President’s Corner

Since the last newsletter your Board has:

- Reviewed and approved the recommendations of the Curriculum Council for the Summer Sampler and for the fall 2016 curricular offerings.
- Received the final report of the ad hoc committee that reviewed how we may best assist those of our members who require special consideration in physical access and in visual and auditory participation.
- Received the final report of the ad hoc Long-Range Planning Committee.
- Approved the recommendation of the Nominating and Recruiting Committee and formally nominated a slate of candidates for this spring’s election.

In April your Board approved and adopted the final report of the ad hoc Long-Range Planning Committee that was appointed in 2014, and thanked the Committee members for their contribution to helping chart the future of our LLI. The Board has adopted four goals, each supported by one or more objectives. Objectives are each addressed by one or more strategies, with assigned responsibilities and target dates. The four goals are:

- To prepare for a growing demographic
- To secure a fair assignment of offerings to members
- To strengthen the culture of volunteerism within LLI
- To better utilize technology and data already available in existing database – in communication, in registration and in keeping records

By “adopting” the report, the Board is committing itself to the pursuit of the goals identified and to implementation of strategies to attain those goals. Review of the progress toward that achievement will be a regular item on the Board’s agenda. We anticipate distributing copies of the report to the LLI membership later this spring. One item that we believe will be of significant interest to our members – changing the registration procedure hopefully to enable a larger proportion of our members to enroll in some of their preferred courses – is discussed in a separate article.

Dick Sackett, President

Save the date

Our annual summer Coffee Klatch is scheduled for Thursday, August 4 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the WCC Sugar Grove Campus, Bodie Hall, Room 150. Please hold the date. This is a fun time to socialize with friends and to meet new members!
Curriculum Council Corner

Diversity in LLI

The Curriculum Council (CC) encourages you to try a variety of courses, finding a match of subject area and facilitator that meets your needs. To meet the diverse needs and interests of a growing organization, the Curriculum Council strives to present a diverse offering of courses, outings and trips for LLI members. Diversity is manifested in the offerings’ varied subject matter, style of delivery and depth of inquiry. As we explore LLI curriculum, the challenges of aging present themselves in our participants and facilitators giving each of us another opportunity to learn and understand more about ourselves and others.

We are also looking for new facilitators willing to share a passion or interest to share with others. Please contact any CC member for additional information.

LLI Member Shares Insights
by Kim Carew

Driving home from an LLI class today, I was overcome with such gratitude that I am part of an organization that widens my mind and socializes my spirit. Each and every person in this morning’s 20-member class has shared a piece of themselves and a bit of the culture, foods, history of the author or book they have chosen to acquaint us with. We came away with a greater understanding of the human spirit throughout the ages that relates to us even today.

In another class I am studying about submarines, sometimes referred to as "steel coffins" and that it required a year into WWII before the torpedoes were actually maneuvering and exploding properly. Yet a third class features the trials and tribulations of the flamboyant Moll Flanders written in the 1700s.

The experiences and education (formal and informal) of my fellow LLI members both amaze and humble me. In the fall, LLI will celebrate its 20th anniversary, and I am so very grateful that I have benefitted from this organization for eight of those years with many more to come!
My Lie Stories
by Sharon Keutzer

Taking the lead from my Memoir Writing Group’s leader, I am going to confess all. I did not tell too many whoppers throughout my life because I was never very good at it. I also find that I don’t want to spend the time it would take me to think through all the aspects of a false story so as not to get tripped up, let alone trying to remember everything.

Well, my first exposure to lying that I can remember was very early in my grade school career. My mother apparently packed too much in my school lunch. I would eat the things that appealed to me most and take the rest home. Invariably, the part left over would be an apple. Fruit versus cake or cookies, the fruit is going to lose out every time unless it is an apricot. So, honest Sharon would take the apple home. Then my mother would yell at me because I wasn’t eating my fruit. I can still hear it, “Back when I was a kid we didn’t have everything like you do. We were glad to get an apple!” After a few days of this, I complained to a friend of mine that I can’t eat all of it, and I get yelled at when I take it home. Her response shocked me. She said, “Why don’t you just throw it away and tell your mother you ate it?” Wow! That went against two of my very basic principles: 1. Don’t ever tell a lie, and 2. Don’t ever waste food.

My dad was a very religious man. I never knew him to lie. Even when he was retiring and the auctioneer at the farm sale was trying to convince the crowd that the tractor was in great shape, dad wanted to enumerate its flaws. My mother, given all her emotional problems, was honest, usually brutally honest.

I’m not saying I never exaggerated or omitted some things I didn’t want my parents to know. The biggest one I told was when I was probably 19 or 20. My first husband and I were dating. We had come home from college for the weekend. We were both tired from studying all week. We just wanted to talk and spend time together. But, of course, we wanted to get in a little necking, too. For you younger ones that means kissing and cuddling and nothing else! So, we went somewhere on a country road and parked. I knew I couldn’t tell my mother that we went to a movie because then she would ask all kinds of questions about it. So, we discussed what we would tell anyone who asked.

Sure enough, the first thing on Saturday morning, my mother said, “So, where did you and Ronnie go last night?”

“Oh, we were each so tired, we just drove over to downtown LaSalle and parked and talked.”

Mom said, “So, you fed a parking meter all that time?”

See! That’s why I never made a habit of lying! I thought that it would be good to just tell her that we parked right downtown where all the Friday night shoppers would be walking by. She would think nothing was going on if we were in plain sight. I forgot about the stinkin’ parking meters!
**Spring Offerings**

**The Surprising Life of St. Peter**

*Co-facilitated by Marilyn Huntman Giese and Nancy Zak*

Co-facilitators Marilyn Huntman Giese and Nancy Zak (pictured at left) used multi-media, hand-outs and active discussion to broaden our knowledge of First Century Christians with fact and fiction as seen through the eyes of Jesus' trusted disciple Peter.

How privileged is LLI to have these two women share their passion and knowledge of such a compelling topic! Marilyn studied Old, New and Intertestamental courses at Iowa State, Elmhurst College and COD and Nancy has an avid interest in the life of St. Peter.

*The Eye of God - A Fisherman's Tale*, a historical fiction novel written by Marilyn Huntman Giese, was used as an optional text in this course.

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**Being Mortal**

*Facilitated by Dorothy Ogle*

The objective of this course was to understand the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life. Focus was placed on healthy diet, exercise, sleep and socialization as factors influencing aging. Dorothy Ogle (pictured at right) engages in thoughtful discussion with LLI members.

In Atul Gawande's book, *Being Mortal* (a required text for this course), the author and practicing surgeon, discusses how in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit.

While medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the dependent elderly.
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
Co-facilitated by John Hayes and Beth Brubaker

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis, third in the Chronicles of Narnia series, is a series of literal and figurative "progresses" which explore the unknown Eastern Seas and a range of social, moral and religious concerns, unified by the theme of "voyaging." In this course, LLI members followed the Dawn Treader, King Caspian, Lucy, Edmund, Eustace and the crew through danger, growth and change during the voyage.

John Hayes, pictured above, has facilitated other LLI courses covering novels by C.S. Lewis. John's fascination with this material is displayed as he shares insights with course participants.

Set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a fantasy world of magic, mythical beasts, and talking animals, the series narrates the adventures of various children who play central roles in the unfolding history of that world. These books are considered classics of children's literature, but have powerful themes appreciated by adults.

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Introduction to Oceanography - The New Frontier
Facilitated by Adrienne Favale

Well, this is certainly a topic of interest to LLIers! Adrienne Favale (pictured at left) continues to share her love and great knowledge of "inner space." Main topics covered included oceans, shorelines, continents, mammals, fish, birds and plant life. Also explored were the main sources of energy and the earth as an intricate, self-sustaining environment that has supported forms of life for over three billion years!

Using a variety of media, Adrienne encouraged active participation. She assembled books for each participant, including a wide variety of oceanography material- all packaged in a colorful and fun format. Thank you, Adrienne!!
I Wish I May, I Wish You Might…

By Ellen H. Neupert

Do you understand all this “Panama Papers” stuff? And what about over-seas tax shelters? Not that any of us retired LLI folk are going to be using tax-shelters, but aren’t you curious as to how such things work? I imagine Donald Trump is too busy these days to lead a class, but is there anyone out there who (a) understands any of this, (b) would be willing to share the knowledge and (c) realizes you don’t have to have a BOOK? Who can provide the guidance?

Someone told me that it doesn’t make sense to suggest course topics; you need to wait and see what current (or past or potential) facilitators are interested in leading. That may be true, but what if no one ever found out what others would like to learn about or share what they know? I have some topics I’d like to learn more about.

The history of BASEBALL. Did you watch PBS’s Jackie Robinson and want to know more? Or any of Ken Burn’s Baseball series and thought it’d make an interesting course for our members who are passionate about that sport? If baseball’s not your thing, what about the history of football? Tennis? Soccer? Anyone ready to “throw the ball?”

When we had a space on our evaluation forms to list courses we’d like to have offered, responses were repeats on the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court, repeats of or more U.S. Presidents, etc. Willing to facilitate or co-facilitate one of these? Know good sources? Like to share and discuss new understandings with others?

Some more requests: Russian or English history (or any other country’s history!), ancient history (Roman, Greek), the Irish Potato Famine, migration and immigration, the Holy Land, the Middle East (history or current events?). Native Americans, lives of composers, understanding the stock market, classical lit, English poets and authors, understanding new tech devices, space (inner and outer?), famous women or famous men. More opera, art history, plays, more, more, more – this is where you come up with your ideas. But NOT just courses you would like to take IF they were offered.

What course – JUST ONE, for a start – are you willing to facilitate “with a little help” from your friendly Curriculum Council members?

We NEED Facilitators! Are you tired of hearing that refrain in newsletters, classes, meetings, at luncheons? OR do you like being on a waiting list? Simple math, folks – more new facilitators + more courses = more LLI members get into courses they want or of equal interest. Your CC members are ready, willing and able to help. Call us!

Are you ready to step forward, take the chance, and find out that you have – well, if not a passion – at least a desire to learn and share together?

Questions, questions – only you have the answers!
Fall Prevention Workshop

Organized by Marilyn Huntman Giese

Guest Speaker Suzanne Joseph (pictured at left), DPTc, IMTC, shared her professional insights into fall prevention. She has taught many associated workshops for seniors and has her own practice.

Course participants filled out "risk of falling" questionnaires, which were then discussed. Using a slide presentation, Suzanne shared much valuable information regarding why we fall. Each point provided tips for prevention, such as installing handrails or wearing proper footwear. LLI members were active participants in this session and viewed Suzanne's demonstration on the proper way to fall when a fall is unavoidable.

Research shows that one in three adults over the age of 65 will fall. It is all about awareness and taking safety precautions. Prevention is the key. Do not wait until you have fallen to take preventive measures!!

Jeannette Rankin and Her Lifework

Co-facilitated by Karen Christensen and Ellen Neupert

Referencing the required text, Jeannette Rankin, America's Conscience by Norma Smith, members were given study guide questions for each chapter. Participants were also asked to report on provided topics: individuals, organizations and events that all figured into Jeannette Rankin's life and career.

Co-facilitators Karen Christensen and Ellen Neupert (above) stressed member involvement, offering many compelling questions for consideration.

Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was "an aggressive and effective campaigner for women's rights" and child welfare. She rallied on, despite vilification for her vote against U.S. entry into both World War I and World War II.
Submarines: History, Operation and Training

Facilitated by Bob Goetz

Bob Goetz (left), a Qualified Submariner who served in the U.S. Navy as an Electronics Technician, shared his love of submarines with members. All in attendance learned about the history of the U.S. Submarine Force and its role in the WWII Pacific Theater, the Cold War and today.

Required text, A Tale of Two Subs: An Untold Story of World War II, Two Sister Ships and Extraordinary Heroism by Johnathan J. McCullough, was supplemented with many outside materials and a wide selection of DVDs. The participants also benefited from guest speakers who shared their experiences while serving on a submarine.

The USS Virginia, SSN774 (pictured at right) is the newest class of Fast Attack Submarine currently being constructed.

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Impressions of Japan

Facilitated by Karin Gissel

Karin Gissel (right) developed a strong love for Japan through extended visits and through her daughter, an exchange student and teacher in Japan who also married into the culture.

Course members received the gift of Karin's shared impressions of a wonderful, and in some instances, a very different land. Using eight short videos made by an American who lived in Japan, participants learned about Japan's religion, culture, myths, legends and traditions.

Japan's mainland is comprised of four primary islands. It is a crowded country and approximately 70 percent mountainous. Japan's people honor their culture and traditions.
**New Registration Procedure**

One of the questions on the Membership Survey that was conducted in the spring of 2015 was: “Do you think the current registration process is fair?” This question resulted in far more written comments than any other question in the survey. The Long-Range Planning Committee spent a good deal more time on this matter than on any of its other areas of consideration.

The Board recently adopted as one of its goals: “To secure a fair assignment of offerings to members.” The objective in support of this goal is: “Ensure as many individuals as possible (who meet the registration target date) get into some of their preferred choices.”

Two aspects of this objective are important: One – we can’t guarantee results, but want to utilize procedures that are likely to increase the proportion of our members who are able to enroll in at least some of their preferred activities. Two – we can only improve the chances of success of those who respond reasonably promptly.

As strategies to meet the objective, the Board has approved increasing the “shuffle period” – the period between catalog mailing and the beginning of registration – and limiting the initial course selection to not more than three courses. The registration form will include each member’s prioritization of the courses for which he/she wishes to register, which will determine the sequence of registering each individual. Registration for trips and outings will be processed in addition to course registrations.

After the “shuffle” registrations have been processed with the limitation described above, any that include more than three courses will be processed again for all remaining selections. This “round two” processing will be done in the inverse order (by batches) of the “round one” processing, and will include any registration forms received after the close of the “shuffle” period, in date-received order. We believe that this will increase the likelihood that more members will be able to enroll in at least one of their high-priority courses.

There are still details to be worked-out, but we think it important to share this response to the concerns expressed by many of our members.

*Dick Sackett, President*

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**Sew Nice!**

One of the items most described on trip evaluations is the lack of pockets on the back of the seats. Talking with our last coach driver and looking at any airline seat, the reason they don’t have them is because people throw their garbage in them and leave it there.

Well, thanks to LLI member Peg McKenna, our motor coach riders will have a spot for their "stuff." While on a summer bus trip with her church, Peg discovered that a bit of fabric sewn together with long ties created a personal over-the-seat pouch for that bottle of water or newspaper crossword puzzle. So she pulled out her material remnants and went to work. LLI now has fifty colorful pouches that wrap around the headrest on the seat in front of you to stow some of those must-have travel items! See them soon on an LLI bus trip. Thank you, Peg!
We Welcome New Members

Someone You Should Know

Interviewed by Larry Christensen

On the day that I interviewed Jim Baker --Saturday, April 30, 2016 – I discovered that it was the first anniversary of his retirement from a career as a radar expert/air traffic controller, working for the Federal Aviation Administration. His tenure with the FAA provided him with many opportunities to save lives under emergency conditions, while facing challenges created by weather and, over the years, by the increasing number of flights. Jim’s nickname came from his FAA colleagues. He uses it in his email address, and says he doesn’t mind being called “Slimbo.”

Born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota, Jim had requested an FAA posting to a southern climate. What he got was an assignment to the Aurora facility, where he served for 30 years. He remembers a trip from Aurora to Duluth where the temperature was 30 degrees below zero. Upon removing their luggage from the car carrier and unpacking their suitcases, the family discovered that their clothes were all frozen solid – stiff as boards.

Seeking out educational opportunities, Jim discovered the WCC/LLI website. He has taken three courses so far, and is especially drawn to those that include a travel component.

For many years, Jim and his wife Diana led the effort to organize “Holiday in the Grove” in Sugar Grove. He looks forward to traveling with his wife in their new recreational vehicle, to building furniture and to refining his golfing technique after a 20-year hiatus.

Lifelong Learning Quotes

“Learning is not a product of schooling but the lifelong attempt to acquire it."

Albert Einstein

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”

Henry Ford
Calling All Members

We Thank Our Rush Volunteers

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to those LLI members who volunteered at the spring RUSH. Volunteers greet students as they enter the WCC Book Store, provide direction and answer questions. Waubonsee Community College pays LLI for this service, which helps support our Scholarship Fund.

Those who volunteered were: Nancy Allured, Linda Bargemann, Larry Christensen, Jeanine Cowart, Phyllis Craig, Doris Czarobski, Lynn DiTraglia, Pat Dreas, Karen Fenny, Jeanne Garlitz, Joe Garlitz, Edward Gruber, Eric Harris, Tom Hartman, Adam Holtz, Carl Hays, Josie Krass, Jay Labelle, Sherry Lemen, Mary Maiers, Peg McKenna, Dorothy O’Donnell, Robert Orland, Jane Powell, Carol Putnam, Carolyn Sackett, Richard Sackett, Dorothy Sheihing, Lynn Shroder, Rosemary Smillie, Gail Tattersfield, George Tattersfield and Kay Woulfe.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider the many volunteer opportunities available to our members:

Member Services: Social Committee - assist with sign-in at various social functions; Speakers Bureau- present LLI overview to venues expressing interest in LLI; assist with member communications and newsletter development.

Operations: Registration Committee - register members for requested offering for the three terms within our membership year; Mailing Committee - assist with various member mailings; assist with Database administration.

Committees: The Board and Curriculum Council (CC) appoint ad hoc committees to address specific or ongoing issues. Recommendations are then made to the Board or CC.

As your Newsletter Co-Editors, we are excited to bring you LLI news each quarter. This publication is for you, our members.

If you would like to contribute an article and/or photo to our next newsletter, please submit information to us by July 25 (contact information listed below). We are always grateful to hear news about our members, including accomplishments and those ailing or who have passed away. You are all important to us and form our very foundation.

Larry Christensen and Mary Maiers
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Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubonsee Community College

Our Values include continued learning, intellectual inquiry, social interaction, and active member participation in lifelong learning.

Our Mission is to provide our membership with a defined and member-generated framework for life-enriching, dynamic educational experiences through lifelong learning programs.

Our Vision is to be a self-sustaining and self-governing community of active mature adults offering a diverse and intellectually stimulating array of non-credit educational offerings in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

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If You Need to Reach an LLI Board or Curriculum Council Member:

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*Curriculum Council Representatives on the Board*