

≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 6 Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

February, 2003



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Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

Remembering and Telling

While it stands to reason that anyone with a half century or more of life experience has stories to tell, for most of us this is not sufficient reason to sharpen the pencil. Students in Linda Hunter and Lydia Moe's "From Memory to Memoir" class, however, have undertaken the mission to commit their stories to paper.

Their motives, shared with the class during the first session, were varied and surprising. Some had archival material to draw from: diaries kept in notebooks since fourth grade, letters written home or journals kept while living or traveling abroad, or correspondence between parents or grandparents. Other students simply had life experiences that they hope to craft into interesting stories. Most had not done this kind of writing before, and want to learn to focus and develop a good read from their raw material.

The autobiographical impulse dates back to prehistorical cave paintings, noted instructor Lydia. To paraphrase author Patricia Hampl, it is the urge to preserve culture, validate life, or have the final say. Members of this class, as student Elaine Benson pointed out, have lived during a time of great changes in society and daily lives. They can provide a link to times that are being rapidly left behind.

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Repeat Attender

CVEC member Greta Smith just can't seem to stay out of class. Now enrolled in her nineteenth course, "Two Russian Symphonies," her addiction to learning drives her to attend again and again.



Greta Smith, Repeat Attender

Greta's earlier education, which prepared her for a career in medical technology, was concentrated in the sciences. "There was no time then for the humanities," she says, "and I am really impressed by the diversity of the Collegium's course offerings." Courses she has taken thus far include topics from literature, history, art, religion and music.

Continue on Page 2: See Greta Smith

Bettye Ronning Honored for Service

CVEC board member and founding member Bettye Ronning was awarded the Northfield Human Rights Award during the Martin Luther King celebration at Northfield High School on January 20. The Northfield Human Rights Commission bestowed the award in recognition of "dedicated service to the community," honoring Bettye for her many efforts over several decades, including in recent years re-starting the NHRC and helping to bring affordable housing to Northfield. Congratulations, Bettye!

Thank You, CVEC Supporters

In the last newsletter we informed you that CVEC's annual \$5,000 grant from the City of Northfield had not been renewed. While tuition remains set at \$50.00, the actual cost of delivering each course is \$75.00 per student. Last October we announced that the first fund drive would be launched. We are very grateful to our membership for their generous response. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Those who contributed since our last newsletter are: Eugene & Marilyn Boschee; Joyce Briggs; Ju-

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Spring Term: March 31 - May 23, 2003

Registrations will be due at the Senior Center by 6:00 p.m. March 11. The registration flyer which you will receive the week of February 24th, will contain detailed information about courses, registration procedures, and class locations. The following courses will be offered:

Bruce Burnes:	A Study of Comparative Religions	Monday	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Molly Daniels:	Reading as a Writer	Monday	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Marion Hvistendahl:	James Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i>	Tuesday	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Vern Faillettaz:	The Many Faces of Jesus	Wednesday	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Sally Legrand:	The Built Environment	Wednesday	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
George Soule:	Two by Iris Murdoch	Thursday	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Remembering

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During the eight week course, the class will develop individual stories, which will be collected and shared at the conclusion. This is the latest of several writing and memoir courses offered by the Collegium over the years.

Greta Smith

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Other special features of CVEC that Greta appreciates are that the teachers love to teach and the students love to learn - everyone is there because they really want to be taking part. Also, she notes, class members are encouraged to talk, and frequently contribute to the subject matter from their own life experiences.

Greta says she was particularly moved by Bardwell Smith's course on pilgrimages. "I don't travel, and the whole aspect of pilgrimage as well as the books we read affected me profoundly." The course also awakened a curiosity about eastern religions, and she hopes to explore that world one day in a Collegium classroom. In the mean time, this CVEC inmate will continue doing time in the humanities.

Thank You

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Joan Kark; Joni Kilde; Helen Klefstad; Gerhard & Gloria Knutson; Howard & Neidra Krebs; Paula Lawrence; Ross & Sally Legrand; Ken & Joyce Madole; Shirlee Madow; David & Betsy Maitland; Russ & Stanlyn Margulies; Carol & Dale Mathews; Anne Mayer; John & Lee Ann McCarthy; Thomas Melchior; Allan & Imogene Nelson; Gerhard Nygaard; Shirley Nygren; Dean & Dorothy Ostlie; Mary Price; Diethelm & Peggy Prowe; Carol Quail; Bill Quick; Mary Raney; Joan & Robert Reitz; Kay Rottsolk; Brynhild Rowberg; Ken & Constance Sansome; Mary Savina; Dorothy Schilling; Ruth Sellers; Bardwell & Charlotte Smith; John & Greta Smith; Ed Sostek; Fred & Mary Stedman; Solveig Steendal; Paul & Joanne Stohl; John & Virginia Street; Bernice VanNstrand; Bob Wait; Mary Weaver; John Welckle; Molly & Bill Woehrlin; Mary Wood; and Kathleen Yung.

Donations make it possible to continue our commitment to maintain low cost tuition as well as provide scholarships. Contributions to CVEC are tax deductible.