

Lifelong Learners: An Independent Collaborative

Dear Friends,

We are writing because we have some exciting news to share with you. **Lifelong Learners: An Independent Collaborative** is a reality. The strong results from our recent survey, indicating that so many of you would be interested in being part of such a group, have given us the encouragement to sign a space agreement with Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley. This magnificent, modern, two-year old facility, near the intersection of routes 128 (95) and 9, is offering us spacious, bright and airy rooms and a welcoming atmosphere in which to house our secular program and to share it with you and all our friends of every race and religion.

An open house will be held at Temple Beth Elohim on Monday, April 28 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will be another communication closer to the date with the agenda and additional details. At this interactive and exciting open house, you will get to hear why and how we started this program, ask questions about the new organization, provide input to our future direction, mix and mingle with each other and tour the facility. You will see that there are many classrooms of varying size. This will help us meet the goal of enrolling more people in the courses they choose. Course announcements and schedule will be announced at the open house.

The plan now is to hold courses and extracurricular activities on two days: Mondays and Thursdays. Much is still in the planning stages but we can tell you that we have at least 15 experienced and knowledgeable course leaders eager to study and learn with you and to offer a program of academically oriented, challenging programs. There will also be a New Yorker Fiction study group, a Current Events Discussion group, and other less traditional study opportunities.

Plans are underway to sponsor five to ten lunchtime speakers for the

first semester. The number and types of special interest programs will be determined in the summer as we get a better idea of how many members we will have and their interests.

In addition, legal steps are being taken to set this up as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, with startup costs funded by donations from the founding members. Those founding members have asked the individuals listed below to provide initial leadership of the group. Subsequently, there will be annual elections of board members.

Chair – Richard Mansfield
Vice-Chair – Phyllis Pressman Cohen
Secretary – Jane Kamer
Treasurer – Neil Bernstein

Committees have been formed and are currently led by those shown below. Many of you have already volunteered to be part of these initial committees and have been contacted to begin work. Of course, there is room for more. Now is a good time to get in on the ground floor and help shape this exciting new venture. Is there a particular committee in which you would like to contribute? Please let us know by replying to this email.

Committee	Current Team Leadership
Curriculum	Alorie Parkhill
Extra-Curricular Programs	Lois Silver
Speaker Programs	Irwin Silver
Membership	Mary Mansfield, Joe Bongiardina
Marketing/Communication	Phyllis Cohen, Joe Bongiardina
Finance	Neil Bernstein, Joel Kamer
Operations	Lois Silver, Neil Bernstein, Mike Segal, Joe Bongiardina

Fees are estimated to be \$60 for annual membership, which will entitle you to attend the luncheon speaker program and all other non-

course activities (i.e. New Yorker discussions, current events, language groups etc.) Course fees will be about \$100/semester to enroll in one course and \$150/semester for two courses. One of our ongoing objectives is to keep costs low.

Our logo is being developed, as is our mission statement. The website is targeted to be operational by May 31. In the meantime, emails will be the main method of communication. If you do not wish to receive additional updates please reply to this email and ask to be removed from the list.

Your team is delighted to report this progress. We are looking forward to the launch of this program in fall 2014. In truth we are excited and at the same time a bit daunted by the amount of effort that will be needed to make this a smooth-running reality. Your support is earnestly solicited; we look forward to working with old friends and new. We encourage you to contact any of the team signed below with your thoughts and ideas to help make LLAIC the premier educational opportunity for mature active adults in the area.

Your Lifelong Learning Team members

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