“Be strong, be strong,” Henrietta Freedman would counsel, whenever family or friends experienced setbacks. And during her 95 years, she lived her own advice. At a memorial service in January, her rabbi called her the matriarch of her community. At LLI, we call her our founder.

Running through Henrietta’s multifaceted life was a commitment to learning. In her middle years, when she returned to college to complete a degree, she created a tie to Washington University that would eventually land her on its Board of Governors. She was serving on an advisory committee for University College, along with Associate Deans Anne Hetlage and Jane Smith, when she first heard about lifelong learning programs.

As Anne Hetlage explained recently, the concept of non-degree, senior-learning organizations was not new. In fact, she had compiled files on existing programs, urging Washington University officials to consider the possibility. But partly because of parking and space issues, the timing had not been right.

That day on the committee, however, the concept grabbed Henrietta’s attention. After she and Jane Smith attended a conference about lifelong learning programs, they formulated a plan for a St. Louis version. While Jane worked on the day-to-day details, Henrietta would lobby the administration and build community interest. In her gently persuasive way, she never wavered.

To form an exploratory steering committee, Henrietta gathered other education-minded seniors. They included Larry Kahn, Greta Camel, Bev Hotchner, Frances Franklin, Nancy Shapiro, Jane Elswich and Saul Boyarsky. At Bev Hotchner’s suggestion, Jane wrote a grant proposal, asking for assistance from the Newman Foundation. When a check arrived, signed by Paul Newman himself, the committee celebrated an important milestone. With the grant, plus University College funding, they were on their way.

Committee members liked the sound of the lifelong learning program at Northwestern University, which featured peer learning, volunteer facilitators and classroom participation. After a Northwestern representative arrived for a detailed consultation, they adopted that program as their model.

In 1995, the first LLI class opened in a room at the West Campus library, with additional classes soon to come. Henrietta was not finished, however, for the institute needed its own dedicated space. She sat down to write new proposals.

In time, such efforts led to the comfortable West Campus facility we know today. As Director Katie Compton put it, “Henrietta, her committee and University College started LLI off on the right foot, where it has stayed. Everyone is welcome. It remains a place to learn something new—no other motive is necessary.”
Message from the Chair

Dear Fellow LLI’ers,

“The more things change, the more they remain the same.”

As my term as chair of the Executive Committee of LLI comes to a close, I have been reflecting about the past two years. During this time LLI has seen lots of changes. We have gone from lining up in the hall to register for classes to a lottery system and finally to our present online registration process, which has worked very smoothly. We have survived the dreaded change to our parking situation which turned out not to be a problem after all. We have added AV equipment so that all of our rooms can connect to the internet and support computer-based presentations. More recently, new carpeting has been installed and many of our chairs will be re-upholstered.

There have been a lot of changes over two years, but what matters most is what has remained the same. We continue to offer high quality courses facilitated by dedicated volunteers. We continue to have a great atmosphere of wide-ranging curiosity in our classes as well as in the halls. Discussions are vibrant and energetic, but civil, and there is a marvelous feeling of community at LLI.

The continuity of those things that we all appreciate at LLI is due in large part to the two people in our front office. Katie Compton, our director, and Denise Zona, her assistant, create an island of calm and competence amid the innumerable demands that are asked of them. Make sure to thank them once in a while.

Looking ahead to the spring term, there are a few special events to be aware of. The Shakespeare Festival will present a short version of this summer’s play, *Romeo and Juliet*, at LLI on April 6. The Writers Showcase, featuring the best creations from our writing classes, will be held on May 4. Our next Show-Me LLI is scheduled for May 18. This is a great way to introduce your friends to what LLI has to offer. And finally, the annual meeting will be held on May 31. So mark your calendars.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as chair the past two years. Beginning in June, Joan McDonald will take over as chair of the Executive Committee. She was the secretary of the committee for several years and has served as vice chair for the past two years. I am sure she will be an excellent chair.

--Don Cohn
Notes from the Director’s Desk

Last fall marked my 15th anniversary at LLI. I have known some of you now for 15 years and we have become old friends. Thus it is with true sadness that I note the passing in January of Henrietta Freedman, who was so instrumental in the founding of LLI. As everyone knows, LLI is the brainchild of Henrietta, who believed that continued learning can add spice and stimulation to people’s lives. Twenty-three years later, the fruit of her labor is more abundant than even she might have imagined.

Another longtime member who personified the LLI spirit and who died recently was Krim Williams, a tiny little lady who frequently struggled to get to class in a neck brace, in pain but determined not to miss anything. In recent years she was a member of the Thursday morning memoir writing class and she read some of her work at the Writers Showcase. Her amusing and detailed descriptions of growing up in north St. Louis county were brilliant snapshots of a bygone era. Krim brought me seeds and cuttings from her garden and I still have plants at home which grew from these small gifts. Like Henrietta, Krim knew how important it is for a person to keep mentally active and engaged with the world.

On a happier note, we finally replaced our old, stained carpet with new, beautiful carpet! Doesn’t it look terrific? Please take care not to spill your coffee! In March we are having 50 chairs re-upholstered and two of our retractable screens replaced. Your gifts to the LLI General Fund make this possible. A big thank you to Jim Voelker who donated a brand new cordless vacuum to use on our new carpet.

We have some wonderful events scheduled for this spring. Mark your calendars! You won’t want to miss these.

• The 12th annual Lawrence Jasper Lecture will be held on Thursday, March 8, featuring Prof. Martin Israel of the WUSTL Physics Department. He will speak on the topic: “Stratospheric Balloons Over Antarctica: Astrophysics with Instruments 125,000 Feet Above the Ground.” The Jasper lecture series was established in 2006 to honor Larry Jasper, who was an active LLI participant and dedicated volunteer.

• The Shakespeare Festival St. Louis touring company will return for the 8th year to present their one-hour version of Romeo and Juliet on April 6. This is a great opportunity to brush up your Shakespeare!

• Our annual Writers Showcase will be held on Friday, May 4. Two members selected from each LLI writing class will read a piece of their work. I encourage you to attend this wonderful event. I am always impressed with the diversity and depth of the presentations.

As always, we have a great line-up of courses this spring: 33 eight-week courses and 5 four-week courses, which will be led by 47 facilitators. And Anna Amelung will be back after a short hiatus!

Hats off to Leonard Adreon who was the featured speaker in a “Literary Conversation and Reception” at Emerson Auditorium, Knight Hall on January 23. Leonard spoke about his experience in Korea as a Marine Corpsman and about his book Hilltop Doc: A Marine Corpsman Fighting Through the Mud and Blood of the Korean War. The event was moderated by Mark P. Taylor, Dean of the Olin Business School at Washington University.

News from University College
Summer School

The course lineup for University College’s 2018 Summer School is now available for online browsing. Offerings include day, evening and online classes, ranging from one-credit classes like “Mind-Body-Balance” and “How to Listen to Popular Music,” to three-credit classes in art, history, literature and science. For a full listing, go to https://summerschool.wustl.edu. Anyone with a creative impulse is invited to participate in the intensive 23rd Annual Summer Writers Institute, July 6-20: https://summerschool.wustl.edu/swi. For questions about classes or using tuition discounts for adults 60+, please contact Christina Zebrowski, Coordinator for the Summer School at 314-935-4695 or clzebrow@wustl.edu.
IN MEMORIAM
Daniel Williamson
Stuart Haw
Barbara Kelley
Bob Drummond
Jack Pierce
Elizabeth Gentry Sayad
Krim Williams
Judith Jasper Leicht
Henrietta Freedman
Honey Grosberg
John Neil
Herbert Fredman
Emmanuel Paxhia

IN MEMORY OF:
Nancy Sachar
Ann Robison
Barbara Kelley
Ann Robison
Roselyn Borg
Wayne Hudgins
Anne Lenars
Charlie & Bernadette Dignan
Dan Williamson
Anna Amelung
John & Susan Rava
Cynthia Metcalfe
Bob Drummond
William Cooper
Jerry Kottler
Butch & Karen Sterbenz
Joe Bergman
Sue Bergman
Mariam P. Paxhia
Emmanuel Paxhia
Henrietta Freedman
Joan McDonald
Gladys Barker
Ruby Quarterman
Myra Sue Rosenthal
Frieda Kusher
Lois Friedman
Anne Hetlage
Emmanuel Paxhia
Tom & Cynthia Mitchell

Charles Manley
Kimberly Perry
Jane Elswick
Anne & Chuck Korr

IN HONOR OF:
Fr James Voelker
Ann Robison
Frieda Kusher
Jeannette Altman
Anna Amelung
Ken Streett
June Bierman’s birthday
Gladys Barker

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS
Endowment
Don Sessions
Richard & Margaret Diemer
Henrietta Freedman
General Fund
Robert & Susan Levin
Jane Miller
Aleene Zawada
Dr. Robert Senior
Eleanor Blakemore
Anne Hetlage
Benjamin & Radine Borowsky
John J. & Dorothy Dwyer
Zubaida Ibrahim
Vivian Zwick
Barbara Levin
Essman Family Charitable Foundation
Nancy Schapiro
Gladys Barker
Robert O. Little
Beverly Friedman
Moisy Shopper, MD
Dan Sexton
Susan Busch
Assimo Azariadis
Marlene Hunter
Robert Bohm
Hazel Sohn
Sara Epstein
Jay & Ruby Lapin
Joann Tiemann

Jamieson Spencer
Don & Linda Cohn
Ann Rynearson
Marcia Bernstein
Sam Bertolet
Marcelle Soda

Scholarship Fund
Barbara J. McCullen
Susan B. Philpott
Ruby E. Quarterman
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Wald
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
Anonymous

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I Became Educated at LLI

Occasionally over the last two decades or so, people have asked me why I—along with so many others—continue to be enthusiastic about Lifelong Learning (LLI). Here are a few reasons that come to mind:

• LLI is designed for a changing demographic world. We retirees, in the main, are living longer with clear minds and continuing curiosity and energy. Happily, we can still think. LLI is a place where we can exercise our minds. Peer learning enhances that.

• LLI is a place where we can explore those subjects that interested us but for which we had no time when we were working or actively engaged with our families. It is a chance to get educated.

• We become engaged in a new community when much of our former older one is gone. We develop new interpersonal relationships.

• Most of all, perhaps, all of this adds up to giving us a sense of purpose. We have a reason to be here. Many people put it well, “What would I do without LLI!”

Thanks, Henrietta Freedman, our dedicated and wise founder.

—Larry Kahn

Bob Drummond, Longtime LLI Member, Education Advocate

Bob Drummond came to LLI after a career in corporate sales. When he died in December, at age 91, however, he was memorialized by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for his avocation: public education. He served on the Pattonville School Board for 30 years, ending with a St. Ann elementary school named in his honor. He also presided over several education organizations and received community service awards. Below, he is remembered by fellow LLI members:

Rosalyn Borg, classmate: I got to know Bob more than 25 years ago through his work with Americans United for Separation of Church and State. I was working for the American Jewish Committee, and we collaborated on First Amendment issues. Bob was a great colleague, respectful of all religious faiths, and fiercely passionate about the First Amendment, especially the two religious clauses. His knowledge about the freedom of religion and the establishment clauses was an important contribution to our discussions in the New Yorker class.

Karen Sterbenz, facilitator: Bob Drummond was an original member of the New Yorker class that began in the Spring of 1999 and has never stopped meeting. Bob was always cheerful and pleasant. He had a good mind and made great contributions to our class. Due to his many community activities and family commitments, he sometimes missed a class or two, but he kept signing up and showing up whenever he could. As the years went by, he had increasing mobility problems, but he kept attending class with the same cheerful demeanor. We were all saddened by his death. We miss you, Bob.
Who Can It Be?

Our mystery LLI classmate was born in Bonne Terre, Missouri, a town established by the French, its mining industry a draw for decades of immigrants. As a boy, her father had journeyed with his family from Upper Hungary (modern Slovakia) to settle there. He met his future wife, a cook for the parish priest, when he was employed building a church tower.

Our classmate described her family, including her sister and four brothers, as being “very connected,” her sister’s cerebral palsy serving as a central consideration. At age 10, she moved with her family to Kirkwood. When high school graduation brought the offer of a college scholarship, she had to decline; her father insisted she take a full-time job to contribute to her sister’s care. Later, she would earn her own way through college.

The part-time jobs she had held since age 14 helped prepare her. When she was hired by an advertising agency housed at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, she worked extra hours to learn copy writing and advance to that position. “So many details in the ‘Mad Men’ TV show are true to that era of advertising,” she said recently. Prior to a meeting with an important potential client, her boss would send her to a prominent hair dresser for an upswept hairdo. He would also wheel out the liquor cart as a boost to his sales pitch.

Her major clients included Sears, the sponsor for a local television show. One day a colleague rushed into her office propelling a mannequin outfitted with women’s undergarments, allowing her mere minutes to write a new ad. The mannequin, with the Sears script pinned to its bosom, was then whisked away to the TV station to appear with the show’s hostess, Charlotte Peters. Sometime later, after our classmate’s marriage to a special man named George, the day came when she had to leave her beloved position: a pregnant woman did not fit the agency’s image. She would find other interesting jobs in years to come, however.

Motherhood, meanwhile, was never dull. As she said, “All my jobs pale in comparison to the challenges I faced raising three children with brains and wills of their own. I went back to college and took courses in child and adolescent psychology, but I learned more about personality development and learning styles from my own children than from Piaget or Skinner.”

In the 1990s, years after his death, she and George traveled to her father’s native village, nestled at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains and edged by beautiful countryside. Aided by her polylingual Polish daughter-in-law, she discovered and visited with the daughter of one of her father’s cousins. This connection inspired the beginnings of a book on her family.

Upon retirement, she headed to classes at LLI, where her intellectual curiosity found ready fuel. After first gravitating toward philosophy and psychology, she turned her attention to science, Bob Cortinovis’s course on the universe being a favorite. Several years ago, an art appreciation course led by Bob’s wife, Irene Cortinovis, turned serendipitous. While touring Washington University’s Kemper Museum with the class, she spotted a painting by St. Louis artist Joe Jones, who gained national attention in the 1930s. Why, she told Irene, her family owned works by this painter, who’d been a friend of her father-in-law. This chance encounter led to one of the paintings being included in the St. Louis Art Museum’s retrospective on Jones, along with George’s appearance in the accompanying video.

Still wondering about this mystery person’s identity? Hint: for 10 years she wrote “Who Can It Be?” for this newsletter. After 30 interviews and profiles, she has moved on. That family book is calling.

(Answer on Page 8)
**Scientifically Curious?**

For each term, LLI’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) Interest Group works to present at least three courses centered on the sciences. Science is the tool best suited to develop an understanding of the physical and natural worlds. So much has been discovered since we were in school, and these technological innovations affect all our lives. For our STEMM courses, we are fortunate to have class facilitators with up-to-date knowledge based on solid scientific or technological backgrounds.

Generally, STEMM classes rely on PowerPoint presentations augmented with videos and other information from the internet. In addition, the students in our classes ask very good questions. Seasoned adults, with inquiring minds backed by years of experience, ask much better questions than in their college years, when exam material was the primary concern. Answers from facilitators, as well as from class members with relevant expertise of their own, enhance understanding and insight into the subject at hand. Some of the classes use texts chosen to support the class discussions. Facilitators usually make their PowerPoint slides available to students, offering the chance to review weekly material.

STEMM classes are not marked as such on the course descriptions, since LLI presents an opportunity for an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Our science and technology classes often cover the historical developments behind important discoveries. Further, our subjects are often controversial and can involve ethical issues. While we do address these issues, our facilitators seek primarily to educate students, enabling them to come to their own informed conclusions. It is important for everyone to have basic scientific knowledge to understand our world. We welcome all students who seek understanding, whether they have studied science since high school or not.

Our spring term will include “The Story of Us, Part 2.” This four-part course started with the Big Bang and will follow the evolution of life up to modern times, when issues include pollution and climate change. “Science Snippets,” in its 13th incarnation, will feature eight different presenters on a variety of topics. A new course, “A Peek into the Realm of Algorithms,” will present some of the algorithms underlying our computer-driven world. In “All You Need to Know about Weather and Climate,” students will grapple with topical issues under the guidance of a well-informed facilitator. A more interdisciplinary course, “What Makes a Good Society,” delves into the social sciences with a scientific underpinning.

—David Brown

**LLI Celebrates Veterans Day**

LLI veterans and friends gathered for the third annual Veterans Day event on November 10, 2017. Charles Schneider facilitated the event. Eleven LLI veterans, including three veterans of WWII, plus Repps Hudson, University College adjunct instructor, and Dick Hyde, former LLI facilitator, all shared highlights of their wartime service in the Army, Army Air Force, Navy, and Marines. Guest Pierre Simonpietri spoke about his experiences on a nuclear submarine during the Vietnam era.

LLI veterans included: Howard Hearsh, Ted Listerman, Leonard Adreon, Jack Karty, Dan Ellis, Butch Sterbenz, Bob Streett, Ken Streett, Tom Hahs, Charles Borth. Cake was served.

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**Try STEMM Courses**
NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT LLI

Our 18th Show Me LLI event took place on November 17, 2017. Marilyn Lipman, Marlene Katz and Ben Sandler presented mini-versions of their LLI courses to prospective students. Nearly 45% of those attending signed up for the 2018 winter term. Our next Show Me LLI event will take place on Friday, May 18, 2018.

The Lawrence Jasper Lecture
Thursday, March 8, 2018
1:00—3:00 p.m.
Room A/B West Campus Conference Center
Martin Israel, Ph.D
Professor of Physics
“Stratospheric Balloons Over Antarctica: Astrophysics with Instruments 125,000 Feet Above the Ground”
R.S.V.P. Denise Zona
314-935-4237

Answer to “Who Could It Be?": Dolores Friesen