1. Chairman's Report

On March 13, the Members Advisory Committee (MAC) conducted a meeting attended by 40 LLI members. Stuart Farber, M.D., MAC chairman, reported on recent activities that have occurred since the January 2012 meeting.

Following are some highlights:

Growing Membership and Space: With a current and growing membership of 170—almost double from a year ago—space is a major constraint for the largest audience of 100 to 120 persons, plus accommodation of some ambulatory devices.

This issue has been discussed with various administrators, such as Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., dean of NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine’s (NSU-COM), and Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of the Health Professions Division. It will also be addressed with both the university’s provost and president at the MAC’s next meeting with them in April. Dr. Silvagni appointed a committee, which explored two options—moving to another site (NSU’s east campus; rejected for the moment) or expanding the current classroom (room 119), which is currently under consideration.

Parking: Parking continues to be vexing for many, as spots nearby are occupied by NSU staff members and students who arrive earlier than LLI members. So far, in response to our efforts, the university has allocated six LLI reserved spots in the first aisle and added two more handicapped spaces. Another three reserved spaces will be allocated, bringing the total to nine reserved spaces. This is clearly not enough, given
Strategic Planning: Membership Experience and Content Quality

Dr. Farber discussed the LLI’s strategic goals and the MAC’s mandate to suggest means of enhancing membership experience and content quality. Following the move from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to NSU-COM, one mandate of Linda Maurice, the LLI’s director, was to make the institute more financially independent and to reduce the deficit. The growth in full-time memberships, in response to very successful marketing and resulting larger Welcome Week activities, is contributing additional revenues.

However, the membership was significantly concerned that cost-cutting measures, including eliminating speaker stipends for university professors, would reduce content quality by reducing the incentive for faculty members to come to the LLI, as well as the director's incentive to seek outside speakers who receive stipends. The MAC then met with the university’s president, George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., to address these concerns, resulting in a letter from Dr. Hanbury to faculty members urging them to teach at the LLI.

More recently, a vocal minority of LLI members had suggested to the MAC that the loss of some outside speakers, or less use of favorites, may be negatively affecting the LLI experience and content quality. In response, the MAC undertook an investigation in which it was revealed that the institute has actually gained 21 new and 5 long-lost but returning professors. This includes nine new professors from Farquhar, four from the business school, and five from the Shepard Broad Law Center and the Health Professions Division colleges. Later, Maurice reported that about 50 percent of speakers are NSU faculty members and that outside speakers will continue to present seminars. She also urged LLI members to try new speakers that appear in the schedule as many members only attend the more established speakers and topics. The MAC’s conclusion is that the data suggests our initial concerns regarding loss of faculty, have, in fact, not been realized.

Speaker Evaluations: Dr. Farber next addressed the members’ qualitative concerns regarding our current faculty members. He stressed the importance of member feedback as the only mechanism we have to objectively assess the faculty (via our email evaluations (e-vals) or back-of-the-room paper evaluation forms). He confirmed that, after several months of development, beginning in January, Rudy Ameerally has been compiling monthly data reports from both evaluation methods. These reports are available in the director’s office for members review. He reported that 25 persons have registered for e-vals, and an average of 10 responses are received daily. In February, we had 23 speakers, and a range of 5 to 20 responses per speaker, were
Chairman's Report (continued)

returned. The vast majority of
speakers were rated excellent, and
of the very few who received a
poor grade, they were only from
one member each. Other grades are
good and fair. Many respondents
have offered very valuable
comments, including suggestions
for corrective actions, which are
discussed at MAC meetings and
with the LLI director.

Dr. Farber concluded this issue by
stating that the evaluations are
proving to be an effective tool in
providing empirical evidence on
the quality of LLI programming
and speaker performance. The data
suggests the overwhelming
majority of respondents are not
only satisfied, but quite pleased
with the quality of the faculty and
programs at the LLI. Since this is
currently the only tool we have to
register our opinions and to effect
change, Dr. Farber encouraged all
members to make their opinions
heard by becoming more involved
in the regular assessment of all
presentations.

He urged members to register their
email addresses with Heike Dosé to
participate in the e-vals or to fill
out the paper forms placed at the
back of the room and make their
voices heard, since, like elections,
only through voting do we gain the
right to complain.

Field Trips: Dr. Farber announced
that the Field Trips Committee has
been expanded and more diverse
trips on Fridays have been
undertaken and planned. Trips
completed so far this semester are
the Norton Museum, Schakolad
Chocolate Factory, and the
Hollywood Holocaust Museum.
Members’ reactions to the field trips
are also being compiled, with
grading of exhibits, docents,
luncheons, and transportation.

Dan Smith added that a bus tour of
the campus was organized
especially for new members, and
that another tour will be arranged
later this semester. Since these tours
have been well received by the
membership, a tour will be
conducted each fall and spring
semester for veteran and new
members alike.

LLI Social Experience: With
respect to enhancing the LLI social
experience, Dr. Farber stated that the
LLI is unique, with a single fee for
all courses versus a higher fee per
elective course offered elsewhere.
Also, we operate as a cohesive
community where we make friends
and share interests, with our lunch
area serving as a very important
gathering spot. In addition, members
are involved in LLI activities in
various ways; including the
occasional evening class. At the
MAC’s request, Maurice is
investigating the possibility of
having a fresh-food concession
opened in the LLI building
(University Park Plaza North), to
enhance members’ opportunities to
socialize.

Social Events and Mentorship
Program: The chairman invited Jill
Cohen to report on social events and
the recently launched mentorship
program for new members. Cohen
stated that last December’s holiday
party was extremely well attended.
Given its success, a spring brunch
will take place at the Emerald Hills
Country Club on Sunday, April 15
starting at 11:00 a.m. The fee of
$21.50 includes a buffet brunch, tea
and mimosa, tip, tax, and valet
parking.

Under the mentorship program,
Cohen coordinates about 12
volunteers who are assigned to new
members requesting participation.
Volunteers conduct one-on-one
sessions with new members to
explain in greater detail all that is
offered by the LLI and various other
resources and courses available at
NSU. Feedback is welcomed to
gauge the program’s usefulness.

The MAC asked Rudy Ameerally
and Dan Smith to prepare a New
Members’ Welcome Folder. The
folder contains about 20 pieces of
information about the LLI and the
rest of the university. MAC
members are reviewing the final
draft, which upon completion, will
be made available to all new
members upon enrollment, and all
current members upon request.

The LLI Newsletter: To further
enhance the social experience, the
LLI Newsletter, a joint effort
between the MAC and the director’s
office, has been re-launched, with a
wider scope and the active involve-
m ent of many more LLI members—
with the MAC serving in a
managing role. Rudy Ameerally has
been appointed coordinating
Chairman’s Report (continued)

editor, with Maxine Jordan contributing as copy editor. Our goal is a monthly edition to be available by the first of every month. The MAC invites members’ active participation in making our news publication a success.

**The Tribute Fund** – Dr. Farber invited Maurice to discuss the LLI Tribute Fund. She showed members a printed blue fund brochure, which can be found at the back of the room. The fund was established in October 2011 to attract donations from persons, and endowments from charitable foundations, in order to be able to offer scholarships to needy members as well as pay for outside speakers and other ad-hoc general purposes. Donations of any amount can be made in person or online for any reason, including birthdays, anniversaries, bar/bat mitzvahs, special occasions, and graduations. To illustrate, Maurice mentioned her own small donation in celebration of the 83rd birthday of Abraham Fischler, Ed.D., one of the key founders of Nova Southeastern University. She invited members to make contributions and reported that around $1,500 has been received to date. Maurice then related the results of her recent meeting with Susan Pierce, M.S. Ed, executive director of development in NSU’s Office of Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Farber concluded his remarks by addressing the MAC’s other mandate to develop, maintain, and strengthen avenues of communication between the membership via the MAC and the university decision makers. He enumerated the agendas of the various meetings attended by MAC members to meet this mandate. These include quarterly meetings with the university president and provost, ad-hoc meetings with the chancellor of the Health Professions Division and with the Office of International Advancement, quarterly meetings with the NSU-COM dean, and monthly meetings with University Relations.

As you read this you are probably saying, “Wow, the LLI churns out newsletters so often!” Hopefully, this April edition will signal the arrival of regular installments of our newsletter. This is a result of the determined efforts of our Members Advisory Committee (MAC), which has strategically divvied up all the various columns and editing responsibilities necessary to make this publication a success.

March was such an amazing month at the LLI. We welcomed new presenters to our classroom, including the renowned television producer Barney Rosenzweig (of “Cagney and Lacey” fame), Matthew Collins Williams (“Language and the Brain”) as part of NSU’s Brain Awareness Week), Stanley Cohen, Ed.D., (“History of Medical Ethics”), and Juan Riera (“Treasures, Pirates, and Wrecks in South Florida”). These were truly wonderful additions to our never-ending quest for varied and fascinating topics to explore. The LLI office is busy preparing for the summer and will have an interesting mix of speakers to offer. Details will follow in the May issue of the newsletter. Keep on spreading the word…….Learning is Lifelong at the Lifelong Learning Institute!

Linda Maurice
Director,
LLI
3. **Scene and Heard**
Compiled by Dennis Simunek

**February 14, 2012**
– Vince Toscano, Ph.D. “Hollywood and the Movies” – Avalon
This movie was about presenting the life and changes that immigrant families experienced when moving to America. From the 1890s through the 1920s, there was a great European migration. Italians, Irish, Jews, and Slovaks all went to seek opportunities to “live the American dream” of mobility and enterprise to assimilate into American society and culture. The story recounted in the movie was about a Jewish family who went through all the cultural changes that striving for material success required. It truly reflected “Middle America” lifestyles at the early and middle parts of the 20th century.

**February 20, 2012**
– Steven Alford, Ph.D. “The Oscars”
Discussion centered on the major nominations for the 84th Annual Academy Awards ceremony held on February 26. Dr. Alford distributed a list showing the nominations in the categories of Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Director. The choices were discussed as to who *should* win, and who *will* win according to the latest tallies of the favorite choices. Those present gave their opinions on whether the movie *The Help* would be chosen over *The Artist* for Best Picture and whether George Clooney would be chosen as Best Actor in the movie *The Descendants* over Gary Oldman in the movie *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. Other favorites included actress Glenn Close in *Albert Nobbs*, Viola Davis in *The Help*, and Meryl Streep in *The Iron Lady*. The discussion also included movies and stars that should have been nominated but were not chosen in previous years.

**February 27 and March 5, 2012**
– Marc Newman “The American Civil War: Strange and Fascinating Facts”
On February 27, Newman focused on the causes of the conflict. He was dressed in a Union Officer’s uniform of that era - a replica of General George Custer’s. Authentic, with French gold braid on the black velvet sleeves and musketeer hat, this uniform projected the spirit of the era of 1861 when the Union Army went into battle against the Confederacy’s attempt to secede from the U.S. federal government. It was revealed through photos of the major protagonists that the conflict was caused not by a desire to free southern slaves, but to prevent the further spread of this economic condition to other territories of the country.

On March 5, Newman focused on the increasing advance of resources and technology, which enabled the combating sides to increase casualties in this conflict. It lasted for four more years and resulted in over 500,000 deaths on both sides. A major cause of death was the spread of disease, some of which were due to amputation of limbs of soldiers wounded in battle. Actual replicas of weapons were passed around for the audience to view, and included authentic pistols and rifles of this period. LLI members are looking forward to the third presentation in April.

Marc Newman in Union Uniform
February 17 “Field Trip to The Schakolad Factory”

Twelve LLI members met at The Schakolad Factory located on Nova Drive and we were greeted by the co-owners and operators. “Everyone, please gather around the tables,” they requested as they placed paper plates for us to work on. It was explained that dark chocolate had more of the cocoa bean taste, while the light one was a mixture with milk solids, which creates a more creamy consistency and sweeter taste. We then went to the chocolate mixing machines to coat our confection biscuits and cookies with chocolate coverings. The final task of this chocolate process was to decorate our creations with candy sprinkles and cereal puffs. We all valued this experience as it allowed us to sample the delicious flavor benefits of homemade chocolate.

4. April Attractions
Tuesday April 3
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Hot Topics in Aging
– A Panel Discussion
Faculty experts including Jackie Browne Ph.D., Natalie Brescia Ph.D., and Elliot Sklar Ph.D. will participate in a discussion designed to break down barriers and biases, and dispel long held myths about aging. They will get to the core of positive aging and new and different attitudes. NSU graduate students will also participate in the event.

Tuesday, April 3
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
“Composing in the Present: New Media’s Influence on Students’ Writerly Identities”
Kelly Concannon Mannise, Ph.D., and Star Medzarian, Ph.D., Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences faculty members

Wednesday, April 4 and 11
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
The Anatomy of a Criminal Investigation I & II
Alan Hazen

Thursday April 12
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
“2012: A Presidential Election Year - Cartoonist’s Eye-View Of the Presidency
Kingsley Guy

Monday, April 16
10:00 -11:30 a.m.
Visas for Life:
The Story of Chiune Sugihara
Freya Homer

Tuesday, April 17
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
“Everything I Know About Business I Learned from the Grateful Dead”
Barry Barnes, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 24
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
“Musical Theatre and Interdisciplinary Art”
David Spangler, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 26
Great Books
“The Professors’ Houses”
By Ursula K. Le Guin
Rick LaValley

Monday, April 30
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Archeological Tourism
Michelle Williams, Ph.D.

Don’t forget to try new speakers…. New Today…Favorites Tomorrow!
Lois Berman was born in Brooklyn and received her B.S. degree from City College of New York in 1960. She married later that same year and, in time, she had three sons. In 1972, Berman and her family moved to Florida.

For 30 years, Berman was a court reporter in both civil and criminal courts. Her most interesting case lasted four months, requiring her to alternate with another reporter so that transcripts would be available for proceedings the next day. It involved two gentlemen—a wealthy Saudi Arabian and a Palestinian—who first were friends in the Middle East, then in business together in the United States. The Saudi Arabian had promised he would make the Palestinian a partner, but he never did. Consequently, the Palestinian felt he had been cheated and brought suit against the other man. While he was awarded $20 million, the inevitable appeals dragged on until the Saudi gentleman died. The plaintiff ultimately did receive some of those millions.

After Berman and her husband divorced, she was kept busy rearing her sons—Paul, David, and Alan—and with her work. Once the boys became more self-sufficient, she began to travel abroad. Among the places she visited were the British Isles, Russia, Italy, and Hawaii. By far, her favorite trip was to China where, except for a dinner of excellent dim sum, Berman found Chinese food totally lacking in appeal. In fact, it was an American buffet at a hotel that proved to be her best meal of the entire journey. Not yet ready to retire her luggage, she has placed an Alaskan trip at the top of her “bucket list.”

Berman enjoys the friends she has made at the LLI as well as the challenge of learning about new subjects. She especially looks forward to the presentations of Eli Kavon, Stephen Levitt, and Vincent Tuscano. She also appreciates the music programs led by Judith Etzion and David Yuen.

In addition, she has a special interest in the history of Great Britain and jokes that reading so much English history has qualified her for citizenship. She can even correct the Showtime series listing of the Tudor royal succession.

A fan of opera, ballet, movies, and the theatre, Berman still finds time to read not only history but murder mysteries as well. Was this last choice a result of her court reporter years?

Her son David has a little boy named Jacob, who is almost 18 months old. Paul’s daughter Sophia is nearing eight months of age and has a teenage step-brother, Jose. These three grandchildren have brought her the newest and liveliest of all her activities to an already busy life, and she is loving it.

6. Great Books

Moderated by Rick LaValley, during absence of Edith Bergman

“Review of Sonny’s Blues by James Baldwin (1924-1987)”

On February 23, the LLI’s Great Books group, attended by 30 members, discussed James Baldwin’s short story Sonny’s Blues from The Great Books Foundation Short Story Omnibus. The foundation's mission is to “help people learn how to think and share ideas by promoting the reading and discussion of classic and contemporary texts across the disciplines.”

Baldwin was a novelist and playwright who wrote about racial and sexual issues in the mid-20th century, especially pertaining to black life in America. His Sonny’s Blues short story was a masterful piece of work on multiple levels that could easily make a fledgling writer quit writing.
Great Books Report (continued)

Hopefully, it inspired people to greater heights with their efforts. Such power and form coming out from the midst of Harlem's heroin drug world was amazing.

Baldwin’s story had three main themes. The first is that tragedy and suffering can be transformed to a communal art form, in this case progressive jazz. Secondly, blues music is a catalyst for change. And thirdly, he poses the question, “Are we our brothers’ keeper and not just by control and coercion, but by listening and understanding?”

Ninety minutes was not enough time to discuss the severe prejudice that drove the author away in the 1930s from Harlem, NY, to a more tolerant Paris in France. Nor did we fully evaluate the hard knocks of Harlem and heroin. The philosophy of “What does not kill you makes you stronger” could be seen in Baldwin’s superb writing.

The class had extraordinary participation with insightful ideas and comments. One member stated afterward that she belonged to four book clubs, and the LLI’s was doing a more in-depth review than any of the other ones she has attended. Read The Professor’s Houses by Ursula Le Guin for April 26.

Don Siegendorf read chapter 5 of his ongoing fantasy entitled Wizard. We hear more about Benny, who we’ve met before, now a soldier in the midst of a hand-to-hand fight for his life. He has become a ruthless killer, wielding his club and sword and somehow managing to survive, even helping a seriously wounded fellow soldier by amputating his leg. There’s more to come.

Lee Sacks once again demonstrated his ability to write effective dialogue with his new story, Shrink Rap. His speaker, Craig, tells his psychiatrist about an emotional confrontation with his elderly, estranged father, who will soon undergo critical medical procedures. During the telling of the story, Craig reveals what has alienated him from his father in the past -- and we are left wanting to know more.

A Past Memory was Barry Katz’s contribution to the workshop. It is a clever exercise he formerly used to test prospective employees' ability to recognize grammatical redundancies in speech and in writing. Even the title is a challenge. Ask Katz for a copy and test your own skills in eliminating unnecessary words.

Rick LaValley presented If I Had Talked to My Dad, an emotional litany of family history, regrets, skills, strengths, and character-building experiences. This soliloquy evidences La Valley’s gift for words, which remain in his readers’ minds and memories.

CONDOLENCES

The LLI offers sincere condolences to our Newsletters’ Graphic Designer Brandee Evans, whose father passed away on April 2, 2012.
THE FINAL OUTPOST
BY ARNOLD I. PAKULA

FIRST SOME FACTS: The invasion of Iwo Jima began on February 19, 1945, and was declared “secure” on March 26. 77,000 Marines faced 22,000 Japanese troops who were dug in beneath the Island. The Navy delivered the then largest ever total of tonnage of bombs and artillery on a single target. More than 19,000 Marines were wounded and 6,821 died; the costliest battle in Marine Corps history. One third of all Marines killed in WWII died on Iwo Jima. Only about 200 Japanese defenders survived. The body of Lt. General Kuribayashi, the Japanese Commanding General, was never found. The last two Japanese survivors surrendered four years after the battle.

This story is dedicated to the memory of Private Yoshi Yamamura of the Japanese Imperial Army.

From high atop the black sandy beach, the frightened, half-starved soldier stood careful watch. A weak haze of sulfur hung in the air, clouding his eyes, filling his mouth to the point where he could taste it. His worn uniform hung in rags on his spare, skeletal-like frame. He faced in the direction he and his comrades, just as frightened, equally thirst-ridden and as half-starved, were told to face, to watch for the enemy’s fleet which would soon appear over the horizon.

They had already been there for nearly two months with no hope of ever seeing home again. No one had to tell these raggedy-looking soldiers that they had all been abandoned by their superiors. Their own fleet had been completely destroyed, and there would be no surrender for any of them. Doomed to face what they were told would be honorable deaths, they would make their families proud.

It was just as doubtful that any of their families would ever know, individually, of their sons’ sacrifices. There were no chaplains with this small force to offer the men any comfort. Each man would have to assuage his own fears.

His father’s last words assured him that his death, when it happened, would bring honor not just to their family, but to their name. The soldier had been taken from his family right out of high school with no chance of any refusal to go to war, then sent out here to just wait to die.

The land on which he stood was still theirs and the invaders would sweep past in waves, thousands of them, with the sole intent of invading his homeland.

Staring off into the distance, he had developed the thousand-yard stare—the look a frightened soldier develops when death stares back at him.

More than anything, he missed Yoko-san. She would never get to read the letter he had written to her or the haiku he had composed just for her.

The others, many of whom were veterans of other battles and would die alongside him, some by their own hands, assured him that when his time came, at least he would never hear the bullet which killed him.

They were wrong.

Before he fell, he heard it.
Socrates Café (continued)

achievements and life experiences, that, as I’ve often expressed, if our group was being recorded for public showing, it would prove to be one of the hottest shows on television or the Internet.

One of the most revealing and important contributions that our Socrates Café has yielded is that each of us is encouraged to speak our own mind, our philosophy, our deepest revelations of the meaning of truth, or the search for truth as we conceive it. Inevitably, it has become, as philosopher Jacob Needleman put it, "Philosophy...enables us to ask the questions that give meaning to life."

Yes, the quest of the mind and emotions arose as we shared our thoughts on whether 2012 would be a year of revolution or resolution here in the United States. Not surprisingly, positive, intellectual, and emotional voices expressed the hope and also the concern we all share as to where our future may now be leading us. Of course, not everyone agreed, but that is the essence of our dialogues, that we are individuals, sharing our experience and understanding in an open arena. Some of the intriguing questions that have been chosen in the past include:

- What are the major factors in human happiness?
- Are we controlled by fate or free choice?
- Should survival of the fittest be the moral code?
- What would it take to make you feel rich?
- How are advancements in technology affecting us?

Along with our inquiring-mind questions come our humorists too, often turning deep philosophy into a comedy stage show. So, we often leave with a smile, as well as a little head start in our visions and insights.

LLI Welcomes New Member

Nelly Attia
Murray Schwartz
Susan Simon