President’s Message

by Corrine Kass

Most of us have devoted time and talent throughout our lives to charitable and civic causes, as well as church and other faith-expanding activities. It's how so many of us were raised—with the biblical injunction ringing in our ears from St. Luke's Gospel: From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Now, experts are going so far as to suggest that people who choose to “pay it forward/give back” are not only following a New Testament directive but also investing in our own health and wellbeing.

“Volunteering is a healthy lifestyle choice” declared a headline in the Grand Rapids Press late last year. Nicole Hansen, author of the article, is the Healthy Living Operations Director at the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids. In her column, she reports that “volunteers enjoy a greater degree of mental and physical fitness”.

“I'm surrounded by volunteers at Breton Woods, where I live – volunteers work the reception desks, serve on committees, put in-house mail in boxes, drive residents to other destinations within the campus and beyond, serve as floor representatives, and even assemble flower arrangements.”

It is indisputable that our communities and our non-profit organizations remain vibrant and strong due to the generous contributions of volunteers.

The great American civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., praised this spirit when he observed that “everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love”.

That powerful statement from Dr. King speaks to our purpose at CALL, even though many of us long ago earned academic degrees and mastered the complexity of the English language and other tongues, as well. At the core of CALL’s mission is the cultivation of an engaged and curious mind, to be sure, but without a heart of grace and a soul of love, we would be a withered and ultimately self-absorbed organization.

CALL would not function without volunteers who graciously serve on the board, plan the curriculum, invite the instructors, publish the catalog of courses and the newsletters, plan events and trips, market our organization, manage the budget, plan fitness and recreational activities, and partner with the college for the cause of community relations and acts of service.

As Winston Churchill wisely said, “We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give”.

Thank you for giving yourselves to the CALL cause and other great organizations you support—and if you haven't yet done so, may I encourage you to devote yourself to the service of others?

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Passport to Adventure

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm
The Lure and Lore of Deserts
Sandy Mortimer

Discover what lures humans to deserts from Egypt to Jordan in the Middle East as well as in North America. Visit the mountain of Masada, the Kerak and other ancient castles, the valley of Wadi Rum, the magnificent Nabatean city of Petra, and Jerash, one of the best preserved Roman cities. The Sonoran, Mohave and Chihuahuan deserts in Arizona and Utah also speak of those lured to them throughout the centuries. Explore over 21,000 glyphs chipped in rock, white gypsum crystal dunes, and legendary ghost towns and masonry ruins that were home to prehistoric Salado people.

The final film is Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm - Barbados: Island in the Sun with Steve Gonser.

Noontime Series
by Henry Baron, Chair

Thursday, March 26
Our Community, Our Commitment: Advancing the Vision
Grand Rapids Police Chief Dave Rahinsky

Chief Dave Rahinsky will discuss what he believes is the department’s role in the community and steps to make Grand Rapids the safest city in the country for its size.

Thursday, April 9
The Garden as Artist Studio
Hank Ottens, retired surgeon

A master gardener-artist shows and tells how God’s creative beauty in nature and human art can combine into the making of a unique garden with a distinct personality and as a place of peace and pleasure.

Order online at www.calvin.edu/boxoffice or call 526-6282.

Ticket price is $6 each.

Additional lecture dates:
April 23 - Grand Rapids Christian Gospel Choir, Nate Glasper (Asst. Conductor of Calvin College Gospel Choir)
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

History
In the United States the size of the older population has grown dramatically. In 1900, people over age 65 comprised 4 percent of the United States population. By 2030 Americans 65 and older will account for 19.6 percent of the population.

The first lifelong learning institute (LLI) was established in 1962 in New York City.

CALL Membership has climbed over 2,000 again for the second consecutive year this February. Our oldest active member taking classes will be 98 this year.

Announcements
by Sonja DeJong

Calvin 5K Spring Classic
George Burns (who lived to be 100) used to say, “If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself!” It’s true that some individuals are blessed with good genes, and no matter how many unhealthy lifestyle habits they have, they’re going to live into old age. But for the rest of us who might be concerned with quality of life as we age, exercise is one of the keys. Is it ever too late to start? Research proves it’s not. Join other CALL members in walking, jogging, or running the annual 5k at Calvin College at 9:00 am on April 25.

The discounted price is $20 after you enter the promotional code “CALL2015” on page 3 of the registration form under the display of pricing information. Early April is the deadline to use this promotion.

Support a very worthwhile cause as proceeds fund the local scholarship program for Calvin undergraduates. Additional information and registration is available at www.calvin.edu/classic.

Birding Interest Group
It’s almost time for spring birding again! Join Bill Sweetman and other bird enthusiasts in welcoming spring at the Bunker Interpretive Center on the east side of the East Beltline. Participants will meet at 8:15 a.m. and walk Calvin’s nature preserve on April 7, 21, 28, May 5 and 12. All are welcome. For questions, please contact Bill at bsweettours@gmail.com.

We invite you to explore the Ecosystem Preserve and its 40 acres of forest, wetlands and meadows. One mile of trails are available for wandering, taking in the beauty of spring and discovering 170 bird species (about 60 nest here).

FAST FACTS

6%
CALL members born earlier than 1930

54%
CALL members born in the ‘30s and ‘40s

60%
CALL members born in the ‘50s and ‘60s

Lifelong learning = the “ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated” pursuit of knowledge

Find out about all our interest groups including memoir writing, knitting, and brass ensemble on our website www.calvin.edu/call.
Member Events

by Don & Shirley Lautenbach

Wednesday, May 6 - CELL BLOCK 7 and ELLA SHARP MUSEUM - 8:00 am
A repeat trip, the Cell Block 7 museum is a new and unique site located within an active working prison system. Cell Block 7, in the Jackson, Michigan penitentiary, is a representation of life as an incarcerated inmate at what was once the largest prison in the world. We will receive an overview of operations and exhibits followed by a self-guided tour exploring all areas of the cell block. After lunch we will visit the Ella Sharp Museum. At the Ella Sharp Museum we will enjoy the guided tour of the elegantly furnished 19th century farmhouse and experience the Dibble one-room farmhouse, Eli Stilson's log house and the Merriman- Sharp Tower Barn. There are six galleries of art and other interesting collections.

Cost: $65 - Open to CALL members and guests.

Thursday, June 4 - The Best of Sandi Patti - Shipshewana - 9:30 am
Invite your friends and spend the day seeing the beautiful St. James chapel and listening to the inspiring music of Sandi Patti. Our day begins with a picnic lunch. a visit to the Howe Military School and a tour of the beautiful St. James Chapel. The chapel, built in 1902, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Upon entering the narthex, you pass under the bell tower, clock and chimes. Entering the Nave you observe a copy of the ceiling of the Chapel of All Souls and the Nave of Magdalene Chapel, both in Oxford, England. The woodwork was carved by carvers from Oberammergau, Germany. Sandi Patti is the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music. She has won 39 Dove awards, five Grammy awards and is a Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee. Sandi Patti will thrill us with her beautiful renditions and her inspirational testimony. She will perform in the small intimate theater at Blue Gate. Our day includes a picnic lunch, visiting the shops of Shipshewana, and a full course Amish dinner.

Cost: $89 - Open to CALL members and guests.

Thursday, July 23 - Detroit Tigers vs. Seattle Mariners - 8:30 am
Join us for our popular annual trip to Comerica Park to cheer on the Detroit Tigers as they battle the Seattle Mariners. Coffee and rolls are provided on the way and snacks on the way home. The game is at 1:00 and you will receive a ticket for a free hot dog and a pop.

Cost: $85 - Open to CALL members, friends and grandchildren.

Thursday, April 2 - Music of Easter and Tuesday, May 7 - Purdue Glee Club, are closed. Call the office to be added to the waitlist.

Member Events Registration

Two ways to register:

1. Online: www.calvin.edu/call, Member Events
2. Complete this form (make checks payable to CALL) and mail to CALL, Youngsma Center, 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Event fees are per person. CALL will notify you if an event has filled.

☐ May 7 Cell Block 7 $65 Name: ____________________________
☐ May 13 Annual Meeting $10 Phone: ________________________
☐ June 4 Sandi Patti $89 Email: ____________________________
☐ July 23 Detroit Tigers $85 Confirm by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No, I don’t use email
The 19th annual CALL Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, at the Prince Conference Center. Doors open at 11:15. CALL will present a short meeting including affirmation of new board members and distinguished service awards. An excerpt from the Calvin Theatre Company’s production - *Pride and Prejudice* is scheduled. The menu includes hot sandwich and dessert for $10 per person for CALL members only. Use the form on page 4 for mail-in registrations or select the tab on our web page to register online [www.calvin.edu/call](http://www.calvin.edu/call).

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**Extended Trips**

*by John Apol*

**South Africa- September 18-October 2:**

Focusing on the life and works of Nelson Mandela, learn about the political changes that occurred within South Africa, with the end of apartheid. This tour will take us to Johannesburg and Cape Town, on game drives in Addo Elephant National Park, along the Garden Route (a road famous for its beauty and biodiversity), and through a country with constantly changing landscapes, many races, cultures and languages.

Your host will be John Apol, a CALL member, a Calvin alumnus and frequent traveler to South Africa. He has led four student interim tours and the 2012 CALL and CCAA South Africa tour. For more information about the tour, contact John at [johnapol07@gmail.com](mailto:johnapol07@gmail.com) or 616-243-8600.

**Peru- September 15 - 29:**

Beginning in the capital of Lima, led by Neal and Marilyn Bierling, guests will enjoy a host of venues that capture the rich history and enthralling beauty of Peru. Included stops include Colca Canyon (twice as deep as the Grand Canyon), Machu Picchu, Cross of the Condor, Ballistas Islands, and Lake Titicaca, islands made entirely of floating reeds. An Amazon trip extension is optional. For questions, contact Neal at [neal@bierling.com](mailto:neal@bierling.com) or 616-676-2380.

Trip information, pictures, and detailed itineraries are available at [www.calvin.edu/call](http://www.calvin.edu/call), click on the words “Extended Trips”.

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Second Session Classes

The second session of 34 classes begins as early as March 24 and as late as April 9. The online registration form is current and shows all open classes.

- Epidemics
- Debating Climate Change
- Islam Origins/Expansion
- deTocqueville’s America
- Social Sec & Medicare
- The Golden Years
- American Painting and Lit
- America’s Best Ethnic Lit
- Great Lakes Watershed
- Flannery O’Connor
- Zentangle
- High Renaissance Art
- RCA and CRC
- Thomas Merton
- WWI
- Emotional Well-Being
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Latino Life in West MI
- Drawing with the Masters
- Genesis Creation Interpretation
- Transferring Conflict into Opportunity
- Song of Solomon
- The Apocrypha