



# MARIST COLLEGE Center for Lifetime Study Chronicle

## *President's Message*

Greetings to all new and returning Marist CLS members.



I hope this reading finds you doing well during these summer months. All is well here as the Marist CLS started a new learning year, 2024-2025, with preparations and planning well underway for the Fall semester. We also start this year with a new Council, the governing body of our organization. This council consists of 19 dedicated and skillful people all volunteering their time and effort to bring you a premier adult education experience in a relaxed social environment. And this year's council is

somewhat unique in that 10 of the 19 positions are new, mainly because several people "timed out" on the number of years they could serve in a given position, per CLS Bylaws.

To better illustrate what the composition of the council looks like, both last year and in this new year, I'm including the following table below. Please review this information and please take the opportunity to thank these individuals when you see them either on campus at Locust Grove or during the various trips and special events we conduct, for without their skillful dedication and time & effort, the CLS would not exist.

John Wargo

*"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."* Henry Ford

## WHY DO YOU LEARN?

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Letter from the Editor

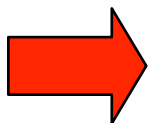
Welcome to the Summer 2024 Chronicle. As this is my first issue I'll start with disclaimers:

- I have a serious "Volunteer Affliction Pathology (VAP)" – Someone or a group needs help I jump right in; I see a person that is struggling with loading a truck, ditto. This has taken me to refugee camps in Africa, cleaning garbage-strewn lots in the Third world and teaching in maximum security facilities. WHICH IS HOW I ENDED UP HERE – I WAS ASKED. As much as my little voice said "No Ken! Do not say..." Yes came instantly out of my mouth! Sadly there is no cure for VAP so I'm here to stay a bit.
- WE NEED HELP! CLS exists on the largesse of volunteers. Your teachers, AV team, Coffee, Class Managers, Council and Leadership volunteer their time and talents and we all benefit. I urge you to volunteer any way you can. If you're not sure where to start, write me, call me or gab me at Locust Grove and I promise any gig from co-editor to cub reporter is yours. Thanks in advance.
- My intention is put out a Chronicle that reminds each of us of the blessing CLS is. I will ask questions and your answers will be published. Send me your poems, short stories, or pictures. SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY! More than likely you'll see a more whimsical CHRONICLE as learning and writing about it should be fun.

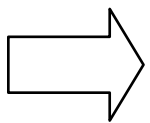
I am grateful for the opportunity to edit the CHRONICLE and thank the CLS leadership for their trust. I hope that the issues to come speak to all of CLS and captures each of your voices with pride.

Be well and thanks

Ken Topolsky  
Editor



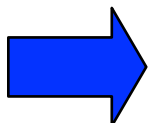
***WE ARE CLS.....***



***WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF CLS?***

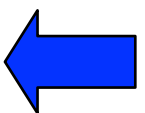
***WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO THE PROGRAM?***

As committed learners and members of CLS we have a true stake in the institution and a vested interest in charting it's future.



**PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK**

<https://forms.office.com/r/GRcMPcPAVX?origin=lprLink>



**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AND HELP STRENGTHEN CLS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW'S LEARNERS**

## THE CLS COUNCIL

### OFFICERS

President:	John Wargo	Membership:	Cathy Temple
VP Admin:	Ruth Kava	Office Support:	RongYi Pan
VP Curriculum:	Jean Breyer	Scholarship:	John Beale
VP Public Information	Ken Topolsky	Special Events:	Merrilee Osterhoudt
Secretary:	Dewey Lee	Trips:	n/a
Treasurer:	Roger D'Aquino		

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Connections:	Anne Sileno
Classroom Support:	Lou Newman
Finance	Leonard Turkenkopf
Member Services:	Pegeen & Tom Wall

### COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

Barbara Goodman
Vicki Fox
Gil Seligman
Bernardo Steinvurzel
Laura Coons

## MEET THE COUNCIL

Members of the council were asked to introduce themselves to their CLS colleagues.

- Where are you from?
- Were you a learner in High School? in your Professional life? If not, when did you become a learner?
- What was the most incredible thing you've learned at CLS?
- Is there one Instructor that you think every member should not miss?
- Outside of CLS, what place, book, music, art should everyone experience in their lives?

### JOHN WARGO

President



Married for 44 years with three children and four grandchildren  
 Retired as a Senior Engineer & Program Manager in June 2018 after 38 years at IBM; 27 in Microelectronics and the last 11 in the Integrated Supply Chain  
 Active Volunteer with over 33 years and counting at Lions Clubs International, holding positions at the Club, District, State and International levels

- Joined the Vassar LLI in 2018 and the Marist CLS in 2019. Presented several classes at both, and have been organizing the "If It's Tuesday..." travel class at CLS for several years now
- Newly elected Marist CLS President, after serving on the Council as a Member-at-Large and as Vice President of Administration.
- Enjoys Sports, Travel, Photography and especially helping Family & Friends.
- My best trip taken within three hours of Dutchess County is hiking along the Hudson Valley Rail Trails and the Walkway Over the Hudson. This is a real asset to our community!

There isn't a "best" CLS course/instructor that one shouldn't miss, because every class I've taken has been interesting in its own way, and every volunteer instructor I've had has been good and always leaves me thinking about new things and how I can further improve myself. This is the beauty of the Marist CLS!

RUTH KAVA  
VP Administration



I'm a native New Yorker, having been born in the Bronx--I won't mention how many years ago. Since then, I've also lived in Kansas City, North Carolina and California, eventually making my way back to NY with my late husband, Richard Hemmes, who taught biology at Vassar.

I graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Zoology, followed by an M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from Columbia University, and also became a registered dietitian after an internship at New York Hospital in NYC. I worked as Director of Nutrition at the American Council on Science and Health, a small public health group in NYC, and retired in 2018. Now I spend time walking the dog, feeding the cat, volunteering at CLS and at the Friends of the Boardman Road Library bookstore. I'm also learning Mah Jong with a group from the American Association of University Women.

I'm looking forward to this coming semester!

JEAN BREYER  
VP Curriculum



Welcome to the Fall CLS semester! I am the new Vice President for Curriculum Committee. My background includes working for the Dept. of Interior at the Vanderbilt Mansion – a beautiful place to spend the day. I have been a member of CLS for over 10 years working on both the Trip Committee and the AV Committee. Especially memorable trips were a cruise around Manhattan and a bus trip to Cooperstown. I have been a class manager for various presentations and enjoyed meeting and assisting the presenters – we have a wonderful group of people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with us.

See you in the fall!

KEN TOPOLSKY  
VP Public Information



After graduating Dutchess I moved to the City and started my career in the music business as a harp mover, eventually working my way up to a Music Supervisor in Film and Television. Along the way I worked in various capacities on A Chorus Line, Little Shop of Horrors and with Billy Joel, Paul Simon and Karen Carpenter amongst others. In the early 80's I moved to Los Angeles to help put together the music to Flashdance after which I migrated to the Television industry where I wrote, produced or directed such shows as The Wonder Years,

Party of Five, amongst others. Most recently I Co-Exec Produced the prequels to Yellowstone, 1883 and 1923. My wife Michele returned to the Hudson River Valley after too many years away and are delighted to have a slice of Heaven for our children and their family to visit.

Our favorite place within a 3 hour drive is anywhere our Aussies can run free and swim

DEWEY LEE  
Secretary



Retired from the NYS Attorney General's Office 14 years ago. Found my niche at CLS moderating debates on hot button issues for the last 7 years including LGBTQ rights and religious freedom; gun control; limits of free speech; racism and law enforcement; diversity equity and inclusion. Best local trips have been kayaking in many places in the Hudson Valley, including the Great Swamp in Putnam County.

CLS courses I've really enjoyed are the Potpourri courses.

LEN TURKENKOPF  
Chair, Finance Committee



Len was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY (b. 12/6/1941). He moved to Poughkeepsie in October of 1964 to join IBM. After marrying Iris in June of 1965, she joined him in Poughkeepsie. They have two children and three grandchildren. Len's volunteer work included involvement in the Jewish community, the secular community and the political field. Len has been a member of CLS for more than 15 years and has been on the General Science (now the STEM Committee) curriculum subcommittee, VP of Curriculum (3 years),

LOU NEWMAN  
Classroom/AV Support



Lou, a retired IBM employee (37 years!), found his next calling in service. After 50+ years together (and two daughters!), Lou and his late wife Barbara cherished their three grandsons. Lou's active spirit enjoys walking and cycling, but his true passion is giving back. From ushering to being a Medical Reserve Corps member, he serves Dutchess County. As a Walkway Over the Hudson ambassador/tram driver and past president of the Harding Club, Lou enthusiastically connects with his community.

**Cape Cod Getaways:** Lou holds a special place in his heart for Onset, a town on Cape Cod. These cherished getaways, are over 4 hours from Poughkeepsie, were a mainstay for him from the mid-1950s until 2017.

**Can't-Miss Classes:** With so many valuable courses available, Lou wouldn't want to single any out. There's something to learn for everyone!

RONGYI PAN  
Office Support



My name is RongYi Pan. I worked at IBM for 29 years. Right after I retired, I joined CLS. In 2018 I volunteered to work on the CLS Registration database. In 2019 I became CLS Office Support Chair. Starting from July 2024, this is my sixth year of supporting CLS DB.

On behalf of the entire Marist CLS membership, I wish to give a heartfelt thank you to all the 2023-2024 Class Managers and Class Presenters. Your skillful dedication to the CLS is both valued

and very much appreciated.

Sincerest regards and thanks,  
John Wargo  
CLS President

### **Presenter 2023/2024**

Kele Baker  
Joseph Beatty  
Jim Bennett  
Duane Beyer  
Andrew Bing  
Susan Bores  
Peter Buntin  
Vanessa Cappucci-Baer  
Ellie & Martin Charwat  
Dot Chenevert  
Elizabeth Clarke  
Anne Constantinople  
Christine Crawfis  
Mary Lou & Dave Davis  
Frank Dispensa  
John & Abby Dux  
Gregory Edmonds  
Karin & Jack Fein  
Michael Foley  
John Fontana  
Jean-Claude Fouere  
Vicki Fox  
Pat Gasparini  
John Gavin  
Leslie Gerber  
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish  
Steven Herschbein  
Arthur Himmelberger

Nikki Hung  
William Joel  
Michelle Keeley  
Lonna Kelly  
Jim Ketterer  
Cathy Law  
Benita Lehmann  
Elinor Levy, PhD  
Ceista Little-Quinn  
Bob Madden  
Karen Madden  
David McNary  
Leathem Mehaffey  
Irvin Miller  
Barbara Mindel  
Chuck Mishaan  
Les Muldorf  
Virginia Nasser  
Robert Nasser  
Esther Odescalchi  
Sandra Opdycke  
Merrilee Osterhoudt  
Gina Palmer  
Christopher Parks  
Candace Pisterzi  
Marilyn Price  
Alex Prizgintas  
Linda Rappaport

Ned Reade  
Karen Robblee  
David Roberts  
Melaine Rottkamp  
Frank Rubin  
Ann Sandri  
Judith Saunders  
Dominic Schepis  
Stanley Schmidt  
John Scileppi  
Arnie Serotsky  
Charles Shanes  
Ken Snodgrass  
Chris Starbala  
Paul Stoddard  
Ken Topolsky  
Leonard Turkenkopf  
Martin Tyce  
Teresa Tyce  
Robert Ulrich  
Jeffrey Urbin  
Barbara Van Itallie  
John Wargo  
Georgette Weir  
Thomas Wermuth  
Ishan Ahmad Yasin

### **Class Managers 2023/2024**

Martin Charwat  
Mary Coiteux  
Laura Coons  
Linda DeRosa  
Judith Elkin  
Jack Fein  
Gary Fidler  
Ginny Fidler  
Katherine Friedman  
Jerome Goldberg  
Elizabeth Harrel  
Robert Kaminski  
Michelle Keeley

Beth Kennedy  
Cathleen Kinn  
Lisa Koshansky  
Pat Luczai  
Leathem Mehaffey  
Lou Newman  
Merrilee Osterhoudt  
Sue Osterhoudt  
Christopher Parks  
Joanne Pelletier  
Miriam Rubin  
Dominic Schepis  
Stan Schmidt

Wilma Schmidt  
John Scileppi  
Gil Seligman  
Dan Sims  
Carol Strauss  
Barbara Sweet  
Leonard Turkenkopf  
Barbara Van Itallie  
Ruth Wally  
John Wargo  
Madeline Whalen

thoughts, essays, poems and whatnots

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from Merrilee Osterhoudt

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Each day of classes we are exposed to a wide variety of subject matter. Speakers who are experts in their field of interest bring us new perspectives on topics such as the Revolutionary War and the history of Jazz. We can learn new skills like crochet, calligraphy and floral arrangement. We can delve into such heady subjects as the ascent of mathematics and the human visual system or participate in interactive discussions on literature and the arts.

It Must be Tuesday... is a fun class offered by CLS where members and guests share their firsthand experiences traveling in the US and around the world. We've been on virtual journeys to Africa, South America, Europe and Route 66 in our own Southwest. One session of last semester's class had a unique twist and took members on a unique journey with two, dyed-in-pinstripes, Yankee Fans.

John Wargo and Merrilee Osterhoudt shared their passion for the New York Yankee baseball team from 2 different perspectives. John shared his love of his team and their iconic history by taking the class on a virtual walk inside the walls of legendary Yankee Stadium. Through photos and videos, Babe Ruth, Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, and Joe DiMaggio came to life as John steered the walk from the hallowed halls of the House that Ruth Built, opening in 1923, to the House that Jeter Built which opened in 2009. Adding to Yankees lore, both stadiums hosted World Series Championships for the home team in their inaugural years!



Merrilee, not to be outdone, shared a very personal experience as, yes, a Yankee player! Well, sort of. A few years ago, (we won't tell you how many), at the age of 68, Merrilee attended the NY Yankees Women's Fantasy Camp for three full days at George Steinbrenner Spring Training Facility and Stadium in Tampa, Florida. She got to be a real Yankee, wearing an authentic uniform (#2 on her back), play baseball on the field where Yankee legends have played spring training games for decades, and be coached by retired Yankee stars like Bucky Dent, Mickey Rivers, David Wells, Jorge Posada and many others.

Merrilee shared the fun, the pain (real pain), the awe and thrill of living a dream that actually came true. And, BTW, she batted .375 and scored 2 runs! If you see her, ask her about how she met Jorge Posada in the training room...

The next time you're at Yankee Stadium, or watching a game on TV, look closely. You might see John roaming around Monument Park out in centerfield, or Merrilee taking batting practice!

## thoughts, essays, poems and whatnots

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Words of Wisdom

from Barbara Mindel

What words of wisdom could be more appropriate for CLS members than those of BB King who stated, **“The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.”**

Seeing that quote recently prompted me to rummage through an old portfolio of quotes I’d collected as a teenager. *W-a-y -back-when*, it was a hobby to cut and paste them onto pages of a three-ring binder. Back then, on the brink of adulthood, they gave me much to ponder. Segue to 2023, decades later, a re-reading, still gives cause to ponder!

You decide if like BB King’s words of wisdom, the following sayings are also meaningful to you. (apologies for teenage failure not to have credited some authors)

“A memory is a photograph taken by the heart to make a special moment last forever.”  
 “The voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”  
 (Proust)

“Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort. There must be the will to produce a superior thing.” (Ruskin)

“Age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice cream fall from the cone.”

“He who loses his head is usually the last one to miss it.”

“The world is not interested in the storms you encountered, but rather did you bring in the ship?”

“Don’t learn the tricks of the trade. Learn the trade.”

You can’t get rid of a bad temper by losing it.”

“Failure is the line of least persistence.”

“One must sometimes allow other people to be right; it soothes them for not being anything else.”  
 (Chekhov)

“The problem with doing nothing is not knowing when you’re finished.”

“Some folks say it’s better to be poor and happy rather than rich and unhappy. But couldn’t something be worked out like being moderately rich and just moody?”  
 and finally in a thank you to CLS

**“When I am king they shall not have bread and shelter only, but also teaching out of book, for a full belly is little worth where the mind is starved.” (Prince & the Pauper)**



## *Did you know.....*

73% of the adult population consider themselves lifelong learners.

In 1962 the Institute for Retired Professionals (IRP) was founded in New York City in association with the New School for Social Research. This considered to be the first Lifelong Learner program. There are now ~400 Lifelong programs in the country.

Though generously subsidized by Marist College, the bulk of CLS is funded by Membership Dues.

A part of the CLS agreement is that each of us find the capacity to Volunteer. This can be as simple as finding one new member to join CLS.

“I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy.”

-Rabindranath Tagore

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” – Muhammad Ali



**What's  
the  
hurry,  
Robin?**

**(see next page)**

# I'm off to the first CLS Council Meeting and I can't be late July 16, 2024



CLS Council Meeting  
Friday July 16, 2024

The CLS Council held its first meeting of the 2024-2025 year. John Wargo, President of CLS, called the meeting to order promptly at 11:00 am and attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. There were several new members on the Council and John gave a thoughtful presentation on the responsibilities all in the room shared. After that, committee chairs gave their reports, and the recurring theme of enrollment and engagement seemed to pop up quite frequently.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

8/1/2024	Chronicle – Summer 2024 edition to be published (tentative)
8/5 – 8/9/2024	CLS Office Closed
8/11/2024	Fall 2024 Course Registration Portal Closes at 5PM
8/16/2024	Fall 2024 Class Confirmation Emails sent
9/2/2024	Marist College & CLS Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday
9/3/2024	Fall 2024 classes start at Locust Grove
2024/2025	CLS ID Badges can be picked up at Locust Grove (main entrance)
9/5/2024	Fall 2024 Convocation Event 9:00 am light refreshments 9:30 am Convocation to start

Our Convocation speaker will be Paul M. Sparrow, historian and recently retired Director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. He has recently published:

“Awakening the Spirit of America: FDR’s War of Words With Charles Lindbergh—and the Battle to Save Democracy”.

After his presentation, there will be a book signing/purchasing opportunity.

TBD	New Member Orientation (to be determined)
10/23/2024	End of Fall 2024 classes
11/11/2024	Winter 2025 Course Catalog & Schedule published (tentative) Registration begins
12/8/2024	Winter 2025 Registration Portal Closes at 5PM (tentative)
12/16/2024	Winter 2025 Class Confirmations sent to members
12/23 – 12/31/2024	CLS Office Closed – Holiday Break

“Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?”

- Mark Twain

**HELP WANTED:**

The CLS office is looking for someone to help Robin with light office duties. If you don't know her, she is lovely and so generous that she is happy to share some of the constant phone calls she is barraged with. Call the CLS office at 845-575-3902 for more information.

**CLS Welcomes NEW MEMBERS**

Jill Braver

Linda Diamond

Kathryn Lazar

Judy Linville

Elaine Cottle

Cindy Emmer

Michele Lavery-Seminaro

Lori Morrirt

Thomas Csillag

Barbara Guy

Daniel Lewis



**Marist College  
Center for Lifetime Study  
Lecture Series  
Fall 2024**

**How the Dutch, not the British,  
Invented America**

*Presented by: Robert (Bob) Ulrich*

**Day/Date:** Thur. Sept. 26, 2024

**Start Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** LaGrange Library  
1110 Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY



**Dutchess County Citizens Preparedness  
Training Program**

*Presented by: Bill Beale*

**Day/Date:** Fri. Oct. 4, 2024

**Start Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** Poughkeepsie Library - Boardman Road  
141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie, NY

~PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED~  
Email: MC.CLS@Marist.edu  
Call: 845-575-3902



**Roosevelt's Four Elections**

*Presented by: Jeff Urbin*

**Day/Date:** Thur. Oct. 17, 2024

**Start Time:** 3:15 PM

**Location:** Pleasant Valley Library  
1584 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY



Lectures are open to the public & free of charge

Programming organized by the CLS Connections Committee

**COMING NEXT ISSUE: THE CLASS MANAGER: OUR UNSUNG HERO**

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (If anyone writes one)

YOUR WORK (If submitted)

Please send submissions to Ken Topolsky.... kenntopol@gmail.com