

Learning in Retirement Newsletter April 2010



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear members of LIR,



In the last newsletter, I commented on the many great classes and tours that have been consistently put together by the curriculum committee. Thanks to Dick Branigan's recordkeeping, I recently looked at a listing of all the offerings we have had for our members over the life of this organization. Would you believe we are approaching 1,200 classroom offerings and we have been on more than 200 tours? That's a lot of programming.

As part of the record, the coordinators who arranged the tours and programs were listed. That group includes the names of some people who are no longer with us or have left the organization because of health or other personal reasons. It was an interesting trip down memory lane. Names like Gloria Link, Bob Berner... and Del Zimmerman whose offerings are the reason I got hooked on Learning in Retirement. It is nice to see the names of new members connected to some of the more recent course listings

One area where we could use some help, is organizing tours. Those of us who arrange tours appear to be shrinking. Please consider helping if tours are your thing. We have a "How to" booklet and any of the people who have done the tour arranging, I am sure will help get you started.

While I am talking about filling voids in the organization, I want to thank Jan Frazee who stepped forward last year to chair the finance/administration committee. Due to knee problems, Jan has asked to be replaced. Roberta Messer has answered the call and has taken Jan's place. Thanks, Roberta.

Finally, I am sure you would be disappointed if I didn't say I am still looking for my replacement. Any takers? Thanks,

William (Bill) Mattes, president

Finance and Administration

When I retired in mid-2009, I looked for activities that could become stimulating and fulfilling ways to expend my new-found time and energies. LIR rose to the top of the list. I joined the administration and finance Committee, and recently became committee chairperson. With this, I found that I was also a member of the steering committee. At first I had some misgivings about my sudden immersion. These were quickly dispelled. I was immediately impressed with the devotion, diversity, and capabilities of the committee members. As I gathered information for this update, I found good reason for that first impression.

Budget management is a highlight. The 2010 budget is on target or under budget. The 2011 budget planning is in process. We are happy to announce that, for the third year, membership dues will remain at \$75. Due to construction issues, the university has reduced parking fees to \$15 for this year.

We thank Eileen Leinweber for her efforts in developing a Treasurer's Handbook and reviewing/updating the administrative policies. Judy Lloyd has ably assisted the committee to enhance the LIR website design and update content. It provides easy and informative access to forms, current events, committee minutes, member spotlights, and the newsletters. Check it out!

We will be looking at how to further enhance our electronic communication systems during the next year. Two years ago 60 percent of our members provided an e-mail address. This year that number rose to 77 percent. For the foreseeable future we expect to have members who prefer printed and mailed communication. However, the increase in members with e-mail access tells us that we need to improve our capabilities to communicate in that mode with those who prefer it. Electronic systems not only help us interact more efficiently, but also have quite a potential to save time and money—spending less on paper and postage. We estimate that if current members with e-mail received their newsletter online, we would save approximately \$1,200-\$1,500 in a year. We'll keep you posted.

Roberta Messer, Chair

Membership and Promotion

Current membership in LIR is 286 members, including 24 new members since July 2009, plus 21 members from Evergreen Retirement Community covered by our corporate contract with Evergreen. While that total is a good number, we are always interested in attracting new members so others can enjoy the wonderful benefits of LIR programs and activities. Don't forget to "Share the Experience" by inviting friends and others as guests to any of our regular classes and programs. It could be worth \$75 to you, too! When bringing a guest to a program, please give the completed guest pass to the program coordinator or any member of the membership/promotion committee in attendance. The names of all members who have hosted guests during the year will be entered in a drawing at our annual meeting for a free one-year membership in LIR.

We have revised our "Photography and Video Release" form to include an "opt-out" option if you do not wish to have your photo taken or used for LIR promotional purposes. The form has been approved by university officials and legal advisers. If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform the photographer or event coordinator and do not join in any group photos. The new form will be included in the July membership renewal packets.

Committee members and LIR Peers have publicized LIR at several indoor Appleton farm markets in downtown Appleton this winter. We have met and visited with many people about LIR at these events. We have discontinued doing displays at the summer farm markets, as they have not produced new members. Most people are more interested in the produce and fun activities at the summer markets than they are in learning about LIR, but with fewer booths and less produce available in winter in Wisconsin, people have more time to leisurely stop by our display and talk with us about our organization.

Thanks to the efforts of **John Procknow** and **Lorraine Sams**, the date and speaker for the Fall Luncheon have been arranged. The luncheon will be Thursday, September 23rd, at LaSure's. Our speaker will be Andrew Hove, President of Oshkosh Defense, the division of Oshkosh Corporation (Truck) that has been successful in acquiring several important government contracts that contribute to the area economy. Mark your

calendars! You won't want to miss this interesting and enjoyable social event that will kick off our fall 2010 program year.

For more information about membership/promotion committee activities, check committee meeting minutes at www.uwosh.edu/lir

Mary Bayorgeon, Chair

Curriculum

We've formally met twice this spring, to put new and entertaining sessions on our fall menu. Most of our work is done individually on our own time during the year. We keep our antennae up, to find possible topics in conversations with folks around town. We know there are several of you who would enjoy joining this committee and who know people in the community who you might ask to present a session. Everyone has a story to tell. Think on it. Contact us if you know someone who might be willing to contribute.

This fall's lineup so far includes: Market failures (1929 Crash, Enron, Madoff); Bribery in Congress; Energy Update; Electrical Pioneers; Classic Cars; Antique Homeshow, two theater tours to Spring Green and more Milwaukee theatre venues as soon as their playlists come out later this spring. Haiti and Costa Rica are on the calendar, and due to popular appeal, supper with the chef at Evergreen is becoming a staple.

We have no solution to the parking dilemma. No one does. It will continue to be difficult. Spaces have dried up due two new buildings under construction on campus. We are looking into other places to hold classes – Oshkosh Public Library, Bella Vista (old Mercy on Hazel) and Franciscan Courts. When going to a session at Reeve Union, please check their "events board" to see if there has been a room change ...from the one published in the newsletter and calendar.

If you have ideas for future sessions, or know someone you think might want to present for us, contact anyone on this committee. Give us a lead and we'll follow up. Better still, join this committee.

Dick Branigan, chair

Membership Profile

BARBARA GOLDTHWAITE



"I'm busier now than I've ever been." Many—or most—of us will agree that the statement accurately describes retirement. It is certainly true of Barbara Goldthwaite.

Skilled in many areas, Barbara is a master of scheduling her time to accommodate her many activities. Exercise classes at the Senior Center have a high priority on the schedule there, where Barbara serves on the board of directors. Also high on her list of volunteer work is involvement in the First Presbyterian Church here in Oshkosh, where she currently serves as the treasurer of the investment fund.

Barbara belongs to a writing group of five LIR members who first met each other in the "Writing Your Life Story" class. They continue to meet, though the class is no longer offered, sharing fiction, essays, biography and other writing, and sharing friendship and support. Equally long lasting is the group that formed through her and Dan's work in Marriage Encounter; they have all known each other for more than 20 years and meet monthly to share informal Bible study and friendship. A book club is also on the list of monthly meetings for Barbara.

And, of course, there is LIR. Barbara has been a member since 1998 and has served as treasurer for two terms and a member of the finance committee for several more years. Hers is a familiar face at many classes as she takes advantage of the great variety of subjects offered. Travel, too, is a favorite activity, offering the chance for further learning as well as for leisure. Barbara admits to a special delight in September vacations after years of being tied to the academic calendar.

Sometimes fate intervenes to overturn our most careful planning. That happened to Barbara when she graduated from Pennsylvania State University in mid term in 1955. With a degree in secondary education, Barbara was ready to begin to begin the teaching career she had dreamed of as she was growing up in the small mining town of Mt. Carmel, PA. To her dismay, she found only one position open at that time of year: junior high math in the small town of Warren, PA.

The school had a number of unmarried young teachers who lived in rooming houses and got together for dinner at one of the town's few restaurants. Among them was a science teacher, Dan Goldthwaite, and soon he and Barbara became a dinner twosome as they shared their love of theater, opera, and music. By the end of the school year, they were planning their August wedding.

But this was the 1950s and some archaic rules applied: husbands and wives were not allowed to teach in the same school. The official reason given was the fear that a couple would vote the same and thus have too much power in faculty issues. Barbara wryly notes that two votes out of fifty could hardly be construed as a power bloc, and, furthermore, she and Dan usually voted on opposite sides of issues. In any case, the threat of resignation led to both contracts being renewed because in pre-Sputnik days, math and science slots were difficult to fill. Barbara continued teaching for five years, resigning before daughter Ann, was born (at that time, pregnancy was also a reason for dismissal).

In 1961 Barbara and Dan moved to Edinboro, Pa where he had taken a position at the state college. After three years, he recognized the need for a Ph.D. if he wanted to continue college teaching, so in 1964 they were once again on the move, this time to Columbus, Ohio, settling in at married student housing in Buckeye Village. Daughter Ruth was born there.

For the first few years after the Goldthwaites moved to Oshkosh in 1968, Barbara was a stay-at-home mom. When both daughters were in school, she began a second career as a part time teacher at the First Presbyterian Preschool, eventually becoming head teacher. Barbara speaks fondly of the many tykes she has taught over the years, recalling how they would often greet her with a hug when they met her outside of class (and Dan wryly commented that his college students were not nearly as warm when they ran into him outside the classroom).

A note of motherly pride creeps into Barbara's voice when she talks about family. Ann works in Oshkosh as the Regional Copy Desk Chief for Gannet newspapers. Ruth, a lawyer, made a major career change to the ministry and now works as a chaplain at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, Idaho. Although she would love to have Ruth closer to

home, Barbara has added Boise to her travel itinerary.

There is a third member of the family: Markus, a young German doctor who joined the Goldthwaites as an AFS student when Ruth was in high school. Apprehension about a young man joining a family of teenage girls was soon put rest; Markus fit seamlessly into the family as a son and brother. In the Goldthwaite tradition of forming fast and long-lasting friendships, close ties with Markus and his family meant trips to Germany. Much to the delight of all, Markus and his wife now live in Milwaukee, so they get to visit often. Daughter Ruth's year as an exchange student in Switzerland offered an excellent reason to visit that country. Even after visiting Greece, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, France, Spain and Germany, Switzerland remains Barbara's favorite country.

Amid all her other interests, LIR holds a special place in Barbara's life. The wide variety of options is a perfect fit for this multitalented girl from the mining town in Pennsylvania. She welcomed how local and college productions opened the world of theater to her when she was growing up. A favorite memory is a production of *Macbeth* she saw when in high school; it thrilled her and made her a life-long fan of Shakespeare. A college roommate introduced her to opera, a love she and Dan shared, attending the Florentine Opera in Milwaukee for many years. Barbara takes full advantage of the tours to theater and music performances offered by LIR, especially welcome since Dan died. "There is no need to worry about going solo," she reports, "There will always be friends on the trip.

Barbara's busy schedule reflects a life of giving and involvement. Her joy and appreciation for the things that make life worth living: family, friendship, and continued learning.

Room Locations in Reeve

Reeve rooms are initially scheduled months before the actual day of the presentation. Classroom assignments may have changed from what is printed in the newsletter and calendar. You are urged to check on Reeve's **daily events board** every time you come to Reeve for an LIR session. These mobile signs are located at various places in Reeve. Check the location, to be sure.

Survey Results

One-third of our membership responded to questions about off-campus tour venues, and about their interest in classroom topics they'd like to have. Results are too extensive to report here fully, but of those responding, 90 percent favored PAC live stage shows, 35 percent liked the Fox Valley Symphony events, 70 percent enjoyed the First Nighters on campus -- even more the stage shows at the Grand. Forty percent want more Water City Chamber Orchestra slots. Shows and concerts in Milwaukee and Madison were very high on the list as were industrial tours. Day tours had an 85 percent approval. Multi-day tours to another city came in at 35 percent, so there is definite interest here, which the steering committee may revisit.

A partial list of other ideas -- both new and requests to re-do a session or a trip -- include: Chicago Lyric opera; Milwaukee churches; Door county paper mill; Westfield Prairie Nursery; garden tours; Green Bay Packer hall of Fame; Hartford Car Museum; historical sites/mansions; airport tour; dairy farm; Oaks candy; planetarium/circus museum; Rhinelander logging museum; S.C. Johnson Jelly Belly Factory; Ten Chimneys, Genesee Depot; theater in Minneapolis; Fox Valley area small businesses; tour of T.V. studios; waterfalls of Wisconsin; American Club/Kohler; Botanical Garden/Green Bay; Chicago Art Institute/modern wing; garden tours; Bemis-Plexus Fireside show.

Curriculum and steering committees have taken note. Thanks to those who have indicated their wishes and preferences.

Note: New people on *all* committees will keep this club vibrant. *You* are the resource.

Timber Rattlers Baseball

Baseball fans, please mark July 15, 2010 on your calendars. The annual Timber Rattlers baseball outing is scheduled for that evening at Fox Cities Stadium. The outing will include a pre-game picnic meal in the stadium picnic area followed by a baseball game between the Timber Rattlers and the Lansing Lugnuts. We will have reserved seating in the grandstand.

The Timber Rattlers are now the Milwaukee Brewers farm team, which means their players are the Milwaukee Brewers of the future. Occasionally, current Brewers play with the Timber Rattlers when a player is recovering from an injury and preparing for return to the major leagues.

The picnic begins when the gates open for the game at 5:30 p.m. The all-you-can-eat menu features hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers and two drinks. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Pricing and sign-up information will be announced later this spring.

2010 Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 10th, 9:30 – 11:00, at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This get-together will include a buffet breakfast, a short business meeting, award presentations and a guest speaker.

A formal invitation will be mailed to all members in May.



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), Barry and Noreen Johnson (2008) and John Procknow (2009).

Please give thoughtful consideration about someone in our organization who you believe deserves recognition. To submit your nomination, you can either use the nomination form included in this newsletter, or send an email to the office at: lir@uwosh.edu.

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, Bill Mattes 2008 and Don Burdick 2009. 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 for review and consideration.

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

March 22, 2010

TO: Learning in Retirement Members

FR: Finance and Administration Committee

RE: **THE E. BURNS APFELD LIR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

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

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. The Steering Committee will evaluate all submitted nominations by the LIR membership and will select the recipient by majority vote.

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

Please mail your nomination to the LIR office, address is below, no later than May 1st

THE E. BURNS APFELD LIR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are open to all LIR members. Take this opportunity to let us know who your candidate is.

Nominee: _____

Please list a few reasons that support your choice.

Your name: _____

Submit this nomination to:
UW Oshkosh Office of Continuing Education
Attn: Learn In Retirement
800 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901.

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 Red Arrow Park will start running 45 minutes prior to the start of programs.
- Fox Valley Technical College – 150 Campbell Rd, Oshkosh
- Park View Health Center – 725 Butler Av, Winnebago
- Neenah Public Library – 240 Wisconsin Ave (corner Wisconsin & Oak), Neenah



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