

ILR TODAY

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President's Message

By Doug Imhoff, President



Our membership renewal process began on July 1 and, if you have not already done so, **you can join ILR now for the coming academic year. Our annual membership fee is \$25**, which allows you to register for a wide array of ILR courses, cultural and social events, plus travel opportunities.

Please let your friends know about ILR and its rewards and experiences, too.

The fall 2025 course catalog can be viewed on the ilrbw.org website, and **online registration starts Aug. 17 and runs for two weeks. You can also register in person at the ILR office** during this two-week period (see "In-Person Registration" on page 2).

Our members tell us that **people sometimes ask them who is eligible to join ILR**. The paragraph below captures the essential elements of ILR membership.

*ILR at Baldwin Wallace welcomes active adults age 50 and older who are curious, engaged and eager to continue learning throughout life. **Our members share a passion for lifelong learning, personal growth and meaningful social interaction.** Whether you're retired, semi-retired or simply seeking enriching experiences, ILR offers a vibrant community where you can explore new ideas, connect with others and enjoy a variety of educational, cultural and social opportunities.*

I hope this helps clarify the "eligibility question" and **I would like to wish all of our members – whether new or long-timers – a fun and productive year with ILR.**

New Instructors Focus on Trees, Trial Law and Space Race

By Pam McConnell, Curriculum Chair

The saying, "**Where did the time go?**" certainly applies to the passing of summer days and the beginning of ILR's fall session of courses. As with preceding sessions, **we have new instructors** who will bring their expertise to our membership.

Our new instructors include:

- **Mare Matthews** will teach a **course on trees**. Mare is a retired middle school teacher and will bring years of science-course knowledge to ILR.
- **Jay Milano** is one of Cleveland's finest attorneys. His course relates to **40 years of trial law**.
- We are pleased to introduce **Tom Benson**, who retired from NASA and has created courses for ILR for the next year. **His first course will focus on The Space Race**. Tom has taught classes all over the world as he became a spokesperson for NASA's programs.

We continue to bring a variety of courses ranging from the arts and history to religion, science, health and current events. **Ann Cleary** is one of our veteran instructors and **will be teaching a class on constellations** at the Midpark School planetarium. **If you sign up for this course, make sure to bring a pillow for your head.** I spent 35 years in this planetarium with our fifth graders in the science program at Berea Schools.



Ann Cleary

Overall, we have the greatest number of course offerings ever. As a result, **we have evening classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

For those of you who come to the ILR office to sign up for courses (see schedule to the right), you will find me there, ready to help you and tell you about the great selection we have for the fall session.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

In-Person Registration

Offered from 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29 at the ILR Office, 325 Front St., Berea. Parking is available off Adalbert Street in the Baldwin Wallace lot.

ILR Co-Founder Jane Cavanaugh, Ed.D., Passes Away

ILR lost one of its most steadfast champions on July 18. **Jane Frances Cavanaugh, Ed.D., one of our founding members, died at the age of 84.**



Jane Cavanaugh

Thousands of ILR members over the years have benefited from Dr. Cavanaugh's thirst for knowledge. She, along with **Floyd Adams and Doris Snedeker** (both also deceased), **transformed an emerging trend in the early 1990s – adults attending evening or weekend college classes – into what we know today as ILR.** Dr. Cavanaugh, an avid reader and lifelong learner, also served as the Dean of Continuing Education at Baldwin Wallace for nearly 20 years.

She retired in 1998 and kept active through substitute teaching, volunteering at her church and working to expand and improve ILR through 2006. **She was a Lifelong ILR Member**, an honor bestowed by the Governing Board to a select few. Dr. Cavanaugh is survived by her husband of 31 years, **George Kasulones.**

When interviewed for a February 2024 article that appeared in this newsletter, Dr. Cavanaugh reinforced the value of lifelong learning. **“People who continue to learn through programs like ILR,”** she said, **“lead richer lives and, with better knowledge of their environment and humankind, help make the world a better place.”**

Additionally, **Dr. Cavanaugh often shared a memorable comment** she heard long ago from an ILR board member whose name is lost to history. **“After retirement,”** the person told her, **“you get the no-go’s, the slow go’s and the go-go’s.”**

By all appearances, ILR seems to attract a lot of go-go’s.

This past March, while attending the ILR Spring Luncheon, **Dr. Cavanaugh donated a canvas bag loaded with manila folders and a binder filled with ILR materials** she collected from 1989 to 2006. After reviewing the documents and determining their significance, **ILR Historian Paula Gustin commented, “I realize how grateful we all should be for her work and dedication to ILR.”**

Board Retreat Charts a Path for Future ILR Success

By Maria Phillips, VP of Administration



The **ILR Governing Board** gathered for a **one-day retreat on July 17** in the Conference Center at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron.

Our “**Honoring the Past to Create the Future**”-themed discussions were moderated by **organizational consultant Jennifer Williams**, whose professional background includes experience as an education administrator.

During large- and small-group conversations, **board members identified where we as a community of learners and leaders want to go in the future**. We clarified our organization’s strengths and weaknesses, and identified hopes and dreams **to be developed into measurable goals** for attaining long-term ILR sustainability.

Mass. General Article Highlights Value of Lifelong Learning

ILR embraces lifelong learning as a major part of its mission, as evidenced by our robust course calendar for each fall, winter and spring session.

The June 2025 issue of *Mind, Mood & Memory*, published by Massachusetts General Hospital’s Department of Psychiatry, included an article that reinforces our commitment to lifelong learning. The article is titled “**Become a Lifelong Learner to Keep Your Mind Sharp and Your Memory Strong**” and contains a section about the benefits of lifelong learning:

*Numerous **studies on lifelong learning** have found that it helps older adults become more adaptable to challenges throughout life, improve self-esteem and confidence, boost their cognitive health, increase their social engagement, and enhance their well-being and sense of fulfillment.*

*...research suggests **cognitively stimulating activities, such as reading books and newspapers, writing letter or emails, and playing challenging games** in early and midlife are associated with lower accumulation of amyloid protein in the brain. The buildup of amyloid plaques is a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease.*

*...while helpful to have a history of cognitive engagement, **it’s never too late to start.***

Thank you to **Judge Patricia Blackmon**, who serves on the ILR Governing Board, for bringing this article to our attention. **The above excerpt is used with permission** of the Editor-in-Chief of *Mind, Mood & Memory*, Massachusetts General Hospital.

ILR Open House Showcases Lifelong Learning Experts



About 150 curious adults gathered at Old Oak Center in Middleburg Heights on Aug. 6 to learn more about ILR's learning, travel, cultural and social opportunities.

The ILR Open House, **held in collaboration with Southwest General Health Center's Old Oak Center and Generations Senior Living**, featured nine instructors who introduced themselves and gave mini-presentations about their courses this fall.



What's Happening in ILR Marketing

By Beth Townsend, Mary Jo Mitchell and Peggy Doyle

Exciting Digital Updates Coming This Fall

ILR will launch a **brand-new website in November**, designed to make finding classes, events and news easier than ever. Along with the website, we've introduced a **new Facebook Business Page** to keep you informed and connected with the latest ILR happenings.

These updates are being developed in collaboration with the **Digital Marketing Center at BW** and are all about enhancing your digital experience – making it simpler, faster and more engaging to stay involved with the ILR community!

On the Road with ILR

We will have a table at the **Berea Arts Fest** Sunday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Coe Lake and at the **North Royalton Senior Fair** on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the North Royalton Library. **Stop by to say “Hi”** and see what's new!

Bring ILR Reach to Your Group

Looking for an engaging speaker for your club, organization or community group? **ILR Reach** offers a “speakers bureau” of knowledgeable and passionate presenters ready to **deliver lively, one-hour programs** on a wide range of topics. Already a hit with senior living communities, libraries and senior centers – with **over 90 presentations scheduled this year** – ILR Reach is the perfect way to bring lifelong learning and conversation-starting topics to your audience.

Interested in booking a presentation? Contact us today at ilreach@gmail.com.

Zoom Host Coordinators Needed; Nov. 3 Training Session

By Patty Rondaris Danzey, Host Coordinator Chair

The ILR Curriculum Committee is now preparing the **Winter 2026 schedule that will include 12 courses taught via Zoom**. We have a dedicated group of Zoom Host Coordinators and are **looking for additional volunteers to help with the increased number of online courses**.

Scott Kreidler will provide a **Zoom training session this fall** for new Zoom Host Coordinators. Additionally, we are asking our experienced Zoom Host Coordinators to attend in order to assist and support this project.

Zoom Training

Monday, Nov. 3, from 10 – 11 a.m.

Location TBD



If you attend the training **and** sign up to coordinate a Zoom course, **you can choose to attend any ILR course of your choice free of charge**. The Zoom course that you coordinate is also free of charge.

Reserve your seat for the training and/or direct your questions to ilrhelpdesk@wu.ac.at. The registration deadline for this Zoom training session is Oct. 24.

Volunteer Profile: Patty Rondaris Danzey

By Dan Bomeli, ILR Today Editor

Patty Rondaris Danzey is the proud presider of an ILR ensemble that includes nearly 50 Host Coordinators.



“Our coordinators are fun, enthusiastic folks and I feel they are my family,” Patty says about her role as **Host Coordinator Chair**. “I have met some wonderful people who are very generous with their time. They’re flexible, very dedicated and love to learn from each other.”

A Host Coordinator (HC) is assigned to every ILR course to take attendance, ensure that classrooms are set up properly, support the instructor and keep participants apprised of upcoming ILR social and cultural events. **Coordinators benefit by participating in the classes they host without having to pay the course fee.**

Patty, an ILR member since 2018, was approached by a former Governing Board member who asked her to oversee the HC function. **In addition to in-person classes, Patty recruits and assigns members to coordinate Zoom courses** (see information above about a Zoom training opportunity).

Once HCs come on board, Patty organizes training sessions for them to meet and greet their colleagues while learning details about their HC role. Patty and her team recently **produced more than 50 three-ring binders containing resources to help ensure smooth operations**. Every HC handbook contains information about various ILR classrooms, AV equipment, “Invite a Guest” program, contact numbers and more.

While Patty spends many hours overseeing her HC team, she also enjoys experiencing the breadth and depth of ILR courses.

"I take courses on topics that I never before had an opportunity to explore," says Patty, a retired nurse. **"It's fun to learn new things that weren't part of my professional background,"** citing history, philosophy, art and religion as examples.

Whether volunteering in her leadership role at ILR or as a Red Coat usher at Playhouse Square, Patty applies her professional talents to the job at hand. "I'm using many of the same organizational and people skills as when I was working," she says. **"I'm determined to stay active so my brain will wear out instead of rust out."**

If you are interested in serving as an ILR Host Coordinator, please send an email to ilrhelpdesk@bwu.edu.

Resources for Seniors:

Volunteering to Overcome Loneliness and Isolation

By Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee

As we move through life, friends and family may move away or pass on. As a result, loneliness can sometimes slowly creep in. **Loneliness – and the isolation that often accompanies it – is emotionally taxing.** It can affect your health both mentally and physically.

Staying socially active is vital for us all. **If isolation is a concern for you, consider joining a senior center, hobby group or becoming a volunteer.** Even adopting a pet can provide companionship and a sense of purpose. Regular phone calls, video chats or lunch dates with friends and loved ones can also bridge the gap.

So where can you share your time and talents as a volunteer? **The nonprofit organizations below – and many more – may provide a few ideas for you to get started:**

- **AmeriCorps** – Serve with organizations dedicated to helping others ([AmeriCorps Seniors | AmeriCorps](#))
- **Canine Companions** – Help raise or care for puppies who will, in turn, be trained as service dogs for people with disabilities ([Ways to Volunteer - Canine Companions](#))
- **Habitat for Humanity** – Volunteer opportunities are available for every skill level from beginner to advanced ([Volunteer - Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity](#))
- **ILR** – Visit ilrbw.org to see how you can get involved in our various committees and other initiatives
- **Meals on Wheels** – Help brighten the day for homebound seniors ([Volunteer with Meals on Wheels | Help Older Adults in Need](#))
- **National Park Service** – Join with others who share your passion for the natural world ([Volunteer with Us \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#))
- **USO** -- Support local military service members and their families in your community ([Volunteer · United Service Organizations](#))

You can meet plenty of people and develop lasting relationships while benefiting worthy causes when volunteering for these or hundreds of other organizations. **Now it's your turn.**

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

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. If you are interested, please sign up soon.

Specific information for each trip is posted on ilrbw.org.

We are working 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.** Deposits will be refundable according to the travel company policies. Your payment ensures a seat for the trip on a first-come, first-served basis. A standby list will be maintained for trips that fill quickly.

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

Oct. 9	The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County
TBD	Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge

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

Sept. 3-5	The Best of Western New York, Buffalo and Niagara Falls
Sept. 25	Art, Wine and Roses in the Mahoning Valley
Dec. 10	Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky County

Nowak Tours: 330-483-4900 (Wendy Skettle)

Dec. 9-12	Christmas at the Capital
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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.

Cultural Events Update

By the ILR Cultural Events Committee

Thank you for taking part in our survey to help determine what events we are going to be attending this year. The events receiving the highest responses are listed below with tentative dates. **An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you with reservation information before each event.** Any ILR member may invite a guest.

Sept. 9: Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Tour the newly renovated Natural History Museum and its transformed galleries. See a show in the Planetarium and a 3D movie in the theater.



Dec. 14: Christmas Concert at Severance Hall

Celebrate the Christmas season with a trip to Severance Hall to hear the Cleveland Orchestra Christmas Concert with favorite songs of the season.

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

Jam along to a night of pop favorites. Join the Cleveland Pops Orchestra for the music of Whitney Houston, Barbara 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 ilrhelpdeskbu@gmail.com.

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

Save the Dates: Upcoming Special Events

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

ILR Calendar 2025-2026

Aug. 17	Fall 2025 course registration begins <i>(See page 2 for in-person schedule)</i>
Aug. 31	Fall 2025 course registration ends
Sept. 3-5	The Best of Western New York, Buffalo and Niagara Falls <i>(See page 7)</i>
Sept. 9	Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Sept. 11-13	Canadian Theatre Adventure at Shaw and Stratford
Sept. 14-18	Agawa Canyon and More
Sept. 15	Fall 2025 classes begin
Sept. 17-19	Magnificent Michigan
Sept. 25	Art, Wine and Roses in the Mahoning Valley <i>(See page 7)</i>
Oct. 1-7	Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

Oct. 3-7	The Sky is the Limit – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Oct. 9	The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County (<i>See page 7</i>)
Nov. 6-16/17	Best of Hawaii
Nov. 15	Winter 2026 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org
Nov. 30	Winter 2026 course registration begins
Dec. 1-3	New York City at Christmas
Dec. 9-12	Christmas at the Capital (<i>See page 7</i>)
Dec. 10	Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky County (<i>See page 7</i>)
Dec. 14	Winter 2026 course registration ends
Dec. 14	Christmas Concert at Severance Hall
Dec. 17	Holiday Luncheon
Dec. TBD	Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge (<i>See page 7</i>)
Jan. 5, 2026	Winter 2026 classes begin
Feb. 23, 2026	Spring 2026 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org
March 8, 2026	Spring 2026 course registration begins
March 11, 2026	Spring Luncheon
March 22, 2026	Spring 2026 course registration ends and membership closes
March 28, 2026	Cleveland Pops and the Famous Ladies of Song
April 6, 2026	Spring 2026 classes begin
May 20, 2026	Book and Author Luncheon
June 6, 2026	Cleveland Pops and Made in America
June TBD	The Great Gatsby at Connor Palace at Playhouse Square

In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that I share the news of **the passing of Delle Rayner**. Delle was a valued member of the ILR family and, for the past three years, served the ILR Finance Division as our Accounts Receivable Specialist. **She loved ILR and gave of herself quietly, humbly and with great skill.**



Delle retired from her role on June 1 due to health concerns. Shortly after her final meeting with us, she wrote to me and said, “Thank you and the committee for everything – you made me feel appreciated.” **She will be deeply missed.**

Gary A. Erlinger, ILR Chief Financial Officer

Delle Rayner

* * *

ILR member and dedicated lifelong learner **Brian Spatz died on June 10**. He was a Marine and Vietnam Veteran and **worked at Cleveland Metroparks before retiring**. He and his wife of 57 years, Barbara, have two sons.

Jeanette Schroeder passed away on Feb. 15 this year. She was a long-time elementary school teacher in Parma and organist at St. James Church in Cleveland. **Friends will remember her humor and end-of-month lunches she enjoyed.**

If you know of an ILR member who has passed away and whom you would like to memorialize in this newsletter, please contact ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com with details.

Pals and Pizza Reunite at ILR Volunteer Picnic



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 ilrhelppdeskbwu@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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