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**A HISTORY OF THE  
LIFETIME LEARNING  
INSTITUTE**



**OF  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
1977 - 1994**



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*Researched and Written by Lou Maysel*

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**FOREWORD**

In 1994 the Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin celebrated its 17th anniversary something of a "lifetime" for the many individuals who have made the continuing adult education program a reality.

With neither outside funding nor foundation support, operating on faith and belief in an idea, and with the continued cooperation of numerous institutions which generously provided sites for office and classes, LLI has become a viable educational alternative in Austin, Texas.

No such organization, functioning entirely with volunteers, could establish itself and survive without some difficulties. Some of those problems, as well as some of the successes, are chronicled in this history. It is a tribute to the vision of its founders and the resolve and tenacity of those who have followed that LLI has endured through these seventeen years.

Because without talented and dedicated people LLI could not exist, numerous individuals are named in this history. Leadership, the essential nature of a volunteer organization, has changed and evolved through the years. Of greater importance are the hundreds of volunteers who gave, without stint, their time and their energies, and their suggestions to bring about the great success of the program.

By Traxel Stevens

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**FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR  
OF  
THE LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE  
FROM 1977 TO 1983**



***THE REVEREND WALTER PILGRIM***

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**ABOUT LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE**

(Contributed by the Reverend Walter Pilgrim, the first Director)

It was during the 1960's that AARP began a continuing education program for its members, building on an idea that came into being after World War II, when returning service veterans were offered the chance to continue their education. Even though these new students might be two generations older than the returning G.I.'s, it was thought learning was possible and successful aging made much more probable. While hardening of the arteries was a physical threat, hardening of the attitudes could be an equally mental and moral threat.

In the thirty years of Lifetime Learning's history, thousands of older adults have found a new enrichment in their lives through study and discussion, and hundreds of teachers and staff have experienced a new challenge for growth. Just think, no discipline problems, no grades to hand out, and where all class members have similar years, concerns, and hopes.

For those having the privilege of riding on one of the first waves of recruitment in the early days of the 1970's, we can only say, "Thank you, Lifetime Learning Institute," for what you have given us! At this point a personal note may be in order.

For one who had experienced the death of his wife of 35 years, who had long thereafter moved to a new area of residence, and who was within a few short years of retirement, I was for a time a bit bewildered. But having the good fortune to find another life partner with the educational skills in the new venture of Austin Lifetime Learning, I helped to launch the new program. Let it not be forgotten that LLI and its associates had a prominent place in meeting the personal needs of the first director.

At some time in life we need to find a place, to discover ourselves and perhaps -- who we are and what we can do. At a time in my life when everything changed, I needed to find a place -- to belong. I am grateful for the gift that Lifetime Learning and its associates have given me.

Kindest regards,

Walter Pilgrim  
January 30, 1994

## LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE DIRECTORS



*Margie Thompson, 1983-1987*



*Howard Barr, 1989-1993*



*Narvella Woodruff, 1987-1989*



*Dr. Luisa Sánchez, 1993-1995*

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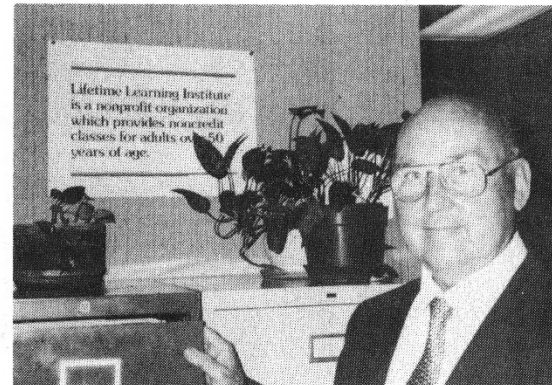
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*Site Coordinator John Bradshaw checks the records of classes to determine class site requirements.*



*Bernice Schnerr, LLI Publicity Coordinator, stays in touch with the media.*

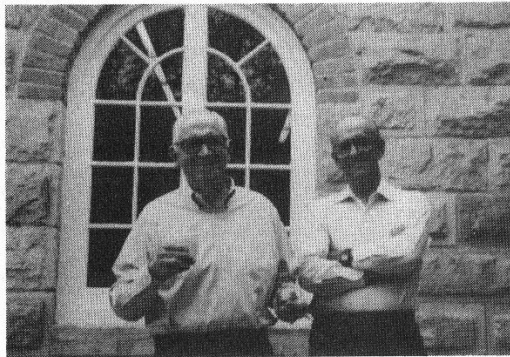
## CREDITS FOR THIS HISTORY

The people of the Lifetime Learning Institute are the history of the Institute and a good one it is. However, Lou Maysel researched all the facts and figures from very scanty written data, interviewed, and talked with many members of LLI, and spent many hours writing and revising the history. Our very sincere thanks go to him and this valuable contribution to Lifetime Learning.

Traxel Stevens aided in the writing. Editors and proofreaders, including Lou Maysel, were Helen Furlong, Frances Phillips, Luisa Sánchez, and Howard Barr. We hope their excellent attention to detail when appropriate helped a little.

The former directors of the LLI generously furnished their pictures for publication in the history. Jerry Leach furnished class information and early classroom pictures, and Helen Furlong took the later pictures of the members of the Advisory Council and classroom pictures.

The original "tentative" history was written in 1992. This edition was revised and published in March, 1994, in Austin, Texas.



*Lou Maysel, author of this LLI History, and Traxel Stevens prepare to attend the Advisory Council at Hancock.*



*Secretary of LLI Frances Phillips helpfully records and proofreads for the Council.*

## CHAPTER 1 - THE BEGINNING

### CONTINUING EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

The Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin, Texas, completed its 34th semester of adult education in the Spring of 1994; so it seems appropriate that its 17 years of operation should be recalled and recorded and that those who were instrumental in conceptualizing and inaugurating this program should be properly recognized. The chronicling of the early years has been difficult because written records of meetings and actions taken vary in their detail and in some instances are nonexistent. Some of this history has been derived from oral statements and recollections of those who could be contacted.

With its present strong acceptance by the Austin community, the early challenging years are easily forgotten. After a promising start, two big dips in enrollment, periodic moves of the administrative office, and some turnover through the years of the staff of volunteers who direct and govern LLI, it is now clear that the Lifetime Learning Institute is a viable organization offering to the adult community a program of continuing education that is highly desired and much needed. Thus it is with great pride that this history is written.

### MAY 17, 1977 - CHARTER BY AARP

When they look back, present-day leaders acclaim the Reverend Walter Pilgrim for conceiving the idea of what became LLI and working hard as its director to keep it alive during the first six difficult years. During the 1975-76 school year, the semi-retired Methodist minister, who originally hailed from Minnesota, had taught a course for seniors, Rediscovery of the Bible, at the then struggling Austin Community College. Its Title One Grant Program was tied to matching the federal funding by the city or ACC. This was not forthcoming; the program ended after one year.

The Reverend Pilgrim saw the interest in senior education when the ACC Title One Program drew around 300 people for the 25 classes that were offered. And as Education Chairman for an American Association of Retired Persons

Chapter, he was aware of the 14-year-old Institute of Lifetime Learning that AARP sponsored in conjunction with the National Retired Teachers Association. He and his wife, Geneva, a University of Texas professor of teacher education, contacted various senior groups and education leaders with invitations to send representatives to a March 31, 1977, meeting at the Nueces Activity Center. Twenty-two attended in addition to Dr. Leroy Hixon, the AARP-NRTA representative from Long Beach, California, who supervised the chartering of the ILL chapters.

A second meeting was held on May 17th with Dr. Hixon again in attendance. After much discussion and planning, Dr. Hixon declared that the group had met the specified qualifications and would be granted a charter. This was issued on June 21st and made the Austin chapter the nation's 52nd. An Executive Committee was named, consisting of Irene St. Clair, Catherine "Kay" Goodwin, Eleanora Simmons, Donna Bearden, Wilbur Hurt, Mac Payne, Travis Williamson, and the Reverend Pilgrim. Donna Bearden dropped out and the remaining seven spearheaded the formation of the Institute of Lifetime Learning (ILL), the name the school informally carried until April, 1983.

#### THE EARLY ORGANIZATION

The Reverend Pilgrim credits Irene St. Clair, who was named Secretary-Treasurer, and Eleanora Simmons with providing vital help during the initial year. And Irene St. Clair remembers that the Reverend Pilgrim had the qualities that were needed to breathe life into the organization; "He had that type of personality and he was a natural born leader. He gave a good speech. It was easy for him to convince people that he needed them to work with him."

#### THE FIRST FACULTY

Seed money totaling \$115 was collected to cover initial expenses, and an AARP "interest finder" questionnaire was distributed to various senior citizen groups to help determine the curriculum. Dr. Hixon had suggested that Austin start modestly with five or six classes, but the faculty recruitment that the Reverend

Pilgrim did, sometimes acting on suggestions by his wife, went well enough that the Fall term started on October 3rd with eight courses plus an AARP course on defensive driving.

Two teachers who were involved in the ACC program with the Reverend Pilgrim agreed to teach similar courses for ILL. Kay Goodwin taught a course in Needlecraft and continued to teach the same course under the title of Needle Arts for 15 more semesters. Lillian Warren taught a course entitled Fulfilling Our Lives. Nan Jackson was recruited to teach Oil Painting by Mac Payne, who was her supervisor in the Mathews Community School after school program for adults and children. She later switched to teaching alternately Art History I and II, courses she is still teaching. Her initial painting class had 20 students and was divided into two sections so that she could provide more individual instruction.

The most popular initial course, with 38 enrolled, was Creative Writing with Weldon Brewer emphasizing poetry the first hour and his wife, Anita, switching to prose the second hour. This odd arrangement was necessary because Anita could not get away from her job at ACC until the second hour. Next in popularity were Texas History, taught by Iris Shuford, and Genealogy, which Gray Golden, who had developed a separate section for genealogy at the State Archives and was one of the state's leading authorities on the subject, taught until health forced her to quit in 1987. The other courses with sizable classes were Beginning Spanish, taught by Alicia Sánchez, and Law for Seniors, handled by Byron Fullerton and other University of Texas law professors.

#### ENROLLMENTS AND FINANCING

A total of 173 students enrolled for the first semester, and the Institute, designed as a "non-profit, non-political, non-competitive" organization for older adults, was structured much as it is now with all the staff positions handled by volunteers. Courses met weekly for eight weeks, and each session ran two hours with a break for socializing and refreshments in the middle. Used as classrooms were small auditoriums and meeting rooms around the city; but, unlike now, churches were a secondary supplier of classroom space. Tuition

was a mere \$5 per course, and teachers received an honorarium of only \$50. One difference was that the school was started with a loosely-enforced age minimum of 55 that appeared only on the course schedule. This requirement was dropped after a couple of years, and no age minimum was spelled out again until the current 50 and older age limit was specified in 1985.

The year-end financial statement showed gross receipts of \$870, and a balance of \$363.05 after honoraria and incidental expenses were paid. So successful was the initial venture that seven courses were added for the 1978 Spring semester that started February 6th. Advanced courses in Creative Writing, Oil Painting, and Texas History II were added to the beginners' courses. Others offered were Investment and Money Management (coordinated by Rusty Talley and assisted by other advisors), Bridge (Modene McClellan), and Knitting and Knitting (Virginia Lusk). All of the initial instructors remained with the program except that Neal Stokey took over coordination of Law for Seniors.

The 1978 Spring enrollment reached 415; and, when the semester ended, Bylaws were drafted and finally adopted on May 23rd by the Advisory Council, which drew its leadership from the members of the Executive Committee. The organization adopted the name of "Austin Chapter (Austin Extension) Institute of Lifetime Learning," and the Bylaws called for five of the up to eleven members of the Executive Committee to be presidents of Austin's five AARP-NRTA chapters or their designated representatives. The remaining members were to be selected by these presidents to serve for two years. Selection of the staff and up to 15 members of the Advisory Council was left primarily to the Executive Director, the Reverend Pilgrim, who was given "overall responsibility for planning and implementation of the educational programs."

#### EARLY DEVELOPMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE

The initial success of the school for seniors made the use of the Reverend Pilgrim's home at 709 East 46th Street as the ILL office impractical because of the volume of mail and incessant phone calls during the registration period, especially after his wife announced, "I would like my phone back." The office problem was solved temporarily through the help of the Governor's Committee

on Aging, which provided funding that allowed ILL to rent office space, starting in June, 1978, at 7703 North Lamar Boulevard, and to share a secretary in an adjoining office.

The enrollment took a huge jump to 688 in the 1978 Fall semester, thanks to the one-time help of the national office of AARP, which sent some 8,000 brochures to its members in zip codes within a 30-mile radius. Curriculum was expanded to 27 courses with the offering of three Bridge classes, two more Oil Painting courses, taught by Beatrice Longshore, and a flock of new courses. Notable among these, because they became fixtures, were Medical Affairs (coordinated by Dr. Homer Goehrs, who drew on fellow Austin Diagnostic Clinic physicians to aid in their specialties); Nutrition (coordinated by Mary Kooock); Watercolor Painting (Robert Selby); and Poetry (Bevington and Auta Lee Reed).

The 1978 Fall semester started October 2nd on an ominous note despite the increased enrollment. Funding from the Governor's Committee on Aging was withdrawn effective October 1st and ILL leaders were faced with paying \$252 a month in rent for the office. The Advisory Council decided to raise the tuition to \$7.50 per course for the Spring semester to offset this cost, which represented a huge drain on ILL's meager funds. Enrollment slumped to 604 although 28 courses were offered. The only new one was Lifetime Living, coordinated by Bert Kruger Smith, but a fourth Bridge class and an advanced Spanish class were added. Notable faculty additions were Dr. Luis Ramos-García, who taught all three Spanish courses, and Jim Tom Barton, who took over teaching of Creative Writing.

#### SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

Desperate to end the financial drain of paying rent, the Advisory Council voted in late March to pay the rent weekly starting in April while the search for a new home continued. In short order the Austin Parks and Recreation Department provided ILL with an office in its building at 403 East 15th Street, now the Ronald McDonald House. This had the four new members on the Executive Committee working in new surroundings; the new members were Thelma Walker, Ruth Meaney, and Olivia Adams, who shared the work that the



Administrative Coordinator and her aides now do, and Jackie LeLong, who became Program Coordinator in 1980 when that position was formally created. Aware that the office furnished by PARD was only temporary, the Reverend Pilgrim and the Executive Committee started looking for an alliance with an educational institution, as the ILL national office was now recommending.

The turbulent situation had a dampening effect on the enrollment as it slid to 382 for 28 courses in the 1979 Fall semester. Most of the new courses offered either did not reach the minimum to be established or did not endure, but one that did was French, taught by Jane Goodnow, who is still on the faculty. She began teaching a more advanced course the next semester and starting in 1984 taught Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced French whenever the demand was there. Three other notable additions to the faculty were Edna Whitworth for the course in Bridge, Katherine Staples for Poetry, and Alice Scofield, who took over two of the Oil Painting courses.

Honoraria for the faculty were raised to \$60 for the 1979 Fall semester, and at the end of the year the financial statement showed a balance of \$3,414.49. Another indication that ILL had seemingly taken firm roots in Austin came in the form of a plaque that the Reverend Pilgrim was given by the National Director of the ILL program at a June 1980 meeting of the state's directors in Dallas. However, the Reverend Pilgrim is sheepish about displaying the plaque because the engraving says "Dr. Walter Pilgrim." He quickly admits he has no doctorate. In 1981, the Reverend Pilgrim was honored with the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations' Outstanding Service Award.

## CHAPTER 2 - STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE

### A NEW HOME AT AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Even before the Institute of Lifetime Learning found a temporary home with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the ILL leaders had started seeking an alliance with an educational institution, which AARP recommended as it was planning to phase out its lifetime learning operation.

The search for a new home turned to the Austin Independent School District and Austin Community College. AISD was slow to respond and could offer no office space. The Reverend Pilgrim said that he and Dr. Cecil Groves, President of ACC, hit it off immediately, and negotiations got underway with Dr. Ramón Dovalina, Executive Dean in charge of Community Resources and Services, and his two aides, Ruth Ann Wilson and Albert Pérez, who would become the liaison with ILL.

An agreement was worked out during the Fall of 1979 so that ILL was ready to start the 1980 Spring semester under the wing of ACC. Key points of the agreement were that ILL would keep its separate identity but that its students and instructors would also be students and instructors of ACC; and ACC would handle advance registration, pay instructors, print course schedules, and furnish office space and clerical help. ILL would continue to develop courses and schedule classes, recommend instructors, and handle on-site registration. Tuition was set at \$8, and instructors would receive \$64 if they taught 16 hours. Net income, after instructional costs were deducted, would be split evenly.

The alliance with ACC came just in time because of an eviction notice from PARD, which needed the office for another program. The loss of a telephone during the critical period leading up to registration and the lack of wide distribution of the course schedules to seniors under the new arrangement kept the enrollment from rising significantly as only 340 students took the 24 courses, well under the "approximately 35 courses" for which the agreement with ACC called. Genealogy, taught by Gray Golden, attracted 56 students, leading her to handle two sections in following semesters.

## REVISIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

During this same period a committee ultimately composed of Irene St. Clair, Jackie LeLong, Catherine "Kay" Goodwin, Mac Payne, and the Reverend Ralph Hess was at work revising the Bylaws, in part to make them comply with the state law for tax-exempt organizations. Ves Townley, who would serve briefly as assistant to the director, and Jim Tom Barton as Advisory Council chairman also worked with the committee. The preliminary draft was approved on January 15th, but it was not until September 1st that the final draft was accepted. The 1980 Bylaws renamed the organization, "Institute of Lifetime Learning of Austin, Texas," and spelled out in much more detail the functions, responsibilities, and selection process of its officers. New positions established were those of assistant to the director and administrative, program, and publicity coordinators.

The Executive Committee was eliminated and replaced by a Steering Committee with much the same functions but with more power, and the Advisory Council was reformed to include chairpersons of standing committees, 13 ILL students, three teachers, three representatives from community agencies serving adults, and an ACC representative. Although it was not spelled out in the Bylaws, ILL began referring to itself as "non-profit, non-political, non-discriminatory," substituting the last adjective for "non-competitive."

ILL and ACC had only \$1,247 to split after the Spring semester, and ACC netted just \$137.20 after registration expenses and the cost of a newspaper ad were deducted. Publication of a newsletter brought the check to ILL down to \$514.45. Prior to the start of the Spring semester, the Reverend Pilgrim was voted a \$250 expense account per semester, and at a subsequent meeting the Steering Committee agreed that ILL should put \$2,000 of its \$3,290.49 funds into a money market fund, which grew into a substantial reserve through the years.

The start of the 1980 Fall semester was permanently moved from early October into September in order to finish before Thanksgiving; but only 21 of the 29 courses offered made the minimum enrollment of around ten students, and total

enrollment dropped to 287. The only new courses that endured had been offered before. Katherine Staples revived the course in Poetry; Dr. Ross Hemphill became coordinator of Medical Affairs; and Dr. Donald Davis was the main teacher for Nutrition. The last two courses were offered in alternate semesters thereafter. ACC kept \$642.23 of the net income because of various expenses, and ILL netted only \$309.77, which was paid by special check in February because the original check was mistakenly sent to Lifetime Learning Publication Co. of Belmont, California.

## SUCCESS OF PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The plunge in enrollment was discussed at length in Advisory Council meetings, and the main move was to name a committee to help the Reverend Hess, the Publicity Coordinator, make more seniors aware of ILL before the 1981 Spring semester. During 1981 the organization underwent a major change in leadership, but the Reverend Pilgrim could find no one to take over the director's role and made it clear he was continuing as "acting director." Ruth Meaney also continued as Administrative Coordinator. Narvella Woodruff became Program Coordinator, and Howard Barr worked with her as Program Committee Chairman. Bertha Casey became the Secretary; Robert Eakens, the Treasurer, the post he held until 1993; and Putnam Monroe started the first of three terms as the main Site Coordinator. Gordon Anderson, former Chairman of The University of Texas Educational Psychology department, became the Assistant to the Director in the Fall but served only until the end of the semester. Marian Nachlinger was slated to succeed him but was pressed into service as Administrative Coordinator instead.

The student recruitment effort started paying off for the 1981 Spring semester, which saw a number of new and appealing subjects help swell the enrollment to 427 for the 28 courses. German was taught for the first time and became a fixture, but Werner Schroeder taught it only one semester and was followed by Linda Vieregge. Antiques (later Antiques and Collectibles) also went on the curriculum to stay, with Maurine Kocurek handling it the first semester and again twice later on. Ida Mae Little directed a class in Folk Dancing for two semesters and after a semester off switched to a "Swish and Sway" name for the

dance class. Charles Wright coordinated a Financial Planning course, and the Reverend Malcolm Riker started the course now called Pictorial Journey, which he taught in alternate semesters.

Tuition was raised to \$10 and the teacher honorarium to \$80 for the 1981 Fall semester. The enrollment crept up to 456. Golf, taught by Toney Burger, and Yoga, by Rikki Dunn, appeared for the first time, and both activities have been offered on occasions through the years. Income naturally rose, too, with ILL banking \$803.59 for the Spring semester and \$1,043.53 for the Fall semester.

Enrollment continued to rise in 1982, but the year was more eventful for actions that charted the future course for ILL. Controversy surfaced in January over whether ILL should remain basically a volunteer organization or raise funds for salaried help. Ruel Walker, Development Committee Chairman, made a report after the Spring semester ended, suggesting a tentative budget of \$14,000 to provide a salary for the director and part-time help, among other expenditures. When the matter came to a vote at the Advisory Council meeting, the plan got only two votes. The director's expense account was raised to \$300 a semester and the teacher honorarium to \$90 in the Fall of 1982.

#### MORE REVISIONS AND DEFINITION OF GOALS

Subsequently, the Reverend Pilgrim appointed a Committee of Five, which was chaired by Steering Committee Chairperson Irene St. Clair, to do a wide-ranging study during the summer to make revisions of the Bylaws and set goals for the organization. Others appointed to the committee were Marian Nachlinger, Mildred Linton, John Hall, and Ruel Walker. The new Bylaws, which were approved November 1, 1982, changed the organization's name to "Austin Institute of Lifetime Learning." The major changes dropped the position of assistant to the director and replaced it with a first and a second associate director, cut Advisory Council membership from 42 to 32, required the election of all officers (instead of just the director, secretary, and treasurer), limited Council members and officers to two two-year terms, and set up a line of succession that would move the first associate director up to the head job.

Enrollment reached 502 in the 27 1982 Spring courses and several new notable courses and distinguished teachers were added. C. Umhau Wolf taught Lift the Limits of Your Life and continued to teach religious/philosophical courses each Spring. Nan Jackson continued teaching Oil Painting but also started her popular Art History course. Ann Gunter added Calligraphy to the curriculum, and Julia Mellenbruch joined Mickey Lanford and Luis Ramos-García on the Spanish teaching staff.

An increase of 194 students for the 36 1982 Fall courses raised the enrollment to 696, slightly higher than the pre-ACC peak, and netted ILL and ACC each \$1,343.87 to go with the \$1,151.22 they each banked for the 1982 Spring semester. Theresa Mosely replaced Alice Scofield as one of the two Oil Painting instructors and taught the "mud" system, but the most unusual new course for the 1982 Fall term was started by the Reverend Hess as a "pilot project" to involve more blacks in ILL. This course, called Living Carefully, the first two terms, was taught by Opal Washington at an East Austin church but was abandoned after the third semester.

#### NEW LOGO AND BYLAWS REVISION

ILL underwent a name change as a result of the effort of Howard Barr, who used his architectural artistry to design a logo that would first appear on the 1983 Spring course schedule booklet. The sequence of the ILL initials had a bad connotation for a seniors' organization, and his suggestion to rearrange the letters was incorporated into a new set of Bylaws that were accepted on April 5, 1983. The document that gave the organization its present name of "Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin, Texas," was framed by Ruth Meaney, Mildred Linton, Wil Cowan, John Hall, and the Reverend Hess.

Bylaws were completely rewritten, and the most significant change was the designation of the Advisory Council as the policy-making and governing group of LLI. The powerful Steering Committee was eliminated and replaced by an Executive Committee that normally met prior to the five Council meetings each year. The new Bylaws also eliminated the position of the second associate director, which was never filled, and the two-term limit on officers and Council

members. The Bylaws set the fiscal year as running from April 1st to March 31st.

Early in 1983 the Reverend Pilgrim finally was able to relinquish the director's job, which had begun to weigh heavily on him and his wife Geneva, who had retired from the UT faculty. They moved back to their native Minnesota for each summer, but "he would worry about it all summer," she remembered. Inevitably they would return early to the Texas heat. Margie Thompson, whom the Reverend Pilgrim recruited into LLI after she retired from teaching English at Reagan High School, volunteered to replace him because "nobody else would take the job." Mrs. Thompson remembered that any doubt about her decision disappeared when someone told her she would not make a suitable director because "you're not a man." "That's all he needed to say," she recalled. The Reverend Pilgrim took the title of Director Emeritus and continued to help as needed. Wil Cowan was elected Associate Director, and Millie diDonato became Administrative Coordinator, replacing Marian Nachlinger. Aleene Gregg was named Secretary.

#### EXPANSION IN THE EARLY 80'S

Enrollment continued upward for the 1983 Spring semester with the 774 students and 44 courses representing a high in both categories, but it leveled off after that. The same number of courses attracted 747 students for the Fall, and the enrollment slipped to 688 for the 39 courses in the 1984 Spring semester. The more significant new courses for the 1983 Spring term were Drawing, initiated by Marion Fasel; Gardening, revived by Doug Blachly, who had first coordinated it in the 1979 Fall semester; and The Tax Man Cometh, taught by the colorful tax lawyer Ted Comsudi. The latter two courses originally were offered only in the Spring but later got companion courses in the Fall.

A course on personal computers was also started in the 1983 Spring term. It was planned for 15 students but attracted 60 and was divided into three sections. The course was dropped after four more semesters. Under a different instructor it was revived briefly in 1989 but had to be abandoned because of the lack of

computers. However, with the addition of more computers and class sessions, it was revived again in 1992.

Joining the curriculum in the 1983 Fall were four long-running courses: Knitting, which Mineola Grumbles taught; Exploring Austin's Open Areas, directed for 12 semesters by John Ahrns; Writing Memoirs and Family Journals, taught by Jim Tom Barton for 11 semesters; and Making Money Last, which Wil Casey also handled for 11 semesters. No enduring courses were added for the 1984 Spring semester, but Opie Houston took over the Poetry course he taught until 1993.

The 1983 Spring semester brought a return of \$1,531.38 for both LLI and ACC, but the balance was smaller for the Fall, partly because of an increase of the teachers' honoraria to \$100. The institutions had only \$1,157.38 to split, but LLI got an additional \$695.32 for expenses incurred. The amount they split after the 1984 Spring semester was \$1,723.64, with LLI receiving an additional \$346.13 as reimbursement for expenses.

The Advisory Council reinforced the voluntary, non-profit status of LLI in a March 16, 1984, meeting when it voted to discontinue any honoraria for its officials and staff and declared that officers and coordinators would instead be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Other action vetoed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to grant a writing instructor permission to seek outside funds for a publication project under the auspices of LLI. Also, LLI defined as policy the willingness to cooperate with tour directors when such tours were a service to LLI participants and not viewed as mainly money-making projects.

#### REVITALIZATION WITH NEW COURSES

The 1984 Fall enrollment for 38 courses reached 676, and four new courses had staying power. O.T. Baker, Associate Director for the Institute of Texan Cultures, had 70 students for the Amazing Texas course he taught for 12 more semesters, and Evelyn Pressler continued to teach Quilting. Photography made its first appearance in the curriculum, and Anna Lea Faulk taught it for seven

semesters before it lapsed briefly. Helen Vaught started what is now Decorative Painting and taught Tole Painting the next semester. At this time 789 students were enrolled in 42 courses. ACC and LLI split \$1,549.44 after the Fall semester and \$2,046.91 after the 1984 Spring term.

Margie Thompson continued to serve as LLI Director, but Howard Barr became the new Associate Director in 1985. Ruth Meaney took the Secretary post, but Robert Eakens remained as Treasurer. All of the coordinator jobs turned over. Jerry Leach took responsibility for Program Development and Larry Goodnow became the Administrative Coordinator. Frank McDonald served as Site Chairman for one semester but resigned because of health problems, and the work was shared by others. Vivian Cyrus became Chairperson in charge of the teachers' aides.

Outwardly LLI seemed to be prospering because the 43 courses offered for the 1985 Fall semester lifted enrollment to a high of 798. There were no major course additions, but the Writing for Fun course that Kenneth McIntyre taught until 1991 was added to the curriculum for the 1986 Spring semester. However, enrollment for the 42 courses slipped to 669. The 1985 Fall enrollment peak brought LLI \$1,215.91 to put into its reserve fund, but only \$447.44 accrued from the next semester. Still, LLI was in a strong financial condition with total funds of \$8,149.42, much of it in a money market account. However, dissatisfaction with other aspects of the arrangements with ACC led to a search for a new shelter.

*LLI's 1994 Pastel Painting Class at Hancock Center - good light and good friends produce good paintings under the direction of Ann Woodring.*



## CHAPTER 3 - STABILITY AT LAST

### SPACE PROBLEMS AT AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Growing irritation with restrictions and inadequate facilities that were involved in the alliance with Austin Community College led Lifetime Learning Institute leaders to think about finding a different home.

ACC, then headquartered in the old Cabaniss-Brown building at 207 East Fifth Street, was able to furnish LLI only a tiny office that had room for a desk, filing cabinet, and space for only one person to work comfortably. And when LLI volunteers were not in the office, callers had no way to leave messages. Parking was a major headache at the midtown location since only one space was reserved for LLI, forcing anyone else who came to the office to park on a meter, if a vacant parking slot could be found.

ACC, which published the LLI course schedule, required the specifics on the curriculum to be set two months prior to the start of classes, a time restriction that an organization that relied on finding volunteer teachers and using borrowed classroom space found difficult to meet. Even the arrangement whereby ACC handled registration and paid the honoraria to the teachers was annoying because the teachers were not paid promptly, and it was often over two months before LLI got its check. There was also the growing feeling that LLI's identity suffered because the Institute was completely overshadowed by ACC.

### FORMATION OF COMMITTEES TO FIND SPACE AND UPDATE BYLAWS

The matter came to a head at a May 13, 1986, meeting of the Advisory Council at which LLI Director Margie Thompson appointed a committee headed by Associate Director Howard Barr to explore the possibility of moving elsewhere, possibly to St. Edward's University or Concordia Lutheran College. Appointed to the committee to join her and Howard Barr were Narvella Woodruff, Luisa Sánchez, and Wil Casey. Also appointed was a committee composed of Luisa Sánchez, Wil Casey, and chairman Herb Gentry to update the Bylaws.

The first committee completed its report quickly, pointing up the need of approximately 250 square feet of office space, telephone service with a message recorder, and convenient staff and visitor parking, as well as freedom to work independently of ACC in the operation of the LLI program. Margie Thompson and Howard Barr met briefly with ACC President Dan Angel and two of his aides but were told that none of the needed changes could be made. That sealed the matter, but in turning elsewhere Margie Thompson expressed understanding of ACC's stand and gratitude for the six and one-half-year association that gave LLI some stability for the first time. "They were kind to Lifetime Learning at a time we needed help and had no place to go," Margie Thompson remembered.

#### AVAILABILITY OF SPACE AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Margie Thompson had already talked with Concordia Lutheran College Vice President Glenn Vorwerk and was told that she had come to CLC at a fortunate time. "He said they were opening up more. They had added some night classes for adults and for us to come along with classes for older adults in the daytime would add to their broadening. It was just a nice coordination," she remembered. She and Howard Barr reported back to the Advisory Council at a July 10, 1986, meeting, and they were able to assure that CLC could meet all of LLI's requirements, and there were no strings attached. By a vote of 18-0, with one abstention, the new association was authorized a few days short of two months from the time when the committee started to work. The Council by a vote of 15-4 also decided to raise tuition for each course to \$12. It was agreed that CLC would receive one-half of any excess of income from each semester's enrollment.

LLI moved into a spacious office in the South Annex building at CLC in August and was ready for the 1986 Fall semester with 48 courses. Only 41 had the required minimum enrollment, and the enrollment reached only 549. The main additions to the curriculum were The What and Why of Weather that KVUE meteorologist Troy Kimmel now teaches each Spring, and Keeping Records Easily, which Wil Casey taught intermittently for a total of seven semesters. Rudy Siska also joined the faculty, replacing ailing Marion Fasel as the teacher

of Drawing. CLC profited little from the split of the balance left from the Fall tuition, receiving only \$292.91.

#### STAFF CHANGES AND A SURGE IN GROWTH

Larry Goodnow resigned as Administrative Coordinator for health reasons shortly before the end of the Fall semester, and Luisa Sánchez took over the office operation on an acting basis for the 1987 Spring term. She agreed to continue with the new slate of officers, headed by Director Narvella Woodruff, who took office in April. Howard Barr continued as Associate Director, Robert Eakens as Treasurer, and Jerry Leach as the all-important Program Coordinator. Margaret Ruth took over as Secretary; and Betty Kaiser, named Publicity Coordinator the year before, continued in that job. Ethel Koeninger directed the Teachers' Aides and Lonnie Bohn took on the Site Chairmanship.

Enrollment began an upward surge for the 1987 Spring semester with 723 students in 37 courses, which enabled LLI to hand CLC a check for \$1,052.76. Frances Nesmith joined the faculty to teach We The People, a study of the U.S. Constitution. She has since taught Bill of Rights and various U.S. history courses. World Geography became a fixture with Robert Holz teaching it the first two times, and Natalie Green started a Smocking course that lasted for five semesters.

#### BYLAWS REVISIONS

The Bylaws Committee turned in the initial draft in March, worked in suggested revisions, and had it adopted by the Advisory Council at the May 1, 1987, meeting. The new Constitution and Bylaws defined LLI as being "generally speaking" for those 50 years of age and older, the first time any age minimum had been specified in the Bylaws. The document completely restructured the Bylaws, more precisely defined the duties of the officers and coordinators, established site and teacher aide coordinators, emphasized a 1986 ban against fund raising without prior Council consent, and set the fiscal year to run from June 1 to May 31. A number of amendments in 1989, most of them minor wording changes, set the fiscal year to run from May 1 to April 30.

## CONTINUING GROWTH

Enrollment passed 900 for the first time for the 1987 Fall semester, reaching 905 for the 44 classes, and four popular courses were started. Ted Fisher revived the Gardening course and has taught it continuously to the present, and Fred Webster revived a course in Bird Watching and handled it for nine semesters. Alice Reinarz's Microbiology course was a surprising success, but she had to discontinue it after eight semesters because of University of Texas duties. A Tai Chi course was started and was taught by six different instructors before it was dropped after the 1991 Fall term. Betty Kaiser took over the Genealogy course that Gray Golden had taught since the opening of LLI.

LLI headquarters were moved into two facing offices in the back part of CLC's Hirshi Administration Building during the Fall term, after which LLI was able to hand CLC officials a check of \$1,660.80 for the third semester of their association. The check after the 1988 Spring term was \$1,273.48, although the enrollment rose to 957 for the 51 courses. Lorrin Kennamer, former UT Dean of Education, took over World Geography, which recently he more appropriately renamed World Events: Geographical Background.

LLI experienced a sizable drop in enrollment for the 1988 Fall semester, sinking to 881 students for the 46 courses, but lower expenses enabled the check given CLC to rise to \$1,333.75. No enduring courses were added, but the 1989 Spring term produced noteworthy faculty changes in addition to the reappearance in the curriculum of Yoga, taught first by Helen Arend, then by Marilyn Schneider for three semesters, and currently by Helen Arend. Juanita Dodgen took over the popular Genealogy courses until Betty Kaiser returned to teach them. Herb Gentry replaced deceased Jim Tom Barton as the tutor of Writing Memoirs and Family Journals. Carl Bergquist became the teacher of Drawing, replacing Rudy Siska, who revived the course in Photography.

The 1989 Spring semester enrollment approached 1,000 for the first time, but fell 17 short of that milestone for the 49 courses offered. Expenses would have held the sum that CLC would have received in a fifty-fifty split to \$1,062.06 if the Advisory Council had not voted to add \$300 to the check.

## NEW OFFICERS AND A NEW OFFICE IN 1989

A new slate of LLI leaders took office at a May 16, 1989, Advisory Council meeting, the last time such changes would take place that late in the year since an amendment to the Bylaws moved the end of the two-year terms to the March meeting. Howard Barr became the new Director and Kermit Fox Associate Director. Aleene Gregg, who had served as Secretary pro tem at previous meetings, agreed to a second full term; and Robert Eakens was retained as Treasurer. The new coordinators were Mary Standifer, Program; Margaret Miller, Administrative; Putnam Monroe, Site; and Marie Shultz, Teachers' Aides (she soon turned the job over to Luisa Sánchez). Maurine Kocurek remained as Publicity Coordinator, the job she had taken the year before. Former directors, the Reverend Walter Pilgrim and Margie Thompson, were voted honorary Council membership with participation and voting privileges for as long as they wished.

LLI moved to a new office in the front part of CLC's administration building before the start of the 1989 Fall semester, which saw enrollment drop to 832 for the 38 classes that made the minimum, but rise to 930 in 43 courses for the 1990 Spring semester. The checks that went to CLC were \$1,650.41 and \$1,342.94. LLI drew on its balance for a \$1,748.87 expenditure for a computer and printer system for its office operation. Margaret Miller set up the computer program system, and she has continued as programmer and operator.

Lola Chardon started a Pastel Painting course in the Fall term, but the big attraction was The Leading Edge, a course that Howard Barr put together with lecturers on the emerging knowledge and theories in science, technology, space, and medicine. It drew 120 students and had to be moved to a larger facility to accommodate that number. The second and final course on the same subject in the 1990 Fall semester also was popular, but the course was not continued because of the difficulty in putting such a course together. The main additions for the 1990 Spring term were a course on the works of Shakespeare that Helen Furlong has continued to teach, and Let's Talk Sports, a symposium with guest lecturers, that Bob Miller had conducted for three semesters and later revived.

A handbook, filled with succinct information and a brief history of LLI, was published for the first time during the 1989-90 school year under the editorship of Kermit Fox and Traxel Stevens, and the administrative office operations went onto the computer system. The Spring schedule book had been prepared on a computer, and Julia Mellenbruch entered the Spring registration at home on her computer. Margaret Miller received permission to keep the LLI computer at her home during the summer so that her son could assist her in setting up the proper programs, and by the start of the Fall semester all of the records and class lists were being done by computer. During the summer, Kermit Fox asked to be relieved of the Associate Director's job, and Wil Casey, originally nominated for the job, was appointed to the post by the Executive Committee and formally approved by the Advisory Council in September.

#### NEW OFFICE AT CLC AND TASK FORCE EVALUATION

LLI moved to its current office on the second floor of CLC's Founders Library during the 1990 Fall term. The 43 courses had 953 students, and a check for \$1,644.85 was given to CLC. During the Fall, a Task Force Committee, co-chaired by Narvella Woodruff and Wil Casey, undertook an evaluation for LLI and a look into the future. The committee made its report at the January 16, 1991, Advisory Council meeting after having determined a need to spread classrooms around the city because 88 percent of the Fall classrooms were within three miles of the Koenig and North Lamar intersection. A survey of the Fall enrollment also determined that 16 percent of the students were new to LLI. The committee considered but made no recommendations on the ideas of using commercial advertising, incorporating, getting liability insurance, and starting an endowment fund for a scholarship at CLC, an idea that Wil Casey first proposed in 1988. The major recommendation focused on the need to keep strong leadership by having Council members recruit teachers and promote new courses as well as look for prospective leader types. Also cited were the needs of LLI to establish a clear identity and a stable office location. Not mentioned was the consensus of the Executive Committee to keep class enrollment around 1,000 because of administrative, faculty, and site restraints.

#### CLASS ADDITIONS AND ENROLLMENTS GROWTH IN 1991

The 1991 Spring enrollment reached 915 in 41 courses, allowing LLI to donate \$1,628.88 to CLC under the customary fifty-fifty division. Two new courses illustrating the wide variety of subjects taught at LLI were started: the History of Austin, by Deolece Parmelee, and How Codes and Ciphers Have Changed History, by Austin Phelps. Wil Casey had to drop the teaching of Keeping Records Easily in midterm because of the need to attend to personal matters. He also went on inactive status as Associate Director, the post to which he had been elected in March.

At the election of officers Howard Barr agreed to remain as LLI Director for a year. Dorothy Martin assumed the Secretary's job and Robert Eakens remained as Treasurer. Three coordinators who agreed to keep their posts were Mary Standifer, Program; Putnam Monroe, Site; and Maurine Kocurek, Publicity. Luisa Sánchez again became the Administrative Coordinator after a stint as Teachers' Aides Coordinator, which position she turned over to Mickey Peters. John Tarpley agreed to handle a new position as Purchasing Agent and Equipment Custodian. Because of a planned operation during the summer, Eakens turned over the handling of the financial records to George Cummings, who was appointed Deputy Treasurer by the Executive Committee. Cummings' appointment was approved at a September 18th Council meeting, and amendments were added to the Constitution and Bylaws to establish the positions of Deputy Treasurer and Assistant Administrative Coordinator.

Enrollment slipped to 870 for the 1991 Fall semester, but produced enough funds to enable LLI to present CLC with a check for \$1,356.66. The curriculum of 44 courses was dotted with a number of appealing new ones, the most popular of which was Financial Assets, How to Develop and Protect Them, taught by Carl Stuart. Other new courses with staying power were Introduction to Great Books, directed by Jack Cross; Tatting, by Johnnie Farrier; Magic from a Bottle, a course on pharmacology by Robert Brown; and Our Times, a history discussion course led by Frances Nesmith.



## INCREASED ENROLLMENTS AND A NEW DIRECTOR IN 1992

No new courses of note were included in the 45 offered for the 1992 Spring term; but enrollment surged to 961, and the increased funds produced another sizable donation of \$1,698.95 to CLC. A check of the most popular courses showed the new Financial Assets as one of the leaders, with 64 students, in addition to the always popular Antiques and Collectibles, with 62. Medical Affairs had 58 students.

The Advisory Council at its March 11, 1992, meeting approved by acclamation Howard Barr's agreement to remain as LLI's fourth Director for another year; and Marie Shultz agreed to fill the vacant Associate Director's position which she resigned soon after. Also approved was an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws reaffirming the 1983 name change whereby the current logo came into being. This amendment was necessary to satisfy postal regulations since LLI's tax-exempt status was still registered under the old name.

## LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Because of the rosy financial situation and the promising future, the LLI leaders decided to stage a 15th Anniversary Celebration on May 14, 1992, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. People who were key to the founding and development of LLI, including the Reverend Walter Pilgrim and his wife, Geneva, who came from their home in Minnesota for a protracted visit, joined current officers, staff, teachers, and aides for the midday gala.

Much of 1992 was needed to finalize a raise of the teacher honorarium after it was noted that the figure had remained at \$100 since 1983. The Executive Committee at a May meeting recommended raising the honorarium to \$125, and most of the eight members of Ad Hoc Committee on Budget and Planning proposed a raise to \$120. The Advisory Council at its September 16th meeting voted to raise the honorarium to \$125 and course tuition to \$15. Two members opposed the raises that were to take effect for the 1993 Spring semester. Then at the November 18th meeting, after voting to donate \$1,534.42 to CLC for the Fall 1992 term, the Council left the honorarium at \$125 but voted to rescind the

tuition increase, returning it to \$12, where it had been since 1986. Three members voted against the dual motion.

## NEW COURSES IN THE FALL OF 1992

Six notable new courses were among the 44 that attracted 924 students in the Fall. Three were revivals of popular courses that had lapsed for want of teachers. They were Watercolor Painting, taught by Linda Neuenschwander; Yoga, which Helen Arend had directed several years before; and Understanding Computers, which Will Perkins developed into a hands-on course before turning it over to Charles Tipton after two semesters. The others that endured were Low Impact Aerobics, taught by Ruth Bolin; Wood Carving, taught by Toni Silver; and a course later renamed Exploring Creativity, by Judith Woodward.

Three officers had to be replaced prior to nominating of officers to serve for the 1993-1994 term: Putnam Monroe, who had served intermittently as Site Coordinator for a total of eight years, turned the job over to John Bradshaw; and Luisa Sánchez, who was later elected as the fifth Director of LLI, relinquished the Administrative Coordinator post to Lucy Sahraie. Then Robert Eakens ended ten years of service as Treasurer, and Deputy Treasurer George Cummings agreed to serve from October 31st until the term started for new officers in May, 1993.

## NEW OFFICERS IN 1993-1994 AND INCREASES IN ENROLLMENT

The new slate of officers that was accepted at the March 10th meeting of the Advisory Council consisted of Luisa Sánchez, Director; Helen Furlong, Associate Director; Julia Mellenbruch, Treasurer; John Tarpley, Deputy Treasurer; and Aleene Gregg, Interim Secretary. After the close of the successful 1993 Spring semester, Frances Phillips assumed the Secretary job; Betty Ross replaced Mary Standifer as Program Coordinator; Jerry Leach replaced Mickey Peters as Teachers' Aides Coordinator; and Bernice Schnerr replaced Maurine Kocurek as Publicity Coordinator after serving as her assistant.

Enrollment for the 1993 Spring semester zoomed past the 1,000 milestone and fell only one short of 1,100 for the 52 courses, enabling LLI to send CLC a check for \$1,665. The additions to the curriculum included Let's Talk Sports, which Bob Miller revived after a lapse of three semesters, and Introduction to Astronomy, a long absent course that George Benedict agreed to teach. Other additions were a new quilting course that Flora Cochran later called Crazy Quilting, and Mary McBride taught a third geology course, Geology of the World; previous ones she taught were on the Hill country and on Austin.

#### AMENDMENTS AND NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LLI

Two minor amendments to LLI's Constitution were offered and accepted by the Advisory Council during the Summer. They stated that "the procedure of business shall follow the New Robert's Rules of Order," and "the Associate Director shall serve as Parliamentarian at official meetings."

Then on October 7, 1993, LLI purchased 1,666 shares in the Prudential Structured Fund (SMF) after consulting a financial advisor because the money market fund in which LLI's reserve was invested was drawing very low interest.

When the books were closed on the 1993 Fall semester, the financial report showed LLI with a balance of \$30,753.75. A sum of \$23,987.93 was in the Prudential funds and \$6,765.82 in a bank account. The only Advisory Council action after the Fall semester was the decision to simplify bookkeeping by giving free enrollment to a subsequent class to the teachers' aides instead of sending them a \$12 refund check for their services.

#### ENROLLMENT VARIATIONS AND COURSE CHANGES

The 1993 Fall semester had 894 students for the 47 courses, and LLI decided to give CLC \$1,400, which was more than the customary fifty-fifty split. The main new course was Texas and the Natural World, coordinated by Kevin Good of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Jane Goodnow, who had taken a sabbatical year after teaching all of the previous French courses, returned to

handle the advanced conversational courses while Marynell Walker continued to teach the beginners course she had taught the year before.

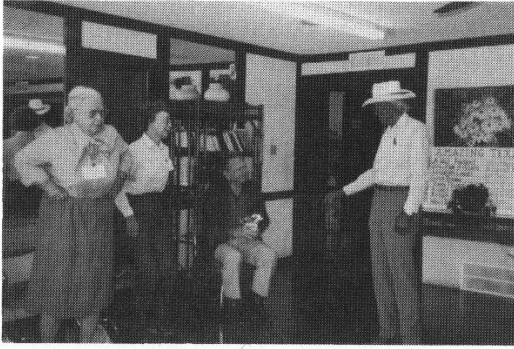
The 1994 Spring semester started promisingly with 1,059 students enrolled in the 53 courses. Three new courses that had been taught before were revived with new instructors. They were entitled: Keeping the Record Straight (George Sorrell), Armchair Tours of Texas (Dick Roberts), and Creative Writing Workshop (Maria Veres Homic). Ann Woodring took over the Pastel Painting course that Lola Chardon had taught 14 times; and Robert Brown, who taught the pharmacology course, Magic from a Bottle, assumed direction of the Poetry course that Opie Houston had handled 19 times.

Back in 1992 when Lifetime Learning Institute had its 15th Anniversary Celebration, Director Howard Barr remembered some perilous periods during his long association. "At times there had been great fear that we wouldn't be able to survive. Now we know we can and will," he said. Current Director Luisa Sánchez also looks to the future with confidence. "I see it (LLI) in very good shape," she said, pointing to the sound financial footing, broad range of courses, first-rate instructors who readily volunteer to teach, enthusiastic volunteers, and a good working relationship with Concordia Lutheran College. A problem with deciding on a formula for compensation of the various classroom providers is in the process of being solved, leaving her only with an apprehension of LLI "growing too big for volunteers to carry," which seems like a very manageable problem.

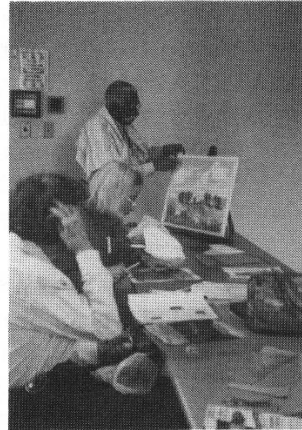
*Geneva and Walter Pilgrim  
with Luisa Sánchez enjoyed  
the field trips in  
O.T. Baker's class,  
Amazing Texas.*



## TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SHARE MUTUAL INTERESTS AND HAVE FUN ALONG THE WAY



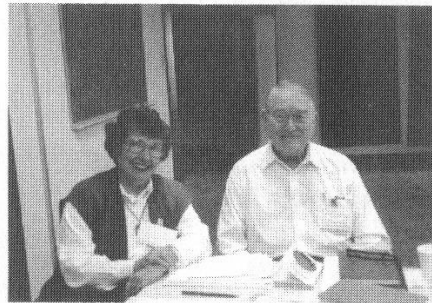
*O.T. Baker taught his Amazing Texas for many years. Here in a white hat, he tells his students some Texas history and what plants are safe for eating.*



*Bill Amstead finishes his pastel in Ann Woodring's class at Hancock Center.*



*Jerry Leach, Teacher Aide Coordinator, and Mary Standifer, former Program Coordinator, discuss teacher concerns.*



*Student George Boone and Instructor Helen Furlong pause for a photo in the Shakespeare class. George has been in the class since 1990.*

## CHAPTER 4 - THE TEACHER INGREDIENT

### ATTRACTING QUALITY VOLUNTEER TEACHERS

Students of the Lifetime Learning Institute may be inclined to take for granted the quality teachers who instruct them and the program coordinators whose job it is to line up the course schedule and persuade capable teachers to teach the courses. Narvella Woodruff, who served as Program Coordinator for eight semesters (1981-85) before becoming Director, says those early years made her appreciate the value of the teacher ingredient of LLI.

"After I had worked as Program Coordinator for a short period, I realized how important teachers are to the program, and quality teachers were not easy to get back then. You had to go out and persuade teachers that they wanted to come and do this volunteer work for an honorarium. I would start out by saying 'you won't be paid'," she recalled. "What has changed is that now teachers are coming in saying they want to teach, and they are usually high quality people. Of course, some we can't quite fit into our program."

### FACULTY HONORARIA

The honorarium started out at \$50 in 1977 when the Lifetime Learning Institute came into existence in Austin and since has risen to \$125, but the modest sum the teachers receive does not account for the reason many teachers remain in the program for extended periods. Three of the original nine teachers have taught over 25 courses, and one of them, Nan Jackson, is still teaching. She is not sure of the number of the courses she has taught, but the number is believed to be 53 during these first 17 years of LLI. Nan Jackson was teaching painting and sculpturing at the Mathews Community School before the LLI started, and she was brought into the program by Mac Payne, her supervisor in the Mathews after school program and one of the members of the initial Executive Committee.

She began teaching courses in Oil Painting, but had to forget about sculpture because it was too messy to be taught in "borrowed" facilities. She taught a

course in Art Appreciation during the 1980 Fall semester at the suggestion of Maurine Kocurek, skipped doing it for two semesters and then began teaching Art History, which she has continued to do to the present. She has left the teaching of painting to others since 1985. "I'm very grateful for it," she said of her teaching in LLI. "It is stimulating for me to have this to do. I'm teaching the same course but I keep finding fresh inspiration in it. I keep looking up things, learning more, and gathering a few more slides." Nan Jackson was able to develop fully her Art History courses while LLI was connected with Austin Community College. Since she was considered a member of the ACC faculty, slides of the great works of art were made for her without any cost to LLI.

#### MORE EARLY FACULTY MEMBERS

The other two teachers who joined the faculty at the start and stayed with LLI past its early years were Gray Golden and Catherine "Kay" Goodwin. Gray Golden, who died in 1990, taught 31 courses in Genealogy before she retired after the 1987 Spring semester; and Kay Goodwin, who came into LLI with the founder, the Reverend Walter Pilgrim, from a senior education program at ACC, taught 28 courses in Needle Arts before retiring after the 1985 Fall semester. She still takes an occasional course and says, "I just think it's the greatest program. It's a great place to meet other people who have curious minds."

The LLI leader in the number of courses taught is Jane Goodnow, whom Ruth Meaney recruited in the Fall of 1979 to teach French. She has not kept count of the number of courses she has taught, but the number is near 68. That is how many courses in French have been offered under her name. She remembers a few instances when there were not enough students in one of the three levels, and she combined two classes into one. A former teacher of French and English at Reagan High School, she lived in France for three years and twice took groups that included LLI students to France for two weeks where "they got to practice their French." The other language teacher who has put in many hours with LLI is Julia Mellenbruch, who taught 26 courses in Spanish (1982-90) and is currently the treasurer of LLI.

#### ADDITIONAL LONG-TIME INSTRUCTORS OF LLI

Other instructors who have taught a number of courses are Theresa Mosely, who taught 38 courses in Oil Painting between 1982 and 1989; Evelyn Pressler, who is directing her 35th and 36th classes in Quilting during the 1994 Spring term; and Edna Whitworth, the Bridge teacher, who had 32 classes between 1979 and 1985.

Four other instructors have taught more than 15 courses and are continuing to teach. They are Ida Mae Little, who is directing her 29th folk dancing class (now called Swish and Sway with Ida Mae); Mineola Grumbles, who is supervising her 27th Knitting class; Ted Comsudi, who is teaching his 19th course on taxes (The Tax Man Cometh Again, which in the Fall he calls Taxation Without Frustration); and Beulah Smith, who is teaching her 19th class in Calligraphy and currently is a member of the LLI Advisory Council.

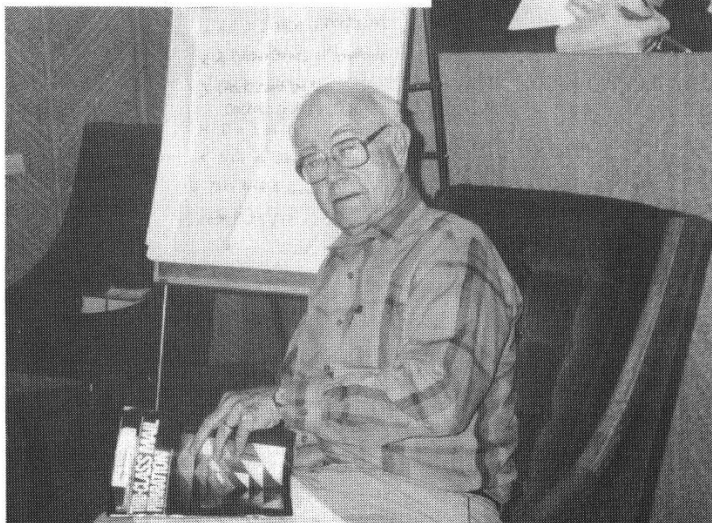
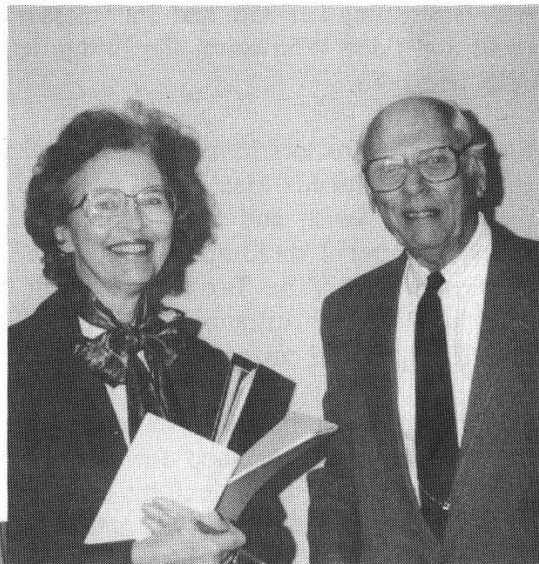
Others who taught more than 15 courses are Jim Tom Barton, who directed the Creative Writing Workshop for eight semesters and Writing Memoirs and Family Journals 12 times until his death in 1989; Opie Houston, who oversaw 19 Poetry courses between 1982 and 1993; Wil Casey, who taught 19 courses between 1983 and 1990 in Making Money Last and Keeping Records Easily; Robert Selby, who taught 13 courses in Watercolors, between 1978 and 1986, and teamed with Marion Fasel for five semesters. Marion Fasel also taught eight courses in Drawing and one in Oil Painting.

#### DISPLAYS AND PRESERVATION OF STUDENTS' WORKS

Shortly before her death, Marion Fasel helped put together the Spring gala that exhibited over 100 works of LLI students at First City Centre at 816 Congress Avenue on April 11, 1986. The event was the brainchild of Howard Barr, who had a corporate sponsor help stage the second and last major exhibition of the art produced in LLI. The first "show and tell," as Margie Thompson refers to the one organized while she was LLI director, took place at Highland Mall, March 23-24, 1984.

The writings from various LLI classes have been published from time to time. The most notable anthologies were put together during the early years in bound form with a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*Lucy Sahraie, Administrative Coordinator, and Howard Barr, former Director, compare notes at the Advisory Council meeting.*



*John Street, in charge of mailing class programs, pauses from his study of mailing regulations. 5000 programs are mailed each semester.*

## CHAPTER 5 - NO CLASSROOM OF ITS OWN

### SITE PROVIDERS: CHURCHES, LIBRARIES, APARTMENTS, SENIOR CENTERS, GOLF COURSES

Since Lifetime Learning Institute never has had classrooms to call its own, the educational program for seniors always has had to rely on the good offices of others. Many churches and non-religious organizations have been generous in allowing LLI to use their facilities without charge. Occasionally small token payments have been requested, but these instances have been rare.

Churches have become the main meeting places for classes, but it did not start out that way. Three of the eight courses the first semester, the Fall of 1977, were held at Nueces Activity Center, which is part of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, but this facility had developed somewhat of an identity of its own because of its use for many diverse activities. The auditorium at the old YWCA was used for two classes, and others were scheduled at the North Loop Activity Center, Old Quarry Library, and Howson Library, the latter two city library facilities. The initial class in Creative Writing at the Howson Branch had to be moved to Hyde Park Baptist Church because of the class size; and when another class was scheduled later at a public library, the city's head librarian refused to let it be used because of the tuition charge.

Through the years LLI has arranged permission to use 71 different facilities. Thirty-four of them have been churches, representing eight denominations, but other classes have been taught in bank board rooms, city recreation and senior centers, retirement home activity rooms, businesses, residences of teachers, and such places as St. Edward's University, the State Bar of Texas building, and Jimmy Clay Golf Course. As LLI has aged, its reliance on churches has grown so that 29 of the 47 courses offered in the 1992 Spring semester were scheduled to meet at churches.

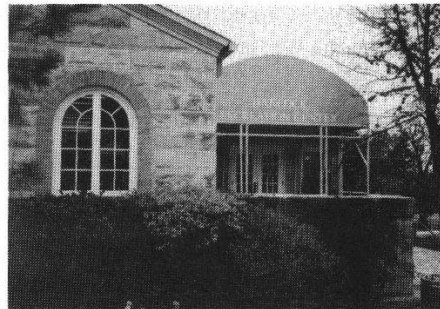
## ROLE OF SITE COORDINATORS

The job of locating and getting permission to use classroom space is now done by the site coordinator, who must work closely with the program coordinator. In the early days before the current staff structure started to evolve, the Reverend Walter Pilgrim headed up the site search, but he called on others to help. Starting in 1980, finding sites for classes was the responsibility of the program coordinator, who had a site committee working under his or her wing. Putnam Monroe headed up that committee most of the time until a Site Coordinator position was established by the 1987 Bylaws. Lonnie Bohn served in that capacity for two years and was succeeded by Putnam Monroe, who relinquished the post to John Bradshaw in 1992.

## DONATIONS FOR SITE USE

Although LLI normally does not pay for the use of any facility, the growing size of its nest egg, which represents insurance against a possible rainy day, has led the Advisory Council to authorize small donations to the main places that have permitted use of their facilities. The total donations, never more than \$50, were \$360 in the Spring of 1988, \$285 after the 1990 Fall semester, and \$520 after the 1992 Spring semester, and \$615 after the 1993 Spring semester. Complaints about LLI activities have been rare from places that allowed the use of their facilities, but one church refused to allow its facility to be used for the Wine Appreciation course in 1989, and another refused to let the course How Codes and Ciphers Have Changed History be taught there because of a misunderstanding of the nature of the course.

*The Hancock Recreation Center where the Advisory Council and many LLI classes meet.*



## CHAPTER 6 - THE STUDENT FACTOR

### AGE VARIATIONS OF STUDENTS

The reasons that people in the Austin area attend Lifetime Learning classes are probably as wide-ranging as the ages of the students. Anyone who has reached the age of 50 is eligible to enroll, but it is a loosely enforced age line since nobody is required to divulge his or her age. That's why it is difficult to determine who the oldest students are. However, one spirited lady who friends say is 93 years of age reenrolled for two Spring semester classes in 1994 after an absence of a couple of years because she had quit driving.

Participation in LLI is limited for the elderly by health and transportation problems more than by age, but one student who proudly reveals that she is 88 took the city bus across town to attend a favorite class a couple of years ago until friends realized her lack of other transportation and drove her to and from that class. At the other end of the age spectrum was a younger lady who amazed her teacher and classmates by riding a motorcycle to class.

For most people attendance is a matter of intracity travel, but a check of the students who enrolled for classes at the start of the 1994 Spring semester showed that a number of them required a drive of up to an hour to get to class. In addition to the cities adjoining Austin, enrollees came from such more distant places as Kingsland, Jonestown, Wimberley, Lakeway, San Marcos, Prairie Lea, Lockhart, Red Rock, Smithville, Coupland, Georgetown, and Leander.

*Students Virginia Erickson and Jackie Arnold take a time out in their literature class to enjoy visiting, too.*



## MEETING QUESTS OF STUDENTS - KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS

The obvious reason that people attend LLI classes is the quest for additional knowledge or skill in their chosen interests, and LLI certainly offers a smorgasbord of courses each semester from which they can choose. But there are other reasons. LLI answered a need for some retirees who felt themselves being cut off from the mainstream or faced that prospect as they approached retirement age. The social side of LLI is important to many, and some classes lend themselves to this because of a commonality of interest. Nowhere is this more true than in the Antiques and Collectibles course, which normally has an enrollment of 50 or more. Maurine Kocurek started the course as Antiques in 1981 amid skepticism if there would be much interest in the subject. Six other people have served as coordinator through the years, and she occasionally has filled in to keep the course going. Although many of the same experts address the class over and over through the years, at least half of the class reenrolls each semester to hear them and to meet and socialize with their old friends.

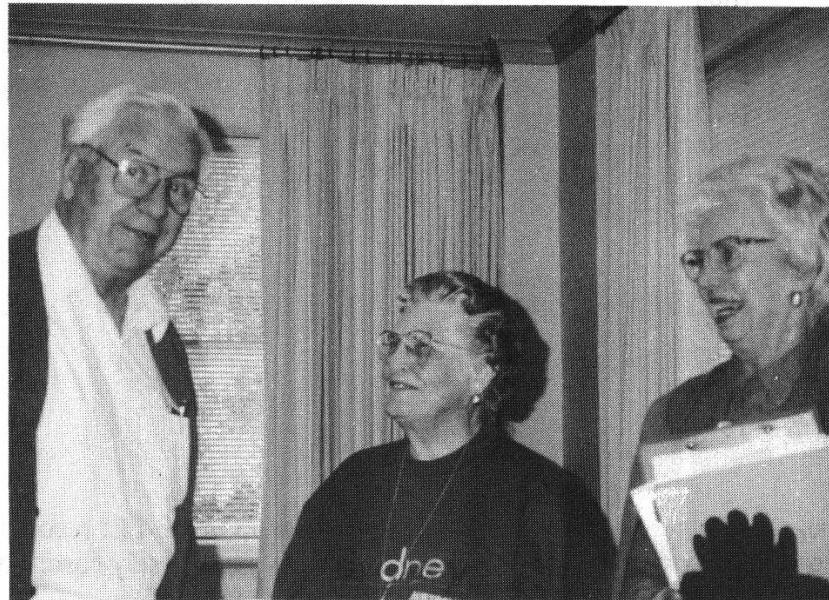
## SOCIALIZATION AND SOME LEARNING, TOO

A number of other courses lend themselves to repeat business. These include the courses in the various sewing and knitting skills, painting, writing, dancing, physical fitness, and languages. Courses like World Events, Pictorial Travel, and Great Books among others have a kaleidoscopic aspect that draws the same students semester after semester. And there are some teachers that have built up a following of repeat students, especially when they offer different courses in their field.

While many courses are geared to hobbyists, others such as Medical Affairs, Financial Assets -- How to Develop and Protect Them, Becoming Your Own Attorney, Keeping Records, and Ted Comsudi's whimsically named tax courses (Taxation Without Frustration in the Fall and The Tax Man Cometh Again in the Spring) impart knowledge that is invaluable, as are the self-improvement and metaphysical courses. The Spanish, French, and German courses also have many practical aspects. Students study them so they can communicate with

relatives or in-laws, use them during foreign travel, refresh what they learned in college, or merely to get in better touch with their heritage. Even Art History has a practical side. Teacher Nan Jackson has had students tell her the course makes them appreciate their foreign travel much more.

The social factor is encouraged by LLI by the inclusion of a break midway during the two-hour session when classmates can visit among themselves or with the teacher while having coffee, tea, or a soft drink, depending on what is available or what the class decides to provide. Friendships have developed from these breaks because of a common interest in what is being taught, and probably a few romances as well. After all, men and women can have a mutual attraction regardless of their age.



*At the Advisory Council meeting, former Site Coordinator Putnam Monroe, Treasurer Julia Mellenbruch, and Program Coordinator Betty Ross enjoy visiting and talking, along with their work for LLI.*

## LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE ENROLLMENT TOTALS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
1977		173
1978	415	680
1979	604	382
1980	340	287
1981	427	456
1982	502	696
1983	774	747
1984	688	676
1985	789	798
1986	669	549
1987	723	905
1988	957	881
1989	983	832
1990	930	953
1991	915	870
1992	961	924
1993	1199	894
1994	1059	

(Note: Widely varying enrollment totals show up in the LLI records for 1978 and 1979. The total used is the one that most closely corresponds to the tuition total divided by the charge per course.)

## LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE STAFFS

### *Director*

1977	Walter Pilgrim (became Director Emeritus in 1983)
1983	Margie Thompson
1987	Narvella Woodruff
1989	Howard Barr
1993	Luisa Sánchez

### *Associate Director*

1983	Wil Cowan
1985	Howard Barr
1989	Kermit Fox
1990	Wil Casey
1992	Marie Shultz
1993	Helen Furlong

### *Administrative*

#### *Coordinator*

1980	Ruth Meaney
1982	Marian Nachlinger
1983	Millie diDonato
1985	Larry Goodnow
1987	Luisa Sánchez
1989	Margaretnel Miller
1991	Luisa Sánchez
1992	Lucy Sahraie

### *Program Coordinator*

1980	Jackie LeLong
1981	Narvella Woodruff
1985	Jerry Leach
1989	Mary Standifer
1993	Betty Ross

### *Secretary*

1977	Irene St. Clair
1980	Ima Bunting
1981	Bertha Casey
1983	Aleene Gregg
1985	Ruth Meaney
1987	Margaret Ruth
1989	Aleene Gregg
1991	Dorothy Martin
1993	Frances Phillips

### *Treasurer*

1977	Irene St. Clair
1980	Olivia Adams
1981	Robert Eakens
1993	Julia Mellenbruch

### *Site Coordinator*

1987	Lonnie Bohn
1989	Putnam Monroe
1992	John Bradshaw

### *Teacher Aide Coordinator*

1987	Ethel Koeninger
1989	Marie Shultz
1989	Luisa Sánchez
1991	Mickey Peters
1993	Jerry Leach

### *Publicity Coordinator*

1980	Ralph Hess
1982	Margie Thompson
1984	Marjorie Cain
1986	Betty Kaiser
1988	Maurine Kocurek
1993	Bernice Schnerr