



Edmonton  
Lifelong Learners  
Association



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALBERTA**  
Faculty of Extension

# *The Lifelong Learner*

April 2009

Issue 6 Vol: #2

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## REPORTS

### **President's Message**

We are about to start our eighth ELLA Spring Session. The members of ELLA can be proud of this accomplishment. Volunteers have put in many long hours of hard work to produce these sessions and they have been great ones.

Before we can enjoy attending this one, we need to make one last effort to convince more people to register. The friends who said they might be interested or the ones we meant to approach but haven't yet, need to be contacted. We are always worried that we will fall short of our budgeted registration. Don't forget to remind people that bursaries of \$125.00 are available.

We have discovered the Endowment Fund, that funds bursaries, will also fund grants for operating purposes. This could include marketing projects designed to increase registrations or many other ideas. The Board will be looking into these new possibilities for next year.

As we approach our forthcoming year, we will be looking for new volunteers to staff our committees along with the current volunteers. We will also be replacing some of the Board Committee Chairs. Members retire, or burn out and we need new blood to take on the work. We ask all members to take a close look at volunteering on the Committee of their choice and possibly taking on a chair position. Many of us take time to travel to warmer climates during the winter. These volunteer jobs are not full time!

The Board of Directors looks forward to greeting all of our members on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Spring Session. We'll see all your happy faces then!

**Ray Lieberman - President**

### **Nomination Committee**

There will be several openings on the board for next year. Nomination papers will be found at the ELLA information table in the Education Building. At noon on May 6, 2009 a candidates' forum will be held...one week before the AGM.

**Larry Judge, Chair – Nomination Committee**

### **Program Committee**

We're off on another exciting adventure—Spring Session 2009. People are anticipating seeing friends from 2008 as well as meeting new friends. Make sure you register soon, if you have not already done so, as a few of the classes are already full. Rooms are booked, but are not yet allotted, as the final room will depend on the size of the class. If your favourite class has no more room, be daring, try something different and explore a new field. As of March 27, over 200 had signed up. The Administration Committee is kept busy as registrations flow in.

A second drawing class by Harold Pearse was added to the afternoon program, to appeal to the growing number of art students.

Over a hundred volunteers work hard to provide you with the best possible program. There is a Volunteer Facilitator for each Instructor (including the Writer-in-Residence) and Noon Hour Speakers. This volunteer is the liaison between the Instructor/Speaker and the ELLA Board and the paid Student Assistant.

To join the fun, make friends and provide input for 2010 Spring Session, please sign a volunteer sheet and help plan next year's Spring Session.

**Marg Stephen - Co-chair, Program Committee.**

### **Publicity Committee**

A survey conducted by the 2008 Publicity Committee, showed that individual contact by ELLA participants is the preferred method for "spreading the word." As a result, the Committee targeted this type of publicity. Two thousand small consumer-friendly business cards advertising the 2009 Spring Session were ordered and were added to our print method of distributing information. In addition, the Committee delivered to "partners" in 12 city and surrounding areas packages of posters, brochures, business cards, and course timetable sheets. These "partners", in turn, distributed these items within their assigned areas. In this way, an impressively large number of posters, brochures, business cards, and timetables were made accessible to 50-plus adults.

Advertisements about the 2009 ELLA Spring Program were placed in the Edmonton Journal (3), Edmonton Senior, U. of A. Alumni's New Trail, and the U. of A. Faculty of Extension's Spring Calendar. The U. of A Faculty of Extension graciously agreed to cover the costs of one of the Edmonton Journal ads and the insertion in their Spring Calendar. Also, free publicity notices and public service announcements were distributed to Edmonton T.V., radio, and print media.

The ELLA Display Board had four "recent" photos added, the original scrapbook/photo album had overflowed and was replaced with a new one and the website was updated. In addition, a binder recording all 2008 – 2009 Publicity Committee minutes, agendas and pertinent information was compiled for use by next year's Committee. Many thanks are due to the hardworking volunteers

**G. Brooks - Co-Chair, Publicity Committee.**

## **An Editor's Swansong!**

Two issues of the ELLA Newsletter, *The Lifelong Learner*, were published during 2008-09 for the first time under the guidance of an **Editorial Committee** formed to provide the editor with advice and backup. According to the ELLA Bylaws the purpose and function of the Newsletter are:

1. **Purpose:** to ensure that the ELLA Newsletter effectively disseminates information and news to the Association's Members.
2. **Function:** six sub-headings outline the mechanics for achieving the Newsletter's purpose.

Most of the committee's discussions revolved round how to open up the scope of *The Lifelong Learner*, to make the news and information more readable and interesting and at the same time pay attention to the original and deliberately chosen title. What can ELLA members learn from each other by reading their newsletter? A year elapses from one Spring Session to the next, and, during that time members are involved in many things – things\* that will be of interest and of educational value to fellow members. If you have enjoyed and learned from these activities of your choosing, then why not share the enjoyment and stimulation with your fellow ELLA members? Don't worry about your writing skills; there will always be an editor and committee to help you! Look for the interesting and educational stories to come in the following pages.

I was elected to the Board of Directors six years ago in 2003 and have been the first and only News Editor, serving two back-to-back terms, so now I must retire. I have enjoyed bringing the Newsletter to you and hope you have found it interesting and informative. The founding of the Editorial Committee last year bodes well for *The Lifelong Learner's* future – I wish the next editor and his/her committee as much enjoyment as I have had.

**Valerie Swann – Editor, *The Lifelong Learner*.**

**\*Things:** For "Things" read: activities like attending courses, travel, volunteering, even working,, reading, visiting art galleries, attending concerts, committee work, sports, gardening, environment, politics (non-partisan) working out – the list goes on. only limited by your imagination!

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## **FEEDBACK**

### **Responses to some of your comments**

Your comments from last year (a selection was published in the November, 2008 issue of *The Lifelong Learner*) emphasize that we are a group with very diverse likes and dislikes and we know that ELLA cannot please all of the members all of the time but we try to respond to as many of the suggestions as possible.

We will soon be starting our 2009 session and hope you have already registered for the courses that most interest you. It's inevitable that some of your choices will coincide with others in the same time slot, but remember we will be back in 2010!

This year we were able to get advanced scheduling agreed with the Extension Faculty

and hope that room allocations will go smoother than at our last session. We'd like to remind all ELLA members that we are non-paying guests of the Education Faculty and aim to cause as little trouble to them as possible. This is a shared space. To Literary Café participants in particular: please tolerate other users of the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge.

The Watercolour class (EL11) was filled up in January and we are now offering a second course in the afternoon.

There are some disappointments: Applied Anthropology (EL35) has been cancelled as Lori Shortreed must go to her seriously ill sister.

Despite pleas for another horticulture course this is not feasible as all possible instructors are very busy at this time of year.

We welcome back many popular instructors and regret that others are unavailable to teach us this year.

From all the hardworking ELLA volunteers of the Program Committee, we wish you an enjoyable 2009 Spring Session.

**Compiled by Gerry Ridge – Member, Program Committee.**

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## **MONEY MATTERS EXPLAINED**

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### **Membership Renewal Reminder**

ELLA's membership year runs from October 1 to September 30 the following year. It is still a bargain at only \$20.00. Course calendars for 2010 go out in January and will not reach you unless you have renewed your membership. Remember, 2009/10 memberships will be on sale, at the Information Table throughout Spring Session. By purchasing your membership there you won't forget later on and also, it is easier to make your donation at the same time!

### **Donations**

ELLA's mission is to encourage life long learning by providing first rate courses in a wide range of subjects.

Our goal is to keep the price of courses as reasonable and affordable as possible in spite of rising costs. All financial donations go a long way to ensuring that this goal is met.

As ELLA is a registered charity the benefits derived from donations are that:

- Charitable gifts are income tax deductible - ELLA will issue a Registered Charity Tax Receipt.
- When applying for grants the total amount of donations received is very important as many funds match donor dollars.

- Donations can be directed for specific use, for example: it might be possible to sponsor a lecturer.

ELLA is sensitive to the present financial crisis and realizes that money can be tight but even small donations can mount up and make a significant impact.

**Maggie Dower – Member, Finance Committee.**

Editor's note: ELLA's registered charity number is 875 759 912 RR0001. Income tax deductible receipts are issued for donations. Another way you can help ELLA save money is that Office Depot and Staples operate rewards programs and ELLA is registered with both. If you are not collecting points for yourself, why not donate the points you have earned from your purchases to ELLA? Its as easy as giving the cashier ELLA's phone number: **780-492-5055**, or the rewards' contract number. **Office Depot: 14220657718** and **Staples: 8164128293**.

### **Spring Session Endowment Fund Grants**

The Spring Session Endowment Fund was established in 1992 in response to a need for a source of income to support the Spring Session for Seniors<sup>1</sup> at the University of Alberta. The terms of reference for the Fund require that annual spendable income of the Fund be used to provide scholarships for people who require financial assistance to attend the Spring Program. The spendable annual income may also be used to support operating and professional development activities associated with market research, planning, development, promotion, delivery or evaluation of the Spring Session.

Faculty and staff of the University of Alberta and organizations partnering with the University of Alberta to provide the Spring Session are eligible to apply for operating and professional development grants<sup>2</sup>.

Grants for operating purposes shall be based on the merit of the application and will normally be limited to items that are not usually considered to be part of an annual budget. Included in this category might be a proposal for a one-time market analysis or for the hiring of someone to assist with the preparation of a major grant proposal for funding to support a new initiative for the Spring Session. Proposals for funding for items of a capital nature, e.g., office furniture or communications equipment, will not be considered.

Grants for professional development purposes shall be based on the merit of the application and will normally be limited to supporting individuals in learning activities (e.g., tuition fees, learning materials) or participation in conferences (fees and travel expenses) that have a direct application to the planning, development, promotion, delivery or evaluation of the Spring Session.

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<sup>1</sup> The current name for this program is *Spring Program for Older Adults* (June, 2003)

<sup>2</sup> The *Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association* partners with the University of Alberta to provide the Spring Session (June, 2003).

Grants are limited to a maximum of \$2,000. If the grant request meets only part of the funding requirement of a proposal, this must be clearly stated in the application, together with a statement of the amount of funding requested from other agencies and the names of those agencies.

**Funds granted will be financially administered by the Faculty of Extension. Invoices and receipts for expenses are to be submitted to the Financial Business Analyst, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, for payment or reimbursement. Grantees are advised to allow up to eight weeks for payment or reimbursement from the date submitted.**

The recipient of a grant shall agree to provide the Dean of Extension with a report of the outcome(s) of the grant in a timely fashion, normally within one month of the completion of the project or activity for which the grant was made.

**Dave Ferraro – Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee.**

### **Where Do My ELLA Fees Go??**

I have been on the Board of ELLA for 4 years now, and I hear many comments regarding the cost of the ELLA Spring Program ranging from, “Why is this wonderful cornucopia of classes so cheap!!” to “Why is this so expensive? Don’t they know seniors are poverty-stricken and can barely eat!! Education should be free!”

Well, the details of our finances are all given to you in our audited financial statements and are presented at each Annual General Meeting, but I know how easy that is to digest! So, using values from our 2008/09 financial statements, here are some simplified explanations of the bare bones of where your money goes...

#### **YOUR COST:**

\$250.00 Tuition cost (weighted average of \$220 - \$245) plus membership fee (\$20)

#### **WHERE IT GOES:**

\$12.50 GST at 5%

\$161.75 Instructors’ pay and benefits for 31 courses, plus noon hour speakers’ honoraria, Xeroxing of course material, and a student employee for 3 weeks.

\$25.00 Registration fee to the University of Alberta. No whining here! The U of A provides wonderful administration support and an office in Enterprise Square, gives ELLA 31 rooms with audio-visual equipment at the University for 3 weeks totally free, and provides heat and light and great custodial service and security.

\$21.00 How did you hear about ELLA? If we don’t get more than 280 of you coming, the per person costs will go up and up. Advertising is not cheap, and neither are brochures and posters. Talk to your friends and neighbours!

- \$8.75 Administration and Newsletter. We need to communicate to you and hear from you. Our office is open and manned by volunteers from January to May and we send out two newsletters and the course calendar. Our office space, volunteers and e-mailing are free, but paper, postage and parking are not!
- \$3.00 Meet and Greet...so the coffee and muffins on opening day aren't really free?
- \$1.75 Board Appreciation Lunch. The ELLA Board of volunteers meets monthly from June to April, and arranges all the classes and instructors, does endless publicity work, runs ELLA's office from January to June, answers the phone, handles the money and balances the books. It communicates with you and sometimes feeds you! We THINK we are worth \$1.75/year. Come – Join us!
- \$16.25 Other Expenses. ELLA requires liability insurance coverage for members, an audit of financial records, Board meeting room rental and storage and one time bylaws changes.

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**\$250.00 TOTAL EXPENSES.** We get a refund for some of the GST, some donations and sell many memberships (\$20) to people who cannot attend every year. So, with a bit of a squeak, we usually can balance the books, but it's tight! A message to you all...come out and volunteer! Make a donation! Come again next year... and bring a friend, and tell your neighbours about the great time you had at ELLA!!

**Jan McGregor – Chair, Bylaws Committee.**

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## **STORIES FROM MEMBERS**

### **ELLA – the Beginnings! June 2001**

Eavesdropping is never to be commended but as, in the Spring of 2001, I was in a washroom in the basement of the Education Building it was impossible not to overhear the conversation between two members of the then, 'Spring Program Advisory Committee'. The ladies were sadly discussing the **termination** of the program. The Department of Extension had no more money! I could not believe it.

Scurrying back to Francis Klinge's class on 'Art History' I immediately challenged her and the entire class was appalled to learn that, indeed, this, for adult learning, as we knew it, was **the end**.

At lunch several of us formed an indignant clique and I hurried home to type a brief statement of protest, which people signed with vigour. Art Smith, who was the chair of the then Advisory Committee trotted from class to class with the petition safely secured in his carryall. Just before the current senior's session ended, two of us approached Marilyn Chinnery, who had worked with the Department of Extension, for years. She made an appointment with Dr. Dennis Foth, the assistant Dean of Extension and persuaded him to help us. Thus the 'Gang of Five' was formed. Pat Shields, Francis Klinge, David and Marilyn Chinnery and I were the initial nucleus. After that meeting,

Tom White of Nellie's Tea-shop allowed us to have a private room to accommodate the primary group. There were 14 of us. People rose to the occasion. Pat Shields, an excellent self-trained accountant undertook the registration of the Association and personally bore all costs. Marilyn Chinnery stepped into the role of President and what an outstanding organizer she was. Marg Steven was there and as you will note is still with us, using her training as a registered 'Skipper' to guide us through some squalls and avoid rocky shores. The University agreed to send out three to four hundred letters to previous senior students and to bear the expense. I shall not list all the members of this first committee but sufficient to say, as Shakespeare did, we were a 'noble band of brothers' and totally committed.

The meeting for the forthcoming membership was held at St Timothy's Church and over a hundred came and tendered their \$20 – ELLA was viable! People signed up for committees. A board was formed – very much a working Board.

We have had people with outstanding talents join us. Over the intervening years some have died, others have retired and more continued to come. We are all in our 'third stage' of life and have much to offer but we cannot continue without replenishment. I encourage you to join us! We all have some time or effort we can spare. ELLA is a totally volunteer run organization. It is seniors for seniors and remembering the maxim 'If you don't use it, you lose it' - we welcome you.

**Valerie Cload. – Founding Member and former Board Member.**

### **From ELLA to Peru**

As I was planning to go to Peru I chose Lidio Valdez's course on the Andes at last year's ELLA. It was a course I thoroughly enjoyed. As a result I had a greater appreciation and understanding of Peru and its people when I went there last November. If I had not taken the course I would have been like the majority of tourists and only associated Peru before the Spanish conquest with Incas. I was surprised to learn from Lidio that the Inca Empire only lasted about 100 years and that Peru had a long and diverse history prior to the Incas. Peru is one of the original centres of civilization like Egypt, Greece and China and there is archeological evidence of human occupation dating back to around 15,000 – 20,000 BC. Lidio covered the pre-Inca cultures such as the Chavin, Moche, The Lord of Sipan, Nasca, Wari and Chimu and this information was particularly useful at the Gold Museum in Lima, a private collection with artifacts from the different cultures all mixed together without any chronological sense of order.

Because of this course when traveling in the Andes I was able to look at the landscape and realize what incredible horticulturists the indigenous people had been. The Inca terraces and the irrigation systems led to experiments in how different crops could be cultivated in the Andes. When visiting a local native market in Pisac I saw the variety of different foods Lidio had mentioned. The barter economy is alive and well and there is a strong sense of reciprocity among the Andeans.

The Peruvian people have an innate ability to adapt and this was very evident in the churches that were built under the Spanish but contain symbols of the old native religions that are still worshipped along side Christianity.

Time and time again when the local guides were describing things, I heard echoes of Lidio and realized how attending his course enriched my experiences in Peru. I look forward to attending his course this year.

**Maggie Dower – Chair, Social Committee  
Member, Editorial and Finance Committees.**

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## **SOCIAL EVENTS & INFORMATION**

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### **ELLA Social Functions**

The 2009 ELLA Celebration Banquet will be replaced by a “Celebration Reception” function. It will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor lounge of the Education Building on May 14<sup>th</sup>, the time yet to be decided.

The numbers of people attending the banquet have been going down over the last few years and members have suggested a less formal event would be preferred. The ELLA Board sensitive to the views of the members felt that a “Celebration Reception” would be worth trying.

This event will take place at an earlier time on April 14<sup>th</sup>, tickets will be less expensive and the venue –the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge in the Education Building will be more convenient to members. Wine and finger foods will be served. It is hoped that more members will attend and join in the ELLA Celebration.

The usual “Meet and Greet” coffee and breakfast pastries will be available in the Cafeteria on the first morning from 7.30 am onwards.

The AGM lunch will be on the May 13<sup>th</sup> and will be catered by the Upper Crust Resturant who have always provided us with an excellent lunch at a reasonable cost.

Tickets for the Celebration Reception and the AGM Lunch will be available at The ELLA Registration table. Cost: \$22.00

**Maggie Dower – Chair, Social Committee.**

### **To Contact ELLA**

**Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA), U of A Faculty of Extension,  
Suite 2-936B, 10230 Jasper Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB, T5J 4P6**

**Phone: 780-492-5055. If unanswered please leave a message - all calls will be answered year-round. The office is open and staffed January through April.**

**E-mail: [exella@ualberta.ca](mailto:exella@ualberta.ca) Website: [www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella](http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella)**

## **NOTICE**

**THE ELLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
will be held  
Wednesday May 13, 2009  
Education Building, University of Alberta  
Room N2-115  
12:30 – 1:30 pm**

## **AGENDA**

**Call to order:** 12:30 pm

Welcome to the AGM by the President Ray Lieberman

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Previous AGM – Wednesday May 14, 2008
- 3. Reports of Officers:**  
President Ray Lieberman  
Treasurer Dave Ferraro  
    Acceptance of Audited Statement 2008  
    Appointment of an Auditor for 2009-2010  
    ELLA Membership Fee for 2009-2010
- 4. Reports of Committees:**  
Administration Committee – Chair, Carlene Bourassa  
Bylaws and Policies Committee – Chair, Jan McGregor  
Editorial Committee – Chair, Val Swann  
Program – Co-Chairs, David Nattrass/Marg Stephen  
Publicity – Co-Chairs, Chips Reid/Georgie Brooks  
Social – Chair, Maggie Dower
- 5. Election of Directors:** Nomination Committee Chair – Larry Judge
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Closing Remarks:** President Ray Lieberman

**Please keep this notice and agenda for the AGM and bring to the meeting.  
Copies will be available at the door.**

A copy of this Notice/Agenda with the Newsletter can be viewed/downloaded from our website: [www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella](http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella)

**THE PRE-AGM LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE, BY TICKET ONLY, IN THE LOBBY  
LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OUTSIDE ROOM N2-115 AT NOON UNTIL  
12:30 pm.**

To cover the cost of this lunch, tickets will be available from the ELLA Information Table in the Education Building Cafeteria (Cost \$10.00)

