The Elders and CALL
by Uko Zylstra, Curriculum Director

In reading Scriptures, I find references to the elders to be of some peculiar interest. Perhaps that might be related to the fact that I, along with CALL members, am considered elderly. But is being elderly an adequate qualification for belonging to that group referred to in the Scriptures as the elders?

One of the first references to the elders is when God appears to Moses at the burning bush. He instructs Moses to “go, assemble the elders of Israel” when he returns to Egypt to help lead the people out of Egypt to the land of Israel. After Moses returns to Egypt, we read that Moses and Aaron brought together “all the elders of the Israelites” and informed them of God’s intentions for the people of Israel.

Who actually are the elders? In the patriarchal or tribal society of Israel, they might be the oldest member of the tribes or extended family. But they might also be selected as elders because they show wisdom in their dealings with the people they work and interact with on a daily basis.

Later, while the Israelites are traveling in the Sinai Peninsula, God tells Moses to select seventy elders to share the leadership responsibilities for the burden of the people. Here they begin to take on a more particular role in leadership and regulation of the society as when the elders joined Moses in the punishment of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in their rebellion against the leadership of Moses. We see this also in the tradition of the elders serving as a court of justice. Boaz placed his claim as kinsman redeemer for Ruth before ten elders. In the book of Proverbs, we read that the husband of the woman of noble character has a seat at the city gates as an indication of honor and respect. Throughout the Old Testament, the elders appear to be assigned an important role in the governing of Israelite society. This is a reflection of the wisdom that elderly people have, as well as the respect given them.

In the New Testament, the church takes on a more organizational role in the Christian community. Here, elders are assigned a leading role in the organization and leadership of the church. This has continued in some form through the centuries, particularly within the Presbyterian and Reformed church.

As we look at our present society, there seems to be some changes in the perceptions of the elderly. There is probably not the same level of respect for the elderly that was present in Old Testament times. This may partly be due to the increased longevity of the elderly. They live longer, and they may experience a decline in their abilities. It may also be related to the phenomenon that arose in the past couple centuries that we call retirement. The very act of retirement implies a certain stepping away of the roles that people had prior to retiring. This stepping away may actually contribute to a form of becoming marginalized. Of course, some marginalization may be welcomed as a relief from many of the responsibilities that may be associated with the pre-retirement roles.

But retirement can also open up new possibilities. In joining the ranks of the elders, one can have more time for reflection on the meaning and purpose of life. One can have more time to engage with family, friends, and community members in ways that can promote positive and meaningful relationships. One can interact with children and grandchildren in ways that reflect a sharing of wisdom and knowledge that contribute a growing maturity for all.

Cont. pg.2
The mission of CALL is intended to assist people in this transition into the stage of the elderly. The various trip programs provide opportunity to expand experiences in engaging other places and cultures, enjoying the majesty of God’s creation, and reflecting on them. The curricular program of CALL offers opportunities to broaden your understanding of historical developments, cultural expressions through art, music, and literature. All of these experiences and engagements contribute to healthy minds and bodies that then also enable the elders to contribute to the communities and families in which they are engaged as they pass on to the next generation the wisdom God has given them. In short, one never retires from being active in the Kingdom of God.

Next week we have the opportunity to enjoy the first Passport Travel Film of the season. On Thursday, September 28, we invite you to explore the wilds of Nairobi, Kenya, Tanzania and more with award-winning cinematographer, writer, editor and director Rick Ray. Ray, who has traveled the world to capture images of its people and culture, will be presenting his film East Africa Safari at 7:00 pm in the Covenant Fine Arts Center.

Join Ray for an exotic look at the far reaches of East Africa including gorilla trekking through jungles along the Rwanda-Congo border, viewing thousands of elephants in the morning light and getting close up with Serengeti wildebeests. Ray will introduce his film and take questions from the audience at the end of intermission.

We suggest you park in the DeVos parking lot on the east side of the East Beltline and use the overhead crosswalk. This crosswalk protects you from the elements, is close to the Fine Arts Center and is a shorter walk than you would think. An elevator is available at the west end.

The Calvin Box Office is once again staffed under new hours of 10:00 am- 5:00 pm (later on film nights). Either single tickets for $6 or season passes for $25 can be purchased in advance by phone at 526-6282 or in person the night of the film. Doors open for seating at 6:30 pm, although you are welcome to arrive the lobby earlier. All seats are reserved. A $2 processing fee is charged for phone orders. Online orders are also an option at https://calvin.edu/offices-services/box-office/index.html.

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. 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.

From Tarangire Treetops Lodge to Giraffe Manor, the film also highlights the unique housing that is available as part of many safari adventures. The luxury and elegance of the housing seems out of place in the middle of the remote environment of Africa.

Moving back to the wildlife, Ray has a stroke of good luck when he encounters the annual wildebeest migration. This 30-mile-long line of wildebeests is a rare sight indeed, leading Ray to call it “the greatest wildlife show on Earth.”
Noontime Series
by Bob DeBruin, Chair

Noontime 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 next three lectures are scheduled on Thursdays and the fifth and last of the fall series is scheduled on Friday.

September 28: Dick Harms, Covering the Bases: America’s Pastime in Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids has a rich experience with baseball, America’s pastime. Dozens of professional teams and players have called the city home, such as the legendary Rube Waddell and Sam “Wahoo” Crawford. Since the Civil War, countless amateur, semi-professional and corporate teams have played on local diamonds. During the 1920’s, there were twelve baseball leagues in the city, and playing fields were seldom vacant. A number of Grand Rapidsians played in the major leagues, and the city was home to a number of Black baseball teams as well as the Chicks of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Sports fans will enjoy the hundreds of images of games, players, and parks as Dick recounts the history of the game.

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.
Announcements
by Sonja DeJong

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Fall Class Registration Update, plus details for Friday at the Movies

Look to our second session courses beginning October 17 for over 30 more course options.

A number of instructors in this second session of classes, beginning the week of Oct. 17, draw 100 or more registrants in their courses. Those instructors and course titles are:

Tue. 1:30, Dick Harms- #34 The Vikings
Wed. 1:30, Karin Maag- Reformation and Virtual Tour
Wed. 3:15, Ken Bratt- Mt Vesuvius
Thurs. 1:30, Robert DeVries- Is the World Order Out of Order
Thurs, 3:15, Dan Kroese- Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament

Embrace your artistic side and check out course #38, Symbolic Design in Acrylics with John Knight on Tuesdays at 3:00 pm.

Movie-goers have two options this fall including: Religion in Dutch Movies beginning October 18 at 6:00 pm, or Friday’s at the Movies, already with 125 participants, beginning Friday, September 22, at 3:30 pm, at Woodland Celebration Cinema. With film experts offering a review after each showing, students will explore in-depth these exceptional independent films. The first three of four films have been decided and details are as follows:

Friday, September 22, 2017
A Sundance favorite, Menashe (2017) is the tenderhearted story of a 30ish ultra-Orthodox Hasidic widower (web comedian Menashe Lustig) striving to carve out a life for himself and his young son, Rieven (Ruben Niborski), in Brooklyn’s strict ultra-Orthodox community. At once charming and moving, Menashe offers an intimate, sympathetic portrait of life in an insular and deeply serious religious community. Much of the film is done in Yiddish (with English subtitles), and director Joshua Weinstein masterfully deploys non-professional actors.:PG, 82 mins. Rotten Tomatoes rating 95%; Metacritic 81%. Discussant: Otto Selles.

Friday, October 6, 2017.
School Life follows the last year of teaching for John and Amanda Leyden, two life-long teachers in Headfort School, the only primary-age boarding school in Ireland (and that in a Hogwarts-style building). John teaches math, Scripture, Latin, and, yes, rock music, and Amanda is literature (and more literature) to shape young minds. They’ve given passionately for nearly a half-century, and now they try to face retirement. And how does one do ordinary life after such a career? PG-13 (for brief bad language), 99 min. Rotten Tomatoes rating 100%; Metacritic 75%. Discussant: Jennifer Holberg

Friday, October 20, 2017
Dina. Middle-aged widow Dina is getting married in a few weeks, and there’s still much to do. She must move her boyfriend, Scott, from his parents’ house to her apartment and settle him in to only the second home he’s ever had, all while juggling his schedule as an early-morning Walmart door greeter. And then, there’s dealing with families, hers and his. An arresting and warm-hearted documentary, the film examines the life of two ordinary people about to undertake an extraordinary step in life. And through it all, Dina proves unstoppable. NR, 103 min. Rotten Tomatoes rating 100%; Metacritic 81%. Discussant: Carl Plantinga.

The November 3 film is TBD.

Festival of Faith and Writing Preview Event

Every two years, readers and writers flock to Calvin’s campus for this popular event. In anticipation of another exciting lineup, CALL is sponsoring a preview of next spring’s Festival of Faith and Writing on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 8, from 3:00-4:30 pm in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, with refreshments to follow.

Guests will hear from one of next spring’s (April 12-14) authors and receive for the first time the full list of participating speakers. Join us for this free event open to CALL members and the public.

Organ and Panflute Concert

CALL is sponsoring an evening of sacred music on Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7:00 pm in the College Chapel, including post-performance refreshments downstairs in the Undercroft.

Organist Andre Knevel has performed organ concerts internationally for the last four decades on several continents. The concert is free and open to the public.
**Member Events**
by Marjorie Goosen and Amy Shellenbarger, Co-Chairs

**Fall Tour of Marshall Famous Places and the Migration of the Sandhill Cranes**
Saturday, October 14
9:00 AM - 8:30 PM
$89.00, trip is ½ full

Known as the country’s largest national Historic Landmark District, guests will enjoy several guided tours on this autumnal Saturday in historic Marshall, Michigan, including the Honolulu House Museum and the American Museum of Magic.

The Honolulu House Museum stands in the heart of Marshall’s National Historic Landmark District and was built in 1860 by the first U.S. consul to the Sandwich Islands.

The American Museum of Magic houses a large collection of magical paraphernalia and illusions, including an extensive collection of devices that once belonged to famed magician Harry Blackstone, Sr.

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.

Guests will meet the bus at 9:00 am in the Prince Conference Center, lot #16.

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

A buffet luncheon is scheduled at the famous Schuler’s Restaurant, family owned and operated since 1909, featuring a chef prepared roasted maple pork loin with garden salad, fruit, herb roasted potatoes, green bean medley, house-made bread 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.
Member Events Registration

Two ways to register:

1. Online: [www.calvin.edu/CALL](http://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   $89

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

Please note the cancellation policy is posted on the CALL website.

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Peru- March 26-April 10, 2018- Neal Bierling- Open for registration
Netherlands- April 6-19, 2018- Henk Aay-FULL, waitlist only.
Alaska Cruise- May 13-23, 2018 - Ellen and George Monsma- Open for registration
American Civil War Sites- May, 2018- Dan Miller
Acadia National Park Bicycling- August 2-8, 2018- Roy Zuidema- information available-signups next month
Canadian Rockies- September, 2018- John Apol
South Africa- October, 2018- John Apol

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Extended Trips

by John Apol

Our last trips for 2017 were completed this month in September- American Southwest and the Cities of the Reformation, including time in Germany and Switzerland.

We turn our attention to 2018 with one trip already filled, The Netherlands, and two currently underway for registration- Peru in late March and an Alaskan cruise in mid-May.

Travelers to Peru will not only explore ancient Nazca artworks, Incan monuments, and the country’s Spanish influence, but you will be a part of the country’s Easter celebration! And if 17 days in Peru is not enough, you are welcome to join the 5-day extension to the Amazon Jungle.

[Macchu Picchu, Peru]
Highlights include:

- Good Friday and Easter in Arequipa, with solemn and colorful processions and the Easter Fire ceremony
- Colonial downtown tour, cultural show with traditional Peruvian dances and music, plus shopping in Lima
- Flight over the famous Nazca lines, dune buggy ride at the Huacachina Oasis and wine tasting in Bodega Tacama
- Colca Canyon, which is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon
- Boat tour of Lake Titicaca and the Floating Islands (Islas Uros)
- Guided tour of Machu Picchu
- Amazon extension: Hiking, bird watching, piranha fishing, Monkey Island, Yagua Indian village

If you prefer slightly cooler temperatures and travel by ship, then the Alaska cruise May 12-24 may more be your preference for vacation travel. Whether your interest is in history, dogsled races, wildlife, glaciers, local arts and crafts, or shopping, you’ll find something exciting to do every day. This cruise will be an amazing adventure for anyone.

Highlights include:

- Seven-day cruise with Holland American, including a day in Glacier Bay
- White Pass Summit Scenic Railroad excursion in Skagway
- Choose your own excursions in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Anchorage
- Denali National Park wilderness tour
- Scenic deluxe train from Denali to Anchorage

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.

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.

Registration for the hiking and biking trip in Acadia Maine begins next month. Brochures on the Canadian Rockies and South Africa trips are expected in November and December.

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.
Interest Groups, including a new one...
Numerous special interest groups meet behind the scenes of our program to offer friendships, comradery, support and deeper engagement on subjects, interests or hobbies important to our members. CALL members can join these groups at any time.

Biking and Birding will resume next spring, Dementia for Men meets monthly through December on Wednesdays at 3:15 beginning September 27, Brass Ensemble meets Mondays at 3:30, Knitting at 1:30 on Wednesdays, Memoir Writing at 1:00 on Thursdays, and our a new group, Quilters and Comforter Makers, on Mondays at 1:00, beginning October 2.

This latest and newest group is led by CALL member Elisabeth Beels. People can enter at different levels of expertise, donating fabric, piecing, quilting, and knotting. There are three different skill levels which encourages all levels of expertise, including beginners. Some of the comforters will be made for homeless shelters or sent overseas to refugee camps. Interested persons are asked to contact Elisabeth and eabeels@gmail.com or call 719-0795. The group will begin on October 2 and meet at Elisabeth’s home across from Frederick Meijer Gardens.

For more details about any of these groups, please go to our main web page on www.calvin.edu and select the tab titled Interest Groups.