

RSIN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July, 2014

Greetings Everyone!

This month the LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT shines on:

- **The World of Media – LIRIC, NY**
- **SIGS – Lifetime Learning Institute, Annandale, VA**
- **Summer Courses – OLLI, Berkshire Community College, MA**
- **Summer Learning – Lifelong Learning Society, CNU, VA**

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.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

**Annual Southern Lifelong Learning Conference
July 30-August 1, 2014, Reuter Center, University of
North Carolina, Asheville**

It's not too late to signup. 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, 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.

IT'S TIME TO RETIRE

I want to let you know that, after 15 rewarding years as program manager of the Road Scholar Institute Network, I have decided to retire at the end of this month. I'm proud of the work that I've done since joining what was then Elderhostel in 1999. We grew the network to 420 member Lifelong Learning Institutes. We formed productive, mutually beneficial partnerships. And we continued to educate society about the importance of lifelong learning. Authoring my book, *Learning Later, Living Greater: The Secret for Making the Most*

***of Your After-50 Years*, was a memorable highlight for me. Now, after much consideration, I'm choosing to turn the page to the next chapter of my life: enjoying the enriching years that we discuss so often in our work together. I'm happy to assure you that the Road Scholar Institute Network is in very capable hands. Ann Simanis, Road Scholar's associate vice president, will take over the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the Road Scholar Institute Network on July 1. Ann will introduce herself to you soon. And I plan to stay involved with Road Scholar now and in the coming years. I will always be grateful to Elderhostel/Road Scholar and the LLIs in our network for giving me the opportunity to work with such stimulating older adults, and for showing me that life still has so much to offer us as we grow older. Thanks to my work with the Road Scholar Institute Network, I am really looking forward to this next chapter of my life.**

HELP AN LLI OUT

Calling all LLIs with 400 or more members! If you have computer software you are happy with, and that does the following, could you please contact Edwin Mehlman from the Lifelong Learning Collaborative in Rhode Island at mehlmane@fullchannel.net with details, including the name of the software. Thank you for your help with this. The software should be capable of the following:

- location in the cloud,
- access from personal computers in changing locations,
- direct input of course registration by members,
- real time information, ease of access to the information by the Administrator with seamless report generation ability with one click,
- readily available financial information, and
- other features that could be used to grow the organization and accommodate that growth.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the talented members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. Many of them were selected to take part in the Huntsville Photographic Society's Members' Showcase being held at the Huntsville Museum of Art. *The Art of Nature 2014, Sanctuary Artists* is the title of the exhibition.

TWO MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois has instituted a two-level membership system. The first, the Regular Membership Level, features all the programs and most of the benefits members have had during the past year. Dues will remain at \$60. The second level – the ALL-Plus Membership – with dues of \$120 has the added benefit of members being able to take most Community Learning classes at 50% of the fee charged to the general public. The Community Learning classes are short-term classes offered by the college's Community Education department. The extra money, along with all the regular dues will go to the Academy to cover its expenses.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

The Princeton Senior Resource Center in New Jersey has teamed up with Amazon to raise funds. The AmazonSmile program – www.smile.amazon.com – will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Center whenever members shop on AmazonSmile. All they have to do is select Princeton Senior Resource Center as the charity they would like to support after signing in. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon we all know- same products, same prices, same service.

The Mankato Area Lifelong Learners in Minnesota, with the help of their local Barnes & Noble bookstore, hosted a fundraising book fair at the store. Barnes & Noble contributed a percentage of every sale made with a special Book Fair voucher to the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners. The necessary vouchers were sent to every member and were also available through the Lifelong Learners office. Members were also able to buy books online at Barnes & Noble using the Book Fair voucher ID on the payment page. While in the store, members were also treated to two local authors who talked about their new books.

The Adult Learning Institute at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, New York held their spring raffle, auction and appraisal day recently. It was a huge success with members selling raffle tickets, area merchants donating many items to the silent auction, and members bringing in items to be appraised for a small fee. A bake sale was also held at the same time.

BECOMING A NON-PROFIT

Over the last several years, the Adult Learning Program at the University of Connecticut in Hartford has been working toward becoming a 501© 3, non-profit entity. This move was necessary due to changes at the host university. With the assistance of the Connecticut Under League Initiative Program acting as ALP's attorneys, they have been working hard to implement all the necessary steps. The only thing left to do, as of this writing, is to apply for non-profit status with the IRS.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama, Huntsville held their Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for those who led winter courses. Delicious food and terrific entertainment highlighted the afternoon. Book bags were presented to teachers and members of the Curriculum Committee as a thank you for the contributions they made to the OLLI program.

FACULTY FRIDAYS

On Friday mornings, faculty from various departments at NOVA Annandale in Virginia have been coming to the Lifetime Learning Institute to give presentations on their specialties. This summer two History presentations will be given, one on the Crusades and one on the Irish Struggles for Independence: Operation Banner 1969-1981.

TWO NEW SIGS FORMED

The Princeton Senior Resource Center in New Jersey has formed two new special interest groups. The Grandparenting group will enable members to share their joys, knowledge and questions with others about being grandparents. The Men in Retirement group will give men making or who have already made the transition into retirement, a chance to meet other men who have done the same.

ASK THE BOARD

There is a very useful column in the newsletter of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, Annandale, entitled *Ask the Board*. Members submit questions and one is selected to be answered in the newsletter each month.

FIELD TRIPS

During the spring, members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama, Huntsville took two very interesting field trips. The first one took members to the UAH Engineering Student Prototyping Facility for a comprehensive tour of one of the largest engineering student prototyping facilities in the country. The second field trip gave members the chance to tour the local National Weather Service Office where they learned about forecasting accurate weather and other weather-service goals.

Over the summer, members of the Lifelong Learning Society at Christopher Newport University in Virginia have some very interesting field trips planned. They will visit the world-famous Jefferson Laboratory and learn, among other things, how physicists plumb the depths of the nucleus with accelerators. At the Mariner's Museum research specialists and archivists will take them for a look behind the scenes. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science will provide participants with an in-depth look at the functions and ecological value of tidal wetlands, riparian buffers and coastal watersheds. Finally, a field trip to the Virginia Air and Space Museum will take attendees on an exciting tour back in time and then all the way to the near future.

LEARNING ABOUT LYME DISEASE

During the spring, in preparation for summer activities, members of the Adult Learning Exchange at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, New York learned about the history, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease.

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

The Annual Meeting of the Adult Learning Program at the University of Connecticut in Hartford featured Nancy Johnson, a 24-year member of the U.S. Congress, speaking on the *Future of Medicine Under the Affordable Care Act*. After spending 18 years on the House Ways and Means Committee and playing an integral role in the passage of every major tax, trade and health care initiative during years of rapid technological and political change and the globalization of the economy, Ms. Johnson was superbly qualified to speak on this topic, which ensured a stimulating and informative presentation at the Annual Meeting.

SCRIBES

The Scribes writing group, at the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois took on a challenging task this spring. A workshop entitled "Point of View" looked at fairy tale villains. Members were encouraged to rewrite a short fairy tale (1-2 pages) from the villain's point of view.

ROOSEVELT'S TREE ARMY

This spring, members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College in New Hampshire studied the *Civilian Conservation Corps and how Roosevelt's Tree Army Changed the American Landscape*. The CCC made a lasting imprint on the American landscape that can be seen to this day. While many know the infrastructure changes, few realize that the CCC is still with us today. The purpose of the class was to give an overview of the CCC. They discussed how it was conceived, who implemented it, and what it did, as well as its current role in society.

ALBERT CAMUS

During the late winter, early spring, members of the Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning in Pennsylvania studied philosophy in the literature of Albert Camus. For a serious writer like Camus, philosophical ideas, especially those associated with Existentialism, are central to his novels, essays and drama. The courses began with his novel *The Stranger* and they then devoted two weeks to each of the following works: *The Plague*, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, and *The Fall*.

THE BOOK CORNER

Members of the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois met with the local author, Graham Murdock, to discuss his book, *Blackberry Rain*. They are also reading:
Gone Girl, by Gillian Flynn

Members of the Princeton Senior Resource Center in New Jersey are reading:
The Happiness Project, by Gretchen Rubin

**Members of the Adult Learning Institute at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, New York are reading:
The Glass Castle: A Memoir, by Jeanette Walls**

CURRICULUM RESOURCES: NEW WEB SITES

**The Why Files: The Science Behind the News -
<http://whyfiles.org>**

The mission of The Why Files is to explore the science, math and technology behind the news of the day, and to present those topics in a clear, accessible and accurate manner. They are based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but The Why Files covers science at all institutions that engage in scientific exploration and discovery.

**Scientific American: Ask the Experts -
www.scientificamerican.com/section/ask-the-experts/**

There's no shortage of so-called experts out on the Web offering advice on everything from how to budge that pesky stain to how to get a bill through Congress. But, when it comes to the tricky questions of science, who can you trust? How 'bout the respected but accessible "Scientific American"?

**Frequently Asked Questions in Mathematics -
www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~alopez-o/math-faq/math-faq.html**

An FAQ from the Usenet group. It includes the answers to mathematic puzzlers such as why 0.999 ... equals 1 and a discussion of famous problems such as the four-color problem.

That's all for this month. Next month's newsletter will be coming to you from Ann Simanis, who will be your new RSIN contact – ann.simanis@roadscholar.org.

Thank you everyone for working with me these last 15 years.
It's been fun and very inspirational!

Nancy Merz Nordstrom, M.Ed.

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

O this learning, what a thing it is. ~ Shakespeare