



LLI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

MUSINGS...

Sharon Tourville, Steering Committee Chair

***Lifelong Learning
Institute
at
Northern Illinois
University***

***Opening
doors...***

***Building
friendships...***

***Learning
for the
fun of it!***

***Invite a friend to
join the LLI!***

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Writing to you for this newsletter has posed the problem of time-lag between writing and print. But I cannot wish you a Happy Holidays because, by the time you receive this, it will be close to the end of the year, and most of the holiday season will be behind us. So, I will start with my wish to you for a wonderful new year, and most importantly, I wish you GOOD HEALTH in 2009. I know that we will live through all the ill health of the economy and even look eagerly forward to a more optimistic world and our new president.



Recently, a newspaper column told about the city of Huntington, West Virginia, the U.S. town with the poorest health ranking. First, it is a very economically challenged town. In addition, or as a result, nearly half the adults are obese, and lead the national statistics with other diseases, such as heart problems and diabetes. The people do not exercise and there are a great many smokers.

The reason I saw this as an LLI topic is the extreme contrast I see for us, thanks to the plethora of wonderful study groups about health and exercise that the Curriculum Committee has put forth and the enthusiastic interest shown by LLI members. Laz Hanzely has created a following for several years running now with his study groups on disease, the immune system, and healthy food. Darrell Willey has brought hope for cures and longevity with stem cell research. Rebecca Cohen has shown us how to live to best prevent illness. And Pommy McFarland has had her NIU students guide us through exercise and balance activities. Once again, this winter, we look forward to more study groups on health and medical research and tips for untroubled retirement living.

As a group, those of us who keep active with these LLI study groups must be among the healthiest and happiest of senior citizens in the nation! This program keeps us too busy to sit and worry about aches and pains. The wonderful camaraderie of like-minded people, interested in new, diverse areas of learning, keeps our brains stimulated and active. I truly don't understand individuals who are reticent to join us, when the payoff is so energizing and beneficial!

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NEHER SINGS IN MANY KEYS

Clark Neher came to NIU, by way of Los Angeles and Bangkok, to accept a “temporary” appointment in the political science department in 1969. Renting a small house on Pleasant Street, he and his wife, Arlene, did not buy winter coats because they planned on being in the Midwest for only one year. Fast forward to 2008: The Neher family now are parents of three grown children who live throughout the U.S. Clark is professor emeritus of political science and a retired director of NIU's Center for Southeast Asian Studies. And, as a testament of his commitment to DeKalb and LLI, he now owns several winter coats.



Clark Neher

If anyone among the many talented LLI conveners comes close to being a Renaissance man, it may well be Clark. The breadth of his knowledge and interest is quite remarkable. Since his initial involvement as a charter member in 2001, Clark has been one of the program's most prolific conveners, having led more than a dozen courses on topics ranging from Southeast Asia to globalization. He also has offered several classes on his passion: opera.

For the Spring 2009 term, Clark is convening a study group centered on Thomas Friedman's new book, *Hot, Flat and Crowded*. The study group will provide an overview of global climate change, the rise of the middle class, mass communications throughout the world, and the population explosion in developing nations. It is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to explore critical issues facing the world today.

– Brad Pietens

OPEN HOUSE

Every day is visitor day at LLI. So, bring friends to any study group or Notables talk. Once they come, we think they'll want to return. And pass along the names and addresses of prospective members for our mailing list to Anne Petty Johnson at apetty@niu.edu.

MUSINGS CONT.

Those of us who live close to this exceptional NIU campus obviously have a considerable advantage over those living farther away. LLI may attempt to take a little taste of our wonderful program to our friends in the Fox Valley. We have had requests to offer a class in St. Charles, and we are looking into that possibility. The NIU Alumni Association is thinking of using technology to put a few LLI lectures on-line. This could never replace the atmosphere of being in the classroom, but such a program might allow one to review what one heard or to share it with a friend who is skeptical of just how extraordinary our study groups are.

So, as we enter another year (That turning of the century seems so far off now, doesn't it?), we wish you a happy, healthy, and learning-filled new year!

CALLING ON YOU!

LLI study groups may not come in 31 flavors like Baskin-Robbins, but we do offer a variety of formats. Think of it as a modular approach. Groups may last a full term or a few sessions—or just one session. Conveners may "teach" the entire term themselves or may coordinate different speakers to do the teaching. The Curriculum Committee is always open to ideas for study groups that you might want to organize. But, if you haven't got a topic but would be willing to contact and schedule speakers, the Curriculum Committee has several study group ideas that need just such assistance. If you could do that, contact Curriculum Committee co-chair Carol Zar at czar@niu.edu.

SAVE THE DATES!

March 17 - May 7
LLI Spring Term

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

Voices from Ellis Island, cosponsored by LLI and Castle Bank
at Kishwaukee Community College

INSURE YOUR FUTURE

Consider making a contribution to the NIU LLI fund with the NIU Foundation to honor or remember someone or because of what LLI means to you. Just write a check to the "NIU Foundation," put "NIU Lifelong Learning Institute" in the memo line, and mail the check to :

NIU Foundation,
1425 W. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115.

WINTER 2009

FIELD TRIP

February 2

Community Connections
City of DeKalb
DeKalb School District
#428
IDEAL Industries
Der Holtzmacher



The sculpture, *Pyramus and Thisbe Rising over Snowy Peaks*, by Terrance Karpowicz, located between the Stevens Building and the Visitors Parking Lot on the NIU campus, may not be familiar to you, but you may recognize these LLI members on a summer walking tour of art on the NIU campus. Jo Burke, the director of the NIU Art Museum, seated in front, was the guide for (left-to-right) Kathy Dust, Darrell Wiley, Barbara Boris, Ina Simon, Richard Boris, Elizabeth Bass, Sharon Tourville, Jan Modloff, Audre Anderson, Rivka Baker, Tom Diedrich, Doris Hyldon, and Thelma Coles.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Aydt
Lou Bergren
Richard Burgess
Marie Maxwell
Beth Smalley
Allan Wantroba

PREMIERING THIS WINTER AT LLI

January 20 – February 12

- Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech – Richard Johannesen
- Federal Law Enforcement – Jack King
- Juvenile Court Through the Eyes of a CASA Advocate – Joanne Dillman
- Views and News – Elizabeth Bass
- Psychedelic Medicine – Tom Roberts
- Digital Photography Workshop 2 – Jim & Jan Womack (Jan. 21, Feb. 11, 18, 25)
- Current Research in the Sciences – Jerry Zar
- Religion and Art in the Ancient Near East – Avra Liakos
- Guide to Gandhi's Seven Blunders of the World – Joe Gastiger
- Jigsaw Geography – Dan Dillman
- The Mexican War – Richard Downen

"SUPERB," "SENSATIONAL," SAY NEW MEMBERS

Two women, each of whom happens to have prior connections to NIU, were among LLI's new members this fall. While each was largely unaware of LLI until recently, now neither can imagine not participating in future terms.

Ann Elliott came to De Kalb with her family back in 1954 when her father, Harold Dorland, became NIU's first vice president for business affairs. After high school, Ann went away to college, married and raised a family in the Chicago suburbs, but returned to DeKalb after the death of her husband in 1983. Recently retired from McCabe Realty, Ann was looking for a new focus when friends began talking to her about LLI. The variety of topics in the catalogue impressed her, so she enrolled, choosing *History of the Bible* and *Stem Cell Research* as her first study groups. She thought each study group was "superb" and marveled at the conveners' extensive knowledge about their subjects. Now she can't wait to see what topics will be offered in the winter term.

Jane Thompson's connections to NIU are more direct. She is an NIU graduate, and her husband, Tom, now retired, was a professor in the College of Education. Jane also worked on campus in public relations for the athletic department. An article about LLI in an NIU Alumni Association mailing finally prompted her to give LLI a try. She enrolled in three study groups and, in her own words, "It was one of the best decisions I've made. All of the classes were sensational. And, when you consider both cost and quality, LLI is a give-away."

Jane and her husband will be at their Arizona home during the winter term, but LLI has so fueled her zest for lifelong learning that she's already contacted Arizona State University about their winter program. She is sure to be back for the following term, however,

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Spring 2008
 Jane Brickert, Big Rock
 Lea Gorman, DeKalb
 Jeanette Heinisch, DeKalb
 David Keys, Sycamore
 Jane McBride, DeKalb
 Connie McCleary, Sycamore

Fall 2008
 Ann Elliott, DeKalb
 Lorraine Green, South Elgin
 Barbara Hulseberg, Sycamore
 Daina Kizilbash, DeKalb
 Linda Liston, DeKalb
 Virginia Noe, DeKalb
 Patti Perkins, DeKalb
 Beverly Pigott, DeKalb
 Bruce Rocheleau, DeKalb
 Jane Terry, Rochelle
 Jane Thompson, DeKalb