

MARIST COLLEGE Center for Lifetime Study Chronicle

Spring 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 |

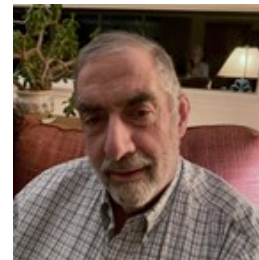
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 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

The spring semester at Locust Grove is always a delight. It is a good feeling to wander through the gardens between classes with friends and a cup of Pegeen's coffee. I always make it a point to strike up a conversation with the gardening crew. They are always friendly and eager to share insights and advice. They have developed neat techniques that allow annuals to reliably self-seed in place. The result is a panorama of color that develops each year and adds to the inspiring atmosphere at CLS.



We are approaching the end of our academic year. This is also the right time to reflect on what our organization has accomplished. We are fortunate in having a Council, volunteer members and Marist Staff who helped CLS emerge from the grip of Covid. I am thankful that they stepped up to the challenges imposed.

Separate working groups of the council met to address the public health, financial and membership issues that confronted us. We negotiated a modest decrease in rental fees to Locust Grove. Our recent Open House event in March, chaired by Len Turkenkopf was a real success. Many new members signed up for the spring semester and a good number have expressed interest in joining in the fall. We are planning to do this again on June 26th and John Wargo has agreed to lead that effort. I encourage you all to spread the word and bring a friend. Convert a friend into a new member.

Let's all reach out to those new members and encourage them to share their life experience with us. That can be in class dialogue, at a coffee break, or suggest they give a talk on their area of interest. That is the lifeblood of CLS.

Please note that our **Annual Meeting** will be on **May 30th**, at Locust Grove. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Darrell Wheeler, the President of SUNY New Paltz. He is a leader in promoting diversity initiatives for the SUNY system. We are living in a time when liberal education is being constrained by partisan politics. Diversity discussions are under particular threat. I know that his perspectives will be invaluable. We will also have an opportunity to thank those who are finishing their terms of office and welcome those newly nominated for terms on the Council.

I hope the semester has been a time of growth and collegiality for all of you. I look forward to seeing you all on May 30th.

Jack



CLS Chronicle

Editor: Jerry Hayes

Reporter: Vacant

Layout & Design: Robin Will

CLS MEMBERSHIP

The Open House that was held for perspective members was a great success. Twenty-five new members were signed up that day. We are making steady progress in adding new members. Our total membership now stand at 533, a vast improvement. Remember to tell your friends and neighbors that there is no longer a waiting list. The new rack card, articles in local newspapers, interviews on radio and TV helped to raise the interest in CLS. Look for the list of new members in this issue of the Chronicle and welcome them to CLS. We hope that they will become involved members.

Wilma Schmidt, Membership Chair



From the Desk of the VP for Curriculum

As I begin this, my last Chronicle article as VP for Curriculum, I look back with amazement in what we, CLS, have been through over the past three years. I started my tenure with a lockdown. All classes were canceled, and no one dared to go out of their homes. Soon we learned how to spell Zoom, and the four curriculum committees found presenters who were able to provide their courses online. We even tried hybrid classes. Oh well, that didn't work too well (LOL).

With vaccinations, social distancing and masking we got on top of COVID-19 and slowly started to provide in person classes at Locust Grove. The work of putting together these courses was done, exclusively, by the four curriculum committees. You know who they are; they are your neighbors, colleagues and friends whose names are listed each semester in the course catalog. If you stop and count them, you will find out there are approximately 60, give or take, each semester. It is to them your thanks should go.

These committees are led by a great group of chairs and/or co-chairs with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Their leadership has been demonstrated time and again by the great lists of courses we offer you, our members each semester.

Completing my tenure as VP for Curriculum does not mean I will be leaving the Council. I have been asked and have accepted the position of Chair of the Finance Committee. This means that I will continue to work with a wonderful group of individuals whose first priority is CLS. Over the years that I have been in CLS I have made some interesting friends. I'm sure that will continue to be true in the years ahead. I thank you for the opportunity of having served you as VP for Curriculum.

Len Turkenkopf

AV Committee Volunteers

Heartfelt Thanks to the AV Committee

On behalf of the CLS community, I want to thank the members of the AV committee for their hard work and dedication. They strive to make everything run smoothly and are ready to jump in when they do not. These folks arrive early on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and stay after classes are over on Wednesdays, moving equipment from the storeroom to the classrooms (and back), wiring and testing complex systems to ensure everything is ready to go. It is a tribute to their skills that these behind-the-scenes activities usually work flawlessly, and always with a feeling of camaraderie. CLS is truly fortunate to have such a strong support team. When you see AV members with the blue badges, please thank them for their invaluable contribution.

Lou Newman
Chair AV Support





MEMBER CORNER

CLS Welcomes New Members

Linda Adler
 Catherine Ballard
 Carol Barmann
 Barbara Best
 Ann Boyle
 William Brown
 Janice Browning
 Janeen Foy
 Linda Gaines
 Victor Gaines
 Katherine Gambino

Laura Garrido
 Grace Gibbons
 Marianne Grace
 Peter Hage
 Ellen Kelly
 Janie Koopmans
 Elaine Leinung *
 John Malich
 Frank Marcigliano
 Louise Marcigliano
 Joan Meade

Lisa Messinger
 Mary Ann Mikulsky
 Wilhelmina Myrick
 Margaret Palmer
 Richard Palmer
 Kenneth Parchinski
 Stephanie Parchinski
 Richard Powell
 Joan Pratt
 Jane Quinn
 Barbara Rankin

Marcy Schwartz
 James Slater
 Linda Slater
 Sharron Smith
 Kristin Sottile
 Catherine Tegtmeyer
 Gayle Turowski
 Lorraine Vignogna
 Carl Whitehead
 Patricia Wing

* Returning Member



Back Cushions, Men's Jacket, Padded Computer Case & Pizza

What do all but one of these have in common?

They all reside in the CLS Lost & Found box. How do you retrieve what is yours? Come to Classroom A any Tuesday or Wednesday in May and look in the box! Why is Pizza included in the list? I like pizza!



At the end of the semester, I will dispose of the contents of the box.

Lou Newman
 Chair AV Support

**CLS Membership Renewal for
 2023/2024 starting on May 1st**

Check your inbox for the email that contains the details and instructions for completing the renewal process.



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

CLS mourns the loss of fellow members

Vincent Antonetti (Jan. 2023)
Joseph (Joe) Bettencourt (March 2023)
Sondra (Sandy) Chertock (Feb. 2023)
Ilse Edith de la Puente (Feb. 2023)
Gertrude (Trudy) Gore (March 2023)



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

The CLS Office needs office assistance during the membership renewal period, May 1st to June 30th. If interested, please email or call the CLS Office to schedule your day(s) and time(s).

OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

Organization and Publicity

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, CLS held an open house for prospective new members. While I was not in attendance, I was still in Mexico, I had the honor of chairing the Ad Hoc Committee that sponsored this event. A more hardworking, talented group of individuals could not be found in any organization. First, we selected individual presenters who could showcase their upcoming courses and to those who volunteered, Frank Dispensa, John Gavin, and Bob Ulrich a debt of thanks is owed. Unfortunately, John Gavin came down with COVID-19 and was not able to present. Leathem Mehaffey III substituted.

Next, we had to get out the word and, boy, did the committee do just that. From ads provided by Jerry Hayes to the three weekly newspapers in Dutchess County to radio ads done by Dewey Lee and Ken Knapp. Lou Newman got the Dutchess County Office for the Aging to pitch our open house in their weekly online newsletter. There were also posters and palm cards that many people placed in locations within the county. These were done by our members who just pitched in and who did so without even leaving their names behind so we can thank them. So here and now let me **thank you**, you know who you are. Thank you must also be given to Wilma Schmidt and her group on the membership committee for their work both before the event and at the event and, of course, the work of Pegeen and Tom Wall and their crew for the refreshments during the open house.

Marist College itself was a big contributor both in offsetting the costs and in getting out the word. Kristine Cullen, our own Assistant Dean, provided for much of the printing that was done for getting out the word and for the take aways that were provided at the open house. She also arranged for the information to be disseminated through the various Marist College house organs. So much excitement was generated by Kristine within the entire Marist community that many Marist employees helped out without our even knowing who they were. To them we all say thank you very much!

Now I come to the most difficult part of this article. How to say thank you to someone whose efforts makes the words THANK YOU seem so insufficient. Without Robin Will, our Administrative Coordinator, the open house would not have happened. Her hand was everywhere. For those who know her, we've come to expect miracles on a daily basis, but what she has done, what she has contributed to making the open house a success is, indeed, nothing short of a miracle. Someday, in some way we will find a way to really say thank you, Robin.

Again, let me state that I have never had such an experience working with a dedicated and talented group of individuals. It just proves the old adage: never doubt what a small group of dedicated people can accomplish because only they can do it.

Len Turkenkopf
Chair, Open House Ad Hoc Committee



*John Wargo
VP for Administration
(left)*

*Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
Trip Committee Chair
(right)*



The Day Itself

Thanks to the very hard work of Len Turkenkopf and his committee, the Open House was a great success. One hundred and fifty people came to learn about CLS and its classes and other opportunities. Approximately thirty current members were also present to work at the event or because they had brought prospective members.

The purpose of the event was to provide information to anyone who might be interested in becoming a member.

The morning began with a welcome from VP of Administration John Wargo who acted as MC for the program. John then introduced CLS President Jack Fein who expressed pride in what CLS has done for the adult community for the past thirty years. He told the audience that CLS is an opportunity for people with an interest in lifetime learning to come together to experience lectures and to socialize. He explained that CLS is an organization whose work is performed by various volunteer committees and volunteer instructors.

The attendees learned that the primary purpose of CLS is to provide opportunities for the educational, intellectual and cultural growth for persons age 55 and older. There is a wide range of courses offered in eight week sessions in the spring and fall.

In order to give the prospective members examples of CLS classes, three fifteen minute lectures were presented: "Life on Earth, the First Three and One Half Billion Years" by Leathem Mehaffey, "The Origin and Meaning of English Language Sayings" by Frank Dispensa and "Early Life in Colonial Times" by Bob Ulrich. Dewey Lee spoke about discussions and debates moderated by him concerning current and controversial issues.

Betsy Kopstein described various trips organized by her and her committee. They try to vary the destinations based upon different interests. Although trips have been restricted to local sites in recent years because of Covid, they hope to resume bus trips to more distant locations in the future.

In order to give a more complete picture of CLS, each attendee was given a copy of the Spring Course Catalog, a Membership Frequently Asked Questions insert and the Winter 2023 edition of the Chronicle.

Robin Will explained that registration for the Spring Semester could be accomplished that day, and indeed, twenty five people signed up for membership, and others indicated their intent to complete membership applications in the future.

At the conclusion of the formal program, refreshments were served giving the attendees the opportunity to socialize and meet current CLS members and ask questions and obtain additional information.

There was agreement among the Open House Committee members that the number of people who attended the event was far greater than anyone had envisioned when the idea was first proposed.

The Open House program conducted that day was very well done and clearly a success. Hopefully, even those who did not join that day will do so sometime in the future, but, in any event, went away with a very favorable impression of CLS and hopefully share their experience and impressions with friends.

Something that will probably be discussed in the future will be whether more Open House programs should be held.

Jerry Hayes,
VP Public Information





Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee for 2022-23, consisting of Merrilee Osterhoudt, Wilma Schmitt, Lou Newman and Leathem Mehaffey would like to report on our progress to date in recruiting volunteers willing to serve CLS.

The outgoing members of the Council are:

- ◆ Len Turkenkopf, Vice President for Curriculum
- ◆ Miriam Rubin, Connections
- ◆ Anne Sileno, Finance
- ◆ Ken Knapp, At Large

The Nominating Committee submits the following names for election by the membership at our Annual Meeting:

- ◆ Sharon Steinvurzel, Vice President for Curriculum
- ◆ Len Turkenkopf, Finance
- ◆ Sue Doyle, At Large

As of this report, Connections remains unfilled.

Our sincere thanks go out to all these members, both those leaving the Council and those who are stepping up. They have been and are willing to give of their time and talent to provide our organization with the leadership so necessary to face our challenges and keep our organization vital and to serve our membership with the quality programs we all enjoy. Without such members as these, CLS could not survive.

It would be a shame to let this position go unfilled. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Leathem Mehaffey at leathemiii@gmail.com or at (845) 471-6548

Respectfully submitted,
Leathem Mehaffey, Chair



CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Objective:

To provide opportunity for meaningful volunteer community service as identifiable members of the Marist College Center for Lifetime Study to “connect” with others beyond the CLS program as a means to alternative learning.

Duties:

- 1. Assess needs through consultation and visits with community organizations, including Marist College.**
- 2. Identify members’ skills and willingness to volunteer.**
- 3. Develop programs and communicate plans with CLS Council and membership.**
- 4. Recruit volunteers, train as necessary and provide placement in the community.**
- 5. Develop feedback mechanisms for volunteer and for CLS to recognize service and to encourage volunteerism among all members.**
- 6. Develop subcommittees to coordinate with the CLS-Marist Educational Exchange (CMEE), Rural Seniors and Adopt-a-School programs, who will report to the Connections chair.**

CLS Scholarship Activity Report

By Ken Knapp, Scholarship Committee Chair

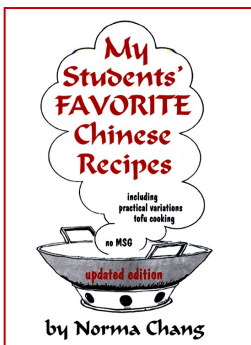
~ Making a donation to the CLS Scholarship Fund ~

Donations to the CLS Scholarship can be made at 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 student recipients.

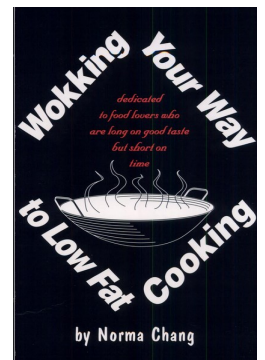
Make your check payable to “Marist CLS” with a note in the memo section of the check stating “CLS Scholarship”.

Questions about donating to the Scholarship Fund contact the CLS Office by phone at (845) 575-3902 or by email to MC.CLS@marist.edu

I had planned to have a picture of our \$4,000 scholarship recipient, Catherine “Cat” Natonio, in this issue but that can’t happen due to scheduling problems. I promise that the next issue of the Chronicle will include her picture plus a wonderful “thank you” she has sent us.



I also want to extend a “thank you” to CLS member Norma Chang. Norma gave a wonderful class on Chinese cooking on April 11th. She has written cookbooks and offered to donate \$5.00 for every cookbook purchased by our members. As of this morning, April 12th, we have received \$275 in donations. By the time you read this there might still be a few books available. If you would like purchase a book and donate \$5.00 to the CLS scholarship program just let me know. I’m part of the AV team so I will be at Locust Grove during classes and I will have a book for you if still available. 🍲



MARIST Center for Lifetime Study



may 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

SAVE THE DATE

CLS 2023 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 30th

10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Locust Grove

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Darrell P. Wheeler

President, SUNY New Paltz

We are planning to have lunch immediately after the meeting, details to follow.

Additional information about this event including registration details will be emailed to all CLS members very soon!

Locust Grove Estate

By Pegeen Wall, Co-Chair Member Services Committee

Do you ever wonder about the history of Locust Grove or what else goes on there when Marist CLS is not in session?

Now listed as an historic estate, museum and education center, it was built in 1850 as the summer home of Samuel B. Morse, artist and inventor. Fifty years later the house was expanded and renovated for new owners William and Martha Young.

Their daughter Annette Young, the sole survivor, eventually created the not-for-profit educational foundation that preserves the estate as a museum today. She spent twenty years donating to museums the art, land and historic houses she inherited so they would be protected. Upon her death in 1975, a not-for-profit foundation was established to ensure that Locust Grove, her home for eighty years, would be protected as a museum and nature preserve. She envisioned it for the enjoyment, visitation and education of the local community.

The estate opened to the public in 1979. In addition to the mansion and the education center it consists of 200 acres and five miles of trails. The collection of furniture, paintings and decorative arts remain in the house just as they were in the early years of the 20th century. If you have never done so, a tour of the mansion is highly recommended especially when it is all decorated at Christmas time.

We are all very aware of the beautiful grounds and gardens. There are formal gardens and today, the cutting garden preserves her unique style and plant collection. There is also a restored kitchen garden that provides a place for visitors to learn about the wide variety of vegetables and fruits grown there. These are presently maintained by Claire Davis, Locust Grove Director of Horticulture.

Locust Grove does not receive any federal, state or local funding. It is completely dependent on local donations and the fees from rentals and the activities they sponsor. The 90,000 visitors they welcomed during 2022 helped achieve some of their financial goals.

Thanks to Ken Snodgrass, Executive Director, the Board of Directors and the enthusiasm of their Program Director, Emily Ellison there are many activities and events open to the public throughout the year. They cover events for all ages and interests such as the Fairy House Hunts for the entire family; Antique Appraisals and Sunset Sensations (wonderful wine tastings and garden tours) to name a few.

Check out the web site www.lgny.org to see the complete list and plan an outing sometime other than Tuesday and Wednesday class days.



Marist College Center for Lifetime Study
3399 North Road - 69WC (Rm. 104A)
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 575-3902
Email: MC.CLS@Marist.edu