President’s Corner

I would like to welcome both past and new members to another exciting year with LLI! As you know, we are an all-volunteer organization and are who we are because of you offering your talents and insights in so many ways.

The Sustainability Committee has completed its work, presenting its recommendations to the Board in the areas of curriculum, leadership and technology. I am pleased to share with you some of the actions we are taking:

1. The Curriculum Council has voted to create a standing committee to explore ways in which we can expand our offerings, including actively recruiting outside speakers.
2. The Board has created an ad hoc committee to consider changes to LLI governance related to the Board and Curriculum Council.
3. We will begin scheduling member orientation meetings, the first to be held this fall.
4. We will host a volunteer appreciation luncheon in the spring to honor all volunteers and provide an opportunity to network with others.
5. The Technology Committee is evaluating the best solution for an online registration platform, efforts are being coordinated with Waubonsee Community College.

More information will be shared with members as it becomes available. A detailed copy of the Sustainability Committee Final Report is available upon request (please call LLI office at (630) 466-2593).

Two-way communication is vital; therefore, I welcome each of you to feel open to express your ideas and concerns to me personally or to any Board or Curriculum Council member (contact information listed on last page). Again, a sincere thank you to all of our volunteers!

Enjoy this new membership year!

Mary Maiers
President

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Holiday Luncheon

It’s the most wonderful time of the year…Share it with friends old and new at LLI’s Annual Holiday Luncheon! The luncheon will be held Monday, December 16, 2019 at Piper’s Banquets in Aurora. Invitations with more details will be mailed in early October. Hope to see you there – with bells on!
Curriculum Council Corner

Did you know that the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) has a liaison at Waubonsee Community College (WCC)? LLI is fortunate to have Barb Jachna as that WCC liaison. Barb is the Community Education Program Developer for the college. A portion of her job responsibilities includes working with LLI. In her LLI role, she receives all course registrations, proposals, and evaluations. These are then forwarded to the Curriculum Council (CC). The proposals are reviewed by the CC, voted on for approval, and sent to the Board. The evaluations are each read by the CC and comments are discussed. Following course acceptance, Barb then completes the complex scheduling process, working not only with WCC in finding classrooms, but also with many community facilities such as libraries, senior centers, etc. The work of the Curriculum Council could not be accomplished without this partnership with Barb. We appreciate all that Barb does for the Lifelong Learning Institute.

*Read elsewhere in the newsletter (page 8) about kudos Barb recently received from an LLI member!

THE VOTES ARE IN!

LLI is a 100% volunteer-run organization. Many hands are needed to keep the organization running smoothly and sustainably. This can take many forms – serving on a committee, facilitating a course or serving in an elected office. With thanks and appreciation to all who stepped up to run for elective office, we congratulate those recently elected.

Vice President -- Dick Sackett
Secretary -- Peggy Carlson
Curriculum Coordinators -- Ruth Harmon, Paul Mantsch, Jane Powell

In addition, Mary Maiers has assumed the Presidency of LLI. The Board appointed Christine Hepinstall to a two-year term, 2019-2021, as Member Services Chair.

(L-R) New Member Services Chair Christine Hepinstall and new LLI President Mary Maiers make plans.
LLI’s Spring Luncheon was held at Gaslite Manor in Aurora, with 135 members attending. As usual, it was a fun time for socializing. Many of the fall facilitators presented displays of their upcoming courses. After the business meeting, a fun activity called “Ask Bob” commenced in which outgoing LLI President Bob Goetz candidly and with good humor answered members’ questions.

Coffee Klatch

LLI members once again came together for the annual social “Coffee Klatch”. While the Coffee Klatch is an informal event, there were a few speakers. Christine Hepinstall introduced herself as new Member Services Chair, and encouraged all to volunteer. Sarene Rosen was given a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her long service to LLI as Social Chair.

Val Henrich spoke about the Spring Art Show that was held at the Sugar Grove Public Library, with artwork entries by LLI members. Llona Steele spoke about an LLI Trip to be offered in fall of 2020 to eastern U.S. destinations tied in with many LLI courses! Last, Kent Hayward explained the registration shuffle process. All too soon, the time was up – which worked out very well since the coffee was gone! Please plan to join next summer for our next Coffee Klatch!
Every year, LLI has the pleasure of awarding four scholarships to deserving Waubonsee Community College (WCC) students. The competition for each scholarship is strong, and each recipient is thoughtfully chosen by a WCC committee. There are three Lifelong Learning Institute Scholarships which provide awards of $800 each. The Lifelong Learning Institute Founders’ Scholarship provides one scholarship award of $1,200. This scholarship has more rigorous eligibility requirements. LLI scholarship funds are raised from both direct member donations and monies earned for our volunteer efforts during the fall & spring bookstore Rush sessions. The recipients have shared their thanks with us.

**Lifelong Learning Institute Founders’ Scholarship recipient**: “I am enrolled in the Health Information Technology program and work full time. I help provide for my family and had been having trouble making ends meet. Just as I was about to sacrifice my education, I received notice that I had been selected for this scholarship! This news sparked a new flame of hope! It’s another chance for me to keep moving forward in life. No amount of words can describe how thankful I am. Thank you for giving me hope. Thank you for helping me move forward. Thank you for igniting a spark.”

**Lifelong Learning Institute Scholarships recipients (3)**: “I am a biology student and am going to pursue physical therapy. My passion began when my grandma had a stroke and we took her to therapy sessions. I knew if it wasn’t for these sessions, she wouldn’t be where she is today. My grandma raised me as her daughter from 3 months’ old. We never had any money, so this scholarship isn’t only for me, but for her as well.”

“The news was a great shock to me. I am so grateful to be able to pursue my education next year. Thank you so much for choosing me. I promise I will not let you down or waste your investment in me.”

“I am working my way up to getting my Doctorate in Music Therapy. I am one-eighth of the way there! I will be attending school for a very long time, so any sort of aid keeps me motivated to keep going! Money would be the only thing to get in my way of my degree, so thank you very much!”
Welcome New Members!

We hope you enjoy many years of learning and serving in LLI, where we “learn from each other” in a fun environment!

Tom Cesario       Mary Kay Coleman       Denise Curts-Lueth
Anne Engelhardt   Frank Hopkins         Charles Lueth
Joyce May         Dale Nass            Judy Quandt
Joan Seminary     Harris Smulin         Cathy Stephan
Joseph Stephano    Dianne Stuch         Margaret Wilkinson
Donna Wawrzyniakowski

Member Orientation

SAVE THE DATE! The Board is hosting its first Member Orientation Meeting, a time to learn about LLI, meet other members and present your views and questions. Look for your invitation! Registration is required; please return your response by October 1.

Who? All members - new and those past members with questions
What? An opportunity to learn more about our organization
When? Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Where? Waubonsee Community College, Student Center 106

Community Outreach

Every year, LLI reaches out into our communities to create awareness of LLI, share our mission and recruit new members. This is done at a variety of events, including wellness events at the Batavia Park District and The Holmstad, senior groups such as the Silver Foxes of St. John Neumann Church, and others. LLI is fortunate to have Ceil Carey, the LLI Community Liaison, and a dedicated team of volunteers who head up this task and create awareness of our organization in the community. Ceil would welcome having an apprentice to learn the ropes and help at events.
**Spring Art Show**

The Sugar Grove Public Library (SGPL) was the location of LLI’s Spring Art Show. SGPL Director Shannon Halikias invited LLI members to display their art work, this effort coordinated by facilitator Val Henrich. Val has facilitated many studio art courses for LLI and in the community, and thus knew just where to find willing artists! After many busy months of having meetings, planning, and attending to the logistics, the show was ready!

An opening reception was held April 7, 2019, with about 60 attendees. In all, the show included more than 36 pieces of art in various genres such as oil, pastels, watercolors, pencil, colored pencil, journals, paper art, and acrylic by 16 artists. LLI artists who showed works were Deann Alleman, Carol Cooper, Jeannine Cowart, Marilyn Danielson, Val Henrich, Gerry Kusel, Betty Lankers, Marama Leifheit, Ann Mazur, Joan McEachern, Glenda Peck, Ruth Port, Kathy Puleo, and Pat Sweeney. Many artists offered their works for sale. The show ran through the end of May. A few samples of the wonderful works are displayed below.
Everything Wisconsin Trip, June 27-29, 2019

This three day trip, coordinated by Kim Carew and Barb Jachna, attracted participants who enjoyed experiencing art, nature, and history in our neighboring state of Wisconsin!

Kathy Wass stands by the Oneida Nation Three Sisters’ Garden. The “three sister” crops were corn, beans, and squash.

Dancing Oneida Indians at their 47th annual Pow Wow.

Beautiful rock formation on the Wisconsin River.

(From lower left then clockwise) Mary Royal, Jay LaBelle, Kim Carew, Kathy Leahy, Karin Gissel, Betty Williams, Betty Lankers, John Lankers.

LLI member Betty Williams and Rebecca Campbell enjoying an authentic Oneida Indian meal.

A happy group of enrollees as we roll down the road!
Feedback and Thanks Are Always Appreciated!

Feedback from course and trip participants is always appreciated and valuable to our facilitators and trip coordinators/managers, respectively. Recently two LLI members, Leonard and Kathy Wass, were so impressed with their LLI Wisconsin trip that they felt moved to write to Dr. Christine Sobek, President of Waubonsee Community College. Following is an edited version of Len’s letter.

Dear Dr. Sobek:

From 27 to 29 June 2019 my wife and I enjoyed a three-day bus tour of Wisconsin that was organized primarily by Ms. Barbara Jachna, a WCC employee. She was assisted by LLI volunteer Mrs. Kim Carew. Participants were both from LLI and elsewhere in the WCC service area.

Although only three days long, this tour covered a truly remarkable number of events, museums, cultural centers, sports centers, etc., in Wisconsin Dells, Mauston, Green Bay, Appleton, Fond du Lac, Cedarburg, and Kenosha. Every one of these stops was educational, interesting, and enjoyable, and the local guides were excellent. To boot, the trip cost was remarkably low for the experience.

Such superb planning and execution does not happen by accident. It takes much research, planning, booking, and dealing with a myriad of other logistical details to prepare such a delightful trip. The execution of the trip was a constant challenge for Ms. Jachna and Mrs. Carew, who were continuously inquiring about our needs and caring for them, phoning ahead to fine-tune the schedule, etc. While we slept, they were still working.

I would ask you to acknowledge their performance, and to express the gratitude of not only my wife and I, but all others on this trip who I know were most satisfied and complimentary of their performance.

Trip planners extraordinaire, Kim Carew and Barb Jachna (L-R)
Summer Courses

Our facilitators never disappoint! This summer a plethora of courses on a variety of subjects welcomed members and guests. One new facilitator offered an interesting outing, as follows.

A Prairie Experience

New facilitator Mary Ochsenschlager led this outing at the Great Western Trail by the LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve in St. Charles. Participants were treated to learning about the wonderful variety of native plants that call the prairie home. Mary’s vast knowledge and careful guidance allowed participants to sketch and take note of plants such as the compass plant, black-eyed Susans, ironweed, big bluestem grass, and others, along with learning the features of an oak savanna. Though goldenrod was not yet in bloom, Mary pointed out that the plant, though long-blamed by allergy sufferers, was not responsible for those stuffy noses. Rather it is the ragweed, with its non-conspicuous look and airborne method of pollen release that is to blame! Mary explained that goldenrod has sticky pollen that does not blow through the air, but rather has pollen that is strictly spread by bees and other pollinators.

Mary, retired from a career as a naturalist, is a volunteer steward at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve. A life-long nature lover, when she heard that LLI was looking for additional facilitators, she immediately started wondering what she could offer. Fellow Curriculum Council member Carolyn Sackett encouraged Mary to pursue her interests, and this interesting and enjoyable course resulted! Mary even added a very welcome touch in providing ice cold water for the hot and thirsty participants! Look for Mary’s next course offering, Our Piece of the Planet: What’s the Story? this fall.
In Memoriam

LLI offers its sympathies to the family and friends of LLI member Esther Shendelman. Esther passed away suddenly on September 3, 2019. Esther was a long-time member of LLI and was very active, taking a great number and variety of courses each semester. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, she was a resident of Geneva, Illinois. She was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, business owner, civic volunteer, and very involved in her faith community. Esther’s curiosity and engagement with learning will be missed.

Save the Date—LLI Travelers!

Thanks to trip manager Llona Steele, a wonderful LLI trip will be offered next fall! That’s in fall of 2020, folks! The trip is based on several LLI courses and will include many fascinating points of interest. Mark your calendars now, and get those pennies saved up!

Let's Head East, LLI Travelers Coach Trip
Wednesday, September 16 to Friday, September 25, 2020
Cost: single $2,100, and double $1,500 per person with 2 persons/room
Nine nights, 10 days with all breakfasts, eight lunches and one dinner included
From Sugar Grove, Illinois through Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and back home.

Highlights include: Wright Brothers sites, the Johnstown Flood Museum, FDR library and museum, Plymouth Plantation, Salem Village, Erie Canal Museum and First Ladies Museum. What a wonderful way to experience history while sharing experiences with fellow-LLI members!
Rain
Written by LLI Member Sharon Keutzer

“Rainy days and Mondays always get me down” was a line in a song by the Carpenters recorded in 1971. But, what happens if the rainy day is a Monday? Well, my Mom had an answer for that question. In fact, she had several predictions and explanations for various weather phenomena.

Rain on a Monday was quite disruptive years ago in warm weather. Monday was “wash day” and until the invention of clothes dryers, clothes were dried outside on a “clothes line.” A clothes line was usually a white cotton rope sold specifically for that purpose.

Time was of the essence as it was important to be the first one in the neighborhood to get your laundry out. Our closest neighbor, Irene, lived only one-quarter mile away. Mom would bring the first basket of laundry up from the basement and immediately look down the road to see if Irene had any of her laundry out. I guess she always did because Mom always complained that she could never beat Irene. White sheets were always washed first. The same batch of soapy water was used for all the clothes, so Dad’s work clothes were always washed last. Mom would try to get started earlier and earlier every Monday, but, I don’t recall her ever bragging about getting her clothes out before Irene.

So, as you can imagine, clothes don’t dry in a rain storm. This would necessitate stretching a clothes line in the basement. You can imagine how well clothes would dry in the summer in a damp stone basement before dehumidifiers were invented.

But, back to the rain predictions. Mom declared that if it rained on Monday, it would rain on at least three days that week. Being the inquisitive child that I was, I wanted to know why. Her answer was always something like, “I don’t know, but it always does.” So my only other option was to prove her theory wrong. She would never let me forget it. On the second day of rain she would say, “See, it’s raining for a second day.” Then even if it rained a little after midnight, that counted as the third day. I can remember disproving her theory only a couple times. Today, I quote it myself.

By the way, nothing has ever been developed to imitate the smell of clothes dried in fresh air. Nothing!! You’ll have to put up an outside clothes line if you want to experience it.

Another one of Mom’s predictions was “If it rains on Easter Sunday, it will rain for seven Sundays in a row.” Well, of course. Duh! Easter is in the spring. Spring is the rainy season. But always on Sunday? Again, I set out to disprove her theory. Once or twice it would rain for only six Sundays running, but usually it was all seven.

Then there were many other sayings about the weather that were around long before my mother. Like:

- Red sky at night.
- Sailor’s delight.
- Red sky at morning,
- Sailors take warning.

Mom’s favorite joke about rain came when I would forget what day it was and say, “Is today Tuesday?” She would say, “All day unless it rains.” Of course, I would ask what day it would be then. The answer—a rainy day.

And, my favorite—my Dad’s answer to my inquisitiveness about clouds. “Look at those clouds, Dad. You think it will rain?” His steadfast reply, “It’ll be an awful dry spell if it doesn’t!”

“Memoirs are the backstairs of history.” - George Meredith
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 noncredit educational offerings in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

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

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