



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm August greetings and welcome to the 25th year of Mary Washington ElderStudy. The officers, board members, and committees join me in planning to make this another great year!

In June the officers for the 2017-2018 year were appointed. Joan Bitely, Bryn Pavek, and I will continue as vice president, treasurer, and president, respectively and Kay McKinney will join the team as secretary. Our new board members Joe Alfred, Michelle Ebenshade and Dot Meyers will help us to continue rolling with new ideas. Donna Lewis will stay on as membership chair, Joe Alfred will lead curriculum, and John Thompson the administration committee. Many thanks to Peggy Verdine, our retiring secretary, and Chuck Johnson and Barbara Barrett, retiring curriculum and administration chairs for their excellent work. A big vote of thanks to Chuck Watkins, President Emeritus, for his guidance and advice in my transition to president last Fall. We'd be remiss if we did not include Charlie and Randy Fennemore in our thank you. They arrive early to class and set up the media, take the count and sponsor many interesting programs. Appreciation, too, goes to Kevin Caffrey, our UMW liaison for his assistance in communications with the University of Mary Washington.

Our membership has reached a milestone of 300! As members, we hope you will consider becoming a part of our planning and administrative efforts. As president I am finding that in contacts with other Life Long Learning groups it always comes out that Mary Washington ElderStudy is one of the best values for the tuition and it's all because of our volunteers and membership. Keep up the excellent work! If we all do a little, we all benefit a lot!

Jack Allison, President

Mary Washington ElderStudy Leadership for 2017-18

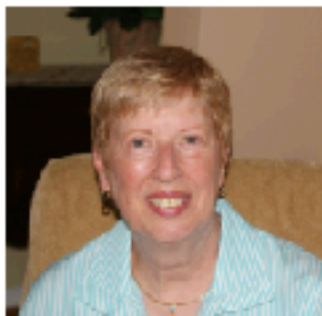
Our Officers:



**Jack Allison
President**



**Joan Bitely
Vice President**



**Kay McKinney
Secretary**



**Bryn Pavsek
Treasurer**

Our Board of Directors

Term: September 2015 - August 2018



Jack Allison



Chuck Johnson



Joan Bitely

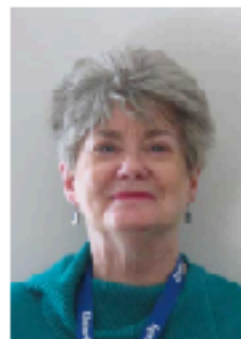
Term: September 2016 - August 2019



Chuck Block



Jack Sulima



Peggy Verdine

Term: September 2017 - August 2020



Joe Alfred



Michelle Ebenshade



Dottie Meyers

Committee Chairs:



John Thompson
Administration



Chuck Johnson
Curriculum



Donna Lewis
Membership

[www:elderstudy.com](http://www.elderstudy.com)

what you need to know, when you need to know it

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the ElderStudy Administration Committee is scheduled for 1 PM on Tuesday, August 29, in the ElderStudy Classroom (I do not have a key to the room so I hope someone with a key will attend). Key meeting topics will be a preliminary review of the 2016-2017 year-end financial status by the Treasurer Bryn Pavek and planning for the 2016-2017 Financial Audit. IF ANYONE WISHES TO VOLUNTEER TO DO THE AUDIT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW (email: johnsafet@cox.net or call 371-4827 and leave a message. Other topics of discussion are anticipated from the attendees.

Respectfully,

John Thompson, 2017-2018 Admin Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report: ElderStudy 2017-2018 Budget

The Board approved budget for the period from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018 is included with this newsletter. Membership Fees for 2017-2018 remain the same as those in 2016-2017.

This Newsletter is prepared by me, Dot Meyers, with the help of many members of ElderStudy. If you have any questions or suggestions for the newsletter, please feel free to let me know. You can leave a message on the phone, 540-654-1769, or call me at 540-760-1533.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The spring 2017 semester is history, and hopefully, the ElderStudy membership found our sessions educational and stimulating. Our total attendance for all sessions was nearly 1900 which probably is the greatest total ever for ElderStudy programs.

The Curriculum Committee (CC) has put the final touches on the fall 2017 schedule, and it is available online on the ElderStudy website and will be attached to this newsletter for those receiving the newsletter by mail. We have forty programs scheduled, in addition to our four book club meetings. Again, I am always amazed on how our committee members, semester after semester, are able to come up with all the fascinating programs.

Working with the Membership Committee, we have planned a one hour session just prior to the General Membership Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2017. Professor Lynn Richardson, from the University, will give a presentation on Networking. Hopefully, having a program before the scheduled General Membership Meeting will increase attendance at the meeting. In anticipation that this concept will work, I am working on a similar program for our spring General Membership Meeting. Joe Alfred has done some research focusing on the various topics we present at our sessions over the past two years. The details are as follows:

	fall	spring	fall	spring	TOTAL
	2017	2017	2016	2016	
Tours & Off Site Programs	5	3	3	7	18
Entertainment	2	3	5	8	18
UMW, Fredericksburg & Virginia	3	3	8	4	18
Book Club	4	5	4	5	18
International & Domestic Politics	5	5	2	2	14
Military History	4	2	3	2	11
STEM	2	3	3	2	10
UMW Gallery Tours	2	2	2	2	8
Play Discussions	2	2	2	2	8
Government	2	4	1		7
Medicine	2		1	2	5
Religion	2		1	3	6
Literature	1	3	1	1	6
Invention & Innovation	4		1		5
Food	1	2	1	1	5
Economics	1	1			2
Historical Personalities		1			1
General Topics	2	2	5	4	13
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Totals	44	41	43	45	173

As a final item, I want to give the membership an initial heads up. I think it is about time that I backed out of being CC chairperson. I have been at it for nearly 3 years, and it is about time someone else had the opportunity to get involved. It is my plan to help work the spring 2018 schedule, but resign from the committee effective Jan 1, 2018. Joe Alfred has agreed to take over as the committee chairperson as well as continue as the data base manager, which is where the really heavy work for the committee is done. Doing both the data base management and committee oversight will be a daunting task for Joe, and I would ask those who would be willing to help Joe to let him know either in person or via email that you are available to assist. I am not sure exactly what help he will need, but knowing there are members available to assist as necessary would be most appreciated.

DAVE HILL – ELDERSTUDY ICON

Last March, Dave Hill, a well-known and active citizen in the Fredericksburg area and at his synagogue passed away. While the community lost a dear friend, so did we in ElderStudy. Dave was an active member of ElderStudy for approximately 12 years, and when I say active, I mean active. During our Curriculum Committee meetings as we were planning our next semester's schedule, it was not uncommon for Dave to speak up and say, "I have one more idea for a program." Over the years, he probably was our most prolific sponsor. Even though his health was declining the last few months, he had volunteered to sponsor four new programs for the fall 2017 schedule.

Those who associated with him knew him as a great communicator, who was also looking for a good discussion. Though he was a self-described ultra-liberal, he was always respectful to others with different opinions.

We in ElderStudy owe Dave much for his years of dedication to our objective of lifelong learning, and it cannot be expressed as to how much he will be missed.

Chuck Johnson, Chairperson

Curriculum Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Mary Washington ElderStudy! We finished the year with a very strong membership (300 members!) and look forward to another year of learning together.

In a recent issue of *Retiree News* (Spring 2017) they featured an article on educational opportunities for lifetime learning. Organizations with University affiliation such as our ElderStudy are increasingly available to seniors. Many offer classes that require a semester commitment. One of my favorite things about our organization is the flexibility we have since our sessions are considered “one-and-done”. While I find all of our sessions intriguing, sometimes my busy retiree schedule does not permit me to attend as many as I would like. However, our membership rate is such a bargain (compared to other organizations) that I do not feel pressure to come to all in order to “get my money’s worth” from my dues.

With that in mind, now is the time to renew your membership and to reach out to friends to encourage them to join us as well. As a current member, you can renew your membership for only \$60 per person until **September 9, 2017**. Renewals postmarked after that date will be assessed at \$65 per person. Membership forms are available on line. Please remember to indicate your preference for email or postal communications and sign up today.

If you joined ElderStudy last year but did not pick up your nametag, it is available in the classroom office. While you receive a temporary nametag in the mail, your permanent tag must be picked up in the classroom. Allow several weeks after joining for your tag to arrive.

The Membership Committee will continue to maintain the ElderStudy voicemail phone line (540-654-1769) for the purpose of leaving messages only. The voicemail is checked every Sunday and responses follow, so if you have a more timely question, please call Donna Lewis, the Membership Committee chairperson (571-259-6097.)

In order to better serve our membership, we need your help in two ways. First, please consider volunteering for a committee! Since our organization is dependent on volunteers, we need your ideas and energy. The Membership Committee always welcomes new people to our group. In addition to general participation on the committee, we are looking for folks who would be interested in helping us plan our 25th Anniversary celebration. If you would be willing to help out, please contact Donna Lewis at 571-259-6097 or dvlewis22@gmail.com.

The second way you can help us out is to provide your input and feedback. What works for you? What improvements would you suggest? What ideas do you have for topics? Please email your thoughts to Donna Lewis (dvlewis22@gmail.com). We are anxious to hear from you! If you are not renewing in the fall, please share your reasons so we can be responsive.

Our Membership Committee has taken our show on the road. During the past year we spoke at several local organizations regarding our ElderStudy program. If you belong to another organization where you think potential members reside, please let us know. We will be happy to schedule a time to come and share the tenets of our organization.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are trying something new this year at our General Membership meeting. Please join us for a special one hour session (10-11 am) October 18, when Dr. Lynne Richardson (Dean of the College of Business, UMW) will address the importance of jumping in and navigating the social networking scene. A full description of her session can be found in the classroom schedule. The General Membership meeting will follow. We hope to see you there!

Donna Lewis, Chairperson

BOOKS FOR THE FALL

Sept 14, 2017

The President is a Sick Man by Matthew Alegeo Leader - Chuck Watkins

The previously untold story of the mysterious disappearance of Grover Cleveland. The coverup of his serious illness and his medical treatment makes for a surprisingly compelling read.

Oct. 12, 2017

Hidden Figures by Margot Shetterly Leader - Connie Smith

The American Dream and the Untold story of the Black Women Mathematicians who helped win the Space Race. A group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate numbers that would launch rockets, and 6 astronauts into space.

Nov. 9, 2017

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson Leader - Michael Millard

Beginning when he was a 23 year old Harvard law student, the author has spent decades working to free scores of people from wrongful and excessive criminal punishment.

Dec. 14, 2017

Elon Musk: Tesla, Space X and the Quest for a Fantastic Future by Ashlee Vance Leader - Phil Hall

In the spirit of Steve Jobs, Elon Musk is both an illuminating and authorized look at the extraordinary life of one of Silicon Valley’s most exciting, unpredictable, and ambitious entrepreneurs, and a fascinating exploration of the renewal of American invention and its new “makers”.

APPROVED ELDERSTUDY BUDGET FOR 2017-2018

September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

Approved 6/7/2017

Projected Income	
Membership Fees	16,290
Donations	0
Approved Expenses	
<u>Board of Directors</u>	\$1,450
BLS Scholarship	\$1,250
Election Expenses	\$200
Grants	TBD
Classrm Contingency	0
<u>Curriculum Committee</u>	\$7,750
Speaker/Programs	\$7,500
Postage & Copying	\$125
Gifts & Gratuities	\$25
Stationery & Supplies	\$100
Telephone (moved to Membr)	\$0
<u>Administration Committee</u>	\$1,000
General Operating Funds	\$200
Supplies & Publications	\$600
Postage & Copying	\$200
<u>Membership Committee</u>	\$4,075
Brochures	\$100
Stationery / Supplies	\$200
Gifts / Remembrances	\$200
Name Tags (Net)	\$400
Newsletters (5)/ Communications	\$800
Postage & Copying	\$250
Website (renewal 18-19)	\$0
Telephone (one line item now)	\$300
Memb Mtgs & Spec Events (Net)	\$1,200
25th Anniversary (1x Expense)	\$500
Total Approved 17-18 Budget	\$14,275

Questions may be addressed to the Treasurer or to BOD members.