

## EmeritXpress

We are happy to introduce this first edition of a newsletter for the Emeritx community: *EmeritXpress* will be sent out, we hope, every month. It will contain announcements of upcoming meetings, news about cluster gatherings, news from community members, and random but compelling tips from “beyond the podium.” You are all welcome to contribute material by contacting louellet, lhill, or mcreight. You can also access *EmeritX* news and conversations on the Bates website (see below).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Our next *EmeritX* gathering will be January 23. Instead of lunch, we are going to shoot for late afternoon tea/scones, and, by suggestion of one of our members, BYO Whiskey. It will take place from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in Commons 221 and will feature aimless and convivial conversation. Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to [Lori Ouellette](#) by January 17th if you plan to attend.

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## CLUSTER NEWS—COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

- **Community engagement** – Use this link to see a listing of opportunities for community engagement for Emeritx in L/A

Both Sam and Georgia are eager to discuss possibilities with you.

- **Cluster contact:** [Darby Ray](#)

- **Community-Engaged Work:** Georgia Nigro is working with Sam Boss at the Harvard Center and offer this [CER](#) projects list of opportunities for community-engaged research, places where the skills and wisdom of retired faculty members would be useful.

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Peggy Rotundo notes that the [Maine Humanities Council](#) would be delighted to have (retired) faculty lead a book-discussion group.

## PUBLIC WRITING/CREATIVE WRITING

- Lots of things are in the works to help us hone skills for addressing audiences beyond our academic colleagues for public writing. They include gathering as Faculty Learning Commons participants who will soon discuss (over good food) *Going Public: A Guide for Social Scientists*, Arlene Stein's and Jessie Daniels' highly praised book that offers guidance on writing beyond the academy. Other possibilities include a chat with U Maine Prof. Amy Fried, co-leader of the Maine chapter of the [Scholars Strategy Network](#). Stephanie Wade of the Bates Writing Center graciously offers her support in our efforts to "translate" academic writing into language and formats for broad public audiences. Stay tuned for meeting dates.
- Cluster contact for Public Writing: [Leslie Hill](#)
- Lots of ideas and options are simmering here for creative writing.
- Cluster contact for Creative Writing: [Rob Farnworth](#)



## CARL BENTON STRAUB

As you have probably seen in your email Inbox, Clayton wrote of two opportunities to acknowledge and reflect on the life and contributions of dean and professor Carl Benton Straub.

The first gathering will take place at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, in the Perry Atrium of Pettengill Hall, Bates College. This will be an informal time to come together and share memories through reflections, music, and story-telling.

The second gathering will be a memorial service that will take place at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, when Carl's beloved Gomes Chapel is reopened.

All are invited to attend both events.

Please let us know of your intention to attend the Jan. 10 event by emailing [president-rsvp@bates.edu](mailto:president-rsvp@bates.edu) or by calling Claire Schmoll at 207-786-6100 no later than Jan. 6.

Clayton Spencer

### EMERITX WEB PAGE

Click on the [Dean of Faculty](#) web page; then from the right side-bar click on Faculty Commons for Learning and Teaching; under the tab, "Faculty Development Programs at Bates" scroll to the bottom of the page to find the link, "[Programs for Emeritx Faculty](#)".

There you will find:

- the [blog for general conversation amongst Emeritx](#)
- *Google Group – Emeritus to reach the [google group for Bates Emeritx faculty](#)*
- *Programs for EmeritX Faculty from the Harvard Center - see a listing of [opportunities for community engagement for Emeritx in L/A](#)*



## STUDIO ARTS

- The vibrant and enthusiastic studio arts group will meet at [Portland Pottery](#) on Wednesday, January 8th at 2pm (lunch beforehand). There is room for one more participant!
- **Cluster contact:** [Margaret Creighton](#)

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Peggy Rotundo notes that the [Maine Humanities Council](#) would be delighted to have (retired) faculty lead a book-discussion group.

### A QUICK READ

Julia Piper, “[After a Career in Higher Education, an Encore.](#)” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 30, 2019.

## READING AND DISCUSSION CLUSTER

- Word has it that these folks have a long list of books they are eager to explore. The first might just be a book about climate change and the changing environment. They are excited to get reading and discussing. If you want to join the conversation reach out to the cluster contact person.
- Cluster contact: [Nancy Kleckner](#)

## TIPS FROM BEYOND THE PODIUM

For the Retirement Curious, do be sure to talk with Ken Emerson or Brenda Sawyer in Human Resources about your benefit elections and a timeline for transitioning from Bates benefits to Medicare, etc. They are happy to help and we look forward to talking with them about the “big picture” of transitioning off of the payroll.

*Got something to share?* Everyone is invited to add (retirement) advice, pose questions, drop tips, links, readings, etc. for this group. Use the blog link above or here for general conversation or to reach Emeriti/ae/X and the Retirement Curious.

## POLITICAL ACTION/CLIMATE ACTION

- Possibilities abound as we are learning from our contacts. Bates’ “in-house” guide to local and state politics notes that “everyone” is gearing up for the November 2020 elections; [Peggy \(Rotundo\)](#) thinks our energies would be most welcome in those efforts. For anyone interested in volunteering for the Elizabeth Warren campaign, please contact [Margaret Creighton](#). On the climate action front, acting locally could involve engaging with Healthy Neighborhoods’ environmental goals (contact [Darby Ray](#) or [Shanna Cox](#), president of the Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce). Even more “locally”, another colleague suggested that EmeritX might be able to help to cultivate a campus culture that encourages student engagement on climate action. Contacts here include Bates’ Committee on Environmental Responsibility ([Jane Costlow](#) or [Bev Johnson](#)) or the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, [Tom Twist](#).

Stay tuned for a message about gathering again.

- Cluster contact: [Jim Parakilas](#)

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### **EmeritX Community News**

***Do you have something to celebrate or announce? Let one of the Newsletter editors know, or use the Google Group – [Emeritus](#) to reach by email.***

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