

LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE VASSAR

Newsletter
Issue 9 Jan 2023

Cover art by Kalpana Modi, colored paper on board

VASSAR COLLEGE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Newsletter Issue 9, January 2023

The social brain is in its natural habitat when we're talking with someone face-to-face in real time.

--Daniel Goleman

The Fall 2022 Semester of VC LLI will be remembered for our return to the Vassar campus after (for some us) a too-long stretch of online classes, due to Covid.

Although our faces might be masked, many of us welcomed the chance to be face-to-face with our presenters and our fellow students.

Others, for various reasons, chose the option of taking Zoom classes on Tuesdays. Either way, LLI members connected and learned from each other.



This issue of the newsletter tries to show the many faces of our community.

I observed and took photos of the attentive faces in classrooms,



the comings and goings in the hallways,

the animated presenters,



and the socializing in the Hospitality Room, on the excursions, and at the gatherings that bookended the semester.



To Everyone who contributed to this issue...

Especially to the writers, who shared their multi-hued thoughts; the photographers, **Marian Pompa, Sarah Kennedy, and Mimi Tannen**, who added so much color to the pages; **Sandy Corwin** who proofread all of our bright words; and **Marty Zlotkin** for designing our vibrant cover, incorporating **Kalpna Modi's** artwork, [a 10" x 15" study of warm and cool colors using colored art papers glued onto Bainbridge Board, crafted in the LLI Color Theory class].

Jo Hausam, VC LLI Newsletter Editor



Letter from the Vassar LLI Hospitality Committee Chair Tim Ryan



It has been my privilege this fall to serve the Vassar Lifelong Learning Institute community as chair of the Hospitality Committee.

I want to start by thanking all the wonderful volunteers who helped set up in the morning and clean up in the afternoon. A special thanks to Betsy Kinkade who helped both morning and afternoon for all eight Fridays of the Fall Session.

I also want to acknowledge the contributions of the previous Chair, Terry Catapane. Prior to the pandemic, I learned under Terry's leadership how to coordinate it all, "like a well-oiled machine". She organized the closets and storage bins with signs to indicate what was stored where. Terry's organization made my transition to Chair easy.



Finally, I would like to say what a joy it is to see and hear Vassar LLI members gathering in-person again in the Hospitality Room for conversation, socialization, and a few snacks.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone once again in the Spring Session. Until then, be safe and stay healthy.

Tim Ryan





Welcome Back Party --- September 30, 2022

Photos by Mirian Pompa

Organized
by
Diana
Salsberg
Upper left
photo.





To our essential CLASS MANAGERS

Katy Anson

Roseanne Ashby

Cary Phillips Auerbach

Lynne Bartolucci

Rob Cohen

Bill Davies

Sudhir Desai

John Dux

Mihai Grunfeld

Lois Horowitz

Anita Jones

Betsy Kopstein

Colette Martin

Jayesh Modi

Denise Murphy

James O'Brien

Marian Pompa

Maureen Potter

Teresa Quinn

Rachel Reisman

Linda Rizzotto

Roberta Roy

Frances Ryan

Tim Ryan

Miriam Tannen

Patty Wineapple

Gabrielle Wolfsberger



Comments from:

Ellen Rubin I am really grateful to be able to attend virtual classes on Tuesdays. I'm immunocompromised and loved the classes I've been attending this fall! All the presenters have been amazing! Kudos!

Diane DiNapoli I cannot think of anything to improve the LLI program. I have thoroughly enjoyed the courses that have been offered and I appreciate being able to choose between Zoom & in person classes. I look forward to see what the spring offerings bring!

Millicent Cox Tom Walker's course, *China, from Earliest Times through the Twentieth Century*, is a treasure trove of knowledge, a bridge between the past and present. It was delivered with care, clarity and structural understanding of the complex history of China. I was impressed with the development of the waterways—the rivers and dams! And the Navy's strength and ship design. I most definitely will sign up for his next course!

Betsy Kincaid Tim Ryan devotes countless hours to keeping the LLI Kenyon Lounge full of hot drinks and fresh snacks for on-campus-class VLLI students. He starts food prep before 8 AM on class days, finishes with clean up around 4 PM, and then drives home to Kingston! Thank you, Tim!



To our all-volunteer, hardworking **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Executive Committee: Chair - **Mihai Grunfeld**
Vice-Chair - **Neila Radin**
Curriculum Committee Chair - **Sybil DelGaudio**
Membership and Registration Coordinators: **Sudhir Desai, Paul Stoddard**
Treasurers: **Carolyn Lampack, Yvonne Sewell**
Secretary - **Maribeth King**

General Council: Comprised of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership and Registration coordinators; Chairs of each committee; At-Large Members: **Carole Wolf, Terry Quinn**; and Data Management Coordinator, **Gina Klein**

Administration Committee: Comprised of Administrative Assistant, **Rachel Etkin**; Information Coordinator, **Joanne Valeo**; Phone support, **Howard Spilke**; and Bylaws, **Betty Olson**

Curriculum Committee: Chair, **Sybil DelGaudio**

Coordinate and plan courses for Spring and Fall semesters. The members suggest and organize new classes, recruit new presenters, and consult with presenters about classes.

Class Managers Committee: Serve as liaison between presenter and students. Chair, **Gina Klein**

Election Committee: Co-chairs: **Ed Kinkade, Paul Horstmann**

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Initiative: Chair, **Pam Porath**

Classroom Support Committee: Chair [unfilled]

Member Services Committee: Chair, **Tim Ryan**

Maintain hospitality room (coffee, snacks), assist with social functions

Data Management Coordinator: **Gina Klein**

Public Information Committee: Outreach and marketing, newsletter, annual posters, postcard distribution, public announcements. Chair, **Glen Conciatori**

Special Events Committee: Plan and manage special events such as trips and tours, Fall and Spring luncheons, annual meeting. Chair, **Diana Salsberg**

ArtShow Committee: Organize art show and create webpage for art produced in our classes. Chair, **Bob Cohen**

Webmasters and Artwork: Webpage - **Mihai Grunfeld**; Photographers - **Sarah Kennedy** and **Marian Pompa**; Newsletter - **Jo Hausam**; Newsletter and Catalog artwork - **Marty Zlotnik**; Facebook [unfilled]

Please consider assisting on a committee of your choice.

Vassar LLI is a volunteer organization.
It relies on its members to keep it running.



Specific needs: Facebook manager; Coordinator of shuttle bus transportation;
Website manager; guides and mentors to welcome new members.

For a list of volunteer opportunities, see our website: <https://pages.vassar.edu/lifelonglearning>.
Click on **Volunteer**.



Face-to-Face with Administrative Assistant Rachel Etkin

Rachel Etkin is LLI's new administrative assistant. She shared a bit of her life story with us.

She was born and raised in Bergen County, New Jersey, and has lived in Dutchess County since 2008. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park where she met her husband Michael. They live in Hopewell Junction with their identical twin daughters Grace and Madison.

Rachel has worked in many industries, but her primary career was working as a Corporate Event Planner for 11 years. During that time, she planned small and large events mostly for pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and abroad. These events took Rachel everywhere from Des Moines, Iowa to Athens, Greece and many places in between.

After her daughters were born, she stayed home for a few years and then began working part-time. Since then, she has worked as an Office Manager for both a dental practice and for a local contractor and a few other administrative roles. Most recently, she worked for eight years as the assistant to the head of the religious school at a local synagogue.

In her spare time, Rachel enjoys traveling (when time permits), exercising and staying fit, watching movies, playing with her Terrier/Poodle mix Furrigie, and spending time with her family and friends.

Rachel can be emailed at retkin@vassar.edu or you can visit her in Blodgett Hall, Room 10, on Friday's when classes are in session.





Face-to-Face with Co-Treasurers Yvonne Sewell & Carolyn Lampack

Yvonne Sewell (photo on the right) and Carolyn Lampack (photo below) have known each other since attending the same elementary school and high school in Beacon. They continued their studies at Dutchess Community College (DCC). Yvonne received a degree in Retail Business Management and Carol in Business/Secretarial Science.

They went their separate ways until years later, when amazingly, they re-connected at DCC as instructors..

Following her student years at DCC, Yvonne attended Marist College and SUNY New Paltz, where she received her Master's Degree. She pursued a career in merchandise-buying, both locally, at the former Up-to-Date Department store in Poughkeepsie, and in NYC at Bloomingdales and the former Foxmoor Casuals.



When she returned to the area, she was invited to teach business courses as an adjunct lecturer at DCC, which turned into a part-time job in the administrative offices, and finally into a full-time teaching position in the Business Department—in the same rooms she once occupied as a student.

When Yvonne is not dealing with LLI finances, she enjoys reading, knitting, and quilting.



Carol transferred from DCC to Rider College (now Rider University) where she received BS and MA degrees in Business Education. She also completed additional graduate work at NYU. Her first teaching job was at Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie. Then, like Yvonne, she went to New York City to The Wood School where she was the program administrator of the executive secretarial program. While commuting on the Metro North, she met her future husband, Rick Lampack. Their son Jeffrey was born in 1984.

In 1985 she began teaching at DCC in the Business Department, first as an adjunct and finally as a tenured instructor. It was then that Yvonne and Carol started working together in careers that lasted 30 years.

In her spare time Carol spends time her my two grandsons, Ian and Eli. She said, “I missed traveling during the pandemic and was thrilled to be able to take two trips to Europe during 2022 and return without getting Covid.” She also enjoys yoga, photography, reading, Broadway shows, and cooking, and is working on researching her family history.

Carol joined LLI in its first year. “I enjoyed the program so much that I told a few of my former colleagues--including Yvonne--about it and was so pleased several of them have joined. When I was asked to consider becoming Treasurer this year, I thought this was another experience that Yvonne and I should share, so I convinced her to join me and we are now Co-Treasurers.”





To our talented and passionate PRESENTERS

Several community organizations offered their time and talent during the fall semester.



Interfaith Council of Dutchess County
Muriel Horowitz, Lorraine Hartin Gelardi and John McKenna

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
Valerie LaRobardier



Curators and site managers of historic homes in the Hudson Valley
Pam Malcollm, Carolyn Keogh, Katherine Charapko,
Jennifer Carlquisy, Ken Snodgrass



Hospice Foundation of Dutchess County
Lisa Wilson and Elizabeth Johnson

Climate Reality Project

Dave Conover,
Manna Jo Greene, Eve Morgenstern, Vanessa Bertozzi, Sean Dague



Hudson Valley Folk Guild



Photo by Miriam Poppa

The Hudson Valley Folk Guild Performed October 7, 2022 at Blodgett Hall. The group played songs that told the history, celebrated the people, and reflected the grandeur of the Hudson Valley.

Barry Ross

Anita Fina Kiewra



Sybil Del Gaudio

Michael Foley

Lou Trapani



Reagan Upshaw

Pam Wright

Christina Di Marco



Marilyn Price

Matt Soltis



Chuck Mishaan

Paul Gould

Robert Stevens



Georgette Weir



Linda Cantor and



Ed Rosenberg



Vicky Weinblatt



Nick Garin



Arnold Serotsky



Kelsey Ponesse

Denise Morett



Anne Constantinople



Drew Minter and Carolyn Palmer

David Bloom



**and
Mark Boujikian**



Richard Keller-Coffey



Lyla Yastion



Tom Walker

Rob Cohen



Nathan Rosenblum

John Wargo



Fred Chromey



Bob Ulrich



M.J. Wyatt-Ross

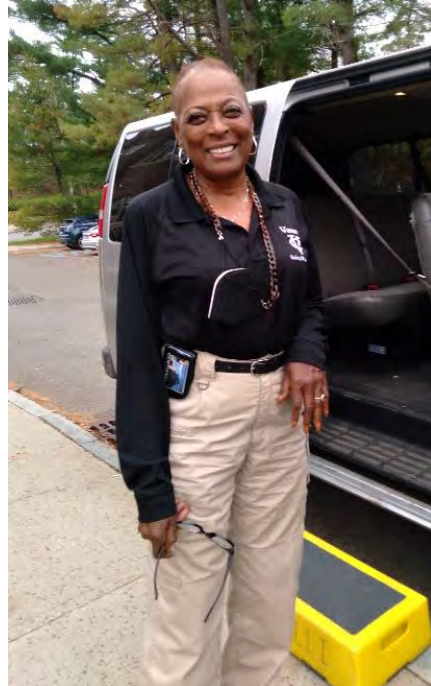


Jean-Claude Fouere



To our faithful, smiling Shuttle Van Drivers!

Robert and Lavetta



Special thanks to **Michael Yarmosky** for his years of service as Campus Support Coordinator.



Face-to-Face with Presenter **Lou Trapani**

by Rose Alice D'Avanzo

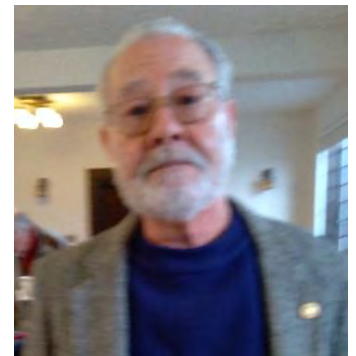


I first met Lou Trapani seventeen years ago at Bard College LLI when he started teaching classes on dramatic literature and history of the theater. He continues to teach at Bard LLI, along with Vassar LLI, the Jewish Congregation in Woodstock, and local SUNY LLI programs.

This past semester he guided us through three plays by Arthur Miller. When he discusses a play, he looks at it from many angles, not only its story and historical background, but as an actor would see it. He reveals how different directors give their interpretation in staging and acting. He often asks his students: How would you stage this play? What is its focus? Do you know the main point of *A Street Car Named Desire*? Come to Lou's class and find out. Even if you'd never seen the play, after hearing Lou's talk, you'd want to see it.

I learned a little about his life. He first acted in "Billy Budd", while attending St. Anthony's H.S. in Smithtown, L. I. It was directed by the Franciscan brother Jonathan Reinkaupf, who, along with actress Geraldine Fitzgerald, founded the Everyman Theater of Brooklyn, a StreetTheater company

After graduating high school, he attended Hofstra University where he studied theatre and dramatic literature. From 1969 to 1983, he was part of the professional theater world in New York City—acting, writing, directing, and producing.



After receiving a master's degree in public administration, he worked in a various government agencies.

In 1996 he became the site manager of The CENTER for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, "back in the days when it was a tent". Since 1999, he has been its Artistic and Managing Director.

His favorite movie is "It's a Wonderful Life".



Face-to-Face with Presenter **Chuck Mishaan**

by Chuck Mishaan



Brooklyn is my hometown, New York is my city, and Rhinebeck is my wonderful village; all less than two hours from the city's great museums, libraries and Metropolitan Opera House, which I regularly visit.

My high school music appreciation class introduced me to Beethoven. Once I heard the Fifth symphony, I ordered a set of the nine Beethoven symphonies recorded with Arturo Toscanini from the RCA Record Club. The problem for me at the time was that we did not have a record player! After sitting in the kitchen and staring at the records and constantly reading the Program Notes that accompanied the set, my parents finally found the wherewithal to bring a hi-fi system into our house.

I would eventually amass a collection of many hundreds of recordings. And I found my way to Carnegie Hall and started buying standing room tickets at the old Met on 39th St.

My education continued with a BA with honors from Columbia College, and an MA degree in English Literature from New York University. At Columbia, besides studying diligently, I would sometimes consult with my Columbia classmates about whether we should go Uptown to Yankee Stadium to see Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, or Downtown to hear Joan Sutherland and Birgit Nilsson at the opera. It was a dazzling time in New York, to which I added an annual subscription to the New York Philharmonic with its young, new conductor Leonard Bernstein at its new home at Lincoln Center.

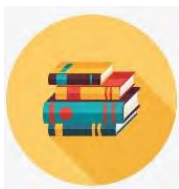
To support all this extravagance, I worked summers as a barker in Coney Island. You could meet me if you tried to 'Fool the Guesser.' I would try to guess your name, age, occupation- your choice- and if I guessed wrong, which was almost always, you would win a prize. I could also make a wicked cotton candy.

After college and graduate school, while waiting for the personal computer to be invented, I worked in the garment district (who didn't?) and lived for two years on a kibbutz in the Galilee, working as a carpenter. Back in the US, once the personal computer was introduced, I became an early adopter, studied computer programming and specialized in automating medical practices. I had a long independent career consulting on migrating healthcare from paper to computers. With this experience, I lectured for many years on healthcare and technology as an adjunct professor at NYU.

After our 4 children were grown and we became empty nesters, my wife Merrill and I looked for a quiet place in the Hudson Valley and fell in love with Rhinebeck. We bought a week-end house there in 2008, and became full time residents a few years later. And then we discovered Bard College and Bard LLI, where I volunteered on the Tech and AV committees and began presenting my opera lectures. Several years later I was privileged to participate in the creation of Vassar LLI, and have had the continuing pleasure of presenting on the beautiful Vassar campus.

Editor's note: Last semester Chuck taught *Landmarks in 20th Century Literature*. Previously he did a series of lectures on *Opera as Politics*. In the next edition of the newsletter, Chuck will relate how he came to choose those topics.

I attended Chuck's literature course. He was able to explore and interweave the many strands of history and the innovative literature from that period, revealing how "political, cultural and technological tensions found an explosion of expression and invention in the arts."



Here is a matching quiz I created using quotes gleaned from the many that were mentioned in the course.

How well do you know literature from the 1920s?

Match the author to the quote.

Answers on p. 26.

1. *Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.*
2. *A rose is a rose is a rose.*
3. *April is the cruelest month.*
4. *The rich are different from you and me.*
5. *You are all a lost generation.*
6. *"History", Stephen said, "is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."*
7. *Make it new.*
8. *A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.*
9. *...suddenly the memory revealed itself. The taste was that of the little piece of madeleine...*
10. *Hold fast to dreams, / For if dreams die / Life is a broken-winged bird, / That cannot fly.*

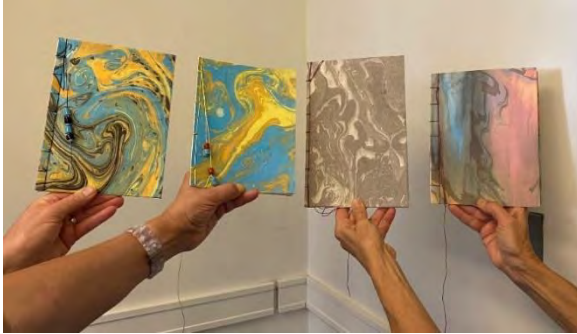
A. T. S. Eliot; B. Marcel Proust; C. F. S. Fitzgerald; D. Ernest Hemingway; E. W.B Yeats;
F. Langston Hughes; G. James Joyce; H. Ezra Pound; I. Gertrude Stein; J. Virginia Woolf

Suminagashi by Howard Spilke

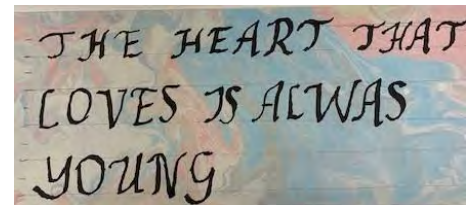
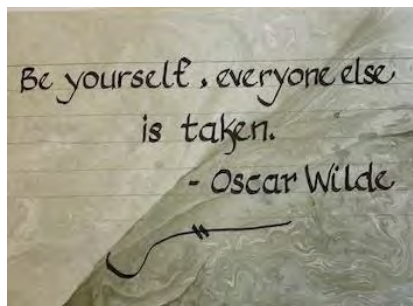
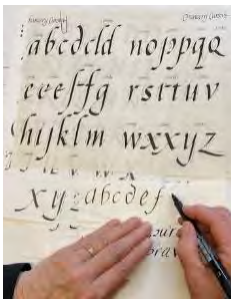
Suminagashi is Japanese for the ancient art of Ink Floating on Water.

In the first class we placed inks on top of water and transferred the design to paper. In the next two classes we created a hand-made book with our Suminagashi as the cover.

Photos submitted by Mimi Tannen.



We learned beginning calligraphy in the last class and penned in a favorite phrase or quote. My choice was the Greek proverb “The heart that loves is always young”.



There were only ten students in this superb class and we all received individual attention from our teacher Christina Di Marco.

Nothing replaces being in the same room, face-to-face, breathing the same air and reading and feeling each other’s micro-expressions.

--Peter Guber

The Hudson River of the Past by Pam Spilke

Have you ever wondered what the Hudson River looked like 200 years ago? In the Zoom class, *Thomas Cole and His Views*”, taught by Barry Ross, we were given a window to look through to see the Hudson River of the early 1800’s.

Thomas Cole was the father of the Hudson River School of Painting and his oil paintings have preserved for us romantic panoramas of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. He was keenly aware of the development and environmental damage to our area, a concern we still have today.

His painting of the Kaaterskill Falls brought back memories of my visit there many years ago.



Amazing Art Restoration Techniques by Sudhir Desai

Before I took *Art Restoration*, I had no idea what it took to restore an oil painting. Did you know that it involves X-ray, infrared, ultraviolet light, X-ray fluorescence, and pigment analysis?

Matt Soltis and Paul Gould made understanding the techniques fun and enjoyable. Matt demonstrated cleaning a painting that was heavily coated with dirt, smoke and gunk. Look at these before and after photos of a painting that has been restored:



Matt showed retouching techniques using mineral pigments that he mixed with oils to match the pigments analysis and create the exact shade.

They will be presenting the course again in the spring. So if you are interested in learning about these techniques, here is your chance.



MOMENTS

It occurred to me...

by Roberta M. Roy

Over the fall semester in the VCLLI classes. I had two “aha” moments.

As I watched a film of a stellar performance of *King Lear*, in the class Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, presented by Michael Foley, the importance of actors’ use of gesture, posture, facial expression, proximity, and blocking in the interpretation of characters made it clear that playwrights, whoever they are, only write the lines.

At the end of our fifth bridge class, while talking with two of the players at my table, the instructor, Nick Garin, and his assistant, Tim Scott, as we shared our experiences and feelings in relation to scheduling minor surgeries, it occurred to me that for the first time in a long time, I was in the middle of an easy group conversation.

Slouching Towards an Answer to a Difficult Question

by Sandy Corwin

This fall I took three literature based classes: Miller’s Men with Lou Trapani, Shakespeare’s *King Lear* with Michael Foley and Landmark Literature of the 20th Century with Chuck Mishan. I thoroughly enjoyed the reading I did. The way that each of these talented teachers presented the material was engaging and stimulating. Also, I was impressed with the insightful comments and observations of my fellow classmates.

Towards the end of our last class about Arthur Miller’s plays, Lou Trapani posed a BIG question about the purpose of reading novels or viewing plays and cinema. In class we put forth some notions of how literature can change us and society.

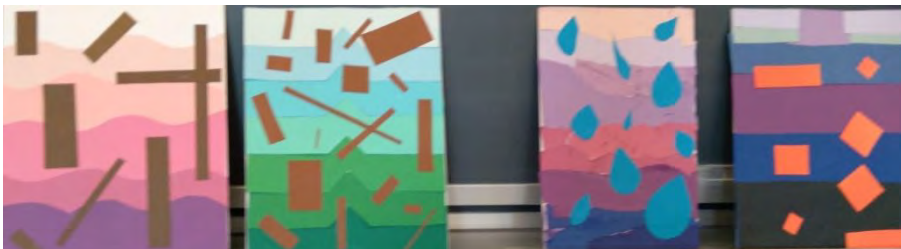
As I continue to wrestle with the question about the importance of literature, I would like to share a simple idea that has come to me. Good literature gives us the opportunity to realize that there are different perspectives from which to see/experience ‘reality.’ Our own personal way is not the exclusive way; it is limited and is not a ‘truth’ for everyone. So now my challenge is to see if I can be truly tolerant of viewpoints that I do not share.

I am grateful for the opportunities to explore good literature that these classes have given me.

Hands-on Fun with **Color** photos by Jo Hausam



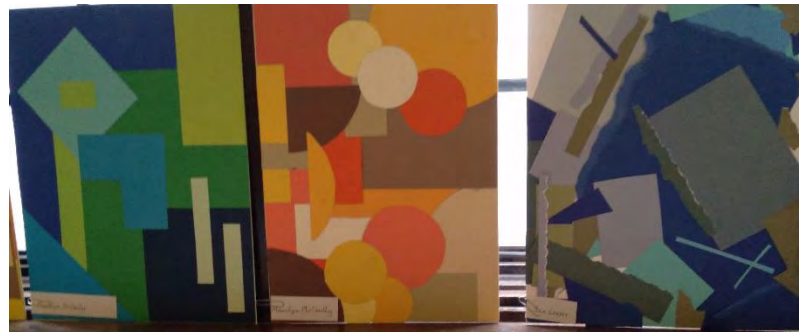
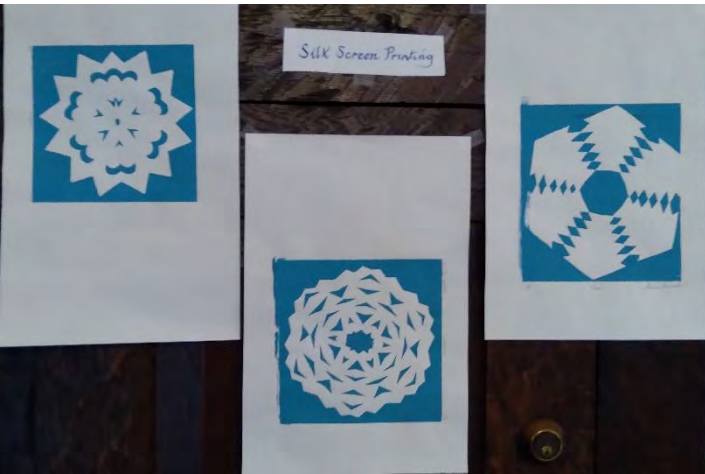
Artist and educator, Marilyn Price, believes we learn by doing. In her class *Color Theory & Color Mixing*, we worked with pastels, colored paper, scissors, and paste to discover, through our own exploration, the relativity of color perception--how colors appear when they are with other colors. Color usage can change the perception of color value, tone, and hue.



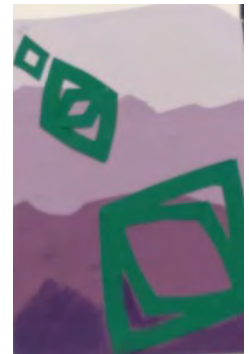
Art Exhibition

Art work from the **Silk Screen Printing** (photo on left) and the **Color Theory & Color Mixing** classes were exhibited in the Hospitality Room.

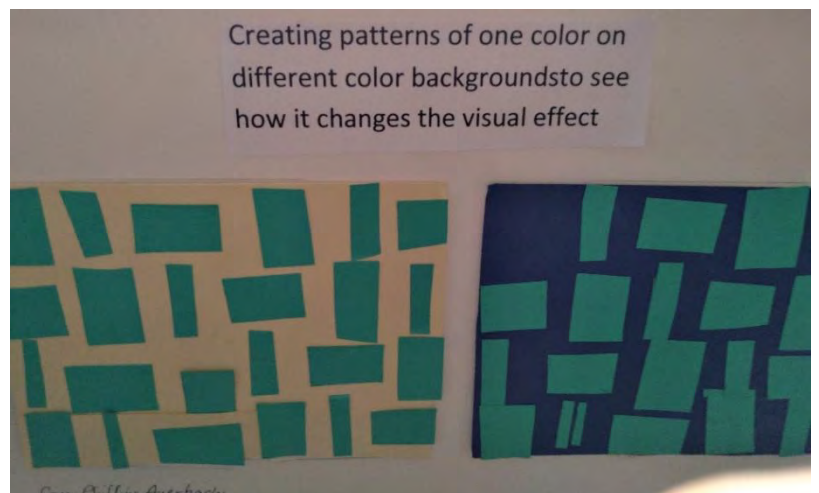
Thanks to Rob Cohen, Marilyn Price, and Cary Auerbach.
Photos by Jo Hausam



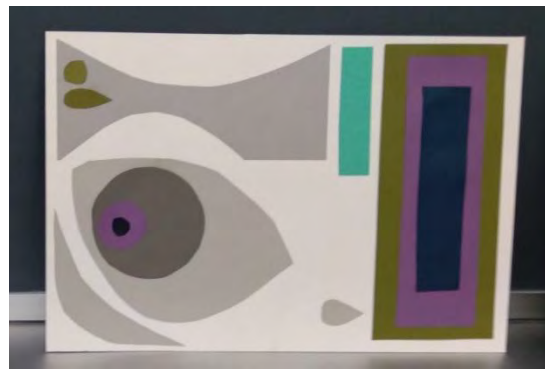
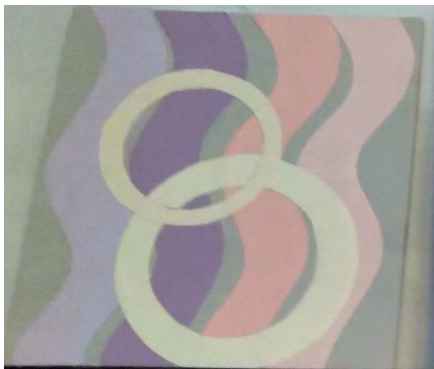
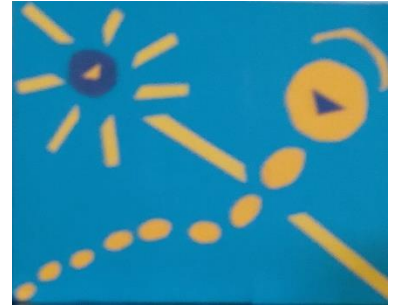
Working from light to dark in one color family plus one other color



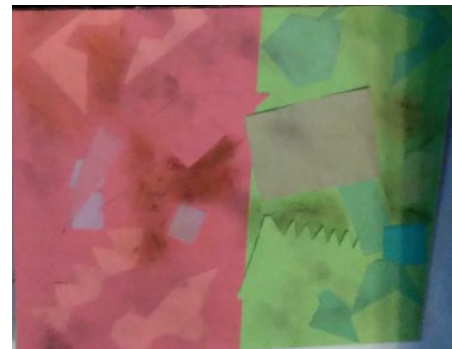
Creating patterns of one color on different color backgrounds to see how it changes the visual effect



More artwork from the exhibit.



Apologies for not naming and acknowledging the specific artists and for not being able to include all the artwork.



An Invitation from Pam Porath Chair, Vassar LLI DEI Committee

The Vassar LLI DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee is looking for additional members to join our efforts. If you're looking to grow in unexpected ways and meet people who are doing amazing work to make our world a better place, our DEI Committee might be the place for you.

DEI work is both a personal and a social journey and I can personally attest to discovering new insights such as an increased sensitivity to how language shapes reality or how those of us who are privileged are sometimes blissfully unaware of that privilege. Working in the DEI space can also provide us with the tools to have those respectful, courageous, uncomfortable conversations where all feel safe to be their full selves.

A little history: Our committee was formed in January 2022 and for most of the year our work has focused on the following:

- Capturing what Vassar LLI has previously offered as DEI related courses and workshops
- Self-education through attending workshops and compiling a resource list
- Identifying other local organizations working in the DEI space
- Two meetings with other regional LLI's to determine where and how we might collaborate. The biggest outcome has been to collaborate with Bard and Marist in developing a shared list of speakers and presenters.

In 2023 we hope to build on our start as we look to:

- Identify broader community outreach vis-à-vis Vassar image
- Continue to develop DEI related courses/events for Fall/Spring semesters
- Determine types of collaborative offerings for the future such as shared workshops or events with Vassar College, other LLIs, other DEI efforts, etc.
- Expand our resource list
- Broaden our LLI membership to be more diverse

Our DEI committee will be hosting the next regional LLI meeting sometime in the next few months.



If you'd like to have a chat to explore our DEI Committee, please contact me at:

Email: pam@willowpathconsulting.com

Mobile: 914-456-3066

Editor's note: Pam is the owner of Willow Path Consulting. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Organization Systems from Fielding Graduate University and has extensive work experience in the field of human and organizational development.

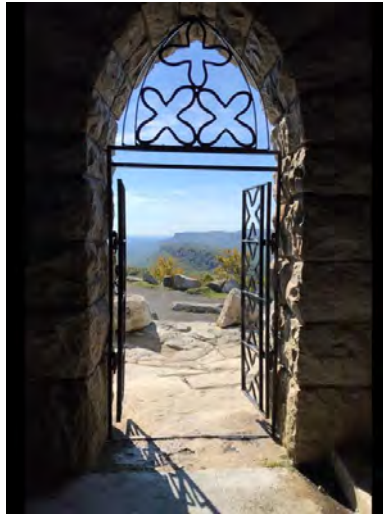
In addition to her volunteer role with LLI, recently she was voted in as the chair of the Board of Directors of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project.

Pam lives with her husband in Hopewell Junction. She has a passion for ballroom dancing and enjoys hiking, nature photography, Pilates, and international travel.

Enjoying the Beauty of the Hudson Valley

Photos submitted by Sarah Kennedy

Gentle Walks in the Hudson Valley, coordinated by David Bloom and Mark Boujikian, offered members the opportunity to build community, get exercise and fresh air, and enjoy the great scenery. The group visited Mohonk, Minnewaska, the Beacon Waterfront, and The Culinary Institute.



Field Trips: Fact and Fantasy

by Maureen Rant

I love field trips and I love movies.

This semester I was able to enjoy both thanks to LLI.

In October, there was a trip to Art Omi, an arts center with a sculpture and architecture park. The weather was perfect and there was a tour guide to help us understand and appreciate the works. Thanks to Diana Salsberg for organizing this excursion.

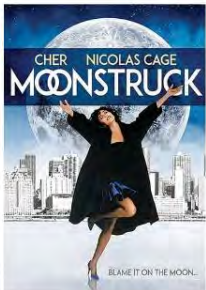


[See the next page to learn more about this trip.]

Steve and
Maureen Rant



Later in the semester, in the *Psychology & Film* course, presented by Denise Morett, one of the films we watched and discussed was “Moonstruck”, a film that celebrates, life, love, passion, and family. It also celebrates Brooklyn and the surrounding areas, which made me wish for a field trip inspired by the character Loretta ‘s (Cher’s) travels.



We would begin with breakfast, warm bread from the Cammareri Brothers Bakery. Ronny (Nicholas Cage) appears quite deranged, but the bread looks amazing so we forgive him.

The next stop would have to be Cinderella’s Beauty Salon, where Loretta is magically transformed from frumpy to fabulous. We will stay as long as this transformation takes, but even magic has its limits, so “individual results may vary”.

Next, in the unlikely event that anyone cares to faithfully emulate Loretta and go to confession, there will be a brief, optional visit to church. If no one opts for this stop, we will go straight to the restaurant where Johnny (Danny Aiello) proposes to Loretta. After dinner, we will head to the Metropolitan Opera to see *La Boheme*. Photos will be taken in front of the iconic fountain. We will skip the subsequent visit to Ronny’s apartment, because, as previously mentioned, Ronny appears deranged.

The final stop on the trip would be the Castorini brownstone in Brooklyn Heights. (Amy Schumer now owns this house, and, of course she would welcome us.) We would gather around the kitchen table, the place where family is celebrated, and, like the Castorini family, we would drink a champagne toast to our “famiglia”. LLI, Salute!

A Day Trip: Exploring Art, Inside and Outside

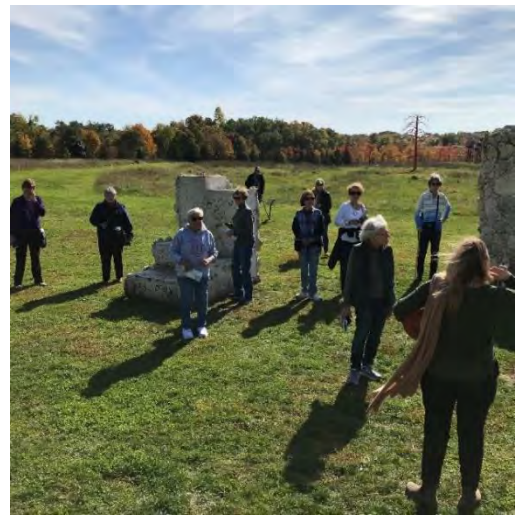
Article and photos by Sarah Kennedy



On October 12th our VC LLI group was graced with a stunning fall day which surely enhanced our visit to ArtOmi, a Sculpture and Architecture Park in Ghent, NY.

Diana Salsberg did a great job coordinating our trip and introducing us to a place where most of us had not been before. We were also fortunate to have a tour guide who was both knowledgeable and enthusiastic.

Starting in the gallery, we discussed and viewed a thought provoking exhibit of contemporary art by Trinidadian-American artist Allana Clarke, called “A Particular Fantasy”.



We spent the remainder of our time wandering through part of the expansive grounds (120 acres), exploring and interacting with the various large-scale works in nature.



I overheard many from our group make plans to I return with their family and friends to share this special place.

Honoring the Presenters

*Meeting friends in actuality,
And not in cyber irreality,
Is pleasure heretofore unguessed at;
Face-to-face is what we're best at.*

--Ian Frazier, lines from "Greeting Friends", *The New Yorker*, December 26, 2022

Our fall semester began with a Welcome Back Party last September and ended with an Appreciation Party on December 2nd. Course presenters and other volunteers were honored at a celebratory gathering in the Kenyon Hall Hospitality Room.



While partaking of hors d'oeuvres, wraps, wine, and fruit, the honorees met each other and spoke of how delighted they were to be a part of VC LLI. I overheard, "This program has the nicest people!"



Photos by Maribeth King and Jo Hausam

Mihai Grunfeld, LLI Chair, and Sybil Del Gaudio, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, thanked everyone for their participation.



Mihai read some of the complimentary comments about presenters gleaned from the student course evaluations.

Several of the presenters shared their plans for the spring semester. Rob Cohen will be repeating his *Nature of Energy* course. Jean-Claude Fouere will continue and expand his guided tour of *Artificial Intelligence*. Barry Ross will introduce a new art class focusing on the *American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. And Chuck Mishaan will move on from the literary/political history of the 1920s to *Landmark Literature of the 1930s*.

[See the next page to learn about more courses.]





Answers to matching game:

1. **E** (Yeats)
2. **I**. (Stein)
3. **A** (Eliot)
4. **C** (Fitzgerald)
5. **D** (Hemingway)
6. **G** (Joyce)
7. **H** (Pound)
8. **J** (Woolf)
9. **B** (Proust)
10. **F** (Hughes)

Looking Ahead

To whet your appetite for the **2023 Spring Semester**, here is a taste of what will be offered in the VC LLI smorgasbord of courses.

Zoom Tuesdays: *Slavery and Freedom in the Hudson Valley*, presented by Peter Bunten and others; *A Lively Look at Accessible Poetry*, presented by Marcy Heidish Dolan; and *The Hearts and Souls Behind the Lenses*, presented by Gary Miller.

Tuesday ZOOM sessions start on March 7th.

On-Campus Fridays: *Short Stories*, presented by Judith Saunders; *A History of our Times: Social Change and Backlash*, presented by Miriam Cohen or an architecture course, *American Style: Federal through Mid-Century Modern*, presented by David Roberts. David Bloom, once again, will organize and offers the popular *Vassar Science Sample*, taught by Vassar professors. And Mihai Grunfeld returns with another Spanish class, *Intermediate Spanish: Conversation and Review*.

Friday On-Campus sessions start on March 10th.

You will be notified when registration begins in February.



Photo taken by Sarah Kennedy at Art Omi

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