



Volume 38, Number 4

July-August 2016

Over the Top—A Fine Celebration!

Some of Our Grand Masters Who Helped Make the Move to 200 S. Michigan



Jack Zimmerman '95, George Gabauer '94, Mel Skvarla '81, Pat Savage '93, Ernest Slotar '86, Todd Tarbox '93, Walker Johnson '84, Richard Eastline '73, Yolanda Deen '87, Charles Hasbrouck '87, David Mann '84, Tom Graham '92.

The evening of May 13 exceeded our expectations at The Cliff Dwellers.

Over 80 members, spouses, and special guests gathered to share their memories of the events and people who filled the Club during the past twenty years on top of the Borg-Warner building. The atmosphere was festive. Hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Victor and his kitchen staff were delicious--ranging from iced shrimp to eggrolls with sweet and sour sauce to Sicilian caponata on mushroom caps and on to fresh strawberries with Stilton cheese. Beverages from the bar were refreshing and flowing and ample. All seemed in good spirits, glad to be together on the Cliff.

Club President David Chernoff CD'09 offered a few words of welcome and then turned the evening over to Bill Bowe CD'97, our Master of Ceremonies. Bill noted that we have the privilege of celebrating "20 years in this unique space originally designed by Cliff Dweller Larry Booth CD'66." He added, "It was just three years ago that our former President Charlie Hasbrouck led the sensitive updating of this Club we enjoy so much." Appreciatively, Bill directed our attention to the stencil around our cove ceiling. The text is taken from Hamlin Garland's letter calling for organization of a club focused on the arts. "Quite a mission statement for its day if you take the time to read it," Bill stated, "and a mission that has survived over a century now."

Then the official evening's entertainment presented by Cliff Dwellers moved forward. MC Bowe thanked Arnie Lanza for his lively piano music during the cocktail hour and asked if would get us started with a piano medley. Arnie has been performing in hotels, restaurants, and piano bars for over thirty years. Earlier in his career he played with "Spanky and Our Gang" with national hits on Mercury Records.

Walker Johnson CD'84 along with several family members performed a skit entitled "Traditional Revival." The culminating moment of their drama occurred as they painted a portrait of Mr. Bowe—in two minutes. The likeness was striking to say the least. It is being offered to the Club for inclusion in our Hall of Presidents.

Jack Zimmerman CD'95 told us a story he titled "Henry Miller." A tale of young love and passion, Jack shares the misadventure of a young man who writes a fiery letter to his girlfriend in the style of Henry Miller, the author of *Tropic of Cancer*. Unfortunately, she left the letter out in the open, and her father read it and furiously declared he wouldn't pay for her college if she had anything more to do with this "intellectual wanna-be." The Kiva was in stitches. MC Bowe shared a comment the late Harold Ramis had said of Jack, "He writes like the guy next door—if you happen to live next door to Richard Russo, Studs Terkel, or Mark Twain."

Allan Alongi CD'12 had the misfortune of following Jack, but in a long standing tradition at CD performances, someone always delivers original limericks. Allan accepted the challenge by writing several wry pieces related to Club history. Try this one:

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE ORCHESTRA---
SO THIS IS DEDICATED TO THAT DISPLACEMENT---

T'was the night before moving the Club
The orchestra had given a snub
Now it's 20 years later
We're all the more greater
And now we're just sippen that bubb.



Larry Lund CD'02 and Todd Tarbox CD'93 read an excerpt from *Orson Welles and Roger Hill: A Friendship in Three Acts* written by Todd. It chronicles the friendship between Welles and his mentor Roger Hill, Todd's grandfather who was a Cliff Dweller from the mid-1920's until his death in 1991. The passage they read depicts the two friends in a discussion about dining etiquette from the Savage Club in London to The Cliff Dwellers in Chicago.

George Gabauer CD'94 read an original poem "The Widow Clark House" portraying the bitterly cold night in 1977 when three future Cliff Dwellers—Bill Drennan, Mike Deines, and George--ventured to the southeast side of Chicago to witness a highpoint in the architectural history of our city. That night and on into the next early morning, the Widow Clarke House, Chicago's oldest structure, was raised up and moved over "El" tracks on the Englewood-Jackson Park line prior to being re-located in the Prairie Avenue District. An excerpt of his poem...

Then motors roared, winches winched, oh so slightly, so very,
Very gently—The old house shuddered but didn't budge...
At first, then backward to the gaze of panicked faces.



One tractor lifted skyward till its tandem partner dug its
 Clawed treads deep and roared its engine loud. slowly slowly
 The Old Homestead inched back across the El tracks safe on east side pilings.
 Oh where were you the night they moved the Widow Clark
 House down the street and over the El tracks.



Richard Reeder CD'13 facilitates our CD Book Club that meets once a month on Saturdays. He is also the current President of the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame. At a memorable Club event earlier this winter, Richard played Studs Terkel in character. Playing Studs again, he read an excerpt from Terkel's book *Working*.

"Rock on Cliff Dwellers" is a rap poem written by Eve Moran CD'10 for our 20 Year Celebration. When she was unable to attend Eve asked Bill Bowe to read her rap poem. In true Bowe form, Bill declared, "I'll probably make a fool of myself." Eve immediately did a huge fist pump and said, "YES!" And so, he read on...

Rock on Cliff Dwellers
 Don't you stop
 Rock on through the evening
 Party till you drop.

You better move fast
 Raise hands to the sky
 Step to the left
 Don't ask why.

Zivio I say
 Rules the day
 Zivio's the way
 Hooray! Hooray!

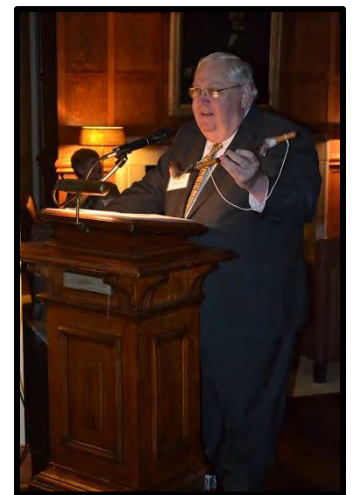
Rock on Cliff Dwellers
 Don't you stop
 Rock through the evening
 Party til you drop.

The final act of the evening was Trisha Ricketts CD'13 and Peter Hurley singing three original songs from *Darlin' Bridget*. The duo's stage name is Cobalt Blue. Earlier this year they shared an Art Opening at the Club showing Peter's studies of ballet performers here in Chicago. Trisha created pieces of her own writing inspired by those paintings. With Dan Duell, artistic director and founder of Ballet Chicago, the three presented an interactive program that examined the hidden narrative that binds dance, painting, and prose/poetry to each other.



MC Bowe stepped forward to offer a fitting close to a memorable event on the Cliff. "Our move here in 1996 took place after disputes externally with the Symphony organization over termination of our Orchestra Hall lease and then internally within the Club as to the best place to move to. Tonight we can symbolically say goodbye to that brief period of acrimony." He reached inside his jacket and withdrew a colorful artifact. "I have with me this quasi reproduction of a supposedly somewhat accurate imitation replica of what purports to be a Native American peace pipe. In a sign of the troubled times we live in, it is marked 'Made in China.' After Trisha leads us in singing Zivio!, I invite you to join me forming a circle by the fireplace and share a puff or two on the peace pipe." Spoken like a true Cliff Dweller.

Trisha strummed her guitar, and we lifted the roof with a rousing rendition of *Zivio!*

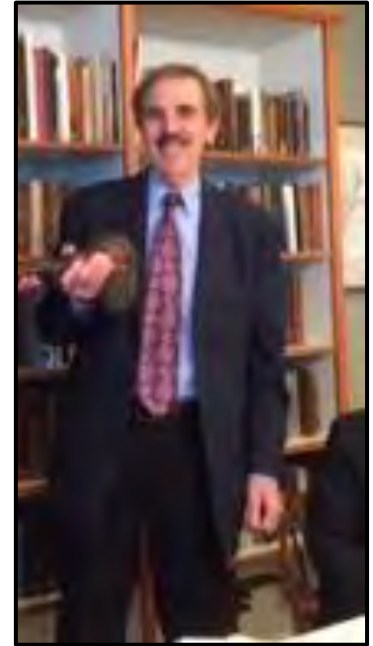


The President Reports

Our May 13th celebration of "20 Years on Top" of the 200 S. Michigan Avenue Building was a great success, and we're looking forward to the next 20 years (and more). Club members performed a variety of songs, readings, skits, poems and limericks. Chef Victor prepared a fabulous variety of hors d'oeuvres, which over 80 members enjoyed.

Thanks to our Program Committee, we have a number of wonderful events planned for this summer. To highlight just two, on Thursday, July 14th, we will celebrate Bastille Day with a French dinner and performance by chanteuse Claudia Hommel, with Bob Moreen at the piano and Patricia Spaeth on the accordion.

On Wednesday, August 24th, there will be a Special Presentation by Ina Pinkney (Ina's Restaurant) and Doug Sohn (Hot Doug's): *Try Running a Restaurant, Try Quitting a Restaurant – You'll Laugh, You'll Cry, But You'll Never Want to Own a Restaurant*. The evening will include a buffet dinner featuring some of their specialties, prior to the presentation.



After months of waiting, the Building finally completed our badly-needed additional storage locker (in an adjacent portion of the 22nd floor) and a gate which will allow our employees to change clothes in the Building employees' locker room. The latter will allow us to remove the black curtain and free-up more space in the coat room.

On a more somber note, operating expenses continue to rise; in particular, rent and food prices continue to go up and we've given our hourly employees a well-deserved raise. We are now looking at an estimated net loss of approximately \$24,000-\$25,000 for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2016.

During this Fiscal Year, we've needed to make capital improvements, including replacing two, large commercial refrigerators, plumbing work, a new POS machine, and paying for other non-recurring expenses. As previously reported, the Board unanimously -- but reluctantly -- approved a \$100 Special Assessment on all Resident Members (Professional and Lay) to recoup these monies, which was billed on July 1st.

I encourage you to continue to recruit new members and use the Club facilities more often, including parties and events. Please note, if every Resident Member has lunch or dinner just one more time each month, that will boost our year-end bottom line by approximately \$30,000-\$35,000. Further, if we increase our overall membership by 10 persons, that will boost our year-end bottom line by approximately \$18,000. Lastly, more members and more diners (especially in the evening) will make the Club even more enjoyable.

David S. Chernoff CD'09
President

Lunch with..... Ruth Aizuss Migdal

By Eve Moran CD'10

Amazing. Ruth has been an artist for 65 years and counting. Trained as a painter, she moved to creating sculpture in the mid-60's. Ruth has worked in clay, bronze and steel. Her magnificent artworks have been displayed in exhibitions and galleries all over the country.

Notably, Ruth is Curator of Sculpture for The Cliff Dwellers. In this role, she selects and exhibits (bi-monthly), interesting, diverse and daring artworks created by some of today's finest sculptors. Ruth's own remarkable sculpture *Hearts* graces the outdoor deck at the Club. It is an example of the exploration of the female form for which she is famous. And, Ruth is in many ways just like her sculptures, i.e., independent, strong, joyful, and dazzling.



How long have you been a “Cliffie?” Since 2013.

Where were you born? At Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital on August 17, 1932.

Where did you grow up? In the Lawndale neighborhood at 1218 S. Spaulding Ave. At that time, I was exposed to many deep and wonderful cultural experiences.

What were your interests as a child? I was always looking to create art. As a young girl, I would design clothes for my paper doll. And, I fashioned purses out of cardboard and scraps of fabric.

What is your favorite childhood memory? That wonderful moment, at age 6, when I found that I could actually read on my own.



Ruth and Red Tree
In Lincoln Park

Where did you pursue the study of art? I received my BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a MFA from the University of Illinois in Champaign, both in Painting and Printmaking. But, my art education began early on when, at age 15, I studied at the Junior School of the Art Institute. So, too, my art education flourished when I served as a professor of art at the City Colleges of Chicago.

What was a high point in your career? It's just happening!

Where in Chicago, will we find one of your sculptures? My large public art sculpture “Red Tree” was recently installed at LaSalle Drive near the Chicago History Museum parking lot. It is part of the 2016 Chicago Sculpture Exhibit.

What book are you currently reading?

Old Jews Telling Jokes by Sam Hoffman with Eric Spiegelman, and *More Stories From My Father's Court* by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Both are delightful.

What is your favorite color? Red.**What is your favorite movie?** *Casablanca*.**What is your favorite song/music piece?** I highly enjoy classical music.**What building in the city do you think is most closely identified with Chicago?** Any and all of Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe's designs.**What is your favorite "Club" memory?** The celebration of Richard Hunt's birthday in September 2015 was very special and stirred lots of memories.**What type of Club activities do you most enjoy?** Book Club is a favorite. I enjoy the conversation and the debate.**What are your hobbies/interests?** I'm a voracious reader and a news junkie.**What person (living or dead) would you most like to invite to the Member's Table?** Barack Obama.**It's Summertime! Scheduled Programs & More**

The CD Book Club and the monthly tours by CAF will remain active during the summer months. Special programs will be noted in the weekly CD Blasts and this issue's Cliff Notes. Make your way to the Club to enjoy the view, good friendship, and the delight of food and fun with fellow Cliff Dwellers.

Art Openings	Saturday at the Movies	Arts Foundation's 3rd Tuesdays	CD Book Club
Art Exhibition Opening Reception every other First Wednesday. Artists and Sculptors in attendance. A cash bar and dinner buffet are available.	Films are shown Saturday in the Sullivan Room at 10:30 and discussions continue over lunch. Unless alternate dates are noted.	Evening programs in the Kiva. A cash bar and dinner service are available. Reservations requested. reservations@cliff-chicago.org .	Discussions take place on the 4 th Saturday beginning at 11:00 and continue over lunch.
8/3 Art Exhibition Opening for CD Artist/Member Vickie Tesmer	Our Movie Series will resume in late summer with a tip of the hat to Shakespeare's 400 th Birthday	The Arts Foundation is on Summer Recess.	7/23 <i>Moon-Calf</i> By Floyd Dell
8/17 Exhibition Opening for Sculptor Bruce A. Niemi	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> <i>Richard III</i> <i>Merchant of Venice</i>		8/27 <i>Peel My Love Like an Onion</i> By Ana Costello

America's Cup from The Cliff Dwellers' Deck

By Margery Al Chalabi CD'85

On a perfect June Saturday, I and friends and fellow Cliff Dwellers, Doug and Joanne Schroeder, came to The Cliff Dwellers to enjoy lunch and watch six international teams compete in the qualifying races for the America's Cup – to be held in Bermuda, next year. It was a first for the America's Cup – to hold its trial races in freshwater. Chicago's location on the world's largest freshwater basin was a distinct advantage, as was its iconic lakefront image.



New York Times Photo Gallery

According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), “stormy weather kept (the competing) boats from entering Lake Michigan waters for the first time Thursday....” And, on Friday, Chicago's infamous winds were blowing hard, in perfect accord with their legendary political genesis. The British team – Land Rover Bar – suffered a knock-down, capsizing.



Jim Young/Reuters – New York Times

But, today, the winds were fickle – and still. After a long wait and a tantalizing few fast flybys, the races finally were called off. But this historic day and site were not lost on us and the thousands who came to watch. Hundreds of sail and motor craft bordered the race course in Monroe Harbor. Hundreds of spectators paid \$35 to \$250 to secure day passes on Navy Pier or places on tour boats to watch the event. And, here, we were, in the shade on a sunny, warm day overlooking this historic spectacle.

One table away were friends Jonathan Boyer and Judith Stockdale and Donald Hey. The former are Cliff Dwellers and the latter a co-owner and (co-captain) with my husband and me and two other friends – of the 41-foot Rhodes Reliant yawl, *Windswept II*, which we moored at Monroe Harbor for many years. It was a fitting gathering, and a look back at our own time in Michigan.



The Races from The Cliff Dwellers' Deck

The winds returned, the next day – not too feisty or too fickle – they were just right. Unfortunately, it being Sunday, the Club was closed. So, we had to read in Chicago's papers, that the Swedish Team, Artemis, won the Chicago races; but, that the Emirates Team New Zealand retained the overall lead with 295 points; and Oracle Team USA was tied with Land Rover Bar (Britain) for second, with 285. And, perhaps, America's Cup will forgive our winds and return.



New York Times Photo Gallery

Art and Architecture - Designing the National WWI Memorial

By Mike Deines CD'03

Joseph Weishaar, the 25-year-old Chicago architect who earlier this year won an international design competition for the new World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., came to The Cliff Dwellers Tuesday, June 28 to share his story of creating *The Weight of Sacrifice*, the winning entry. Sabin Howard, an experienced classical sculptor from New York City, joined Weishaar to chronicle the compelling tale of their ongoing and unique collaboration on the project.

The WWI Memorial will be located in what is now Pershing Park named after Army General John J. Pershing, who led U.S. expeditionary forces in the war. Situated along Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol, the park will be revamped to add something lasting as a tribute to the heroism and valor of the American men and women who served, fought, and died in WWI.

America lost more than 100,000 men and women in “the war to end all wars” -- more lives than were lost in the Korean and Vietnam wars combined. And despite the loss, there is not a major monument or park dedicated to World War I in Washington, D.C. Weishaar’s design, he said “will give those who visit the site a moment of pause as a memorial for the ‘weight and loss’ caused by war.”

The memorial features a large green space surrounded by red maples and, attached to three granite walls, bronze relief panels sculpted with the images of men and women on the battlefields of Europe. Saban who created the nearly 280 foot long reliefs stated, “I try to play forward the potential of ‘uplifting’ people. What’s positive about war? Not much. In WWI 10,000 people died in an hour.

“The people of the World did not know what was coming. The panorama in the reliefs portrays the array of people--mothers, wives, children, brothers, fathers, friends—impacted by the events of war. In the middle of the panorama are an angel and a warrior punching at each other, and at the end of it all—a lone child facing back into the devastation and wondering why.” Sabin paused. “The model for that last figure was my daughter Madeline.”

“What we wanted to do was give these sculptures to the people and allow them to touch them,” said Weishaar, a project architect with Brininstool+Lynch in Chicago’s West Loop. “If they can feel the experience, it connects them to the war.”

“What brings us together and gives us unity,” Saban added, “reveals to us what we can be—not what we are.”

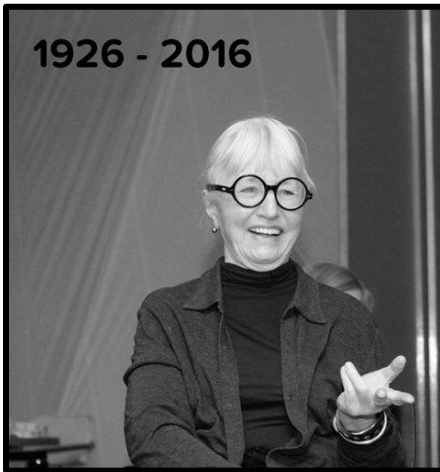
The WWI Centennial Commission plans to break ground for the project on Veterans Day, 2017, with a planned completion date on Nov. 11, 2018, the centennial of Armistice Day.



Architect Joe Weishaar and Sculptor Saban Howard join Barbara Weiner CD'16 for the CD's Chicago Architect's Series. The event was sponsored jointly by The Cliff Dwellers, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, Friends of Downtown and AIA Chicago.



An architectural rendering of *The Weight of Sacrifice* WWI Memorial to be constructed in Washington D.C.



Gertrude Lempp Kerbis

Gertrude Kerbis twice cracked the glass ceiling at The Cliff Dwellers: in 1984 she was part of the first group of women to become members of The Cliff Dwellers, and then in 1988 she was elected to a two year term as President of the Club, becoming the first woman to hold that position.

Irv Kupcinec noted the moment in his regular column when he wrote, “The Cliff Dwellers Club, one of Our Town’s most prestigious, was a major story when it was charged with gender discrimination—no women members. That was changed in 1984 when the club was dragged into the 20th century by accepting female members. Now the club has come full circle. A woman, architect Gertrude Kerbis, was just elected president.” That was January of 1988, a mere 38 years ago.

Breaking new ground, or even “breaking in” to see new grounds was an integral aspect of Gert’s character. As the story goes, when she was an undergrad at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she encountered a *Life* magazine story about Frank Lloyd Wright and his Taliesin estate near Spring Green, Wisconsin, less than 20 miles from the UW campus. So, Gert hitchhiked to FLW’s home and studio, and finding a bathroom window unlocked, squeezed her way in and spent the evening listening to classical music and exploring this amazing structure. By the next morning she had made a career decision: “That’s when I decided to be an architect, because it was too wonderful to pass up.” she states in a 2008 short film about her life. That film, now available on YouTube, was made when she was receiving the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the AIA. The Cliff Dwellers Art Foundation helped fund its production.

Kerbis, perhaps because she was a woman, saw solutions to problems in unique ways. When she worked at SOM in the 1950’s she participated in designing the futuristic cadet dining hall at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado with its sweeping long-span overhanging roof trusses. Her solution was to build the roof on the ground and then elevate it into place. The key to accomplishing this marvel happened because she employed the University of Illinois’ new computer facilities to make the millions of calculations necessary to stay on schedule. The use of computers in this fashion was groundbreaking and helped raise another “glass ceiling.”

Gertrude Kerbis was a remarkable person. We at the Cliff Dwellers are proud to have had her as a member and leader for 32 years.

A memorial service is planned for Aug. 23 at The Cliff Dwellers Club.

For more of the Gertrude Kerbis story, try the following sites:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/obituaries/ct-gertrude-kerbis-obituary-kamin-met-0616-20160615-story.html>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q-GKZwikqg

<http://www.chicagomag.com/Radar/Deal-Estate/January-2013/Gertrude-Lempp-Kerbis-Greenhouse-Condos/>

Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication 10 individuals interested in the arts have become members of The Cliff Dwellers.

Stephanie A. Crain, Vincent L. Michael, Curtis M. Smith, Janice Knight, Karen Rodriguez, Roberta Van Dijk, John Bergholz, Derek Patton, Timothy C. Walser, Susan W. Clapp.

We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.

- **We extend a special thank-you for photos** used in this issue to Deborah Campbell, Margery Al Chalabi, Eve Moran, and Bill Bowe.
- **Friday, July 1 - Club closes after lunch for 4th of July Weekend** and will reopen on Tuesday, July 5.
- **Thursday, July 14 - Bastille Day Celebration Sizzles at Cliff Dwellers**
Come to The Cliff Dweller for a French dinner with a performance by Chanteuse Claudia Hommel, Bob Moreen at the piano and Patricia Spaeth on accordion. **Dinner and Show Package is \$45 per person. Doors and bar open at 5:30. Reservations needed because these performers will fill the house.**
- **Friday, July 29 - Club closes after lunch due to Lalapalooza** and will re-open on Monday, August 1.
- **Wednesday, August 3 - Art Exhibition Opening: CD Artist/Member Vickie Tesmer**
Doors and bar open at 5:30. At 6:30 Chef Victor will be serving a Turkish dinner buffet. Reservations required for the buffet.
- **Friday, August 5 - Live Jazz at Cliff Dwellers: guitarist Larry Brown Jr.**
Doors and bar open at 5:30. Two sets will be played. \$10 charge is payable at the door. Optional Buffet dinner \$20 per person will be available as well. Advance reservations strongly encouraged for the Buffet.
- **Friday, August 12 - South of the Border Night** - Come to the Club for Chef Victor's annual culinary tour featuring dishes from South of the Border.
Doors and bar open at 5:30. Special drinks will be available. Dinner will be served at 6:30. \$35 per person
- **Wednesday, August 17 - Art Exhibition Opening for Sculptor Bruce A. Niemi & Birthday Dinner.** A Special Dinner will be served (\$25) in celebration of **Ruth Migdal's Birthday**. Ruth Migdal is our amazing curator of sculpture and herself a working sculptor.
- **Friday, August 19 - Architectural Series Program** featuring a presentation by Ralph Johnson, the top designer from Perkins & Will.
- **Wednesday, August 24 - Special Dinner & Presentation by Ina Pinkney (Ina's Restaurant) & Doug Sohn from Hot Doug's: Try Running a Restaurant, Try Quitting a Restaurant - You'll laugh, you'll cry but you'll never want to own a Restaurant.**
The evening will feature a buffet dinner we are calling "Breakfast for Dinner" featuring some of their specialties with the presentation after dinner. \$40 per person.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO **ON AND OFF THE CLIFF**
CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by e--mail mjdeines@yahoo.com
Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.