



# Institute for Learning in Retirement, Inc. at Albertus Magnus College

May 2019

[www.ilralbertus.org](http://www.ilralbertus.org)

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Co-Editors

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*Hi ILR members,*

Well Spring has sprung, and we are fully immersed in our Spring Semester courses. They are fully booked and even 15 had waitlists. We have a very successful semester thanks to you.

This is the 30th anniversary of ILR’s founding. Thanks to the dedication of the early charter members, their membership efforts, and the diverse curriculum, we have grown from four classes that first Spring to the 66 we offered this Semester. That’s a pretty good track record. There are other interesting tidbits in this Newsletter so take an opportunity to read through it.

We want to thank you once again for all of your support, volunteer efforts, and promotion of ILR. We couldn’t do it without you.

Keep learning,

*Susan Vallillo, President*



## *Thirty and Thriving*

### **SPRING LUNCHEON - 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 12 – RACEBROOK COUNTRY CLUB**

We hope you will attend our Annual Spring Meeting on June 12 to celebrate this milestone and view the *Thirty and Thriving* video which will highlight our history. Who knows, maybe you will see yourself as a featured player. You can find the details and registration information on Page 7 of this Newsletter.



Our Fall semester will start October 1<sup>st</sup>. The course semester selections will go online in September. Paper catalogs will be sent to all members to coincide with the release of online classes. Online registration is the preferred method of signing up for courses, with either credit card or payment by check. For those who are computer challenged, provisions are made for manual registration by the Registrar. Follow us on [ilralbertus.org](http://ilralbertus.org).



## ILR History – 1989-2019

By Trish O’Leary Treat, ILR Historian

In 1989, 40 retirees from the Greater New Haven area decided to create their own “mini-university.” They were inspired to do so by ElderHostel (now Road Scholar), a non-profit organization that provided affordable travel for retirees that emphasized learning opportunities. ElderHostel visited cities in the U.S. and invited those who had traveled with them to set up their own on-site learning opportunities. Officers of the fledgling New Haven group were Joe Alterman (president), Ken Robinson (vice-president), Bernie Dumoff (treasurer, registrar, and editor of the course catalog and newsletter), and Genie Deutsch (secretary). There were initially 14 members on the Board of Governors. This group created by-laws and articulated their mission. All agreed there would be no entry requirements – you didn’t have to have gone to college or even graduated from high school to join. They decided to set fees low so that even those on modest fixed-incomes could afford to belong and take courses. They agreed that they would all volunteer their time and talents so that no money need be spent on salaries. They also agreed that classes (which they called “Study Groups”) would be interactive so that those taking part could share their own life experiences where they were relevant to the topic. Classes would be offered in the form of spring and fall semesters, each about 10 weeks long, and they would be held only during weekdays. They then wrote to New Haven-area colleges and universities asking if they would be willing to allow what they called “The Institute for Learning in Retirement” to use empty classrooms without charge so that they could pursue what is now known as “lifelong learning.”

Albertus Magnus College, Southern Connecticut State University and what was then Quinnipiac College said, “by all means.” It was not long before it became obvious to the ILR that they would be needing an increasing number of classrooms and an office on campus. Albertus regarding it as a community-service opportunity, offered use of classrooms and a small office in their main classroom building, Aquinas Hall. As a result, our ILR became officially known as “The Institute for Learning in Retirement at Albertus Magnus College.” Today we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity with an “Inc.” in our name.

ILR’s first classes were held in the spring of 1990. Four courses were offered, and all 40 founders took them all. They were “Everyday Psychology,” “Computers for Seniors,” “Current Events” and “Writing for Pleasure and Publication.” Four people volunteered to be the Study Group Leaders for those courses with the understanding that a Study Group Leader’s avid interest in learning a particular subject could sometimes be substituted for academic higher degrees – in other words, the SGLs would be learning as well as leading. The result was a lively atmosphere and the development of many enduring friendships among students, Study Group Leaders and administrative volunteers. The connection with Albertus Magnus helped the fledgling group to recruit more faculty at neighboring schools. These professors discovered they enjoyed the enthusiasm and interest of Study Group participants. As a result, many having led one course stayed on the ILR roster and led many more in subsequent years.

After five years, our ILR was offering from 12 to 15 Study Groups each semester and had a core of 50 Study Group Leaders. Through the years, course offerings have encompassed a wide variety of academic and social areas. They include current events, art history, religion, science, philosophy, prose and poetry, health and medicine, genetics, music appreciation and creative writing, not to mention hikes, more computer courses, and foreign languages, including Yiddish! Day trips to unique venues and both trending and historic areas in our tri-state region have allowed participants exposure to different social and cultural points of view first hand.

In the 30 years since our ILR was started, we have expanded and have offered as many as 63 courses in a semester. Our membership has grown to 700 – a number which is still small enough to make it possible to continue as an all-volunteer group, though on occasion we have had to contract for registration services.

True to the hopes of its founders, our ILR is proud of the caliber of its Study Group Leaders. They generously donate their time and knowledge, as do our hard-working officers, board members and committee members.

Our courses are now held not only at Albertus Magnus but also at the University of New Haven’s Orange campus, the Woodbridge Library and the Jewish Community Center of New Haven. Our members come primarily from New Haven, Hamden, Orange, Woodbridge, Milford and North Haven, but we have also had some from as far away as Stratford, Glastonbury and Westport.

From the start, we have shared course ideas, leaders and administrative practices with other lifelong-learning groups in Connecticut and New England. Members interested to know more about how organizations like our own work are invited to log on to Road Scholar’s Lifelong Learning Resource Network newsletter ([roadscholar.org](http://roadscholar.org)).

The torch of our ILR has now passed from the founding group to a new generation. It is up to our current members to continue the wonderful tradition of donating their time and talents so we can continue to flourish. As our founders once put it, “as long as you’re learning, you’ll never grow old.”

## Doby Hall – President 2006-2008



I moved to the New Haven area in summer of 2003 after retiring from a non-profit health agency, learned about ILR and started taking classes that fall. I found that ILR classes keep doors open and open new doors.

Growing up in Amherst Massachusetts, I graduated from UMass-Amherst, majoring in Sociology. My reading interests include US Colonial and Revolutionary history, African American history, Russian history, and religious and spiritual writings. A Book Group will occasionally throw in a whole new genre.

I have lived throughout the country, residing in NYC when I met my husband, moving to Maine and then to Ohio where our children were born. The San Francisco Bay area was our next home, but after four years we were off to central Kansas and then outside Kansas City. After my husband died, I returned to the west coast, moving first to Seattle and then accepting a job offer in Los Angeles.

When I served as President in 2006-08, hands on is what comes to mind. We had mailing parties for the newsletter and the catalog. Residents of Whitney Center volunteered to assist. The Curriculum Committee worked diligently in offering thirty plus courses, and then the committee and board members met to mail out to members the list of courses they were in. We had some popular classes that filled immediately, as they do now. We did have a web site with basic information that was not always up to date. Many members during that time were not online. Our 800 number was answered by Nancy Sykes in her home. We did start using a mailing address at a UPS store instead of a member's address.

Thinking back to the "way we were" and how we are now, it is very exciting to see. I am thankful I was able to play a part to what ILR has become.

## Looking Back at Some Leaders and Founders Over the 30 Years 1989-2019



Joseph G. Alterman  
President, 1989-2004



Bernie Dumoff  
Treasurer, 1994-2004



Trish O'Leary Treat  
President 2004-06



Doby Hall  
President, 2006-08



Don Brueggemann  
President 2008-10



Howard Treat  
President 2010-12



Martin Wolf  
President 2012-2014



Mito Mardin  
President 2014-16



Susan Vallillo  
President 2016-2019



## ILR Hiking – 2011 and 2019

**Leo Cristofar**, the Study Group Leader for Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area, has been leading hikes for ILR since the fall of 2014. He has led hikes in and around Connecticut for more than 25 years. He grew up in Manhattan, and in high school used to take long walks with his friends, including across the George Washington Bridge. In Connecticut, he started hiking with the Westport Hiking Group in the late 80s and began leading hikes for them a few years later. Three years ago, he hiked the length of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

## Rubin Museum & Harbor Yard, New York – April 1, 2019

By Shula Chernoff

The indomitable Marcia Jamron led a large group of ILR members to the Rubin Museum & Hudson Yards in New York City on April first.



Our group had a very knowledgeable guide who led us to the Tibet art exhibit. We saw contemporary and 18th century paintings executed with natural dyes and complex symbolism. There was an exciting variety of sculpture related to the culture of Tibet.



### Lunch at the Chelsea Bar



### Hudson Yards Complex



Back on the bus, we continued to our next destination. New York's newest neighborhood, The Hudson Yards complex, is the largest private real estate development in the U.S. The Hudson Yards contained a large number of luxury stores and restaurants. We had a beautiful view from the fourth-floor observatory. There was a fantasy sculptured 150-foot-tall painted structure entitled *Stairway to Nowhere* that people climbed through before descending. We then wandered through the complex building and marveled at the huge change to the old battered waterfront. Late afternoon marked the end of an exciting trip.

Marcia promised that in the Fall we should schedule another trip to the Harbor Yard and High Line to further explore this wonderful new addition to the New York arts scene.



## Nomination and Election of Officers, 2019-2020.

### PROPOSED SLATE FOR ELECTION—JUNE 2019

#### OFFICERS:

**President** - Susan Vallillo

**Secretary** - Rita Esposito

**VPs Curriculum** - Holly Chepow, Carolyn Starr

**Executive VP** - Joel Feimer

**Treasurer** -Robin Lewis

**Ex-Officio President** Mithat Mardin

#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Jane Cerilli

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

---Submitted by the 2019 Nominating Committee: Pat Walsh, Chair, Steve Brieger, Sue Cohen, Cynthia Popoli



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ILR is an all-volunteer organization. The purpose of this article is to inform you as an ILR member of the opportunities available to you and to encourage participation at any level that might interest you.

**Become a Study Group Leader (SGL).** Many of you have developed knowledge through your work and interests. You can share that knowledge with others by teaching a course. A Course Proposal form can be obtained from a member of the Curriculum Committee.

#### **Join a Committee:**

**Curriculum Committee.** Recommend ideas for courses or people who can offer courses.

**Social Committee.** Help plan the Annual Meeting/Luncheon, the Annual Holiday Gathering, and the “Meet and Greet” for the SGLs. Do you have ideas for other social events? Bring them on!

**Volunteer Committee.** Volunteer as a Class Liaison. The liaison is the link between the SGL and the class participants, contacting the SGL before the class begins and taking attendance during the class. Computer expertise is not a requirement! This committee hosts an annual event to thank all those who have volunteered through the year.

**Join The Board of Governors.** Help to shape the direction of the ILR. Your ideas matter.

Judith Kibbe (203) 389-0633, Barbara Abrams (203) 415-5716 – Volunteer Coordinators



**Institute for Learning in Retirement  
at Albertus Magnus College**

*30th Anniversary*

**Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon**

**June 12, 2019, 11:30am to 2:30pm at  
Racebrook Country Club  
246 Derby Ave, Orange, CT**

**Join us for the premiere of**

*Thirty and Thriving*

**a video trip through the decades showcasing ILR  
activities and achievements!**

**Cost is \$32 per person for Buffet Lunch.  
Register and RSVP by JUNE 5!**

***By Mail:***

Complete form below and send to: Linda Sheehan,  
150 Forest Road, Unit #35, Milford, CT 06461 with  
check payable to ILR.

***By Credit Card:***

Go to [www.ilralbertus.coursetorm.com](http://www.ilralbertus.coursetorm.com) and click Events

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Of People** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost: \$** \_\_\_\_\_



## Class Cancellation Courtesy Policy

*Policy courtesy rules for cancellation of registered classes.* We all have registered for classes that we find we cannot attend due to a change in plans or illness. Please keep in mind that if the registrar is contacted, you can receive a refund for your class registration if you find you cannot attend. This also frees up a space if there is a waiting list. Be courteous with your registration.

### **ROAD SCHOLAR AND ILR ALBERTUS - roadscholar.org**

We are one of hundreds of Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLIs) across the country which comprise a division of Road Scholar (<https://www.roadscholar.org>) As such we belong to a network of organizations with an objective similar to our own, namely, to provide a varied menu of courses (many at a college level) for adults who share a love of learning. This semester we are offering a record 66 courses, and our membership has grown to a record 700 individuals.

LLIs continually share information and ideas with other members of the network. This relationship has enabled us to consider and implement some ideas and practices that we've gleaned from other LLIs. For example, we've recently implemented "Meet and Greet," a program through which we get to know our Study Group Leaders (SGLs) and they get to know more about us, our values, our technology, and our operating process. They also get to meet other SGLs. In essence, they become more involved in, and hopefully, committed to our organization. Additionally, we're in the process of implementing a Survey form. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for members to provide input to us regarding our course offerings. Stay tuned for additional improvements in the future!

- Steve Brieger -



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