Courses that are still available during B session: October 15—November 16

Tuesday 9:00-11:00 a.m.  Knitting for Beginners and Those Wishing to Return to this Craft
Wednesday 9:00-11:00 a.m.  The Life of a Bird:  The Amazing Journey from Egg to Adult
                          The Dynamic Duo:  Classicism and Romanticism
Wednesday 1:00-3:00 p.m.  To Tame A Wilderness so Immense:  The Role of Colonial Laws & Courts
Thursday 9:00-11:00 a.m.  The Parables of Jesus
                          — Discovering and Entering the Kingdom
Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m.  Jewish Law & Lore:  “Nitzchuni Banai/My children Have Overcome Me!
                          Have Overcome Me!”
Friday 1:00-3:00 p.m.     Turn on the Light in the Digital Darkroom

The Shenandoah Valley Regional Studies Seminars

A regular forum intended to give scholars at colleges, universities, museums, libraries, and other institutions a regular forum for topics of regional interest, pertinent, but not restricted, to the Shenandoah Valley.  Sessions are open to the public.  All meetings begin at 3:35 and are held on the JMU campus in Jackson Hall, room 107.

For directions, see---http://www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/directions/

19 October - Dan McDermott, Montgomery College, "Land Patents in the Great Valley of Maryland"
16 November - Clarence Geier, JMU, "With Sheridan in the Shenandoah"
18 January - Andrew Witmer, JMU, “The James Madison University History Harvest”
15 February - Nathan Ryalls, JMU, "'For Dixie Children': Confederate Textbooks and the Creation of Confederate Nationalism”
15 March - Carole Nash, JMU, “‘Solid Comfort at Stony Man Camp': An Archaeological Study of Late 19th Century Recreation in the Virginia Blue Ridge”

Spread the word by telling friends and neighbors that......

LLI is NOW offering a free, one-year membership to individuals who have never before been a member of LLI.  The new member agrees to receive all LLI correspondence by email.  This includes program guides, newsletters, and confirmation letters, and is good through June 30, 2013.

This membership is valued at $20 and is required before one can register for courses or trips.  To begin the free membership, send an email to LLI@jmu.edu containing your name, address, city, state, zip, phone, and email address, stating you would like to take advantage of this offer.

Or.......call 540-568-2923.  Remember, there is no longer an age limit!
New Virginia Master Naturalist Chapter

The Headwaters Chapter is a new chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) Organization and was chartered at the end of 2011. This Chapter serves the Augusta and Rockingham Counties area.

Twenty-one charter members graduated from the Basic Training course on October 27, 2011. Members come from all walks of life. All are master naturalists in progress; that is, they are continually learning. One of the joys of being an MN is being able to participate in the opportunities available for lifelong learning.

As MN volunteers, Virginia Master Naturalists are helping conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. There are many projects to choose from, and new projects are regularly brought under consideration and added to the list of opportunities.

Master Naturalist trainees and members enjoy the satisfaction of providing community service while at the same time making new friends with common interests. Some MNs are interested in stream monitoring or meaningful watershed education projects, while others may be interested in stewardship in the areas of native plants, bird habitats, butterfly counts, edible landscapes, cave topography stewardship and more. Still other MNs are interested in citizen science that involves data collection and research.

Are you an outdoors person? Curious about nature and how to manage Virginia's treasure of natural resources? Perhaps you may want to become a Virginia Master Naturalist. For more information, please email the VMN Headwaters Chapter at headwatersmn.info@gmail.com or call Sophia Cliffe at (540) 416-0974 or Sandy Greene at (540) 234-9336.

A Tribute to Dan Kasten

LLI lost a dear friend in May with the passing of Dan Kasten, the finest of fellows whose infectious laugh and good humor will be sorely missed.

His lovely wife Dot gathered a host of friends and family at St Stephen's United Church of Christ in early summer to celebrate this man's life as we listened to some of his favorite music, the Pachelbel Canon, Amazing Grace, and Mozart's Andante from String Quartet K. 157. The string quartet's music ended with Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. For the dapper and dignified preacher, it was a fitting farewell.

Dan was 86 when he left us. In his long and happy life, he would have been the first to say he had been a blessed man. He was married to Dot for over 50 years and was the father of three fine sons and eight grandchildren. As Doctor Spock once observed:

"I would say that the surest measure of a man's or a woman's maturity is the harmony, style, joy, and dignity he creates in his marriage, and the pleasure and inspiration he provides for his spouse."

It is only fitting that Dot chose the word "gentle" to best sum up this good man. Farewell from all of us, good friend.

--David Evans
Spotlight on Instructors

“Divergent” Gail Napora finds her wings

A psychologist once assessed Gail Napora as “divergent,” meaning her abilities and temperament showed equal linear/structural and creative/risk-taking strengths.

“I tend to look at things from both perspectives,” she says. That helps her understand what students of any age want to know…plus navigate change.

Since 2009, Gail – now teaching “Turn on the Light in the Digital Darkroom” – has created ten courses for LLI and delivered 13 classes in photography, self-publishing and computer usage.

“I’ve always been a tech buff,” she explains. “Yet in the corporate environment, my creativity was always leaking into it, and I was doing a lot of creative stuff in my spare time.”

Following graduation and a master’s from Pittsburgh’s LaRoche College, where she learned programming, Gail became a paralegal and then spent a decade with Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, quickly rising to vice president. She trained staff on the Wang, and worked with data stored in a CD tower-shaped device on discs the width of hula hoops.

Yet once she and her husband, Nick, started their family, she faced a dilemma she’d written about in grad school: “institutionalized discrimination.” The corporate environment discouraged part-time work.

So in 1996, when Nick – an architect – was hired by Alcoa Kawneer, they moved to Broadway. There, where they’ve raised four children (now 12 to 20), Gail has found, as it were, her creative wings.

The family’s seven acres shelter more than 23 species of butterflies, notes Gail, who took an entomology class at age 12. She wrote, drew and photographed the illustrations for her two recent books: “Butterflies in Virginia” (a journal), and “Bicky Becomes a Butterfly (‘I Don’t Want To’).” Having tutored English Language Learners while a first-grade teaching assistant at Lacey Spring Elementary School, she dedicates the latter book to “every first grader,” although it includes varying narratives to make Bicky’s transformation accessible to all ages. The books are available at Hardesty Higgins’s Rocktown Gift Shoppe, and – together with e-versions – on amazon.com. She’s also produced a DVD, “See Virginia Butterflies.”

Gail has taught adult learners in Timberville, published a tradebook, “Demystifying Digital Photography,” and for ten years marketed her varied works via Demigail Publishing (www.demigail.com). Postings include a Chinese dragon, and a French horn framing a cat – both created on request for daughters’ high-school graduations.

Having taken photos and developed film throughout her corporate career, Gail switched to the digital mode in 2004. She says film provided more visual depth and color, but digital requires less setting-up for nature photography.

“You can get wonderful pictures from ‘point-and-shoot,’” she says. As to settings – which her classes explore -- “’Auto’ will give you good shots 80 percent of the time. ‘Easy,’ 95 percent.” She adds, “Learning a model of camera is like learning a language”: mastering one makes the next easier.

In Spring 2012, planners for LLI’s 15th-anniversary banquet discussed commissioning a professional video. Instead, with time and funds short, Gail offered to make “a quality ‘home movie.’” She volunteered more than a week creating that labor of love, showcasing our familiar faces and memories.

--Chris Edwards
Welcome, new and returning members!


**Brown Bag lunches** are held at Gilkerson Activity Center in Harrisonburg from 11:30 to 1:00 and are open to the public. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the topics listed below. For more details, look in the LLI fall catalog or online at http://www.jmu.edu/socwork/lli/brownbag.html.

**Tuesday, October 2**: The Art of Collecting Books and How to Sell Your Books

Anthony Baker, owner of the Barrister Book store in Staunton, will help you determine how you can build your library collection and help you to know how to identify collectibles and how to purchase those books. He will also discuss how to go about selling your collection if you desire.

**Tuesday, October 16**: A Bunny’s Tale: The Playboy Club

LLI member Sandy Conrad was living the hoppin’ life at the fabulous Chicago Playboy Club in the early years of 1960-1963. As one of the original bunnies, "Your Bunny Sandy" will give us the insider’s scoop.

**Tuesday, October 30**: Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it’s time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer’s disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future.
November 16, 2012 Friday @ 8 p.m.
Alfred Hitchcock’s The 39 Steps
5:30 dinner at Capital Ale House
$66 per person

January 12, 2013, Saturday @ 8 p.m.
West Virginia Dance Company
5:30 dinner at Local Chop and Grill House
$73 per person

February 5, 2013, Tuesday @ 8 p.m.
Straight from Manhattan’s Birdland Jazz Club: Birdland Big Band
5:30 dinner at Dave’s Downtown Taverna
$64 per person

March 23, 2013, Saturday @ 8 p.m.
Anna Deavere Smith
5:30 dinner at Beyond Restaurant
$71 per person

April 18, 2013 Thursday @ 8 p.m.
Gilbert and Sullivan’s The Pirates of Penzance
5:30 dinner at Clementine
$44 per person

Join friends from LLI and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, followed by an evening of entertainment at the Forbes Center!

Chihuly at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Thursday, November 1, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
A day trip to the award-winning James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Wing will provide a dramatic setting for Chihuly at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for a major exhibition of work by internationally renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly. Chihuly’s art remains at the cutting edge of the technical and virtuoso possibilities of glass as a medium, and this exhibition will include many iconic works for which Chihuly is known — Ikebana, Mille Fiori, Chandeliers, Tabac Baskets, Venetians, Boats, Persian Ceiling — as well as site-specific installations, taking advantage of the soaring atrium and reflecting pools.

The presentation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is Chihuly’s third major U.S. museum exhibition in recent years, with record-breaking crowds attending exhibitions of his work at the de Young Museum in San Francisco in 2008 and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2011. Dale Chihuly is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement and elevating the medium of glass from the realm of craft to fine art. The studio in Seattle, Washington, which Chihuly founded and directs, is an extraordinary workshop, employing many of the greatest glass artists to realize his unique vision.

Cost per person is $53.50, with reservations due by October 15, 2012.
Shall We Call Her Annie Oakley?

Faced with hitting her final two targets but having only one remaining shell, Virginia Snodgrass ended the spring 2012 Golf with a Shotgun on a spectacular blast. After the instructor showed Virginia how the two targets would come flying from different directions but would cross in flight, Virginia said okay, the class grew intent, Virginia readied her gun, yelled Pull! and blew those two clay targets into multiple pieces. The class was initially stunned but immediately shouted with amazement and respect. Virginia is an experienced shooter with her own gun but until the class had never fired on a sporting clays course.

Nine LLI members, ranging from shotgun novice to experienced hunters and shooters who brought their own guns to class, participated in the shotgun golf class held at the Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays course. Sporting clays courses are designed to simulate the hunting of game birds and rabbits with various target stations, mostly in the woods, with some in open fields.

The students shot at four-inch clay targets thrown by trap machines in various directions - either toward, away, or across from the shooter in a high or low arc or along the ground. The shotgun shells have a half-load of powder reducing the recoil after firing, which the students appreciated after firing 25 - 50 shots each class. The activity is called shotgun golf because it is a group activity played at various target locations with the students congratulating each other on successful shots and bemoaning the target that was barely missed.

The class was divided into two groups and thanks to expert and patient teaching provided individually to each student by instructors Rick Hill, John Alexander, and Robert Stickley, the students were hitting targets on the first shooting day. Hitting the targets, either dead-on or just winging them, was always personally satisfying but challenging for all shooters. Upon course completion, the inexperienced shooters agreed that it was a chance to participate in an activity that they otherwise probably would not have attempted. All shooters thought that it was a fun and rewarding time and left the course thinking of that perfect effort, hitting two targets with one shot.

-- John Mundell
Participants relaxing at the end of the 3 In 1 Day Training Program created by RoxAnna Theiss and Sandy Greene of the Headwaters Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists. This is part of the VVMN program - see page 2

Spring 2012 class: “The Israeli Palestinian Conflict Through The Arts” taught by Bob Bersson. Raad Amer, who is Palestinian-born, now lives in Harrisonburg. As a friend of Bob’s, he came to the last class to discuss his experiences and give a Palestinian perspective. His 4 year old son played quietly during the class.
Genealogy-GENCIG
Second Friday of month, 10am - noon
National College
1515 Country Club Rd
Harrisonburg
Contact:
Stephen Barranco,
sbarranco@att.net

Music/Theater
Meet for various Musical and/or Theater productions
Contact:
Adair McConnell
amcconnell55@comcast.net

Valley Jazz Band
Tuesday, 3:45-5:45 pm
Wilbur Pence Middle School, Dayton
Contact:
Keith Hoodock
703-819-6270 or khoodock@gmail.com
* additional fee

Classic Book Club
Second Friday of month, 10am - noon
Blue Ridge Hall
Contact:
Alice Krech, 432-2309
This group is full; would someone like to start another?

Art Interests - The Dabblers
First Wednesday of month 10am - noon
Beth El Congregation
840 Old Furnace Rd.
Harrisonburg
Contact:
Judy Liss, 289-9409

Contemporary Book Club
Contact:
Jane Rynar,
845-548-2345
jrynar@comcast.net
Location and time not yet decided