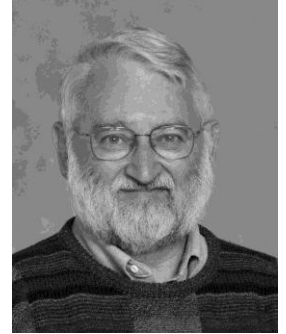




PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We are midway into the 2009 spring semester. By no means do we limit high praise for two courses, but members have been openly enthusiastic about Dr. Darold Treffert's presentation about the Savant Syndrome and Warden Judy Smith's talk about the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. There is still time remaining in this semester for you to attend and participate in more high-quality courses!



LEARNING IN RETIREMENT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

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An ongoing issue with our organization is "where are our courses held?" Data analysis for the current spring semester shows that we use six general locations. In addition, we use four locations where the course content dictates the location, e.g., the First Nighter theater program at Fredric March Theater. In the past, we have used other locations such as the Oshkosh Senior Center. For the spring semester, the total number of courses offered is 56.

Reeve Union (22 courses) and Evergreen (14 courses) are the sites used most often. We have informal agreements for the number of courses at these two sites. Other sites used are Coughlin Building (7 courses), FVTC-Oshkosh (4 courses), Park View Health Center (3 courses) and FVTC-Appleton (1 course). Five sessions were held at other locations.

When we consider course sites, two factors are the most significant: 1) parking and 2) audio/visual equipment and support, which includes A/V speaker/sound systems. All six of the sites provide A/V equipment and support staff to set up the equipment and to ensure it works. Parking needs are addressed, although parking availability varies from hour to hour and day to day at our campus. Other factors for course site selection include accessibility to the classroom, cost, and availability when needed. Reeve Union offers the greatest flexibility with several classroom options. Selecting course locations is a dynamic process and we are working to make improvements to our site selections.

Finally, always keep in mind that the success of our organization depends upon the volunteer support and services of our members. Our committees are always seeking new members to provide fresh, creative thinking to their work.

Until next time,

Doug Jirovetz, president

Curriculum Committee

It is amazing how the Learning in Retirement curriculum committee puts together a syllabus of offerings. We always meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church in a lovely meeting room with a long table. Often our meetings are lively as the creative juices flow.

We program the tours first and then submit suggested courses month by month. Some courses are encore or repeats from the previous semesters. There are quality old standbys with faithful followings. Many of our presenters have pet areas of study they like to share with LIR members. The only reward they receive is a round of applause from participants.

Course coordinators suggest and search for interesting topics and presenters. Many of our members have a story to tell or and experience to share. You are invited to share your ideas with us.

We will start our spring 2010 planning in late August and finish by late October so we have time to research tour prices and secure venues for our presentations. It is tricky to

schedule rooms, sites and prices a half year in advance. We are lucky to have a choice of venues. Our presenters have their favorites; they also consider parking availability and weather. After this year's snow and cold spell we might go easy on the January offerings.

Our office staff must always scramble so we can print and mail our course selection newsletter, from which you can make your picks. If you miss one or change your mind, come anyway. You are always invited to bring a guest where a fee is not required. That is one of the ways we build our membership.

Miriam Haase and Nathalie Moore do a great job of touting our monthly offerings in the *Daily Northwestern* and other media outlets. They have helped build attendance and membership.

Bernie Olejniczak, chair

Membership / Promotion Committee

The current membership in LIR is 312 members, plus 20 members from Evergreen Retirement Community covered by our corporate membership contract with Evergreen. This is fewer than our all-time high of 350 members last year.

The Membership/Promotion Committee has done surveys of non-renewing members to try to determine the reason for non-renewals, but no *one* reason seemed to predominate that we could target. As usual, a number of members have had to deal with health problems of themselves or a family member, became too busy with other activities, moved or had other personal reasons for not renewing their memberships.

This year the committee has been focusing on new methods of promoting LIR and attracting new members. We are working with the Continuing Education Marketing Department and their graphics designer to produce promotional posters, notecards, and a display board. The University photographer took pictures of the group and individual members at our recent "Lunch and Learn" program to use with our new promotional materials. Some of you may be surprised to see your smiling faces promoting LIR!

Jerry Draws and his subcommittee of **Mary Moore, Carol Procknow and Joyce Ludwig** are working on a new program called "**Share the Experience**" to involve all LIR members in recruiting new members. Current members will

be encouraged to invite friends and acquaintances to experience LIR as guests at programs prior to making a decision to join. We are hopeful that once someone has attended a class or program, he/she will be eager to become a member and enjoy all LIR has to offer. Watch for more details on this program in a mailing to members this summer.

We now have new business cards with information on how to contact the LIR office for membership or other information. If you would like to keep a supply of business cards in your purse or wallet to give to potential members, please contact me or the Office of Continuing Education.

We have been successful in getting publicity in various area publications, including county senior resource directories, *The Post-Crescent*, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, *Fond du Lac Action Advertiser* and *Pickett Community News*, as well as some church bulletins.

We are trying to attract more members from the Fox Valley by continuing to staff displays at the Appleton indoor farm markets where we have met and talked with a number of potential new members.

Audrey Rahn has joined our committee and we are looking forward to her participation in committee activities.

A listing of all LIR members, ordered by city and member's last name is being developed and will be available at the upcoming annual meeting in June.

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Any LIR member is welcome to attend.

Mary Bayorgeon, chair

The final meeting of the Membership/Promotion Committee for this program year is scheduled for May 7 at Evergreen,

Administrative / Finance Committee

Our spring semester's sessions seem to be running smoothly and class enrollments are strong. The upcoming duties of this committee are to review committee goals and to prepare the 2009-2010 budget for Steering committee approval.

Our March meeting included receiving the treasurer's report and a summary of the last Steering Committee meeting. We reviewed our 2009 goals in order to better prepare the 2009-2010 budget at our April meeting.

Barry Johnson, chair

Membership Profile – Ginny and John Evans

Step into the Evans' yard any time during the growing season and you are treated to a visual feast. Potted plants bursting with color grace the deck and lead to a garden where hummingbirds have a full menu of blooms to visit. Tucked into an arbor behind John's workshop is a vegetable garden where many varieties thrive. But gardening is not the only talent or interest of this talented, versatile couple. They juggle a busy schedule of volunteer work, travel, LIR, and family.

Both natives of Oshkosh, John and Ginny met in high school and married in 1954 after John graduated with a liberal arts degree from what was then Wisconsin State College at Oshkosh. Two months after they married, John was drafted.

Ginny remained in Oshkosh to complete her degree in primary education, then joined John at his post in Hawaii. Their apartment was just three blocks from the beach at Waikiki where they learned to play the ukulele from authentic "beach boys" (native Hawaiians) and picked coconuts from the lanai of their third floor apartment. John wryly admits it was "not exactly a hardship posting."

A civilian once again, John tested different careers. He was YMCA director in Milwaukee and East Lansing, Michigan.

In 1965 the couple returned to Oshkosh where John and his brother-in-law opened a clothing store on Main Street. During this time Ginny worked as a private secretary until their children were born: Bill in 1960 and Ann in 1962. Along with the tasks as homemaker and mom, she typed term papers and theses.



John returned to what was now UW Oshkosh and, after receiving an MS in Guidance and Counseling, joined the staff of his alma mater in Academic Advising and Registration. He worked there for 22 years, giving him a connection to the school (as student or faculty) under every president or chancellor from Forest Polk through John Kerrigan. Ginny also took on a new career; after six years as nursery school teacher, she became a licenser of early childhood programs for the state, a job she held until retirement.

During this time, Ginny also took up a hobby that combined her interest in gardening with her artistic talent. She grew and dried flowers that she turned into wreaths and arrangements for sale. Though the hobby could well have become a business, as retirement neared, she decided it was too time consuming, and most important, restricted their travel.

Travel has always been an important part of the Evans' lives. When they were first married they made their way west every summer, hiking and backpacking in the Rockies. When the children arrived they traded their backpacks for a camper and jaunts across the United States, eventually packing their children's friends into the camper as well.

Since 1995, John and Ginny have visited 30 countries, often via Elderhostels (they were stranded in France at an Elderhostel on 9/11) and tours with the late Carl Stapel. But their first overseas adventure was on their own – a trip to Russia with a nephew and his wife to visit the family of the latter couple's foreign exchange student. That story alone could fill an article. Their host, the student's father, was a former KGB member who gave them the grand tour complete with interpreters and drivers.

John and Ginny's activities are not confined to travel. Both are active members of the First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh,

holding administrative offices, but also taking on any tasks that need to be done. Meals served by the parish, including one for

teen night every week, find Ginny heading up the kitchen crew. "I like to cook for people," she says and is not fazed if that number goes to 90 for special occasions. John's skills as handyman and woodworker are welcomed at church as well as put to use on their farmhouse and four acres.

Both volunteer at the Paine where Ginny is presently head of the garden volunteers. John describes their gardening partnership this way: "Ginny plans and plants and I do the grunt work." To help with his "grunt work," he employs his 1948 Willy's Jeep, an acquisition resulting from another of his many interest – sold military vehicles.

And, of course, they are active in LIR, having joined the second year of its existence. John is a member of the curriculum and finance committees; Ginny is coordinator of the garden group. Both speak highly of the friends they have made and the wonderful opportunities for learning: "How can you not find something of interest in that wonderful list of options?"

With all their activities, it is clear that their main priority remains their family. John recalls Greece as a favorite trip, while Ginny praises the beauty of Norway and Switzerland. But for all their world travel, there are two favorite destinations: Fort Collins, Colorado and DePere, visiting children, children's spouses and the two teenage grandsons in each location.

Marlene Herzing

Learning in Retirement Recognition Awards

E. Burns Apfeld LIR Volunteer of the Year Award

In 2000, the Steering Committee of the Learning in Retirement Organization established the *E. Burns Apfeld LIR Volunteer of the Year Award*. This plaque is given annually to recognize a LIR member(s) that has given outstanding service and leadership to our organization. The entire LIR membership has the opportunity to nominate an individual or individuals that they believe has provided this leadership. Individuals that have received the award in previous years are not eligible to receive the award again. These individuals are: Burns Apfeld (2000), Fred Born (2001), Betty John (2002), Del Zimmerman (2003), Dick Branigan (2004), Helen Wittenberg (2005), Bernie Olejniczak (2006), Bill Mattes (2007) and Barry and Noreen Johnson (2008) .

Please give thoughtful consideration about someone in our organization who you believe deserves recognition. To submit your nomination, you may use the nomination form included in this newsletter, or submit an online nomination at

www.quia.com/sv/171803.html. All nominations must be received by May 1, 2009.

Award Guidelines

Purpose

The E. Burns Apfeld LIR Volunteer of the Year Award will recognize an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of LIR (Learning in Retirement).

Selection Criteria

Nominees for the E. Burns Apfeld Volunteer of the Year Award will be LIR members who have contributed to LIR in any or a combination of the following ways: Teaching, program development, tour arranging, governance, administration, public relations, material assistance, or other specific contributions.

Selection Procedures

1. Each year the Steering Committee will nominate LIR members who meet the selection criteria.
2. The Steering Committee will select the recipient by majority vote.

Presentation of Award

The E. Burns Apfeld Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the spring Annual Meeting by the President of LIR.

Robert L. Berner LIR Teaching Excellence Award

The *Robert Berner Outstanding Teaching Award* was established in 2005. This award has only been given to three individuals and is not awarded each year. Previous recipients' are Robert Berner 2005, Gloria Link 2006 and Bill Mattes 2008. This award is designed to give recognition to an individual from our membership who has contributed significantly to the development of LIR programs through teaching excellence. Suggestions for this award can be forwarded to the LIR office for the Steering Committee's review and discussion.

Award Guidelines

Purpose

The Robert L. Berner LIR Teaching Excellence Award will recognize an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of LIR (Learning in Retirement) programs through teaching excellence.

Selection Criteria

Nominees for Robert L. Berner LIR Teaching Excellence Award will be LIR members who have contributed to LIR by teaching excellence.

Selection Procedure

1. Steering Committee members may nominate a person who they believe meets the selection criteria.
2. The Steering Committee will select a recipient by majority vote as the occasion arises. This award will only be made when the Steering Committee believes that there is a deserving candidate.

Presentation of Award

The Robert L. Berner LIR Teaching Excellence Award when awarded will be presented by the LIR President at the spring Annual Meeting.

Please submit all names of potential award nominees, to the LIR office, Office of Continuing Education, UW Oshkosh, 800 Algoma Blvd. Oshkosh, WI 54901

Learning in Retirement Opera Buffs

Many LIR members enjoy the **Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE** presentations at the Marcus Cinema in Appleton and Oshkosh. The remaining performance for the 2008-2009 year is at noon on May 9 – LA CENERENTOLA (Rossini); cost is \$20.00.

The Lawrence Academy of Music sponsors **OPERA OUTINGS**, which is a series of three Florentine Opera productions in Milwaukee. Prices run \$195-\$300 based on seating. Price includes tickets for three operas, transportation, (bus stops in Oshkosh) and preview lectures. Previews are held on at the Lawrence University Campus on the Thursday prior to the opera from 7:30- 9:30 p.m.

For more information call the Academy of Music for information (920-832-6632) or go to the web site http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/acad_music/adult.shtml.

LIR Office Help Needed

Almost all of our membership have typing skills and the LIR office is looking for a pool of eight to be on call for approximately thirty days in each semester: You will assist with processing course registrations from verifying information to input of registrations.

Your assistance is needed mid November to mid December for the Spring Semester, and mid June to mid July for the Fall Semester.

This service from our membership is both easy and necessary. Contact Judy Lloyd if you can do this for us during either of these two blocks of time. (424-1129)

LIR Class Locations

- Reeve Union – Campus
- Coughlin Bldg County Extension – 625 E County Rd Y, across from Oshkosh fairgrounds
- Evergreen Retirement Community – 1130 N Westfield, Oshkosh
A shuttle bus from Sears Grand will be provided and will start running 45 minutes prior to the start of programs.
- Neenah Public Library – 240 Wisconsin Ave (corner Wisconsin & Oak), Neenah
- Fox Valley Technical College – 150 Campbell Rd, Oshkosh
- Oshkosh Senior Center – 200 N Campbell Rd (near FVTC), Oshkosh
- Fox Valley Technical College – 1852 N Bluemound Dr, Appleton
- Park View Health Center – 725 Butler Av, Winnebago
- Oshkosh Town Hall – 230 County Road Y, Town of Oshkosh



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