



# LLI MATTERS

Learning for the Love of It



**July, 2022**

**Volume 13 Number 1**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**This year marks the 15th Anniversary of LLI SUNY New Paltz!**

Created in 2007 by Lyn Mayo along with a group of friends and activists, who researched and amassed information from other organizations such as Elderhostel and Bard to help form this organization based on volunteerism. They compiled the curriculum, found presenters and classroom sites, developed the necessary academic association and printed a catalog. By August of that year, classes were filled and that marked the beginning of LLI at SUNY New Paltz.

Today LLI still offers diverse and enriching learning experiences for adults, both in the classroom and via Zoom. It provides opportunities and encouragement for individuals to use their knowledge and skills in creative ways as well as social interaction. Our volunteers work hard to find presenters with interesting offerings, find space for the classes and a put out a catalog of classes and more. Events, day trips, guest speakers, brunches, and a newsletter keep members informed.

**All this and more done by volunteers. Become a volunteer and help keep us strong.**

**You won't regret it!**

My best,  
Theo Pappas  
President

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# LLI COUNCIL 2022-2023

## OFFICERS

President	Theodora Pappas	<a href="mailto:tpgrafixx@twc.com">tpgrafixx@twc.com</a>
Vice President	Jerry O/Shea	<a href="mailto:Jerryoshea5@gmail.com">Jerryoshea5@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Faith Nichols	<a href="mailto:faitnichols@gmail.com">faitnichols@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Janet Philips	<a href="mailto:lawgal110@gmail.com">lawgal110@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past President	Jessica Rothman	<a href="mailto:shearoth75@gmail.com">shearoth75@gmail.com</a>
Members-at-large	Alma Sloan	<a href="mailto:roundheels4@gmail.com">roundheels4@gmail.com</a>

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Curriculum Development	Eli Aizer	<a href="mailto:ayaizer@gmail.com">ayaizer@gmail.com</a>
Catalog	Carole Heyl	<a href="mailto:cehey1@cs.com">cehey1@cs.com</a>
Classroom Management	Marilou Abramshe	<a href="mailto:maeducator@hvc.rr.com">maeducator@hvc.rr.com</a>
Classroom Assistants/Hosts	Helen Kane	<a href="mailto:hkane1031@gmail.com">hkane1031@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Marny Janson	<a href="mailto:mljanson1@gmail.com">mljanson1@gmail.com</a>
Events	Margaret McDowell	<a href="mailto:bbermac@aol.com">bbermac@aol.com</a>
Volunteers	Alma Sloan	<a href="mailto:roundheels4@gmail.com">roundheels4@gmail.com</a>
Public Relations	Linda Lee Lane, Chair	<a href="mailto:lll1@columbia.edu">lll1@columbia.edu</a>
	Carole Heyl, Council Rep	<a href="mailto:cehey1@cs.com">cehey1@cs.com</a>
Social Media	Phyllis Sturm	<a href="mailto:sturmpny@gmail.com">sturmpny@gmail.com</a>

## OTHERS

Registrar & Admin Asst.	Michelle Doyle	<a href="mailto:lifetime@hawkmil.newpaltz.edu">lifetime@hawkmil.newpaltz.edu</a>
SUNY New Paltz Liaisons	Dr. Shala Mills Asst, VP Graduate and Extended Learning Dylan Hurley	
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# MARILOU ABRAMSHE



This year, President Jessica Rothman arranged a fun Council meeting, complete with dinner and attendance at a performance of the Theatre Department's excellent production of SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD. We are grateful to Ken Goldstein, outgoing Chairman of the Theatre Department, Russell Thompson, Box Office Manager and Events Coordinator, and the lovely student House staff for making this event a success.

As an ice breaker, to help the council members get to know each other better, they played Human Bingo. The champion was Marilou Abramshe, who has served as President Elect, President and Past President, Chair of the Curriculum, Classroom Management and Catalog committees since 2010. She has just passed the baton as chair of the curriculum committee.



## FREE FUN & EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

Dear Members,

We are working on our Fall Events and we hope this means the return of in-person brunches.

Hopefully, a "Medicare options and information" session on October 6th and a trip to the new D&H Canal Museum. Other possibilities, for the future include a Day on the Rondout - so stay tuned.

Enjoy the summer and we will see you in the Fall.

*Margaret McDowell*, Events Coordinator

## GENERAL LEDGER FOR 2022/2023

Date	Name	Expenses	Revenue
10-Jun	Zoom	\$30.00	
12-Jun	Registrar & A.A.	\$267.00	
14-Jul	Storage unit	\$156.00	
19-Jul	Registrar & A.A.	\$471.00	
30-Jul	Postage	\$145.00	
6-Aug	Registrar for August	\$574.00	
6-Aug	Revenue		\$9,960.00
24-Aug	Storage unit	\$156.00	
24-Aug	Storage unit	\$156.00	
26-Aug	Postage	\$42.00	
27-Sep	Revenue		\$1,420.00
28-Sep	Revenue		\$240.00
29-Sep	Registrar & A.A.	\$974.00	
	Computer Security		
7-Oct	program	\$65.00	
11-Oct	Zoom	\$30.00	
11-Oct	Zoom	\$30.00	
31-Oct	Storage unit	\$156.00	
31-Oct	Insurance	\$752.00	
31-Oct	Registrar & A.A.	\$369.00	
9-Nov	Zoom	\$30.00	
16-Nov	Zoom	\$45.00	
16-Nov	Zoom	\$30.00	
16-Nov	Zoom	\$30.00	
16-Nov	Zoom	\$60.00	
16-Nov	Rosendale Theater	\$126.00	
16-Nov	Storage unit	\$156.00	
30-Nov	Registrar & A.A.	\$185.00	
30-Nov	Zoom	\$45.00	
22-Dec	Storage Unit	\$156.00	
20-Dec	Revenue		\$345.00
30-Dec	Registrar & A.A.	\$656.00	
26-Jan	Insurance	\$877.00	
7-Jan	Storage Unit	\$156.00	
25-Jan	Revenue		\$890.00
31-Jan	Registrar & A.A.	\$636.00	
19-Feb	Storage Unit	\$174.00	
16-Feb	Registrar & A.A.	\$882.00	
28-Feb	Postage	\$70.00	
11-Mar	Revenue		\$1,290.00
11-Mar	Revenue		\$375.00
	Zoom, postage & About		
11-Mar	Town	\$173.00	

**GENERAL      LEDGER      FOR      2022/2023      (CONT.)**

Date	Name	Expenses	Revenue
17-Mar	Revenue		\$45.00
18-Mar	Badges	\$50.00	
22-Mar	Rent	\$475.00	
22-Mar	Storage Unit	\$174.00	
22-Mar	Zoom	\$14.99	
22-Mar	Food for a council meeting	\$105.48	
12-Apr	PO Box rental	\$267.00	
14-Apr	Registrar & A.A.	\$756.00	
20-Apr	Zoom	\$14.99	
20-Apr	Storage unit	\$174.00	
27-Apr	Storage Unit	\$174.00	
27-Apr	Zoom	\$195.00	
20-May	Copy Charges	\$19.00	
10-May	Registrar & A.A.	\$410.00	
21-May	Discount Card	\$698.00	
3-Jun	Copy Charges	\$8.00	
8-Jun	Postage	\$35.00	
11-Jun	Postage & Advertisement	\$173.00	
13-Jun	Classroom Space Rental	\$720.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,442.46</b>	<b>\$14,565.00</b>

BALANCE =  
Expenses - Revenue \$923.00

## MEET THE PRESIDENT

### Theodora Pappas



I am Theo Pappas and the new President of LLI.

A native New Yorker and a graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a major in art, I became a graphic designer creating promotional materials for various publications for over 20 years. I was also on the Board of Directors of my co-op for several terms. When the glass high-rises became overwhelming in my neighborhood, I decided to move back to the Hudson Valley with my cat, Petunia, four years ago.

My family had a farm outside of Newburgh when I was a child. I later built a house in Cragmoor. Being familiar with this area was a plus, as well as, friends from college, who opted to live here. I like to travel and experience new surroundings. I have been on several wine-tasting biking tours in Europe, plus a little rafting in Idaho, some adult gymnastics and ballet classes, a balloon ride in France (awesome), and enjoy being a foodie.

I heard about LLI from neighbors and friends so I signed up for classes. I had no idea, at the time, of the depth and content of this organization. All the volunteers, who either put together the curriculum, spent hours learning how to host Zoom classes, when we couldn't have in person classes (spear-headed by Zoom master par non, Mary Hilley), spent hours finding classroom space (now that we can do classroom learning again), or finding presenters; just about knocked me over. What a group!

I am very happy to be associated with LLI, and as President look forward to LLI offering more learning experiences, more events, more new classes, and welcoming more new members and volunteers.

Theo Pappas  
President LLI SUNY New Paltz 2022-2023

## REGISTRAR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THANK YOU to Jean Poirier for her many years of dedicated service to LLI as Registrar/Administrative Assistant. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

WELCOME to Michelle Doyle, who recently was hired to this vacancy and has smoothly and seamlessly transitioned into this challenging position.

# COURSES FOR FALL 2022

with thanks to all the presenters



At the present time, LLI is planning three days of classes.  
Wednesday and Friday will be on site classes and Thursday will be zoom classes.

## COURSE TITLE

## PRESENTER

Beading 101 & Beading 102	Helen Tennenbaum
Book Discussion: Special Interest Group (Zoom)	Judy Reichler
Boxing for “Boomers” and all other Seniors	Howard B Major III
Changing Strategic Balance in the Middle East	Lewis Brownstein
Contemplative Prayer Practices	Arlene R Wilhelm
Current Events Discussion (Zoom)	Robert Arthurs
Embroider Yourself	Judy Reichler
From Page to Stage – Shakespeare in the Works	Jessica Rothman
The History of Writing (Zoom)	Eric Chambers
Introduction to Bookmaking	Maureen Cummins
Introduction to Tap Dance	Anita-Jean McMonigle
Landmark Literature of the 1920’s (Zoom)	Chuck Mishaan
Living Sustainably: Nature’s Way (Zoom)	Lyla Yastion
Lost Industries Revisited	Marilou Abramshe
Magical Marvelous Memoir Writing	Susan Slotnick
Native Americans: History and Customs	Sally Bermanzohn, Judith Boggess, Susan Higgins, Nick Miles
New Paltz – “Antiques Roadshow”	Walter Marquez
Reading Willa Cather (Zoom)	Meta Plotnik
Science Potpourri 3 (Zoom)	Bill Bakaitis, Francesco Berna, Jeremy Heyl, William Tuel
Story-Telling with a Twist	Nancy Van Laan
Thanatology in Tibetan Buddhism (Zoom)	Shewang
The Ritchie Boys	Rena Bonne’
The Wonderful World of Mah-Jongg	Carole Heyl
Understanding Earth’s Climate System	Chris Bernabo

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Fall 2022 classes will start on**

**Wednesday, September 21 and end on Friday, November 18**

**No classes week of October 3**



## PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

### Chuck Mishaan

Being a computer technologist, I was recruited for the position of Bard LLI's AV Chair back in the pre-Covid days when classes still met on campus. At that same time, January 2015, while I was attending a performance of Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta*, a protester marched onto the stage of the Metropolitan Opera (perhaps the most famous stage in the world) and unfurled a banner protesting Vladimir Putin and his 2014 annexation of Ukrainian Crimea. He pointed at Anna Netrebko, the soprano, and Sergei Gergiev, the conductor, both good friends of Putin, who were taking their bows. The audience and Met security were astonished at this breach, and the protestor was walked off the stage and arrested. This experience deepened my exploration of opera as a political force.

I have been presenting this series of lectures on Opera as Politics, quite popular even with those who don't especially like opera, at area LLIs, including Bard, SUNY New Paltz, Vassar, Marist and Lifespring Saugerties, since that 2015 experience. Of particular interest to me was how opera, and the arts in general, incorporated political messaging, in ways both obvious and subtle, and how the arts reflected the political and cultural issues of their times.

When the Covid pandemic struck in 2020, the parallel experience of the Roaring 1920s, including the Great Influenza epidemic, intrigued me. Other parallels were the disruptive advances in technology- radio, automobile, cinema, phonograph, airplanes then; internet, AI, social media now. Debates raged about voting and women's suffrage, eugenics and birth control, Darwinism. We saw the rise of authoritarianism in Germany and Italy after the Great War, Jim Crow and racial division, the Red Scare, labor unrest, the Great Depression and Nazism. So many of the political and cultural issues then are with us today.

Since my particular interest is in intellectual history and how the arts reflect the political and cultural issues of their time, the 1920s became a fertile field of interest for me. Political, cultural and technological tensions found an explosion of expression and invention in the arts of the 1920s- abstract painting, stream of consciousness writing, atonal music, Bauhaus architecture.

Both opera and the 1920s are platforms for exploring important and current politics, and that is the excitement and insight I hope to convey in my SUNY LLI lectures. Thank you for being such an appreciative audience.

Chuck Mishaan, June 2022



# LLI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## Melinda Cuello



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My name is Melinda Cuello. My educational aspirations consist of completing a bachelor's degree and applying for the Master's program in school counseling. One class that stood out to me was expressive arts. This class introduced me to self-expression. I learned how to identify challenges and redirect my thinking about it. I was able to block my inner critic and develop an awareness of my thoughts. I found this class to be meaningful in my personal growth. It has impacted my way of thinking. I am able to use my full potential to benefit others.

I believe that pursuing such a career will provide me the opportunity to help improve the community's academic quality and conditions to guide students to success. After becoming a certified school counselor, I would like to write a book about the milestones I have encountered along the way to accomplishing my goals. I plan on modeling all of my success personally, professionally and within my community to help others be as successful.

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Dear Scholarship Donor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in funding the Lifetime Learning Institute Scholarship. I am very honored to be the recipient of this award.

I am currently a junior majoring in Sociology, and my GPA is 3.88. I only have 40 credits left to graduate. My goal is to apply for the school counseling master's program here at SUNY New Paltz. Once I have completed my masters' studies, I am planning on working as a school counselor in the same high school I graduated from.

Receiving this scholarship motivates me to maintain my GPA, complete my degree, and be that role model to my daughter. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career as a school counselor. I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Cuello



## DUES CHANGE



*“The more things change, the more they stay the same”.* This quote is so true as it pertains to the membership dues for LLI. At the on-start the policy of LLI was that dues would be annual with no ½ year dues. Then after ten years, the council realized that new members were penalized if they joined in midyear (spring session), and changed the requirements for **first time new members**, allowing them to pay \$75 for a one-time ½ year registration for the Spring session. Last winter LLI added a short Winter session to the schedule. Members who had not paid for the full year but wanted to take the winter classes had to pay for a half year membership of \$75.

Once again, the Council has taken into consideration the changes in the needs of the membership and readjusted the dues schedule as of registration this fall 2022:

- Annual membership which includes Fall, Winter and Spring sessions - \$120.00
- Part year membership which includes Fall and Winter sessions **or** Winter and Spring session \$75.00

LLI’s annual fee allows members to take a total of six classes each fall and spring session; a total of 12 classes. This equals \$10 a class if you take the maximum number. The Part year membership costs only \$12.50 for six classes.

Membership fee entitles you to enroll in classes from a diverse selection of courses. You are also invited to many other LLI events, including trips and informative seminars

## ADMISSION & PARTICIPATION & CLASS DECORUM POLICY

SUNY New Paltz Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) members may experience a wide range of teaching styles guided by our presenters, all of whom are volunteers. In order to promote a dynamic learning environment and encourage a sense of community that is comfortable and accommodating, all LLI members are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful and courteous, to arrive at their classes on time, and to comply with reasonable requests made by the presenter.

Admission and participation in classes are within the sole discretion of LLI. LLI reserves the right to revoke admission or terminate or limit class participation or revoke membership at any time if LLI’s Council officers reasonably determine a participant’s condition, behavior or actions are inappropriate or disruptive.



## PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

We trust you enjoy your classes and extracurricular activities. LLI would love your friends and family as members; so please let them know about LLI.



## VOLUNTEERISM

September 2022 will be the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Lifetime Learning Institute at SUNY New Paltz. One of the outstanding accomplishments of LLI is that it is a volunteer organization. So many people who get involved are amazed that it is such a successful organization that runs on volunteer power.

In 2007 when the idea of creating LLI began, so did the volunteerism. In the words of Lyn Mayo, LLI's major founder, "*Many people contributed to the efforts of the founding group*".

LLI continues to be a volunteer organization. Over the years as LLI grew in membership and expanded its offerings to the membership, more and more volunteers were needed to make a successful organization.

Most people know that LLI has a president and a council, but like an iceberg, the council is only the visible 10% keeping the organization running. The hidden 90% are the presenters, classroom hosts/assistants, committee members who plan curriculum, work on membership, produce the catalog, develop the newsletter; volunteers who do mailings, plan affairs such as brunches, game day and other activities.

People come and go for various reasons and LLI is always in need of volunteers. Recently fewer and fewer people have volunteered to help and some members have taken on multiple roles in order to keep LLI running.

In Haitian Creole, there's a saying: "*Many hands make the load lighter*". Call 845-257-2892 or speak to someone you know who is active in LLI, or indicate on the next registration form you are interested in helping keep LLI vital, functioning and successful.





## Like the Marines, LLI is looking for a few good VOLUNTEERS

**The Classroom Management Committee** needs at least two volunteers to work together to procure space, assign classrooms and provide needed equipment for onsite classes.

Committee responsibilities include:

- Working cooperatively with the Curriculum Development Chair and Catalog Chair to set dates for classes
- Advising SUNY Registrar of classes and times of fall/spring classes
- Arranging locations for classes held off campus
- Notifying SUNY IT Dept of dates needed for internet access for presenters (and students if required)
- Overseeing LLI equipment/supplies



For further information contact Marilou Abramshe at 914-582-2864

## **The Classroom Hosts**

Every semester, every class LLI provides our presenters with an assistant to handle the administrative tasks. Don't think you are ready to be a classroom assistant (whether as a Zoom host or an in-person helper)? No worries, we offer comprehensive training and even review classes covering every situation.

Contact Helen Kane with any questions at [hkane1031@gmail.com](mailto:hkane1031@gmail.com)

## **Member-at-Large**

The Bylaw provisions of Lifetime Learning Institute (which are posted on the LLI at SUNY website) identifies the members of the Council. It includes “**three Members-at-Large (MAL)**”. Most people would ask what is a member-at-large and what do they do? In short, the role of the MAL is to be a liaison between the members and the council. Among the duties and responsibilities listed for MAL is to “*attend council meetings and brings members ideas and/or concerns to Council's attention*”. So, the MAL is your representative on the council. You have questions about how classes are scheduled or if you wonder how speakers are invited to brunches, the MAL is the person to contact. You want to volunteer to be a presenter or a classroom assistant, the MAL would help guide you to the person to talk to. You have an idea of how things can be run more efficiently, speak to the MAL.

At the current time the council is looking for someone who would like to join as a member-at-Large. If this position interests you, please either call 845-257-2892 and leave a message or speak to someone on the Council regarding your interest.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

**Once the campus reopens for visitors:** The classrooms we use on Wednesdays and the technical support the presenters receive during classes are all provided free from SUNY. The SUNY administration 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)

## AUDITING SUNY-NEW PALTZ CLASSES

**Once the campus reopens for visitors:** Persons over 60 years of age, who would like to audit a course must obtain an audit form from the Office of Records and Registration. The completed form must have the approval and signatures of the chair of the department offering the course and the course instructor. The audit form must be returned to the department offering the course by the end of the "course add period."

The audit privilege permits the auditor to attend a course, providing there is room in the course and the necessary approvals have been granted, and to do assignments, but it does not permit the auditor to take examinations in the course or to have his/her work evaluated in any other way. The auditor receives no grade for the course, nor is any record of course attendance kept in the Office of Records and Registration.

Audit privileges are not ordinarily available in studio, online, laboratory or performance courses, or courses where class participation of students is of major importance, nor are they available in credit-free courses offered by the institution or in any foreign study program or course.

## OFF-CAMPUS DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

- 20% off art supplies at Manny's and Rhinebeck Artist Shop.
- \$5 student admission to Denizen Theater.
- Student priced entry at DIA Beacon, MASSMoCA
- Discounts at widespread theaters and museums when showing your student ID.

**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.

**Courses for Fall  
begin on Wednesday, September 21  
and end on Friday, November 18  
No classes week of October 3**

**Watch your email for the catalog  
in LATE JULY or check our website**



Lifetime Learning Institute  
PO Box 275  
New Paltz, New York 12561

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**Checkout our website: [newpaltz.edu/lifetime](http://newpaltz.edu/lifetime)**

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