

MARCH 1994

The Five College -



Learning in Retirement Program NEWSLETTER

Volume V, Issue 2

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What a way to treat a Fifth Anniversary! I remember it's being cold early in the first term of SCLIR, but the start of this one has been ridiculous. For example, Say It With a Poem started on time, but snow and flooded underpass days have wiped out three meetings.

But we are up and going and proud and happy to be moving into our sixth year, despite the outrageous weather. We can be proud of our accomplishments over the first five years: presently 137 members, 11 well attended seminars, successful Special Events, and thriving Summer and Winter programs.

While we got to our present favorable circumstances without a formal plan - just by the work of many able and dedicated people, and the kindness of friends, it's been clear for some time that we have to examine our present state and plan for the future. Eleanor Reid's Committee with its task forces is busy at this assignment.

The Seminars will be choosing their candidates for the Council, and the Nominating Committee is at work, the Annual Meeting is planned for next month.

If you have any suggestions or questions, my number is 253-3560.

Bill Lieson

F. IRVINE ELLIOTT, 1915 - 1994

Irv Elliott was a member of LIR continuously from 1990 until his death in February. Because Irv was a reserved man, we may not have been aware that a powerful mind and compassionate spirit lay behind the unassuming exterior.

Leafing through the bound volume of his published research papers, one comes to appreciate the scope and distinction of his professional work. Irv directed pioneering research which ultimately resulted, through scientific breeding, in increasing milk production of cattle around the world. His major contribution was the development of a process for freezing semen.

In retirement in South Amherst, distant from colleagues and

the work which had been the center of his life in Wisconsin, Irv threw himself into volunteer work, logging many hundreds of hours of service to community and church. Here we came to marvel at the great goodness of the man. The fundamental virtues were as natural to Irv as breathing, yet he tried to do better. During his last illness, an acquaintance, meeting him in the corridor at Cooley Dick, told him how she admired the positive spirit and courage with which he coped with pain and disheartening setbacks. He replied modestly, "I keep working at it!"

SELF STUDY/LONG RANGE PLANNING

Six Task Forces and a Coordinating Committee have begun a process of self study and planning for LIR's future. The initial meeting of conveners and coordinators was held on February 28. Soon thereafter, the Governance, Curriculum, Finance, and Special Events/Community Service Task Forces met, with others scheduled to follow soon.

It's not too late for LIR members not already serving on task forces to take an active part in the project. Every member of LIR who has a suggestion or an endorsement to make is encouraged to speak up. Just call a convener and let him/her know what is on your mind! We're hoping to prove that LIR members are actively interested in the future of their organization and willing to take initiative in sharing constructive ideas with their peers.

The Task Force conveners are: Bob Grose, Coordinating; Paul Rothery, Governance; Midge Bennett, Curriculum; Esther Crystal, Finance and Physical Plant; Ted and Laura Belsky, Special Events/Community Service; Ed Buck, Membership. The Newsletter/Publicity Task Force convener will be announced later. Volunteers needed! We particularly welcome LIR members of recent vintage.

ELDERHOSTEL INSTITUTE NETWORK

Five College Learning in Retirement has taken part in two Northeast regional conferences sponsored by EIN - in 1990 (Springfield) and 1992 (Binghamton, N.Y.). These three-day events can be full of excitement and fun, as retirees from our region get together to take part in demonstration study groups, to share ideas about curriculum, to learn what's happening in other institutes throughout the country. Those who attend feel energized and proud to be a part of a vital movement.

So --- it's time to think about the next Northeast Conference. It will be held in November in Salem, MA., close enough so that many of us may attend. In preparation, SCLIR has been given a specific assignment: we are asked to be responsible for designing and leading the final wrap-up session, just before adjournment.

Have you attended a conference where the final meeting helped you put the sessions in perspective and go home on an up-beat, with new enthusiasm? If you have, we'd like to hear about your experience and how it might be adapted to EIN. Call our EIN liaison person, Eleanor Reid (253-3825).

ENGLAND IN MAY

The invitation is still open for members of Five College LIR to visit England in May as guests of USA members in Cheltenham! Margaret Ward anticipates this during the second week of May, exact dates to be arranged. Included will be housing with local members, visits to their classes, plus excursions to places like Bath or Stratford on Avon. May in England can be quite delightful! There are currently 3 or 4 of us seriously interested, mostly in conjunction with other personal plans to travel in the U.K.

If you are interested, please call me at 586-5224. ASAP!

Suzanne Lehman

P.S. Individuals traveling in England at other times are welcome to visit our British guests from last October. (Karen has a list in the office of their names and addresses.) Margaret Ward will assist these arrangements too.

REPORT ON JANUARY MUSICAL REVELS

JAZZ - The first in the January Music Series was held on Wednesday, January 5 in the Buckley Music Building at Amherst College. Priscilla Dolloff was in charge and provided a delightful program to almost 50 enthusiastic listeners. During the first part of the program, she explained the various types of jazz and played tapes of musical excerpts as examples. She then introduced Tom McClung, a local professional jazz pianist, who entertained the audience with his superb playing, complete with commentary. It was a thoroughly pleasurable morning which passed all too quickly

Nicole Dunn and David Navon, co-directors of the January Music Revels are to be congratulated.

Ellie Quint

PUCCINI'S TURANDOT - David Navon, during the first of two music filled hours briefly outlined Giacomo Puccini's personal and mostly musical life, starting at age 5. Member of a long standing Italian musical family and son of well known musician, Giacomo trained at the Milan Conservatory. He became the crowned successor to Verdi and his first opera, Le Villi, was influenced by Verdi's Aida.

After a break, David, discussed and analyzed excerpts from

Turandot, Puccini's last and often considered his finest opera. The recording included the voices of Sutherland, Pavarotti and Caballe. A handout included the dates of Puccini's career, A Synopsis of Turandot and the Words of the three riddles.

Mary Egginton

SONGFEST - Every tree twig sparkled with ice and, of course, it was slippery underfoot when about 25 brave souls gathered in a music room at Amherst College for a Songfest with Isaac Reid assisted by Eleanor Fligman and Judy Sharpe.

Isaac challenged us to join in singing, in 5 different languages, music from the masters. Isaac and Elaine interspersed our ensemble numbers with solos and a duet. He gave us lots of hints on pronunciation in the different languages, voice and breath control, as well as background in the music. Probably few of us went away ready to audition for the Met but we left warmed by the beautiful music and with a heightened appreciation of what goes into these performances.

Lucy McAfee

ON BROADWAY - Fortunately, the weather didn't prevent LIR members from being entertained by the magical Barry Keating (son of our own Pat and Dick Keating). Amherst College was the setting for Barry's musical presentation of his own Broadway musical "Starmites". With Barry at the piano and taking all the parts, it was quite a show. We, also heard excerpts from Barry's cabaret show "Hollywood Opera." Humphrey Bogart fans howled as Barry, again taking all the parts, mixed up musical versions of The Maltese Falcon, Casablanca, and The African Queen. The audience kept asking for more and Barry obliged. We heard about the "Garbage Cantata", "Pericles", and "Father Flanagan's Dream." Barry is a marvelous writer and performer and we all thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

Florence Barondes

GILBERT & SULLIVAN EXTRAVAGANZA - Fifty plus snow-suited LIR members and guests trudged, stumbled and slid in below zero temperature to the Stirn Theater at Amherst College for the long-awaited Gilbert & Sullivan extravaganza.

Featured were tapes of "Iolanthe" and "The Mikado" brilliantly staged by Canadian Savoyards at the Stratford Festival in Ontario.

At noon the group went to the Lord Jeff for an ample and leisurely lunch. At 2:00 we reassembled at the theater for discussion of the productions. Jim Ellis, the recognized Gilbert & Sullivan expert, led spirited interchanges with wit and astute comment.

To this writer the best part of the gathering was that pleasure was the only objective.

Bill Hubbard