

LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE
VASSAR
COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
July 2021

VASSAR COLLEGE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
Newsletter Issue 6, July 2021

*Rooted in one place,
apart
in my own bark,
implanted in the singular gravitas of here and now,
I'm pretending to be a tree.*

A year ago, deep into the pandemic, isolated, I wrote a poem, *Metamorphosis in this Unseasonable Season of Dis-ease*. The verse above and the one below are excerpts. I recently learned that although trees stand as solitary entities, they are “social creatures” that communicate with each other in cooperative ways and share life-giving information!

I visualize VC LLI as a tree. Specifically, a sugar maple—fairly young, healthy, steadily growing, asserting its place in the world.



I see the roots, the vital part we don't see, as the **committee members**, anchoring the organization and supplying sustenance to the rest of us.

I imagine the trunk as the **courses**, the “heartwood”, alongside the **presenters** with their rings of experience. They are a conduit of scholarship, disseminating nutrients of knowledge.

The branches are the **class managers**, reaching out, connecting the trunk and the leaves.

The leaves, of course, are the **students**, all of us absorbing light, budding, and unfurling as we participate in the program.

*I bathe in sunlight, moonlight, starlight,
gossip with breezes,
mingle with moss,
freshen in the polish of rain.*

All of the elements, in sync with each other, create a program that is alive—functional and wonderful. Your comments in this newsletter, like the winged seeds that fly off the maple, reflect that vibrancy.

Many thanks to all those who contributed!

Special thanks to **Marty Zlotkin** for the newsletter cover and his technical help, to **Sandy Corwin** for her careful proofreading, and to **Mihai Grunfeld** for his encouraging support.

Jo Hausam, VC LLI Newsletter Editor



Tree roots absorb water and nutrients from the soil, serve as a store for carbohydrates and form a structural system which supports the trunk and crown. The nature of this system is frequently misunderstood, probably because it is concealed below ground.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS are the volunteers we rarely see who provide the hands-on expertise and resources needed to keep VC LLI alive!

Here are portraits of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**. A chance to see what they look like!



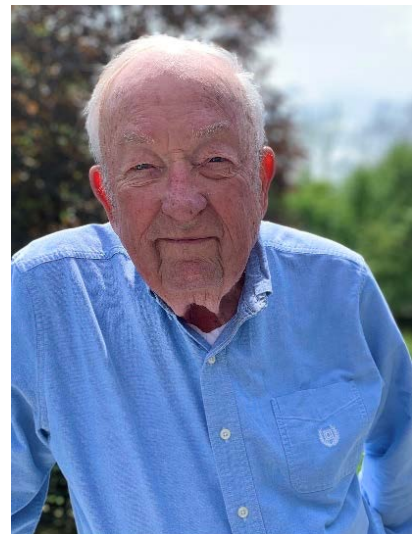
Mihai Grunfeld, Chair

Mihai keeps us grounded.

He is our enthusiastic, patient leader,
the heart and soul of LLI!

Larry Miller, Treasurer

Larry keeps us healthy
by keeping an eye on the green-backs.
He's our money manager!





Joanne Valeo, Secretary

Joanne is our go-to person.

As chair of the Class Manager Committee,
she recruits and schedules managers.

And she answers all of our emails!

Sybil DelGaudio, Curriculum Committee Chair

Sybil recruits the presenters.

and also chairs the Classroom Support Committee.

And she teaches classes on cinema!



Paul Stoddard, Membership & Registration Co-coordinator

Paul is the database man who keeps us organized.

He is also one of our technical advisors.

And he teaches a course on chamber music!



In this issue, we focus a sunbeam on one member of the Executive Committee...

Sudhir Desai



Sudhir Desai, a native of Mumbai, India, came to the U.S. in 1967 to study for a Master Degree in Computer Design at the Carnegie Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, PA. He has been a resident of Dutchess County since 1968 when he joined IBM. He worked on computer hardware design in Poughkeepsie and was part of the Corporate Staff in Somers. He retired in 2016 after working for 48 years and 20 days!

Sudhir has always enjoyed learning about subjects he knows nothing about. So, when his friends told him about LLI, he was eager to join and was happy when in 2018 he became a member.

Recognizing the fact that LLI was a volunteer organization, he signed up to be a class manager and then helped out at the Kenyon hospitality room.

He is also on the curriculum committee and on the Executive Council as the co-chair of Membership and Administration.



Photo by Sarah Kennedy

In the past he has been a board member of the Girl Scouts, the Dutchess County Historical Society and the United Way of Dutchess County.

His hobbies include travel and photography.

Here is a photo Sudhir took at the Sabi Sands Game Reserve in South Africa.



He is also a gourmet cook! He has taken classes at the Culinary Institute of America.

After taking an LLI class in magic, he is now a member of the Society of American Magicians. He speaks four Indian languages and is studying Spanish.

Sudhir is looking forward to getting back on campus and meeting new people.

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The **General Council** is composed of the Executive Committee, Chairs of each committee, and two at-large members, **Joan Blumberg** and **Carole Wolfe**

Administration Committee Members

Denise Laforgue, Administrative Assistant

Joanne Valeo, Email member support

Howard Spilke, Phone support

Betty Olsen, Bylaws

Class Managers Committee

Joanne Valeo, Chair

Curriculum Committee

Suggests new classes, recruits new presenters, and coordinates and plans courses.

Sybil DelGaudio, Chair

Classroom Support Committee

Sybil DelGaudio, Chair

Member Services Committee

Maintains hospitality room (coffee, snacks) and assists with social functions.

Terry Catapane, Chair

Campus Support

Responsible for room reservations, parking and shuttling, and signage.

Michael Yarmoski, Chair

Public Information Committee

Outreach and marketing, newsletter, annual posters, postcard distribution, and public announcements.

Glen Conciatori and Roseanne Ashby, Chairs

Special Events Committee

Plans and manages special events, luncheons, and the annual meeting.

Diana Salsbert, Chair

Webmasters

Responsible for LLI Webpage, Facebook, Newsletter

Mihai Grunfeld, Sarah Kennedy, Jo Hausam

Please consider volunteering for one of the committees. Help is always needed.



A **tree trunk** is the tall, thick central part of a **tree**.

The **COURSES and the PRESENTERS** of VC LLI form the central core of the program.

THANK YOU to the many who shared their knowledge, experiences, and time during the Spring 2021 semester. Many are acknowledged and praised in the student comments found later in the newsletter.

Seeing a list of names does not reflect the *aliveness* of these teachers, the same way seeing the trunk of a tree does not reflect the flow of life underneath the bark. What we can see is the awesome height of a trunk. The “height” of the list of presenters from Spring 2021 is definitely impressive.

Al Vinck
Ann Teed
Mary Platt
Drew Minter
John Wargo
Anna Mayta
Gary Miller
John McGiff
Kele Baker
Rob Cohen
Chris Smart
Sue Iannucci
Marilyn Price
Bill Strauss
José Perillán
Lyla Yastion
Jodi Schwarz
Ernest Giglio
Anne Gardon
Chris Bowse
Sarah Mount
Carmen McGill
Katherine Hite

**Donald Fraser
JoAnne Myers
Paul Stoddard
Richard Walker
Chuck Mishaan
Valerie Carlisle
Robert Stevens
Claudius Feger
Alan Peterson
David Chernack
Alanna Facchin
Fred Chromey
Paul Ciminello
Roberta Shayo
Sandra Opdycke
Linda Bouchey
Mickey Steiman
Arnold Serotsky
Amanda Higgs
Libby Zemaitis
Clifton Staples
James O'Brien
Gail Goodman
Ruth Weinreb
Tanya Livingston
Kelsey Ponesse
Richard Nathan
Andy Weintraub
Sasha Louis Bush
Anita Fina Kiewra
Lynda Ann Ewen
Mark Schlessman
Robert Augustine
Nathan Rosenblum
Jean-Claude Fouéré
Rosemary Caspary
Joyce deVries Tomaselli
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish
Hudson Valley Hospice Staff
Shannon Rothenberger Flynn
Poughkeepsie's Race Unity Circle members**



www.shutterstock.com - 188108924

Tree branches grow out of the tree trunk, with leaves, flowers, or fruit growing on it.

CLASS MANAGERS are the branches of the VC LLI tree. They are vital connectors between the administration, the presenters, and the students.



- Katy Anson
- David Bloom
- Valerie Carlisle
- Rosemary Caspary
- Kathleen Crampton
- Rosealice D'Avanzo
- Bill Davie
- Sudhir Desai
- John Duz
- Judy Elkin
- Margery Groten
- Mihai Grunfeld
- Linda Heitmann
- John Wango
- Anita Jones
- Maribeth Kind
- Ed Kinkade
- Regina Klein
- Aaron Joseph Kleinman
- Nannette Koch
- Merrilee Osterhoudt
- Rachel Reisman
- Tim Ryan
- Celia Serotsky
- Barry Skura
- Paul Stoddard
- Mim Tannen
- Joanne Valeo
- Patricia Wineapple

During this online year, class managers learned Zoom, introduced presenters, kept track of attendance, and reminded us of upcoming classes and important information via email. This past semester, when we had 41 classes and 10 special events, some managers had more than one class. Joanne Valero, manager of the managers, said, "They are very nice people!" THANKS to all of you!



In this issue, we focus a sunbeam on one of the Class Managers...

David Bloom

David was the class manager of the Science Sampler classes, which I (Jo Hausam) happened to attend. When we logged on, he greeting each of us by name. And, he went beyond the normal manager duties by sometimes starting the class with music. To get us in the mood for the class on the origin of the universe, we heard a brief excerpt from the theme song of the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. For the class on environmentalism, it was *Broad Old River*, by Pete Seeger.

In the following piece, in his own words, David shares his background and the themes that flow through his life.

Born and raised in The Bronx, my introduction to the Hudson Valley was college at SUNY New Paltz at the age of 16. Other than a brief stint in Manhattan during the early 1970s, I have been a Hudson Valley resident for the last 50 years. I met my wife Beverly here in 1975 and we raised our two daughters Adrienne and Abbie here.

Like the River that runs through the valley, three themes connect my family, work and retirement lives: creating community, learning and fun. As a teacher for over 40 years, classrooms were a place of learning, belonging and connection. I brought that same spirit of connection and community as an adjunct professor at local colleges.

I directed the Dutchess Arts Camp (Mill Street Loft) for 25 years, where we created a vibrant community of young artists dedicated to discovering themselves through the arts while having fun. Numerous other collaborative projects have included a children's radio show, intergenerational programming, community theater and an improvisational theater group.



As a retiree, I have directed my energies to grandparenting (FUN) and various community projects including The Art Effect, Bard LLI, and now Vassar LLI (curriculum and hospitality committees).

I look forward to continued connections, learning and fun.



Maple trees are deciduous shade trees with leafy foliage.
The most identifiable feature is their lobed **leaves**.

STUDENTS are the vibrant, nourished leaves of VC LLI.



In this issue, we focus a sunbeam on one student...

Margery Groton



Margery Groton was a beneficiary of the CUNY education system, earning a BA from Queens College and a Masters in Environmental Psychology studying at City University Graduate Center.

After volunteering for a number of local environmental organizations while raising young children, she worked in a private planning firm on environmental studies of public and private development projects. Her last 15 years of work before retirement were spent at Scenic Hudson doing land acquisition and park development. Her major project was the remediation and transformation of a former industrial riverfront property in Beacon into Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park.

Margery and her husband Arthur joined Vassar College's LLI in its first year and they have been enjoying courses every semester since. Initially, Margery attended classes and occasionally assisted setting up the hospitality room in the morning. This semester has been her first semester serving as a class manager—for African American Literature. She said, "The task was straightforward and satisfying. And the class was terrific!"

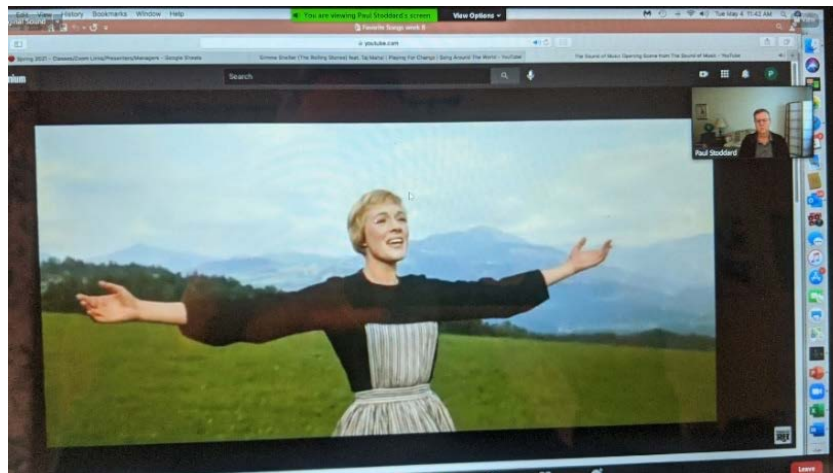
She adds, "I have really enjoyed all of my classes at LLI, and especially look forward to meeting folks in person again, when we can."

STUDENT COMMENTS

My heart will be blessed with the Sound of Music... by Bill Davies

The **Favorite Chamber Music Class** was more than a chance to listen to some popular chamber music once a week. The instructor, **Paul Stoddard**, encouraged the class to participate by providing their own favorite music which he used to supplement the class listening. He provided some music theory, descriptions of instruments and musical styles. But mostly it was a class to appreciate a wide variety of music as heard on YouTube. The first four classes covered about 500 years of chamber music, but Paul expanded the courses musical offerings in the second four weeks with classes on favorite concertos, orchestral music, jazz, and popular songs.

The accompanying picture, Julie Andrews singing *The Sound of Music*, sums up my enjoyment of the class. Paul can be seen in the small picture-over-picture in the upper right side.



Each class was a pleasant review of familiar and unfamiliar music which expanded my musical horizon. I think everyone in the class would agree that Paul gave us a welcome break from our COVID19 dominated lives.

Enthralled by Photos by Celia Serotsky

Robert Stevens, presenter of the **Aesthetic History of Photography**, worked for almost thirty years as international photo editor for *Time Magazine*, was an art reviewer for the French Arts for twelve years, and editor of the book *Yvon's Paris*. He is also the author of two photo books: *Unintentional* and *Evidence*.

We, the participants in his class this past semester, were so fortunate to be the beneficiaries of all his expertise and knowledge. Robert led us through the development of photography

(continued)

beginning with its inception in the mid-nineteenth century through the 1960's and '70's. In each class he illustrated each period of evolution of photography using both background information about the photographers as well as visuals of their work.

We were enthralled by the photos he showed us, from the earliest photographers who desired to present themselves as “artists” to those who showed cities and people as they are—without artifice or manipulation. Each participant has come away with an expanded knowledge of the aesthetic aspect of photography and a greater appreciation of this art.

A Trip Back in Time by Celia Serotsky

For me, **Jacqueline Goffe-McNish's** class, **African American Literature**, was a trip back in time to my high school and college days so many decades ago, when the instructors focused our attention on the details of the literary text we were reading.

It was a pleasure to be concentrating once again on the vocabulary, images, and cultural and historical references within a literary text. In our case, that text was Maya Angelou's *All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes*. I have read other works by Angelou, but reading on my own, I do not necessarily reflect on the details of the text. Now, I find myself thinking about the images, the choice of words and other literary aspects of the reading I do for my book club as well as my own personal pleasure reading.

Some may think that reading and discussing a literary work in this manner requires more effort than they want to give, but believe me, it was FUN! Jacqueline made every class interesting and enjoyable, inserting her own personal anecdotes and using humor to create a relaxed and collegial classroom atmosphere. We hope she teaches another class!

A Wealth of Information by Nancy D. Miller

Robert Stevens, who presented the **Aesthetic History of Photography**, provided a wealth of information. His class was fantastic and I wish the 8 weeks didn't end so soon. Vassar LLI is fortunate to have so many wonderful presenters.

More on Photography by Robert Ulrich

The **Aesthetic History of Photography** was a great class. **Robert Stevens** was a wonderful instructor. Enjoyable and very informative.

The Passion of VC LLI Presenters by Judy Linville

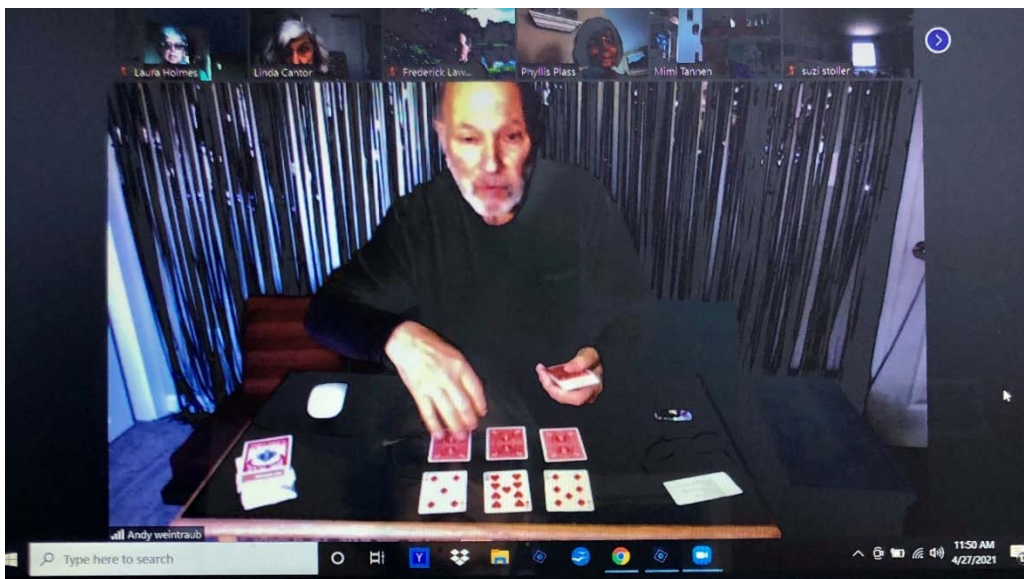
With every session of VC LLI, I marvel at how fortunate we are to have such a wealth of knowledge available to us. Topics from the law, to photo journalism, Route 66 and the Hudson River have helped dearly during this Covid time, but would be wonderful any time. The passion each presenter has for his/her topic is evident in the amount of work they put into each presentation and the amount of excitement they displayed each week. Thank you for a great semester!

Making Magic Happen by Laura Holmes

One of the first things that **Andy Weintraub** taught us in **Magic Class** is that magic is as much about acting as it is about trick technique. While acting doesn't rank high in my skill set (if it even IS in my skill set), I've been making enough progress on the French Coin Drop, "Stab the Dollar," and rip-and-replace tricks to be pretty confident that my 3-year-old grandson will think my sleight of hand is pretty...well...magical.

The card tricks are coming along, too, thanks to the special decks that Andy sent us, and I think I might even be able to pull those off with a more mature audience.

I will never have Andy's flair, but I sure enjoy watching him in action and it's pretty cool to learn how to make the magic happen.



Clay is Very Forgiving by Laura Holmes

Another class I enjoyed was **Home for the Soul: Whimsical Clay Porcelains** presented by **Ann Teed**. Here are a few photos of pieces I made before they went off to be fired in the kiln. I've never worked with clay before and found all the rhythmic squishing, squeezing, thumping, and shaping to be quite therapeutic, so I did a lot of that, just smooshing anything I didn't like back into a big lump. And then I'd start again. I was actually surprised that I got some shapes that I liked--clay is very forgiving! And Ann is an encouraging spirit, with a talent for both teaching art and the art of teaching.



Ann Teed, the instructor, also contributed a few photos...



A "pottery poem" by Jo Hausam

previously published in *Step by Stepping Stone*.

Pottery,
poor repentant clay,
a reformation
to display.

Mud kneaded and absolved by hands,
hot metamorphosis of sands.

A breathing blend affirmed, alone,
holy relic: human and stone.

Memorable Music Experiences by Ellen Zelig

I've been so lucky to have taken three stimulating seasons on **Opera** given by **Chuck Mishaan**. He makes opera come alive historically and politically. Hopefully he will continue in the Fall semester. Thank you, Chuck

I really wasn't sure what **Chamber Music** was. This wonderful class, presented by Paul Stoddard, has opened my eyes to not just Chamber Music, but to much more including Jazz. I hate to see the series end and will definitely take it next season if offered.

Just an added benefit for me, I was hospitalized for two classes and didn't miss a beat. With my iPad charged, I was able to watch two classes. If we didn't have class on Zoom, I would have missed my favorite class.

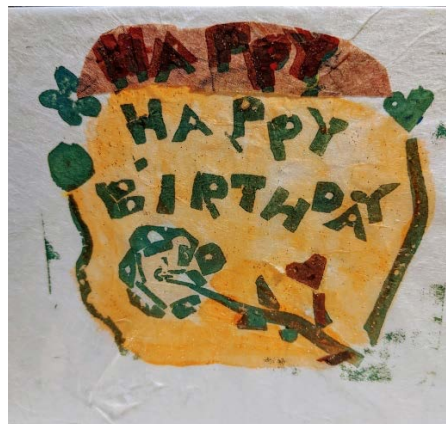
Thank you for a memorable music experience.

Printing at Home by Susan Needelman

Anita Fina Kiewra made the print-making process easy to understand.

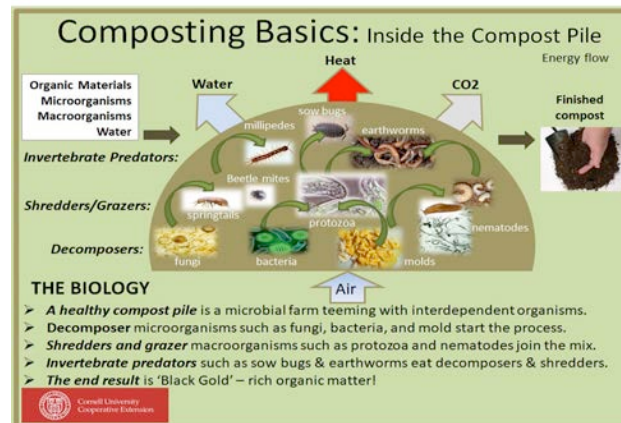
Printmaking without a Press was a well-organized class and the demos were excellent, encouraging us to try the print-making process. We received a bag filled with items that enabled us to do printing at home.

Here is a sample:



Multiple Aspects of Gardening by Lucy Johnson

Joyce deVries Tomaselli, a Master Gardener from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, presented a fascinating course, **The Science and Art of Gardening** for the home gardener. Each class was copiously illustrated by PowerPoint slides. Joyce generously shared the power points with us, so that we have them for reference as questions arise in our own gardening.



Joyce began at the beginning, with a discussion of soils and compost: what soils are and how to compost efficiently and effectively to amend your soils to make them more conducive to growing the plants you want to grow. Her next lecture focused on identifying plant problems and pests: the myriad critters and conditions that might be causing your plant to wilt or spot or otherwise not do well. Here she also stressed that, in order to get help with your problem from the people at CCE, you need to know what your plant is, so she gave us a primer in plant identification.

The next class looked at how to manage pests and diseases of both indoor and outdoor plants, focusing on Integrated Pest Management rather than heading like a beeline to poisonous sprays. This led naturally to class 4 on bees, their great importance in nature and how to create a bee-friendly backyard.

Bees are the best pollinators



Class 5, on lawns, was of least interest to me, since my lawn is happily Heinz 57, but the history of lawns, lawn care equipment, and the importance of the sports industry in driving lawn advances for homeowners, was interesting. (continued)

Clematis, *Clematis jackmanii*



Blackeyed Susan Vine
Thunbergia alata



Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*



We then moved to two important classes; the first on ornamental alternatives to invasives, either native flowering plants or imported ones that are not prone to escaping and taking over the neighborhood – vines, bushes and trees, and the second on deer defense and how to deter other wildlife intent on eating your most prized flowers and vegetables.

Deer in the Hudson Valley
It's not their fault



- 1. Abandoned farmland reverted to forest
- 2. Development reclaimed farmland and forests
- 3. Overabundant white-tailed deer adapted to humans
- 4. With surging deer populations
 - Tick-borne illnesses
 - Traffic accidents
 - Ecological impacts

Our final class looked at Orchids: how to identify the various kinds, which you might be able to grow in your house, greenhouse or garden and those you might just as well forget about and enjoy in botanical gardens. This class, as were all classes, was greatly enlivened by Joyce's stories of her battles with various orchids, those which she has learned to work with over the years and those of which she has despaired.

Cypripedium acaule var. *album*



Orchids

And how to grow them in a home environment

Joyce deVries, Tomaselli
CCEDC Community Horticulture
Resource Educator



Laelia tenebrosa

Joyce is an inspiring lecturer, and her property, from all of her anecdotes, sounds absolutely amazing. I do hope she will put it on the Dutchess Garden Tour one of these years!

Away from My Head, Into My Body by Mihai Grunfeld

The one class I was always waiting for at the end of the day was **Kele Beker's** Qigong class, **Move with the Flow of Nature**, every Tuesday, at 3:20pm. This was the best way to end a day spent seated in my chair and focusing on the computer screen.

Before taking her class, I had a vague idea what Qigong was, but I selected it because I needed a class that would take me away from my head and zoom me back into the body.

Kele is a real professional teacher, an expert in several movement techniques—Qigong, Tai Chi, Alexander Technique— based on oriental philosophies like Daoism, Yin & Yang and Qi energies, and the cycle of Five Elements. The idea behind all this is to balance our bodies and minds in order to improve our health and wellness.

She organized her class like an expert, starting with about 15 minutes of theory, explaining how the movements fit into a philosophical life view and what they do to our bodies. This was really interesting for me. Then she proceeded to work with us, patiently, with complete focus, and a sense of humour.

By the end of the class, I was totally in my body, relaxed and balanced, ready to face the kitchen and prepare our next meal. It was a total pleasure to take her class. I have the highest recommendation for it. If she teaches the class again, you must take it



MAY 4, 2021 - MERIDIANS & THE FIVE ELEMENTS



MAY 4, 2021 - MERIDIANS & THE FIVE ELEMENTS

Photos provided by Mihai Grunfeld.

Layers of Information by Rita Epstein

I recently completed the **Ancient Mysteries of Africa** course presented by **Dr. Nathan Rosenblum**. As always - when one has the opportunity to find a program of interest and a speaker who never fails to impress, it's an experience worth noting.

Dr. Rosenblum is very comfortable using the ZOOM technology which allows his students to participate via power point, videos and visually shared relics, artifacts and books from his vast personal library. In addition he is able to send copies of his power point slides as well as additional resources to the students during the course.

He is easy to listen to, draws on a wealth of information and experiences and always welcomes class input and questions. His topics cover layers of information at an extremely high level.

I personally always leave wanting to learn more about the topic and having thoroughly enjoyed the program.

I Loved the Honesty by Shelley Tatelbaum

Holding Up a Mirror: Implicit Bias and You is a course that everyone would benefit from taking. I feel it is one of the best classes that I have taken at Vassar.

The teachers, **Anne Gardon and Tanya Livingston**, were extremely prepared and the homework was very valuable in terms of how we integrated into the class. I loved the breakout groups and the discussions that evolved from them. Also, I loved the honesty, because holding up a mirror can be very uncomfortable. It exposed our implicit biases that are subconscious even though we may believe that we do not harbor any.

This class raises one's awareness and helps us to self-correct due to these new insights. Please have this course again and perhaps extend the course to more than four weeks.

The Complicated Made Understandable by Barbara Hulnick

It's the Law was excellent. Not only was **Mickey Steiman** very knowledgeable and interesting, but he was also fun---and very willing to answer all questions. He made the complicated subjects understandable to me. Many thanks for his time and effort and good nature.

More on It's the Law by Muriel Lampell

It's the Law—great teacher and course.

Urgent and Important by Beverly Kaufman

Border Stories: People, Policies, Practices. This moving course was presented by **Val Carlisle**, a longtime immigration justice advocate, a founding member of Grannies Respond and Reunite Migrant Families. Val has been especially concerned about the issue of child separation at the border and has made several trips to the border to volunteer and to call attention to the issue.

I am writing this article because I thought that the information presented in the class was so urgent and important that more people would be interested in hearing about it. The class was so fortunate to be taught by eight incredibly knowledgeable presenters, most of whom are working on the frontlines at the border and have unique access to information about the current humanitarian crisis.

The first class was presented by **Camilo Perez-Bustillo**, a visiting professor of Human Rights and Social Justice at National Taiwan University and a former director of research and advocacy at the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Texas. Camillo gave an overview that emphasized the root causes in long-standing U.S. policies of current forced migration from Central America and beyond. He really helped the class understand that migration is often the only choice that people have if they want to have a chance at survival.

Next we saw the film, *From Beacon to the Border*, and heard from members of **Grannies Respond**, an organization that started in Beacon, NY and is now a national organization. Grannies Respond started as a caravan from Beacon, traveling to the border to call attention to Trump's inhumane child separation policy. Currently Grannies Respond is working with Miles for Migrants to encourage people to donate their airline miles to migrants who have been freed from detention and need to travel to reach their families in other parts of the U.S. This group has also established a modern day over-ground railroad where volunteers wait at bus stations for migrants who are traveling across the country and provide them with necessary supplies and food as they make their way to their final destination.

Josh Rubin and **Sarah Towle**, founders of Witness at the Border, talked about their work and called our attention to Title 42, a little known provision of the U.S. Public Health Law that is being used to deport migrants. To date, over 700,000 migrants, including families with young children, have been deported under Title 42. This policy began under Trump and is still continuing today. These migrants are not allowed to request asylum, but are immediately deported, often back to extremely dangerous situations. Since children crossing alone are not being sent back under this law, many families who have travelled together, are making the very difficult decision to send their children across the border alone hoping they will be able to reunite with family members or friends already in the U.S. Currently there are over 18,000 unaccompanied children being detained in large influx shelters in the U.S, 90% of whom have family members in the US, just waiting to receive them.

(continued)

Separating children from their family members for any length of time can cause lifelong trauma for children. **Jodi Goodwin**, an immigration attorney, who personally worked to reunite over 500 separated children with their family members talked about her work. The class watched the film *Separated*, a heart wrenching documentary in real time about a mother's separation from her son and their subsequent reunion. The trauma to both of them was unforgettable. Jodi told the class that she, herself, now suffers from PTSD, from all the traumatic stories that she has heard from the migrants that she has represented in immigration cases.

A Dip into Science by Jo Hausam

I decided to go outside my comfort zone (the humanities) and take a dive in the oceanic world of science. I'm glad I took the plunge. Well, not really a plunge, more of a dip. Sometimes I was in over my head! But I exercised enough to stretch my brain.

With the exception of **Paul Ciminello**, an environmental engineer and also an LLI student, who stepped up to fill a vacant spot, all the courses were taught by Vassar professors: **Mark Schlessman**, Professor of Biology; **Fred Chromey**, Professor of Astronomy; **Bill Straus**, Associate Professor of Biology; **Chris Smart**, Associate Professor of Chemistry; **Jodi Schwarz**, Associate Professor of Biology; **José Perillán**, Assistant Professor of Physics and Science, Technology and Society; and **Robert Augustine**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology. All shared their particular passion. I traveled virtually to the bottom of the sea to see coral reefs, to outer space to imagine the origin and evolution of the universe, to my garden to learn about the sex of flowers, and to the microscopic realm of atoms.

Did you know...?

A papaya has three sexes!

No particles of dark matter have been discovered and dark matter doesn't interact with light, but it exists because "stuff" moves in response to it!

A student built a mini-reactor at Vassar to make fullerenes!

A fullerene is a carbon cage!

Coral is animal inhabited by a vegetable (algae) which secretes a mineral (limestone)!

Seven scientists were convicted of manslaughter for failing to alert the population of an earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy; they were later acquitted!

I also want to praise **Mickey Steiman's** course, **It's the Law**. The class helped me to make sense of all the random law jargon I gleaned from TV or movie court dramas. Step by step, in careful lawyer-fashion, enhanced by stories ("aging lawyers like to tell stories"), case studies, diagrams, and playful language, Mickey guided the class through the judicial process of civil and criminal cases. Following is a matching game to test your understanding of judicial jargon.

A Matching Game: How Many Judicial Terms Do You Know?

Match the judicial terms (on the left) with the descriptive phrase (on the right).

M.S. after the phrase indicates it's a quote by Mickey Steiman.

Answers found on the next page.

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| 1. Reverse & remand | a. Trial location |
| 2. Court of last resort | b. Agree with the outcome, but not with the reasons |
| 3. Plaintiff | c. Determining the legal right to sue |
| 4. Discovery | d. Getting all the facts before the trial |
| 5. Judge | e. A decision to send the case back to "fix" it |
| 6. Evidence | f. Precedence—"bedrock of the law" (M.S.) |
| 7. Verdict | g. The power to interpret and apply the law |
| 8. Jury | h. The Supreme Court |
| 9. Standing | i. A decision of disagreement with the outcome |
| 10. Hearsay | j. Witness cannot be asked certain questions |
| 11. Relevance | k. Means of jury selection |
| 12. Privilege | l. A written order by a judicial officer |
| 13. Damages | m. Evidence that is not admissible |
| 14. Trial | n. Ordinary citizens pulled off the street |
| 15. Venue | o. Must infer a fact that leads to a conclusion |
| 16. Bail | p. Can be tangible or testimonial |
| 17. Warrant | q. One who commences a lawsuit |
| 18. Prosecutor | r. A sacred, heart-stopping moment |
| 19. Voir dire | s. A referee |
| 20. Mistrial | t. Shall not be excessive |
| 21. Stare decisis | u. Types are specific, punitive, and consequential |
| 22. Dissenting | v. Tries to prove guilt—"Drives the big truck" (M. S.) |
| 23. Concurring | w. "Something gone amiss" in the proceedings |
| 24. Jurisdiction | x. "The Super Bowl of Hearings" (M .S.) |

Answers to matching exercise: 1.e.; 2. h.; 3. q.; 4. d.; 5. s.; 6. p.; 7. r.; 8.n.; 9.c.; 10.m.; 11.o.; 12.j.; 13.u.; 14.x.; 15.a.; 16.t.; 17.l.; 18.v.; 19.k.; 20.w.; 21.f.; 22.i.; 23.b.; 24.g.

We can look forward to a colorful **Fall 2021 Semester** which begins on **September 21st**.



Here are a few courses that have been proposed:

The Roaring Twenties: Then and Now presented by Chuck Mishaan

The Hudson River Estuary presented by Sarah Mount

Local African Americans and Their Descendants presented by Bill Jeffway

For the full schedule, see the website, <https://lifelonglearning.vassar.edu>

Note: The registration fee for next year will be \$100.

Classes for Fall 2021 will continue on Zoom. Hopefully, we will return to campus in the spring.

Also, be on the lookout for a new online publication, **ArtShow**, featuring LLI artwork.

A parting image and a poetic thought:



*...over their ground,
Trees make a long shadow
And a light sound.*

Louise Bogan, *Knowledge*

VASSAR COLLEGE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

124 Raymond Ave., Box 160

Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

Office: Blodgett Hall 237

Phone: 845-437-7229

Email: lli@vassar.edu

Website: <https://lifelonglearning.vassar.edu>