

THE VOICE

Volume 24 Number 1 A Publication of the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University: The Next Great Learning Experience Summer 2019

SUMMER TERM TO START JULY 8

The summer term will be back to its regular schedule this year starting in early July. The term will begin July 8 and run for three weeks through July 25.

Course catalogs will be mailed shortly. Online registration will open at 9 a.m. on June 5. Please have your credentials (user name and password) ready or be prepared to register as a guest. For any questions, contact the Veritas office at 272-8374.

This summer's courses, organized by board member Bud Spalding, will focus on everything from lawns and gardens to historic homes, as well as opera and the "greening" of Louisville. The Summer Flicks series will feature great films from the late 1940s.

The morning offerings will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Each course meets once a week for three weeks. Here's a rundown of the schedule:

Mondays – Lawn and Garden Dreaming will feature speakers Carol Gundersen, director of The Food Literacy Project; Bob Hill, who operated Heaven Hill Nursery; and Bill Funk, president of Evergreen Irrigation.

Tuesdays – Tours of historic homes will feature Locust Grove, the Thomas Edison House, and the architect-designed Shawn Hadley home near Simpsonville.

Wednesdays – Get a preview of Kentucky Opera's new season, opening in September, and featuring *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Glory Denied* and *Robin Hood*. Opera staff will talk about highlights from the productions.

Thursdays – The Greening of Louisville will feature speakers Max Maxwell, TARC director of marketing; Keith Talley, director of the Louisville Air Pollution Control District; and Gill Holland, developer of the Green Building.

The afternoon Summer Flicks series will feature great films from the late 1940s, ranging from *The Heiress* to *My Darling Clementine*. There are three one-week sessions. Each weekly session will begin at 1:30 p.m. on four consecutive weekdays. The first session runs July 8-11. Week 2 runs July 15-18. And the third week runs July 22-25. The course catalog will list which movies will be featured each week.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 20

June 5

July 1

July 8 – July 25

Sept. 30 – Nov. 8

Summer catalogs mailed

Online registration opens at 9 a.m.

Course confirmations emailed

Summer term

Fall term

A LOOK INSIDE THREE NEW VERITAS INTEREST GROUPS

Veritas Voice writers spent some time with these new interest groups to see what they do. Here's what we found. Meeting times and places are on the back page listing of all the interest groups.

Deal the Cards/Play Games Interest Group: I attended the first meeting of this group in February. There were 14 people and we met in a large classroom because Hilary's, the planned location, was occupied. Dennis Wiseman, our facilitator, welcomed us with huge bags of games for us to choose to play. He brought Phase 10, Scrabble, Farkle, Rook, Rummy Q, and Balderdash, plus decks of cards.

I came to this group looking for a bridge game and I was not disappointed. Veritas member Roz Shaffer and I had the pleasure of meeting and enjoying a bridge game with two new Veritas members, Annette Amshoff and Jules Marquart.

During our time there, three to four games were going on at one time. Rocky Yates even played video solitaire on his phone while he waited for a new game of Phase 10 to begin. People had the opportunity to learn how to play new games, too.

I thought this group was a relaxing way to meet new members and to enjoy a little mental stimulation and some laughs. I plan to return for some more fun! - *Linda Miller*

Women's Words Interest Group: Because writing is a solitary endeavor, Veritas member Sandra Rippetoe established Women's Words as a forum for writers to share their poetry and fiction or non-fiction compositions. The group currently includes two poets and one prose writer, and while some seek publication, others just enjoy sharing their work. As an art form, literature or poetry should "speak" to the reader and touch one's emotions. Authors' work typically reflects their lives' experiences, and Women's Words is no different. The members have all been writing for most of their lives.

After the writer reads her work aloud, members make suggestions to enhance the author's efforts. These discussions are key as the group's encouragement bolsters the wordsmiths' labors and typically generates ideas to improve or expand current work -- and occasionally suggests totally new writing topics.

At a recent meeting, Sandra read her poem "The View from the Mountain" while another member read a chapter from the magical realism novel she's writing. Poets or prose writers are invited to join Women's Words to share in the challenges and satisfaction that accompany writing about what's important to you. - *Gay Ellison*

Thomas Merton Interest Group: Their copies of Thomas Merton's "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander" were marked with highlighter. Important passages were underlined. Pages were flagged. Members of the new Thomas Merton Interest Group had done their reading and came to their Friday morning meeting ready to talk, debate and question.

The group is an outgrowth of the fall, 2018, Veritas course about Merton, a monk of world renown. The bulk of his literary and artistic work is stored at the Merton Center at Bellarmine.

Several members in that class, led by organizer Cheri Powell, wanted to continue their studies and their thought-provoking discussions. "Brother Tim" Duncan, who led the class, now leads the group, sharing his rich knowledge of Merton. Between 15 to 20 people meet each month.

"Merton jolts us into thinking in a different way about social issues," Brother Tim said at a recent meeting. The group talked about everything from Merton's ideas on self-segregation to the controversial role of the U.S. in Central American politics. They didn't always agree with him. Merton, for example, was distrustful of mass movements; but some group members argued you need such movements to effect broad change. They liked his ideas about citizenship; he stressed the importance of understanding opposing opinions. "It was like he was writing it for today," someone said. - *Leslie Ellis*

MEET KAY MANGER

(This is part of a series profiling interesting members of the Veritas Society.)

Kay Manger says she joined Veritas “before the turn of the century” and that she is one of “the originals.” Kay has served on the board and has taken a leadership and volunteer role for many years.

What prompted you to join Veritas?

I retired from the telephone company in 1993. Bill Stewart wrote an article for the newspaper in the mid-nineties inviting people to join. There were very few members at first but I wanted to meet people and attend classes. I was a member of a group in Louisville called the Third Century organization and we planned the festival Strassenfest, finding speakers and entertainers. I thought maybe I could help do this kind of activity at Veritas.

What do you remember from your childhood that had a big effect on you today?

I was the oldest of six girls. I remember that each night we would do dishes together. One night I looked at all of my sisters and thought “I need to get to know them well and always be there for them.” My sisters said I would “bop” them on the head with a shoe to get their attention.

What are your hobbies?

I collect clowns -- all types and all sizes. They remind me of people; sometimes their faces are happy but they are sad on the inside. I also sang in the Holy Name Choral Club which became the Louisville Chorus.

How do you relax at home?

I am a political junkie. I read about news and current events or watch shows about it on TV. It takes me all weekend to read *The New York Times*.



Kay Manger

What makes you laugh?

I love the comedian David Sedaris.

What is your favorite Veritas memory?

I started Veritas’ Brown Bag Lunch. We would find a speaker or speakers, look for a classroom and then invite our members to come and bring their lunch. This is how our Lunch and Learn groups began.

ELECTIONS FOR THE VERITAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each year in the spring, Veritas holds elections to fill seats on the society’s board of directors. The Nominating Committee, after seeking nominations from the membership, presented a slate of 15 members to run for election to the board for a two-year term, starting June 1, 2019, and ending May 31, 2021.

Confidential online voting replaced paper ballots this spring, and this very simple process -- clicking a link, versus mailing a form -- contributed to a healthy increase in participation. This year 54 percent of our members voted, compared to just 38 percent in 2018.

Keith Clements was newly elected to the board and joins the following incumbent directors who were re-elected for another term: Sandra Cherry, Kitty Darst, Ron Gordon, Jerry Hubbs, Panzi Panzera, Marilyn Schorin, Bud Spalding, Deloris White and Dennis Wiseman. They join the following existing directors: Rebecca Beyerle, Leslie Ellis, Tony Heitzman, Mary Moll, Cheri Powell and Linda Bailey, Bellarmine program coordinator and board liaison.

HONORS BANQUET IS A SPRINGTIME DELIGHT

The Veritas Society presents the Honors Banquet each year to recognize and celebrate the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to organize, produce and present Veritas courses, special events and field trips. It was a delight to share the evening with them.

On April 23, Sandra Cherry, the event chair, moderated the 24th honors celebration as 95 members and guests delighted in an evening of music, enticing cuisine – and just plain good old-fashioned fun at the Audubon Country Club.

The Rev. Tim Duncan shared an opening prayer and the Utility Brothers jazz ensemble entertained the group both before and after dinner. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet meal of chicken, pasta, and a variety of salads, vegetables and dessert.

Board President Marilyn Schorin introduced the current board of directors, including those who were recently elected and re-elected. Mary Moll, curriculum committee chair, introduced and recognized all Veritas course presenters, course facilitators and production assistants.

Sandra Cherry then presented the Betts Meehan Lifetime Membership Award, which is named after one of Veritas's founders, to presenter Michael Williams, honoring him for the many courses he has taught. Volunteer Chair Dennis Wiseman presented Outstanding Volunteer Awards to Nancy Walker and Connie Fondong in recognition of their frequent, reliable help with mailings to members.

The Bill Stewart Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bud Spalding by Marilyn Schorin in recognition of his many longtime contributions to the society. In addition to presenting classes and serving as a board officer, he organizes the summer program. He also helps organize the Lunch and Learn series.

Bellarmino President Dr. Susan Donovan also spoke to the dinner guests, and praised Veritas for being a “wonderful program.”



Nancy Walker and Connie Fondong received Outstanding Volunteer Awards from Dennis Wiseman, at right.



Bud Spalding received the Bill Stewart Distinguished Service Award. That's Bill, a Veritas founder, at right.

LUNCH AND LEARN CHANGES EXPLAINED

By Leslie Ellis

Fans of Veritas's popular Lunch and Learn speaker series may be wondering why the format and location changed this spring. There was one big reason for both changes -- to make room for more people.

For years in Lunch and Learn, we started by enjoying lunch in the Private Dining Room (PDR) adjoining the student dining room. Then we listened to the speaker in the same place.

Under the new format, the speaker goes first. Those presentations have been moved to a spacious McGowan Hall classroom. Lunch follows, preserving the ever-important social aspect of Lunch and Learn. Everyone heads over to the dining hall, where most members settle into tables in the main dining room for a tasty meal and good conversation.

Two factors prompted the change. One was that the allowed capacity in the Private Dining Room, set by the fire marshal, had been reduced to 44 from 50. (Those who've attended know it was close quarters in there.) The second factor was that demand for Lunch and Learn often exceeded available space. Abigail Walsh, enrollment coordinator in the Veritas office, said she would get several dozen calls and emails from members who were unable to get into a Lunch and Learn session during registration and wanted to be placed on a waiting list. But there has never been a waiting list.

So a bigger room was sought to accommodate more people. The new meeting room in McGowan Hall holds 58 people, or 14 more people than the PDR. That means 84 more people can be accommodated over six L&L sessions in one term. Even with the higher enrollment limit, four of the five L&L sessions this past spring quickly filled.

And for lunch – no more cramped quarters. There's plenty of room to spread out in the student dining room. The Private Dining Room is still open for our use for those who want a quieter setting.

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO THE TOYOTA PLANT AND MIDWAY

Some 55 Veritas members and guests toured the Toyota plant in Georgetown, Ky., on April 22, then spent the afternoon exploring downtown Midway and eating lunch at various restaurants.



Marilyn Nelson, Bill and Judy Werst, and Deloris White enjoy lunch in Midway.



Enjoying a sweet treat in downtown Midway.

THE VILLAGE VOICES TALK ABOUT KINDNESS

By Linda Miller

(The Village Voices is an on-going column reflecting the observations and opinions of newsletter staff.)

Sometimes when I am in Veritas classes I feel uneasy about the direction of a discussion that may be too heated, too confrontational, or just uncomfortable. Some Veritas members report examples of members and lecturers who are openly critical in class of one's attitudes or opinions.

Sometimes, too, I feel afraid to share my opinion about a topic because I think it may be too controversial and I am afraid to offend or be criticized. I think this reticence even prevents me from reaching out and getting to know new members.

Recently NPR did a month-long series about civility in which the hosts pointed out that even the word and the idea of civility spark controversy. Civility, to many, means good manners and respect. To others, civility is an outdated term which implies control, repression, and a criticism of the way people choose to express their ideas. They view it as an infringement on free speech. Later in the month the hosts shared findings from a research study which found that our ability to feel empathy for others has also been decreasing.

Definitions of civility vary, but generally they include the idea of politeness and courtesy in behavior and speech.

This fall, Kentucky will hold elections for governor and other state offices. Early in 2020, we will participate in presidential primary elections and then in the fall the election of our next president. At Veritas classes and activities, each of us will be able to share our ideas and opinions in what will likely be a spirited and exciting atmosphere.

When I began to read and research the concept of civil discourse, I was impressed at how much has been written about this and for how many hundreds of years. This is not a new topic.

David Brooks, opinion columnist for *The New York Times*, wrote a column on January 28, 2019, called "Kindness Is a Skill." This article made this thorny complicated topic a little simpler for me.

Brooks said: "I went into journalism to cover politics, but now I find myself in national marriage therapy."

Some ideas and advice from his article include:

- Tough conversations are usually about our tribal identity. Often our angst in a conversation is not so much about the topic itself but the fact that we feel our personal values are being disrespected and demeaned.
- One of the best questions to ask in a discussion is: "Tell me about the challenges you are facing."
- Realize that your narrative may never win. There are intractable conflicts. Brooks says, "Get over it."
- Never threaten a person's autonomy. People need to feel that their opinions are valid. If a discussion gets too emotional, use a neutral voice, name the emotions that you hear, and treat them as valid.
- Show gratitude for people in the group and for their attention and ideas.
- Reject either/or conclusions in a discussion. There are usually many options to solving a problem.
- Presume the good in each person. Assume that each person in a discussion has good intentions and that you admire him for this.

I do not think all of these suggestions will be easy for me, but I am going to try to keep the broader goal of kindness as my guide.

TWO FIELD TRIPS PLANNED FOR SUMMER

The Field Trip Committee has planned two wonderful trips for this summer. Registration forms with details on times and costs will be mailed to members. The June 20 trip is to the John James Audubon State Park Museum and Nature Center in Henderson, Ky., with lunch at Moonlite BBQ in Owensboro. The September 17 trip will be to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

VERITAS SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS 2018/2019

Board of Directors

Marilyn Schorin - Pres.
Jerry Hubbs - Vice Pres.
Bud Spalding - Secretary
Rebecca Beyerle
Sandra Cherry
Kitty Darst
Leslie Ellis
Ron Gordon
Tony Heitzman
Mary Moll
Fred Nett
Panzi Panzera
Cheri Powell
Deloris White
Dennis Wiseman

Course Presenters

Aubrey Baker
James Ball
Sandra Cherry
Keith Clements
Page Curry
Laurie Duesing
Bill Donovan
Timothy Duncan
Steve Franklin
Don Graeter
Ion Grumeza
Gaye Holman
Jerry Hubbs
Mike Marple
Lynn Meckler
Panzi Panzera
Cheri Powell
Judith Rice
Will Schrader
John Sistarenik
Fred Smock
Walter Snowa
Bud Spalding
Evanthia Speliotis
Ken Stammerman
Frank Thackeray
J. Milburn Thompson
Robert Wagley
Mike Williams
Dennis Wiseman

Discussion Leaders

Barb MacDonald
Jennings Mace
Carol MacKay
Timothy Duncan

Ann Nunn
Megan Schanie
Judith Skretny
Jonathan Smith

Lunch and Learn

Presenters

Karina Barillas
Julie Baum
Tom FitzGerald
John Gatton
Jeanne James
Rich Lechleiter
Pat Lentz
Pat Noonan
Brooke Pardue
Julie Roberts
Stuart Sanders
Marilyn Schorin

Curriculum Committee

Mary Moll, Chair
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Sandra Cherry
Kitty Darst
Laurie Duesing
Jerry Hubbs
Carol Mackay
Kay Manger
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Ann Nunn
Pat Oliver
Panzi Panzera
Cheri Powell
Marilyn Schorin
Roz Shaffer
Bud Spalding
Herb Zimmerman

Facilitators

Rebecca Beyerle
Nancy Carrington
Linda Carter
Sandra Cherry
Keith Clements
Carol Corriell
Leslie Ellis
Maureen Fitzgerald
Carol Hartlage
Mary Ann Hubbs
Gloria Kemper-O'Neil
Karen Long
Barb MacDonald
Ruth Mace

Carol MacKay
Bill Mathis
Linda Miller
Mary Moll
Pat Oliver
Panzi Panzera
Nancy Pollock
Dawn Riester
Marilyn Schorin
Barb Simmons
Debby Stilger
George Street
Ruth Ann Street
Mary Helen Thompson
Vicky Ullrich
Nancy Walker
Rocky Yates
Bill Young

Registration/Mail prep

Kay Alexander
Dianne Allison
Rebecca Beyerle
Marcy Brotzge
Nancy Carrington
Linda Carter
Keith Clements
Paige Curry
Kitty Darst
Angela Dowell
Leslie Ellis
Maureen Fitzgerald
Connie Fondong
Connie Fowler
Ann Marie Hafling
Rosemary Keller
Marian Lancaster
Kay Manger
Joann Marquart
Linda Miller
Mary Moll
Ernestine Muth
Pat Oliver
Carol Olorunsola
Joe O'Reilly
Panzi Panzera
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Judith Rice
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Grace Helen Rooney
Colleen Schweitzer
Margaret Sebrey
Herb Shulhafer
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Lorena Stierle
Ruth Ann Street
Cindy Thompson
Vicky Ullrich
Mary Vuncannon
Nancy Walker
Alice Walter
Deloris White
Dennis Wiseman
Belle Workman
Herb Zimmerman

Production Committee

Ron Gordon, Chair
Jim Blain
Gary Dodson
Jerry Hubbs
Susan Irving
Mike Marple
Dick Norris
Steve Riester
Darrell Shelton
Jerry Thornberry
Dennis Wiseman

Veritas Voice

Leslie Ellis, Chair
Gay Ellison
Ron Gordon
Linda Miller

Interest Group

Organizers

Rebecca Beyerle
Barry Chafin
Margareta Kessler
Amy King
Cheri Powell
Sandra Rippetoe
Marilyn Schorin
Mary Helen Thompson
Dennis Wiseman

If we missed anyone or misspelled your name, we apologize. We tried.

VERITAS INTEREST GROUPS

The Healthy Eating Group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. Contact Marilyn Schorin at mschorin@gmail.com or (502) 452-1100 for reservations or additional information.

The Mystery Book Discussion Group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. Sessions include book discussions, sometimes a local author, or mystery movies based on books. Occasionally the group attends local productions of mystery plays. For additional information, contact Rebecca Beyerle at beyerler@gmail.com or (502) 454-0268.

The Eat/Talk Group meets the third Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club on the University of Louisville campus. Contact Dennis Wiseman at dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com or (502) 533-8989 for more information.

The Ethnic Lunch Group meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various locations for different ethnic food each time. For more information or reservations, contact Mary Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com.

The Moveable Feast Literature Discussion Group meets monthly when Veritas is not in session. Meetings are usually held at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. For future

dates and books, contact Amy King at calaryllis@gmail.com.

The Movie-Dinner Group meets the first Thursday of the month. They attend an early movie and then go to dinner to discuss it. Members share the task of making movie and dinner selections and arrangements. For more information, contact Linda Miller at linda.loves.walking@gmail.com or (502) 216-4075.

The Thomas Merton Interest Group meets the first Friday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. on Bellarmine's campus. They discuss Merton's philosophy and life by reading his books. For more information and to be put on the mailing list contact Cheri Powell at CheriPowell@yahoo.com.

Deal the Cards/Play Games Interest Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 1-4 p.m. in Hilary's at Bellarmine. A variety of cards and board games will be played. Contact Dennis Wiseman at dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com or (502) 533-8989 if you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions.

The Women's Words Interest Group for Poets and Prose Writers meets Mondays at 1 p.m. at the Bellarmine University Dining Hall during the Veritas fall and spring terms. Please bring writings to share. For more information contact Sandra Rippetoe at sandra@RDNpoet.com.

MORE FROM THE MIDWAY FIELD TRIP



Al and Nancy Pollock enjoy the field trip to downtown Midway.

THE VOICE

Leslie Ellis.....Chairperson
Gay Ellison.....Writer
Ron Gordon.....Tech. Support
Linda Miller.....Coordinator