Have you ever wondered how you would survive under a totalitarian or communist regime? We’d certainly not be able to have such wonderful CALL offerings! Most of us read stories about living under communism and the cold war, but probably never experienced such a life. I can’t imagine it at all!

One of the benefits of almost-full retirement for me is the privilege of reading. A fellow CALL member recommended that I read Michael D. O’Brien’s 860-page novel, Island of the World—which I did. (Actually, it was well over 860 pages because I use a Kindle and am able to boost the print-size to adapt to my experienced eyes.)

I didn’t know what to expect from such a large novel by an author I had not heard about, and I certainly didn’t expect something that made me look at my own life a bit closer. The story is about Josip Lasta, a young boy growing up in Croatia in the 1930’s. The story continues into his adulthood and chronicles his struggles and spiritual growth during the WW II and communist eras.

O’Brien does a great job drawing the reader into the life of his characters and clearly showed Josip’s character of hope, courage, and perseverance despite all sorts of horrific acts. (I had been to the Balkans several times for business after the fall of communism, so I could relate to the incredible scenery and people, but not, of course, to their struggles.)

One of the things that kept Josip going was his ability to see bright stars in the clear skies over his city and country. When he grew older and was imprisoned and tortured for many years, he remembered the Christmas story from his Catholic upbringing. The Star of Bethlehem reminded him of hope and that life will become better.

I had never been so emotionally and spiritually involved in a book before! It was a good read! The book makes me more appreciative than ever of life itself, and helps me thank God for his blessings—and for CALL itself.

About CALL-- thanks to all of you and our staff—at the end of 2013 there were 1,725 members (879 at the end of 2008), 394 new members joined in 2013 compared to 143 in 2008, 1,931 class registrations just in the fall of 2013, compared to 1,089 for the entire year 2008!

Our hope and prayer is that you may experience God’s blessings in 2014, and that CALL can help you on your life’s journey of experience and enrichment.

Ray Vander Weele
President

**Hospitality Committee**

FREE COFFEE, COOKIES AND FELLOWSHIP

The Hospitality Committee provides free coffee, tea, and cookies to members during the thirty minute break between classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45 - 3:15 p.m. in the hallway in Hiemenga Hall. Come early for your class or come after class and enjoy a hot drink and good fellowship with other members.

Hopping into Spring Curriculum Early

Instructor Karin Maag will offer a course, *Cavaliers and Roundheads: The English Civil War*, Mondays at Raybrook, January 20 – February 10, from 2:00-3:15 P.M. to accommodate the January Series lectures. This course is listed in Group 9 of the spring curriculum guide.
Monday, January 27, 2014

January Series Brunch
Prince Conference Center
Is the Arab Spring the Arab Christian’s Fall?
Closed - Waitlist Only - Ph. 526-8777

Anna Zaki will share what life is like in Egypt for Middle Eastern Christians and share with us where she finds her hope. Anna is a competent and articulate speaker. She is a resource development specialist for global and multi-cultural in the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship living with her husband and four sons in Cairo, Egypt. Anna received her bachelor’s degree from Calvin College in Psychology and Sociology in 1999, her Master’s degree from the American University in Cairo in the field of Social Psychology in 2002 and her Master’s of Divinity from Calvin Seminary in 2009. Anna, who was born in Egypt, and her husband, Naji Umran, pastored two churches in Michigan and British Columbia but always planned to return one day to Egypt to live and serve. In September, 2011, two months after the events of the Arab Spring, they felt called to make the move. This will be a very timely and informative presentation.

Cost $16.00 includes brunch, reserved seating in the Covenant Fine Arts Center and bus transportation to and from the Fine Arts Center.

Saturday, March 1, 2014

“STAND and DELIVER”

CALL members and their friends are invited to lunch and the Master Arts Theater presentation of the award winning play, “Stand and Deliver.” This Oscar-nominated drama is the compelling story of a dedicated East Los Angeles teacher who surmounts overwhelming odds in his quest to turn inner-city students into whiz kids. Our two special presenters will be Priscilla McDonald, Master Arts Theater director, and Audry Laninga, the director of “Stand and Deliver.” Priscilla will introduce us to the history and mission of the Master Arts Theater. Audry will give us the background and story line of “Stand and Deliver.” She will tell us what to look for and will help us to understand and appreciate the play.

The luncheon will be at the Calvin Commons Lecture Hall at 11:00am Cost - $30.00 includes lunch and play. (Drive to Master ArtsTheater on your own)

If you have Master Arts tickets and would like to come just for the lunch the luncheon cost is $17.00. You may use your tickets on March 1, however, to assure seating you should make your reservations early.

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Paid it All, It Is Well With My Soul and many more. Experience blessing and thanksgiving as we watch “Sure Foundation.” The presentation is filled with powerful messages, worship and testimonies from these professional artists.

The luncheon and program will be held in the Calvin Commons Annex Lecture Hall. Invite your friends and enjoy an afternoon of blessing and inspiration.

Cost - $18.00. Includes lunch and program.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

“SOLI DEO GLORIA”

Call members and friends are invited to our Spring Luncheon featuring an inspiring and moving presentation by “SOLI DEO GLORIA.” “SOLI DEO GLORIA” is a professional dance company founded through the ministry of Turning Pointe School of Dance. They will present “Sure Foundation,” a ballet that will use both contemporary Christian music and classic hymns to take us on a journey of discovery and honoring Jesus Christ as the “Sure Foundation” of our faith. Some of the hymns are those that we love and cherish -

Tuesday-Friday, April 29 - May 2

A TRIP INTO HISTORY

Join CALL members and their friends as we travel back into history and experience our country’s fight at Gettysburg for the preservation of the union, the Civil War Museum
in Harrisburg and Moses and the people of Israel and their struggle for freedom.

We will watch the dramatic presentation of “Moses,” - the parting of the Red Sea, the Burning Bush, the Plagues and the Ten Commandments. The greatest epic of the Old Testament comes into life in the presentation of “Moses” at the Sight and Sound stage in Lancaster. “Moses” is a journey back through time. Relive the golden splendor and pride of ancient Egypt, the poverty and pride of the Hebrew slaves and the humble broken man that God raised up to become their deliverer. Walk with Moses and the children of Israel as they struggle for faith, freedom and belonging.

Experience the struggle of our country to preserve the Union at the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and the Gettysburg battlefield. The National Civil War Museum encompasses the emotion of the American people as a time line from the issues staining the nation through the war to the conclusion at Appomattox. Nowhere can you find a better understanding of the Civil War, and its effects on the nation or on its people.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the Civil War, the Union Victory that ended Robert E. Lee’s second and most ambitious invasion of the north. It was also the inspiration for President Abraham’s immortal “Gettysburg Address.” We will have a park guide give us a presentation on the battle and a guided tour of the battlefield area.

On our return home we will visit the Flight 93 National Monument.

Cost $510 per person (double occupancy). Deposit of $75 with reservation and the balance by March 25. Cost includes transportation, lodging, all fees, three dinners, three lunches and three breakfasts.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Purdue Varsity Men’s Glee Club

This trip is full - waiting list only. CALL members can be added to the waitlist by calling the office at 526-8777.

The Glee Club is a widely acclaimed musical group that has inspired audiences on nine European tours and has performed at five presidential inaugurations. This dynamic musical troupe employs a versatile repertoire including gospel, classical choir selections, familiar opera choruses and much more. They utilize small groups and outstanding soloists to further enhance their performance. We will have lunch at the center, where a glee club member(s) will be at each table to talk about the history and rules of the glee club.

Public Events

A captivating and riveting series of lectures has been planned for this spring.

Mark your calendars now and share these dates and topics with others.

The Noontime Series are held from 12 - 1 PM in the chapel on Calvin’s campus and are free and open to all.

Thursday, February 6: “God at work in Prison: from Angola to Ionia” presented by John Rottman

Louisiana’s infamous maximum-security penitentiary is well known as the bloodiest prison in the South. It’s a place where the worst of the worst go and never come out. But God’s work there is changing it into a place of joy and grace. Seminary professor John Rottman has been a witness and participates in growing a church in Ionia.

Thursday, February 20: “Trapped by Endemic War: Syrian Refugees in Jordan” presented by Bert DeVries

At least six million Syrians are now homeless refugees; nearly one million have fled to Jordan. Visit Zaatari Refugee Camp with Prof. Bert De Vries to discover the plight of its 150,000 residents as well as the real damage this people displacement is doing to Syria itself, to Jordan, and the other surrounding countries. He will consider what structures are needed to prevent human catastrophes like this from happening.

If you missed a lecture you can watch and listen online by going to the CALL Noontime Series website page:

www.calvin.edu/academic/call/noontime.htm
Join us for the Annual Passport to Adventure Film Series. Tickets can be purchased through the Calvin College Box Office at 526-6282 ($6 adult, $3 student).

View the brochure at: http://www.calvin.edu/academic/call/passtick.htm

Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM
Rediscovering Ancient America with Gray Warriner
Travel across the U.S.A. and back in time to uncover amazing accomplishments by Native Americans, such as Serpent Mound, the Marching Bears of Iowa’s Effigy Mounds, and giant earthen birds in Wisconsin. Ohio’s Hopewell culture moved thousands of tons of earth to build giant geometric earthworks in the forms of squares, circles, and octagons. In Florida, towering temple mounds overlooked turquoise waters. Out west, spectacular scenery is the background for exploring cliff dwellings and Pueblo towns, such as Lost City in Nevada, Mesa Verde, Bandelier, Wupatki, and Canyon de Chelly.

Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM
The Soul of India with Rick Ray
Former Lonely Planet backpacker-turned cinematographer, writer and director Rick Ray spent four months braving heat, cold, altitude, earthquakes and riots to patch together a personal tapestry of the almost indescribable country of India. This film includes familiar sights — such as the Taj Majal, the palaces and forts of Rajasthan, the Himalayas and the river Ganges — as well as an exploration of concepts such as the caste system, democracy, marriage, privacy, life and death in a country that still reveals influences of past British rule.

Extended Trips

Cuba Today: People and Society, March 4 - 12, 2014

- This all inclusive tour to Cuba has just been added to our list of alumni/CALL travel experiences. Delve into the rich history and heritage of Cuba by meeting with local leaders, residents, artists and intellectuals to discuss the Cuba of today and explore local attractions.
- Leaders: Kenneth Erffmeyer ’86, Vice President for Advancement, Calvin College, assisted by expert national and local Cuban guides.
- For more information about this unique travel experience, phone 616-526-6097 or e-mail cwolffis@calvin.edu.

Envisioning New England

This New England trip has been cancelled due to the sudden passing of Mrs. Anne Schmidt on Christmas Eve. Please remember Professor Gary Schmidt and the family in your prayers.

A trip to Europe, Northern European Art Tour, led by Calvin Professor Henry Luttikhuizen, is scheduled for June 16-27, 2014.

This tour will explore the great cities of London, Paris, Bruges and Amsterdam. In addition to visiting the British Museum in London, the Musee de Louvre in Paris and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, there will be opportunities to visit Gothic cathedrals and other architectural gems.


We’ll spend several days discovering the treasures of Budapest, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe; and we’ll also explore other intriguing Hungarian cities that are usually not on the “beaten path” of American tourism. Throughout the tour, our sightseeing will be enriched by the history of the Hungarian Reformed Church and its contemporary life, witness and work. Brochures for all of these tours can be found at the Alumni/CALL offices, second floor, Youngsma Center. Or call 526-6142 to have a brochure mailed to you. Or check this website: www.calvin.edu/alumni/travel

A Pilgrimage to Israel--In the Light of Jesus: both trips in March, 2014 are sold out!
The following CALL members have received service grants: Elaine Van Kley for Global gifts, Shirley Neitsel for a fund raising dinner for John Knox Food Pantry, and Joy Witte for books for a leveled reading program at Anchor Point Christian School.

It is a wonderful experience to read the requests that come before our committee and learn of the many ways CALL members give of their time, money, and talent. Where do you volunteer? Applications are available by calling the office at 616-526-8777, emailing call@calvin.edu or downloading an application from www.calvin.edu/academic/call

“On Friday, November 8, 112 people enjoyed fellowship and a spaghetti dinner at Ascension Lutheran Church in Kentwood. The event was a fundraiser for the John Knox Food Pantry that provides services to low income families in our area. The $200 Service Grant from CALL was matched 50 cents on a dollar by Trivalent Financial, $200 became $300, which covered most of the cost of groceries purchased for the meal. Many diners added a donation to their ticket prices and as a result the food pantry gained several hundred dollars. It will be welcome support for the pantry and the clients it serves.”

This note of appreciation provided by Shirley Neitzel

CALL has a new black, zippered portfolio bag with handle available for $5.00
This is a great way to carry all your class notes and books. You can purchase one at the CALL office (218 Youngsma building, east side of Beltline). Please bring exact amount ($5). We usually don’t have change at the office.
CALL
Experience Enrichment

Physical address:
Youngsma Center 218
1580 East Beltline

Mailing address:
CALL
3201 Burton St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

CALL office hours:
M – Th: 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

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Sonja DeJong,
Administrative Coordinator
Marjo Jordan,
Membership Assistant
Uko Zylstra,
Curriculum Director

CALLNews is published monthly except for August and January. It is sent to CALL members via USPS or email and is posted on the CALL website: www.calvin.edu/call. Announcements should be submitted by the first Friday of the month for the following month’s CALLNews to call@calvin.edu or to gkamps1@mac.com

Inclement Weather Policy
With the blustery days of winter, the CALL office would like to provide some guidance in response to questions that often come up related to inclement weather. Because about half of Calvin’s students live on campus, the college has a long history of remaining open during inclement weather even when other institutions may be closed. While this practice is likely to continue, it also is important for CALL members to be prudent in their decision to travel to campus if conditions are hazardous.

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS
Many CALL members choose to register online at the CALL web site, www.calvin.edu/CALL. We’re glad this feature works well for some of you.
Tip: Favor the mouse or the tab key when filling out the form, as the enter key sometimes submits a form prematurely. Anticipate receiving an immediate confirmation for your credit card transaction.
Receiving registrations and your check through the mail also works well. When possible, we confirm receipt of your check by email. For those who do not use email, we confirm receipt of your check with a postcard.

Festival of Faith and Writing
CALL members are eligible for a discounted price of $170 to attend Calvin’s Festival of Faith and Writing in April.
To receive the discount, select “group” as your registration level and when prompted, enter the group name “CALL” and registration code “grcall14”.
For additional information, visit http://festival.calvin.edu/.

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