

June 16, 2024

Society says learning is an ageless activity

Courses are open to people more than 50 years old.

By Noel Gallagher
The London Free Press

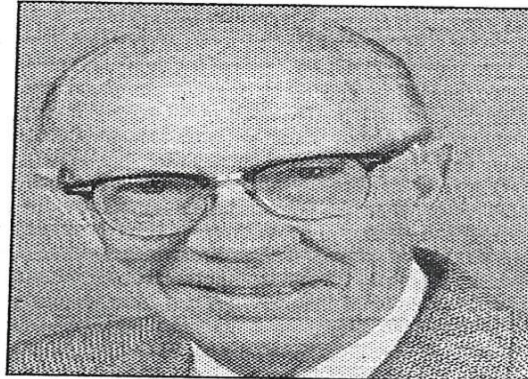
You're never too old to learn — or to teach others.

That's the philosophy behind the Society for Learning in Retirement, said Geoffrey Wright, chairperson of the newly formed organization offering educational seminars for senior (over 50 years old) students at Westminster College, University of Western Ontario.

The 73-year-old Wright said an active, not passive, approach is stressed in the daytime courses available for the society's fall/winter semester, beginning Monday.

"We're looking for people who are participants, interested in discussing the topic and asking questions, not spectators just sitting there taking notes," said the retired chemical company executive who, in 1989, became the founding president of the McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement in Montreal.

Following the example of its predecessors in Montreal, Boston, at Harvard University, and the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the University of Toronto, the London society provides peer learning opportunities for its members, placing them in small groups (between



SUE REEVE/
The London Free Press
Geoffrey Wright

seven and 20 students) during the semester's nine weekly two-hour sessions.

Though a moderator directs the discussion topic, group members are assigned to lead seminars. Thus, students become their own teachers in these courses for which there are no grades, credits or examinations.

About 65 persons have registered for the learning program designed to accommodate almost twice that number.

"People perhaps have the suspicion they must be university grads or have PhDs to sign up for our courses but that's not the case," Wright explained. "Anyone who has lived long enough to pick up knowledge and life experiences can make a contribution."

Society for Learning in Retirement

A program of the faculty of part-time and continuing education, University of Western Ontario. Membership open to adults (minimum age: 50). No formal educational background required and there are no examinations.

Courses for September to December semester: Exploring Our Dreams; What Is A Religion?; Racism and Genocide; Prospects for Humanistic Technology; The Music We Love and The Modernization of Nations. Two-hour, day-time classes are held Mondays and Fridays.

Registration fees: \$60 per course. Registrants are entitled to library privileges at University of Western Ontario.

For more information, contact the Society for Learning in Retirement, Westminster College, 361 Windermere Rd., London, N6G 2K3. Phone: 438-3525.

AND SO SLR BEGAN. Here we are 30 years later continuing to grow and thrive. I hope many of you were able to attend the 30th Anniversary garden party held Friday June 14th at Grosvenor lodge to celebrate our amazing history and growth.



Certificate presented to SLR by City of London



Three lovely ladies, long time members of SLR



Some members of 30th Anniversary Committee





A Special
THANK YOU



To all the amazing SLR volunteers who worked so hard to make our 30th Anniversary Celebration such a big success we thank you. Your continuous efforts throughout this year to organize and plan ways to recognize and celebrate this special year in the history of SLR are truly remarkable.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS For details check our website at www.slrlondon.com



SLR Coffee Socials Only one more Coffee time left until fall. The topics are open and easy, with no research or preparation. We chat about anything and everything. Don't miss out on this great experience with your peers.

Saturday June 22 - Final Coffee Time until Fall



FALL OPEN HOUSE AND IN-PERSON REGISTRATION (Grosvenor Lodge) Thursday, September 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon This is your only opportunity to talk with course leaders and to register in person before Fall classes begin. At 10:30 a short information session will be presented for prospective and current members who would like an overview of SLR. All are welcome. Bring your friends!



PRESENTATION WORKSHOP (Drake Room) Thursday, September 12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to take all the worry out of making a Study Group presentation. All are welcome – newcomers and current members – who want to improve their presentation skills, including PowerPoint. You will receive advice on researching, preparing and presenting

your topic.



WELCOME BACK MEET UP AND (OPTIONAL) WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S Wednesday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. Springbank Park, Picnic Area K. No cost. Join us for our annual meet and greet prior to the Fall term. This year we are including an optional walkathon for the Alzheimer's Society prior to enjoying a brown bag lunch together at the picnic area. This event will be the culmination of our 30th Anniversary fundraising efforts. Details will follow.



BOWLING AT PALASAD NORTH Tuesday October 22, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Palasad North, 777 Adelaide Street North Cost: \$20 If one of your ideas of a fun evening lies in competing against SLR peers, then join us for a late afternoon Bowlathon at Palasad. Pit your skills in 6-member teams bowling in 4 lanes. Bowling shoes will be provided. Take some time to relax and socialize after some fierce competition with a pizza snack and pop. May the best team win.



ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT (ONLINE) Thursday, November 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, get ready for our 4th trivia showdown! Compete against some of our best SLR trivia experts. Questions may span history, science, pop culture, and more. Speed is key as you race against the clock to answer before time runs out. The thrill of victory awaits those who conquer obscure facts and outsmart opponents. Let the ultimate trivia challenge begin!

WINTER 2025



WINTER PROGRAM PREVIEW FUNFEST Friday, November 22nd, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:00; Presentations begin 1:30 sharp.) Siloam United Church, 1240 Fanshawe Park Road East Registration opens at 5 p.m. online Enjoy a lively and fun-filled program with our

course leaders describing their winter offerings, entertainment by our Ukulele and Singing members, and more! It's a great way to get a real sense of all our Winter offerings while socializing, singing, and enjoying free coffee and cookies. Open to all – members and prospective members.



FESTIVE BANQUET Thursday, December 5, 12:00 noon Goodwill Building, 255 Horton Street East Cost: T.B.A. This annual SLR gathering has found a new home. The Goodwill banquet hall on the third floor will be where we gather for one of our favourite dining events of the year. The hall, a modern space with amazing windows and natural light, is elevator

accessible. Enjoy the warmth of friendship and the pleasure of good food with fellow SLR members as we share stories and laughter over our experiences during the Fall term and our possibilities for the Winter term.

30TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION FOR CHARITY

Thank you SLR Members for your generous donations of personal hygiene items, hats, gloves, socks and much more to Ark Aid, My Sisters Place and Men's Mission. Alison Greenhill, Richard Waring and I have been delivering your donations (hundreds of items) to the charities. The staff and managers of the charities are very grateful for your ongoing support of this project (part of our 30th Anniversary activities). You are helping many people by providing items that give dignity and comfort.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO COLLECT IN JUNE AND THEN RESUME THE COLLECTION OF ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

2024. Phyllis Brady

MEMORIES OF SLR MEMBERS

As part of our 30th Anniversary Celebrations this year, we have been looking back at the history of SLR London and marveling at how we got to where we are now. Some of these memories are being shared with you on Facebook and through our Newsletter. We would be interested in hearing from you, our nearly 300 current members, about how and when you found your way to SLR, and why.

If you would like to share your thoughts and memories, please send an **email to us at our new marketing and communications email address:**

slrmarkcom@gmail.com

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS AT SLR

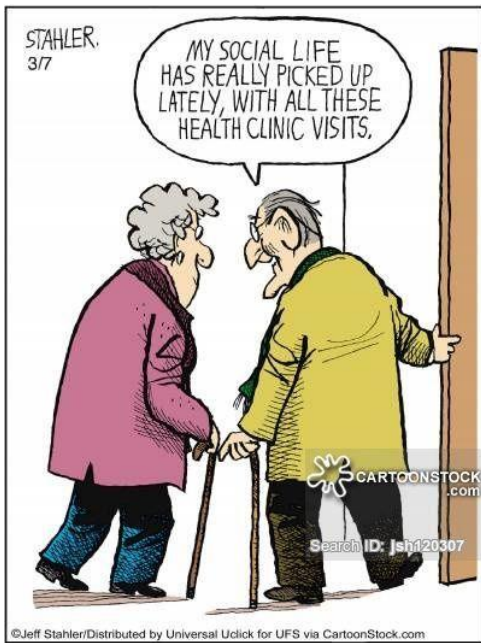
Denise Ritchie

In 2012, Pat Patterson told me about a study group she was to lead with Jane Bigelow on the topic of Art and Politics. In my final months of work life, I used vacation time to participate in this group. The welcoming nature of SLR and the wide range of interesting topics offered each term kept me coming back. In 2013, Pat asked me to join her in leading a group dedicated to discussing poetry and poets, and this group continues to meet twice a month every fall term with Roslyn Moorhead as fellow facilitator.

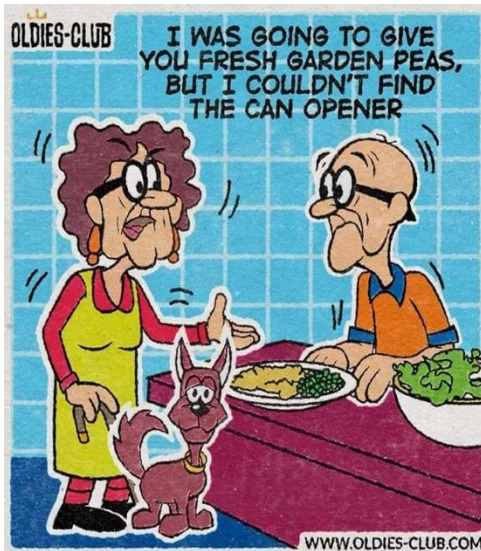
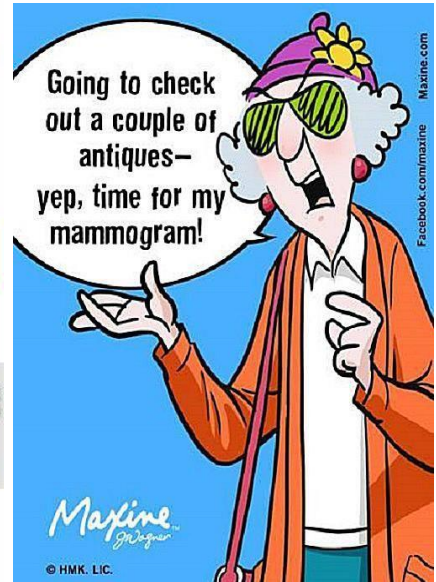
I've had the pleasure of co-facilitating a few study groups and discussion groups alongside some very interesting and lovely SLR members. With SLR, I've explored

drawing, painting, and art with coloured pencils. I've learned about local artists, Canadian artists, women artists, indigenous artists, and artists of the 20th Century. I've been introduced to creative writing, the magic of theatre, the lives and times of great authors, and divergent political views. Most of all, I've met many wonderful and generous people, some of whom I now call friends.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE



"I know what you're going through, dear. I buried my husband last year - but they found him in time."



It's OK to talk to yourself, it's even OK to answer yourself... But when you ask yourself to repeat what you just said - you have a problem!



PREVIOUS RIDDLES

I can be written, I can be spoken, I can be exposed, I can be broken. What am I?

NEWS

I am neither a guest or a trespasser be, to this place I belong, it belongs also to me. **HOME**

Forward, I am heavy; backward, I am not. What am I? a **TON**

NEW RIDDLES

1. What is the **freedom** of birds and the pen of old men?
2. I can be half without getting thinner. I can shine with no fire. I can be hidden but never taken. I can stay dry while moving the ocean. What am I?
3. Rarely touched but often held, if you have wit, I'll be easily spelled. What am I?

The time has come for me to take a little break. I will not be publishing any newsletters in the summer, but will start up again the last week of August. In the meantime, check out our Webpage and Facebook page as well as emails to keep up with what's happening at SLR

Have a great summer and stay safe

Margaret

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