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Photo by Jim Clemmer

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Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



APSURA hosts workshop on smartphones March 8

Many of us are of two minds when we see somebody wielding a newfangled gadget. First is usually "I'd rather not be bothered." But then we make the mistake of watching for a few minutes, and we are shortly mumbling to ourselves, "Gee, look what he is doing with that thing." Before we know it we are stumbling into BestBuy without an inkling of what we are getting into.

Our first reaction to GPS was, "I want to be alone." And now we can hardly find Kroger without TomTom leading the way. We saw Jobs hold up the first iPad, and we thought iDon't. Then we saw the geysers of Yellowstone spring to life on the iPad NatGeo, and we were off to the Apple store. And as for phones, we thought we had given Gertrude Stein the last word: "A phone is a phone is a phone." That lasted until we heard someone having an extended conversation with Siri.

It is with this common ambivalence toward new technology in mind that APSURA is launching a mini-series of free electronics workshops. These are designed for those who think they couldn't care less yet find that they nevertheless want or need more. The first workshop, on choosing and using a smartphone, will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, in the conference room just inside the front door of the Public Library on Pageant Lane. It will be conducted by APSURA associate member Bob Privett, a knowledgeable aficionada and user of smartphones and other devices. Bob is newly retired from an extensive career with the school system, in which he was involved almost daily with modern technology. His topics will include five major factors to consider when choosing a phone, such as quality and size, flexibility, and the plans offered by the major carriers.

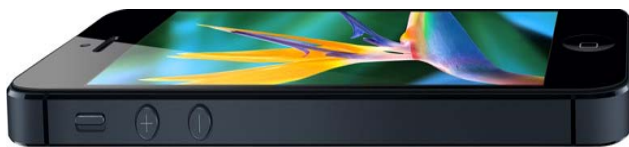
This workshop will be followed in coming months by sessions on creating and managing photos and videos with phones and tablets and interfacing these devices with computers, as well as workshops on advanced email skills and creating digital files to help manage pa-

Continued on page 2

*Apple
iPhone 5*

perwork. The emphasis through the series will be on useful and practical devices and applications which can help with daily life and chores. This first workshop will be open to all APSU retirees, while subsequent sessions will be targeted to APSURA members. We will encourage all attendees to join APSURA so they can benefit not only from these workshops but from other APSURA endeavors.

Please plan to join us for this first session on Friday, March 8, at the Public Library at 4 p.m.!



APSURA announces scholarship award

Al Irby

The APSURA board of directors is happy to announce that applications for the first award from our APSURA scholarship fund will be accepted this spring or summer. The scholarship is entitled "APSU Retirees Association Scholarship—2013-2014." The scholarship fund, a component of the APSU Foundation, consists of portions of membership dues and other contributions by members and friends of the Retirees Association, as well as the proceeds of special APSURA projects devoted to growing the fund.

The recipient must be a descendant of a current or deceased APSU employee or retiree, whose name shall be provided at the time of application for the award. This first award total is \$500, the first half (\$250) awarded for the 2013 Fall Semester and the second half for the 2014 Spring Semester, providing that the recipient maintains an overall 3.0 GPA through the Fall Semester and enrolls full time.

The recipient must be currently enrolled full-time at APSU with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 and be classified at least a junior by the 2013 Fall Semester. The recipient's total financial aid, including this award, must be less than the recipient's total tuition and fees.

In the event that more than one applicant qualifies for the award, the award will be made to the applicant with the greatest financial need as indicated by the EFC (estimated family contribution) as determined by the APSU financial aid office. If there is still a need for another factor to determine the recipient, then the award should go to the applicant with the lowest amount of financial aid from other sources. After that, the next factor to consider is the cumulative grade point average.

We hope that retirees will pass this information along to members of their families who might be eligible to apply for this award.

APSURA to hear pianist Daniil Trifonov with the NSO on April 18

While we routinely encourage APSURANS to attend Community, Gateway Chamber and other local concerts and recitals, special excursions to Nashville for dinner and Nashville Symphony concerts have been a popular feature of the APSURA spring and fall calendars for almost three years. We will be heading back to Nashville on Thursday, April 18, for a concert featuring the sensational Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Trifonov won a clean sweep of Grand Prix, First Prize, and a Gold Medal (three separate awards) last year in the 14th International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, as well as the Audience Choice Award and Award for the Best Performance of a Mozart Concerto in the same contest. He also won First Prize and Gold Medal in the Arthur Rubinstein Master Competition in Tel Aviv in 2011. And those only begin a long list of his prizes and awards.

And, get this: Daniil Trifonov is only 21 years old. AND, also get this, with the NSO he will be playing one of most famous piano concerti of all time, written a few years back by another 21-year-old named Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The concerto is the No. 9, which has acquired—especially appropriate for this occasion—the sobriquet *Jeunehomme* (“young man”). Also featured on the program will be the

Kodaly Hary Janos Suite, the Ginastera Harp Concerto with harpist Licia Jaskanus and the Carlos Chavez Symphony No. 2.



We will depart via Courtesy shuttle coach from the Sam's Club parking lot (right side) at 3:15, arrive at Sole Mio Italian restaurant around 4:15. At 5:30 we will walk the one block to the Schermerhorn Symphony Center for Maestro Guerrero's "conversation" about the concert at 6

p.m., followed by the concert at 7:00. We will return to Sole Mio around 9 p.m. for dessert, and depart for Clarksville around 9:45. Cost for the coach transportation will be \$43 each, and cost for the concert seat (front-balcony, left side) will be \$41 (\$84 total for each attendee). Attendees will pay for their own dinners at Sole Mio, which features a "symphony special" three-course dinner for around \$40, though we will make a group reservation there. Deadline for application and full payment on a first-come, first served basis is Feb. 15. Send payment to Al Irby, Treasurer, APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

*Trifonov
accepting
Moscow
prize in
2011*

A list of retiree benefits is included on the APSURA web site

Notary service a new benefit for APSU retirees

Hester Crews

Effective immediately APSU Retirees will have *free* access to Notary services at Austin Peay. In an agreement between Human Resources and the APSURA board of directors, Angie Judish and Marian Perron will notarize documents for APSU retirees and spouse or significant others at no charge.

If you have had documents notarized you are probably aware that the Notary Public is attesting to the fact that you are who you represent yourself to be, that you are the person whose signature is required for the document, and that you signed the document in the presence of the Notary.

As you or your spouse or significant other have need of notary services at APSU you should call Angie (221-7013) or Marian (221-6295) before you come to campus to be sure one of the two is available to assist you. You will need a photo I.D. for the person whose signature is being notarized and you should not sign the document until you are in the presence of the notary.

This is another of the ways in which the APSU Retirees Association is attempting to assist retirees. We specifically appreciate the efforts of Mitch Robinson (Board member) and Mike Hamlet (Director of Human Resources) in coordinating this benefit. Our appreciation is extended to both Angie Judish and Marian Perron for their willingness to extend their services.

A copy of the Guidelines/Information for APSURA Notary Services will shortly be available for your review on the APSURA Web page.

Other events of interest for winter and spring

In addition to our electronics workshop and Nashville Symphony trip, other coming events sponsored by APSURA will be a narrated Greenway walk and a luncheon with a speaker who will address a topic of current importance to seniors. The details of these two events are still being worked out, but they will be covered in the next *NewsNotes* in late March. Other happenings of interest include the following:

Gateway Chamber Orchestra. On Monday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. the GCO will present a program of music by Aaron Kernis, Carl Reinecke and Franz Joseph Haydn. Of special interest will be the American premiere of the Reinecke Cello Concerto, Op. 80, featuring the GCO's own cellist Michael Samis. The final GCO concert of the season will be presented on Sunday, May 5th, at 3 p.m., and repeated on Monday, May 6, at 7:30. This program will feature a composition by the first winner of the GCO's Young Composer Competition, yet to be named, and the famous *Das Lied von der Erde* (*The Song of the Earth*) by Gustav Mahler. GCO concerts are held in the Mabry Concert Hall in MMC. Admission is \$15.

The Gateway Chamber Orchestra, Greg Wolynech, director.

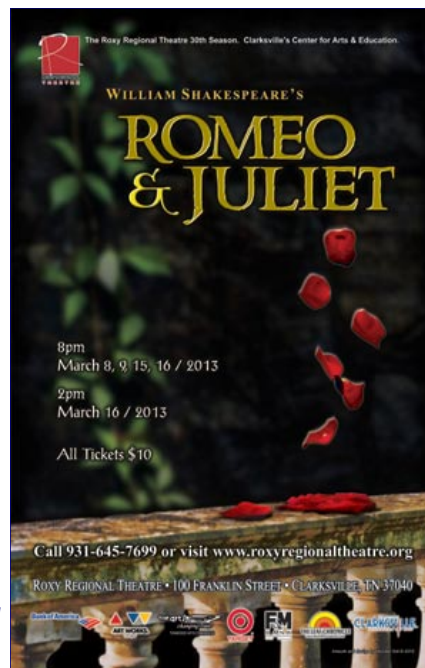


Clarksville Community Concerts. On Friday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m., the CCCA will present a recital by tenor Curtis Rayam and baritone Donnie Ray Albert, accompanied by pianist Roland Carter. As the final CCCA concert on Saturday, Apr. 6, Jazz trumpeter Dominick Farinacci will be headlining the 52nd Mid-South Jazz Festival. CCCA concerts are held in the Mabry Concert Hall. Admission is \$25.

The Roxy Regional Theatre. The Roxy has a number of varied offerings for winter and spring, including a stage adaptation of *Heidi* continuing in early February, the musical *Always... Patsy Cline* throughout February, and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* during March. More adventurous theatre-goers might like *The Motherf**ker With the Hat*, also in March, while *Civil War Stories* and *Peter Pan* during March and April will have wide appeal. For more information see www.roxyregionaltheatre.org or call 931-645-7699.

Drama at APSU. The APSU department of theatre will present *Sylvia* by A. R. Gurney on Feb. 13-16 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday Feb. 17 at 2 p.m., and the play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes Apr. 17-21. These will be presented in the Trahern Theatre. APSU students will also present *The Vagina Monologues* on March 27-27 at 7 p.m. in Clement auditorium.

Lectures and readings. Upcoming presentations by writers at APSU include a Feb. 12 reading by David Huddle, the 2012-13 holder of the Acuff Chair of Excellence, at 7:30 in MUC 303, and a reading by humorist Roy Blount at 7:30 on March 26 in the Mabry Hall. On April 4, J. Todd Moye, author of *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II*, will keynote the Asanbe Diversity Forum. On Apr 11, winner of the 2011 Zone 3 creative nonfiction book award Nicole Walker will read from her works at 8 p.m. in MUC 303.



Upcoming Roxy plays and AP-SURANS Floyd and Aleeta Christian strolling the Greenway last spring.



Cruisin': Better than ever

Jim Clemmer

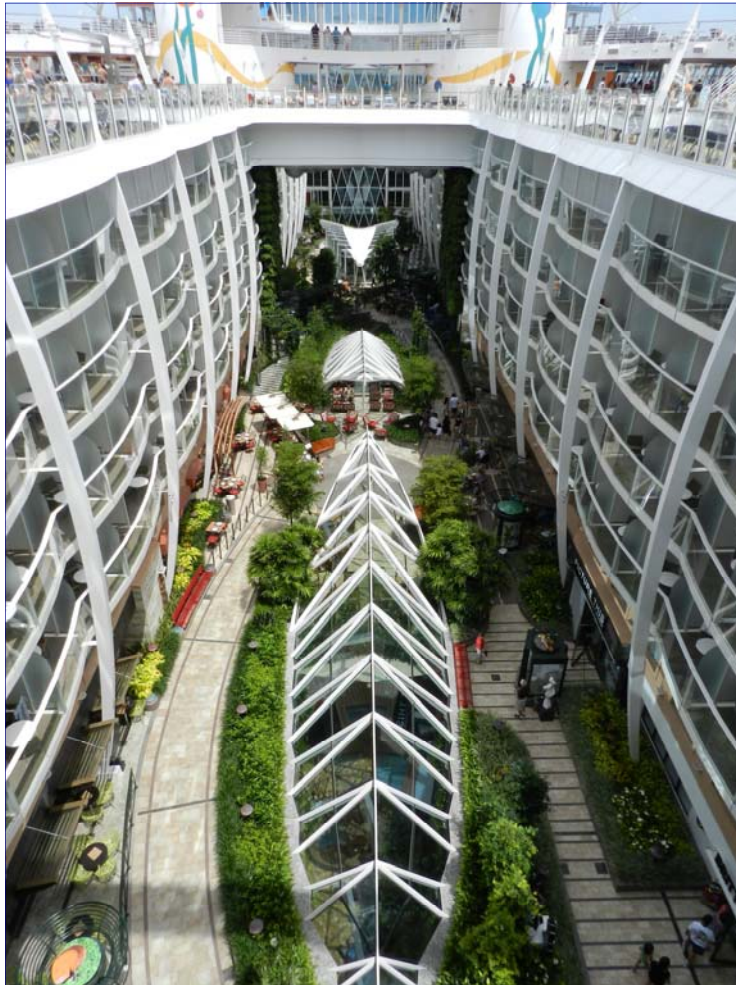
My introduction to cruising was fairly rude. I was north of Puerto Rico on the RCCL *Song of Norway* on the night of Aug. 5, 1980, when the ship unexpectedly slammed headlong into the 50-foot waves and 180 mph winds of Hurricane Allen, one of the strongest storms ever to trounce the Caribbean. Allen had been predicted to weaken, and the captain had steered a more northerly route than usual, but passengers were thrown about like rag dolls as the ship heaved and rolled through the night. Pianos broke loose and thundered across the ballrooms into the walls along the Promenade. Instead of the usual sumptuous food, waiters served large platters of Dramamine to those few hale enough to make it to the dining room. Even after docking, the streets of San Juan seemed to rock and slide beneath our feet.

Even if one avoided storms, the early pre-Web days of cruising were not all fun. Booking involved extensive negotiation with travel agents, phone conversations with the cruise line, and finally the writing and sending of an enormous check which had to clear the bank before anything was final. Checking in included standing for hours with all your luggage, and then a mad dash to get in line to see the maître d', who only then personally assigned you to a table. If your cabin had any natural light, it came through something like a porthole, and as for water pressure, you had better have bathed well before leaving home.

I have cruised several times since that first adventure on the *Song*, and each time the experience has been better, sometimes by a quantum leap. Booking and paying now take minutes instead of days. Finding a suitable ship, price, and date is as easy as making a single visit to your agent or going on one of the full-featured Web sites such as the largest, www.vacationstogo.com, looking at the "90 day ticker" or similar listing for the best prices, and either booking right there or calling a phone number to confirm availability. With some flexibility in your scheduling, it is not unusual to find prices as much or more than 50% off list prices. Checking in is all done on the Web before arriving at the pier.

One can now choose a ship and itinerary to suit all tastes. For us older folks, unless we are taking younger family, that usually means finding a mid-size or smaller ship that does not emphasize kid-friendly features. Our favorite line has come to be Holland America, where children and teens are conspicuous by their absence. On a recent trip through the Caribbean on the 2000-passenger *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, I heard one man say to another, "We should just live it up—you're only 90 once!" Itineraries are as varied as

one's imagination, with ships going to the most remote corners of the seas. By way of contrast, most of the megaships holding up to 5000 passengers are a bit frenetic for oldsters. A friend and I took children and grandchildren on the RCCL *Allure of the Seas* last summer, and while the kids enjoyed



The dramatic Central Park area of the RCCL *Allure of the Seas*

Photo by Jim Clemmer

the rock-climbing walls and “flow-rider” surfing simulators, we parents wound up hiding away in a quiet bar during our down time.

A number of other new features improve the cruising experience. The newest ships offer many verandas with floor-to-ceiling glass doors, diesel electric “azipod” drives which eliminate the long propeller shaft that once sent shudders through the ship, and improved stabilizers which virtually eliminate rolling movements. On-board service is dramatically improved by the availability of “anytime dining,” in which one has choice of time and table arrangements for dinner, and a greatly expanded “Lido” buffet for breakfast and lunch. Traditional tipping of servers and cabin personnel has largely been replaced by the inclusion of a daily service fee that is included in the up-front price. This eliminates much of the frantic competition for tips that used to interfere with easygoing service.



Finally, the booking and execution of shore excursions has been vastly improved. Booking has been simplified via the Web, and excursions are generally far more professional and rewarding than formerly. In our recent excursions from the *Nieuw Amsterdam*, shoreside facilities were made super-convenient and attractive, especially the HAL-owned installations of Grand Turk Island and Half-Moon Bay.

Publication Information

The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published monthly to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and Newsnotes are available at www.apsu.edu/retirees-association.

We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to Christa Beckner at ayyez5m@yahoo.com, to Hester Crews at crewsh@charter.net, to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu, or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the Newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries, and other experiences as APSU retirees.

Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu with photographs sent individually as separate jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

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*Ann Harris
Meredith Gildrie
Mitch Robinson
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Publicity Director

*Jim Clemmer
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

Address

*APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044*

On the Web

www.apsu.edu/retirees-association

See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, and late-breaking information on upcoming events, schedule changes, retirement benefits, and background information on the Retirees Association.



APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044

APSURA New Members Registration Form

☐ Retired faculty or staff

☐ Associate member

Check both of the above boxes if your spouse or partner is joining as an associate member as well.

Dr.____ Mr.____ Ms____ Mrs.____ Other preferred title_____

Name of member: _____
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

City State Zip Code

Telephones: _____ E-mail addresses: _____

Former department: _____ Years of service _____ Year you retired _____

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (check all that apply): ☐ Group travel; ☐ Athletic events; ☐ Cultural events; ☐ Social events; ☐ Scholarship activities; ☐ Seminars; ☐ Community work; ☐ Other _____

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association are:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership ☐ \$25.00 Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Membership ☐ \$500