

MARIST COLLEGE Center for Lifetime Study Chronicle

Winter 2023



Marist College

Center for Lifetime Study

OFFICERS (2022-23)

President:	Jack Fein
VP Admin:	John Wargo
VP Curriculum:	Leonard Turkenkopf
VP Public Info:	Jerry Hayes
Secretary:	Dewey Lee
Treasurer:	Roger D'Aquino

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Connections:	Vacant
Classroom Support:	Lou Newman
Finance:	Anne Sileno
Member Services:	Pegeen & Tom Wall
Membership:	Wilma Schmidt
Office Support:	RongYi Pan
Scholarship:	Ken Knapp
Special Events:	Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

COUNCIL AT LARGE

Ruth Kava
Ken Knapp
Gil Seligman
Bernardo Steinvurzel
Sharon Steinvurzel

Winter greetings!

I hope you are all enjoying a smooth transition into the New Year.



Since the last edition of the Chronicle, the U.S had a successful midterm election, inflation has peaked and financial markets appear to be on the road to recovery. Despite these encouraging signs, Marist CLS is still contending with the aftereffects of a once a lifetime pandemic.

Despite the Covid challenge, Hudson Valley nonprofit organizations have survived. They were often called on to address increased human service needs during the pandemic. A recent study by the Hudson Valley Funders Network described the economic resiliency of local 501c(3) organizations. The bottom line is that over the last few years, regional nonprofits lost a marginally smaller share of their workers than the average for profit employer in the state. Some organizations were required to meet increased community needs during and after the pandemic. Nevertheless, they were able to retain significantly more of their workforce, compared to for profit businesses in the region.

In contrast to the wider world of nonprofits however, Marist CLS faced more specific challenges. Classroom learning, social events and field trips brought us into close personal contact. As older adults, more susceptible to the Covid virus, it was necessary to prioritize safety concerns. In the spring of 2020, we cancelled all classes. The threat of the virus led a number of members to suspend participation in the program and a number had withdrawn. While some members withdrew for other reasons the largest number of withdrawals related to the risks of virus transmission.

In this post pandemic period the Council has responded with several initiatives. Following the shutdown, we instituted a series of Zoom classes. We reached out to the other LLI's in the area to exchange ideas. They were all similarly impacted by Covid and had the same concerns. We held a series of mini workshops with them, to discuss public health initiatives, curricular innovations, and virtual learning techniques.

Our four Curriculum Committees have worked overtime to provide high quality and a rich assortment of courses. Our offerings on Zoom for this winter have been well received. Our upcoming Spring semester will have one of the largest selections of high-quality courses with both in person and Zoom classes.

Message from the President, continued on next page

CLS Chronicle

Editor: Jerry Hayes

Reporter: Vacant

Layout & Design: Robin Will

We developed a greater media exposure with promotional interviews on television, radio and local newspaper. The Marist PR Office has been particularly helpful in this effort. An attractive brochure palm card has been successfully distributed to appropriate audiences such as libraries and senior centers.

It is encouraging to see a gradual return of members this year. We are projected to have a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year. When considering our long-term financial health, bear in mind that our expenses do not vary much year to year, but our revenue fluctuates in relation to income from membership dues.

We can accommodate more members and need to make that a high priority. We must each resolve to act as ambassadors to our friends and associates who may be interested in joining.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who worked to make the 30th Anniversary Reception a success. It received rave reviews for the music, food, atmosphere and decor. A great way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of CLS.


Jack



WORKING TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS

**MEMBERSHIP
NOW OPEN!**

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Welcome everyone to 2023!

These last couple of years have been challenging for all of us, and I hope you, like me, are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year, full of personal growth and enlightenment. I'm hoping also that we continue the path to a better, post covid world this year, including one for the Marist Center for Lifetime Study or affectionately abbreviated as "CLS".

As you know, CLS membership was severely impacted by the pandemic, with overall club membership dropping by about 200 people. Also, as you may or may not know, the CLS no longer has a waiting list, which presents a unique opportunity for people that have been wanting to join our premier organization. Personally, I waited 5 years to join, and many of your friends and family may think there's still a long waiting list. Fortunately, this is not the case, and to help dispel that myth, I've had the opportunity as VP of Administration, to form and work with a special Ad Hoc Committee to develop a new, up to date Membership "Rack Card" Brochure and an associated new and relevant Member Handbook. I'm pleased to say that this work is now complete, and hard copy rack cards are generally available for the asking by

contacting Robin Will, Administrative Coordinator for the Marist CLS. These rack cards will also be distributed across various venues in the Hudson Valley, and the Member Handbook will also be posted and available on the Marist College website.

Please utilize these resources to "recruit" new members to our lifelong learning association and help share the many social and educational aspects that the CLS has to offer.

Sincerest regards and happy new year,
John Wargo, VP of Administration

Member Corner

On The Radio



On Sunday, January 15, CLS Council Secretary Dewey Lee and Scholarship Committee Chair Ken Knapp were on the local airwaves talking about CLS. They were heard extolling the virtues of CLS on stations 101.5 WPDH, 94.3WCZX, 92.7/96.9 WRRV and 97.3/97.7 WXKP.



If you missed it, you can listen to "in Touch" which can be found in <https://linktr.ee/intouch> hv. You can also find the interview on your favorite streaming service (Spotify, Apple, Google, etc.) or listen On Demand on the station websites/apps.

CLS Welcomes New Members

Phebe Banta	Christina Hrynyk	Lois Powell
Brenda Berry	Janis Kipp	Nancy Rubsam
Dot Chenevert	Lisa Koshansky	Nancy Shannon
Charlotte Christman	Sally LeDioyt	Grace Snowden
Kathleen Crampton	Patricia Lichtenberg	Maureen Solero
John Gildard	Anne Matheus	Douglas Tempest
Pat Gildard	Carolyn McLaughlin	Susan Tempest
Jayne Griesemer	Douglas Odell	Patricia Vitelli
Robin Harbold	Jill Platt	
Marilyn Herrmann	Gerald Platt	

~ IN MEMORIAM ~
CLS mourns the loss of
fellow members

Margaret Horton (Jan. 2023)
Stanley Israel (Jan. 2023)

MARIST COLLEGE CENTER FOR LIFETIME STUDY MARKS THIRTIETH YEAR

On December 2, 2022, CLS celebrated our thirtieth anniversary at the Locust Grove Estate. Attending the Reception were current and former members, past presidents and guests.

The CLS Community was honored that Joan Sherman was present for the occasion. It was she who, together with her late husband Jonah Sherman, founded CLS in 1992. Their purpose and vision in doing so was to provide intellectual opportunities, cultural exploration and academic development to local seniors.

Today's CLS operates under the auspices of the Marist School of Professional Programs. Our goal and purpose continues to be those envisioned by the Shermans.

This is a good time to not only look back at the past and the progress and accomplishments achieved. It is also a time to look forward, to attract new members and new ideas to continue this great CLS tradition.

We are all very grateful to Merrilee Osterhoudt and the other volunteers for the tremendous amount of work they did in organizing the Anniversary celebration and to her for preparing this collage. We hope you enjoy the event photo collage on the back cover.



This section is used to recruit volunteers to help with CLS related activities, events and projects.

The **Chronicle needs a reporter and a photographer** (anyone with a smartphone) to cover CLS events. This would be a great opportunity for you to display your writing skills and make a contribution to the organization.

Needed additionally are articles or stories about topics that may be of interest to CLS members, such as local history, human interest, and current Dutchess County events.

Please consider getting involved and contact Jerry Hayes at jereypok@aol.com.

OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Pegeen Wall, Member Services Committee



VOLUNTEER ... (As defined by Webster) “A person who enters or offers to enter into any service of his own free will with no promise of compensation”

I am sure everyone reading this column has volunteered at least once in your life, and many I am sure have been involved numerous times.

Remember when! For some it might have been as a cub scout/ girl scout leader. Perhaps, it was a youth basketball coach or little league coach. Many of you, I am sure, were room mothers to your children’s grade school classes or perhaps a chaperon on a school trip or outing.

The point is: it is not something new or a foreign concept. So why not try it again?

Marist CLS is a completely volunteer driven organization. We have recently finished the Fall Semester and I am sure we all appreciated the wide variety of courses we enjoyed thanks to the diligence and dedication of the Curriculum Committee. Needless to say, there are many opportunities and something of interest for everyone to be involved. Consider the vast diversity of classes: Arts and Leisure, General Science, Life and Leisure Studies and Social Science and the number of people it takes on each committee to present the variety of classes we all enjoy. These offerings are all presented by volunteers. Many are CLS members, but just as many are professionals from the community willing to share their time and expertise. In addition, there are those who serve as class managers to say nothing of the audio and technology teams who keep everything up and running and are on stand-by all the time.

There are a myriad of behind -the- scenes opportunities that keep these classes going. Membership strives to promote ways of recruiting new members. Office Support volunteers provide clerical and secretarial assistance to Robin Will in the CLS office.

Perhaps you would consider the Scholarship Committee. They fundraise and also select the recipients of the financial awards towards their Marist degree. There is a Trip Committee that is responsible for arranging fun and educational outings to nearby locations for members. The Special Events group plans annual activities like the Annual Meeting and the Convocation or the 30th Anniversary Celebration that we all just enjoyed, to name just a few. The refreshments offered between classes are provided by the Member Services Committee. The Public Information Committee is responsible for the quarterly publication of the Chronicle and writes and encourages members to write articles of general interest to our membership.

So, give it some thought and consideration and sign up to get involved as early as the upcoming Spring semester. Here is a list of contact names and e-mails:

Curriculum: Len Turkenkopf - leonard.turkenkopf@gmail.com

AV/Classroom Support : Lou Newman - louanewman@gmail.com

Membership: Wilma Schmidt - schmidtw@newpaltz.edu

Special Events: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts - bkopstein@hotmail.com

Scholarship: Ken Knapp - kjkloon@gmail.com

Office Support: RongYi Pan - rongypan@gmail.com

Member Services: Tom Wall - tomfwall@aol.com

Public Information: Jerry Hayes - jerexpok@aol.com

We also recognize that some of our members volunteer not only for CLS activities but contribute their time and knowledge to other non-profit organizations. One such example of that is Ruth Wally who is recognized in another article in this edition of the Chronicle.

We look forward to seeing you as part of the CLS volunteer team in the near future.

CLS Member Receives Honors

Ruth Wally, a member of CLS for at least 15 years, and a member of the Art and Literature Curriculum Committee, was honored last October by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District for her many years of bringing art to the Boardman Road branch library.

Ruth worked as an early childhood educator before opening Clock Man Gallery in the Poughkeepsie Plaza, which she ran with her late husband, Bruce, for 22 years. It was there that she began displaying work by local artist alongside fine clocks, antiques, and pottery. After retirement, she volunteered to bring exhibitions to the Art Wall at the Boardman Road Library shortly after it opened in 2015. A self-taught lover of art, she was also an early proponent of what is now the Poughkeepsie Book Festival.

Ruth's contribution to CLS includes the creation of many courses on antiques, art, and music. She has also been a class manager for a number of courses and has



Ruth Wally receiving a Certificate of Merit from

Among the honors received by Ruth were Certificates of Merit from Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson. Ruth Wally is a true example of volunteerism, and we salute her.

Len Turkenkopf, VP for Curriculum



CLS COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

Are you ready to help the organization you love? Would you like to be instrumental in keeping it running smoothly and shaping its future? There are new openings on the CLS Council for which volunteers are needed. The positions are Vice-President for Curriculum, Connections, Finance and At Large. Your commitment would be for a three-year term. During that time not only would you help the organization, but in addition you'd meet new people and form new friendships. Please consider joining us. Here are the open positions:

Vice-President for Curriculum: The Curriculum VP is charged with organizing the course offerings each semester. The Curriculum VP works with each of the individual Curriculum Committees (Arts and Literature, Social Studies, General Science, and Life and Leisure Studies) as they develop courses in their respective areas. Proposed courses are submitted for final approval to the Curriculum VP, who then assembles the curriculum for the next semester, assigning rooms and times for each course.

Connections: The role of the chair of connections is to seek out CLS members who like to present information that is of possible interest to others and matching them up with non-CLS organizations like assisted living communities or Marist faculty who might use members in class or as part of the faculty member's scholarship.

Finance: The Finance chair works with the Treasurer to monitor the income and expenditures for CLS and to prepare reports to the Council. The Finance chair also, with the Treasurer, prepares an annual budget for submission to the Council for approval.

At Large: At Large members of the Council are voting members of the Council and participate in all Council decisions. They may also be tasked with special projects by the Council.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee, Leathem Mehaffey, at leathemiii@gmail.com. Thank you.



Our CLS Scholarship Recipient

By Ken Knapp, Scholarship Committee Chair

Our \$4,000 scholarship from Marist CLS was awarded to **Catherine Natonio** who will graduate from Marist this spring.

The following is Catherine's October 29, 2022 essay submission.

There are three things that are most important to me. First and foremost, is my family. Followed by that is being a good person with integrity and then fulfilling my dream of becoming a successful teacher. I keep these three crucial things at the forefront of my mind every day to help myself be successful. With that being said, trying to balance home life, school and just every day responsibility not easy while you are going to school fulltime.

Hi! My name is Catherine "Cat" Natonio and I am a 40 something single proud mother of 4 wonderful children, a Teaching Assistant at a local elementary school and a Realtor, all while going to Marist full time (18 credits) to finally fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. It's not easy but if you want something bad enough, you make it work, no matter what it takes.

Above all, my family is the most important thing in my life. I am a single mom of four beautiful children who are my whole world. My daughter Allie goes to Ulster Community College wants to become a Vet Tech. My son Joey goes to Suny Brockport and wants to be a Physical Education Teacher. My son Nick is in 11th Grade and my daughter is in 9th Grade. Coming from a divorced home, their health and wellbeing are my number one concern.

Working in a school as a Teaching Assistant and being a full time Realtor all while going to school, does not leave much time for fun. Therefore, on Fridays, I make sure to put all schoolwork to the side and partake in "Fun Friday" with my kids, where we do something fun together. This past Friday, we went out to dinner and then had a friendly competition of bowling and ax throwing. My kids look forward to a new fun Friday at the end of every week. It's the one night I do not do any schoolwork. My time is devoted to them. I am forever indebted to their sacrifices, and I am so grateful that I have their eternal love and support.

"Honesty is telling the truth to other people, and integrity is telling the truth to myself." To me, this famous saying describes integrity perfectly. The way I describe integrity is always do the right thing even when no one is watching. This is how I live an honest and moral life which makes choosing between what is right and what is wrong, easy. In my future career as an Educator, I recognize that the students I teach today will become the leaders of tomorrow. I want to infuse integrity into my classroom culture, incorporate responsibility, respect, fairness, and honesty into my curriculum, and help students to believe in themselves.

I took a different path than most. I went to college right after high school but for only two years. I received my Associates Degree but never went further. I was married and started a family. I was fortunate enough to stay home with my kids to raise them. It has always been a regret of mine that I did not continue my education which brings me too today. It is harder to do it now as opposed to back then when I didn't have as many responsibilities but nevertheless, I am doing it. I have always wanted to be a teacher. I want to help children grow, learn, and meet their full potential while they are on their educational journey. I know how important my teachers were for me and how they played a very important role in my life.

As I mentioned earlier, it is not easy being a mother, working professional, and a fulltime student all at the same time. The struggles are real. If you were to come to my house, you will see dishes in the sink, laundry piled up and most likely the dog's toys spread out on the living room carpet. That's ok!! Everything will get done eventually. My kids see me working hard – and what better lesson can I teach them than...**whatever your mind can conceive, and your heart can believe, you can achieve. Dream it into reality. ■**



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Annual Membership Includes:

- ✔ Eight-week sessions are offered each spring and fall and a mini-series in January. Subject matter is drawn from the arts and literature, social sciences, general sciences, and life and leisure studies.
- ✔ There is a wide range of course offerings. Classes have included such topics as art, computers, current events, economics, gardening, history, healthcare, law, literature, music, poetry, politics, religion, science and travel.
- ✔ Special events may take the form of lectures, day trips, and visits to exhibitions or museums.
- ✔ Access to various Marist College events and programs as well as access to the James A. Cannavino Library, The McCann Center pool, and the Marist Bookstore - Barnes & Noble.

-- membership dues are collected annually



All of our instructors and trip leaders volunteer their time.

All courses, trips, and social activities are arranged by CLS member volunteers.



If you are interested in joining the Marist Center for Lifetime Study or would like more information, email: MC.CLS@marist.edu or call the CLS Office at (845) 575-3902

Visit our website: www.marist.edu/professional-programs/cls

CLS MEMBERSHIP

CLS has membership spaces available for the remainder of the 2022/2023 year (Jan. 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023)

CLS no longer maintains a waiting list for membership. The word of mouth has always been that it takes a long time to become a member of CLS. Since this is no longer true, we hope that current CLS members will spread the word to friends and to anyone that has expressed an interest in CLS.

New members will be able to start this Spring. If you know of anyone interested in joining they can contact the CLS Office at (845) 575-3902 or by email: mc.cls@marist.edu.

* When sharing information about membership, please mention that **all** members will be **required** to have an email address and access to a computer, smart phone, or other device with internet capabilities.

Wilma Schmidt, Membership Chair

CLS Celebrates 30 Years!

