Winter Welcome Week – This winter semester’s Welcome Week was even more successful than last year’s. During the week of January 9-12, over 90 guests showed up for an introduction to NSU’s program provided by the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). Each morning, guests were registered at a greeters’ reception table and then introduced to a “rover” (e.g., a member who took them to a free breakfast buffet and introduced them to other members who were available to answer any questions they might have).

From 9:30 until 10:00 a.m., the guests received information presented by the LLI’s director, Linda Maurice, who used her PowerPoint presentation, LLI literature, and member accounts to satisfy any request involving LLI information. During these sessions, we were honored by the participation of several distinguished individuals, namely Dr. Nova himself, Abe Fischler, Ed.D., Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., director of NSU-COM’s Geriatric Education Center (GEC).

The guests, including 43 who returned for at least one additional session, attended 90-minute lectures in the morning and afternoon, from Monday through Thursday, with a one-hour break for a complimentary lunch sponsored by local businesses. The topics, which were presented by some of the LLI’s favorite speakers, ranged from literature and politics to the biology of sleep, dreams, and sleep disorders.

On January 23, David Yuen of the South Florida Grand Opera, made a presentation on La Rondine, in which he contrasted this opera’s characters and plots with those of La Bohème. In La Rondine, characters Magda and Rugero meet in a nightclub and end up falling in love, something Magda has been longing to experience, as she is a kept woman by a nobleman named Rombaldo. As the plot unravels, Magda is ultimately forced to choose between Rugero and Rombaldo, meaning she has to choose between true love and the material comforts that only Rombaldo is capable of providing her.
At the LLI membership meeting on January 19 with the Members Advisory Committee (MAC), Stuart Farber, M.D., who serves as chairman, reported on MAC activities that occurred since the previous meeting. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

The MAC has appointed several committees consisting of:

- **Hospitality** – co-chaired by Lee Sacks and Jill Cohen (responsible for Welcome Week and New Member Relations)
- **Tribute Fund Liaison** – represented by Lee Sacks
- **Mentor Program** – coordinated by Jill Cohen
- **Physical Plant and Welcome Week Front Desk** – chaired by Moe Weiner
- **E-Valuation Data** – chaired by Rudy Ameerally.

The chairman introduced all the MAC members including, Dan Smith (secretary), and mentioned that Joy Gallimore was on leave of absence until early February.

The LLI’s Strategic Plan is available to members in the director’s office. Most of the goals for 2011 were either met or surpassed. Dr. Farber then reported on progress made on several of the goals.

With respect to increased membership, the achievements to date include 47 new members for the academic year 2011-12, with 17 joining during January 2012 Welcome Week (WW), and 96 continuing members. This compares favorably with 2010-11 achievements of 34 new members for the year (8 joining in WW) and 90 continuing members, and 2009-10 with 53 new members for the full academic year (11 joining in WW) and 88 continuing members. The current membership as of January 19 was 143. Dr. Farber also noted there were 91 new visitors during WW, of which 43 made repeat visits during the four-day event.

To enhance the new member experience, a New Member Packet was developed and an NSU shuttle bus tour of the NSU campus was being planned. In addition, a Mentor Program was initiated. Dr. Farber encouraged new members to let Jill Collins know if they would like to be included. Each new member will then be assigned to individual volunteers.

With respect to the strategic goal to **Enhance LLI Program Options and Content**, Dr. Farber indicated that 20 members to date have agreed to participate in the E-Valuation program via the Internet, have submitted their email addresses, and are now contributing speakers’ grades and comments. These are being compiled electronically so all feedback can be analyzed. He requested members to add their emails to the list so that additional feedback can be obtained.

MAC members and Linda Maurice met with Charles Blackledge, Jr., M.P.H., GEC consultant, with respect to developing a **needs assessment tool** to define ways to improve current programming and discover new possibilities. This tool will involve a literature review of lifelong learning programs conducted within the United States, including focus group discussions and other program analyses.

As part of program enhancement, Dr. Farber mentioned that Boomers Plus had meetings on the first Monday evenings of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. More focused marketing will be addressed with Dave Dawson from NSU’s Office of University Relations.

Field trips are now being programmed on Fridays so classroom lectures do not compete for members’ time. A field trip schedule is available; the most-recent trip took place on January 27 at the Norton Museum.

The physical plant has been enhanced with new chairs in the classroom and additional furniture in the lunch area, a new projector and larger screen, eight additional parking spaces reserved for LLI members, and a new cordless microphone. A remote control pointer is being purchased.

Susan Peirce, M.S. Ed, executive director of development in the university’s Office of Institutional Advancement, is working with the LLI to seek major benefactors, corporate sponsors, and planned giving opportunities. At Dr. Farber’s invitation, Lee Sacks presented activities to date of the Tribute Fund, noting that members had already contributed $1,400 in its first two months of operation, in commemoration of various family and personal celebrations.

With respect to marketing, the LLI is working with NSU’s Office of University Relations. As a result of advertisements placed in various media, as well as members’ own promotional efforts, the turnout during WW in January, reached 109 attendees, which was a record for the LLI.

Dr. Farber mentioned that our Second Annual Faculty Roast will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, February 9 and echoed Maurice’s call for submissions from members to ensure an enjoyable event.

Members inquired about Edith Bergman, who has been unable to attend classes since December. Dr. Farber reported that she was still in hospital. He indicated that Rick LaValley has agreed to chair the next Great Books Workshop.

By February 15, the membership has increased to 165—and is growing weekly.
When he is not quickly demolishing the daily newspaper crossword puzzles or chomping on his crispy apple lunch—he’s a vegetarian—during lecture downtime, Dr. Fineman can be found sharing ideas with colleagues who admire this fit and accomplished doctor of internal medicine. It is admirable to see someone practice the healthy lifestyle he preaches. In fact, he agrees with our lecturers who teach that diet, exercise, nature, the outdoors, keeping the brain active by doing daily puzzles, continuous learning, and social networking are all components that contribute to a better quality of life as we age.

When Dr. Fineman stands and raises his hand to ask questions, lecturers usually acknowledge him as we all wait in quiet anticipation to hear what is puzzling him. We all look forward to the sharp and pointed questions he throws at our learned speakers with such precision. Sometimes he makes suggestions to further find solutions to the vexing topic under discussion, giving the speaker more food for thought.

When asked about his guiding beliefs, Lewis responded, “I try to always do the right thing, and I believe that skepticism is a very important habit to cultivate. My life goal is to keep as active as possible physically, intellectually, and emotionally.” When asked where he gets his inspiration from, he responded, “I admire Albert Einstein for his intellect and his humanity.”

Dr. Fineman hails from New York, where he earned a bachelor’s degree from Columbia College in 1959 and his M.D. degree in 1963 from NYU’s School of Medicine. He then did several years of internship/residency training in internal medicine at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, and the University of Miami School of Medicine in Florida. During this period, he also served a two-year stint (1965-67) as a general medical officer (captain) in the U.S. Air Force in Reno, Nevada, and Wichita Falls, Texas.

His 30-year medical career started with his own private practice in Hollywood, Florida, from 1969 through 1995 and then at Memorial Hospital Medical Clinic in Hollywood until he retired in 1999. He has been an LLI member since 2000.

In 1965, Dr. Fineman met Ann, his wife of 46 years, in New York City. They have a son, Mark, and a daughter, Lisa, who are now in their early 40s. Mark and his wife Sarah are parents to two young and energetic sons, Jack and Sam. Mark and his family live in Anchorage, Alaska, which explains why the LLI doesn’t not see him from early April to October each year.

Dr. Fineman and his wife both love the outdoors and have great respect for the environment. “My interest in the U.S. National Park system was piqued in 1966 during a trip with Ann to Yosemite National Park in California,” he explained. “For the past nine summers since 2003, we have greatly enjoyed volunteering as interpretive rangers, first at Glacier National Park in Montana for two summers and then at Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska.”

In April, he and Ann will be off to be with their loved ones, which makes us wonder if he will be able to spot us during our steaming hot Florida summer from his very cool Alaskan living room window.
Recently, while listening to NPR radio, the interviewer was discussing creative writing. She challenged the listeners by saying, “I would like you to send in a story using only six words.” The responses were very interesting and unique. One response was quoted as follows:

For sale
Baby shoes
Never worn

I have followed the request with a few of my own. My son, a police sergeant, was honored last week in a city ceremony celebrating the culmination of a grant program entitled “Weed and Seed.” The object is to weed out the troubled youth and seed with community mentors and projects. As a community representative officer, he successfully initiated the law enforcement aspect of the federal program.

My story in six words
Weed and Seed ends
Son honored

Family Dynamics
Divorced parents
Daughter’s wedding
Compromised togetherness

He is gone
I am alone

Estranged brother returns
And celebrates birthday

This past weekend, three memorial services for the 9/11 attacks were held. Six-word stories are as follows:

Towers explore
Are you there God?

Firemen entered inferno
Then eternal home

Orphaned infants
Longing to
Turn teenagers

Commanding “Let’s roll”
Passengers overtake terrorists

10-Year Dedication Memorial 2011
Reverently tracing names
Bordering healing pool

Water falling, flowing,
Pooling into abyss

Trees shading pool
Water offering peace

Forty names on wall
Shanskville, Pennsylvania

In Washington, D.C.
Terrorists attack Pentagon

Ground Zero
3,983 victims’ names engraved

Names were read
Kisses blown skyward
It's All About Me

by Barry Katz

PROLOGUE

I am a first generation American. My parents immigrated here between the two Great Wars and settled in Chicago, Illinois. After giving birth to three girls, the oldest being 21 years my senior, my mother became pregnant at 41 years of age. Following several unsuccessful attempts to abort her pregnancy, my father assured her she was carrying the next President of the United States. And so, on June 16, 1935, the first Jewish American President was born. Not so unlikely after all, Abe Lincoln was tall and thin; I have a beard (though not at birth). Lincoln had a mole near his nose; I have a beard. Lincoln grew up in Illinois; I grew up in Illinois. Abe Lincoln was born. Not so unlikely after all, Abe Lincoln was sired by Ben out of Mariasha, Russian immigrants who spoke broken English. No—it wasn’t broken—it was compound fractured. I was the only kid in kindergarten who spoke with a Yiddish accent. My luck, the teacher was a Hungarian who had a subtle accent also. On my first day in class, I asked her if I could play “mit the schmitzik” (the triangles). She thought I was making fun of her accent and sent me home with a note. One day, my mother announced that she was going to the A & P; I responded with, “Fine, Mom, I’m going to the Y and Crap.” While she was laughing, and we were again circling the dining room table, she was hitting me over the head with her purse.

When I was in the sixth grade, the school district was changed and I, along with dozens of others, had to attend a new school. Let me preface again the next few incidents by saying I was an incessant gum chewer at this stage of my life. Anyway, back to my new school. The sixth-grade teacher had each of the new students stand and introduce themselves. When she came to me, she asked, “Are you chewing gum?” I responded, “No, I’m Barry Katz.” Thus began a frequent and not very fond relationship between the principal and me.

Those were the days when everyone walked to public school. Bussing only meant cleaning tables in a restaurant. Kids who were driven to school were those in private schools. I did not wait to be asked. I handed him the box and said, “Hope this makes up for all the times I missed,” and went on my merry way. At the cretin’s corner, I did not wait to be asked. I handed him the box and said, “Hope this makes up for all the times I missed,” and went on my merry way. The next morning, there was a substitute patrol boy at his corner. He didn’t know what was wrong with the cretin, other than yesterday at gym class, while doing deep knee bends, he had fouled himself and had to be sent home.

That morning I was called to my new best friend, the Principal’s Office. In the middle of his desk was an empty box of Chiclets. The principal was laughing so hard, he had tears in his eyes, as had I, because I was expelled for one school week.

CHAPTER ONE: CLOWNING ISN’T FUNNY

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As I got older, I realized I could make friends and family laugh, but, many times, got into trouble because of it. I remember when I was nine years old and came in the house after a hard day’s play, dirty and smelly, I took a bath. The standing rule in our house was, after bathing, clean the tub, leaving no rings for the next person. Well, I was starving and neglected to clean the tub. As I was racing to the dinner table, my mother screamed, “Barry, did you see the bathtub?” I responded, “Why, Mom, is it missing?” You guessed it, no dinner that night. About a year later, my humor became a little more sophisticated. Another incident involving my mom took place.

Many of you may remember the first coast-to-coast supermarket—A & P Foods. One day, my mother announced that she was going to the A & P; I responded with, “Fine, Mom, I’m going to the Y and Crap.” While she was laughing, and we were again circling the dining room table, she was hitting me over the head with her purse.

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Great Books

with Edith Bergman and Rick LaValley

The LLI Great Books class for February reviewed James Baldwins’ Sonny’s Blues.” It was a masterful piece of work on multiple levels that could easily make a fledgling writer who read it quit writing. Hopefully it inspired people to greater heights with their efforts. Such power and form coming out from the midst of Harlems Heroin drug world was amazing. – Edith Bergman

“We had extraordinary participation in ideas and comments because a visitor or new member stated afterward that she belonged to four book clubs and ours was doing a more in-depth review than any of hers. – Rick LaValley

From the Director’s Desk

By Linda Maurice

Here at the LLI, we have rung in 2012 with a banner surge in membership enrollment. Thanks in no small part to the continued efforts of Dave Dawson, executive director of university relations, the LLI has been able to extend our academic message to a wider part of the South Florida community. As of this writing, we have reached 165 members, over 60 of those being new members of the LLI family since October 2011.

Both Heike Dose and I look forward to working with all of the LLI membership in continuing to plan even more interesting lectures, exciting field trips, and fun social happenings.

And a big thank you again to the Members Advisory Committee (MAC) for all the assistance the members provided, from helping with Welcome Week volunteer schedules to tireless efforts organizing dinners and luncheons (Jill!). You have all infused a tremendous spark into the family feeling that makes our program so special.

Keep on spreading the word—Learning is Lifelong at the Lifelong Learning Institute!
LLI Welcomes New Members

Blanche Broeder
Carole Constad
Sue Delinko
Marlene Effren
David Flayman
Suzanne Franklin
Linda Goldman
Harriet Gosda
Burt Halpern
Howard Horowitz
Ken Hurewitz
Rose Iannicelli
Honey Jackson
Jack Jennings
Katia and Morris Loiz
Susan Malter
Maria and Rob Metzger
Yvonne Morten
Muriel and Daniel Mosler
Roslyn Roth
Holly Roundtree
Gerry Rubin
Steve Schrock
Bob Sklar
Roberta and Merton Silbar
Diane Snyder

Jean Sostchen
Pat Della Valle
Sydelle Vermut
Mark Yanklewitz

The Lifelong Learning Institute
Tribute Fund
HONOR — REMEMBER — SUPPORT

The 2011-12 LLI academic year has seen the launch of a new tribute program designed to provide members with a format to honor or remember friends or loved ones. Additionally, tributes can be directed toward general support, scholarships, or the speakers’ fund of the Lifelong Learning Institute.

Between January and February 2012, the LLI received the following donations:

Evelyne Leone – General Fund
Linda Maurice – in honor of Dr. Abraham Fischler’s birthday
Ezra Rohold – in honor of grandchildren’s birthdays
Lee Sacks – contribution to Winter Welcome Week Lunch
Lee Sacks – in memory of
Emily Sutker, Carole Constad’s granddaughter
David Snellen – Speakers’ Fund
Morris Weiner – Speakers’ Fund