

LLI NEWS
Interesting tidbits from LLI newsletters
May, 2012

In March, members of the **5 College Learning in Retirement** program in Massachusetts learned about *Watercolors*. They traveled to the studio Lou Currin, where they studied her artwork. The artist talked about watercolor technique, and then painted a picture as participants watched. Refreshments followed a delightful excursion.

This spring, members of the **Adventures in Learning Program at Colby-Sawyer College** in New Hampshire will be studying the *Arab Spring*. In January, 2011, the world was shocked to see the spontaneous demonstrations in the streets of Tunis, then later in Cairo and other cities in the Arab world. In this course participants will examine the circumstances that preceded the demonstrations, and will look at the impact of changes in demography and education in each country. They will also look at the ways modern technology has shifted the levers of power to a wider base.

This past winter, members of the **Frances Pew Hayes Center for Lifelong Learning** at Hodges University in Florida studied *Three Makers of Modern Drama: Chekhov, Strindberg & Pirandello*. Analysis and discussion of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, Strindberg's *The Father*, and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* demonstrate their dramatic power and influence on contemporary playwrights. Although different in style and structure, these plays dramatize the conflicts of family, self-delusion and identity.

In last winter's semester, members of the **Institute for Adult Learning** at Chesapeake College in Maryland studied *U.S. History: 1865-1918 (The Confident Years)*. This course is designed to introduce students to the development of the United States after the Civil War. Students explored the desire of the U.S. to acquire trade and land overseas and our involvement in World War I. Topics included reconstruction, political and economic development, and World War I conflicts.

This spring, members of the **ILR at Albertus Magnus College** in Connecticut will be *Deciphering the European Debt Crisis*. This course will outline the history of the European Union, its principles and will especially highlight the creation of the Euro single currency group within the EU. The contemporary history of the EU during the last five decades will be reviewed in order to help understand the current situation, widely described in the media as the "European debt crisis."

Members of the **Institute for Continuing Learning** at Young Harris College in Georgia are studying *Will Rogers: Ambassador of Good Will and Wit*, this spring. He was a beloved American icon who wore many hats during his too-short life. He entertained millions world-wide, through print, stage, radio and movies. His insightful quotes were drawn from the source he cited thusly; "All I know is what I read in the newspapers." He also learned much from his other source, the American Congress. In this course they will review his life and enjoy the many quotes, columns, letters and movie clips that are preserved in books and the 23 million hits on the internet. They will find why Eddie Cantor called him, "Probably the most beloved man of our time."

This spring, members of the **Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA)** at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell will be exploring the topic, *As We Come Marching! Snapshots of Labor History*. Through newsreels, readings, and lively discussions they will consider the travails and triumphs of working people in the U.S. as they struggled for dignity and a decent living. The course will provide an overview of this incredible history from the 19th century until today.

Members of the **LIFE program at Burlington County College** in New Jersey are studying the *Geology of Caves* this spring. This course discusses the discovery and interpretation of Paleolithic Cave Paintings created by early humans.

Members of the **Lifelong Learning Institute-Manassas**, Virginia recently explored *Neighbors, Enemies, Allies: The Bitter Struggles between Scotland and England*. They studied the upheaval during the Medieval and early modern periods.

This past winter, members of the **Lifelong Learning program at Baylor University** in Texas studied *C.S. Lewis: Heaven and Hell in Daily Life*. These four sessions discussed Lewis' thinking that heaven and hell were matters of daily life rather than vague destinations.

Last month, members of the **Lifelong Learning Society at Christopher Newport University** in Virginia began exploring *Canadian Literature*. In order to know a people, it is necessary to learn the culture – the beliefs and attitudes that provide the context for words and actions. One key to culture is, of course, literature. The course's goal is to provide an entertaining and informative foray into Canadian literature.

Members of the **LLI at Waubensee Community College** in Sugar Grove, Illinois are studying *Another Side of Mark Twain*, this spring. During a low period of his life, Twain deals with human failure, betrayal and damnation through the writing forms of irony and farce in two short novels. Both give the illusion of man's capacity to triumph over the fate of "the damned human race." Participants will engage in lively discussions by comparing Twain's various styles of writing and messages while exploring his darker side. They will read, "Pudd'nhead Wilson," and "Those Extraordinary Twins."

This spring, members of the **Lyceum at Binghamton University in New York** will be studying *The Art of Slavery*. They will explore the economics and cultural aspects of the slave economy of the U.S., Cuba and Brazil as reflected in the art and architecture of the 19th century.

During the spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at Humboldt University in California will be studying *Global Economics*. This dynamic, interactive and relevant introduction to the key concepts in economics will provide a foundation for understanding what they read and hear in the press.

This spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston** are exploring *Policing the Internet: Regulating the New Frontier*. The invention of the Internet has drastically changed society and the way we live our daily lives. This course will explore intellectual property, net neutrality, Internet censorship, and similar issues. Participants will learn about both sides of the issues.

During the spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College** in New Hampshire will be exploring the topic, *Is Anybody Out There?* Have you ever looked up at the stars and wondered if there was anyone out there, looking back at you? Answering this question definitively and scientifically is one of the most important drivers and motivators of astronomers, biologists and astrobiologists. This presentation and discussion will touch upon the following related topics: extra solar planet discoveries, the prospects for life elsewhere in our solar system, and the Fermi Paradox. No science education or background is needed to enjoy, learn and participate in discussions.

This spring, members of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor** are exploring *Mind Control is Not Just For Jedis*. They will explore ways to find a sense of quiet and calm. Topics will include the body, emotions, meditation, focusing and sleep. Through presentation of practical techniques, readings and class discussion, they may find some ways to rein in their mind.

Affairs of the Heart: FDR, Lucy and Eleanor was the topic of a course given last winter at the **Pillar Institute for Lifelong Learning** in Colorado Springs. An American President, a marriage and a love affair. In this program, participants asked the question “Can men and women simply be friends?” and examined the age-old issues of marriage, love affairs and sex/power/leadership. The program began with a historical review of President Franklin Roosevelt’s marriage to Eleanor and his relationship with Lucy Mercer (and other women).

Class participants discussed these issues in the context of FDR’s time – the 1930s and 40s – and also in their own era with the major changes that have occurred with the role of women in our society. The numerous implications of this subject made for a lively discussion!

This spring, members of the **QUEST** program in New York City are exploring *A World of Choices*. Since life on earth began, evolution has equipped Homo sapiens with huge brains, stunning adaptability and brilliantly successful technical prowess. Humans have learned to exploit the energy of fossil fuels and the atom. They have developed language and complex societies. But our successes have brought us to the brink of catastrophe. This course will consider the state of the world and the alternative choices facing humankind for saving our civilization in light of our human characteristics which make it difficult to deal with our challenges.

In the spring semester, members of the **RISE** program at Rivier College in New Hampshire will be studying *1940s Ads and Radio Commercials*. 1940s magazine advertisements and radio commercials spanned many categories from cars, household goods and appliances, to clothing, jewelry and other personal items. They will project on screen, a variety of magazine ads and play over 100 radio commercials, spanning the entire decade of the 1940s. Most contrast sharply with today’s advertising approaches.

This spring, members of the **Saltzman Foundation Lifelong Learning Institute** at the Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey are studying *Uncommon Law*. We have all heard legal terms such as the “Code of Hammurabi,” “Habeas Corpus,” “Burden of Proof,” “Due Process,” “Double Jeopardy” and “Jury Nullification.” This interactive course will explore a potpourri of legal topics to give students better insight into the legal system and how it affects our daily lives.