



MARIST COLLEGE Center for Lifetime Study Chronicle

Winter 2024

President's Message



CLS recently sponsored a Sunset Sensation evening at Locust Grove. Those who attended in December had a great time, enjoying the camaraderie, presentations, and culinary treats. Our current winter session is underway and enjoyable. The virtual presentations are more robust than ever, and the feedback is gratifying. This format allows us to travel and vacation elsewhere during the

winter and stay connected to interesting presenters and friends. We are looking forward to a Spring semester that is high quality, with a full complement of 33 courses that will cover the full gamut of interests. The Curriculum Committee is already developing a Fall 2024 program which will be equally attractive.

CLS continues to enrich the lifestyle of our senior community as a life learning institute, with the greatest longevity in the Hudson Valley. Often not appreciated, is that this opportunity for continued learning is facilitated by our affiliation with Marist College.

We have used alternative venues over the years, due to constraints on campus space. However, most successful Life Learning Institutions in the U.S. have been an integral part of our leading universities. In 1962 the Institute for retired professionals IRP was formed at the New School for Social Research in New York City. The most respected institutions of higher learning have since sponsored and underwritten similar organizations. At Harvard College, the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement (HILR) was founded in 1977. The Duke Institute for Learning in Retirement (DILR) was founded in 1977 by Duke University. The Plato Society was formed at UCLA in 1980. The University of Connecticut Center for Learning was founded in 1981 and the Institute for Learning in Retirement was founded at American University in 1982.

Our own Marist CLS was established by the foresight of the Marist Board of Trustees and the financial commitments of the Sherman family. In collaboration with the Shermans' commitment to enriching the lives of others, Jonah Sherman served on Marist's Board of Trustees. In March 1992, the Marist Center for Lifetime Study was launched, with a series of four- to six-week noncredit courses. The Center is strongly ingrained with a sense of leadership and academic purpose inspired by its founders.

For many years, Marist CLS limited membership only because of classroom size and logistics of parking. The program flourished until the full impact of the Covid pandemic. As with many other organizations, the Covid pandemic had a significant effect on our in-person attendance and membership numbers. This has obviously impacted our financial posture. We have, however, made significant progress in the last few years. We are recruiting new members through various innovative membership outreach efforts,

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Marist College Center for Lifetime Study

OFFICERS (2023-24)

- President: Jack Fein
- VP Admin: John Wargo
- VP Curriculum: Sharon Steinvurzel
- VP Public Info: Jerry Hayes
- Secretary: Dewey Lee
- Treasurer: Roger D'Aquino

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Connections: Anne Sileno
- Classroom Support: Lou Newman
- Finance: Leonard Turkenkopf
- Member Services: Pegeen & Tom Wall
- Membership: Wilma Schmidt
- Office Support: RongYi Pan
- Scholarship: Ken Knapp
- Special Events: Merrilee Osterhoudt
- Trips: Betsy Kopstein-Stuts

COUNCIL AT LARGE

- Ruth Kava
- Carol Demicco
- Gil Seligman
- Bernardo Steinvurzel
- Vacant

CLS Chronicle

Editor: Jerry Hayes
Photographer: Merrilee Osterhoudt
Layout & Design: Robin Will

*This edition of the Chronicle is
dedicated in memory of
Gerald (Jerry) Hayes*

President's Message (continued from cover page)

developing flexible payments for half-year membership and promoting programs of specific interest to the membership. These efforts are slowly reversing the downward trends and hold out hope for the future.

We should recognize that we are at a crossroads and sober suggestions for the future are needed. Your council has been totally preoccupied with these issues over the last 6 months. It is time for our whole CLS community to understand that the program can enjoy a bright future if we all make the effort. This requires all of us to recruit more members, for us all to volunteer our time and creative thinking and encourage us to appreciate the potential for further growth, as we encourage a closer affinity with the larger Marist community which is a rich resource of talent and commitment to education.

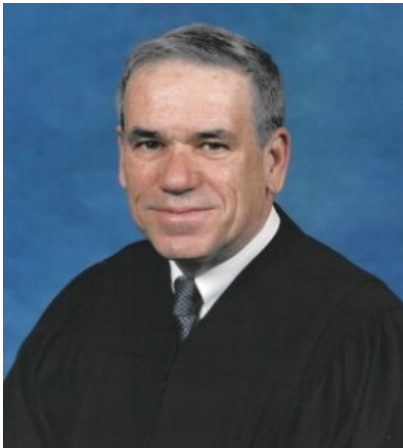
This program has done a lot to enrich our lives, we want it to flourish for those who follow us.

My very best for the New Year,

Jack



***This edition of the Chronicle is dedicated
in memory of Gerald (Jerry) Hayes***



The loss of Jerry Hayes our Vice President for Public Information is heartfelt throughout the Marist Center for Lifetime Study. Despite meeting his recent health challenges heroically, he passed away on Saturday, January 27th.

Along with his family, friends and associates, we recollect his wisdom, character, and congeniality. He spent his last year working to upgrade the quality of our publications, including his role as Editor of the *Chronicle*. He introduced innovative features, encouraged new creative approaches, and ensured that the publication was of high quality.

Jerry was an important voice on the CLS Council. When Jerry arrived for our meetings, I loved to quip, "Court is now in session"! We benefited from his mature experience, judgement and understanding of the people in this

We are only one of the many organizations that will feel this loss. He was a distinguished jurist. He spent his career protecting the legal rights of the people of this community. He held positions as Assistant DA, criminal defense attorney, public defender, and Dutchess County Court Judge. Jerry never lost sight of the obligations to the community, and he continued to serve on the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council. He confronted our ongoing ethical challenges and in retirement served on the County Board of Ethics. Judge Hayes taught criminal law at Marist, and at SUNY Dutchess and lectured on the topic of criminal law throughout the state.

Our sincere condolences to his wife Sheila and to his children, grandchildren, brother, and sister. May his memory be a blessing.

Jack Fein, President, Marist CLS

VOLUNTEER



The CLS Nomination Committee An Overview, Status, and An Appeal for Volunteers

At the end of December, a yearly CLS ritual was kicked off as spelled out in the Marist College CLS organization Bylaws (Article V – Election of Council Members, Officers, and Committee Chairs) – namely the establishment of a five-member Nomination Committee, NC.

CLS President Dr. Jack Fein launched the formation of this year's Nomination Committee chaired by Mike Cowan who volunteered to take on the important duties associated with this Committee. In addition to the Chair the Nominating Committee for 2023-24 is comprised of the following four volunteers: Martin Charwat, Robert Kaminski, Cathy Temple, and Grete Finklestein, all long-time members of CLS and who were subsequently approved by the CLS Council to serve at the Jan. 2024 Council Meeting.

The role of this select committee is to identify and recruit volunteers from the CLS membership to serve on the CLS Council, the governing body of CLS, for the upcoming 2024-25 academic session. Therefore, the NC is charged with pulling together the entire slate of Council members – both those planning to continue their service on the Council for another year and to select and replace those who have opted to retire at the end of the 2023-24 academic session on June 30. This new slate of candidates will be presented to the Council for approval and ultimately voted on by the CLS membership at the CLS Annual Meeting typically held at the beginning of June.

In addition to recruiting the four members comprising the Nominating Committee, the Chair also surveyed each of the individuals presently serving on the Council as to their decision to continue serving or not. Based upon their formal responses the following six positions will have to be filled on next year's CLS Council – Officers: the CLS President (due to the Bylaws term limit of three years) and the VP Public Information; Committee Chairs: Membership, Scholarship, and Trips; and one Member at Large.

Therefore, to help fill these open positions on the CLS Council listed above the Nominating Committee is searching for INTERESTED volunteers from the CLS membership who are willing to give of their time and talent in providing our organization the governing leadership so necessary to face our challenges and keep CLS vital in serving the overall membership with the quality programs routinely offered. Without such members volunteering to participate on the Council, CLS would find it difficult to survive and fulfill its overall mission.

Consequently, if you are interested in any one of the open positions described above and would like additional information about serving on the Council including a specific position job description, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Mike Cowan, at the following e-mail address: mikedcowan@verizon.net. Obviously, the Nominating Committee would be very interested in all responses.

Again, it must be emphasized that the success of CLS depends on the involvement of its members. CLS is very fortunate to have dedicated members who make the organization strong, viable, vibrant, and interesting. It is only through our volunteers that we can offer such diverse and exciting courses, and provide multiple opportunities to socialize, as well as provide volunteer services to the community.

FINALLY, THE FUEL THAT DRIVES CLS IS VOLUNTEERISM!

PLEASE CONSIDER THE COUNCIL OPENING OPPORTUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE.

TO DO SO AND CONTRIBUTE WILL BE FULFILLING AND *HELP FUEL THE FUEL*

Member Corner

CLS Welcomes New Members

**Katharine Adamo
Linda Adler
Viji Carlucci
Anne Elmes
Michael Jordan
Elizabeth ODonnell**

**Janet Sabatino
Elizabeth Steubing
Jean Sylvester
Joann Tervenski
Bill Van Ornum
Richard Wender**



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

CLS mourns the loss of fellow member

Gerald (Jerry) Hayes (Jan. 2024)
Edward (Ed) Popko (Nov. 2023)



CLS MEMBERSHIP

**CLS is accepting 1/2-Year memberships
(Spring 2024: Now thru June 30, 2024 - Dues: \$125)**

CLS no longer maintains a wait list for membership. The word of mouth has always been that it takes a long time to become a member of CLS. Since this is no longer true, we hope that current CLS members will spread the word about CLS.

Spring 2024 classes are scheduled to begin on April 2nd. If you know of anyone interested in joining for 1/2 the year, they can contact the CLS Office at (845) 575-3902 or by email: mc.cls@marist.edu.

When sharing information about membership, please mention that **all** members will be **required** to have an email address and access to a computer, smart phone, or other device with internet capabilities.

Wilma Schmidt, Membership Chair

Winter 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE VP FOR CURRICULUM

We have had a terrific response to our Winter Zoom program. The classes were engaging and very well received.

The Spring schedule is one of the most exciting and diverse thus far. The committees have worked diligently to bring us fascinating courses in science, art, music and social science, presented by professional, knowledgeable and interesting people. I assure you, you will want to take so many that making a choice will be difficult.

Please think about any way in which you personally can help by presenting a class or becoming a class manager. Our AV Team would appreciate help as well.

I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in the Spring.

Presenter Spotlight **Arnold "Arnie" Serotsky**

While Arnie Serotsky's academic background is in biology, chemistry, neurophysiology and environmental science, his passions for baseball and wine have been the gifts that he has shared with CLS.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Arnie grew up a subway ride away from Ebbets Field. Over the years, as he cheered on such greats as Lou Campanella, Duke Snyder, Don Drysdale, Carl Furillo and Pee Wee Reese, the foundation was laid for a love affair with baseball. Arnie was in the stands when the Bums took on and beat the New York Yankees in the 1955 World Series.

In 1957 Arnie managed to chew enough bubble gum to accumulate more than 65% of the full Topps baseball card series, drop flipping outfielders for pitchers or flipping Yankees for Giants against a playground wall. Many infielders sputtered on the spokes of Arnie's Schwinn bicycle on the streets of Brooklyn. That boyhood collection of the 50's and 60's grew into a lifetime's work. Over the next 60 years he amassed an assortment of collectables including bubble gum cards, cracker jax cards, ticket stubs, autographed bats and balls, photos, magazines and newspapers and much more, some dating as far back as before the Civil War. In his collection have been the 1952 Mickey Mantle card, a 1915 Shoeless Joe Jackson Cracker Jax card and a 1952 Casey Stengel Yankee Manager card. He has met many of baseball's greats including the boys who roam the centerfields of New York in the 1950's, Willie, Mickey and the Duke. Last year, part of Arnie's collection was on exhibit at the Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie.

After graduating Hunter College with a BS in biology, Arnie pursued a master's degree at SUNY Albany, where he met his future wife, Celia, a French teacher in the Rochester public school system. Arnie and Celia married and settled in Rochester for the next 30 years where Arnie taught high school science and they raised their family. Arnie continued to pursue his baseball collecting, often taking his son along on trips to card shows and autograph sessions, making frequent trips to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, where Arnie has been a supporting member for decades.



Presenter Spotlight *(Continued)*

Arnie frequently served as a chaperone for Celia's high school French class on their annual trip to France. One year they visited a winery in the Loire Valley and Arnie started a new love affair with wine. He was enthralled by the entire process of winemaking, from the growing and the picking in the vineyard, to the crushing, bottling and aging of the wines. When he returned home, he joined a local enthusiasts group called Amis du Vin, Friends of Wine, and began researching and studying all things wine. Together with a few friends, he purchased wine futures.

Arnie has been a wine drinker, collector and educator for 50 years, continuing his self-education, studying with textbooks used in classes taught to future sommeliers. He has visited wineries around the world, meeting some legendary winemakers and honing his knowledge and expertise. He conducts and organizes tasting events locally and has lectured for the Pennsylvania Wine Society, Vassar LLI and CLS among others.

During COVID Arnie started teaching a series of baseball classes for CLS, starting with 2 classes on the history of pre-20th Century baseball, starting in the 1600's. When we returned to the classroom in person, Arnie continued the series with three classes on baseball greats of the Modern Era. CLS members who have been delighted, enlightened and entertained by Arnie's Baseball Greats lectures over the last few years, know that when the Dodgers left Brooklyn in 1958, they broke Arnie's heart. No self-respecting Dodger fan was going to "root-root-root for the Yankees" and, fortunately, Arnie didn't have to. Four years later, the not-so-amazing Mets came on the scene and Arnie remains a loyal fan to this day. Those in the know do not say "Los Angeles Dodgers" in his presence!

Over the last few semesters, Arnie has also conducted several classes for CLS on wines. During COVID classes focused on the Finger Lake wines and Italian wines. Class members had the option to purchase the wines discussed and drink together over Zoom during lectures. When we returned to Locust Grove, Arnie held 2 classes comprised of a lecture coupled with tastings of 4-5 different wines. We hope that he will be able to teach a class for us again in the fall of 2024.

As I conclude this article, I lift a glass of Kim Crawford sauvignon blanc to Arnie, baseball and WINE!



Merrilee Osterhoudt

CLS Scholarship Committee Report

by Ken Knapp, Scholarship Committee Chair

The CLS Scholarship Committee is happy to announce this year's CLS Scholar, **Alyxsandra Tiano**.

Members of the CLS Scholarship Award Committee, Ken Knapp, Leathem Mehaffey, Pegeen Wall, Tom Wall and Joan Knapp reviewed multiple applicant essays and made the final candidate recommendation to the CLS Council at the December 15, 2023 council meeting where the Council unanimously approved our recommended scholar.

I look forward to a more formal introduction of **Alyxsandra** in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Any members interested in serving on the CLS Scholarship Committee should contact Ken Knapp by email: kjkloon@gmail.com. Questions about donating to the Scholarship Fund contact the CLS Office at (845) 575-3902 or by email to MC.CLS@marist.edu.



Photo taken by Robert (Bob) Ulrich

Open Forums - A Plea for help to members of CLS

Sharon Steinvurzel, VP for Curriculum

The Science Curriculum Committee of CLS is in trouble. In fact, at the moment there effectively IS no Science Curriculum Committee.

The job of any curriculum committee is to produce courses in its relevant area for inclusion in the CLS curriculum. Lacking a science committee, therefore, means no science courses in the curriculum. Given that attendance at science and technology courses has in the past been substantial, it is clear that many CLS members enjoy courses in these areas.

I am therefore inviting any and all members of CLS with an interest in seeing science continue as an integral part of CLS to attend one or both of two lunchtime forums to discuss the situation and to seek solutions. **The forums will be held on April 9th and 10th at 12:15 in classroom B** at Locust Grove, and you are invited to bring your lunch. Previous members of the Science Curriculum Committee will be there to listen to your concerns and advice.



The Readers Theater: Celebrating Theatre of the Mind, presented by Christine Crawfis, has been a class which stimulates ideas, imagination and an appreciation for ingenuity.

Works of classic and contemporary plays were stripped to their essence and read by talented County Players actors without the distraction of scenery or costumes and then discussed by class members.

We look forward to another such class in the spring.



Photo taken by Mary Coiteux





CLS Sensational 2024 Holiday Celebration!

On December 6th, CLS held its first Holiday Season Sunset Sensations at Locust Grove. It was a perfect evening for an end-of-year gathering and celebration of this traditional season of joy, giving, and tradition. The air was cool and crisp as singles and small groups strolled down the lighted walkway from the visitor center to the historic mansion. Locust Grove volunteers greeted us at the main doors, cautioning us to mind the steep steps and to use the railings for safety.

The entryway was brightly lit and we immediately felt the spirit of a winter holiday season in the air. The home was tastefully decorated in early 20th century holiday finery and we were given access to most of the rooms on the first and second floor for our self-guided tour. Volunteers, stationed around every corner, shared us with details and delightful stories about the Youngs and their residency in the home from 1901 until the mid-1970's when Annette Young, the only daughter, passed away.

As we started our tour on the first floor, we could turn left into the library or right to enter the music room. Directly ahead was the impressive drawing room. On the second floor we passed through the master bedroom, children's bedrooms and guest rooms. We were impressed with the guest privy with its "modern plumbing" including a wooden tank fastened on the wall near the ceiling, while another bathroom boasted a metal soaking tub with wooden rims. Perhaps, most impressive was the billiard room on the second floor, complete with a billiard table that had been hoisted up and brought in through a second story window!

After touring the mansion, we all gathered again in the "ballroom" (we know it as classroom A!) in the visitor center and the first tasting course, prepared by Chef Billy Turner of Sugar and Spice Catering, was waiting for us. We started with a roasted pumpkin bisque with cappuccino pepitas and a pumpkin fritter with cranberry chutney, paired with hard cider selected by Sommelier Paige Flori of Boutique Wines. The rest of the evening was filled with socializing with new and old CLS friends while enjoying wonderful food perfectly paired with various wines. Between courses, our Locust Grove hostess, Emily Ellison, delighted us with facts and trivia about Locust Grove and the Young family. When the serving of the final scrumptious pumpkin brûlée, our evening drew to a close. Our folks filed out with feelings of good cheer and full bellies! If you missed this wonderful evening this year, I hope you will be able to join us in December of 2024. Wishing you all good health and good fortune in the new year!

Merrilee Osterhoudt
CLS Special Gatherings Planner



