CALL & Calvin

by Mike Van Denend

CALL and Calvin: A partnership of heart, soul and mind

For 20 years now, CALL has functioned as a very independent senior-learning organization, providing wonderful mind-stretching classes and programs for thousands of people.

This model of volunteer leadership and committee membership has served CALL and its members well (even as we fully admit to the indispensable work of our office duo Sonja and Marjo).

All of CALL’s courses, events and programs are developed and largely implemented by the membership of CALL. And what a tremendous array of learning opportunities!

Calvin College’s connection to the operations of CALL have been mainly to provide a warm home and assistance to the office staff, classroom and auditorium space, and advice and counsel to the CALL leadership on administrative matters.

Those are no small gifts from the college. Can you imagine what the operation of CALL would be like without them?

But CALL keeps up its end of the bargain, too. Introducing many community seniors to the college—some of them for the first time—is a wonderful outcome of this partnership. CALL also financially contributes each year to the January Series, the Spring Classic 5k run/walk and gives a scholarship to an “older-than-average” student at Calvin.

And CALL members: Never underestimate the importance of the role modeling you do when you attend classes each week. Those Calvin students who see you get the point that learning never ends, an important lesson for them!

In the final analysis, CALL’s mission is not far removed from the mission of Calvin College, which is to “equip students to think deeply, act justly and live whole-heartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.”

Of course, CALL strives to encourage deep thinking. Fifty classes a semester, plus summer courses and member programs stimulate the brain.

CALL also inspires to acting justly—through classes and programs that bring the important issues of our time, locally and globally, to its members.

Mike is a member of the CALL Board and Calvin’s liaison to CALL.
The 50th anniversary year for Passport Travel Films at Calvin's campus concludes on April 9 with a 2:00 p.m. matinee of John Holod's *Natural Wonders of the NE Coast*.

Embark on an RV excursion with John Holod along 1,500 miles between Virginia Beach and the United States-Canadian border, visiting Virginia Beach, Delaware Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Cape May, Atlantic City, Sandy Hook National Seashore, Cape Cod National Seashore, Bath Maritime museum, Machias Seal Island and more. Along the way we observe an amazing array of birds, mammals, whales, insects, amphibians, flora, and endangered species. We also experience kayaking, sailing, aerial tours, lobstering, crabbing, and over thirty lighthouses.

Be sure to grab a brochure for our next season of films! Our 2016-2017 films are all recent films in stunning high definition. The films include Route 66; Central and South America; a Sudanese refugee camp; a river cruise in the Netherlands and European Christmas markets; and a journey to the Promised Land. We are excited to offer these five outstanding films for our best season of films to date. You won’t be disappointed!
March 31  Len Vander Zee, From the Big Bang to the New Creation: God’s Big Six Billion Year Long Story of Creation and Redemption

We love and live by stories, that is, we make sense of our lives and the life of this world through the narratives we weave. Scholars call them metanarratives, and one of them is the story of creation and redemption told in the Bible. How do we tell that grand metanarrative, first told in the language of the ancient Near East, today in the light of what we now know about the age and origins of the universe, and why is that important?

April 14 Festival of Faith & Writing... Enjoy free admission to keynote speaker Tobias Wolff.

Tobias Wolff is the author of two memoirs, This Boy’s Life (1989), and In Pharaoh’s Army (1994), numerous short story collections and novels, including The Barracks Thief (1984). As enthralled critics have so often observed, American author Tobias Wolff is a master storyteller. His short stories, novels, and memoirs have earned him an assortment of sought-after fellowships and grants, three O. Henry short story prizes, and the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

The location for this lecture only is the Van Noord Arena, Calvin’s athletic building, which is north of the Chapel and Science Building.

Did you miss a lecture this spring? Visit our website and click on the Noontime tab to access our library of recorded video lectures.

Parking for the March 31 lecture is best on the east side of the East Beltline. Use the skywalk to cross over to the main campus. An elevator is located at the end of the skywalk. The Covenant Fine Arts Center parking lot will be challenging at this time of day.

Interest Groups- Free, come as often as you like. Sign up with our interest group leaders this spring:

Birding- April 7, 21 and 28 and May 5 and 19 (Thursdays). Bill Sweetman- 247-6741, bsweettours@gmail.com.

Biking resumes with Wilbur Zike this spring. Rides average 8 miles. Wilber Zike- 884-5587, wilburzike@hotmail.com.

The Brass Ensemble interest group rehearses in the Calvin Seminary chapel on Monday afternoons. Roger Griffioen- 452-3328, rdgriffioen@att.net.

Memoir Writing meets upstairs in Hiemenga Hall HH468, on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. Jim Boldenow- 808-1148, jim.boldenow@gmail.com.

New location: Knitting meets Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 in Youngsma Bldg, 2nd floor, by the CALL office. Drive north of the nature center on the east side of the East Beltline. Diane Noorman- 942-0046, dnoorman@sbcglobal.net.
Each year we schedule an annual meeting and luncheon. This year the event is also marked by our 20-year anniversary! We will hold a brief meeting, honor original members who are in attendance, listen to words by one of our favorite instructors (Jennifer Holberg), and enjoy special music by the CALL brass ensemble and others.

Our meal will be Prince Style Vegetarian Manicotti—ricotta and mozzarella cheese, rolled in lasagna pasta and topped with a creamy parmesan sauce, garnished with roasted peppers and served with broccoli spears. The lunch also includes a special house salad, bakery fresh rolls and a surprise delectable dessert to celebrate the occasion.

Join us on Wednesday, May 25, at the Prince Conference Center. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. and the cost is $10 per person. This lunch is for CALL members only. Registration can be made online under the Member Events tab or mailed in with a check and the form below.

Member Events (page 6) Registration

Two ways to register:

1. Online: www.calvin.edu/CALL > Member Events
2. Complete this form (make checks payable to CALL) and send to CALL, Youngsma Center, 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Event fees are per person. CALL will notify you if an event has filled.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>The Home Game Shipshewana</td>
<td>$89</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>The Beams are Creaking- no play</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Annual Meeting and Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>A Day at the Ball Park</td>
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Name: ____________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________
Email: Confirm by email? □ Yes □ No, I don’t use email

Contact Shirley with questions: 299-3584 or lautenshirley@gmail.com

The cancellation policy is posted on the CALL website
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Spring Classes
One week after the official start of spring, CALL resumes its second session of courses beginning Tuesday March 29:

Sharon Brown returns with her second book Two Steps Forward.

A class of interaction and role-playing is the scene for Dave Kampfschultze’s Hearing What is Not Said.

Explore Christ in Beethoven, Berlioz, Liszt, and Brahms in Images of Christ in Nineteenth-Century Oratorios.

Read how your experiences and challenges in grade school are the same challenges for youth today in The Lifelong Power of Young Adult Novels with novels like The Giver.

18 courses have openings – see our main web page for signups and additional course descriptions.

Summer
What friend of yours is not a member of CALL?
Did you know CALL membership is not required for summer classes?
Signup next month for:

iPad Photography,
Jane Austen’s Emma
Astronomy in your backyard
After the Civil War
Word Reflections
Dead Sea Scrolls
2016 Elections
and many more...

The summer courses run four days consecutively, either June 6-9 or June 13-16. CALL will have 14 courses to choose from under a wide array of topics. Rather than a curriculum guide, the courses will be listed in the May newsletter.

Next month CALL mails all members the May newsletter with the summer course offerings, the 2016-2017 Passport Travel Film brochure, and details for the 2016 Experience ArtPrize project for October 4-6.

Calvin 5K
Three CALL members took first place in their age group at Calvin’s 25th annual 5K last year: Claire Elgersma, Gordon Start, and Gert Visser.

Participation in the 5K contributes to wonderful scholarships awarded to many incoming Calvin students.

CALL will identify two dates in April to practice the route and see who else is participating.

To register for the April 23 race, visit www.calvin.edu/classic and enjoy a discounted price of $20 after you enter “CALL2016” on the registration form just before the payment information. Volunteers are also needed for the race and we would love to have CALL members participating. Go to the same link to sign up as a volunteer!

No matter what your age, you gain significant improvements in strength, range of motion, balance, bone density and mental clarity through exercise.

How CALL members are represented this year:

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CALL 2015-2016 Board Members: Janet Borgdorff, Daniel Bos, Ken Bratt, Barbara Engbers, Jeff Haverdink, Sheri Ippel, Corrine Kass, Agnes Kroese, Arie Leegwater, Diane Noorman, Frank Spies, Mike Van Denend, Gordon Van Harn, Ed Westenbroek. call@calvin.edu
Member Events
by Shirley Lautenbach

Shipshewana Mennonhof Museum and The Home Game, Friday, April 15

Invite your friends and enjoy a day in Shipshewana. Experience the history and journey of the Amish, Mennonite and Hutterites. Travel through five centuries of fascinating history, from their origins in Switzerland to their arrival in America. History will unfold as you explore a 17th century sailing ship and replicas of a 19th century print shop and meeting house.

The Beams are Creaking
Saturday, April 30, 10:30 am

We begin by watching the video, *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German clergyman of great distinction who actively opposed Hitler and the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life. The Nazis hanged him on April 9, 1945, less than a month before the end of the war. Bonhoeffer's last years, his participation in the German resistance, and his moral struggle are dramatized in this film. *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace* sheds light on the little known effort of the German resistance.

Enjoy the new musical *The Home Game*. Levi must choose between his father's expectations of an Amish life and his own deep desire. Filled with laughter and drama, Blue Gates's newest musical will portray a son's journey and a father's hope.

Only tickets to the lunch and video on Calvin's campus are still available. Cost $16.00 without the play

Purdue Varsity Men’s Glee Club
Tuesday, May 10

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 programs.

We will enjoy 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. We are offering this trip again this year due to popular demand.

Invite your friends and enjoy this popular musical experience. Cost $99.00. Cost includes deluxe motor coach, coffee and rolls, lunch and concert. This is a CALL favorite!

A Day at the Ball Park, Thursday, August 4, 8:30 am

Summer is coming. Time to see the "new look" Tigers. Join us for a Detroit Tiger/Chicago White Sox game at 1:00 pm on Thursday August 4. These two teams are rivals in the Central Division.

We will leave at 8:30 am and will stop for coffee and rolls en route. Your ticket includes a hot dog and drink at the ball park. Snacks after the game with arrival back at the Prince Center early evening. The trip is for CALL members, friends and grandchildren. Cost $85.00

For any Member Event questions please call Shirley at 299-3584 or lautenshirley@gmail.com.
Extended Trips

by John Apol

**England Cathedrals-July 15-25, 2016**
With Reverend Randall Engle, North Hills CRC Pastor

Five openings remain for this trip of music and history. Highlights include a private tour of Lambeth Palace and Archives; worship at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Chichester Cathedral; a private organ tour at Westminster Abbey and attendance at the Southern Cathedral Festival. Along the way, travel through the Cotswolds, eat fabulous food, and stay in luxurious accommodation.

**Prague, Vienna & Budapest September 21-October 4, 2016**
With Corwin Smidt

Fodor’s Travels describes these three cities as follows: *These are the pillars of Central Europe. Prague is the centerpiece, beautifully preserved, walkable, and full of mysterious cobblestone side streets. Vienna is the stately big brother, officious, Hapsburgian, and old-school, from the desserts to the Opera. Budapest is still the scruffy upstart, 20 years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the vibrant nightlife and traditional bathhouses make it the most foreign and inscrutable of the three.*

The trip leader, Corwin Smidt, is a retired Calvin College professor, and a current Research Fellow with the Henry Institute for Study of Christianity and Politics. Author of more than 15 books, Dr. Smidt is also President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. He has lived in Hungary and has frequently traveled throughout Central and Eastern Europe. He’ll bring this firsthand experience on tour, offering the group his unique perspective of those cities’ past and present.

Highlights include the Astronomical Clock in Prague, visiting Stephen’s Cathedral and Mozart’s house in Vienna, touring Budapest, Buda castle, and Fisherman’s Bastion. From Prague’s beautifully preserved medieval city, to Vienna’s Baroque grandeur, to Budapest’s captivating charm throughout its complex history, this part of Europe is a must see!
Future CALL travel possibilities: 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A tour of some of the sites important to the Reformation is planned. Experience the fascinating history and modern-day significance of the German and Swiss Reformation while retracing the steps of Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin guided by Reformation expert and favorite CALL instructor Karin Maag. Tour highlights include Wittenberg, Erfurt, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich, and Geneva.

A tour to Iceland will be led by Calvin professor Joel Adams in the summer of 2017. Highlights will include time in Reykjavik, glaciers, waterfalls, thermal pools and much more.

American Southwest – September, 2017. This tour is a reprise of the well-liked 2012 tour. Tour highlights will include visits to Zuni and Rehoboth mission sites, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon North Rim, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon and other interesting places in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

With Cuba “opening up”, a trip to this intriguing country is planned for 2017, led by CALL instructor Dan Miller.