

2018 Annual Meeting Looks Back at LLI’s 23rd Year

There’s nothing like a little drama to spice up an LLI annual meeting, especially with fellow classmates acting out right in front of us. But more about that later. As usual, at the May 30th annual general meeting, the first order of the day was business, which produced a backward look at LLI’s 23rd year of operation.

In her report, Director Katie Compton labeled it “the year of going online and the year of parking.” She explained that, while online registration progressed better than expected, the parking issue proved thornier. Although the number of parking spaces remained sufficient, some members found the new garage system confusing. Further, the combination of changes and price hikes may have deterred too many potential registrants. After years of unwavering growth, LLI’s registration numbers were down about 13 percent.

Nevertheless, over 930 students participated in at least one of the four terms, with 140 of them first-time students. And, as in the past, members donated generously to LLI’s general fund, as well as toward scholarships and endowment. The scholarship fund received a \$1300 boost from last fall’s fundraiser, a Hootenanny at the Ethical Society.

As chair of the Curriculum Committee, Dan Ellis announced positive results in all nine interest groups. “LLI rests on the ideas and creativity of facilitators,” he said, “and class evaluations for the year have been excellent.” The variety of course offerings and the outstanding facilitators—some leading classes term after term—meant that the curriculum maintained its top-notch standards.



DON COHN & JOAN MCDONALD

Marketing Chair Joan McDonald reported that the best marketing tool continues to be “Show Me LLI” events, held in November and May. But, she added, as a sure-fire way to get the LLI message to the public, nothing beats word-of-mouth recommendations from members.

Katie commended Don Cohn for his excellent and enthusiastic service during his term as chair of the Executive Committee. In the new slate of officers, Joan McDonald, formerly vice chair, automatically progressed to chair.

David Brown, taking over for Dan Ellis at the helm of the Curriculum Committee, was voted in as a new member of the Executive Committee, as was Cathy Riedesel.

And then, business over, the drama erupted. Happily, it came in the form of a readers’ theatre presentation of scenes from plays written by three students from the spring playwriting class: Eleanor Sullivan, Mary Hickey and Larry Moody. The lively dialogue, humor and acting sparked enthusiastic applause as the curtain descended on LLI’s 23rd year.

At May’s annual general meeting, Mark Rollins, dean of University College, spoke about his work with “Learning for Life,” a committee that seeks ways to promote intergenerational learning at Washington University. He said that the facilitator model, used at LLI, may offer a pathway to the more traditional classroom model. The committee’s goals are to identify obstacles to adult learning and find ways to remove them. The project, he added, holds the possibility of shored-up support for LLI.

Message from the Chair

Executive Committee

Joan McDonald, *Chair*
 Steve Radinsky, *Vice Chair*
 Don Cohn, *Past Chair*
 David Brown, *Curriculum Chair*
 Julien Worland, *Secretary*
 Bettye Dew, *Communications*
 Mark Rollins, *University College Dean*
 Katie Compton, *Director*

Kathy Irvine Dan Ellis
 Rick Blaha Cathy Riedesel

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:** Charles Kuhn
Religion and Philosophy: TBA
Social Studies: TBA
At Large: Nancy McKee
 Karen Sterbenz

Hello, everyone. Welcome to the fall 2018 term. For those of you who were unable to attend the annual meeting on May 30, the invisible gavel was turned over to me as I was installed as new Chair of LLI’s Executive Committee. First, a little bit about me. My first committee work at LLI was when I was asked to head up of the 15th anniversary celebration committee. Subsequently, I served as Secretary for the Executive Committee, then Vice Chair and Chair of the Marketing Committee, and now begin my two-year term as Chair. In that capacity, I look forward to working with my predecessor Don Cohn, who will serve as an advisor, with Katie Compton, our estimable Director, and with entire Executive and various sub-committee members. I have been a member of LLI for about ten years and, needless to say, have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.



Steve Radinsky is the new Vice Chair, Julien Worland becomes Secretary and the two new committee members are Dan Ellis and Cathy Riedesel, replacing Charlotte Manges and Julien Worland. David Brown has agreed to serve as new chair of the Curriculum Committee, replacing Dan Ellis. We thank all the retiring members for their splendid work.

Under Dan’s leadership, the Curriculum Committee has put together such an exceptional array of classes for the Fall Term, 37 in all with three special programs, that choosing just one or two will be difficult. If you’ve stuck to one category of class in the past, now is the time to broaden your horizons, spread your wings and jump from one side of your brain to the other with forays into something outside your comfort zone. All you lit people, do something scientific. Current events aficionados, write your way to a Tony in a playwriting class. And speaking of classes, could it be time for you to volunteer as a facilitator? How about serving as a co-facilitator—half the work and twice the fun.

The LLI Marketing Committee continues to conduct Show Me LLI sample mini-classes each November and May. As evidenced by the number of first-time enrollees after each of these events, this outreach program has proven to be one of the Committee’s most successful efforts in attracting new members to our halls of academia. Word of mouth, of course, is essential, so in effect each of you becomes one of our marketing reps.

Despite the dire predictions of some, both garage parking and online registration have gone smoothly. The parking garage gates are now operational and there are plenty of spaces available for everyone who opts for indoor parking. Online registration glitches have been few, and those who had concerns or problems found help from other LLiers right here on campus. If you still think you might need assistance, please come in person on registration day and help will be available.

It’s with great anticipation that I’m looking forward to this Fall Term. It’s time to leave the hazy, lazy days of summer behind. It’s time to learn something new. It’s time to renew old friendships and make new ones. I hope one of them is you.

--Joan McDonald

Newsletter

Editor: Bettye Dew
Photos: Becki Baker
 Katie Compton
 Eliot Katz
Contributors: Katie Compton
 Bettye Dew
 Rita Hulbert
 Chuck Korr
 Joan McDonald



Notes from the Director's Desk

First off, I want to thank Don Cohn for his two years of service as the Chair of the Executive Committee. He was unfailingly helpful and supportive in so many ways during two years that were not particularly easy. First, he helped me with the lottery, figuring out how to do it fairly on the computer. Then he was there for the online registration makeover and through all the issues with parking. Thank you, Don.

I am happy to welcome Joan McDonald as the new Chair of the Executive Committee. Joan has been a positive presence at LLI for more than ten years, always willing to pitch in and help where needed. Steve Radinsky, our new Vice Chair, has been a valuable behind-the-scenes promoter of LLI. Wherever he goes, on campus or off, he talks about LLI, recruiting members and guest speakers. We also welcome David Brown, who will take over as head of the Curriculum Committee, having done a great job as the chair of the STEMM Committee.

We have been online at LLI for over a year now! We have survived the parking issues! All is well and if you were “waiting to see” how things would go, please check us out again! We will once again have plenty of people here at LLI to help you register online on opening day—August 15—if you need some help. Our fall line-up of courses is packed with interesting choices (from African-American literature to the Great Unknowns of Science) you won’t want to miss.

Please note that, in an effort to streamline our online registration process this year, we are making some changes in the pricing of our LLI courses. There will be no discounts for second courses, so please consider becoming an Annual Member this fall. You could save a lot of money! You are entitled to take (a) two 8-week courses or (b) one 8-week and two 4-week courses in each of the fall, winter and spring terms. You are also exempt from paying the surcharge on SIG courses.

We have some great events planned. Our fall address will be given by Chancellor Mark Wrighton, who has graciously attended our fall “commencement” every year since 1995 in order to update us on all things WashU! But this year we are honored to have him as our guest speaker. **Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 12, at 1:00 p.m.**

We will also host our 2nd annual Hootenanny to benefit the Scholarship Fund on October 21 at the Ethical Society. Our

20th Show Me LLI is scheduled for Friday, November 16. Start thinking now of friends to invite!

A special thank you to Shirley Moore and everyone else, including Dan Ellis and Nancy McKee, who have donated books to our library and to the ‘take one’ book basket. Shirley brought in a veritable truckload of books because she knows we love to recycle books! If you are trying to down-size your book collection, think of LLI.

Hats off to LLI member Susan Kottler who was recognized as a Jewish Light 2018 Unsung Hero for her work as a volunteer and docent. Susan says, “Every day is different. Life is a party, and I want to be a part of it. I made a commitment to myself to try and be in the mainstream of life, and for me that meant volunteering in the community.”

Congratulations to Larry Mooney, a student in LLI’s “The Play’s the Thing” course, whose play “Marge” will be produced by Stray Dog Theatre’s New Works Laboratory on August 30, 31 and September 1. Bravo!

Denise and I both appreciate your forbearance and good humor during all the changes of the past year. Thank you and I hope to see everyone back at LLI in the fall!

--Katie Compton

LLI WRITERS SHOWCASE 2018

Term after term, LLI offers a rich choice of writing courses, a variety trumpeted each year by the Writers Showcase. At the May 4th event, 15 talented writers read from their work, representing memoirs, essays, poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and playwriting. An enthusiastic audience and a cake reception completed this delightful celebration of LLI’s support of creativity and the written word.



Ed Moorman, Mary Hickey and Larry Mooney read from Larry's play at the Writers Showcase.

IN MEMORIAM

*Ted Listerman
 Connie Roeder
 Joseph Glik
 Ruth Stone
 Joyce Leventhal-Lodato
 Gladys Barker
 Jane Hughes
 Skip Schumacher
 Claude Eley
 Jay Lapin
 Jane Kahn
 Bob Balk*

IN MEMORY OF:

Ted Listerman
*Caryl & Don Godiner
 Eileen & Morris Tamsky
 Joan McDonald*

Gladys Barker
*The Residents Association—
 Gatesworth Vivan Zwick
 Joy Sandweiss
 Carole & Lou Loebner
 Rhonda & Michael
 Koulermos
 Jim & Flora Paster
 Carole & Henry Berman
 June Bierman*

Ruth Stone
*Paul & Suzanne Schoomer
 Caryl & Don Godiner*

Jerry Altman
Shirley Snitzer

Henrietta Freedman
*Rich & Margaret Diemer
 Ilene Osherow
 Bob Streett*

Roy Malone
*Ruth Rangel
 Karen & Butch Sterbenz*

Joe Glik
Ruth Rangel

Russ Hammersmith
Karen Kaul

Skip Schumacher
Bob Streett

Jay Lapin

*Myra Rosenthal
 Alan Raymond
 Liz Zelman
 Ruth Hyman
 Susan & Robert Levin
 Ruth Hyman
 Perry & Hannah Sparks
 Audrey & Leonard Adreon
 Barbara & Terry Shute
 Diane & Bob Newett
 Larry Perlmutter
 Norm Solomon
 Bill Wischmeyer
 Joan McDonald
 Rae Ellen Tash
 Frieda Kusher
 Ruth McBrayer
 Beverly Friedman
 Avery Seidel
 Vivian Zwick
 Beatrice Sherberg
 Karen & Butch Sterbenz
 Hannah Tennenbaum
 & Perry Sparks
 Martha Aronson
 Joe & Barbara Sander
 Jim Keane
 Bettye Dew
 Ruth & Ron Lister
 Gloria & Sandy Spitzer
 Nancy & Paul McKee
 Ben & Radine Borowsky
 Dale Barken Glazer
 Caryl & Don Godiner
 Phyllis & Mark Hyken
 Mayer & Pat Levy
 Dan & Sondra Ellis
 Carol Kenney
 Marilyn Young*

Jane Kahn

*Joy Sandweiss
 Nancy & Charlie Van
 Dyke
 Dorothy Herweg
 Elaine Gerstein
 Shirley Ross*

*Joan McDonald
 Karen & Butch Sterbenz
 Nancy McKee
 Sally Lilly
 Diane & Bob Newett
 Pershing Place Foundation
 Bettye Dew
 Juliane & Jim Poag
 Myra Rosenthal
 Anne Hetlage
 Frieda Kusher
 Dan & Sondra Ellis
 Lois Friedman
 Margery Steiner
 Ben & Radine Borowsky
 Jeanne Norberg
 Caryl & Don Godiner
 Rae Ellen Tash
 Anabel Hudgins
 Kimberly Perry
 Dr & Mrs Stanley Wald*

IN HONOR OF:

Allen Sherman's special birthday
*Harris Frank & Renee
 Hartstein
 Yvonne & Rick Darrow
 Margie & Martin Jaffe*

Jap Lapin's 90th birthday
Leonard Adreon

Jane & Larry Kahn's 75th Wedding anniversary
*Tom Kahn
 Bob Kahn
 Susan Bromberg
 Edward & Karen Koch*

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS

Endowment
Stanko & Milica Banjanin

General Fund
*Dorothy Firestone
 Alan Hamilton
 Esther Smoller
 Herb Eggerding
 Albert Rose
 Judith Ugalde
 James Hyland
 Raymond Slavin
 Diane & Bob Newett
 Terry & Barbara Shute
 Gail M. O'Brien
 Geraldine Schiller*

Scholarship Fund

*Rick Blaha
 Irene Cortinovic
 Judith Ugalde
 Elizabeth M. Brown
 James Voelker
 Susan Barad
 Joan Kaskowitz
 Harry & Sue Estill
 Ruth McBrayer
 James & Joan Schiele
 Gary Handelman
 Laurence & Silvia Madeo
 Greg & Mary Kate McKee
 Katherine Maxson
 Michael E. Nolan
 Cynthia Woolsey
 Jeanne Smith
 Dr. Thomas Olsen
 Helen Schrader
 Marlene Hunter
 Butch & Karen Sterbenz*

Obituaries

Ted Listerman, Lifelong Learner In retirement, Ted Listerman earned an MA in history at UMSL and a PhD at St. Louis University. Then he joined LLI, enriching our classes with his intelligence, geniality and wit. Along with his wife, Shirley, he remained an enthusiastic participant for years, until his death in March at 94.



From Chuck Korr, LLI Facilitator: Ted had that unique talent of asking what seemed like simple questions which would, in turn, open up all manner of new ideas and insights. I met him when he took a freshman western civ class from me, and our formal relationship extended from that, straight through to his PhD comprehensive exams. Ted was curious about so many subjects, and thus I could never predict what we would discuss at our monthly lunches: 17th century history, American politics, Italian art and Premier League football, to give only a sampling. He shared the enthusiasm of other people and learned from it. Most of all, it's impossible to think about Ted without remembering how much humor (his own and that of friends) was always with him.

Jay Lapin, Politics Facilitator Humor, curiosity, warmth—such were the qualities that helped make Jay Lapin a popular longtime co-facilitator of LLI's Politics class, regularly drawing 50 participants. Moreover, as his family playfully put it, his “amazing social skills always kept the class from coming to blows.”



When Jay died in early June, it seemed fitting that his memorial service be held in LLI facilities, his second home during retirement. A professional engineer, he had begun his leadership role by facilitating a course called “Why Buildings Fall Down.”

Speakers at the service extolled his scientific mind and penchant for problem-solving, along with his gentlemanly ways. Others remembered his ambidextrous pitching skills, his enthusiasm for growing horseradish and his delight in telling jokes. They spoke of his love of family, dogs and the St. Louis Cardinals, along with his pleasure in daily walks, a habit begun during the Truman era. He lived the LLI model, it was suggested, by “continuing to learn every day, teaching others by example.” And that, surely, is a family trait: Jay's wife, Ruby, is a much-admired facilitator of a long-running Memoirs class.

Jane Kahn, Facilitator, Early Member A numerologist might attribute Jane Kahn's accomplishments during her long life to the auspiciousness of her birth date, 2/22/22. But then that person would not have known Jane, whose career as a social worker spanned some 50 years, centering on the care of physically and mentally disabled children. Lucky numbers or no, she forged her own pathway.

Jane's husband, Larry, a member of LLI's founding committee, began facilitating courses with the first session in 1995. Jane soon followed as a facilitator, tailoring courses to fit her own interests, such as modern plays and, most ardently, architecture. On several occasions, one of the two Kahn sons, an architect in New York, appeared as guest speaker for his mother's class. Among her course topics were Architecture of the Italian Renaissance, Frank Lloyd Wright, Modern Architecture, New York in the Gilded Age and St. Louis Architecture.



When Jane's daughter, Susan Bromberg, relocated to St. Louis, she joined her parents at LLI to create a rare two-generational student family. Jane and Larry observed their 75th wedding anniversary shortly before her death in June.

Gladys Freund Barker, Current Events Devotee Many LLI'ers are transplants from other places, making “Where are you from?” a commonly asked question. But during the many years that Gladys Barker attended the Current Events class, she could have given a deeply local response. Her great-grandparents settled in St. Louis in the 1850s and were the founders of Freund Baking Company. Their first oven was heated with cordwood bought from a struggling farmer named U. S. Grant. Famous for its rye bread, the company remained in the Freund family until 1972.



When Gladys died in May, at age 101, she was commended for her community fundraising efforts, work as an occupational therapist and leadership in older-adult learning.

Who Can It Be?

Growing up in the “secret city” of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, our mystery classmate had the best of both worlds. The community went from nothing to a population of 70,000 very quickly, and everyone there had a connection to the Manhattan Project. Its other nicknames include the Atomic City and the City Behind the Fence. Today it’s basically a suburb of Knoxville, but in the '40s and '50s, no one knew it was there (and a trip to Knoxville was a major undertaking). The town was a military district, run by the federal government (therefore, one of the first southern school districts to desegregate, although long after our classmate’s father tried to make that happen as head of the city council). Surrounded by ridges and in the heart of rural east Tennessee, the location was chosen because any disaster that might happen could be more easily contained, and because its isolation could help keep it a secret.

But that’s not what our classmate best remembers. Rather, it is the deep sense of community that it fostered. It was a “town without grandmothers” because people were moved there from all over the world to participate in the project. Born within months of its beginnings, our classmate made deep friendships—they were a community thrown together, working together, and isolated. Life there was bucolic, yet intensely intellectually stimulating, with great interest and participation in the arts. Being surrounded by dynamic scientists no doubt influenced his choice of careers, first as a research scientist and later as a high school biology teacher.

In Oak Ridge, he and his buddies built their own dirt basketball court in the woods. His father, a cellist, started—and conducted—the community symphony and ran the city council. The international make-up of the town gave that part of rural Tennessee a cosmopolitan vibe. As a scientist,

his father took the family all over the world. They saw Isaac Stern perform, igniting a passion for the violin that still burns in our classmate—maybe because his first “lesson” was from Stern himself!

From this idyllic, formative childhood, our classmate journeyed to Swarthmore College, then Berkley, City College of New York and a post-doc at Cornell, all during the tumultuous '60s. He supposes that college friends would remember him for being politically active (he joined a CORE group back home during the summers), and for playing folk music on his guitar.



After working as a research scientist for a while—which, thank goodness, brought him to St. Louis—our classmate heeded a second calling and became a high school biology teacher, a career he loved and retired from. Along the way, he married (they just celebrated 50 “wonderful!” years) and had two sons. He offers words of wisdom on marriage and parenthood, which, he says, are much more than commitments: Marriage is a “cooperative enterprise,” a recognition of being “an us, not just a me.” Parenthood is “an agreement with the world, a lifelong adventure. You give up a lot, but you gain so much more. You develop in ways you never would have otherwise.”

Obviously, his true calling included making the world a better community, reflecting and echoing what he experienced as a child. He has continued that commitment to community through his very active role in LLI. So glad that the Oak Ridge Boy (as he would entitle the memoir he says he’ll never write) found his way to St. Louis and to the Lifelong Learning Institute!

-- Rita Hulbert
(Answer on Page 8)

“STRATOSPHERIC BALLOONS OVER ANTARCTICA”

THE 2018 LAWRENCE JASPER LECTURE

Of all the locales for scientific experiments, why choose Antarctica, our coldest, driest, windiest continent?

Simply put, Antarctica attracts projects not reproducible in other places. In fact, in summer more than four thousand scientists from 28 nations conduct research there. Among them are physicists from Washington University, a group led by Prof. Martin H. Israel, the speaker for LLI’s 12th annual Lawrence Jasper Lecture in March, and his colleague, Prof. W. R. Binns.

In his presentation, Israel described how Washington University scientists, along with others from Caltech and the University of Minnesota, work with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in an investigation of high-energy astrophysics. During December and January (the Antarctic summer), they use helium-filled balloons the size of a football field to lift two-ton instruments above 99.5 percent of the atmosphere. While one balloon enables a neutrino study, the other houses a NASA instrument that measures

(Continued on Page 7)

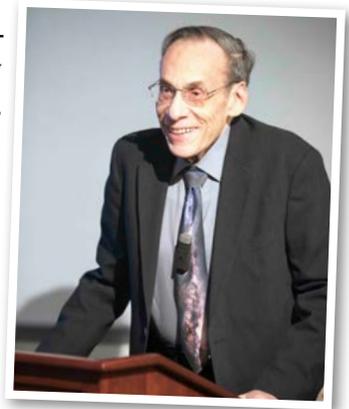
the elemental composition of cosmic rays heavier than iron. Israel described the two-part project as “astrophysics with instruments 125,000 feet above the ground.”

Cosmic rays, Israel explained, are “atomic nuclei that have been accelerated by stellar explosions to a velocity close to the speed of light.” By studying the composition of the particles, physicists seek to understand how exploding stars in our Milky Way galaxy make heavy elements from lighter ones.

Its polar position makes Antarctica an excellent place to study cosmic rays. At the poles, cosmic rays are not deflected by magnetic fields, while at latitudes closer to the equator, many are deflected away from the Earth before reaching its upper atmosphere. Moreover, the continuous sunlight in mid-summer brings two advantages: the solar cells that power the instruments are a constant source of electricity;

and the balloon does not shrink due to a sunset-induced cooling of its helium.

In 2012 the project’s cosmic-ray balloon set a record by flying for 55 days, one hour, 34 minutes, transmitting data all the while. The opposite occurred, however, in 2017, when not one day produced wind conditions suitable for launch. A disappointment for sure, but such are the risks in operating stratospheric balloons over Antarctica. Nevertheless, Israel said, hopes are high once again for favorable launch conditions come December.



A Facilitator’s Story: Marlene Katz

Walk into one of Marlene Katz’s LLI classes and you’ll discover someone with a deep interest not only in her subject matter but also in education practices. During her nearly four decades of teaching biochemistry and other sciences, she learned to run her classroom in a student-centered manner.

After 13 years at Alabama universities, this Chicago-area native moved to St. Louis in 1993 for a position at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. While she felt the weight of preparing her students for professional careers, she also hoped to inspire the love of learning that she herself felt.



“My teaching style suits my personality,” she says. “People sometimes think of me as an extrovert, but I’m more of an introvert who has acquired tools based on psychology and philosophy which can work in many kinds of classrooms.” She is proving her point at LLI, where she has jumped into facilitating with a fervor, devising courses that reflect her wide interests. For instance,

she offers a four-part series called “The Story of Us: Everything is Connected,” which begins with the Big Bang, travels through the rise of Homo Sapiens, then follows our species to the present day.

For each course, she writes PowerPoint text that incorporates information gleaned from a variety of books and articles, punctuating it with lively, related videos. She aims for “active learning,” a kind of dialogue with students wherein the teacher is a guide rather than the center of attention—that is, a modern version of the Socratic Method.

To promote discussion among all students, rather than a vocal few, she pauses her presentations for Think-Pair-Share questions. Students then group themselves with one or two neighbors for a few minutes of view-sharing. She encourages them to use “mirror talk,” a kind of emphatic listening—which she models while facilitating—wherein a classmate’s opinion is rephrased, beginning with “What you may be saying is . . .”

Like Socrates, Marlene hopes to stimulate critical thinking by drawing out ideas and underlying assumptions, keeping discussions friendly, and using humor when applicable. To encourage a distinction between facts and opinions, she asks those whose statements lack factual sources to preface them with “in my humble opinion.” If a student keeps pressing a debatable point, she might respond, “I can see you feel strongly, but I think we’ll have to agree to disagree on this topic.”

And now, this intrepid facilitator is wading into waters even Socrates might find challenging. For fall, she is offering “The Relevance of Religion in the 21st Century.”

NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT LLI



LLI students enjoy lunch after the Annual Meeting on May 30.



Global Leadership Summer Institute high school students joined LLI students for a lecture on the history of U.S. Trade policy and informal conversation in July.



Dr. Eric Herzog, WUSTL professor of biology, talks about how our daily schedules can influence our health.



Global Leadership



Psychologist Ken Haug speaks to LLI students about navigating the cancer journey.



Mark your calendars!

**2nd Annual LLI *Hootenanny!*
to benefit the LLI Scholarship Fund**

Sunday, October 21

2:00–4:00 p.m.

Ethical Society of St. Louis

