



# BETA THETA DATA

Spring 2012 Volume 60 Number 2

## Tuttle Author Visits Rochester

Professor Anne S. Emanuel visited the Rochester area on the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday last January as the guest of Alpha Theta alumni in western New York.

Logan Cheek '60 [lmc42@cornell.edu](mailto:lmc42@cornell.edu)

She presented her reflections on Elbert P. Tuttle AB '18, LLB '23 at well-attended events co-sponsored with the Cornell Club of Rochester and the Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni Club. The highlight of the visit, though, was a one hour radio interview on WXXI-AM with Robert Smith, AB '72, MA '74, and PhD '77. Being a loyal and informed Cornellian, Bob's one hour with Anne focused particularly on Judge Tuttle's life on the Hill, and how it may have informed his judicial philosophy. An estimated 18,000 listeners heard Anne Emanuel's interview with Bob Smith.

Anyone wishing a copy of the broadcast, please contact Logan Cheek '60 [[lmc42@cornell.edu](mailto:lmc42@cornell.edu)].

Among his many career accomplishments, "Tut" was president of Alpha Theta when we affiliated with Pi Kappa Alpha and for many years was Pike's national president, before becoming chief judge of the Fifth Circuit Court in Atlanta. He was honored in 1980 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Professor Emanuel was Judge Tuttle's clerk, and recently completed the only authorized biography of him, Elbert Parr Tuttle: Chief Jurist of the American Civil Rights Movement. Two copies were donated to the house library for future member education programs, as were two copies to the Cornell libraries. They will be permanently plated as follows:

Gift of  
The Alumni of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

Honoring

Elbert Parr Tuttle, AB '18, LLB '23

President, Pi Kappa Alpha, 1917-1918  
Scholar - Leader - Athlete - Gentleman

We still have a handful of autographed copies of her book available for sale.

...more from spring 2012 Shield & Diamond  
[\[onlinedigitalpublishing.com/display\\_article.php?id=1003801\]](http://onlinedigitalpublishing.com/display_article.php?id=1003801)

## 17 South

Ricky Cháchra, Alpha Theta's resident advisor at 17 South Avenue, was initiated into the PiKA brotherhood on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, by the Iota Lambda chapter at Columbia University. Rick has managed Alpha Theta's property onsite since the start of the independent residency, and has worked closely with Treasurer Steve Amador '84 on regular operations. Please welcome Ricky into the brotherhood.

The rental process for 2012-13 academic year at 17 South is complete. The house continues to attract a fascinating pool of applicants interested in becoming members. Altogether, over 130 students contacted Ricky for the 11 open spots, exchanging with him over 459 e-mails in a 3-month period. The new group of 8 men and 8 women was finally assembled after dozens of meetings, phone calls and interviews later. The 2012-13 members at the house will come from 12 countries spread over 5 continents, speak 13 languages fluently, and study 12 majors in 5 colleges. Members include 6 undergrads and 10 graduate students.

Anyone having any original memorabilia, photos, records, etc. that have been taken from 17 South Avenue since the suspension of the chapter, or even prior to that, please return it to Ricky at 17 South so we can put it all together in climate controlled storage. If you can't send it back, please email Ricky [[rc483@cornell.edu](mailto:rc483@cornell.edu)] describing what it is.

## Dik's Ravings

"Blessed are the cheese-makers," we learn from the gospel of Monty Python's "Life of Brian." Bob Sweitzer '79 is our cheese-maker, having ditched the papermaking business a few years ago. He and his business partner own Cooperstown Cheese Company, 107 Oxbow Road at Rt. 28 in Milford, New York. They make cheeses and sell them in the store attached to their cheesery, or whatever you call a place where cheese is made. Cheeseorama. Cheesatorium. Whatever. The store also sells a variety of New York State-made comestibles, in addition to cheese. They buy milk from local farmers, and believe in supporting the New York economy.

Dik Saalfeld '80 [rf25@cornell.edu](mailto:rf25@cornell.edu)  
Washington correspondent

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## Board of Directors, 2011-2012

term		
2012	Evan Fried	201-757-2281
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## Dik's Ravings (continued)

Also from the "whatever happened to" file is word from long-time news source Bob Montione '80, who reports that his wife, Jennie Mosher, ran into brother Cuyle Rockwell '79 at a meeting about schools near their hometown of Schoharie, New York. Cuyle is a communications specialist for the Ilion Central School District. Cuyle was a one-man fall pledge class when Monti and I were rushing the fraternity. Monti and I were part of a 20-man class, which made it easier to fade into the woodwork when there was work to be done. It all caught up to me before initiation, though, when Pledgemaster Andy Henderson and Initiation Drill Sergeant Aldo Morell put me on gravel detail. I must have shoveled a billion tons of gravel in the back parking lot while Tom Berg, Paul Lego, Brad Smith and others sat around and built the shed on the side of the house. I still have nightmares about the blisters. Dik doing manual labor! If you can imagine. The horror.

Fraternity pledging at Cornell - as we knew it, anyway - is a thing of the past. This recent development is probably described elsewhere in this publication. We can look back on it wistfully, but it's just as well that it's different now, especially the hazing. I remember our pledging as being mostly benign, but some fraternities engaged in physical hazing that would land them in jail, now. I have a confession. I once engaged in a hazing activity with Jim Kopp '78, during which we "kidnapped" pledge Ed Cohen '81 and took him to the Rongo in Trumansburg, where we bought him whatever he wanted. Jim and I weren't the sharpest knives in the drawer. When Ed went to the Gents' room, Jim said "hey, wasn't this HIS idea? Also, why are we paying for everything?" So we decided that the true hazing part would be to leave Ed in Trumansburg without a ride home. When we got back to the fratlodge, there was Ed, sitting on the couch watching television.

A couple of years later, Ed talked me into driving us down to Woodstock to meet the Tibetan Buddhist, Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, the founder of Shambhala and the 11th descendent in the line of Trungpa tulkus. Ed was looking for enlightenment, but I was pretty sure the road trip would result in meeting a bunch of zaftig space cadets in peasant dresses, a notion I was quickly disabused of. I never knew you could braid armpit hair. Also, wouldn't you think a meditation retreat at fabled Woodstock would be the perfect setting for, say, a keg and a bag of weed? You would be wrong. Very, very wrong.

The Royal Palm Tavern in Collegenown closed for good. The Palms was the only saloon I was ever kicked out of, incredibly, not counting one in either Amsterdam or Copenhagen, I forget which, but I couldn't understand what the hell they were saying and it's possible they were loudly proclaiming their admiration

## Calendar

June 7-10, 2012	Reunion Weekend
June 9, 2012	Alpha Theta Reception, 17 South Ave.
September 22, 2012	Homecoming vs. Yale
November 1, 2012	Fall 2012 BΘData deadline
May 1, 2013	Spring 2013 BΘData deadline
October 5, 2013	Homecoming
November 1, 2014	Homecoming
March 26, 2017	Centennial of chapter chartering

for my table dancing skills, rather than screaming at me to leave. (There were times Harold van Boven, proprietor of the Chapter House, looked at me funny, but he never gave me the boot.) It wasn't a permanent ban and I returned to the Palms, most recently at my 30th Reunion in 2010. I tried to determine if the place had changed in 30 years, but it was hard to tell. It had that old timey, 1940s lunch-pail and boiled egg feel to it in the '70s, and presumably up until it closed. I'd like to say I'll miss the Palms, but I won't. I'll miss the neon sign, although the one at the Chanticleer on State Street was better. Gibber once pointed out that I should probably stop giving directions based on the locations of bars when I grew up - the old neon signs were great landmarks, and nobody can read a street sign after 14 beers - but he was just being fussy, and besides, he did it, too: "Sure, counselor, you know how to get there - it's just past Joe's, but not as far as the Farmers and Shippers."



## Alumni Notes

**Alan Becker '65** continues to serve as Managing Partner of Litchfield Cavo LLP. In the past year the company opened two new offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and now has 160 lawyers in 12 offices across the country. Alan has become deeply involved in theater, serving as president of the board of First Folio Theatre, a professional not-for-profit company, and has appeared in walk-on roles, most recently in Romeo and Juliet.

Son Michael and daughter-in-law Sinead recently presented Alan and his wife with their first grandchild; her name is Ellis O'Gorman Becker. They live in the Netherlands where Mike is the Associate Legal Officer to the American judge on the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Daughter Marie is at the University of Chicago, completing her second masters degree.

## Chapter Eternal

The brothers of Beta Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha extend their sympathy to the families and friends of the following brothers:

**Peter K. Binder '66**  
September 19, 2011

**Jack Felt '54**  
August 27, 2010