As you read The RAPS Sheet and look at the RAPS Website, you will see that there are lots of wonderful activities for RAPS members and guests. The Bridge Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month. It is my understanding that they play “social bridge” and have a great time socializing along with playing a friendly game. The Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month, unless we are all too busy traveling. We read a wide variety of books and have interesting discussions, even when some of us haven’t finished or even started the book. Another group, the RAPS hikers, has seen some gorgeous places in their leisurely walks, and I understand they often combine the hikes with good food, either brought by themselves or in a local cafe. Please consider joining a group in which you might be interested.

In March, following our only potluck of the year, Ladis “Kris” Kristof, Professor Emeritus, provided a talk about his escape from communism in 1948 Romania. Please accept my apology for giving the wrong date for this event—I had one of those senior moments. President Bernstine will be hosting retired faculty and staff on April 20th at the traditional President’s luncheon at PSU’s University Place. Come enjoy a tasty meal, learn about what’s new at PSU, and see some of your colleagues, some of whom will be honored. You should have received your invitation in the mail. If not, contact the President’s Office at 503-725-4111 or let our Office Manager, Darshana Patel, know. The last event until our August picnic will be our annual Ice Cream Social on May 18th, also to be held at University Place. Future issues of the RAPS Sheet will have more information about these events.

The History Preservation/Celebration Committee and I met with Provost Roy Koch to discuss our collaborating with the PSU administration and academic units on initiating a project to preserve the history of PSU. Our plan calls for retired faculty and staff to assist departments and programs in preserving their histories. The PSU Pictorial History Book project, another RAPS project focusing on our history, is also progressing. Please let me know if you have any photos or other images that might be relevant to the book.

You should have received two ballots in the mail a couple of weeks ago, one for the election of RAPS officers and one for RAPS by-law revisions. Both set of ballots are due on April 10.

Unfortunately, I will miss the President’s luncheon in April. Steve and I will be thinking about all of you during our travel in Greece (but not too much).
On Wednesday, March 22nd, RAPS held a pot luck luncheon and heard about the adventures of Ladis “Kris” Kristof, how he escaped communist Romania and started a new life in the United States. The noontime program was well-attended, with about 45 members and guests.

Kris’s main message was that positive things can happen when one is optimistic and takes advantage of opportunities. In Kris’s case, he was faced with the task of escaping communist Romania in 1948, when none of the bordering nations was non-communist. He realized that to gain access to the free world he would have to do things in steps. First he swam the Danube River into Yugoslavia. There he lived in camps and worked in an asbestos mine. Later, when refugees were asked to name their specialties, Kris mentioned his training in forestry. As a result, he found himself permanently assigned to a logging camp in the Serbian mountains.

His good work brought him to the attention of the chief of secret service. That relationship allowed Kris to have a pass to visit the county seat several times. There he met a member of the French Embassy. Fortunately his French was fluent. He obtained help from an official and was transported west near the Italian frontier. At yet another camp he was able to obtain news from a dissenting paper. That brought him up-to-date on the political situation in Europe. From Italy he went to France as a political refugee. As a refugee he was not allowed to work though he had to have money to live. He was able to take jobs in Paris such as sorting rags and cleaning rooms. There, he had the opportunity to meet several Americans who recommended that he go to America. In order to get a visa he needed a job assurance. One of the Americans in Paris sent a letter to relatives in Oregon and they, in turn, sent a note saying that there was a job for him there.

In 1952 he finally got a visa to go to the United States. He took a ship from Hamburg to Halifax, but in transit his ship collided with a Swedish tanker. The damaged ship pulled into the Orkney Islands in Scotland for repairs. During that week he learned some English from Americans and practiced speaking the language with people in the area. Since he was going to America, he figured he needed to speak the language.

Kris arrived in New York City and obtained a Sunday New York Times, which he read en route to Portland. In Oregon he worked in a logging camp as a “powder monkey,” one who used dynamite to uproot stumps. After awhile he realized that dodging flying tree stumps was not the career that he desired for himself. He was able to enroll at Reed College. There he met Professor Frank Monk, who later taught at PSU and eventually lured Kris to this campus. After Reed, Kris completed his doctorate in political science at the University of Chicago. At the University of Chicago’s International House, he met his wife, Jane, who also became a Professor at PSU, in her case in the Art department. And, as they say, the rest is history.
BOOK CLUB
At our last gathering on March 21st, we discussed *The Bookseller of Kabul* written by Asne Seierstad. Although the book reads like a novel, it is nonfiction written in narrative form. Asne Seierstad is a Norwegian journalist who has been a war correspondent, first in Russia, then in China, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. *The Bookseller of Kabul* has been translated from Norwegian into thirteen languages. Asne lived with Sultan, the bookseller, and his extended family for three months, sleeping on a mat in a room with several other people and eating with her fingers while sitting on the floor. In this way, she was able to familiarize herself with the life of this family, including the two sides of Sultan, whom she characterizes as a liberal outside the home and an autocrat within it. We learned much about the daily lives of this family from Afghanistan. We recommend the book.

Our April selection is *March*, a novel written by Geraldine Brooks. We will meet at the home of Maxine Thomas on April 18 at 1:30 for the book discussion. Maxine’s address is 6535 SW Canyon Court in Portland. Contact Maxine by e-mail (ondangwa@yahoo.com) or call her at 503-291-1279 to RSVP and to ask for directions. The publisher’s blurb is as follows:

> As the North reels under a series of unexpected defeats during the dark first year of the American Civil War, one man leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. Riveting and elegant as it is meticulously researched, *March* is an extraordinary novel woven out of the lore of American history.

From Louisa May Alcott’s beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has taken the character of the absent father, March, who has gone off to war leaving his wife and daughters to make do in mean times. To evoke him, Brooks turned to the journals and letters of Bronson Alcott, Louisa May’s father, a friend and confidant of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

In Brooks’s telling, March emerges as an idealistic chaplain in the little known backwaters of a war that will test his faith in himself and in the Union cause as he learns that his side, too, is capable of acts of barbarism and racism. As he recovers from a near mortal illness, he must reassemble his shattered mind and body, and find a way to reconnect with a wife and daughters who have no idea of the ordeals he has been through.

Spanning the vibrant intellectual world of Concord and the sensuous antebellum South, *March* adds adult resonance to Alcott’s optimistic children’s tale and portrays the moral complexity of war, a marriage tested by the demands of extreme idealism, and by the temptations of a powerful forbidden attraction.

The book selected for May is *Arthur and George* written by Julian Barnes. We will meet at the home of Betsey Brown.

We’re reading some interesting books and having fun talking about them!

Mary Brannan

BRIDGE CLUB
We envy the RAPS Hikers and the Book Club for all their admirable reports of healthy physical and stimulating intellectual activity. All we do is sit around, play bridge, and talk. But we get by. Our next meeting will be at the home of LaRae and Norman Barna at 1:30 pm on Tuesday April 11th. If you would like to play, please either call 503 786-9630 or e-mail barnal@pdx.edu no later than Friday April 7th. Once or twice we have had a lot of requests and have had to set up a waiting list.

New members or inquiries, please call Colin Dunkeld at 503 292 0838 or e-mail colipat@easystreet.com.

Colin Dunkeld
RAPS ACTIVITIES

RAPS HIKERS
On March 24th, five RAPS members hiked the State trail on the Old Columbia River Gorge Highway from Bonneville Dam to Cascade Locks. The rain held off, and we had an enjoyable hike. In Cascade Locks we lunched at the Char Burger while planning the May through July hikes.

Maxine Thomas will lead the Friday, April 28th hike to Council Crest. Because the Marquam Nature Park Shelter, near the Carnival, has only two-hour parking, we will meet at the corner of S.W. Fairmount and S.W. Talbot. The first half-mile is on asphalt. We will hike past the early Mt. Zion station of the 1906 electric streetcar that went from downtown 5th Avenue to Council Crest. From Council Crest we will hike down the dirt trail to Fairmount. We can then decide if we want a short hike, a long hike---or lunch at the Vista Springs Café.

Driving directions to the 9:30am starting point:
Go up Broadway Drive to Patton Road. Continue on Patton Road to the four-way stop at the top. Humphrey is to the right and Talbot is to the left. Turn onto Talbot and continue a few blocks to the meeting point at Fairmount. RSVP to Larry Sawyer by Thursday, April 27th 503-771-1616 or larry_sawyer@comcast.net.

Future hikes:
Third Friday May 19th – Robert Tufts will lead a hike on a new trail from Oregon City Falls to Gladstone. More details will be in the next issue of the RAPS Sheet.
Fourth Friday June 23rd -- A level hike along the Willamette River. Meet at 9:30am at the OMSI parking lot. Travel counter-clockwise to the Steel Bridge, along the west side to the Hawthorne Bridge and back to OMSI.
Fourth Friday July 28th – Larry Sawyer will lead a leisurely wooded hike along the Salmon River.

Hikers photographs on the right:
Above: Bob Tufts overlooking the Gorge.
Below Hikers l. to r. Larry Sawyer, Bob Tufts, Mary and Laird Brodie, Maxine Thomas

Mark Your Calendars
Be sure not to miss the following events sponsored by RAPS. Detailed information about our April program is in this newsletter. Information for other events will be forthcoming.

Thursday, April 20, 2006
12 Noon – 1:30 pm
University Place, Columbia Falls Ballroom
310 S.W. Lincoln
President’s Luncheon
RSVP by April 13 to President’s Office, 503-725-4411

Thursday, May 18, 2006
1:00 – 3:00 pm
University Place, Willamette Room
310 S.W. Lincoln
Ice Cream Social
Featured Speaker: Jewel Lansing
Topic: Changes in Portland City Government

Hikers photographs on the right:
UPCOMING EVENTS

Our April Program
Our program this month will be on Thursday, April 20th from 12 Noon to 1:30 pm at University Place, 310 S.W. Lincoln, in the Columbia Falls Ballroom. If you plan to attend please RSVP by April 13th to the President’s Office, 503-725-4411.

This will be the President’s Annual Luncheon for Retired Faculty and Staff. President Dan Bernstine will be our host and will talk about the state of the University and what new efforts lie ahead for Portland State. We also will have the opportunity to socialize with old friends, meet the RAPS board, greet new university administrators, and honor outstanding retired faculty and staff. So plan to attend and catch up with friends and University developments. Again, the deadline for RSVPs is April 13th.

Bruce Stern

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PSU 60th Anniversary History Lectures
These lectures will tell faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members about the University’s history. The series is part of the celebration of the University’s sixtieth anniversary and is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Thursday, April 13, 2006, Noon, Vanport Room
Founding and development of Vanport Extension Center (40s, early 50s)
Panel: Bill Lemman, John Hakanson, Ray Lokting, Cathy Williams
Moderator: Pat Squire

Thursday, April 20, Noon, Smith Center 294
Early Park Blocks Years: working to become a permanent college (50s-early 60s)
Alumnus and Oregonian writer/historian, John Terry

Thursday, April 27, Noon, Smith Center 294
Portland State comes of age (60s through 90s)
Michael Reardon, Provost Emeritus

Thursday, May 4, Noon, Vanport Room
PSU Today and Tomorrow
President Dan Bernstine, Vice President Lindsay Desrochers

OUR TRAVELING RETIREES - THE DAHLS VISIT THE MID-EAST

It was a Canadian travel agency that scheduled our itinerary, perhaps making us Americans safer in a potentially dangerous region. Anyway we encountered the traditional generous, gracious, Middle Eastern hospitality.

Samer, our 29-year old Jordanian driver-escort, greeted us enthusiastically at the Amman, Jordan, airport. His American–accented English was acquired while attending public schools and working for a decade in New Jersey and was reinforced by his marriage to a young lady from Idaho. In spite of his being a university graduate, Samer’s tourism license authorized him to provide only transportation, so we often had to engage local guides at archaeological sites. Samer’s spouse and mother hosted us to coffee at their lovely Amman home, where we met other family members. Like one half of the national population, this patriotic Jordanian family is Palestinian in origin. Meeting them added a valuable dimension to our travel experience.

Jordan, a rapidly developing nation, offers a fascinating mix of Roman antiquities and Christian and Moslem cultures. We traversed Jordan from the river valley, where Christianity originated, to its northern border with Israel at the Golan Heights in Syria and to the southern desert where Lawrence of Arabia immersed himself in Bedouin culture. Jarash affords a memorable experience as one of the best-preserved Roman provincial cities in the Middle East. A two-day stopover at ancient Petra with ancient buildings carved out of rose-colored rock formations provided a fitting climax to our Jordan excursion.

On November 9 at 7:30 pm, we departed Amman’s airport. Unbeknownst to us, our 8:40 pm arrival at Cairo’s airport coincided with three simultaneous terrorist-suicide bombing attacks on major Amman hotels. After checking in at the Inter-Continental Hotel at approximately midnight, we turned on CNN to learn about these frightening events and that Jordan’s airport and borders had been sealed! We slept fitfully until 3:45 am when our daughter called from Portland to verify our well-being and to scold us for being irresponsible parents!

continued on page 6
With these violent events behind us, we began three more weeks of closely guarded excursions. Although I had spent a week in Cairo in 1967, I hardly recognized its tourist attractions. Every day, Hamdan, our permanent guide, a driver, and at least one armed guard, escorted us to sites of interest. Extended trips to remote places required an armed convoy of tourist vehicles. In spite of tumultuous election demonstrations, we were aware of no threats to our safety.

Our assigned guide, a well-informed, 29-year old graduate in Egyptology of Cairo University, spoke fluent English, enhanced by his recent translator services under a contract with American military forces. He used a “Blackberry” to manage our tour. His brother, also a fluent tour guide, and his attractive, fiancé, who spoke very little English, joined us for coffee one evening, giving us valuable insights to Islamic culture. One driver, a Coptic Christian, added another dimension to our experience that proved to be exceptionally helpful when we visited that sect’s ancient churches, monasteries and cemeteries.

After four days of exposure to pyramids and monuments in Cairo and its Nile valley hinterland, we went to Alexandria for two more days, visiting a magnificent modern library that replaces one of the ancient world’s “Seven Wonders.” Returning to Cairo, we skirted the Mediterranean to visit the El Alamein memorial, where in 1942 Field Marshall Montgomery’s forces vanquished the Axis armies. There the Egyptian army maintains a military museum. Cemeteries for thousands of British Commonwealth soldiers and their Axis adversaries are very moving. Just before sunset, we visited St. Bishoi, a Coptic monastery-seminary-fortress that has endured since the sixth century.

From there we went straight to the Cairo railway station for an overnight trip south for two more days of arduous but exciting tours of monuments saved from the flooding caused by the Aswan Dam. The region’s Nubian civilization has been memorialized with a world-class museum. After local “felucca” boat excursions on the Nile, on November 18th we boarded a luxury cruise ship for a two-day voyage northward with stops at archaeological sites before docking at Luxor.

On November 21, we moved to a luxury resort at Karnak, a base for five days of exploring the temples, monuments and tombs in that area. The Karnak Temple sound and light show perhaps exceeded its counterpart at the Giza pyramids. An overnight train ride returned us to Cairo early the next morning for two more days of sight seeing, including the famous Cairo Tower and the elegant Opera House. A Nile River cruise, dinner, and floor show turned out disastrously for me because of a gastric disturbance, but the traditional whirling dance performance pleased everyone.

Our last major excursion began with a long day’s drive eastward, passing under the Suez Canal en route to the 6th century St. Catherine’s Greek Orthodox monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai, with its extensive collection of icons. Some tourists arise at 1:00 am to climb Sinai, as Moses did, to see the sun rise. We slept as long as possible! An interesting collateral visit included a guided tour of an Egyptian army museum at a fortification that had been wrested from the Israeli army during the 1973 war.

On our last full day in Egypt, our guide borrowed his father’s rather well used Hyundai to take us, just as if we were local residents, to visit the “Pharaonic Village,” a museum-theme park with exhibits explaining features of Egypt’s archaeological greatness. We thoroughly enjoyed all of our Middle East experience. We fervently hope that this will not be our last visit to this exceptionally important part of our world.

Victor Dahl
Emeritus Professor of Physics Mark Gurevitch, born in Cleveland to Russian immigrant parents on September 22, 1916, died after an extended illness on February 16, 2006, in Portland. His family settled in Los Angeles, where Mark and his brother learned English in public schools. The young Mark soon developed a lifetime interest in science, and, after briefly attending a community college, he transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, to earn an A.B. (1938) and Phd. (1947) degrees in physics.

Dr. Gurevitch taught at the University of Idaho from 1947 to 1958, before joining Portland State College as head of the Division of Science’s physics section. In 1955 PSC had been designated as a four-year college and thus transformed from an extension center offering an undergraduate curriculum into a comprehensive institution of higher education. Professor Gurevitch contributed significantly to that process.

Throughout his twenty-four-year career at Portland State, Professor Gurevitch energetically recruited appropriate faculty and actively oversaw curricular growth, so as to establish a physics department that would lay the foundation for advanced studies and research in support of the University’s assigned mission to serve the Portland metropolitan area. His academic leadership enabled the physics department to move forward in developing a superior undergraduate curriculum as well as graduate studies that ultimately performed a significant role in the innovative and highly successful Environment Science and Resources doctoral program.

In his first years at PSU, from time to time Dr. Gurevitch served as acting chairman of the Science Division. Later he provided valuable assistance with deanship candidate searches for the College of Science. Professor Gurevitch emphasized quality in academic performance, and, to that end, he was responsible for recruiting women for tenure-track departmental appointments prior to any affirmative action requirements.

After taking emeritus status in 1982, for several years he continued to serve voluntarily as part-time department chair. Faculty colleagues throughout the University highly regarded his contributions through committee service. Mark actively participated in the academic governing process by serving often in the Faculty Senate.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gurevitch maintained an active intellectual inquisitiveness. He published papers on sub-micron metal particles in iron and on the principles, development, and use of high altitude precipitation gauges. He was a longtime member of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

While a student in Berkeley, he met Ruth Zipin, and they were married in 1943. They raised daughters Jeanette (who preceded him in death) and Marilyn (Carlin). Ruth died in 1981, and in 1986 Professor Gurevitch married Karen Corder, who survives him, along with daughter Marilyn, her daughters, Rita and Valerie, and his brother Leo and family. Stepchildren Kim Corder, Margaret Tweet, and Connie Pratt, and six step-grandchildren also survive him. He was a member of Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism.

Mark enjoyed the widespread respect and affection of colleagues from various disciplines throughout the University. All of us owe him a debt of gratitude for his longtime service and contributions to this institution. Mark always displayed a generous commitment to aid less fortunate people. Memorial contribution may be made to Kol Shalom or to the American Heart Association.


A Memorial was held at 3:00pm on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at PSU’s Smith Memorial Center.

Victor Dahl