INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING AT THE LLI

In November/December 2014, the LLI welcomed NSU University School high school seniors to interview LLI members about their lives here in Florida. Quite a few members have lived here for many years, making this a fascinating experience for students who have been studying Florida history.

Although longtime LLI member Betty Hill was unable to attend the interview sessions, the LLI staff members were able to share some of her personal stories with the students.

Memorable Moment

By Betty Strother Hill

It was fall 1962. After work I stopped for cocktail hour with my friend, Ann, who lived on the Intracoastal Waterway in Fort Lauderdale. Her husband was out of town, so it was just the girls. Dusk was falling and bringing cooler air, so we decided to close the sliding doors to the terrace.

Ann went to the door and stopped, “What the —?!” Silence. Both of us ran outside to the dock. We stood wordless, mouths agape. Huge barges with almost silent motors and no lights were moving south slowly. The tanks and trucks on the barges were covered with camouflage tarps. Soldiers with guns, standing alert along the sides of the barges were the only signs of life on the normally active waterway.

After a few more moments of stunned silence, Ann ran to the neighbor’s house calling back to me, “Jim’ll know what this is all about!”

Within a few seconds her neighbor returned with Ann and stood with us on the dock. Now there were three silent people standing in awe looking at this endless, almost silent, dark parade in the water. Finally Jim’s gentle voice said, “It’s Cuba. That’s what it’s about, Cuba.”

After another long silence on the dock, Anne turned to us and said, “Oh, Betty, this is Jim Hill. Jim, this is Betty Strother.”

Jim and I married four years later.
Winter is always such an invigorating time here at the Lifelong Learning Institute. We welcome returning members and look forward to including new ones into the LLI family. There is so much on offer both inside and outside the classroom.

Our program continues to grow and expand. We are again on the way to breaking another membership record. We ended last year (2013-14) with 222 members, and we are rapidly closing in on 190—before the winter membership is even tallied. Program-wise, we are always adding new and exciting speakers. Already, names like Janet Erlick, Yair Levy, Madhavi Menon, Tyler Smith, and Albert Williams have become familiar, and we look forward to welcoming them back regularly to our classroom.

Our invaluable Members Advisory Committee has so many exciting upcoming field trips, social events, and ideas on how to enhance the social aspect of LLI life. Please consider getting involved in a committee or volunteer opportunity. We welcome back our newsletter editor, Ciro Mazzola, who would certainly welcome folks who wanted to work with him on this publication.

More new offerings at the LLI, courtesy of our membership: Member Gary Kay created the LLI Poet’s Corner, which now meets regularly, twice a month. Bob Lieberman introduced the concept of a Thanksgiving Special Sides celebration. Good food was enjoyed by all.

More and more members are taking advantage of the enriching experience that comes from sitting side by side with undergraduates and graduates throughout this wonderful university. Our auditing program is a testament to the intensity with which the LLI members approach learning throughout a lifetime.

So to all of our members—here’s to a wonderful winter and spring semester.

All the best, Linda

From the LLI Director
Linda E. Maurice, M.A.

I would like to congratulate new MAC members Bruce Yoskin and John Vetter and returning member Moe Weiner on their elections. I would also like to thank retiring members Jill Cohen and Lee Sacks for their dedicated efforts on the MAC in service of the LLI. It has been an absolute pleasure working with such talented and productive people. Lastly, thanks to the members for electing me to another term. I hope to continue to represent your interests in the best possible way.

This is my fifth year watching fall turn into winter at the LLI, and it struck me that this is longer than it took to earn both my B.A. and my M.D. So, I began to think, if one could earn a degree from the LLI, what would it be?

If one attended every class, it would take 12 hours of lectures every week for 38 weeks for 456 hours, plus 5 hours a week for 14 weeks of the summer for another 70, for a total of 526 hours each year. Ridiculous. What would be the area of concentration? That is difficult to define when the range of offerings goes from astrophysics to existential philosophy, from political science to romance literature, from history through cinema as artifact to history through costume as artifact, from geography to art to music.

MAC Chairman Column
Stuart P. Farber, M.D.
Chairman of the MAC

It’s enough to boggle the mind. Add the full range of university courses from all schools eligible for audit, the learning opportunities on the field trips to the Oceanographic Center, the Norton Museum of Art, the Chocolate Factory, plus what we can learn from each other’s vast life experiences at lunch. What’s really cool is, although I pick and choose my courses, after four years, I still can’t get enough and look forward to the next week’s offerings.

As we recently sat through the New Members’ lunch, we heard the common reaction of new members about how fortunate they feel to have found this place. They don’t know yet that it only gets better as time goes by. No matter how they choose to experience the LLI, the intellectual stimulation will be great enough to keep them smiling all year—year after year.

So, as I thought about what degree would be offered if we were matriculating, an epiphany brought a smile to my lips. There is no degree, because there are no exams. Without exams, there is no mandated homework. My goodness, life is good.

To paraphrase Ray in Field of Dreams, when his father asked about the baseball field, “Is this heaven?” and my reply, “Nah, it’s just the LLI.”

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CONCERTO
By Dorrith Leipziger

The sky grew dark with pews for the angels
Who brought their trumpets and their harps.
“Good,” said God. “Let us make some music.”
“Come,” he said to his major composers.
“Let us have entertainment.”
“You, Mozart,” said God, “Play an overture.”
“You, Beethoven, a piano sonata, con brio
And you, fugue master Bach, go to the organ
Use your hands and your feet and announce the finale.”
“Then, angels, you may take off your halos
And twist them to violins or flutes
Or you may sing. I will conduct.”

Down here, we watched the arpeggios of lightning
Slashing and crashing in minor keys
Heard the clumsy bassoons of thunder
Keeping time for the chorus of voices
Urging to climax the cymbals and drums
Until the embellished major chords
Slowed to come back to the ritornello
Resolved to a steady curtain of rain
As God and the angels wept for joy.

LLI COMING ATTRACTIONS

JANUARY 21 AND 27—12:30-2:00 P.M.
French Literature: Le Cid (Corneille) and Paul et Virginie (Bernardin de Saint Pierre)
Presenter: Arnold Ages, Ph.D.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 31, AND APRIL 28—10:00-11:30 A.M.
Four Great Short Story Writers
Presenter: Kurt Stone, D.D.

JANUARY 29—12:30-2:00 P.M.
A Buddhist Teacher’s Perspective on the Search for Inner Peace
Presenter: Geshe Tenzing Tamding

FEBRUARY 2—10:00-11:30 A.M.
Oscar Preview 2015
Presenter: Steven Alford, Ph.D.

JANUARY 26 AND FEBRUARY 15—12:30-2:00 P.M.
Should We Be Afraid of Ebola?: Fact and Fantasy
After Ebola: Emerging Diseases in Our Future
Presenter: Marion Fass, Ph.D.

MARCH 3—10:00-11:30 A.M. AND MARCH 11—12:30-2:00 P.M.
Looking Back on the Old Days of Television and Media
Presenter: Barney Rosenzweig, producer of the 1980’s hit Cagney & Lacey

MARCH 2, 9, AND 16—10:00-11:30 A.M. AND MARCH 16—12:30-2:00 P.M.
Theatre in the Time of Shakespeare, Understanding Hamlet, Parts One and Two
Presenter: Vernon Dickson, Ph.D.
LLI Welcomes New Members

David Caswell
Robert L. Cahn
Joyce Curtis
Carole Dembek
Steven Dolgin
Bonnie Eletz
Ronda Finkelstein
Ellen Freling
Mel Frishman
Wynne Frishman
James J. Gannon
Dee Garfinkle
Kate Gemeiner
Layne Habib

Mary Hardering
Gary Kay
Lila Kimbar
Anita King
Richard Labonski
Suzan Lement Stein
Richard Linehan
Gertrud Lulla
Myra M. McKenna
Anne Pick
Muriel Y. Pickard
Beverlee Rosen
Alfred Rosenthal
Ellie Schnell

Bruce Schobel
Marilyn Shapiro
Judith S. Schwartz
Maruja Silva
Rochelle Suster
Abby Weiner
Larry Weiner
Sheryl Weingarten Weinsier
Steven Weinsier
David F. Willard
Loretta Willard
Amy Zimmermann

LLI Mission Statement

Nova Southeastern University’s Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) provides a vibrant educational environment for mature adults in South Florida. Programs promote intellectual stimulation, physical well-being, and social growth that enrich the lives of its members and the community.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate’s, baccalaureate, master’s, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

The LLI Newsletter is a product of the LLI Members Advisory Committee.

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Memorial Plaque for LLI classroom

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Scholarship Fund: Anonymous
General Fund: Anonymous

Richard Ascher
In memory of Judith Jaffe Ascher and Dr. Arthur Stillman

John Vetter

Marc Newman during the lecture American Revolution Spies.

Actors from the Exceptional Theater Company.