



Newsletter of the ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM

ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED Now Scheduled for September 17th

A MESSAGE FROM JACK GREGORY

ALP Board of Directors Co-Chair

Greetings my fellow ALP Members. The current Coronavirus situation reminds me of the Charles Dickens' novel, "A Tale of Two Cities," where the opening lines read "*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.*" I believe that our generation has enjoyed the best of times in human history and we will continue to do so again in the future. Unfortunately, we are all going through what is truly a historically painful time for our generation, something that has not happened in a hundred years and hopefully will never happen again. It is, however, temporary. The miracles of modern medicine and the human spirit are going to pull us out of this catastrophic pandemic and our lives will eventually return to normal.



When it's time to come out of your houses and apartments again, ALP will be ready for you with some new courses as well as many of your old favorites. As usual, we will reveal the entire fall semester curriculum in our next issue of the ALP-Horn and at our Fall Preview Meeting. In addition to our traditional meeting formats, we are testing the feasibility of using a teleconferencing platform for certain ALP courses, depending on the interest level of our membership. We will, of course, keep you closely advised of developments.

Stay safe and well my friends. I hope to see all of you at our next scheduled meeting on September 17th when we will combine the previously cancelled Annual Business Meeting with the Fall Preview Meeting. As the pastor of my youth used to say, "*God be with you until we meet again.*"



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Jack Gregory

Do any of us have a journal or diary from our grandparents recording what they thought and experienced during the worldwide Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1920? Probably not many, if any. It happened immediately after World War One and infected approximately 500 million people. Don't you wish you had firsthand information about it from your ancestors?

If you're not already doing so, maybe you should consider keeping a diary or journal over the next few months to record your thoughts and experiences during this trying time. I'll bet your great grandchildren would cherish your memories – whether or not they have to withstand a similar disaster in their lifetime.

HARDY HEARTS



The following members made a financial contribution this spring semester to help keep ALP a viable, educational organization. On behalf of our Board of Directors and all members who reap the benefits of our Adult Learning Program, we offer a resounding round of silent but enthusiastic applause.

Marian Adler, **Dori Albert**, Joyce and Dick Armstrong, **Mickey Bartus**, Ingrid Boelhouwer, **Anne and Ken Brock**, Jackie Brown, **John Buckey**, Joyce and Harold Buckingham, **Carolyn and Ian Clark**, Marjorie and Dixon Clark, **John Condron**, Donna Cote, **David Crabtree**, Lucy Creevey, **Helen Cross**, Pete Cruikshank, **Christina Davies**, Connie Dunham, **Diane Edell**, Virginia Edelson, **Polly and Bob Ellis**, Jean Ensling, **Louise Fisher**, Joy Floyd, **Sally Foster**, William Fuller, **Warren Gedstad**, Sylvia Gingras-Baker, **Barbara Goodwin**, Jack Gregory, **Nancy Grover**, Thomas Gworek, **Wendy Haller**, Jane Harris, **Patricia Hensley**, Ron Hensley, **Nancy Johnson**, Tobie Katz, **Elizabeth Kellerman**, Marion Kelliher, **Ursula Korzenik**, Nat Lawton, **Ruth Leggett**, Stephanie Levine, **Paula Lucafo**, Mary and George Madsen, **Kate and Hugh McLean**, John Merrill, **Peggy Miller**, Marian Moore, **Shirley Morrison**, Don Noel, **Doris Nussbaum**, Dolores and Michael Peruch, **Judith Podell**, Catherine Posteraro, **James Ritter**, Linda Roberts, **Gideon Rutenberg**, Zellene Sandler, **Edward Savage**, Terry Schnure, **Joy Semjen**, Sandra Slipp, **Betsey Stevens**, Eleanor Sulston, **Ralph Sundquist**, Barbara Taylor, **Joanne Taylor**, Margo Titus, **Geraldine and Dudley Watkins**, Susan Watson, **Richard Wenner**, Phil Will, **Beverly Wood**, Betsy Woodard, **Charles Woolsey**, and Sue Zeiner.

NEW BLOOD

Not the biggest class of "newbies," but nowadays we're looking for quality more than record-breaking quantity and this group of new members looks like it will fit that need. Welcome to all of you; we hope you enjoy your ALP experience. **Note:** Due to circumstances beyond our control, this list may not be complete. Please accept our apologies if your name is not listed.

Patricia Brecker
Laura Clynch
Robert Dickinson
Joseph DiPace
Mary DiPace
Dierdre Gilbert

Terrence Gilbert
Patricia Hensley
Ron Hensley
Dorothy Hunt
Laura Klotz
David Kubas
Nancy Mason

Judith Podell
Robert Smith
Deborah Stein
Jeffrey Stein
Diane Ward
Earl Weisenhorn

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Eeny Meeny Miney Moe

Unmentionables

Oly Oly Oxen Free

Caster Oil

Candy Cigarettes

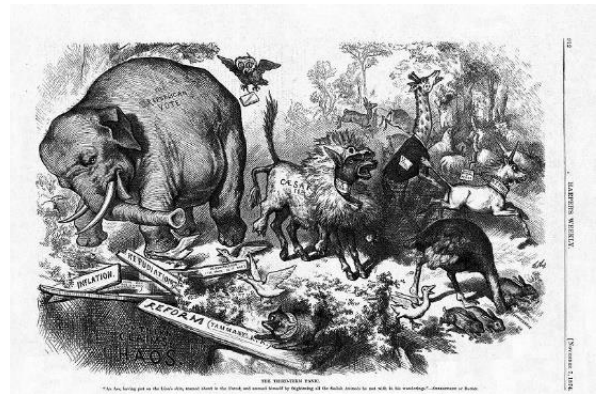
Laundry Detergent with gifts inside



NOT SO TRIVIAL ELECTION TRIVIA

Getting ready for what may be an historic election this fall, we thought you might enjoy a look back at some interesting tidbits of our country's election history:

Cartoonist Thomas Nash is credited with creating both the Republican and Democratic symbols when he lampooned the political parties in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly magazine in 1874. His cartoon "Third Term Panic", was inspired by one of Aesop's Fables, "The Ass in the Lion's Skin," amid a rumor of President Grant seeking a third term. In the cartoon, the Democratic donkey, aka "Caesarism," is dressed in a lion's skin and panics the other political animals - including a Republican Party elephant. Soon after the cartoon ran, people everywhere began using the donkey and the elephant to represent the parties.



The first woman to run for president was Victoria Woodhull in 1872. Running on a third party ticket supporting the women's suffrage movement, she received no electoral votes, losing to Ulysses Grant. It wasn't until 1920, of course, that the 19th amendment was passed to allow women to vote.

In 1758, George Washington, then a young candidate for the Virginia House of Burgesses - the first legislative assembly of elected representatives in North America - spent his entire campaign budget of 50 pounds on 160 gallons of liquor served to 391 voters. The custom of buying votes with liquor was one of the English traditions imported to the American colony. Washington also was following a Virginia tradition in which barrels of liquor were rolled to courthouse lawns and polling places on Election Day.

In 1840, farming was the occupation of 69 percent of working Americans. Farmers weren't able to travel easily until the harvest was over and harsh winter conditions made travel a problem, so elections were held in the late fall. Holding the election on Tuesdays also made it easier for farmers to travel to polling places since it did not interfere with the Biblical Sabbath or with market day, which, in many towns, was on Wednesday. Ergo, we hold our elections on the first Tuesday in November so the farmers can vote.

Characteristics of a good President: Caution, Patience and Wisdom



PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

"I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of a national emergency – even if I'm in a Cabinet meeting." – R. Reagan

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?" – A. Lincoln

"Being President is like running a cemetery. You've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening." – B. Clinton

(Now that I'm retired), *"it's very nice that when people wave at me, they use all their fingers."* – J. Carter

ALP TO ADD ON-LINE SELF ENROLLMENT OPTION

by Agnes Pier and Errol Matzke



Behind the scenes in the ALP office there is a lot of administrative effort that goes into making ALP run smoothly—particularly during the enrollment and start-up cycle, with the keying in of membership applications, setting up attendance lists for classes, logging and depositing checks, mailings, and so on. Needless to say, it is a very labor intensive effort. All of this was manageable when ALP was a smaller organization, but with our membership growth of almost 40% over the last couple of years or so, we have simply out-grown our ability to get it done in a timely and efficient manner.

To help us work our way out of this situation, we've turned to our computer software guru, John Waveris, whose firm is known as Invisible Gold. At no charge, John has developed a very simple online self-enrollment system using his experience with other groups who have similar needs, and we are expecting to introduce the system for the fall semester registration. Payment of dues and donations will be made by credit card using a procedure very much like that used

for any other on-line purchase, such as at Amazon.com, including a sophisticated, built-in security system. For those of you who paid a fee to attend the spring semester classes, no credit card will be needed for the fall semester unless you wish to make a donation.

We see this development as a win-win for both the member and ALP administration. For the member, registration is easier and more convenient, and doesn't incur any unnecessary costs—an envelope, a stamp, a check blank—all minor but nonetheless not needed any more. For ALP, of course, we avoid the labor intensive efforts described above.

Members are also our customers, and member satisfaction is a must for us. That means that we recognize that not every member has a computer or the familiarity with internet procedures to register on line. For those folks, we will keep the traditional registration process of mail-in form and check. More information on the new on-line option will be provided in the next issue of The Horn and at the Fall Preview Meeting.

MEANDERING MUSINGS OF A MUTANT MIND (chapter 9)

- Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?
- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- What's another word for Thesaurus?
- If it's a penny for your thoughts and you put in your two cents worth, isn't someone someplace making a penny?
- What is a free gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- What's the speed of dark?
- If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?



DID YOU KNOW?

Morgan Robertson wrote a book about an "unsinkable" ship called the Titan, the biggest ship in the world. In his book, the ship hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank on its maiden voyage. There were not enough lifeboats and many people perished. The book was written in 1898, 14 years before the actual sinking of the Titanic. In 1914, Robertson also wrote a short story that described a future war between the United States and the Empire of Japan which does not declare war but instead launches sneak attacks on United States ships en route to the Philippines and Hawaii.

SUMMER PUN

A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with -- transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

NEW BYLAWS

If you're looking for new material to read during your confinement, help is on the way - but may be a bit late to do any good.



A revised set of ALP Bylaws will be mailed to you prior to our Annual Meeting now set for September 17th.

Our Board of Directors has already approved the changes but as an ALP member, you will have the opportunity to express your opinion and approve or disapprove the revised bylaws at the meeting. Other than some specific changes made to the positions of the Website Manager and the ALP-Horn Editor regarding their reporting structure and tenure, the changes have to do primarily with text being updated to reflect current conditions and processes.

Along with a copy of the bylaws, you will receive a summary report of the changes made and an explanation of why each change was necessary.



kudos

"The Poetry of Richard Wilbur class has enriched my days. Karl Mason is a top teacher and it is a great privilege to attend this class." – Alice C.



"SECRETS" OF PEOPLE LIVING A LONG LIFE

Emma Morano from Italy lived to 117 – "3 eggs/day (2 raw); never married."

Emiliano del Toro from Puerto Rico lived to 115 – "sense of humor, love of women and funche (*cornmeal boiled into a porridge*); never married."

Susannah Jones from Alabama lived to 116 – "bacon, no alcohol or smoking; never married."

Jessie Gallan from Scotland lived to 109 – "exercise and porridge; never married."

Louise Signore from NYC, 107 – "Italian food, avoid soda and cake; never married."

Hmmmm? Oh, you noticed a thread of commonality? Well, actually researchers say there are two groups that live the longest: those that never married and those that stay married.

GOING, GOING BUT NOT YET GONE

Although the postponement of our Annual Meeting will keep our Board of Directors intact until the re-scheduled meeting in September, our tradition of using this summer edition of The Horn to honor retiring members of the board will continue. On behalf of the entire membership we thank each of these volunteers for their time and effort and their enthusiastic support of the ALP program.



Phil Will - *"When I first took some ALP courses in 2015, I enjoyed the experience so much that when I was approached about serving as Co-Chairperson of the ALP Board of Directors, I readily volunteered. Serving on the ALP board for four years with so many smart, hard-working members has been a gratifying experience. A challenge has been to get people to engage with modern technology such as Google Drive and the collaborative tools available there. The next challenge I think is to enable remote learning during the coronavirus confinement and even beyond for those who may be physically challenged. This might allow us to grow without taxing our limited space resources. I'm looking forward to serving in an advisory role as an ex-officio member of the board and to taking more of the great variety of classes ALP offers."*



Tobie Katz - *"After I retired from the Town of Bloomfield I was looking for something to keep my mind working. I learned about ALP from a friend and signed up for some courses and I've been here ever since! For eight of the past 10 years, I've been on the Board of Directors, serving four years as Secretary and four years as the Communications Committee Co-Chair. I am looking forward to staying with ALP as a student and continuing to keep my mind active! In addition to learning a great deal, I have made some wonderful friends."*



Libbie Merrow - *"Like so many others, I was encouraged to join ALP by the enthusiasm of Marilyn Stockton. That was just in time to catch June Johnson's last Genetics class. We moved to Seabury in the fall of 2015, right around the corner from Shirley Dudley and she soon talked and talked me into taking her place as Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee. This has been a favorite of all the many volunteer commitments I have had. By natural selection, everyone in ALP is bright, sociable and looking for a good experience. It's been enriching to meet so many interesting people and be exposed to so many interesting courses. The Curriculum Committee itself is a treasure chest of contacts, creativity and good will. The icing on the cake is interacting with our tremendously talented Presenters."*



Bertina Williams - Not available for comment in this issue, Bertina served as ALP's Coordinator for more than 12 years, providing conscientious office support that may have gone unnoticed by the general membership but was an integral part of ALP's operation. As Coordinator, she was not officially a member of the Board of Directors but did attend every meeting and served as its Secretary for the past 3 ½ years. She was ALP's "Girl Friday" and will be missed for her many contributions and dedicated effort to make our organization a success.



Ann Winship - Technically, Ann is not leaving the Board of Directors; she's just changing her area of responsibility to being the Seabury Representative on the board. But she certainly deserves some recognition for her four years of service as the Co-Chair of the Event and Membership Support Committee. Thanks Ann.

FELLERINE

by Elizabeth Kincaid-Ehlers

Trading tales of 'back in the day' with old friends up in Maine, I chance upon a notice in the regional paper of the university's dropping classes in Physics. And there I was, memory wheels spinning, North Fulton High School, One Nine Five Oh, the Georgia sun hot for my senior year and I, having finished with Bio and Chem, going to sign up, at last, for Physics. Adviser sighing, I was passed on, again - to the principal this time, or so I recall - and told by a head not looking at me that "girls do not" — repeat — "girls do not take Physics."

I went home and told my father, an engineer who could not figure me out, expecting him to agree with the school. To my rising surprise, my father got angry, put on his suit and tied his tie. Off he went to the principal's office and when he came home I was signed up and in.

So I showed up for class when it started. I should have expected what I found: a classroom divided into two distinct sections - one with nineteen tall chairs and one with one. I got it. Holding my head high and straight, I went to the one spot and took my seat. The guys traipsed in and finally settled. No one looked over or said a word. In came the teacher to stand at the front, shuffle his papers and clear his throat. He looked them all over and said, "O.K. Fellers," looked at the wall, paused, then said, "and Fellerine."



That whole semester I worked alone at my slate-topped table off to one side. I did all my homework, never speaking in class. At the end of the term I got my "A." Looking back, I finally understand how much I learned that year and now I understand how much I wish had also been able to figure out. My father secretly admired me, strict and severe as he always was. Standing up for myself was right. Listening to him would have helped me as well.

So I went on to fight my fights, to better the world for women and blacks and children in trouble and folks in need. Yet, when he warned me, straight up and clear, not to marry the man I had picked, I took that as reason enough to do so. Those who know me know what happened next. Fellerines must be doomed to go it alone.

Men Are Blondes Too Joke

While attending a marriage seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, "*It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.*" He addressed the man, "*Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?*" Tom smiled confidently because he knew the answer, leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "*It's Pillsbury, isn't it?*"



**ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM**

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What Is ALP?

ALP is a self-governing, non-profit organization composed largely of retired people who share a common interest in ongoing education. Members participate in courses presented by fellow members and guest lecturers on a variety of subjects. It is a partnership with the Department of Extension at the University of Connecticut and is one of more than 400 Lifelong Learning Institutes in Retirement affiliated with the Road Scholar Institute Network. Visit us at <http://alp.uconn.edu>.

Meeting Places

Seabury
200 Seabury Dr.
Bloomfield, CT

Duncaster
40 Loeffler Rd.
Bloomfield, CT

The McAuley
275 Steele Rd.
W. Hartford, CT

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

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Hartford, CT
Permit 4759

ALP ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

**NOW SCHEDULED FOR
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

**TO BE INCLUDED WITH A PREVIEW OF
OUR FALL SEMESTER CURRICULUM**

(hopefully)