

Visit our website at: <http://www.ibmrac.com/>

E-mail us at: rchret@aol.com

Visit us on [Facebook](#)



Mailing Address:

20 1st Ave NE, Rochester, MN 55906

Office Location: 120 1st St. NE

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to Noon,

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Phone: 651-377-8893

e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

Content

From the Office

Board of Directors Election Results

2023 Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party

2023 Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive

2024 Alumni Golf Season

DAYTRIPPER Theatre – May 15th

Obituaries

Celebrations

Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) March (about the 20th)

From the Office

We are not currently staffing the office. If you need to contact the club, please call 1-651-377-8893 - the call will be forwarded to a board member. You can also email the club at rchret@aol.com. Email is checked weekly.

Larry Plank

Board of Directors Election Results

The election results have been counted and all five candidates have been reelected. I want to thank Lennie Broich, Joan Buske, Wayne Harris, and Ken Kiefer for volunteering to continue on the Board. It requires people to come forward to share their time and efforts. It is not a big commitment but without their work the Club could not continue, especially since we have an ageing membership and only few new members joining our ranks. I also want to thank all the rest of the other Board members for all they do.

To the rest of the membership, if you have any ideas/suggestions for events/activities that you think would be of interest to the rest of the membership contact a Board member, we would be interested in hearing your ideas. If you would like to organize an event you don't have to be on the Board to do it. We can work with you to help plan and organize it using our previous experience.

Oh, and I got reelected too. *Larry Plank* - Club President

2023 Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party



The Rochester IBM Alumni Club's Christmas Party for club members and a spouse or guest was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at the International Event Center. Ninety attended the party enjoying visiting, eating, and playing reverse bingo. Thanks to the volunteer workers and to those who attended.

Mary Zastrow - Coordinator for the Christmas Party

2023 Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive

Many thanks to the following individuals who participated in last year's Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive which was held on November 11 through December 16, 2023:

Jim and Margaret Favre; Bill Beaupre and Lennie Broich; Steve and Sandy Majerus; Marty and Karen Jensen and daughter, Bobette Pronk; Larry and Judy Plank; Seig Hoepfner; Nancy Morrison; Joan Buske and Barry and Sharon Knapp; and, Karl Shidler.

Lennie Broich - Red Kettle Drive Coordinator

2024 Alumni Golf Season

Now that we are in the new year, the Golf Committee is getting fired up again. We are planning an agenda very similar to last year's and most of the dates are already committed. We will have all the events listed in the next IBM Alumni Newsletter. In the meantime, start doing those pushups or, at least, "pushaways" from the table. Mike Shroeder and Bill Kleis will be helping with our events. If you have complaints contact Mike (507-250-5241). If you have compliments, contact Bill (507-251-6095). If you have suggestions, contact me (507-250-6326).

Jim DeLongpre - Golf Committee

DAYTRIPPER Theatre – May 15th

The Rochester IBM Alumni Club is looking at an event to the DAYTRIPPER theatre at the Plymouth Playhouse on Wednesday, May 15th. The cost will be \$85 per attendee; the time is 10 am - 05:30 pm. We will need at least 35 attendees to cover bus costs, which are up 77% from two years ago. I would appreciate a phone message or e-mail if this would interest you. Details for sign-up will be in the March newsletter.

A brief description of the play and menu is as follows.

"TIL BETH DO US PART"

This side-splitting romp about marriage and careers introduces us to the Haydens, a married couple who both work and decide an assistant is needed. So, they hire a highly motivated Southerner named Beth. Little do they know, Beth is after Suzannah's job! Throw in a couple of wise-cracking best friends and a British boss lady, and you discover the hazards of hiring an assistant can be hilarious.

THE MENU

Pulled Pork with a Jim Beam BBQ sauce | Potato Buns | Baked Beans with Bacon | Creamy Cole Slaw | Buttered Sweet Corn | House made Kettle Chips | Chocolate Chunk Brownies | Coffee and Iced Tea

Ken Kiefer - Trip Coordinator 507-288-1827 kenkief@aol.com

Obituaries

IBMers who passed away in 2023:

Gerald 'Jerry' Allen
Robert E. Anderson
Duane Bartelt
Lynn Behnke
Theodore 'Ted' Bennett
Walter Benscoter
Irene Berg
Edwin Berryman
Richard Bouquet
Donald Oran Burton
Clayton Carstensen

Dale Christenson
Don Coffin
John Coleman
Charles Constans
Kivden Cornelius
James Curtis
Gordon Dahl
Chester 'Chet' Daniels
Jennie Dinneen
Lois Marie Douglas
Daryl Engelhardt

Gary Engle
Hollis Feeser
Richard Fieck
William 'Bill' French
Charles Fried
Thomas Furr
Mark Glaesemann
Normand Gonnella
Robert Gregerson
Lester Griebenow
Jayne Ann Haag

Judith Rae Haas	Robert McClocklin	William Rood
Lauren (Clement) Hain	Lowell Meyer	Thomas Roth
Leo Haubenschild	Richard U. Miller	Paul Russell
Clare 'Cal' Hawley	Thomas Moody	Gerald Saxton
Gilbert 'Smokey' Honermann	John Muehlenbein	Marlene Sexton
Dale Hostad	Raleigh 'Obe' Obenchain	Donald Edmund Smith
Harvard Jendersee	Glenn Opdycke-Hansen	Steven Smith
Neil Jirele	Dean Palmer	Roland Soland
Daniel A. Johnson	Maynard Pankow	Donald Solem
Robert Koenck	Joseph Pesch	David Spurbeck
George Kubat	Duane 'Dewey' Peterson	Kurt Thompson
Bernard Kubicek	William Plummer	John Tuseth
Thomas Lawrence	Thomas Poturica	Howard Eugene Wagner
Donna Leighton	Jane Rabine	Veronica 'Vickey' Wagner
David Marshik	Wayne Richardson	Russell Weinschenk
Steven Neal Martin	Timothy Richie	Thomas Wilcox
Gaylord Maxson	Herbert Riegler	Thomas Young
William 'Bill' Mayhew	John 'Jack' Roeder	

IBM Alumni who have recently passed away:

Marjorie Baier died November 21, 2023. Marjorie taught in Chatfield Public Schools for 34 years, then fulfilled a life-long dream of becoming a nurse with an Associate Degree in Nursing. She was active in her church and a member of many 'retired educator' associations. She was an avid reader, loved to travel, and enjoyed social times with friends and family. Marjorie became an Alumni Club member when her husband George died. She is survived by her son, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Lynn Behnke died November 26, 2023. In 1969, Lynn came to Rochester and started working at IBM. He worked for more than 30 years as a technical writer, editor, and analyst. He spent time working for IBM in Rome. Lynn was active with the Rochester Civic Theater. He was active in his church and did mission work in India, Kenya, Cuba, Guatemala, Israel and Palestine. He skied in the Alps, ran the Twin Cities Marathon, danced the tango in Buenos Aires, and published essays, poems and articles outside the realm of IBM. He is survived by his daughters and grandchildren.

Clayton Carstensen died December 31, 2023. Clayton served in the US Army during the Korean War. He worked at various jobs including IBM in building maintenance, retiring in 1992. He was active in his church and a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed camping, fishing, reading, and listening to classical country music. Clayton is survived by his wife, Darlene; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Dale Christenson died December 13, 2023. In 1956, Dale began his career with IBM in Endicott NY. In 1957, he came to Rochester working as an apprentice tool and die maker and later as a mechanical designer in manufacturing. Dale retired in 1987. He also operated a farm. Dale enjoyed fishing, hunting, restoring antique furniture, tractors, and spending time with family in their cabin. He was active in his church and a member of the American Legion and the Korean War Veterans Club. Dale is survived by his wife, Patty; children; and grandchildren.

David J. Dunn died January 11, 2024. David served in the US Army as a photographer both stateside and in Japan. In 1967, he was hired by IBM in the education department where he did management training until retirement in 1990. Dave served as an adjunct professor and administrator at the Rochester campus of St. Mary's University. He worked as an advocate for people with developmental disabilities and attended the White House signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was active in his church, served on the Rochester School Board, and volunteered at Mayo Clinic historical sites. Dave is survived by his wife, Sonja; children; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gary Engle died December 2, 2023. Gary worked at IBM as a quality engineer for 30 years, retiring in 1993. He loved the outdoors, duck hunting, fishing, camping, bonfires, and fish stories. He enjoyed many adventures with his wife, especially wintering in Texas. His church was a very important part of his life. Gary is survived by his wife, Julie; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Richard 'Dick' Fieck died November 18, 2023. In 1956, Dick was inducted into the US Army and spent 19 months in Korea as a Postal Clerk. After his discharge from the Army, he continued to serve 2 years in the Standby Ready Reserve. He worked at automobile body shops and then was employed by IBM from 1960 to 1979. He continued to do auto body work in his home shop until 2017. Dick enjoyed hunting, fishing, portage trips, bus tours, auctions, singing in the church choir, and participating in classic car shows. He is survived by his wife, Maxine; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Pamela Jean Fischer died January 6, 2024. Pam started working at IBM in Boca Raton Florida and later continued her career in Rochester. She then worked at Pemstar and Benchmark before retiring to become a stay-at-home Nana to her grandchildren. She was known for her sweet demeanor and wicked sense of humor. Pam is survived by her daughters, siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Gail Forstie died December 16, 2023. Gail welcomed the quiet time of each morning enjoying that first cup of coffee. She enjoyed cooking with family, walking, finding wildflowers and remembering times that included hiking and biking as well as picnics with family. She was an active church member. Gail is survived by her husband Lee (an Alumni Club member); children; and grandchildren.

Gerald 'Jerry' Freetly died January 12, 2024. In 1950, Jerry enlisted in the US Navy. Following his service, he began his professional career at IBM. Early in his career, he served as an IBM engineer for NASA working on the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs. Jerry and his wife moved to Rochester in 1975 and he continued working at IBM until retirement in 1991. After the death of his wife, Jerry pursued a vocation as a Deacon, ordained in 2005. He supported church members, worked with those incarcerated, and helped many in the Rochester community. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and working on cars. Jerry is survived by his sons and grandchildren.

Lester Griebenow died December 23, 2023. Lester served in the US Army during the Korean War. He spent 25 years at IBM in Rochester where he started in the Tool Room and, over the years, moved to Mechanical Design, Manufacturing Engineering, and Procurement Engineering. After IBM, he continued with the same type of work at several other companies. Lester was a member of the Korean War Veterans Club, VFW, and American Legion. During his time with the Korean War Veterans Club, he served as Commander, Executive Officer and member of the Color Guard unit. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Jayne Ann Haag died December 2, 2023. Jayne had a lifelong career with IBM where she was a secretary, an executive secretary, and secretary manager. She loved to travel, especially to Maui and Florida. She enjoyed watching and feeding the birds. She loved all animals and she enjoyed doing crossword puzzles. She was a devoted grandmother and a benefactor to many charities. Jayne is survived by her husband, Dyrald; a son; and grandchildren.

Judith Rae Haas died December 6, 2023. Judy and her husband Bill lived in Colorado while he served in the Army. When they returned to Rochester, she went to nursing school to become an LPN at Mayo Clinic. She tried parachuting but decided she'd rather fly a plane than jump out of it. She worked as a nurse while she worked on her pilot's license. Then, she went to work for IBM where she spent over 25 years. Judy and Bill bought their own airplane. She loved SCUBA diving in the Cayman Islands, trap shooting, and bowling. She spent summers at the cabin. She enjoyed winters in Florida. Judy is survived by her husband Bill 'Red', her daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter.

Neil Jirele died October 31, 2023. Neil served in the US Navy from 1955 to 1958, doing diesel engine maintenance. He then spent 32 years at IBM in Rochester, retiring in 1991. He was a member of the American Legion, the Eagles Club, and his church in Austin. Neil enjoyed fishing, reading, and playing cribbage. He spent 20 years as a high school basketball official. He wintered in Texas. Neil is survived by long-time partner Jan as well as his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Bernard Kubicek died November 3, 2023. Bernie joined the US Army in 1955. He was hired by IBM in 1961 and spent 30 years working with some of his best friends in the machine shop. Bernie enjoyed motorcycling, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, NASCAR, and horseback riding. After retirement, he purchased a small hobby farm. He was a church member, member of the RACE Corvette Club, and member of the Hiawatha Antique Auto Club. He owned 2 different Corvettes and loved to drive them in parades. Bernie is survived by his wife, Karen; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

David Marshik died December 16, 2023. David was hired at IBM in Rochester in 1966 and worked until retirement in 2000. He then started a home computer service. David enjoyed golfing, fishing, and working on cars. He was active in his church, the Jaycees, Lions Club, and the Plainview City Council. He is survived by his wife, Janice; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Richard U. Miller died December 5, 2023. In 1953, Dick enlisted in the US Air Force and served as a Photo Interpretation Technician with Photo Reconnaissance units. He worked at IBM for 29 years, retiring in 1993. Dick enjoyed photography, woodworking, and fishing. He was a church member, Air Force Veterans Association member and an American Legion member. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; children; grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Thomas Moody died December 8, 2023. Tom worked for and retired from IBM. He was a mechanic at heart and loved turning wrenches, diagnosing problems, and helping family and friends with vehicle repairs. He co-owned and operated an auto repair shop. He is survived by his children and grandchildren.

Wayne D. Richardson died November 6, 2023. Wayne worked on the Apollo Mission project from 1966 to 1967. He worked at IBM, as a software engineer, from 1969 until retirement in 2005. He was recognized for his work on the development of System/38. He was a licensed pilot and enjoyed flying his family all over the United States and Canada. He enjoyed traveling throughout the US, Canada, the Caribbean, France, the British Isles and Ireland. Wayne is survived by his wife, Mary Alice; children; and grandchildren.

Jean 'Trixie' Roth died November 26, 2023. Trixie was a mother and a day care provider for over 25 years. She and her husband Tom retired early and did a lot of traveling in their RV and by motorcycle, rarely missing the Sturgis bike rally. They spent winters in Arizona.

Thomas Roth died December 24, 2023. Tom's career at IBM spanned nearly 30 years, retiring at the young age of 49. He then received his license to drive 18-wheelers. He also had a snow plowing business for many years. Traveling by motorcycle with his wife Jean (Trixie) was a favorite thing, especially attending the annual Sturgis bike rally. They spent winters in Arizona for more than 25 years.

Jean Roth and Tom Roth are survived by their children and grandchildren.

Marlene Kay Sexton died December 9, 2023. Marlene worked for a time as a cosmetologist and then went to work at IBM until retirement. She enjoyed going South for the winter to see her sisters and she enjoyed bird-watching. Marlene is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Charles Speltz died January 17, 2024. Charles served in the US Army and then worked at IBM, retiring with over 35 years of service. He and his wife spent winters in Arizona. They enjoyed traveling to places like Austria, Germany, France, and the Panama Canal. Charles enjoyed camping, canoeing, skiing, ice skating and singing in the church choir. He is survived by his wife, Goldie; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

John Tuseth died December 16, 2023. Most of his career was spent at IBM where he retired after 32 years of hard work. John enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, and watching all Minnesota sports teams. He will be remembered for his quick wit and love of card tricks. John is survived by his wife, Eileen; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Rose Marie Wendt died December 16, 2023. Rose worked at a number of different restaurants and also spent 25 years working with the Stewartville School District in the cafeteria and as a childcare aide mornings and afternoon. She loved working with children. She taught Sunday School and was a member of the Rochester Cake Club. She enjoyed crafts, painting, word search, and writing poems. Rose is survived by her husband Dennis (an Alumni Club member) and children.

Thomas David 'Dave' Young died November 5, 2023. After graduating with a degree in electrical engineering, Dave worked as a contractor at the Altus Air Force Base before being hired by IBM. For 17 years, he wrote manuals for computer operation and installation. In 1978, he left IBM to begin a second career in ministry, serving at churches in Minnesota and Florida. He and his wife spent 12 years as missionaries in Albania. When he returned to the United States, he continued ministries at churches in West Virginia and Oklahoma. Dave is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Celebrations

64th Anniversary:

Cub and Marge Bahr – November 26

Ervin and Judith Ristau – January 2

Please continue to let us know about obituaries and celebrations. We appreciate hearing from you.