



# LLI MATTERS

Lifetime Learning Institute at SUNY New Paltz

Volume 5, Number 2 June 2012

## President's Letter

Dear LLI Members,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Hope many of you enjoyed the courses offered during the spring semester. We are always open to new courses and welcome your suggestions.

During the month of June, we have been showing Alfred Hitchcock classics on successive Fridays at 1:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center (the PAC) at Woodland Pond. The last in the series, *Vertigo*, will be shown on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We like to offer events throughout the year. Some of these events give us an opportunity to see each other between semesters, encourage new people to become members, and provide additional educational and fun opportunities.



Our upcoming semester looks exciting with new categories of courses. Please spread the LLI word to other friends or groups. We have a lovely brochure that introduces people to LLI. We will gladly mail or drop off copies for your use. Please introduce yourself to me when you see me. I welcome your thoughts on how we are doing. Please feel free to email us with your comments. Our email address is [lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu). Enjoy the upcoming summer. I wish all the best of health.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Armento-McDowell*

LLI President

## Fall 2012 Courses *Sheyda Eversley*

In the fall LLI will offer 28 courses in five categories: (1) Art, Music, Performing Arts; (2) Current Events, History; (3) Literature, Writing; (4) Psychology, Social Science; (5) Miscellaneous: Finance, Geography, Health

A small sampling of the courses appears below. (Note: Some of the titles below are working titles that will vary from the way they appear in the catalogue that you will receive in late July or August.)

**"Stone Painting as Meditation Using Acrylic Paint on Stone,"** presented by Becky Nielsen.

**"Women in Jazz,"** presented by Harold Lieberman. This course focuses on the struggle women had entering a field with formidable barriers to their entry imposed by society and male attitudes.

**"Evolution Written in Stone,"** presented by Gil Brenner. This course focuses on the formation of Earth and its atmosphere before life appeared on Earth 3.5 billion years ago.

**"The Historical Tragedy of the Balkan Wars,"** presented by Jeff Warren. This course explores the tragedy of the Balkan Wars seen through the lens of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1980s.

**"The Beautiful Ideal: Anarchism and Emma**

**Goldman,"** presented by Abigail Robin. This course takes a close look at the life and work of Emma Goldman (1869-1940) in the historical and philosophical contexts of the culture in which she lived.

**"Life in Iran Between 1991 and 2004,"** presented by Pam Krimsky. This course focuses on the changes that have occurred in Iranian society over the past 35 years, economic difficulties in Iran, the people of Iran and the terrain in which they live, and the customs of the Parsis.

**"Alzheimer's Disease: a 21st Century Epidemic,"** presented by Wendy Rudder.

**"Anatomy and Philosophy of the Body,"** presented by Stefi Morrison. This course will discuss in an informal way common medical conditions relating to human anatomy and the philosophy of body parts.

**"A Virtual Visit to Four Museums,"** presented by local artist Sevan Melikyan. The museums are (1) the Kimball at Fort Worth, Texas, (2) the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy, (3) the Picasso in Barcelona, Spain, and (4) the Chagall in Nice, France.



## Information of Interest to Non-LLI Members

For a brochure describing the benefits of LLI membership, send a note requesting our brochure to the following address: Lifetime Learning Institute, P.O. Box 275, New Paltz, NY 12561. Include your name, mailing address, your telephone number, and email address (if you have one).

### Students Enjoying Their Spring Courses

Leader Paul Osgood identifies an eastern phoebe during the final minutes of his last birding class held during the Spring 2012 semester. Myra Sorin also focuses her binoculars on this small grey bird known for its habit of incessant tail-wagging. They are standing on the pedestrian bridge that connects the Wallkill Valley Rail-trail, just off Plains Road in New Paltz, to the Sojourner Truth Park on the Wallkill River.



Photo by Marion Ryan



Members of the Architectural Walks in Kingston class taught by Bill Rhoads gather on the West Chestnut Street porch of Lowell and Suzanne Thing on April 18 for their final meeting. Lowell has made a detailed study of the architecture gracing the street, and he expertly informed our class about its many treasures.

### A Note From Registrar Jean Poirier

- Our Fall 2012 Course Catalog will be mailed in late July. Be sure to register early to ensure a space in the classes you would like to take. If you will be away in late July, and need your catalog mailed to an alternate address, please email that information to me at the LLI email address: [lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu).
- Please volunteer to serve as a Class Assistant (CA) in one of the classes you are registering for. We need your help! Let us know by circling the class you choose to serve as a CA on your registration form. The LLI CA coordinator will contact you with instructions and pertinent information.
- **The Fall registration deadline is September 4th.** Please check your calendars to make sure you can attend all of your class sessions. Please do not register for a class for which you cannot attend a good majority of the classes – especially those with limited space.
- Members may take the equivalent of eight 4-week classes.
- Registration confirmation letters will be mailed to all those who have registered for classes shortly after the registration deadline (8/27/12). We need time after the deadline to confirm classes and finalize room assignments based on enrollments.
- **Has Your Contact Information changed?** Please remember to notify us if you have a new phone, email, or mailing address. You can do so by e-mailing the new information to the LLI email address at [lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu).
- **Recruit-a-Friend** – Did you know that you can bring a friend who is not a member, to try out a class? (As long as there is space in the class and with permission of the instructor) If they like the class, and wish to continue, then they can join LLI!



## Appreciation Luncheon

On May 23, 2012, the Council of LLI at SUNY New Paltz held a luncheon at SUNY's Terrace Restaurant in recognition of the contributions of the many who volunteered their efforts to assure another successful year at LLI.

It takes many volunteers to make our organization work. LLI presently has over 130 volunteers including, to name a few, all of the instructors; classroom assistants; liaisons from SUNY and our off campus sites; committee members who plan curriculum, work on membership, produce the catalogue listing course offerings; and the volunteers who plan affairs such as Appreciation Luncheon.

At the luncheon LLI President Margaret Armento-McDowell thanked the 55 volunteers who attended for their contributions. Special thanks were given to SUNY New Paltz President Donald Christian and Dean of the Office of Extended Learning Helise Winters for the special support given LLI by the college. LLI President McDowell

*LLI President Margaret Armento-McDowell and Maureen Brooks at the Appreciation Luncheon.*

also thanked the teaching faculty and the classroom assistants who are the heart of the program as well as the LLI council members and the committee chairs.

Finally, a special gift of a plant was given to instructor Maureen Brooks who has taught classes on opera and is also instrumental in the offering of the Woodland Pond film series. We all wish Maureen good luck on her move to Arizona.

The names of our current volunteers appear in the list below. Without these folks, there would be no LLI. (Our apologies to anyone whose name is inadvertently missing from the list.)



Marilou Abramshe	Sheyda Eversley	Sara Jecko	Paul Osgood	Wendy W. Smiley
M. Amento-McDowell	Ann Finer	Helen Kane	Linda Lee Paquin	Gerald Sorin
Garnette Arledge	June Finer	Paul Kelley	Richard Parisio	Myra Sorin
Ruth Bean	Anne Finn	Frank Kraat	Sara Pastio	Sondra Sperber
Clinton Bennett	Carol Ford	David Krikun	Mary Phillips	Ed Steele
Ellen Berlin	Roberta Forest	Barbara Lane	Gail Picciati	Norma Strothenke
Helene Bigley	Gail Gallerie	Susanna Lent	Jean Poirier	Richard Sullivan
Faye Bishop	Jo Gangemi	Carol LeFevre	June Polatsek	Michelle Sutton
Ellen Brady	Marybelle Gemmell	Judy Lessinger	Pam Quinn	H. Tennenbaum
Joseph Britto	Ginny Gravatt	Gail Logan	Gordon Rauer	Joan Tenuto
Maureen Brooks	Katherine Gray	Tom Losee	Judy Reichler	Puja Thomson
Lillian Burd	Pat Guralnik	Jan Marotta	Sally Rhoads	M. L. Van Winkle
Ann Burdett	Trina Greene	Lyn Mayo	William Rhoads	Ann Wandres
Florence Butler	Ann Guenther	Doug McBride	Ed Rogers	Shirley Warren
Joan Byers	Adelaide Haas	Nancy McBride	Teri Roiger	Susan Webber
Rosalyn Cherry	Barbara Hardgrave	Rosemarie McBride	Hal Rosengarten	Lucille Weinstat
Jay Clayton	Sondra Harkavy	Linda Melick	Toby G. Rossman	Ann Folke-Wells
Victoria Danskin	Patrick Higgins	John Menegon	Marion Ryan	Ken Wishnick
Manuela Dobos	Johanna Hill	Arlene Merker	Joyce Schiff	Dolly Wodin
Marion DuBois	Doro Holveg	Bill Metzler	Tomi Schneider	Ethel Yusko
Charlene Dye	Sylvia Homer	Reeva Miller	Jane Schunk	
Mark Dziuba	David Jaman	Stefi Morrison	Terry Scott	
Pattie Eakin	Polly Beynon James	Kathe Nack	Lori Silas	
Ginny Esser	Marny Janson	Mary Ann Osgood		



## In Appreciation of Sally Rhoads *Gail Gallerie*

At LLI's 2012 annual meeting, Sally Rhoads passed the LLI New Paltz presidential mantle to Margaret Amento-McDowell. Thus Sally added yet another chapter to her more than four decades of accomplishments in fostering educational opportunities for the New Paltz community. Sally's service as a founding member of LLI and its fifth president adds to that of 15 years as a New Paltz Central School District board member and president plus 10 years as board member and president of the Elting Memorial Library. The continuing importance of the annual book fair as a central part of the library's annual fund raising efforts is testimony to her 35 years as its indefatigable chair. Sally also served for 10 years as the Director of Education for the Reformed Church and has been a catalyst for the creation of several scholarships for students graduating from New Paltz High School.

During a recent interview, Sally explained that she was drawn to the efforts to create the New Paltz LLI because it promised to offer both educational and social opportunities for members of the community who have transitioned from their previous responsibilities and now have time to pursue intellectual and other self-development interests. In addition to a broad variety of courses to address members' interests, Sally feels that LLI's critical reliance on volunteers has also offered community service opportunities that some members have felt they have not had the time for before. Sally also recognizes that there are some LLI members who

feel that they have "done their thing" and now want the freedom to study and socialize without additional responsibilities. Addressing the interests of this group must continue to be part of LLI's mission.

Reflecting on the accomplishments of her presidency, Sally cites the reorganization of the Curriculum Committee as a major achievement, one which reflects LLI's capacity for responding to the lessons of experience as the organization has evolved. She also takes pride in having made further advances toward the mission and goals with which this LLI was created. Sally believes that the success of the New Paltz LLI is evidence of it having benefited from "the right leadership at the right time," people who brought the needed combination of vision and organizational skills. She credits her predecessors with having the gifts and talents for creating a "road map" that she was able to further refine during her presidency.

As Sally continues to serve as Immediate Past President, she hopes that LLI at SUNY New Paltz will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its core values maintained while even more fully capturing this community's instructional talents and promoting creative social opportunities.



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## Do you have Home-Bound Family or Friends?

A lifetime learning program exists called DOROT. They are an organization that believes in reducing the social isolation of older adults and improving their lives and health. DOROT provides many services, among which is their "University Without Walls." This makes it possible for home-bound older adults to participate in educational programs while at home. Hundreds of classes are offered yearly, including but not limited to the arts, history, and



current events. The student takes these courses by using teleconferencing. When it's time for the course to begin, students telephone a particu-

lar telephone number. As the course is being presented by the instructor over the phone, students have an opportunity to give responses to what the instructor says, ask questions, etc. Each course typically lasts for a semester.

If you are interested in taking a course, call 1-212-769-2850. If you have internet access, go to their website at [www.dorotusa.org](http://www.dorotusa.org). They reportedly are available to Ulster County residents.

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## Lifelong Learning Institutes and Elderhostel Institute Network

Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) is a free, voluntary association of affiliated lifelong learning institutes, funded by Elderhostel Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities for older adults through their Road Scholar programming. To get a

wealth of information about EIN and the Road Scholar programming, go to ([www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp](http://www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp)). You can also view Road Scholar's DVD at ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5E8rnTiESI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5E8rnTiESI)).

## How to Get the Most Out of Your LLI Membership

### Renew for 2012-2013

With almost 235 paying members this year, we expect an even stronger program as we begin our 5th year in September. The annual membership fee remains \$115. **Send in your membership form when you receive the fall catalog.**

### Attend classes and events

Your membership fee entitles you to an assortment of courses, special lecture programs and films, and other activities.

### Help us run the organization

LLI is run by volunteer members, and there are so many ways to help out. **One particularly gratifying contribution is to be the classroom assistant in one of your**

**courses.** You handle communications between the teacher and the students and assist in other ways. It's a good way to participate in the program and get to know people along the way. Tomi Schneider, chair of the classroom assistants committee, says that "the assistants report that a minimum of time is required and that they always feel useful and appreciated."

If you want to help grow and serve the organization, **join the membership committee.** Or volunteer for the curriculum committee, where you will work with instructors and help select the courses. Or just say you're willing to **help in some small way, like participating in occasional mailings.** You can indicate your interest on the membership form.

## Having trouble parking on the SUNY campus?

Try the LOOP bus, which travels through the core areas of New Paltz and the SUNY campus. Ask the driver to drop you off at the **Wooster Science parking lot** (close to the Humanities Building) and say which bus you wish to return on. There's free parking at the Route 32 N. Park & Ride (across from Stewarts), but the LOOP can be boarded anywhere along the route.

For the full schedule and map, call 340-3333 or go to [www.co.ulster.ny.us/ucat/schedules/new\\_paltz\\_loop\\_map.pdf](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/ucat/schedules/new_paltz_loop_map.pdf).



**Lifetime Learning Institute, PO Box 275, New Paltz, NY 12561**

(845) 257-2892

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

Jean Poirier, Registrar and Administrative Assistant

## LLI Council

### Officers

**President:** Margaret Armento-McDowell

**Vice President:** Terry Scott

**Secretary:** Susan Webber

**Treasurer:** Ed Rogers

**Immediate Past President:** Sally Rhoads

**Registration Coordinator:** Jean Poirier

### Standing Committees

**Past Classroom Affairs:** Tomi Schneider

**Current Classroom Affairs:** Gail Picciat

**Events:** Gail Logan

**Membership:** June Polatsek

**Public Relations:** position open

**Volunteers:** Dolly Wodin

**Course Development:** Sheyda Eversley

**Co-Chair Course Catalog:** Rosemarie McBride

**Co-Chair Course Catalog and Classroom Management:** Marilou Abrashe

### Members-at-Large

Ruth Bean

Mary Louise Van Winkle

Marion Ryan

### Ex Officio

Helise Winters

**Dean of Regional Education**  
**SUNY New Paltz**

### Newsletter Editor

Edward M. Steele



# SUNY New Paltz

## LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE

### 2012-2013 Membership

PO Box 275, New Paltz, NY 12561  
(845) 257-2892

[www.newpaltz.edu/lifetime](http://www.newpaltz.edu/lifetime)  
[lifetime@newpaltz.edu](mailto:lifetime@newpaltz.edu)

Annual Membership is \$115. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. You must be a member to register for classes. The fee is non-refundable. For more information, please visit our website.

To join please complete this form and mail it with your check (payable to CAS/LLI) to Lifetime Learning Institute, c/o June Polatsek, Membership, 19 Deer Path Drive, New Paltz, NY 12561

ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_ \$115      2012-2013 membership fee. Make check payable to CAS/LLI  
                  \_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_      Tax-deductible donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the questions below by circling **YES** or **NO**.

YES      NO      I agree to allow my photo to be used in LLI promotional materials.

YES      NO      I would like to be a speaker for a brunch or other event.

YES      NO      I would enjoy teaching a course on \_\_\_\_\_

I would enjoy serving on one or more of the following committees (please check):

Events\_\_\_\_ Public Relations\_\_\_\_ Membership\_\_\_\_ Technical/Equipment Support\_\_\_\_

Curriculum\_\_\_\_ Classroom Assistants\_\_\_\_ Newsletter\_\_\_\_ and/or Volunteers\_\_\_\_