

# ILR TODAY

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## President's Message

by Doug Imhoff, President



We have just finished the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the ILR organization and I would like to **thank all of our members for their support**. It was a great year and we look forward to the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

As a reminder to our current members, **July 1 is the starting date for renewing your ILR membership** and we hope you sign up again. Additionally, please **let your friends know about ILR** and our wonderful classes, luncheons, trips, cultural events and other benefits. If you want to take a look at the calendar for upcoming ILR events, please see page 6 of this newsletter or visit [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) and click on the calendar tab near the top right-hand corner.

Our **annual meeting**, which includes the election of officers and voting on the updated ILR bylaws, will take place **Thursday, May 23, and is open to all members**. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the BWU Strosacker Student Union, Sandstone 3 room on the lower level.

In summary, I see great success going forward for the ILR organization in all of its endeavors. Once again, I thank you for your wonderful support now and in the future!

## Total Solar Eclipse is Totally Awesome

Story, interviews and photos by Paula Gustin, Elaine Joseph and Dan Bomeli

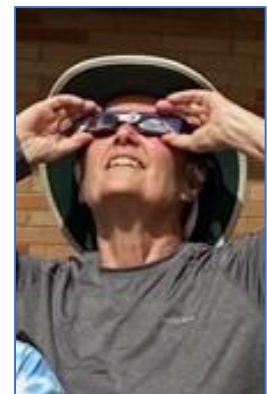
ILR members were well prepared for the April 8 total solar eclipse in Northeast Ohio, thanks in large part to **Ann Cleary**.

Ann, an ILR instructor and retired high school earth and space science teacher, led **more than a half-dozen virtual and in-person eclipse presentations** in early 2024. Her one-hour programs explained the how and why of solar eclipses, what totality means, plus how and where to safely observe the eclipse.

But Ann was careful not to share *everything* with program attendees.

"I didn't want to tell people precisely what to expect," she says, referring to the dramatic change as the eclipse transitions from 99 to 100 percent totality. **"Watching a total solar eclipse should be each person's own unique experience."** Ann, who traveled to St. Louis to witness totality during the 2017 eclipse, enjoyed this year's event on her own backyard deck in the company of her family, including grandsons aged 10 and 14.

"This one **far exceeded my expectations because I got to share that special moment at home**," Ann says. "Everyone cheered and I could see the big smiles on their faces."



(Photo courtesy of Ann Cleary)

Her key takeaways from the big event? **“It’s universal – we all now get it,”** she explains. “I think of the eclipse as an analogy for life: You hope for the best and you must be truly present.”

The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will occur in 2099, and Ann hopes her 80s-something grandsons will get to see it again. “It’s really cool to think **they’ll be talking about it with their families,**” she says, “and remembering when we all watched it together in 2024.”

\* \* \*

**We asked several ILR members** what they thought about the total solar eclipse, and here’s what they had to say:



**Roberta Trutko**

“I knew it would be good, but **I didn’t know it would be THAT good.** I learned that we’re just a tiny speck in the whole scheme of things.”



**Dave Koncal**

“What I thought about, looking at that corona, was **wondering what the ancients thought about it** – keeping in mind that they didn’t really know what it was.”



**Susan Madden**

“I learned about a prominence. **I thought my eyes were acting up but I did see the red glare.** I found out later that it doesn’t always happen during an eclipse but it was a prominence on the sun that day.”



**Marilyn Stimson**

“It was awesome. I don’t think I knew what to expect, but **it was beyond anything I could imagine.** And I wish I could see it again, but I’ll have to travel to do that.”



**Carol Sue Porter**

“**I felt very, very enlightened.** I like the night skies and the stars and everything. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and I really, truly enjoyed it.”



**Tom Madden**

“Just amazing! They told you the time it was coming and what was going to happen and it was like: **‘Wow! How could they know all of this?’** But it happened at the time they said. Really cool!”

## Upcoming Special Events

### May 23: ILR Annual Meeting

We are holding our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 23**, at 10 a.m. The agenda includes voting for officers for the new 2024-2026 term and voting on the updated ILR bylaws. Check your email for more information.

The meeting location is **Sandstone 3 in the lower level of the BWU Strosacker Student Union**, 125 Tressel St., Berea. This meeting typically lasts 45-60 minutes.

## May 28: Carl Fernstrum in Concert



ILR's very own **Carl Fernstrum** will perform music from "**The Great American Songbook**" on **Tuesday, May 28**, at 2 p.m. at Strongsville United Methodist Church, 13500 Royalton Rd., Strongsville. The cost is \$10 per person, with proceeds going to the ILR Scholarship Fund.

Experience Carl taking you through the decades of the 20th Century with music from Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lennon and McCartney, Billy Joel and Elton John...just to name a few!

**Please join us** – we've got 100 years to cover, so there will be a little something for everyone!

## June 26: ILR Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held at **Coe Lake Park**, Berea, on **Wednesday, June 26**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all ILR presenters, coordinators and committee members. Watch your email for more information.

## Cultural Performances Update

### "Guys and Dolls"

We're heading back to the Ohio Live Opera Company in Wooster on **Tuesday, June 25**, for "**Guys and Dolls**," one of the most-acclaimed of American musicals. Frank Loesser's lyrics and music are clever and unforgettable. Based on the stories by Damon Runyon about the seedy street life in mid-20th century New York City, the gamblers, the police, and the Save-A-Soul Mission quickly envelope the audience.

The cost of a ticket, bus transportation and gratuity for the driver will be **\$86.00 per person**. We will assemble at gazebo side of the Berea Library parking lot for departure at 11:45 a.m. Any ILR member may invite a guest. **Deadline to register is May 20.**

### "MJ the Musical"

We will be going to Playhouse Square on **Tuesday, Aug. 6** to see "**MJ the Musical**." Watch your email for more information.

## Honorary Lifetime Membership Recognizes Contributions to ILR Growth and Success

*by Maria Phillips, VP Administration*

Congratulations to the ILR Honorary Lifetime Members for 2024: **Gary Erlinger, Tom Brennan** and Lifetime Emeritus Member **Nancy Jirousek!**

Honorary Lifetime Membership, introduced in 1998, is **granted to the outgoing President** at the conclusion of each biennial term and is granted by the Governing Board to not more than **two other persons every other year**. Persons who have contributed significantly to the growth and success of ILR may be proposed for Honorary Lifetime Membership by any ILR member

and shall be voted on by secret ballot. Honorary Lifetime Members are exempt from further payment of dues and shall have all the benefits of membership.

**The following members have been conferred this designation** in previous years:

|                    |                  |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Thomas J. Brennan* | Karl Keller      | David Proctor    |
| Jane Cavanaugh     | Mary Ruth Kolk   | Jean Robejsek    |
| LaVerne Cowgill    | William Luff     | Robert Ross      |
| Judith Drabik      | Judith Mader     | Janice L. Stuart |
| Gary A. Erlinger*  | Pamela McConnell | Robert Titran    |
| A.F. Forestieri    | Gayle McCormick  | Richard Vernon   |
| Charles Gall       | Thomas Owen      | Carol Vidoli     |
| Nancy Jirousek**   | Maria Phillips   | Georgia Wilson   |

\* *New*

\*\* *Lifetime Emeritus*

## **New Teachers and Courses Join ILR this Fall**

*by Pam McConnell, Curriculum Committee Chair*

With warmer days just around the corner, those of us in the Curriculum Committee **wish for you a safe and enjoyable summer**. We had an exciting year with the introduction of new teachers as well as veteran teachers who continue to present new courses of interest.

This tradition will continue into the fall session with **six new teachers** to ILR:

- **Jack Wallingford** will highlight crime fiction.
- **Neil Oblonsky** brings us a totally new area to learn, the world of comedy.
- If you ever wanted to learn German, **Shannon Fee** will be teaching this language for the first time at ILR.
- **Mike Kaplan** brings his vast knowledge of the art world. Mike also teaches at ILR East.
- **Chris Gilchrist** is replacing **Carrie Sowden** from the Great Lakes Museum, who taught many years for us about shipwrecks and life on the Great Lakes.
- Last, but not least, **Mike Laurenty** will be teaching a class on the Art of the Game, including strategies in all facets of the game world.

The complete fall schedule will be posted on the [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org) website on **Aug. 5**.

Finally, **I am always looking for people who can teach languages** such as Italian, French, Spanish and Russian. If you know of anyone who would be willing to teach a class for us, please contact [ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com).

## **Resources for Seniors: Protecting Yourself from Fraud**

*by Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee*

More than ever before, unsavory characters are **using creative schemes to steal hard-earned money** from honest people, and seniors are often the prime targets.

Opportunities for thieves to capture your information include some of the most ordinary, everyday items: your mailbox, front door, garbage can, wallet, smartphone, computer and more. **Additionally, be wary of anything that seems suspicious, such as calls or emails** that contain extremely urgent (and authentic-sounding) requests for money or personal information.

The good news is that **there are ways to fight back**, according to the April 2024 edition of *AARP Bulletin*.

By carefully monitoring your financial accounts, credit reports and using appropriate privacy settings for online activities, you can help protect your assets and keep them out of the wrong hands. **Learn more about these and other safeguarding strategies** at [13 Top Ways You Can Protect Yourself From Fraud \(aarp.org\)](https://aarp.org/13-top-ways-you-can-protect-yourself-from-fraud).

The bottom line: Summer may be the perfect vacation time for honest folks, but **thieves rarely take time off**.

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

## 2024 Travel Update

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



Thank you to all who have signed up for travel with ILR!

**Trips are filling fast!** Tours that still have openings are listed below so **let the travel company know now** if you are interested in any of these trips.



*(Photo by Maria Phillips)*

**All information and flyers for each trip are on the ILR website: [ilrbw.org](https://ilrbw.org)**

Just click on the title of the trip you are interested in, and you will get the flyer and trip reservation form.

### **JKL Tours: 440-942-5350 (ask for John)**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| July 14  | Rabbit Run Theater and Winery                            |
| Aug. 6   | Historic Marietta, Ohio                                  |
| Oct. 2-4 | Canadian Theater Adventure                               |
| Dec. 2-4 | New York City at Christmas with the Radio City Rockettes |

If you are interested in the Canadian Theater Adventure or New York City at Christmas, call JKL to put your name on the advance reservation list and to get payment information.

### **Great Day Tours: 440-526-5350 (ask for Paul)**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| July 24-25 | Sleep in Caboose, Titusville and Oil City, Penn. |
| Aug. 6-7   | Daniel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania                |

- Aug. 29 Chautauqua Lake Region
- Sept. 19 Progressive Luncheon Wine Tasting Tour
- Oct. 8-12 The Bourbon Trail Louisville
- Dec. 12 Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens with Hartville Holiday Tour

**Nowak Tours: 330-483-4900 (ask for Wendy)**

- Aug. 9-16 California Wonders
- Oct. 6-10 Agawa Canyon and More
- Oct. 17-20 Wild West Virginia
- Wisconsin Treasures trip is postponed until 2025*

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).

**Marketing Committee Spreads the Word About ILR**

*by Beth Townsend, Marketing Committee Chair*

Members of the Marketing Committee have been out and about presenting information about ILR. **Recent examples of our promotional efforts** include the following:



*(Photo by Jeffrey Fine)*

In mid-March one of our members was invited to describe ILR and its benefits on WEWS-TV 5's "**Good Morning Cleveland**" news show. Later that month, Marketing Committee members staffed an exhibit at the **Senior Health Expo** in Brunswick. Our representatives answered questions, explained the diverse offerings of ILR, distributed fliers, cards and printed information about our events and programs, and invited visitors to become members. We also worked at an ILR exhibit at the **Westlake Boomer Bash** in mid-April.

**If you're aware of any upcoming senior-oriented events**, please let us know – we're always happy to learn about opportunities to share how ILR can enrich lives and learning!

**ILR Calendar 2024**

Membership is closed for the membership year 2023-2024. **Membership will reopen on July 1** for the 2024-2025 membership year.

- May 23 ILR Annual Meeting at 10 a.m.
- May 28 Carl Fernstrum Concert at Strongsville Methodist Church at 2 p.m.
- May 29 ILR Scholarship Dinner (Governing Board and Scholarship Recipients)
- June 25 *Guys and Dolls* at the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster
- June 26 ILR Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Coe Lake Park in Berea from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| July 1       | Membership registration begins for 2024-2025                                    |
| July 14      | Rabbit Run Theater and Winery   |
| July 24-25   | Sleep in Caboose, Titusville, and Oil City, Pennsylvania                        |
| July 29      | Fall courses posted on <a href="http://ilrbw.org">ilrbw.org</a>                 |
| Aug. 6       | <i>MJ the Musical</i> at Playhouse Square (registration will be emailed to you) |
| Aug. 6       | Historic Marietta, Ohio   |
| Aug. 6-7     | Daniel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania   |
| Aug. 9-16    | California Wonders  |
| Aug. 11      | Fall course registration begins   |
| Aug 25       | Fall course registration ends   |
| Aug. 29      | Chautauqua Lake Region  |
| Sept. 16     | First day of fall classes   |
| Sept. 19     | Progressive Luncheon Wine Tasting Tour  |
| Oct. 2-4     | Canadian Theater Adventure  |
| Oct. 6-10    | Agawa Canyon and More   |
| Oct. 8-12    | The Bourbon Trail, Louisville   |
| Oct. 17-20   | Wild West Virginia  |
| Nov. 18      | Winter 2025 courses posted on <a href="http://ilrbw.org">ilrbw.org</a>          |
| Dec. 1       | Winter 2025 course registration begins  |
| Dec. 2-4     | New York City at Christmas with Radio City Rockettes                            |
| Dec. 12      | Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens with Hartville Holiday Tour                         |
| Dec. 15      | Winter 2025 course registration ends  |
| Jan. 6, 2025 | First day of winter classes   |

## In Memoriam



**Bernard “Bernie” L. Sater** passed away Jan. 26 at the age of 93. Bernie’s friend and ILR Curriculum Committee Co-Chair Don Auble expressed his condolences to Bernie’s family:

*I will miss Bernie. Because our curiosity and interests were similar, we often signed up for the same ILR classes. He always had a good question or two; "fully engaged," as they say.*

*While he was at North American Aviation he worked on the electrical systems of the Navy's big reconnaissance aircraft, the RA-5C, the "Vigilante." He delighted in telling the story of how the Navy wanted to reduce the electrically-controlled flight control system to one system (to save cost) instead of a double-redundancy system which NAA had designed. "On one of the first*

*flight tests, the aircraft lost the first system and everyone was glad that there was the backup system!"*

*A life well lived.*

**Joyce S. Dobson**, age 83, passed away on April 17. ILR President Doug Imhoff shared his memory of Joyce:

*Joy lived eight houses from me in our over-55 community development. I heard the news [of her passing] from one of our neighbors today. I had actually talked to her a month ago at an event during St Patrick's Day.*

*Joy was a great lady and will be missed! She did significant work for ILR, especially during our transition period during COVID in the year 2020. She was also in charge of our class coordinators for several years.*

**Michael Skettle**, husband of Wendy Skettle, our Group Travel Director from Nowak Tours, passed away May 6. We extend our sympathy to Wendy and her family.

\* \* \*

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](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com) with details.

## 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](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@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 [ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com). If you send photos, be sure all identifiable people have given their permission to publish.*



## Remembering Good Times at Recent ILR Events

Photos by Maria Phillips, Karl Keller and Dan Bomeli



(Above) Cleveland Pops Orchestra:  
**A Tribute to the Beatles, Feb. 3**



(Above and below) New Barylecorn  
performance and guests at **ILR Spring  
Luncheon, March 6**



(Left and above) **Holland, Michigan Tulip Time,  
May 9 - 11**