From the President

Thank You

As I end my term as your President I want to acknowledge the numerous people who made the experience so very satisfying. First, my thanks to all the many CLS members for their words of encouragement and support, for their patience with our occasional glitches, and for quickly agreeing to volunteer when called upon for many tasks large and small.

Thanks to ALL the Council Members for their support and cooperation. Requests were always quickly acted upon with a smile. And special thanks for helping make our Council meetings short, sweet and efficient.

Thanks to Anita Morrison and the people on the Curriculum Committees for all the terrific courses they put together – Lydia Bauman, Marlene and Eric Straus, Lillian Moerschell, Ron Bowers, Hans Jensen and Neil Christensen.

Thanks to Stan Schmidt for taking the lead on two of our new initiatives – the CMEE efforts with Marist College which gave our members a chance to give something back, and the new Life and Leisure Studies Committee which brought new and interactive offerings at new locations to our members.

Thanks to Lucille Gower for always being there with the coffee and goodies.

Thanks to Marty Finkelstein for always being on top of the financial numbers. I never had to worry about them.

Thanks to Al and Sue Blodgett and Lila Matlin for continuing the long string of great special events.

Thanks to the Campilis, Ginny and Tony for well-prepared Council minutes and a smooth interface to Marist College, respectively.

Thanks to Raina Maission for her “legal insight,” for stepping in to head the nominating committee, and for keeping an eye on our space needs.
Thanks to Barb Zuccarello and Margaret Prescott for handling our increased membership with understated smoothness and without a hiccup.

Thanks to Bette Rapa for reenergizing our Fountains at Millbrook programs and the smooth continuation of our tutoring efforts in the local schools.

Thanks to Gladys Estony for her leadership of the irreplaceable Phone Mail Committee. She is also deeply involved with our work at the Fountains.

Thanks to Vince Antonetti and Jim and Susan Walsh for editing these messages and making me look literate.

Thanks to Jodi Delahoyde for her unfailing help, great advice and judgment and for always seeming to have the answer to my questions.

And finally I want to thank my strong right arm Ange Rapa. His multiple talents and leadership have been invaluable to me and CLS. I know of no one who cares more about the short and long-term interests of CLS than Ange. CLS is very lucky to have him.

In closing, I want to say that the best thing about the last couple of years was the opportunity to get to know many of you a lot better and to make some new, good friends. I recommend the position to any of you who are inclined to take on a leadership role. Thanks for the memories.

Sincerely, Dick Herodes

PS - If I've missed someone, I apologize. Chalk it up to a senior moment!

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**CLS Annual Meeting**

The CLS Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. Refreshments will be served starting at 9:30. We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Dr. Dennis Murray, President of Marist College.

**Dr. Dennis Murray**

Dr. Dennis J. Murray was appointed President and Professor of Public Policy at Marist College in 1979. During his tenure as President, he has guided the College through an exceptional period of growth. Enrollments have doubled, many new academic programs have been established and the academic profile of the entering freshmen has risen significantly.

Dr. Murray has also forged numerous community and corporate relationships that have greatly benefited the College. Early in his tenure at Marist, he recognized the important role that information technology would play in enhancing the teaching and learning process. Thanks to a long-time partnership with the IBM Corporation, Marist has become one of the nation's most technologically advanced liberal arts colleges.
A nationally recognized educator and administrator, Dr. Murray served as an advisor to the NBC television network and hosted a nationally broadcast series on higher education.

He has served on the American Council on Education's Commission on International Education and Commission on Leadership Development. He also was a member of the board of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. He served four years as an alumni representative to the board of trustees of the California State University and Colleges.

Dr. Murray is the editor of three books in the field of government and public affairs and is the author of two books on non-profit management, *How to Evaluate your Fund-Raising Program* and *The Guaranteed Fund-Raising System*, which have been used in more than 3,500 organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

An active member of the civic community, Dr. Murray currently serves on the boards of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, which oversees the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Dr. Murray also was on the Vassar Brothers Hospital board for more than 18 years, and served as chairman of its foundation board. He previously was a member of the boards of the Bank of New York's Regional Board, United Way and American Heart Association.

Dr. Murray's significant contributions to the fields of education and community service have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Franciscan Award from the Sisters of St. Francis, the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal.

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**CLS Council Meeting Highlights**

**March 27, 2009**

**Administration:** The speaker at our June 10, 2009 Annual Meeting will be Dr. Dennis Murray, President of Marist College.

The Poughkeepsie Tennis Club has a new general manager. The interior of the PTC where our classes are held is being painted and redecorated. Some other planned changes may affect our ability to securely store and setup A/V equipment.

The agenda for the next Planning Committee meeting on April 23, 2009 will consider the possibility of CLS participation in the June 2010 Northeast Regional Conference of LLI’s and the feasibility of putting our course catalog, the Chronicle and other member news online.

**Connections:** The theme for the May 2009 Rural Seniors Program to be held at The Fountains at Millbrook is: “Music Made in America: Blues-Gospel, Jazz and Show Biz”.

Presentations are as follows: May 4 - “Sorrow Songs and Jubilees: The Rise of Blues and Gospel”- Peter Muir, PhD Musicologist. May 11 - “Fascinating Rhythms: The Emergence of Jazz”- Peter Muir, PhD. May 18 - “Musicals, America’s Million Dollar Miracles”- Stephen Press, Teacher-Lecturer. Flyers have been printed and are being distributed. The program will also be posted on the CLS website. Work has already started on the Fall program.

**Adopt-A-School:** CLS currently has 10 volunteers at the Clinton school and 4 at Krieger. The Clinton School would like 2 more volunteers. The Krieger School would also like more CLS volunteers but they would have to start at 8:30 a.m.
**Finance:** The difference between 2009-10 income and expenses will be covered by our reserve fund. But our entire surplus could be used by 2010 if we do nothing. Several options were proposed: a) increase dues by $10.00, b) increase membership, c) increase fees for holiday party, etc., or d) use the Sherman Fund accrued interest. The Council voted to increase dues by $10.00 (to $150.00 per year).

**CLS-Marist Educational Exchange:** Several successful events have been sponsored. A committee chairperson and co-chair are needed.

**Member Services:** A co-chair is needed and other volunteers are also needed to assist in opening and closing down at the end of the class day.

**Membership:** Seven new members and their mentors will have an orientation meeting on April 6, 2009. Refreshments will be served and name tags distributed.

**Public Information:** The Winter 2008 Chronicle was published on time and delivered to the membership in a combined mailing with the Catalog.

**CLS Website:** A system for password-protected accounts for individual CLS members does not appear to be practical at this time. A computer-assisted wait-list request procedure has been put in place. The previous manual mode remains intact and will run in parallel. Interactive features have been added to the Outreach-Rural Seniors page to generate custom driving instructions to the Fountains.

**Special Events:** The 6 trips planned for spring are all over-subscribed. An attempt is being made to run 3 trips this summer.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in Dyson 113.

The preceding highlights were prepared by Vince Antonetti and are based on a first draft of the CLS Council minutes by Ginny Campillii

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**NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE 2009 – 2010**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Ange Rapa  
VP Administration: Leatham Mehaffey  
VP Curriculum: Paul Totta  
VP Public Information: Jim Walsh  
Secretary: Elaine Anderson  
Treasurer: Marty Finkelstein

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Special Events: Al Blodgett  
Finance: Tony Campilli  
Member Services: (to be announced)  
Classroom Support: Herb Sweet  
Connections: Bette Rapa  
Membership: Barbara Zuccarrello

**COUNCIL AT LARGE:**

Shelly Dewitt  
Lucille Gower  
Raina Maissel  
Newt Ruffing  
Stan Schmidt  
Mary Louise Van Winkle
MEET LEON & RAINA MAISSEL
by Wilma Schmidt

England’s loss was our gain. Both Leon and Raina Maissel came to the U.S. in 1956 from London, England. First they went to Philadelphia where Leon worked for the Philco Corporation doing development work on semiconductors and Raina worked as a researcher for a law firm. They moved to the Hudson Valley in 1960, after Leon accepted an offer from IBM, where he remained until his retirement in 1993.

Leon was born and raised in Cape Town, a beautiful city on Table Bay situated on the southwest coast of South Africa. He did a double major in Chemistry and Physics at the University of Cape Town followed by a Master’s degree in Physics. He continued his studies at Imperial College of Science in London where he obtained a Ph.D. in 1955.

Raina was born in London, England where her grandparents had settled around 1900. At the beginning of World War II, she and her brother were evacuated with her school to the country. Her parents subsequently moved to a village near Winchester and the family was reunited. When the bombing of London started in June 1940, grandparents, uncles, cousins, and assorted relatives descended upon and eventually all found accommodations in the village. Raina grew up there and took the train to Winchester to attend high school. After the war her parents relocated to Bournemouth, a vacation area on the south coast of England.

With a scholarship, Raina attended University College London, graduating with a degree in Law. After passing the necessary exams and completing a pupillage, she became a barrister and practiced law for about a year. Raina then decided to travel to Israel with the intention of possibly emigrating. She was to participate in a program designed for professionals who were thinking of settling in Israel. On the way there, on a train in France, she met Leon, who had the same intentions. They married in January 1956 after Leon acquired his Ph.D., as her parents wouldn’t allow marriage to an unqualified student. (A Master’s Degree didn’t count!)

Leon and Raina have three children and five grandsons ranging in age from 5 to 17. They love to spend a week at Rehoboth Beach at the end of the summer with their family.

Leon spent ten years in the Components Division of IBM working on semiconductor technology in East Fishkill. In 1970 he took a year’s sabbatical leave to work with an Advanced Technology Group in Poughkeepsie. He remained in Poughkeepsie until 1993 when he decided to retire. Since retiring, Leon has been working part-time writing patent applications in the high technology field for a local patent firm. Leon’s biography has been listed in Who’s Who in America. Recently he was amazed to receive a letter informing him that his biography was going to be listed in Who’s Who in the World. Leon says this immediately brought to mind a comment that Groucho Marx made, that he would not join any club that was willing to accept him as a
Leon was the recipient of a Corporate Technical award from IBM for his work on insulating film. He is also a fellow of the IEEE.

Leon has been an active member of CLS since joining in 1995 (no waiting list in those days). He has been on the Science Curriculum Committee, and has presented or facilitated a CLS course almost every year.

After coming to Poughkeepsie, Raina became involved with many local associations including County Players, AAUW, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Welfare Board and eventually becoming President of the Merrywood Civic Association in their long fight against the Town of Poughkeepsie and the developers of the South Hills Mall. Becoming so angry at what she saw going on in local politics, she decided to return to the law and become qualified to practice here. Achieving this in 1977, she began with an office in her home. Subsequently, when youngest son Joe went to college in 1986, she joined Gellert & Cutler where she remained for the next 13 years. In 1990, she was appointed Commissioner of the New York State Bridge Authority.

Raina has also been an active and involved CLS member. She has been on the CLS council for 3 years in an assortment of capacities. Recently she has been on the Nominating Committee, the Planning Committee and is a member of the Special Events Committee, coordinating trips. Most currently she organized a visit to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in NYC.

Leon and Raina traveled the world extensively for about 20 years. They have been to many countries in Europe, including France, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Russia. Their adventures have also taken them to Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Australia, the Cook Islands, Tahiti, Western Samoa, Fiji and China. Raina said her favorite trip was the last one they took in 2006 to Chile and Easter Island. For now they are taking a break from travel, but continue to keep busy and active.

Help Our Youngsters Learn to Read

The CLS Adopt-A-School program is looking for additional members to volunteer approximately one hour a week next Fall to help students learn to read.

We are currently helping students at the Clinton and Krieger Elementary Schools in Poughkeepsie.

For more information, see Bette Rapa or call her at 845-297-6730.

Dates to Remember

June 3
CLS picnic at the Marist waterfront

June 10
CLS Annual Meeting

June 18
Trip to White Flower Farm
(rain or shine)

July 1
Denning's Point hike
(rain date: July 8)

July 11
Jade Hill, Broccoli Hall, and Beyond (rain or shine)
CLS Trip to Gracie Mansion
and the Museum of the City of New York

Photographs provided by Murray Solomon
Please welcome our new members:

Miriam Zimet Aaron  
Rita Alterman  
Pat Clark  
Barbara Hoeft  
Charles & Perla Kaufman  
Janet Winn

**Attn: CLS Members**

**Help Us Plan for Additional Online Features**

The Planning Committee has begun looking at improving the utilization of our computer resources. The objective would be to improve communication with our members and reduce our significant mailing costs. Items being investigated cover online class registration, online access to and/or electronic distribution of documents such as the *Chronicle* and *Catalog*. Determining what should be done and how it can be best accomplished will require careful planning and testing.

Some of you may already have been contacted by email as part of an initial survey to assess member attitudes and preferences relating to the online availability of CLS information. Thank you to those who responded. Whether or not you have been contacted, you are always encouraged to submit your comments and suggestions for potential improvements.

Don't worry! Mail delivery will continue until we are sure we have a better solution. In any case, people without computers or those who prefer mail delivery can always count on our current method.