



THE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INC.
at Albertus Magnus College

Newsletter

"Ancora Imparo—I'm still learning" - Michaelangelo, Age 87

December 2021

Covid Pandemic takes toll on ILR

Friends and Colleagues, Fellow Members of ILR,

The impact of the extended Covid pandemic on our organization intensifies. On-site enrollment at our several venues is down. It seems the hopeful news of late spring and early summer was contradicted by the surges of new variants the Covid virus. As a result, the hopes we had for vigorous enrollment at our various venues for this Fall faded as members canceled registrations, course registrations dropped, Memberships lapsed, and our financial deficit grew.

Our one ray of hope has been Zoom classes in which students have continued to participate enthusiastically. As a matter of fact, currently Zoom classes are our most robust source of income, carrying the rest of the program.

As a result, ILR has had to make several difficult decisions that we hope will enable the organization to survive until the "coast is clear," and on-site venues can reemerge as an essential component of our course offerings.

First, our the annual membership fee will increase from to **\$30 to \$40**. Next, we are adjusting our tuition fees to attempt to survive the shortfall in course enrollments. The fees for single-session and 2-session courses remains the same, \$5 and \$10, respectively. Tuition fee for courses that run from **3-6 sessions will be \$15 and courses with 7 or more sessions will be \$20**. All of these fee changes are effective January 1, 2022.

We regret that circumstances force ILR to charge these increased fees, but the thriving, perhaps the survival of the organization is at stake..

As mentioned earlier, Zoom courses are currently carrying the program. First and foremost, if you (or someone you know) has experience in using Zoom, urge them to join the cadre of volunteers hosting Zoom classes. ILR is in desperate need of such assistance.

Second, if you are reluctant to take a Zoom class because you fear the educational experience to be inferior to on-site classes, speak with a member who has taken one or more of our many Zoom classes. I believe you will change your mind.

By increasing the number of volunteers as well as the number of members who try Zoom classes, ILR can survive the Covid crisis. However, if none of these things happen, our deficit will continue to grow. I don't have to tell you what the ultimate outcome will be.

In order to continue to thrive and accomplish its mission, the ILR organization needs your help. It's not simply raising fees, but enhanced involvement of members that will help ILR to survive.

ILR is currently planning several offerings for a winter session (January/February) 2022, as well as its curriculum for spring. How many classes ILR can offer will depend on your response to this appeal. Personally, I am looking forward to winter and spring with confidence.

Keep learning! Warmest regards to all,

Joel

Joel N. Feimer, President-ILR

Officers and Board

Leadership in ILR is by a volunteer Board of Governors who guide the operations of the organization. Officers are elected to 1-year terms and the Board of Governors are elected to 2-year terms.

Officers

- Joel N. Feimer, President
- Susan Vallillo, Executive VP
- Rita Esposito, Secretary
- Robin Lewis, Treasurer
- Annis Fusaris, VP Curriculum
- Carolyn Starr, VP Curriculum

Board Members

- Susan Vallillo, Ex Officio President
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- Pat Maiorino
- Mito Mardin
- John Schneider

Winter Courses Announced

To lighten the doldrums of winter, our Curriculum committee has come up with 4 Zoom and 2 in-person courses for a pre-Spring 2022 semester. This winter session will begin on January 18 and go through February. So, grab your hot toddy and take a look below at what's coming and be prepared to select the courses you want when registration **opens on January 4**. Click [here](#) to see the classes online

Mondays

W22-01 - How to be a Zoom Host, In-Person January 31-February 14 (3 sessions)

Rita Esposito and Jean Maatta

Get hands-on, in-person training on how to create a personal Zoom account, learn to schedule meetings with family and friends, invite attendees, open meetings, and utilize the various functions on the Zoom screen. Learn basic functions on ProClass, ILR's data base so you can host an ILR Zoom class.

Tuesdays

W22-02 -Tour of Washington Heights– Zoom January 25 (1 session)

Susan Birnbaum

Explore the sights and sounds of Washington Heights, the extraordinary neighborhood that most recently was the setting for Lin Manuel Miranda's spectacular movie "In the Heights."

W22-03 - "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich—In-Person

February 15 (1 session)

Linda Sheehan

Discuss the extraordinary life of the author's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota to Washington, D.C.

W22-04 - A Primer for Poetry—Zoom January 18-February 16 (6 sessions)

Don Barkin.

You will read poems by great poets such as Robert Frost, John Keats, and Emily Dickinson and excellent contemporary poets. Learn how they use traditional forms such as the sonnet and villanelle to harness their passions. You'll also get to try your hand at writing your own poems!

Wednesdays

W22-05 - Quo Vadis Europe? - Zoom February 2-16 (3 sessions)

Mito Mardin.

Explore the state of the EU in the post 16- years of the Merkel era leadership and how Europe will face and plan for the challenges ahead.

Thursdays

W22-06—Louis Sachar's *Holes* - Zoom January 20 to February 3 (3 sessions)

Joel Feimer, Ph.D.

Discuss *Holes* and discover several specific tales, motifs and themes found in traditional narratives such as fairy tales and trace the repetitions of such images and plot devices with which Sachar weaves his narrative. traditional materials, images, motifs, and meanings can inform contemporary literature. An important fact regarding this novel is that it fictionalizes a very real situation in camps for troubled boys and girls.

What's on Tap for Spring

Our Spring session is fast approaching and the Curriculum Committee is searching for interesting topics and exciting presenters that will engage you, inform you, and maybe even affect your lives. Here are some offerings to whet your interest.

Gardening—How to Improve your Lawn

Want to WOW your neighbors? Francine Vallillo's class will discuss professional tips on getting that "perfect lawn". Select the proper seed mix for sun or shade, mowing heights, fertilizer timing, controlling weeds fighting insects, thatch problems, core aerating and more. Instructor is a former golf course turf professional (Sorry no tips on improving your game....that's all on you)

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Bergmann will delve into the anti-slavery book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Her discussion will explore American race relations and how Harriet Beecher Stowe's abolitionist views contributed to her writing the book, how the book 'inspired stereotypes of Black people,' and how its 'recent negative associations' have contributed to its 'complicated legacy'.

Art and Food. Do they go together?

Irene Sommers will describe "Art History through Food." Think of all those still life paintings or paintings depicting 'bacchanals and banquets' or 'burial chambers with walls and coffins covered with drawings.' What are they trying to tell us?

Are You What You Wear?

Jerre Dumbrell will talk about our clothing choices. Are we sending out messages that reveal aspects of our personality and emotional health?

What do films teach us?

Marc Lapadula will show us clips of "Five Films That Have Changed America," films that have 'exposed social issues, changed our laws, introduced new ideas, and even altered the course of American history.'

Spring Semester and Catalog

The 2022 Spring semester will run from March 14 through June 14. You will be happy to know that there will be no limit to the number of classes for which you can register when registration opens on **March 7 at 12:01am**.

I know many of you wait to get the printed catalog (which should arrive in early March), but you will be able to see all of the information and details about the courses on our registration website much earlier—by March 1.

We have updated our mailing distribution procedure

and you should know that the printed 2022 Spring catalog will be sent **ONLY** to Members who are current as of February 1, 2022. Any Member whose membership has expired or lapsed will not receive a hard copy. Just another reason to make sure your Membership is current.

Many households receive multiple catalogs, one for each active member. If you do not wish to receive multiple catalogs, please contact the Registrar to let us know. It will save us both postage and printing costs. You can reach the Registrar at registrar@ilrblertus.org or call 203-747-9675

You Must Be a Member to Register!

Speaking of Registration, with the limited Winter schedule of classes, don't be shut out due to registration issues. You must be a Member to register so first thing, make sure your Membership is current and not expiring during the Winter semester.

How do I do that? Go to our registration site ([Click here](#)) or go to our [website](#), select the Courses tab, and click on the Register Button.

Log into your account. This is another sticking point. Many of us can't remember our login ID or password and get frustrated. Take a deep breath and follow the directions below.

To **LOG IN**, [Click here](#).

Forgot User Name or Password? [click here to reset it](#). Make sure you make a note of the username that shows in the email screen to verify it is the one you are using before you click the password reset link.

Once you are logged in, check the upper left hand corner of the blue banner. If you see

Membership on the blue banner, your membership has expired. Click on this link, select a Membership (Individual membership) and follow the prompts for payment.

If you **DO NOT** see a Membership link on the blue banner, click on your name in the upper right hand corner, select My Account and scroll down to the Memberships tab at the bottom of the page. Check the expiration date. If you are current great. If not and your Membership is expiring in less than 60 days, you will see a Renew button. Click and follow the prompts for payment.

If all else fails, not to worry. Our Tech team will be available to give you a hand. You can click [Log-in Assistance](#) to email us for help or call ILR at 203-747-9675. We'll get back to you as soon as possible. Can't have you missing out on these great Winter courses and on those in the Spring.



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