

Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College

Charlotte Brook-Signor To Perform At Annual Meeting

This May's Annual Meeting will have several innovations. Perhaps most significant will be a concert segment organized by Charlotte Brook-Signor. Charlotte, well known for her Adventures in Learning courses, is president of the New London Summer Music Associates, director-singer of the twelve voice Sunapee Singers, and has spent most of her life surrounded by music.

It began when Charlotte was only seven. Her mother, a pianist, introduced her to both the grand

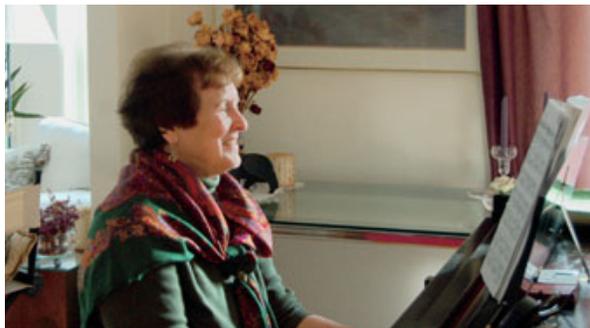


PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

Charlotte Brook-Signor

piano and violin. Through the years she continued her music studies, earning a B.A. from the University of Minnesota in music education, an M.A. in musicology from the University of Minnesota and later an M.Ed. in administration and

Continued on page 2

A Night with the Opera

For those of you who have had the good fortune to participate in any of Ron Luchsinger's classes or have attended the excellent performances offered by Opera North, where Ron is the director, you will be thrilled to learn about what's in store for this summer. And, if you have not been one of the fortunate ones you won't want to miss this opportunity to just enjoy music at its best—selections drawn from musical theatre as well as opera.

Adventures in Learning has invited Opera North to New London for a premier benefit performance, *A Night with the Opera*, featuring Opera North's young artists. This concert will take place at Colby-Sawyer College, and we thank Pamela Pantos, Opera North's executive director, and Sandy Torget, Opera North's associate director of development, for arranging what we hope will become an annual event.

Continued on page 3

In this issue...

Page 2

- Wine and Health: A Physician Explores the Connection

Page 3

- Snapshots from Fall and Winter Courses

Page 4

- Standing in Each Other's Shoes

Page 5

- First AIL Achievement Award Recipient

Page 6

- A Civilian Army

Adventures in Learning *Horizons*, published two times annually, highlights the activities of the lifelong learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the articles in this publication are strictly those of the respective authors. Information offered should not be considered authoritative or complete, nor should it be construed to reflect the views or opinions of the Adventures in Learning program or Colby-Sawyer College.

SAVE THE DATE

for

Adventures in Learning's 11th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 20,
from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 5 to 6 p.m.

Wine and Health: A Physician Explores the Connection

Can we take seriously the “French paradox” claim that wine prevents infections and even improves the intellect? Or is this just a myth we might find enticing to believe?

Dr. Gene Lariviere, both a wine enthusiast and a retired pediatrician, will be examining the facts behind this and other such claims in “Wine and Health: A Physician Examines the Evidence,” an Adventures in Learning course to be offered this summer. As he explains, “In this course a physician with an interest in preventive medicine will discuss and interpret the evidence.”

In addition to the provocative subject matter, what is also interesting about this course is its location. For the first time an Adventures in Learning course will be given at The Center at Eastman. As President Art Rosen, who was instrumental in making the arrangement, points out, “Eastman is an ideal place with an ideal population for an Adventures in Learning course. Even now, Eastman is second only to New London in its number of active AIL members.” Since summer registrants are not required to join Adventures in Learning, all Eastman residents, like residents in other areas, can take part in the summer program simply by paying the course fee and a small surcharge.

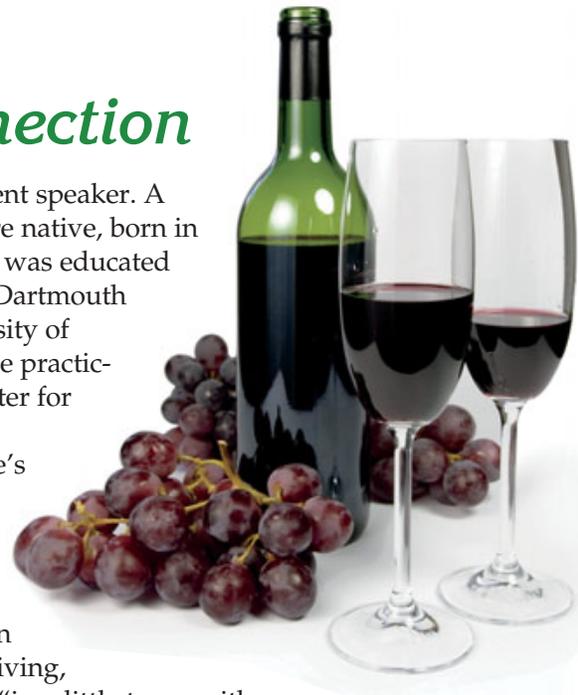
Conveniently, Dr. Lariviere is himself an Eastman resident, as well as a participant in the Wine Tasting Group at Eastman. He is also a seasoned ILEAD and AIL study leader with a large following and a reputation for

being an excellent speaker. A New Hampshire native, born in Farmington, he was educated at Holy Cross, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester before practicing in Manchester for some 35 years.

Dr. Lariviere’s taste for wine was whetted during the 1960s when he was stationed in Germany and living, as he explains, “in a little town with a winery around the corner selling bottles of wine for 75 cents. It was better than Two Buck Chuck and less than half the price!” Eventually he expanded his horizons to finer wines and wine tasting and, in 2000, to writing a wine newsletter that has now had more than 275 issues.

One focus of his newsletter is trying to assess the validity of the claims made connecting wine to good health. “The many assertions seem so broad,” he observes, “that one wonders if wine is a miracle drug or the traveling hustler’s snake oil.” Take part in “Wine and Health: A Physician Examines the Evidence” this summer to share some of Dr. Lariviere’s conclusions.

~Ann Lang



Charlotte Brook-Signor to Perform at Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

supervision from Plymouth State College.

Charlotte taught music at both Plymouth High School and Holderness Boys School. When not teaching, she directed four musicals, designed a music curriculum for the State of New Hampshire, and maintained a private studio for teaching piano and violin.

All of this training became available to AIL members when Dick Pearson, a colleague at Summer Music Associates, approached Charlotte to lead classes for AIL. She has since taught “The Science of Understanding Music” and “The Essence of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Periods.” She also led the music section of “Europe Transformed,” spoke at the “Celebrating the Arts” series, and will lead a section in the “Great Composers” series this spring.

“Great Composers” leads perfectly into our May Annual Meeting when everyone at AIL will have an opportunity to see Charlotte perform. Instead of a visiting speaker, this year’s Annual Meeting will include a concert featuring Charlotte performing selections from the Robert Schumann’s “Davidsbundlertanze, op.6” (Dances of the Tribe of David). The Flute Quartet featuring Mary MacMillin, Rebekka Almond, Jean Wallace and Donna Denniston will play “Quartet in D for Flute, Violin, Viola and Cello K. 285” by W.A. Mozart.

It will be an innovation in our Annual Meeting format and will expand our music program to the largest possible AIL audience.

Please note that the date for this grand occasion is Thursday, May 20.

~Maureen Rosen

A Night with the Opera (continued from page 1)

Opera North's musical director, Louis Burkot, will be your host for the evening and will provide commentary on each selection, as well as a biographical sketch of the artists. Wherever possible, the artists will appear in staged scenes, and English will be the predominant language of performance.

It will all take place on Saturday, July 31, 2010, in Wheeler Hall at the Ware Campus Center on the Colby-Sawyer campus, and the opening series for the evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. Following the performance the audience will be invited to a Meet the Artists Reception of summer desserts, tea and coffee and, of course, to meet the talented young artists. What better way for music lovers and theatre goers to spend a summer evening!

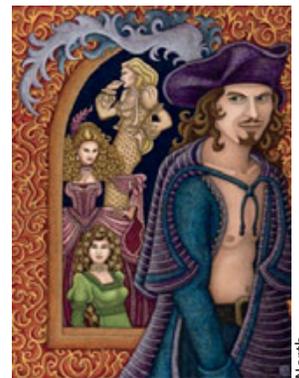
Registration may be made by submitting the form included in the summer catalog, which will also be available on the Adventures in Learning website. An admission fee for the evening will be \$25

per person, payable by check made out to Colby-Sawyer College. No tickets will be issued, but a paid roster will be maintained to check off registrants upon arrival. Open seating will be available.

We should thank Sharon Ames, Morris Edwards and Art Rosen who have been instrumental in bringing this concert to New London. It is a combined benefit for Adventures in Learning and Opera North. The Adventures in Learning portion of the proceeds will be designated for the Adventures in Learning Achievement Fund, which is awarded to an outstanding junior at Colby-Sawyer College.

In addition to *A Night with the Opera*, Ron Luchsinger will once again offer another opera course during Adventures in Learning's summer term. When your catalogue arrives look for "What Makes Opera Run" and consider joining Ron and some of us who are now addicted to his knowledge, humor and teachings—and to opera!

~Gusta Teach



Paintings by Amy E. Fraser, commissioned by Opera North

Snapshots from Fall and Winter Courses

PHOTOS: Maureen Rosen



Alice Nulsen (left) and Muriel Tinkham enjoy a moment before Jere Daniel's fall course on "The American Revolution in New Hampshire" with a focus on how inhabitants of the Upper Connecticut River Valley played a major role in determining how an independent people should govern themselves.



Judy and Gordon Nolen (foreground) and Julie and Peter Machen await the start of the first session of "The Tyrants of the 20th Century," a 7-week Adventures in Learning lecture series. This course, moderated by Morris Edwards, analyzed how and why these dictators came to power and the dreadful deeds that made them famous.

Standing in Each Other's Shoes

Can two men from different faiths and different religious upbringing really exchange places and speak convincingly in the voice of the other? We will soon see. Dick Dutton, a retired Baptist pastor and Art Rosen, a committed practicing Jew, have together come up with a most thought provoking idea. They will co-lead an Adventures in Learning course in which Dick, the Christian, will speak in the voice, experience, and knowledge of a Jew and, conversely, Art, the Jew, will assume the role of a Christian. The course, "Standing in Each Other's Shoes" will be part of the ALL spring semester.

While the topics they will be dealing with are serious and deserve thoughtful deliberation, the two men are having a bit of fun with their idea. Each will assume a new persona and will speak in that voice for the duration of the course. Dick is searching for the most appropriate Jewish name for himself, and Art has not yet settled on the kind of Christian he is going to be.

Each session of the four-week course will have an opening commentary in one voice (Christian or Jewish) and a response in the other voice. The second half of the class will be unscripted and wide open for questions and discussion by class members. In the first session Art, as a Christian, will speak about "Origins" and Dick will respond as a Jew. The other three classes "Parting of the Ways", "Shifting Ground" and "Future Prospects" will follow the same format. It may

be a challenge at times to remember who is who, but Art and Dick are sure all this will encourage lively participation by class members.

When asked what in their backgrounds prepared them for taking on the role of someone else, they each replied similarly. Both had always had great interest and



Dick Dutton (left) and Art Rosen share a laugh while planning for their course.

curiosity about other religions and cultures. Both had read and continue to read widely. (They are always exchanging books.) Even though they had grown up in different faiths, they were open to learning about other belief systems. Dick still occasionally preaches to Unitarian congregations. He grew up in a Baptist household. His father was a Baptist clergyman as was his grandfather. Until his retirement Dick was the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church in New London. In explanation of his great interest in Judaism, he says simply, "Jesus was a Jew." He also says, "To understand Christianity you really have to understand Judaism."

Art grew up in a Jewish-Catholic neighborhood in Brooklyn. His friends were either Jewish or Catholic. "I met my first Protestant

when I was thirteen," he says. His education was typical for a Jewish boy in that time and in that place. From kindergarten through the eighth grade he went to a Yeshiva, where morning classes, which started at seven-thirty, were conducted in Hebrew and afternoon classes which, went until five o'clock, were in English. His grandparents had emigrated from Eastern Europe and were firm in their orthodoxy. As he grew older and was exposed to a wider world, Art's religious foundation modified.

It is obvious that the two men are good friends and enjoy each other's company. They have worked together in the Kearsarge Interfaith Fellowship, which Dick helped start. The Fellowship has representatives from all the churches in the area, as well as Art and a Buddhist. Art has led many Adventures in Learning courses, most with a religious basis, and Dick, in addition to being part of a lecture course this fall, also led a Trilogue course, which brought together Christians, Muslims and Jews, and which Art called a "landmark event."

The class discussions will undoubtedly bring up many issues, both current and historical. Possible questions could include fundamentalism, secularism, the Middle East situation, transitions, social concerns, and supersessionism (be sure to ask about that). Those of us who were wise enough to sign up for this course will, without question, have a stimulating experience.

~Heidi Beckwith

Adventures in Learning Achievement Award Michael David Bisset Named First Recipient

This year Colby-Sawyer College was able to make the first scholarship award from the Adventures in Learning Achievement Award. The fund, established in 2008 by a gift of \$25,000 in honor of Adventures in Learning's tenth anniversary, is a part of the permanent endowment of the college, and the income generated by these assets provides funding for an award of financial support to a qualified and deserving student. The first award recipient, Michael David Bisset from Northboro, Massachusetts, is a junior whose achievement in scholarship demonstrates the potential for lifelong learning and whose commitment to Colby-Sawyer College demonstrates the potential for lifelong contribution to the college.

Of the top three schools Mike considered, he chose Colby-Sawyer College, first and foremost, for its small class sizes. He found that the academic advisors, faculty and staff members and others he encountered all made it feel very personal for him. Mike says, "It was really nice to see that I wouldn't be just a number at Colby-Sawyer, I would be a person—a student." When he received a phone call from the college informing him that he was accepted, Mike was then assured that the college was an institution where real people would communicate with him, and not simply by automated message. That personalization has carried through his Colby-Sawyer experience, and he comments, "I see it in action every day on campus."

As a History, Society and Culture major, Mike's focus is specifically in the education program for stu-

dents who wish to obtain New Hampshire Teacher Certification in Social Studies for grades 5 through 12. As he explains, "My history teachers always seemed to try to do something exciting and unique to enhance the learning experience. For instance, in the fifth grade, we had a Colonial Day where we pretended we were in a colonial classroom. While we laughed ourselves silly at the colonial speech patterns our teacher used that day, it was a true immersion event."

As Mike began thinking about it, he realized the reason he loved history so much was because his teachers did such a good job of making the subject interesting, as well as making it applicable to his life. When speaking with friends who claimed history was boring, he could see that a poor teacher who wasn't able to adequately explain the nuances of the subject or succeed in getting the students involved was doing a disservice to the class. Mike says, "History is something you can be learning from constantly and something that is changing constantly. As a teacher you are a

conduit of higher knowledge for a student. If the teacher is able to truly interest the class in a subject, then the students are more apt to go out and continue exploring."

Mike's confidence and enthusiasm are contagious, and it's easy to see he is poised and well positioned to become the kind of educator he values most: one with the creativity, high energy and dedication to make social studies a favorite subject for eager young people in the generations to come.

~Sharon Ames



Michael David Bisset, the first Adventures in Learning Achievement Award recipient.

Summer 2010 Courses

Wine and Health: A Physician Examines the Evidence

Sunnis and Shi'as

The Age of Elegance: 125th Anniversary of the Cornish Colony

What Makes Opera Run?

**The American Revolution:
American Independence and the Creation of a Nation**

Sculpture Studio Tours: Art in Action

Eugene Lariviere

Chuck Kennedy

Alma Gilbert-Smith

Ron Luchsinger

lecture series moderated by Bryan Jones

working studio visits organized by Eric Johnson

Adventures in Learning

Colby-Sawyer College
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257
www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW LONDON, NH
PERMIT 4

Spring 2010

www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures



Board of Directors

Arthur Rosen, *President*
Morris Edwards, *Vice President*
Betsy Boege, *Secretary*
Richard Pearson, *Treasurer*

Directors at Large

Jeanine Berger
Sheldon Boege
Judy Bohn
John Callahan Jr.
Richard Cavallaro
Charles Kennedy
Ann Lang
Julie Machen
Les Norman
De Segerson

Ex-officio

Sharon Ames

Credits

Editor

David R. Morcom
Colby-Sawyer College
New London, N.H.

Design and Production

Lisa Swanson
Second Story Design
Manchester, N.H.

© Copyright 2010 Colby-Sawyer College

A Civilian Army

Every retiree we know is volunteering in some capacity: adult learning, hospitals, politics, religious institutions, teaching, non-profit and town organizations, preserving historic homes and gardens, hanging wreaths, watering flowers, raising money, or babysitting for grandchildren.

If this invisible civilian army of volunteering seniors took only a week off, I can't imagine the hardships that would befall our communities.

We think of seniors sunning themselves in Florida, golfing, traveling (yes, yes and yes!), and while we are quick to joke about

failing memories and bodies, ills and skills, we almost never hear about the strength of character, wisdom, insight, breadth and depth of knowledge and experience with which this army can capture, inform, and transport us, our young people, and our communities.

In our own community of volunteers they can recapture and revitalize the images of war and peace, music and poetry, mathematics and science, history and religion.

Join this civilian army of volunteers and Adventures in Learning and be revitalized, transported and inspired.

~Maureen Rosen

Please note that Adventures in Learning's administrative office will be closed on these dates:

Monday, May 10
Monday, May 31



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen