

Adventures In Lifelong Learning est. 1993	<i>MARY WASHINGTON</i> <i>ELDERSTUDY</i>
	Affiliated with UMW and the Elderhostel Institute Network

February 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The election materials for this year will again be sent out electronically to members with e-mail and regular mail for those who do not. We will be electing three members to serve on the Board of Directors. Thank you to those who agreed to be placed on the ballot. Please send your ballot to the ElderStudy Secretary in care of ElderStudy at the University, or better yet, bring it to the General Membership Meeting on March 11th.

Just a reminder, posted on our website is a list of all books read/discussed since the book group was started in 1999. Thank you to Sue Corbett for keeping a list and to Anne McGrath for keeping the website current. The book group, started by Stew Engel and me thirteen years ago, continues to have great participation – feel free to join us.

Looks like we will close out the 2010 – 2011 academic year with 52 new members. Average class attendance hovers around 30.

We continue to work on the parking situation; however, it appears that ElderStudy is being “held hostage” (not my words) because of the relationship between the College Heights Civic Association and the University of Mary Washington. Indeed, it is a sad state of affairs when senior citizens, who want to continue their education, find it difficult because a homeowners group will not allow *limited daytime parking on public streets*. I assure each of you, that we will continue to pursue an equitable and common sense solution. (See related article.)

Welcome to all of our new members. Hope to see you at our classes.

Carole Hanus

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Committee’s review of the *Procedures Manual* is well underway. The goal is to have any page revisions completed and online/published by August. The objective of this timetable is to ensure that any new members joining the organization at the start of the

fiscal year will have the most current organization operational procedures available for their review.

All annual Internal Revenue Service required reporting has been completed. The IRS has confirmed that it has accepted our e-Postcard filing.

In continuing our support of the University of Mary Washington and students registered in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program, a scholarship check in the amount of \$1,000 was forwarded to the Office of University Advancement. The scholarship will be awarded to a student next spring and be used for the 2011-2012 school year.

During the ElderStudy 2009 –2010 academic year, University of Mary Washington faculty supported us by providing 20 programs. Excess funds in the amount of \$2,000 (\$100 per program) were distributed to nine academic Departments. “Thank You” letters have been received.

The Administration Committee will meet in Woodard on Wednesday, March 2nd. Interested members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Bob Hanus, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues to fulfill its broad organizational responsibilities. The membership has been kept up to date through publication of the ElderStudy newsletter and other sources. E-mail and telephone requests for information have been answered. New members have been acknowledged by e-mail (when an e-mail address is provided) and sent their welcome packets. Permanent nametags have been ordered. Cards have been sent, informational brochures distributed, and the website and bulletin board in Chandler 102 kept up to date. After planning and hosting winter social, the Committee has scheduled the end of year potluck for Wednesday, May 18th and will be working on the details for this event.

Committee meetings are open to the membership and we welcome new ideas. Most of the work of the Membership Committee is done “behind the scenes.” Come and find out how you can help.

Carole Hanus, Chairperson

COMING TO THE THEATRE

The Department of Theatre and Dance will offer the second of two productions during the spring semester in March. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* - Music and Lyrics by William Finn and Book by Rachel Sheinkin. E-F-F-E-R-V-E-S-C-E-N-T! E-N-D-E-A-R-I-N-G! H-I-L-A-R-I-O-U-S! No matter how you spell it, you will fall in love with six pubescent and idiosyncratic spelling champs as they compete for the

ultimate prize of their spelling careers. In an extraordinary musical about winning, losing, and growing up, you will pull for the underdogs, cheer for the winners, and celebrate the unexpected heroes of the Bee. Charming, quirky, and full of love, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* will leave you with a song in your heart, a spring in your step, and a word or two you can use to impress your friends! In a word, P-H-E-N-O-M-E-N-O-L! **Mark your calendar!** ElderStudy class in on Wednesday, March 30th from 1000 to 1200. **This class is open to guests. This is an opportunity for your friends who will be going to the play to have an insight into the play before they attend the performance.** Tickets go on sale March 23 and will also be available during/after class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: March 31-April 2, April 7-9, and April 14-16 at 8:00 p.m. April 3, 10, and 17 at 2:00 p.m. Post-performance discussion, April 3. *For the hearing impaired, the Klein Theatre is equipped with an infrared listening system. Headsets and hearing aid adapters are available for checkout at the box office prior to each performance.*

Questions: Carole / Bob Hanus

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The responsibilities and duties of the Board of Directors are to facilitate the work of the organization in fulfilling the organization's purpose and insuring organization compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Mary Washington and the organization's governing documents. (Officers are selected from the Board of Directors.)

- Setting objectives for the organization
- Insuring organization compliance with the Constitution / Bylaws / *Procedures Manual*
- Fulfilling the responsibilities of the Memorandum of Understanding with UMW
- Fulfilling the Bachelor of Liberal Studies scholarship agreement with UMW
- Considering revisions to ElderStudy governing documents
- Planning the "End of Academic Year" potluck luncheon and program

Questions: Bob Hanus

ANNUAL ELECTIONS COMING IN MARCH

Each year at the March General Membership Meeting three Board members are elected to replace the three retiring Board members. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors serve for three fiscal years starting on September 1st. If you want to ensure that you receive the election materials, your personal information on the membership list must be correct.

Thus, helping us keep the ElderStudy membership list current is important for you. The central source for keeping the list current is Chuck Johnson who maintains the

membership list. **If you need to update your information**, contact Chuck Johnson - cjeagle@verizon.net or 891-1219.

IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?

Questions: Chuck Johnson

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

<< George Burns >>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendar! The spring **General Membership Meeting** is scheduled for **Friday, March 11th** in the Woodard Red Room from 1000 – 1200.

In addition to the Membership Committee arranging for some light refreshments, we will be electing three new members to the Board of Directors.

To accomplish anything, we need a quorum! So please plan on attending. Remember, ElderStudy is a membership organization, so take the opportunity to get better acquainted with your colleagues and share your views of the ElderStudy program.

Questions: Members of the Board of Directors

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Each year at the March General Membership Meeting three Board members are elected to replace the three retiring Board members. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors serve for three fiscal years starting on September 1st.

If you have Internet access your Election Information (Instructions / Biographies / Ballot) will be provided to you attached to an e-mail. If you want to vote, print out the ballot (one per member), vote, and mail your completed ballot to -

ElderStudy (Attn: Margaret Rose - Secretary)
University of Mary Washington
1301 College Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-5300

If you do not have access to the Internet, you will receive your Election Information (Instructions / Biographies / Ballot) thru the U.S. Mail. If you want to vote, please mail in your ballot as noted above.

Completed ballots may also be brought to the General Membership Meeting on Friday, March 11th. Save an envelope and stamp and join your colleagues on March 11th.

Ballots must be received NLT 1000 on March 11th. Since Ballots will remain sealed until the General Membership Meeting is called to order, e-mail voting is not acceptable.

The three persons receiving the most votes become members of the Board of Directors for the next three fiscal years.

Questions: Bob Hanus

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

<< Bob Hope >>

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Term: September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2012

Bob Hanus
John Thompson
Margareta Williamson

Term: September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2013

Eugenia Jones
Margaret Rose
Dennis Van Derlaske

Questions: Bob Hanus

MEMBER PARKING IN THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS AREA

For the past two years, ElderStudy has tried to take a common sense approach that would allow ElderStudy members to park on the “Resident Only” designated public streets within the College Heights area.

The City Ordinance that covers parking in the College Heights area is **Sec. 58-201**.

Sec. 58-201. Purpose and intent.

In order to reduce hazardous traffic conditions resulting from the use of streets within residential areas for commercial parking; to protect such residential areas from polluted air, excessive noise and trash and refuse caused by the entry of such vehicles; to protect the residents of such areas from unreasonable burdens in

gaining access to their residences; to preserve the character of those areas as residential districts; to promote efficiency in the maintenance of those streets in a clean and safe condition; to preserve the value of the property in such areas; and to preserve the safety of children and other pedestrians and traffic safety; a permit parking program is hereby established.
(Code 1991, § 12-96)

In June 2009, Phil Hall attended a meeting of the College Heights Civic Association (CHCA). At that time we were told they were “agreeable and sympathetic” but there was nothing they could do.

Sec. 58-204 authorizes the City Manager to establish the criteria by which persons may obtain temporary parking passes. This is in addition to hardship cases. With an average age of our membership in the early to mid 70's, we felt that our overall situation justified our request.

Members of our organization then met with or spoke with the Chief of Police, other city employees, and a knowledgeable City Councilman who were also sympathetic, but stated that a waiver must be granted by the City Manager.

In April 2010 I elected to personally address the parking situation with the City Manager. My initial action was to write a letter to Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager. Highlights of that letter are as follows -

In accordance with Sec. 58-201 and Sec. 58-204 of the Fredericksburg City Code, Mary Washington ElderStudy requests a limited waiver for on street parking as described in Sec 58-203 within the College Heights area.

With an average age of our membership in the early to mid 70's, I feel that our overall situation justifies our request. We are the only active campus activity that involves seniors that may find it difficult to walk greater distances yet do not qualify for handicapped parking.

- Mary Washington ElderStudy is a Learning in Retirement program at the University.
- ElderStudy is an independent all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that provides low-cost educational opportunities for those who want to continue learning

Given our average class attendance and the actual number of members that would utilize ElderStudy parking permits, impact on the streets within the College Heights area would be negligible.

To negate any impact on City staff, we would have the temporary no-fee permits printed and manage the program.

Mr. Cameron responded to my May letter on September 2nd inferring that that it would be a waste of time to discuss this further and no waiver will be granted. Mr. Cameron's letter also states the CHCA's statement of position is of "strong opposition to the proposal." This is in direct conflict to what we were told and what should be in the Associations' minutes of their June 2009 meeting.

On September 15th I wrote to Mayor Tomzak noting "It is a sad state of affairs when senior citizens, who want to continue their education, find it difficult because a homeowners group will not allow *limited daytime parking on public streets*. Given our average class attendance, the impact on College Heights' homeowners' would be negligible and since ElderStudy would provide hangtags and manage the program, the city would not be impacted at all." I specifically noted that "One of the two provisions for implementing permit parking (Sec. 58-204) is that more than 75% of the parking spaces available on such blocks are occupied during any hours of any 14 days in a 30-day period. Providing ElderStudy a limited waiver for parking would not cause that requirement to be exceeded."

To date, the Mayor has not responded to my September 15th letter. Copies of all three letters are posted on our Bulletin Board in Chandler 102.

Subsequent conversations with City Councilmen Mr. Howe and Mr. Solley have indicated that we are being held hostage in an attempt by the College Heights Association to negotiate (?) with the University. Unfortunately, there appears to be a very strained relationship between the Association and the University.

In closing, I would quote from a letter from Dr. Wilder, UMW Chief of Staff to two of our members: "Please know that, while the ElderStudy Program is provided with meeting space on our campus and other considerations, it is an independent, community-based organization. Therefore the University does not have any direct involvement in the activities of the group or its programs. (Note: This is all covered in our Memorandum of Understanding with the University that can be found in the *Procedures Manual*.)

I assure each of you, that we will continue to pursue an equitable and common sense solution.

Questions: Carole Hanus, President

CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES / CANCELLATIONS

Reminder: Members can call to get last minute schedule changes as updated by the Curriculum Committee. Call **654-1769 (select Option 2)**. Last minute schedule changes should also be available on our website at **www.ElderStudy.com**. The goal is to update these sites within 24 hours of receiving new information.

Questions: Anne McGrath, Chuck Watkins, or Alan Zirkle

INFORMATION SOURCES

Misplaced your class schedule or last newsletter? Want to know what is happening on campus? For information on ElderStudy and campus activities and programs, you can always check with a friend. But there are other options available to you. You can check our bulletin board located in Chandler 102 or better yet, if you can go online, go to the Mary Washington ElderStudy website www.ElderStudy.com from home or the library.

Questions: Carole Hanus

LIFELONG LEARNING AFFILIATION

ElderStudy is one of many "Lifelong Learning Institutes" or LLIs. Each LLI (previously referred to as Institutes for Learning in Retirement – ILR's) is sponsored by an educational institution and has a distinctive name. Mary Washington ElderStudy was organized under a Letter of Understanding between Mary Washington College and the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) dated October 21, 1992. In the fall of 1993, ElderStudy was accepted as an affiliate member of the Elderhostel Institute Network. Today, there are over 350 Lifelong Learning Institutes located at Universities and Colleges worldwide. From its humble beginnings in 1962, the Elderhostel Institute Network has become a dues-free, "virtual" organization, providing services from a special section of the Elderhostel website.

PREPARATION OF THE ELDERSTUDY 2011-2012 BUDGET

In accordance with the ElderStudy *Procedures Manual*, the ElderStudy Budget for the organizational year (September 01 thru August 31) is prepared in the spring of each year by the Administration Committee. The proposed budget is then presented to the Board of Directors at the June Board of Directors meeting. To meet the schedule as outlined in the *Procedures Manual*, inputs from the Board of Directors and each standing Committee Chairperson should be provided in writing by April 15th. In addition, every member should feel free to provide input to the proposed budget. All member submissions should also be forwarded in writing by April 15th. All inputs will be consolidated and a review by the Administration Committee will be completed by May 31st. As noted above, the proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at their June meeting.

Questions - Bob Hanus

MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Copies of the minutes of the General Membership Meetings and Board meetings (which also contain committee minutes) are available for your review on our website. *(If you use a dial-up connection, be patient as these are pdf files and take longer to download.)*

Questions: Anne McGrath or Chuck Watkins

NEED INFORMATION FOR A FRIEND?

If you or a friend needs information on the ElderStudy program, go to our website at **www.ElderStudy.com** or pick up an ElderStudy card brochure in Chandler 102. The “blue” brochure can be found in the plastic holder next to our bulletin board and lists both our website and telephone answering service phone number. Brochures can also be found at local libraries.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events scheduled for the University of Mary Washington campus can be found online at **www.umw.edu**. The online calendar lists all concerts, lectures, theater and athletic events. Once at the website, select “Events” and that will take you to the University Public Events Calendar. *The University no longer publishes this information as a quarterly printed publication.*

Want to be one of the first to know what’s happening and when?
VOLUNTEER

This newsletter is published by the Membership Committee (Carole Hanus – Chairperson) for the members of the University of Mary Washington Lifelong Learning Institute, Fredericksburg, Virginia. For additional information, visit our website at www.ElderStudy.com or contact our voice mail at (540) 654-1769.

IT IS YOUR PROGRAM -- VOLUNTEER

As an outreach program of the University of Mary Washington, ElderStudy is an all-volunteer organization. Active participation by the membership is the cornerstone for a successful Learning In Retirement program here at the University of Mary Washington.

Membership is more than attending classes. Included with your membership is a responsibility to contribute. Active participation means attending classes, serving on committees and coordinating class sessions. Being an involved ElderStudy member is important to assure a wide variety of interesting classes and to achieve a smooth functioning organization.

By serving on the various committees you can help develop the curriculum, contribute to the newsletter, help maintain membership records, and process registration applications and plan social events, while at the same time contribute to the overall mission of supporting the University of Mary Washington and the local community.

REMEMBER – we are an all-volunteer organization!

Curriculum Committee:

Actively participate in developing diverse, interesting, stimulating academic and cultural classes.

Membership Committee:

Actively participate in ensuring that the variety of committee responsibilities and activities are accomplished.

Administration Committee:

Actively participate in developing the policies and plans for operating your organization

For further information on how you can help, contact a Committee Chairperson - or better yet - come to the Committee meetings!