

LLI CURRICULUM IDEAS

July, 2013

In the fall, members of the **Academy for Lifelong Learning** in New York will be able to take a course entitled *Enjoying Poetry: Writing And Reading*. This course is open to all members who are interested in writing their own original poetry. They will be reading poetry of all kinds as well, from Shakespeare to contemporary poets, focusing on different poetic forms and experimenting with writing those forms. Participants will use these poems as springboards for writing poetry. The course is primarily a writing class. Participants will be encouraged to write and share their own work. All levels of experience and interest are welcome.

This summer, members of the **Institute for Continuing Learning** at Young Harris College in Georgia will be studying *Canine Domestication and Human as Pack Leader*. Dogs really are human's best friends. They will explore the evolution of wild canids past and present, the domestication of dogs and the artificial selection process for the many breeds. They'll also look into the newest research showing the incredible link between humans and dogs and perform their own brief experiment with the leader's dog, Rutabega, and perhaps one or two of the participants.

Remembering Egypt is the title of a course being given at the **Institute for Mature Learning** at Drury University in Missouri this summer. Participants will learn about the exodus that is continually referenced by biblical writers and the ancient Israelites. They will also focus on the cultural memory, how it is formed and how it helps to shape historical narratives, popular opinion and ritual performance.

Over the summer Intersessional at the **Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA)** program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, members studied *The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes*. They looked at the original Holmes and at clips of some of the movie and television adaptations; they then considered the many authors as well as film and television productions that continue to invent new versions of Holmes and his detective career.

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, was the title of a course given this past spring at the **Lifelong Learning Institute** at Waubensee Community College in Illinois. The course examined the stories of American artists, writers, doctors, architects, etc., who set out for Paris between 1820 and 1900 to study and excel in their chosen professions. Their subsequent achievements profoundly altered American history and culture.

This past spring, members of the **Lifelong Learning Society** at Florida Atlantic University explored *India's Questionable Future*. The world's largest democracy, and its third largest economy, India is often touted as a model for political and economic development and a rising power of the 21st century. While India's potential appears to be great, it remains challenged by a wide range of issues that could derail the Asian power's ascent. Combating terrorism, the Kashmir question, a deadly rivalry with Pakistan, and a nuclear arms race with China represent India's principal challenges. The lecturer analyzed India's rise to near-great power status and review its troubled path moving forward. Implications for American foreign policy makers was also considered.

Over the summer, members of the **Lifetime Learning Institute** at NOVA Annandale in Virginia studied *Natural and Man-Made Geological Disasters*. They looked at natural disasters that do not show the footprint of man, those caused strictly by the footprint of man, and those in between. Their discussion included a review of how historical disasters become part of myth and what methods geologists used to investigate such myths. They also discussed future natural furies that may occur, with emphasis on those that might be preventable.

During the spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University** in Illinois took a course entitled *Four Masterpieces of Music*. They listened to excerpts from the four requiems of Mozart, Brahms, and Verdi as well as the Britten War Requiem. They discussed their composers, time periods, circumstances, musical qualities and discovered what makes them great.

This past spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts** studied *What's New Around the Sun?* The past few decades have led to major revisions in the understanding of our solar system, largely through the use of space and ground-based telescopes, flybys, orbiters and landers. Scientists have demoted Pluto as a planet, detected subsurface oceans on the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and discovered multiple objects in the far reaches of the system. Participants looked at these developments and many of the spectacular images beamed back from space and then discussed these findings and their significance regarding the origin of the solar system and life beyond Earth.

Over the spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State University** in New Hampshire studied *Curiosities in Mathematics*. They explored such questions as Must there be a Friday the 13th every calendar year? How may randomly-selected people in a room assures better than a 50-50 chance of a birth month-and-day match? Are all triangles isosceles? Why are some numbers “perfect” and others deficient? How many prime number are there...Euclid knew?

Over the summer, members of the **OLLI program at Humboldt State University in California** will be studying *Islamic Prisms: Legitimacy & Authority*. This course focuses on Muslims in China, Syria, Morocco and Turkey to better understand this catholic religion by addressing topics such as education, women and orthodoxy/heterodoxy.