Message from the Vicar
By Agnes Kroese

Some Thoughts on Aging

In January, I was privileged to be the oldest student in Jennifer Holberg’s Interim class, “Dante, Florence, and the Idea of Pilgrimage.” Twenty Calvin students had enrolled, and when my friend and I learned there was room for a couple more people, we seized the opportunity. For three weeks we stayed in convents, read and discussed The Divine Comedy, and visited museums, churches and other sites rich in art and history. It was a busy, glorious, memorable adventure.

A bonus of the experience was the opportunity to get acquainted with the Calvin students in the course. They were friendly, bright, curious, energetic, joyful, and unfailingly polite. Any hesitation we’d had about being accepted by them was quickly dispelled, and we enjoyed their company immensely. I must admit though, that as we walked for miles on the cobblestones of Florence (sometimes with luggage in tow), climbed the steep inclines of Assisi, and hiked the hills of Rome, it was tempting to envy their youth!

Now as I reflect on these students, I remember something of what it was like to be young and vital—filled with energy, hope and plans. But I am not envious. I doubt if most senior citizens, though they may wish to be stronger, quicker, and less achy, would actually choose to be young again. The experiences of many decades have molded and tempered us into the unique persons we are now, and we cannot imagine being otherwise. We’ve known fulfillment and frustration, joy and disappointment, peace and strife, love and loss. And we’ve come to appreciate the gift of years.

In her book, Toward Holy Ground: Spiritual Direction for the Second Half of Life, Margaret Guenther says that, having experienced the autonomy yearned for by teenagers, “we revel in our many choices and our ability to control many parts of our lives.” And she reminds us that the second half of life is also the age of the amateur: “Amateurs are lovers, drawn to their commitments by love, not duty, sustained by the gift of joy and wonder in all God’s works. In the first half of life, our energy is devoted to proving ourselves...This is the time for degrees and credentials, for developing a personal identity. In the second half of life perspectives change, and we are amazed to realize that some things just don’t matter anymore.”

I remember a brief conversation we two septuagenarians had with one of the students on the Italy trip. When she’d learned a bit about our lives—our interests, our families, our recent travels—she remarked, with perhaps just a bit of envy, that we were very fortunate. I think she was right.
Passport to Adventure

by Henry Baron

Sudan’s Secret Side

Less than two weeks from now, we have the unique opportunity to see a new type of travel film not typically offered in our Passport film series. On Wednesday, March 29, this timely, eye-opening movie titled Sudan’s Secret Side educates viewers on the struggles of aid workers, the sophisticated system of running a refugee camp, and the soldiers on border patrols.

Karin Muller, producer of numerous television series for PBS and National Geographic, captures in-depth human stories completely unlike the typical “reporter in the field” views so often seen on the evening news. Muller spent three months in Chadian villages, humanitarian aid bases, Sudanese and Chadian refugee camps, and traveling with the Chadian military filming capturing 37 hours of high-definition footage.

What sets Muller’s documentaries apart is her deep immersion into completely foreign communities and cultures. “She’s not the kind of person who will fly into a land and book into the Hilton,” says her agent, Lewis Williams. “She’d rather get off the plane and make her way right into the slums of Cairo.” Her intimate storytelling—often from the point of view of the subject—also distinguishes her work. “You can see on the screen that people really trust her,” says Tracy Beckett, director of program and media acquisitions for PBS International. “At first, the locals are at arms’ length, but then they’re closer to her and warming to the camera.”

Karin’s passions include a non-profit organization called Take 2: The Student’s Point of View, which helps elementary through college-aged students develop global citizenship and leadership skills. Through the website take2videos.org, Muller shares the raw footage from her documentaries, which the students can edit to create their own documentaries and presentations on subjects including politics, environmental science, and social justice.

The goal of Take 2—and of all her work—is to share insight into how other people live and cultivate “global citizenship, empathy, compassion, understanding,” Muller says.

Although unable to appear in person, Karin will join us via skype live and set the stage for the powerful stories she weaves in this important film about life, struggle, complexity, and hope.

Tickets are $6 each online at www.calvin.edu/boxoffice, or you can call the box office at 526-6282. Season tickets are no longer cost advantageous, so only individual tickets are available for purchase, and all seats are reserved.
The 2017 Spring Noontime Series is free and open to the public. These in-depth and thought-provoking lectures are one hour in length from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and located in the campus Chapel. Parking is best in lot #2 off the Burton Street entrance.

Most lectures are video recorded, and links to watch at home on your computer can be found on the main page of our website under the Noontime tab. This spring marks the final season that Henry Baron will chair the Public Events Committee and introduce our Noontime speakers. Join us in his final semester with us and mark your calendar for the following bi-weekly Thursday presentations.

Henry Baron presents a lecture on March 23, Growing Up in WWII: Memories and Reflections that Don’t Fade.

Childhood innocence shatters, evil takes on a human face, fear often penetrates as a knifepoint to the heart, and faith’s questions surface permanently when war invades.

Hear reflections and stories that tell what is remembered and will not let go after 75 years.

Two lectures in April complete our spring 2017 offerings beginning first with Steve Timmermans and Peter Borgdorff presenting on April 6 a lecture titled A Season of Challenges: Facing the Times In and Beyond the CRC.

As two Christian Reformed Church leaders, Steven Timmermans, Executive Director, and Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director Emeritus, address challenges within the CRC and contextualize these challenges in regional, national, and global ways. While the subject addresses matters internal to the Christian Reformed Church in North America, all—regardless of denominational home—will profit from understanding the contexts in which denominations such as the CRC address contemporary challenges and face the future with hope and humility.

Our final lecture for the spring is offered by Calvin Political Professor Micah Watson on Is There Life After Trump: The First 100 Days.

Three months after taking office, has Trump given us more of a sense of what an actual Trump presidency will look like? How does what has transpired match what was said during the campaign, and what does this mean looking forward? Join us as we consider the good, the bad, and the ugly of the first three months of Donald Trump’s presidency.
Announcements
by Sonja DeJong

Spring Courses- Second Session
21 diverse courses have openings in our second session of spring classes.

Classes range from health to exercise, religion to history, and politics to art.

Here are a few we don't want you to miss out on:

#24 Tint Your Vision encourages expression in your own personal interpretation of the coloring of a nature scene with the expert instruction of Dianne Carroll Burdick. Start with a black and white image and add the colors you envision in the scene. An accomplished photographer and ArtPrize exhibitor, Diane has taught this course many times at Meijer Gardens.

#31 360 Degrees of Opera is the course to dispel all misconceptions about opera such as it being impossible to understand, too long to sit through, full ofusty old singers and out-of-date-sets and only interesting to people from a certain income bracket. Rather, opera has astonishing musical authority, utterly compelling performances, and no holds barred, by-the-bootstraps theatrical imagination.

#32 Gender in Arab World - is a powerful course on the different aspects of gender discrimination against women that is prevalent in almost all countries. Among other things, learn how norms like religion, myths, judiciary laws, and codes-of-conduct contribute to perpetuating gender violence in the Arab world.

#34 Doing Humanitarian Work in Communist Cuba - In many ways Americans only see the Cuba that this communist government wants us to see. This course educates us on the side of Cuba we never see. First Hand Aid (FHA) started in 1999 after Marc Bohland and a colleague made a trip to Cuba. They traveled on behalf of an exiled Cuban who worked with them at a local hospital.

Some years earlier, the hospital worker and two other Cubans had placed themselves on inner tubes and launched out of Havana to flee. Halfway to Florida, they encountered a storm, throwing two of them off the inner tubes and into the turbulent ocean.

The two men lost their lives.

The remaining Cuban was left alone under the relentless sun, somehow surviving with no food and water. He only recalls waking up in a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter.

On the surviving Cuban’s behalf, Marc and his colleague agreed to make a trip to Havana to bring medical supplies and other scarce necessities to his family village. This is where the story begins...

For more details and times about these and other courses, visit www.calvin.edu/call and click on the link below the red REGISTER box.

Summer Courses
Mark your calendars for June 5-8 and June 12-15 for our summer course program. Not only do you not need CALL membership, but you also don’t need to be 50 years old or older to attend these courses. Who might like to join you in a class or two?

We have some amazing courses for you that will be published in next month’s newsletter. Since this is also the mailing in which the next season of Passport Travel Films is announced, ALL members of CALL will receive next month’s newsletter in hard copy form. Look in your mailbox around April 21!

Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Registrations for our annual luncheon on Thursday, May 25, are in full swing. Held at the Prince Conference Center each year, CALL members enjoy a fabulous meal at a reduced cost while enjoying fellowship, a short meeting and awards, and special music by an acapella quartet, Half-n-Half.

Cost is only $10. Doors open at 11:30 am and the event concludes by 1:00 pm. Registration can be found online or on page 5 of this newsletter.

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Calvin 5K Cost Reduction through CALL
CALL members will find this spring’s Calvin 5k the least expensive race in the state in which to participate! Demonstrating CALL’s commitment to both physical and mental health, CALL will pay $10 of the $25 registration fee to any CALL member who wishes to run, jog, or walk the 3.1 miles on Calvin’s campus Saturday, April 29. As an added benefit, all proceeds fund scholarships that directly benefit Calvin students.

In addition, the college is always grateful for volunteers in a number of areas the day of the race. Use https://calvin.edu/events/spring-classic/ to sign up. If you are walking or running the race, use code “Call17” for the $10 discount in the coupon code box located on the final page of registration just above the credit card information.

MVP Benefits for CALL
Did you know that the Grand Rapids MVP site is offering specific classes for seniors? Their program is known as MVP WELL-FIT. The classes take place in the building east of the main building at 4085 Burton Street. Their hours of service are M-F, 7:00 am-3:00 pm and Saturday mornings.

MVP WELL-FIT’s brochure defines their offerings as abbreviated:

GROUP ACTIVE: Incorporating all elements of fitness to increase your cardio fitness, build strength and improve your balance and flexibility.

GROUP CENTERGY: Grow longer and stronger with yoga and pilates movements. Music will be incorporated in this class.

RECOVERY YOGA: A slower yoga practice that focuses on restoring the body to a state of balance. Emphasis is on functional flexibility, breath connection, and muscular alignment with stress reduction.

VITALITY: Exercises that will increase strength, flexibility and mobility, while strengthening the heart.

YOGA: The yoga practice will include professional feedback with variations and modifications to accommodate all fitness levels.

ZONE GOLD: It is a heart rate interval training class. Participants may wear a heart monitor to see their heart rate and calories burned on a big screen.

ZUMBA GOLD: It is a high-energy class with music to dance your way to fitness.

My wish for each of us is to be as “WELL-FIT” as personally possible. If you are a member at MVP, try a new class. MVP WELL-FIT classes are included in a CALL MVP membership. Website link: http://www.mvpportsclubs.com/michigan-grand-rapids-mvp-well-fit/well-fit-schedule/

Best regards,
Wendy McLenithan
Health, Fitness & Recreation Board Liaison

Contact Shirley with questions: 299-3584 or lautenshirley@gmail.com
The cancellation policy is posted on the CALL website

Member Events 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.

   □ Mar 29  Spring Luncheon with Pamela Alderman $19
   □ May 3-5 The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum $499
   □ May 3-5 The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, single-room supplement $100
   □ May 25 Annual Meeting and Luncheon $10
   □ June 29 Detroit Tigers $89

   Name: ________________________________
   Phone: _______________________________
   Email: Confirm by email? □ Yes □ No, I don’t use email
Member Events
by Shirley Lautenbach

Spring Luncheon, Wednesday, March 29
An ArtPrize Artist’s Journey
Artist Pamela Alderman

ArtPrize has opened surprising doors for artist Pamela Alderman. Over the past eight years, her interactive exhibits have touched thousands of visitors with the message of hope and healing. Pamela creates unique exhibits that focus on the viewers and their needs. Every year visitors express appreciation for the sacred space to talk about their stories.

Alderman’s presentation will include an inside look of creating her 2016 ArtPrize installation called Color Me Orange—Color Me Kind where visitors tied 100,000 orange ribbons as a promise to be kind in addition to a live demonstration of painting with her hands. Cost - $19.00. Questions - Call Shirley 299-3584.

The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, Wednesday-Friday, May 3, 4, 5
We will travel to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter. The state-of-the-art Creation Museum allows you to venture through biblical history, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens and much more. The 75,000 square-foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life through its 160 exhibits. We will also experience the high-definition digital technology of the Stargazer’s Planetarium.

Enjoy an incredible journey through space.

Experience the life-size Noah’s Ark - 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. The ark only recently opened and is one of only three full-size Noah’s Ark replicas in the world and is the largest of the three. The Ark Encounter is one of the largest “green” construction projects in the country, taking advantage of the latest environmental technologies to be good stewards of creation.

This exciting trip includes bus transportation, lodging, coffee and rolls, one lunch, and three dinners. Cost - $499 per person, double occupancy. Add $100 total for single room.

Cheer for the Tigers, Thursday, June 29

The Detroit Tigers will play the Kansas City Royals at Comerica Park on Thursday, June 29 at 1:00 pm. Seats are located in Section 112, past the first base line on the main level. CALL members may invite their friends and grandchildren.

The bus leaves the Prince Conference Center parking lot at 8:30 am. Coffee and rolls en route. At the game you will have a voucher for a hot dog and a soft drink.

We will return to Calvin by 7:30 pm.

Cost - $89.00 per person. Questions: Don-901-2170, Shirley-299-3584.
Extended Trips
by John Apol

Of the trips scheduled for 2017, Israel, Iceland, Cuba and American Southwest are waitlist only and two trips remain open for registration: Footsteps of the Reformers to Germany and Switzerland and Stratford Festival. Find trip brochures online at www.calvin.edu/call and select the tab for Extended Trips.

In the Footsteps of the Reformers
To date we have 21 persons registered for the September 12-22 trip to cities and sites in Germany and Switzerland in addition to celebrating the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. Begin your journey in Germany with stops at the Reichstag and remnants of the Berlin Wall. In Wittenberg, the “cradle” of the Reformation, we spend two days sightseeing Lutherhalle, St Mary’s City Church where Martin Luther preached, and the Castle Church, where tradition describes Luther nailing his 95 Theses. We will visit Eisleben, the small mining, where Luther was born, and visit the Church of St. Andrew where Luther delivered his last sermons of his life. Besides additional stops related to the Reformation, travelers will enjoy time in Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich, and Geneva. The time spent in Switzerland is largely devoted to the life and times of John Calvin. Special highlights of the trip include numerous lectures scheduled by Karin Maag, deepening the experience of the Reformation history.

Stratford Festival (Canada)
Registration continues for a return trip to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada, June 7-9. The brochure and registration are available online. The trip, led again by Gary Schmidt, includes five performances, lodging at the Queen’s Inn for two nights, and a warehouse tour of the 55,000 costumes and endless props:

- Twelfth Night- by William Shakespeare
- The Virgin Trial by Kate Hennig
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- H.M.S. Pinafore (an operetta) by Gilbert & Sullivan
- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Interest Groups

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

Birding- April 6, 13, 20, and May 4 (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.

Knitting meets Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 pm 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.