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## LLI 2018 Intersession

Special Events/Intersession Chair, Gene Burns has announced that the 2018 Intersession Catalog will be posted in early December. This year's exciting offerings run the gamut from a presentation on Humor and Aging to one on Flamenco; from a presentation on Memory to one on Gilded Age Scandals.

Intersession 2018 will run on four consecutive Wednesdays in January, the 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. Early sessions start each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and run until 12:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. and run until 3 p.m. LLI members are welcome at every session; there is no registration required. Members may bring individual guests.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## A Message from President Tom Esposito for November

Since several members were disappointed that they were not able to get in the class of their choice, I would like to explain the reasons why. In several popular courses, presenter's limited class size, which meant not all applicants could get in. We use a lottery system, which is the fairest way we know to pick class members. Some courses will be repeated so that many who missed out this semester will have another chance. I hope this makes up for the disappointment over missing the course the first time.



Several of us on the Bard LLI Council met with eight other LLIs to share ideas and seek ways to cooperate in providing new events for our members. All of us grapple with space and parking problems as well as members not showing up for classes or special events. And we are all looking for ways to encourage member volunteers to help run our programs.

We have a consensus that the Wine and Cheese Reception for new members was a hit! Bob English and Maddy Watterson led the planning group that did a terrific job. Twenty-five enthusiastic new members met with committee chairs and Council members to learn about opportunities to facilitate LLI programs.

I hope you have been enjoying the fall semester at Bard. The weather has been great and the campus is beautiful. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Notes on the LLI Council Meeting

Council minutes are posted on our website, [bardlli.com](http://bardlli.com) after they are approved. Click on [About Us](#), Governance to find minutes from the last several months. Here's the report for October.

- LLI's donations to Bard have increased. We have directed funds to upgrade Bard classrooms with improved technology, to contribute to a fund for students' art supplies, and to help the Conservatory match the grant from the Mellon Foundation.
- Two member surveys are planned for the near future: one will ask for member experience with LLI (preferred means of communications, for example) and the other will ask about member skills and interests.
- Questions about parking and disability access were referred to the Planning and Evaluation team to come up with proposals to help our members get to classes and events.

**Next Council meeting: Monday, November 20, 2017, 9:30 a.m.  
Bertelsmann Campus Center, Room 214. All LLI members are welcome to attend.**

## The Curriculum Committee's Complex Choreography

Every month year-round, the LLI Curriculum Committee, chaired by Anne Sunners, meets to choreograph the structure, content, and timing of a year's worth of learning opportunities, including fall and spring 7-week sessions of Friday, Saturday, and other weekday classes (on campus and off), as well as the shorter June array of classes. Most ideas for courses are put forward by individual committee members, who shepherd their offerings to completion by serving as producers and as liaisons with the presenters. A few courses are developed and produced by LLI members who are not (yet!) members of the Curriculum Committee.

Once a topic has been proposed and accepted, and presenter(s) identified, the delicate dance of fitting it into the schedule begins. Presenters come from Bard College faculty, the LLI membership, and the community—about a third from each of those sectors. No one is compensated for his or her work, and delivering a full class or even a single lecture is demanding. The main priority in course selection and design, Anne says, "is meeting members' needs while providing academically sound course offerings." Evaluations have proved valuable in both guiding the committee for future offerings and in helping presenters sharpen their skills.

Anne has noticed that the number and quality of class offerings have expanded, along with the expectations of the LLI membership. The most popular topics are civic engagement issues, poetry, literature, art, and music, and the wide spectrum of science-related subjects in the Bard Masters sessions. Off-Friday courses, which run the gamut from hiking to various tours, have a devoted following, and the recently instituted Saturday classes and Summerfest short programs have also gained traction.



Photographer: Alan Sunners

Anne Sunners, LLI Curriculum Chair

### Come To A Curriculum Meeting

Anne invites interested members to attend the next meeting of the Curriculum Committee, on Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Bertelsmann Campus Center, Room 204. She adds, "Bring us your wish list!"

### The Curriculum Committee Is All Ears . . .

. . . waiting for your feedback about the classes you took this semester. Be sure to respond to the requests to fill out your evaluations. Once you do, the Tech team turns the data over to Bill Tuel, who uses it to populate spreadsheets showing all the numerical rankings and, most important, all the comments. As a group, the committee gets an overall picture of the outcomes, while the producers study the rankings and the comments.

Dorothy Baran says, "The feedback from LLI class members is critical in helping to inform presenters as to what is working and what is not. Comments have guided me in coaching presenters on how to improve their teaching techniques. It helps them to make the changes needed to improve their presentations. Detailed evaluations are appreciated by the producers and the presenters."

Please take a moment to complete a Single Class Evaluation form on our website: [bardlli.com](http://bardlli.com).

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