ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
WE’RE SAVING YOU A SEAT!

A.L.L. THE NEWS

Your Summer Place to Be!

Notes from the Director

Jeff Says . . .


Please don’t mail your study group registration before July 20. Class registrations will be processed on a first come, first served basis after July 20. Applications will be accepted for open classes through the beginning of the term, September 14, or until classes are full.

FALL 2015 MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF LUNCHEON
Wednesday, September 9, 11:00 a.m.
Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, 175 5th Avenue

Come and meet fall study group/class leaders, new friends, renew friendships from past years and learn more about the Academy’s fall programs.

Annual Academy Membership (through June 30, 2016) of $50 entitles you to:

- Eligibility to enroll in classes for the fall 2015 and spring 2016 terms
- Participation in the Academy’s Special Interest Groups
- Participation in all special events, trips, and programs
- Discount cards to local businesses and restaurants
- Free subscription to A.L.L. The News monthly newsletter
- Copy of A.L.L. Member Handbook
- Opportunity to be an Academy volunteer and serve on Academy committees
- Eligibility to submit work to “The Apple Tree,” the Academy’s literary journal
- Have a vote at the annual meeting June 10, 2016

Shout Out!

July 20, 2015:
The earliest date to have your A.L.L. fall class registration post-marked and in the U.S. Mail

Points of Interest

Want to Wiawaka?
Want to Volunteer?
Want a summer SIG?
Want a summer class?
It’s all here!
JUSTICE: WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO
STUDY GROUP REVIEW

Perhaps one of the most provocative and fascinating classes of which I have been a member was the spring, 2015 class led by Roy Hansen, called “Justice, What’s the Right Thing To Do,” based on the book by Michael J. Sandel of the same title. With lively discussion, we explored the philosophies of justice and morality, beginning with Aristotle, through Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, and others, and ending with Michael Sandel himself.

We learned to recognize theories of utilitarianism, libertarianism, egalitarianism and civic virtue and to apply them to contemporary issues such as same-sex marriage, abortion, surrogacy, and society’s responsibility to its less fortunate members, all of which involve contradictory and controversial positions and opinions. Several court cases were discussed, and the arguments supporting or opposing them were examined in light of our understanding of the theories presented. Sometimes we agreed, sometimes there were differences of opinion. Instead of becoming more confident of black and white answers, we learned how very complex justice, ethics and morality are. While we failed to determine conclusively what the “right” answers are and how to arrive at them, we were left with a finer appreciation of how the journey continues, as we struggle to define our humanity through a search for a higher morality. We agreed that it is essential that we continue the dialogue. Everyone wants justice, but knowing exactly what that is requires constant vigilance, informed thought, social and political engagement, and a willingness to consider all points of view. Roy Jensen was a very knowledgeable, skillful leader who encouraged our participation. We never lacked for productive, thoughtful and always respectful conversation.

STUDY GROUP PREVIEW!
OUR PRECIOUS WATER SUPPLY

Study Group Leader Norm Facklam leaked (pun intended) a preview of his seven-week, fall, 2015 study group focusing on the fortunate water supply available to eastern New York State and New York City residents. An overview of the geography of the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains coupled with natural waterways and watersheds will serve as the starting point. Topics include the man-made Great Sacandaga and other smaller—yet critical—reservoirs and waterlines feeding local communities (including Global Foundries), construction of dams and hydroelectric on the Hudson, plus tunnels, aqueducts, and reservoirs funneling water to more than 9 million NYC area businesses and residents. Executive Directors, City Engineers and Water Authorities will speak about keeping it all clean and what goes on behind-the-scenes from an administrative and legal standpoint to enable the safe delivery of water to us all.

For summer “homework”, and to whet your appetite a bit before classes begin, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQ0XuRQ0 to view a one-hour story “Depleting the Water” Leslie Stahl did for CBS.

Read your Fall Term Class Registration (due out shortly by e-mail and snail mail) for a full class description!
THIRD AGE PRESS

Submitted by Third Age Press Chair Sue Valaitis

Third Age Press presented a program at Northshire Bookstore on June 17th to introduce the latest edition of The Apple Tree. Joyce Rubin started off the evening with Remember Me and had the audience hooked as she voiced the character of Eugene with Brooklyn accent. The audience loved the nostalgia of Dan Riley’s golden Days Revisited and welcomed Carol Schupp-Star who read her poem To Think of You. We watched as Dave Mesh unfolded a paper snowflake to enhance his poem My Life is the Unfolding of a Paper Snowflake and laughed at the humor in Watershed Moment as Janice Cutbush read conversation with inflection that made us feel like we were there. Margaret French ended our evening with Bloom Late: Learning How to be Ninety. This tribute to aging and the vitality of those who are ninety was a fitting way to close our program.

A.L.L.’S FUTURE AND YOUR LEGACY

The Academy’s future depends on financial sustainability. Please consider making a difference that will serve others through your legacy by making a bequest to the Academy for Lifelong Learning at Saratoga Springs in your will. This is a meaningful way to support the life-changing work at the Academy. Please also consider suggesting to those wishing to offer remembrances in lieu of flowers to direct them to the Academy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each month we will highlight Academy volunteer opportunities in A.L.L. the News. Please consider joining a committee, helping out at an event, assisting in the office or serving as an officer on the Executive Council.

Council & Committee Structure

The Academy is governed by the elected Executive Council which coordinates the work of the five standing committees (finance, curriculum, membership, resource development, and event planning) and determines A.L.L. policies. Executive Council officers—chair, vice chair, secretary and financial officer—typically serve two-year terms. Committee chairs also serve on the executive council along with a representative from Third Age Press (the Academy’s publishing arm) and an Empire State College liaison appointed by the college. The Academy’s executive director, employed by the Executive Council, is responsible for carrying out the council’s policy decisions, managing the office, and conducting the day to day business of the Academy. This month, we are featuring the Curriculum Committee.

The Curriculum Committee currently has nine members and meets ten times a year. The Chair is Pat Friesen, and members are: Michael Angelo, Norm Facklam, Dave Golden, Roy Hansen, Kathy Hargis, Carolyn Lansberry, Marilyn Peterson and Lou Tirelli. They are looking for additional committee members and a committee vice chair. Their next meeting is Tuesday, July 28, 11:00am, at 111 West Avenue. Meetings typically last one to two hours. Please contact the Academy office if you would like to sit in on a meeting to learn more about this important committee.

This committee works with the Executive Director to:
1. Develop the curriculum for the fall and spring terms
2. Recruit study group leaders and speakers

Activities during a typical year:
The Curriculum Committee discusses subject areas (such as history, science, literature, local interests, art and music) where study groups are needed to provide a well-rounded academic program.

Committee members solicit proposal forms from potential study group leaders and speakers. These proposals are reviewed and voted on. Approved leaders are notified and scheduled. During the sessions, committee members communicate with leaders at midterm whenever necessary to answer questions and ensure that classes are running smoothly. The committee also reads and collates study group evaluations at the end of each term. The search for likely study group leaders and speakers and relevant topics continues informally throughout the year.

The committee considers all A.L.L. members to be its eyes and ears aiding in identifying potential study group topics, leaders and speakers. Without this help, they would not be able to put together the desired programs.

The chair is a voting member of the Executive Council, attends council meetings and reports on his/her committee’s activities and recommendations, and keeps his/her committee informed of the council’s actions. If the chair should be unable to attend a council meeting, he/she will designate another committee member to attend as a substitute.
MEMBER NEWS

Doodler extraordinaire and A.L.L. Master leader (since 2006) Phyllis Marks is recuperating from a recent hospital stay. Those wishing to send get well wishes may do so to: Phyllis Marks, 156 Lawrence St., #12, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Hugs to you, Phyllis, and get well soon! We miss you!

SUMMER’S JUST BEGUN AND YOU’RE BORED ALREADY? HERE’S WHAT TO DO!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Special Interest Groups (SIGs), created by the A.L.L. Membership Committee, offer opportunities to pursue common interests in an informal setting. SIGs enable members to gather for interests that may not fall under the label of ‘academic.’ All Academy members are eligible to join SIGs or help create new ones! Summer 2015 SIGs, their coordinators and contact information are:

Golf - Avril Beveridge - 518-899-9432 (accepting members now for summer)
Book Club - Gloria Marceau - 518-584-1288 (meets 10 AM the 3rd Fri of every month at the Saratoga Springs Library)
Theater - Barbara McGrath - 885-4607
Bridge II - Scheryl Lomonico - 518-306-4125

Want to start a new SIG? Contact Sheryl Egger, Membership Chair at 518-581-0683.

ANNUAL MEETING!

One hundred and twenty Academy members attended the 2014-2015 Annual Meeting and Luncheon June 5 at Longfellows Restaurant.

Executive Council Vice Chair Marilynn Peterson conducted business during the brief annual meeting as members approved the bylaws revision and Executive Council slate of nominees, who are: Chair Pat Hart, Vice Chair Louise Young, Secretary Marsha Fagan, Financial Officer & Finance Committee Co-chair Anita Kopff, Finance Committee Co-Chair Pat Peterson, Curriculum Committee Chair Pat Friesen, Resource Development Committee Chair Alice Martin, Membership Committee Chair Sheryl Egger, Event Planning Committee Chair Judy Torelli, and Sue Valaitis of Third Age Press. Also serving on the executive council are Honorary Executive Council Member Marilynn Peterson, SUNY Empire State College Liaison Sue McFadden and Academy Executive Director Jeff Shinaman.

Following the close of business, attendees were entertained with five readings from the newest edition of The Apple Tree. Members also enjoyed the work of Ron Ramsey’s Painting Lab and Phyllis Marks’ Mindful Doodling students and historical photos and articles from the archives. Just before lunch, Merodie Hancock, President of Empire State College, offered a welcome from the college, and Saratoga Springs Mayor Joanne Yepsen extended greetings from the city.

Several Academy study group leaders were recognized. For conducting five study groups, Pat Nugent, Tom Davis and Ron Ramsey were honored. Three study group leaders were inducted into the Academy’s Master Leaders Society for reaching the fifteen study-group milestone: Pat Hart, Pat Davis and Gary Hill. Their names are added to the plaque hanging in the Academy office. Also presented to thirty Academy study group leaders - Kathy Farrell, Debbie Zanet and Jim Merola - were Academy Appreciation Awards for their invaluable technical support of Academy activities. Their supervisor, Sam Conn, thanked everyone for their recognition. Members also enjoyed a raffle, purchased The Apple Tree, and gave personal care items that were donated to Saratoga Economic Opportunity Council. Thank you to all for making this event a success!

HORSES, HISTORY & HANDICAPPING

A SUMMER CLASS!

Aaaand, they’re off! A.L.L. is pleased to offer our members and their guests Barry Loffredo’s and Steve Buonomo’s five-week series on horse racing and handicapping! Ever wonder why so many seem to do so well at the track? Well, now’s your chance to find out how it’s done! Speakers will include: trainers, historians, turf writers and handicappers. There’ll be a pick-of-the-day with analysis and a round table discussion, so bring your input and inquiries! Noted analyst and author Mike Kane and historian and author Al Carter are featured speakers at the first class!

Classes are in room 143 at 113 West Ave. from 10 AM - 11:30 AM for five Mondays (July 27, Aug 3, 10, 17 and 24). Contact the A.L.L. office by e-mail or phone right away to reserve your seat; you can bet they’ll go fast! Fee is $20 for all five sessions or $5 per session at the door. Registration is required!

Oh, one more thing, this class is intended for recreational and/or instructional use only - not gambling!

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Adult and Senior Center (5 Williams St.) of Saratoga is looking for volunteers for their Community Connections program. Contact Kris at 518-584-1621 or seniorcentervolunteer@gmail.com for details.
Submitted by Sue Culligan

The morning was dismal—the rain teeming down—and the bus was late. It was a dreary beginning for what became a wonderful three day Academy trip to Montreal, Quebec.

Headed north, the rain subsided and the sun came out as we neared the US/Canadian border. The recent escape of two prisoners (now captured) from Dannemora State Prison slowed the border crossing process somewhat, but we never let it bring down our high spirits.

The Biodome Museum awaited, and we arrived in the early afternoon to view its impressive variety of natural ecosystems, from the steamy tropical forest to the funny, frigid world of penguins. We saw all manner of wildlife, from tiny, poisonous tree frogs, to the world’s largest rodent (that was one BIG capybara!), rock-hopper penguins that made us smile, and a beaver industriously working on its dam, in an afternoon’s visit to four major climatic regions.

On to the Museum of Fine Arts, where we were free to roam at will among the refined works of the Old World Masters, to more contemporary works that made some blush! After checking in at Le Nouvel Hotel, and settling into our lovely rooms, we enjoyed a wonderful meal at the hotel’s L’Entracte Restaurant, then had the evening to relax and socialize.

Day Two arrived with sunshine for our guided bus tour throughout the city of Montreal. Our guide told us about the history, and directed us to many beautiful and interesting sights—St. Joseph’s Oratory, the Old Port of Montreal, the Financial District and City Hall, Habitat 67—and we enjoyed sight-seeing stops by the St. Lawrence River, and atop Mount Royal for panoramic views of a lovely city. Our bus driver’s skills were tested as he maneuvered down Rue de Cristobal Columbo, a scenic street graced with Montreal’s famous spiral street-side staircases, often depicted in travel photos, calendars, and postcards. He did very well! We enjoyed going below ground to the underground city—a modern business and shopping mecca connected by subways—that allows the people of Montreal to go about their business as usual, even when the weather is stormy and frigid just above them, at street level. After lunch on our own, we enjoyed free time exploring Old Montreal, including the truly awesome Notre-Dame Basilica. A late afternoon river boat cruise around the Old Port of Montreal afforded us a different view of many of the city’s magnificent sights, from the Biosphere and Olympic Stadium, to the Old Clock Tower. To round out the day, we savored another wonderful meal in Old Montreal, at Vieux-Port Steakhouse. The rain that started as we ate made for a soggy dash to the bus which took us back to the hotel for a relaxing evening of socializing and rest.

By morning, the rain had stopped, washing away any dust and leaving the Montreal Botanical Gardens glistening with dew. The more than twenty different garden areas were magnificent! From the color-drenched rose gardens to the serenity of the Japanese garden, the cool green of the shade garden to the intriguing insectarium, the botanical gardens were a delight to the senses. The climate controlled greenhouses took us from the tropics where we learned about many of the spices we enjoy, to the dry atmosphere of the desert with its cacti of all sizes and shapes. The hours spent in the gardens seemed to fly by, and by mid-afternoon we found ourselves back on the bus, headed for home.

The ride home was uneventful, with our entry into the US a bit smoother than our exit three days earlier, and after dinner in Plattsburgh, we settled in for the trip back to Saratoga.

We cannot say thank-you enough to our trip coordinators, Pat Hart and Vera Kasson, for a tremendous three days in lovely Montreal. Where to next, ladies?

Photos by Tom Anderson and Vera Kasson. Left Top- The rainy view over a cup of coffee on the ride north; Left Middle - Arriving at the Biodome; Left Bottom - Carol McCarthy was all ears at the Biodome; Above - Rose Farr in the Japanese Garden at the Botanical Gardens
THE ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
INVITES YOU TO:
A DAY AT THE WIAWAKA CENTER FOR WOMEN
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK
ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

Gentlemen are invited and welcome!

Tim Wagner from the Chapman Museum in Glens Falls will make a presentation on Seneca Ray Stoddard, Adirondack Photographer, Writer, Artist & Poet.

ARRIVAL TIME: 10:00 A.M.; PRESENTATION TIME: 11:00 A.M.; LUNCH: “NOONISH”

Come and enjoy a day on beautiful Lake George swimming, boating or playing board games from the considerable collection on site. If you prefer, sit and read lake side in a natural Adirondack setting while boats go by signaling "hello" to Wiawaka visitors.

COST: $32.00 ALL INCLUSIVE; Deadline for Reservations is July 10, 2015;

DAY AT WIAWAKA ON LAKE GEORGE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

Member Name: _____________________________________ Telephone: ___________________

Guest Name:_____________________­­________________ Amount Enclosed:________________

Please make checks payable to the Academy for Lifelong Learning and send reservation form with your non-refundable payment to:

Academy for Lifelong Learning, Day at Wiawaka/Lake George, 111 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Questions? Call Marsha Fagan at 792-4103 or Helen Lucas at 885-2617;