

# Lifelong Learning Institute NEWSLETTER

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## MAC Chairman's COLUMN

STUART FARBER, M.D.



**"So, what are you doing?"**

**"I go to the LLI."**

**"What is that?" "Ummm..."**

All of us have had this conversation since becoming members. Our numbers have almost doubled over the last few years, so the exchange has clearly occurred frequently. It never ceases to amaze me that whatever role the LLI plays in one's life, its identity is so unique, a member always pauses when asked to describe just what it is.

Is it school? Well, yes and no. Is it a lecture series? Well, yes and no. Is it a new social circle? Well, yes and no. Do you attend classes at the university? Well, yes and no. What are the lectures about? Well, sort

of everything. Are they interactive, or is it Psych 101? Well, yes. Are there exams or papers? Well, this can clearly result in a negative response.

One of our most interesting speakers is a geographer; (Who knew there was such a profession?) We could profess that the best professor in the universe, Suzanne Farris, can make romance literature compelling to doctors, lawyers, and accountants in the room.

We are asked, are you NSU students? Well, again, yes and no. We pay tuition, attend lectures by NSU professors, audit classes with the undergrads and grad students, share the NSU Distinguished Lecture Series to hear The Dali Lama, Spike Lee, General Petraeus, go to Shark Baseball and Basketball games and Swim Meets, but we are not pursuing a degree.

"What is this place?" is a question we find difficult to answer. But, the very cool thing is that we all seem to be sharing this very large secret—knowing about something that is incredibly wonderful while not many others do. The refrain heard so often from the rookies, "I can't believe I didn't know about this place sooner," is only matched by the vets' refrain, "This place only gets better and better."

## LLI Library News

By Marlene Effren, M.Ed.

The LLI is pleased to have an active lending library where members borrow donated books and movies. Most popular are novels in pocket book form. Donations and returns are welcome in the donation box.

LLI has provided laptop computers as well. Directions for using the computers are found opposite, at the designated computer, and also on the Access Handout at the sign-in table.

Staff members and your MAC are always available to answer questions.

## Accessing the LLI Web Site

1. Power on the computer
2. Click on the server icon (Explorer or Firefox)
3. Input in the search window: *nova.edu*
4. When you see the homepage go to the top tab labelled: Community
5. Click on the third choice of this drop down menu: LLI
6. You are on the LLI home page
7. Scroll down on the right to: Newsletters
8. Click on the current newsletter or any of the archives
9. Close out of the tabs and power off the computer

*NOTE: In the LLI Library simply go to the laptop designated. In step 3 type LLI in the search box. This action will immediately bring you to step 6.*



# From the Desk of the DIRECTOR

By Linda E. Maurice, M.A.

## SUMMER 2014 AT THE LLI

We are only just beginning to put together our summer class schedule. For those of you who are new to the LLI, here is a bit of an explanation of how the summer classes work.

Since many of our regular lecturers as well as members are away for the summer, we offer classes on a reduced schedule. Classes run Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00-11:30 a.m. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m., LLI Fitness takes place in the classroom. Most importantly, please spread the word about the summer program to your friends, because we open the classroom to the community over the summer, allowing those interested to try out our program. After the first four free classes, those interested only need to pay the \$25 registration fee. Beyond that, no other payment is required until the regular year starts in October.

Socrates Café is offered twice a month on Wednesday. Great Books and Writers Workshop will continue to be held once a month during the summer.

Here is a glimpse into who is already planning to pop up in the classroom over the summer:

Dustin Berna  
Leanne Boucher  
Seth Bramson  
Mark Egdall  
Judith Etzion  
Freya Homer

Shane LeMar  
Elaine Rudner  
Stephen Singer  
Vicki Toscano  
Vince Toscano  
Branch Walton

We also hope to welcome NSU School of Humanities and Social Sciences Ph.D. and M.A. candidates to present their work and research, just as we have in previous years. Stay tuned. It promises to be a fun summer.

*"Like" us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/llinsu>  
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>*

## LLI Welcomes New Members

- Kathy Beckmann
- Allan Beckmann
- Patricia A. Burke
- Martha Bustamante
- Yara Consiglio
- Clara Exelbirt
- Menashe Exelbirt
- Gerald Feldman
- Ricki Franklin
- Elizabeth Handly
- Loretta Hedberg
- Irving Hirsch
- James Johnson
- Valerie Johnson
- Sandy Lefkowitz
- Joel Lefkowitz
- Charlotte Lerner
- Beverly Lustig
- Bonnie Malmed
- Lee Malmed
- Sydney McMenemy
- Eva Morales
- Dori Neuwirth
- Jill Preston
- Claire Schuschny
- Pedro Schuschny
- Barry Schussel
- Roberta Silbar
- Mert Silbar
- Michael Spitalnick
- Marianne Ucko
- Bernard Ucko
- Michelle Vaghari
- Sy Zeidman

## LLI Tribute Fund Donations

- Cecelia Solomon  
*(in honor of Judith Etzion)*
- Eleonor and Howard Bloch
- Deborah Meline  
*(continuous NSU staff contribution)*

## LLI Member Profile: YVONNE MORTEN, ESQ.



If you are in a room full of people and you hear gregarious, unrestrained, and happy laughter, then chances are Ms. Yvonne Morten is gracing you with her presence. Morten is fun loving, carefree, loyal, very independent, and beautiful—in every sense.

During lectures, when the lady with the distinct “English/South African accent” hoists her hand, every-

one pays attention to hear the very pointed and relevant question she throws at our expert speakers. On the occasions when she is the lecturer (e.g., *Mandela, China in Africa*), attendance is high. Many members are very curious about her history and mystique. Her profile follows:

*Q: While the LLI has members from a wide diaspora, you are so unique. Tell us about your roots.*

**YM:** I'm from South Africa. My mother was born in Durban to parents who had emigrated from London to Natal, around 1840. My father was born in Amsterdam and visited South Africa as a teenager. He decided to settle in Durban, where he and my mother met and married.

*Q: Where did you acquire your basic education?*

**YM:** My first school was a Catholic convent. I was the youngest pupil there and the nuns used to fuss over me. After completing 3 years, I went on to spend 10 years at an all-girls' public school which had a famous residence for boarders—Barnato Park—named after Barney Barnato (1852-1902), a historical figure of Johannesburg's diamond and gold-mining industry. It is said the magnificent stone house, which was covered in ivy creepers, was his original home. Next, I enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Department of the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School. Traveling to work in the areas where the majority of black South Africans lived was a worry for my parents, so I did not continue in the profession.

*Q: So you had to go back to school. How did you acquire such a unique and distinct accent, which we all admire?*

**YM:** Yes, while working in a handbag manufacturing company, I studied speech and drama, almost as a hobby, and graduated from the London Trinity College. I then did some acting, opened a studio for children whose parents wanted them to have good clear speech, and for several years, I continued my teaching career. I also helped immigrants learn how to read and write English.

*Q: That explains it. Why did you leave South Africa?*

**YM:** I decided to see the world and sailed from Cape Town to England, then on to New York aboard the *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. I was able only to afford steerage accommodation and shared a cabin with four young Irish Catholic girls. We had a very rough crossing. The ship's nurse came around every evening to give us tablets to quell our seasickness. Elizabeth Taylor was also on the ship—in a different accommodation class—and married, at that time, to Michael Wilding. My consolation was that she, too, was seasick.

*Q: But why did you choose New York?*

**YM:** Well, New York was the place to be. It was the early 1950s, in the midst of the McCarthy era. After all, John Wayne had won the war single-handedly. Everything worked in New York. Horn and Hardart—noted for operating the first food service automats in Philadelphia and New York City—had inexpensive and excellent meals.

*Q: What did you do in New York?*

**YM:** I did a bit of acting and studied with a teacher in Greenwich Village. I also taught at a Jewish parochial school and loved every minute of being a part of this vibrant city. Two years later I returned to South Africa at the request of my mother.

*Q: Time to settle down?*

**YM:** Yes. I married, had three children, studied and practiced yoga—teaching it for a long time to my friends—and learned to play bridge. The apartheid era had begun. As a white person, living was very comfortable and safe. In 1980, I remarried (to an American) and we decided to leave South Africa for the United States. By this time my children had left school—my eldest was in the South African Army—and I arrived here with my two younger children.

*Q: To live the American Dream in the land of opportunity and freedom?*

**YM:** I have never regretted leaving South Africa. I have a life here filled with all the theater, music, bridge, and theme cruising I enjoy—not to mention attending the LLI, where my education has continued. I have also spent many years as a docent at the Museum of Art/Fort Lauderdale. I have enjoyed an art tour every year for the past 16 years, with a group that visits various museums and private collections in cities throughout the United States. In addition to these tours, I have travelled to Canada, Mexico, France, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy, China, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Israel, Russia, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic—where I have visited their art museums.

*Q: Sounds like a very happy and fulfilled life.*

**YM:** Yes, I consider myself a very lucky person.

# Many Ways to Enjoy Yourself at Free NSU Sports Events

By Dan Smith

When I was younger, I played sports and thrived on the excitement. Many believe athletics build character, self-confidence, and self-respect, both on and off the playing venues. Today, I still feel a thrill when an NSU player maneuvers a difficult dig, executes a successful spike in volleyball, makes a precision pass, header, or goal in soccer, shows awesome hustle, fast reflexes, and well-honed skills on the basketball court, and shows outstanding skill or discipline in baseball.

I am thrilled because athletic fitness takes long hours of physical exercise and acceptance of occasional pain. An athlete must have a passion for the sport and a personality that strives not only to outdo opponents but also teammates.

Access to NSU games is free for LLI members, but few people attend. Most students are under pressure



to study or attend other campus events. Halftime promotions, such as cheerleader acrobatics, competition for prizes among fans, and presentation of awards or trophies, make the experience exciting. I am not related to any of our athletes, but I have enjoyed meeting several of them, their families, and coaches.

Won't you come and enjoy some of these events? The whole atmosphere is fun. LLI members can enjoy free admission and parking with Shark ID and parking decal.

See you there.



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## 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.