

# The Learning Times

**SPECIAL EDITION**  
**FALL 2023**

## **From The LIR President:**

Our July general membership meeting went well and was attended by about 165 members. Thanks to our Hospitality and Membership and Marketing Committees for all their efforts to make this annual event so successful!

Our next opportunity to all get together will occur on Wednesday, December 6th at our annual LIR Holiday Social. Details are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

Several questions have been raised regarding the amount of money we have available to be invested in Certificates of Deposit. We need to have money available for several reasons, including to prepare for unforeseen events. The recent COVID experience is a good example. We lost over 100 members, and our available money to invest declined by over 20%.

The LIR Board has selected our officers for 2024. Cindy Stephens, our current Vice President, will become our new president. Cindy graduated from high school in Northeast Missouri and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from what is now Truman State University. She also earned a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Missouri. Most of her nursing career was spent as a teacher. Cindy taught in the nursing program at Lincoln University and the Eldon Career Center. She mentored new nursing graduates at St. Mary's Health Center. Cindy has been a member of LIR for ten years. She is a member of the LIR book club and travel committee.

Steve Newman will become our Vice President. He graduated from Jefferson City High School in 1973 and earned his undergraduate and law school degrees from the University of Missouri. He recently retired after 40 years in the practice of law in Jefferson City. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Missouri Bar and was a member of the Jefferson City School District Board of Education for nine years. Steve is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and is active at the local, state and national levels. He is also a lifetime member of the Board of Governors for Capital Region Medical Center. He has been a member of LIR since 2018 and has provided classes for LIR regarding wills and trusts.

Barbara Maxwell, our current Secretary, and Terry Rackers, our current Treasurer, have agreed to serve again in 2024.

I hope all of our members are enjoying our current classes, trips, and clubs this fall. Our spring opportunities will be available soon.

Sincerely,  
Chris Straub, President



## **LIR Holiday Social:**

Wednesday,  
December 6, 2023

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Masonic Lodge  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO

## **Wanna See It Again?**

by Tom Piper, LIR Webmaster

Was that presenter's slideshow or video so good that you wish you could see it again? Or, you couldn't get to the course, but heard it was great and would love to see the images? In many cases, you can!

On the LIR Courses website ([lirjc.org/course-downloads](http://lirjc.org/course-downloads)), if you scroll down to the bottom of the page, you will find "Previous Course Download" under which are listed the titles and presenters of many documents from courses going back four years. The slideshows are in PDF or video format (easy to download and view on any smartphone, tablet or computer). Just click on any underlined blue link, and you can start watching almost immediately.

Our course presenters have spent many hours preparing excellent information for our education and enjoyment, and many have agreed to share their knowledge with us in this lasting archive. This is another great way to use the website as a valuable resource from Learning in Retirement.

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATES

The following are classes the Curriculum Committee has planned for Winter/Spring 2024:

**Cold War Aftermath - Promise of a New World Order** — The Cold War ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall. What followed was both promise and disappointment.

**Movies - More Than The 3 R's** — Movies about teachers who taught more than Reading, Riting and Rithmetic! Featured movies will be: Dead Poet's Society, Mr. Holland's Opus, Freedom Writers, and The Marva Collins Story.

**Oral Histories** — Dr. Sean Rost, State Historical Society of Missouri, will tell us about the importance of oral histories, and the methods for doing so. Donna Deetz, president of the Historic City of Jefferson, will share HCJ's role in preserving oral histories.

**A Missouri Family's Summer in Mozambique** — Dr. Brian Norris (and his family!) will share tales of their adventures in Mozambique, where Dr. Norris conducted research on local governments.

**The Top 7 Things You Should Know About Wills and Trusts** — This is a repeat of a well-received program given in February 2023. LIR member and retired attorney Steve Newman will give an overview, followed by presentations from Central Bank and Hawthorne Bank trust administrators.

**Nutrition and Longevity** — Dr. Dianna Richardson will delve into the science of nutrition and its profound impact on aging and well-being.

**Memorials of the Dead: Perspectives on Mummification** — Join Dr. Christine E. Boston as she discusses mummies, mummification practices, and what we can learn culturally and scientifically from the study of the dead.

**Show-Me Beekeepers Association** — Gail Severance and Adam Benne will illustrate the essential skills and knowledge to become a successful beekeeper.

**Did You Know? "Black Wall Street"** — We'll examine the conditions that made it possible for such a phenomenal occurrence.

**Artificial Intelligence** — Discover how Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing education, healthcare, finance, and technology.

**Famous Missourians, Chapter 4** — Yes, there are definitely more famous Missourians!

**Technology: Video Calling** — Learn the essential skills and techniques for phone calls (chatting with your grandchildren!), seamless online meetings, and virtual collaborations.

**"Forgotten Shadows" - MSP** — Mark Schreiber will talk about his book, "Forgotten Shadows," published in 2023. It is a visual exploration of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) as it evolved from the 19th to the 21st century.

**Reading Nonfiction** — If you've ever read a newspaper or magazine, you've read nonfiction (although it may not seem like it)! Come join with members of our LIR Book Club to find out what kind of nonfiction they enjoy reading.

**Memories of Life During World War II** — World War II wasn't just battles. Rationing, censoring, bombing, victory gardens, V-mail, music — life at home was changed. Sharing memories before we forget.

**Eyes On the Move - Mexico** — Grab your sombrero and journey with the El Puente staff. They will explore Mexico, from ancient times to the present.

**Eating Up Missouri!** — A look at foods and foodways traditions connecting the people of Missouri, presented by Suzanne Corbell, an award-winning writer, food historian and foodways interpreter.

## TRAVEL NEWS

### *Know B4 You Go: Travel Sneak Preview*

To find out all the details of the 2024 trips, put **Tuesday, December 5, 1:00 p.m.** on your calendar now! This presentation will be held at the Clydesdale Room, Schepper's Distributing (Budweiser) at 2300 St. Mary's Blvd. in Jefferson City. The trip escorts will present full descriptions of each trip including dates, trip description and costs. Non-members are welcome to come and see what's offered.

**REMEMBER:** *This is for your information only. Registration takes place after the December 2023 newsletter comes out after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We will use the same method of alerting members to the mailing of the newsletter as we did in June by using our wonderful website! As soon as the LIR office confirms that the newsletter has been mailed, it will also be posted on the website along with registration forms that can then be printed, filled out, and mailed or dropped by the office. As soon as the newsletter is on the website, an email will be sent out to let members know.*

**Still coming up this travel session:** One of our upcoming trips has openings. If you would be interested, please call the LIR office now!

**November 3—*Right Here in River City*:** Explore our own Jefferson City and some of the mini-museums it has to offer. You are sure to discover something new! (\$75)

### **Traveling with LIR January-July 2024**

Your LIR Educational Travel Committee is hard at work planning some new opportunities for our next travel session! Here's what we have at this time.

**February 17—*Gilligan's Island, The Musical*:** Jefferson City's Capital City Productions presents the musical version of the iconic 1960's TV comedy show. It's fun, wacky, and entertaining.

**March 19—*Independence*:** Tour the newly renovated Truman Library and Museum, see the town by covered wagon, and much more!

**April 30-May 1—*Mastodons, Murder and Mile-High Pie*:** Explore the Kimmswick area featuring visits to Grant's Farm, the Anheuser Estate and Home, a murder-mystery theater performance, Mastodon State Historic Site, and great pie at the Blue Owl Restaurant.

**May 24—*Nature in the City*:** This is a rescheduled trip that was cancelled last July due to extreme heat. Visit Kansas City to explore nature where you might not expect it: at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Discovery Center, the Jacob Loose Park, and Kauffman Memorial Garden.

**June 5-6—*In the Steps of TWAIN*:** A two-day adventure in Hannibal with visits to Mark Twain's boyhood home, the cave Tom and Huck explored, and an evening dinner cruise on the Mississippi River. We might even get to hear from Twain himself!

**June 19—*Squabbles at New Theatre*:** A happily married couple's in-laws move in with them and trouble breaks loose: family style!

**July**—We're still working on several possibilities. One is a visit to the *Springfield Cardinals* for which we've had several requests. Stay tuned for further developments.

## CLUBS YOU MAY WANT TO TRY

*Many members of Learning in Retirement are more interested in playing games with other members than in anything else. We have a number of clubs in LIR, and there's no additional cost. You might want to check out these two.*

### **Pinochle**

Pinochle (pronounced pea-nukkle) is a card game. Our purpose and goal is to meet with and enjoy the game with others, while benefiting not only from the mental exercise of the game, but also the social interactions. Anyone who has never played (or has not played recently) is taken underwing and taught or refreshed. Pinochle is played with three or more players; ideally four players per team.



### **Pitch**

Let's play pitch! The Pitch Club gets together two times a month to have a good time, make friends, and keep the brains working with the great game of 10-point pitch. The game itself is one of strategy and luck.

Each player bids on his hand, based on number of cards in a suit and the number of points each is worth. It helps if your partner has some cards in the same suit. While the game itself makes you think, it is not so complex that you can't enjoy each other's company.

We pitch players enjoy talking and laughing as we play. So, when we say, "Let's play pitch", we mean let's have fun.

Complete details about all our clubs, including when and where they meet, is included in the "Clubs" section of LIR's website, [lirjc.org](http://lirjc.org).

## **LEARNING IN RETIREMENT, INC**

### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

EDUCATION.....Short courses planned for LIR members' interests  
TRAVEL.....Educational trips with old and new friends  
CLUBS.....For a list of all clubs and meeting times, check the list of clubs found on page 16 of the January-June newsletter on the LIR website.  
GATHERINGS.....Membership meetings twice annually, Holiday Social  
COMMUNICATION.....Semiannual newsletters, LIR website, periodic emails  
Spring and Fall newsletter updates  
LIBRARY ACCESS..... Access to library cards for L.U.'s Page Library  
PARKING.....Tag required for L.U. campus  
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