



HURA news

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Behind the Scenes: HURA Day

We are often asked how a program-planning idea gets transformed into an actual HURA event. It might be of interest if we provide a peek behind the scenes to see how our action-oriented, volunteer Board creates interesting programs to bring retirees together for fun and learning.

It all starts at the annual summer planning meeting and continues at monthly Board meetings until the event is held. Planning for an event like HURA Day, for instance, involves a lot of work by many Board members who deal with a myriad of details. At least two members of the Board volunteer early to identify speakers. Formal invitations are extended and an acceptable date is decided, ideally during spring break when campus meeting rooms are more likely to be available.

Once speakers are confirmed, program planners prepare briefing materials for speakers, including information on logistics, contacts, a description of HURA Day, possibly a list of participants, audiovisual equipment and room configuration, and event flow and timing.



Finding a theme and ordering centerpieces for the tables at the Holiday Luncheon is always a task well done by the Program Chair, Diantha Brown.

After the venue is selected and a contract agreed upon, the program planners meet with the function manager to arrange a menu and a price per person. In addition to catering, consideration must be given to additional charges, such as room rentals, services, taxes, and audiovisual equipment fees. To help defray the expenses, we charge our

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Board members take a break during a day-long summer planning meeting at the Faculty Club.

Coming Events

Friday, January 30 Harvard Men's Hockey vs. the Union Dutchmen at the Bright Hockey Rink. Two free tickets for HURA members. Additional adult tickets, \$20; youth, \$10. Registration flyers have been sent to HURA E-list subscribers. Contact Henry Terwedow at hterwedo@gmail.com or 508-481-1165 for more info.

Friday, February 6 through Sunday, March 8 Hasty Pudding Theatricals HPT 167: "¡OOPS!...Madrid It Again." Please note that this year HURA is taking a break from Hasty Pudding, but you don't need to. You can order tickets at their website <http://hastypudding.org/tickets-performance-dates>. If you prefer not to purchase tickets online, the HPT box office will open on January 14th, 2015. Call 617-495-5205, Monday-Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m. For questions, email hptboxoffice@gmail.com. Be aware that this is a student-run production, and you may have difficulty getting responses.

Tuesday, March 10 HURA Day at the Spangler Center, Harvard Business School. Baker Foundation Professor and Albert H. Gordon Professor of Business Administration, Emeritus, F. Warren McFarlan will discuss China and Harvard: Opportunity or Threat? Assistant Professor of Business Administration Ethan S. Bernstein will speak following lunch. Registration and further information will be mailed in a separate flyer to all HURA members in early February.

Thursday, May 21 Annual Meeting and Luncheon Location and registration details to be announced. The featured speaker will be Margaret H. Marshall, who was the 24th chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In the Works:

Harvard Athletics, an Orientation for Retirees Malkin Athletic Center. The Athletics Department will offer a presentation about facilities and classes available to Harvard retirees at all of the athletics facilities. A tour of the MAC and an introduction to exercise equipment will be included. Date and other specifics will be announced in the March/April *HURA News*.

Also upcoming:

Spring Rambles in interesting places
Boston Pops (late May)

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members and their guests fees to participate, but it should be noted that they rarely cover the entire cost of the event. It is important to negotiate a final deadline for attendance registration because HURA often is required to pay a per-person rate for meals and other expenses—even if the person does not show up at the event. Members should understand that if they sign up and make commitments to attend, they should do so—or cancel before the registration deadline, except in emergencies.

HURA editors create a registration flyer for *HURA News*. Reminder notices are sent to the E-list. Registration forms and checks are received. Special attention is paid to dining preferences and the special needs of members with handicaps. Often members have questions that have to be fielded by telephone and email.

Just before the day, name tags with menu choices (in case you forget) are printed. Staffing of the registration table is set, and the function staff is informed of the number of attendees.

The day of the event begins early for some Board members who make sure the speaker and catering arrangements are in place. Others review the dining and registration tables arrangements to be ready for the day.

Following what we hope has been a successful HURA Day, the HURA President sends thank you notes to the

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Board members Marion Crowley, Ellen Adolph, and Dr. Charles Millstein helping out with the gifts for Boston and Cambridge children.

HURA PROFILE: Winnie Williams

If you are lucky enough to have lunch or dinner at L'Espalier, the restaurant adjacent to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Boston, the first person to greet you and the last to say good bye and invite you back again may be Winnie Williams, Harvard retiree, and food adventurer. Five days a week, this is Winnie Williams's role at the restaurant *Zagat* calls "a foodie's dream" for its impeccable service and superb cuisine. Winnie calls it a place for special celebrations and a "destination" restaurant.



Winnie Williams

Winnie's first job at Harvard was as a cook at the Faculty Club. It ended when tendonitis made the work too difficult. She moved on to the School of Education's Department of Human Resources and from there to Human Resources at the University level.

Her interest in food in all of its aspects, however, continues with her involvement with Culinary Historians of Boston, a group formed in the early 1980s by three women—two writers and a restaurateur—their first meeting held under a maple tree in Radcliffe Yard. Members share an interest in the social history of food and an eagerness to learn. At monthly meetings they cover a wide range of topics, such as the global

history of brandy, "eatable" mushrooms in the 19th century, culinary lives of John and Abigail Adams, and ancient wheats. At the November meeting Jeri Quinzio discussed her latest book, *Food on the Rails: the Golden Era of Railroad Dining*.

Winnie was part of a Mediterranean study group of Culinary Historians who traveled to Italy, Sardinia, Cyprus, Greece, and Crete to experience local food, wine, and agriculture in the smaller towns and villages. She fondly remembers goat on a spit outside Athens.

At an outing at the School of Education, Winnie became acquainted with one of the food

suppliers who introduced her to Les Dames d'Escoffier, a worldwide, invitation-only, philanthropic society of professional women in the fields of fine food, beverages, and hospitality. Les Dames was originally formed to address gender bias in the culinary field in response to the all-male fine dining association, Les Amis d'Escoffier, and to help open the professional world of food, wine, and hospitality to women. Winnie recalls with pleasure dinners with Les Dames, pot lucks, ice fishing in Vermont, and learning about oysters on Cape Cod.

Like many employees, Winnie found time at Harvard to explore classes at the Extension School and continued on to receive her bachelor's degree there. This year, she is part of a class on consumer behavior given by four doctoral students from Harvard Business School, as well as a group she discovered at the Harvard Health Association on "intuitive eating," to learn about the reasons we may be eating what we are eating.

Like many retirees, Winnie still finds a sense of a community in Harvard that is important to her...in education, in health care, and the relationships with people there. "It was, and is, a good experience," she says, "very much so."

Winnie was interviewed by Ellen Adolph in November 2014.

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Retirees Association**

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HURA E-list

Members receive up-to-date news
and information mailed directly to
their home computers.

HURA Website

A source of information and news
at <http://hura.harvard.edu>.

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HURA Day**

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speakers. Invoices are paid by the Treasurer. Photographs that have been taken by our volunteer photographer will be selected to accompany a HURA News article recapping the event. At its next meeting, the Board reviews the event to identify successes and areas for possible improvement at the next big HURA event.

Beverly Sullivan



**Images from the
2014 Holiday
Luncheon**

At right, Donna Chiozzi smiles with her father Stan Chiozzi (age 95). Below, members of the 'Cliff Notes entertain HURA members.

