In May 2015, my beloved wife of 23 years passed away after a long battle with cancer. I was devastated, and with no immediate family in South Florida, I was totally alone and on my own. When I attended a bereavement group, it became increasingly clear that I had to get out more and fill up my daily calendar. At one of the group meetings, someone mentioned the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). The following week I attended my first lecture at NSU and will be forever grateful. It was like I returned to my youth again, being back in school. Three wonderful hours each day with subjects I loved: art, music, politics, science, philosophy, and more. Socrates Cafe allowed me to join group discussions. As a member, I received a Shark card and was able to audit a literature class taught by Suzanne Ferriss, who sent me a syllabus so I could do the advance readings and participate in the class discussions. She made me feel welcome and a real part of the class. It was thrilling. At the LLI, I met and became friendly with so many nice folks with interests similar to mine. I also found the excursions to museums and other places of interest so informative and enjoyable. I have recommended the LLI to several people and they too have joined the community. Thanks to the wonderful staff at the LLI for helping me get through a very dark time in my life.

“Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?” – Erich Fromm

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE IN CLASSES AUDITED FOR FREE

By Mady Wilk, LLI Member

When my husband, Eli, and I joined the LLI, we were pleased to discover that there were many facets of the program. Not only were we able to meet wonderful, intelligent, knowledge-seeking people, participate in stimulating field trips, and attend thought-provoking lectures during the day, we were also encouraged and entitled to audit classes free of charge.

The various departments—accounting, anthropology, economics, film studies, history and political science, to name a few—offered us many options. If we enjoyed a lecture from a particular professor during the scheduled LLI program, we could also audit his or her class for a semester.

Thus, when we attended an LLI lecture given by Charles Zelden, Ph.D., professor in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, we were intrigued. “History of the U.S. from 1945 to the Present,” an evening class, was the choice for us. It actually was our time in history. Eli had a collection of newspapers and magazines that he had amassed over the years. As we discussed a particular decade, he was happy to share the documents with the students and Zelden. In his classroom, Zelden brought history to life through lectures, videos, and discussions. We truly enjoyed our first auditing experience.

We also audited a class in political science with Stephen Levitt, LL.M., LL.B. associate professor in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The 15-week course, “Comparative Government,” was interesting and enlightening. His discussions about different countries’ governments are essential to understand our world today. Levitt encourages his students to understand the relationships of politics, geography, economy, and history through lively lectures and explanations of political advertisements. His enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject are apparent. Eli and I certainly looked forward to those Monday nights.

Our experiences at NSU’s LLI program are enriching and relevant thanks to the opportunity to audit classes.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” – John Dewey
In just a few months, I can tell that the LLI is one big family. I have observed the importance of surrounding yourself with people you care about and who care about you. The LLI community is a social and supportive group of individuals who are here not only to continue learning, but also to spend their days with fascinating professionals and friends from diverse backgrounds.

My favorite aspects of being a part of this community are observing the members’ excitement to see one another, listening to the chatter and laughter at lunch, and witnessing how involved and passionate each member is about the available classes and opportunities. I am thrilled to help in any way I can, but also feel lucky to have found such an inspiring place to work.

The learning and fun aren’t confined to the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. Members go on field trips to movies, museums, lunches, theater productions, and much more. The affiliated locations off campus accommodate a large majority of residents in South Florida and emphasize NSU’s commitment to the retired community.

I hope that when my years of working are behind me, I can be as welcome and motivated as the intriguing people I have met at the LLI.

At first glance, one would expect the Lifelong Learning Institute to be a safe haven for retired professionals seeking solace in a community designed specifically for them. Before coming to work for the LLI, I had assumed that I would be surrounded by earnest and strict elders who took themselves too seriously. Instead, what I got was the complete opposite. The elders I have met have been kindhearted, humorous, energetic, and youthful. The generational differences between the members and me had me bracing for the worst, but I received much more than I could have hoped for at the start.

The LLI is filled with retired professionals, from various fields of work, who seek to expand their knowledge with the lectures. I have seen various members engage one another in enlightening discussions about life, politics, social media, music, novels, or other topics. The members tend to keep an open mind about subjects I may have considered taboo from their perspective in their day and age, and it is amazing to see how the progression of time has shifted their perspectives on these issues. Working at the LLI as a 22-year-old has opened my eyes to the thoughts, perspectives, and life experiences that these seasoned and retired professionals have experienced in their lifetime. I am grateful to have been employed by a place that has allowed me to expand my knowledge on cultural, generational, and political issues.

In the summer of 1787, the Great War that turned the former colonies into a fledgling nation is over. Or is it?

Ralph Folsom, the last Tory in High Tide, lives in a remote cabin in the forest of rural New York, eking out a bitter impoverished existence punctuated by hatred—and no one gets a bigger dose of it than aristocrat and patriot Captain Aaron Collins.

Aaron’s got problems of his own. Stripped of his tenant lands after the war and saddled with huge debt, he is too focused on the day-to-day struggles to notice that his old enemy is sliding into madness.

Tormenting them both is the memory of Abbie, who loved both men—and then disappeared with a British soldier. The events driving Ralph over the edge go back many years, even before he and Aaron were born.

The mystery, that ponders why rather than who, will be published by me. I am a former reporter and editor who has written poetry and short stories for years. My second novel, an irreverent take on Medusa, is going through its third draft.
Happy travels Suzanne Ferriss and Steven Alford. (Have fun in retirement.)

Barney Rosenzweig — Cagney and Lacey producer

Madhavi Menon, Ph.D. — Indian classical dance

Gold Coast Jazz Society — Nicole Yarling and Bob Hanni

Intergenerational Florida History Project with NSU University School students
The LLI Newsletter is a product of the LLI Members Advisory Committee and is designed and edited by the NSU-COM Office of Medical Communications and Public Relations.

**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.

**HOW TO REACH THE LLI**

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Watch highlights of LLI classroom lectures on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/LLINova.

Instagram: nsulifelonglearning

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