

Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubonsee Community College

President's Corner

Dear LLI Members,

By the time you read this, we will be several months into the new year, and several weeks into our spring semester. The good news is that we just keep on growing, both in membership and in participation. Registration for spring courses is at its highest number for “seats taken” since COVID! A big thank you to our facilitators, who are providing us with such a nice variety of courses and outings – you are clearly appealing to the interests of our members!

You also might have noticed that we are trying some different things to engage members in ways other than courses. LLI Spirit Wear was designed and sold up through the 2024 Holiday Luncheon. If you see some of us in our new LLI garb and you like what you see, let us know - we might offer some added styles later in the spring. Speaking of the Holiday Luncheon, a big thank you to our Social Committee who arranged it for us: the setting was so festive, the meal delicious, and the entertainment surely put us in a holiday mood.

You also may have received (and hopefully responded to) an Eblast about partnering with Collette Tours to increase our options for travel. We know our members like to travel together, and Collette, along with Mayflower, would give members more options to travel in different ways.

These different ideas mentioned above are a result of the conference that some of us attended last summer as successful ventures of other LLI groups. So, we are “trying a few on for size.” If you have an idea that you think would be right for our LLI, let us know – your leadership teams are always interested in feedback.

One idea that has taken hold is our Special Interest Groups. The trial of our Coffee House Crawl group has ended, and the feedback was very positive. A survey has gone out to those who expressed an interest in these SIGs, and we hope to have more groups of various interests popping up in the coming months, so stay tuned.

We are trying to strike a balance in how often and in what ways we communicate with you through these different channels. We will always use email to get you that “must have” information, but there are many other programs and events available, such as the various events that LLI and WCC offer in partnership. These will be listed on our webpage and Facebook.

And with that, I will leave you to the rest of this fabulous newsletter, put together by the talented volunteers of the Newsletter Committee. A special welcome to our two new writers: Roger Breisch and Diana Fischer-Woods!

Sincerely,
Andi Danis, LLI Board President



Curriculum Council Corner



The LLI Curriculum Council is continuing the quest to inform our members about offerings that may advance their skills, knowledge, and discussion of current events. That said, we also strive to alleviate any confusion or answer any questions about the types of programs offered.

The types of programs include two models that are designed and structured differently, based on need. Regular courses and outings require a proposal form found on the LLI website at www.waubonsee.edu/lli. The process for organizing and submitting a course is found in the Facilitator Handbook, also found on the website. We encourage anyone interested in this type of course to read the Handbook, as it is carefully designed to help anyone facilitate a course.

A designated date deadline is listed on the website for proposals to be submitted for spring, summer and fall courses. A facilitator, and possibly a co-facilitator, are required to determine the topic, delivery method, resources, and discussion questions. Guest Presenters or Outside Speakers may be included in the course.

A second model is the Pop-Up Discussion. Pop-Ups are intended specifically to facilitate discussion of contemporary issues on a timely basis. Proposals for Pop-Ups do need approval by the Curriculum Council and have the advantage of an expedited approval process. The Pop-Up organizer submits a proposal to the CC; depending on when the proposal is submitted, approval may be handled via an email vote. Pop-Up scheduling is done by the Curriculum Council and members are informed by an Eblast. Registration takes place through CourseStorm, but there is no registration fee. Participants must be LLI members.

So, if you are interested in sharing an idea or topic to share with others, we encourage you to visit the website www.waubonsee.edu/lli to find more information and the documents needed to facilitate a course for your fellow LLI members. The Curriculum Council is here to support you! Reach out if you need any advice, ideas, or a cheerleader to encourage your quest!!

Save the Dates

April 9—Volunteer Brunch: To all of you wonderful volunteers who have given your time and talent this year, you will be receiving an email invitation with all of the information (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Bodie Hall, Room 150).

May 29—Spring Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting to be held at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora. More information to follow.





Our Exciting Spring Offerings

Written by *Roger Breisch*

An embarrassment of riches! This spring, LLI has a plethora of opportunities to challenge your brain, learn something new, and make sure your gray matter continues to matter! Let's have at it!

Art and Music are powerful ways to stimulate new neural pathways. Learn about the History of Blues (especially if you're feeling blue!) with Evelyn Porter. Then, spend a piece of time examining over 1,000 time pieces and over 70 stained glass works at the Halim Time and Stained Glass Museum in Evanston. Finally, get messy creating mixed-media experimental nature art.

If you prefer **History and Geography**, we've got you covered! You'll have no reservations about joining Lynn and Llonna Steele to discover the first recognized Native American reservation in the state of Illinois. Round out the spring learning about The Ritchie Boys in WWII and Beyond, and visiting the Schingoethe Center of Aurora University. Finish as Jim Gamache recounts his recent travels throughout the Ukraine.

Let's not forget **Literature & Philosophy**! If you, like me, were more into math and science rather than the classics, now is our opportunity to repent! Phyllis Deerinck will help you regain your lost years as she discusses *The Scarlet Letter*—Then and Now.

Feeling tense about **Science**? Overcome your fears as Evelyn Porter and Sue Foody guide a workshop on the science of surface tension, and Karen Christensen & Donna Sue Blankenship lead a discussion of *Rocket Boys—October Sky*. Even if your name isn't Herb, you might enjoy Growing and Using Herbs with Helen Snyder. Herbs are a healthy way to introduce new flavors into your diet, new fragrances into your home and texture in your garden. Finally, if energy and power are your things, an Introduction to Nuclear Energy and Power with Ruth Harmon is right up your alley!

Personal Development? Since change is a key way to learn new things, begin your journey with Change: How to Pivot Gracefully, with Olive Poliks. Then gain an understanding of how we care for untold millions for whom change has left them on the edge. Tour the Northern Illinois Food Bank with Lori McMahon. This spring, Carl Hayes and Jay Labelle will be **Social Science** czars as they challenge us with two questions: How Different Are Women Than Men? and Is America Becoming a Grievance Nation? My answers to those questions? A LOT (My wife is MUCH smarter than I!), and I certainly hope not!

Having trouble keeping up with **Technology**? Do you still mourn the death of MS-DOS? Joe Dvorak will give us A Brief Overview of Virtual Reality History and a wonderful introduction to Artificial Intelligence in April. You don't want to miss hearing Joe's prognostications—and I'm not even sure what that means!

Finally, join Sue Foody and Evelyn Porter as you dive into the basics of programming with Ozobots. (Goodness, I miss MS-DOS!)

That's about it, folks. Get those brain cells in shape this spring!



Partnered Events With Waubonsee Community College

LLI and Waubonsee Community College continue to partner to offer you a variety of enriching experiences. We are highlighting two of the recent presentations from the Lunch and Learn series and encourage you to monitor our website for news of upcoming events!

History of American Pies



Catherine Lambrecht (pictured at left) is the founder and president of Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to “celebrating, exploring and preserving unique food traditions and their cultural contexts in the American Midwest.” Catherine has always had a love of cooking, her German grandmother being the source of this love. She entered competitions, learning and improving her craft, while inventing her own recipes.

Catherine is an engaging speaker, interjecting humor at every opportunity. She has evolved this talk over the past 20 years. Who would know that apples were the mainstay of colonists and were used in many ways, not just for pies! Those in attendance learned about the many types of apples prevalent during the Civil War and the history and recipes for some non-traditional pies. We even sampled pies, a good way to begin by getting a “taste” of what was to come!

Civil Liberties

Now a U.S. citizen flourishing on the north side of Chicago with a good job and a family, Ali Tarokh is also a refugee and an immigrant, having fled his home country of Iran.

Ali was arrested in Iran because of his involvement in the 2009-10 [Green Movement](#). He spent two years in Iranian prison, including four months in solitary confinement. Though he was released after those two years, he was banned from further study and the Iranian regime subsequently added an additional 10 years to his prison sentence. Before they could re-arrest him, Ali escaped to Turkey, and from there to Chicago.



As with many refugees, resettlement in a new country was challenging. There was, and still is, a language barrier. Fortunately, Ali landed in the West Ridge community in Chicago, home to many immigrant communities and the organization [Trellus](#). Formerly known as Asian Human Services, [Trellus](#) provides services to support immigrants and refugees. Ali currently serves at Trellus as the Director of Policy and Advocacy. When asked how he keeps his spirits up in the midst of the many challenges he faces, he told the audience, “In Iran, I had everything but hope, while in the U.S. all I have is hope.”

Great Ways to Continue Learning

Written by Margie Groot



Learning Knows No Bounds

Now that our “Spring Term” session is in full swing, some of us may find our blustery weather pauses our activities and outside adventures. But don’t fret! With some time and forward planning, we can explore new prospects open to us. There are other avenues of learning opportunities available through Waubensee Community College (WCC) via auditing a course or the tuition waiver process for senior citizens! Also, LLI’s growing list of partnerships enhances occasions and events for learning and meeting new people.

Audit a Course. Anyone wanting to audit a college course without receiving credit or a grade can complete an Audit Request Form and submit it to Registration and Records. Audit registration is not available for skill or performance courses. Auditing students (including senior citizens) pay full tuition and fees and must meet course requirements. Marc Dale, Jr., Director of Registration & Records/Registrar, was most helpful in providing information for this process. Here are step-by-step directions on how to find out which courses can be audited by using the WCC online course search:

- 1) On the WCC homepage, click the “Search” button in the yellow box on the right side and then click “Find a Course.”
- 2) Scroll down to the “Use the New Banner Self-Service 9 to Search for Classes and Register” link and click it.
- 3) Click “Search for Classes” and select a term.
- 4) If you want to view all the classes, click “Search” without adding any search criteria. You will then see the full schedule of classes.
- 5) Click on the title of the course to view more information. A pop-up box will appear.
- 6) Click “Catalog.” If you see “Audit Z” under Grading Mode, it would be a course that can be audited.

Some members recall a time in the past that seniors could pay for a class and if passed with a “C” or higher, could apply to the college for reimbursement. It seems this was the case prior to 2019-2020 school year.

Tuition Waiver for Senior Citizens. Senior citizens who are 65 and over who meet certain criteria may be eligible for a full tuition waiver for all regularly scheduled credit courses if they are under a specific income level as outlined pursuant to the Senior Citizens Courses Act (110ILCS990). To apply for this waiver, complete the Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver Application and submit it to the Student Accounts and Cashier Office. Courses specifically designed for senior citizens and audits do not qualify for this tuition waiver. Eligible senior citizens are still responsible for applicable fees, books and any classroom supplies costs.

Questions may be directed to the Student Accounts/Cashier Office at (630) 466-5705.



Someone You Should Know

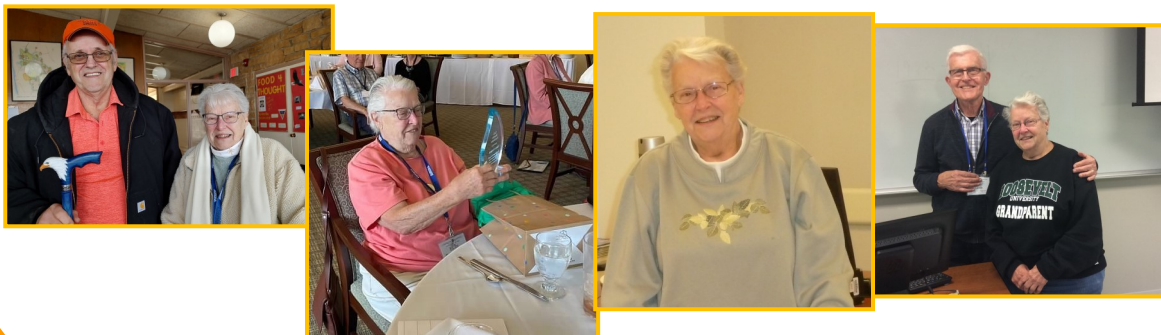
Written by Diana Fischer-Woods

If you have never taken a class facilitated by **Ellen Neupert**, you have missed out on a very special experience. Those who have would describe Ellen as a facilitator “extraordinaire.” She brings a unique teaching style, gained through her 33 years of teaching social studies. To each class she facilitates, Ellen often starts with the query, “What surprised you about today’s reading assignment?” Her “Why don’t you look it up” direction to students is a technique adopted by many of the facilitators whom she has mentored over the years.

Although not a Founding Member of LLI, Ellen is a Charter Member and one of the first facilitators, starting in 1996. With the exception of the fall 2024 term and during COVID-19, she has continued in that role every fall and spring, often teaching two or three classes each term.

In addition to her role as facilitator, Ellen has served on many committees, frequently in a leadership role. She also has planned and organized numerous trips for LLI members, including those to the Eisenhower, Truman and Hoover Presidential Museum and Libraries. One particularly special trip that Ellen planned was to Georgia and included observing Jimmy Carter teach a Sunday School class and having a photo taken with President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn. As a mentor, Ellen has guided other members regarding how to organize trips. All of her trips, as well as those she has mentored, are tied to current, past or future LLI classes to enhance the experience gained from those classes.

Ellen’s allegiance and commitment to LLI is unmatched. She has expanded LLI through trips, by recruiting volunteers and by proposing topics for facilitators to present. What LLI means to Ellen are the opportunities the classes present for participants “to latch onto a new understanding of something they have been interested in but haven’t pursued on their own.” Ellen provided those opportunities through the countless classes she has facilitated for 28 years! Ellen has been and remains an incredible asset to LLI.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Our **Holiday Luncheon** was held on December 5, 2024 at the Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora with over 100 members, guests and VIPs in attendance! This venue provides wonderful food and a festive holiday ambiance which never disappoint.

We had many engaging speakers (L-R), including President Andi Danis who welcomed members, Evelyn Porter who acknowledged our many facilitators who were present, Llona and Lynn Steele who delivered the invocation and Social Co-chair Laura King who introduced the entertainment and was so instrumental in planning this very special event.



Oh, how our members love to socialize and use this opportunity to renew old friendships and foster new ones.

Holiday entertainment (lower right) was provided by the Fox Valley Woodwind Quartet, performing such a beautiful selection of traditional and holiday songs.





Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubonsee Community College

Waubonsee Community College
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(630) 466-2593 www.waubonsee.edu/lli

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.

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