



Edmonton
Lifelong Learners
Association



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA
Faculty of Extension

The Lifelong Learner

May 2010

Issue 7 Vol: #2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last year has been a very challenging one for the ELLA Board. After starting with a full complement of Board members, five of them new, we quickly lost three. Not only were we low on members, most of the committees were led by new Chairs. In spite of these challenges we have been able to put together a Spring Program every bit as good, perhaps even better, than the previous eight programs. We expect next year, our tenth, will be an even greater adventure.

We will have up to eight openings on the Board, including the positions of President, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President to be filled. The Board is confident that members of ELLA, eager to see the programs continue and grow, will step forward as nominees to take up Board positions and responsibilities.

Next year will be my last one on the Board after serving three terms. I'm looking forward to working as Past President with old and new members on our Spring Program and in renewing our partnership with the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension. Life really is for learning.

Ray Lieberman

***"The Best Years of my life"* by Jean Cyrus**

Schools have always been some of my very favorite places. My first school years--eight of them in a little country school--were carefree, happy years. Then came high school, normal school, and university--all stimulating, invigorating, happy years.

I chose teaching as my career. It was a decision I had made even before I started school. Schools have continued to bring me happiness, challenge and fulfillment for some forty years. Now ELLA enables me to recapture the happiness that "schools" have always brought me. I meet new people, share ideas and laughs with teachers and students, and reminisce with old friends. Yes, schools have always been some of my favorite places.

Marg Stephen

I recently visited Marg Stephen at the Gerald Zettter Extended Care Centre and combined this visit with an interview about ELLA

Q. You have given a lot to ELLA, but what do you feel you have gained as a result?

A: I've gained so much from ELLA, so many friends, and have met such interesting people. I have increased my knowledge about the world around me. I am sorry I won't be able to go this year, but I hope to be back in 2011.

Q. You served on so many committees and the Board, I wonder if you had any preferences?

A. My favourite was being on the Program Committee because it was a hands-on committee, and involved talking to people. I joined the Board because I felt I had something to give to ELLA. It is often so difficult to get people to volunteer for boards. Those who serve on boards are very dedicated people.

Q. I believe it was your suggestion to include the GeriActors as a lunch time event?

A. I heard about the GeriActors from Peter McNab and I thought they would be a great addition to the program.

Q. What areas of the program excite you the most?

A. I like philosophy, watercolour painting, drama and especially the writing course.

Q. What do you see for the future of ELLA?

A. I see ELLA continuing because it provides a great opportunity for people to get further education without the onus of examinations and prerequisites.

Q. You have done a lot of work for ELLA over the years, what did you find was the most useful change?

A. It helped a lot when we got volunteers as facilitators per classroom. The more people who volunteer for ELLA the better it is for everyone. If a person is doing too much they get burnt out. The work load needs to be shared.

Q. Do you think that ELLA students realize that ELLA is totally run by volunteers?

A. I am sure they don't. But it is volunteerism that helps to keep the cost of the courses so exceptionally low. This is due to the work done by dedicated volunteers.

I am happy to say that Marg is continuing to make progress. She would welcome visitors, but it is wise to call ahead (780 431-3600) to check on her schedule. Way to Go, Marg!

Maggie Dower

NEWS & INFORMATION:

An Opening Welcome to the 2010 Spring Session

The ELLA Board invites everyone at the 2010 Spring Session to join them for a special get-together during the noon break on the first day. Performing for ELLA for the first time will be the **GeriActors and Friends**, a theatre company based at the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE).

Initially a theatre group for seniors only, the GeriActors created a play with drama students at the University in 2002. This led to a formal agreement in 2006 between the GeriActors, the Drama Department and the University's Community Service Learning program. The result was a combined undergraduate and graduate course in Intergenerational Theatre which fully integrated the students with seniors; hence the name GeriActors and Friends. The cross-generational nature of the company has generated new energy, brilliant ideas, an even greater sense of fun, and lasting friendships --all of which are reflected in the company's original theatre productions. We will see you at 12:10 on May 3 in room N2-115 for this fun kick-off to the Spring Session! (Please plan to eat your lunch before coming into the theatre.)

2010 Social Events

We're all looking forward to another exciting session in May. During coffee on the first morning, look out for new faces (their name tags will be a different colour) and welcome them to our eclectic mix of students for three weeks.

Your social committee is planning a delicious lunch from the Upper Crust Café on May 19, at 11:45 am, just before the AGM. Tickets are \$12.

The next day, when you're feeling nicely stimulated after two and a half weeks of courses, wind down and debrief at the afternoon cocktail party on Thursday May 20, at 4:30. We are heading to the Faculty Club after the last class (it's a hop, skip and a jump from the Education Building, and there will be rides for those who need a lift). There we'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. You can get tickets for both these events at the ELLA info table.

Join the ELLA Team!

Is your inquisitive mind looking for an ongoing challenge? ELLA has many meaningful volunteer opportunities which match your skills, interests and/or previous experience. You can give back to the organization by serving on any of the numerous committees. Tasks range from choosing courses and selecting instructors to designing brochures, arranging lunch, and helping answer the ELLA office phone. Your time, commitment, and skills would be welcomed and appreciated. Finding the 10 or 12 top-quality new instructors needed each year for the ELLA Spring Session is quite a challenge.

The Program Committee invites ELLA members, who are passionate about lifelong learning, to roll up their sleeves and join in the search. If you happen to be particularly knowledgeable about

one or more of the fields of learning (art, humanities, science, fine arts, literature/writing, physical fitness), that's a big plus! Your expertise is invaluable.

This year there are eight positions to be filled on the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in areas such as accounting, computers or event planning, consider running for the Board. Your input will influence our future direction and help maintain ELLA's standard of excellence

Membership Bonus

Your membership in ELLA allows you to receive:

- advance notice of the annual Spring Session program,
- a discount on Liberal Arts courses offered through the Faculty of Extension
- an invitation this year to ALL ELLA members, whether registered in the Spring Session or not, to join us at the noon hour sessions for free. We hope that this will let you enjoy some mental stimulation as well as catch up with your ELLA friends.

“Bring a Buddy” to audit courses

If you have friends who are not sure about committing three weeks to ELLA, invite them to join us for a day as part of our “Bring a Buddy” campaign, running on May 5, 6 & 7th. Visitors should obtain a guest name tag and a list of available courses from the ELLA information table. If the visitors are interested they may register for the remainder of the program at an adjusted fee.

Treasurer needed!

ELLA will need a new treasurer for the 2010 – 2011 Session. The treasurer's duties include: preparing a budget; keeping track of income and expenses; presenting a balance sheet at Board meetings; ensuring an audit is done annually and submitting information to government offices on a yearly basis. Dave Ferraro, the present treasurer, has set up an excellent accounting system using Excel. Anyone interested in the Board position will be able to shadow Dave over the next few months. You don't have to be an accountant, just a methodical mind with an interest in finance. Dave can be contacted by email at dferraro@shaw.ca.

NOTICE

THE ELLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday May 19, 2010 Education Building, University of Alberta

Room N2-115 12:15 – 1:15 pm

AGENDA

Call to order: 12:15 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

1) Acceptance of Audited Statement 2009 2) Appointment of an Auditor for 2010-2011

4. Reports of Committees: Administration Committee – Chair, Ron Bourassa

Bylaws and Policies Committee – Chair, Don Chadsey

Editorial Committee – Chair, Maggie Dower

Program – Chair, Ted Snow

Publicity – Chair, Nancy Rae

Social – Chair, Faith Fernalld

5. Election of Directors: Nomination Committee Ray Lieberman

6. New Business

7. Closing Remarks: President Ray Lieberman

Please keep this notice and agenda for the AGM and bring to the meeting. A few copies will be available at the door.

A copy of this Notice/Agenda and minutes of the 2009 AGM can be viewed/downloaded from our website: 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 12:15 pm.

To cover the cost of this lunch, tickets will be available from the ELLA Information Table in the Education Building Cafeteria (Cost \$12.00)