

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Horizons

Spring 2023

A Day at the Boston MFA with Hokusai

Great news: Trips are back for AIL members! On April 5, thirty AIL members traveled from New London to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts to take in the special exhibition, "Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence." The MFA has more than a hundred thousand works of Japanese art, most collected by three eccentric Bostonians in the 1870s and 1880s: Edward S. Morse, Ernest F. Fenollosa and William Sturgis Bigelow, who was responsible for most of the works in the Hokusai exhibit. Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is best known for his *ukiyo-e* and scenic woodblock prints including the iconic "Great Wave." His work has had a major and enduring impact on the world art and commercial scene — witness today's Lego recreation of "The Great Wave" (pictured top right).

The day before the field trip, attendees met in Lethbridge Lodge with Jon Keenan, professor of ceramics and East Asian art history at Colby-Sawyer. Professor Keenan talked about Hokusai's life and prepared us for the works we would see in the exhibit. He explained the meaning of *ukiyo-e* ("art of the floating world") and the process of making woodblock prints. Jon even brought several of Hokusai's pieces from the college's collection for up-close examination. The prints are rarely on public view to ensure the preservation of the colors, which fade over time when exposed to light.

On the day of the outing, AIL members met early in the morning in the parking lot at The New London Barn Playhouse and boarded a comfortable coach bus for the trip to the MFA in time for their pre-reserved entry into the Hokusai exhibit. After viewing the exhibit, the group was free to enjoy lunch at the cafeteria and further explore the museum. A tired but happy group met at 3 p.m. for the trip back to New London. Long-time AIL member Debbie Perkins summed up the experience well: "Our MFA Boston day was delightful; it almost felt like climbing out from under a heavy COVID rock."



Thanks go to Nina, Sarah and Professor Keenan for ensuring the success, from start to finish, of this exceptional learning experience.

Another field trip — to sail on the Gundalow in Portsmouth — is planned for June. Be sure to watch for details and the opportunity to sign up!

—Betsy Boege

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with dilligence." – Abigail Adams

President's Message

Outside our windows, spring is greening up the woods, meadows and lawns. After a long winter this is most welcome. With apologies for a corny turn of phrase, AIL members, friends, business sponsors and Colby-Sawyer College have been "greening up" AIL's coffers as part of a 25th anniversary celebration.

Back in 1998, a small group of local luminaries including Hilary Cleveland, Charlie Carey and Mary Doyle met and decided that our community could benefit from the academic stimulation and social engagement offered by a lifelong learning institute. And thus, Adventures in Learning was founded.

Generous contributors to the 25th anniversary campaign are funding prospective enhancements to AIL's program and facilities. With unanimous board support and your donations, AIL is approaching its campaign goal of \$80,000. Because of the positive initial response to the campaign, AIL has ordered new tables and chairs for Lethbridge Lodge. In addition, AIL is considering other investments to prioritize, including equipment and training for remote learning, technology upgrades in Lethbridge Lodge, expanded programs and events, and recognition of our study leaders and volunteers.

We have enjoyed many special activities in celebration of our 25th anniversary, and many more are planned throughout the year. As we feel comfortable in gathering together again, please join us on June 8 in the Ware Student Center for an early evening celebration including drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Thank you for your loyal support of AIL as we honor our past and invest for the future. Your engagement makes AIL a community treasure.

Warm wishes,
Harry Tether



ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Board of Directors

President, Harry Tether
Vice President, Katrina Wagner
Secretary, Betsy Boege
Treasurer, Richard Showalter

Directors at Large

Eric Boyer*
David Click
Mary Doyle*
Joanna Henderson
Bruce Hutchinson
Carol Kinzler
Susan Lynn
Robert Lyon
Julie Machen
Nancy Marashio*
Ginger Milord
John Peterman
Scott Rappeport
Pat Stewart
Jane VanBremen
* Ex-Officio Member

Communications Committee

Susan Lynn, Chair
Joan Eaton
Jan Harrison
Mary Lou Hoyt
Mort Lynn
John Peterman
Pat Stewart
Sherry Williams

Adventures in Learning Staff

Nina Tasi, Program Manager
nina.tasi@colby-sawyer.edu
(603) 526-3690

Sarah Jenness, Program Assistant
sarah.jenness@colby-sawyer.edu
(603) 526-3434

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the articles in this publication are strictly those of the respective authors. Information offered should not be considered authoritative or complete, nor should it be construed to reflect the views or opinions of the Adventures in Learning Program or Colby-Sawyer College.

Upcoming Field Trip

AIL looks forward to offering another field trip in June to sail on the gundalow in Portsmouth, N.H. Registration is now open! Learn more details, including whether any spots remain, at www.ailcsc.com/register.



JOIN US FOR A SAIL ON THE GUNDALOW!

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Come along for a 2.5 hour sail on the gundalow *Piscataqua*. You will have the opportunity to socialize with fellow AIL members while learning about the environment and maritime heritage of the seacoast region. Enjoy your brown bag lunch following the sail, and then finish the day learning about the history of Portsmouth's Prescott Park.

QUESTIONS?

adventures@colby-sawyer.edu 📍 603-526-3434

Lunch & Learn Resumes

If you have missed Lunch & Learn, it is back! Long-time AIL member and study leader Sage Chase revived the popular series in Lethbridge Lodge on March 29 with a discussion of gender fluidity.

On April 19, board member David Click, pictured right, presented about music that would be played at the coronation of King Charles III.

On May 17, study leaders Bill Balsam and Jay Fitzpatrick presented "The Ubiquitous Camera: The Many Faces of Modern Photography."

If you are unfamiliar with the concept, Lunch & Learn provides an opportunity for AIL members to socialize and enjoy a brown bag lunch together and then enjoy learning through a 45 minute presentation. The presentation is followed by a brief opportunity to ask questions. Lunch & Learns take place on Wednesdays once a month from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the AIL classroom at Lethbridge Lodge.

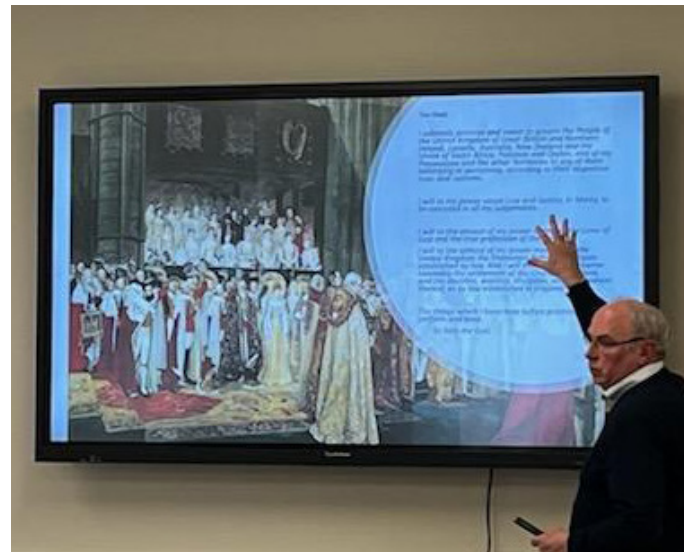


Photo by Nina Tasi

Please look for more details about upcoming opportunities to participate in the next edition of *Noteworthy News* and on the website!

Adventures in Learning at 25! A Conversation About the Past, Present and Future

Over the past 25 years, residents of the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region have enjoyed the benefits of lifelong learning opportunities offered by Adventures in Learning (AIL) at Colby-Sawyer College. During 2023, AIL is honoring its silver anniversary with several events designed to celebrate this very special cultural milestone within our community.

Recently, three presidents of AIL, Mary Doyle, Harry Tether and Katrina Wagner (past, present, and future, respectively) came together to share their thoughts on the significance of AIL in the region. All three have a long history with the organization. Here are a few takeaways from their conversation.

In 1998, AIL began with five classes led by study leaders who were local residents. The intent of the program was to offer educational courses that would appeal to a wide variety of interests: history, art, film, music, science, economics, cooking, literature and travel, to name a few. “The founders of AIL were long-time residents of the area and they knew the importance of bringing folks together to share in the joy of lifelong learning,” recalled founding member and past president, Mary Doyle. “The friendships made through our common interests were equally important to all of us.”

Harry Tether, current AIL president, became involved with the organization fifteen years ago as a study leader. “Once you teach a class, you’re involved forever. In my case, I learned as much from the participants as I did from doing the course research,” he shared. When asked about his vision for the future of the organization, he

hopes to “find ways to reach a broader section of the community.” He pointed out that there are many different ways to get involved in AIL. “Beyond courses, we offer lectures, field trips, Lunch & Learn and Science Pub, all of which attract people and keep them invested in our mission. We are also planning to advance technological capabilities to reach people beyond the physical classroom.”

Other goals for AIL’s future include increasing its membership and attracting more study leaders. “We are committed to attracting younger people to AIL. Most of our current members are retirees, but there are many community members in our area who could benefit from accessing our courses,” noted incoming president Katrina Wagner. She shared that one of AIL’s greatest strengths is its diversity of offerings. “There is such a great variety of courses, you just never know what is coming down the pike. It’s always a wonderful surprise; every term is different.”

Tether also suggested that in the future local business owners “might seek an association with AIL to further advance their profile within the community as an enterprise that supports lifelong education.”

Wagner is hopeful about AIL’s silver anniversary raising awareness of the organization. “I think after the 25th celebration this year, we will have made so many new friends within the community that AIL will become the go-to destination for social engagement and lifelong learning.”

“I’ve taken between one and four courses every term for the last 25 years,” concluded Doyle. “I’m so appreciative of what people are willing to share with us. It has been a wonderful journey.”

– John Peterman

Community Spotlight

Community Spotlight came about to honor AIL’s 25th anniversary through celebrating community connections, AIL partnerships and the experience of lifelong learning.

AIL member Deb Perkins teamed up with New London Archivist Jim Perkins to kick off the series on March 8 with a look back at New London during WWII. Using selected posters from the WWII era to structure his talk, Jim touched on a wide variety of topics such as the civilian defense plane spotting effort, the recruiting effort directed at women to address the labor shortage, the scrapping effort encouraging citizens to collect scrap metal and paper, the travel reduction effort to conserve rubber and, finally, homecoming at the end of the war. Deb complemented Jim’s talk with personal stories and letters – some funny, some poignant – about her experiences as a young girl, preparing to enter school in Elkins, N.H., when her father enlisted in the U.S. Navy Seabees, leaving his wife and daughter for nearly three years.



see Community Spotlight, continued on page 5

Community Spotlight, continued from page 4

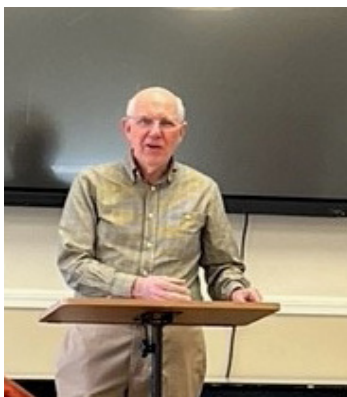
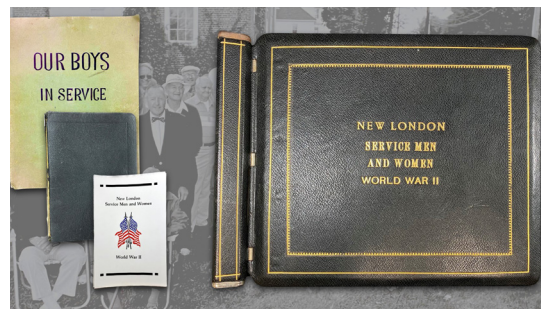
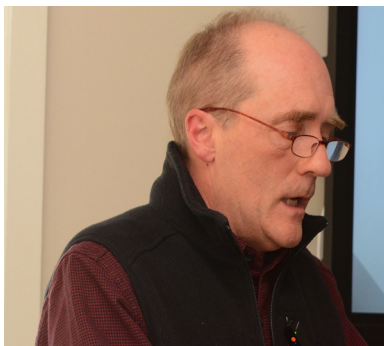
The second event in the series, "Songwriting After Seventy," presented on March 19, featured one man's experience in turning a challenge into an opportunity. When faced with staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic, AIL study leader Gordon Terwilliger purchased a guitar, an amplifier and a microphone and began writing songs! During this entertaining afternoon of dialogue and song, Gordon shared the source of his inspiration and how, three years and seventeen songs later, he is still enjoying the process and the performance.

Study leader and AIL member Tom Hull presented the third Community Spotlight event on April 21 with a talk titled "Encore: On the Diplomatic Stage with Shirley Temple Black." His presentation recounted how Shirley Temple Black gravitated to a twenty year diplomatic career, including her last act as ambassador to Czechoslovakia, where he worked closely with her during the fall of communism and the subsequent dissolution into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The most recent Community Spotlight event was presented on May 11 in collaboration with the New England Healing Sports Association (NEHSA), during which Ty Gagne, author of *The Last Traverse: Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites*, shared a true story of tragedy and survival in the White Mountains alongside James Osborne, who survived the treacherous ordeal. Gagne and Osborne presented this gripping story to a full house in Clements Hall.

Event photos by Joan Eaton are featured below. Be on the lookout for information to join us at future Community Spotlight events throughout the rest of 2023.

– Jan Harrison



Looking Back at Winter 2023 Courses

Winter term participants enjoyed learning about history, geology, photography, theatre, film, politics, raptors, writing and Native American literature. As always, AIL extends its gratitude to Joan Eaton for skillfully capturing these moments from course sessions – and to its wonderful members for their participation! Thank you!



Democracy & Socialism
Session 4
2/16/2023

Lawrence Crocker
AIL Colby-Sawyer
LawrenceCrocker.blogspot.com

A collage of images related to socialism and politics. It includes a red flag, a 'MAGA' sign with a bulldog, a 'Democratic Socialists of America' banner, and a 'Socialism Throttling the Country' poster. The text 'Democracy & Socialism Session 4 2/16/2023' is at the top, and the names 'Lawrence Crocker', 'AIL Colby-Sawyer', and 'LawrenceCrocker.blogspot.com' are at the bottom.

AIL Revitalizes its Partnership with Woodcrest Village Assisted Living Community

Adventures in Learning's community enrichment program at Woodcrest Village began in July 2012 as a service to the residents of the assisted living community, many of whom are unable, physically or financially, to attend an AIL course.



Since Morris Edwards kicked off the series in July 2012 with a presentation called "The Astors," the program occurred almost monthly thereafter, totaling over seventy lectures, up until the COVID-19 pandemic shut it down in spring of 2020. Presentation topics ranged from music to history to literature to topics in science and beyond. Woodcrest residents embraced the program with great enthusiasm.

In January 2023, when the AIL office met with Sean Gillery, director of community relations at Woodcrest, and Megan Loomis, Woodcrest director of activities, to discuss the idea of reviving the series, they were all for it. "We are really excited to resurrect this enjoyable and important programming for our residents," Gillery said. "I'm so happy that we can partner again to bring back this opportunity for Woodcrest residents and the greater New London community."

On April 25, David Click revived this series with a presentation called "Music for the Coronation," during which he provided a look back at past coronations, shared music often played at royal events, and discussed what viewers might expect from the coronation ceremony for Charles III.

Following the event, director of activities Loomis shared, "The presentation was a success. Residents agreed that this lecture was the most interesting we have had all year!"

The program is open to Woodcrest residents and the general public, and it consists of an AIL study leader presenting on a topic for about 45 minutes, followed by 10-15 minutes of Q&A. If you are interested in presenting at a future date, please contact the AIL office at (603) 526-3690.



Photo by Pat Stewart

AIL Collaborates with CFA Literary Arts Guild

On March 29, AIL and the Literary Arts Guild came together to celebrate the fifth edition of *Visual Verse*, titled *Rooted in New Hampshire: Farming in the Lake Sunapee Region*. AIL members and the public gathered at Lethbridge Lodge to hear poetry from the publication, shared alongside beautiful images of farming in the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Marashio



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW LONDON, NH
PERMIT 4

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Colby-Sawyer College
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

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

*AIL extends its sincere appreciation to ECHO
Communications, Inc., for 14 years of partnership
in providing mailing and printing services for
AIL's quarterly publications.*

Coming Soon!

**Two special member-only events this summer:
a presentation by Carter Roberts in July and
a Zoom presentation by John Ferries in August.**

Stay tuned for more information!