

RSIN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
February, 2014

Greetings Everyone!

This month the LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT shines on:

- DVD Library – Learning in Retirement, Waukesha County Technical College, WI
- Thursday Morning Lecture Series – OLLI, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Winter Intersession – Explorers LLI, Salem State University, MA
- The Evergreen Forum – Princeton Senior Resource Center, NJ

RSIN reads about so many outstanding LLI courses – too many to mention in this newsletter – that we have found it necessary to create these two additional columns – LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT and LLI CURRICULUM IDEAS. Both contain great ideas and resources from programs just like yours all across the Network. Be sure to give them a read.

NEW AFFILIATE

We would like to welcome the **Lifelong Learning Institute at Northern Iowa Area Community College** in Mason City, Iowa, to the Road Scholar Institute Network. This LLI, with a motto of *ReNew, Revitalize & ReInvent at NIACC's LLI*, is designed to be academic-based with LLI courses of short duration without credit, grades, and exams. Many classes are one time only and others may meet 5 or 6 times. LLI is more like a “club” with college level classes in addition to planned events and activities for members. If you'd like to learn more about our newest member, please visit their website at www.niacc.edu/LLI. Welcome to the Network!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Annual Midwest Lifelong Learning Conference
April 16-18th, 2014 - Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, IL

This year's theme is Engagement. Presenters and participants will be addressing the challenges of engaging learners, communities, volunteers and instructors as the concepts of leisure time and retirement continue to evolve. All are welcome! Small group settings and dynamic discussions will enhance the conference theme for your lifelong learning group. Save the date and contact us if you are interested in presenting a breakout topic with your research or experience. Presenters are NEEDED! For more information visit the conference web site at <http://www.eiu.edu/adulted/2014midwestconf.php> or contact Eastern Illinois University - School of Continuing Education - **Marita Metzke**, Conference Chair - mjmetzke@eiu.edu or by phone at **217-581-5114**.

Annual Southern Lifelong Learning Conference

July 30-August 1, 2014, Reuter Center, University of North Carolina, Asheville

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of North Carolina, Asheville is hosting the 2014 Southern Lifelong Learning Conference. All are welcome. For more information, workshop proposals and all the details, please visit the conference web site - <http://olliasheville.com/2014-southern-regional-lifelong-learning-meeting>. You can also contact the conference organizer, **Catherine Frank** at cfrank@unca.edu or by phone at **828-251-6188**.

A THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

From Jeff Shinaman at the Academy of Lifelong Learning, Saratoga Springs, NY: Thank you to fellow Road Scholar Network members! I met with our college president on Friday (last month) and she has verbally agreed to continue to allow us use of office and classroom space at no charge. She cited parallel missions, local impact, community relations and activity at college locations created by our members. Though they will discontinue providing financial support this next fiscal year, we are extremely happy with this outcome and can move forward. I'm waiting to hear from the president about the need for a written agreement. Thank you to those who responded to my request for help. I received many insightful responses that were very valuable to me. I appreciate having the Road Scholar Institute Network as a resource! Jeff Shinaman - Executive Director - Academy for Lifelong Learning - Empire State College - 111 West Avenue - Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 - (518) 587-2100 x2390 - Jeff.Shinaman@esc.edu - www.esc.edu/ALL

ANOTHER REQUEST FOR HELP

Ralph Mednick of the Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute in Massachusetts is asking for your feedback re: developing an LLI website. Here is his request.

The three questions/comments I have:

1. Recommendation for a company to host an LLI website.
 2. Recommendation for a company to renew Domain Name Registration.
 3. Any problem in having the same company provide both hosting and registration services?
- You may respond to Ralph with your feedback at rmednick@hotmail.com Thank you!

FAREWELL TO A LIFELONG LEARNING PIONEER

Many of you may remember Evelyn Chasan, one of the early movers and shakers in the lifelong learning movement. Evelyn recently passed away in New York. She was the driving force behind the development of the Adult Learning Institute at Columbia-Greene Community College in New York, and she also served as the organization's first chairman of the board of directors. Our condolences go out to Evelyn's family at this time.

KUDOS FOR THE CUBA CHARTER PROGRAM

Twenty-seven members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at North Carolina State University (formerly ENCORE) traveled to Cuba in January (Program # 20437 -- Cuba Today: People and Society) on a Charter Program with Road Scholar. Here's what Joan Hardman Cobb had to say -- "A very well organized trip to a beautiful country with a fascinating history. Our 2 guides were first class and were able to provide a wealth of information and answer all our questions throughout the week. The morning lectures and many opportunities to meet with local Cuban people enhanced our understanding of Cuban culture, its economy and global relationships. Altogether an amazing experience."

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Texas in Austin also took a Cuba Charter Program in December and are planning another one. Here's what Les Cohen, Professor Emeritus had to say -- "I'm pleased to endorse Road Scholar's upcoming trip to Cuba. We had a group that went last December and we thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Ours was considered a "people to people" visit and highlights included lectures on Cuban history, religion, and architecture; visits to humble and more moderate homes, children's art and choir performances, a senior center sponsored by the government, Hemingway's house and favorite bar, and several small privately owned businesses located in individual homes.

The best part was the friendliness, enthusiasm, and talent of the local people we met, particularly the children. You will be fortunate to see their society in transition and I guarantee you will learn much and have a terrific time.

A VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM FROM ROAD SCHOLAR

The Canonization of Pope John Paul II - Wednesday, April 23 to Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Join the faithful in Rome to celebrate the life of Pope John Paul II and the gifts he gave to the world. His great accomplishments are only transcended by the deep faith he evoked and shared with people from all walks of life. Pope Francis is gathering the faithful for this rare Beatification celebration on April 27, 2014 in Rome.

Our program spends five nights in Rome and includes the Beatification events. During this program we walk into the welcoming arms of the columns at St. Peter's Basilica and view the awe-inspiring masterpieces of Michelangelo and Raphael. We journey to Assisi to visit the humble chapel of St. Francis, the inspiration for our current Holy Father. We walk together through the historical Catacombs where early Christians hid to practice their Faith. And, the highlight of the journey will be gathering together in St. Peter's Square for the moment when Pope John Paul II is elevated to Sainthood.

It is the perfect opportunity for each of us to be part of an event that will evoke inspiration in all that are present and celebrate this time of great renewal for the Catholic Faith

This program could work as an LLI Charter program if you act quickly. If you think your LLI is interested in Chartering this program contact Frania Monarski at 617-457- 5528. To enroll individually in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please call Road Scholar for all the details, toll free at (800) 322-5315 and reference Program # 21301 – The Canonization of Pope John Paul II.

A.L.L. CONTRIBUTES TO EOC

Continuing its program of collecting personal care items for clients of the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC), the membership committee of the Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, New York, requested each member bring a donation to their December holiday party. Over 400 items, in addition to cash donations, were collected from the 135 attendees. A.L.L. will hold this semi-annual drive again at the organization's annual meeting in June.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

The newsletter of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale contained a letter from their president, Ed McKnight that discussed just how members participate in classes. He said that the just completed fall term offered 43 classes (about normal) and of the roughly 360 members (the number floats from month to month), 246 members (a little over 68%) signed up for at least one class. They averaged around 66%, so fall registration was slightly higher than average. The average number of classes taken per registration member was 6.5. They also had close to 1,600 individual students in classes during this one term.

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Last month, members of the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois held their Winter Celebration of Learning, a special open house to inform members of the planned activities for 2014, and to welcome potential members who are interested in learning opportunities. The opening program featured a special Today's Topic presentation then a local folksinger shared his talents and knowledge in a concert "Folksongs of Illinois." A potluck luncheon followed and the afternoon brought a sampling of fun activities.

WRITING CONTEST

This spring the Lifelong Learning Lyceum in conjunction with Newburyport Adult & Community Education in Massachusetts will be holding its First Annual Writing Contest. Open to the general public in the Newburyport area, entries must be received by June 1st. The topic of the contest is THE FAMILY PICNIC. First prize is \$150 cash & a \$100 gift certificate for classes as well as the winning work to be published on their web site and in the fall catalog. The second prize is a \$100 gift certificate toward classes and the work to be published on the web site. The third prize is a \$50 gift certificate toward classes with the work published on the website.

A NEW LLI AUTHOR

John Fishwick, a lecturer at the Hodges University Frances Pew Hays Center for Lifelong Learning in Naples, Florida, has just had his first novel published. *A Flight to Romance*, the first in a trilogy, is a thoughtful reflection on everything from art and science to romance and relationships. You can find John's book on Amazon.

GIVING MADE EASY

The Princeton Senior Resource Center in New Jersey is a designated participating non-profit in the OnePrinceton Card program. This is a new initiative involving area merchants, residents and non-profits. It consists of a debit card or smart phone app managed by Heartland Payment System (a local company) that is linked to the member's bank account. When members use it at participating local stores, restaurants and service providers, OnePrinceton donates 1% to the participating nonprofit organization of choice. Other incentives may be offered to reward users.

Another way members give to their program is by bringing in receipts from a local participating merchant, dropping off used ink cartridges, cell phones and small electronics, and by making their Comcast payments at a local vendor. *Two easy ways to give back to lifelong learning!*

OUTREACH

Two members of the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at Minnesota State University were recently invited to speak at the Key City Breakfast Club, which meets monthly. They talked about all the activities available to members. Brochures and class schedules were handed out to the 25 people in attendance.

CONSUMABLE AUCTION

The proceeds of the annual Consumable Auction, held at the holiday party at the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA) program at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell go toward the awarding of three \$1,500 scholarships to deserving undergraduates at the school. What is a consumable auction? It's an auction where all donated items can be consumed (you eat it, drink it, do it, or use it up). Items donated in the past include baked goods, candy, wine, and gift certificates to restaurants, movie theatres, grocery stores and bookstores. In lieu of gifts at the party, for the last several years, members have donated many new books for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency that serves families in shelters and oversees many childcare programs in the City. Each book is marked with a bookplate denoting that it is a gift from LIRA. Along with the books, members also bring in warm clothing such as hats, mittens and gloves for the children of all ages.

CIVIL WAR ERA COURSES CONTINUE

From the **Lyceum** at Binghamton University, New York:

Reporting the Civil War – A veteran newsman will address the role of newspapers in the American Civil War.

From **Learning in Retirement**, Waukesha County Technical College, Wisconsin:

Robert E. Lee and His High Command – A discussion of the generals serving under Lee

From **Lifelong Learning**, Baylor University, Texas:

Mark Twain, the Civil War and Reconstruction – When Confederate Forces fired on Fort Sumter in April 1861, thousands of patriotic southerners rushed to enlist for the Confederate cause, among them Samuel Longhorn Clemens. Clemens served as a second lieutenant in a Confederate militia – for two weeks. Then he deserted, fled west, and became Mark Twain. This course looks at Twain's southern background, what he did during the Civil War and how the war influenced his later classic works like *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

From **Lifetime Learning Institute**, NOVA Annandale, VA

Lincoln and Gettysburg: The Battle and the Speech – How did President Abraham Lincoln's military decisions affect the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863? What was most significant about his Gettysburg Address dedicating the military cemetery on November 19, 1863? Participants will explore these and other questions.

NEW CURRICULUM IDEA

One of the benefits of belonging to RSIN is the national exposure we enjoy. That often translates into our learning about new and unique curriculum opportunities. Here is one such example:

There's no shortage of information about the serious challenges facing our planet – and although most people say they would like to do more, they don't know where to start. That's where the NW Earth Institute comes in. The NW Earth Institute makes change more possible, more social, and yes, more fun by helping people connect with their communities and take action, together.

NWEI was founded in 1993 with a simple objective: to give people a framework to talk about our relationship with the planet and to share in discovering new ways to live, work, create and consume. And (as more than 140,000 NWEI participants worldwide have discovered since then) it turns out that within that simple objective is a recipe for powerful change. When you break big issues into bite-sized pieces, and talk through them with the people who matter to you, you discover insights and inspiration. You learn, together.

You build a personal network of shared stories and support that makes it easy to take action. In short, you become part of a community for change. Find out more at www.nwei.org or by calling the NW Earth Institute at [503-227-2807](tel:503-227-2807). We look forward to hearing from you. Also, the only cost to participate in an NWEI course is the cost of the course books (PDF and/or print copy), depending on the course, \$5-\$35.

LEARNING ABOUT JOHN SAMS

Members of the Brevard ElderLearning LLI at Eastern Florida State College will be learning about Florida pioneer John Sams, who came to Florida in 1875. By visiting his cabin, the oldest standing home in Brevard County, they will travel back in time and learn about his life as a citrus grower, businessman, and the first Superintendent of the Brevard County School System.

LOOKING BACK

This winter, the Learning in Retirement at Iona College (LIRIC) program in New York is offering members a four-session series of lectures on a variety of historical subjects. Topics include – The American Revolution: What Happened Here in Westchester – The History of New Rochelle – The Election of 1773 – Herculaneum Explored.

UNDERSTANDING GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES

This spring, members of the Lifelong Learning Institute at James Madison University in Virginia will be studying this challenging topic. Everyone is sometimes perplexed by the attitudes and behavior of people - including family members - from other generations? Generational theory was originally offered as a model for describing cycles in American history, but it also has implications for explaining why interactions between members of differing generations are often difficult. Participants will discuss the four basic generational types and their current manifestations. Then they will explore the applications of this theory to improving communication and mutual respect across generational boundaries.

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY

This spring, members of the Worcester Institute for Senior Education in Massachusetts will study American Urban History. This course will examine the growth and development of urban society in the United States from the early 19th century through modern America. The course format will consist of reading and discussion, guided by the instructor. Topics to be covered: the rise of modern city culture, the industrial city, urban recreation and amusements, race relations and city politics.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Members of the Chemeketa Community Learning in Retirement program in Oregon will be learning about World Heritage sites as they touch on a few of the many places that UNESCO has named as places to preserve for all in our world today. A globe-trotting member will lead the class, bringing information from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

THE THIRTEEN GRANDMOTHERS

This winter, members of Life Long Learning at Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts will listen to the words of wisdom of thirteen very special grandmothers from around the world who met in Phoenicia, New York during October of 2004. Their purpose was to share their indigenous stories and prophecies in the hope that they could bring about positive changes in a world that surely needs peace and understanding if our planet is to survive.

LITERARY MEDIEVAL TAPAS

This winter, members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts will be tackling the literature of the Middle Ages. This six-week course includes the lesser-known works of Chaucer, Dante and the influential poets of the *dolce stil nuovo* (sweet new style), as well a one of the first examples of an autobiography, *The Book of Margery Kempe*. They will sample the vast array of works from the time period 1200-1485, which brought chivalry and knights, plague and fear, and finally served as the springboard for the Renaissance. Although most of the readings are in Middle English, many have modern translations.

BEEES, APES, AND THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN LANGUAGE

This winter, members of the Adult Learning Program at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, will be studying the human communication system – language – as one of our species' unique traits. What defines language? How does it compare with the communication systems of other species? How and when did it evolve? How does a language reflect the culture that speaks it? And what about those apes, with whom one can have a real conversation in sign language?

BELLIGERENT & BENEFICIAL BACTERIA

Members of the ENCORE LLI at North Carolina State University will spend three sessions learning about some of the many fascinating germs that we often hear about in the news or even in advertising. Yogurt bacteria, super bugs, and intestinal bacteria will be explored. They will also discuss new evidence related to Lyme disease and the prevalence of other newly discovered bacterial diseases transmitted by ticks and fleas.

THE BOOK CORNER

Members of the **OMNIOLORE LLI at California State University, Dominguez Hills** are reading:

Walden on Wheels: On the Open Road from Debt to Freedom, by Ken Ilgunas

Beautiful Ruins, by Jess Walter

Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

The Stone Diaries, by Carol Shields

The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out a Window and Disappeared, by Jonas Jonasson

Members of the **Adult Learning Institute at Columbia-Greene Community College** in Hudson, New York are reading:

The Island at the Center of the World, by Russell Shorto

The book discussion at the **Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA)** at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, includes:

The Round House, by Louise Erdrich

CURRICULUM RESOURCES: NEW WEB SITES

About ipl2 – www.ipl.org

ipl2 is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment. To date, thousands of students and volunteer library and information science professionals have been involved in answering reference questions for our Ask an ipl2 Librarian service and in designing, building, creating and maintaining the ipl2's collections. It is through the efforts of these students and volunteers that the ipl2 continues to thrive to this day. In January 2010, the website "ipl2: information you can trust" was launched, merging the collections of resources from the Internet Public Library (IPL) and the Librarians' Internet Index (LII) websites. The site is hosted by [Drexel University's College of Information Science & Technology](http://www.drexel.edu), and a [consortium of colleges and universities](#) with programs in information science are involved in developing and maintaining the ipl2.

This is a wonderful resource for LLI curriculum material. For instance...

Literary Criticism Collection - <http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

The ipl2 Literary Criticism Collection contains critical and biographical websites about authors and their works that can be browsed by author, by title, or by nationality and literary period. The collection is not inclusive of all the work on the web, nor does it plan to be. The sites are selected with some thought to their overall usefulness.

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*Road Scholar is the program name of Elderhostel, Inc.,
the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning.*

Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.

~ Nelson Mandela