

*Mary Washington***ElderStudy**
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT 

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry December to all!

ElderStudy wishes you a joyful month of holiday and winter preparations.

We will be ringing out the old semester and welcoming the new. You will find the spring schedule included in this newsletter. We remember and appreciate our valuable volunteers who make ElderStudy such a wonderful learning experience. Special thanks to the Curriculum Committee for our varied and interesting classes, to the Membership Committee for their assistance with new members and the Winter Luncheon, and to the Administration Committee for the work on our finances and audit.

Have you visited elderstudy.com recently? In addition to being a ready source for viewing the schedule, you may choose to view "Recent Activities" which contains a photo gallery of some of our fall events. "Interest Groups" describes the Genealogy and Book Groups. Under "Governance" you will find photos of our officers, Board of Directors, committee chairs and others to help you put a face with the names.

I would be remiss if I did not again take this opportunity to encourage your involvement in one or more of our ElderStudy committees (Administration, Curriculum, Membership). Watch the schedule for our meeting times and places. If we each do a little, we all benefit a lot.

In March the General Membership meeting will elect new Board members. We welcome everybody to be there for this important vote. It also provides a great opportunity to socialize with class mates.

Bill Toomey, President

The best way to get the information you need to know about ElderStudy is to go online at elderstudy.com or you can call (540) 654-1769 (select option 1) and leave a message. A member of the Membership Committee checks the service at least weekly and calls are returned or redirected to the appropriate person.

I want to thank you all for the get well wishes. They surely worked as I am home and doing very well and looking forward to getting out and about soon.

Dot Meyers

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Administration Committee Report

The Administration Committee, with Board of Directors guidance, develops policies and plans for operating the ElderStudy organization, monitors finances and projects future needs, proposed an annual budget with recommended annual fees, and periodically reviews ElderStudy governing documents relative to potential need for revision or change. The Committee meets quarterly about 7-9 days in advance of the Board of Directors Meetings.

The most recent Committee Meeting was held on November 26 in the Center for Lifelong Learning Room. At this meeting, the Treasurer presented Preliminary Financial Reports for the First Quarter for Committee discussion. An important item of New Business discussion was the development of a recommendation regarding the 2014-2015 Bachelor of Liberal Studies Scholarship; as the year-to-date income from membership fees exceeds the budget projection, it is likely that the Committee will recommend a \$1000 Scholarship to the Board of Directors at the December 4th Quarterly Board Meeting.

The next Administration Committee Meetings are scheduled for February 25, 2014 and May 27, 2014 at 1 PM in the Center of Lifelong Learning at the UMW Stafford Campus [Room SC210 South]. At the February Meeting, the main New Business topic will be the planning of the Budget Call for 2014-2014. At the May Meeting, recommendations will be developed regarding (i) Membership fees for 2014-2015, (ii) regarding a budget for 2014-2015, and (iii) regarding the availability & use of any excess funds. Questions and comments may be addressed to John Thompson [371-4827-REDACTED]

Treasurer's Report

The ElderStudy 2013-2014 First Quarter Financial Reports for the period September 1, 2013 thru November 30, 2013 will be presented for approval by the Board of Directors on December 4 and are not included in this newsletter. Electronic copies of the reports will be available on the ElderStudy website [<http://www.elderstudy.com>] pending approval by the Board. The Annual Financial Audit for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year has been completed by Mr. Wendell Anderson and will be reported to the Board of Directors at their December 4th Quarterly Meeting; the audit detected no error, inconsistencies, or exceptions. The ElderStudy Annual Tax Return will be filed by the Treasurer before January 15, 2014. If you have questions, please contact the Treasurer (John Thompson) at 371-4827-REDACTED

COMING TO THE THEATRE THIS SPRING

February 6-23 - *Always . . . Patsy Cline* by Ted Swindley. Featuring the Music of Patsy Cline. Mark your calendar! Divorced, gainfully employed and ready to take on the world, Louise Seger dons her best yellow cowboy boots and cowgirl skirt to meet her idol, country and western singer Patsy Cline, at the Esquire Ballroom in Houston, Texas. When Louise strikes up a conversation with Miss Cline, the two become fast friends, confidantes and devoted pen pals. Letter by letter, *Always...Patsy Cline* celebrates a legendary career cut far too short by tragedy through the hits that made her a star—*Walkin' After Midnight, Your Cheatin' Heart, Crazy, I Fall to Pieces, She's Got You, Anytime*, and many, many more. "This is the sweetest music this side of heaven!" Patsy. *A song-filled valentine.* — Los Angeles Times. *For the hearing impaired, listening devices are available for checkout at the Box Office prior to each performance. Class is on Wednesday, February 5th. Members are encouraged to bring non-member guests to this session.*

April 10-20 - *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes as translated by Dudley Fitts. Mark your calendar! Fed up and weary of the never-ending conflict between Athens and Sparta, an Athenian housewife brings the sparring warriors to their senses and to their knees when she convinces the women of both sides to stage a sex strike to force a peaceful end to the Peloponnesian War. An ancient and steamy play first performed in 411 BC, *Lysistrata* ignites a battle of the sexes and reveals that shockingly little has changed in two-and-a-half millennia. The warring men (and the women who love them) find the fight on the home front is harder than the battlefield in this ribald comedy about war and sex and the war between the sexes! "Sisters! If we really want our men to make an armistice, then we must give up sleeping with our men . . . will you do it?" *Lysistrata*. *Lysistrata* is a sophisticated work that confronts timeless beliefs with strong language and sexual imagery. *Vivacious, visceral, spectacularly indignant . . .* — The Guardian. *For the hearing impaired, listening devices are available for checkout at the Box Office prior to each performance. Class is on Wednesday, April 9th. Members are encouraged to bring non-member guests to this session.*

Questions: Carole / Bob Hanus

BOOK GROUP NEWS

The following books will be reviewed this spring:

January - *The Bells* by Richard Harvell.

Discussion Leader Margaret Rose

February - *Citizens of London* by Lynne Olson

Discussion Leader Carrie Allahut

March - *The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation* by Jon Gertner

Discussion Leader Chuck Watkins

April - *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines.

Discussion Leader Dot Meyers

May - *The Right Hand Shore* by Christopher Tilghman.

Discussion Leader Tom Phillips.

Be sure to check the website for more information of each of these books.

Membership Committee Report for December 2013 Newsletter

Come to ElderStudy's version of Meet & Greet for the holidays. Our Winter Luncheon will be held at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse on December 11 starting at 11:30. For those of you new to ElderStudy, you will find Lake of the Woods more than picturesque. Eugenia Jones is in charge of this fete and she has engaged Douglas Gately, Director of Jazz Studies, as our holiday musician. Reservations for this event are due by December 2. Reservations forms were sent out in our last newsletter. You can also obtain a form under the membership tab on the website www.elderstudy.com.

Directions to Lake of the Woods Clubhouse: From Fredericksburg, take Route 3 west 14.5 miles past the I-95 interchange. Turn left at the stoplight onto Lake of the Woods Way. Stay to the left and stop at the gatehouse to get an entry pass. Then continue straight ahead about 0.2 miles to the parking area. 102 Lakeview Parkway, Locust Grove, VA 22508. (540) 972-2222

The membership committee thanks UMW and Chief of Staff Martin Wilder who presided over a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony for ElderStudy's new classroom, now called the "Center for Lifelong Learning." Delightful refreshments were served at the event. ElderStudy is fortunate to be partnered with the University of Mary Washington.

The membership committee next meets on February 26 at 1:30 at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library branch downtown on Caroline Street. Members are always welcome to join the meetings.

Have you enjoyed receiving a monthly updated roster of our members sent via email by our modern Town Crier, Alan Zirkle? Thank you for this service, Alan.

Wishing you a...

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year - English

Feliz Navidad y feliz año Nuevo - Spanish


Joyeux Noël et bonne année - French

frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr - German

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo - Italian

クリスマスと新年のお慶びを申し上げます-Japanese

Suzanne Willis, Membership Chair

Thanks to all for the help in preparing this newsletter. If you have any questions or complaints, please let me know. You can reach me, Dot Meyers at  540-760-1533.

MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Lifelong Learning of Mary Washington ElderStudy is to design and execute an academic program to suit the interests of retirement-age people who share a love of learning and to be a positive influence in the community. It is an **all volunteer** organization and welcomes input and new ideas from all the members. If you like to get involved with good learning, good people and a friendly atmosphere, then ElderStudy is the place for you. Please volunteer when ever you can and help make this organization the best it can be.

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.

OFFICERS OF ELDERSTUDY FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

PRESIDENT - BILL TOOMEY

VICE -PRESIDENT - MARY ANN STANA

SECRETARY - BARBARA BARRETT

TREASURER- JOHN THOMPSON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - MARY ANN STANA

BILL TOOMEY, LARRY TURNER, BARBARA BARRETT,

PHIL HALL, BILL WEMMERUS, JOHN THOMPSON,

RANDY FENNEMORE, CHUCK WATKINS.

These are the people who have volunteered their time and expertise to keep the wheels turning. Say thank you when you see them, ask not what they can do for you, but what can you do for them !

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL.

~~www.http//elderstudy.com.~~

What you need to know- when you need to know it!