



LIVING AND LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

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Look for us at: www.glendon.yorku.ca/llir

**Winter
2011
Edition**

The President's Message - Margaret McGovern

When you receive this newsletter our 2010/2011 LLIR sessions will be almost completed. We have been pleased with your feedback from the courses given this winter. The offering has been varied and we have heard that many of you had difficulty in choosing your course. It would seem that they all have been well received. From the Arctic to the Russian Revolution, from Frontiers in Biomedical Research to Some Extraordinary Canadians, and finally to One Hundred Years of Jazz, our Program Committee has provided an extraordinary selection for our members. I am particularly proud of the focus on Canadian accomplishments!



We welcomed 146 new members to the LLIR ranks over the Fall and Winter terms. One hundred and thirty-six members took a leave of absence in the Winter term and this, coupled with the increase in courses offered, allowed the increase in new

members. Sadly we have made the decision to keep the waiting list closed this year since we still have over 200 on it. We now have approximately 861 members including 24 Board members.

As you are all aware we have been challenged by the construction on the Glendon Campus. However, if you attended classes on February 11, Principal McRoberts shared with us the plans for expanded classroom space that we have been offered. This availability should help us accommodate more members. Hopefully the construction will be completed by the Fall of 2012.

At a recent meeting your Board of Directors voted a small increase to our fees. Some of the administrative costs, such as computer, registration and maintenance expenses have increased. The new total fee for membership and a Fall and Winter course will be \$105.

Our Annual General Meeting will be

held on Friday, March 25. At that time I will be handing over the Presidency of the Board of Directors to Bill Toyne, our current Vice-President. It has been a privilege to lead such a dedicated and hard-working group of women and men. I thank them for their support this year. Five of the Board members will be "retiring" at this time. I thank them on your behalf.

Have an enjoyable summer. See you in the Fall.

Margaret McGovern

Mar, 2011

Farewell

As Margaret mentioned in her message, five Board members will be leaving the Board at the end of this term. They are: Nancy Christie, Don Fleming, Janet Henley, Jean Hughes and Mary Ham.

They all made significant contributions to the smooth functioning of LLIR and we thank them for all the time and effort they put in.

In their place we will be welcoming five replacements who will be proposed and voted on at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Annual General Meeting



Your Annual General Meeting will be held on March 25, the last day of lectures. It will be held in Room 204 at 11:15 a.m. As a result, morning classes will start half an hour earlier at 9:30 a.m. on that day. Afternoon classes will not be affected.

Please plan to attend. This is your chance to ask questions, to find out what is happening to LLIR and to welcome the newly appointed Board members.

Our 2011 Winter Season Course Directors

We thought members would like to know a little about the backgrounds of this term's Course Directors. Some will be new to you but most will be familiar to returning members.



S e r g e i Plekhanov, the Course Director for "*The Russian Evolution*", was born and educated in Moscow. He has a BA and MA in International Relations from

the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and a PhD in History from the Institute for the Study of the USA and Canada, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. This Institute, an influential think-tank, played an important role in the development of Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies.

Dr. Plekhanov was the Institute's Deputy Director in the late 1980's and early 1990's and was involved in the efforts to end the Cold War and establish democracy in Russia. He also took an active part in the campaign for nuclear arms control and disarmament.

Living in North America since 1992, he is currently Associate Professor of Political Science at York University, Co-ordinator of the Post-Communist Studies Program at the York Centre for International and Security Studies, and Senior Associate of the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto.

He is a frequent commentator on Russian and East European affairs for TV and radio, has consulted with the Canadian and American governments on Russian affairs and published widely on issues such as post-

communist transformations in Russia and Russian foreign policy. Dr. Plekhanov also serves as the Secretary of the Canadian Pugwash Group, a non-governmental organization advocating nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Ian Martin is a Professor of English at Glendon College where he is Coordinator of the Linguistics and Language Studies Programme. He has a long history of involvement in indigenous language policy for which he was nominated in 2005 for the prestigious Linguapax (Language Peace) Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of linguistic diversity and/or multilingual education.

Dr. Martin has been involved in Nunavut for ten years, starting with his well-known 2001 report, "*Language Instruction in Nunavut Schools: Aajiqatigiingniq*", which contributed to Nunavut's bilingual education policy. He was also bilingual education advisor to Thomas Berger's Conciliator's Report (2006) and has been a consultant on several occasions to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the group looking after Inuit land claims.



He has co-taught the University of Prince Edward Island Master of Education course on "Language Education" and organized lan-

guage development workshops for community language promoters in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. All this is in addition to being an invited speaker on bilingual education at events such as the Nunavut Language Summit in Iqaluit in 2010. It

is therefore no surprise that he is the Course Director for LLIR's course, "*The Arctic*".

Maire Percy holds a BSc in physiology and biochemistry, an MA in medical biophysics and a PhD in biochemistry. She is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto (Department of Physiology and Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology). At present she is Director of the Neurogenetics Laboratory at Surrey Place Centre, Toronto, and



National Coordinator of the International Multisite Clinical Trial of Vitamin E in Aging Persons with Down Syndrome.

Internationally known

for her work on risk factors in human disease, Dr. Percy recently received the Research Excellence Award of the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities. Another recognition that very few aspire to, let alone receive, was having an asteroid named after her.

Dr. Percy's current research focus is on identifying genetic predisposing factors and environmental risk factors for dementia and Alzheimer's disease. She is also involved in the development of strategies for the treatment and possible prevention of

Course Volunteers

Once again, thanks to those members who volunteered to take attendance, thank the speakers and operate the audio/visual (AV) equipment. When you register for the next term, please consider becoming a volunteer - *there is a special need for AV help.*

Alzheimer's. Along with these many demands, Dr. Percy is the Course Director for "Frontiers in Biomedical Research: Toronto Perspectives and Contributions" and has reached out to Toronto's medical science community to bring us an outstanding group of lecturers.

Michiel Horn has been an enthusiastic supporter of LLIR from its inception. In the 1970's he was LLIR's Academic Coordinator arranging for lecturers focused on Canadian Studies. Then when LLIR broadened its scope he became the Academic Advisor, identifying Course Directors who design the courses and engage



lecturers. Dr. Horn retired a few years ago, but has continued his interest in LLIR as the Course Director for "Some Extraordinary

Canadians".

Dr. Horn was born in the Netherlands and immigrated to Canada in 1952. He studied at Victoria College (University of British Columbia), Freiburg University in Germany, and the University of Toronto where he got his PhD degree. At present he is Professor Emeritus of History and University Historian at Glendon College, York University. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Senior Fellow of Massey College at the University of Toronto and a Past President of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies.

He has published many books and articles on topics such as the history of academic freedom in Canada, the Great Depression and the Second World War. His most recent book is

a history of York University titled, "York University: The Way Must Be Tried".

Michael (Mike) Daley is the Course Director for "One Hundred Years of Jazz". He has a PhD in Music from York University where he received a York Thesis Prize for his acclaimed study of Bob Dylan's voice. He has taught at the following universities - Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo and York as well as leading later-life learning courses at Glendon, Innis College at the University of Toronto and George Brown College.

Dr. Daley has published scholarly articles on American popular music in international journals and has been invited to speak at academic conferences from Normandy to Nashville.

As a music producer at CBC Radio he wrote scripts and programmed music for nationally broadcast shows.



He has also toured the United States and Canada as a musician with Jeff Healey, the Travelers and

others, and has appeared on dozens of recordings as a guitarist and singer. His most recent recording, a country blues CD, is called "Fraser/Daley". However, his LLIR class is most fond of his live performances, especially the song "Dinah".

The Friends of Glendon

Friends of Glendon reporting is often all about the money. Equally important are the people behind the numbers. For example, each year Friends of Glendon gives out two LLIR 25th Anniversary Service Bursaries. Wendy Long, a first year Glendon student, is this year's recipient of one of these \$1500 bursaries.

Wendy went to Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate in Scarborough where she was very involved in music and art. She loves to read, write poems, lyrics and stories, and is an excellent student. In her "free" time she volunteers in her community as a teacher's assistant in Mandarin classes. She is also proud of her success in making the top 10 in Canadian Chinese Idol and of her ability in French.

Wendy is doing the community service part of her bursary (100 hours in a bilingual setting) by working at Northlea Elementary and Middle School in Leaside. She is using her skills helping with music classes, kindergarten, and the choir.

We also hear back from students about how much the awards and loans mean to them. Comments such as "your support meant that I could focus on my studies and be less stressed about financial issues" and "you are the very definition of niceness, I am the definition of thankful" indicate that our donations are appreciated and are making a difference.

Thank you fellow LLIR members for your generosity.

Karen Edson

LLIR Convenor, Friends of Glendon

You won't see this next term but sometime in the not too distant future that hole in the ground you see as you come into Glendon will look like this. It will have two lecture halls, several washrooms (yippee!), and a **Tim Hortons**. Hopefully, LLIR will be one of the first users when it opens.



LLIR's Early Days



In 1972 the federal Department of Health and Welfare established the New Horizons Program, under which grants were made available to groups of retired people to undertake projects of benefit to themselves and their communities.

A small group of retired people in North Toronto became interested in the possibilities that might become feasible with such a grant. Their leader was Rev. Dr. Thomas Davies, who voiced their objective in these words: *"I want to be kept up-to-date, to be a full-fledged citizen. I need nourishment for the mind, in the company of my contemporaries, in a program which we choose and manage for ourselves"*.

In 1973 after several different seminars and short courses the group of seniors called Living and Learning in Retirement (LLIR) was formed. With the cooperation of Dr. Albert Tucker, Principal of Glendon Col-

lege, space and audiovisual facilities were rented for 12 weekly day programs, 2-hour morning sessions and 2-hour afternoon sessions on Fridays when fewer regular students had classes.

Original programs were Canadian Studies, but were soon broadened to the present system where we choose our subjects for the following years. The Program Committee then works with the Glendon College Coordinator, originally Dr. Michiel Horn, to find us specialists to design courses and find us lecturers.

Other Third Age Learning programs were being developed across the country (30 in Ontario) including TALA (Third Age Learning Associates) by Janet McPhee who published a manual, *"Keeping Your Mind Alive"*, as a guide for Third Age Learning. She said, *"I never played BINGO in my life, I need something for my head"*.

In the early classes there were many women who welcomed the opportunity to attend university which had been denied by the Depression. Over the years many husbands and men have joined. My broker husband re-

marked when I asked him to join me, *"I don't want to go to school"*, but he loved it.

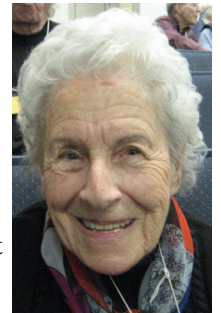
The interaction with Glendon College has enabled the program to flourish for all of us. We have tried to benefit the students as many of them come from great distances, such as Senegal and French Camerons, to study in French. We invite them to our homes, and provide scholarships and funds for needy students.

Priscilla Cole

Long-time member of LLIR and President in 1992-93

Meet Ruth Dobbs.

She is currently in Mike Daley's Jazz class and in a recent aside on Rap Music confessed to being a fan. Not sure if that was "Gangsta" or "West Coast Hip Hop"! By the way, Ruth is going to be 92 in June. Way to go Ruth!!



A Few Good Definitions!

Cashtration: The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

Intoxicaton : Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Sarchasm : The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Elders to Elders

On January 21, members in Dr. Martin's Arctic course participated in a unique question and answer session. They watched a documentary on *Inuit Elders and Climate Change* and then, thanks to Skype, were able to communicate directly with filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk in the north.

Thanks for Being There

In moments of panic - and there have been a few over the years - the LLIR Audio Visual team that endeavours to keep things running smoothly, sometimes has to call on the Glendon IT department for help. These are the guys and girls who man that little window down the corridor.

Led by Jean (John) Dignard, we know that when all else fails we can call on Kevin, Robert, Rose, Boris, Jonathan and John himself to get the wheels back on the track.

When the call goes out, they are quick to react because we have told them that a room full of disgruntled retirees is not a pretty sight!

Probably the worst problem I can recall is when we had to bring a ladder into 204 to reset the projector which had decided to quit. R.B.

Feedback is Always Welcome

Robin, just to give you some feedback from a new member. I joined LLIR to hear from knowledgeable enthusiasts in diverse fields. I am pleased to say that my expectations are being met. The program on jazz which I am attending is both interesting and entertaining.

Given the waiting list, I was lucky to be admitted to LLIR in January, albeit that I had but two programs to choose from. I look forward to seeing the full selection available for next year. The only suggestion that I have is to consider lengthening the time given to the speakers' actual presentation and shortening or even eliminating the Q & A session. But of course everyone has a different view on that. Keep up the good work! I.N.