

# Horizons

*Learning Later, Living Greater*

*Spring 2021*

## ***New Hampshire is Changing: The Forces Shaping Our State***

Adventures in Learning introduced a lecture series last summer entitled ***New Hampshire is Changing***. Organized by a creative group of Curriculum Committee members, the premise is that every summer, three lectures will focus on a different aspect of the Granite State.

In August 2020, ***New Hampshire is Changing: Environmental Shock!*** featured four experts on the consequences of a changing climate. Our guest speakers' areas of expertise included weather, water, wildlife and forests.

This summer, ***New Hampshire is Changing: The Forces Shaping Our State*** will focus on how

trends in politics, population and employment are transforming the state. The lectures will be offered online and will include time for questions and answers. They will be broadcast on Zoom live on three consecutive Tuesdays: August 3, August 10 and August 17, all from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., and will also be recorded for viewing later.

This lecture series is a benefit of AIL membership. An invitation with the Zoom login information will be emailed to all 2021-2022 members (active membership from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022). Please renew your membership before August to receive the free Zoom link!

Watch for details about the speakers and their topics in the Summer issue of *Horizons*.



*State flag of New Hampshire*



*Learning is not a spectator sport.*

D. Blocher

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

This is my last *Horizons* letter to all of you before the “changing of the guard” at our (virtual) Annual Meeting in June and I want you to know how appreciative of and thankful I am for your continued commitment to AIL. Throughout this long year your flexibility, resilience, generosity and trust have made it possible for us to continue to offer courses, lectures and much of our traditional programming in new ways. You’ve responded with understanding and even enthusiasm as we’ve navigated these new waters together. Although we’ve missed the intimacy of our in-person classes, we’ve come to appreciate much of what “zooming” offers. We’ve even become fairly proficient at it!

Although this is not what any of us signed on for — virtual Board and Committee meetings, virtual classes and lectures, working from home and few, if any, face-to-face conversations — we’ve learned, I think, that we can and must carry on. Our well-being depends on it — at least mine does — and I thank all of you for your many contributions to that end. Of course none of this would have been possible without our amazing office staff, Nina and Abby, and the willingness of our stalwart and talented Study Leaders to embrace the “new normal.”

Please look for the lovely long list of new donors to AIL on page 7. My heartfelt thanks and admiration to all of you and very best wishes for a happy, happy Spring!

See you in class,

– Mary Doyle, President



## ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

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### Adventures in Learning Staff

Nina Tasi  
 nina.tasi@colby-sawyer.edu  
 (603) 526-3690  
 Abby Hutchinson  
 abby.hutchinson@colby-sawyer.edu  
 (603) 526-3434

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## The Beauty and the Sorrow



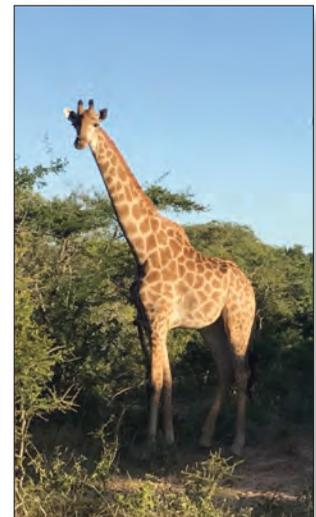
*Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga, South Africa*



*Khayelitsha Township, Cape Flats, South Africa*

Beverly Marshall is a retired not-for-profit administrator, most recently at the Upper Valley Education Institute in Lebanon. Steve Solomon is a retired attorney. They started dating in 2013 and found a shared interest and a passion for travel. They began traveling together in 2014 when they took a typical “hotels and restaurants” trip to Spain. In the next few years their destinations included Bali, Paris, Japan and a trip to Poland and Lithuania to learn about the places from which their grandparents had come.

In 2017 they changed the focus of their travel to allow a more intense and longer experience in one place. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, they rented a house and a car in Costa Rica and learned about the culture of the country by experiencing it. Then in 2020, from February to mid-March, they rented a house in Fish Hoek, a suburb of Capetown, South Africa. The prerequisites for this trip



were that it be somewhere new, where there was no language barrier, where it would be warm, and where they could relax. What they found was a beautiful area contrasted with lingering and persistent evidence of apartheid, which is implied in the title of their May 19 Lunch & Learn presentation, *The Beauty and the Sorrow*. Like their mode of travel, this will not be a typical travelogue talk, but a discussion of their impressions of what it was like to live like locals in the area where they shopped, joined a gym, rented a car and became as enmeshed as possible. While there, Beverly realized that the trip would make an interesting and thought-provoking AIL talk and so she took pictures with that in mind. On Wed., May 19 at noon we will be the very fortunate beneficiaries of their experience and enthusiasm. After an enlightening and informative Zoom meeting with Beverly and Steve, I can't wait!

– Susan Lynn

**Sign up for Lunch & Learn on May 19 with the link in MAY NOTEWORTHY NEWS**

## Salute to Four AIL Stalwarts

When Mary Doyle joined a group of like-minded visionaries in 1997 to found Adventures in Learning she could hardly have envisioned how it would flourish and grow to become today's highly regarded community treasure. Nor could she have imagined that almost 25 years later, as AIL President, she would be required to shepherd the organization through the greatest existential threat in its history. That AIL remains relatively unscathed by the COVID-19 pandemic is a testament to Mary's people and leadership skills and her devotion to ensuring AIL's continued success.

As chair of AIL's initial Curriculum Committee, Mary was in charge of assembling the first term's roster of five courses. She has since returned to the committee, serving many terms over the years. Mary has also served multiple terms on the Board and a term on the Governance Committee. In June she ends her presidency and leaves the Board, along with three other AIL stalwarts: Derek Hunt, Deb Rucci and Prof. Randy Hanson of Colby-Sawyer's School of Business & Social Sciences.

Randy Hanson has been a creative and enthusiastic trailblazer within AIL for more than a

decade. He was the first professor to serve on the Board and among the first to become a study leader with his 2011 winter course on "The Mexico We Don't Read About in the Headlines." He subsequently led other courses on the Americas and was a key participant in numerous lecture series as both a highly valued advisor and outstanding speaker.

For AIL's 20th anniversary Randy organized a series of lectures by Colby-Sawyer faculty members under the title, "A Fistful of Faculty." A hit with both faculty and AIL participants, the series has become an annual event with different



*Randy Hanson*



*Deb Rucci*



*Mary Doyle*



*Derek Hunt*

faculty members sharing their personal and academic passions. Randy has also been a frequent speaker in the AIL community outreach program at Woodcrest and has written several articles for *Horizons*. In addition, he led a 2013 trip to Spain for AIL members and College alumni.

Derek Hunt has been a tireless pioneer for AIL, both in the classroom and behind the scenes. In 2011 he introduced AIL members to a novel and exciting experience as actors in full-length plays. For his course, entitled, "Places, Please," Derek drew on his career in the theater to host and direct a read-through and discussion of the plays. It proved so popular that the would-be thespians demanded multiple encores with a variety of plays. Derek also used insights from working at Walt Disney Productions to flesh out a profile of Walt Disney, which he presented first within a lecture

*continued on page 5*

*continued from page 4*

series and subsequently as a stand-alone course and later a 90-minute talk at Woodcrest.

In addition to his time on the Board, Derek served two terms on the Curriculum Committee, including a term as its chairman. He also chaired the subcommittee on evaluations and program development, applying his fertile mind to cultivating new and diverse courses.

Deb Rucci used her writing flair to make a significant mark on the Board and the Public Relations Committee, which she chaired or co-chaired for three years. When the Board needed a skilled writer for the demanding position of Secretary, Deb stepped forward and quickly earned accolades for her detailed and lucid meeting minutes. During her two three-year terms on the PR Committee, Deb edited more than 40 pieces for *Horizons* and authored a dozen articles, including richly illuminating profiles of study leaders Dick Hesse, Jack Barrett and Dale Conly.

Mary, Deb, Derek and Randy, we salute your service and commitment. Thank you.

– Morris Edwards

## ***AIL Board of Directors Nominees for 2021-2022***

AIL members Betsy Boege, Maggie Ford, Bruce Hutchinson, and John Peterman and Colby-Sawyer professor Eric Boyer have been nominated to the AIL Board of Directors for 2021-2022. Voting will take place electronically with a ballot sent to members in late May for submission by June 2.

Betsy Boege has previously served on the AIL Board and is a past President of AIL and past Chair of the Curriculum, Public Relations, and Long-Range Planning committees. She and her husband Sheldon moved to New London in 2001.

Maggie Ford has served on local boards including the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, the New London Historical Society, the Town Conservation Commission, and currently, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association. She and her husband John moved to New London in 2003.

Bruce Hutchinson served as an operational turnaround executive at privately held manufacturing companies in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, and New Hampshire. He is a member of the Membership Committee. Bruce and his wife Abby moved to New London in 2018.

John Peterman has been an educator and head of schools in Illinois, Maryland, and Massachusetts, retiring after 23 years as Head of the Brookwood School in Manchester, Mass. He and his wife Katherine moved to Springfield in 2017. John leads popular courses for AIL and currently serves on the Curriculum Committee.

Eric Boyer is a professor in the School of Business & Social Sciences at Colby-Sawyer College. He joined the faculty in 2008. His research interests include political theory and comparative politics.



*L to R: Betsy Boege, Bruce Hutchinson, and Maggie Ford [missing: John Peterman]*



*Eric Boyer*

## Summer Courses: From History to Horticulture & Outdoor Sport to Painting

It is hard to believe over a year has passed since Covid-19 became new to our vocabulary, and Zoom is no longer scary. Instead Zoom became the connection to our families, friends and brains via AIL courses! The 2021 summer offerings have come full cycle to include five in-person courses and one on Zoom.

Three are courses that are back by popular demand: Sharon Kenrick will reintroduce **Golf Croquet: America's Most Sophisticated Outdoor Sport**, offering a historical perspective as well as outdoor fun. Participants will enjoy playing on the lawn in front of Colgate Hall at Colby-Sawyer College. Fran Wilson's course **Summertime is for Painting**, will take place for the first time in the painting studio in the Davidow Center for Art + Design at the College. John Lyon will inspire horticulture enthusiasts in **Dwarf Conifers and the Woodland Garden**.

One course is a carryover from last summer:



Joel Van Amberg

**Themes of Renewal, Restoration and Rebirth in the Renaissance and Reformation** will be presented by Joel Van Amberg. Joel, a professor at Tusculum University, is the nephew of AIL president Mary Doyle. We are, indeed, very for-

tunate he is willing to share part of his family vacation with AIL members!

Joel and his wife, who he met while they were undergraduates at Bowdoin College, and their five children live in a mountaintop home in Tennessee. They spend summers near her family in Ranglely, Maine. He received his A.B. in Religious Studies *summa cum laude*; his M.A. in Church History at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; and his Ph.D. in History at the University of Arizona. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to complete his dissertation research in

Germany and taught for a year at the University of Tennessee before becoming the Chairman of the Department of History and Museum Studies at Tusculum University, where he specializes in the Reformation.

So dust off your brains and sign up quickly for Joel's course, don your Golf Croquet whites or your painting attire, and get ready to expand your gardening knowledge with an introduction to dwarf conifers! You can also be inspired by **Celtic Mythology** and late-eighteenth century seafaring adventures in **The Age of Fighting Sail**. Two gentlemen who are new to AIL, Philip Freeman and Michael Cornelio, will lead those courses, detailed in Beverly Marshall's article. See you in class, on campus or on Zoom.

– Janie Webster

## Welcome, New Study Leaders

Neither Philip Freeman nor Michael Cornelio are strangers to our community (Philip's daughter is a senior at Colby-Sawyer and Michael has lived in the area for 25 years) but it was only recently that both decided that now is the right time to become Adventures in Learning study leaders, beginning in the upcoming summer term.



Philip Freeman

Philip Freeman and his wife, Cathy MacLeod, who reside in Malibu, California most of the year, recently bought a house in Wilmot, which they intend to visit during the summer. His course, **Celtic Mythology**, will explore ancient and medieval stories of gods, goddesses, and

heroes from continental Europe, Wales and Ireland. Holding a Ph.D. in Classics and Celtic Studies from Harvard University, Philip, who is the

*continued on page 7*

Fletcher Jones Chair of Humanities at Pepperdine University, has taught college students and adult learners for many years and is a published author in his field.



*Michael Cornelio*

When interviewed for this article, Michael Cornelio, who practices law in New London and lives with his wife, Elizabeth, in Sutton, said that as he ages, his first academic passion – history – holds more and more of his attention. “Also, I’ve recently had time to catch up on my reading and it re-

kindled my interest in the age of sail, so I thought this summer would be a good time to do the course. Besides, the best way to learn is to teach.” His course, **The Age of Fighting Sail**, will examine the English Navy during the time of Napoleon and the ships, tactics, battles, men and women who sailed those vessels to victory.

Welcome, Philip and Michael!

– Beverly Marshall

### ***Thank You for Your Support***

Since the Winter issue of *Horizons*, AIL has received gifts from the members listed below. A complete list with details for gifts given *in honor of* or *in memory of* will be published in the 2020-2021 AIL Annual Report.

#### **Donors since January, 2021:**

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## ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

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Adventures in Learning's *Horizons* highlights the activities of the lifelong learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

### **Summer Term at a Glance**    *Classes begin the week of June 14*

#### **TUESDAYS**

- 🌀 10:00 a.m. – noon    **Golf Croquet** / Sharon Kenrick
- 🌀 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.    **Golf Croquet** / Sharon Kenrick
- 🌀 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.    **Celtic Mythology** / Philip Freeman

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

- 🌀 10:00 a.m. – noon    **Dwarf Conifers and the Woodland Garden** / John Lyon
- ❖ 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.    **Themes of Renewal, Restoration and Rebirth in the Renaissance and Reformation** / Joel Van Amberg

#### **THURSDAYS**

- 🌀 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.    **The Age of Fighting Sail** / Michael Cornelio
- 🌀 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.    **Summertime is for Painting** / Fran Wilson

- 🌀 **In-person course**
- ❖ **Online via Zoom**