

Lifelong Learning Institute

FALL 2022 *Newsletter*



Northern Illinois University

LLI@niu.edu

Musings...

Carol Zar

Steering Committee Chair

Hello everyone!

It looks to be a long, hot summer. The news both here and abroad is disheartening and can cause us to feel depressed. But fall will come soon enough and, with it, the next term of LLI to help focus our minds on other things. Our curriculum co-chairs, Joanne and Dan Dillman, have put together a terrific set of classes. A list is elsewhere in this newsletter and, of course, at the registration website.

Over the summer, we've done some brainstorming about the future. Those discussions led us to decide that, after this fall term, we will only schedule one class per time slot. We also have only scheduled one class for most times this fall. No more having to choose between concurrent classes. We also heard a desire for more social get-togethers and are working on some options.

But the most important thing for all of us is to increase enrollment. And the best and most effective way to do that is by each one of us...yes, that means you too...inviting a friend or neighbor to join LLI. You can always invite someone to attend one class session with you to get a taste of what we offer.

We will be back at the Holmes Student Center at NIU. For those of you who weren't with us this past spring, there is good news. The elevator from the first to the second floor that had been out of commission for many years is now working. For those with mobility issues, a partner or friend can drop you at the Normal Road entrance. There is a ramp there, no need to walk stairs; it is then a short walk to this elevator and up to the second floor, where our classes will meet.

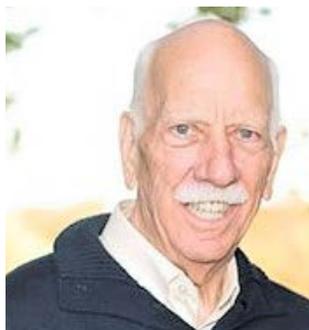
There are some major changes to parking charges and procedures that will make parking cheaper. Be sure to read the article in this issue and to watch your email for updates.

To our friends who joined us from afar via Zoom during our COVID-related move online: LLI classes will be on Zoom for our winter term. So, wherever you are, stay in touch and join us in January!

For now, stay cool and stay well. See you in September.

— *Carol*

OUR OWN RENAISSANCE MAN



We're all familiar with the term Renaissance man. But, when it comes to providing a definition, things get a little fuzzy. Typical descriptions include a person with broad interests who is knowledgeable in many fields. Others suggest that educational achievement

and intellectual curiosity play a part. Given such broad generalizations, how many of us can say we know such a person? You will have an opportunity to hang out with – and learn from – one strong contender for the title, Joe Grush, when the fall 2022 LLI term rolls around.

Joe is well known in the NIU community for his numerous academic and administrative roles. They include professor (and later chair) of the Department of Psychology, associate and acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and deputy provost. These impressive accomplishments grew from modest origins, but prove the power of hard work and determination.

Born the second of ten children, Joe grew up in St Louis, and after high school attended small, downstate Quincy College, graduating with a degree in philosophy. After college, he moved to Chicago, where he took a job with the criminal justice system, a move that he considered a temporary stop to earn money for graduate school. Like many young people of that era, he was politically

active, and soon caught the attention of local politicians. Despite their urging him to forget further education and build a career in Chicago city government, Joe remained true to his goal and earned a PhD in psychology from the University of Illinois.

He and his bride Karen, who had a distinguished career with the DeKalb County Health Department, have made their home here for well over forty years, and their local roots are deep. Their daughter, Elizabeth, along with her husband and two children, lives in Geneva; their other child, Aleks Kosoric, is in nearby Sycamore with his wife and daughter. Aleks was displaced by the Bosnian War and found his way to the Grush home through Rotary International. He has been like a son ever since.

Through the years, Joe has been a valued contributor to LLI, leading us in such diverse topics as *Theories of Great Thinkers in Psychology*, *The Federalist Papers*, and *The Plains Indians*. Joe is guided in every new project by the principle that the best way to learn about a subject is to teach it. He prepares for each presentation with meticulous research. This fall, he will be convening a class on the Supreme Court, including cases on the Electoral College. While these topics have certainly each garnered their share of news in the past year, it may seem a bit unusual to yoke them to a common theme. Come see for yourself exactly how that's done in the hands of our very own Renaissance man, Joe Grush.

– Brad Pietens

WHAT LINKS ESPORTS, FOOD, & ELECTIONS?

Would you finally like to find out what Esports are? Or how the nature of work has changed? Or to understand shifts in the food industry? Or to gain insight into the fall elections? Each of those questions, and many more, will be answered in our fall Notables speaker series on Tuesday afternoons.

Answering those four questions will be, respectively, Conner Vagle, NIU Esports director; Mahesh Subramony, management; John Boswell, campus dining

services; and Matt Streb, political science. Others in the weekly series include Kunal Patel, health studies; Anna Wilson, DeKalb Chamber of Commerce; and Suzanne Degges-White, counseling & counselor education.

So, sign up for the series or just come to those that interest you. You are welcome to bring guests. Notables are a good way to introduce others to one of LLI's offerings.

VIP INFO: VERY IMPORTANT PARKING INFO

As of mid-July, the NIU Visitors Lot on Carroll Street is using a completely new digital permit system with license plate readers. The lot is not staffed and uses pay stations for those without permits.

Parking enforcement officers are using license plate recognition (LPR) technology to check virtual permits. LPR allows officers, as they drive through parking lots, to read license plates and to check their registration status in NIU's parking management system.

Since physical permits are not part of the new system, the \$2 LLI daily parking permit has been retired. Instead, an on-line permit or QR code on your phone means that your license plate is now your virtual parking permit.

Payment Options

NIU retirees can continue to get a \$10 annual parking pass by applying and paying with a credit card on-line at <https://prkapp.niu.edu/> and selecting Retiree Permits.

All other LLI members and LLI guests can purchase a 3-month pass for \$15, created only for LLI and with in-and-out privileges. Alternatively, you may purchase a visitor's day pass for \$6 or a weekly pass for \$12.

Note that the new pass offers significant savings. If you previously took classes twice a week for eight weeks at \$2/day, you would have spent \$32 on parking during a fall or spring term.

Important: The web link to buy LLI passes will be available just prior to the first day of classes. You can then purchase an LLI pass on-line with a credit card. If the link is not available when you visit the site, please check back in a day or two or email LLI@niu.edu for further details.

LLI'S FALL BUFFET MENU — Sept. 13 - Nov. 3

All study groups are 8 weeks, unless noted.

What Has the Constitution Wrought? (4 weeks)

Joe Grush

Examine history, criticisms of Supreme Court decisions, including Electoral College.

Indelible: A Study of Photographs We Won't Let Fade Away, Part 2 — Images from 1960s to 1980s (4 weeks)

Joe Gastiger

Study who, what, why of photos documenting historical events.

Notables (8 weeks)

LLI Notables Committee

Attend talks by experts, primarily NIU faculty, with time for questions.

Armchair Towns: Sicilian Sights (3 weeks)

Judith Testa

Look at history, art, architecture, museums of interesting Sicilian towns.

Italian Civilization of the Middle Ages & Renaissance (5 weeks)

Christopher Nissen

Examine Italy's contributions during medieval & early modern periods.

The Other Side of History: The Way of Life (8 weeks)

Judy Wright &

Donna Benson

Delve into lifestyles of several cultures, beginning with the ancients.

"I Ain't No False Prophet": Bob Dylan in Five Albums (5 weeks)

John Bradley

Listen closely to Bob Dylan's life & artistry through five of his albums.

Four Wars: A Musical Journey (6 weeks).

Jerry Smith & Dick Down

Connect music from four U.S. eras to war and history of the times.

Candidates & Campaigns: The 2022 Edition. (4 weeks)

Carol Zar & Elizabeth Bass

Focus on most interesting & competitive congressional & gubernatorial races.

LLI'S MASK POLICY

LLI uses the NIU mask and other COVID-19 policies as the bases of our policies, with appropriate adaptations for our group. As of mid-July, NIU's classroom mask policy is that "faculty members can require masks be worn in their teaching spaces." Of course, this policy could change at any time, depending on state regulations and local conditions. The NIU policy also states "Any member of the NIU community who prefers to continue to mask is welcome and encouraged to do so." You can read the full policy at <https://www.niu.edu/protecting-the-pack/index.shtml>.

Therefore, the LLI policy for the fall 2022 term is that masks are recommended but not required.

In Memoriam

Kathleen Dust

NOURISHING YOUR MIND....

LLI is like a buffet – All-you-can-learn for one price. And, just like a buffet, you decide how much you want to consume. Some load up their schedules, taking three-to-six classes; others just nosh, taking one or two classes. Remember, you are always welcome to bring a friend to a class or two to sample LLI's content and camaraderie.

...NOURISHING YOUR BODY

While we talk about LLI as an all-you-can-eat buffet, we still need real food too. This past spring term, LLIers found several places in the Holmes Student Center where they felt comfortable eating, with well-spaced tables and frequent cleaning. Most days, several groups of members brown-bagged or bought lunch at either the Huskie Grill or Qdoba and ate in their common dining area.

On some Tuesdays and Thursdays, others enjoyed the new buffet format, with a prix fixe lunch, at the Ellington's Restaurant on the first floor.

SOLVING A GIFT DILEMMA

Looking for a way to congratulate, remember, or thank an LLI friend? Then consider a contribution to the LLI account with the NIU Foundation. Such gifts are tax deductible, may be made in any amount, and help to pay for our tech help and other extras. Gifts may be made on-line at <https://foundation.myniu.com/give.php>; or checks may be made out to the NIU Foundation (not to LLI), with LLI in the memo line, and mailed to NIU Foundation, Box 746, DeKalb IL. 60115.

BUYING SUPPLIES?

If you are thinking of convening a LLI course but would need to purchase or rent DVDs or other supplies, LLI can pay for them. BUT payment needs to be worked out in advance of purchase. Contact our Steering Committee with requests or questions at czar@niu.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LLI Fall 2022 Sep. 13 – Nov. 3
LLI Winter 2023 Jan. 17 – Feb. 9 (Zoom)
LLI Spring 2023 March 14 – May 4