

# ILR TODAY

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## President's Message

by Doug Imhoff, President



We have just finished our ILR Fall 2023 Quarter, comprising more than 40 courses and covering a wide variety of topics. I am pleased to report that **attendance increased by more than 10 percent** over 2022, with a total of nearly 1,200 filled seats, or an average of 28 participants per class.

Looking forward, the **2024 Winter Catalog** goes onto the [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website on Nov. 20 and winter registration runs from Dec. 3-17. Our **ILR Holiday Luncheon** is on Dec. 13. Winter classes start on Jan. 8 and will run for six weeks as usual. Please note that a calendar of upcoming ILR events and dates for the remainder of this year and in 2024 is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

Since 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 extend my **best wishes to all of our ILR members** for a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday, and a very prosperous and healthy New Year.

We hope to see all of you at our upcoming winter ILR classes, trips and luncheons in 2024!

## Introducing the Honor Roll of ILR Donors

by Gary Erlinger, Chief Fiscal Officer

The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) is grateful for all of our donors. Their contributions over the past year have **enabled ILR to continue to provide outstanding educational programs** for seniors throughout our Northeast Ohio community.

Our donors also assisted us in providing **\$21,000 in scholarships** to non-traditional students at Baldwin Wallace University this year alone. Over the course of the past 20 years, **ILR has provided close to \$400,000 in scholarships** to Baldwin Wallace students. Without the contributions of our generous donors and members none of this would have been possible.

Please join the ILR Governing Board in saluting our 2023 donors:

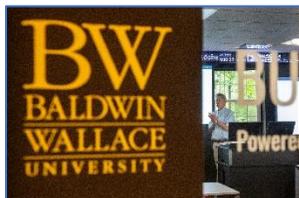
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ❖ <b>President's Scholar Level (\$1000 plus)</b><br>Karl Keller                            | ❖ <b>Provost's Scholar Level (\$500 - \$999)</b><br>Carole and Gary Erlinger<br>Anonymous<br>Anonymous             |
| ❖ <b>Dean's Scholar Level (\$100 - \$499)</b><br>Edith Newman<br>Doug and Sue Ellen Imhoff | ❖ <b>Scholar Level (\$5 - \$99)</b><br>Maria Phillips<br>Janet Bodjiak<br>Tom and Sue Brennan<br>Teresa Van Sickle |

You can **make a gift by clicking on the Give Today Icon** and signing into your ILR account. No account? Just click on the link icon, then click on the New Users tab and create an account.



## More than 25 New Courses Slated for Winter Session

by Pam McConnell, Chair, Curriculum Committee



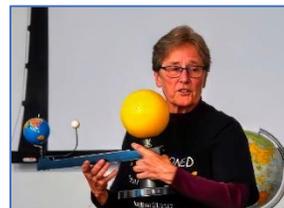
With the end of 2023 in sight, ILR is happy to announce the classes that begin the week of Jan. 8, 2024. Of the 37 classes to be conducted for six weeks, **27 of them are new courses.**

New to ILR is instructor **Mello Mitchell**, whose course will focus on “Meditation for Spiritual Awakening.” We also are happy to announce the return of **Carl Fernstrum**, who will teach a course on the “Great Songwriters of the 60s and 70s.” **Ann Cleary** will present a one-night-only Zoom class (with an encore session offered the very next evening – see below) about the upcoming solar eclipse.

Thanks in part to our unpredictable winter weather, 13 Zoom courses are included in the winter schedule. **Come join us** and ring in the New Year with the joy of learning. *(Photo courtesy of Baldwin Wallace University)*

## Upcoming Special Classes on Total Solar Eclipse

ILR instructor **Ann Cleary** delighted attendees during a special one-hour class on Oct. 24. Her presentation focused on the **April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse** and why Northeast Ohio will be fortunate to lie in the path of totality for nearly four minutes.



Ann will offer **similar presentations on Feb. 7 and 8** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, providing information about the how and why of solar eclipses, what totality means, plus how and where to safely observe the eclipse. **Watch for more information** about these one-time-only class offerings. *(Photo by Elaine Joseph)*

## Winter 2024 Class Registration Begins Dec. 3

Online class registration for Winter 2024 **will begin Dec. 3, 2023, at 12:01 a.m. EST.** We will offer **in-person class registration** from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the ILR office at 325 Front Street, Berea (parking is available in the back, off of Adalbert Street) on Monday, Dec. 4; Tuesday, Dec. 5; Wednesday, Dec. 6; Friday, Dec. 8; Monday, Dec. 11; and Thursday, Dec. 14. **Class registration will close on Dec. 17 at 11:00 p.m.**

## Behind the Scenes After Class Registration Closes

by Karl Keller, Chief Information Officer

ILR has a set date that class registration closes for every quarter and, out of necessity, **we cannot accept late registrations.** Several volunteers devote many hours to perform the following tasks after registration closes, including but not limited to:

- **Canceling class(es)** – If the class minimum has not been reached or the instructor needs to cancel, we will cancel the class. We try to reach out to each student in the

class via email and phone calls to notify them that the class is being canceled, and ask if they want a different class or a refund.

- **Clearing waitlist** – The class size is set in one of three ways: by the instructor, by ILR, or by the limit that the room will hold. We contact the instructor to see if the class size can be increased or not (if the class size was set by the instructor). If ILR set the class size, what is the density of other classes in that time slot at that location, so as not to overrun the available parking spaces. Can we move the class to a different room within the location or change location? If the size can be increased, then we start to clear the waitlist(s).
- **Creating reports** – Attendance sheets and a student contact list are prepared for each class so the coordinator knows who will attend. ILR runs 38 to 41 classes each quarter.
- **Creating an email list** for each class so class reminders and surveys can be sent out.
- **Creating for each class the class reminder.**

Please join me in celebrating our volunteers who put in a lot of effort that often goes unnoticed.

## Bring a Guest to Class

by Beth Townsend, Marketing Director

ILR is pleased to announce our “Bring a Guest to Class” program. Members who are enrolled in any of our in-person courses are invited to **bring one guest to attend either Week 5 or Week 6** of your course. If you are taking more than one class, you are welcome to invite a different guest to either Week 5 or 6 of **each** of the classes you are enrolled in (free of charge!).

We are excited about offering this new opportunity for you to give others a “taste” of ILR and **we look forward to meeting your guests.**

## Get on Board with ILR Travel

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



and lengthier multiple-day trips.

An **email survey will go out** this month to our members with a list of trips being considered for 2024. In January, an email will be sent to members with **ILR trips that will be offered**, based on the survey results. We will provide specific information for each trip at that time and will also post them on our [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website. ILR will host a **presentation in January about all the trips** that will be offered with the three travel providers. Afterward, you will be able to contact the travel providers to register for trips. (Group photo by Chris Rettig, JKL Tours)

We had a good year for travel in 2023. Members attended or will attend **13 trips** from March through December.

We are working with three travel companies to plan our trips for 2024: **Nowak Tours, Great Day Tours** and **JKL Tours**. Travel includes one-day trips, two- or three-day trips



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

## ILR Calendar 2023-2024

**Membership registration remains open for the 2023-2024 membership year.** Help is available from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the ILR office every Monday and Friday.

### 2023:

- Nov. 20 2024 Winter Class Catalog posted on [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website
- Dec. 1 Christmas at the Nicest Town in America
- Dec. 3 Winter class registration begins. Help is available from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the ILR office, 325 Front St., Berea, on Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11 and 14
- Dec. 7 Franklin Park Conservatory and Alum Creek State Park Fantasy of Lights
- Dec. 13 Holiday Luncheon (registration and payment details are emailed to members)
- Dec. 17 2024 Winter class registration ends
- Dec. 17 Cleveland Orchestra Holiday Concert/cultural event at Severance Hall

### 2024:

- Jan. 8 Winter classes begin
- Feb. 3 Cleveland Pops Orchestra "A Tribute to the Beatles" cultural event at Severance Hall at 8 p.m. (registration and payment details will be emailed to members)
- Feb. 19 2024 Spring Class Catalog posted on [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website
- March 4 Spring class registration begins
- March 6 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon (registration and payment details will be emailed to members)
- March 22 Spring class registration ends
- April 1 Spring classes begin
- April 12 Cleveland Pops Orchestra "Broadway Rocks" cultural event at Severance Hall at 8 p.m. (registration and payment details will be emailed to members)
- May 15 Book and Author Event (registration and payment details will be emailed to members)

## Social Committee Update

*By Maria Phillips and Pam McConnell, Social Committee Chairpersons*

We would like to thank **Janice Stuart**, our Social Committee Chairperson who has retired. She masterminded the beautiful decorations on all the tables at our ILR luncheons! She will be missed and we wish her well.

**Save the dates:** Our **Holiday Luncheon** will be **Dec. 13** with the Cleveland Pops Amethyst Strings. Email invitations were sent. The **Spring Luncheon** will be held **March 6** with the New Barleycorn again. Our **Book and Author Luncheon** returns **May 15**.

## Cultural Events Update

**Thank you to the people who responded** to the Cultural Event Survey. We now have a better idea of your entertainment and enrichment interests.

The most popular choice was the **Cleveland Orchestra Holiday Concert** on Dec. 17 and that event is now filled. The next-highest responses were for the Cleveland Pops Orchestra "**A Tribute to the Beatles**" on Feb. 3, 2024, and "**Broadway Rocks**" on April 12. Other top choices were the **Maltz Museum** and **Art Museum**, and we are tentatively looking at April and May for these museum visits. We are also exploring the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster and the Porthouse Theatre for possible summer events. **You will receive more information** via email on these events along with registration flyers as they are finalized. We look forward to sharing our events with you!

Any questions about cultural events can be referred to **Pat Giblin** and **Penny Jeffrey**, Cultural Events Committee Co-Chairs at [ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com).

## Note of Thanks to ILR

**Carl Fernstrum**, Director of Worship at Strongsville United Methodist Church, sent the following message via the ILR website:

"Hello ILR! I wanted to **express my deep appreciation** to those of you who came out to the "Love Changes Everything" (The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber) concert at Strongsville UMC on Oct. 15. **The event raised \$4,172** for the AIDS Task Force of Cleveland and The Harbor and Bridge Community Center in Ohio City."

## Volunteer Profile: Lois McNabb, Host Coordinator

by Dan Bomeli



ILR Host Coordinator **Lois McNabb** recalls the time an instructor was having trouble with a projector, so Lois headed down the hallway and found help from... **a tutu-clad ballet dancer** who popped into the classroom and got everything running correctly.

Situations (and solutions) like this are uncommon, and Lois enjoys the coordinator role she has filled for more than a decade. "**I like meeting with people** who are taking classes," she says. "Instructors are also very interesting to get to know."

Lois, a long-time Brook Park resident, was a nurse at Lutheran Hospital for 42 years and heard about ILR while earning her bachelor's degree at Baldwin Wallace. She began taking ILR classes after retiring in 2001.

"I've been busy ever since I retired," she says. In addition to coordinating two ILR courses every quarter, **Lois volunteers extensively** with her church and is active in a social organization whose members are all named Lois.

At ILR, Host Coordinators are responsible for taking attendance, ensuring that classrooms are set up properly, any handouts are ready and performing other duties to support the instructor. Additionally, coordinators benefit by sitting in on classes **without having to pay the course fee**. This perk allows Lois to choose courses of special interest to her.

“ILR is the perfect solution for retirees,” she says. “I’ve become friends with people I’ve met.” And Lois is happy to provide a valuable service through her volunteer efforts.

“If there were no ILR Host Coordinators,” she says, “it would be difficult to run the classes.”

*If you are interested in serving as an ILR Host Coordinator, please contact the ILR Help Desk at [ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com).*

## Engage with Others Through ILR Volunteering

*by Bev Sadowski, Director of Volunteers*

**Great volunteer opportunities are available** for those who would like to get more involved in ILR, but possibly with limited time commitments. You also don’t need computer or IT skills; but you just enjoy engaging with others. These opportunities include:

- **Working at the ILR office** two hours per month, where you would be answering phones and following up on messages left by callers
- **Assisting tour leaders** on cultural/live performance events with bus check-ins (you will need to purchase your own ticket for the event)
- **Host Coordinators** – taking attendance and assisting instructors; coordinators can then participate in the class without charge

You will receive any needed training should you be interested in any of the above volunteer choices.

If you want to learn more, **please contact the Help Desk** at [ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com) and we will get back to you in a timely fashion. Thanks in advance to any potential volunteers. We hope to hear from you soon!

## Resources for Seniors

*by Elaine Joseph*

The internet has a wealth of valuable resources for seniors, and sometimes the sheer volume can be overwhelming. **Here are some common questions** seniors pose to the Ohio Department of Aging, plus online resources to help address them:

- Where can I use my Golden Buckeye card?
- What volunteer opportunities do you offer?
- What is an ombudsman?
- We need help. Where do we start?
- How do I report suspected elder abuse?
- How can I get help with meals?
- Can I get a ride to an appointment or to run errands?

**To learn more**, visit the [Ohio Department of Aging](http://www.ohio.gov/aging) website or call 1-800-266-4346 during regular business hours.

\* \* \*

**The holiday season is approaching** and while many people experience joy, others may grapple with loneliness, depression or other concerns. [The Holidays and the Senior Adult](#) offers suggestions on how older adults can reduce loneliness in the coming months.

*Please note that ILR provides the above links to enhance awareness, and that ILR does not necessarily endorse these organizations, services or advice.*

## In Memoriam

The ILR community is saddened by the recent passing of the following members:



**Donna Ehresman** passed away on Jan. 6 following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

**Robert Pearl** passed away April 25.

**Pat Zickes**, who attended many travel events, passed away on May 10.

**John M. Coleman III** passed away Oct. 4.

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

## 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 [ilrhelpdeskbu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelpdeskbu@gmail.com).

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

## Community Events Showcase ILR

Thank you to those who stopped by our ILR booths at the Sept. 10 **Berea Arts Fair** and **BW Homecoming** on Sept. 30 (photos on page 8). Numerous attendees expressed interest in knowing more about ILR and its wide range of offerings. We invite all of our readers to visit our website at [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) and/or call the office at 440-826-3188 for more information.



(Photo by Dan Bomeli)



(Photo by Angela Sternlicht)

## 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 noon**. 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)

**Become an ILR ambassador!** Please share ILR membership and class information with your friends and colleagues, and be sure to pass along this newsletter.

*ILR Today is published and distributed four times each year by the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University. The newsletter team includes Paula Gustin, Elaine Joseph and Dan Bomeli. Send your feedback, questions or ideas to [paulailrbw@gmail.com](mailto:paulailrbw@gmail.com). If you send photos, be sure all identifiable people have given their permission to publish.*