A Message from our
Incoming President,
Linda Bradley

This summer I was saddened to learn that Dr. Cecil Bradfield had passed away after a long illness. Dr. Bradfield not only served JMU from 1971-2000 as a faculty member and associate vice president of academic affairs, but also as the founding director of JMU’s Lifelong Learning Institute nearly 20 years ago. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and LLI has sponsored a Cecil Bradfield scholarship for a number of years; you will hear more about this scholarship later in the year.

The passing of one of our founders reminds me of the wonderful gifts and contributions of so many of our other leaders and volunteers over the years. I’d like to take this time to publicly thank these persons who have faithfully served on our LLI Advisory Board over the last several years: Greg Coffman, Brad Chewning, Bill Ney, Eric Rynar, Jayne Rynar, and Patsy Shreckhise. As you see them, please express your appreciation for their service.

At the same time, we warmly welcome Jennifer Cottrell, Damien Derschel, Mary Cline Detrick, Anna Rose Geary, Bill Ingham, Lynn Riner, and Beverly Silver to service on the board. See the complete listing of advisory board members elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you share with them any comments or suggestions to help LLI continue to provide exciting and innovative courses and activities for its members.

I mentioned earlier that LLI will soon be 20 years old, which means that we will be planning a gala celebration in the future. Be sure to stay tuned for more information!

This fall we celebrate yet another exciting variety of courses, Ed-Venture trips, brown bag learning lunches, common interest groups, and Forbes Center events – enough certainly to interest existing members and to attract new members to our program. Check out these offerings, introduce your friends to LLI, and be sure to mention the one-year free membership for new members who agree to receive all LLI communications by email!

Warmly,
Linda Bradley

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And…...a message from our outgoing LLI President, Greg Coffman....

I’d like to thank all of our members who have volunteered their time, talents, and knowledge to make our classes, social events, learning lunches, and trips outstanding successes. This has been one of the best years for LLI, and it’s only been possible because of our members working behind the scenes to make it happen.

Our membership is only as good as our members; no matter what methods we use to recruit new members, nothing gets more results than the word-of-mouth approach from you. Nothing works better than our members asking their friends and associates to join. You are the best representative LLI can have.

Greg Coffman, Outgoing President
"Ten Pioneering Women", which examines the lives and work of 10 extraordinary contributors to 20th-Century science, is Bill Ingham's third LLI offering. This course aims to shed as much light on the lives of scientists as on their scientific work. From Lise Meitner, one of the discoverers of nuclear fission on the eve of World War II, to Elizabeth Blackburn, who won the 2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering what protects the integrity of DNA, these ten individuals have led fascinating lives even as they were transforming human life and thought.

Bill grew up on a farm in Chautauqua County in westernmost New York. He attended college at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While a student there, he met the love of his life, Linda Dowling. They were married in June 1968, the day after Bill received his "bachelor's" degree. That summer they moved to Pasadena, California, where Bill spent the next academic year earning an MS degree in astronomy at Caltech.

Faced with the likelihood that he would be drafted by late 1969 or early 1970, Bill and Linda moved back East with their infant daughter Lisa, so that Linda would be nearer to her parents. As it happened, Bill was allowed to perform two years of alternative service at Massachusetts General Hospital. Their younger child, Andy, was born during Bill's service, which was completed in April 1972.

After teaching for a year at East Stroudsburg State College (now Stroudsburg University) in Pennsylvania, he re-entered graduate study with Linda's encouragement. The family moved back to Boston in 1973, and Bill completed a PhD in astrophysics at MIT in 1976.

Bill had the great good fortune to earn his degree under the supervision of Philip Morrison. Professor Morrison may be known to public television viewers from his appearance in several NOVA programs and the six-part PBS series "The Ring of Truth", which aired in 1989. Bill recalls that he was both intimidated and inspired by Morrison, who had studied with J. Robert Oppenheimer, worked on the Manhattan Project, and earned the enmity of Senator Joseph McCarthy for his postwar advocacy of international control of nuclear weapons. "Phil Morrison's remarkable life story and his commitment to a scientifically informed citizenry fueled my own interest in learning and teaching about the lives and times of scientists," Bill recalls.

Bill and Linda and their young children moved to Harrisonburg in 1976, when Bill joined the physics faculty at Madison College, now JMU. During his 34 years as a full-time faculty member, Bill taught courses in physics, astronomy, and the history of science. Linda worked throughout that time, completing her working life as office manager at the Harrisonburg office of the Virginia Worker's Compensation Commission. Bill and Linda moved to Sunnyside Retirement Community in late 2013. They enjoy the activities and volunteer opportunities there, and Bill has done some part-time teaching in physics and mathematics at JMU.

Regarding LLI, Bill says "It's wonderful to make new acquaintances and learn about their life experiences, as we converse about remarkable individuals who have helped to shape the world we live in and the choices we face. And there are no tests to worry about!"
October 6

Civil War Surgery and Dr. Hunter McGuire

Dr. Irvin Hess, orthopedic surgeon of Harrisonburg will present a special program about the life of a famed Civil War surgeon and will discuss medical procedures, some of graphic nature, during this time. Dr. Hess is Chairman Emeritus of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Foundation. He attended Bridgewater College and received his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia and served as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at McDonald Army Hospital at Fort Estes before beginning private practice in Harrisonburg.

October 20

Clothes Talk - What They Have to Say About Us and Our Past

Examine objects from the JMU Historic Clothing Collection. Discover where, why, how and by whom they were worn. Extend the queries to our own clothing. What do our clothes say about us? Professor Pamela Johnson is the resident costume designer in the JMU School of Theatre and Dance and is the curator and manager of the JMU Historic Clothing Collection. She teaches courses in costume history, design, technology and stage makeup, and has designed over 300 productions at JMU and elsewhere in her career. Her research focus is on the JMU Historic Collection which she developed in the early 1980s.

November 3

Lincoln: A Model for Leadership. We will discuss the characteristics that made Abraham Lincoln such an effective president. How did he develop those characteristics? Are they required for effective leadership, especially for presidents? There will be an opportunity to consider his apparent inadequate credentials for the presidency and consider how he overcame limitations of birth, background, experience, name and education. Phil Stone is the former president of Bridgewater College; Founder and president of Lincoln Society of Virginia.

November 17

Southern Vernacular Furniture Forms

A survey of vernacular furniture forms strongly associated with the American South during the 19th century. Special attention is given to the unique development of the "pie" safe in the Shenandoah Valley; the emergence of the sugar chest in Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky; and the materialization of the hunt board in South Carolina and Georgia. Jeffrey S. Evans has been collecting, studying, and dealing in Shenandoah Valley decorative arts since he was 11 years old.
Welcome, New Members!


New Special Interest Groups

Memoir Writing and Ethical Will
Have you ever given thought to writing the special memories of your life and passing them on to your children and grandchildren but for some reason have not done it? Rabbi Joseph Blair from Temple Beth-El is prepared to guide you on the journey of writing about your remembrances and then sharing them with others in your group of writers, if so desired. These accounts will become an ethical will for members of your family.

The meeting dates below are spaced out to give time for writing, group sharing and reflection.

October 8, October 22, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon  Class size: Limited to 10

Place: Temple Beth El  Contact: Rabbi Joseph Blair at 540-434-2744 or rabbijoeb@hotmail.com

Court Square Theater and Movie Group
Anna Rose Geary and Jayne Rynar will organize group movie excursions to Court Square Theater each semester. They will also offer a "Movie Club" which will meet at the Ice House a couple times per semester. The group will choose a movie, watch it together on an agreed day and discuss the movie after the viewing, perhaps at the coffee cafe behind the Ice House! Films chosen will be either foreign films or thought-provoking films which encourage discussion.

Contact: Anna Rose at 540-746-7711 or robtgeary@aol.com
Jayne Rynar at 845-548-2345 or jy.ry@hotmail.com

This Newsletter was brought to you by the Newsletter Committee
Chris Edwards
Nancy Endress
Betty Hoskins
Rosemarie Palmer
Nancy Owens, ad Hoc
Shenandoah Valley Regional Studies Seminar

The Shenandoah Valley Regional Studies Seminar offers a regular forum to consider topics of regional interest, pertinent, but not restricted, to the Shenandoah Valley and are open to the public. All meetings begin at 3:35 p.m. and will be held at James Madison University in Jackson Hall, room 107, unless otherwise announced. For directions, see--http://www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/directions/

16 October—Alexia Jones Helsley, University of South Carolina, Aiken, "Richard Pearis of Winchester"
13 November (2nd Friday)—Patrick Hollis, James Madison University, "Capital Hunger: Food, Taste, and Civilization in Confederate Richmond."
15 January—Andrei Kushnir, Independent Artist, "Painting the Picturesque Shenandoah Valley Landscape"
19 February—Guy Aiken, University of Virginia, "A Quaker New Deal for Southern Appalachia"
18 March—Jim Schruefer, James Madison University, "Good Union People: The Shared Experience of White Unionists, Slaves and Free Blacks in the Civil War Shenandoah"
15 April—Emily Schimmel, George Mason University, “A ‘Protected and Profitable Valley’: The People and Arts of Wythe County, Virginia"

12th Annual Shenandoah Lyceum Series

All events are held in Detwiler Auditorium, Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community at 7:00 p.m.
Single Ticket: $8 in advance; $10 at the door To register with cash, check or credit card, please call the VMRC Wellness Center (540) 574-3850 or stop by at 1481 Virginia Avenue

October 16, 2015: Scary Movies and Appalachian Stereotypes Presented by Emily Satterwhite, Ph.D.
Emily Satterwhite is associate professor of Appalachian studies and popular culture studies at Virginia Tech. Her book “Dear Appalachia: Readers, Identity, and Popular Fiction since 1878” was the 2011 winner of the Weatherford Award for the best work of non-fiction illuminating the Appalachian South. Dr. Satterwhite’s new book investigates the depictions of rural places in popular culture, specifically Appalachia stereotypes in horror movies.

January 15, 2016: Desegregation of Virginia Public Schools - A Personal Experience Presented by Ron Deskins
Ron was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in the community of Halls Hill in Arlington, VA. A product of Arlington County Public Schools, he was one of four black students to enroll in the previously all-white Stratford Junior High School in 1959. Ron attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Md. and Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. Currently, he is a circulation assistant at the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg.

A trip and tea to begin the holidays!
Friday, December 11, 2015 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Whether you’re a Downton Abbey fan or not, take a trip to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond and enjoy an exhibition of fashions and social order beginning in 1912. Tour the Virginia House, a relocated and reconstructed English manor house, and enjoy high tea in the manor’s hall which will be decorated as it would have been by the original owners in 1925. A house tour will follow and participants can also view the gardens to the James River.
Registration and payment of $80 is due by October 30th
Slightly off the beaten tourist track, Poland is ‘ready’ to be discovered. Via a short connecting flight in Frankfurt, Germany, we arrived in Gdansk (Danzig) on the Baltic Sea in April. Nine in our small Road Scholar group, we were up for a two week tour of Poland by bus. The countryside is flat and has an excellent road system, comparable to our Interstates. In the north is the Baltic Sea and a lake district; the snow-capped Tatra Mountains are in the south. It is about the size of Pennsylvania and has all the amenities, making it easy to travel. Accommodations are online and very affordable (an overnight stay with private bath and buffet breakfast averages $60/night). Wi-Fi is prevalent and English is spoken whenever needed.

After a complex history of struggle and deprivation, Poland is finally an independent, democratic modern nation with a solid infrastructure and a passion for the preservation of their historic sites and culture. For example, Warsaw, the capital, was demolished during WWII, but all the historic buildings and market squares have now been re-constructed. In contrast, Krakow remained untouched so the original Medieval structures have survived. Poland has been a member of the European Union since 2004, thus it is eligible for financial aid for annual improvement projects. The Polish zloty is still in use, a much better exchange rate than euros.

My first impression of Poland was that of a fairytale land, with decorative Medieval buildings surrounding cobblestone market squares with sidewalk cafes, Gothic castles, walled-in towns, tales of Teutonic Knights, a queen who wanted to be king, home of the Black Madonna, fountain sculptures depicting fables, battles with invading Turks and Swedes, gaily painted cottages, palatial estates of the aristocratic class, street musicians of all ages, and Russian czars who had once traveled by train to hunt bison in the eastern forests. Home to such notables as Chopin, Copernicus, and Madame Curie. It was charming to observe that kissing a lady’s hand is still a Polish custom, especially among older gentlemen.

Underlying this was a complex and oppressive history. The birth of the Polish nation was first recorded in 966 under Duke Mieszko I, who ruled from a prominence on the Vistula River in Krakow. In 1364, the university was founded in Krakow, one of the earliest in Europe. Located between powerful Germany and Russia, Poland was divided up into “Partitions” between Germany (Prussia), Russia, and Austria in the 1700s. In 1914-18, Poland suffered as a battleground during WWI. In September 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, the beginning of WWII. Poland remained under the Nazi regime during which Jews and Polish intelligentsia were exterminated at death camps such as Auschwitz. After WWII in 1945, at the Yalta Conference, it was agreed that Poland remain under Soviet control. Communism ruled until 1980 when the Solidarity movement achieved independence, as a result of striking shipyard workers led by Lech Walesa in Gdansk. Credit is given to Karol Wojtyla, the Polish Pope, for his inspiration and support. An excellent museum there portrays the drama of this period. The Poles today are proud to claim that of all the former Soviet bloc countries, Poland’s economy ranks highest.
Interspersed with presentations by university professors, and accompanied by two guides, we first traveled to Torun, home of Nicolas Copernicus, who proved in 1543 that the earth revolved around the sun, and not vice versa. Nearby, we toured the largest brick castle in the world, “Malbork”, built in the 13th century by the Teutonic Knights, a monastic order who came to convert the pagans. The next two weeks were filled with more exciting adventures.

A detailed itinerary can be found on the Road Scholar website. We traveled to Gdansk, Torun, Warsaw, Krakow, Auschwitz, Wroclaw, Zamosc, Zakopane, and Zubrowka in the national forest on the Belarus border. Most places, we had personal walking tours by local guides, sometimes by riverboat or horse-drawn wagon. We danced the Polka, attended a private Chopin concert, visited museums and art galleries, toured a salt mine, helped celebrate “Constitution Day” in Krakow, bought amber in the shops, and enjoyed our surprise farewell dinner with live opera interludes in a private home which had been a gatehouse in a castle ruin. Every day was a new adventure. Both the tour and the country of Poland exceeded my expectations.

I had a personal interest in Poland because in the 1890s, Poland experienced a mass migration due to poverty and lack of economic opportunity. Approximately 4 million out of 22 million Poles emigrated to the United States. Among them were my great-grandparents on both sides of my family. My ancestors came from Prussia, where attempts were made to Germanize the population: place names were changed (Gdansk to Danzig; Wroclaw to Breslau), German became the language in schools, and Germans were given farming land and opportunities.

Through a relative, I planned to stay an extra week on my own after our tour to study my roots. From Warsaw I went to Poznan by train, where I arranged to meet my Polish guide. He took me to many of the villages where we had church records of baptisms and marriages. I stayed at his B & B near Lesno, went to Mass with him in a wooden church dating to 1640, and also witnessed his voting in the presidential elections at a school gym (much like our polling place setup). We never did find any remaining relatives, but the 'sentimental journey' was worth it!

NOTE: Photos taken in Poland begin on page 8 of the web version

B Session Classes begin October 19, 2015

Have some spare time during the week?
These classes would welcome a few more participants!

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Photos from Road Scholar trip to Poland

Warsaw

Maribak Castle

Children in Traditional Dress
Gdansk (Neptune Fountain)

Krakow Market Square (café)

Our Lady of Czestochowa Cathedral

Krakow

Zubrowka (hunter’s cottage)
Current LLI Board Members

Linda Bradley - President (17)  
Betty Kitzmann - Secretary (16)  
Bill Ingham - Membership Committee (18)  
Stuart Liss - Finance Committee (16)  
Sandra Conrad - Social Committee (16)  
Lynn Riner - Member at Large (18)  
Damian Dirscherl - Member at large (18)  
Sarah MacDonald - Outreach and Engagement  

Archie Turner - President-Elect(18)  
Mary Cline Detrick - Curriculum Committee (16)  
Beverly Silver - Nominations Committee (18)  
Anna Rose Geary-Social Committee (16)  
Jennifer Cottrell - Publicity Committee (18)  
Betty Hoskins - Newsletter  
Paul Graham - Member at large (16)  
Nancy Owens - LLI Director

( ) denotes last year of term