



# MARIST COLLEGE Center for Lifetime Study Chronicle

Fall 2023

## Marist College Center for Lifetime Study

### OFFICERS (2023-24)

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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

### COUNCIL AT LARGE

Ruth Kava  
Carol Demicco  
Gil Seligman  
Bernardo Steinvurzel  
Vacant



### President's Message

As our Fall semester comes to a close, I am gratified by the positive feedback I am hearing from our members. We have had a rich and varied curriculum, and I am thankful to our presenters, class managers and the AV team for their work. I try to sit in on our Curriculum Committee meetings where I see the creative ideas for our courses take shape. I am amazed at the broad range of talent these people bring to the task. I also want to thank our trip coordinators for a series of interesting trips to sites throughout the Hudson Valley. Our convocation speakers and participants in the debate on diversity stimulated wide discussion as well as some interesting controversy.



Our CLS council is continually looking for innovative approaches to promote enjoyable and fulfilling experiences for our members. Our virtual classes have been well attended, notwithstanding some technical challenges which still arise. A lab to provide help with smartphones is in the works, under John Wargo and Lou Newman. We are looking forward to getting together for an exclusive Sunset Sensations CLS evening in December at Locust Grove, chaired by Merilee Osterhoudt. As winter approaches, some of us scatter to warmer places. Please stay in touch as we are developing an interesting virtual program for January. However, we cannot plan creatively without your help and encourage you to let us know what other areas you would like us to explore and develop.

All of this comes at a time when the latest war in the Middle East (*ver. 850.7.4*) shocks us. We know that our own community is not immune to world events. This particular challenge raises many issues centered on ethnic conflict, issues of morality and political perspective. I have discussed this with many in our group. Although we enjoy a certain diversity, I am finding a lot of wisdom in each of their varied expressions and ideas. It is really gratifying to be able to talk to thoughtful people at a time like this. I learn a lot from CLS members and I hope you engage with each other and can benefit from their varied backgrounds and life experiences.

### CLS Chronicle

Editor: Jerry Hayes  
Photographer: Merrilee Osterhoudt  
Layout & Design: Robin Will



Jack



# CONVOCATION

by Jerry Hayes, VP for Public Information

The CLS Fall 2023 Convocation was held on September 7.

Vice President John Wargo pointed out that CLS is starting its thirty second year as a premier adult education program. He encouraged new members to volunteer to assist in the various CLS activities and programs.

CLS President Jack Fein spoke of CLS providing an environment for people who love to learn. He described the membership as consisting of persons with a variety of special interests and expertise. Dr. Fein then introduced the Keynote Speaker.

John Bandler is an Adjunct Professor at the Pace University Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems. He is a lawyer, consultant, author, teacher and speaker who assists organizations and individuals to navigate today's risks with respect to cybercrime and cyber security. Before joining the private sector, he served in government for eight years as a member of the New York State Police and then thirteen years as an Assistant District Attorney in New York County. There he was involved in the successful investigation and prosecution of local and international groups involving cybercrime, identity theft and various related types of criminal activity.



Professor Bandler's topic was Privacy, Cybercrime and Cybersecurity. He discussed technology and the law in general but focusing on the law and cyber law.

Cyber law consists of federal statutes, the United States Constitution, regulations and court decisions. It also includes similar laws and regulations of various states.

Professor Bandler spoke of cybercrime today with an emphasis on the transfer of funds. In addition to the outright theft of funds, he described ransomware which is essentially the threatened loss of data unless monies are paid, i.e. a form of extortion.

These are, of course, not just isolated local or national problems but interconnected international as well.

The purpose of cybersecurity is to prevent and protect against cybercrimes. He discussed in general various ways to do that. He emphasized the need for information security and confidentiality and discussed various safeguards. For example, with respect to a telephone system, there must be physical, administrative and technical control.

He listed as four pillars of security: knowledge and awareness, securing computer devices, securing data and securing networks.

He provided suggestions for personal cyber security and ended his talk with some thoughts about privacy. Some privacy issues are old and familiar; many are new because of technology.

Following Professor Bandler, the audience heard from Dutchess County Chief Assistant District Attorney Matthew Weishaupt, a thirty-five-year veteran of that office.

In addition to investigating cybercrime, he gave an example of how changes in the law have created a new need for cyber security within the District Attorney's Office.

In the past, police officers mailed in or hand delivered police reports to the DA's Office. New Discovery Laws now require that the District Attorney provide to defense attorneys much more pre-trial discovery, and that it be done within strict time limits after an individual is arrested. Accordingly, police agencies provide their reports and other information to the District Attorney electronically through a Digital Evidence Management System. That requires that steps be taken to protect that information.

Cybercrime is primarily an economic crime, and Chief Assistant Weishaupt expressed his office's awareness and concern that cyber criminals often prey on older people and children. 🍁

## REFLECTIONS ON CLS

Every so often, I think it's important to take a step back and reflect on the state of an organization at a particular point in time and remind ourselves why we joined and remain members of that organization. To help facilitate this, I'm listing below a reminder of who we are (the CLS) and what our values are; these as documented in our Mission statement.

The **Marist College Center for Lifetime Study (CLS)** operates under the auspices of the Marist School of Professional Programs. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for educational, intellectual and cultural growth for people 55 and older.

**CLS is dedicated to the continual academic growth and social fulfillment of our members.** No experience or educational background is required for membership. Courses are determined by curriculum committees and suggestions from CLS members.

**CLS is a volunteer organization guided by a Council elected by the members.** Members are encouraged to get involved by volunteering to serve on a committee, teach a class or participate in our community outreach programs.

**CLS provides a rewarding experience of learning and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere.** Members enjoy classes at the Locust Grove Estate and classes via Zoom as well as planned trips and social events.

**CLS offers courses in the arts, social sciences, humanities, sciences, and life and leisure studies** taught by experienced individuals including college faculty, CLS members and community leaders.

**CLS strives to foster a diverse and inclusive environment.** We welcome all backgrounds, beliefs, and identities.

Personally, I'm proud to be part of this organization, and equally proud to be serving in a volunteer leadership role as VP of Administration. I'm also very proud to be working with a strong dedicated team of volunteers on the Council, on the committees, and teaching, organizing and taking classes. I know many of you also share my pride in being a member of the CLS, and the positive experiences you've gained from being a member. So, as we wrap up this Fall semester, and look forward to the holiday season, which seems to approach faster and faster each year, please help share the pride you feel in being a CLS member by inviting others to join and/or by volunteering in one of the many areas available to help continue to grow our organization.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your friendship and support.

Sincerest regards,  
*John Wargo*



***LAST DAY TO VOTE***  
***ELECTION DAY***  
***NOVEMBER 7***

**We do not have government by the majority.  
We have government by the majority who participate.**

*Thomas Jefferson*

Fall 2023

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE VP FOR CURRICULUM Sharon Steinvurzel**

We are well into our very successful Fall 2023 season at CLS and are proud of the curriculum. When I speak with friends from out of town and tell them that we offer opera, bluegrass, poetry, science, history, crochet, art and color theory, weather, AI, writing and much more, they are amazed that our curriculum is so varied.

To keep us warm and safe and for all of you snow birds, Winter classes will be offered via Zoom. The line-up is very interesting.

As you know, our program is all volunteer and as such we need your help to suggest courses, develop, present, teach or become a class manager. One of the best ways to become involved is to join one of our committees which are: Arts and Literature; General Science; Life and Leisure Studies and Social Science. New members are always welcome.

If we all pitch in with ideas and actions, we can keep the Center for Lifetime Study vibrant.

### **CONNECTIONS 2023**

**The Connections Lecture Series is back this year after three years suspension due to Covid!**

**Three lectures took place this past October 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Any thanks goes to our volunteer speakers - Bob Nassar, Leathem Mahaffey and John Wargo -- and to The Landing and Wappingers Senior Center for hosting this series.**

**We are already planning the next Connections Lecture Series for April 2024. If anyone would like to be a speaker for the Series, please reach out to Anne Sileno at: [annesilen@aol.com](mailto:annesilen@aol.com).**

#### **Connections Lecture Series Committee**

**Anne Sileno**

**Sue Doyle**

**John Beal**

**Herman Chertock**



### **NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

An orientation for new CLS members chaired by Membership Chair Wilma Schmidt was held on September 13. Approximately 12 new members attended.

VP for Administration John Wargo told the attendees that this is CLS's thirty second year. He talked about the Curriculum, the four main subdivisions of that Committee, the three semesters and that all of the presenters are volunteers. In addition to classes, trips are available.

Lou Newman described how the members of his Audio Visual Committee set up the equipment for each class and were available in case there were any problems with the equipment.

VP for Public Information, Jerry Hayes spoke mainly about the quarterly Chronicle. He urged everyone to read the Chronicle to keep up with past events and be aware of future activities. He asked the new members to consider writing for the Chronicle.

Ken Knapp spoke about the Scholarship Program. He explained that there is a substantial balance in the Scholarship Fund and how it may be used to provide scholarships.

Each new member was given CLS palm cards and asked to distribute them to friends.

All of the speakers urged the new members to volunteer to serve on the various CLS Committees and otherwise participate in the activities of the Organization.

## Moderated Debate: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

On September 18, 2023, Dewey Lee moderated the memorable Special Topics debate he organized about **DEI**, diversity, equity, and inclusion, between Jacqueline Goff-McNish, retired Professor, Dutchess Community College, and Jonathan Butcher, the Will Skillman Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation. The lively and thoughtful debate well portrayed the positions taken by Ms. McNish, supportive of DEI efforts and Mr. Butcher, against DEI efforts.



An audience of more than 60 people braved the stormy weather outside and witnessed Ms. McNish define her position in support of DEI and Mr. Butcher define his position against DEI. For those unable to attend, you did miss a worthwhile experience. Dewey Lee prepared eleven questions that were shared with both speakers ahead of the debate so that they would be able to present thoughtful and reasoned answers. Questions ranged from should DEI be taught in K-12 settings, and who should decide if it is; what about in colleges and universities; what role does academic freedom have in DEI decisions; what about DEI in the workplace; is there a place for DEI in organizations like CLS since a version of a DEI statement is part of our mission statement.

Mr. Butcher frequently tied his discussion of DEI to CRT, Critical Race Theory, and his remarks about the ideas that the Supreme Court and their interpretations of laws state that race is not to blame for all the good or bad that occurs in the United States.

Ms. McNish frequently brought her remarks to the explanation of DEI to what diversity means on a college campus and that it includes many issues, not just racial; what equity means in terms of opportunity; and inclusion and how that encompasses embracing individuals with a variety of ideas, backgrounds, and issues of self-identity.

It was clear from the questions brought up by attendees at the end of the debate that the spirited discussion was appreciated by the audience members who were at this event.

~ Mike and Reva Cowan





# Member Corner

## CLS Welcomes New Members

Eleanor Bartush  
 Laura Coons  
 Charlotte Gumienny  
 David Gunzerath  
 Lorraine Haddad  
 Anne-Marie Jensen 

Lillian Levine  
 Nancy Piscitello  
 Ken Topolsky  
 Gail Watson  
 Robert Wild

 Returning Member



### ~ IN MEMORIAM ~

*CLS mourns the loss of fellow member*

**Sudipta Ray** (July 2023)  
**Anita Whelan** (Aug. 2023)



## MUCH APPRECIATION TO MEMBER SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

**Pegeen and Tom Wall**, Member Services Co-Chairs would like to thank their dedicated volunteers who helped with the beverage service during CLS classes this semester. The morning team was always there early to make sure things were in place before classes started. The cleanup team was just as diligent in making sure the breakdown was completed before afternoon classes started. It was a pleasure to be of service to the many people who stayed and enjoyed lunch with friends and fellow classmates.

So a “big round of applause” goes to: **Gus Cirielli, Cetta Hollister, Joan & Ken Knapp, Marge McGinley, Joan Morris and Jean Talbot**. We look forward to having you on our team again in the Spring semester. We would also welcome any new volunteers to assist us either Tuesday or Wednesday, before or after morning classes.

## REACHING OUT FOR NEW MEMBERS

As part of our campaign to attract new members, there have been several and varied efforts to inform the community about the benefits of CLS membership.

### OFFICE FOR THE AGING SENIOR PICNICS

CLS palm cards were handed out to those who showed some interest in joining CLS. I, as well as member volunteers attended picnics in Beacon, Wappingers, Fishkill, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange and Pleasant Valley. Rebuilding Together Dutchess County also gave out palm cards. Many were surprised that we don't have a waiting list. I would estimate that we gave out 700 cards.

John Beale

### SENIOR GOLDEN GATHERING

Held on September 23 at Arlington High School. Hosted by Senator Rob Rolison and the County Office for the Aging. It was an in-person event offering senior resources from sixty vendors. More than 500 persons attended. CLS was represented by Tom and Pegeen Wall and Jerry Hayes who gave out palm cards and spoke to attendees about the CLS program.

### NEWSLETTERS

Thanks to the efforts of Gil Seligman, the August edition of The Voice of the Dutchess Jewish Community published by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County contained an article about CLS seeking new members. There was a description of the CLS program and classes and an invitation to browse the CLS website or call the CLS office for further information.

A similar article appeared in the September County Office for The Aging newsletter.

WELCOME  
**NEW MEMBERS**

### CLS MEMBERSHIP

**CLS is accepting 1/2-Year memberships  
(Jan. 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 - Dues: \$125)**

[CLS no longer maintains a wait list for membership.](#) The word of mouth has always been that it takes a long time to become of 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.

Winter 2024 classes (virtual by Zoom only) will start January 9th and Spring 2024 classes are scheduled to begin on April 2nd. If you know of anyone interested in joining for 1/2 the year, they can contact the CLS Office at (845) 575-3902 or by email: [mc.cls@marist.edu](mailto: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 Scholarship Activities

By Ken Knapp, Scholarship Committee Chair

Each spring semester, the CLS Scholarship is awarded to one or more adult students who need additional financial support to help with tuition expenses and to help make their academic endeavors become a reality.

The CLS Scholarship Committee is now in the process of collecting essay applications for the Spring 2024 CLS Scholarship award. The essay submission deadline is set for Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our goal is to identify our 2024 adult CLS Scholar(s) by the beginning of December. Any members interested in serving on the CLS Scholarship Award Committee should contact Ken Knapp by email:

[kjkloon@gmail.com](mailto:kjkloon@gmail.com).

## Making A Donation to the CLS Scholarship Fund

Donations to the CLS Scholarship can be made any time.

You can honor or memorialize a loved one, family member, friend, or colleague. No amount is too small and will be received with appreciation and gratitude by CLS and our adult student recipients.

Make your check payable to Marist CLS with a note  
in the check memo "CLS Scholarship"

*Thank you!*



By Robin A. Harbold

The word indulgence takes my mind immediately to food and beverage. I contemplate the thought of over-indulgence and the dire consequence that may bring. Then, I think of indulging others. Indulging my first, and thus far, only grandchild. That will be fun.

We indulge others often – -we humor them with acceptance of their sometimes-overdramatic antics, their wishes, their whims.

What do I indulge in? As of late, I indulge in creation – creating gardens, creating paintings, creating a series of written words to tell a story, share a thought, recall a memory.

I welcome the opportunity to indulge in learning. Learning not that which my career requires, not that which a degree mandates, nor a certification is granted. No, I am now afforded the opportunity to learn whatever I choose. Learning now is for me. I choose learning at this stage in my life to indulge my own curiosities, my own evolution, my own pleasure.

The Center for Lifetime Study is one of those means which aids me in this pursuit of learning. I am grateful for this stage in my life. A time that provides me the opportunity to learn that which I choose to learn, and to be creative. I am saddened that creativity was put on hold for, oh, forty years? I am saddened too that young children are robbed, at such a young age, of their opportunity to create. They are prescribed what they must learn and when, with little time left over for filling their natural and individual curiosities. With the pressure of academics, organized sports teams, and pre-planned activities, all of which are wonderful, and important to their development, but I must wonder . . . at what cost?

To a large degree, paper and pencils, crayons and scissors, mudpies and pinecones, moss and Elmer's Glue, have fallen by the wayside in lieu of electronics.

I reminisce of car rides and enthusiastically looking out the window at the view – trees, mountains, flowers, cows in the pasture, and come December, all the Christmas lights on the houses and on the giant pine trees. Many children today seem agitated if encouraged to look out the car window. Why would we want them to look away from whatever is currently occupying their oh so precious screen?

It strikes me that Learning is always in season.

*Robin Harbold is a current CLS member. She wrote this essay as a class assignment for the Prodding Your Muse course in the Spring semester.*

In Dutchess County alone, over 26,000 people, nearly 9% of the population, suffer from food insecurities?



34 million people in the U.S., including 1 in 9 children face hunger every day.

## Connections — Strengthening Our Connection to the Marist Community and Beyond

The **Connections Committee** and the **CLS Office** are working together to promote and coordinate outreach efforts to the CLS members and ask for donations to support Marist's Hunger Awareness Month. The Hunger Awareness Month activities are being organized by the Marist College Dept. of Spiritual Life and Service (*formerly Campus Ministry*).

Starting on **November 1<sup>st</sup>** (*earlier than noted on the flyer*), the CLS Office will start accepting unopened nonperishable food donations and monetary donations to support the Marist College Department of Spiritual Life and Service's Hunger Month Awareness initiatives.

If you would like to donate food items or make a monetary contribution, see below for additional information or call the CLS Office at 845-575-3902 or email [MC.CLS@marist.edu](mailto:MC.CLS@marist.edu). Thank you for your consideration and we how you will help support Marist and the communities we love so much.

**Upcoming Events**

**SLS**  
Spiritual Life  
& Service

**Hunger Awareness Month**

Nov. **01** **HUNGER WALK**  
12:30PM, CHAMP GREEN

Nov. **06** **FOOD DRIVE**  
NOV 6-10

Nov. **10** **BUCK HUNGER**

Nov. **15** **HUNGER MEAL**  
4:30-6PM, CABARET

NEED MORE INFORMATION?  
Call extension 2275  
email: [SpiritualLifeandService@marist.edu](mailto:SpiritualLifeandService@marist.edu)

To: An Email to the Marist Community on behalf of Spiritual Life and Service

Date: Wed 10/18/2023

Subject: Annual Hunger Month Activities

Starting November 1st, the Marist College Department of Spiritual Life and Service will begin their annual Hunger Month initiative to help raise awareness and funds to help fight hunger in the Hudson Valley, around the nation, and abroad. It kicks off on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> with our Hunger Walk at 12:30pm, continues with a week-long Food Drive (Nov. 6-10), the "Buck Hunger" fundraiser (Nov. 10), and wraps up with a Hunger Meal (Nov. 15th) that provides students with an experiential learning component to help them better understand the inequities of food distribution locally and globally.

Attached you will find a calendar of events (feel free to print and post), and we invite you to join us for any and all of the activities we have planned. We also encourage you to encourage your students to take part, as together we can make a bigger impact.

As always, we thank you for your unending generosity for ALL that the Marist community takes on to ensure we are caring for the community around us and beyond.

### WHAT TO DONATE

Rice | Pasta (all kinds) | Ravioli (canned) | Peanut butter | Jelly | Canned soups (all kinds) | Powdered milk | Spaghetti sauce | Potatoes (canned/instant) | Baby Food (all kinds) | Baby Formula (all kinds) | Canned vegetables (carrots, peas, corn, green beans) | Cereal | Canned meat (stew, hash, chicken, tuna, ham, spam, salmon, chili) | Snack bars | Canned fruit (peaches, pineapples, pears, fruit cocktail) |

