



Notes

FROM ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Adventures in Learning (AIL) is a successful, community-based organization emphasizing lifelong learning. AIL study leaders offer classes on a wide variety of subjects for education and enjoyment. Study leaders have diverse backgrounds and interests, and many different motivations for sharing their passions with others.

Long-time study leader Julie Machen has appreciated the comradery that AIL offers. "Adventures in Learning is my favorite organization in this community, allowing me to learn, to meet many people and to share my love of teaching," she shared.

After she got involved, it didn't take long for her to offer her first course. "When we first retired to New London, 20 years ago, we took an AIL course that introduced us to what was offered in and around the community. A short time later, friends invited us to dinner and I was seated next to a man who, I think, had been president of AIL. In our discussion, I mentioned that I had been a high school history teacher in Connecticut. The next day I received a phone call suggesting that I lead a class -- and so it began!" Julie has never looked back, having taught 17 AIL courses since.

Similarly, Art Rosen has led 21 courses since he first taught Who Wrote the Bible for AIL in the fall of 2000. "Being a study leader is an even grander experience [than participating in a course]," he reflected. "It calls for study, preparation, and presentation, and it offers a platform for the study leader's areas of interest and a bright, receptive and appreciative audience." He shared that leading courses for AIL led to other opportunities and connections in the community for him. "And it doesn't end there. Study leaders are often invited to speak elsewhere in the area -- at civic groups, churches, and at other lifelong learning groups."

Not every study leader has a long history with the organization; AIL welcomes new study leaders often. Recently, Maria D'Aquino taught her first course, Italian Food - There is No Such Thing. Maria reflected that preparation for the course proved extensive, but she enjoyed learning so much as she researched. Once course registration opened, she couldn't believe the response. "It filled up in less than 30 minutes with a large waiting list." And, participants' enthusiasm for the course never waned. "The tremendous positive vocal and written response to the course by the

attendees was very gratifying," Maria shared. "I knew it was on point." She is scheduled to offer her course again in spring 2023.

Most courses meet between three to eight times and are taught at Colby-Sawyer College in the dedicated AIL classroom at Lethbridge Lodge. It's a supportive experience with close assistance from a helpful staff. Class attendees are like-minded adults who are engaged and receptive to new ideas. Our classes have ranged from "The Italian Renaissance" to "Girl Groups of the Sixties," to photography, to local authors and other timely topics in religion, science, and history -- an eclectic curriculum.

Do you have an interest that you want to share with your peers? Adventures in Learning is always looking for enthusiastic individuals to be study leaders for new classes. AIL offers an excellent opportunity to develop and lead a class discussion on a topic that excites you, and the staff is available to help in the process. Please contact Nina Tasi at nina.tasi@colby-sawyer.edu to share an idea, flesh out a topic, or otherwise learn more about becoming a study leader. You can also visit our website, www.ailcsc.com to learn more.