

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF

EDUCATING THE WORLD OF 55+



ON SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 4-7

Invitations forthcoming

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an exciting time to be taking over the leadership mantle of LLI. As we complete our first decade (!) and head into our second, we are proud of so much, and look forward to so much more.

We had an enormously successful 2016-2017 academic year. There were 63 classes, led by 59 presenters and 48 classroom assistants. The members of Council, Committee Chairs and members and the Members-at-Large kept us enlightened, entertained, and engaged. Bonnie Hyde, our new trip coordinator, organized and led an informative and enjoyable trip to Kykuit, the former home of David Rockefeller. Under the leadership of Marilou Abramshe, we hosted the second annual mini conference of local senior learning organizations.

Our valued volunteers were honored at a delightful Volunteer Reception, where we were greeted by Donald Christian, the President of SUNY New Paltz. Past President Marilou Abramshe gave a heartfelt and moving tribute to Helise Winters, our recently retired liaison, and we introduced Laurel Duhaney, our new Interim Liaison. We also expressed our gratitude to Joyce Schiff, who has stepped down as our Volunteer Chair.

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## **INTRODUCING PRESIDENT, JESSICA D. ROTHMAN**

**Jessica D. Rothman** has been a theatre educator and director of student and summer camp fully staged productions in the New York City high schools, elementary and high schools on Long Island, in regional summer camps and in community theatre for more than 40 years. In addition to teaching theatre and training college students to become theatre teachers, she has produced and directed more than 50 academic Broadway plays and musicals, Shakespeare festivals and special drama programs. She has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities Shakespeare fellow and is a contributor to the New York City Blueprint For the Arts in Theatre.

Jessica has a long history of volunteerism, beginning in elementary school and through her entire educational career. Becoming a presenter, then vice president and, now, president of LLI, is just “doin’ what comes natur’lly,” as Annie Oakley might say (thanks to Irving Berlin).

Jessica has served as the New York State director of the International Thespian Society and has founded a number of high school I.T.S. chapters. She has been recognized for her exceptional skills in teaching theatre and other communications courses by The State University of New York at Albany, the Educational Theatre Association, the Disney Company, the Shakespeare Society (of New York), and the Creative Arts Team’s New York City Student Shakespeare Festival. She is listed in the 2006-2007 Who’s Who In American Teachers.

Since the year 2000 Jessica has written extensively about theatre and theatre education including Broadway resource guides for Students Live, Inside Broadway (Formerly Midtown Management) and Tony Randall’s National Actors Theatre.

A member of SAG-AFTRA, Jessica began a second career as a background actor and stand-in in television and film. Most recently, she has taught “Playing With Shakespeare” for the Lifetime Learning Institute and has directed A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM for 90 Miles Off Broadway, both in New Paltz, NY. Jessica possesses a Masters degree in Speech and Theatre education, and has continued her studies at New York University, Columbia University and Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Jessica is rightly proud of her accomplishments, but is proudest of her forty-plus year marriage to a fellow educator, and her talented and wonderful son and his wife.



The Events Committee is organizing two trips for the upcoming year.

## A TOUR OF WEST POINT

Transportation is on your own.  
Cost will be \$32.00. More information to come later.



## PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Tentatively planned for March 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 including a garden tea. Cost is \$70.00.



# Classroom Photos



## Introducing Presenter, Jo Gangemi

Long-time LLI member and presenter Jo Gangemi has an *eclectic* résumé, to say the least. Born in Cleveland, Jo attended Ohio University, majoring in theater and English. Having fallen in love with New York City while on vacation at the age of twelve, she vowed to relocate there and did so directly after graduation from college.



She had never thought in terms of a “career,” so for awhile she fell into certain available jobs – library assistant at the Rockefeller Foundation, middle-school teacher of girls’ hygiene, phys-ed, and then English (more in line with her education), welfare caseworker, and English as a second language for adults. All the while, she continued to dabble in amateur theater.

She married and had a daughter, then joined the women’s movement and organized consciousness-raising groups, which made her consider becoming a midwife.

Because midwifery required a nursing degree, Jo returned to college, receiving a BSN at Columbia University, where she discovered that she did not like the area of Ob/Gyn after all but she *REALLY* loved psychiatry. So she became a psychiatric nurse in various New York City hospitals. After a divorce, she took advantage of a grant and received a masters’ degree in nursing at NYU, after which she worked in a mental health clinic at Metropolitan Hospital for twenty years, while also running a private practice. Later she became certified as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner.

Meanwhile, she was branching out into other interests and got certified as a yoga teacher, while also receiving many additional types of training – Family Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Hypnotherapy, and Transpersonal Therapy.

After her friend Judy Reichler moved to New Paltz, Jo began coming upstate to visit. Eventually she bought a house in Cottekill and would come up for part of each week. She joined LLI soon after it began and during her second year as a member, she became a member-at-large, serving for four years.

Jo eventually agreed to be a presenter, and has offered classes in Yoga, Conscious Dying, Cognitive Therapy, and Parents of Adult Children Discussion Group. After the Conscious Dying class, an ongoing group formed to continue the discussion, and has been meeting monthly since 2013. Another group formed from the Parents’ class. Jo has also served as an enthusiastic member of the Curriculum Committee since 2013. She loves seeking out potential presenters and has “captured” a number of LLI’s most popular instructors.

Meanwhile, she keeps up her dramatic interests having adapted, directed, and acted in a play based on Dorothy Parker’s short story, “Too Bad,” which was presented as an LLI brunch in 2015. Rumor has it that she may be organizing a new theatrical production.

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## Introducing Presenter, Joe Britto

Sometime in 2006, I had lunch with my colleague and dear friend, Sal Anastasio. The conversation eventually turned to teaching's joy and sufferings when Sal told me about LLI. "What's that?" I asked, and he talked very enthusiastically about the program that I too, would talk about enthusiastically ever since!!



I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, in an extended family where English, Italian and Spanish were spoken on a daily basis. I attended Catholic schools from grammar school through high school. I received my Bachelor's degree from Manhattan College in Riverdale and my graduate degrees were from Brooklyn College, St. John's University and City University of New York. My love of history began in elementary school and was exacerbated by a classroom library which was heavy on history books (I think I read all of them). To this day I thoroughly enjoy just about every aspect and period of historical

studies.

My wife, Gale, and I will celebrate our 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary this August. We have four children (two of whom are teachers, one a high school social studies teacher and the other a high school Spanish teacher). We have been blessed with six grandchildren (so far!!).

For thirty years my primary career was as a psychotherapist and hostage negotiator for the NYS Department of Correctional Services. Ironically, or maybe not, I also taught classes within the prison to staff members and inmates, these included bi-lingual education and conversational Spanish. Eventually I was an adjunct lecturer at SUNY New Paltz where I taught for 26 years. I currently am an adjunct lecturer at SUNY Orange. I am very involved at the Pine Bush Area Library and am on the board of trustees. Also, I have received several grants for lecture and discussion programs on various historical topics.

Over the years I have offered a wide range of classes at LLI and have enjoyed all of them. Some of the classes I have taught are: The Columbian Exchange, Ancient America, Exploration and Discovery (Parts I and II), Central American US Relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, History through Art, Music and Objects (with Tom Mounkhall).

*All in all I have been very fortunate to be doing what I love to do the most!*

## LLI Council 2016-2017

### Officers

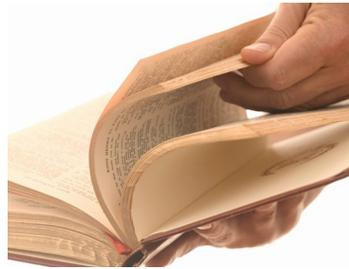
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	Stefi Morrison: <a href="mailto:smorrison2@hvc.rr.com">smorrison2@hvc.rr.com</a>
	Vacant

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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	Dorothy Tyno: <a href="mailto:dottyno@earthlink.net">dottyno@earthlink.net</a> 255-0046
Volunteers	Alice Barner <a href="mailto:alice.barner@gmail.com">alice.barner@gmail.com</a> (914)414-5591
Newsletter	Phyllis Sturm: <a href="mailto:sturmpny@gmail.com">sturmpny@gmail.com</a> 691-2575

### OTHERS

Registrar & Admin Asst.	Jane Winters: <a href="mailto:wintersj@newpaltz.edu">wintersj@newpaltz.edu</a> 255-0870
SUNY New Paltz Interim Liaison	Laurel M Garrick Duhaney: <a href="mailto:duhaneyl@newpaltz.edu">duhaneyl@newpaltz.edu</a> 257-3287
LLI Contact info	<a href="mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu">lifetime@newpaltz.edu</a> 257-2892



## **LLI Membership Benefits from SUNY**

- ◆ The classrooms we use on Wednesdays and the technical support the presenters receive during classes are all provided free from SUNY. The administration at SUNY is happy to have LLI on campus and offers the following discounts and opportunities to our students beyond our reduced price parking tags.
- ◆ Members are allowed to join the new Wellness Center on campus for a reduced fee for one semester or for the year. This gives one access to the circuit, the weight room and the dance classes. The old Elting Gym also has a swimming pool, racquetball courts and ping pong tables available.
- ◆ The Department of Fine and Performing Arts gladly accepts the LLI membership card as a form of student identification. The card allows one to pay the reduced student rate for art (Dorsky Museum), theater (McKenna and Parker) and special events (Lecture Center). You can use the library but by becoming a Friend of the Library for a minimum donation of \$30, you are able to take books out of the library as well.
- ◆ The various campus dining options are always available to everyone. The remodeled Wooster Hall (which is just across the concourse from Humanities and Lecture Center classes) now hosts a lovely restaurant.
- ◆ You can sign up for email from the college to receive announcements of the events on campus or check out [www.newpaltz.edu](http://www.newpaltz.edu).

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT** (Continued from Page 1)

I, for one, am looking forward to this coming year. We will be recognizing our Tenth Anniversary with a gala celebration at Garvan's in New Paltz on Sunday, September 17. Watch your email for details - a splendid time is guaranteed for all! We are also embarking on a new partnership with the Theatre Department at SUNY - New Paltz, which will increase interaction between our members and the college students and faculty. This pilot program, called "Season Ticket", is a pet project of mine, and I know it will enhance our members' experiences. More information is coming soon.

Our Fall catalogue will be coming to you in August - register early, as classes fill quickly.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

My best,  
Jessica D. Rothman  
President of LLI SUNY New Paltz 2017 - 2018

## LLI Fall 2017 Course Offerings

### Thank You PRESENTERS

America's Military-Industrial Complex	D. Michael Simpler
Creative Writing	Nancy Van Laan
Book Repair	Eric Chambers
Conscious Dying	Jo Gangemi
Current Events Discussion	Bill Goldman
Dr. Manners Attends a Cocktail Party	Fred Mayo
Drawing in the 21st Century	Babs Leoff-Burge
Drawing Trees Made Easy	Connie Noelle
Dry Pastel	Andrea McFarland
Easy Bike Rides (SIG)	Judy Reichler
Enhance your Life with Dance- Euro dance	Sondra Sperber
Family Photographs: A History in Black and White	Kathleen MacKenzie
Fold Everything! All About Origami	Kathryn Paulsen
Heavenly Sacred Music	Boyd Herforth
Intuitive Collage as Memoir	Linda Erman
Law Ethics and Fairness in a Just Society	Michael Wallace
Let's Talk	Hilary Kramer
Lost Industries of Ulster County	Marilou Abramshe
Meet Your Ancestors part 2: Breaking Down Brick Walls	Marny Janson
Spice: Our Planet's Global and Local Kitchen	Nirmala Narine
Playing with Shakespeare	Jessica Rothman
Reading Psalms	Rena Blumenthal
Seeing Art with New Eyes	William Clutz
Superb Symphonies	Boyd Herforth
Take Action and Make Your Voice Heard	Richard Parisio
The Beatles	Richard Sullivan
The Engaged Observer	Zachary Bowman
The Governors of the Empire State	Don Roper
Two Women who Changed History	Linda Mockler
Understanding Modern War	Lew Brownstein
What is all this Yin and Yang About?: An Introduction to Chinese and Eastern Medicine	Peter D Lichtenstein
Who Done it?	Bob Brunet

## Members-at-Large: Who They Are and What They Do



**Stefi Morrison**



**Your name here??**



**Alma Sloan**

These are your current LLI members-at-large, Stefi Morrison and Alma Sloan. And what, you ask, is a member-at-large? Well, we will tell you.

Members-at-large are members of the LLI Council whose role is to represent the members' interests at Council meetings. They bring your concerns and ideas to the attention of the Council.

So, if you have concerns about any aspect of LLI, let them know. They speak for you.

Stefi's e-mail address is [smorrison2@hvc.rr.com](mailto:smorrison2@hvc.rr.com)

Alma's e-mail is [roundheels4@gmail.com](mailto:roundheels4@gmail.com)

It gives us great pleasure to announce that, in spite of stepping down as a Member-at-Large, **Alice Barner** has graciously agreed to take over as our Volunteer Chairman.

### **Introducing Presenter, Jo Gangemi** (Continued from page 4)

Jo sold her home in Cottekill in 2011 and now lives in a condo in New Paltz- "so conveniently located making it easy to get to all the happenings here."

She is a member of the New Paltz Meditation Group. You may have witnessed the rowdy group having breakfast at The Bakery on weekday mornings after meditation.

She is an activist, mainly focused on the Climate Crisis and she attends the weekly meetings of The New Paltz Climate Action Coalition.

She has two lovely granddaughters who live in Atlanta with mom and dad.

Jo says, "I greedily participate in the LLI class offerings and extra-curricular events every semester, and have learned so much as a result. Not only do I enroll in courses with academic subject matter but also love the arts and crafts classes. In addition to the learning aspect of LLI, I have met many wonderful people and have enriched my social life.. Being a part of LLI is great way to keep the mind stimulated and alive and also to stay engaged and active.

**LLI MISSION STATEMENT**

The Lifetime Learning Institute of New Paltz promotes diverse and enriching learning experiences for older adults, provides opportunities for social interaction, and encourages individuals to use their knowledge and skills in creative ways.

**Fall 2017 classes will run  
Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> through  
Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Watch your mail for the catalog in early  
August or check the website:**

[www.newpaltz.edu/lifetime/catalog.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/lifetime/catalog.html)



Lifetime Learning Institute  
PO Box 275  
New Paltz, New York 12561  
Phone: 845-257-2892  
Email: [lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu)



PLEASE  
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HERE

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

**Checkout our website: [newpaltz.edu/lifetime\(/catalog.html\)](http://newpaltz.edu/lifetime(/catalog.html))  
Or our Facebook page: [Lifetime Learning Institute New Paltz](#)**