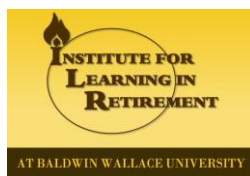


# ILR TODAY

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## President's Message

*By Doug Imhoff, President*



We have just finished our ILR fall classes and 2025 plans are well underway. **Our winter course catalog will be posted on [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) on Nov. 18.** Winter class registration runs from Dec. 1 – 15, with the six-week session starting on Jan. 6.

In addition to our upcoming classes, we hope to see you at various ILR travel adventures and luncheon events. **One of our most popular gatherings is the annual Holiday Luncheon, to be held this year on Dec. 18.** Please see page 8 of this newsletter for a full listing of ILR events for the remainder of this year and in 2025.

Finally, as Thanksgiving is fast approaching, I would like to **thank all of our wonderful volunteers** for their hard work and for making the ILR organization run smoothly. In addition, I would like to **wish all of our ILR members a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a very prosperous and healthy New Year in 2025!**

## New Teachers and Courses Join ILR in January

*By Pam McConnell, Curriculum Committee Chair*

Autumn brings the change of the seasons that we enjoy so much while realizing that the colder days of winter are approaching. To help you through the wintry weather, **the ILR schedule of classes has many options** to brighten up the days. Four new teachers are included in the schedule:

- **Debbie Cerra** will teach a class that deals with grieving. Debbie is a retired Presbyterian minister and has a doctorate in grief counseling.
- **Jack Wallingford**, a retired school teacher, will offer a new course on crime literature. Solving crimes of any type seems to hold people's attention, in addition to the reasons behind the crime.
- **Nancy Jirousek** and her husband, **Dennis**, will present a course called "It's All About Bourbon." Nancy recently retired from a career with Baldwin Wallace.
- If you are inclined to absorb ghost stories about Cleveland, **Bill Krejci** will host a course on "The Spooky Side of Cleveland." Bill also conducts tours of haunted locations in the Cleveland area.

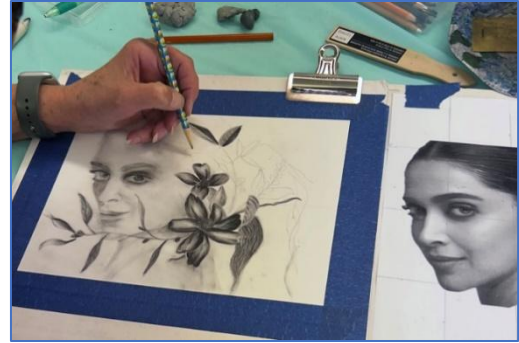


*Bev Sadowski facilitates a class session during her "Founding Fathers and Beyond" course this fall. (Photo by Mary Kolk)*

In all, **we offer 44 courses** that will keep your learning piqued. Eleven of these courses will be taught through Zoom, which means you can stay in your PJs and still learn the lessons from our talented teachers.

**The schedule will be posted on the ILR website on Nov. 18 and registration runs from Dec. 1 - 15.**

We wish our members a **very Happy Thanksgiving** and hope to see you at the **Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 18**. An invitation was emailed in late October. **Thank you for your support** of our ILR programs.



*A student works on a project during a drawing class taught by Cheri Homae. (Photo courtesy of Pam McConnell)*

## **Invite a Friend to Attend an ILR Class... for Free!**

*By Beth Townsend, Vice President, Marketing*

Did you know that ILR has instituted an **"Invite a Guest" program for members** enrolled in any of our courses? We know that word of mouth is how most people hear about our program. To that end, everyone taking an ILR course is encouraged to **invite a friend/guest to attend one class free of charge** during the six-week term.

This program **allows potential members to experience ILR from the inside out**. Observing the expertise of our instructors, relaxed atmosphere of the classroom, friendly interactions between students and frequent bursts of laughter provide a taste of the ILR learning experience in action.

## **Dec. 18 Holiday Luncheon Fills to Capacity**

About 350 ILR members and friends will gather at the **Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 18**. After a delicious lunch provided by BW Catering and Food Services. **Julie Koenig** will present a brief talk on "The Royal Family Christmas," followed by a performance from members of the **Cleveland Pops Amethyst Strings** (pictured below in 2023).



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.

**PLEASE NOTE: We have reached our attendance limit for this event and cannot accept any additional reservations.** We are sorry for any inconvenience.

## Sponsors to Help Support Holiday Luncheon

By Gary Erlinger, Chief Financial Officer



**You may have noticed** the costs to attend ILR's luncheons have been on the increase for the past several years. The ILR Governing Board is well aware of the impact rising costs are having on you and your family. In an effort to keep the costs of our luncheons as reasonable as possible, **ILR is seeking sponsors to help defray the inevitable cost increases.**

We are happy to announce that **two upper-level sponsors have already committed to our Dec. 18 Holiday Luncheon.** They are:

### ❖ **Spry Senior – Major Event Sponsor**

*"At Spry Senior, we know that older adults have specific primary care needs, so we've created a healthcare experience that's specifically for you. From providers who really get to know you, to local neighborhood locations, to all the extras that make it convenient and comfortable to seek care, Spry Senior is all about you, all the time!"*

### ❖ **Generations Senior Living – Entertainment Sponsor**

*"Our senior living community is designed to provide community, stability and the comfort of home. Independent senior living services offered include home-cooked meals, salon services, housekeeping and laundry, social activities and events; it's all here at Generations Senior Living!"*

**ILR strives to offer our members the opportunity to attend the Holiday Luncheon at a reasonable price**, recognizing that many seniors are on fixed incomes. Additionally, we need to maintain the ability of ILR to keep the costs for classes low, update equipment and to fund our scholarship program.

Three sponsorship levels are available:

**MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR (\$1000 investment):** The sponsor will receive two tickets to the luncheon at the President's Table, emcee acknowledgement, logo on-screen, a full-page ad in the luncheon program and newsletter/social media acknowledgement. In addition, sponsors will have the opportunity for two persons to disseminate literature and interact with attendees at a table in the gathering area prior to and following the Holiday Luncheon.

**ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR (\$500 investment):** The sponsor will receive two tickets to the luncheon, emcee acknowledgement and a half-page ad in the program. Two persons may also disseminate literature and interact with attendees at a table in the gathering area prior to and following the luncheon.

**TABLE SPONSOR (\$100 investment):** The sponsor will receive table signage at a single table, listing in the luncheon program and emcee acknowledgement.



## ILR Office Staff Committed to Member Service

By Dan Bomeli, ILR Today Editor

**How many times have you tried contacting an organization** with whom you're affiliated, only to land in a frustrating voicemail wasteland or shuttled off to a virtual chat-bot that is of little or no value?

That won't happen at ILRBW, which maintains an actual physical office with living, breathing human beings **who are committed to providing excellent service to members.**



ILR Office staff includes (standing left to right) Janet Bodjiak, Maria Phillips, Mary Ann Weston, Sue Brennan, Elaine Joseph and Marilyn Stimson. Seated (from left to right) are Karl Keller and Linda Faecking.

"I'm a people-pleasing person," says office volunteer **Elaine Joseph**. "It's very satisfying when you can do something useful to assist our members."

"People ask a lot of questions," agrees **Maria Phillips**, Vice President of Administration, who shares oversight of the ILR Office with Vice President and Chief Information Officer **Karl Keller**. "Between all of us in the office, someone will always have the answer."

The office, **located at 325 Front St.**, combines high-tech and high-touch methods to support ILR functions including membership, registration, IT, curriculum, travel,

social events, mailings, finance, history and office services. The volunteer staff is organized into two teams, comprising **13 individuals with nearly 75 years of combined service.**

**Team A represents the system side** and maintains all computerized functions. It includes the following volunteers: **Janet Bodjiak** (Office Chair), **Linda Faecking**, **Elaine Joseph** and **Maria Phillips**.

**Team B is literally the "first voice of ILR"** – these are the friendly folks who personally greet you when you call or stop by. Team members include **Sue Brennan**, **Gerrie Harwood**, **Gerri Johnson**, **Judy Kovach**, **Janet Noss**, **Bev Sadowski**, **Marilyn Stimson** and **Mary Ann Weston**.

In addition, **Paula Gustin** serves as ILR Historian (see her column on **page 5** of this newsletter).

A member from each team staffs the office each day it is open. Voicemails are checked and resolved. In-person visitors are welcomed and questions are referred to others as needed.

The ILR Office 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 is monitored on Mondays and Fridays.

ILR members **can renew memberships and register for classes at the [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website.** While that is convenient for many members, the technology can be intimidating for others.

"We are open extra hours during registration periods," says volunteer **Linda Faecking**. "Some people prefer to sign up in person and we want to accommodate them if they don't have a computer. They are very grateful and the positive feedback we get is rewarding."

\* \* \*

**In-person registration for Winter 2025 courses will be available** in the office on **Dec. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12** from 10 to 11:45 a.m.

The ILR Help Desk email address is [ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com) for questions.

## ILR Historical Documents Available to All

*By Paula Gustin, ILR Historian*



I am pleased to start **my new role as ILR Historian**, a position which has been vacant since 2020.

The Historian gathers printed material of ILR events, class lists and other relevant information and stores them in an annual binder. **These binders are located at the ILR Office and are available for anyone to review.**



**I'd like to remind members** that any newspaper articles, internet postings or promotional materials that include a past or present member, an event relative to ILR or a member's obituary can be included in a binder.

Please keep this in mind and that **pertinent items for the historical binders can be taken to the ILR Office**, 325 Front St., Berea, or sent by email to [ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com) for possible inclusion.

## Resources for Seniors: Playing it Safe Online

*by Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee*



According to the Pew Research Center, **about 60 percent of Americans believe** it is not possible to go through daily life without having their data collected. This means **TONS of personal data is available on the internet** – both for people authorized to view it for legitimate business purposes as well as those with evil intentions.

**So how can you minimize opportunities for someone to access your information** or, in extreme cases, steal your identity?

Start by limiting how much personal information you share online and setting your social media profiles to private. **For more online safety tips**, including how to report a suspected scam, visit [Play it safe online | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(consumerfinance.gov\)](https://www.consumerfinance.gov).

## Travel Update

*By Maria Phillips, Vice President, Administration*

We had a good year for travel in 2024, with **members participating in 14 trips from March through December.**



*(Photo courtesy of Maria Phillips)*

We are working with **three travel companies to plan our trips for 2025: Nowak Tours, Great Day Tours and JKL Tours.** Our schedule will include one-day trips, short two- or three-day trips and more-lengthy multiple-day trips.

**A survey will be emailed to our members in November or December** with a list of trips under consideration for 2025. Once we have your feedback, we'll send an email listing the trips that will be offered during the year. At that time, we will provide specific information for each trip and this will also be posted on our website: [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org). **ILR will host a travel**

**presentation session in January** with the three travel providers on all of the trips that will be offered. After that presentation, you will be able to contact the travel providers to register for the trips.

**Any questions about travel** can be referred to the travel company or to Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs at [ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com)

## Sunshine Committee Sends Caring Cards to Members

*by Janet Bodjiak, ILR Office Chairperson*

Are you aware of an ILR member who is currently or has recently **experienced an illness, injury or loss of a loved one**? Did you know the ILR Sunshine Committee sends out caring cards to our members?

**To request a card**, please email the ILR help desk at [ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com).

Be sure to include the name of the member, his or her street address if known and the reason for the card. A card will be mailed to the member.

\* \* \*

If you know of an ILR member who has passed away and whom you would like **to memorialize in this newsletter**, please contact [ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com) with details.

## Gary Croy Honored for Outstanding Contributions to Berea

ILR instructor and retired Berea teacher **Gary Croy has been named recipient of the 2024 Grindstone Award.**

The Berea Chamber of Commerce has presented the Grindstone Award since 1967 to **outstanding citizens who have contributed their time and effort through volunteer service**

**to make Berea a better place to live.** The winner is chosen based on nominations received from members of the community.

**Gary has served in leadership roles for multiple organizations** and received the Outstanding Teacher Award at Berea High School in 1990. He has also taught at Baldwin Wallace University. The Grindstone Award was presented at an awards banquet on Sept. 26.

## Marketing Committee Spreads the Word About ILR

*By Peggy Doyle, Marketing Committee Co-Chair*

Marketing Committee members had a busy and fun fall season while **promoting ILR at several events:** the Berea Arts Fest, North Royalton Senior Fair, Baldwin Wallace's Homecoming and the Berea WELLfest. We also continue to have our members present at **Doug Imhoff's "A General History of Cleveland" presentation** at several local libraries to promote and answer questions about ILR.



*Pictured above are Peggy Doyle, Maryanne Friend and Doug Imhoff at Berea Arts Fest. (Photo by Beth Townsend)*



*Mary Kolk and Elaine Joseph staff the ILR information table at North Royalton Senior Fair. (Photo courtesy of Mary Kolk)*

## Cultural Events Update

The cultural events listed below have been selected for 2025. **An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you** listing exact times and costs to enable you to purchase tickets. Buses will be provided for all events. Any ILR member may invite a guest.

### **Cleveland Pops Concert Music of Motown – Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025**

*Celebrate 65 years of Motown when we hear hits from legendary groups including The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Jackson 5, Earth, Wind & Fire and more. Get ready to take the stage with The Legacy to pay homage to the best of soul.*

**"Noises Off" at Great Lakes Theater – date TBD (between April 25 and May 18, 2025)**



This sidesplitting romp takes you behind the scenes as a hilariously dysfunctional cast stumbles through rehearsals, opening-night jitters and several escalating disasters. Doors slam, sardines fly and love triangles tangle as this award-winning farce sneaks a hysterical backstage peek at a production that teeters on the precipice of pandemonium and tests the limits of the adage “the show must go on.”

### Tour of the Cleveland Natural History Museum – date TBD

The Natural History Museum is undergoing a major transformation and we cannot yet set a firm date. We will notify members as soon as we get more details.

**Any questions about these cultural events** can be referred to Maria Phillips at [ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Special Events

- Dec. 3      **Christmas Through the Arts with Sean Crum** from 6:30-8 p.m. at Heritage Congregational Church  
*(Registration and payment details will be emailed to you)*
- Dec. 18      **Holiday Luncheon -- FULL.** The Amethyst Strings from the Cleveland Pops Orchestra will provide entertainment. Julie Koenig, who teaches ILR classes on the British Royals, will present a brief talk on “The Royal Family Christmas.”  
***(This event has reached its capacity and we regret that we cannot accept any additional reservations)***
- March 12, 2025      **Spring Luncheon** New Barley Corn will again entertain attendees for our St. Patrick’s Day-themed luncheon.  
*(Registration and payment details will be emailed to you)*
- May 14, 2025      **Book and Author Luncheon**

## ILR Calendar 2024-2025

Membership registration for the 2024-2025 year is **open through March 2025**.

- Nov. 18      Winter 2025 courses posted on [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org)
- Dec. 1      Winter 2025 course registration begins  
***In-person registration assistance*** at 325 Front St., Berea, is available from 10 – 11:45 a.m. on Dec. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12
- Dec. 2-4      New York City at Christmas with Radio City Rockettes ***(This trip is filled)***
- Dec. 3      “Christmas Through the Arts” by Sean Crum from 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
*(Registration info will be emailed to you)*
- Dec. 12      Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens with Hartville Holiday Tour
- Dec. 15      Winter 2025 course registration ends
- Dec. 15      Christmas Concert at Severance Hall ***(This event is filled)***



Dec. 18	Holiday Luncheon ( <b><i>This event is filled</i></b> ) ( <i>This event has reached its attendance limit and we cannot accept any additional reservations</i> )
Jan. 6, 2025	First day of winter classes
Feb. 1	Cleveland Pops Concert Music of Motown at Severance Hall ( <i>Registration info will be emailed to you</i> )
Feb. 24	Spring 2025 courses posted on <a href="http://ilrbw.org">ilrbw.org</a>
March 9	Spring 2025 course registration begins
March 12	Spring Luncheon
March 23	Spring 2025 course registration ends
April 7	First day of spring classes
May 14	Book and Author Luncheon <i>We will hear from three or four local authors who will present their books. (Registration and payment details will be emailed to you)</i>

## Quick Hits

**ILR Office and Help Desk** – The ILR Office at 325 Front Street 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 [ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com) for questions.

## Connect with ILR and Share with Others --

**Website:** [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org)      **Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562059407794/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562059407794/?ref=share_group_link)

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## Good Times at Recent ILR Events



*ILR members and guests gathered on Oct. 23 for an evening with **former coach and university president Jim Tressel**. His presentation focused on the importance of teamwork and the power of working together to achieve a common goal. Pictured with Mr. Tressel (from left) are Maria Phillips, Pam McConnell and Doug Imhoff. (Photo courtesy of Pam McConnell)*



ILR travel experiences this autumn included a **Canadian Theater Adventure** (above) and **Bourbon Trail Louisville** (right) (Photos courtesy of Maria Phillips).



ILR instructors and Curriculum Committee members got better acquainted at an **Oct. 21 Meet the Teachers reception**. Pictured from left to right are: Patrick O'Leary, Joanne Richter, Pat Blackmon, Louise Boston, Betty Zak and Pam Aleandri. (Photo by Dan Bomeli)

Julie Koenig's **British Royalty** course participants celebrated **Halloween** with a potluck-style party on the final class day. (Photo by Scott Kreidler)

