

Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubonsee Community College

President's Corner

Dear LLI Members,

As I write this there is still a weather battle going on between winter and spring; freezing overnight and close to 80 the next day! Hopefully as you are reading this, hints of summer are in the air as we begin the lovely month of June.

And June means the start of our Summer Sampler! The nice thing about registering online is that you can register up until the class begins...so register early for the ones you “have to have,” and throughout the summer for others as your calendar opens up. And remember, you do not have to be an LLI member to try out our summer offerings, so be sure to invite any eligible friends or family members to give us a try!

As I look back on this past LLI year, I am filled with excitement and expectations for the next one! Members are working hard at every level to provide a joyful and enriching LLI experience for us all. We have seen our course offerings expand, not only in number, but also in the variety of topics. And the Curriculum Council is looking at even more ways to engage members through outings, more outside speakers and guest presenters, in addition to new facilitators, and the exploration of Special Interest Groups.

We are marketing LLI more aggressively in public community spaces—look for our latest poster in your library or community center—in the hopes of attracting new members. And we continually look at ways to improve communications with our existing members.

LLI Board members are researching programs and workshops offered by service providers such as AARP and Road Scholar that we can bring to our members at little or no cost. Stay tuned for more information coming soon! Others are taking on the important work of maintaining our founding documents and improving the way we operate.

We truly are a member-directed, member-driven organization, and I am so grateful for the many members who have so willingly and enthusiastically given of their time and talent to help our organization thrive. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

As I said in the last newsletter, there's an energy in the air...do you feel it?

Sincerely,
Andi Danis, LLI Board President



Save the Date!

Hold August 12 (10am-1pm) for our LLI Fall Kickoff—open to members and non-members. This event, with an open house format, is an opportunity to learn more about LLI and to register for the fall semester offerings. More information will follow.

Curriculum Council Corner

Facilitator Testimonial

I confess that I am relatively new, having facilitated only one LLI course.

Recently retired, having moved to Batavia, I was delighted to learn about the Lifelong Learning Institute supported by Waubensee Community College. When we decided to relocate to the Fox River Valley, we desired to find others interested in learning. For myself I hoped to make acquaintance with a few with a curiosity about philosophy.

For much of my adult life I have nurtured an interest in philosophy. It all began in college. In my college reading of Plato's dialogues I imagined old Socrates, strolling about the Athenian marketplace pausing to engage others in conversation about justice, about knowledge, about virtue. I was hooked.



I became an LLI member and took a course or two. Then after some encouragement I went ahead and filled out the LLI course proposal form to facilitate a Socrates Café style discussion group. For resource material I collected articles from respected sources of journalism. From these sources I selected articles pertaining to nine topics. Our first Socrates Café session was to get acquainted and to talk about the anticipated discussion process. A ballot was then taken to pick five most favored topics. A week in advance of each session the article pertinent to the coming discussion was distributed.

How did it go? From a facilitators point of view I was reminded of graduate school seminars. We enjoyed a peer-to-peer exchange about ideas, facts, and questions which were important to us. Upon reflection it is extraordinary fortune to meet with individuals from diverse professional backgrounds passionate about learning something new. Also it is encouraging to discover how much we have in common.

Jerry King

... pictured above on far left in his Socrates Café class

Road Scholar Presentations

The Road Scholar Speakers Bureau, sponsored by Illinois Humanities, offers a wide range of topics which are thought provoking and engaging. LLI partnered with Waubonsee Community College to host two such enrichment events. These presentations were held on the Sugar Grove campus and open to both LLI members and the community.



On February 21, Connie Martin, pictured at left, spoke on *Pre-Civil War Quilts: Secret Codes to Freedom on the Underground Railroad*. The presentation focused on how quilts contained secret codes and messages to assist abolitionists—white and black—to guide enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad to Canada. Connie shared her family’s personal story and displayed replicas of the many quilts passed down from her grandmother.



Pictured above: Laura King, Donna Wawrzyniakowski and Gary Krueger of the Social-Community Outreach Committee

Presenter Jeanne Schultz Angel spoke on March 21 about a very relevant topic: *Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage for Women in Illinois*. Prior to 1920, women were denied the vote in the majority of elections in the United States. This was not a straightforward goal. The path to women’s suffrage was infused with sexism and racism and triggered a fear of feminism whose roots are still seen today. Jeanne’s in-depth knowledge of this topic made it come alive, resulting in a very interactive discussion!



Jeanne Schultz Angel pictured above during her presentation and with Emily Rollins of Waubonsee Community College who, in partnership with LLI member Kim Carew, was instrumental in coordinating these events.

Paris Olympics

Written by *Jean Langlais*



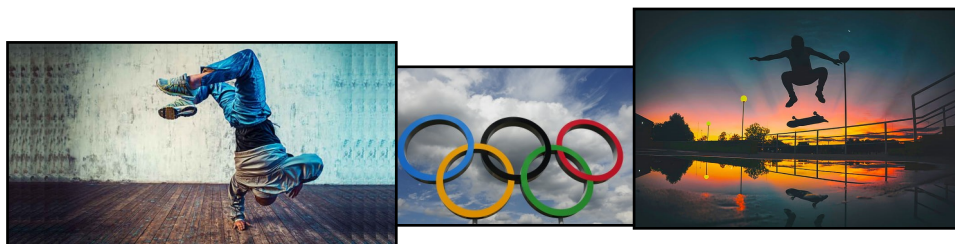
Excitement is high for the upcoming XXXIII Olympiad. Paris last hosted the Olympics in 1924. The Olympic Games run from July 26 through August 11, followed from August 28 to September 8 by the Paralympic Games. And though every moment may be fraught with security concerns, Paris is ready!

While the main athletic events will be held at the Stade de France stadium in the outskirts of Paris, the city center will host 15 Olympic and 11 Paralympic venues and other events will be held throughout France, in locales such as Versailles, Lyon, Nice, and Marseille.

Paris 2024 plans a spectacular Opening Ceremony, unlike any before it. A parade of 160 boats with 10,500 athletes will wind its way through the heart of Paris at sunset. As the Opening Ceremony draws closer, security concerns threaten those plans. If the threat is deemed too high, the opening ceremonies may be moved to the Stade de France stadium. Built for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, the Stade de France can seat 80,000, is the largest stadium in France, and the national stadium. Located in Saint-Denis just north of Paris, it will serve as Olympic Stadium for the duration of the Games.

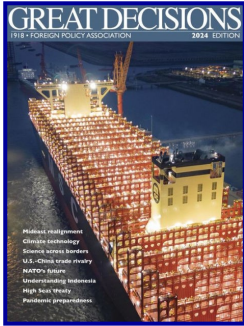
For the first time in Olympic history, full gender parity is promised for the 2024 Games. The goal is to have equal numbers of women and male athletes on the field of play. Women first competed in the Olympics at the Paris Games in 1900. Of the 997 athletes at those Games, 22 were women competing in tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrianism and golf.

Breaking (breakdancing) makes its Olympic debut in Paris. First introduced at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, breaking was added to the Paris program as a new sport, along with sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing. The International Olympic Committee integrated these sports to reward the athleticism and creativity of young people.



LLI’s Spring Offerings Great Decisions

Co-facilitated by Ruth Harmon & Carl Hays



Carl Hays and Ruth Harmon teamed up once again to facilitate American Great Decisions 2024! Somewhat of a legacy course, Great Decisions has been an offering to LLI members since the early years of our organization’s inception (starting Fall 1996 with facilitators, Don Schennum and Bernadine Greiter). Using the *Great Decisions 2024* briefing book, published by the Foreign Policy Association, and supplemental videos, eight current issues of concern were addressed. Among them were: the Mideast, Climate, U.S.-China Trade, NATO and Pandemic Preparedness.

Each week participants read an impartial analysis on the respective issue and came to class prepared to discuss and ask questions. Carl shared that many of the participants are “repeats” and well-versed with an interest to “deep dive” into the topics and offer ancillary tidbits to enrich the discussion. When asked why he liked the Great Decisions series so much, Carl noted the quality of the authors’ writings and perspectives and the international scope. A sincere thanks to Carl and Ruth! We look forward to many years to come!

Nurturing Nature in Your Landscape

Organized by Ceil Carey

Guest Presenter Judy Deszcz is a longtime friend of Ceil Carey and a Master Gardener. Her presentation was informative and great fun and included many useful handouts. Judy’s love of gardening and commitment to using all natural products were evident. Her mantra: “No herbicides! No pesticides!”

The class focused on creating natural habitats in our gardens. Ask first, “What species am I trying to attract and sustain?” According to Judy, it is important to “know” the species: what they eat, their watering preference, life cycle and behaviors.

Judy highlighted bees, butterflies, moths and dragonflies, explaining what each species needs, which are native to our area and the benefits of having them in our landscape. A special treat was viewing photos of Judy’s garden and how she has incorporated these “natural habitats.”

Attendees were even given tips of how and where to purchase organic plants. Now that is a lot to cover in one session!



Pictured above L-R: Judy Deszcz and Ceil Carey

Tataki-zome, the Art of Pounding Flowers

Co-facilitated by Kim Carew & Ann Hastert



Kim Carew and Ann Hastert facilitated this creative and fun class. All materials were provided for participants to learn this ancient Japanese art form—Tataki-zome, the art of pounding flowers.

Class began with a video showing how to transfer pigment directly from a flower or leaf onto fabric or paper for an exquisite imprint with just a hammer. After a basic introduction to the art form, Ann gave a brief history of Tataki-zome, with Kim sharing where to find books and online videos for inspiration.

Next, tips for picking flowers were shared. It is best to use flat flowers or individual petals or leaves. Bright colors give the best images, since all will be lighter after pounding and excess water needs to be removed.

Finally, how to pound flowers shared the process from start to finish. Everyone chose their flowers, supports, and creative materials. Then the pounding began with exclamations of delight and joy at seeing what everyone could create. Kim reminded everyone to start pounding lightly. She had shared the Tataki-zome process with her five and seven-year-old grandsons who didn't like "murdering flowers!"

Kane County Coroner Outing

Organized by Mary Hauge



Kane County Coroner Rob Russell, pictured at left and below with Organizer Mary Hauge, surprised the audience by saying his office is a law enforcement agency. He is an elected administrator who oversees the scientific process of determining the cause and manner of death, guiding the investigations and authorizing the needed county resources. Doctors are hired to perform medical tests and autopsies.

Rob reviewed the process followed in examining death cases, highlighting two very different ones. Information is carefully examined using various resources. The outcome is not always obvious, sometimes presenting a challenge for those dedicated super-sleuths!

Those in attendance were given the option to join Rob in a tour of this state-of-the-art facility which is located in the County Judicial Center and opened in 2021.



A special thank you to Mary Hauge for bringing us so many interesting and unique outings and trips!

New Board and Curriculum Council Members

In compliance with our Bylaws, “If all offices to be elected are uncontested and no additional measures are on the ballot, the Board may declare the election by unanimous consent, without a vote taken.” This is the case for our current election cycle.

It is our pleasure to announce the following officers for the 2024-2026 term:

Andi Danis—President

Kent Hayward—Vice President

Treasurer—Ann Hastert

Member Communications Manager—Vacant

Curriculum Council Members: Jessie Affelder, Bobbie Brown, Karen Christensen, Carolyn Hopkins and Beth Johnson



Our membership congratulates you, knowing you will use your enthusiasm and vision in working together to help us grow and thrive as an organization. Thank you for stepping up to serve!



If anyone is interested in applying for the open Member Communications Manager position, please contact President Andi Danis for more information (danishouse@sbcglobal.net or (630) 606-6366).

In Memoriam

With our sincere condolences...

Eleanor Lucie Kaage

April 30, 1934—December 29, 2023



Ellie was an enthusiastic member of LLI for 10 years. She was a resident of Batavia, IL, and formerly of Sister Bay, WI, and Wheeling, IL. She is survived by five children, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. What a legacy!

A Celebration of Life service was held in Ellie’s honor on Saturday, February 10 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva. The interment will be at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ephraim, WI, next to her husband George on August 3. We will miss Ellie’s gentle spirit and glowing smile!



Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubonsee Community College

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Our **Values** include continued learning, intellectual inquiry, social interaction, and active member participation in lifelong learning.

Our **Mission** is to provide our membership with a defined and member-generated framework for life-enriching, dynamic educational experiences through lifelong learning programs.

Our **Vision** is to be a self-sustaining and self-governing community of active mature adults offering a diverse and intellectually stimulating array of noncredit educational offerings in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

Waubonsee Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, veteran's status, marital status, disability or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs and activities. For more information on the college's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at (630) 466-7900, ext. 2367; Waubonsee Community College, Route 47 at Waubonsee Dr., Sugar Grove, IL 60554-9454.

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