Gifts, Grace, and Gratitude
by Ken Bratt, CALL Board President

Do you have charisma? Perhaps you don’t think so, based on the common assumption that it means “a compelling personality who easily wins friends and influences people.” But the word is Greek and in the Bible it translates as a gift of God’s grace to every person, as in I Peter 4:10: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace (charis) of God, serve one another with whatever gift (charisma) each of you has received.” Paul says something similar in Romans 12:6: “We have gifts [charismata] that differ according to the grace [charis] given to us,” and then he mentions some of them: preaching, serving, teaching, encouraging, sharing, leading, and showing compassion. There’s at least one for each of us in that list!

Not only is charisma derived from charis, but it’s also related to the Greek word for “gratitude:” eucharistia is the proper response for every gift of grace. The biblical message is that each of us has at least one personal charisma, given by charis, intended for mutual service, and evoking eucharistia in the serving and receiving! These thoughts came to mind after our annual luncheon on May 22, when we expressed our gratitude to some of the amazing people who are using their gifts to serve us in the Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning.

We’ve completed a wonderful year with more than 2,000 CALL members for the fifth straight year, a record number of courses (130), a record number of registrations in the fall and spring (2,009 and 1,603), and a record number of volunteer hours in the office (238). Our nine Noontime Series lectures served 433 people (they’re still accessible online), and we sold almost 3,000 tickets for the five Passport travelogues. Special interest groups supported 144 fans of biking, birding, brass playing, knitting, and memoir writing. 464 participated in our eight member events around Grand Rapids, and our five extended trips (in partnership with the Calvin Alumni Association) took 129 people to the American Southwest, Germany & Switzerland, Peru, the Netherlands, and Alaska.

All of this generated about $207,000 to meet CALL expenses of about $202,000. We were able to make our annual contribution to a scholarship for one older-than-average Calvin student, a sponsorship to the Calvin Community Symphony, three small grants to CALL members in community service, and a donation to fulfill our pledge for the installation of a hearing loop system in the Prince Conference Center Great Hall.

None of this happens without many people using their gifts to serve us all. If you missed the luncheon, Sonja De Jong and Marjo Jordan, representing CALL, received this year’s Calvin Award for Innovation and Creativity from President LeRoy, a well-deserved recognition of their indispensable leadership! We also made two distinguished service awards: one to Uko Zylstra, Director of Curriculum for the past six years (about 600 courses!), and the other to Henrietta Hamersma, who has volunteered more than 275 office hours since 2013. (cont., pg.2)
Having concluded our 22nd year of CALL programming, we express our warmest thanks to all the staff at Calvin who continue to support our operations, to the 130 teachers who led our courses, to our Noontime Series lecturers and trip leaders, to the 70 members of our 14 committees, and the 14 members of our board. Most of all, thanks to all of you members, without whose faithful participation and enthusiasm none of this would happen. As the Greeks still say, “Eucharistoume poly” -- thank you very much!

Our travelogue film series begins in less than two months with a frequent presenter at Calvin and accomplished filmmaker, Marlin Darrah. This first film of the new series is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, in the Covenant Fine Arts Center.

We travel to Germany and Switzerland, with cities like Munich, where locals specialize in good living, boisterous markets and go-for-Baroque palaces. Heading into the foothills of the Alps, we tour the fairy-tale castles of “Mad” King Ludwig, and cross into Tirol to conquer a desolate ruined castle. Then we climb atop the Zugspitze, the highest point in Germany.

Resuming its place as a great European capital, Berlin is an important stop during our time in Germany. We climb the Reichstag’s new glass dome, sway at a modern-day cabaret, and enjoy chocolates in the now-thriving eastern sector. Along with Germany’s finest art, complicated Berlin also has hidden remnants of its fascist and communist past. In a city that’s rebounding and rebuilding, we crane our necks at Potsdamer Platz, Europe’s newest Times Square.

Our journey to Switzerland will focus on often-overlooked side—Luzern, Bern, Zürich, and Lausanne. We will enjoy the country’s urban charms, a variety of eye-opening art, and ponder a few Swiss innovations, from their open-minded drug policies to their hush-hush underground arsenals. And it’s all before a backdrop of Switzerland’s stunning natural beauty.

For a finale, we ride Europe’s highest railway up the mighty Jungfrau for hot cocoa, glacier sledding, and spectacular views.

July is an opportune time to order season tickets for the first time, with the best possible seating opportunities. The cost for season tickets remains $25. During summer months, orders are best by mail or calling the CALL office.

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<td>Wednesday, October 24, 2018</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 13, 2019</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 11, 2019</td>
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September also marks the beginning of another great lineup of free Noontime Series lectures. These lectures are open to CALL members and the public. The location is the Calvin Chapel, located just east of the Burton Street entrance to the campus. Parking is best in lot #2, just left of this entrance. As you mark your calendars for these important dates, make note that the November 1 lecture is just one week after the preceding lecture, rather than the normal two-week spacing.

We begin the series with a panel lecture of Vietnam veterans, moderated by GVSU History professor James Smither, a frequent CALL course instructor and director of the GVSU Veterans History Project. Almost three million Americans served in active duty during the Vietnam War, a number which represents 9.7% of that generation.

During this lecture, we will hear from a group of veterans who return to Vietnam in 1995 and we learn what they did there during their return that changed their lives. ***Longer than the standard hour, this lecture is 90 minutes in length.

Our second lecture will cover the timely subject of gerrymandering on November’s ballot. Currently, Michigan is one of 28 states where its legislature is in charge of redistricting. Some would suggest the problem is that when one party is in charge of the legislature, the districts are often redrawn to favor that party. To take away the legislature’s redistricting authority, the state constitution would need to be amended via a ballot initiative.

Join us and be better informed on what is proposed, who will be responsible, and how it attempts to be fairly represented.
Announcements

by Sonja DeJong, CALL Program Manager

Calvin Award

May marked the conclusion of the Calvin 2017-2018 academic year. Each year the college presents five awards to staff of the college. This year, Marjo Jordan and myself, representing the CALL program, were honored with the Creativity and Innovation Award. Criteria includes proven commitment to Calvin and the mission of the college, a commitment to developing innovative strategies to completing work, and a commitment to creativity that inspires others to look at their work and the world in new ways. We are thankful to Calvin College for recognizing the work being done in the CALL program by everyone involved.

New Software

As you may recall from previous communication, CALL needed a new software program by July 1, after the current program used for college online registrations was not renewed.

Since CALL was required to pay for their portion of software costs moving forward, we determined a program designed for lifelong learning would be more supportive of our needs. With the approval of the college, we purchased a program titled ProClass in early June.

The largest change is that the new software will remember who you are, what payments you have made, and which classes and events you have registered to attend. However, in order to access this information, each member of CALL will need to establish a user name and password that they retain for their records. You only need to set this up one time.

There are several ways to access your account. Any current members received an email on July 16 with a unique username and password to access their account. Another option is to follow these steps:

- Go to www.calvin.edu/call

In the upper right, click on the “My Account” box.

Click on the “Forgot password” box and you will be prompted to enter the email address that you have on file with CALL.

Click the “submit” box and you will receive an email link to establish your username and password. (The password must be at least eight characters and include an uppercase, three lowercase, a digit, and a non-alphanumeric character (e.g. $, @, #, or %). An example is “Abbbx1#”.

You are now ready to log into the historical account we have already brought over from the old software program.

***Please do not create a new account if you have ever been a member of CALL as we cannot merge duplicate accounts.

Select the membership tab below the CALL logo to purchase either a 1-year or 3-year membership. Only one membership can be purchased at a time. Persons at the same address share a family account now.

Follow the system prompts and you will receive an email confirmation once complete.

Courses are incomplete online but registration will open on August 6 and catalogs will be mailed around August 1.

Because these changes are new to everyone in the program, please feel free to contact us if you have any difficulty at 526-8777. We expect there will be some challenges with the new software this year and we appreciate your patience as we come up to speed and correct any problems. These same instructions are available on our website.

Calvin President Le Roy, Marjo Jordan, Sonja DeJong, and Vice President for Advancement Ken Erffmeyer
Member Events
Amy Shellenbarger, Chair
ArtPrize 10
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Member Events committee is pleased to offer a return trip to ArtPrize. In this tenth celebratory year, guests can choose one of two options - Monday, October 1 or Tuesday, October 2.

ArtPrize began nearly ten years ago as an experiment - a totally new event, unlike anything the world had ever seen. Repeating again this fall, three square miles of downtown Grand Rapids become an open playing field where anyone can find a voice in the conversation about what is art and why it matters. Art from around the world pops up all over the city of Grand Rapids.

Our guests will start their day departing from the Prince Conference Center via coach bus transportation to the Sweet House, formerly the Women’s City Club for coffee/tea and muffins. From there, we enjoy early access to the Grand Rapids Art Museum at 11:00 am, typically a large venue for ArtPrize exhibits. Following the GRAM, CALL guests will enjoy specific stops related to the prior weekend’s “top 20” announcement. A delicious catered lunch at the Pearl Street Holiday Inn is included in your afternoon activities. (Notify the office if you have any dietary restrictions.)

If CALL members would like to enhance this member event trip, they can register any time after August 5 for the CALL course #10 on ArtPrize led by Nick Kroeze. In the first three classes, Nick will cover what is art, what is ArtPrize, and bring in guest speakers of ArtPrize. Following a week break for the Member Event trips, Nick will conclude his course discussing the top 20, including the category winners, judge vote, public vote, and the reasons why they were chosen.

While every year is different, you can expect to see art everywhere. Art that makes you feel. Art that makes you think. Art that makes you wonder. As you may recall from the news, ArtPrize moves to a biennial schedule after this year. Cost is $70 per person.

If you have questions, either email Cherie Grunske at cherillusions@gmail.com or phone the CALL office at 526-8777.

Save the Dates
A Day in Hyde Park
Friday, October 26, CALL members have the opportunity to spend the day in Hyde Park, Chicago. Several activities are located at or near the University of Chicago.

We begin our day at the Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House with a one-hour tour followed by a boxed lunch provided by the Robie House. At 1:00 CST, we begin our
tour at the Oriental Institute of Chicago. (For those interested, you are invited to register also for Henry Luttikhuizen’s fall course #65 on the ancient art of the Middle East.) This museum perfectly complements the material Henry will teach in his course.

After spending a couple hours at the museum, CALL members can spend an hour at the Seminary Co-Op Library and coffee shop on the campus. Widely regarded as one of the best academic bookstores in the world, the Co-op houses an extensive collection of scholarly titles.

We conclude with a 5:00 CST Carillon bell recital at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel where you can either hear and view the recital in the Chapel or climb with the carillonneur the 271 steps to the bells. After the one-hour recital, we board the bus to return to Grand Rapids with dinner en route.

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe
Saturday, November 17, CALL will offer a lunch and matinee performance to Master Arts Theatre The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, from the author C.S. Lewis. Check in future newsletters for registration details. Note that Wes Kort is offering a C.S. Lewis course #29, covering the last two chronicles of Narnia; The Magician’s Nephew and The Last Battle. Wes’ class opens for registration after August 5.

Jersey Boys
In late July, CALL members are invited to join Calvin Alumni for the Grand Rapids Broadway production of Jersey Boys on Friday, November 30. The evening begins with a brief happy hour and plated dinner at the University Club at 6:00 pm. Guests will walk across the street to the DeVos for the 8:00 pm show. Your ticket includes post-show conversation with cast and free park at the University Club lots. The cost is $100 per person.

Member Events Registration
*Please read the cancellation policy online or call the office.

Two ways to register:

1. Online: www.calvin.edu/CALL > My Account>Semester drop-down tab- Fall 2018
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. A reminder is sent one week before the event.

☐ Monday, October 1 ArtPrize 10 $70
☐ Tuesday, October 2 ArtPrize 10 $70

Name (s): ____________________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________________________
Confirm by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No, I don’t use email
Extended Trips
by John Apol

South Africa is the final 2018 trip still accepting additional travelers. Although the extra flights were released, people can still join at the current rate for flights. John Apol leads this group to the bottom of the African continent from October 5-20. This trip is a combination of apartheid history, safari tours, mountain climbs by cable car, island visits with penguins and seals, and vineyard wine tasting, to name a few.

For the full itinerary, visit our main web page and select the “Extended Trips” tab in the left margin.

2019 Destinations
We now look ahead to the schedule for 2019 and the first trips are now open for registration. We begin March 14-24 with a small group of twenty travelers to Southern Spain with Calvin Spanish professor Cynthia Slagter. Exceptional in her knowledge of Spain, Cynthia spends time annually in this country and has established deep connections with local guides and experts to provide a rich and expansive experience.

The alluring Andalucía region is known for its rivers, hills, farmland and, of course, Spain’s southern coast. The itinerary includes popular and impressive sites such as Granada’s Alhambra Palace and Seville’s cathedral, as well as local off-the-beaten-path activities. See Payoyo cheese being made, taste a variety of Sherry wines, go to an olive oil mill and walk between cities in the Alpujarras. Cities included in your itinerary are Madrid, Cordoba, Ronda, and Granada.

The cost is $4,344 for ten days, departing from Grand Rapids. The tour pace is higher than an average Witte-sponsored trip.

The second trip of 2019 is the highly-anticipated Greece tour with Ken Bratt from May 11-25. You might recall we first advertised an interest list available to CALL members beginning in April. Registration opened on Thursday, July 5, and all those on the interest list were notified that morning, as is our customary procedure. Unprecedented in popularity, the trip filled that very day. Tour leader Ken Bratt has graciously offered a second Greece trip, April 27-May 11, which is also nearly full. To determine the latest availability or waitlist information for the Greece trip, please contact us.

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Be the first to receive information on future trips by joining our interest list for either 2019 or 2020 travels by emailing call@calvin.edu, alumni@calvin.edu, or phoning the CALL office at 526-8777.

### 2019 TRIPS

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### 2020 TRIPS

Hawaii, Israel, Italy (Dante), Vietnam and Cambodia, and Oberammergau Passion Play