

Lifetime Learners Institute News Events Summary



LLInes

Fall 2018

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LLI President's Letter

LLI is currently in need of volunteers with experience in grant-writing and corporate gift-giving.

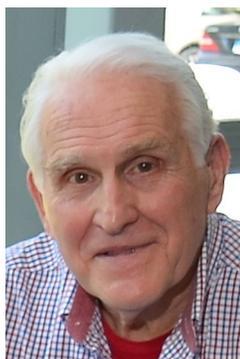
Many things are different now than when LLI started 26 years ago, in 1992. Back then, our organization was staffed entirely by volunteers, and facilitators were not paid for providing courses. In the first semester, 163 people enrolled in the seven courses that were offered.

Over the years, competition from libraries, senior centers and other sources has increased significantly. LLI has evolved and made changes in order to continue offering our courses in this challenging environment. As our organization and membership have grown, more and more volunteers have been needed to handle the normal day-to-day activities but we now have to compensate instructors and guest speakers and employ a paid part-time office manager.

We have developed from a simple operation into a year-round organization.

What has not changed is that we are still first and foremost an educational and social organization of working and retired adults over 50, who are interested in lifelong learning. LLI believes that growth through continuing education and social engagement are the key to staying young.

Today we are faced with rising costs from multiple sources. The cost of printing catalogs, mailings, website maintenance, financial services and more



are pressuring LLI to look for additional resources. **LLI would prefer not to raise the fee for membership or courses.**

For this reason, a new Financial Development Committee has been formed to develop long-range financial stability. This Committee's goal is to seek out grants, corporate donations and contributions from individuals and companies. To accomplish this goal, **we need volunteers who have had experience with corporate gifting and grant request writing.** If you do have this type of experience, we need you to help. **Please step up and help LLI** obtain the funds our organization needs to continue to provide our unique educational and social environment.

Please let us know if you can help by sending an email To lbreault@optonline.net; in the subject line, please reference Financial Development Committee.

Respectfully,
Leon Breault

LLI Veterans Committee – Happy Anniversary!

During a LLI Board of Directors meeting last summer, a member of NCC community reached out to LLI expressing a desire to compile a list of our members who served in the military and explained that the data collection would be for used for developing invitation lists for NCC Veterans' Observance events, etc. The request prompted a lively conversation and resulted in Ralph Loomis (LLI past president) making a suggestion to create a Veterans' Committee. The rest, as they say, is history. We are proud of what the Committee accomplished in the past year and look forward to continued growth and accomplishments.



INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: PATRICIA SPOOR



Patricia Spoor, LLI's women's history instructor, invites you to a dinner party! Her fall 2018 *Women at Dinner* course will explore several of the 39 influential women featured in Judy Chicago's art installation, "The Dinner Party," as a lens into understanding women's history. The next-to-last class will include a bus field trip to the Brooklyn Museum to see the art piece.

Over the years, Pat's work choices have shared a common thread of interest in women's perspectives and the human spirit.

Pat, a dance major in college, wanted to work in the dance world using Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey as role models. However, as she was starting out, it was important to earn a paycheck and it was more socially acceptable for a young woman to teach. (Other options at the time were secretary, nurse or housewife.) Fortunately, Pat discovered that she loved teaching and has since kept a toe in dance over the years: teaching college-level modern dance; holding dance therapy sessions; leading movement classes for retirement home residents; and opening her own dance studio. Pat is still in motion; as a yogi she practices meditation in movement.

Pat expanded her teaching into Christian education for adults and children and in lay pastoral spiritual care. She found it spiritually satisfying, but as she read scripture Pat noticed how seldom women had a voice. "Where are the women? What were they doing?" she wondered. Women's energy, women's lives were hidden.

She followed this line of inquiry by pursuing a Master's degree in Women's Studies. With that knowledge and continuing research she has taught many courses about women's history and perspectives at LLI and at other community venues. A recent course was *Women in Short Stories*.

Pat and her husband raised three children, two daughters and a son. Her family now includes nine grandchildren (6 girls and 3 boys), and she is happy they have been living close enough that she can build and maintain a relationship with each "fascinating, loving and gifted" grandchild. (Spoken like a loving grandparent.) In her spare time, Pat, who has been a widow since 1995, reads, gardens and loves NYC and all the cultural opportunities available. She also participates in a few groups that feed her curiosity about life and how to live it.

Pat appreciates her life, but she also wonders what it would have been like to have a different career. As her children were growing up, her husband traveled and the family moved several times, so being part of one of the big, creative dance communities in New York or elsewhere was not an option. Pat has since come to terms with the environment she grew up in and the decisions she made. She now gets deep satisfaction from acquainting women with women's history and from having them share – and accept—their own personal histories in light of the limited options they had in shaping their work lives.

"Whatever we do expresses our spirit," Pat offered. She will continue to celebrate the human spirit—especially through movement—and help others do the same.

Amy Ewing

LLI ORGANIZATION

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Barbara Cartounis
NCC Liaison

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Gil Herman
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Curriculum
Dick DiVecchio
Chair

Election
Open
Chair

Finance
Ann Bello
Chair

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Temporary Chair

Hospitality
**Leon Breault
Nicole Takacs**
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**Jackie Labatt-Simon
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Morgan Corrigan
Editor/Chair

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Chair

Policy
Leon Breault
Chair

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Diversity***
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Chair

Scholarship
Bettina Gangi
Chair

Special Events
Roman Laszuk
Chair

Veterans
Glen Osberg
Chair

Volunteers
**Beverly Erickson
Connie Ragosa**
Co-Chairs

MEET THE LLI 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



Bernie Weiss Photos

Back row (left to right): Dwayne Harrison, Cintya Castillo, Tina Gangi (Scholarship Committee Chair), Bruno Simonetti

Front row (left to right): Barbara Piasecka, Michelle Santander Herrera

At the LLI Annual Meeting in May, Tina Gangi, the chair of the scholarship committee, announced the recipients of the LLI scholarships and education stipends and gave each student the opportunity to say thank you and to explain how helpful the grants would be. Common themes were their challenging circumstances and their desire to help others; the five students are pursuing either social work or nursing.

Dwayne Harrison and Cintya Castillo each received a \$1,500 scholarship. Dwayne (in the Human Services program) spoke of his desire to help others get through tough situations, like those he had faced. Cintya (in the Nursing program) hoped her scholarship would encourage her two younger sisters, who might also be helped in a similar way.

A nursing student, Barbara Piasecka, and two Human Services students, Michelle Santander Herrera and Bruno Simonetti, each received \$500 education stipends. Barbara spoke of her recent arrival

(continued on page 9)

LLI 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

On Friday, May 11, 2018, LLI held its 26th Annual Meeting. The business meeting included updates from NCC, the LLI President's Report, the presentation of election results, donations to NCC foundations and programs and scholarship awards to students.

In LLI President Ralph Loomis' absence, Leon Breault (LLI 1st VP) introduced speakers and delivered the LLI President's Report. Leon reported that LLI held 86 courses during the past year. Enrollment increased to 2.5 classes on average for LLI's 808 members. And new this year, online registration was used in half of the registrations.

NCC President, Dr. David Levinson, said NCC had a good year, with 13,000 students enrolled. He thanked LLI for our contributions to NCC, which were especially appreciated in light of the state's budget cut of almost 15%, in which every cut was a challenge. LLI, in turn, gave Dr. Levinson an engraved star in appreciation of his support of LLI.

Ann Bello, LLI Treasurer presented checks totaling \$12,970 to NCC in support of a variety of NCC foundations and programs. Tina Gangi, the chair of scholarships, awarded two LLI scholarships of \$1,500 and three education stipends of \$500. (The statement of Annual Contributions showed NCC gave a total of \$21,000 to NCC programs and LLI scholarships.)

The treasurer's report showed that LLI spent close to \$3,300 more than we took in this year, "thanks" to a decrease in receipts and interest income and an increase in disbursements. Increases of over 10% year-to-year were in member communications (to cover the new online credit card registration), finance and administration.

LLI Board election results were announced by Barbara Cartsounis, who said that all nominated candidates were elected: Larry Fox (in his second term) and four new board members — Jackie Labatt-Simon, Roman Laszuk, Diane Donohue Nichols and

(continued on page 9)

LIKE CODES AND SECRETS?

Take a short trip to Washington, DC and discover LIES, SPIES AND THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE. Amtrak is an easy way to travel to a 4-day program offered by Road Scholar.

Explore the International Spy Museum; hear expert intelligence officers talk of their experiences and learn how codes are broken at the Cryptologic Museum. A comfortable hotel and meals are included.



Discover one of the many spy devices such as "The Kiss of Death," the deadly item resembling a lipstick that fits into a pocketbook. After personally "spying" into these museums, head out into the many other unbelievable showcases displayed over our capitol. Four days may not be enough for exploring!

Broaden your knowledge of spy sites in New York, Philadelphia and Washington as well as the five freedoms of the First Amendment.

Learn all about it... LIES AND SPIES, and how they exist today.

Bea Friedman

LUMINA STRING QUARTET RETURNS FOR ANOTHER SEASON: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



NCC is pleased to announce that the Lumina String Quartet fall concert will take place on Saturday, October 13, at 2:00 pm in the NCC PepsiCo Theater (East Campus).

Consistently hailed as one of Connecticut's leading chamber ensembles, the Lumina String Quartet has earned acclaim for its dynamic performances. Since its inception, the group has maintained a residency at NCC, presenting a subscription concert series as well as educational and community outreach programs.

If you are interested in attending this event, please call 203-857-7302 or send an email request to bcartsounis@commnet.edu.

Morgan Corrigan



Sing with the NCC Choir! The Norwalk Community College Choir is open to everyone of all ages and singing abilities. No auditions are required, as we welcome everybody! The group rehearses Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:50 pm and performs at various event on campus and in the community. Please contact NCC Professor Christine Mangone at cmangone@norwalk.edu to join or for more information

DARIEN'S "GREEN" JEWEL OF A LIBRARY

The Darien Library is housed in a large brick building on the Post Road, undistinguished on the outside, but designated as a LEED Gold certified building, the first business to be chosen as such in the town. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the world's most widely used green building rating system. An example of being "green" is that flyers promoting library activities can be found only on the website, not on paper.



First, I visited the well-stocked Frosty Bear café for a cup of coffee. One could purchase a complete lunch there and enjoy it at a table nearby.



I then met Mallory Arents, Head of Adult Programming. The library runs 650 programs annually for adults. On the day I visited, one activity was knitting and a playwright was scheduled to come in the evening. Last year, over 31,000 adults participated in programs; of course many of those counted have been to more than one function. Book Group Librarians will lead you in discussions of what your group is currently reading. Unfortunately, opportunities for seniors to volunteer are not available at this time; however, the library is looking into other ways for this to happen.

A monthly program called Senior Moments provides events which inspire intellectual curiosity while connecting seniors socially. Examples are a tour of a bird sanctuary and scheduling a petting zoo visit at the library. In the winter, most activities are in the afternoon, such as an historical lecture series, chair yoga and floor yoga. Monthly, there is a film matinee on Wednesdays, and a double showing every Friday night at 6:30 and 8:30 of the same movie.

Need tech help? The computer lab is staffed at all hours; introductory courses as well as skills are offered. There are two Maker Spaces, one for adults only, and in the Digital Media Lab you can digitize old "stuff" (i.e., videos, photos, etc.) for free. The Business Center adjacent to the Computer Lab offers several different printers and copiers (color included), a poster maker, as well as a shredder. Use is free. There is also a Power Library and Tech Learning Room. Patrons can borrow a WIFI hot spot or Roku.



As I left her office, Mallory called out after me, "And seniors don't get fined for overdue books, although they are often the first patrons to trudge here in the snow if a book is overdue." I then wandered around by myself, impressed by the many reading spaces with comfy chairs and large windows letting in light. One little nook even had a gas fireplace going! Lots of desks, quiet stations, open space. One certainly gets the feeling of comfort, warmth and peace here.

With free parking and an impressive interior, you will enjoy a visit to this distinguished "green" library.

Arlene Yolles



Back row (left to right):

unidentified, Glen Osberg (Veterans Committee chair), Mrs. George Gomez, George Gomez (retired Marine and Pets for Vets benefactor), Didi Tulloch (Director, Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue), Austin Miller (Treasurer, NCC Veterans Club), Erica Santiago (VP, NCC Veterans Club), Josue Vilson (President, NCC Veterans Club), George Hensinger (LLI Veterans Committee member)

Front row (left to right):

John Delutio, Barbara Cartounis (NCC/LLI Liaison), Leon Breault, Jane Morrison (Volunteer, Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue), Trinity, Sandi Sachs (LLI member)

PETS FOR VETS

On April 4th as part of the NCC Academic Festival, the Pets for Vets program was presented by Didi Tulloch, Director of the Ridgefield Operation Animal Rescue organization. Also included as part of the “Peace, Mind, Body and Spirit” theme were presentations by Glen Osberg, (LLI Veterans Committee Chairperson), Austin Miller, (Treasurer of the NCC Veterans Club), as well as U.S. Marine veteran George Gomez and his best friend, Trinity, who are both benefactors of Pets for Vets that matches shelter animals with deserving American servicemen and women.

Glen Osberg

MEET THE LLI 2018 SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS!

(continued from page 7)

to the US and her desire to help patients. Michelle referred to tragedies she had dealt with in the past couple of years and said she is working towards a Masters in Social Work (MSW). Bruno, also pursuing an MSW, was grateful for the “generosity from strangers” and said he was inspired by the social workers both in his family and others who had helped him. He is currently running an anger management group for men with domestic violence histories.

Amy Ewing

LLI 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

(continued from page 7)

Vicki Phair. Gary Lishnoff will fill Sandi Sack's final year on the board, and seven other board members will continue to serve: Charlotte Cooper, Leon Breault, Ann Bello, Barbara Cartounis, Leah Tillman, Larry Fox and Glenn Osberg. Outgoing board members were thanked for their service: Ralph Loomis, Richard Di Vecchio, Leslie Loop and Eric Rambusch.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of seven former LLI members.

After the business meeting, entertainers Chris Coogan and Michele Grace performed a one hour show. The meeting ended with the distribution of door prizes from 20 different local businesses.

Amy Ewing