

Dear Friends:

In this issue of *The William Spoelhof Society* newsletter, you will find helpful information on year-end tax planning opportunities. As a new feature we are including a story about friends or alumni of Calvin. You will meet Ed and Natalie Lamberts and read about their special friendship with Calvin. Many of you may already be members of CALL, or the Calvin Academy of Lifelong Learning. If not, you will find information enclosed about wonderful CALL classes and how to become a member. Finally, we have included an update on the Heritage Chapter of the Alumni Association.

As we reflect back on the past few months at Calvin, we have so many reasons to be thankful! The Bunker Interpretive Center was dedicated in early September and will serve as an educational resource for Calvin students as well as local teachers and their elementary school classes. The Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning was established and Professor Quentin Schultze installed in the new Arthur H. DeKruyter Chair in Faith and Communication. These are just a few of the exciting things that have been happening on campus this fall.

Thank you also for your prayer and financial support as Calvin continues to educate young men and women for service in God's kingdom.

Sincerely,

Sally Vander Ploeg

Ed and Natalie Lamberts

Ed Lamberts, 93, is not your typical Calvin College student. This has been true for almost the last 25 years. Since 1980 Ed has been attending undergraduate classes at Calvin and is quick to point out how blessed he has been by Calvin professors and students. These courses have been a "great thing to do at this time of my life," Ed said recently.

Ed never envisioned that he would become so involved in course work at Calvin College. After graduation from Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills High School in 1928 he enrolled at Grand Rapids Junior College. After junior college, he followed his father and grandfather into the furniture business.

Upon retirement, Ed felt a need to continue to nurture and enrich his education. The opportunity came in 1980 when Ed saw a small advertisement in *The Grand Rapids Press*. The ad served notice to the general public that courses at Calvin were now available for audit by those who were interested. Since Ed lived just down the street from Calvin's campus, he was able to come to Calvin the very next day and enroll for his first class.

The first course that Ed attended was taught by a new, young Calvin professor named Quentin Schultze. Ed very much enjoyed this class as well as Professor Schultze, and proceeded to enroll for another course the following term. By the mid-'80s, his wife Natalie was also enrolling in courses at Calvin.



Bob Bolt (left), chair of the Public Events Committee for CALL, and Ed Lamberts recently attended a CALL lecture on campus.

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Smart Moves at Year-End

Make Your Money Do More

Autumn is a good time of year to take steps to reduce your taxes for 2004 while better positioning yourself for 2005 and beyond.

In this issue of *The William Spoelhof Society* newsletter, we highlight several key moves you can still make in 2004. Some of the most important decisions are those that can benefit in perpetuity the causes and values you hold dear. Accordingly, we will give special attention to thoughtfully constructed charitable plans that can leave a lasting legacy and significantly enhance personal objectives as well.

General year-end reminder

Heading into the final months of a tax year is a good time to be reminded of some tax-time basics. Reduce your taxable income by taking advantage of available tax incentives such as deductions for your state and local taxes, mortgage interest, unreimbursed medical expenses (if applicable), and retirement-plan contributions.

Also, the charitable deduction is a powerful planning tool when used wisely. Charitable deductions can give a boost to your financial planning—and you control the timing. When you choose to support charitable causes such as Calvin, the government shares the cost in the form of tax savings.

Choosing the right asset to give can make the results even better. For instance, if you give highly appreciated long-term stock, you can take a deduction for the full fair-market value but you do not have to recognize any of your paper gain.

Increasing the yield Let's compare a gift of \$50,000 worth of stock purchased years ago for \$10,000 with a gift of \$50,000 cash for a person in the 35% bracket:

	Stock	Cash
Deduction	\$50,000	\$50,000
Tax savings	\$17,500	\$17,500
Long-term capital gain	\$40,000	- 0 -
Capital-gain tax avoided	\$6,000	- 0 -
Total tax savings	\$23,500	\$17,500
Net cost of gift	\$26,500	\$32,500

Joint Strategies to Address Personal and Charitable Goals

Wise taxpayers know that it is possible to combine personal and charitable objectives to achieve more jointly than is possible by pursuing them separately.

Retirement security is a high priority for most Americans. While there are tax-advantaged ways to put aside money for retirement, many people would like to do more—and generate tax benefits at the same time.

There are various ways to enjoy the satisfaction of a current gift and the benefit of an immediate income-tax deduction—yet continue to receive lifetime income. One of the most popular ways of doing this

is through a contribution to our charitable gift annuity program.

In exchange for your contribution, we guarantee to make annual payments for life to you or the one or two persons you designate. The amount of the payments and the deduction you generate depend on the number and age(s) of the beneficiary(ies).

In today's low-interest-rate environment, many of our friends find the return on a Calvin gift annuity to be an attractive alternative to CDs and other income-producing investments.

Gift example: *George K, 75, contributes \$100,000 cash for a charitable gift annuity that will pay him 7.1% each year for life. In his 35% federal income-tax bracket, the gift produces these results for George:*

Annual income	\$7,100
Tax-free amount	\$4,601
Deduction	\$42,967
Tax savings	\$15,038

For More Information

We have discussed just a few of the strategies you may find useful as you conduct your own year-end planning process. To better equip you for the task, we would like to send you a copy of our year-end booklet, ***Year-End Tax Planning: Top Ten Questions & Answers***, with more ideas for your consideration. To receive your complimentary copy, simply return the enclosed reply card.

...faithful to our heirs

Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning



Are you familiar with Calvin's CALL program? The Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL) was established in 1996 as a program for retired and semi-retired persons age 50 and older who wish to continue their education. The purpose of CALL as stated in its constitution is "first, to enrich the lifelong spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and social lives of its members, and second, to create an abiding partnership between Calvin College and senior citizens . . . who wish to share knowledge, talents, and experience."

The CALL program provides many benefits to its members. Each fall and spring new classes are offered. A recent sample included:

- Art and Liturgy
- Fools for Christ
- Islam
- World War II
- The Raj Quartet
- Current Practice in Medicine
- Estate Planning
- Why Germany Won't Knit
- History of the Dutch Republic
- C.S. Lewis
- Living with God: Covenant



The new Bunker Interpretive Center was dedicated on September 10, 2004.

The CALL curriculum committee works diligently to assemble timely, relevant classes with knowledgeable instructors. Also, members receive CALLNews—a monthly newsletter highlighting meetings and events on Calvin's campus. CALL also sponsors various tours. Group excursions have included Grand Rapids' historic and architecturally interesting churches; West Michigan colonies like Graafschap, Vriesland, and Holland; and even a trip to Stratford, Ontario, to attend a play! Additional membership benefits include free use of Calvin's library, low-cost trips, on-campus parking, and an annual luncheon. The annual membership fee is \$30 per member. Course fees are \$15.

Currently there are 552 members of CALL. This fall, CALL offered 28 courses to its members. The average class size was 24, with some courses enrolling over 40 members and still others on a waiting list. If you are interested in more information about the CALL program, feel free to contact the CALL office at 616-526-8777 or e-mail at call@calvin.edu.

Recently, the Heritage Chapter leadership team took a survey of those attending the annual reunion at the Prince Conference Center and also did additional research in the alumni files. Some of the more interesting results:

- Total number of Heritage Class members: 2,756
- Residence: After Michigan, the states of California, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, and Iowa have the most Heritage Class members
- Classes most common at the annual reunion: Graduates from 1947 to 1952
- Most common majors/programs: education, English, pre-seminary, music
- 32 alumni noted they were supported at Calvin through the G.I. Bill
- 90% of Heritage Class members are retired
- 61% volunteer regularly
- Many Heritage Class members travel, both nationally and internationally



Heritage Class members Clarence ('54) and Florence ('50) Hibma celebrate grandson Nathan's 2004 graduation from Calvin.

Lamberts continued

Over the years Ed and Natalie have taken at least 30 courses taught by many Calvin professors. The list is quite long and includes the likes of Bob Bolt, Jim DeBorst, Henry Holstege, Quentin Schultze, Mary Ann Walters, and Stanley Wiersma, just to name a few. Ed feels that “Calvin has succeeded in amassing a superior group of educators in its faculty. They possess outstanding character, excellent leadership, and are a great role model for the students.”

Together Ed and Natalie have had some wonderful experiences both in and out of the classroom. They also frequently attend the various plays and productions of Calvin’s Theatre Company. They cannot speak highly enough of the quality of Calvin’s students and faculty in this area.

A highlight included a trip to London, England, with a Calvin interim group. Ed and Natalie had a marvelous time on this trip and made many new friends with the Calvin students. In fact they became

such good friends with a few of the students that they ended up being invited to several weddings of their fellow travelers!

These types of occurrences stick with Ed and Natalie. Ed recalls that “the students are so friendly and thoughtful—it has been a joy to meet so many of them over the years.” Ed and Natalie also enjoy monitoring the activities of Calvin alumni through the Calvin *Spark*. “It is just wonderful to follow the exploits of the students after they graduate,” Ed said.

Because of this strong feeling toward Calvin, its professors, and students, Ed and Natalie have taken the steps necessary to include Calvin as a beneficiary of their estate. They chose to include Calvin in their will because this type of arrangement allows them to make a meaningful gift to Calvin, an institution that they have grown to love and cherish.

Ed and Natalie both agree that it has been “a great privilege” to

have been involved with Calvin students and faculty for the last 25 years. Professor Schultze agrees, but feels it is Calvin that has been blessed: “Ed and Natalie have demonstrated that faith, learning, and living are meant to be nurtured together in a cross-generational community. Their enthusiasm has been infectious. Their wisdom has been a gift. And their encouragement of teachers and other students at Calvin has been a blessing. I thank God for them.”

SAVE THE DATE!

The 50th Class Reunion for the class of 1955 will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 20 & 21, 2005.

The Heritage Class Reunion (Class of 1954 or earlier) will be held on Friday, June 17, 2005.

The William Spoelhof Society Spring Luncheon will feature the Petra exhibit on May 3, 2005.

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