

# ≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 6 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

October 2003



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Executive Director  
(507) 664-3935  
Liz Hankins  
Associate Director

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Gorge Soule  
Vice-Chair  
Paula Lawrence  
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Keith and Bev  
Anderson  
Ron and Bettye  
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#### Affiliates

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

#### Funding

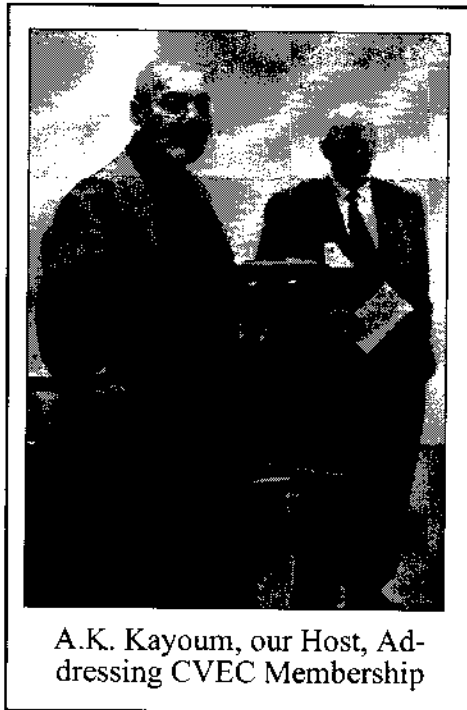
MN Humanities  
Commission  
CVEC Members

#### Staff

Teresa Ballentine  
Administrative Aide  
Kathy Mellstrom  
Publicity Aide

## Annual Fall Dinner

This year's membership dinner was an event filled with cheer and inspiration, attended by over 100 members. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal, many thanks to donor A.K. Kayoum, owner of the Byzantine Village Cafe in Northfield. A.K. opened with a heartfelt message



A.K. Kayoum, our Host, Addressing CVEC Membership

about patriotism and democracy, and CVEC board chair Bill Woehrlin spoke about the learning family we are and the importance of the Collegium to both faculty and students. This was followed by beautiful music performed by the Northfield Woodwind Quintet, which includes CVEC instructors Hartley Clark on the oboe and Bill Child on bassoon.

Winter term courses were introduced by their instructors. Detailed information about courses and registration procedures will be provided in the registration mailing.

## Open Air Fare

An uninformed observer of Connie Sansome's class might conclude that it is recess time. Students clamber over limestone slabs and peer at plants both potted and planted in the developing landscape of classmate Leanne Stremcha's new yard. Suddenly it is time for an impromptu on-site lecture on the geologic history responsible for that which is underfoot.

Here, layers of limestone and sandstone attest to ancient seas and beaches; the ice that recently covered much of Minnesota has also left its traces on the topography. One large hunk of limestone sports the cylindrical fossil of a cephalopod as big as your leg (they get much bigger!). This erstwhile impressive sea creature had a chambered shell like today's more modest Nautilus. While not every back yard



Connie Sansome, "Open Air Fare"

wears geologic time on its sleeve, each one has its own seasonal and ongoing life, usually a combination of nature's and humans' efforts. As well as visiting yards of class members, students read garden journal literature and write about their own plots - what they have planted, how it has developed, and what that place means to them.

To a great extent we move in a world of our own choosing. Engaging in the study of Minnesota backyards in the fall is a perfect way to inhabit very lovely surroundings while fertilizing the intellect.

## CVEC Unplumbed

Collegium members who have taken several courses over the years could easily conclude that the well of cumulative knowledge contained in its faculty is unfathomable. Instructors who have taught again and again continue to pour out new information and analysis, often to many of the same students, who have come back for more. While we ponder how one person can know so much, another term of study reveals similar

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Music, art and literature courses especially seem to attract "repeat attenders" eager for a new draught from the same source. This holds true this fall for Dick Cantwell's course on German song and Reidar Dittmann's on architecture and art of bygone centuries. It truly seems that if there are those in the world who know everything there is to know about a subject, here they are: teaching for CVEC.

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## **Committee Notes**

**Finance & Executive:** Funding continues to present a challenge since the city can no longer provide a grant and our other main source, the Minnesota Commission for the Humanities, has lost its state funding. Total annual funding loss for 2004 is about \$7,100. A second annual membership fund drive will be undertaken.

**Curriculum:** Work is under way to line up next year's courses. The committee is contacting those who have previously taught, asking if and what they would like to teach in the future. Any one who would like to propose a course or suggest an instructor is encouraged to contact committee chair George Soule, 313 Nevada St., Northfield, MN 55057; phone 507-645-8285; e-mail [gsoule@charter.net](mailto:gsoule@charter.net).

**Volunteers:** Thanks to those who helped organize and serve the annual dinner. If you have time and like to work in good company, there are things you can do for CVEC. Call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ann Eng at 645-4393.

**Recent donors:** Richard Bodman, Peg Prowe and Bob Wait. Thank you for your continuing support of CVEC.

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**Facts About CVEC:** The Cannon Valley Elder Collegium held its first classes in the fall of 1997, with 38 students participating in 4 classes. During the first school year, 1997-1998, 193 students attended classes. In the last school year, 2002-2003, 323 students participated. Including the fall of 1997, 140 classes have been offered, attended by 1,869 students, taught by 55 professors.

During this current year, CVEC classes were attended by students from 17 communities outside of Northfield from as far away as Plymouth, Minnetonka, Bloomington, St. Paul, Red Wing, and Stillwater.

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## **WINTER TERM - January 5 - February 27, 2004**

**Congress of the United States .....Jim Reiley**

**The Century We Barely Escaped ....Bill Woehrlin**

**Unfinished Business: Latent Maturations.....David Maitland**

**American Foreign Policy....Robert Flaten.....LECTURE COURSE**

**Whose Story Is This Anyway?....Jim Wolff**

**Shakespeare on Peace and War....Lowell Johnson**

**Memory and Memoir....Linda Hunter and Lydia Moe**

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**“If we, citizens, do not support our artists, then we sacrifice our imagination on the altar of crude reality and we end up believing in nothing and having worthless dreams.”**

**Life of Pi by Yann Martel From the Introduction, page X11**

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