

THE VOICE

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VERITAS OFFERS FIRST COURSES AT SATELLITE CAMPUS

By Leslie Ellis

For the first time starting this spring, Veritas will offer several classes at a satellite location away from Bellarmine. All other classes will be held at Bellarmine.

The satellite campus will be at the Meadow Active Lifestyle Community in the sprawling Masonic Homes complex on Frankfort Avenue in the Crescent Hill neighborhood. Classes will be held in its spacious multi-purpose Artisan Room, and will be open to ALL Veritas members, not just Masonic Homes residents.

“This is a pilot,” said Abigail Walsh, assistant director of continuing education at Bellarmine, who helps coordinate the Veritas program. If successful, Veritas could look at expanding to other locations.

Using satellite locations would provide much needed classroom space for Veritas and allow it to expand, Abigail said. Right now the number of Veritas courses offered is limited by lack of available classroom space. That’s in the face of growing membership; it hit a high of 435 last fall.

The courses scheduled for the Meadow are repeats of popular courses offered in 2019. “These courses filled quickly and lots of people indicated they couldn’t get in,” Abigail said. “So we wanted to start this pilot off with what we knew would be popular options for both current and new members.”

The Monday class will be Mike Marple’s “Rodgers and Hammerstein II and Sondheim, Oh My.” The Wednesday class will be Panzi Panzera’s “Heh, Boo: To Kill a Mockingbird and Its Continuing

Influence on American Culture.” Both will meet from 10-11:15 a.m.

It’s quite common for lifelong learning programs like Veritas to hold classes at multiple locations. That’s what Abigail and Dennis Wiseman, Veritas board president, learned when they attended a regional conference of lifelong learning programs in 2018.

Then last year the Masonic Homes reached out to Veritas. Miguel Walker, the Meadow’s lifestyles supervisor, was looking to expand program offerings for his residents. He met with Veritas staff and several board members, and found Veritas was a good fit. “This demographic really loves learning,” he said.

Miguel said the program will be open to residents in two other active life-style communities on the Masonic campus. Abigail and some board members hope that Masonic residents will also sign up for Veritas courses at Bellarmine and join in our interest groups and social gatherings.

Registration for the Masonic Homes courses will be part of the regular online registration. Capacity for each of the courses will be 60, with 20 spots available the first day registration opens to current Veritas members. The remaining 40 will open on the second day, when registration opens to newcomers. (If current members don’t get in the first day, they can add a course the next day when more slots are open.)

Parking will be in designated areas, with a dedicated shuttle available. Maps and more information will be sent to those who register.

SPRING TERM PROMISES TO FEED THE MIND AND SOUL

The lineup of courses for the spring term offers a rich selection of topics that will feed the zest for learning that runs so deep among Veritas members. History, literature, social and current issues – it's all there.

The spring term will be March 2 through April 10. Catalogs will be mailed January 15, and registration for current members will open at 9 a.m. January 29.

The morning discussion courses will focus on the Underground Railroad, the poetry of William Wordsworth, climate change and the "new cosmology" closing the gap between religion and science.

Literature courses will include a study of "The Odyssey" and the reading of Hamlet – aloud.

A historical perspective will guide courses on the U.S. Constitution (how and why?): Churchill and the war years; and the Byzantine Empire and the Barbarians. They also will include "Clash of Cultures" involving exploration and conquest; liberty and equality in western civilization; and the history of forensics.

For courses on current events and issues, look to a study of the courts as referees of the federal system;

modern day challenges facing Judaism, Christianity and Islam; courts and controversy; and the changing balance of power in the Middle East.

Other courses will cover retirement finances, steps to a healthy back, and mindfulness. The Chautauqua Experience will feature speakers on a variety of topics. And the Friday film series will feature movies about saving the environment.

The two offerings at the new Masonic Home campus (see story on front page) are repeats of popular courses on the novel and film "To Kill a Mockingbird" and on composers Rodgers and Hammerstein and Sondheim.

Lunch and Learn speakers will be attorney David Ratterman, on destruction and reconstruction of the World Trade Center; Evanthia Speliotis, speaking on Bellarmine's Guatemala project; and Elmer Lucille Allen, on making fabric art. Other speakers will be Ben Blake, speaking on his experience on the Santiago de Compostela walk in Spain and France; and Tom Owen, Louisville historian, speaking on neighborhood values.



WHAT TO DO IF IT SNOWS



What if you get up the morning of your Veritas class and there's snow on the ground or the roads look icy? How can you find out if classes will be called off? Whatever is announced for Bellarmine classes applies to Veritas as well. That's the bottom line. Veritas students will NOT be called individually about cancellations. But it's easy enough to check the website www.bellarmino.edu to find out the status of Bellarmine classes.

Any closings at Bellarmine also will be posted on all the radio and television stations. If you don't want to wait for the announcement, you can check the TV stations' websites. Just Google the name of your preferred station, then follow the links that say "weather" or "closings." So you're not tech savvy or don't have a computer or TV? Arrange a buddy system with a Veritas friend whom you can call to get the information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15	Current member spring catalogs mailed
January 29	Spring registration opens at 9 a.m.
January 29	New member catalogs mailed
March 2 – April 10	Spring term
April 21	Spring Celebration Banquet

EMILY TIROCCHI: VERITAS' FIRST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

By Gay Ellison

Emily Tirocchi, Veritas' first scholarship recipient, was raised on a small five-acre family farm in Foster, Rhode Island, where she and her brother were surrounded by myriad animals, including goats, chickens, rabbits, Mitten the cat and two dogs named George and Jenny.

As she was growing up, Emily and her family often vacationed in the Tennessee mountains. Determined to live in an entirely new location for her college experience, Emily's fondness for the southeast and her love of horses fostered her interest in Kentucky.

After visiting a few local universities with her father, Emily quickly decided on Bellarmine because of the sense of community she felt when touring the school. From the first moment she arrived on campus, everyone was exceptionally friendly and welcoming and made her feel like she belonged.

Emily is a junior, and her interest in biology, combined with a key advisor's counsel, convinced her to major in health services. She is passionate about ensuring that people have the best possible quality of health care during the aging process. Her career goals include an internship in one of Louisville's hospitals or nursing homes during her senior year, followed by a position in nursing home administration upon graduation. Graduate school is another goal.

Emily loves to read, to run, and to stay healthy. She also enjoys making music. She plays the flute and the piccolo, and she is learning to play the ukulele.



Emily Tirocchi

Lastly, Emily serves as community service chair for the Petrik and Anniversary Hall Council, where she helps dormitory residents plan social events for both students and the university's friends in the surrounding neighborhoods.

We are very lucky, indeed, to have Emily as a member of the Bellarmine community and as the Veritas Society's first scholarship recipient.

HERE'S HOW THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL WORK

The new Veritas Society Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance to a junior majoring in one of the health sciences. It was created by the Veritas Board of Directors in the spring of 2019.

Veritas transferred \$50,000 from its reserves to Bellarmine's Endowment Account. Other donors can add to this amount at any time. An endowed scholarship means the \$50,000 is invested. Funds for the actual scholarship to the student will come from interest earned on the investment, which is expected to generate about \$2,000 in interest each year.

The specific amount of the scholarship given each year will be based on a spending policy approved by Bellarmine's Board of Trustees. A donation from a Veritas member is covering the first year of the scholarship while interest begins accruing to cover the scholarship in subsequent years.

The recipient is chosen by the Office of Financial Aid, and must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and attend full time. Preference is given to students who are the first in their family to attend college. The scholarship is awarded for four semesters, provided the student continues to meet eligibility requirements. Funding may be extended for another year if the student is in need of a fifth year to complete his or her education.

If you would like to make a donation or memorial gift to the Veritas Society Endowed Scholarship, please contact Joan Riggert, director of planned giving, at (502) 272-8330.

MEET SUSAN IRVING

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

Susan Irving has been a Veritas member since 2013. She has been a presenter, has served on the Veritas Board of Directors, and is currently a member of the Production Team.

Why and when did you join Veritas?

I knew about the Veritas program because they brought their catalogs to the library where I worked. WOW...it looked too good to be true and I was VERY eager to enroll as soon as I retired in 2013. I naively signed up too late to get my class choices. Friends told me to sign up for any class and I quickly learned there are many hidden gems in our class choices. I pass this advice on to all new members.

What is a childhood memory that still impacts you today?

In the 1950's kiddos did not often use "bad words," but my dad told us that the word "bored" was never to be spoken in our home. Our family placed a high value on curiosity, and I am grateful this is a core presence in my life today.

What are your hobbies?

I have always been an avid reader. That led me to watching documentaries and attending lectures. I think the Filson Club is a valuable source of informative programming.

Can you tell us something about YOU that we may not know or we may be surprised at?

I am an immensely private, almost timid person. To compensate, I push myself to get involved with a variety of activities. It helps that I am curious enough to venture out of my easy chair at home.

Do you have a material treasure or an heirloom to which you are particularly attached?

My grandmother was given a gold bracelet on her 16th birthday in 1916. In turn it was given to my mom who then passed it on to me. I treasure it dearly and wearing it allows me to feel connected to them.



Susan Irving

Which of your Veritas experiences has given you the most pleasure or sense of fulfillment?

There have been so many. I loved being a presenter. I learned a lot being on the board. However, my deepest gratification comes from the friends I make in this remarkable program.

Can you describe yourself in three words?

Curious, grateful, humbled.

HIKING INTEREST GROUP EXPLORES THE OUTDOORS

(This is part of a series of occasional mini-profiles of Veritas interest groups.)



The new Hiking Interest Group has hosted about six hikes so far, taking to the trails at Jefferson Forest, The Parklands and the Harrods Creek area in Prospect. Hikes average about four miles. "We try to set a pace that keeps the group together and allows for chit-chatting, with no one feeling left behind or rushed," said organizer Rebecca Beyerle. "Of course, any uphill climbs are usually a bit slower!

"The group has been getting to know each other. There is no pressure. Just a light mood experience. A walk in the woods," she said. Rebecca added she'd like to see

if there is interest in more urban walks, like the Big Four Bridge or new greenway in New Albany. If you want to get on the mailing list for notice of upcoming hikes, contact Rebecca at beyerler@gmail.com.

VERITAS LIAISON LINDA BAILEY RETIRES

Linda Bailey, who helped launch the Veritas Society 25 years ago, has retired as Bellarmine's director of continuing education. In that role, she oversaw expansion of Veritas and was Bellarmine's liaison on the Veritas Board of Directors.

Her last day was December 31, ending a career at Bellarmine that began in 1987 when she worked in admissions. She became director of continuing education in 1992.



Linda Bailey

She not only provided staff support for Veritas, but managed professional development and enrichment courses, summer youth camps, Road Scholar programs and online learning programs.

Veritas was organized in 1995 when she and Bill Stewart, then a Bellarmine administrator and now a Veritas member, were eager to start a lifelong learning program similar to what they'd seen at other universities. Fifty-three people attended an organizational meeting in April 1995. A board of directors was organized that day, and that fall five courses were offered that attracted 81 members! It was the first lifelong learning program at a Kentucky college or university.

Since then, Veritas has taken off. We offer 24 courses, a Lunch and Learn series and a variety of interest groups and social programs. Enrollment last fall was a record high of 435 members. A robust board and nine volunteer committees run the organization.

"I would like to thank Linda for all her hard work and support in keeping the Veritas Society running seamlessly from session to session," said Dennis Wiseman, board president, "I would also like to thank her for agreeing to be the Finance Committee chair. Her knowledge of Veritas history is amazing and that knowledge will certainly be missed without her."

Veritas members have become an integral part of the Bellarmine community, Linda said, supporting various learning projects and arts programs. And Veritas shows that Bellarmine is committed to lifelong learning.

"It's very gratifying to know that I have played a part in enriching the lives of so many people," Linda said in an interview prior to leaving. In retirement, she plans to get back to playing the piano, travel, do volunteer work and enjoy time with husband Royce. And she plans to take Veritas classes this spring!

Abigail Walsh, assistant director of continuing education, is now running the continuing education department and is Bellarmine's liaison on the Veritas board.

SPRING CELEBRATION SET FOR APRIL 21 AT NEW LOCATION

We may be in the depths of winter, but it's not too soon to mark your calendars for April 21 for the annual Spring Celebration, which has a new name and a new location this year.

It's now being called the Spring Celebration to emphasize that it's for EVERYONE. While that's always been the case, some members didn't attend when it was called the Honors Banquet because they assumed it was just for the people being honored.

The new location is The Olmsted on the Masonic Homes campus on Frankfort Avenue. A cash bar will open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Masterson's will cater the event. Information on ticket prices and how to RSVP will be mailed in the spring.

THE VILLAGE VOICES LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

By Linda Miller

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

At the beginning of every term, I walk into the Health Science Center at Bellarmine with a feeling of excitement and anticipation. One of the first things I see is the long table covered with name tags for Veritas members. At the far end of the table I look at the sign listing all the courses, locations and times.

I feel a sense of wonder and near amazement at how all of this gets organized so efficiently.

Six years ago, when this Veritas Voice staff was brand new, we wrote our first Village Voices column. We quickly concluded that it would surely “take a village” to make a newsletter happen just as it “takes a village” to make the Veritas Society function. So many activities and so many decisions coupled with hours and days of volunteer time happen “behind the scenes.”

We want to share with you some of the most important processes that take place “behind the scenes.”

Curriculum Committee chooses our presenters and our courses

The Curriculum Committee looks for new presenters and courses every day, all year long! *Any* Veritas member can recommend themselves or another person to one of the committee members or to the Veritas office. The committee members talk to speakers they hear and to our members who may have been teachers or who are knowledgeable and passionate about a topic.

The 16 committee members meet regularly and review suggested presenters and courses. They are planning two to three terms simultaneously.

Mary Moll, Curriculum Committee chairperson, told me: “Of course, the amount of work involved is our biggest challenge. But we have a great committee; the Veritas office works closely with us and now our members realize that they do not have to be on our committee to suggest courses and presenters.”

Over 80 Veritas volunteers are “on call”

Keith Clements chairs the Volunteer Committee and he contacts over 80 volunteers by email each time there is need to prepare materials for mailing and to staff the welcome desk at the beginning of each Veritas term. Volunteers are “called to action” at least 10 times each year. They usually offer to help by signing up on the survey forms we receive after each term.

Keith said volunteers really enjoy the camaraderie of their assignments; it is a simple way for new members to get involved and meet new friends. He was emphatic when he told me, “We always need more volunteers!”

Production assistants make our classes come alive

A Veritas volunteer production assistant is assigned to cover each of the 21 courses per term in fall and spring and an additional five or more in summer. These volunteers provide all video and audio technical assistance for every class and they make sure presenters’ needs are met. For example, they always offer water and attempt to adjust room temperatures and lighting. Ron Gordon, the Production Committee chair, told me that right now there are only nine assistants. He said, “We are always looking for men or women with some technical computer skill to work with this team. . .We provide training, too.”

Many more activities take place “behind the scene” at Veritas and that is why we need YOU to find your special calling as a volunteer.

JOIN THE VERITAS BOARD!

This spring, six of the board's 15 directors will be elected for two-year terms, running from June 2020 through May 2022.

Being a board member has many benefits, including making new friends and helping design and implement Veritas programs. Recruiting course presenters, planning a field trip, writing an article and/or organizing volunteers for a special event all provide opportunities to learn new skills and gain a healthy sense of accomplishment.

If you'd like to get on the ballot, contact Rebecca Beyerle, board vice-president, by March 2 at beyerler@gmail.com. Ballots will be emailed to members in mid-March. And remember, you must have paid membership fees for at least one term within the last academic year to be eligible to run.

Board members attend about four meetings a year, each lasting two hours. Special board meetings - for unique projects, such as developing our strategic plan, are called occasionally. Members also serve on standing committees, which include: curriculum, lunch & learn, production, membership, special events, finance, field trips, newsletter and

volunteers. Although standing committees also hold meetings, time commitments remain reasonable -- even for busy retirees. Board membership is not required to join a standing committee; you can sign up for one to gauge your interest in joining the full board.

Board member Sandra Cherry, who has served in a wide variety of Veritas positions, strongly recommends attending a board meeting prior to running for election. She believes that can help you assess whether your "skills and interests can be used to further the organization." The next meeting is February 21.

Keith Clements, a newer board member, has enjoyed getting to know other board members. He said he now has a "better understanding" of how the committees work.

Newcomers are frequently elected to the board. There are many ways to enhance your visibility and improve your chances of getting elected. Work the check-in desk during the first week of class, write a story for the newsletter, attend an interest group meeting, or go on a field trip. Of course, introduce yourself and wear your name tag wherever you go.

VERITAS TRAVELS TO THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER IN CINCINNATI

Fifty Veritas members travelled to Cincinnati on September 18, 2019, to tour the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The docent-led tour and short films focused on the struggles of slaves who were trying to flee during and after the Civil War. Many attendees said they would like to return there. After the museum tour, everyone enjoyed a German-themed meal at the Hofbrauhaus in Newport, Ky.



Lunch at the Hofbrauhaus



Kitty Darst and Sandra Cherry

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 to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions.

The Hiking Interest Group plans hikes on different days of the week depending on members' availability. Hikes take place in the Louisville area and are appropriate for beginners as well as seasoned hikers. To get on their mailing list, contact Rebecca Beyerle at beyerler@gmail.com

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

The annual Veritas Holiday Luncheon drew a record crowd of 156 members and guests on December 6. They were entertained by the Chamber Choir from the Youth Performing Arts School, then enjoyed a delicious buffet.

