



# PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

November 2023

## What's Inside:

### Welcome!

### Special Events

PURA's November 6 Meeting - Tech Toys and Other Relevant Computer Topics (page 2)

PURA Spring Conference, April 17, 2024 (page 5)

### PURA Business

NEW PROGRAM/BUSINESS MEETING TIME (page 2)

Tom's Topics: (page 3)

Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award

## Features

Questions and Answers about Vaccines and Boosters (page 7)

Jo Thomas: The Camel Club by David Baldacci (page 6)

Sara Jane Coffman: Interview with Myself (page 6)

Vitamin D-Enriched Mushroom Nutrition Study Seeks Participants (page 8)

**Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings (page 10)**

**About PURA News (page 9)**

### Calendars (Page 9)

Upcoming PURA Events  
Campus/Community Calendar Highlights  
Purdue Academic/Holiday Schedule

## Welcome Current & New *PURA* News Readers!

The PURA newsletter, published 10 times a year, regularly features articles on retiree benefits, Purdue news, upcoming opportunities to hear interesting speakers with other retirees, health topics, humor, Indiana travel, and PURA business. We welcome your comments and suggestions (send to: [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu)), and we invite you to join us at our in-person and virtual programs.

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## New Program/Meeting Time

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming PURA Program/Business Meeting time change. Starting with the November meeting and running through the March meeting, your regular Monday meetings will run from 10:00 a.m. ET to approximately 11:30 a.m. ET. At that time we will make the decision if this time change will be permanent or if we will revert back to lunch time. Refreshments will be provided free of charge at these first 5 meetings. Mark your calendar today!!

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## Tech Toys and Other Relevant Computer Topics



PURA Program – Monday, November 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m. ET

Technology is all around us and we find it tough to keep up with what it is all about and even tougher how to work with it. This program will talk about Tech Toys (that includes your phone) and how to understand and use these technology wonders. The holidays are coming, so let's see what you might want this year.

Program Title – Tech Toys and Other Relevant Computer Topics

Presenter – Scott Ksander

Scott Ksander is a self-described “Computer Geek”. His passion for computing and technology started as the result of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade science project and has continued ever since. He received a degree in Computer Science from Purdue University in 1974. He started his professional career that same year in software development and operating system security at Control Data Corporation. In 1984, he joined ETA Systems as Program Manager for the development of the ETA -10 “supercomputer”. In 1987, he returned to Purdue as Associate Director of the Computing Center. Scott was named Executive Director for IT Networks/Security and Chief Security Officer for PU in 2006. He retired in 2015 but continues his IT adventures with PURA.

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## Tom's Topics



Due to a shortened November Newsletter, my comments will be brief. Thanks to all who attended our Kickoff Luncheon on September 11th. Also, a big Thank You to the Kickoff Luncheon Committee for all of their hard work in planning the event. Also, a big Thank You to the Hospitality Committee for the room set-up and handling the distribution of the door prizes.

Congratulations to Karen Lembcke on receiving the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award at the Luncheon. Karen served over 11 years as a member (and Chair) of our Communications Committee which included overseeing our monthly Newsletter.

### Upcoming reminders:

- Our monthly meeting on November 6th will have a new time frame. We will gather at 10:00 a.m. ET at The VFW (light refreshments will be provided), and we will adjourn around 11:30 a.m. ET. How about going to lunch with a fellow retiree(s) after the meeting? Our monthly meetings in December, February, March, April and May will follow this same morning format. (No January meeting due to the New Year's Holiday)
- Thank you to all who have contributed to the 2023 United Way Campaign. Donations can still be made through November 8th.
- Mark your calendars for the PURA Spring Conference: April 17, 2024 at The Beck Agricultural Center, 4550 US 52 West - West Lafayette, IN 47907

Tom Robertson  
PURA President- 2023-2024

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## PURA Annual Retirees Kickoff Luncheon 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The Kickoff luncheon event was held September 11, 2023 at the Courtyard Lafayette Marriott. PURA President Tom Robertson pictured here with his wife Pam, served as master of ceremonies welcoming and updating retirees on the State of PURA.



Keynote Speaker Anthony Cawdrons' presentation "Keeping House from Blenheim to Westwood" included his early years growing up in England and focused on his hospitality journey prior to becoming Events Coordinator and House Manager at 'Westwood', Purdue President's official residence, 21 years ago.

Anthony shared slides and gave insight into his hospitality history including positions in Switzerland, Blenheim Palace and Sutton Place in England, and Iowa State University working with Purdue President Emeritus Martin Jischke and joining President Jischke at Purdue University in West Lafayette. Anthony continues to manage the day-to-day operations of Westwood and overseeing events and entertaining for current Purdue President Mung Chiang.



*Left to right, Betty Nelson, Karen Lembcke, Jerry Day*

The Betty M. Nelson Recognition Award presented by the Purdue University Retirees Association recognizes a person or entities that have greatly improved the lives of Purdue Retirees or made outstanding contributions to PURA.

This year's Betty M. Nelson Award was presented to Karen Lembcke, Chair of the PURA Communications Committee. Karen has been actively involved with the Communications

Committee for 11 years, the last 5 years as committee chair. She is best known for the monthly composition and development of the PURA News publication. Karen and her team produce a consistent resource for Purdue Retirees to access PURA news, calendar of events and meetings, and articles of interest. The PURA Newsletter is commonly known around the BIG TEN as the "Gold Standard" and is recognized as an excellent publication respected throughout the BIG TEN for its content.

Congratulations, Karen Lembcke!

The Raffle Ticket Drawing was welcomed back to the program after a 3 year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related setbacks. The comeback was enthusiastically embraced by those attending the luncheon. The event closed with Roy Johnson leading the retirees in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of "Hail Purdue" Visit the PURA website <https://www.purdue.edu/retirees/recordings.html> and look at the ZOOM video for the September 2023 meeting to view video of the luncheon.

## PURA Spring Conference 2024



Plans are well underway for PURA's largest event, namely the April 17, 2024, Annual Spring Conference to once again be hosted at the BECK Agricultural Center on US 52 north of the Purdue Campus.

Four talented, interesting, informative, and popular topics will be featured in 2024. More Vendors with exciting door prizes will be on hand and ready for the more than 200 expected attendees.

A later starting time to accommodate those coming from a distance along with much improved AV and sound especially are being incorporated to better accommodate the hearing impaired.

And, because of the later start time, snacks will be available on arrival and lunch will feature a full-blown, hot delicious noon buffet meal prepared by Christo's.

More time to meet friends and visit with Vendors is being planned. Printed and personal information related to the United Health Care medical program will be available.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting, informative purposeful living in retirement event on April 17, 2024, at the Beck Center. Registration will begin online in March of 2024.



## Confessions of a Book Addict

By Jo Thomas

### The Camel Club by David Baldacci

**The Camel Club** is an oldy but goody. Published in 2003, it features some of the problems 20 years later.

**The Camel Club** is a group of conspiracy theorists believing in finding truths. Led by Oliver Stone who has a small tent across the street from the White House. He is a mystery to people. Reuben, his right-hand man, is a graduate of West Point who won many Medals and Commendations in Vietnam. He was then assigned to an Intelligence Agency but became a dedicated protestor.

Caleb earned PhDs in Political Science and the 1800 hundreds. He dressed like it was the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and worked in the Rare Book collection of the Library of Congress. The last was Milton who had OCD. He was brilliant but had to engage in toe tapping and whistles before he talked to anyone. Their meetings were held late at night on a small island because their philosophy was not appreciated by most. But on this particular night they witnessed two men killing another man making it look like suicide. Then events became interesting on many fronts.

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## Interview with Myself

By Sara Jane Coffman



The following interview is the author interviewing herself.

Sara Jane: How are you doing?

Sally: Fine, thank you! How are you?

Sara Jane: I'm doing well, too. Let's start with why you have two names. What's your "real" name?

Sally: My "real" name is Sara Jane, but I go by Sally.

Sara Jane: Why is that?

Sally: My parents wanted to name me Sally, but the social worker in charge of filling out my birth certificate told them Sally wasn't a "real" name -- they'd have to come up with something else. So they named me Sara Jane, which was a family name, but they've always called me Sally.

Sara Jane: I wonder what that social worker would think of the names parents choose for their kids these days.

Sally: Star, Cloud, River . . . .

Sara Jane: Right.

Sally: My mom was still all doped up when the social worker came to see her and it sounds to me like the social worker was a bit of a bully. The lady wasn't even the regular social worker, she was a substitute.

Sara Jane: . . . who obviously inflicted her own rules about baby's names onto the new mothers.

Sally: Right.

Sara Jane: Is it confusing when people meet you and don't know what to call you?

Sally: It's confusing to me, too. I'll go into the doctor's office and try to sign in with one name. If they can't find me on their schedule, I try my other name.

Sara Jane: Do you think at some point you'll settle on a name?

Sally: Probably not. Actually, having two names has worked well for me.

Sara Jane: How so?

Sally: It's how I screen my calls. My friends all call me Sally, so when someone calls and asks for "Sara" I know they're trying to sell me something. And there was one time when I was doing a humor program which was being set up by two different people. One knew me as Sara Jane – the other as Sally. When it was time to pay me, they each had a check for me.

Sara Jane: Did you take them both?

Sally: Naw.

Sara Jane: One last question. Has having two names ever caused you to think you're two different people?

Sally: Heavens no! If I thought I was two different people, I'd be doing something crazy . . . like interviewing myself.

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## **Have Questions about Vaccines and Boosters? Read on!**

### **Where can I get a vaccine or booster?**

Vaccines are administered at retail pharmacies, including Walgreens, Walmart and CVS as well as local clinics and other locations, such as doctor's offices. Use the federal government's vaccine website <https://www.vaccines.gov/> to search for vaccination sites by zip code. Get the same information by texting your zip code to 438829 or by calling 800-232-0233. You can check with your primary care physician's office to see if COVID-19 vaccinations are offered. If you are a veteran, the Department of Veterans Affairs offers COVID-19 vaccinations at VA facilities. Sign up online at: <https://www.va.gov/findlocations/?facilityType=health&serviceType=Covid19Vaccine> or call 800-827-1000 to make an appointment.

More information about COVID-19 vaccines also is available at the Indiana Department of Health's website at: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/>. Or you can visit the health department's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/StateHealthIN/> or call 317-233-1325.

### **Can I get the COVID-19, RSV and flu vaccines at the same time?**

According to the CDC, it is safe to receive the flu and updated COVID-19 vaccines simultaneously, although you are a little more likely to experience side effects, such as a headache and fatigue. Adults 60 or older who qualify for the RSV Vaccine may also receive that at the same time as the others (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rsv.html>), but some health experts suggest spacing them out (<https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2023/tripledemic-flu-rsv-covid-vaccines.html>). Contact your health care provider for more information.

### **Do I have to pay for the vaccination?**

The federal government is no longer covering the cost of the vaccines, but most people with Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance will not have to pay.

The CDC's Bridge Access Program (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html>) will temporarily provide free vaccines to adults who either do not have health insurance or whose health insurance does not cover the cost of the vaccine.

Be aware that scammers often purport to offer COVID vaccines and treatments and try to charge for them. AARP's Fraud Watch Network (<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>) is tracking the latest scams.

Reference AARP at <https://states.aarp.org/indiana/covid-19-vaccine-distribution>

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## **Vitamin D-Enriched Mushroom Nutrition Study Seeks Participants**

This research study is assessing the effects of including vitamin D-enriched mushrooms as a part of participants' usual eating patterns on measures of immune function, inflammatory status, and Vitamin D status.

This study seeks men and women who are willing to consume vitamin D-enriched mushrooms or portioned, dried study powder for 12 weeks. Vitamin D-enriched mushrooms will be provided. Participants are required to attend 6 study visits at the research site over approximately a 4 month period. Participants will be compensated \$200 for participating in this study.

Interested participants should be age 30 to 69 years of age, in general good health, nonsmokers, and non-pregnant. Other criteria for study participation apply. If you are interested in participating in this study mention the "Vitamin D-Enriched Mushroom Study" and contact Luz Comboni at [lcomboni@purdue.edu](mailto:lcomboni@purdue.edu).

We adhere to all required COVID19 Standard Operating Procedures. For information regarding our Standard Operating Procedures click on: <https://protect.purdue.edu>. The principal investigator is Dr. Wayne Campbell, a professor in the Department of Nutrition Science. IRB# IRB-2022-750





### About PURA News

The Purdue University Retirees Association newsletter is published for official retirees of Purdue University, and prepared by the PURA Communications Committee.

### Send suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter to:

Office of Retiree Affairs  
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Telephone, via Purdue Benefits help line:  
(toll free) 877-725-0222  
Email: [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu)

[www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

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### Campus/Community Calendar Highlights

#### **events.purdue.edu**

Purdue's one-stop-shopping events calendar, which features campus, student, and community events can be found at: <https://events.purdue.edu/calendar>

### Purdue Academic/Holiday Schedule

**22-25 November**—Thanksgiving vacation. No classes Nov. 22; offices closed Nov. 23-24

### Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming PURA Events

#### **6 November, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.**

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** NEW TIME 10:00 a.m.ET to approximately 11:30 a.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Scott Ksander
- **Topic:** Tech Toys & Other Computer Topics

#### **4 December, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.**

- **Location:** **IN-PERSON** at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** **NEW TIME** 10:00 a.m.ET to approximately 11:30 a.m. ET
- **Speaker:** Dr. James McCann, Department of Political Science
- **Topic:** Our Current Civil War (The Many Divides Across Society)

PURA’s virtual meetings are presented via Zoom. Zoom connection information and other important updates are provided via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website: [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

### Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings



The Zoom connection information for PURA monthly meetings is shown below. **The link, Meeting ID, and password will be the SAME for all future normal monthly meetings.**

Members who wish to join via phone call audio only will need the separate Passcode shown below. (The password/passcode for that method is different from the normal “computer connection” to Zoom.)

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MlB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 972 8539 8989 **Passcode:** BoilerUp

#### One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 972 8539 8989 **Passcode:** 41051096

**Find your local number:** <https://zoom.us/u/acvQQKVcnE>