



# LLInes

Summer 2019

[www.lifetimelearners.org](http://www.lifetimelearners.org)

Vol. 27 No. 3

## A PEEK AT LLI's FALL 2019 LINE-UP

It's still summer! But LLI's Curriculum Committee is already looking at fall 2019 course proposals... and several are "in the works," if not yet confirmed. One is *Revisiting Mark Twain*. Another, *The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll*. Talk about LLI's diversity of offerings! For those interested in film history, look for *Great British Films: From Olivier to Branaugh*. Current events, art classes (art appreciation this time focusing on American artists from Copley to Homer to Rockwell with several along the way) or creating your own watercolors. *Essentrics* always appears and appeals. Perhaps *Japan: Geography, History, Culture and Lifestyle* catches your attention. This is only a sample of the near-forty courses that will appear in the LLI fall catalog. So much to look for! Enjoy your summer...knowing that, like kids, you'll be eager for the new school year.

Morgan Corrigan

## LLI's 27th ANNUAL MEETING AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On Friday, May 10, 2019, Lifetime Learners Annual Meeting took place in the PepsiCo Theater on NCC's West Campus. We were off to a good start...

Shortly into his opening welcome remarks, LLI President Leon Beault was abruptly silenced by an alert of a building evacuation, which fortunately turned out to be brief. After all were resettled in the forum, Leon went on to acknowledge our appreciation of the pre-meeting food service provided by Atria of Darien.

Next on the program. NCC President Levinson spoke, expressing his appreciation of our LLI organization's presence on campus, "enriching" the lives of NCC student and staff. Dr. Levinson noted that over the past 25 years, Lifetime Learners Institute has given \$352,000 in support of the NCC Foundation.

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### **2019 Lifetime Learners Institute Scholarship Winners**

Giovana Ramirez, Adriano Lucero, Ewa Dobrzynska,  
Paulle Marie Cherise, Mirline Calixte, Emily Garcia

## Board Members

Glen Osberg President  
 Larry Fox, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Doug Fine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 Vicki Phair, Secretary  
 Ann Bello, Treasurer  
 Barbara Cartsounis, NCC Liaison  
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 Frank Phillips  
 Diane Donohue Nichols



Leon Breault (past LLI president), Jeffrey Hardy (Sedona president).  
 Glenn Osberg (current LLI president)

## Newsletter Committee

Morgan Corrigan, Editor/Chair  
 Gil Herman, Associate Editor  
 Amy Ewing  
 Bea Friedman  
 Vicki Phair  
 Arlene Yolles

## SEDONA TAPHOUSE FUND RAISER

For the first three weeks of April, the Sedona Taphouse Restaurant in Norwalk honored LLI by making us the recipient of their Monday Charity Program. LLI benefited from each order made from their Charity Menu on the three designated Mondays. And benefit we did! As a result of everyone who took part during this three week period, Jeffrey Hardy, Sedona's president, presented Leon Breault and Glen Osberg with a check for \$1,474 on May 30th. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support by dining at Sedona during those weeks. With a bit of luck and your continued support, Jeff Hardy will once again be the subject of a feature article in one of the 2020 LLines publications.

Leon Breault

## 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

### **Please note new requirements regarding NCC Photo ID's:**

Upon entering any building on NCC campus:

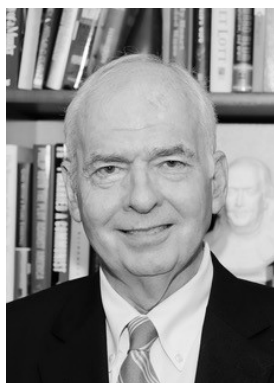
- 1) You must show your up-to-date NCC Student Photo ID to Security.
- 2) The ID must be worn visibly at all times while on campus.
- 3) Without a valid NCC ID, you will be required to present your current driver's license or another valid photo ID and sign the Guest Log Book. Your license will be held by Security and returned when you sign-out.

### **No NCC ID? No problem.**

If you have lost your NCC Photo ID -- or never obtained one -- please contact LLI directly for instructions. (NCC will charge a \$5.00 fee for replacement ID's.)



## **INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: MICHAEL MUGNOLO**



Born in San Francisco and raised there during the Haight-Ashbury days, Mike Mugnolo could have easily joined many of his idealistic classmates in protesting, turning on and dropping out. Instead he found his own expression of idealism: business.

Mike started to study dentistry (his father's vocation), but soon decided that he could “do good” by studying and working in business. Business helps increase the living standards of the world, while a business career would also provide enough income to support himself and his family. He could therefore be idealistic and practical at the same time.

Mike earned his BBA and MBA from Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, and started work as an accountant for Arthur Andersen. During a long career at GTE he then held a variety of financial analysis and management jobs. Mike thoroughly enjoyed his business career and was particularly pleased that in his management positions he could bring minority personnel into his division.

A year after retirement, Mike learned about LLI and decided to use LLI courses to round out his education. Mike is a 20-year fan of “I Love to Read,” and in recent years he has selected and presented the first book of the course's readings. He appreciates the variety of subjects, genres and authors he has been exposed to through the course, including Leonard Mlodinow (a science writer), Henry James (a master of manners and mores), Harper Lee (*To Kill a Mockingbird*) and Arthur C. Clarke (*2001: A Space Odyssey*).

In 2000 Mike was approached to design and deliver an LLI course on economics. “The study of how society produces and distributes goods”

sounds dry to the layman, so Mike has selected topical subjects and created intriguing course names to overcome students' initial resistance. His first course was “To Have and Have Not”, which used the textbook *Eat the Rich*. (Did I mention that Mike has a sense of humor?) Other courses have included “Filthy Lucre” (about the history of money and banking), “ $i < \pi > e$ ” (about inequality), “Vox Populi” (contrasting the Democratic and Republican party tax platforms) and “Mary, Mary...How Does Your Economy Grow?” (which explored the “micro/macro paradox” of why there have been many small successes in economic development but very few developing countries which have become successful). His fall course, “Beggar Thy Neighbor”, will take on globalization. When Mike was interviewed for this newsletter in 2001, he said, “The best part of teaching is being challenged.” LLI students bring a variety of backgrounds and experiences to class, so Mike—and the students—enjoy the give and take.

Mike served as president of LLI, once for two terms and then later for one term. He currently is on the LLI Finance committee and provides a financial control function by independently reconciling LLI bank statements.

Mike enjoys visits with his daughters (in San Francisco and in Minnesota) and his seven grandchildren. And what does he enjoy in his spare time? “I love to read,” he said with a smile.

Amy Ewing





## **VOLUNTEER LUNCH**

On Tuesday, May 14, the Special Events Committee hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in the West Campus Cafeteria. This year's theme was **picnic time at LLI**.

A coffee hour preceded the pledge of allegiance at noon led by Special Events Chair, Roman Laszuk. Guests were then warmly welcomed by Leon Breault, current president of LLI, who then introduced Dr. David Levinson, the out-going president of NCC. He spoke on the NCC/LLI relationship and how much the college appreciates our presence. Dr. Levinson told us that he would be back at NCC from-time-to-time working on various projects for the state of Connecticut.



Kathy Golomb on right and introducer Pat Spoor

Glen Osberg, in-coming LLI president, announced this year's luncheon tributes to Kathy Golomb and Tina Gangi for their outstanding contributions: Kathy for her many years serving as past chair on the Curriculum Committee as well as her current work on the Catalog; Tina for her untiring efforts these many years on selecting students to receive LLI's scholarships.

In keeping with this year's picnic theme the menu consisted of: chicken with BBQ sauce, beef hot dogs with sides, both hamburgers and cheeseburgers, potato salad, tossed salad with dressings, baked beans, dinner rolls and fruit salad, Lastly, for dessert delicious cakes and cookies were then served with coffee and tea.

As in the past, door prizes were awarded through a raffle at the close of the luncheon making the event that much more fun and enjoyable for the winners.

*Vicki Phair*



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: WESTPORT

Looking for a pleasant outing which is affordable, close to home, educational and fun? With this article we begin a series on local historical societies starting with the one with which I am personally familiar, as I have been a volunteer there since 2012.

Situated in downtown Westport, across from Town Hall, Westport Historical Society is in the historic Wheeler House, built in 1795 and remodeled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is designated a Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the Connecticut Register of Historic Places. It is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving, presenting and celebrating the history of Westport. Its extensive collections include archives, textiles, objects, historic structures and art, all of which are used by curators, scholars, and educational institutions to encourage study of local history. In the Wheeler House, one can view a parlor from the time period, purchase unique gifts and books in the extensive and recently renovated Remarkable Gift Shop, enjoy exhibits on history and culture, purchase snacks and, seasonally, play lawn games, including ping pong. A unique feature on the property is the eight-sided Cobblestone Barn with its underground cellar.



Wheeler House



The Parlor

Westport Historical Society just announced:

WHS has won the American Association for State and Local History National Excellence Award for exhibit *Remembered: The History of African-Americans in Westport*. It is the first national award in the society's history.

The large gallery space houses exhibitions which support the mission statement: "to inspire the holistic discovery of [the] town's history inclusive of our collective heritage and its place in the larger American story." Currently on view through the end of June is *Remembered: The History of African Americans in Westport*. This is an interactive installation that sheds light on some of the first African American stories in the town and includes objects and artifacts from the 18th century through the Civil Rights Era.

Other programs and events enhance and support the exhibit including book talks, film discussions and performances. The companion exhibit, *Liberty To Set Down: Migrants and Immigrants in Westport Connecticut*, features artifacts and photos of those who settled in Westport from its earliest days to the present. WHS put out a request for contributions; I offered my Bubbe's Shabbas candlesticks, brought from Poland which I use for religious celebrations. They are on display.

Those who like tours highlighting historic homes and properties, would certainly enjoy looking into those offered by WHS. One that is coming up on the following dates: July 27th, Aug. 10 and Aug. 24 is a guided walk in a beautiful setting that recreates the summer of 1920 and the sites and characters that influenced F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, "Great Gatsby". I have walked past the former Fitzgerald house many times and always found myself longing to be brought back to that era. With this tour, it comes alive!

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## **LLI's 27th ANNUAL MEETING AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

To further enrich the NCC Foundation this year, Ann Bello, LLI Treasurer, presented a check for \$13,554 to the foundation as a gift created by generous donations from LLI members.

Over the years, one of the most gratifying traditions of our Annual Meeting is the announcing of LLI scholarship awardees in their studies in nursing, human services, respiratory care and allied health. This year, Glen Osberg spoke for the LLI Scholarship Committee. Three students won 2019 scholarships of \$1,500 each; three others won education stipends of \$500 each. In memory of Richard DiVecchio, past LLI president and Chair of the Curriculum Committee, a scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded by Richard's wife Bunny to Adriana Lucero, a student in the nursing program. Each of the students spoke briefly, expressing gratitude for the impact of this support from LLI. Their names can be seen in the photo attached.

A highlight of the work of the LLI Scholarship Committee's enduring impact was the presence of a past recipient, Ruth Adriano, R.N., who spoke of her life's progress and her goal of earning a master's degree in nursing.

The delightful conclusion of the meeting was presented by the NCC Choir, who entertained us with eight of their favorite songs—all the way from the National Anthem to Simon and Garfunkel and songs from Broadway. The audience was delighted with their passion for song under the guidance of their director Dr. Christine Mangone. We look forward to hearing them again.

After the performance, LLI president Leon Breault said that LLI is the largest independent lifetime learning organization in the US, with over 800 members. Leon encouraged us to bring our friends as new members and additional people to take LLI courses to increase our revenue. Meanwhile, this the first time, LLI applied to two foundations for

funding. In addition, the Sedona Taphouse "Charity Mondays" yielded almost \$1,500 from 767 meals over three days. In other news, Silver Source in Stamford recognized LLI for our contribution to the community.

The meeting concluded with the traditional awarding of door prizes. Our thanks to the hard work involved in soliciting these gifts.

*Morgan Corrigan*

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## **WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Another program series is called Saugatuck Socials, usually held on Thursdays throughout the year. Participants are encouraged to share stories, poems, historic essays and music with others.

Members read historical documents aloud or may share stories or present original works about Westport, its people and history. The next of these events will be held on Sept. 26.



The Barn

People always look forward to the exciting Holiday House Tour in December when five or six houses, festively decorated for the season, are open to the public. Ticket-holders receive a map and are led through each house by knowledgeable docents who point out unique décor, historical elements and other distinctive items.

Group tours can be arranged to visit WHS and learn more about the fascinating history of this local town and environs. Information and reservations for programs as well as hours can be found on their website, [westporthistory.org](http://westporthistory.org).

*Arlene Yolles*