August 2026 Vol. 1, Issue 2

The Owl

A LIFELONG LEARNING COLLABORATIVE PUBLICATION

NOT TO BE MISSED:

September 10, 2026: LLC's Fall Semester Kick-off Event

The lineup is impressive, exciting, and important for all LLC'ers.

Yes, it's fall convocation time with three great events: The Coordinator Open House, a yummy Box Lunch Social Hour, and our terrific Keynote Speaker Program, featuring orchestra conductor Ruth Reinhardt, the first woman Music Director in the 81-year history of the RI Philharmonic.

Read about this young, rising star and members' comments, here.

Convocation location, menu options, tickets, links, here.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LLC's Membership Committee

Warm, welcoming, and supporting new members—that's the Membership Committee.

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YOU ASKED, ELSIE ANSWERS

Elsie Answers Four Questions

about LLC classes and new events.

Read this edition's Q and A here.

LLC'S NEW NEWS

A Coffee Czar? A Hospitality Co

Two important new LLC initiatives.

Read about these new options here.

Meet the Curriculum Comte's New Chairs,

Hearty "Thank You!" to Former Chairs ***here.***

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Members' Calendars

Listings of important events, semester schedules, and webinars. ***Details here.***

Classified Ads: Help Wanted

Find out how to help LLC: Calls for help from LLC committees. ***Check them out here.***

A BONUS: The OWL Has Six Clues... Read them *here.*

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> *"Ruth Reinhardt is young, accomplished, ambitious, and I'm sure will have stories to share with us about taking on a new challenging position! Just what we all need in this dark time! I can't think of a better choice!!"* LLC'er Helen Hawkins

In a world where 95% of the conductors of major orchestras are men, Reinhardt has moved steadily ahead, conducting major orchestras around the world, with stints as conducting fellow in Seattle, Dudamel Fellow in Los Angeles, and as Assistant Conductor in Dallas. Now at a mere 38 years old, she is the Music Director and conductor of her own orchestra, our own RI Philharmonic and Music School. Reinhardt is a rising star.

> *"Ruth Reinhardt is going places and we are lucky to have her. Convocation is our chance to see Reinhardt up close and hear what she has to say in a relaxed setting. It will be fun."* LLC'er Liz Kaplan

A Life of Music in a Family of Doctors

Reinhardt was born in Saarbrücken, Germany, in 1988. Both parents and her sister are physicians. But her parents supported her decision at 6 years old to study the violin. Within the next few years, she took up the oboe, started singing in a children's choir, formed and played in a string ensemble, and started composing. In her teen years, she wrote an opera that was eventually performed at the Saarbrücken opera house.

While music was clearly Reinhardt's passion, conducting was not part of that picture. "I'm not sure why I never thought of conducting as something that would be for me," Reinhardt commented in an interview with Ged Carbone of the *RI Monthly*. "Maybe it is because I

never saw — I had never seen a female conductor at that point, or maybe I just didn't think of the job as being for me." That changed when the conductor of the youth orchestra in which she played the violin gave her a chance to conduct during the orchestra's rehearsal.

"I got there in front of the orchestra and it was the most powerful feeling," Reinhardt says. "You could communicate through the music, between me and the musicians. It felt like the music was going through me," Reinhardt told Carbone. From that moment, she started studying conducting. "So, the first official concert I conducted was on my sixteenth birthday and, of course, it was the best birthday present that I could ever have come true."

With those experiences, along with insightful and supportive teachers, Reinhardt went on to study music and conducting in a variety of institutions in Europe as well as the Juilliard School in New York City. She then built her skills and experience by conducting a wide variety of orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and symphony orchestras of San Francisco, Detroit, Houston, Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Seattle.

What brought Reinhardt to Rhode Island? Our need and her talent.
In 2022, following the death of the RI Phil's award-winning conductor Bramwell Tovey, a search committee under the leadership of the Executive Director of the RI Philharmonic and Music School David Beauchesne launched a two-year search for a new music director.

Among the many, many candidates who applied for the position, Beauchesne had seen one of the most promising at a conference. "Ruth was by far the best," Beauchesne recalls. "She got the best sound out of the orchestra, and that's what you want. You want someone who can step in front of the orchestra and they go on a musical journey together and it looks like they're all having a good time doing it." Beauchesne told Carbone his thoughts at the time. "We've got to get her to Rhode Island as fast as we can as a guest conductor before she gets too big!" In 2023, she appeared with the RI Phil as a guest conductor. By 2025, the committee made their final decision: Ruth Reinhardt would be the new Music Director of the RI Philharmonic and Music School.

"I am delighted that Ruth Reinhardt is our new conductor. I have enjoyed her recent performances and feel that the orchestra sounds wonderful, with great energy and precision. I appreciate the fact that she is young and dynamic, and I am very pleased that the RI Phil named a woman to the post."

LLC'er Penney Stein

Want more to know more about Ruth Reinhardt?

- Article: "Meet the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra's First Female Music Director."
- Video interviews: Channel 12's Rhode Show interview with Reinhardt, and "A conversation with conductor Ruth Reinhardt, new director of RI Philharmonic."
- Music video: Mozart: A Little Night Music (Eine kleine Nachtmusik)

But Wait – There's More! Convocation Details

The keynote address is but one part of our convocation program. Many LLC'ers want to know what lies ahead for LLC. In response, LLC President Linda Shamoon will share highlights of the coming LLC 2026-27 academic and events calendar as well as her vision for the next few years.

Convocation starts at 10 am with the Coordinator Open House. This fall, we are offering thirty-three classes—a record! More than thirty coordinators will be on hand from 10 am – 11 am to talk with LLC'ers about their upcoming classes. Also, LLC'ers will be able to register for a class—if there are still openings. During the lunchtime social hour attendees can dine with LLC friends, meet new ones, and enjoy a box lunch from Dave's Market that includes a wrap or a salad, an apple, a bottle of water, and a big cookie!

Still doubtful because classical music is not your thing?

Think about these words from an excited LLC'er.

> *"I'd encourage you to have an open mind. I would also tell [you] that Ruth is more than just the conductor of the RI Phil. She is so important to the music which provides a vital resource to our community. Providence and Rhode Island are filled with rich history, culture, fine educational institutions, and natural resources. The arts are a vital part of our "brand". Music is such an important part of that tradition. It draws people in from all over and helps support downtown Providence businesses. It helps our state standout and gains us national recognition. As a person who moved to Rhode Island after living for 23 years in Washington DC, it was important to me that the place I live have a high-quality orchestra. I do not think I am alone."*
>
> LLC'er Nancy Maddocks

- This article was written by Linda Shamoon.

What article would you like to read next? Click here to return to the front page and select the next article.

CONVOCATION INFORMATION:

Location, Menu, Links: LLC's Fall Convocation

Schedule:

10 AM – Meet Your Coordinator
11 AM – Keynote Speaker Program featuring:
Ruth Reinhardt, 1st woman Music Director, RI Phil,
Linda Shamoon, LLC President, on upcoming year.
12 PM – Social hour. Box lunch from Dave's Marketplace

Location with plenty of parking:

Scottish Rites Valley of Providence
2115 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905
Across the street from the Shriners Center

Lunch menu choices*:

- Chicken Salad Wrap: Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad, Lettuce.
- Tuna Wrap: Albacore Tuna Salad, Leaf Lettuce.
- Gluten-free: Chicken Ceasar Salad: Romaine Lettuce, Grilled Chicken, Shredded Parmesan Cheese, Caesar Dressing.
- Vegetarian: Hummus Wrap: Hummus, Baby Spinach, Grilled Vegetables.
- Ham and Cheese Wrap: Smithfield Virginia Baked Ham, American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato.

***All options** include Cape Cod Potato Chips, apple, cookie, water bottle. Gluten-free: no cookie.

Ticket options:
Three sessions with lunch **$25**
Two sessions, no lunch **$10**
Speaker session only, via Zoom, no charge

Registration required for all three convocation options:

- Register to attend three sessions with lunch (Choose "Begin Registration")
- Register to attend two sessions, no lunch (Choose "Begin Registration")
- Register to attend speaker session only via Zoom

Registration deadline: 5 PM on Wednesday, August 26
No walk-ins | No refunds | LLC member and one guest welcome

What article would you like to read next?
Click here to select the next article.

LLC'S NEW NEWS:

Calling All Coffee Lovers and All LLC Supporters

- Are you ready to help LLC but do not want to serve on a committee or be a coordinator?
- Would you be willing to help with one LLC event?
- Would you be willing to help with our coffee break room?

If your answer is yes to any of the above questions, then read on! **You could be a Hospitality Corps One-Timer or our Coffee Czar. Please read on!**

To support our many one-time activities and to maintain our coffee room, we need help with simple, familiar activities. For example, consider our twice-yearly convocation lunches enjoyed by so many LLC'ers. These involve a list of simple tasks: Greeting participants, checking registration, arranging tables and chairs, putting out tablecloths, managing centerpieces, helping with decorations, managing microphones or AV, helping with room cleanup, and so on. Each activity is simple but essential.

Would you be willing to ***help with one of those activities for one event*** you might attend anyway? Here is a sampling of upcoming events:

Sept. 10: Fall Convocation
Dec. 10: Lunch and Learn: A Book Signing – Meet the Author
Dec. 17: Lunch and Learn: A Book Signing – Meet the Author
Early March 2027: Lunch and Learn: Memoir Writers Read-Aloud
Mid-March: Spring Convocation
More one-time help opportunities to come!

If your answer is "Yes, I can help" or "Yes, I will probably attend, anyway," then let us know. If you prefer to help with one kind of activity on the list (or a similar activity not on the list), let us know. We'll ask you to help with only that activity. Just let us know. Send an email to lkshamoon@gmail.com.

We'll include your name in our new **Hospitality Corps. It's not a committee. No committee meetings. It's a group of LLC'ers who are willing to help at least one time, and who will do so along with other LLC helpers. Together, you will make things happen for LLC.**

Another way to help: The Coffee Czar!

For many LLC'ers, a favorite feature of an LLC class is breaktime, that 10-15 minutes of class when we break for refreshments, coffee or tea and, perhaps, a home-baked cookie or slice of cake. Members have told us that breaktime is an important moment to chat

with friends familiar and new, meet quickly with friends in other classes, or just to stand up, breathe deeply, and refuel with a bit of caffeine. However they choose to partake, LLC'ers love breaktime.

Consider this: Breaktime occurs in the coffee room, a room that is specially set up to make breaktime pleasant and easy for folks to drop in, fill a cup with hot tea or coffee, and pick up a cookie or slice of cake. That ease quickly depletes the coffee supplies, leaves crumbs on the tables and floor, and fills the trash bin with used items.

Who will replenish these supplies and freshen the room? That answer could be (drum roll): The Coffee Czar—with a bit of help from those who visit the room and enjoy the refreshments.

For these efforts, the Coffee Czar will be paid: A free LLC membership and up to three free classes a semester!

What will the Coffee Czar do? The Coffee Czar will make sure that the coffee room supplies are fully stocked and that the supplies on the coffee buffet table are appropriately full for daily use. The Coffee Czar will help keep the coffee room's tables, chairs and floor neat, clean, and welcoming. The Coffee Czar will remove trash, as needed.

If you are interested in becoming our Coffee Czar or want to know more, send an email to lkshamoon@gmail.com. Priority will be given to those who can

- Come to the coffee room a few days each week, each semester,
- Manage physically to tote supplies, and do restocking and light cleaning,
- Maintain digital records of expenses and purchases, and communicate easily in email and messaging,
- Develop ideas for improving the coffee room and are willing to make them happen.

This article written by Linda Shamoon

What article would you like to read next?
Click here to select the next article.

LLC'S NEW NEWS

Thank You to Former Chairs Mike & Kathy Webster
Meet LLC's New Curriculum Committee Chairs

For more than ten years—that's forty semesters, LLC'ers Mike & Kathy Webster have served as co-chairs of the Curriculum Committee. From semester to semester, they led the committee to find, inspire, help shape, develop, and guide the courses that we offer. The Websters did this demanding job tirelessly, admirably, and cheerfully. We, the leadership of LLC, are incredibly grateful for the years of exemplary work and outstanding leadership the Websters have given to LLC.

LLC is pleased to announce that going forward Cathy Hurst and Donna Kerner will lead the committee. Cathy will serve as Chair and Donna will serve as Vice-Chair for Policy and Curriculum Management.

Among the many tasks fulfilled by the Curriculum Committee, Chair Cathy Hurst will serve as the public face of the committee while also managing communications, committee calendars, committee reports and documents, making daily decisions, and focusing on the membership in general, the coordinators, the LLC admin, and LLC management. She will continue to manage the LLC course evaluation process.

As Vice Chair for Policy and Curriculum Management, Donna Kerner will lead the committee in planning the curriculum going forward, including course categories, balancing offerings, developing new courses and new categories of courses, as well as working with liaisons and new coordinators, and leading committee meetings focused on strategy, planning, and curriculum development.

Both Cathy and Donna are amply skilled and ready to serve the committee in their leader roles. Cathy Hurst spent half of her career as a marketing professional for a high-tech company, and half in academia, most recently as Asst. Prof. of Marketing, and Chair of the Undergraduate Management Program, at Simmons University. She has coordinated 12 courses in a variety of disciplines at LLC and serves on the Curriculum Committee as the liaison for religion, philosophy, interdisciplinary, and "all other" courses. She is the longest-serving member of the committee.

Donna Kerner retired as Cole Professor of Anthropology at Wheaton College after 33 years of teaching. Since joining LLC, she has taken a range of courses and coordinated six classes that apply an anthropological perspective to a variety of topics. She leads the Special Projects Team on Collaborative Learning Skills for Members and serves on the Curriculum Committee as the liaison for Social Science courses.

Thank you, Cathy and Donna, for taking the leadership of this important committee.

What article would you like to read next?
Click here to select the next article.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LLC's Membership Committee

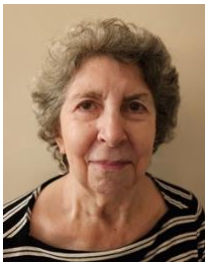
New LLC members are treated royally,
thanks to the efforts of LLC's Membership Committee.

When someone first joins LLC, they immediately receive an email from one of LLC's warmest, most welcoming members, Lois Kemp, Chair of the Membership Committee. One of Lois's heartfelt missions is to help new members feel welcome, informed, supported, listened to, and satisfied during their first two years of membership. Maybe it is not an exaggeration to say that new members are treated like royalty.

Lois elaborates on the support activities that she and the committee extend to new members. "I send the new member a welcome email along with a handout that contains information about LLC, its mission, and its structure. I also provide my contact information so that right away the new member has someone to communicate with. Usually at least one other committee member will also reach out to the new member, usually via email, to be another point of contact and provide support if needed."

Lois's welcoming demeanor and warmth attracted Co-Chair Judith Nudelman to serve on the committee. Judy explains, "I've been the co-chair since Sidney Okashige stepped down. I assist Lois with welcoming new members, and my critical role is to be the timekeeper at our meetings [which are always limited to one hour once a month]. I took on the responsibility because I've known Lois for years--we were neighbors in Barrington--and her welcome to me was memorable."

Who are the Membership Committee members?



Chair Lois Kemp

Co-Chair Judy Nudelman

Former Co-Chair
Sidney Okashige

Member
Charles Denby

Member
Stuart Einhorn

Member
Sandy Levis

Member
Bob Sandy

Also serving on the committee: Dennis Flavin, Co-Chair and liaison from the Planning Committee, and LLC President Linda Shamoon, ex-officio.

Together, the committee members participate in the flow of helpful emails, and they lead two New Member Orientations a year. Lois explains, "We hold two New Member Orientations a year, at the start of the fall semester and the start of the spring semester. We try to convene these on the same day as Convocation so that new members only need to travel once in the week before classes start. We are happiest when we can hold orientations in person, but for those members who are unable to attend in person, we have, on occasion, offered them on Zoom."

What does the New Member Orientation include? According to Lois, "We introduce new members to LLC 's history and special terminology, for example, "collaborative learning," "course coordinator," "session leader." We introduce them to the helpful resources on the LLC website, and we answer questions the attendees may have. If the timing is right, we continue to socialize by eating together at the Convocation luncheon."

In addition, the committee offers plenty of follow-up support to new members. According to Lois, "We send emails throughout the first year of membership with reminders of important dates and tips for registration for courses prior to each of the four sessions. We also want to make sure things are going smoothly for the new member."

Tackling other challenges: Despite their best efforts, the committee understands that not all new members get involved with LLC, and some do not even take courses or take one and then leave LLC. The committee wants to know more about why this occurs. Lois explains, "Committee member and statistics expert Bob Sandy has collected and analyzed data about such members, so we can better understand membership retention, member satisfaction, and member dissatisfaction."

New initiatives – Three new members wanted! The committee is discussing ways to follow up on Bob's interesting findings, and new activities for new and current members. Judy explains, "The committee is currently focused on the New Member Orientation. I'd like to try and expand to assisting current members, but in an average year we get over 100 new members, so that keeps us busy."

Lois agrees. "We are looking for more ways to involve new members and existing members. We need more committee members to create and implement activities. More members on the Membership Committee would make it possible for us to run get-togethers, have question and answer sessions. We'd love to have three more members. Welcome anyone who enjoys meeting new people and making them feel at home in LLC."

If you would like to serve on the Membership Committee or would like to know more, send an email to **lakemp@gmail.com.**

This article written by Linda Shamoon, Lois Kemp, and Judy Nudelman.

What article would you like to read next?
Click here **to select the next article.**

YOU ASKED, ELSIE ANSWERS

Elsie Answers Four Questions

Elsie received four questions for this edition of *The Owl*.

- Are you changing your brand—more social events, fewer classes?
- Can LLC classes be offered in the evening or on weekends?
- Could class sizes be larger?
- Can I take a class even if I do not give a presentation?

Read on to see Elsie's answers.

Hi Elsie,
An LLC friend asked me to go with her to an LLC Breakfast social at a nearby deli. What? I thought that LLC just offers classes, now you're going social at restaurants. Why? Are you changing your brand—more social fewer classes? What's next?

Sincerely,
Very concerned

Dear Very Concerned,
You are correct. LLC is going social. However, LLC is not changing its brand. It is *expanding* its brand. That's a good thing.

In the last six months or so and thanks to the leadership of the Engagement Committee, LLC has:

Brought back Lunch and Learn (nee Brown Bag Lunches),
Added a second Breakfast Club location,
Convened community service meetups,
Launched NeedleCraft N Coffee, a monthly gathering of needlecrafters,
Scheduled a memoir slam and book signings.

The Engagement Committee is also considering Trivia nights and foreign language conversation circles. The Curriculum Committee helped launch classes that take place

over lunch. An LLC'er has suggested a Dinner Club. All these activities have a strong social component.

But do not fear, VC. These activities do not replace our classic seminar-style classes nor do they reduce the number of classes we offer. In fact, for the fall 2026 semester, we are offering thirty-three classes. That is more than in any other semester, ever. We are offering these events to provide other venues and opportunities for LLC'ers to gather, to connect with each other beyond the classroom, to make new friends, to do an activity they love while in the company of other LLC'ers, or just to get out of the house. They reduce the threat of social isolation for our members while promoting stronger connections to LLC, itself.

VC, I hope you for your own sake, you will participate in a couple of these social learning opportunities. Keep in mind that according to the World Health Organization, research shows that the lack of social connection increases the risk of early death by about 50%, a risk factor comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day or heavy drinking and exceeding the health risks of physical inactivity or obesity.

So, VC get out there! Start with the Breakfast Club on the second Friday of each month. You have a choice of two locations: The Butcher Shop 157 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, or Crescent Moon Café, 520 Main St., Warren. Watch your email from LLC to register for each month's gatherings. In fact, watch your email for notices about all the activities listed above—and more to come.

Sincerely Yours (and unconcerned),
Elsie

Dear Elsie,
Can LLC classes be offered in the evening or on weekends?
I still work parttime. My LLC friend helps take care of her grandchildren while the parents are at work. We can't attend LLC classes because of our schedules. Why doesn't LLC offer a few classes in the late afternoon, evenings or weekends?

Sincerely,
I am hopeful.

Hello Hopeful,
First, let me say that we are very glad that, even with your busy schedules, you and your friend are trying to find time to participate in LLC classes. Hooray for you!

Second, your suggestion that LLC should offer a few classes in the late afternoon, evenings, or weekends is definitely worth our consideration. But please understand why classes have not been scheduled in that way.

Historically, at Temple Beth El (and even before then), LLC did not have access to classrooms on the weekends and in the evenings. Even today, our lease with the Shriners gives us use of the classrooms Monday through Friday, not on the weekends. Then, add in the Route 95 bridge situation that causes extensive traffic jams on our roadways in the morning and evening, and we have even more constraints on our class scheduling.

My dear Hopeful, it is also possible that many of our members are not driving at night. (I am not, for example, are you?) Plus, we might have a hard time getting coordinators for night classes. Also, and I am sorry to admit this, the specter of a classroom full of us aging LLC'ers nodding off as a night class wears on does appear in my imagination.

However, Hopeful, I think LLC could offer *Zoom* classes in the late afternoons, early evenings or on weekends, such as on a Saturday mornings. Also, a few LLC coordinators offer classes at off-campus locations, and such locations sometimes offer more scheduling opportunities.

So, H., how about sharing your proposal and your reasoning with the Curriculum Committee? Send an email to the new chair of the committee. I am sure she would be glad to hear from you—and from any LLC'er who has a request or suggestion relevant to our classes, especially those LLC'ers who would also like to see evening or weekend classes. Send an email to catherine.b.hurst@gmail.com, Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

I am as hopeful as you are,
Elsie

Hi Elsie,
Sometimes I try to register for a class and find all the spots taken. Could the class sizes be larger?

Yours,
I am just curious.

Hi JC,
A fair question, JC! Several factors determine class size, whether it is their upper limit or their lower limit. Let me explain.

For the maximum class size, consider the classrooms at the Shriner Center. Three of our four classrooms can accommodate up to twenty participants. So, most of our classes have a limit of twenty. Classroom #1, however, can accommodate up to thirty-five participants sitting around a bank of tables. Thank goodness! This has allowed us to offer very popular classes, like Theater Conversations, with thirty-five participants per semester. Similarly, the summer jazz class with a similarly high enrollment meets in room #1. So, you see JC, when we can do so, we do offer larger classes, if the coordinator keeps the format lively and participatory.

Interestingly, JC, when thinking about class size, the Curriculum Committee often asks, "How low can we go?" What factors determine a minimum class size? First, the class should pay for itself through its enrollment level. That's the easy part. Equally important: Viability and quality. If a coordinator has designed a ten-week course with two presentations sessions per week, but only eight LLC'ers enroll, the class is not viable unless the coordinator redesigns it or more LLC'ers enroll. (I'm looking at you, JC.)

Regarding quality and minimum enrollment, consider this case. A coordinator designs a discussion-based class for twelve participants, but only three people enroll. Is that enough to sustain high-quality discussion? In most cases, no. That class will be cancelled.

But, JC, life is never simple, is it? Suppose those enrollees are passionate about the course, and the coordinator is willing to lead it with three participants. Viability aside, should the course go forward? What would you say, JC? In a similar—and true—case, the class went forward; everyone was satisfied. Nevertheless, the question remains, how low should we go?

In closing, JC, please know that our Curriculum Committee and our coordinators work hard to make sure that *all of our classes no matter what size* maintain a high level of quality in content and format. If you cannot get into your first-choice class, *try another one*!

Thoughtfully yours,
Elsie

Elsie,

If I want to take a class, why am I asked to be a presenter? Don't get me wrong: I am willing to participate in discussions, but I don't like speaking formally in front of a group. Plus, I am not so tech savvy with PowerPoint. Not everyone should have to do a slideshow. LLC classes should be more flexible!

I am bit shy but ready to talk!

My Dear A Bit Shy,
Let's clear up *a widespread but incorrect impression of LLC classes*. *Not every class requires presentations*. Some do, some don't, and some offer options.

For example, of the **thirty-three courses** being offered this fall,

Seven specify: Presentations are not required, at all. Period.
Three specify: Presentations are welcomed but not required.
Seven specify: Lead a discussion
Seven ask: Share work (i.e. painting, knitting, writing, etc.)
Nine specify: Presentations required

So, my dear A Bit Shy, for the fall semester, you have a choice of twenty-four classes that do not require presentations. We would appreciate it if you would spread the word among LLC'ers and beyond. We also have an increasing number of other activities that are not classroom-based. Some are more social. Plus, our webinars are offered through Zoom with guest presenters. So, we have many ways for you to learn and to participate.

I will admit to you, my dear A Bit Shy, that the classic model of an LLC class includes presentations (often along with a slideshow). Many of our members like this approach. They seek courses that present such challenges. LLC will always offer such classes. We have found that our classic course design (modeled on the academic seminar) offers deep learning for the presenter *and* for others in the class, spreads analysis and new insights, and promotes questioning of easy solutions and everyday assumptions. Classes with other formats may do the same. Deep learning can be transformative. The effort to achieve it keeps us young!

Finally, my dear A Bit Shy, if you are truly ready to talk and you like to engage in discussions, perhaps you just need a little more confidence or a few new skills. This is your moment!

On September 28, LLC will present a special webinar on PowerPoint Basics. The webinar will cover how to get and use PowerPoint to create a basic slide show. The webinar is free, but you must register. Here is the registration link. Plus, this fall, LLC is offering a five-week course, "Building Presentation Skills, Building Confidence," designed to build your confidence and presentation skills. See the Fall 2026 catalog for details.

I hope you go for it, Shy. If you do, maybe in the future, you might sign up for a classic LLC class—or even offer one!

Sincerely,
Elsie

Do you have a question for Elsie? Send it to info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org

What article would you like to read next? Click here

IMPORTANT NOTICES

For LLC Members: Three Calendars

Upcoming Events

September 10	**CONVOCATION**	**THREE LIVELY SESSIONS** 10 am Meet your coordinator. Register for open classes 11 am Keynote speaker with Q & A Reinhardt, 1st woman music director of the RI Philharmonic 12 pm Box lunch social hour Register here **Register by 5 pm, Aug. 26**
September 11	**BREAKFAST CLUB**	**All LLC'ers welcome, two locations**: The Butcher Shop, 157 Elmgrove Ave, Prov. Crescent Moon Café, 520 Main St., Warren. Watch your LLC email for details.
September 14	**NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETUP**	**All forms of needle crafting welcome.** Social, friendly. Monthly locations vary. Watch your LLC email for details.
October 7, 21, 28	**COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**	**Pawtucket Backpackers** Help assemble bags with nutritious food for children and teens facing food insecurity on weekends and during school vacations. Eight volunteers per session. (Background check required, facilitated by event chair.) Watch your LLC email for details.

December 10 **December 17**	**Lunch and Learn: LLC Authors - Book Talks with Book Signings** **Jane Lancaster's *Liberty Is Sweet*** follows a Black/Indigenous family as they escape slavery and search for freedom during the American Revolution. Dec. 10 at 12 pm, Location: TBD. **Rick Watrous's *Rahsaan Roland Kirk's Volunteered Slavery*** explores an extraordinary, blind jazz musician's life and mission. Dec. 10 at 12 pm. Location: TBD. Watch your LLC email for details.

Schedule of Fall and Winter Classes

September 10	**COORDINATORS' OPEN HOUSE** **SESSION #1 OF CONVOCATION** Meet and talk with the coordinators. Learn about their courses for the fall semester. Meet LLC friends, old and new. Register for open classes. Stay for the keynote speaker program and lunch sessions. Register here **Deadline: 5 pm Aug. 26**
September 14	**CLASSES BEGIN** Fall Semester
November 16	**FALL SEMESTER CLASSES END** Many fall classes end this week.
November 23	**WINTER SEMESTER COURSE CATALOG PUBLISHED** LLC's listing of winter courses. Check email.
November 30	**REGISTRATION FOR WINTER COURSES OPENS, 9 AM** Sign up for winter classes. *Registration starts promptly at 9 a.m.* **Registration instructions and details here.**
January 4, 2027	**WINTER SESSION BEGINS**

Webinars for Fall 2026

September 22	**TRAVEL SAFETY, CYBERSECURITY, AND FRAUD PREVENTION.** Learn from former CIA Agent Tim Beard all about travel safety: What to watch out for, what to avoid, and how to stay one step ahead.
September 30	**JOURNEY THROUGH LE PERIGORD, FRANCE** Learn from Veronique Day, Executive Director of Alliance Francaise of Providence, about one of France's most captivating regions.
October 13	**SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE** RI Senator Whitehouse will address lowering costs and battling corruption in Washington.
October 19	**ACTRESS SILVIA ANN SOARES: A ONE-WOMAN SHOW** History comes alive when actress Silvia Ann Soares portrays Silvy Tory, with Revolutionary War events, the Rhode Island Black Regiment, and early Black RI communities.
October 22	**BILL HARLEY - SONG, STORIES AND HUMOR** A special live performance by two-time Grammy winner and very popular performer Bill Harley. A special LLC webinar event.
November 5	**WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD'S QUEST TO SAVE THE NATION** Learn from historian C. Evan Stewart about how Abraham Lincoln's secretary of state tried to save the nation from the Civil War.
November 10	**WILD BIRDS: BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND RESILIENCE** Learn from Sheida Soleimani, a federally licensed migratory bird rehabilitator, who will offer a fascinating look at wild bird rehabilitation practices and these birds remarkable resilience.

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Classified Ads: Help Wanted

*****Help Wanted*****

We need your skills and energy!
Marketing and Communications Committee.
We're working hard to spread the word about LLC's classes, events, and great people.

Your ideas and efforts can make a difference!
Email: dgjournal45@gmail.com
artnorwalk@gmail.com

We are the Membership Committee

We **welcome, engage, and support.**
We help all members.

We reach out to every new member.
We help with registration, convocation, and more.
We take surveys. We track the data.

We need more committee members.
We need you!
Email: lakemp@gmail.com,
Judith_Nudelman@brown.edu

Applications Welcomed

LLC'S COFFEE CZAR

Tasks:

- Keep coffee room supplies fully stocked.
- Keep coffee buffet table ready for daily use.
- Keep the coffee room's tables, chairs & floor neat, clean and welcoming.
- Remove trash, as needed.

Coffee Czar benefits:

- A free membership
- Up to three free classes a semester

Send inquiries to lkshamoon@gmail.com

We Need Your Help for
ONE HOUR – SEPT. 9th or 10th
Fall Kickoff,
(aka Convocation)
Help needed:

- Greeters, setup team, box lunch team
- **Email: lkshamoon@gmail.com**

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A BONUS

The OWL Has Six Clues...

...that your spouse/friend/sibling/cousin/neighbor may need an introduction to LLC:

1. Complains about being bored
2. Worries about not having many (any) friends
3. Asks you to recommend books or movies
4. Goes out alone a lot
5. Stays home a lot
6. Knows a lot but wants to know more

If you spot any of these behaviors, you might do this person a big favor by finding a place in your next conversation to say something about how much you've enjoyed taking courses at LLC.

The OWL will have more tips you can use to spread the word and possibly attract a new member to the LLC family.

Article by Art Norwalk, Chair, Marketing and Communications.

The Owl

A LIFELONG LEARNING COLLABORATIVE PUBLICATION

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