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Volume #5 Issue #3

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## Upcoming Dates

### Elections

Voting: March 16 – 31

### Spring Classes Begin

First day of classes: March 23

### SummerFest

Catalog published: May 4  
Classes: Fridays, June 1, 8, 15, 22

### LLI Annual Meeting

Friday: May 18

Please see a full listing of all our upcoming events on our website calendar at [bard.llli](http://bard.llli).



Bard College Bell Tower Architectural Lighting Project – project design and photograph by Bard Alumnus, David Bull.  
Please see:  
<http://www.dbulldesign.com/bell-tower/>

## Improvements and Transitions, from LLI President Tom Esposito

Members who regularly check our website ([bardlli.com](http://bardlli.com)) will have seen the addition of a few videos in which member presenters describe the courses they are teaching. This is the start of a strong push by our photo and AV tech volunteers—particularly Chuck Mishaan, Gary Miller, and Mary McClellan—to keep our website engaging and informative. They will welcome more volunteers. If you would like to join their team, check out the help wanted ad on the website landing page.



Photographer: Gary Miller (LLI)

Tom Esposito at an LLI Council Meeting

Other changes are being considered in light of your responses to the annual member survey. As Donna Warner explains in her article, the survey provides useful guidance for what LLI is doing right and how it can be improved.

We have a strong slate of candidates for Council this year, with elections being held between March 16 and 31. You will receive an electronic ballot in your email, as Chuck describes. Your vote is important. Please complete it promptly. Thanks to Ollie Johnson for his efforts in organizing this effort

I would like to thank Donna Warner for her organizational expertise that has improved our functioning across so many areas. She is stepping down as First Vice President, but will remain on Council. Thanks also to Dan Peterson for his hard work with the registration committee.

I am looking forward to seeing you all when spring semester starts on March 23.

## ANNUAL MEETING, FRIDAY, MAY 18 – SAVE THE DATE!

This year, the Annual Meeting and Spring Brunch will take place on Friday, May 18, 2018 in Olin Hall. A brunch will be provided from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Olin Rotunda. Then, at the business meeting from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium, the LLI officers will address business issues, announce the election results, present and vote on the annual budget for 2018-2019, and recognize our volunteers. Following the meeting is a performance from students from the Bard Conservatory and, we hope, a dance presentation from Bard students from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. At the end of the meeting, a raffle will be held with the Grand Prize of a one-year membership! Other prizes include lunch passes to Kline Commons.

Soon you will receive a save-the-date notice by email, and by May 1<sup>st</sup> you should receive the invitation to attend both the brunch and Annual Meeting. Your RSVP will be required so that the necessary amount of food and chairs to accommodate all for the brunch will be arranged. Only members can attend.

## Results Are In! Survey Says...

by Donna Warner, First Vice President

To view all survey results and more than 70 comments submitted, go to [2018 LLI Member Survey Results](#).

**THANK YOU to 165 LLI members for completing the annual member survey, for a 58% response rate.** Here are the topline findings. LLI President, Tom Esposito, will also address survey results and comments at our Annual Meeting, May 18.

**LLI member satisfaction is high across both newer and longer-term members.**

Most LLI members (70%) are extremely or very satisfied with their LLI learning, although a bit less so with social experiences: Just under half (49%) rated social opportunities excellent or very good.

**Compared with LLIs nationally, Bard LLI is getting a lot of help from its members.**

Over 40% of respondents reported serving as a class manager or AV Tech in the past three years, while 52% served as a committee member or course presenter. This is excellent compared with other LLIs.



Photographer: Barbara Herles (LLI)  
Donna Warner

**Respondents weighed in on what they see as most important to LLI's future.** "Technology investments" and "More volunteers" received the highest importance ratings, while "Videotaping" and "Group travel" were considered less important. Respondents were split on the importance of gradual LLI growth. Just over half (51%) view growth as important to extremely important, while nearly as many (49%) were less enthusiastic, rating growth as somewhat important or not important (35% and 14%, respectively).

**Respondents are quite satisfied with all forms of LLI communications—website, newsletter, and email.** Those of us who completed the survey read the newsletter almost all the time, and email remains the most used and preferred method of LLI communication. Many of us are also learning to use the LLI website ([Bardlli.com](#)), *but not everyone*. Since September, 73% of respondents visited the website 1-3 times or 4-6 times, while 13% visited *more often*. But 14% reported never using the website.

Given a menu of six new website features, most respondents selected core information--LLI announcements and "Around Bard" information--as their top 2 choices. However, interest was also expressed in a password protected member section (32%), and feature stories (19%).

**Over 70 comments and suggestions were received.** Many respondents expressed appreciation for LLI and the people who run it. Others pointed out ways we might improve our programs, hospitality, or schedule. (The hospitality room is too crowded!). Not surprisingly, our members expressed some opposing views—more small classes vs. more with unrestricted enrollment; more fun topics vs. more challenging courses; parking is a problem vs. never been a problem.

**We heard you! The Fall 2018 schedule allows more time for socializing.** It chops ten minutes from the end of the third period and 10 minutes from the beginning of the fourth: we have half an hour to munch and socialize in the Hospitality Room and the room across the hall (Olin, Rooms 301 and 302,) on the steps of Olin, on the lovely grounds of Bard.

## Elections for Council

by Chuck Mishaan, AV/Tech Chair

Bard LLI will be holding elections for several Council positions this month, March. The offices that will be voted upon are: President, First Vice President, Treasurer, and Member at Large (2 positions). Ollie Johnson, Elections Committee Chair, and his committee are responsible for the final slate presented to the membership.

Bard LLI members will receive an email invitation to vote, with the option of voting for the listed candidate(s) for each office, writing in the name of a Bard LLI member who is not listed on the ballot, or declining to vote for the particular position. If you wish to write in a candidate, please check beforehand that that person is available and willing to serve.



Photographer: Barbara Herles (LLI)  
Ollie Johnson



Chuck Mishaan by Chuck Mishaan

Your email invitation to vote is unique to you. Do not forward the invitation or share it with others. The vote that you cast is anonymous and not associated with you. The system tracks only whether you voted or not. For any questions about the March election, please contact [lli@bard.edu](mailto:lli@bard.edu).

We appreciate your participation in Bard LLI's administration and encourage you to vote between March 16 and 31.

## Notes on the February Council Meeting

Full Council minutes are posted on our website, [bardlli.com](http://bardlli.com), after they are approved. Click on [About US](#), and then Governance, to find minutes from the last several months.

- Volunteer and Leadership Development is organizing information sessions for members who want to volunteer. The Member Services and Class Support Committees will be in Olin Room 302 on Friday, April 6, from 1:00 – 1:40 p.m. to offer information regarding their committees. Bring a bag lunch and find out how you can help LLI!
- Host a Chinese musician! The Conservatory is looking for host families for visiting high school students from China, from August 9 – 26. Host families will provide a bed and breakfast; students will be busy at Bard all day. For more information, go to [bardlli.com](http://bardlli.com).
- The Fall Luncheon (and orientation for new members and for class producers, managers, and presenters) will be on Friday, September 7. There is a fee of \$10.00, and the event is open to members and their guests. If you have suggestions for speakers or performing artists, please email [lli@bard.edu](mailto:lli@bard.edu) by April 1.

**Our next Council meeting will be: Monday, March 19, 2018, 9:30 a.m.  
Bertelsmann Campus Center, Room 214. All LLI members are welcome to attend.**

This newsletter is a publication of Bard LLI Council. Communications Committee Chair: Cathy Reinis. Writers and editors: Felice Gelman, Deborah Lanser, Jill Lundquist, Susan Manuel, Margaret Shuhala.