

2017 Annual Meeting Spotlights Successful Year and Parking Concerns

By design, annual meetings are sedate affairs. And that description mostly held true on June 1st for a well-attended LLI annual meeting presided over by Don Cohn, chair of the Executive Committee.

As the committee chairs reported on the year’s statistics and developments, LLI members applauded the good health of our institute. We learned that more than 600 students enrolled for each of the fall, winter and spring terms, with over 200 of them first-timers. An impressive 99 volunteer facilitators made the variety of classes possible.

Nevertheless, nothing stirs a little action like a threat to the status quo. At last year’s annual meeting, the hot topic was the switch to electronic registration, a sea change for LLI. When Director Katie Compton announced the imminent debut of the new system, a small chorus of “whys,” “buts” and “what ifs” arose, along with a few “I don’t like computers.”

As it turned out, the worriers got a reprieve. A glitch developed, and paper registration remained in place for the fall, winter and spring sessions. Wheels were turning, however. At this year’s meeting, Katie announced that, for certain, registration would go



Dean Mark Rollins congratulates LLI on an extraordinary year.

online with the summer session. Lotteries for highly popular classes would be a thing of the past, she said.

And yet, a new risk to the status quo had surfaced. Katie reported that our West Campus parking garage would now have to serve many students and employees displaced by the construction on Washington University’s Danforth Campus. The fifth and sixth floors would no longer be reserved exclusively for LLI vehicles. Meanwhile,

the price of parking permits would rise to \$75. A turf threat and a pocketbook hit—it was enough to set off a new refrain of “whys,” “buts” and “what ifs.”

Katie thanked Mark Rollins, dean of University College, for the acquisition of an item long languishing on the wish list: an elegant sign announcing the Lifelong Learning Institute, now positioned above our front door. Earlier, in his opening remarks, Dean Rollins congratulated LLI on an “extraordinary” year. He said that when the institute was promoted during University College’s recent lecture series on creativity, many of the attendees already knew about it, another healthy marker. He urged LLI members to maintain curiosity, seek answers, and even more important, continue to ask the questions. (Though not too many about the parking garage, the staff hopes.)

Executive Committee

- Don Cohn, *Chair*
 Joan McDonald, *Vice Chair*
 Karen Sterbenz, *Past Chair*
 Dan Ellis, *Curriculum Chair*
 Carol Kenney, *Secretary*
 Bettye Dew, *Communications*
 Mark Rollins, *University College Dean*
 Katie Compton, *Director*
- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Kathy Irvine | Charlotte Manges |
| Rick Blaha | Julien Worland |

Curriculum Group Leaders

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Art/Architecture: | Tom Mitchell |
| Contemporary Issues: | Gene McNary |
| Creative Writing: | Leonard Adreon |
| Entertainment Arts: | Nancy Harvey |
| History: | David Matter |
| Literature: | Don Godiner |
| Math/Science/Technology/
Engineering/Medicine: | David Brown |
| Religion and Philosophy: | Rob Greitens |
| Social Studies: | Sydney Long |
| At large: | Nancy McKee |

Newsletter

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Editor: | Bettye Dew |
| Photos: | Eliot Katz
Katie Compton |
| Contributors: | Don Cohn
Dolores Friesen
Rosalyn Borg
Joan McDonald
Katie Compton |

Message from the Chair

Dear Fellow LLI'ers,



We are about to kick off another great year at LLI. The line-up of classes for this fall session is as good as any I remember. My main problem will be limiting myself to a reasonable number of choices. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Curriculum Committee, headed by Dan Ellis, and to the 10 Interest Area Chairs for putting together this great line-up. And, as always, thanks to all our wonderful volunteer facilitators for the hard work that they do.

Reflecting over the past years, I realize how grateful I am to LLI for giving me the opportunity to explore areas far from my past professional expertise. As a scientist, I still enjoy taking classes in that area, but I have also been able to take classes in history, literature, music, and other disciplines. I think we all have wished to be able to go back to college to take courses in all sorts of areas just for the fun of it. Well, at LLI we can. I would encourage those of you who take mainly literature classes to spread out to STEMM classes or history classes or current politics classes or writing classes, and those who take mostly STEMM classes to try the humanities. Besides learning something new, you may meet a whole new group of friends.

This summer LLI finally entered the electronic age, registering on-line. The on-line site has worked pretty seamlessly. Kudos to Mark Deffenbaugh at University College who developed the software and to Sol Guber, Tom Mitchell, Cathy Riedesel, and Katie Compton who worked with him to debug the program. I helped several people register in early June for the summer session and even though each person had a different set of issues to deal with, the system handled them all. For those of you who remain unsure about how to register this way, please reach out to other LLI'ers for help. It really isn't hard. You can do it from home and find out immediately what classes you got into.

I know many people have been concerned about the new parking system. We have gotten great support from the administration of Washington University and University College, and I am sure that we will be able to manage this new situation. Remain positive and have a great fall term.

--Don Cohn



Notes from the Director's Desk

This summer we debuted online registration and it was a success! There were no long lines stretching down the hall as the summer term registration opened. No, our students were home on their computers! People who chose to register online liked it and thought it was easy. We hope that everyone will try it this fall. (Paper registration forms will still be available for those who wish to register the old-fashioned way.) We will once again have LLI “mentors” on hand at LLI



Dr. Peter Barker accompanied his mother Gladys Barker to the Current Events class where her 100th birthday was celebrated with cake. Gladys facilitated the class for many years and still attends every week.

who will be happy to help you register online. Even if you don't have your own email address, you can come in to LLI for assistance. *This is especially important if you are worried about getting into a particular course, as online registrants do have preference over paper registrants.* Many thanks to our LLI “mentors” Rob Greitens, Don Cohn, Tom Mitchell, Rita Wylie, Cathy Riedesel, and Marlene Katz, who volunteered to help during the summer term registration.

As of this writing, we are “waiting to see” how the parking adjustments work in the west campus garage. So far, it would appear that there is plenty of room in the garage. Indeed, we hope it will turn out to be a non-event, like the highway I-64 construction 10 years ago. Please be patient, hang in there and, whenever you can, consider car-pooling or Ubering!

And now for some Good News: LLI is scheduled to have new carpeting installed in August! We hope everyone will be very careful with their coffee.

I am sad to note the passing of our dear friend Wayne Hudgins, who died in April. An original member of

LLI, Wayne was the chair of the Executive Committee (2002—2004) when I started at LLI. He also facilitated the Shakespeare course for years and worked on what we lovingly referred to as the “A” team, the crew of volunteers who used to help process registrations. Always kind and thoughtful, Wayne exemplified what it means to be a lifelong learner. Blessed with knowledge, experience and insatiable curiosity, Wayne continually asked, “What can I contribute? How can I help?”

A special thank you to Sue Wohl, Butch Sterbenz, Dan Ellis, Nina Kaplan, Nancy McKee and everyone who has donated books to our library and to the ‘take one’ book basket. We love to recycle books! In fact, we love to recycle! If you are trying to down-size your own book collection, think of LLI.

Denise and I both appreciate your forbearance and good humor during this stressful time of change. Thank you and I hope to see everyone back at LLI in the fall!

--Katie Compton

Hats off to LLI students Vivian Zwick and Gladys Barker who turned 100 years old this year. Both are active members of the Current Events class.

Peer Learning Workshop for Facilitators



Karen Sterbenz, Curriculum Chair Dan Ellis, Marlene Katz, Gale Murphy, and Jim Poag (not pictured) made up the panel of experts at the facilitator workshop.

(continue on page 7.)

TRIBUTES SPRING 2017

IN HONOR OF:

Gladys Barker's 100th birthday

*Vivian Zwick
Joy Sandweiss
Barbara Levin*

Jane & Larry Kahn & Susan Bromberg

Jeanne Hartz

Jane Kahn's 95th birthday

Joy Sandweiss

Larry Kahn

John Rava

In appreciation of Karen Sterbenz reading for hours

Nancy Sachar

Thank you LLI

Maurice Lonsway

Lisa Polette

Rochelle Popkin

Jay Cohn's speedy recovery

*Myra Rosenthal & Alan
Raymond*

Thank you, Susan Bishop

Fran Gould

Thank you, Raymond

Slavin

Fran Gould

David Kean's 90th birthday

*Joy Sandweiss
Ilene Osherow*

Get Well, Jay Cohn

Rae Ellen Tash

Peggy Gibstine's birthday

June Bierman

IN MEMORY OF:

Carol Malone

Nancy Sachar

Jane Elswick

*Rae Ellen Tash
Rita Warren
Don & Caryl Godiner
Judy Brandvein
Richard & Margaret
Diemer*

Susan Levy

Hazel & Richard Sohn

Stanley Gellman

Myra Rosenthal

Rosalie F. Goldman

Peggy Gibstine

Bud Kohm

Dee & Jerry Kopp

Nicole Fonarrow's mother

Hazel & Richard Sohn

Pat William's brother

Richard & Hazel Sohn

Wayne Hudgins

*Sue & Harry Estill
Diane & Bob Newett
Myra Rosenthal
Geraldine Rowe
Peggy Gibstine
Sally J. McKee
Kerry Klarfeld
Linda Swamy
Klarfeld Real Estate
The McLean and
Bergjons family*

Robert L. Shores

Ruth McBrayer

Sally & Charles

Kopman

The Gatesworth

Residents Association

Dan & Denise McLean

Cathee Adderton

Jean and Fallon

Maylack

Richard & Margaret

Diemer

Larry & Jane Kahn

Nancy Sachar

Ruth Rangel

Raymond Slavin

Roslyn Borg

Fran Gould

Marlene Hunter

Gerry Schiller

Suzanne Siteman and

Carrie Phillips

Randee and Michael

Kelley

Karen and Butch

Sterbenz

Joe Glik

Marilyn Lipman

Sally Rosenthal

Norman Solomon

Louise S. Muller

Eliot Alport

Norman Solomon

Bill Hirsch

Norman Solomon

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Allen Sherman

Elizabeth Perkins

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Douglas Twells

John & Gladys Cramer

Sondra Ellis

Marlene Hunter

Rae Ellen Tash

Peter Kachris

Jane Kahn

Robert Gibson

Dee Tucker

Jim Voelker

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Jane Elswick

Dudley Batchelor

Marian Paxhia

Don Goldblum

Lois Atnip

Wayne Hudgins

Nancy Sachar

Yvonne Logan

Barbara Lawton

Remembering Wayne Hudgins

Over two decades ago, when Henrietta Friedman was aligning the forces to make LLI a reality, Wayne Hudgins served as a scout in the campaign. He traveled to several cities to see firsthand how existing programs of senior adult learning were set up, his wife, Anabel, recalled recently.



Former Executive Committee Chair Wayne Hudgins

Of the variety of formats observed, he favored the use of facilitators, with classes offered in seasonal sessions.

That LLI operates successfully in just such a manner is owed, in part, to Wayne's diligent footwork. Proud to be one of the 20 students in the original 1995 session, he demonstrated his willingness to do whatever was needed.

When the demand for Shakespeare grew too large for a single class, Larry Kahn asked him to facilitate an additional section. Although Wayne's background was not in literature, he set to work researching and planning his course. Thus, began his years as a Shakespeare facilitator, a role that might have seemed unlikely during his long career with IBM. "He did a wonderful job," Larry said, reminiscing about his friend. "He was a quiet, delightful person; never one to seek glory for himself."

Later, Wayne served a term as chair of the Executive Committee, thereby earning his portrait in our main hall. In recent years, he was a faithful member of the Politics class. When he died in April, his obituary mentioned LLI as one of his passions, saying, "Wayne's love and commitment to LLI never wavered."

Lois Atnip, Memoirs Facilitator

Lois Atnip joined LLI after a long career as an English teacher at Incarnate Word Academy in Florissant. When she died in April, some of her former students posted online tributes, including these: "She's still a voice in my head when I sit down to write" and "Writing college papers was a snap after having Mrs. Atnip."

When Lois became the facilitator for an LLI Memoirs class, she drew, naturally, from her teaching experience. This time, though, she could forget about academic pressure and enjoy the relative freedom of personal writing. Most of her students enrolled for session after session, inspired by her guidance, the camaraderie of the classroom and the challenge and pleasure of writing their life stories.

A couple of years ago, Lois asked Rudy Yanuck, a class member, to join her as co-facilitator. "Her criticism was always constructive," he recalled recently; "she paid close attention to word choice and the use of details." On a personal level, he said, she was full of life and adventure, with fascinating stories of her own. "She was a good example to follow, and not just in the classroom."

Rudy plans to keep Lois's views and practices in mind as he carries on with facilitating their Memoirs class. The voice she left inside his head should make a handy reference.

Nancy Sachar, Founding Member of *New Yorker* Class

Nancy Sachar, a founding member of LLI's "Reading the *New Yorker*" magazine died on June 14, 2017, leaving behind many LLI members who will remember her fascinating personality and strong opinions. Her quips, wit and intelligence brought gravitas, and sometimes laughter, to the class's discussions. She loved LLI, but she was in love with the *New Yorker* class.

When macular degeneration began to affect her eyesight, Nancy coped, she persevered, asked for help when needed yet always maintained her independence with dignity. She lived alone in her house with her beloved dog Rosie until the very end, refusing to let anyone stay with her. She gave up doing many of the things she enjoyed, but she never gave up. Her courage in facing this debilitating disease was a force to be reckoned with. As her condition deteriorated to where she could no longer read, Karen Sterbenz, one of the *New Yorker* class facilitators, came to Nancy's house to read the magazine to her so she could participate in class.

The *New Yorker* LLI family has lost many classmates over the years, each one special, but Nancy was unique. We can only admire the guts it took to face this devastating loss every day with courage and determination. Nancy knew she wasn't completely blind, but she had certainly been blind-sided.

Rosalyn Borg

The families of Wayne Hudgins and Nancy Sachar have requested that donations in their memory be made to the Lifelong Learning Institute.

Who Can It Be?

There is a “jock” among us who might have become a basketball star. Can you guess who she is? As a young girl in Webster Groves, our heroine learned to play multiple sports so well that, at the tender age of 13, she was under consideration for a spot on a semiprofessional team! Later, she called on the skills a basketball player develops when dancing between shots and navigating quick choices as she bent those neural pathways toward other pursuits.

She might have become a pianist, a musicologist or a sociology researcher (she has been active in social-change movements). Instead, she chose English as her major. While playing varsity basketball and volleyball, she represented her college for two years at the National Student Association, edited the college literary magazine and graduated with highest honors.

Following graduation in 1956, our scholar/athlete was married; she and her husband moved to a rural town 40 miles east of Kansas City where they both taught in the local high school for several years. When her husband began graduate work at a nearby university, she entered a new educational environment. While he coached the university debate team and worked in technical theater, she cared for two small sons, tutored French and typed his M.A. thesis.

Back in St. Louis for four years, she taught English at a private girls’ school. Then, her husband’s pursuit of a Ph.D. meant a move to the East, the two boys now in primary grades, a daughter in utero. Once settled, our St. Louis transplant discovered, among other opportunities, that the English department where she worked had a professor writing a book on Lewis Carroll who was looking for someone to compile and type his bibliography.

While there were many sudden curves in her path toward a master’s degree—childbirth or moves to other

cities—our team player found outlets for her talents. When her husband’s job as faculty member and then Dean of Continuing Education took them to yet another state, she found work in an on-campus psychological studies center. At still another university, she worked with two professors on an Early Childhood Special Education model project, coordinating the project and flying to D. C. on short notice to deliver the grant proposal to the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.



Many of us take paths we would not have predicted in earlier years; if we are lucky, we find none of our interests and talents have really been wasted. The youngest of three children, our mystery woman admired her older brothers as young men who were not letting their talents go fallow. The oldest became a priest and the other a world-renowned

musicologist. If her brothers were pursuing excellence in their respective fields, was she going to gather cobwebs in the brain? Not a chance. Today we know this woman as a facilitator and intellectual, but also, as a faithful member of Cardinal Nation.

Our mystery woman has been a dedicated member of LLI for over 15 years. While it is good to become involved in learning and facilitating, she says, we must not forget these days are, for most of us, like a second wind, a second-time-around learning adventure. Here, we encounter contemporaries who have likewise felt the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. These halcyon days can be our salvation when we experience adversities. Along with attaining knowledge and honing skills together, we come here for healing from friends upon whom we can lean and be leaned on in return. As she says, “Long live LLI!”

—Dolores Friesen

(The identity of our mystery person is revealed on Page 8.)

“The Cosmos and the Quarks”: The 2017 Lawrence Jasper Lecture

We are not, as our ancestors long believed, the center of the universe. Not even close, for the universe has neither center nor edge. And yet, if we can shift our thinking from the staggering vastness of the Cosmos and focus instead on life’s teeniest particles, we can locate a kind of center. Perhaps by studying the building blocks of matter, we can gain knowledge of the structure and history of our universe.



Prof. Mark G. Alford explains quarks, the building blocks of matter.

Such is the hope of physicists like Prof. Mark G. Alford, of Washington University, who delivered the 11th annual Lawrence Jasper Lecture, “The Cosmos and the Quark,” for a packed LLI audience in March. “We now know that we live in an expanding universe, where mysterious ‘dark matter’ shapes the galaxies,” he told us. “Even more enigmatic is the so-called ‘dark energy’

that is driving the expansion to go faster and faster.”

Physicists are probing for answers to such puzzling phenomena through experiments like the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva. They seek knowledge about the building blocks of matter, elementary particles called quarks and leptons, along with the mysterious Higgs boson. “The infinitesimal and the infinite are so close,” Alford remarked.

Speaking of the infinitesimal, he said, “We never see quarks in nature, because the strong force that holds them together is so powerful that it won’t let them roam freely. It combines them into bound states that cannot be split.” These bound states are called hadrons, with protons and neutrons being examples that contain three quarks.

The lecture presented a combination of answers and unanswered questions, closing with the ultimate query: What is the fate of the universe? For that one, Alford offered a dark scenario of heat death, replete with stars burning out, galaxies collapsing into black holes, protons decaying, atoms falling apart. When the black holes themselves evaporate, the universe becomes a cold, rarifying gas of electrons, photons and neutrinos.

And that, surely, reigns as the most sweeping finale in the 11 years of the Lawrence Jasper Lecture series.

Peer Learning Workshop for Facilitators

“One size does not fit all!” could be the motto of our LLI facilitators. Some like to break into small groups to encourage discussion, some like to assign reports to encourage participation and learning and some like to lecture. One thing our facilitators have in common is that they all work hard. This includes attending workshops twice a year at LLI.

This past March 30 about 45 facilitators heard from a panel of “experts” about different techniques of facilitating. The panel included Gale Murphy, Marlene Katz, Jim Poag, and Karen Sterbenz and was moderated by Curriculum Chair Dan Ellis.



Facilitators Cathy Riedesel, Charlotte Manges and Anna Amelung enjoy lunch and table talk following the workshop.

Following the panel presentation and questions and answers, lunch, along with lively discussion and fellowship, was served.

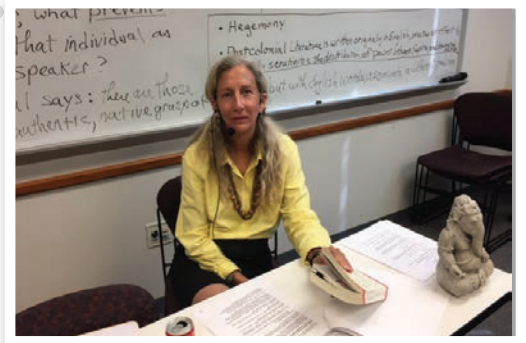
NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT LLI



Shirley Mosinger reads at the Writer's Showcase.



MC Leonard Adreon introduces the next reader at the Writer's Showcase in May.



Prof. Joan Brockmann shared her knowledge with the Salman Rushdie course.



Eliot Katz and Jeannette Altman relax before the Science of Music class. Eliot brought in several examples from his vast collection of gramophones, which can be seen in the foreground.



Terry Shute and Jim Wiant at the Writer's Showcase.



Hootenanny!

Hootenanny — a word which means a gathering at which folk singers entertain with the audience joining in—in other words a sing-along.

Yes, we are having a **Hootenanny**. Ours will be a fundraiser to make money for the LLI Scholarship Fund. Suggested minimum donation will be \$20.00 per person. You can put together a table of your very best singing buddies, but those tables (of six) need to be registered and paid for by October 6 in the LLI office. After that, seating will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Our LLI **Hootenanny** will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Ethical Society at 9001 Clayton Road. There is plenty of parking

and easy access from behind the building. Participants should bring their own snacks, beverages, tableware, and their singing voices. We'll have two musical groups to lead us in singing songs, such as "This Land Is Your Land," and "Puff the Magic Dragon." Lyrics for the songs we're singing will be available.

We look forward to a gloriously energizing afternoon. If you have questions or for more information, please talk to any committee member: David Brown, Don Cohn, Randi Klasskin, Nina Kaplan, Helen Schrader, Esther Smoller, and Karen Sterbenz. A flyer with more information will be posted in fall classes and on the hall table. Start making plans now to attend the **Hootenanny**. The Scholarship Fund is used annually to help those who need assistance with tuition.