



# LLI MATTERS

LLI: LEARNING FOR THE LOVE OF IT

Lifetime Learning Institute at SUNY New Paltz

Volume 7 Number 2

July 2016

## From the President's BIG Chair

*Greetings L.L.I. Members,*

I was very intimidated taking on the role of President of LLI after looking at the list of illustrious past Presidents and the past successes of the organization. I hope to be able to grow and to fill the BIG chair. My wish is to lead the institute to your satisfaction.

My first public event was the very successful Volunteer Reception. The Council and particularly the Members-at-large were very gratified to see 70 of our volunteers at the College's Terrace to be recognized for all their hard work.

There was a lovely tribute to Johanna "the Brit" Hill, who recently passed away by her friend, Secretary, Faith Nichols. Hill served on the curriculum committee and a short time ago took on the role of Events Chairperson. Her events team has carried on and organized the Brunch on June 15 with Robi Josephson, who discussed Civil War in New Paltz. My responsibility is to find a new

Events chair. Anyone interested in learning about the job or in heading up this enthusiast committee, please contact me at [sturmpny@gmail.com](mailto:sturmpny@gmail.com).

The Members-at-large presented another fun Game Day at the Gardiner Library on June 16.

Barbara Hyde has agreed to serve as the new Classroom Assistant Chair replacing the outgoing chair, Gail Picciati.



It is anticipated that the second annual mini-conference with the local area senior learning organizations will be held in New Paltz this November. This will

afford us the opportunity to discuss the issues that cut across all our organizations. The issue of no-shows, parking, finding presenters, etc. and their solutions will be discussed in depth.

Keep your eyes opened in August for the next FALL 2016 catalog filled with exciting new classes. Please share your positive experiences at LLI with your friends, neighbors and family. Invite them to join you and L.L.I. for the love of learning.

*Phyllis M. Sturm*

President L.L.I. 2016-17  
SUNY New Paltz

*On this and the following two pages, we recognize the LLI volunteers whose dedication makes and has made Lifetime Learning New Paltz possible*



Strong leadership makes LLI strong

**Past Presidents  
(Listed first to most recent)**

1st Lyn Mayo	6th Margaret
2nd Judy Reichler	Armento-McDowell
3rd Gail Gallerie	7th Terry Scott
4th Myra Sorin	8th Clinton Bennett
5th Sally Rhoads	9th Marilou Abramshe

**Other Volunteers  
Phone Calling  
Catalog Production and Distribution  
Mailings, Etc.**

Abramshe, Marilou	Morrison, Stefi
Afzal, Martha	Nichols, Faith
Alexander, Carol	Picciati, Gail
Bean, Ruth	Polatsek, June
Bishop, Faye	Rothblatt, Fonda
Brady, Ellen	Ryan, Marion W.
Brennan, Edward	Schiff, Don
Brennan, Lois	Schiff, Joyce
Burdett, Ann	Sloan, Alma
Cotton-Miller, Mary	Sorin, Myra
Dubois, Marion	Swartzberg, Ronnie
Hill, Johanna	(Jackie)
Hyde, Barbara	Tyno, Dorothy
Janson, Marny	Van Winkle, Mary
MacKenzie, Kathleen	Louise
Miller, Reeva	Wodin, Dolly

**LLI Council 2016– 2017**

**OFFICERS**

President	Phyllis Sturm
Vice President	Jessica Rothman
Treasurer	Jay Bishop
Secretary	Faith Nichols
Immediate past President	Marilou Abramshe
Members at Large	Alice Barner
	Stefi Morrison
	Alma Sloan

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Chair Curriculum Development	Sheyda Eversley
	Shirley Warren
Chair Curriculum Catalog	Marilou Abramshe
Chair Classroom Management	Marilou Abramshe
Chair Classrooms Assistants	Barbara Hyde
Chair Membership	Marny Janson
Chair Events	Johanna Hill
Chair Public Relations	Open
Chair Volunteers	Joyce Schiff
Newsletter Editor	Ed Steele

**OTHERS**

Registrar & Administrative Asst.	Jane Winters
SUNY New Paltz Liaison	Helise Winters

**CONTACTS**

LLI email:	lifetime@newpaltz.edu
Telephone	(845) 257-2892



## Presenters

Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

Abramshe, Marilou	DeWitt, Glenn	Koock,	Rhoads, Bill	Sullivan, Richard
Bissell, Kim	Eakin, Pattie	Yiskah Jessica	Richey, Anne	Swallow, Judy
Boden, Ed	Ford, Maureen	Leber, Deidre	Rogers, Maureen	Tennenbaum,
Britto, Joseph	Giglio, Ernest	Lennon, Craig	Rogers, Ed	Helen L
Brownstein, Lewis	Ginty, Brian	Lurie, Andrea	Roloff, Roger	Thomson, Puja
Chambers, Eric	Goldman, Bill	Marquez, Walter	Rossman, Toby G.	Tuel, Bill
Christensen, Neal	Greene, Rob	Mayo, Fred	Rothman, Alan	Ulrich, Robert
Cohen, Cantor Bob	Hanover, Ann	Mazzetti, Kathy	Rothman, Jessica D.	Urbin, Jeffrey
Cooper, Paul	Herforth, Boyd	Miller, Robert	Rupcic, Mile	Van Laan, Nancy
Copeland, Timothy	Higgins, Patrick	Mockler, Linda	Simpler, D Michael	Wyman, Barbara
	Horrigan, Jeremiah	Moskowitz,	Sorvino, Nancy	Yastion, Esq.,
	Horrigan, Patty Kane	Bette Ann	Strongin, William	James G
	Hughes, Ingrid	Mounkhal, Tom		
	Jacobs, George	Murphy, Suzanne		
	Jacque, Susan	Noelle, Connie		
	Janson, Marny	Osgood, Paul		
	Johnston, Shaun	Parisio, Richard		
	Josephson, Robi	Petersen, Barbara		



**Our LLI  
Presenters  
enrich our lives**



## Classroom Assistants

Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Aber, Shari	Brennan, Lois	McDowell, Margaret	Sasowsky, Norman
Afzal, Martha	Burdett, Ann	Nectow, Carol	Scherrer, Daniel
Barner, Alice	Cherry, Rosalyn	Nichols, Faith	Sharp, Janet
Berlin, Ellen	Cotton-Miller, Mary	Osgood, Mary Ann	Sloan, Alma
Bishop, Faye	Eisenberg, Lynn	Osgood, Paul	Snowden, Dee
Bishop, Jay	Finer, June	Picciati, Gail	Straus, Harriett
	Finn, Anne	Pinsky, Alla	Sturm, Phyllis
	Gangemi, Jo	Polatsek, June	Swartzberg, Joel
	Hill, Johanna	Quinn, Pam	Tennenbaum, Helen L.
	Hirsch, Steve	Rogers, Ed	Warren, Shirley
	Horowitz, Rhoda	Rothblatt, Fonda	Webber, Susan
	Kane, Helen	Ryan, Marion	Williams, Jane
	Kessler, Jonnie		
	Lane, Linda		
	Lee, Cynthia		
	Lindsey, Barbara		
	Losee, Tom		
	MacKenzie, Kathleen		



## Curriculum Committee

Abramshe, Marilou  
Afzal, Martha  
Burdett, Ann  
Eversley, Sheyda  
Finn, Anne  
Gangemi, Jo  
Goldman, Bill  
Greene, Trina (Katherine)  
Herforth, Boyd  
Hill, Johanna  
Lindsey, Barbara  
Morrison, Stefi  
Pomeroy, Lois B.  
Rothblatt, Fonda  
Sperber, Sondra  
Warren, Shirley

## LIAISONS WITH OFF CAMPUS SPACE

Bordino, Chuck - Superintendent, NP Community Center  
Cordero, Salvatore - OFM Cap , St. Joseph's Church  
Daum, Gretchen - Activities Coordinator, Woodland Pond  
Harp, Steve - Director of Dining, Woodland Pond  
Hull, Sarah - Resident Services Director, Woodland Pond  
Lane, Barbara - Res. Services, Reformed Church  
Nolan, Carol - Jewish Community Center  
Vasse, Sally, - President, Phillie's Bridge  
Woods, Jasmine - Educational Director, Phillie's Bridge  
Nicole Lane - Librarian, Gardiner Library



## SUNY SUPPORTERS OF LLI

Christian, Donald - President  
Deen, Stella - Interim Provost  
Halstead, Michele - Asst. VP Finance  
Marks, Erica - VP Development & Alumni Relations  
McInerney, Michael – IMS  
Pasti, Sarah - Director Art Museum  
Roberson, Sarah - Assoc. Registrar  
Skillman, Matt - Digital Media Manager  
Trapp, Emily - Dir. Instr. Media  
Turner, Diana - Cal. Clerk  
Winters, Helise - Dean Office of Extended Learning  
Wright, Shelly - Chief of Staff



We'd all be like this without our supporters!

## Meet Your New President -- Phyllis Sturm

Phyllis grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Brooklyn College with a B.S. in Mathematics. She worked for Metropolitan Life in Manhattan until relocating to Ulster County. She then worked at Marist before SUNY New Paltz's IT Department as an application programmer in 1978. She has one married child, Paul, the Director of Marketing for MGM in Las Vegas.

Phyllis supported the arts as a season subscriber and a "Friend of the Theatre Department" and the Dorsky Museum while working at SUNY. She consistently donated to the college's fund raisers. As secretary of the Professional Staff Council, she helped rewrite the Professionals Handbook and planned their social gatherings.

She organized three sessions of Defensive Driving classes every three years. She served for years as a marshal at graduation, pitched in on clean-up day and was Grand Marshall at their Relay for Life cancer fund-raiser.

She served as President of the Faculty Wives and Women and continues to serve as Vice President. This is a social organization that presents at least one scholarship every year. The FW&W is always seeking new members, if you have any interest contact [sturm@newpaltz.edu](mailto:sturm@newpaltz.edu).

She was affiliated with and active in professional organizations, such as, an Association of Women in Higher Education, the National Association of Sigma Users (as

secretary and membership chair), and multiple Financial Aid Professionals organizations.

As secretary of the union chapter on campus and the Affirmative Action statewide committee, she was committed to improving working conditions and made trips to Albany to lobby for greater support of S.U.N.Y.

Her personal experience with breast cancer led her to become a "Nurturing Neighbor"



to guide other survivors. She created a half-hour PowerPoint stand-up comedy routine. "Can't Catch a Break" was performed in front of cancer survivors and others on several occasions.

She participates in Mitzvah Day where she works to refurbish national historical sites. She was secretary of the Highland Cultural Center Arts community, which brought free art exhibits, musical performances (where she has acted as master of ceremonies).

Phyllis joined a Relay for Life team, which held fund raising events and culminated in a 24-hour relay. She was the captain

of the "Ex-Sturm-inators" Making Strides against Breast Cancer team. She participated in several 5k cancer walks. Phyllis supports St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital financially and by participating at monthly meetings, fundraisers, 5K walks and established their cell phone-recycling program, which has collected over 9,000 cell phones valued at \$16,500.

As a member of the Women of the Moose for fifteen years, she has served on the Board from the beginning in every position including 5 years as the Recorder maintaining the financial and membership records. She has received every honor the organization awards plus the coveted New York State Co-Worker of the Year 2009-10. She was President of the New York Council of Higher Degrees for the Loyal Order of Moose and held many chairs. She joined in marches and parades by decorating floats and walking (or line dancing) the parade route.

Since her retirement 10-10-10 she has taken Hudson River School oil painting classes. She participates in USTA tennis tournaments and plays pickleball. Line and ballroom dancing and ZUMBA Gold are her other passions. She is a volunteer usher at Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts and County Players. Phyllis participates at two senior clubs in Poughkeepsie and on their trips. Phyllis has travelled throughout the 50 states, Mexico, Caribbean, Europe and China.

# TITLES OF COURSES TO BE PRESENTED THIS FALL

## CATALOGUES TO BE SENT OUT IN AUGUST



A Cultural History of the Hudson Valley in Modern Times



American Foreign Policy

Applied Kinesiology

Book Discussion Group

Creating Books for Young Children

Creative Writing



Current Events Discussion

Digital Imaging

Distance Walking

Dry Pastel

Easy Bike Rides



Family Photographs: A History in Black and White

Heroes, Villains or Both in the Revolutionary War

History of Soul

Hudson Valley Rambles

Introduction to the Game of Go

James Joyce and His Works

Joy Through Movement in Your Chair

Let's Talk



Meet Your Ancestors

Moral Dilemmas: Hypothetical, Historical & Contemporary

Parents of Adult Children; Discussion Group

Playback Theater

Playing with Shakespeare

Population Issues & Changes in Developing & Developed Countries

Puzzles, Paradoxes, Polls, Picking Presidents

"Return With Us Now!" Radio Drama Acting

Seeing Art with New Eyes

Superb Symphonies

The Coming Out Process

The Craft of the Memoir

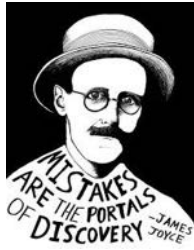
The Making of New Paltz



Was the United States Founded as a Christian Nation?

Women in the Hebrew Bible

World History Through Art



## Patty Kanz Horrigan In Her Own Words

I've been teaching classes and workshops on fairy tales for almost 10 years now. I tried different formats and different venues but it was only when I arrived at New Paltz's Lifetime Learning that I began the eight-week classes that are just perfect for exploring this most magical of topics.

Luckily for me I had the best possible group of people in that first year. They were open and curious and willing to work with me and with each other to uncover all sorts of new ideas and themes about the meaning of fairy tales. At the end of the class they all brought in their most creative expressions of what they had learned - an oil painting, several puppets (one was an image of the Ugly Duckling that when turned inside out became a beautiful swan), short stories, poems, and new fiction that explored alternative endings to famous fairy tales. Each succeeding year I have met new people who bring amazing insight and enthusiasm to the discovery of what fairy tales really are.

When I first told my extended family about this 'new'



adventure, they laughed and said that I had been talking about fairy tales my entire life. It's true. I was hooked at an early age and I understood, long

before I knew what it meant, that fairy tales contained secret messages for how life could be lived. I tried to practice that, at a literal level when I was six and seven, by protecting insects at great costs to myself. I hoped that if I was kind to them, then they might someday help me out. You know, do the dishes, or something. I'm still waiting for that to happen but I've been able to recognize that a literal quid pro quo is not the real way fairy tales work. Instead, the unpleasant moments with all those bugs in my life gave me an understanding of how all life was interconnected. You can't make demands on magic. It comes to you when it knows you're ready for it, whether you

### "Fairy tales were my escape"

find it convenient or not.

I've had one of those perfect lives, where grace and blessings have always been present. I grew up in a large family (five brothers and five sisters) and had a deep understanding of human behavior at an early age. That came from sharing one bathroom and navigating many different personalities and needs in a small house. Imagine trying to get someone at the far end of the table to pass you the mashed potatoes when a) they're mad at you, b) they want them too, or c) there's someone between you and them who has an entirely different plan. We're all still close despite, or maybe because of, such trying circumstances.

Fairy tales were my escape.



They made sense when everyday life didn't. I knew what dragons were like, and how a spell could ruin a life. I was the third child and recognized how hard it is to get it right. My two older sisters were both my guides and negative examples. It was up to me to find a different way. Because I lived an interior life, my parents and teachers were afraid for me -- they thought I might not be able to cope. Instead, my fairy tales showed me how to trust the moment, walk a different path, and believe in magical helpers. I have never lacked for anything. Whatever I've needed has always arrived, even when I couldn't always recognize it for what it was.

I've done the usual things - married, happily for almost 45 years now, had two kids, four grand kids, a career (of sorts) at IBM as a programmer, and later, much more fun doing construction projects and cooking. At an advanced age, I went back to school for a Masters in Counseling. Now, I work in my garden, play with my grandsons, and find life marvelously fulfilling. I've had so many magical helpers in my life that all I aspire to is to become one for someone else.

## Fred Mayo

Dr. Mayo became involved with LLI New Paltz early on, having helped Lyn Mayo bring LLI into existence. Her experience with LLI in Oregon and at Bard College and Fred's support were invaluable in getting LLI New Paltz off the ground. He consented to becoming a member of the original LLI Council when told that he was the only man involved at that time. Five days later, he was informed that he was the fledgling organization's first Treasurer.

In addition to his help in founding LLI, Fred has taught several LLI courses on table manners, one entitled "Dr. Manners Comes to Dinner" and another entitled "Dr. Manners Hosts a Party." Next spring, he expects to present a course entitled "Dr. Manners Hosts a Cocktail Party." His book, "American Table Manners: Good and Man," developed with Michael Gold, is currently under contract with Skyhorse Publishing.

Fred has served with strength and distinction as an out-of-the-closet gay man in the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement. He has been an inspiration to many younger folks who have struggled with their sexual orientation in a culture that has not always been kind to members of the LGBTQ community. Calling on his own experience, he will present an LLI course this fall entitled "The Coming Out Process."

Regarding his various professional work experiences, they are too numerous to

include in the modest space here. Fred currently teaches part-time at New York University while operating his own training, coaching, and consulting firm. For the last forty-five years, he has led programs and consulted in the areas of faculty development, teaching skills, program design, group dynamics, communication, leadership, management development, training trainers, public speaking, organizational change, small business management, strategic planning, and board development.

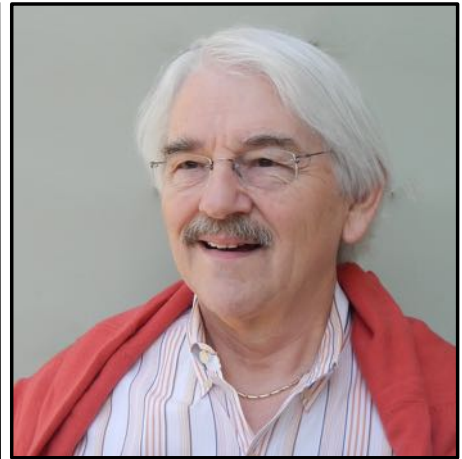
For the last ten years, in addition to consulting, he has served full-time at New York University as Clinical Professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management. While at the University, he has led the faculty revision of five undergraduate and graduate degree programs,



*Dr. Manners would not approve*

served on the LGBTQ Student Center Advisory Committee and the Provost's Undergraduate Curriculum Advisory Committee.

Last summer, he was presented with the Howard B. Meek Award for lifetime contributions and outstanding service both to hospitality education and to the



International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (I-CHRIE), a non-profit professional association, providing programs and services to continually improve the quality of global education, research, service and business operations in the hospitality and tourism industry.

In 2012, Fred was honored with the NYU Arnold Grossman Outstanding Faculty Service to the LGBTQ Community Award. In 2009, Fred received the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the School of Continuing and Professional Service at New York University.

Fred is currently the President of the Board and Acting Executive Director of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center.

He received his Diploma from the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University, his Ph.D. in Education from The Johns Hopkins University, his MBA in Management from Syracuse University, and his BA degree cum laude in History from Amherst College.



## Game Day -- March 2016

Photos by Stefi Morrison taken March 2nd at the Gardiner Library



Taboo, Scattergories, Apples to Apples, Uno, Mah Jong, Tripoley (a combo of Hearts, Michigan Rummy and Poker) and Parcheesi. We hope to add other games, including Mancala and Chinese Checkers and Yahtzee. Oh, and let's not forget Jacks and Pick-up Sticks!

Several people have shown interest in starting a scrabble group. All are welcome to bring their own games to share with the group.

While some of us thrive on competitive games, others want a



more relaxed atmosphere. We cater to both, and sometimes have even relaxed the rules of a game to just play for the fun and socializing.

So whether or not you are a die-hard game or card player, come join us! We always let you know through the LLI group e-mail when the next Game Day is scheduled. Hope to see you there.

Stefi Morrison  
Alma Sloan  
Alice Barner  
Members-at-Large

The last LLI Game Day was Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The next is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. We have been having Game Days every few months at the Gardiner Library, and welcome all LLI and community seniors.

So far, we have been playing word games like Boggle, Bananagrams, and Ad-Lib, and other kinds of games such as



## Not a Member of LLI but Want to Join?

For a catalog of courses and for information about joining LLI, please email LLI's Registrar, Jane Winters, at [lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu), or call (845) 257-2892.

LLI New Paltz gives its members access to a wide selection of courses during spring and fall semesters. Cost for an entire year is \$115 or less, depending upon the date you join.

## LLI Newsletter Editor Needed

LLI is looking for a newsletter editor to replace Ed Steele, LLI's Newsletter Editor for the past five years, who will be moving to Vermont in July. The newsletter is published in January and July of each year. Members of the LLI Council, course Presenters, and others send the editor articles and photos over the Internet. The editor then lays them out to make up the pages in the newsletter.

For more information, contact Ed Steele at the following address:

[edwardmsteele@msn.com](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com)

## Meet Helise Winters

Part of Helise Winters' job as Dean of Extended Learning for SUNY New Paltz is to serve as a liaison between the Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) New Paltz and the University, the local academic sponsor-affiliate of LLI.

Helise was at the forefront of the creation of LLI. As Dean of Extended Learning, she worked with the founders of LLI New Paltz to develop the necessary



*Learning can be all smiles*

academic association.

As liaison for LLI, Helise assists LLI so that members are able to get select discounts and services, such as using classroom space on Wednesdays. Helise also works with the LLI Council to generate and maintain certain LLI courses and activities held at the College.

Born in Brooklyn, Helise

attended Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, where she received a BA and an MS in Speech-Language Pathology. A resident of New Paltz since 1968, Helise's professional experience includes serving as director of the American Craft Association in Highland, deputy director of the Ulster County Youth Bureau in Kingston, speech pathologist at Walter Reed Army Speech Hearing Clinic in Maryland, and speech pathologist at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

Before becoming Dean of Extended Learning at SUNY New Paltz, Helise was an adjunct professor of English as a Second Language, taught Communications, worked in Financial Aid, and was Associate Dean of Continuing and Professional Education.

In the Office of Extended Learning, Helise utilizes skills from her varied background that include marketing strategies, public speaking, event management, community outreach, social networking, program development, curriculum development and design, and academic advising.

In addition to LLI, Helise oversees several campus programs that include:



- The Extension Program, which offers graduate courses in education to working adults at different locations.

- Distance Learning, which offers online SUNY courses.

- Summer and Winter Session, which provide an opportunity for students to make up credits or explore a special interest.

- University in the High School, which offers qualified high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to earn college credit for approved courses offered in their own high schools.

Lifetime Learning Institute New Paltz looks forward to a continued fruitful association with SUNY New Paltz. We are especially grateful for the help of Dean Helise Winters and the Office of Extended Learning.

# The LLI Annual Meeting in Photos

Photos by Alice Barner, LLI Member at Large



Longtime past Chair Classroom Assistants Gail Picciati

← LLI's first president, Dr. Lyn Mayo, who was the major force that brought LLI New Paltz into existence.



Past President Marilou Abramshe (on the left), turns over the garvel to new President Phyllis Sturm. ↑



→ Jay Bishop, current Treasurer

↓ Longtime past Treasurer Ed Rogers



↑ Sheyda Eversley, LLI Curriculum Committee Chair

↓ Current LLI President Phyllis Sturm in the center flanked by past Presidents Myra Sorin (left) and Gail Gallerie (right)



↑ On the left, Ann Burdett, past Events Chair. On the right, Stefi Morrison, current Member at Large

