MAC Chairman’s REPORT

Fall has turned to winter and we celebrated our first-ever Thanks-givukkah—a rare event not scheduled to occur again for another 80,000 years. This rarity stands in stark contrast to the newfound regularity of the large number of new LLI enrollees—more than 30—following Fall Welcome Week. The increase in enrollment relates to the number of unique educational opportunities: quality of programming, classroom dialogue, and social interaction during lunch at both the LLI and The Loft.

At the New Members Luncheon Roundtable, where new members told us how they found the LLI, we learned most members seemed to find us by happenstance. It was amusing to see the same wondrous reaction repeated around the table: The “I can’t believe I found this place. I didn’t even know it existed. I love this place. It is everything I thought I might enjoy. Has it always been here? I just wish I found it sooner.”

Another factor contributing to the increase is the personal reception prospective members received from the membership when they came to check the place out. The Welcome Committee, Hospitality Committee, Jill, Lee, Moe, other MAC members, the numerous volunteers who gave with a smile, and the membership at large, all provided a warm, welcoming environment that made it easy to take the leap and enjoy the group. A great deal of thanks is due them.

How fortunate that we all found it—perhaps not as rare as Thanks-givukkah—but a rare gem indeed. Welcome to the rookies. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

Stuart P. Farber, M.D.
Chairman of the MAC
Winter 2014 is here and it promises to be our biggest session yet. We welcome all of our returning snowbird members and anyone else who has just discovered the joys of the Nova Southeastern University Lifelong Learning Institute.

So far this year has been wonderful. We gained over 30 new members just from the October Welcome Week and returning membership has been very strong. Based on member reviews (i.e., daily written or email lecturer evaluations), our curriculum is strong and thriving. We have already met some new lecturers including Robert Watson (Uncovering Andrew Jackson), Mel Cottone (Personal Retrospective – JFK and RFK), Joseph Harbaugh (Good Negotiators), and Lynn Lafferty (Let Food Be Your Medicine). More new names and faces will be making their debut this winter including Roger Newman (The Supreme Court Today: Its Personalities and Rivalries), Stephen Singer (Criminal Law – Psychology and Ethics), and well-known conductor and composer, Victoria Bond. We always look to add new speakers to our curriculum. It keeps the program fluid and exciting.

In other news, the LLI Members Advisory Committee (MAC) held elections in the fall and two new members joined the committee (see included article on the MAC). On behalf of the university and the LLI, we so appreciate all the MAC does for the LLI, from organizing amazing volunteer corps for our Welcome Weeks to planning and implementing our Holiday Dinner and Spring Luncheon. I highly recommend getting involved with a MAC committee. We want and need all of your input.

In the words of one of our newest members, remember:

Don’t retire…INSPIRE.

Here’s to a great 2014,
Linda

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Follow us on Twitter at “LLINSU” – http://twitter.com/#!/LLINSU
Watch highlights of LLI classroom lectures on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/user/LLINova?feature=mhee

The LLI Newsletter is a product of the LLI Members Advisory Committee.
Getting to Know Our LLI
By Ciro Mazzola, Coordinating Editor

The mission of Nova Southeastern University’s LLI is to provide a vibrant educational environment for mature adults in South Florida. Programs promote intellectual stimulation, physical wellbeing, and social growth that enrich the lives of its members and the community.

NSU’s LLI started in 1977 as the Institute for Retirement Professionals, or IRP, then became Institute for Learning and Retirement, and in 2006 joined the College of Osteopathic Medicine as the LLI.

Fall and winter programs include two lectures daily, Monday-Thursday, with a wide array of speakers from all fields of study, and a reduced program during the summer. Local field trips last winter semester included trips to the Morikami Museum, Costume World, the Charles Deering Estate, and the NSU Oceanographic Center.

Members of the LLI are issued student IDs allowing them to audit two classes per semester, receive discounts, and free admission to athletic events.

In 2010, the LLI members created a Members Advisory Committee (MAC) that includes seven members elected by LLI members. Committee members serve as a liaison between the general membership and the administrations of the LLI and NSU. The group meets four times annually with the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and with NSU’s president.

In a recent interview, the MAC committee shared answers to the question: What is being a member all about?

• Chairman and four-year MAC member Stuart Farber, M.D., a member of the LLI for over four years, said the LLI was a wonderful intellectual outlet, providing a number of topics outside his everyday medical career.

• Four-year MAC member Jill Cohen, a member of the LLI for 12 years, said the people at the LLI are terrific—bright, involved, interested, and alert.

• Four-year MAC member Moe Weiner, a member of the LLI for six years, said, “This is another, new life after retirement.” He looks forward to learning and participating with younger people in the classes he audits.

• Three-year MAC member Dan Smith, a member of the LLI for four years, sees the group as “a family of learners and an opportunity to enjoy public speaking.”

• First-year MAC member Marlene Effern, a member of the LLI for two years, discovered an interest in classical music.

• Frank Canosa, a member of the LLI for two years, and a first-year MAC member, likes the variety of topics and enjoys the opportunity to interact with others.
Satellite Programs Provide Educational Opportunities in the Community

Most of us know the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) has offered classes on campus since 1977. Some may not know the LLI has been providing classes at more than 55 life care and retirement communities from Aventura to Palm Beach Gardens since 2005.

Currently, the LLI runs 13 satellite programs at different locations in the tri-county area. These sites are primarily for older adults in independent living communities who are unable to get to classes on campus. Classes are provided according to scheduling interests and needs of the lifestyle departments at those locations. Some of the LLI satellites offer weekly or monthly classes, or whatever suits the calendar of activities.

Speakers at the satellites are similar to those who make presentations on campus for LLI members, although many speakers are non-NSU full-time faculty members. Favorites include Seth Bramson, Freya Homer, Marc Newman, Valerie Pellegrini, Juan Riera, Vince Toscano, and Aimee Zadak.

Satellite locations pay fees to the LLI to cover expenses associated with sending a speaker and providing marketing materials. The communities can market themselves as being an NSU satellite and are invited to send groups of residents on field trips to attend an LLI on-campus class at no additional cost.

Some longtime LLI members have chosen to retire in communities affiliated with the Lifelong Learning Institute to keep the connection strong. For more information about LLI satellite locations, please contact the LLI office.

LLI TRIBUTE FUND DONATIONS: OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2013
General Fund
Deborah Meline (continuous NSU staff contribution)
Broward Coalition on Aging, Inc.
Betty Friedman
Ken Hurewitz
Heike Dose (Two donations: one, in memory of Jack Maurice and the second in memory of Sonya Hirschberg)
Speakers Fund
Linda Maurice
(in memory of James Gray)