I’m writing this the morning after a most successful soiree, hosted this year by Linda and Brad Pietens. Their beautiful home, combined with the culinary talents of many of our members, both male and female I should add, combined to make for a delightful evening. It was great to see so many of you. And of course, a big thank you to the Pietens and to the members of the soiree committee!

Because of the money raised from our five annual soirees, we’ve been able to provide a financial cushion for our organization. That gives us the flexibility to continue to provide summer and winter semesters that often have smaller enrollments than fall and spring sessions. It has also allowed us to purchase equipment not easily available through the university, such as the head microphones that we now provide for all conveners. So, not only do the soirees provide for a fun social time, but they also help provide the financial resources needed to keep LLI functioning at a high level.

But, above and beyond financial resources, LLI relies on human resources. Over the summer, the new LLI Outreach Committee, formerly known as the Membership Committee, has been meeting. One of the main products of its work is enclosed with this newsletter. It is an opportunity for you to volunteer to become more involved in the operation of LLI. With the exception of the administrative support from NIU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ External Programming office, the work of LLI is done entirely by volunteers. We solicit curriculum ideas, plan and schedule the study groups to be taught, and find our conveners, all of whom are also volunteers; we write articles for the newsletter and, in the future, plan to write some features articles for local newspapers; we provide greeters during the first weeks of each session.

Those of us who are currently involved find that we get much benefit for this extra effort. We want more of you to experience the enjoyment and satisfaction of contributing to the success of our organization. Offering to be a greeter, or serving on the curriculum committee, or joining our new technology team (more on this elsewhere in the newsletter) will give you the chance to meet new people, make new friends, and maybe even learn a new skill or sharpen an old one. Above all, volunteering gives you the opportunity to feel a sense of satisfaction that you contribute to the continuing success of LLI. Please take a few minutes to look over the volunteer sheet and see into which niche you might fit. We look forward to your response. (continued on Page 2)
VOLUNTEERS KEEP LLI MOVING FORWARD

Short or long-term, your service is needed and appreciated. Remember, LLI is a very friendly and understanding peer-led volunteer organization. Prior experience in a particular area is always welcome but rarely necessary. Join us in keeping LLI a strong and viable organization.

Available opportunities

- **Session Host**—Like a task that requires no extra time? Hosts in each study group introduce new members the first week, make the announcements weekly, and remind the convener of break time.

- **Greeter**—Want a really short task? Become a greeter before the study groups start for the first two weeks. Assist new members in finding classrooms, where to obtain that needed cup of coffee, and the location of the all-important restrooms.

- **Technical Support Team**—Comfortable around technology? Join our new Tech Team and be ready to assist conveners in keeping study groups moving smoothly. We’ll provide a workshop on how to use the electronic audio-visual equipment.

- **Photographer**—Enjoy taking photos of family and friends? Your skills can be valuable in documenting LLI study groups and events.

- **Writer**—Enjoy providing information to others? Use your skills to interview conveners and members or describe new study groups and events for our bi-annual newsletter.

- **Curriculum Committee**—Are you a multi-tasker? Join this team to generate ideas for new study groups, find conveners, and assist in organizing our study group schedule.

- **Convener**—Have an idea for a new study group? Study groups are the heart of LLI and new ideas are always welcome. Several people working together to convene a study group makes it fun. Combine an idea person and a researcher and, voila, a new study group comes to life.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, PLEASE FILL OUT THE BACK SIDE OF THIS PAGE AND RETURN AS REQUESTED.
COUNT ME IN!

NAME______________________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS ____________________________________________________

CITY AND ZIP CODE __________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER ______________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS_______________________________________

PREFERRED CONTACT:  ____Phone     _____Email     _____Either

CHECK ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT INTEREST YOU:

____ Session Host   ____ Writer
____ Greeter    ____ Curriculum Committee
____ Tech Team    ____ Convener
____ Photographer

MAIL THIS FORM TO

JAN GRAEFEN
1421 RIDGE DRIVE
SYCAMORE, IL 60178

ANY QUESTIONS?  Contact Jangraefen@comcast.net
TEAM TEACHING

“I’ll take a shot at it. Others have done it and survived.”

That was Sue Lehto’s reaction when Jan Modloff asked her to be part of a team convening a film study group this past spring. By the time the term was over, Sue was glad Jan had asked her; so were fellow team members Jan Graefen and Marilyn Loy.

Jan Modloff was the team leader and coach. Browsing at the library, she had come across *The Three Colors Trilogy: Blue, White, Red*, all directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski. After watching the films, she had two thoughts: other LLiers will like these as much as I do, and other people can do as well as I can or better at leading a discussion. She knew the three fellow LLiers whom she recruited were all good at discussions because they all belonged to the same book club.

“It didn’t sound too hard,” Marilyn recalls. “I thought it was something I could do that didn’t involve a lot of expertise.” Each prepared by watching the film and the commentary and then doing a little research online. “It was easy,” says Jan Graefen. “Prep didn’t take much time.”

One week, the participants would watch one of the films. The next week, they would listen to a scholarly commentary, followed by a discussion led by Jan Graefen, Sue or Marilyn. None of them had previously seen the films. While all were a bit nervous, they all agree with Jan Graefen that “everything was fine, once I began.” Marilyn says that she felt “pretty comfortable” getting up in front of everyone. Sue found she was having a conversation with interested people and that it was a lot easier than “pulling teeth” from sophomores in high school as she had 35 years earlier.

Those who took the study group found that the discussions enriched their experience. Those who convened the study group found their lives enriched too. “I learned that it is certainly fun when you work with others. It was a pleasure to get to know the others a little more,” Jan Graefen reflects.

— Elizabeth Bass

MUSINGS (continued from page 1)

By the time you get this newsletter, our summer study groups will be underway, and we’ll be looking at what the fall holds. Fall looks like another one of those terms when choices between exciting offerings will have to be made. A list of the offerings is in this newsletter. The catalog, with fuller study group descriptions, will arrive in a few weeks.

Finally, let me say thank you to Sharon Tourville for the leadership that she has provided over the last several years as Steering Committee chair. She not only knows what to do but how to do it in a most gracious and unassuming manner. She leaves big shoes for me to fill. I hope I can be as effective as she has been.

See you all at the Fall Luncheon and, of course, at LLI!
WANTED: TALENTED TECHIES

Computers, projectors, ELMOs and more. LLI conveners are increasingly using such equipment. That’s good. But there is a problem. Some of us are familiar with the technology, others are not. And, when something goes awry, we waste study group time waiting for an A-V specialist.

Our solution: the LLI Tech Team. We want to recruit some members who are comfortable around computers and other equipment to learn how to use the available equipment. There will be a training session with the Holmes Student Center (HSC) staff. Then Tech Team members will be asked to be on call during the study groups to assist conveners unfamiliar with the equipment or to lend a hand when technical issues arise...before we call the HSC experts.

So, if you have already figured out which button on the projector to push to show a DVD, or where the volume control on the speakers is, or would like to learn, sign up for the Tech Team on the “Volunteers” sheet with this newsletter or contact any LLI steering committee member. You fellow LLIers will be most grateful.

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PARKING A BARGAIN

If you mention that you’re an LLI member, you pay just $2 to park in the NIU Visitors Lot on Carroll Avenue, south of the Holmes Student Center. That’s less than a latte for lots of learning!

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NEW DROP OFF RULES

Access to the bus turnaround, adjacent to the Holmes Student Center’s tower entrance, is now limited to bus traffic, loading dock deliveries, service vehicles, hotel guest check-in/drop-off, handicap parking, and those with special circumstance permits, such as outside vendors. LLI members should use the pick-up/drop-off area on the east side of the Holmes Student Center on Normal Road. A ramp there provides additional accessibility.

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NEW NAME TAGS

Watch for new LLI name tags for everyone this fall. Pick yours up...and wear it! Some of our memories are not quite what they used to be...and we have lots of new members.

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NEW FINANCE CHAIR

Ron Fuchs has handed oversight of LLI’s finances to Jerry Smith, our new finance committee chair. Jerry brings a long history in local business and time as the executive director of the DeKalb County Community Foundation to the challenges of this position.

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NEW MEMBERS SET RECORD

If you thought you saw a lot of new faces in your LLI study groups this past year, you were right! Last year, LLI had a record 37 new members! We are delighted to share the fun of learning with them and to welcome them back this year. Remember, as our numbers grow, wearing name tags becomes even more important.
COMING THIS FALL TO LLI

September 18—November 8

The American Civil Rights Movement: Some Personal Accounts
Cliff Eaton & Robert Suchner—How the civil rights movement changed race relations from 1950-1965

The Imperative of Energy Efficiency and Renewables
Pat Vary—Personal and corporate side of being energy efficient, locally and globally

A Guide to the Great Unknown: Assorted Visions of the Afterlife
Joe Gastiger—What poets, painters, disciples, and doubters say about what awaits us all

Election-Year Politics: 2012 Edition
Elizabeth Bass & Carol Zar—Issues and candidates, presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial, across the US

Violence
Clark Neher—Aspects of violence and alternative ways of achieving our goals

Topics in the Constitution of the United States (repeat)
Gary Glenn—Origin & early years of the Constitution

Archeology and Fiction
Winifred Creamer & Arlene Neher—Archeology viewed via mysteries and popular novels

The 1930s
Elaine & George Spencer—Selective examination of the Great Depression and other events of the thirties

Why Can’t We Talk to Each Other?
Richard Dowen—The divides in class, ethical models, and language splitting our nation

Trains in Film
Bill Cummings—Westerns, mysteries & adventure films, starring trains in lead roles

Shakespeare in America
Lise Schlosser—Reactions to Shakespeare in 19th-century

Mark Your Calendar!

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLI Fall Luncheon</td>
<td>September 8, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLI Fall Term</td>
<td>September 19—November 8, 2012</td>
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<td>LLI Winter Term</td>
<td>January 22—February 14, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLI Spring Term</td>
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<td>LLI Summer Term</td>
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