President’s Message

by Corrine Kass

For so many in our country, Thanksgiving is a deeply cherished tradition – a time to gather with family and friends and recount the blessings that we enjoy in one of the most prosperous and remarkable nations on earth. It’s far from a perfect place, but it remains a land of opportunity and a beacon of liberty.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday this month, I’m resolving to be more appreciative for the blessings in my life – for the sheer length of my life, and the productivity that still marks many of my days. I’m thankful for my extended family and my many friends, and for the freedom that we all enjoy in the United States of America.

I’m also profoundly grateful for the blessing that CALL represents in my life, and for the many blessings that you and others bring to CALL to make it such an interesting and lively organization.

Let me count the many blessings that come to mind as I consider CALL:

CALL’s members: Our organization has more than 2,000 members who take advantage of the classes and events, a reduced fee for membership at MVP, and stay in touch via e-mail information about CALL and community events. Thank you, members!

Instructors and Lecturers: Our instructors and speakers number over 100 and are dedicated and interesting. They tell us how much they enjoy teaching the CALL courses. Wally Bratt has written a piece about instructors on page 5 of this newsletter. It expresses well how much we appreciate the instruction we receive. Thank you, instructors!

CALL staff: We have three stellar staff persons—Sonja DeJong, Administrative Coordinator; Marjo Jordan, Membership Assistant; and Uko Zylstra, Curriculum Coordinator. Their services are invaluable, and we love each one of them. Thank you, Sonja, Marjo, and Uko!

CALL Board. There are 14 board members who meet once a month to oversee the organization’s business (See a box with their names at the back of this newsletter). Each board member is a liaison to one of the committees, and reports its activities. Among the many programs the CALL Board oversees are the following two examples: providing a CALL scholarship to a Calvin College student and helping to underwrite a January Series speaker. Thank you, CALL Board!

(cont. pg.4)
Passport to Adventure
by Henry Baron, Chair

This year marks the 50th anniversary for Passport Travel Films at Calvin’s campus. Join us, Tuesday, October 27, for the first of five films in our 2015-2016 season, The Misty Isles of Scotland. The filmmaker, Tom Sterling, has been a wildlife cinematographer and adventure-lecturer for decades. He has worked with PBS, the Discovery Channel and the CBC; also he has performed live lectures showing his documentaries for prestigious platforms such as National Geographic, Carnegie Mellon, The Museum of Natural History, Chicago Geographic and Golden Gate Geographic.

Join us as we witness the breathtaking beauty of Scotland, the historic castles of Scottish clans, and the countryside steeped in history from the invasion of Vikings to the ancient McDonald clan.

Our second film on Monday, November 23, promises to be sold out as we marvel at the forbidden natural beauty of Cuba in high-definition quality. Finally, after more than 50 years, you can experience the greatest prize of the Caribbean—only 90 miles south of the United States. Soon, Cuba will compete with the Bahamas and Virgin Islands as the most popular Caribbean destination for Americans.

Find more details: go to our website under “Travel Film Series.”
NEW LOCATION FOR FALL NOONTIME SERIES

Save the following dates for riveting and thought-provoking lectures:

**Noontime Series**

by Henry Baron, Chair

**Noontime Series**

Thursday, Oct. 22    Jonathan Bradford

*Home is Where One Starts From*

Join us as we hear from the retiring director of ICCF (Inner City Christian Federation), as he concludes his nearly 35-year career serving the housing needs of Grand Rapids families. He will share what he has learned about providing housing opportunity that both empowers family success and transforms community.

Thursday, November 5    George Heartwell

*Looking Back*

The term-limited Mayor of Grand Rapids, nearing completion of his twelve years of service as Mayor, will discuss the high points, the low points and a few points in between. Included in the presentation will be his perspective on public service, the intersection of faith and politics, and the transformation of a major American city.

Thursday, November 12    Valerie van Heest

*Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940*

Author and underwater explorer Valerie van Heest commemorates the 75th anniversary of the tragic Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 in which five ships and 67 sailors were lost. She and the dive team from Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates examine the wrecks of the *Novadoc*, *Davock*, and *Anna Minch*, all lost off Pentwater within a few miles of each other, and provide insight into what caused these massive freighters to sink when others survived the storm.

These free lectures are scheduled at noon at a NEW LOCATION in Calvin’s RECITAL HALL in the Covenant Fine Arts Center, the main campus building closest to the East Beltline. Parking is best on the east side of the East Beltline and use the skywalk to cross over to the main campus. An elevator is located at the end of the skywalk.

Did you miss a lecture? Go to the “Noontime Series” tab online and watch the video tape of each lecture. Did you know over 700 people have viewed online the prior lecture in February last year by David Crump, “Oppression in the Promised Land”? 
**President’s Message, cont.)**

CALL committees: There are 12 committees of volunteers who do all the planning and executing of our many offerings. These committee titles are shown in a box at the back of this newsletter. Committees provide courses and instructors, member events, public events, fitness activities, guide our service and community relations, make the budget and handle the finances, work with the Calvin Alumni Association to offer extended trips to various parts of the world, put out publications (newsletters and curriculum guides), market CALL to the public, and nominate persons for Board membership. If you wish to join a committee, please contact the CALL office. Thank you, committee members!

Calvin College support: We’re grateful for all the amenities that Calvin provides to CALL. The college allows CALL to use its rooms for courses, and even provides technical support to instructors when needed. Two of our board members are College Support contacts: Mike Van Denend and Jeff Haverdink. We appreciate their wise and helpful counsel. We could not begin to enumerate all the benefits of our association with Calvin, and we are thankful to College President Michael LeRoy and Provost Cheryl Brandsen for their interest in our organization. Thank you, Calvin College!

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**Share the True Meaning of Christmas**

The Brown Family Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 10:

With all the preparation coming for the holidays, what will you do to take time to prepare your heart for Christmas this year? So often Christmas becomes a bother instead of a blessing, full of headaches instead of hallelujahs—all because we fail to heed the words spoken by the prophet in Isaiah 40:3 ...*prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.*

Those words were fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist, and they’re not talking about a construction project, but a preparation of the heart to welcome the Lord Jesus. Join us this Christmas season on Thursday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. as we welcome the Brown Family to our campus. You will be entertained and inspired as the Brown Family shares their testimony and wholesome gospel music.

This award-winning family will inspire you with their close-knit family harmony and talent. The Browns love what they do, love each other, and the audiences to whom they sing!

Tickets are available by phone or email. All seats are reserved. Order tickets at [www.calvin.edu/boxoffice](http://www.calvin.edu/boxoffice) or phone 526-6282.

A coach bus will be available to transport to and from the Prince Conference Center parking lot to avoid congestion at the Covenant Fine Arts Center. Concert tickets are $20. Dinner and the concert are $40.

Beginning last year with the Collingswood family, CALL, in partnership with the Advancement Division at Calvin College, is intent on bringing back to campus concerts of traditional music that feature hymns from yesterday such as those performed by the Brown family like “Be Thou My Vision”, “O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”, and “Blessed Assurance.” Come hear similar traditional hymns celebrating Christmas on December 10.
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Never Losing Their Class

Way back, when most of us were still in high school, General Douglas MacArthur, upon being released from his command during the Korean War, noted that “old soldiers never die; they just fade away.” Those melancholy words spawned a number of generally humorous offspring, one of which was “old teachers never die; they just lose their class.”

Not true, when it comes to CALL. All of us owe a great deal to people who taught for CALL in its infancy; they taught proudly and with class, never mind the fact that their “honorarium” was at first no more than a bookmark or a ball point pen. Those early instructors taught for the love of the cause and established a tradition of effective teaching that goes on even now. It’s those same teachers who first made our curriculum attractive, enriching, and even enjoyable.

Their dedication reminds me of when Allied bombs were raining on German cities as World War II entered its critical phase. Two elderly German friends of ours, still living, were among the “flak helpers” who in their early teens were taken out of school to help defend their cities by manning dugout anti-aircraft batteries. Their teachers in the classical “Gymnasium,” never daunted, came to those gun emplacements during the day and continued to teach their students-turned-soldiers. Imagine teaching Greek and Latin in such conditions!

In at least a remote way, our CALL instructors continue to show a dedication reminiscent of those stalwart teachers back then. We’re grateful, of course, that today’s teachers are not called to teach in raging wartime conditions. But despite the pull of multiple commitments, and in spite of the modest honoraria granted them, they have shouldered their CALL assignments with enthusiasm, discipline, imagination, and skill. In a culture that values youth, they have taken seriously us older learners and have bent every effort to conduct their classes in meaningful, creative, and enjoyable ways.

No, CALL teachers have not lost their class. Giving generously of themselves, they continue to be God’s gracious gifts to us—classy gifts.

Announcements

by Sonja DeJong

CALL Newsletters are printed ten times annually. Each year we print fewer copies as more and more members opt for online copies. Please email the office if you are ready to make the switch!

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COMING SOON

With second session fall classes underway, the curriculum committee is hard at work completing the estimated 50 courses for the spring. Look for your copy by mail in mid-January.

The spring schedule is as follows:

Session I: February 15-March 25
Session II: March 28-May 6

Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning is partnering for a second year with the Calvin Community Symphony and conductor John Varineau.

The orchestra’s membership is open not only to Calvin alumni, but also to community musicians who share the orchestra’s goals and respect the college’s mission.

Saturday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m., is Children’s Concert, including The Toy Symphony and other short audience favorites in the Calvin Fine Arts Center. All are welcome (including grandchildren) for this free concert. See also a performance at Central Reformed Church on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4:00 p.m. This program includes some of the same short pieces and adds Symphony No. 1 by Russian composer Vasily Kalinnikov.
Member Events
by Shirley Lautenbach

4th of July in November, Thursday, November 12

Bring your friends and enjoy a delightful evening listening to The Voices of Freedom. The Voices of Freedom is West Michigan’s eight-part acapella vocal ensemble. You will be thrilled as you listen to their beautiful harmony as they sing songs about America. Your feet will tap as they sing “God Bless the USA”, “This Land is Your Land”, “Skip to my Lou”, “The Red, White and Blue” and other beautiful songs. You will be blessed with their rendition of “Give Me Your Tired” and in awe as you listen to their rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Undercroft of the Calvin College chapel. The concert will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Calvin Chapel. Invite your friends and enjoy this evening of delicious food, great fellowship and music that will entertain and bless.

Cost - $30.00 (dinner and concert).
Questions - call Shirley - 299-3584.

Our Christmas Dinner, Wednesday, November 18

Call a friend and travel to Shipshewana with us and enjoy the Christmas musical Our Christmas Dinner.

This is a hilarious look at family traditions, holiday expectations, unexpected guests and the REAL meaning of Christmas. A heaping scoop of humor, a slice of family memories and some unexpected surprises all serve up an entertaining and inspirational afternoon. We will have some free time for shopping at the Bulk Food store, the Cheese Factory and the downtown shops of Shipshewana. Our tour includes deluxe motor coach, coffee and rolls, the musical and an Amish family style dinner. Depart at 8:00 a.m. and arrive home at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Cost - $89.00.
Questions - call Shirley 299-3584.


CALL members and friends are invited to the January Series Brunch featuring Jere Kraków. Jere Kraków recently completed a public service career with the National Park Service and previously was a college professor in history. He served as superintendent of nine National Historic Trails, including the Oregon, Sante Fe, Pony Express and Trail of Tears National Historic Trails.

He has a long-standing goal of connecting the historic sites of the nation with students and citizens alike. He is a fellowship recipient from the National Endowment for the Humanities and holder of awards from several historic trail friend groups. He is a member of the Western History Association and a consultant on the administration of historic trails, commemorative events, and the activities associated with them. Currently serving as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, Mr. Kraków's presentation will help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Brunch will begin at 9:30 am in the Willow Room at the Prince Center. Bus service is available to the Covenant Fine Arts Center where we will enjoy reserved seating for his lecture to the Calvin community.

Cost - $19.00 - includes brunch, speaker, busing to the Covenant Fine Arts Center and reserved seating.

Questions - call Shirley 299-3584.
The Beams are Creaking
Saturday, April 30. 10:30 am

The Beams are Creaking is a Master Arts production showcasing the inspiring, true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who defied the Nazis. Our morning will 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 Nazi 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. More than just a biographical portrait, Bonhoeffer - Agent of Grace sheds light on the little known efforts of the German resistance.

After lunch we will go to the Master Arts Theater to watch the compelling and inspiring production The Beams are Creaking. Invite your friends and enjoy these historical presentations of the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Travel to Master Arts on your own.

Cost - $29.00 - video, lunch and play or pay $16.00 to watch the video and lunch (no play).

Purdue Varsity Men’s Glee Club
Tuesday, May 10

The Purdue Varsity Men's Glee Club is a widely-acclaimed musical group that has inspired audiences on nine European tours and has performed at five presidential inaugurations. 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. $50.00 deposit and balance of $49.00 due March 1, 2016.

Cost includes deluxe motor coach, coffee and rolls, lunch and concert. This is a CALL favorite.

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.

- Nov 12 Voices of Freedom $30 Name: ____________________________
- Nov 18 Our Christmas Dinner $89 Phone: ____________________________
- Jan 20 January Series $19 Email: ____________________________
- April 30 The Beams are Creaking- video, lunch, and play $29 Confirm by email? □ Yes □ No
- April 30 The Beams are Creaking- no play $16
- May 10 Purdue Glee Club Deposit $50

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

The cancellation policy is posted on the CALL website.
Extended Trips
by John Apol

Imagine music cascading off stone walls throughout English cathedrals.

Think of sitting in a pew with splendor and beauty surrounding you. Now is the time to make that dream a reality. Join Randy Engle on a trip to visit England’s heritage. 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 accommodations.

Led by Calvin alumnus, the Reverend Randy Engle ’87. All trip information is available in detail online.

The Italian Heritage Tour, led by classics professor Ken Bratt, from June 10 - 24, 2016, is now open for registration.

Italy is nothing less than spectacular!

From its ancient cities, rolling hills, rugged coastlines to its magnificent islands, the geography of Italy is as varied as its history. Come along to see priceless works of art and architecture, ruins and monuments from bygone eras, and the sun-kissed landscapes that you’ll want to write home about. Along the way sit back, relax and enjoy the tastes and smells of authentic Italian dining and a culture steeped in history. Trip highlights include Rome, The Vatican, Capri and Sorrento, Florence, Cinque Terre and Venice. Don’t hesitate to join Ken Bratt on an exploration through one of Europe’s most beloved countries. See our website for more information or email Ken at kdbtatt@gmail.com.
Majestic Northern National Parks—September 8-18, 2016
This exciting adventure to some of America’s northern national parks offers the perfect combination of serene, educational, breathtaking and thrilling experiences. Led by CALL member John Apol, highlights include Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and the Smokejumpers Base Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula.

Enjoy a non-paddling floating trip down 13 miles of the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park, the Upper and Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon at Yellowstone, driving in a pair of 1930’s open-top busses called Red Jammers from Glacier National Park through Logan Pass that crests the Continental Divide, a ride often titled “Going to the Sun Road,” and a stop at St. Ignatius Mission, a beautiful church established in 1854 as a mission to the Flathead Native Americans who live in the area. …which doesn’t even touch the surface of all the activities.

This trip is open for registration and trip details are available on our website. Additionally, feel free to contact John Apol at 243-8600 or johnapol07@gmail.com.

To the left see members of CALL who recently journeyed to Peru with trip leader Neal Bierling.

See information coming next month on a trip to Prague, Budapest, and Vienna for September 21–October 4, 2016 with professor Corwin Smidt.
CALL Board Members and Committees:

Corrine Kass (President)
Mike Van Denend (College Support)
Dan Bos               Public Events
Frank Spies           Extended Trips
Ken Bratt             Publications
Barb Engbers          Nominating
Arie Leegwater        Curriculum
Gord Van Harn         Health, Fitness, and Recreation
Janet Borgdorff       Summer Programs
Diane Noorman         Member Events
Jeff Haverkamp        Marketing
Ed Westenbroek        Finance
Sheri Ippel           Hospitality
Agnes Kroese          Service and Community Relations