

## Lifelong Learning at the Mayborn Museum November 2021 Newsletter

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### President's Message

It is hard to believe that our final fall courses are in progress and that many of our semester offerings have completed! On behalf of the Executive Team, thank you for your participation and interest in Lifelong Learning. Our membership is approaching our 2019-2020 levels, which were the most successful in our history.

The focus of this newsletter is on our Shared Interest Groups. It is not uncommon for our courses to conclude with comments by the instructors and students that they wish we could continue. We have been able to make that a reality for three of our courses since those instructors are LLL members. We call these Shared Interest Groups. They are free to our LLL members and aren't limited to just course offerings. You will find detailed information about our SIG programs below, and you may even want to lead one yourself.

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## Baylor Lifelong Learner Shared Interest Groups

### ***What Are Shared Interest Groups?***

Just as the name indicates, these are groups of members who have joined together to pursue their interests in special topics. This semester, we have four SIGs: **Eager Eaters**, led by Nancy Moore; **Family Tree**, led by Judy Staples; **Travel**, also led by Judy Staples; and **Memoir**, led by Elaine White. Family Tree, Travel, and Memoir SIGs formed at the end of LLL classes led by Judy and Elaine. Eager Eaters developed from Nancy's thought—Wouldn't it be fun if....?

### ***How Do We Join SIGs?***

Beginning in the 2022 spring semester, you may register for a group through the website. Membership in a SIG is only available to Lifelong Learner members, so these are closed groups. However, participants may come and go as necessary. You don't have to commit to attending all meetings in order to be a SIG member.

### ***What Do SIGs Do?***

To give you a better understanding of what each group does, we've asked their leaders to give a short description of each SIG's focus.

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## Eager Eaters- Nancy Moore

Eager Eater members go out to lunch together several times each semester. Besides enjoying meals at locally owned and operated restaurants, the group is interested in getting to know old friends better and meeting new friends. The meeting time is 1:30 pm so that we don't interfere with the restaurant's regular lunch patrons and in order to have a more relaxed meal with plenty of time for conversation.

There are 39 members registered in the group. Sixteen members met for the first lunch on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Griff's Grill in China Spring. We were seated at tables for six so that it was easy to visit and get to know the others at our tables. Among some of the 'down-home' cooking dishes that members enjoyed were fried green tomatoes, fresh black-eyed peas, steak or chicken fingers, fried catfish, and of course...huge hamburgers. It appeared that a good time was had by all...and no one left hungry. October's meeting was at Fox's Treats and Eats. As you can see, we were welcomed by the owner and staff; we enjoyed lots of good conversation, and three of our members got to have lunch with Elvis!







## Family Tree- Judy Staples

Those who are interested in genealogy support one another by sharing information on websites, methods of research, and breakthroughs in their progress. It's been an adventure in many ways with some of the findings that have turned up over the past several months. Part of the reason for the group is simply to motivate and encourage one another to keep working on our family trees because the information is not always easy to find, and it takes some research and persistence to make headway. We are meeting on ZOOM because several of our members live quite a distance from Waco.

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m _____		m _____	
<b>MATERNAL GRANDFATHER</b>		<b>MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER</b>	
b _____ pb _____ d _____ pd _____		b _____ pb _____ d _____ pd _____	
m _____			
<b>MOTHER</b>			
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## Travel- Judy Staples

The Travel SIG continues this year with several going on a cruise together in January and others planning a road trip to Big Bend National Park in Spring or Fall 2022, depending on how soon the National Parks open up fully for visitors. We hear presentations about members' experiences traveling to various locations and share our knowledge about what's going on with travel in general. We will continue to share ideas and make future travel plans as the group's tastes dictate.



## Memoir- Elaine White

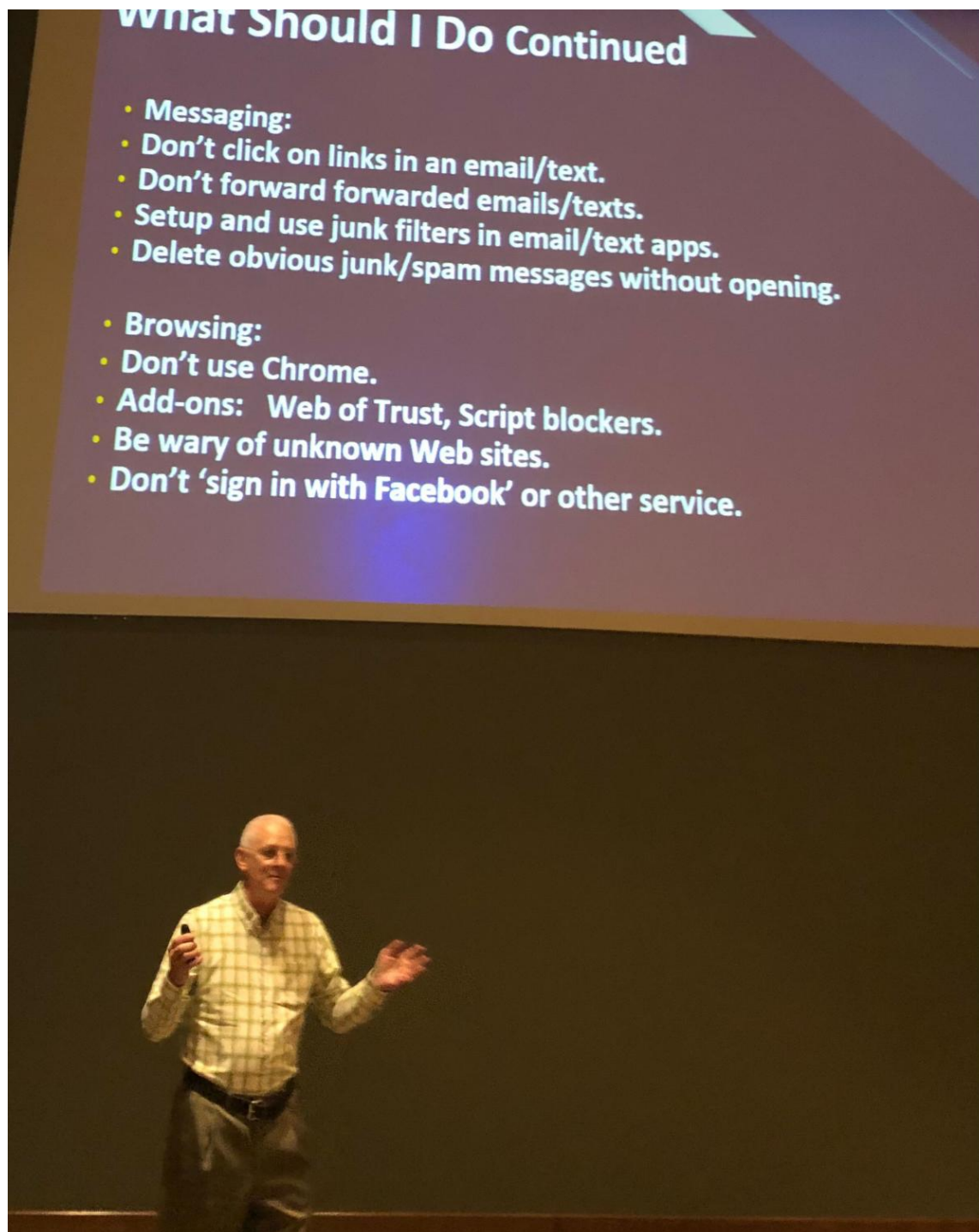
We've begun our first full year as an LLL SIG. We had 8 participants last semester (one from Dallas and one from Ft. Worth) and 6 participants this year (one from Ft. Worth). Each month members bring pieces from their memoirs that they would like to share with the group. As we listen, we make comments and suggestions for revisions. One of the things we enjoy most is getting to know each other through our stories. At the conclusion of our spring semester, we created an anthology that was shared digitally with group members. We will do that again this year if members want to participate. Our meetings are on Zoom; however, at the end of the spring semester, we will meet in person and share our stories over lunch.



## *If we have an idea for an SIG, what do we do?*

As a member, you can establish a new SIG. Begin by emailing [lifelonglearning@baylor.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@baylor.edu). The Leadership team will review the request for the topic to make sure it falls within our core offerings. You will need to let us know who is heading the group, provide names of 5 people who you know want to participate, and tell us when you want to meet. Once you've been approved, we'll put registration information up on our website.

## The Rest of the Story- Q&A from the October



Keith Kooyman, Cyber Security and Digital Forensics Lead Instructor from TSTC, kept us on the edges of our seats as he explained how vulnerable we are to attacks from bad actors on the Internet. We had so many questions after his talk, that he was unable to answer everything. The week after our LLL Coffee, Nancy Moore received this email from him, and he gave us permission to share it with all of you.

*I had a couple action items to complete after meeting with your group last week, so I'm reporting back to you with what I've found out. Several people asked for who in the Waco area would be able to complete a cybersecurity checkup (called a penetration test) on their home networks and systems, and to do general computer work. The company I was hoping to recommend said that they focus solely on business clients.*

*Another company in town that has hired some of our grads, but which I have no firsthand knowledge of their level of expertise in cybersecurity, said that they too focus on business clients but would be willing to work with members of Lifelong Learning to determine if there are vulnerabilities in their home networks that needed to be addressed, and to do general computer work as desired or needed. The company is called Down to Earth Technology ([downtoearthtech.net](http://downtoearthtech.net)). Their phone number is 254-294-9498. The owner said to call the main number and press 2 for sales to schedule whatever they would like done.*

*Some people asked what anti-virus software I use. I have been using Bit Defender ([bitdefender.com](http://bitdefender.com)) for several years and find that it does a good job and is not as intrusive as the big-name products. They have a variety of packages and plans to fit just about any need and any device.*

*Please let me know if I can help with anything else.*

*Respectfully,  
Keith*

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## What's Next?

- Don't forget to **register** for our Christmas Luncheon, December 3, at the Cashion



Center.

- Watch for information concern our Spring Semester Classes. If they aren't on the website when you receive this newsletter, they will be soon. We have some awesome courses planned, and you may want to take every one of them!
- Remember to sign up for one of our SIGs next semester. Information will be available on our website.

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## What's Next?



The acronym means Senior Leaders Over The Hill, but these folks are still climbing! Doug Baldwin, our current Vice President hosted the first meeting of the SLOTHS at his cabin on Lake Mexia. Members are all past presidents of LLL. On the top row are Judy Staples (2020-21) and Doug Baldwin. On the front are Terry Wright (this year's president), Bill DeLoach (2014-15), Elaine White (2019-20), Jan Purdy (2015-16) and Gail Herring (2013-14). The group will meet once a year visit and to catch up on the workings of LLL and to also provide institutional memory for the current president.

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## What's Next?

Linda McKee, a member of the Memoir SIG has agreed to share one of her stories in this newsletter. Get ready for lots of laughter!



### Draco – A Story By Linda McKee

Let me begin with my childhood. As a child, I had to take rabies shots in the stomach twice a day because a playmate was bitten by a rabid dog – and died. My Mother would never let us have an animal, so I grew up afraid of dogs. I would never hurt a dog, but I have no love for them. We've never had an inside dog, and only a few outside dogs when the children were growing up.

Now for my story. Draco is a dog! A much-hated dog! He is a very large, furry, smelly, untrainable, and very badly behaved dog.

My daughter, who lives next door, inherited (dumped is a better word) Draco from one of her daughters who moved to Arlington. My daughter is raising her two grandchildren alone without help from their mom, dad, or any public assistance. She

surely does not need the expense or responsibility of the dog.

Draco is the bane of my existence! He won't stay in his fenced area, has broken every leash every invented, and wants to be in the house (any house) as much as possible. A door left ajar is an open invitation for him to enter. He hides, but of course you know he is there – he really, really smells. He is a very large dog, visits our stock tank daily, and won't let you give him a bath.

He loves to ride in cars, carts, or anything on wheels. You have to be very fast and diligent to get into your car, or he will be your passenger.

Last week I had several errands to do in town, and as I was getting into my car, I realized that I had not turned off a water sprinkler. I left the car door open and turned off the sprinkler. I returned to my car, and off to town I went. Halfway to town, I started smelling dog. My daughter has been using my car, so I assumed that dog had been in the car with her. All the way into town, I planned what I was going to say to her.

Finally, I arrived at my first stop, Home Depot. I opened my door and up popped a head from the back seat. Draco! He had not made a sound and had laid flat on the back seat. What do I do? Take him home or leave him here? It took me about half a second to decide that if he wanted to stay, he could. Draco jumped out of the car and started running all over the parking lot. I sneaked into the store undetected.

As I made my way through the store to the garden center, I heard a loud commotion. Three employees were chasing Draco. A pretty young lady asked me if he was my dog. I looked her straight in the eyes and said "no." She said, "He thinks you are. He has been following you all over the store." I shrugged and continued shopping. They put a rope around his neck, led him to the front desk, gave him water, and started trying to find his owner.

Hurriedly, I finished shopping and checked out in the garden center. I was afraid to go back into the store. Escape was so close! As I opened the car door, Draco bounded out and jumped into the car. I have no idea how many people witnessed my departure with the dog, but I'm sure of one thing – they were very happy.

I brought him home, let him out, went in the house, got some deodorizer, and went back to town. Then it dawned on me. Draco has a chip, so he would be traced back to my granddaughter, then daughter, and finally me. I guess I could be fined for trying to "dump" a dog. Now I am very careful whenever I open a car door. No more smelly passengers for me!

*Newsletter Editors: Diane Hamilton and Elaine White*

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