

Lifetime Learners Institute News Events Summary



LLInes

Fall 2017

www.lifetimelearners.org

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LLI SUMMER SESSION: A WINNER



Bernie Weiss Photos

LLI's successful summer session recently concluded posed an interesting question: why did we wait so long to do something which so many members wanted? Upon reflection, classes during the summer were thought to be ill-advised because summertime was a time of outdoor activities, of baseball games and beaches, trips to special places, or just plain hanging around. But we found that many people wish to be taught whenever there is an opportunity — and summer is a perfect time for that opportunity since parking is less of a problem, a certain quietude exists on campus and rooms are more accessible.

LLI is going to continue with our summer program for its success, of course, but also because in this introductory phase we discovered that our members are just as enthusiastic — and as critical — as they are in our regular terms. Our Student Comment Forms indicate that the vigilance we pay to our courses which promotes excellence, and the notations on the forms indicate both excellence and areas to improve.

But LLI now in its 25th year, will continue to improve and to innovate - the summer term is merely one example of that progress.

Richard Di Vecchio
Chair
LLI Curriculum Committee

LLI's 25th ANNIVERSARY



On Friday, November 3, LLI will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a celebratory luncheon. The event will be held in NCC's cafeteria with good food and good friends. The committee working on the festivity headed by Ralph Loomis, LLI's president, are busy making all the arrangements with invitations, entertainment, guest speakers, a silent auction, silver decorations and all the things that go into making any social gathering a success. All active members should have received invitations, so return your RSVP's and \$15 check quickly as space is limited.

Vicki Phair

LLI IS MODERNIZING

We anticipate that, beginning with the winter session in January, you will be able to enroll for LLI classes online and pay by credit card. LLI has been working to change to a system requested by many members. We ask for your patience as we work out any glitches — the goal is to ease registration and payment for our members. Stay tuned for further details.

MOVIES-of-the-MONTH FREE FILM SERIES!

All screenings are on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the NCC East Campus PEPSICO or FORUM Theaters

- 11/2** *Ratatouille (2007)*
(Prod. By Walt Disney/Pixar, dir. by Brad Bird)
- 11/16** *Destry Rides Again (1939)*
(Dir. By George Marshall, w/ James Stewart, Marlene Dietrich)
- 12/7** *Singin' in the Rain (1952)*
(Dir. By Stanley Donen, w/ Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Cyd Charisse)

Board Members

Ralph Loomis, *President*
 Leon Breault, *1st Vice President*
 Charlotte Cooper, *2nd Vice President*
 Sandi Sacks, *Secretary*
 Ann Bello, *Treasurer*
 Barbara Cartsounis, *NCC Liaison*
 Richard Di Vecchio
 Larry Fox
 Leslie Loop
 Glen Osberg
 Erik Rambusch
 Leah Tillman

Newsletter Committee

Morgan Corrigan, *Editor/Chair*
 Gil Herman, *Associate Editor*
 Amy Ewing
 Bea Friedman
 Victoria Phair
 Arlene Yolles
 Rhoda K. Soloway, *Editor/Chair*

FYI:

Try an LLI course for free!

Every LLI member, as well as a non-member, is entitled to attend one class from one course each fall and spring term. Invite a friend to one of your classes! Just show up at the class and fill out the guest form.

LLI Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 Friday: Closed

Our LLI office manager is Jackie Barchilon
 phone: 203-857-3330.
 email: llearner@ncc.commnet.edu

LLI VETERANS COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors has organized a Veterans Committee, whose mission/scope is to:

- ◆ recognize veterans for their service, e.g., on Veterans Day
- ◆ collaborate with the NCC Veterans Club as appropriate.
- ◆ publicize and participate in local, state and national veterans' functions.
- ◆ share veterans' stories via appropriate media, e.g., the LLI newsletter
- ◆ explore possible Veterans Day trips to various military-related locations, e.g., the Connecticut Air & Space Center in Stratford
- ◆ follow up other ideas as we proceed

Currently, the Board is obtaining an LLI veteran member headcount and, going forward, the committee chairperson, Glen Osberg, will be organizing future efforts.

Please contact Glen by email at glenosberg70@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



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

NCC will once again host The Lumina String Quartet whose musical command and intimate playing have entertained our local audience for 25 successive seasons. The 2017-2018 performances are scheduled for three Saturday afternoons at 2:00 PM in the PepsiCo Theater.



The December 2nd recital will begin with The Rolf Liebergesell Memorial Concert group with Joseph Haydn's *String Quartet in G Major*, Almaz Z. Monassypov's *Vocals for Clarinet and String Quartet* (joined by guest artist Phillip Bashor) and Peter Tchaikovsky's *String Quartet #3 in E Flat Major*.

The March 10th recital will feature an all Brahms program followed by the May 5th Tatjana Mercun Memorial concert's presentation of Mozart's *Clarinet Quartet in B Flat Major* plus selections from Prokofiev and Schumann.

A limited number of complimentary tickets are available and can be requested by emailing bcartsounis@norwalk.edu or calling (203) 857-7302.

Vicki Phair

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: ROGER LEVY



Bernie Weiss Photos

Without nuns, maps and the allure of a French accent, LLI instructor Roger Levy might have never left France.

Roger was a little boy in Lyon, France, at the time when Nazis occupied the city. Compassionate nuns hid his family in their convent for a couple of years until the threat passed, so he lived to see his fifth birthday.

As an adolescent Roger had been fascinated by maps and was curious to know more about the physical reality of the countries they outlined. “Maps seemed like an invitation to travel,” he said. Geography also played a role in his getting into a highly-competitive business school, where a geography professor told him that because of the gaining economic influence of Japan, Japan was likely to be a focus of the rigorous application process. Roger therefore spent a year – a year! – gaining deep understanding of Japan’s geography and business culture. He was accepted.

He and a group of fellow business students embarked on a U.S. study tour. Needing to find a business willing to fund his three-month trip, Roger found a maker of chestnut jam who wanted to test the American appetite for their jams. Armed with sample-size jars of chestnut jam and \$99 three-month Greyhound bus passes, the business students traveled to cities across the US. to test-market the jam, which was a resounding flop. But the trip showed Roger – as he told his parents after just one week in New York City – that “three months will be too short.” What he didn’t tell his parents was that part of the allure of the U.S. was how charming young women his age found his soft French accent! “Ah, that accent!”, he grinned. (Marketing is all about differentiation, isn’t it?)

Prior to the study tour Roger had a summer internship with Burroughs-France. Later he secured another internship at the international division of Burroughs Corporation in Detroit which allowed him to extend his stay in the U.S. for another 18 months. He reluctantly returned to France when his visa expired.

After graduating with a business degree (with a focus on IT), Roger needed to complete his military service. (His student deferment had spared him from the deadly Algerian war for independence from France.) At the end of that war, General de Gaulle, the French President – angry that JFK was sending Peace Corps volunteers to former French colonies, the “French backyard” – resolved to create a similar French group, which would also provide military service credit. Roger’s service in Algeria was doing systems analysis and design of a manual system for the accounting of local harbor machinery and revenues, while also teaching English once a week for prospective Public Works engineers. He takes delight in having been driven in the minister’s fine car between posts!

In Algiers he answered a blind ad for a position combining IT, English and significant time in the U.S. It was IBM which ran the ad and hired him to coordinate manufacturing information systems between French and US “sister” plants. At IBM’s East Fishkill, NY, plant Roger met his wife, Edythe, who also worked in IT. After they married, Roger asked for a permanent job in the US, but IBM declined – even upon his return after an educational leave of absence to get his MBA at Temple University. (He has since earned a Doctorate in Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Sarasota. He became a US citizen in 1977.) Roger then held a series of jobs at Wilton-based Richardson-Vicks as systems analyst, manager of international systems and then director of sales and marketing information systems.

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LLI MEMBER AND WWII VETERAN

CHARLES McMULLEN



To help the LLI Veterans Committee launch their work of recognizing war veterans, we had drafted this member profile in appreciation and thanks to Charles McMullen for his WWII service. His story of long-time survival against the odds is dramatic. Charles recently celebrated his 94th birthday and maintained an active life — including dancing with all partners! However, we are sad to have to report that Charles passed away in September. We have chosen to share his story in appreciation of his service.

Charles McMullen was born in Norwalk on September 4, 1923 and he just celebrated his 94th birthday. He was a long-time survivor — in more ways than you might imagine.

After graduating from Norwalk High School in the summer of 1941, he started his first full-time job at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford. He worked on the assembly line producing what was to become one of the most famous American fighter planes in WWII, the Corsair. However, this job would be short-lived, since in February, 1942 Charles was drafted into the U.S. Army, a more important assignment. Following basic training, he became a radio operator and machine gunner in the Army Air Corps for another famous plane, the B-17 Flying Fortress bomber.

In April 1944, he was part of a 9-man crew that was assigned to the 381st bomb group “L”. This was one of hundreds of B-17’s sent to a base in Ridgewell, England during the war. (There today stands a 3-part marble monument to the 381st bomb group “L” and the 432nd Air Service Group.) For the next year, Charlie flew over 30 strategic bombing missions all over Europe from England, fortunately sometimes with support by our P-38 and P-51 fighters. These long missions, often lasting up to 10 hours, included flying over Belgium

(1), France (21) and Germany (10). Some of these were actually in support of the critical D-Day invasion (June 6, 1944). Although Charles often saw many live-fire actions during these bombing runs, he fortunately survived all those flights, in spite of frequent fuselage damage to his airplane which created some dangerous landings. In addition, he witnessed some of his own crew being hit and many of the other B-17 planes being shot at by German fighter planes and from ground fire (called “flack”). Charles also saw the terrible sight of many B-17’s being destroyed in the air, sometimes with crew members bailing out and landing — he hoped — in friendly territory.



Sometime after the end of the war in Europe (VE Day, May 7, 1945), Charles was given a one-month leave at home with his family. Surprisingly, he was then permanently reassigned to the Mass Transport Command based in California to be sent to Hawaii and then to the ongoing Pacific War Theater. However, now he was on an unarmed Air Transport plane as a radio operator with a different crew. Fortunately for Charlie, he served only six months there to help to fly personnel and needed supplies back and forth to our U.S. troops on the many Pacific Islands which had been recently recaptured from the Japanese. While on Okinawa, they received notice of the Japanese surrender, VJ Day, August 15th, 1945.

After a brief stopover in Japan, Charles and his crew mates flew home one more time to be discharged. Technical Sergeant Charles McMullen was honorably discharged and awarded the Distinguish Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three (3) clusters for combat flights, and for his wartime military service.



Dee & Andre Guilbert

LLI BOARD AND COMMITTEES

What is involved in making LLI run smoothly? The Board of Directors and 17 committees. We hope the brief summaries below of each committee's responsibilities will pique your interest and entice you into undertaking a new volunteer opportunity.

LLI Board—Oversees all operations and committees.

Catalog—Receives and edits the information to be included in the fall and spring course catalogs and arranges for the printing of the catalog.

Curriculum—Plans and schedules courses for fall and spring terms, winter and summer sessions; recruits and evaluates instructors; conducts instructor workshops each term; develops innovative courses; maintains course information in LLI's database; reserves and schedules rooms and equipment for instructors.

Election—Conducts year-end election of Board members and works on bylaws revisions.

Finance—Presents financial issues and recommendations to the Board; prepares the budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Board at the April meeting; maintains the financial records of the organization.

Hospitality—Coordinates with Special Events and procures pastries, coffee and tea for the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn programs, the Annual Meeting and the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Human Resources—Encourages volunteerism, fosters camaraderie and helps find volunteers to staff the numerous committees.

Marketing—Maintains a current media contact list; writes and electronically disseminates routine press releases and photos; secures placement of feature stories written by the committee and/or media contacts; issues invitations to editors and photographers to cover LLI events.

Membership—Maintains membership records; receives, records and transmits payments; trains new members in registration procedures; enters member names and course registrations into computer system; sends confirmation letters and membership cards; prints, distributes and collects attendance sheets.

Newsletter—Writes and edits information of interest and value to LLI members, assembles the material into a newsletter titled LLIines (Lifetime Learners Institute News Events Summary).

Nominating—Presents a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors.

Policy—Advises President and Board of Directors on future direction and areas of conflict.

Recruitment & Diversity —Works to recruit members (with attention to increasing the diversity of the membership) by meeting with other organizations, making presentations to community groups and distributing catalogs and other LLI literature.

Scholarship—Meets with NCC program coordinators and distributes applications to NCC students planning to enter the fields of Human Services, Nursing Allied Health or Recreation & Leisure Studies. Reviews submitted applications, interviews applicants and submits names of winners to Board for approval. Presents awards at LLI's Annual Meeting in May.

Special Events—Arranges educational and social opportunities for LLI members. Events include Brown Bag Lunch & Learn presentations, the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and the Annual Meeting .

Volunteers—Recruits volunteers for LLI and NCC mailings. Duties may include folding, stuffing envelopes other mailing functions.

Veterans — Organize activities for LLI members who are veterans and veteran-related activities for LLI.



Meet Your New Board:

Back row (left to right):
 Glen Osberg, Leslie Loop, Leah Tillman,
 Larry Fox, Barbara Cartounis, Richard
 Di Vecchio

Front row (left to right):
 Sandi Sacks, Leon Breault, Ann Bello,
 Charlotte Cooper, Ralph Loomis

Missing:
 Erik Rambusch

Bernie Weiss Photos

LLI ORGANIZATION

BOARD MEMBERS

Ralph Loomis President	Leon Breault 1st Vice President	Charlotte Cooper 2nd Vice President	Sandi Sacks Secretary	Ann Bello Treasurer
Richard Di Vecchio Director	Larry Fox Director	Leslie Loop Director	Glen Osberg Director	Erik Rambusch Director
Leah Tillman Director		Barbara Cartounis NCC Liaison		

COMMITTEES

Catalog Gil Herman Chair	Curriculum Richard Di Vecchio Ralph Loomis Co-Chairs	Election Open Chair	Finance Ann Bello Chair
Hospitality Leon Breault Nicole Takacs Co-Chairs	Human Resources Jackie Labatt-Simon Leah Tillman Co-Chairs	Marketing & Social Media Jackie Labatt-Simon Chair	Membership Ann Bello Chair
Newsletter Morgan Corrigan Editor/Chair	Nominating Open Chair	Policy Ralph Loomis Chair	Recruitment & Diversity Jackie Labatt-Simon Chair
Scholarship Bettina Gangi Chair	Special Events David Amerling Norman Glover Co-Chairs	Volunteers Beverly Erickson Connie Ragosa Co-Chairs	Veterans Glen Osberg Chair



ALL THAT GLIMMERS IS NOT GLASS

Discover the Glimmerglass Festival where every summer world-class artists produce exceptional opera and musical theater.

You say you have never had a real interest in opera? Try 4 or 5 days on beautiful Lake Otsego near Cooperstown NY, where you will find the second-largest opera festival in the country. There you will enjoy productions at The Alice Busch Opera Theater which came into being in 1987 through the efforts of Cooperstown residents anxious to bring opera to their community. This beautiful structure seats over 900 and offers four or more alternating productions which change each year. English text continuously runs above the stage so you never have to translate from the language of origin.

You can travel on your own, driving 4 hours from the Stamford area to Cooperstown, or enroll in a Road Scholar program which is offered each summer, either for 4-days or 5. If you choose Road Scholar, you will automatically receive accommodations and meals and will be privy to actors/producers talks and the mechanics of how theatrical sets become magical backgrounds.

I recommend booking Road Scholar as the way to go. Though you will make your own transportation plans, just about everything else is planned and scheduled. Your “home” is a motel right on Lake Otsego and about .8 mile from the theater. The group leaders are professionals who carry a number of degrees in the musical theater/opera world. Dan Egan, our seasoned leader, has degrees in music theory from St. Olaf, the Eastman School of Music and Yale, where he is on faculty and has received Grammy nominations. Wife Katie Glasner, Chair of the Dance Department at Barnard College, is Dan’s right hand on location each summer. They have an attractive 20- something daughter who works along with them though her own career is coaching volleyball.

You won’t have a spare moment but will love every minute. Wake up and walk down a challenging slope to the breakfast/meeting room overlooking the lake. Dan and Katie are not immediately visible as they take their “together time” in a kayak on the lake to begin each day. Between breakfast and the first lecture, Katie offers outdoor exercise for those vacationers choosing to follow her ballet-based morning warmup.

Following an always-interesting morning lecture given by an actor, producer, orchestra conductor/member or set designer, we boarded a trolley bus that took us to Glimmerglass. Once there we picked up our picnic lunch (ordered and paid for a day earlier) and enjoyed it at an outdoor picnic table on the grounds of the opera theater. On to hear a descriptive “Q and A” by one of the production members, and then to the show itself. We saw one matinee performance a day in this order: *Oklahoma*, *Xerxes* and *Porgy and Bess*. Each was exceptional.



Back to our motel late afternoon for a short break and then to the meeting room for a buffet dinner. This was followed by a speaker, again from Glimmerglass. He was bass-baritone Musa Ngqungwana whom we were also lucky to see and hear the next day as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*. By 9:00 we were pillow happy.

If you can lengthen your visit to the area, Cooperstown is a delightful town to enjoy. Not only is this the location of the well-renowned National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, there are many sights along the pristine streets including galleries, antique shops, restaurants, restored homes and beautiful churches. A bit out of the main part of town is the charming Fenimore Art Museum where a Andrew Wyeth exhibit was the summer draw.



One thing I noticed is that most of the travelers to Glimmerglass are repeat visitors. I was a newbie but am already thinking about a return trip next August. Call it a one-of-a-kind summer destination.

Want to get ahead of the gang for 2018? Glimmerglass has a website, www.glimmerglass.org. Also look online at www.roadsscholar.org.

Bea Friedman

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: ROGER LEVY

(continued from page 3)

After the company was sold, Roger moved to academia – St. Thomas Aquinas College, in Sparkill, NY. He was hired to teach IT but soon after leapt at the chance to teach international business and economic geography, whereby he could share his interest in how geography, and cultural, historical and demographic factors shape economies and drive growth in Japan and in the Asian “tiger” nations. At one point he took his course to Rabat, Morocco, because after 9/11 young Moroccans couldn't come to the U.S. for the summer sabbatical needed to complete their degrees. (Roger enjoyed having the use of a chauffeur on the weekends!) He also visited Japan for a month in a faculty development trip and has been to China, Singapore and Bangkok, as well. He has presented to international business faculties at summer conferences at Iona College.

After 25 years at St. Thomas Aquinas, Roger retired in 2013 and began teaching older adult learners at LLI and at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UConn's Waterbury campus. He has taught a variety of courses about East Asian nation economies. He likes having a good reason to keep up-to-date with the very dynamic East Asian region, and

he enjoys the interaction with his students, many of whom at the Norwalk campus have also visited these countries and can add to the discussion. Roger's current class is *China's Economic Development: Environmental Impacts*.

Roger has visited China several times, and he and his wife Edythe enjoy traveling to Europe, Asia and South America. He has traveled across the Atlantic 50 times for business and pleasure — the last being a return (from a family wedding in France) on the elegant Queen Mary 2. Their daughter is a Special Ed teacher (a calling he respects) in New York City.

Roger mused about how different his life would have been without the many pivot points in his life. We're lucky that nuns, maps and the charm of a French accent helped bring him and his knowledge to LLI.

Amy Ewing