

LIFELONG  VASSAR COLLEGE
INSTITUTE LEARNING

Dear All,

We are already in July, summer is in full swing with temperatures in the 80s and 90s, and the Executive Committee just met at the house of Carlie Graves, our Membership and Registration Coordinator, to prepare for the fall semester of 2019. There is much to be done before we open our doors: finalize the fall courses, assign rooms, decide on how many new members we will accept, run the lottery, prepare last semester's newsletter, prepare the catalog, update the webpage, hire a new Administrative Assistant, reserve the Hospitality room, arrange for transportation, etc., etc. And one more thing: set up the General Council meeting where, the Executive Committee and the committees chairs meet to prepare for the fall. This meeting will take place on August 30th and classes will start on September 27.

Here is a quick run-down of the spring 2019 semester's accomplishments and a big thanks to all who have been making last semester a real success:

225 LLI members, and still growing
32 Friday courses on campus
2 Non-Friday courses off campus
3 Special Events
Consistently positive presenter reviews in course evaluations
Growing traffic in the Hospitality Room
A fabulous semester-end party

Looking ahead to fall 2019, we are preparing a fantastic list of courses and, as before we need class managers for all of them. This is a great opportunity to combine your own course participation with service to the LLI. Contact Joanna Valeo (joannevaleo@gmail.com), chair of Class Managers Committee, if you want to pitch in. Similarly, the Special Events Committee is looking for additional members. Contact Diana Salsberg (salsbergd@gmail.com), chair, if you would like to help. Our Hospitality Room has

been a success and, as always, we need special help with set up, break down and food. Please contact Theresa Catapane (tcatapane@yahoo.com), to help. This fall we would also like to make our Hospitality Room an exhibition space for the art and artifacts produced in our courses, and finally, hope that the parking situation will stabilize. And don't forget to visit our Facebook for great pics and comments from the classes.

Participation in committees is key to both building our capacity and our community. To that end, you will find a list of committee chairs on page 12. Please reach out to me directly (grunfeld@vassar.edu) if you want to get involved and aren't exactly sure where or how. I look forward to welcoming you back at the opening of our fall semester.

Mihai

The Hospitality Room is a core component of the LLI. Located on the second floor of Kenyon Hall in the Club Room, it is the social hub of our community. If you haven't already stopped by for coffee or tea and snacks between classes or joined a table with your brown bag lunch, plan to do so soon! There is a suggested donation of \$1 for the hot drinks and a sign-up sheet if you are inspired to bring some goodies to share. A special shout out to Theresa Catapane and her crew and all of you who have contributed to making the Hospitality Room a success. Theresa's contact info is tcatapane@yahoo.com if you want to join in.

Sampling of Spring 2019 courses

Garden Design With Native Plants

This 4-week course was taught by Carlie Graves, a long-time area gardener who is certified in Landscape Design by the NY Botanic Garden. The first sessions focused on local soil composition, considerations such as north/south/east/west orientation, and landscaping goals, such as creating a transition between public and private spaces. Next the sessions moved to the benefits of gardening with native plants. Native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions (water, soil, weather), so they're hardier than imported species, and generally require less maintenance. Other important benefits: native plants serve as pollinators for birds and bees, as well as a food source for animals. Carlie enlivened the course with many illustrations of "before" and "after" designs, different plant species, and websites that rate plants by their pollinator impact (how many different species benefitted from the plant). And of course, given where we live, there was much interest the deer resistance of various plants!

Barbara Durniak

Women's Studies at Vassar College

The Women's Studies course was full of surprises and unexpected small treasures. Our all-female group knew not what to expect until we saw the reading list from the different presenters. Karen Robertson discussed Simone de Beauvoir's ideas on the societal role of women. Next, Anne Constantinople and Janet Gray presented their research on the transition to co-education at Vassar. Abigail Baird spoke about gender issues in childhood and adolescence. Kathleen Hart discussed Literary Animal Studies and Gender. Jeff Schneider gave a historical perspective on sexual practices and laws in Germany and elsewhere from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Light Carruyo has been researching one of her predecessors. She had the group meet in the library with access to the archival materials she used regarding the historian/ sociologist, Lucy Maynard Salmon. It was fascinating stuff. Next we learned of Shakespeare's disappearing women. Denise Walen introduced us to texts of several versions of his works where the women's parts had been deleted for various reasons. Who knew? We ended in discussion with Susan Zlotnick of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper* an unusual 19th century Victorian story with hidden meanings.

All in all, this was an intellectually stimulating course, and well-received, because most of the students expressed they had not had the opportunity to take such a course in college.

Lorraine Mirabella

Bluegrass-Folk Music In Overdrive

Admittedly, my knowledge of Bluegrass music was sorrowfully limited: images of mountain folks playing the banjo, television and the occasional catchy radio tune. Then there was this class: ***Bluegrass-Folk Music In Overdrive***. What a magnificently educational and extraordinary treat!

Each class featured and focused on an instrument typically played in the Bluegrass genre. Guest musicians not only shared some history and Jeopardy-worthy facts and trivia about their particular instrument and the Bluegrass musicians who played them, they enhanced our experience by short illustrative performances. By the last day of class, we knew a little something about the Mandolin, the Banjo, the Dobro, the Guitar, the Fiddle and the Bass. We knew a little something about the roots of this often poetic and great music.

Andy Bing, who plays the Dobro, a beautiful type of resonator guitar, captivated us with historical information before introducing us to the instrument of the day and to the guest artist who would engage us with more information and beautiful music. Sometimes they even gave us a glimpse of their own personal journeys to Bluegrass. We learned of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Bluegrass, a noted few being Bill Monroe (celebrated as the father of Bluegrass music), Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, the Carter Family (kudos to Mother Maybelle Carter, for one, with her style of strumming and picking simultaneously), the Stonemans, Howdy Forrester, Chubby Wise, Kenny Baker. These history makers, their biographies, stories and their music could fill volumes.

Each class was a feast for our musical souls and what a way to get introduced to Bluegrass! We could not only hear it, we could feel it. It was apparent that each musician felt such palpable joy and passion in playing whether solo or with the other musicians in a jam session. Each musician had such admiration, love and respect for the music and its continued journey through generations of other musicians who laid the groundwork for this musical style, its form, content and poetry.

Highly deserving of great gratitude for bringing this experience to life: Lynn Lipton, who brought it all together, beginning to end; Fred Robbins who recorded each and every class; Andy Bing, for his historical insight; The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association; And to all the musicians who took the time to open our eyes and fire up our brains with fascinating history, knowledge, personal stories and ***music***...thank you!!

Carmen James-Lawrence

see Fred Robbins' recordings here:

<https://hvbluegrass.org/category/media/videos/>



Young Adult Literature Post-Parkland

I had the distinct pleasure to be a member of the Young Adult Literature class taught by Julia Kessler last semester. We had a small group of students who read each book and participated in lively discussions which were gently and sensitively guided by Julie. Each book got us talking candidly about contemporary issues and stirred memories of our own family stories as well as the times and places in which we grew up. There were many points of view expressed, which kept things interesting for all of us.

I believe everyone felt this was a special experience; we really appreciated the effort Julie put in each week to provide us with extra material and carefully considered points of discussion. It was a delight.

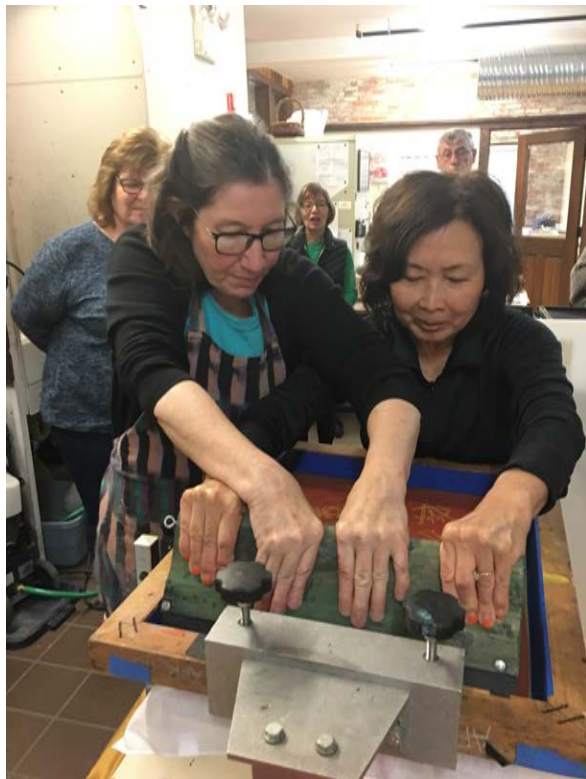
Sarah Kennedy



Mixed Media Collage (above and right)
presenters: Ellen Metzger O'Shea and Carole Wolf



Printmaking (left)
presenters: Anita Fina Kiewra and Carole Wolf



Special Events

The Song of Life Presentation

On April 18 the Vassar LLI community was able to learn of a little known piece of World War II history. Mimica Tsezana-Hyman, one of our own LLI members, introduced the moving documentary, "The Song Of Life." Mimica's father and his family were part of a community of Jews living on the Greek Island of Zakynthos during the war. The movie describes how the mayor and the priest of the small island bravely helped save the entire Jewish population from the Nazis. Mimica answered questions at the conclusion of the documentary. It was an uplifting and improbable story of human survival.

Michael Yarmosky

Fusion Dance Workshop

On March 28, Anna Mayta led a group of LLI members in a participatory dance program called Fusion Dance. After demonstrating a variety of dances from areas around the world (including Spanish Flamenco, Indian Bharatanatyam, and West African and Latin Caribbean dance), she taught us the movements for each dance. The goal of the workshop was to help participants learn about the differences, similarities, histories, and cultural aspects of each dance style. The workshop was both fun and inspirational.

Amy Bard Yarmosky

Maggazino Contemporary Italian Art Museum

On May, 25 members met at Maggazino Italian Art Museum in Cold Spring, NY for a docent tour of this amazing Arte Povera Collection. Founded by Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu, their mission is to create recognition of Post-war and Contemporary Italian Art, in the United States. The founders were fascinated by the juxtaposition between what was occurring in America versus in Italy. We were delighted with this superb space (an architectural feat, repurposing an old warehouse with dramatic additions) by architect Miquel Quismondo. The natural world is incorporated into the galleries by floor to ceiling windows, the dramatic art was eye opening and thought provoking.

Diana Salsberg

Returning this fall

Vassar LLI Gentle Walks group is gearing up for its second season. Mark and I have selected 4 walks that offer majestic views of our beautiful Hudson Valley. This year we will be meeting at 9:30 on Thursdays in October: 3, 17, 24, 31. Special thanks go to LLI member Susan Moore for her help in arranging the guided tour of the Mohonk Mountain House.

David Bloom

We are fortunate at VLLI to have so many talented and passionate instructors. We asked two of our presenters to continue the conversation beyond the classroom.

Meet the Presenters:

COURSE SCHEDULE Vassar LLI Fall 2019

Special Events	
Thursday, October 3, 6-7:30pm, Kenyon Hall	Fusion Dance Workshop
Thursday, October 10, 11am, STORM KING ART CENTER	Visit to Storm King Art Center
Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-8pm, Blodgett Auditorium	Where Lines Are Drawn
Tuesday, October 29, 3-4:30pm, Blodgett Auditorium	Say Yes: Flying Solo After Sixty
Thursday, October 24th, 6-7:30pm, Kenyon Hall	What You Need to Know About Italian Wines
Wednesday, October 30, 6-7:30pm, Blodgett Auditorium	Flex Your Memory to Master Names and Faces
	<i>Voice Over: Now Is Your Time</i>
Friday 9:30am-10:45am	
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Technology and Ethics
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Hudson Valley Agriculture
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Mentor Training for the College Application Process
6-Weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1	Meditation and Mindfulness
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	The Beatles: A Magical Musical Tour, Part I
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	The Actors and Directors Lab
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	Time
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Introduction to Honeybees
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Introduction to Book Art
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Tai Chi Yang Style: Eight Forms
Friday 11:05am-12:20pm	
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Williams' Women
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Unknowns, ... but Unforgettables
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Leaving Home: Migration in an Ever-Changing World
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	America Enters the Industrial Age: 1814 to 1914
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	The Nature in Food
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Move with the Flow
First 6-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1	Drawing from Observation with Charcoal and Pastels
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	Garden Design with Native Plants
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Women and Revival of the Hudson River

Friday 1:45pm-3:00pm	
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Animation: Beyond the Cartoon
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	The Peopling of the Americas
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Magic for the Family
8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Dancing with the Goddess at Mid-Life & Beyond
First 7-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8,	Reading Literature through a Darwinian Lens
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	Great Old Opera Singers You Should Listen To
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	A Mystical History of the Hudson Valley
First 4-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18	Plant-Based at Any Age
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Healthcare: The future is now
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Alone in the Universe?
Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15	Resilient Communities
Friday 3:20pm-4:35pm	
<i>8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15</i>	Opera as Politics IV
<i>8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15</i>	Art Thefts and Forgeries of the 20th Century
<i>8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15</i>	The Hudson River: Changing Human Impact
<i>8-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15</i>	From Memoir to Legacy Letters
<i>First 7-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8</i>	It's the Law
<i>First 7-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8</i>	The Psychology of Well-being and Happiness
<i>First 6-weeks: Sept. 27, Oct.4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1</i>	Gentle Yoga
<i>Second 4-weeks: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15</i>	The Art of Chinese Tea
Non-Friday Off-Campus Courses	
FDR Library: Mondays: September 30, October 7, 21, 28, 11:00-12:15	FDR & Churchill: A friendship forged in fire
The Art Effect: Wednesdays: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 11:00-12:30pm	Digital Animations
Thursdays: Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31: 9:30am	Gentle Walks in the Hudson Valley
Barrett Art Center: Saturdays Oct. 19, 26, Nov.2, 9, 11:00-12:30pm	Drawing Gymnastics
Wednesdays Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 11-12:15pm	The HeART of Poughkeepsie Gallery Tours

Please see the VCLLI website for course descriptions and locations.

Members' Corner

A place where we feature the creative work of Ili members. We welcome enquiries.



Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary in Stanfordville
Sarah Kennedy digital print?

Important Dates, Announcements

September 20th - Orientation for new members and presenters

Class Dates: September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15

November 15th: annual meeting and end-of-semester cocktail party

The Vassar College shuttle will, once again, provide transportation for the spring semester. The shuttle will ferry students to and from the South Parking Lot each Friday during classes. For those who prefer to walk, additional parking can be found in the North Parking Lot and on Collegeview and Raymond Avenues. (Note: Please do not park in the lot across from the nursery school or on the grounds behind Kenyon.)

With appreciation for our Spring 2019 Presenters & Producers:

Presenters

Robert Augustine - Abigail Baird - Andrew Bing - Linda Bouchey - Light Carruyo - Gary Clendennen - Rob Cohen - Anne Constantinople - Leroy Cooper - Sybil DelGaudio - Kelli Duncan - Frances Dunwell - John Essick - Melissa Everett - Denise Fecketter - Anita Fina Kiewra - Stuart Findlay - Allen Fink - Charles Ford - John Fronimos - Ernest Giglio - Carlie Graves - Janet Gray - Arthur Groten - Elisa Gwilliam - Kathleen Hart - Lorraine Hughes - Julia Kessler - Anne Lancellotti - Jeffrey P. LeJava - Anna Mayta - Leathem Mehaffey - Ellen Metzger O'Shea - Chuck Mishaan - Denise Morett - Maija Niemisto - Jim O'Brien - John Orcutt - Linde Ostro - Asher Pacht - Jose Perillan - Marilyn Price - Karen Robertson - Jen Rubbo - Laura Russell - Jeff Schneider - George Schuler - Ed Shaughnessy - Chris Smart - Mickey Steiman - Bill Straus - Mimica Tsezana-Hymen - Al Vinck- Denise A. Walen - Jeff Walker - Jim Williams - Carole Wolf - Detlef (Ted) F. Wolf - Susan Zlotnick - Farah Zulaikha

Producers

Steven Bassin - David Bloom - Lucy Johnson - Diana Salsberg

Executive Council: Mihai Grunfeld (Chair), Lucy Johnson (Vice-Chair), Carlie Graves (Membership and Registration Coordinator), Larry Miller (Treasurer), Joanne Valeo (Secretary) Committee Chairs: Lucy Johnson (Curriculum), Diana Salsburg (Special Events), Joanne Valeo (Class Managers), Theresa Catapane (Member Services), Sybil DelGaudio (Classroom Support/AV), Glen Conciatori and Roseanne Ashby (Public Information) Betty Olson (By-Laws), Michael Yarmosky (Campus Needs), Cary Auerbach (Newsletter), Sarah Kennedy (Facebook), Howard Spilke (Phone), Valerie Carlisle (Email), Members at Large: Carole Wolf, Joan Blumberg

A special thanks to newsletter contributors (see article by-lines). Photo credits: Sarah Kennedy, Carole Wolf

We welcome contributions (and suggestions) from the LLI community.

Best, Cary Auerbach and Michael Yarmosky