

Lifelong Learning

Winter 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Did you know that in Fall 2019...

- LLL membership has risen 40% to 255 members (up from last fall)
- Class registration has risen from 298 to 458 participants
- Average class size has risen from 25 to 40 participants
- The WWII Pacific Theater class taught by Brad Livingstone had an unprecedented 146 participants

* Figures are comparative to Fall of 2018 as of 9/12/19.

This has been an exciting semester for Baylor Lifelong Learners. Our membership has grown (see information in this newsletter), we've had stellar special events, our publicity committee has extended its reach into our community, every class is staffed with a convener, and we were able to offer scholarships to two Baylor students. We've also noticed an increase in the number of first-time visitors we have at our coffees. That means that many of you are reaching out to your friends and sharing information about LLL.

It's good to see so many of our members arriving at our coffees by 9:30 so that they have time to visit with one another. This is an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other and to discover all the interests and experiences that connect us. The program for each coffee will begin at 10:00 and finish by 11:00.

Thank you to our advisory board, committee chairs, and committee members who have worked hard to design and plan our work. As we move forward, one of our goals is to make all of you aware of what each committee does so that you can understand how our volunteer leaders do the work of our organization. Of course, there is always an invitation for you to add your expertise and talent by serving on one of our committees.

Elaine White

For more information:

www.baylor.edu/lifelonglearning

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Baylor University
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DO YOU LIKE ...

Using your cell phone?

Making people smile? Contributing to LLL?

THEN DO WE HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU!

When you attend an LLL session, please snap one photo and text or email it to **Mary Gerecke at 254-495-5967 or marywaco@yahoo.com**.

Then look for your photos at upcoming events and in our newsletters!

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.”
- Henry Ford

BEHIND THE SCENES: COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS

LLL’s continual growth for fall of 2019 is largely due to the work that goes on behind the scenes by our committee volunteers.

The Convener Committee is a great place for newly active LLL volunteers to get their feet wet. Their primary responsibility is to arrange for one participant to greet class attendees for each class, to make sure each signs in, and to get class started on time. If you would like to meet more LLL participants and enjoy talking on the phone, then this committee has a place for you!

Volunteers on the Special Events Committee are the LLL party planners! Selecting speakers for coffees, planning luncheons, and organizing day trips are their expertise. If you are a “host with the most,” consider volunteering for this social networking opportunity.

LLL’s other standing committees are Curriculum, Publicity, and History. We encourage LLL’s vanguard, as well as some of our 70+ new members, to volunteer for a committee for the new 2020 year. Details for these volunteer opportunities will be featured in the Spring newsletter.



LLL Winter 2019 Newsletter Staff

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Suggestions???

The LLL newsletter staff would like to hear from you! If you have topics or recommendations for the 2020 Spring newsletter, please email Diane Hamilton at dianehamilton@att.net.

**“To find joy in learning is to discover the fountain of youth.”
- Pearl S. Buck.**

SCHOLARSHIP STARS

LLL’s scholarship recipients for 2019-20 are Ashley Barnes and Juan Castellanos. Ashley and Juan each received a scholarship stipend of \$2,500, to be divided between fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

Ashley Barnes is a sophomore from Belton and carries a notable 3.82 CGPA. She is an elementary education major who is involved with Sing Alliance and Baylor Buddies. In Baylor Buddies Ashley engages in community service by mentoring her elementary school “buddy” one hour per week and also by participating in monthly campus/ community events with fellow Baylor Buddies.



Juan Castellanos is a psychology major from Harlingen with an impressive 3.87 CGPA. He is active in Alpha Lambda Delta, the Psychology Club, and the Latino Pre-Health Student Association. The LPHSA molds Latino students who wish to enter professional health fields through volunteer work throughout the community, as well as helping them develop the skills and experiences they will need in preparation for applying to health professional schools for post graduate work.

LLL scholarships began in 2015-16 and to date total \$37,500, all of which have been funded by membership revenue. BU Financial Aid Office selects each year’s recipients based on merit, financial need, and engagement in university activities. Remember that half of your membership fees are contributed to this noteworthy scholarship program!

**“Learn as if you were to live forever.”
- Mahatma Gandhi**

DRUMROLL PLEASE...

The Curriculum Committee is delighted to announce that LLL will offer four additional courses for the Spring of 2020, raising the number of course offerings from twelve to sixteen!

Registration is open online for offerings including:

- History classes on the Boston Massacre Trial, World War II, and the current Saudi Arabian and Iranian Conflict
- Religion classes on American New Religious Movements, the Jewish Faith, and the Bible
- Personal interest classes on Quilting, Kolache Baking, and Personal Organization
- Local interest classes on Waco Highlights and the History of Baylor Sports
- Communications classes on Respectful Dialogue and Media Literacy
- Science class on the Science of Sleep
- Literature classes on Reading C.S. Lewis and a Book Review

**Kudos to the Curriculum Committee for these creative offerings!
This spring’s charcuterie of classes should whet LLL appetites for continued innovative learning, insightful perspectives and fellowship.**

The complete overview and schedule of spring is available online starting Nov. 18th. Look for the Spring 2020 brochure in mailboxes the first week of December and at the Christmas luncheon.

**“When it comes to staying young, a mind-lift beats a face-lift any day.”
- Unknown**

LLL FACULTY FOCUS: DR. TOM HANKS

LLL is so fortunate to have an opportunity to peek into the works of British writer and lay theologian C.S. Lewis, most noted for his works of fiction *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, through the lens of BU retired Master Teacher Dr. Tom Hanks.

Even though Dr. Hanks retired in 2017, after having taught in the BU English Department since 1976, he is still regarded as an English department treasure by Baylor faculty and alumni. His former students are quick to recall his cheerful whistling, his dapper headgear, his ability to challenge independent thinking, and his collaborative investment in mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students. Rumor has it that there is even a coffee named after him at a local coffee shop!



Do not miss out on this opportunity to explore the legends of C.S. Lewis with the celebrated legend himself, Dr. Tom Hanks.

To register and learn more about this class, check out the LLL Spring 2020 brochure or go online to baylor.edu/lifelonglearning.

BOB ANNE SENTER: LL LEADER, LL LEARNER

Swirling colorful skirts, jangling bracelets, and a beaming smile are trademarks of LLL's quintessential Bob Anne Senter. Bob Anne's role of pathfinder and developer for LLL began with her joking, nonchalant suggestion that she might be interested in a part-time position planning travel for the Baylor Alumni Association. Little did she know that those ten hours per week would evolve into a "lifelong" twenty plus year commitment as she became the face of Baylor's LLL.



Bob Anne's reflections of the early days of LLL begin with her serving as president of the Baylor Alumni Board. Eventually, the Continuing Education department died, and, indeed, LLL might have died with it, if not for the energy of a handful of LLL faithful who with determined vision recognized the importance of the program. This nucleus of LLL membership continued to plan events, and Bob Anne recalls, "We would be thankful if fifteen people would attend a coffee."

Bob Anne is reluctant to take credit for the burgeoning growth of the LLL program, especially after its move to Robinson Tower in 2013, reiterating that the board and committees were the LLL workhorses. Yet it was Bob Anne who worked out all of the curriculum scheduling, continued to plan trips and coffees, and was responsible for the brochures.

She made a concerted effort to attend every class, where she welcomed attendees and warmly greeted new members making sure each felt a part of the LLL community. In spite of her expansive responsibilities, Bob Anne was still considered a part-timer since she only worked thirty-nine hours per week.

Bob Anne's resilient leadership and prideful determination most likely were molded in her formative years in Luling, Texas. Her mother, one of nine children, six of whom were Baylor graduates, received her teaching degree from Baylor in 1937. In Luling, Bob Anne was selected the friendliest in her graduating class and followed in her mother's footsteps by attending Baylor with a major in business education. In 1963, with her degree in hand, she soon found her dream job: executive secretary in the oil department of the Republic National Bank in downtown Dallas. (continued on next page)

When she and her husband David married, they settled in Waco, where she worked as a secretary for the Director of the Methodist Home until the birth of her two children. Serving as president of the Midway P.T.A. led to Bob Anne's nine year stint as a member of the Midway I.S.D. school board.

While Bob Anne is modest about her career and community service accomplishments, she seems to be most proud of her avocation as a reviewer of books. She fondly recalls that her first book review was as a small child at the First Methodist Church in Edna, Texas. Her mother schooled her in memorizing her review of the children's book *The Small One*, a 1947 Christmas children's book about a scrawny donkey.

Her book reviewing career was truly launched as a newlywed when she reviewed Taylor Caldwell's novel *Dear and Glorious Physician* about the life of St. Luke for the Women's Missionary Union. Her articulate insights, as well as her wit and enthusiasm, sparked her reputation as an engaging speaker. Soon she was giving book reviews to women's groups all over the state. When her daughter asked, "Mom, are you a popular program?" Bob Anne retorted, "I'm a cheap program. That makes anybody popular!"

Bob Anne's most memorable presentations were her series with Barbara Cunningham on the novels *Same Kind of Different as Me* and *What Difference Do It Make?* These memoirs chronicle the friendship of wealthy international art dealer Ron Hall and Denver Moore, a homeless man. Bob Anne animatedly recalls speaking about the books at the Union Gospel Mission in Ft. Worth, where the two men met, as well as in Natchitoches, LA., Denver's home. Her crowning glory, however, was at a Barnes and Noble book signing by Hall and Moore. When she asked Denver if he liked her review, he quipped that he really enjoyed it since he couldn't read.

Since Bob Anne's LLL retirement in 2016, she stays busy traveling, reading, lunching with friends, and reviewing books. "I think the future for LLL looks great," she commented. Bob Anne is delighted that so many people with no Baylor connection are involved in LLL and still avidly recognizes the importance of the board's role in growth and development. Through her undaunted dedication and tenacious leadership, Bob Anne Senter has become a cornerstone of Baylor's LLL program. No doubt members will continue to see her meeting and greeting at LLL coffees and classes, and she will be presenting a book review session in the spring of 2020, not because she is "cheap," but because she is so very, very popular!

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