

# *The Lifelong Learner*

January 2016 Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 1

## **Renew your ELLA membership TODAY!**

*Don't forget to renew your membership – you can't register for Spring Session without it!*

### **Important Dates:**

**Feb 7** – **Physician Assisted Dying Panel Discussion, Encore Event**, Education North, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Lecture Theatre, see below for registration info

**Feb 15** – **Spring Session Course Guide** will be published with on-line and printed versions available

**Feb 16** – **Renew your membership** – did we mention that you need it to register for Spring Session?!

**March 14** – **Spring Session Registration** – Be ready with your course selections to secure your spot

**May 16** – **ELLA 15 Year Celebration Luncheon & Choir**, Jubilee Auditorium, 11:30 – 1:30 see below for details

**May 2 – 20** – **Spring Session**, see below for more information

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### **PHYSICIAN ASSISTED DYING, Panel Discussion, Encore Event: Feb 7 (2 – 4pm)**

On Feb 6, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously decided that Canadians have a constitutional right to choose physician assistance in dying. The Supreme Court gave the government of Canada 1 year to revise the Criminal Code to conform to the Supreme Court decision (with a 4-month extension granted January 15). **ELLA will be hosting a Panel presentation and Q/A on Physician Assisted Dying on Sunday, Feb 7, 2016 in the Education North, 2nd floor, lecture theatre N2-115, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm to discuss this important topic.** The confirmed panel participants are:

- Jon Rossall, of the law firm McLennan Ross of Edmonton, who specializes in legal issues surrounding this matter and has written on it.
- Trevor Theman, Registrar of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons, and member of an advisory group to the Federal Government on this issue.
- Brendan Leier, professor at the Dosseter Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta

ELLA has decided to make this Encore event open to non-ELLA members, because of the timeliness and importance of the issue. This means that **ELLA members must get there early**, since there will not be priority seating. The entrance fee will be by donation to defray event costs – please consider a small donation to help ELLA continue to bring important events like this one to its members and the Edmonton community.

### **SPRING SESSION: May 2 - 20**

#### ***Sneak Peak: What would you like to learn in 2016?***

ELLA volunteers have been hard at work over the summer and fall exploring subjects and identifying a group of knowledgeable and interesting instructor for ELLA's 2016 Spring Session.

Have you ever contemplated learning about Meditation and perhaps taking up the practice? Or have you thought about how your immune system works to keep you alive? How about contrasting ways cities are portrayed in film? Would you like to strengthen the muscles of your body core or explore the painting of the Group of Seven through your own imaginative painting with acrylics? Would you like to take another "Journey Through Science" or along medieval roads on a pilgrimage to great European cathedrals?

ELLA will be welcoming back a number of your favourite instructors such as Michael Roeder, Barb Turner, Doris Charest, Jeff McCune, Anne Armour and Tom Keating, plus we are offering a number of new instructors we think you will enjoy, with their innovative and creative areas of study.

Mark May 2<sup>nd</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> off on your calendar to come and join us as we learn about the topics we love and find new topics to engage and stimulate us. And don't forget to renew your membership – you'll need it to register for Spring Session!

#### ***Promote ELLA & Spring Session***

We need you to get the word out about ELLA. Let your friends and neighbours know about Spring Session – that it's fun, stimulating and a great learning experience! Tell them about our Encore events, including the Assisted Dying Panel Discussion Feb 7 (non-members are welcome).

Since we are asking you to promote ELLA to your friends and neighbours, may we promote ELLA to you? Renew your membership now as registering for Spring Session requires an active ELLA membership. Get yours today and be ready to register in March.

Apply on-line (<http://my-ella.com>) to renew your membership or contact the office directly Mondays or Wednesdays at (780) 492-5055.

### **ELLA is 15 Years Old! Let's Celebrate: May 16 (11:30am – 1:30pm)**

Dear ELLA Members,

In 2016, ELLA will be celebrating 15 years of history as a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that believes life-long learning energizes us and keeps us young. We will be celebrating the past and present plus casting our gaze toward the future. As part of our celebration, we are planning a delicious, catered luncheon at the **Jubilee Auditorium on May 16, 2016 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Music will be provided by Jerome Martin and the ELLA Choir. In addition, we will hear a few words from guest speakers from our past and present.

**Tickets** will be sold for **\$25** through Eventbrite prior to the start of ELLA courses in the spring. Tickets will also be sold the first week of Spring Session at the Information Table.

**15 Year Commemorative T-shirts & Hoodies:** The Anniversary Committee has created a special LOGO to commemorate our 15th Anniversary. It will be applied to t-shirts and hoodies and sold online through Elite Sportswear. A more detailed description of the clothing options and ordering information will be included in the February newsletter (orders will need to be submitted in March). The shirts will be delivered to the information desk during the first week for pick-up.

Free transportation will be provided to and from the Jubilee Auditorium for those who are mobility-challenged.

**Come one and all to the 15 Year Anniversary Celebration Lunch and let us celebrate life-long learning together!**

### **WELCOME to our 2 New Board Members**

The ELLA executive would like to extend a warm welcome to our 2 newest board members: Barbara Stenzel, Administration Chair, and Shirley Mitchell, Marketing Chair. Barbara is a retired modern languages teacher, having taught German, French and ESL throughout the Alberta school system. Barb brings a strong range of skills to ELLA, including excellent communication and interpersonal skills, as well as being adept at handling new challenges. Shirley Mitchell has completed a BSc "with

Distinction”, MBA and Advanced Project Management Certificate from the University of Alberta. She brings skills in marketing, accounting, project management, administration and scientific research to her role with ELLA given her diverse background including a 27-year family business in the flooring construction industry.

## **ELLA Requires Your Assistance**

### ***ELLA Anniversary Choir Invitation***

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, ELLA will be holding a special 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. Part of the program will be a Choir performance led by one of our all-time-favourite instructors, Eva Bostrand. She has arranged an accompanist for practices and performance and would like to invite any interested ELLA members to attend 4 rehearsals to learn 3 songs. The 4 rehearsals would be Saturdays from 10-12 prior to ELLA’s spring session.

Please register for this choir by emailing Carol Vaage at [carolvaage@shaw.ca](mailto:carolvaage@shaw.ca) or phone (780) 756-3704. Eva would like to know how much singing experience you have (number of years in choir, including name of choir, or music lessons, including instrument.) As per Eva’s other choirs, each member contributes \$10 per rehearsal to help pay for the accompanist and Eva’s time and location costs.

### ***Spring Session Program Implementation (aka We need Your Help!)***

As you are busy thinking about what courses it is you want to take – we invite you to think about how you can help make them successful. Can you volunteer to help us out? We need **Facilitators** for every class. This is the person who shares messages about happenings and updates with the class so everyone knows what is going on. We will send you a nightly e-mail of info so you know what it is you need to share.

Are you good at finding your way around? Would you like to volunteer to be an **Ambassador**? Ambassadors help folks find their classrooms and are particularly appreciated during the first few days of classes.

If you can help out with these roles, please send us an e-mail or phone us and we will be in touch (probably in March). Joyce and Clair, Co-chairs Program Implementation Committee.  
[joycemadsen@shaw.ca](mailto:joycemadsen@shaw.ca); [clairwoodbury@shaw.ca](mailto:clairwoodbury@shaw.ca) or 780 438-6016. Thank you for your support.

**PS Watch this space in the coming months. We will be asking you to provide digital photographs of your art works over the years and samples of your writing as well. We will also feature stories from original members and the struggle they experienced to keep Spring Session alive!**

## **Job Posting: PART TIME EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

The Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association, (ELLA), a non-profit society dedicated to providing educational opportunities for mature adults, is seeking a part-time Executive Assistant to report to the Board of Directors from January to June 2016.

Responsibilities: assemble and distribute monthly board meeting packages, attend monthly board meetings, maintain the Board's virtual office material, manage the volunteer recruitment program and complete projects and assignments arising from Board decisions.

### Qualifications:

- Experience in Project Management, working for non-profit, volunteer or human service organizations, and knowledge of adult education principles;
- Ability to work with a wide variety of individuals and display good interpersonal communication skills;
- Time management and problem solving skills plus the ability to work independently with minimal supervision;
- Must possess computer skills to maintain website, manage member database and handle registration process.
- Report writing skills and fundraising/grant application experience is desirable.

The position is a temporary contract part-time position from January to June 2016 with the possibility of an extension. Time flexibility required in order to meet demands of registrations.

If interested, please send your resume along with remuneration expectations by January 22, 2016 to:

Roger Delbaere  
Recruitment Committee Chair  
Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association  
[roger.delbaere@gmail.com](mailto:roger.delbaere@gmail.com)