributions, paying bills, and writing notes to those who donate cash or food to the pantry are all tasks that can be done whenever convenient for me so it is easy to "give" my time. But the connections that I'm gaining and the recognition of local community dynamics would not have been easy for me to acquire without this volunteer opportunity. The other volunteer role I'm enjoying to the max is my weekly shift as local librarian. We have enough money to employ people at the main library in Shenandoah County but the branch libraries depend fully on volunteers. So I quickly connected with my local branch after retirement and it has been a delight to have one day per week to let my love of books take me behind the circulation desk! And unlike most of what I do for the food pantry, this brings me a lot of face-to-face interactions with folks of all ages who come to the library for all kinds of reasons. I look forward to it with enthusiasm every time it's "my" day to open and close. It feels like a perfect place for a former academic to spend some time!



## Pandemic Activities

*by Mary Lou Wylie, Interest Group Coordinator, Faculty Emeriti Association*

The pandemic has changed our lives, at least temporarily. The previous article about volunteer activities among Emeriti members was written last February, right before the pandemic hit. Since then, we have been isolating and maintaining social distance, so most of us have been changing what we are doing.

Many emeriti report an increase in pursuits that are solitary or done with one other person. Some of the popular activities are reading, taking walks, working jigsaw puzzles or crossword puzzles, watching television, and gardening. Social activities for most members have been limited to meeting a couple of friends outdoors on the patio, driveway or porch for a meal or snack while respecting social distance.

Of course, people are also continuing many of their pre-pandemic pursuits. Anne Henriksen plays piano, guitar and ukulele while practicing, composing, and recording music. However, she misses the performances of the Shenandoah Valley Ukulele Players. Janet Gloeckner has continued knitting up a storm, making everything from dishcloths to blankets. Tom Arthur completed a paper on the late Sidney Hibbert, the award-winning Jamaican actor and director, and it has been accepted for presentation at the Oxford Education Research Symposium. Tom has also continued writing his blog, which you can read at [tomarthur.blogspot.com](http://tomarthur.blogspot.com).

People have had an increase in both home cooking and curbside pickup. A lot of our members were using curbside pickup to help support local restaurants and food workers, as they have been struggling with a steep decline in business. Some members have also been cooking and baking at home, and they have shared their results by dropping off meals or snacks for friends.

Bill Voige made a plug for pickup from a local non-profit, Our Community Place. "I am a long-time supporter of Our Community Place and have often gone to their Friday noon lunches, which serve as a fundraiser for OCP while giving work experience to their clients. The emeriti lunch group has gone there a couple of times, too. Since the pandemic hit, the format has changed to a carry-out only lunch. You order in advance and set a pickup time. When you arrive, your lunch is brought to your car by a properly socially-distanced volunteer. The lunches are a fantastic deal, at only \$10! There is no tax, but you can, of course, throw in a few extra bucks if you care to do so. I have started usually ordering two meals and getting both lunch and dinner (plus maybe a bedtime snack) for my twenty bucks! You can pay online when you order or when you pick up your lunch. The menu changes weekly and is usually posted on Thursday ([www.ourcommunityplace.org/restaurant/](http://www.ourcommunityplace.org/restaurant/)). Hint: the chocolate desserts are incredible!"

Since the Lifelong Learning Institute has used Zoom to move online, several members are taking or teaching courses. Louise Loe taught a course on 18th and 19th century Russian history. Since she had a good experience with patient students and support from the LLI director, she is looking forward to teaching another course in the spring. Anne Henriksen has been teaching classes and giving talks for LLI, and Tom Arthur has continued a writing group that started as an LLI course.

Two of our interest groups have continued meeting online. The book group and the wine group meet once a month using Zoom, with 10-20 people participating in each meeting. The wine group has also begun adding music at the beginning of our Zoom sessions, as various members have shared their musical talents. So far, we have listened to music by Anne Henriksen, Carter Lyons, and Jack Presbury.

Since people are spending more time at home, many are making use of this time by engaging in home projects. Mary and Dany Perramond painted a bedroom early in the quarantine. Doug and Cindy Skelley have painted three rooms and the wooden exterior of our brick house. They also reworked the walkway along the side of their house, and expect to replace about 20 landscape timbers in the yard before snow hits.

Although most people are sticking close to home, a few members have traveled. In late October, Faye and Hal Teer took an eight-day road trip in Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia in their self-contained camper and visited Hungry Mother State Park, Wilderness Road Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Natural Bridge State Resort Park, and Twin Falls State Resort Park. They reported that the campgrounds were not crowded and they felt safe. Shelia Moorman and Helen Moore traveled to North Carolina for a family five-birthday celebration. Steve and Fran Smith have made several beach trips since March—to Florida, Sandbridge Beach VA, Southern Shores NC, and Bald Head Island NC. They especially raved about Bald Head Island, an isolated island with no cars and accessible only by ferry, where you can watch the sun set over the Atlantic Ocean!

Several members have had visits with family. Violet and Mike Allain took a long weekend to visit their daughter and son-in-law in Atlanta. Steve and Fran Smith have had visits from their grandchildren in Richmond and Knoxville. Lennie Echterling and Mary Lou Wylie have had brief visits with their grandsons in Richmond every week or two since late May.

And some members made visits to the hospital for medical treatments. Among those who have had surgery during the pandemic are Ramon Mata-Toledo, Jerry Benson, Dany Perramond, and Mary Ann Chatelain.

While many volunteer activities have been suspended, there have been some new endeavors. Violet Allain has added volunteering at the Blue Ridge Food Bank, in addition to her continuing work at the Arboretum. She makes a plug for both. "If you'd like to do some volunteer work that only requires that you show up and do some grunt work, I suggest



the Arboretum where you can do planting, weeding, etc. in beautiful surroundings. To volunteer, you can contact the Arboretum at <https://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/support/volunteer.shtml>. Or spend some time at the Blue Ridge Food Bank, located in Verona, which will have you sort, bag, and pack food items that are distributed to various food pantries in our area. They have shifts of 9 am-12 noon or 1-4 pm Monday through Friday and they require that you register as a volunteer. They follow the Covid precautions of wearing masks and gloves and they will supply both to you, if needed. You can contact them directly at <https://www.brafb.org/volunteer/>. Both places will give you a free T-shirt!"

Several members worked in election activities. Mary Atkins, Michael and VM Galgano, Violet Allain, Dave Pruitt and Suzanne Fiederlein worked as election officers, helping early voters, processing absentee ballots, or working in the polls on election day. Dave Pruitt describes the work that he and Suzanne Fiederlein did. "We spent four long days over two weeks processing absentee ballots. It was a cumbersome, labor-intensive, but strangely rewarding process that gave us faith in the nation's electoral processes. The officials are professionals, and the volunteers like us, of whatever political affiliation, are committed to the integrity of the process. The procedures are redundant, tightly controlled, and time tested. Fraud is a virtual impossibility. Envisioning this process playing out in small-town precincts all over the nation was a stress-reliever during an immensely stressful time."

# Membership Report

By Kay Knickrehm, Vice-President, Faculty Emeriti Association

Members of the Faculty Emeriti Association are faculty and administrative faculty who have retired and have been awarded Emeritus/Emerita status. Associate members include spouses/partners of deceased members in good standing, and adjunct faculty with at least ten semesters service. We also have a small number of honorary members. Currently we have nearly 300 members. Paid membership is necessary to participate in interest groups, special events such as our luncheons and excursions, and to receive newsletters. Please renew your membership if you have not already done so. New members for 2019-2020 receive free membership for one year. Annual dues are \$10 and a lifetime membership is \$100.

Unfortunately for our newest members, we have had to suspend in-person activities for the current year, but we are nonetheless pleased to welcome our newest members listed below and we hope they will join us for outings and events in the near future.

- Bruce Johnson – English Department
- Lamont King – History Department
- James Liu – Mathematics & Statistics
- Marina Favila – English Department
- John Marafino – Mathematics and Statistics
- Mary Morsch - Career and Academic Planning
- Tammy Woods – Administration & Finance
- Darlene Quackenbush – Information, Technology & Planning
- Mack Moore – Risk Management
- Patricia Kennedy - IHHS
- Shari Scofield - Student Activities & Involvement
- Derek Dye – Madison Union
- Tracy Hakala – Career and Academic Planning
- Marilou Johnson – Vice Provost, Faculty & Curriculum
- Craig Melton – Audit & Management Services
- Anne McCoy Wiles – Philosophy & Religion Department
- Brad Roof – College of Business
- Phillip Wishon – College of Education
- Drew Davis – IT, Computing Support
- Josh Bacon – Student Affairs
- Cheryl Henderson – Training/Technical Assistance Center
- Ramon Mata-Toledo – Computer Science Department
- Norm Garrison – Biology Department
- Karen Ford – Strategic Leadership Studies
- David Fordham – Accounting Department
- Pete DeSmit – ITSM, Query & Reporting
- Teresa Harris – Early Elementary & Reading Education
- Cathy Cook – College of Education
- Robert “Ed” Lee – Mathematics & Statistics
- Cole Welter – Art, Design & Art History

## Reading and Viewing Suggestions from Emeriti

### Books:

- Bryce Andrews, *Badluck Way*
- Louise Aronson, *Elderhood*
- Ronald Balson, *Once We Were Brothers*
- Muriel Barberry, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*
- Katy Butler, *The Art of Dying Well*
- Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility*
- Ken Follett, *Key to Rebecca*
- C. S. Forester, *The Good Shepard*
- Erik Larson, *The Splendid and the Vile*
- John Lithgow, *Dumpty*
- Jason Matthews, *The Red Sparrow*
- Heather Morris, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*
- Henri Nouwen, *Turn My Mourning into Dancing*
- Delia Owens, *Where the Crawdads Sing*
- James Patterson, *Women’s Murder Club* series
- Anu Partenen, *The Nordic Theory of Everything*
- Kate Quinn, *The Huntress*
- Kim Michele Richardson, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*
- Dorothy L Sayers, *the Lord Peter Wimsey* series
- Mark Sullivan, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*
- Paul Thagard, *2019 trilogy on cognitive science* (available online through JMU Library)
- David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest*
- N. Wilson, *The Mystery of Charles Dickens*
- Michele Winawer, *The Scribe of Siena*
- Monica Wood, *The One in a Million Boy*
- Carlos Ruiz Zafon, *Angel Game* and *The Prisoner of Heaven*

### Movies/Television:

- “The Handmaid’s Tale” (Netflix)
- “Ford v. Ferrari”
- “Just Mercy”
- “Harriet”
- “1917”
- “The Current War”
- “Greta”
- “Enola Holmes” is based on a novel by a college friend of Phil and Joann Grayson (Netflix)
- Kathy Thompson recommends “The Social Dilemma,” a Netflix documentary that discusses how social media manipulates us and contributes to the distribution of false information. At the end of the program, actions are given that we can take to protect ourselves. This is a must-watch for everyone!”



# The History and Evolution of the James Madison University Mineral Museum

*By Drs. Lance & Cindy Kearns*

James Madison University has received a mineral collection valued at more than \$16.8 million from the late Peter L. Via of Roanoke, Virginia. The gift is the largest in JMU history. President Alger publically announced the gift at the November 6th Board of Visitor's meeting. This is an elite mineral collection which has mostly been hidden from view. The JMU Mineral Museum is now a destination site, drawing mineral enthusiasts from near and far, from the amateur to the professional. It will dazzle both trained mineralogists and casual museum patrons.

The JMU Mineral Museum is composed of 5 different collections. The JMU Collection is the first and largest collection; The Richard S. Mitchell Memorial Virginia Minerals collection; The Micro-mineral collections; The Franklin & Sterling Hill, New Jersey collection (both fluorescent and the non-fluorescent); The Peter L. Via collection. This last collection is the most valuable.

\*Lance and Cindy have offered to share a talk via ZOOM to the membership. The talk will look at the historic events that built the new Mineral Museum, including entertaining stories about mineral acquisition, and details of bringing home and displaying the amazing Peter L. Via collection. There will be many photos of world class crystals and gems for you to enjoy. Details regarding this opportunity will be sent by email after January 1st.





**A Walk Down Memory Lane...**

