

# Golden Opportunities

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 4

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS LEARNING IN RETIREMENT (SILIR)

November 2021

## November 17 Meeting

- **Delivery:** Zoom (link will be emailed to all members)

10:30 Meeting and Program

**President:** Tom Britton

## AT A GLANCE

### Monthly Meetings:

December — no meeting

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022

## QUESTIONS?

Email SILIR at  
silir@siu.edu or call  
618/536-7751

## November Speaker: Dr. Ryan Campbell

*Searching for a Trace: Documenting the Trail of Tears in Southern Illinois and Southeastern Missouri*



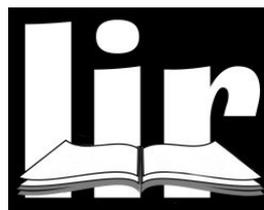
Dr. Ryan Campbell is Associate Director of the Center for Archaeological Investigations (CAI) at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. For the past two decades, he has conducted archaeological research throughout the Midwestern United States, which has afforded him the opportunity to explore some of the most remote locations in the forests of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri. Since 2015, he and his team at the CAI have

been engaged in a cooperative project with the USDA Forest Service focused on documenting the Trail of Tears where it crosses National Forest land in Illinois and southeastern Missouri. The documented trail segments help to make the Trail of Tears more than a metaphor used to discuss the forced removal of Native Americans from the Eastern United States. Identifying the trail helps to bring the past into the present, making it tangible for people living today. The documentation also provides the Forest Service with critical information to aid in the preservation of this important cultural resource.

We are seeking a volunteer who is willing to take over the Movie Musicals class. This would involve showing one well-known musical film (DVD) per month at the church. LIR owns seventy+ DVDs of movie musical films, and can purchase others as needed. Assistance will be available (as needed) with the technical aspects of showing the films.

Please contact Mike Hanes

[hanes@siu.edu](mailto:hanes@siu.edu) (618) 201-6156



**S.I. Learning  
in Retirement**

Visit the SI Learning in Retirement  
web page at:

<https://conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir>

## SILIR Monthly Interest Groups

### Musical of the Month Interest Group

Interested in taking over the Movie Musicals class?

Please contact  
Mike Hanes  
[hanes@siu.edu](mailto:hanes@siu.edu)



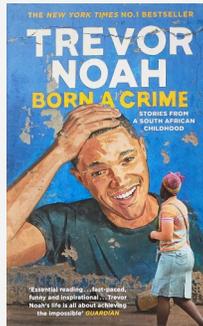
### Monthly Book Club

The Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 9:30am via Zoom

November 15

November's book selection is

**Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**  
by Trevor Noah



### Monthly Lunch Discussion Group

Members are invited to join this group to meet monthly to share lunch and open conversation.

November 18

Location:

Watch your email for the location.



## SILIR Interim Class

Tuesday / Wednesday

### Harry Potter: Magic and Meaning (aka Dumbledore's Army, Southern Illinois Division)

**Instructors:** Paulette Curkin and Carmen Suarez

January 25 and January 26

1:30 - 3:30 pm

**Registration Fee:** \$5.00

**Zoom only**

This course is a discussion of the overall series. It focuses on the books rather than the movies, but the movies are part of the whole Harry Potter Wizarding World and valuable to the discussion. This is a shared discussion format, rather than instructional. The facilitators will provide structure through identifying some themes and their supporting story lines. For the facilitators, Harry Potter is truly magical and we find all kinds of applicable meaning in it. Friendship, hate and its effects, fear and oppression of the "other", love, family, community, resiliency, persistence, tragedy, grief, humor...it's all there! Come prepared to discuss the books, your favorite parts, or not so favorite, impacts, the meaning(s) you have found, and we will have a Harry Potter love fest together. We welcome and encourage cosplay and role play!!

**Materials Required:** Harry Potter is a 7 volume (really 8) series. Having the books isn't necessary, but you might have favorite quotes or passages.

## Letter from the President

October 25, 2021

To: Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement Community  
From: Tom Britton, President  
Re: Initiatives to Increase Revenue and Control Costs

At its September meeting, the SILIR Board examined the financial situation of our organization at some length. This review took place to consider the effects of the pandemic on our operations, and the financial health of SILIR moving forward.

I'm pleased to report that, despite several challenges, SILIR remains financially healthy, and that plans to resume a full array of activities and programs once the pandemic has abated. We are moving forward. Having said that, however, the Board realizes that any economies which can be reasonably undertaken in the near term should be pursued, and that ways of increasing revenue even during this uncertain period should similarly be sought. In pursuing this path, suggestions were sought from members of the Board and others on how we might operate, at least in the short term, without jeopardizing the future. After reviewing financial information prepared by our Treasurer Marcia Anderson, the Board sought suggestions from Board members and others to accomplish our goals of increasing revenue and reducing expenses. As you will see upon further reading, not all suggestions were endorsed, but all were considered. And several have been adopted.

### SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED TO INCREASE REVENUE:

- Increase dues from \$25 to \$30 per year. With 250 members, an additional \$1250 would be generated. Despite the prospect of an increase in overall revenue, it was generally agreed that the amount of additional revenue didn't outweigh the consternation which might accompany this change. It was decided that the proposal to increase dues will not be pursued at this time.
- Increase course fees from \$10 to \$15. The largest decrease in revenue experienced in the past year and one-half has been because of reduced course fee revenue. It was decided to not increase fees this year but to reconsider the idea for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- Make it easier to renew membership and enroll in courses by implementing on-line registration and payment. It was agreed that we will pursue this possibility immediately. Jackie Welch, our principal contact with Continuing Education, has already been very helpful regarding this proposal.
- Increase visibility by advertising. The chair of the Membership and Publicity Committee, Bobbie Ogle-tree, has met with WSIU Radio to investigate this possibility. The idea will be further evaluated as we approach the end of the pandemic.
- Supporting the social nature of SILIR activities, allow monthly Zoom gatherings to continue for an additional 20-30 minutes after the close of the more formal meeting in order for members to socialize. There was no objection to trying to implement this suggestion since Zoom meetings can be split up into smaller groups.
- It was agreed to make increasing membership a conscious goal of the entire organization, not just the Membership and Publicity Committee. This idea was endorsed by the Board.

(continued on page 4)

**SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED TO CONTROL COSTS:**

- There was considerable discussion about how to save money on the printing and mailing of the newsletters including reducing the number of pages and sending the newsletter electronically to all members. After discussion, a motion was passed to reduce the number of printed newsletters from 10 to 8 per year and the number of pages within each edition be reduced by eliminating the calendar and rearranging the content to result in a maximum of three pieces of paper to be printed. This will be announced to the membership in October and start in January. John Pohlmann seconded and the motion was passed.
- Suggestions for reducing the cost of producing the directory included eliminating it altogether, printing it every other year, reformatting to reduce the number of pages, and distributing it electronically. Jackie Welch has indicated she could reformat it fairly easily to reduce the number of pages. Distributing it electronically could raise serious privacy issues so that suggestion received little support. After discussion, it was decided to not print a wholly new directory this year but instead send an addendum in January listing only new members which can be inserted into previous directories.

Members of the Board worked diligently to accomplish increased revenue and reduced costs in the near term, without sacrificing our core mission of providing learning and social opportunities for our membership. If you have additional thoughts or ideas on how we might do this, please let a Board member know. Current Board Members are:

Marcia Anderson	Kevin Bame	Tom Britton	Kathy Fatz
Gary Hartlieb	Dennis Leitner	Ken Loving	Dick Matthews
Bobbie Ogletree	Roland Person	John Pohlman	Dorcy Prosser

**November 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Greek Mythology 9:30 am  Writing Family History—1:30 pm	3  Shooting Media Funny 1:30 pm	4	5	6 
7	8	9 Greek Mythology 9:30 am  Writing Family History—1:30 pm	10  Shooting Media Funny 1:30 pm	11 	12	13
14	15  Monthly Book Club 9:30 am	16 Greek Mythology 9:30 am  Writing Family History—1:30 pm	17 Monthly Program/Meeting 10:30 am Shooting Media Funny—1:30 pm	18 Lunch Discussion— location will be sent to you by email 12:00 noon	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26 	27
28	29	30				

# REGISTRATION FORM

•Please fill out and send entire form with payment•

## SILIR REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS:** How did you hear about us?  Friend  Newspaper  Social Media/Online  Radio/TV

*If you are registering more than yourself for a class/trip, please list the name(s) of the SILIR member you are registering.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (22W0901901) **FY22 Membership Dues** .....\$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Addtl. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (22W0901901) **(July 1, 2021 — June 30, 2022)**

**INTEREST GROUPS** — July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (22W0901904) Book Study Group .....\$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (22W0901905) Lunch Discussion Group .....\$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERIM COURSE** — January 25 and 26,, 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (22W0901913) Harry Potter..... \$ 5 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT PROGRAM WAIVER DISCLAIMER:** Most SILIR activities require very little mobility. When an activity requires traveling up to 1 mile or more or navigating 10 steps or more, or involves longer waiting or standing times, we will alert you so that you may choose wisely.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

My signature confirms that I have read and understand the activity level of any trip sponsored by Learning in Retirement and accept the risks and conditions of the trip. I am aware that some trips may encounter rough terrain and closed-toe shoes will aid in maintaining my safety.

**Please submit a check payable to "SIU Carbondale" or credit card information below.**

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for receipt): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Conference & Scheduling Services  
Student Center - Mail Code 6705  
Carbondale, IL 62901**

**or call Registration at 618-536-7751 to  
register with your credit card.**

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