Our population has had to adapt, and we are good at it. We learned about that new computer thing and learned how to use it. We’ve had our grandchildren teach us how to use the cell phone that their parents insisted we carry with us. We go on Facebook because we don’t want to miss hearing about our third cousins and seeing the pictures of the food they have prepared. Because of this new view of aging, and because seniors in the U.S. over 65 now outnumber the entire population of Canada, the ILR is growing.

Your ILR team is doing its part to keep you informed, amused and entertained. The members who are volunteering on your behalf have learned a secret in life. To serve is meaningful, and they gladly work tirelessly to provide the quality classes, social experiences, trips, and interest groups that are offered to you to enhance your retirement.

I joined ILR to meet people. I had no idea that I would soon view retirement as an opportunity to study, work, service and play. Volunteering for ILR became a new life, rich with a sense of relevance and exposing me to new interests.

We think about the past and future; we talk with experience to share and perhaps teach. Our best days are still ahead. We are working on our new life that is not just play, tasks around the house, or reliving yesterday.

Enjoy the Newsletter and go through those class catalogs that will introduce you to your new experiences in retirement.

~~ Carolyn Schmick
Online registration will be available June 11

- Sign up for classes,

- Renew Membership,

- Sign up for socials and activities

...... and pay online.

This system will allow members with an active online account to update their personal information, and register and pay for coming events.

All this will be offered through the ILR webpage, www.oduilr.org

A Guide How to Register is in the current curriculum schedule.

Notes From The Office

Tips -

- Like many of us, do you have an abundance of pre-printed address labels? Use them on the forms you submit to the ILR office, both registration forms as well as membership renewal forms. It will save your hand from a lot of writing and allow the office to cut the number of errors when we enter your information. (Sometimes ones (1) and sevens (7) look a lot alike when hand-written.) We want to make sure we have your correct address and zip code.

- When submitting a registration form, please complete the member information on the front, especially your name and phone number. If you go to our website to get an extra form and only print the “back” page, be sure to write your name and phone number at the top of the page. When a name-less form is received, we not only can’t process it, but we don’t know who to contact to correct the situation.
Splinters from the Board

The purpose of this article is to offer the membership enhanced access to the issues discussed at the meetings of the Board of Directors, by providing a brief description of the more important matters that came before the Board since the last newsletter.

April 11th Board Meeting
The first meeting of the Board with new officers in place started with a welcome and introductions. Vice President, chair of the Scholarship Committee, reported that application review meetings are scheduled for May.
Treasurer- reported that committee and board financial needs produced an estimated budget deficit. Two considerations to balance the budget were considered. Budget was tabled to the next meeting to research alternatives. A motion to increase the participant cost per person for the annual meeting to $25 was passed.

Discussion – The impact of ODU’s new nursing program that will be housed in this building was concerning to the attendees. There were questions of space available and other direct impacts on our programs. Discussion of changes and our commitment to this building was moved to next meeting when an ODU representative would attend.

Curriculum Committee- has the largest impact of incoming Nursing Program. Classrooms previously available may not be available in the Fall. They are working with the ODU space coordinator to acquire rooms.

Travel Committee- reported a successful Hopewell trip in March. The October trip to Pennsylvania was cancelled due to a conflict with classes, and rescheduled for September, 2019. Future trips are planned to Manteo, Longwood Gardens, and Winterthur DuPont Mansion.

Communications Committee- reported on continued work to get ProClass online to accept registrations and payments.

The Volunteer / Membership Committees - reported on Coffee and Conversation items, the Newsletter Schedule assistance, Art Show set-up and Art Show exhibition.

Social Committee- reported a record 146 people signed up for the Annual Meeting which was held in March.
A report was given on the monthly outings, socials and theater in planning stage.
A motion was given for the next annual meeting to be held again at Westminster Canterbury. The motion was tabled to the next meeting so that other venues could be investigated.

Nominating, At Large—No report

May 9th Board Meeting

Vice President’s report-Scholarship group is working, making hard decisions due to excellent candidates.

Treasurer’s Report- Financials - Because of the increase of administrative expenses due to larger membership, the board voted to raise class cost to $14.00 beginning this next quarter, starting June 1st. It is hopeful this is a temporary increase due to cost savings incurred when on-line registration reduces workload.

- Guest speaker, Renee Olander, Assoc. Vice President, Higher Education, ODU attended and informed us of the long range plan of expanded health related use of the campus and environs with the cooperation of the College of Health Sciences. How this relates to the ILR program was of prime concern to the Board.

An Ad hoc committee was formed to find a potential new academic sponsor, if needed.

Social Committee Report- Annual Meeting approved to be at Westminster Canterbury on March 29th, 2019.

At Large- both delegates going to various committee meetings to introduce themselves and to offer their assistance to field any questions participants may have.

Curriculum Committee - summer class program is being submitted, meeting mailing date schedule.

Travel Committee- Manteo trip on June 5th., Longwood Gardens, QVC, and Winterthur planned for early December. Travel Committee to have a retreat on May 31st. for planning purposes.

Communications Technology - Old website was deleted. Launch on June 1st. for on-line registration open to all. Potential charge card fees were discussed.

Membership Committee - Coffee and Conversation next held on July 19th.

Volunteer Committee - Thanked all committees for newsletter submissions.

Nominating Committee - no report

~~ Carolyn Schmick
WELCOME NEWCOMERS
February 20, 2018 - May 18, 2018
We hope you will participate in our classes and volunteer your time and talent.

Chesapeake Karen Lavoie, Rick White, Janice Williams
Flagstaff, AZ Barbara Mayes
Norfolk Monica Cetrone, Dorothy Conroy, Patricia Johnson, Cathy & Alan Jones, Deborah Kitchell, Deborah Stadlin, Donna Stockburger

NEW MEMBERS GET TOGETHER
If you would be so good as to look over your entire Quarterly package of classes, you will find a signup sheet for the New Members Get Together. This is not just for anyone who joined recently, it is for anyone who joined up and doesn’t know what they signed up for. Much to my surprise there are many members who have been enticed by friends or signed up by friends, but have no idea what we are all about.
If you would like to learn more about the ILR, please sign up for our little ‘coffee’ and come and meet people and make new friends, many of whom are in the same boat as you. ~~ DeeDee Rockefeller

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS...
Being a newsletter editor is so rewarding. Our organization has so much to share. However, I will be handing over the job to someone who would like to put his or her touch on this valuable contribution.
The job consists of gathering articles from our regular contributors, committees, and members.
Then the editor has so many options to make the newsletter personal; perhaps a biography of a member who has given years and experience to the ILR, or an added story of interest about the person who plays bongos at the community center. The opportunity to put a personality into our newsletter is a joy.
If you would like to be editor, or perhaps you and your best friend would like to co-edit this newsletter, this would be a great time to try. You would have guidance every step of the way. Please give it a whirl.
~~ Carolyn Schmick, cschmick@cox.net, Editor
Colors of Retirement Life …
thoughts, ideas and general conversations.

By Sue Cunningham

“I’ve thought a lot about time and the speed with which it passes. Every minute is so precious. We try to catch it on pieces of film but we can’t make it slow down. I wish I could remember every minute and keep it somehow. Even the most painful times I would relive if I could. I want to learn to keep things in perspective, that there are very few things worth getting upset about, and that it is the present moment that must be appreciated.” Stacy Glenn Schulze, 1954 – 1987.

These are powerful, thought provoking words spoken by a young, teenage boy. Can you believe it? To have such perspective and vision at such a young age is a gift indeed. I wish I could say those were my words. Unfortunately, they are not. Stacy is my brother and he died so young but he obviously lived his short life fully and with great understanding. Are we doing the same thing?

Is your daily life one of fulfillment? According to the dictionary, the word fulfillment is synonymous with the words achieve, attain, contentment, realization. So, ask yourself what you did today to be fulfilled? Or maybe you did something that provided fulfillment for someone else?

What present moment did you enjoy so much that you felt happy and content? Think about some of the following ideas to find achievement and peace:

- **Create:** what did you do today that was creative? It doesn’t have to be anything over the top. Something as simple as sample a new food, visit a different store that looks intriguing, try a new recipe, experiment with a challenging tool. Take a course that you know will stretch your thinking and abilities – even if you end up not liking it. At least you learned/created something new. Get the idea?

- **Be true to yourself:** That means a lot if you want it to. With all our years of wisdom and experience it is time to speak up. Provide guidance to a grandchild, offer to help a neighbor who needs it but doesn’t know how to ask. Express yourself and your feelings. Haven’t we earned it?

- **Appreciation:** Like Stacy said, appreciate the present moment, enjoy and reminisce about the past moments and get excited about the future moments. What moment do you want to experience? Do you want to share it? Would you rather be alone? The point is to look at each moment with a happy heart and excitement and be grateful.

- **Perspective:** “there are very few things worth getting upset about.” How true. I hate to think about the number of times I had to be right or have things my way so that I would not get upset. Was it worth it? For the most part, no. But the wisdom that accompanies this gray hair has taught me one thing about life, get over it! Indeed, putting things in perspective can be quite the eye opener when seen from another person’s point of view. It doesn’t mean you have to agree. Just look. Why didn’t I learn this earlier as Stacy did?
Sue Cunningham continued...

- **Time:** is not just passing quickly, it is racing the course at a zillion miles an hour. Think not? Just look in the mirror and remember back 15 or 20 years ago. See any difference? You bet! Even if you squint, even if you smear Vaseline over the camera lens (a photographer’s trick), the lines are still there. Then there is the matter of the waist line – but that is for another day. What you see is time galloping! Remember, “we can’t make it slow down.” So instead savor every precious day. Remember we are not guaranteed tomorrow.

- **Stay in touch…or not:** It is very important that we maintain relationships that help us thrive, grow, and provide enjoyment and make life more pleasant. However, it is also just as important to let go of those relationships that don’t work. Drop the sad memories and the past hurts. Let them go without ceremony and stay gone. And instead work those memories and relationships that fill your heart with gladness and laughter. And don’t feel guilty about any of it! Because it is just as important to stay in touch with yourself…you are worth it.

So I thank you for sharing this moment with me. It was indeed a pleasure. **Sue**

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**ILR Social Committee**

**Activities for Summer 2018**

The Social Committee has a number of events planned for the summer season. One repeat event is a Pot Luck at June Lam’s house. June has graciously opened her home to ILR on numerous occasions, and we are delighted to be returning on June 1st., when her lovely gardens are in full bloom.

On July 11th. there will be a dinner at Dockside Restaurant, where we will not only enjoy a good meal but also be able to watch the parading ships go by as they head out to the Bay.

A presentation on the Zeiders Dream Theater is on the schedule for August 17th. The Z will be opening in Town Center Virginia Beach this fall, and will offer a varied repertoire of workshop productions of original plays and cabaret, along with concerts.

We hope to see you at one or all of these activities. **~~ Mary Delaney**

**New to Virginia Beach? New to the ILR?**

If you are interested in joining the ILR Social Committee, please contact the ILR office and they will forward your name to the committee.

Social meets once a month, usually on the third Tuesday of the month at the ODU Higher Education Center. Our goal is to plan a monthly activity for ILR members which fosters educational and social events in the local community. Events can be a variety of interests such as theaters, museums, lunch or dinner.

We offer opportunities to learn more about our local area and what is offered for social events for the ILR. Most importantly, you meet new friends and share fellowship and laughter.

**~~ Judy Schorr**

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Want to dream up adventures and help make them happen? **Join the ILR Travel Committee.**

Fun and interesting guaranteed! Contact Arlene Ingram, Chair ajingram42@verizon.net
Virginia Beach’s Military Aviation Museum is a world class museum covering fifty years of aviation from 1903 to 1953. It is located on Princess Anne Road south of Pungo and the museum guests come from all over the world. The museum has over sixty aircraft and ninety percent of the aircraft are airworthy, or can be made to be airworthy. The museum resides on over one hundred acres which includes a five thousand foot grass runway, eight hangers, a period water tower, and a reconstructed WW II English watch tower. The museum hosts many private events such as weddings, receptions, retirement ceremonies, and business meetings. The museum conducts air shows for WW I and WW II aircraft and a flying prom, which has an orchestra, flying aircraft, and fireworks for family picnics.

Volunteers are available to conduct tours and offer information related to each individual display and aircraft. The museum entrance and lobby consists of two levels of static displays of vehicles and other items, as well as a gift shop. Next to the lobby are the Navy and Army Air Corp hangers which hold many different types of American and foreign aircraft.

An iconic P-51D Mustang is usually on display in the Navy hanger. This aircraft has a storied history from its inception to its deployment in Korea. The Mustang has an English name, English specification, American design, and American production. It was a good aircraft with an Allison V-12 engine, but became a great aircraft with a Rolls Royce Merlin V-12 engine. With drop fuel tanks, the Mustang could escort bombers to Berlin and back. The American 8th Air Force lost as many airmen in Europe as the U.S. Marines in WW II. Many of those airmen lost were teenagers.

The Army Air Corp hanger displays many storied aircraft both foreign and American. On display is a P-40 Kitty Hawk Flying Tiger fighter. The P-40 gave America its first victories in the Far East with American volunteers flying for the Chinese. Also on display is a Russian P-02 utility aircraft which was flown by Russian women. They were the first female military in combat and were called “nacht hexen”, Night Witches!

At the west end of the museum are three hangers available to the guests. The first is a French WW I hanger holding tri-planes and bi-planes of that period. In that period, aviation technology and techniques were developed. A German pilot named Bolcke developed tactics for fighting in the air that we use today. Because the WW I aircraft were made of wood and fabric, all of the museum’s WW I aircraft are replicas except for one which is a restoration. The JN-4 Jenny, is an American aircraft used to train most American pilots in the Great War. After the war returning pilots would purchase surplus aircraft for air mail delivery. This was the beginning of air mail as well as civil aviation. They also conducted “barn storming” events putting on air shows and selling rides.

Also at the west end of the museum is the Fighter Factory where engineers and technicians maintain and restore aircraft. This handful of men are unique in that they are the few in a population of three hundred and thirty million who can maintain these aircraft in an airworthy status.

The west end has an actual WW II German hanger holding many German WW II aircraft and German concept aircraft models. The hanger was constructed to be portable with only nuts and bolts and no welds. This hanger has an “Iron Annie” Junkers 52 aircraft with three radial engines. This aircraft is so strong that during the invasion of Holland the lead aircraft was ordered to land on the road because there were no serviceable landing areas available. The lead Junkers 52 landed and taxied at speed for two miles knocking down the trees that lined the road. The museum’s Iron Annie is the only airworthy one in North America.
Who Are We?

Meet DeeDee Rockefeller

I was born in Nashua, N.H., an only child, as my father was killed at Anzio and is buried in Italy. My Mother remarried the man who would become Daddy. We lived in Charleston, S.C., then Norfolk until, after over 30 years in the Navy, Daddy was retiring. Then a surprise to all, including my two younger sisters, a much younger brother arrived (4 years older than my oldest son.)

I grew up in Norfolk, attending Catholic schools, then public schools, and graduated from Granby High School. After graduation I went to work, didn’t much care for that. So, I went to Norfolk Business College onto Legal Secretarial work, while my husband finished ODU. We had three sons, a mortgage broker in the Tidewater area, a statewide insurance supervisor, and a retiring Lt. Col. Army Ranger. They presented me with ten grandchildren to offer me challenges and many hours, days and months of an interesting and rewarding life. My sisters live locally, one is a member of ILR, and my brother is in James City, not too far away.

My mother was one of the first female real estate brokers in the Tidewater area, the only working mother in the neighborhood. This shaped my future. I worked in the real estate profession, the influence from my Mother, where I retired after over 20 years, many successes and awards later. Life was still happening, so I went to work for the City of Virginia Beach Voter Registrar office until 2008, after an exhausting election. On the Monday after I retired, I was at the door of ILR filling out membership forms and asking what else I could do. That is when life as I know it now started for me.

Over the last 10 years it has my pleasure to have served as Travel Committee Chairman for eight years, Member at Large for 1 year, and presently Membership Chairman, part of the Membership/Volunteer Committee team. The Membership Committee is tasked with the New Members events and the Coffee and Conversations, as well as assisting the Volunteer portion of the Committee.

As so many of you will find, this organization offers so much more than just wonderful classes, trips and social events. It offers life after retirement. I have met many wonderful people and made many friends, and have been reacquainted with so many more.

Sitting around with nothing to do is just not my style. I play bridge, volunteer for Cancer Care feeding of chemo patients, help out with the care and feeding of my grandchildren, and occasionally, the grand dogs. I also travel to some great places - Germany, Italy, Egypt, Panama, Hawaii, and exotic places such as Ft. Leavenworth, Ft Hood, and, you get the picture. Life is good. The ILR has certainly enriched my life and I am proud to be a part of the growth and teamwork.

~~ DeeDee
The Sinking of the Bismark
Contributed by Dale Harrell

The outstanding presentation by Chris Kolakowski, Director of the MacArthur Memorial, on The Sinking of the Bismark was a reminder to all 125 ILR members who attended his lecture, that all warfare throughout history has resulted in tragedy. Coincidences and human factors play a great part in which side wins. It was in World War II when the greatest sea battle was fought between the British and the Germans in two million square miles of stormy ocean, from the Arctic to the Bay of Biscay. The Bismark, the world’s largest warship, had escaped into the Atlantic in May, 1941, and instantly became a serious threat to the survival of Britain. All hope for a British victory depended on the old, reliable HMS Hood. But after only 6 minutes in combat, the cruiser was sunk, and 1,400 men were lost, and Bismark was left to complete its mission of destruction to a vulnerable Britain. But, with a combination of human factors, fueling capabilities in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and rough seas, the Bismark, was suddenly discovered only hours from safety, only to be completely destroyed by small spitfire planes, British destroyers, and the heroism of the Brits. The apocalyptic action involved in the sinking of the Bismark spelled out in such detail, made this lecture one to be remembered and to add to the other remarkable lectures the ILR has offered.

Bringing Nature Into Your Home
Contributed by Pat Maurin

With all the great classes that ILR presents, every so often one comes along that’s a very special treat. April’s presentation of Bringing Nature Into Your Home was just such a class. Betty Ann Galway reminded us that we are healthier and happier when we have a connection with nature. She then proceeded to use her talents as a professional floral designer to show us how to prepare and combine some of the beautiful flowers and other plants that nature gives us to make stunning arrangements for our homes. We learned, among other things, the right way and the right time to cut flowers, when to put them in water, and what tools to use. And Betty Ann didn’t just talk. She demonstrated what she was saying with a myriad of flowers and containers. Some of her designs were simple creations with one type of flower, others were more varied and colorful. The class ended with names being drawn and some of us, (including yours truly), fortunate enough to really bring nature home.

IN MEMORIAM
Ian Parkes Goodwin, Virginia Beach
Africa and China

Presented by Patrick Mbajekwe, Assoc. Professor of History, Norfolk State
Contributed by John Hammond

Dr. Mbajekwe informed his audience that China has been dramatically increasing its presence among most nations on the African continent since 2000. Unlike European colonial incursions that sought to exploit natural resources outright, and unlike American initiatives that offered foreign aid and charitable programs, China has sought to invest and trade with African nations using loans, equipment and expertise to develop infrastructure and manufacturing projects that provide lasting economic impact. Examples include major railroad construction projects, such as funding and building a $3.4 billion line between Djibouti and Ethiopia, and making a similar $3.2 billion investment in Kenya.

China is not active in every African country, but has invested heavily in Angola, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan for their oil reserves, and in central and southern African countries for their mineral deposits. China has largely avoided African nations torn by jihadist-movement activity as it follows a consistent policy of non-interference. However, in one notable exception, China has supplied military support to protect its oil-field investments in South Sudan while providing monetary aid to support local peacekeeping initiatives.

In another deviation from the policies of other Western nations, China has tacitly approved of the emigration to African countries of more than 1.2 million Chinese civilians from all walks of life, many of whom see advantages of opportunity, freedom, and clean air not found in China. In addition, China has established the Confucius Institute at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, where it offers Chinese language courses. Mandarin is now one of the most popular languages in Africa, Dr. Mbajekwe reported.

These industrial/cultural initiatives apparently have been well received. An Afrobarometer poll of 36 countries showed that 63 percent of Africans view Chinese influence as positive. Similarly, a Pew research study showed China was more popular in Africa than any other region of the world. China thus has projected itself as a “fresh face” to African nations previously torn by colonial powers and later by Cold War politics, as the U.S. and Russia first supported and then abandoned puppet governments, which led to civil wars, Dr. Mbajekwe said.

African nations view China’s involvement as the best route and biggest opportunity to bring Africa out of poverty without dependency. Although African nations are generally not ideological – and are thus more interested in pursuing development than Communism – China’s expanding influence on the African continent should be recognized by the West as a significant trend and analyzed carefully for its potential impact over the coming decades, according to Dr. Mbajekwe.

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**CLASS COMMENTS**

**Africa and China**

*Presented by Patrick Mbajekwe, Assoc. Professor of History, Norfolk State*

Contributed by John Hammond

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**Brushes filled?**

**Pencils sharpened?**

**Needles threaded?**

**Kiln heated?**

**Cameras charged?**

Whatever your artistic choice, *October is show time!*

The ILR Art Show will fill the Atrium October 10 – 31.

We want to celebrate your talents and show others how creative retirees can be.

Don’t be shy. Share your artistic vision with us.

~~ Fran Scott, Coordinator, franscott3@cox.net
**More Notes From The Office…**

**Q. What happens if I cancel (or drop) a class?**

If the office receives notification that a member is dropping a class at least 4 days in advance, you will receive a refund voucher (minus a $2 admin fee).

The admin fee is applied per person/per class. If you drop three $10 classes, your refund will be $30 - $6 (3 x $2) = $24 refund. If two people drop a $10 class, whether a couple or a member and guest, the refund is $20 - $4 = $16.

**Q. How do you count “4-days in advance”?**

The work-day the notification is received in the office before 3:30 p.m. counts as Day 1, whether you speak to someone by phone, leave a message, or email us. (Days the office is closed, are not included in the 4-day count; weekends, holidays, weather closures.)

For example:

Notify us Monday before 3:30 p.m. to drop a Thursday class w/ refund. We count the working day we receive notification as Day 1. Mon (1) Tues (2) Wed (3) Thurs (4) = refund

Notify us Monday after 3:30 p.m. = We receive your message Tues (1), Wed (2), Thurs (3) = no refund.

To get a partial refund for a Wed. class, we must know during business hours Friday. Fri (1), Mon (2) Tue (3) Wed (4). If you notify us after 3:30 p.m. Friday, there is no refund.

*Please note that Social and Travel committee events may have different refund policies based on venue requirements. See the event information sheet(s) for details.

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**Special Interest Groups**

**Great Decisions**
Meets First Tuesday of Month Rm 210 Dave Hamby 757-486-6336

**ILR Book Group**
Meets Third Tuesday of Month Rm 210 Janice Miller jjmiller87yahoo.com

_No meeting July, August, December_

**Great Books**
Meets 1st & 3rd Friday of Month Rm 210 Dianne Pruden dkpruden@gmail.com

**Dog Walk**
Meets First Friday of Month Shore Drive Dave Hamby 757-619-6931

**Art Show**
October 10-31 ODU Atrium Fran Scott franscott3@cox.net

**ILR SiteSeers**
Meets First Tuesday of Month Room 133 Nancy McWilliams NJM47@cox.net

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**Barbara Stokey and Bill Daley** are new **Members At Large** on the ILR Board.

One of their responsibilities is to serve as a liaison between the membership and the Board.

If you any concerns or comments you would like the Board to hear, please contact either Barbara or Bill.

Barbara Stokey. 757-424-6294 bbstokey@cox.net

Bill Daley. 757-426-2228 wldaley@cox.net
ILR TRIP TO FREDERICKSBURG/RICHMOND

At 0-dark-thirty we boarded our Hound Dog bus with a bit of drizzle. George, our bus driver and expert baggage loader, was amazing the entire trip, and gave us a warm welcome. We left at 6:30 on the day the Welsh celebrate as St. David’s Day. Arlene Ingram was our superb tour guide throughout both days.

We breezed through the HRBT (thank you St. David?). We were surrounded by the fog on the water, but not gray on the bus, which was warm and cheerful. We had a 20 minute rest stop at New Kent.

In Fredericksburg, Scott Walker, of Hallowed Ground Tours, became our guide. He was phenomenal. Through Scott we learned the details of the history of the city of Fredericksburg, the Battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War, as well as the geology and geography of the area, which was crucial to the Civil War. There are three historic districts in the “Burg” and apparently everyone important in our country’s early history lived or passed through at least one of those districts. Scott told us more than dates and places - he told us stories about the people in our country’s past to make them real to us, with a good dose of humor.

We visited two very different historical estates. Belmont, the early 1900’s home of American artist Gari Melchers, was a delight. We viewed the home, with its marvelous art collection and furnishings, and Melchers’ studio, where a docent provided insight into the once-renowned artist's life and eclectic paintings. We enjoyed a box lunch in the Pavilion.

Next stop was Chatham Manor, overlooking the Rappahannock River and the “Burg.” Completed in 1771, Chatham was used as a Union hospital during the Civil War and is now part of the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. Poet Walt Whitman, in search of his wounded brother, was so moved by the sight of a pile of amputated body parts outside the make-shift surgery’s window that he stayed at Chatham for several months, nursing suffering and dying soldiers.

At the completion of our tour with Scott, we proceeded to our hotel to check in and rest.

Back on the bus for a short ride to the Riverside Dinner Theater, we enjoyed a delicious meal and an exuberant production of “Mamma Mia!” The dining tables are tiered so that everyone can see the stage. There was a lot of singing along/lip synching during the play, because everyone knows these Abba songs!

After breakfast we loaded onto the bus in the midst of a mighty wind. Schools were closed through D.C., as was the federal government! We were glad to be heading south.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond never disappoints. It is hard not to be impressed by the Terra Cotta warriors. We also enjoyed the gift shops. We had lunch in a private room which had two walls of floor-to-ceiling glass, overlooking the outdoor sculpture garden. We then took a very windy walk to the Virginia Historical Museum, and had a docent for the excellent WWI exhibit. As we wandered around on our own we found many items from our homes when we were growing up. Ah - nostalgia for Grandma’s old wringer washing machine (although I bet Grandma was glad to get rid of it)!

On our return, Arlene surprised us with our choice of white or red, and delicious snacks. George threaded us through Friday afternoon Richmond traffic, and we arrived back to our cars on time. A large thank you to Arlene, the committee, Ingrid Leland, Bill Dailey, Barclay Brown, Pat Dryer, and to Lizzie Goulart who gave Arlene the suggestion for this trip. A thousand details have to come together to make a trip work, and the committee did an OUTSTANDING job. A round of applause to all!

~ Contributed by Rosemarie Scotti Hughes
**Hopewell, the Wonder of the Wonder City**

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, dawn was breaking through the heavy clouds as two Hound Dog buses loaded with 76 prompt, eager and enthusiastic ILR travelers pulled out of the parking lot bound for Hopewell, VA. Most of us had never considered Hopewell as a tourist destination. It lives in the shadow of Richmond but its lovely location at the confluence of the James and the Appomattox Rivers, City Point, made it a strategic site for the early history of our country, particularly during the Civil War.

As we pulled into the small industrial town, the smoke stacks were belching steam but the sun was shining and the temperature was pleasantly warm, an appealing change from the brutal winter.

A quick rest stop at the renovated, historic Beacon Theater, now owned by the city of Hopewell, started our Hopewell experience on a positive note as we admired the restoration to the theater itself and visualized what it might have been like in its heyday. After a narrated bus tour through the historic City Point area, we were warmly welcomed by the Rev. William Taylor (a native of VA Beach) to historic and beautiful St John’s Episcopal Church where Jeannie Langford, Librarian Archivist and Hopewell Historian painted a colorful history of Hopewell. She set the stage for our visit to Appomattox Plantation on the bluff above the James and Grant’s still-standing log cabin headquarters.

Our lunch hunger pangs were amply satisfied at the Half Way House, a fascinating historic “way station” half way between Richmond and Petersburg. Our group filled the entire restaurant, upstairs and downstairs, six to a table, in the warm ambience of the dimly lit well-preserved Inn. While the food was excellent, the “sticky buns” were to die for!

A twenty minute drive after lunch took us to Fort Lee, an Army base generating a huge economic impact on the community, with two exceptionally well-presented museums, next door to each other: the Quartermaster Museum (preserving the heritage of the division of the army that fed, clothed and equipped the US Army since 1775), and the US Army Women’s Museum (honoring the story of women in the US Army from the Revolutionary War to the present.)

The final stop was Weston Plantation, a grand restored classic Georgian home on the Appomattox River. Docents divided us into groups of four, each group visiting a specific area to learn about Plantation life (the summer kitchen with yummy samples, the winter kitchen in the basement, a re-enactment in the Parlor and Ghosts at Weston in the Dining Room). Whistles and Bells moved us from station to station, each with its own unique spin on at Weston, even the story of the cannonball that was hiding in the home until 1973.

~~ Arlene Ingram, Travel Committee Chair
Bill Daley, Margie Cole, Barclay Brown,
Pat Dryer and Ingrid Leland, Valuable Assistants
Upcoming Classes
Local History has proved to be popular with ILR members. If you are a local history buff, look for several classes this summer
- Native Americans
- Fisherman’s Island
- History of Alcohol in Hampton Roads
- Camp Ashby, aka Willis Wayside
and don’t miss ILR’s first ever class on Horror Movies! - which ought to be a blast!

Upcoming Travel Plans
June 5th - Manteo
December - Longwood Gardens, QVC, and Winterthur
..........and great adventures being planned!

Upcoming Social Events
June 1 - Potluck Dinner
July 11 - Dockside Restaurant, Parading Ships
August 17 - Zeiders Dream Theater

Our scholarship to an eligible post graduate student has many applicants. The committee will choose the winner by the end of June.

Online...oduilr.org