

ILR TODAY

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President's Message

By Doug Imhoff, President



We have just finished our ILR fall 2025 classes. For the winter session coming up, **we are offering a total of 40 courses**, with 10 via Zoom and 30 in person. The 2026 winter catalog goes on our website (ilrbw.org) on Nov. 18 and **winter course registration runs from Dec. 7 through Dec. 21**. Winter classes will start Jan. 5 and run for six weeks as usual.

Our ILR **Holiday Luncheon is on Dec. 17** and fills up quickly, so remember to reserve your seat promptly. A calendar of ILR events and dates for the remainder of this year and throughout 2026 appears on page 10 of this newsletter.

Since Thanksgiving is fast approaching, **I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers** for their hard work and for making the ILR organization run smoothly. In addition, **I want to wish all our ILR members a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday and a very prosperous and healthy New Year!**

We hope to see you at our upcoming classes, trips and luncheons in 2026!

Check Out Our New ILR Office Space!

By Maria Phillips, VP of Administration



Getting organized in the new ILR Office, from left to right, are Maria Phillips, Janet Bodjiak and Lori Dietz. (Photo by Paula Gustin).

We're excited to announce that the ILR Office has relocated! Our new location is in the **Bonds Administration Building at 275 Eastland Road, Berea**, first floor – rooms 105H, 105I and 105J.

Office days and hours remain the same. **We will be open Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** The phone number is still 440-826-3188.

We look forward to welcoming you at our new space! **Parking is available** in the Bonds Administration parking lot; visitor parking is in the first row facing Eastland Road.



Chief Information Officer Karl Keller (Photo by Lori Dietz)

New ILR Website to be Revealed Nov. 18

By Mary Jo Mitchell, Co-Chair, Marketing Committee

ILR at BW is thrilled to **announce the launch of our new website, which will debut Nov. 18**. The redesigned site will make it easier than ever to explore ILR's engaging courses, find event information and stay connected with our vibrant community of lifelong learners.



This exciting update is being developed in partnership with **Baldwin Wallace's Digital Marketing Center (DMC)**, under the direction of **Tim Marshall, Director of Digital Marketing and Strategy**. DMC students are working closely with ILR's Marketing Committee to create a site that is modern, user-friendly and better reflects the energy and enthusiasm of ILR members.

The new website includes:

- A **fresh, modern design** (see above) that captures the spirit of lifelong learning.
- Easier access to course schedules (below), registration links and event updates.
- Feature stories highlighting our **instructors, volunteers and member community**.
- Find it at the same location: ilrbw.org.

Our collaboration with the DMC has been an inspiring example of intergenerational partnership; ILR members bringing life experience and curiosity, and BW students offering creative energy and digital expertise.

Stay tuned for the big reveal on **Nov. 18** and visit ilrbw.org to see the next chapter of ILR online!



See You at the Dec. 17 Holiday Luncheon

Please join your ILR colleagues at the **Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 17**. The event starts at **11:30 a.m. at Baldwin Wallace University's Strosacker Student Union**, located at E. Grand and Tressel streets in Berea.

The dining hall doors open at 11 a.m. After a delicious lunch provided by BW Catering and Food Services, **Carl Topilow and members of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra will perform holiday selections**. Reservation forms for the luncheon have been emailed to members. Check the ilrbw.org website for details.

ILR Members Can Help Local Residents in Need

By Kathy Adams, ILR Finance Committee

Members of ILR are extremely generous in their support of those in need in our communities. Last spring **we collected 600 new and gently used children's books for children** at Laura's Home. **We also collected an amazing amount of food and household products** for the SCAN Hunger Pantry (which supports residents of Berea and many surrounding communities).

At our annual Holiday Luncheon this year we are asking you to consider our local communities once again by donating food and household products for the SCAN Hunger Pantry. SCAN will be holding its final distribution before the Christmas holidays on Dec. 19.

Because they will be distributing items within days of our luncheon, perhaps **we might consider some of the following:**

- **Horizon (shelf stable) milk** (available at Walmart, Giant Eagle, Target, CVS). Kids need it for cereal.
- **Tea bags**, coffee, spices, salt and pepper, small boxes/bags of sugar or flour.
- **Healthy canned goods** such as vegetables, fruit and canned tuna/chicken.
- **Cooking oil** (many packaged foods require this for preparation, e.g., Stove Top Stuffing).
- Remember that macaroni and cheese is a common donation, but **requires milk and butter to prepare.**
- **Household products** (dish detergent, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products).



PLEASE REMEMBER: NO EXPIRED FOOD ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Thank you for your generosity!



Do you know someone who may need assistance this coming holiday season in the way of food and other supplies?

[This link](#) will take you to an AI overview of food bank options. Scroll down and click on “Show More” to view a larger list, including a link to [Greater Cleveland Food Bank’s interactive map and Help Center](#). This will take you to a map with red locator buttons and detailed information for each location. Please contact a food bank in advance to confirm its distribution guidelines and hours of operation.

Winter Courses Offered in Person or in Your Home

By Pam McConnell, VP of Curriculum

As we prepare for our winter ILR session, **we have scheduled 10 Zoom classes** in anticipation of unpredictable days when the snow and wind might be too harsh for comfort or safety. **This option is popular with those of you who wish to stay in your warm and cozy homes** while sipping hot chocolate.

For ILR members willing to brave weather conditions that challenge even the heartiest among us, **we also offer a wide array of in-person classes.**

Three new instructors are joining us for the winter session:

- **Jill Hallet** will teach book folding.
- **Valerie Williams** shares her expertise in sign language.
- **Gary Kader** will describe how physics principles apply to our everyday lives.

At our “Meet the Teachers” event on Nov. 11, **we featured nine of our instructors** who each shared a preview of their winter courses. **Thank you for the support you provide to our program.** As always, we work to bring all members the most enlightening and uplifting courses and teachers we can find!

Winter 2026 Course Registration Begins Dec. 7

Online course registration for winter 2026 **will begin Sunday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. EST.** We will offer **in-person class registration** at the **relocated ILR Office in the Bonds Administration Building** on the BW campus, 275 Eastland Road. Parking is available in the Bonds Administration Lot, where visitors may park in the first row facing Eastland Road. We are located on the first floor in rooms 105H, 105I and 105J.

Registration assistance is available from **10:30 to 11:45 a.m.** on Monday, **Dec. 8**; Tuesday, **Dec. 9**; Friday, **Dec. 12**; Monday, **Dec. 15**; Tuesday, **Dec. 16** and Friday, **Dec. 19**. **Course registration will close on Dec. 21 at 11 p.m.**

What Courses Did *You* Take During the Fall Session?



(Photos by Maria Phillips, Scott Kreidler, Marj Gray and Dan Bomeli)

*Clockwise from upper left are participants in courses including: **Cleveland Rocks!**, **The Mitford Sisters**, **Trains: Not Just a Childhood Obsession** and **Religious Faiths and Places of Worship**.*



“Meet the Teachers” Event Introduces Winter Courses

Members and area residents got a sneak peek at upcoming ILR classes as **nine teachers provided mini-presentations about their winter course topics** at a special “Meet the Teachers” Open House on Nov. 11.

The ILR Winter 2026 session includes 40 courses on subjects ranging from history and science to art and current events. Teachers and their general subject areas at the Nov. 11 event included:

- **Kathy Adams** – Stories Behind Your Family Tree
- **Debbie Cerra** – Living with Loss
- **Sean Crum** – Angels and Demons in Art
- **Carl Fernstrum** – The Piano Men
- **Fr. Andrew Harmon** – Home-Grown Religions
- **Doug Imhoff** – Leaders of WWII
- **Mare Matthews** – Weather Wonders
- **Brian Pavlac** – Empires of Greece and Rome
- **Janet Perc** – Sewing the Bonnie Bucket Bag

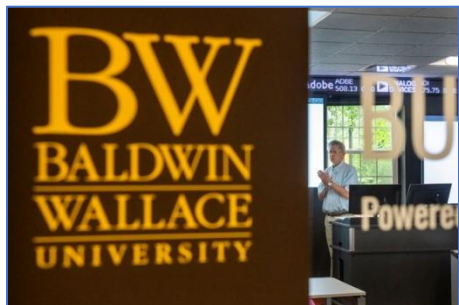


*Sean Crum introduces his upcoming course to attendees.
(Photo by Paula Gustin)*

We plan to offer similar events in the future for anyone interested in lifelong learning and meeting like-minded adults. **ILR membership information is always available** at our events to acquaint newcomers to ILR’s extensive array of affordable courses, travel, cultural and social opportunities.

Why Make a Year-End Gift to ILR at BW?

By Gary Erlinger, VP and Chief Financial Officer



As the 2025 calendar winds down, now is an ideal time to consider a year-end gift to the **Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University (ILR at BW)**. Our 100% volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) organization provides a vital lifelong-learning community for mature learners in the Berea and Greater Cleveland area while supporting non-traditional students at Baldwin Wallace University. Your generosity keeps this rich tradition alive, vibrant and inclusive.

When you give to ILR at BW, you are doing much more than making a donation.

- You help **support fellow learners** – individuals who are investing in their intellect, social connections and emotional wellbeing through classes, lectures, day trips and tours.
- You empower **expert instructors** who bring years of teaching and professional experience to share with a community of curious adults.
- You sustain the **spaces and systems** that make lifelong learning possible – classroom rentals, A/V equipment, printed materials and software tools that ensure high-quality, accessible learning for all.

(Photos courtesy of Baldwin Wallace University)

How Your Gift Makes a Difference

- **Scholarships for BWU Non-Traditional Students:** ILR at BW awards at least \$24,000 annually through the BWU Development Office to students who served our country or are returning to school to build better futures for themselves and their families.
- **Supporting ILR Operations:** Your gift helps cover the ongoing costs that keep ILR programs running smoothly – including classrooms, supplies, technology and volunteer coordination.
- **Creating Community:** By supporting ILR, you nurture friendships, intellectual stimulation and a sense of purpose for adult learners while strengthening the region through lifelong-learning opportunities.

How to Give: If ILR at BW has brought you new ideas, friendships, joy and enrichment, a gift of **\$25, \$50 or more** helps keep this experience alive for members, instructors and future learners. You can give directly online through ILR's secure donation page: [Give to ILR at BW](#).

Options include:

- **General Operating Fund:** Supports ILR's mission to provide the highest-quality, most-accessible adult learning experience.
- **Scholarship Fund:** Direct your gift specifically toward scholarships for BWU non-traditional students.
- **Designated Gift:** Make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one or friend.
- **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):** If you are age 70½ or older and have an IRA, consider a tax-efficient gift through a QCD.

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** allows individuals aged 70½ or older to direct distributions from their traditional IRAs directly to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity like ILR at BW.

- A QCD **excludes a donation from taxable income**, reducing your adjusted gross income.
- If you are 73 or older, a QCD can **satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**.
- You can benefit from this strategy even if you **don't itemize deductions**.

Before proceeding, consult your financial or tax advisor to confirm eligibility and proper documentation.

In Summary: You make ILR at BW a welcoming community where learning, friendship and discovery thrive at every age. Whether you give a \$25 gift or a larger year-end contribution – including via a QCD, if eligible – your generosity sustains future learners, supports operations and affirms the lifelong joy of education. [Make your year-end gift here](#).

Thank you for being part of ILR at Baldwin Wallace University. Together, we're building something truly remarkable – for today, tomorrow and always.



Volunteer Opportunity: Administrative Assistant, Reach Speakers Program

Assist with administering the Reach Speakers Program by **processing invoices, updating the Reach catalog, maintaining contact lists, and managing follow-up emails**. Requires attention to detail and good communication skills, plus proficiency with Microsoft Excel. Flexible schedule, approximately 1–2 hours per week. Contact ilreach@gmail.com for details.

Historian Column: A New Space for ILR History

By Paula Gustin, ILR Historian

I started as ILR Historian last November. Time goes by so fast! I organize and attend to the Historian's work about once each month. **Now that the ILR Office has moved, we get to start fresh** (well, as fresh as historical documents can be). We do have some new furniture, however. There is a tall bookcase with lots of shelves for books and materials collected since ILR's beginning in 1992.

Former member **Gretchen Mates was the Historian from 2011 until 2019.** She was quite the Historian during those years, compiling many binders, organizing photos and other work. We thank Gretchen for her time as Historian.



Janet Bodjiak (left) and Paula Gustin

The Historian position was vacant for four years until November 2024. During that time, our current Office Supervisor and longtime volunteer, **Janet Bodjiak, is to be commended for unofficially filling the Historian role.** She learned by following Gretchen's excellent example.

I asked Janet what she remembers about her stint as temporary Historian. She said she would just do what she could on days when she was volunteering. She found a file with ILR's handwritten history from Stan Nosek, originating member and first Historian, and it piqued her interest in the position. **I'd like to thank Janet for her invaluable help and training. She made learning this position fun and easy for me.**

Tuesday, Oct. 21, was ILR Office moving day. Our BW moving crew members (at right) did the heavy lifting. They were efficient – and fun!



The moving process was finished so fast, I was able to fill the shelves with all our historical books and materials (that same day!). I'm looking forward to spending time this fall and winter in our new setting in the Bonds Building. **You can visit the ILR Office staff or browse the historical documents in our new location on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**



Pictured (from left) are office volunteers Lori Dietz, Linda Faeking, Janet Bodjiak, Ellen Solly and Maria Phillips. (Photos provided by Paula Gustin)

On the Road with the ILR Marketing Team



Thank you to all who stopped by our ILR booths at the Sept. 14 **Berea Arts Fair**, Sept. 20 **North Royalton Senior Fair** and **BW Homecoming** on Oct. 25. Attendees expressed interest in learning more about ILR and our activities. If you would like to help staff the ILR table at future events, contact Peggy Doyle at ilrhelpdesk@bwu.edu. At left, **Doug Imhoff, Peggy Doyle and Mary Ann Weston** await visitors at BW's Bold & Gold Homecoming. (Photo provided by Peggy Doyle)

Resources for Seniors:

Aging Well is Impacted by Daily Choices in Our Lives

By Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee

The National Wellness Institute (NWI), which focuses on aging well, **describes wellness as “an active process which people become aware of and make choices, for a more successful existence.”**

Six dimensions of wellness are defined by Bill Hettler, M.D., NWI co-founder:

1. **Emotional:** Awareness, and acceptance of, your feelings with your ability to accept them in a healthy way. Ask yourself how positively you feel about yourself and life.
2. **Physical:** Understanding your body and its relationship to nutrition and physical activity. Do you pay attention to your body’s warning signs and get medical help when necessary?
3. **Intellectual:** Expanding your knowledge and skills. What creative and stimulating mental activities are you involved in?
4. **Occupational:** Contributing your unique skills and talents that are meaningful to you. Are you developing new skills, volunteering, mentoring or teaching, and do you coach others?
5. **Spiritual:** Do you search for the meaning and purpose to your appreciation for life and our world around us? Do your actions reflect your morals, values and beliefs?
6. **Social:** Do you contribute to the community and environment, recognizing the interdependence of the people and nature around you? Are you developing more or better personal relationships, living space and community? Connectedness is wonderful for your life. Give it a try.

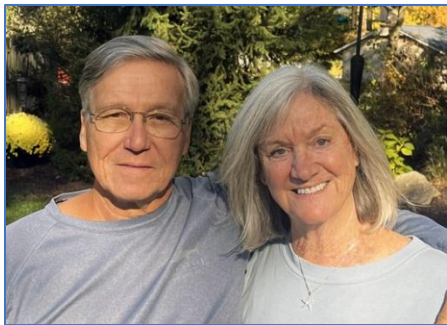
For more information, visit <https://www.wellnessalliance.org/>.

Please note that ILR provides the above resources to enhance awareness, and that ILR does not necessarily endorse the organization, services or advice.

Member Profile: Enjoying Two-gether Time in ILR Classes

By Dan Bomeli, ILR Today Editor

ILR members show up to various class venues each week – sometimes one by one, and sometimes two by two. **One course this past fall included at least five married couples who registered and attended together.**



Larry and Roberta Latanich

“We do lots of things together, like going to baseball games, museums and shopping,” says Larry Latanich, who recently participated in the “Amazing Trees” course with his wife, Roberta. “So, **both of us attending ILR classes is a natural thing for us.** The course topics are of interest to both of us and we like going together.”

Roberta agrees, adding “**We’ve learned some cool things. After many classes we ask each other: ‘What did you get out of today’s lesson?’** That’s always a discussion starter for the ride home.”

Larry and Roberta live in Strongsville and have been married for 48 years. After retiring from full-time work, Roberta researched various adult-learning options and discovered ILR’s array of

course offerings as Larry was winding down his professional career. **“I told Larry that this is what we need to do after he retired, and he was agreeable,”** she says.

The Lataniches have made several acquaintances as a result of ILR involvement. “We took a tai chi class and most people go to the same spot in the room every week,” Larry explains. “So, each week we get to see and talk to the same five people around us.”

Kathy and Rich Hoenigman also strike up conversations with their ILR classmates. **The Hoenigmans joined ILR nearly two decades ago and often take two or three courses per session,** including the “Lake Erie Prohibition” course that attracted four additional couples.

“We have similar interests,” Rich says. “During registration periods, we look at the available courses and then decide on something together.”

Kathy explains further: “We occasionally take separate classes and once or twice I told Rich he should have been there with me. And he’s been to a few I wish I’d signed up for.



Kathy and Rich Hoenigman

“It’s also fun to take classes with topics I know absolutely nothing about,” she continues. “When I started attending a watercolor painting class, **I was surprised to discover I had a talent I didn’t know about before.**”

The Hoenigmans live in Berea and have been married for 57 years. **“We kind of like each other, and that means we do things together,”** Kathy says.

The bottom line? “At an advanced age,” Kathy concludes, **“we can still learn and absorb new things and form new opinions.”**

2025 Travel Schedule Update

By Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs

The following trips still have openings for ILR members and guests in 2025. These trips are filling fast and some have limited openings. So, if you are interested, sign up soon. **Specific information for each trip is posted on ilrbw.org.**



Participants at Art, Wine and Roses in Mahoning County.

We work with three travel companies: **Nowak Tours, Great Day Tours and JKL Tours.** These trips are available to ILR members and their guest(s). Travelers do not have to be a member of ILR.

If you are interested in one of the trips, **please contact the travel company for details, pricing and reservations.**

Any questions about travel can be referred to the travel company or to Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs at ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com.

JKL Tours: 440-942-5350 (John Lakovich)

Dec. 4 Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge

Great Day Tours: 440-526-5350 (Ryan Popovic)

Dec. 10 Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky County

*(Photos on
pages 9 and 10
provided by
Maria Phillips)*

Watch your December email for the **Travel Survey for Proposed Trip Suggestions for 2026**. Following the survey, trips for 2026 will be announced through email and at our Travel Show in late January.

At right: ILR fun at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.



ILR Calendar 2025-2026

Please Note: ILR membership for the 2025-2026 year is open through March 2026.

Nov. 18	Winter 2026 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org
Dec. 1-3	New York City at Christmas
Dec. 4	Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge (<i>See page 9</i>)
Dec. 7	Winter 2026 course registration begins
Dec. 8,9,12,15,16 & 19	Winter 2026 in-person registration, ILR Office 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Dec. 9-12	Christmas at the Capital
Dec. 10	Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky County (<i>See page 9</i>)
Dec. 14	Christmas Concert at Severance Hall
Dec. 17	Holiday Luncheon
Dec. 21	Winter 2026 course registration ends
Jan. 5, 2026	Winter 2026 classes begin
March 8, 2026	Spring 2026 course registration begins
March 11, 2026	Spring Luncheon
March 22, 2026	Spring 2026 course registration ends
March 28, 2026	Cleveland Pops and the Famous Ladies of Song at Severance Hall
April 6, 2026	Spring 2026 classes begin
May 20, 2026	Book and Author Luncheon
June 6, 2026	Cleveland Pops and Made in America at Severance Hall
June TBD	The Great Gatsby at Connor Palace at Playhouse Square
July 1, 2026	Membership begins for 2026-2027 year
Aug. 16, 2026	Fall 2026 course registration begins
Aug. 30, 2026	Fall 2026 course registration ends
Sept. 14, 2026	Fall 2026 classes begin
Nov. 29, 2026	Winter 2027 course registration begins
Dec. 13, 2026	Winter 2027 course registration ends
Dec. 16, 2026	Holiday Luncheon

** Dates are subject to change*

Cultural Events Update

By the ILR Cultural Events Committee

The following events include tentative dates. **An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you for reservation information before each event.** Any ILR member may invite a guest.

March 28, 2026: Cleveland Pops and Famous Ladies of Song

Jam along to a night of pop favorites. Join your Cleveland Pops Orchestra for the music of Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Madonna, Taylor Swift and more.

June 6, 2026: Cleveland Pops and Made in America

Join the Cleveland Pops Orchestra as we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States with a night of music that was made in America. Ragtime, Jazz, Big Band and more! Your Cleveland Pops will play it all at this semiquincentennial celebration.

June 9 – 28, 2026: The Great Gatsby at Connor Palace at Playhouse Square

The Great Gatsby is based on the classic American novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This Tony Award-winning new musical is an unforgettable journey of love, wealth and tragedy that brings the Roaring Twenties to life on the stage.

Any questions about these cultural events can be referred to Maria Phillips at ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com.

Special thanks to our Cultural Events Co-Chairs, **Pat Giblin** and **Penny Jeffrey**.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Special Events

An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you for reservation information before each event below:

Dec. 17: Holiday Luncheon

Carl Topilow from the Cleveland Pops Orchestra will provide our entertainment.

March 11, 2026: Spring Luncheon

New Barleycorn will be the entertainment.

May 20, 2026: Book and Author Luncheon

Quick Hits

ILR Office and Help Desk – The ILR Office in the **Bonds Administration Building, 275 Eastland Road, Berea**, (first floor – rooms 105H, 105I and 105J) is open every **Monday and Friday** from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Feel free to stop in or call 440-826-3188 with questions. The phone line will be monitored on Mondays and Fridays. Also, the ILR Help Desk email address is ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com for questions.

Connect with ILR and Share with Others --

Website:

ilrbw.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562059407794/?ref=share_group_link

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