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May 2018

# Institute for Learning in Retirement, Inc. at Albertus Magnus College

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## *All ILR members are cordially invited to the ILR Annual Spring Luncheon Meeting*



*Wednesday, June 13, 2018  
11:30 am - 3:00 pm*

*Birchwoods at Oak Lane  
1027 Racebrook Road  
Woodbridge, Connecticut*

*(see enclosed form for registration information)*

### *The Life and Times of Josiah Gardener Stories of a Master Mariner by Glenn S. Gordinier, Ph.D*

Josiah Gardener, master mariner, is an historic character. He has been going to sea since before the Civil war and has faced gales and shipwreck. His exciting and humorous tales of raging storms, hardship and danger bring to life the world of the Yankee seafarer, a heroic figure from America's past.

Dr. Glenn S. Gordinier is Mystic Seaport's Robert G. Albion Historian and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point, where he teaches history. He has served as a Smithsonian Institution Lecturer and a Visiting Instructor for Trinity College and Connecticut College. His publications have involved maritime commerce, seafaring culture and issues of race and ethnicity. He serves as coordinator of Mystic Seaport's national "Conference on Race, Ethnicity and Power in Maritime America" and is editor for the volume of conference papers. Dr. Gordinier is Co-Director of the Frank C. Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies at Mystic Seaport, which offers graduate courses in maritime studies.

Acclaimed by *The New York Times*, Dr. Gordinier's portrayal of Josiah Gardener has been seen across the U.S. and abroad.



*Greetings from the President*

Dear ILR members,

Welcome to Spring finally! Although we had some touch and go weather early in the semester, we powered through. Many of our courses enjoyed not only full enrollment but had wait lists. That tells us that we are doing something right so thank you for your enthusiastic response to our course offerings.

We also had a great response to the first ever survey of our membership. Be sure and take a look at the results discussed in this issue. Your input is critical to planning our future growth and we appreciate all of your comments.

One of the challenges we faced this semester was locating a replacement venue for our popular movie course. Thanks to our Venue Search Committee, we can add the Woodbridge Jewish Community Center to our over 10 individual course locations. ILR is a very visible force in New Haven and the surrounding communities. We hope to enhance that visibility through our rebranded website and a foray into social media. If you are a social media aficionado, see our new volunteer opportunity in the Tech Corner.

We are a vibrant and growing organization which owes its success to you, our members. We continue to work on your behalf to make ILR the best organization it can be. Thanks for your support.

Keep learning,

Susan Vallillo



**Proposed Slate for Election – June 2018**

**Officers**

President	Susan Vallillo (2-year term)
Executive VP	Joel Feimer (2-year term)
VP for Curriculum	Holly Chepow (2-year term)
	Carolyn Starr (1-year term)
Treasurer	Robin Lewis (1-year term)
Secretary	Rita Esposito (1-year term)

**Board of Governors (2-year term)**

Marlene Carolla, Susan Fitzgerald, Marcia Jamron, Rita Landino, Joan Murphy, Steve Brieger, and Elizabeth Glynn

**Board of Governors (1-year term)**

Judith Kibbe

**Nominating Committee for 2019**

Cynthia Popoli, Patricia Walsh and Susan Cohen





## Membership Survey

We have completed our first ever membership survey. Thank you to everyone for making this a success. Approximately 30% of you responded. You talked, we listened. Based on your suggestions our senior leadership team is developing an action plan to respond to your interests and concerns. As you requested, our spring program included classes on Mondays and Fridays.

We are a highly intelligent group, predominately women in our 70s. More than 65% have bachelor and/or graduate professional degrees. Overwhelmingly you learned of ILR through word of mouth and the topic of the class was the reason most stated for course selection. Albertus Magnus College and the UNH Orange campus with their ease of parking and classroom space were chosen as the best places for classes.

Members are not interested in more social events. However, about 51% were open to weekend non-academic events. And everyone liked Marcia Jarmon's bus trips. They rated rave reviews.

You viewed our new communication coordinators as effective and helpful. We are always looking for members to take attendance or to contact students about class reminders, changes, room assignments and cancellations. If you can help, please email [info@ilralbertus.org](mailto:info@ilralbertus.org) and let us know.

The senior leadership team is working on additional plans to respond to your suggestions regarding other events that you would like to see. A Whale Watch from the Boston harbor with expert oceanographers on board is under consideration for July or August. Please stay tuned to your email and the ILR website, <http://www.ilralbertus.org/> for further information.



### TECH CORNER

#### **Become ILR's Facebook Guru!**

Are you comfortable using Facebook, setting up a profile, posting comments, news and photos to your wall? If so, you are the person we seek. ILR would like to establish a Facebook presence where we can feature photos of our trips, students in classes, and news items for our membership and the general public. If you are interested in being our Facebook Guru, please email [info@ilralbertus.org](mailto:info@ilralbertus.org) and we'll be in touch.

#### **Password Reset Problems when accessing our registration site?**

Many of you have contacted us regarding difficulties in resetting your password with the CourseStorm code. Here's a tip, when you are in CourseStorm and request a code to reset your password, **DO NOT** access your email from the same window. Open a new window and check your email from the new window. When you receive the code, you can copy the code, return to the CourseStorm window with the blank code box and paste or enter it right in the box.

#### **To open a new window from your browser**

You will see a grey tab with no text or a Plus sign (+) at the top of your browser screen. Click on that to get a new window where you can access your email.

As always, if you have any problems with registration or accessing your student account, feel free to contact [info@ilralbertus.org](mailto:info@ilralbertus.org) and we will be happy to assist.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

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### **Road Scholar and ILR**

It may surprise some members to learn that we are affiliated with Road Scholar (formerly known as Elderhostel). As you know, Road Scholar is a not-for-profit enterprise offering a multitude of program choices for those interested in combining education and travel.

We are members of a network of organizations within Road Scholar known as Lifetime Learning Institutes (LLIs). This network, comprised of 400+ local organizations across the U.S., exists to help groups like our own pursue their love of learning close to home. The commonality among LLIs is that they offer a variety of courses, many at college-level, that require little or no homework, and minimal cost. Classes are typically taught by members, retired and/or active faculty, and outside experts.

This network provides LLIs with opportunities for sharing information and resources with other LLIs. RoadScholar facilitates communication between the LLIs and additionally sends periodic reports on trends throughout the network, ideas for courses, etc.

As a member, organizations like our own can avail themselves of Road Scholar's "Ambassador" program. Ambassadors are volunteers available on request to make presentations and work with individual LLIs around the country that might want help in organizing trips for its members.

Historically, our involvement with Road Scholar has been minimal. But as our organization continues to grow your board feels that it is time to more closely explore how Road Scholar can help to enhance offerings to our membership.