From the President

More than one hundred years ago my grandfather began farming on forty acres in Olive Township, Ottawa County. He mowed his hay with a scythe and raked it into small piles by hand. After drying the hay, he loaded it on his hayrack with a three-tined pitchfork and unloaded the hay into the barn haymow, again by hand and pitchfork.

But quite soon thereafter came the horse-drawn hay rake and then the after-wagon hay loader. By that time the horses drew a mechanical mower. The hay was unloaded into the haymow with a horse-drawn rope, pulley and harpoon system. Just before World War II a tractor replaced the horses and later a baler bundled the hay after it was dry. A conveyer loaded the bales into the wagon. Now we see huge packaged round bales in hayfields across the country. Like practically every other aspect of physical life, farming changes are almost constant.

On September 29, 2006 the CALL board and most of our committee members assembled for our annual fall retreat, well planned by Jen Candler, Carol Rienstra and Rog Griffioen. To nobody’s surprise the participants suggested a few changes in CALL programs and procedures. As in other organizations, when change was suggested there were many questions and there was even some resistance. But the sequence of appropriate change is often predictable; some will abhor, then tolerate, finally accept and even embrace the change. I suppose some changes will be tried and discarded. Hopefully all the sound, basic, wonderful guiding principles of the first ten years of CALL will be maintained. At the retreat the founders of CALL were acknowledged and generously thanked for their vision.

Christian education and fellowship do not change and I trust the hay tastes the same to the cows.

Peter Van Vliet, President of CALL

CALL service grant program

During the fiscal year 2005-2006, service grant requests were received for several worthy purposes, and the CALL board approved.

1. Medications for a mission in Rwanda Africa
2. Crib mattress covers for an orphanage in Romania
3. Supplies for an “English as a Second Language” class at East Paris Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids
4. Support for two 4th grade students from Campau School to attend summer camp at Stony Lake, near Shelby, Michigan
5. Supplies for teaching Keyboarding, Internet, and Word Processing to refugees at the African Community Center in Grand Rapids

If you are a CALL member and are involved in a ministry as a volunteer, and you know of something from which that organization could benefit (goods or services), why not request a service grant application? Grants up to $200 may be given. New requests for service grants are given preference.

For application, please contact Audrey Van Vliet, 940-1949
Tutoring opportunity
Would you like to help another adult learn to read or speak English? The Kent County Literacy Council is looking for volunteer tutors. For information, please call 459-5151.

Lecture Series
Mark your calendars for the World Affairs Council 2007 Great Decisions Series that will be held every Monday at 7PM in February and March at the Performing Arts Center at Aquinas College campus. Eight foreign affairs issues will be presented. Deborah Amos, NPR Middle East Foreign Correspondent will begin the series on Monday Feb. 5. The Monday Feb. 12 presentation will be given by Dr. Kevin Bales and deals with children and their exposure to unsafe working conditions, slave trade, and their use as soldiers in combat. For more information about fees, etc, www.worldaffairsmichigan.org.

Book discussions:
• November 29 Darkly Dreaming by Jeff Lindsay at Schuler Books on 28th Street 7PM
• December 11 Night by Elie Wiesel at the Cascade Library a.m.-10:00 AM
• December 27 Ghosts in the Snow by Tamara Siler Jones at Schuler Books on 28th Street 7PM
• January 8 Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg at the Cascade Library a.m.-10:00 AM
• January 31 Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides at Schuler Books on 28th Street 7PM

from CALL Public Events Committee
Passport To Adventure: A Travel Film Series
• Single tickets are $5.00 each. Calvin Box Office is open 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday – Friday Phone 616-526-6282
• Ticket sales are through the Calvin Box Office only. (No Service fee if you visit the box office; $2.00 for mail or phone orders)
• Do NOT send money for Passport tickets to CALL
• All programs are presented in the Fine Arts Center/Auditorium of Calvin College at 7:30 PM
• A shuttle bus runs between the FAC and the west parking lot off Burton Street for 30 minutes before and after each program

Jan 18 [Thur] 7:30 PM Rails Across Russia - St. Petersburg to the Black Sea with Sid & Mary Lee Nolan
Mar 14 [Wed] 7:30 PM Irish Stories and Glories with Sandy Mortimer
Apr 25 [Wed] 7:30 PM Along the Continental Divide with Gale Worth

from CALL Member Events Committee
Jan 11 [Thur] "January Series" Brunch. Join us the Prince Center from 10:30 to 11:45 AM. We will enjoy reserved seats for the performance of "Gloriae Dei Cantori." This program features an internationally renowned 40-voice choir that has a passionate dedication to an authentic and compelling interpretation of sacred choral music. We will have bus service to and from the Fine Arts Center. Cost of $15.00. Reservations are full, waiting list only.
Questions, call Don or Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

Feb 21 [Wed] February Luncheon Join us at 12 Noon in the Prince Center for great food and warm fellowship. Sharon Bytwerk, newly appointed Coordinator of Spiritual Formation and Prayer at the college will be our speaker. Sharon will share her excitement about her new role and her anticipation of seeing God's hand in her work with the Calvin community. She will also tell her story of God's amazing grace in her life during the time of her daughter's tragic death during a Calvin interim. Cost is $15.00 Questions, call Shirley Lautenbach at 698-9244

Mar 21 [Wed] Dutch Colony Tour. Our tour to visit several West Michigan colonies will be hosted by Rev.Bill Buursma. We will visit the old Graafschap church and the greatly expanded museum. A stop at the historic Pillar Church will be included. After lunch at Noel's, we will visit several of the colonies and will hear the story of each colony. Cost is $35.00 which includes the bus, lunch and entrance fees.
Questions, call Don or Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

Apr 17-19, 2007 [Tue-Thur] Lincoln Legacy trip, Springfield, Illinois. This is a special requested event, which is a repeat of the April 2006 trip. It includes a visit to the new Lincoln Museum, as well as New Salem, Lincoln's home, and the Old State Capitol. Bill Kamstra, a Lincoln historian, will discuss the life of this great man. The cost is $249 based on double occupancy of the rooms. Capacity is 54 persons - we already have a full group. The sign up is for waiting list only.
Questions, call Don or Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

May 10 [Thur] Dow Country Trip. An interesting one day trip is planned to Midland Michigan (Dow Country). View the fantastic Dow Gardens, learn about
the extraordinary accomplishments of the famous Alden B. Dow, tour his home, museum, etc. Lunch will be at the luxurious Ashland Court Hotel. From the hotel we view the Tridge, unique to Midland. Cost $89.00

Questions, call Jeanne or Clarence Vos at 949-2888

Aug 7, 8 & 9, 2007 [Tue,Wed, Thur] Celebration Belle River Boat Cruise. This 3 day 2 night trip will cruise the upper Mississippi from Dubuque, Iowa to Moline, Illinois. Our trip will include a step back in time with a Victorian House Tour and Progressive Dinner served in four of the homes. Stories and themed entertainment will make this an unforgettable culinary delight.

We will enjoy a full day cruise on the Celebration Belle River boat. A full breakfast, full hot lunch, and a Prime Rib dinner and hors d’oeuvre buffet will be included on our river cruise. The captain will narrate as we cruise and we will enjoy live skits and entertainment. Before we head for home, we will have a guided tour of the John Deere Pavilion. This comprehensive agricultural exhibit shows the marvels of today's modern "Green Giants" while it celebrate the history of America.

Motor coach transportation, all meals, motels, and all sightseeing and entertainment admissions are included in the price of $349.00 (double occupancy). Send your $50.00 down payment to confirm your reservations.

Questions, call Don or Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

Congratulations to Neil Huizenga and Sherry Zuidema, who were married on October 14, 2006. Neil and Sherry met (or, rather, renewed an old acquaintance) at one of the CALL classes last Spring. Neil writes, "Who needs eHarmony.com when you have CALL classes at Calvin College!" The newlyweds are living at 2187 Radcliff SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. BEST WISHES, Neil and Sherry!

Member Events Registration Form

1. "January Series Brunch"
   Jan 11, [Thur] $15.00 per person (full)

2. "February Brunch"
   Feb 21 [Wed] $15.00 per person

3. "Dutch Colony Tour"
   March 21, 2007 $35.00 per person

4. "Lincoln Legacy Trip, Springfield, Illinois"
   Apr 17-19, 2007 [Tue-Thu] $249.00 per person (full)

5. "Dow Country Trip"
   May 10, 2007 $89.00 per person

6. "Mississippi River Boat Cruise"
   Aug 7,8&9 [Tue,Wed&Thur] $349.00 per person
   $50.00 deposit with balance due July 1, 2007
CALL members Jim and Grace Gunn submitted a request for a CALL Service Grant to help send the two students they tutor throughout the school year to Miniwanca Camp this past summer. Tiffani’s mother wrote: "I would like to take some time out of a rather hectic schedule to thank you. Without this blessing, Tiffani definitely wouldn't have been able to go to camp." And Harry wrote to Audrey Van Vliet (CALL service grants coordinator), "I wished it was (sic) more caring and loving people like you and Jim Gunn. I thank you again and again."

As of November 8, 2006, CALL has 716 members. This compares to 590 at this time last year. Of those 716, 149 are new members for this year. 135 have taken out multiple memberships, taking advantage of the free courses offered for such. The Tuesday classes are completed, as of November 7. The Thursday classes are still in session, and will conclude on November 16. There were a total of 870 registrations for the Fall classes. The Curriculum Committee is busy with assembling an exciting array of classes for the Spring semester, with classes beginning in late February.