

Garden), since last year was so much fun! With respect to hockey tickets, they will be sold on a first come, first served basis, and only received payments for tickets will assure your seat. We sell out every year, so do not wait!

And now the news. Classmate **Richard Amoroso**, a shareholder of the national law firm Polsinelli, has been elected to the board of directors of the Arizona Captive Insurance Association (AZCIA). AZCIA is the official voice of Arizona's captive insurance industry. Richard practices in the areas of insurance business and regulatory law and insurance recovery litigation. **Geoffrey Williamson**, PhD '89 (geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net) is living in Chicago, IL. In December 2013, he was awarded the Ludlow Griscom Award for Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology by the American Birding Association. Way to go, Geoffrey—Cornell is big on birds!

**Gayle Moncreif Bicknell**, MBA '84, is still the chairman of the board of directors for Corning Christian Academy in Corning, NY, and is also involved with other volunteer activities. Her husband, **Van '82**, MS '84, still works for Corning Inc. as a global sourcing manager. Their oldest daughter, Keleigh, is a third-year industrial engineering

student at RIT; middle daughter Logan is a freshman at Taylor U. in Indiana; and their youngest, daughter Hailey, is a sophomore in high school and an avid soccer player. Gayle says they had a ton of snow this year, which reminded her of her skiing days at Greek Peak and traying down Libe Slope.

**Robert Cima** (Robert.Cima@fourseasons.com) is the regional VP and general manager of the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, BC. His son, Sandy, is going to prep school in Utah, and daughter Alessia is doing a semester in Chicago. Robert has been traveling to find new sites for Four Seasons Hotels, including São Paulo, Rio, Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina. He'd like to hear from **Paul Winter '82** and **Mike Cooney '82**. **Marcia Hedges Stang** (Stangmk532@aol.com) is working full-time as a veterinarian at Concord Veterinary Center in Springville, NY. She has a small flock of commercial and Dorset sheep. She also has a small herd of commercial beef cattle. If that wasn't enough, she and her husband have four kids. Marcia spends time with her daughter in horse shows and trail challenges.

**Lois Gans Kemp** (lkemp1989@yahoo.com) writes in from Georgia, where she lives with husband Lee. Lois is working at NCR with their channel

partners in the financial industry improving customer experiences through consumer transaction technology solutions. **Heather Robbins** (hrobbins2k2@yahoo.com) writes in from New Jersey, where she continues to maintain a private voice studio, teaching individual lessons and directing choirs. Heather also enjoys singing in a country band as well as a bossa nova band. Her nephew, **Asher Robbins-Rothman '16**, is in Mechanical Engineering and a third-generation Cornellian. His grandmother (Heather's mother) is **Lucille Wallace Robbins '58**.

**Peggy Britt** (peggy.britt@me.com) is the executive director of the Women & Family Life Center in Guilford, CT. Peggy has two kids out on their own and another one in high school. Her future may entail a move to Boston (once the nest is empty). **Linda Copman** (lcopman@gmail.com) works at Cornell as the Climate Action Plan coordinator. She is looking for innovative financing to move this plan forward. Send us news! **Jon B. Felice**, jbfelice@jbfelice.com; **Barb Warner Deane**, barbdeane@barbdeane.com. Online news form, <http://www.alumni.cornell.edu/participate/class-notes.cfm>. CAM Digital Edition, <http://www.cornellalumnimagazine-digital.com>.

## String Theory

### Desiree Elsevier '83, BS '82

As a CALS student majoring in agricultural economics, Desiree Elsevier found herself uninspired by her required courses, and yearning for more artistic pursuits. "I realized the only homework I was ever doing on time was for my music courses," Elsevier admits. "I thought maybe I should pay attention to that." An aficionada of the violin and viola since childhood, Elsevier opted to follow her passion: she finished her Cornell degree in three years and enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music as a transfer student. "I had violin lessons from the time I was five, but my parents never intended for me to be a professional musician," she says. "That was a bohemian life, and they didn't approve." But Elsevier's gamble has more than paid off: for the past twenty-seven years, she has played the viola in New York City's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Elsevier describes her instrument as having a mellow, middle-range type of sound, comparing it to a bassoon or French horn. "The viola is like a back-up singer," she says. "It's like an inside voice. It's not the lead singer; it's the harmony." At the Met, she plays in up to thirty operas a season, with four performances per week. "It's an incredibly taxing job," she says. "The performances start at 7:30 or eight o'clock—and the standard opera is four hours. So you get home at midnight and then you have rehearsal the next morning at eleven." She notes that playing in an opera orchestra is a singular skill: while symphonies perform their pieces exactly as rehearsed, an opera orchestra has to be flexible and responsive to stay in sync with the singers on stage. "You have to be open and relaxed, but you also have to be incredibly on the ball," she says. "We're like the guy in an ice-dancing couple. He has to be ready to catch his partner if she trips, or aware that she might come out of a spin early."

In the off-season, Elsevier teaches at a chamber music conference in Vermont and does studio work; she has been heard on the albums of such artists as Paul Simon, Sting, Carly Simon, and Bruce Springsteen. Last summer, she traveled to London to perform with the World Orchestra for Peace, a group founded by famed conductor Georg Solti to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995. "The idea of it is people coming together from different countries," she says, "making beautiful music and being harmonious."



— Kayla Prochnow

**84** The Sesquicentennial Celebration kicked off in New York City on September 13 and at Homecoming in Ithaca (October 17-18), and will continue in Washington, DC (November 14), Hong Kong (December 15), Boston (January 17, 2015), West Palm Beach (February 14, 2015), San Francisco (March 6, 2015), Los Angeles (March 8, 2015), London (May 14, 2015), and at Reunion 2015. I hope you will be able to join in the fun at some point!

Thanks for all the news! **Bob Geise** is still working as an infectious disease physician in Kirkland, WA, and just assumed the role of vice chief of staff! But the big news is that he and partner Tim finally tied the knot after 15 years and two daughters (cue the Big Red Band)! Bob is most grateful to Washingtonians for allowing the union, and I am sure daughters Lucy and Sophia (9 and 6) were thrilled to attend their parents' wedding! No word on whether a tuba was in attendance. **Keith Kefgen**, managing director and CEO of Aethos Consulting Group ([www.sethoscg.com](http://www.sethoscg.com)), has been building a new consulting firm, playing golf, going on college tours with his daughter, and doing lots of business travel. He recently moved to Brooklyn after 25 years in Manhattan. He still manages to see **Mike Cahill**, and they go to the World Poker Tour every year! Keith wishes he had done more computer programming at Cornell and says he "should have invented Priceline." Me too, Keith.

**James Coppola** is an executive VP at AXA and is living in Basking Ridge, NJ. He has been spending