

Lifelong Learning at the Mayborn Museum April 2022 Newsletter



A Message from our president

As you read this, it is hard to believe we are starting to wind down the 2021-2022 year. The final third of our spring courses have just started. Friday, April 22, was our first bus trip since the fall of 2019, and it headed up I-35 to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

That leaves our Spring Luncheon on Friday May 20 as our last major activity. This has been such an unbelievable year for Lifelong Learning. With the resumption of in-person classes, you have returned and participated in record numbers. While we do not have final figures, heading into the start of those final 5 classes, we have over 400 members and over 460 course registrations for the spring, and almost 1,000 for the year.

All that due to the work of the Curriculum, Course Host, Publicity and Special Events Teams. And of course, individual members are also part of this year's success.

The 15 Fall 2022 courses were approved by the Board on March 18, and we think you will really enjoy the mix of offerings. What is also exciting is we are increasing the number of Special Interest Groups. These are a free benefit for being a member of Lifelong Learning and have enabled our members to extend their interest in a subject beyond our traditional class.

Visit '[About](#)' from the [Lifelong Learning webpage](#) for more information. For those of you who joined this spring, please remember, your membership is good through the fall semester. For those who joined us starting last June, please remember to renew.

Nominees for Leadership Team Will be Elected During the Spring Luncheon

By Judy Staples



Doug Baldwin (back row left) will become President of Baylor Lifelong Learning. Nominees for elected positions are (front row, left to right) Nancy Moore for Vice President; Dianne Sawyer for Secretary; Sherry Cragen for the 2-year At-Large Leadership Team position; and (back row right) Bill Dube for the 3-year At-Large Leadership Team position.

Baylor Lifelong Learning is indebted to its many volunteers who serve in various ways throughout the year. The members of the Leadership Team meet 9 times per year to review all of the business of our organization. Each spring at our annual luncheon, a brief membership meeting takes place to elect the officers for the coming year. With a planned rotation of positions, there is continuity of management and oversight for our courses, events, and shared interest groups (SIGs). Terry Wright will conclude his year as President at the May 20th luncheon.

In June, Doug Baldwin will begin his term as President for the 2022-23 year. Returning to the Board will be Terry Wright serving as Past President and Chair of the Nominating Team, as well as Tom Purdy who has one year remaining on his 3-year term in at At-Large position on the Leadership Team. The Chairs of the Curriculum, Special Events, Course Hosts, Publicity, Membership, Publications, and History Teams also serve on the

Volunteers at Work

By Gayle Lintz, Mary Taylor, and Elaine White

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Seven teams work together to help plan, organize, and implement the work of Baylor Lifelong Learners. As you read the reports from each team, feel free to contact one of the chairs if you see a place where you would like to spend your time and talents.

Curriculum Team

The Curriculum Team's main purpose is to plan and coordinate the array of courses provided each semester for our Lifelong Learning courses. The team works diligently twice a year to plan each semester, usually beginning its work at least 6 months in advance of the next semester. Topics are determined by the group with members of the team assigned to contact the various instructors and obtain the completed course proposals. Emphasis is placed on history, science and nature, literature, religion, current events, and new topics. Once the courses are decided, the brochure is prepared and submitted to the Mayborn Museum for publication and mailing.

Members of the 2021-22 Curriculum Team are Larry Smith, Chair; Terry Wright, Doug Baldwin, Judy Staples, C.C. Adams, Rosalie Beck, Vicky Kendig, Dick Kettler, Patty Notgrass, Jan Purdy, Bob Anne Senter, and Susan Stephens.

Special Events Team

The Special Events Team is currently guided by Rick Moss, but in May, co-chairs Debbie Adams and Jane Winston will be installed. This team is great fun, and often it is like a treasure hunt...trying to find just the right speaker, activity, or bus trip. Each semester we select speakers for 2 Coffees, as well as for the Membership Luncheon. We also decide upon the locations and food for these events. In addition, we plan a daytime, out-of-town bus trip with some type of tour, visit, or other special activities. Varying backgrounds, expertise, and interests of the team members help to bring diversity to speaker and destination choices. Team members serving this year are Rick Moss, Debbie Adams, Jane Winston, Bob Cragen, Sara Moore, and Nancy Moore. Currently, there are two openings for new team members who can bring fresh ideas and suggestions. Let us know if you would like to join this interesting group by contacting Rick at 432-296-1893.

Publicity Team

Our Publicity Team is tasked with making our presence known in the Waco community. You've probably seen our coffees advertised on local calendars, and of course, our brochure is shared throughout the area. Lifelong Learner members who have worked on the Publicity Team this year are Bill Dube, Carol Sedberry, Diana Ramey, Jim Newkham, JoAnn Simpson, Randy Ramey, Sharon Lavendar, and Linda Howell.

Course Hosts Team

Course hosts are a vital volunteer part of our program, welcoming participants and serving as a liaison with the instructor during each class. The Course Host Team is responsible for recruiting, training, and supporting course hosts for each Lifelong Learning course held throughout the year. Jin Surovik, Sherry Cragen, Elaine Harknett and Bevil Cohn served on the 2021-2022 team. Additional volunteers serving as course hosts were: Bill Milnor, Janice Beseda, Susan Stephens, Judy Staples, Diana Ramey, Stan Wilkes, Dorothy Schleicher, Linda Wright, Jan Purdy, William, Dube, Karen Ruth Johnson, Sharon Lavender, Charles Adams, Nancy Moore, Jane Watson, Doug Baldwin, Louis White, Gail Baird, Kathy Stanley, Joe Falsone, Jackie Cunningham, Andrea Phillips, Lanna Palmer, Bob Anne Senter, Marie Allen, Martha Lou Scott, Karen Holder, Gayle Lintz, Dianne Sawyer, Carolyn Adams, and Linda Bostwick. Linda Wright and Sharon Lavender will serve as Course Host Team chairs for the 2022-2023 year.

History Team

Ever wonder about the beginnings and early days of LLR? Mary Gerecke reports that an ongoing project for the History team is a narrative history of Lifelong Learning. A legacy of pictures and albums left by a previous history chairman was supplemented by interviews with past founders and leaders made by Bob Anne Senter, Judy Staples, and Elaine White. This has resulted in a historical narrative available to members for years to come. Judy Staples will lead the History group this coming year.

Membership Team

The most recent addition to LLL leadership is the Membership Team, chaired by Diane Hamilton. While the team won't officially begin functioning until the new officers take office, the initial focus will be to reach out to the half of membership who joined but did not take a class. Membership is thriving with 406 taking spring classes, so the team will strive to keep current membership enrolled and also instigate outreach to communities, such as newcomers to Waco and active retirement centers. Anyone interested in serving on the Membership Team should contact Diane at dianehamilton@att.net.

Publications Team

Although the Publications Team won't become a permanent part of the Baylor Lifelong Learner teams until June, members have already begun working together. In fact, they compiled the newsletter you are reading. This team will be tasked with writing and compiling articles for each semester's newsletter as well as helping other teams with publications. Members of the team are Liz Arend, Cheryl Foster, Karen Holder, Gayle Lintz, Carolyn Pennington, Judy Staples, Mary Taylor, Sam Wilson, and Elaine White. For more information about the Publications Team, contact Elaine at elainewhite2013@gmail.com.

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are a Free Benefit of LLL Membership

By Judy Staples



Over the past two years, several SIGs have formed for small groups of LLL members who enjoy different interests aligned with our Lifelong Learning program. The **memoir writing** group led by Elaine White meets monthly during the semesters to enjoy the written memoirs of its members. It's a great way to gather old family stories to share in the future. Judy Staples leads the **leisure travel** and the **family tree** groups for their monthly gatherings. In the travel group, a few trips have already been taken with more to come, along with speakers on travel. The family tree SIG shares genealogy websites, ideas, and research techniques to encourage its members to build their family trees.

The **Eager Eaters** SIG led by Nancy Moore has been very popular as its focus is to eat out together once a month. The locations are locally owned restaurants that Nancy has scouted out for the group. Seated in small groups, the LLL participants enjoy lunch and a long visit.

Two new SIGs have been formed this spring and will start their monthly meetings in the fall. Doug Baldwin suggested a **poetry** group to read and reflect on the poetry of others, including some opportunities for the participants to submit poetry of their own. Sam Wilson proposed a **photography** group for amateurs who want to improve their photos, even those taken on their phones. It will deal more with the artistic side of photography and may involve some outings for photo shoots.

When the fall brochure comes out, the SIGs will be included. Sign up on our LLL webpages to be included in the groups: baylor.edu/mayborn/lifelonglearning.

Connecting with Jan and Tom Purdy

By Sam Wilson



If Baylor's Lifelong Learning gave out frequent flier miles, Jan and Tom Purdy surely would have earned platinum status by now. Not only do they participate in six, eight, or more classes per semester, but they have also served in a number of leadership roles with Lifelong Learning.

For newer LLL members who have not yet gotten to know the Purdys, a brief introduction is in order. Jan is from Galveston. She has a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, but has spent much of her life devoted to teaching Adult Literacy. An interesting fact about Jan is that her great-great-grandfather was the founder of Buckner Orphans Home in Dallas in 1879. Tom is from Macon, Georgia. He was President of the Chamber/New Orleans and the River Region when in the early 90s Dr. Herbert Reynolds brought him to Baylor University to start a corporate development initiative within the Development Department.

The Purdys have three children, two daughters and a son. Each of their children has a son and a daughter. All of their kids and grandkids are within a few hours' drive from Waco. Their son lives in Houston and one daughter lives in Georgetown. The other daughter lives in Austin and is a Baylor Regent serving as a vice-chair.

The Purdys involvement with Lifelong Learning actually began before the program was called Lifelong Learning. Not long after arriving in Waco, they took classes under the Continuing Education program at Baylor. They continued with the program during the time it was being led by the BU Alumni Association, under Bob Anne Senter, transitioned into a period when it was led by Audrey Yadon and then when it began to be administered by the Mayborn Museum, as it is today.

Currently, Tom is on the Lifelong Learning Leadership Team, and Jan is on the Curriculum Team. Previously, Jan has served as the LLL President, and Tom has chaired the Publicity Team.

When asked to share some of their favorite LLL classes over the years, Jan's first response was "All of them!" Tom agreed and explained that the ability to choose the classes they wanted to attend meant they were nearly always happy with the outcome. Jan quipped that the arrival of each semester's brochure with class listings always makes her feel "like a kid in a candy store"!

When they gave the question a little more thought, they did mention a number of classes that have been particular standouts for them. Comparative religion classes have been some of their favorites, including classes on better understanding the Muslim world, and classes led by local Jewish rabbis and leaders. They have enjoyed classes on history, mentioning a History of Medicine class that was very interesting. A music class led by Baylor Trumpet Professor Wiff Rudd was among their favorites. Tom listed a couple of science-related courses, one in geology and one in biology. Jan recalled that one of her special favorites was a "Behind the Scenes" tour of the Cameron Park Zoo.

The Purdys noted that LLL is a great place to meet people and make lasting friendships. Jan commented that the chance to meet and interact with other retirees from a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences provided as valuable a learning experience as the content of the LLL courses they had taken. They have also experienced joy in seeing new friends enter LLL, gradually get more involved, and eventually take on leadership positions.

The Purdys agreed that one of the deepest benefits of the Baylor Lifelong Learning program was the way that it satisfied their hunger for learning. Though Tom quipped that perhaps the best thing about taking LLL courses is "No tests!"

Don't forget to register for our Spring Luncheon.

[Register now!](#)

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