

≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 4 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

August 20, 2001



Administration

Ron Ronning
Executive Director
(507) 650-2311
Keith Anderson
Associate Director
(507) 645-6723
Bev Anderson
Administrative Aide

Board of Directors

Bob Ballentine
Lois Burgoyne
Alene Fink
Stan Frear
Jane McWilliams
Bettye Ronning
Elaine Thurston
William Woehrlin

Affiliates

Northfield Senior Center
(507) 664-3700
Northfield Care Center

Funding

MN Humanities
Commission
City of Northfield
CVEC Members

Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

Standing Room Only at Annual Meeting

It could have been the tasty desserts, but it looked more like enthusiasm that brought so many to the Membership Meeting last May. Fortunately, extra chairs were available. For those who could not be there, here is a brief summary of the program:

- Emelda Rasmussen was recognized for her years of support and service to CVEC. "It's the 'Senior Academy' I've always dreamed of," she said. Past and present board members and faculty were also recognized for their roles in making the Collegium what it is today. Mark Gleason, representing the Minnesota Humanities Commission which provides funding, noted that the number of organizations like CVEC in the state is growing, it is "an idea whose time has come." He lauded the founders for the hard work of making the idea reality.
- Northfield Mayor Keith Covey addressed the assembly. He spoke about curiosity and its role as the driving force behind learning. He noted that the "discovery of the era" is that both physical and mental activity are necessary for a healthy life. The mayor urged CVEC to "reach out more and more to its natural constituency," to reawaken intellectual curiosity and provide the means to satisfy it. He shared his enthusiasm for life-long reading and displayed quite a stack of books he hopes to read soon. He also had a wish list for future CVEC courses.

See Annual Meeting, Page 2

Collegium Sweethearts to Marry - and Go to Hell (Norway)

It is fairly common for people to marry someone they met in college, but it must be rare to meet your future spouse in class at age seventy. Mary Ann Kristiansen and Ray Eng first met last Winter Term in the Musical Forms class. They gradually got to know each other during the course. She volunteered to help with the summer computer class he was going to teach at the Senior Center; he helped her deal with an e-mail problem on her home computer.

It was April Fool's Day, after they saw each other again in the first session of yet another CVEC course, that they had their first date. They will marry September 8, and travel extensively in Norway for their honeymoon. Hell, Norway is in an area where Ray's mother grew up and where Mary Ann once lived for three years. Bon voyage!



Mary Ann and Ray

Call for Volunteers

The Collegium occasionally has need for volunteer labor. If you have time to spare and are interested in helping, please call Bettye Ronning at 650-2311.

Search for New Director

In a July 19 letter to the Board of Directors, Ron Ronning announced his decision to resign as Executive Director. As one of the founders of CVEC, he has pushed the "college for and by senior citizens" from the notion-discussed-over-coffee stage through the search for grant money to its present status as a thriving establish-

"Five years is enough," Ron writes. "I look forward to the luxury of being a more frequent Collegium student." He feels that CVEC will profit from new leadership and new ideas. He will continue in his post until a new director is found. In addition, Keith and Bev Anderson will be resigning as Associate Director and Administrative Aide, respec-

Ron's message to you: "So, Collegium friends and members, we need your help. Any thoughts? Nominations? Please assist us in our search for a new director. The list of board members can be found on the front of this newsletter. You may contact them with any suggestions."

It could have been the tasty desserts, but it looked more like enthusiasm that brought so many to the Membership Meeting last May. Fortunately, extra chairs were available. For those who could not be there, here is a brief summary of the program:

- Emelda Rasmussen was recognized for her years of support and service to CVEC. "It's the 'Senior Academy' I've always dreamed of," she said. Past and present board members and faculty were also recognized for their roles in making the Collegium what it is today. Mark Gleason, representing the Minnesota Humanities Commission which provides funding, noted that the number of organizations like CVEC in the state is growing, it is "an idea whose time has come." He lauded the founders for the hard work of making the idea reality.
- Northfield Mayor Keith Covey addressed the assembly. He spoke about curiosity and its role as the driving force behind learning. He noted that the "discovery of the era" is that both physical and mental activity are necessary for a healthy life. The mayor urged CVEC to "reach out more and more to its natural constituency," to reawaken intellectual curiosity and provide the means to satisfy it. He shared his enthusiasm for life-long reading and displayed quite a stack of books he hopes to read soon. He also had a wish list for future CVEC courses.

See Annual Meeting, Page 2

It is fairly common for people to marry someone they met in college, but it must be rare to meet your future spouse in class at age seventy. Mary Ann Kristiansen and Ray Eng first met last Winter Term in the Musical Forms class. They gradually got to know each other during the course. She volunteered to help with the summer computer class he was going to teach at the Senior Center; he helped her deal with an e-mail problem on her home computer.

It was April Fool's Day, after they saw each other again in the first session of yet another CVEC course, that they had their first date. They will marry September 8, and travel extensively in Norway for their honeymoon. Hell, Norway is in an area where Ray's mother grew up and where Mary Ann once lived for three years. Bon voyage!



Mary Ann and Ray

Administration
 Ron Ronning
 Executive Director
 (507) 650-2311
 Keith Anderson
 Associate Director
 (507) 645-6723
 Bev Anderson
 Administrative Aide

Board of Directors
 Bob Ballentine
 Lois Burgoyne
 Alene Fink
 Stan Frear
 Jane McWilliams
 Bettye Ronning
 Elaine Thurston
 William Woehrin

Affiliates
 Northfield Senior Center
 (507) 664-3700
 Northfield Care Center

Funding
 MN Humanities
 Commission
 City of Northfield
 CVEC Members

Newsletter
 Kathy Mellstrom

Call for Volunteers

The Collegium occasionally has need for volunteer labor. If you have time to spare and are interested in helping, please call Bettye Ronning at 650-2311.

Search for New Director

In a July 19 letter to the Board of Directors, Ron Ronning announced his decision to resign as Executive Director. As one of the founders of CVEC, he has pushed the "college for and by senior citizens" from the notion-discussed-over-coffee stage through the search for grant money to its present status as a thriving establishment and community asset.

"Five years is enough," Ron writes. "I look forward to the luxury of being a more frequent Collegium student." He feels that CVEC will profit from new leadership and new ideas. He will continue in his post until a new director is found. In addition, Keith and Bev Anderson will be resigning as Associate Director and Administrative Aide, respectively, effective next June.

Ron's message to you: "So, Collegium friends and members, we need your help. Any thoughts? Nominations? Please assist us in our search for a new director. The list of board members can be found on the front of this newsletter. You may contact them with any suggestions."

Registration for Fall Classes: To provide equal opportunity to enroll in high demand classes, no registrations for Fall Term will be recorded until September 4. Those registrations delivered in person on September 4 will be processed first. Earlier mail-in registrations will be processed at the close of the day, beginning with the postmarks closest to September 4. Scholarships are available and are confidential.

Annual Meeting, from Page 1

- The new women's chorus, which formed last spring under the direction of Theo Wee and the sponsorship of the Senior Center, presented a program. They opened with a truly amazing rendition of "Amazing Grace" and continued to impress the audience with their level of polish in subsequent numbers. Theo Wee will be offering this opportunity again this fall, so those interested should watch for an announcement.
- Official business included the announcement that CVEC, after a year-long process, has achieved official status as an independent non-profit corporation (501(c)(3)). This means that tax deductible donations can be made directly to the Collegium. A Nominating Committee was elected to help fill upcoming vacancies on the Board; Bill Woehrlin, Parry Sykes and Paula Lawrence agreed to serve.

Fall Dinner for CVEC Members September 30

A.K. Kayoum, owner of the Byzantine Deli in Northfield, is our gracious host for the fifth time as we kick off the new academic year with our annual inaugural dinner. Collegium members are invited to enjoy the sumptuous catered meal generously donated by A.K. The program will include some inspiring words from A.K. and music by The Troubadours, directed by John Evenson and accompanied by Fran Evenson. Henry Fritz, a St. Olaf emeritus and CVEC member, will give a multi-media presentation, "Songs and Images of the World War II Era." Members will receive an invitation by mail and reservations will be required.

Time, Space, Travel (Not Science Fiction)

Last term's course titles were liberally sprinkled with "time" and time-related words like "today," "present," "history" and "modern." A spring trip to Collegium Planet could have taken you through post Civil War America, to the land of "Isms" where ideologies are forged for the regulation of human activity, or to the region of Greek Myths which through some kind of time warp overlays our culture today. You could have stood on the shore with Gatsby and watched the beacon beckon, or listened as author John Fowles discussed what his character might do next, in a little stroll from modern to post-modern. The intricate path through three dimensions to the fourth was explored by some through sculpture and architecture. Finally, those who really like Earth as a destination could sight-see in style through classics of travel literature.

To paraphrase a popular Dr. Seuss book, "Oh, the places you'll go!" with CVEC.

Arts Night at Carleton

Free public lectures jointly sponsored by CVEC and Carleton College will be offered once again this fall. The topics this year examine what literature, music and art can tell us about a community or culture. All lectures take place on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Carleton's Olin Hall, Room 141.

Dates and topics:

- September 20 "Rush for Riches: Reimagining the California Gold Rush" - *Michael Kowalewski*
- October 4 "Musical Life in an Illinois City" - *Melinda Russell*
- October 18 "Stereotypes and National Diversity: Messages from Sephardic Jews in Spanish and Israeli Literature" - *Stacy Beckwith*
- November 1 "The Great Tomorrow: The Meaning(s) of the Horse-and-Rider in Kandinsky's Art and Thoughts" - *Jeremy Caslin*

Thanks are due to Jim Finholt, who has taken care of all the scheduling and arrangements with Carleton and its faculty for this special gift to the community.

Register September 4 for Fall Term

Details about Fall 2001 course offerings are included with this mailing. The term runs from September 24 to November 16. Registration begins on September 4 at 8:00 a.m. at the Northfield Senior Citizens Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield. Sign up in person if possible. (See note regarding mail registration on page 1.)

Here are the courses already scheduled for Winter and Spring 2002:

- Winter 2002 January 7 - March 1 (Call Keith Anderson if you have a Winter Term Course to propose.)
- Jim Reiley "The Great Depression"
- Jim Dimick "What is it that Intrigues America with the Great Game of Baseball?"

numbers. Theo Wee will be offering this opportunity again this fall, so those interested should watch for an announcement.

• Official business included the announcement that CVEC, after a year-long process, has achieved official status as an independent non-profit corporation (501(c)(3)). This means that tax deductible donations can be made directly to the Collegium. A Nominating Committee was elected to help fill upcoming vacancies on the Board; Bill Woehrlin, Parry Sykes and Paula Lawrence agreed to serve.

tered meal generously donated by A.K. The program will include some inspiring words from A.K. and music by The Troubadours, directed by John Evenson and accompanied by Fran Evenson. Henry Fritz, a St. Olaf emeritus and CVEC member, will give a multi-media presentation, "Songs and Images of the World War II Era." Members will receive an invitation by mail and reservations will be required.

of Greek Myths which through some kind of time warp overlays our culture today. You could have stood on the shore with Gatsby and watched the beacon beckon, or listened as author John Fowles discussed what his character might do next, in a little stroll from modern to post-modern. The intricate path through three dimensions to the fourth was explored by some through sculpture and architecture. Finally, those who really like Earth as a destination could sight-see in style through classics of travel literature.

To paraphrase a popular Dr. Seuss book, "Oh, the places you'll go!" with CVEC.

Arts Night at Carleton

Free public lectures jointly sponsored by CVEC and Carleton College will be offered once again this fall. The topics this year examine what literature, music and art can tell us about a community or culture. All lectures take place on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Carleton's Olin Hall, Room 141.

Dates and topics:

- September 20 "Rush for Riches: Reimagining the California Gold Rush" - *Michael Kowalewski*
October 4 "Musical Life in an Illinois City" - *Melinda Russell*
October 18 "Stereotypes and National Diversity: Messages from Sephardic Jews in Spanish and Israeli Literature" - *Stacy Beckwith*
November 1 "The Great Tomorrow: The Meaning(s) of the Horse-and-Rider in Kandinsky's Art and Thoughts" - *Jeremy Caslin*

Thanks are due to Jim Finholt, who has taken care of all the scheduling and arrangements with Carleton and its faculty for this special gift to the community.

Register September 4 for Fall Term

Details about Fall 2001 course offerings are included with this mailing. The term runs from September 24 to November 16. Registration begins on September 4 at 8:00 a.m. at the Northfield Senior Citizens Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield. Sign up in person if possible. (See note regarding mail registration on page 1.)

Here are the courses already scheduled for Winter and Spring 2002:

- Winter 2002 January 7 - March 1 (Call Keith Anderson if you have a Winter Term Course to propose.)
Jim Reiley "The Great Depression"
Jim Dimick "What is it that Intrigues America with the Great Game of Baseball?"
William Woehrlin "How Did It all Begin? - The American Revolution Revisited"
Spring 2002 April 1 - May 24
George Soule "Boswell's *Life of Johnson*"
Riki Nelson "Begin to Chart Your Journey" (free-writing)
Vern Failletaz "Islam and the Muslim Community of Faith" (Lecture Course)
Don Norris "Two Novels by Barbara Kingsolver"
Marion Hvistendahl "Short Stories II"
David Sudermann "St. Augustine: the Road to Faith"