Power of Hospitality
by Jolene DeHeer, Chair Hospitality Committee

The longer I live, the more I am convinced that hospitality is essential, important, and powerful. People will not return to a church, a program, or an event if they do not feel welcomed. I have experienced this in my own life. God has blessed me with a speaking ministry which gives me opportunities to travel to many different places and venues. I often walk into an event not knowing anyone. What happens next has a profound effect on how I feel not only about myself, but also about how well the message I give will be received. When people show hospitality by greeting me, talking to me, trying to assess my needs, I feel welcomed and eager to speak. Conversely, I can feel ignored and unwelcomed and I want to turn around and leave. We have the opportunity at CALL to choose to make people feel welcomed, at ease, and enfolded. Or they can leave feeling unnoticed and unwelcomed. Each individual CALL member has the power of hospitality to make that difference.

Jesus modeled hospitality constantly during his earthly ministry, and there are many other examples in scripture of people who practiced hospitality and blessed others. In Romans 12:13, Paul reminds us to “share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” And the author of Hebrews admonishes us in 13:2a to “…not forget to show hospitality to strangers.” Why are these references insistent that we practice this powerful spiritual gift? Could it be that perhaps hospitality has a power to influence and enhance lives?

Every human is born with innate needs to feel they belong, have worth, and have a purpose. Hospitality is a gift we give each other that helps affirm and meet those heart-felt needs. Consider some of the benefits of practicing hospitality:

Hospitality provides for the need to belong:

When we warmly welcome people into our midst, we begin the process of breaking down barriers, destroying walls of separation, and tearing down silos. People feel enfolded, at ease and comfortable. Hospitality builds authentic community.

Hospitality is a physical manifestation that we value the other person:

When we extend our hand for a handshake or greet someone with a hug, we are virtually saying, “I value you. I am making a space for you in my life.” Hospitality makes people feel appreciated. As we get to know and value others, we lose misconceptions of stereotypes and shed our biases as we grow in understanding of and appreciation for each other.

Hospitality sends the signal to “strangers” that they have a reason (purpose) to be present:

Exhibiting gracious openness to new people and ideas affirms that they are an important part of the gathering and have something important to add to the experience. Because we are uniquely created, we each bring to the table a distinctive perspective and we enrich each other.

What are some practical ways to practice hospitality? The simplest ways can have the most profound impact: a welcoming smile breaks the ice, and making eye contact signals that you value the person. It takes so little to merely introduce yourself and then introduce the new person to others. Ask yourself, “What would make me feel welcomed if I were a stranger?” and then do it for others. This is not rocket science, but it is important. Let’s all strive at CALL to be known for our gracious hospitality.
Our Grand Rapids audience will soon have the chance to escape the binds of civilization and experience the natural beauty and pure freedom of Africa. This land that belongs to the comedic baboon, fast cheetah, dangerous African Cape Buffalo and majestic lion is the focus of the travel adventure film *East African Safari*, which opens the 2017-2018 Passport to Adventure film series on Thursday, September 28, at 7:00 pm, in the Covenant Fine Arts Center.

Filmmaker Rick Ray will present the travel-adventure film with an intermission Q&A. This will be a high-definition presentation.

Rick Ray is an award-winning cinematographer, writer, editor and director who has presented several films at Calvin College including our most recent spring film titled *The Promised Land: Adventures in the Middle East*.

In this upcoming September showing, Ray explores the safari destinations of Kenya and Tanzania, topping it all off with a trek to visit the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. Included are stops at Nairobi, Masai Mara, Ambocelli, Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro, Tarangire and the Serengeti Plains.

Many excellent seats are still available for purchase at either the season ticket cost of $25 or $6 for individual films. You may either mail your ticket order or order online at [www.calvin.edu/boxoffice](http://www.calvin.edu/boxoffice). The box office is not staffed for phone orders until after Labor Day.

For more details, go to our main web page and click on the “Travel Film Series” tab in the left column at [www.calvin.edu/call](http://www.calvin.edu/call). If you have any questions about submitting an order, please feel free to contact the CALL office at 526-8777. We are happy to provide any assistance needed.

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We are pleased to announce the new series of Noontime lectures for the fall season. Representing a diverse array of subjects, these upcoming presentations will certainly appeal to many!

All the lectures are scheduled from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Calvin Chapel. The Chapel is the second building to your right as you enter the campus from Burton Street. Parking is best in lot 1&2. All lectures are free and open to the community. The first four lectures are scheduled on Thursdays and the fifth and last of the fall series is scheduled on Friday.

September 14: Brendan Looyenga, *Cancer of the Soul*

Like many of the symbolic relationships presented in the Bible, the representation of sin as a disease has far more depth than most of the simple analogies we draw from our own experience. Both diseases and sins come in a bewildering variety of forms that are more or less evident in the lives of the afflicted. Some sins are acute, heat-of-the-moment sins that we realize and repent of almost as soon as we commit them—like a quick bout of flu that comes and goes in just a few hours. Other sins are more like chronic infectious diseases. These symbolize the besetting sins that plague us for a lifetime, needing constant spiritual attention and repentance on a near daily basis. Some sins are like blindness, dimming our view of Christ and the glory of our Father in heaven. Others are like dementia, causing us to forget the promises of the gospel and the hope of life eternal.

No matter the sin, we find pain and misery that only has one true cure—the cross—and only one true physician—our Lord Jesus Christ.
An entire book could be written on how each disease of the body has unique similarities to a specific sin, especially since the Bible mentions quite a wide range of different maladies, each of which is its own picture of sin.

From his own experience, Brendan especially sees cancer as a remarkable representation for sin. Not only are the specific features of cancer applicable here, but so too are the therapies used to treat this dreadful disease. In this lecture he will address both aspects of this analogy within a traditionally Reformed framework of theology and church practice, with the hope that we better understand our own broken nature and grow in our love and appreciation for the Great Physician.

October 12: Gail Snow, *Rakish Reeds Lake*
A visit to the Reeds Lake area today would reveal almost nothing about its history. The channels in Hodenpyl Woods and a couple of buildings are all that remain. Who would guess that there was a magnificent home for retired Masons, a hospital, a country club and golf course, massive storage houses for ice that was harvested from the lake, and an athletic park where Babe Ruth and the Yankees played! Huge steam boats traveled around the lake offering passengers opportunities for dancing and dining. High society members visited the boat clubs while others found cock fights nearby. Resorts, hotels, saloons – they were all there in the past. This lecture will include many photographs from those very interesting days gone by.

October 26: Matthew Daley, *Origin of Detroit’s Urban Crisis*
For many Michiganders, Detroit has always been a city in crisis. The split between city and suburb, metropolitan area and state has led most residents to view Detroit as a kind of failed state. The appointment of an emergency financial manager, periodic state management of schools, and endless media coverage of crime and violence has only enforced that perception. Yet, these issues did not emerge overnight:

Detroit has experienced the worst of what is termed “the urban crisis” of the 20th century. Dr. Daley will examine the key issues that have pushed the city towards crisis including cultural changes, social mobility and policy decisions at the local, state and national level.

**Friday, November 3: Cynthia Slagter, El Camino Trail, Spain**
In the middle ages, people from all over Europe and every social class walked to Santiago de Compostela to complete a religious pilgrimage. Attracted by the legend of Saint James, they walked hundreds of miles to fulfill a vow, to petition the saint, or perhaps just for an adventure. By the twelfth century, a quarter of a million people a year arrived at the cathedral of Santiago. Although pilgrimage in general, and the Way of Santiago in particular, fell out of popularity for many years, it never ceased altogether. Last year 269,000 pilgrims registered at the church office in Santiago as having completed their pilgrimage. We will examine the legends and traditions of the Camino de Santiago and explore the Camino as it exists in the 21st century.
Fall Class Registration is open
August 2 opened the registration for fall classes. Last fall we filled 1,966 seats for these courses.

Members have 65 stimulating and thought-provoking course options from which to choose.

A few notes:
Exercise courses have moved to the Chapel Undercroft (lower level) next to the Hiemenga Hall building and just off the Burton Street campus entrance. This location allows for easier access for our members. Mats are provided as well as tension-appropriate bands for the Toning with Tubes course #59.

Anyone new to CALL and wishing to try out one course may do so paying the $25 course with no membership fees required. This offer applies only to fall courses and is limited to one course only for new participants.

The Fridays at the Movies course #63 held off-campus at Celebration Cinema at Woodland Mall is back for its third semester. Over 100 students each semester have enjoyed recently produced independent films with in-depth Q&A at the end of each film. We will publicize titles, descriptions, and film ratings as they become available.

Some courses may be nearly full at the time of this publication based on their popularity.

If you take courses and have not received a CALL canvas tote, please feel free to pick one up in the Hiemenga hallway on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Those who have received one previously and are wishing to upgrade to the new bag are asked to pay $3 for the bag or $5 for two.

Membership Renewal
For many CALL members, membership expires on August 31, 2017. If you have not received a new membership card this month, then your membership is expiring and will need to be renewed. MVP will check these cards at their fitness facilities if you use the CALL program for reduced membership fees at their locations. Find the online membership box on our main webpage of www.calvin.edu/call.

Free Health Screening coming this fall
Look in future newsletter issues for a multi-station health screening event for CALL members at Calvin Rehabilitation Services. CALL members will be able to have a number of screenings performed at no charge including balance, vision, glucose/blood screening, vestibular, hearing, cognitive, swallowing, home safety and grieving. The date is to be determined.

Service Grants
Our grants committee has approved its first service grant for the 2017-2018 academic year for $200 to CALL member Jean Chester in her volunteer work with Phil Am Medical Mission Foundation of Michigan. The money will be used for packing material costs in sending medical supplies for major and minor surgeries for about 2500 patients in the Philippines. We encourage anyone volunteering with a non-profit organization to submit a request form found on our website.

New Bible Study available
Two CALL members, Gary Wainwright and Christina Venema, are each leading a group for the campus-wide Bible study this fall on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings respectively.

This study involves no homework and is a wonderful opportunity to join other CALL members and campus persons for a deeper, more in-depth understanding of ten persons or places of the Old Testament.

Gary’s group will meet Tuesday mornings beginning September 12 from 9:00am-9:50am in DeVos 170 (next to the Prince Conference Center on the east side of the East Beltline).

Christina’s group will meet Wednesday mornings from 11:00am-12:00pm beginning September 13 in Hiemenga Hall conference room 314, close to the interior doors of the Hekman Library.

Please email call@calvin.edu to join a group. Group size is limited to 16 persons each.
Member Events
by Marjorie Goosen and Amy Shellenbarger

The new committee members are co-chairs Marjorie Goosen and Amy Shellenbarger, Cherie Grunske, Darlene Meyering, Edy Borgondy and Marjo Jordan from the office staff.

The Meyer May House and Heritage Hill Walking Tour scheduled for Monday, September 18, is full. Call the office at 526-8777 to be added to the waitlist.

Fall Tour of Marshall Famous Places and the Migration of the Sandhill Cranes.
Saturday, October 14
9:00 AM -8:30 PM
$89.00, limited to 55 participants

Guests will enjoy several guided tours in the morning and afternoon in historic Marshall, Michigan, including the Honolulu House Museum and the American Museum of Magic located in the heart of Marshall’s National Historic Landmark District and listed on the Historic Register of American Buildings.

A buffet luncheon is scheduled at the famous Schuler’s Restaurant, first opened in 1909, featuring a chef prepared roasted pork loin with all the trimmings, and of course, Schuler’s famous bar cheese!

A vegan option of autumn vegetable ravioli is available in place of the pork loin with advance notice by calling our office.

In the late afternoon, we will travel to Cranefest, located in Bellevue and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek and Michigan Audubon Society. There are events and activities to enjoy on site featuring vendors, food and scheduled guided nature walks you can join. But the major attraction is watching thousands of Sandhill Cranes return on their annual migration to this sanctuary.

Come enjoy the cool crisp late afternoon amidst the splendor of autumn colors. We will take our seats and listen as the stillness of the air is interrupted by the cry of the cranes as they glide into view. The “fly-in” begins slowly throughout the afternoon with best viewing of large numbers of cranes between 5:00 pm and dusk.

What to bring: Comfortable walking/hiking shoes, umbrella, blanket and folding/carry type chairs, raincoat, sweatshirt or medium-weight jacket, reusable water bottle, binoculars, and cameras.

Additional notes: Expect uneven grassy terrain on approximately two miles of mowed trails that are considered easy walking with minimal elevation change. It can be quite cool by dusk so be sure to bring the appropriate layers of clothing.

CALL members and guests will enjoy a nice snack packed for you during Cranefest. Additionally, there are two food trucks on the grounds for purchases on your own if you prefer.

For any questions, please contact Marjorie Goosen at 231-557-5037 or email mlgoosen@mail.com.
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.

Saturday, October 14

Marshall Michigan Day Trip

Name: ____________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________
Confirm by email?     Yes    No, I don’t use email

$89

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**Peru**- March 26-April 10, 2018- Neal Bierling- opening soon

**Netherlands**- April, 2018- Henk Aay-open for registrations

**Alaska Cruise**- May 13-23, 2018 - Ellen and George Monsma- opening soon

**Acadia National Park Bicycling**- August 2-8, 2018- Roy Zuidema- information available-signups opening in October

**Canadian Rockies**- September, 2018- John Apol

**South Africa**- October, 2018- John Apol

**American Civil War Sites**- TBD- Dan Miller

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Extended Trips

by John Apol

For several months we have publicized the trip tours coming in 2018. We now have several trips with more details as you plan your travels for next year.

Each trip is organized with extensive attention to detail by Witte Travel. Their experience and knowledge of the region we visit is instrumental in providing an exceptional itinerary for our travelers.
We begin with the one trip with registration already underway, Dutch Landscapes, from April 6-19, 2018. Led by Henk Aay and Robert Hoeksema, guests will learn in-depth the many accomplishments of this country’s technological feats to control water including peat dewatering, polders, dikes, windmills, canals, Deltaworks, and Zuiderzee reclamation. In addition to receiving extensive education on the Netherlands and their water history, guests will enjoy breaks from learning to visit places like the Keukenhof flower gardens, the Amsterdam Museum, the castle Kasteel Amerongen, the Rijksmuseum, Kröller-Müller Museum, home to the world’s largest private collection of Van Goghs and one of Europe’s largest sculpture gardens, and the Oostvaarderplassen natural wildlife preserve.

If there is something on your bucket list to see in the Netherlands, a scheduled free day and public transit card can take you anywhere you want to go. A small, private, modern and new hotel in a suburb in Amsterdam will be your home during your stay and central to all your activities.

Wondering if you are able to participate, given your mobility challenges? Holland America is able to accommodate most passengers with disabilities with specialized staterooms and accessible buses and trains.

Our next trip and opening for registration this month is Alaska, May 12-24, 2018, with Ellen and George Monsma. Departing from Vancouver, with stops at Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, Anchorage, and a two-night stay in Denali National Park, this trip starts at $3395 per person based on double occupancy including airfare from Grand Rapids. Other departure cities are available upon request for your friends and relatives out of state.

Guests will travel on the ms Westerdam, a Holland American line ship designed for Alaska cruising, with airy viewing lounges, wraparound decks, and private verandas that offer guests the chance—in intimate elegance—to experience Alaska’s majesty. This mid-sized ship navigates more easily and offers a more intimate atmosphere. Being in Alaska means spectacular scenery and wildlife so a full-time naturalist cruises with the ship.

Find out more at an information meeting titled On Stage Alaska, August 29 at 6:30 pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4747 28th Street SE. Guest Alaska and Yukon experts will share their knowledge and enthusiasm about Alaska. This event features a stunning film, useful planning tips and exclusive offers and giveaways for those in attendance. Reservations for this local event in August are required. RSVP to Witte Travel by August 23, by phone 616-942-5112 or 800-GO-WITTE.

The third trip open for registration next week is Peru from March 25-April 10, 2018 (which includes an Amazon extension option April 10-14). Leaders Neal and Marilyn Bierling are your experienced leaders combined with the detail organization of Witte Travel.

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This once-in-a-lifetime experience in Peru is a fusion of culture and history. Not only will you explore ancient Nazca monuments, and the country’s Spanish influence, but you will be a part of the country’s Easter celebration.

The itinerary includes a boat tour of the Bay of Paracas and Ballestas Islands Wildlife Sanctuary, Good Friday in Arequipa including the solemn street processions and Easter Fire ceremony, a hot springs swim and canyon drive in Incan Chivay, the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, Urubamba Valley and the Sacred Valley of the Inca and of course Machu Picchu.

See our website under Extended Trips for more details. If you are interested in receiving a brochure on any of these trips, please email alumni@calvin.edu.

Experience Acadia, a hiking and biking trip in Maine scheduled for August 2-8, 2018, continues to accept interested persons with signups opening in October. An overview is available online.