

partners IN LEARNING

Spring and Summer News

A note from the President : May 1, 2018

As you all know, I have been absent from Partners duty for some months, in order to take my place in a more important event. I thank so many of you who have come to me with condolences, warm hugs, and an understanding that was magically encouraging. I especially thank Karen for stepping so elegantly and effectively into my place. I shall never be able to thank her enough. When I did attend in the last few weeks, I was thrilled to observe your ongoing enthusiasm and increasing numbers. It made me all the more anxious to return to full-throttle participation, beginning with a lunch meeting of your heroic executive committee – date, time, and place to be announced. With profound gratitude

Nancy Winters

Members Closing BBQ May 28th

11:30 noon – 2:30 pm

Beverly and Bob Kennedy

10152 Merrywood Drive, Grand Bend, NOM 1T0

519.238.6030

This year we will have a gathering in May “just because”. We introduced several new formats in 2017-18, and Executive would like to have **feedback** about them. Please join us to review what did or did not work for you about the 12noon - 4:00 pm time frame; Discoveries and its length (75 minutes); the shorter break between courses with soup on offer; and the traditional 5 week course from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. There

are pros and cons for each of these and knowing what you prefer will make our group stronger.

As well, the Curriculum Committee is responding to requests for a **practical course on the use of technology and research skills**. We know there are several valid ways to present besides Power Point or similar programs, such as speaking from notes, demonstrations, or facilitating discussion around a topic. However, members have made clear that they would like to gain skills in finding information on the internet and formatting it in ways they feel confident about. One thing for sure, such a course would need to have plenty of one-on-one instruction with equipment so the learning is well-absorbed and applied. Please bring your ideas on May 28th so we can design an effective course for you.



We'll also discuss a **new membership requirement** at the closing BBQ. Executive has wrestled for several years with the problem of fewer members presenting in courses and a real reluctance to moderate or serve on Executive. We tried using more video resources and changed formats to reduce moderator workload, and we have a couple of excellent, new executive members. But the reality is that we need more help from everyone or to keep the group healthy and surviving.



Here is the new requirement:

All Partners In Learning members are required to perform one the following tasks in any given year: Moderate a Course; Make a Presentation; Serve on the Executive; or bring in a Guest Speaker.

Call for topics! Suggestions for course topics are now being actively sought for next year. Please bring your

ideas to the closing BBQ or email them to Mike Ash and Bob Kennedy, co-chairs of curriculum, at:

Mike: indabush@hay.net

Bob: goodthoughts@hay.net

Molly's Summer Solstice

June 21st 6:00 pm - sunset

33999-5 Maple Grove, Grand Bend
(entrance opposite Home Hardware)
519.238.2237

Park at bottom of hill, then walk up to Molly's.



This annual, primal event keeps us in touch with the cosmos. We step away from our many pursuits and consider our links to the ancient cycles of our world. And we celebrate the longest day of the year with each other's good company, food, and drink.

How could we be so lucky?

Please bring a food &/or drink to share!



Summer Socrates Café and BBQ

If you haven't yet attended a summer Socrates Café, you are in for a treat! We have a great time choosing a couple of topics to discuss with the added pleasure of the great outdoors. It's friendly, challenging, and fun.

\$5. per person at the door

Guests and non-members welcome.

Tuesday, July 17th 12 noon – 2:00 pm

Beverly & Bob Kennedy

10152 Merrywood Drive, Grand Bend

519.238.6030 BYO beverage

Tuesday, August 21st 12 noon – 2:00 pm

Jackie & Jim Southcott

10121 Shoreline Drive, Grand Bend

519.238.8800 BYO beverage

Why Lifelong Learning?

Here are some thoughts on lifelong learning I think are worth sharing. I like its tone and sensibility. Not sure, however of the source.

Lifelong learning increases your knowledge and – just as importantly – your ability to use that knowledge in diverse and meaningful ways. Lifelong learning opens up and enhances your mind. It fuels creativity and innovation.

At the same time, lifelong learning is an approach to living life consciously and deliberately, rather than being guided purely by instinct, emotion, and the desires of others. It is nothing less, I'd argue, than personal philosophy in action.

The process of lifelong learning helps to keep your brain working well, and as we continue to live longer and longer, this is a benefit that is hard to ignore.

Learning sparks social engagement – we often connect with others because we want to learn from them and with them – and it is also an outcome of social engagement, often without our even realizing it.

There are numerous personal benefits to all of this socializing. There is evidence, for example, that people with strong social connections tend to be happier and live longer. There are also organizational and societal benefits. Organizations that learn and adapt are more sustainable over time. The same goes for societies. And, as John Dewey and others argued long ago, lifelong learning is particular important as an element of democratic societies. Your learning efforts, in other words, support the greater good. Learning, I believe, feeds the spirit. It gives us purpose, it gives us focus, and it fuels our sense of fulfillment.

**Here's wishing you an invigorating Spring and Summer,
Nancy and Karen**



"Fusilli, you crazy bastard! How are you?"