THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

At the June 20th Annual Meeting, we will hold elections and vote on a proposed change to ALL’S By-Laws. Please review the information below to learn about candidates up for election, and read about the proposed by-laws changes so you are prepared to vote on June 20th.

Patti Gross, ALL President

ELECTIONS FOR THE ALL BOARD

Elections for members of the 2016 – 2017 Adventures in Lifelong Learning Board will be held at the Annual Meeting/Luncheon on June 20. Three candidates are running for a possible second term, and one for a third-year only term.

President – Patti Gross for a second 1-year term.

President-Elect – Wren Ide for a second 1-year term.

Recording Secretary – Karen Kempinen for a second 1-year term.

Treasurer – Wendi Schneider for a 3rd year only.

Members-at-Large are elected for 2-year terms. Short bios of these candidates are shown below.

Thomas Kraus – Tom’s hometown is Wauwatosa where he graduated from Wauwatosa High School. Then it was on to Northwestern College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, finishing at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Tom married Lois Jean Petrus; they have seven children. He worked as a pastor in Toledo, an instructor in Milwaukee, and pastor in Racine. Tom also served as Chairman on the Special Ministries Commission, Citizen’s Advisory Council-Racine Unified, and President of the Hoy Nature Club. After retirement, he served as an interim pastor in New York, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. Since joining ALL, Tom has enjoyed several of the many activities ALL has offered.

Dan Neururer – Dan graduated from UW-Oshkosh and went on to work in IT for 25 years. Dan is currently a volunteer with the Shalom Homeless Center, an AARP and VITA tax aide, and a Medicare counseling and board member through the Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center, plus he’s Treasurer for the
German Men’s Choir. His interests and activities include tennis, hiking, gardening, and traveling.

**Sharon Uttley** - Sharon was born and raised in the Midwest and came to Racine after graduating from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1962 with a degree in Nursery, Kindergarten, and Primary Education. Sharon started her career teaching kindergarten at Goodland Elementary and retired from Winslow Elementary 43 years later. When she retired in 2005, she received a gift membership to ALL and has since enjoyed being a member of the organization and its many activities.

Three Members-at-Large continuing on the Board for the second of their two-year terms: Terrence Constance, Ruth Frear, and Larry Gregg.

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**PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES**

The proposed change for the Nominating Committee bylaws are shown in *italics*, below.

2. Nominating Committee

a. A Nominating Committee will include two members currently or previously on the Board, and two members from the general membership. The Nominating Committee will consist of five members: the chair, two members currently on the board, and two members from the general membership who have never served on the board.

b. The Immediate Past President shall chair this committee, and select her/his committee members.

c. The Nominating Committee will follow the time line as established in the Policies and Procedures.

d. It shall be the duty of this Committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting.

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**RENEW YOUR PARKING PERMIT**

Parking permits for ALL members need to be renewed by June 30th. Your 2016-2017 annual permit will cost $32. See the permit info / purchase form included in ALL’s May mail.

Permits should be hung from the rear view mirror of your vehicle. You may transfer your permit between vehicles if you are driving a different car to the campus that day.

If you have a disabled plate/placard you do NOT need to purchase a parking pass; park in any open handicap spot while displaying your plate or placard. If all handicap spots are full, you can park at a metered spot without paying as long as your plate/placard are displayed properly.

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**JUST CLOWNING AROUND**

The April 2016 edition of “My Life” – an advertising supplement of the Kenosha News and Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center – featured Pepper the Clown on its cover. Pepper started clowning when she first helped her dad for the Lion’s Club in local parades, and then eventually joined a clown club in Delevan, the birthplace of the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Why does Pepper like being a clown? “It’s the joy my work brings to other people. It helps people be happy and gives them good memories, so that makes me feel glad to be a part of it.”

Pepper is a member of ALL, but you’ll probably know her better as Peggy Walker.
THE PROFESSOR AND THE POLISH STUDENTS

Dr. Anne Gurnack was instrumental in bringing Polish students to UW-Parkside. Dominik Bąkowski and Szymon Owczarek have been here for four years and graduate in May. Monika Golikowska spent the spring semester at UWP. Read some highlights from (separate) recent interviews with Dominik and Dr. Gurnack:

DOMINIK BĄKOWSKI

INTERESTED IN U.S.  Even when I was very young, from middle school or even earlier, I always wanted to go to the United States. Maybe it was media influence, like the US movies I watched. I wanted to experience the U.S. and not just for a short trip; I knew I wanted the experience of a long-time stay and contact with American people.

In high school I started talking about it seriously with my parents, and with my friend, Szymon Owczarek. We wanted to go right after high school, but that didn’t work out, so we attended the University of Gdansk for a year. At that time Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, my American History professor, introduced me to a Visiting Professor from the States, Professor [Emerita] Anne Gurnack, who told us about opportunities for international students and support we could get from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Thanks to Dr. Gurnack, and the information and contacts she provided, we decided to come here to study. We had some direct connections to the admissions staff and they quickly helped us with all the formal papers and our visas, shortening the process from one year that it would typically take to one month. And I was able to get a scholarship, which was very, very nice. We applied to UWP at the end of July, and at the end of August we were flying to the US!

LEARNING ENGLISH  I started learning English in 4th grade, but the emphasis was mostly on grammar. Studying English is getting more popular in Poland since employers look for people with more than one language. My parents wanted me to learn English, and I have been very interested in learning it, even as a teen. I learned most of my English from books, (rather than using the Internet). It’s my hobby and my bookshelves are filled with English books.

My American Studies courses at the University of Gdansk were in English, but when I got here I was uncomfortable actually speaking English. And I had difficulty understanding a few of the (foreign nationality) professors as they had even more difficult accents, so classes like finance and statistics were a struggle. I had to make up for what I didn’t understand in class by going through every chapter in the book several times.

I also studied German and French for a few years, but now I recall just the basics because I haven’t used them.

THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS  Patti Gross has been very kind to foreign students, inviting us to her

UNIVERSITY STUDIES  At the University of Gdansk I was in the American Studies program, which emphasizes American culture, but includes American and British history, and learning the linguistics, grammar, phonetics of English.

At Parkside I’m studying business with a concentration in human resource management, and a minor in global management systems. I’m happy with my 3.8 GPA. I was working very hard and I always cared about grades, so whatever I did, I put a lot of effort in it, and it paid off.

THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS  Patti Gross has been very kind to foreign students, inviting us to her
home for Thanksgiving dinner, and sometimes to watch Packer games. Ted Anderson showed me around the area when I first arrived. And Frank Klein helped me with my taxes. [Actually Frank helped 27 students from 10 countries with their taxes this year.] And Dr. Gurnack was the key in helping Szymon and me come to the University!

INTERNSHIP  During the winter interim break this year I applied for an internship with a Milwaukee company in the human resources area, which is exactly what I’ve been studying here. It’s perfect experience in my area of study, and gives me direct interaction with people, rather than using numbers, like accounting.

After graduation my internship will continue under a program through the US Citizenship and Immigration Services called OPT: Optional Practical Training. It allows me to stay in the US for an additional 12 months to get practical work experience.

GRADUATION  I’ve been nominated by UW-Parkside faculty members of Beta Gamma Sigma to be inducted into the honor society. My family is coming for graduation, and then we’ll spend three weeks visiting the East and West coasts.

Good luck in your future, Dominik

PROFESSOR EMERITA, ANNE GURNACK

Professor Emerita Anne Gurnack was chair of the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Law Science and Law at Parkside. She relayed some of her fascinating research – and her connection to Dominik and Szymon – in a recent visit:

Right after 9/11 I was contacted by a young Polish man who was doing genealogy work on my mother’s family. Eventually I met him in Gdansk, which is on the south end of the Baltic Sea. We traveled to my home village, and his also — the same village where both of our family members originated from.

Then I joined the Polish American Historical Association and started writing papers about ancestry and immigration, which led me to meet Professor Anna Mazurkiewicz from the University of Gdansk. She wrote several years ago saying that she had students who wanted to study in the US, using a company that charged several thousand dollars to handle all of the logistics.

Instead I put them in touch with UWP’s Admissions Office. We also invited Dr. Mazurkiewicz to speak at UW-Milwaukee where I was a Visiting Professor, plus she spoke at Parkside and met Chancellor Ford. These efforts were the start of Parkside’s exchange program.

Last winter there were half a dozen students who traveled to the University of Gdansk with Professor Helen Rosenberg. These exchange students [different from Dominik and Szymon’s program] have a lecture series here, and more lectures in Gdansk, Kraków, and Warsaw. A group from Gdansk will come to UWP next fall.

When I was a Visiting Professor at the University of Gdansk teaching American Politics and the Structure of Government I met a student, Monika Golikowska, who is studying at Parkside this semester. Monika’s helping me with research on the Kashube fishermen in Poland, trying to find out what happened to them after their country joined the European Union.

[Dr. Gurnack has also studied and published papers on the Kashubes who emigrated to Milwaukee and lived on Jones Island – an interesting topic for a future lecture!]
COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALL’S WEEK OF LEARNING COMMITTEE
Charlotte Short, charshort1@hotmail.com, 764-3066

“All’s Week of Learning” is ready for YOU! Five days of architectural studies, “Dreamers and Their Creations – Buildings: Old, New and Evolving,” await you. Noted local architects will tell us about the Milwaukee Art Museum, Wingspread, happenings in Kenosha and Racine, up and coming concepts, the Milwaukee lakefront, and day trips to local venues. Plan to join us June 13-17. The complete list of activities is in the sign up materials in today’s packet and in your email. We on the committee look forward to seeing you.

Be sure to read more about AWOL in the highlight section on page 11 of this APB.

AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE
Larry Gregg: lgregg@wi.rr.com
Jarlene Kriehn: jkriehn2007@att.net

Jarlene needs help with occasional equipment setups for classes in Tallent Hall. If you attend classes, ask her about this easy-to-do process.

Larry Gregg video records most of the lectures, and past lectures are available on DVD. The DVD box is usually in the back of the lecture hall. Contact Larry with any questions.

CLASS COMMITTEE
Merrilee Unrath: mleeu@wi.rr.com
Darleen Chiappetta: dchiappetta2@wi.rr.com

Classes Scheduled for Your Learning Pleasure:

May 4  Extraordinary Women: Living through the French Revolution, with Dean Lesley Walker.

May 19 & 26: Medieval Musings, with Pippin Michelli in the Cinema of the Student Union

June classes are superseded by the Aging Well Conference on June 3, and the ALL’s Week of Learning, which runs the week of June 13 to 17.

July’s planned class will be a description of the composer’s process by Gregory Berg.

Watch for sign-up flyers

Many ideas are in the hopper for August and the fall, including Women’s Issues, Elections, Genetics, and Islamism. Specifics will be listed in the next APB . . . just be patient.

As always, details on times and locations are mailed/emailed to members. For more information, check the ALL website.

Your suggestions for future classes are always welcomed by Co-chairs Merrilee Unrath (mleeu@wi.rr.com) and Darleen Chiappetta (dchiappetta2@wi.rr.com).

Note: Some of these classes will be conducted in Tallent Hall, the freestanding building located east of Wood Road (30th Avenue). There is a building on the west side of the campus named the Rita Tallent Picken Center for Arts and Humanities, or “The Rita.” Although some ALL members attend plays and concerts here, it is NOT a class location.
DAY TRIP COMMITTEE
Julie Rae Friedman: 942.7113, jrf@wi.rr.com
Martha Krimmer: 554.8122, mkrimmer2@wi.rr.com

May 18: We will be going to the Lyric Opera House in Chicago for a backstage tour, lunch, and a performance of the beloved musical King and I. If you have not been there before, it is truly a lovely building with wonderful acoustics.

May 25: For a change of pace ALL will see Las Vegas style “Dancing Horses,” go behind the scenes, pet baby animals, see an exotic bird show, and eat lunch – all in one spot in Delavan!

June 13-17: ALL’s Week of Learning. “Dreamers and Their Creations: Buildings: Old, New and Evolving.” The Week is always fun, creative, and packed full of information shared by experts in the field. We will be taking two trips to Milwaukee — one to the recently remodeled Milwaukee Art Museum, and for the other we’ll have a step-on guide for our bus tour of important buildings and urban renewal. Lunch at the University Club. We are also visiting Wingspread in Racine.

July: Stay tuned . . .

August: We are still trying to make arrangements with Ravinia for two performances there. These trips usually include dinner under the tent, pavilion seats, and coach bus transportation. We’ll let you know as soon as it is confirmed.

September 7: A trip to The Bookworm Garden in Sheboygan. This garden was developed around children’s story books. We will have a docent led tour. Also a visit to the Kohler Art Center with its Sculpture Garden, and a tour here as well. Lunch is still to be determined.

October 6: We visit AeppelTreow Winery and Brightonwoods Orchard in Burlington. Lunch site is not known yet. We hope to also visit the Chocolate Museum.

Registering for Day Trips. If you are interested in a trip, register right away – online if possible.

If you find you cannot attend an event, call Vanessa at the ALL office at 595-2793.

If we know before the deadline, we can refund your money (but as we pay for tickets and confirm restaurants in advance, we need to pay what we contract for). If you are unable to attend after the registration deadline, we will try to sell your spot as there is usually a wait list.

As always, events are subject to change. Call the trip leader listed on the flyer for more information and details on each trip.

June 10: Milwaukee Symphony. This is the last concert of the season for the Milwaukee Symphony’s Friday Prelude Series. We leave Tallent Hall at 8:30 AM and Roma Lodge in Racine at 8:45, returning about 2:30.

For information about this or next season, or for information on a single ticket if there is a cancellation, contact Bev Friedrich at 633-2304 or email bevfried@aol.com. Or you can phone Darleen Chiappetta, 654-0177.

We are always looking for new committee members to help us plan and implement day trips. Please call Martha or Julie if interested.

WHO DO I CALL WITH A QUESTION?

• CALL Vanessa, if you want to know if there are still spaces available for an ALL event, if you need to cancel your registration, or anything else related to registration-specific questions.
CALL the Committee chairs or the event sponsor (the person whose name and contact info is shown in the “question” line of each flyer) if you have a question such as “can I order a vegetarian lunch?” or “will there be a lot of walking; will there be an elevator?”

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Pat Koessl: 694.3453 patricia.koessl@gmail.com

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**LECTURE COMMITTEE**

Mac MacCaughey: mmctwo@wi.rr.com

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**Lectures are held at 2 PM**

*in the Parkside Student Cinema*

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**May 2**  “The Amazing Research Accomplished by Parkside Students.” In April, Parkside students joined over 600 others from around state in presenting their faculty-led research at the 2016 UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, this year held at UW-Milwaukee. At our May 2nd lecture, we’ll be inspired, pleased, and proud of the students’ presentations! Looking forward to this one!

**May 16**  “The Force is Within Us!” Dr. Gul Afshan, Professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and founder of the Bio-Molecular Engineering Program at MSOE, will talk on the amazing topic of how our bodies’ cells work – how cells can be manipulated to make them work better. Dr. Afshan spoke at our 2014 Week of Learning, discussing developments in the field of medicine, including the unique and highly specialized field of bio-molecular engineering.

**June 13 – 17**  Join us for ALL’s Week of Learning on the subject of architecture in SE Wisconsin.

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**July 4**  INDEPENDENCE DAY – no lecture

**July 11**  Beth Heidorn, Executive Director of the Racine Zoo will be our speaker.

**July 18**  To be announced at a later date.

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Before the lecture, join us for lunch in the Brickstone Grill, inside Student Center. Bring your 10% meal discount card and join ALL folks around noon, back near the pizza section.

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**WHAT DID HE SAY?**

If you’re having a bit of trouble hearing the speaker at our lectures, ask for one of the hearing assistance devices available at the concierge desk, just outside the cinema.

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**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Marion Sperer: 634.0336, mjs1831@yahoo.com

Welcome new members! To learn more about ALL, you’re invited to a Meet & Greet on May 16th at 10 AM in the Orchard Room at Tallent Hall. Find out about all the great opportunities ALL has – and bring any questions.

➢  At the end of March ALL had 579 members.

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**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

If you have a flair for publicity, contact Patti Gross. We need a new chairperson.
SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Joyce Gyurina: 657.5990, joygy31@wi.rr.com

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 20, 2016
The Annual Meeting & Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, June 20th, 2016. This is always a fun event to socialize and find out what our many committees and focus groups have been doing lately and planning for ALL members.

Greeters for March and April were Martha Krimmer, Vera Schalk, Nat Cycenas, Dawn Feldman-Brown, Karen Kaleck, Norma Rukavina, Tricia Frost, and Nancy Westman. Scheduled for May are Doris Colombe, JoAnn Hansen, and Jim Gardiner and Arlene Gardiner.

ALL greeters are friendly, helpful and so much appreciated as they welcome members before each lecture with a warm “Hello” and a bright smile. Contact Joyce if you are interested in being an ALL greeter; we’d love to include you.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ted R. Anderson. trawisc@gmail.com
262-639-7863 or 414-745-5656 (cell)

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE
Kathy Hoffmann: 847.746.3416,
kathyhoffmann@mac.com

ALL is looking for some volunteers to help with commencement at UW-Parkside on Saturday, May 14th. Volunteers will hand out programs, seat the audience, direct folks to restrooms, and answer questions.

There are two time slots: the 10 AM ceremony, where volunteers would arrive by 8:30 AM, and a 2:30 PM ceremony, with volunteers arriving by 1 PM. Lunch will be provided for those who volunteer for both ceremonies.

Please respond directly to Kathy Hoffman if you are interested in helping with this or future events: kathyhoffmann@mac.com

CONFIRMATIONS AND CHANGES
Registration confirmations from the ALL office for classes and trips, or room changes, are sent via e-mail. If you change your email address, notify Vanessa Greco, greco@uwp.edu. And please check for new messages every few days! No email? We’ll phone you.

FOCUS GROUPS

TWO NEW BOOK CLUBS

The P.M. Book Club members will alternate between selections of fiction and non-fiction, including general fiction, mysteries, science and/or historical fiction, plus a variety of non-fiction books. The only criteria are to read the book and be ready to enter into the conversation.

Meetings will usually be held on the second Monday of each month at 1 PM in Tallent Hall. No book discussions held in June or December. For the current book title or more info, contact MerriLee Unrath at mleeu@wi.rr.com or Linda Davis at lindapierangeli@gmail.com

The A.M. Non-fiction Book Club Members will discuss non-fiction books at their monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month, starting at 9:30 AM in Tallent Hall. For questions, phone Ross Boone at 262-877-3164, or email Clarice Rohling at drohling1@wi.rr.com
ALL-A-BLOOM
Dawn Feldman-Brown: 694.1748
dfdbrown@yahoo.com, Judy Knutson:
657.5658, jknutson6906@sbcglobal.net

Spring reminders for ALL-A-BLOOM: We had a successful kick-off in March. Join us on May 25 (note date change) for a “make & take” workshop on hanging baskets.

June 22 will be a “make & take” workshop on planting herbs in containers.

July 27 Timothy Hutton will speak about rain gardens.

Watch for more information in separate emails that will also talk about the cost and choice of plants. Happy gardening!

New members are always welcome. Questions? Contact Dawn Feldman-Brown at 262-694-1748 (pdfbrown@yahoo.com) or Judith Knutson at 262-657-5658 (jknutson6906@sbcglobal.net).

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSIONS
Sy J. Adler: 877.3628, Cell: 708.785.4067
seymourjadler@gmail.com
Ted Anderson: 639.7863 trawisc@gmail.com

Current Affairs meets every 3rd Monday in the Orchard Room of Tallent Hall from 12 to 1:30 PM (so you have time to get to the 2 PM lecture).

In these sessions we try to solve the problems of the day. We search for solutions that seem to elude leading politicians, economists, and leaders in business, labor and education. We attack local, state, national, and international issues, all with equal gusto. And we generate a better understanding of the issues due to the diversity of our participants. Simply put: we learn from each other. Join our spirited discussions.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE
Patti Gross: 658.8849
patriciagross368@yahoo.com

The Duplicate Bridge group has a lot of fun while learning to play and score a round for 2 or 3 tables, or learning how to use the Stayman Convention. You do not need a bridge partner to join the group. If you want to be dealt in, call Patti or email to be included in our schedule.

GREAT BOOKS
Jacki Andersen, 262-498-8381,
jandersen17@wi.rr.com,
Doris Nice, nice@uwp.edu, 262-694-2650

The Great Books group meets at 9 AM on the 4th Monday of every month in Tallent Hall. We take turns leading the discussions, guided by included questions. Everyone is welcome.

GREAT DECISIONS
Terrence & Therese Constant
T2constant@aol.com, 657-0877

The Great Decisions discussion group finished the eight foreign policy topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association in 2016 at the end of March. They were timely topics about present world situations and elicited very interesting discussions by the participants.

Participants in attendance for the last discussion topic decided by the to change the scheduling of the discussions in 2017 to one topic per month instead of eight weeks in a row. So discussions will take place once a month from February through September.

Sign-up for 2017 Great Decisions participation will again take place this fall in September and October so we can take advantage of the October discount for topic books and materials. Watch for directions in the next APB.
If there is a group of people who would still like to do the discussions in the eight weeks of February and March, and there is someone who would like to coordinate that group, we will be glad to assist you with setting that up.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FRIENDSHIP
Linda Burch: lindaburch11@gmail.com
Jim Burch: 948.9249

If you want to make the world a better place and meet bright, interesting young people from other countries, this is the group for you. There are many students, and we can always use more people, so please contact us if you are interested in joining the group. Members are involved only as much as they want to be—there are no set duties or time requirements. A friendly, open spirit and the desire to promote international goodwill are the only requirements. Members sometimes offer transportation, a home-cooked meal, shopping, or cultural adventures, etc.

We would love to have new members! If you have any questions, contact Linda Burch via email at lindaburch11@gmail.com. If no email, please phone Jim Burch at (262) 948-9249.

POETRY
Ron Story: ron.story@att.net, 577.5864

April is National Poetry Month. We put aside our anthology of contemporary American poetry to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare by listening to a selection of songs excerpted from his plays. Shakespeare died on April 23, which was also his fifty-second birthday.

SOCIAL BRIDGE
Patti Gross: 658.8849: patriciagross368@yahoo.com

Social Bridge is a friendly group of players who try to improve their skills and practice strategies. We play in the Tallent Hall break room on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 PM. To be dealt in, call or email Patti to be included in our schedule.

TECHNOLOGY
Tom Coe: tecoe@wi.rr.com
Frank Klein: frankmarnie@gmail.com
Roger Stasik: rrstasik@gmail.com
Jarlene Kriehn: jkriehn2007@att.net, 948-0836

Upcoming Technology Focus Group meetings are May 23, June 27 and July 25 (fourth Mondays). We’re looking into using campus computer labs this summer as fewer students are on campus.

Contact Jarlene to join the email group list to receive meeting reminders and topics. If you have a suggestion, please submit it to one of the members on the planning committee.
IN MEMORIAM

Jane Nelson of Kenosha passed away in January 2016. For many years Jane was a very active member of ALL. She was also the Administrative Assistant to the Director of the UW-Parkside Library/Learning Center.

Norma Rukavina recalled that once Jane gave a lecture on her experiences in a hot air balloon!

Dianne Bianchi Rice passed away at the end of January. Dianne was a Spanish and French translator at Case in Racine for many years, and, of course, a member of ALL, along with her husband. Bob, our sympathies.

Dr. Warren Johnson, ALL member and a long time dentist in the Kenosha area, passed away in February 2016. In 2014, Dr. Johnson traveled to Washington DC on an Honor Flight, along with 91 other veterans.

Robert Balow, Kenosha resident, an inventor with several patents, and creative entrepreneur, passed away in February. Bob started the Accu-Temp Heat Treating Company in Mt. Pleasant, as well as other companies. He also invented the Pasta Fork (1.1 million views on YouTube).

Melvin “Scott” Thomson died in March. He served as a professor of biology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside from 1992-2014, as well as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences from 2003-2007. Our condolences to Melvin’s wife, Alice Thomson, who is still an ALL member.

ODDS AND ENDS

- Write “ALL” on your event registration envelope so the mailroom can deliver it.
- Vanessa Greco staffs the ALL office in Tallent #115 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM Monday through Thursday (hours subject to change).
- To keep our membership directory up to date, mail any changes to Vanessa.

There’s a free shuttle from Tallent Hall to the Student Center — although the bus driver takes a lunch break from 1-1:30 PM, so plan your ride needs accordingly.

HIGHLIGHT ON. . .
ALL WEEK OF LEARNING

AWOL’s HISTORY  Mac MacCaughey recalled the first Week of Learning held in 2000, when ALL was still young. “We already had lectures and classes, but wanted to delve deeper and spend more time on special topics.”

Committee members who showed up a bit early for a recent meeting had their photo taken.

Seated: Jarlene, Joyce, and Charlotte
Standing: Darleen, Mac, Carla, Julie & Doris
“My wife, Marilyn, and I co-chaired the first week and had a hard-working committee: Bob Jensen was the ‘bus guy’ who arranged our travels, and Martha Krimmer worked with the Parkside food service chef to plan our on-campus meals.

At that time a mammoth skeleton, now at the Kenosha Museum, had recently made the news, so we decided on the topic of archeology. An archeologist found signs of butchering on the newly discovered bones, and did carbon dating, showing that these bones were older than ones found in Clovis, New Mexico, previously the hallmark of human habitation in N.A.

AWOL TODAY Charlotte Short is the chair of this year’s Week of Learning Committee — a group of about 15 people who meet monthly starting in about November, and typically more often as they approach the June event. She acknowledged that, “in my time on the committee, the ALL volunteers have been superb. There is a tremendous amount of work done by these dedicated volunteers. And the variety of expertise and background knowledge within our group is astounding. How we end up with such fine speakers on such a wide variety of interests never fails to amaze me.”

While many committee members are long-time volunteers for AWOL programs, this was the first year volunteer, Carla Knickrehm. She noted that, “the committee has a very good process in what they’re doing. Plus,” she said, “I like to get involved in ALL, so I’ll probably serve on the committee again next year.”

Mac noted that one lesson quickly learned was that it worked just fine to ask complete strangers (with their impeccable backgrounds) to speak to us for a pittance. “Speakers are paid an honorarium of $50/hour. We usually invite them to join us for lunch and pay their mileage if they come from quite a distance. But many speakers decline the honorarium and speak for free. The bigger they are, the nicer they are,” Mac says, “has proved to be so true.”

Darleen Chiappetta, who’s been involved with AWOL since 2002, said (with a big smile) the best thing about working on AWOL is “the absolute surprise when things work. The committee is coming at it from all angles, and then it miraculously works out beautifully and people are happy — well, for the most part, there’s always at least one complaint, always.”

WHY IS AWOL IMPORTANT? For her, Charlotte said, “AWOL offers another venue for learning — an opportunity to look and learn about a topic in depth. Thanks to the technical expertise of several on our team, we had the opportunity to hold a teleconference with a presenter in Dubai. I really enjoyed the one on current trends in medicine and last year’s Middle East.”

Darleen Chiappetta wanted ALL members to know that “the most interesting thing is how much you don't know about the topic that’s chosen, and how much there is to know, how much there is still to learn.”

Julie Friedman shared similar thoughts. “Well, there are some subjects that you just can’t do in one or two classes. I think it gives us the time to really explore a topic. So I love them; I think they’re great. I think you get to know people a little bit better in the group. And it’s just like a little vacation — a little Elderhostel or a little Road Scholar (which is the new term, of course), but you stay home. So I think everybody should do it. And they’ve been wonderful, every one of them has been just wonderful.”

FAVORITE AWOL PROGRAMS Mac said that besides the first AWOL program he chaired, a
fairly recent one that stood out for him was about medical discoveries. “Our trip to the Chicago Museum of Surgery – with historical details that made one shiver – to the research work being done at the Blood Center of Wisconsin: incredible. Of course, clowns were fun during a week about humor, and music and theater, and a river trip in Chicago, and talking with Kelly in Dubai last year, and anything related to history — the list goes on and on.”

Julie Friedman said she doesn’t really have a favorite; she’s loved every one of them. “They feel different; they’ve been exciting. I don’t have a favorite. I chaired a couple of them with Martha, so I like those, but I’ve liked all of them.”

OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS? Julie Friedman recalled that of the 12 Lifelong Learning Institute organizations in Wisconsin, “I don’t think any of the others do this type of thing. But one year, for our AWOL featuring India, we were in a restaurant in Chicago. There was another group from Wisconsin there. They didn’t have a week of learning, but they thought it was a great idea. They thought what we were doing was terrific.”

Mac noted that, “When we have gone to the statewide meetings with similar groups, the others are always impressed with what we do. Most other groups have faculty personnel assigned to their groups, who do all the work. The fact that we volunteer to handle all the work ourselves — for classes, lectures, day trips, the Weeks of Learning — this makes ALL unique.”

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

We publish new members’ phone numbers and emails as they are received, and update member contacts as needed. Contact Vanessa Greco if there are any needed changes.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beecher, Beverly</td>
<td>27500 7th ST, Burlington, WI 53105</td>
<td>262.880.3541</td>
<td><a href="mailto:danbevbeecher@gmail.com">danbevbeecher@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brinker-Brown, Linda</td>
<td>3208 Buckingham RD, Sturtevant, WI 53177</td>
<td>262.770.6927</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linjoyce2002@icloud.com">linjoyce2002@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Steven</td>
<td>3208 Buckingham RD, Racine, WI 53402</td>
<td>262.664.2532</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkburri@att.net">jkburri@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruck, Linda</td>
<td>2448 – 5-1/2 Mile Rd, Racine, WI 53402</td>
<td>262.412.4234</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geniesse, Kathy</td>
<td>4320 Patzke RD, Racine, WI 53405</td>
<td>262.633.0251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:luanne.frey@gmail.com">luanne.frey@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kramer, Bernadine</td>
<td>4320 43rd AVE, Kenosha, WI 53404</td>
<td>262.632.8544</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emcssusn@wi.rr.com">emcssusn@wi.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukow, Mark</td>
<td>1923 Mars Ave, Racine, WI 53404</td>
<td>262.997.2002</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alocke2@wi.rr.com">alocke2@wi.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Boone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rossedwardboone@gmail.com">rossedwardboone@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>262.632.8544</td>
<td></td>
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