

A Quarterly Publication of the Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute of Salem State College



Profile: **Norty Halber**

by **Barbara Rosenstein**

President's Column

My year as your President is drawing to a close, and it honestly does feel as if it passed quickly. It has been a rewarding time for me and, I hope, for the membership. As I reflect on the accomplishments of the organization during this time, I am proud to have been a small part of them. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Your Board has worked hard to provide us with a multitude of enriching experiences. So many of you have generously contributed your time and talents to keep Explorers vital and evolving.

Hasn't this been a wonderful spring semester? The range of selections was extraordinary. We went from such grim topics as contemplating the evils in the modern world and wondering if we are living George Orwell's *1984*, to hopeful thoughts such as

Meet **Norton "Norty" Halber**, our new vice president, a modest and multi-talented man who grew up in Cleveland, the only son of devoted parents. His dad, who worked for the City of Cleveland, was lucky enough to get free tickets to most civic events: opera, ballet, theater, prize fights, baseball (the Cleveland Browns) and football games (the Cleveland Indians). Norty's father took him to the sporting events and his mother to the cultural events, and so from an early age, he developed his love of sports and music, especially jazz and opera.

When Norty was about 10 years old he was taken to see Gene Krupa. He decided he wanted to play the drums, so his parents gave him private drum lessons. He also played other instruments like the marimba and vibraphone through high school. He then attended Northwestern University on a music scholarship, eventually graduating with a degree in accounting, while playing professionally until the age of 30. One of the bands included piano player Marvin Jenkins, the accompanist for Della Reese; he has met many of the jazz greats.

As a young man in his 20's Norty played slow pitch softball for two Cleveland championship teams and participated in a World Tournament. He is an excellent athlete, enjoying

sailing, tennis and golf. He is still hopeful that he will repeat the hole-in-one he achieved at the Beverly Country Club some years ago. Norty has a sailboat in Marblehead Harbor which he and his wife Dottie enjoy very much. He named it "Southern Comfort", his mother-in-law's favorite drink.

Norty spent his professional life first as an accountant and then as one of the first computer programmers, starting in 1957 at Standard Oil. While at General Dynamics he worked on early rocket systems. He has worked for several technical companies and has lived in San Diego and Washington, DC. He retired in 1993 while working for Blue Cross Blue Shield. He joined the Explorers 4 years ago because he was interested in learning.

Norty and Dottie enjoy playing tennis together and spending time with their four grandchildren. They have travelled to Africa and the Panama Canal, among other places.

Now, after a 45 year hiatus, Norty is playing with a jazz band that meets every Friday in Peabody and is still taking drum lessons. He has taught classes for the Explorers in Jazz, bringing along his extensive collection of CD's, and is planning to teach another course this fall. A lecture

President *(continued)*

building sustainable communities and learning about those who have won Nobel Prizes. We were introduced to wonderful writers we may not have known before: Milan Kundera, Adrienne Rich and Lorrie Moore. And who could imagine more concrete topics than learning to measure the world around us and learning the basics of Personal Computers? We've had something to challenge and expand everyone's world.

Friday Coffees introduced us to people who have changed our communities at the Cummings Center and North Shore Medical Center. And how about adventures such as crossing the Atlantic in a sailboat?

We've also seen improvements to our suite, and before you return in July it will be looking even better. Check it out during Summer Intersession which begins July 6th.

We can look forward to another productive year ahead under the leadership of **Norty Halber**. Best of luck to you, Norty, and a wonderful summer to all.

Norty Halber *(continued)*



Norty Halber

on jazz is scheduled for the Jewish Historical Society in May.

Norty is an excellent writer with a wry sense of humor. He won first prize for his short story at the Marblehead Festival of Arts in 2008, a considerable accomplishment, and has attended writing classes at Explorers.

Norty is looking forward to serving

Explorers in the capacity of Vice President and eventually President.

He is planning to send periodic questionnaires to the members via e-mail for their opinions on a multitude of subjects.

It has been a privilege for me to be in class with Norty, interview him and become a friend.

It's Not Easy Staying Green!

by Marilyn Collins

Kermit the frog had his own issues with being green, but a wonderful course called *Building Sustainable Communities*, led by the warm and knowledgeable **Mary Rossborough** tackled crucial modern issues, examining the ideas of David Korten with his "Agenda For A New Economy" from *Justice Rising*, as well as the thoughts of Riane Eisler, Bill McKibben and others. The *Compass* peeked in during Mary's last class and saw many familiar faces.

Joan Fox told us, "Mary has extensive knowledge and provides many valuable handouts and resources." **Moneveh Peters** was there, and **Meridy Giles**, and **Ann Sordillo**.

Anne Egan spoke of "...a new paradigm, thinking about possibilities from times of crisis." The energy level in the class was high, as Mary lead with her wonderful voice. She is brimming with a wealth of information. **Clare Ritchie** said, "Mary does a great job. I really enjoyed it."

She is not alone. As the class came to its final closing session, there was a resounding round of applause from all attending. I asked Mary if she would be teaching this course next year and she said she hadn't decided. I hope she does, because 'green' thinking and exploration is a topic we should all learn more about.

1984

by Suzanne Kiley

The ninety-one Explorers seated in room five were greeted by **Linda Weltner** dressed in the uniform of a 1950's Russian worker, and were instructed to rise and repeat after her:

*From the age of uniformity,
From the age of solitude,
From the age of Big Brother,
From the age of doublethink,
Greetings!*

With this introduction, the course entitled "Are We Living in Orwell's 1984?" began. Class members were asked why they were there. Responses included curiosity, concern, and doubt. Linda explained that her task was to eliminate all of these 'thought crimes' in the following six weeks. Thought crimes were defined as:

- * Independent thinking
- * Indulging in periods of reflection
- * Frequent withdrawal from immersion in media
- * Flashes of curiosity
- * Questioning authority

She then explained that doublethink is the ability to:

- know and not to know at the same time

- hold two completely contradictory opinions and believe in both of them simultaneously
- feel that you are telling the truth while telling carefully constructed lies
- forget what it is necessary to forget, remember it again when it is needed, and promptly forget it again
- speak for the highest possible morality while not acknowledging that your own behavior is immoral
- believe in freedom as one of the highest American values, yet welcome all laws that curtail your freedom in the name of security
- believe in the Constitution as one of the highest American values, yet overlook deliberate violations of the Constitution by our leader in the name of security
- believe in democracy as one of the highest American values, yet dismiss systematic voter



Linda Weltner

fraud, illegal surveillance of innocent citizens; censorship of unpopular ideas and unpopular figures; torture; extraordinary rendition to black sites

Linda, wearing a costume similar to the uniforms worn in the movie, assured us that once our thought processes have been corrected, we will become happy, contented citizens. She served cheesecake she made from her grandmother's recipe, perhaps to calm us before we watched the 1984 film version of the book. Even though she fast-forwarded through the torture scenes, she felt that we needed that and Prozac (relabelled Tic-Tacs) to make what we were seeing less troubling.

However, as we view both a 1950's and a more recent film version of *1984*, read the book and examine the parallels with the society we are living in at this moment, I am sure that quite the opposite will be true.



Explorers participate in class

Meet the Instructors: Carl Stecher

by Davida Rosenblum



Carl Stecher

Tall, articulate, erudite, witty, secular humanist, fan of the universe and master teacher, Carl Stecher, Professor Emeritus of English at Salem State, began to explore the major religions of the world about twenty years ago. Brought up as a Congregationalist, he had lost his faith at the age of sixteen, when, one night as he was praying, he “suddenly felt very strongly that no one was listening. I felt that I might just as well

pray to Zeus or believe in the Easter Bunny”. But in later years, he has become “fascinated by religious belief, all the God questions, everything about religion”.

Years later, he went back to the church, partly for his children’s sake, and partly to see if somehow he’d been missing something as a non-believer. After two years he was convinced that he still could never become a believer, and further study only reinforced this view. Still, he went on to devote much of his adult life to the study of religion, spirituality, and the music and literature that has sprung up around them.

To Explorers he brings great skill as a facilitator. He has a remarkable ability to ‘work’ his students, among whom I am one, by using a Socratic approach that leaves us both enlightened and grappling with more questions than we started out with. Carl’s academic field was, and still is, English Literature and Composition, though many years ago, he added a course at Salem State called “The Search for God”.

Here at Explorers, religion and spirituality are his major themes: he has taught classes in The Old Testament, the New Testament—both examined respectfully, but with the clear eye of the skeptic; a sampling of his favorite poetry, stories and essays from the American literature courses he teaches; “God’s Music” a course focusing on Choral masterpieces (which he confesses to have been “complete flop,” never to be attempted again); a mind-stretching course

entitled “Does God exist?”; and this semester, “Spiritual Literature”, which includes the *Tao Te Ching* and Thoreau’s *Walden*, among others.

Born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin and raised in Sheboygan, he earned his B.A. from Carroll College in Wisconsin in 1963. He started out as a History major, but switched to English Literature when he realized that he was incapable of memorizing great numbers of facts. That same year, while pursuing his Master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin where he was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar, he married Bonnie, his high school sweetheart, “much more intelligent and far prettier than I am” he reports. She has retired after a distinguished career as a librarian, and is now deeply involved in community activities in Georgetown. (They have two grown children and three grandchildren, all of whom, he claims, are extraordinarily beautiful and brilliant.) He went on to earn his doctorate at the University of Connecticut; he wrote his thesis on the political pamphlets of Samuel Johnson.

His career as an educator began with a two year stint at Central State, Ohio, a college that was 90% black. “I chose to teach there partly from a sense of guilt. It was the Vietnam era; I was essentially apolitical and uninvolved, but was feeling that I should do

something that would give me a feeling that I was making a significant contribution to society, not merely pursuing, with so much success, my own happiness”.

In 1970, he received his appointment at Salem State. He was recruited by the chairperson of the English department, who asked him to come for an interview, but at his own expense. Carl, reluctant to pay for his own transportation and hotel accommodations unless there was a good chance that he would be hired, asked if it were likely that he would be offered a position.

“I still remember his response: ‘Oh yes, if you are reasonably presentable.’ I thought this was a standard I could meet.” He has taught there ever since, now part-time.

Carl is clearly delighted to be teaching at Explorers. “People here are so responsive and know so much that I don’t, that I learn a great deal myself. At Salem State, in some courses...I’m happy to get any discussion at all.”

He takes considerable pride in a book-length manuscript,

“People here are so responsive and know so much that I don’t, that I learn a great deal myself.”

— Carl Stecher

God Questions, which he co-authored and edited, based upon hundreds of pages of correspondence with British philosopher of religion, Peter Williams. He takes “rather less satisfaction in the thick file of rejection letters from some of the most distinguished publishing houses in the country (and some you’ve probably never heard of)”. His most recent publication is *Faith, Facts, and the Resurrection of Jesus*, an essay-review in *Skeptic* of N. T. Wright’s *The Resurrection of the Son of God*.



early blight.”); ballet: (“I once danced with the Boston Ballet—in a dream. And I danced very well, except that all the other dancers were wearing ballet slippers, and I was wearing tennis shoes.”) He had to retire from tennis because of a rotator cuff tear. (“It was a relief. I was terrible. But at least I can say that I stopped playing because of an ‘athletic injury’.” He is also a member of the Newburyport Choral Society: (“Strangely, I’ve never been asked to sing a solo.”)

His many interests include music and gardening: (“I have waged heroic combat with deer and woodchucks and

The diversity of his interests suggest that he can wear the mantle of a true Renaissance Man. He remains one of Explorers’ most respected and popular teachers.



Davida Rosenblum interviewing Carl Stecher

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Intermediate PC Basics: The Course

by Suzanne Kiley

Tony Schettino organized this course in a unique way: to meet the needs of diverse interests and skill levels. At the first meeting, we filled out questionnaires identifying the way we use computers, what we would feel confident teaching others, and what we wanted to learn. Each week after that, Tony emailed the class, outlining the things that would be covered in the following session. There was always a group presentation using the big screen. Several class members would then be paired with tutors for lessons on the computers in the Training Center across the hall. Groups formed within the classroom to explore such things as digital camera use. If someone realized that they weren't interested in what was being presented at the next session, Tony assured us that it was all right to miss the class; he could live with that.

I had wanted to learn to use Powerpoint so that I could put together a course presentation without needing a lot

of help. During the second class, I was paired with **Frank Hawke** who patiently walked me through the various menus and tool bars. Because he could demonstrate on his computer, and I could follow on mine, there wasn't the frustration of watching while someone else commanded the keyboard and mouse.

Even though my main purpose in taking the course was to become proficient with Powerpoint, I learned so much more about navigating around the desktop. Tony's mantra, "Know where you are!" is important to remember if you want to find things later. Although I use my computer daily, I had barely begun to explore the tool bars and menus, and had never used the right click button. Unlike children who do these things automatically and without trepidation, I was intimidated by what might happen if I did. Now I am looking forward to the possibilities.



Explorers and mentors in class

Intermediate PC Basics: Digital Camera/Photography

by Joanne Caverly

Imagine my delight when I saw the description of **Tony Schettino's** Intermediate PC Basics course in the Spring catalogue and found listed among the topics: *Choosing & Using a Digital Camera and Digital Photography Basics*. Well, I didn't have to worry about choosing a digital camera, since my family took care of that part, but I certainly was in trouble when trying to learn to use this little wonder. Seemed like everyone else was just clicking away and producing miracles. I would click and then never see my photograph again.

Since I was aware that Tony's career had been with Polaroid, I knew we were in good hands. Tony assembled a talented group of both computer "geeks" and lifelong camera devotees who had mastered the latest offerings in digital photography and were willing to deal on a one-one-one basis with us digital no-nothings.

For starters, the handout on digital basics was both informative and easily understandable, unlike the camera handbook. The treatise on Helpful Tips made good reading and already is looking a little worn on the edges.

I had the privilege of spending several such sessions with **Lenny Burgess**, who very patiently walked me through *Digital Camera Basics*. Another afternoon I was lucky to be with **Dave Delorey** who discovered that my camera had a button which turned off the automatic flash, which I didn't know existed, and which affected my photos dramatically.

My assignment after the first session was to take as many photos as I could before the next session. Of course I waited until that last morning, but I began shooting everything, even from my car when stopped in traffic. I caught a shot of the church that had been moved on Federal Street, and also several shots of the Friendship and



Learning about digital cameras

the Custom House, photographs that this novice thinks are remarkable, though I wait with trepidation for the evaluation of the experts.

Willing and able assistants were plentiful. Among them, Explorers **Norty Halber**, **Frank Hawke**, **Al Nimblett**, **Eric Swanson**, and **Ray Young**. Non-Explorers Lenny Burgess and Dave Delorey were joined by **Ray Tilton**. A great cast!

Oh, I almost forgot the unforgettable: watching Tony demonstrating his incredible computer skills in class. It was fascinating and reinforces my feelings that truly there is no end to what one can learn. When is the next class?

Spring 2009

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

June 10, 2009 – 11:30 am

Danversport Yacht Club

Profile: Jeanne Louizos

by Iris Kaufman

“I like to talk, but not about myself,” was Jeanne’s response when I told her I would like to write a profile about her for the *Compass*. But my persistence wore her down and we made a date for an interview.

Yes, she did have a life before Explorers. Jeanne was born and brought up in Lynn, graduated from Lynn English High School, and then from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. At the time, it was a women-only college. Jeanne’s face was radiant when she described her experience at Wheaton as “outside of my kids, the best

thing that ever happened to me. They taught us how to think – how to solve problems”.

After graduating from Wheaton in 1953, Jeanne used those essential skills at her first job: she became a recreation worker with the American National Red Cross. She was assigned to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital and spent two years there working with Navy men who had been injured in the Korean War. Jeanne saw the difference her presence made in the lives of veterans suffering from physical and emotional wounds.

In the hospital, Jeanne sat with Gene every day for a year. Gene had been burned so badly that both his hands were gone, he had no features on his face and he couldn’t see. But they spent time, “talking, laughing, telling stories. He had a great sense of humor,” she tells me. When Jeanne was transferred they both cried; they lost track of each other and the last time she saw him was in 1954. Then, she adds, “He called me out of the blue two years ago and is alive and well in California.”

From Philadelphia, the Red Cross assigned her to recreation work at Fort Devens in Ayer, Mass. Jeanne “found satisfaction” in this work as well as with the Boston Chapter of the Red Cross in her role as a social worker with service men and their families. Helping people and solving problems when possible led her to her next job.

In 1963 Jeanne was working for the Lynn Welfare Department and serving on the Board of Catholic Services in Lynn, when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts offered her a full scholarship for a Masters in Social Work. After earning her Masters in Clinical Social Work at Boston University, Jeanne became a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and, “ultimately ended up in Saugus Public Schools as a social worker,” where she was employed for thirty years.



Jeanne Louizos

I asked her about her social work in the Saugus schools and she told me that “one of the nice things is letters I get from past ‘councilees’”. One young woman wrote to tell Jeanne that it was “knowing you would be there to talk to every week was the one thing that kept me going”. The woman had gone on to college and medical school and sent the letter twelve years after her graduation from the Saugus school where Jeanne had made such a difference in her life.

During that time, in the mid 70’s, Jeanne was appointed by Education Commissioner Gregory Anrig to serve on the newly created State Advisory Commission for Special Education as its first chairperson. Jeanne tells me, “It was the first time I chaired a committee – I knew from nothing – but I rose to the occasion”.

She *must* have ‘risen’ because Governor Michael Dukakis appointed Jeanne to his task force to study Chapter 766, which Jeanne explained is “a law to provide an adequate and appropriate education for all students, including those with special needs”. On the Advisory Commission, Jeanne worked with people from all over the state reviewing cases as a “kind of a watch-dog commission for state and regional advisory councils”. Jeanne enjoyed the people and learning about special education although “all the input was, at times, overwhelming and I was not unhappy when the term was over”.

In the mid 80’s, Jeanne became active in the Saugus Educators Association. She was a negotiator, vice-president and served as president from 1991 until her retirement in 1996. One year the negotiations had stalled and Jeanne was picketing the Saugus Town Hall with the Saugus Educators Association. The Superintendent of Schools approached her on the picket line and surprised her, saying, “Jeanne, go tell them to call off the job action. We’ll sit with you and renegotiate your demands”. Jeanne indicates that knowing how to negotiate is a useful skill – even in Explorers.

In those busy years *before* Jeanne retired in 1996, she had married and had a family. Currently all three of her children live in Salem. Her older son, Steve, is a Special

Education teacher in Middleton; her daughter, Michele, is finishing her nursing degree; and her son, Mike, works for the town of Marblehead where Jeanne moved in 1962.

In the busy years *after* Jeanne retired, she began to offer her expertise and talents as a volunteer. She volunteered at the Marblehead Counseling Center, was on the Board of Directors at North Shore Elder Services in Danvers, and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Marblehead Council on Aging. “I love being involved with seniors – it’s a great place to be.”

To all this volunteer experience we add the positions she has filled with so much generosity for our LLI. Jeanne joined Explorers in September, 2002. She served on the Curriculum Committee from April 2003 to the present, except during the time she served as President in 2007 and

2008. She was Communications Committee Chair from Fall 2004 to June 2006; Vice President from June 2006 to June 2007; Acting President from March 2007 to June 2007; President from June 2007 to June 2008; Immediate Past President from June 2008 to June 2009 and, at present, Curriculum Chair.

“I’ve enjoyed seeing Explorers grow since I became a member and I’m happy knowing that I’m someone who has contributed”.

— Jeanne Louizos

So – I asked Jeanne what she likes to do in her spare time. Turns out she has time to play bridge once a month and cribbage every week. She belongs to a Marblehead book club and likes to do the Sunday *New York Times* crossword puzzle. This woman enjoys challenges!

When I asked if she had any goals for the future, Jeanne told me that she’d like to learn Chinese. Since Salem State doesn’t offer a class in Chinese, she is inquiring about the possibility of exchanging English lessons for lessons in Chinese with a Chinese student. As a child, Jeanne learned to speak, read and write Greek from her family and a tutor. When she and her childhood friends get together, they like to speak Greek, and Jeanne intends to stay fluent in that beautiful language.

When I asked for a comment about her time with Explorers, Jeanne said with a grin, “I’ve enjoyed all of the experiences, both positive and negative I’ve had with Explorers. I’ve enjoyed seeing Explorers grow since I became a member and I’m happy knowing that I’m someone who has contributed”.

Serendipity at Explorers

by Marilyn Collins

“Are there not some pursuits that we practice because they are good in themselves, and some pleasures that are final? And is not (reading) among them? I have sometimes dreamt, at least, that when the day of judgment dawns and the great conquerors and lawyers and statesmen come to receive their rewards...the Almighty will turn to Peter and say, not without a certain envy when he sees us coming with our books under our arms, ‘Look, these need no reward. We have nothing to give them here. They have enjoyed reading’.”

—Virginia Woolf

Serendipity is the effect by which one accidentally discovers something fortunate, especially while looking for something else entirely. This is what is waiting for you at our **Book Club**, meeting each semester on the first Thursday of every month at 11:30. Whether you are a bibliophile, an avid reader, or someone who can no longer read but loves books, this is for you!

You’ll be in good company for sure. Henry David Thoreau loved reading. He was known to say, “The next time the novelist rings the bell, I will not stir, though the meeting house burn down”. In 1726 Benjamin Franklin formed his own book club, *Junto*, a literary society. Ernest Hemingway, in *Old Newsman*, writes in a letter from Cuba, “All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one, you will feel as if all that happened to you: the good, the bad, and the ecstasy, the remorse and the sorrow, the people, the places, and how the weather was”.

Ask **Joey Stricklen**, **Kay Piemonte** or **Eve Graff** to shed some light on what you’ve been missing. Joey says,

“The book club meeting is...
for intelligent, thoughtful people
to analyze literary works”.

—Joey Stricklen

“The book club meeting is...for intelligent, thoughtful people to analyze literary works”. The Explorer’s Book Club is that and so much more! A case in point would be a recent meeting when *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, a book about the life and loves of Frank Lloyd Wright, was discussed. There was not only vigorous discussion, but one member brought in photos of some of Wright’s renowned architecture. Even someone who had not read the book would have come away from this discussion with new knowledge and appreciation of this American icon.

Each meeting has a volunteer facilitator who smoothes and encourages conversation, prepares questions ahead of time to ensure rich discussion and welcomes differing

opinions. Those who have read the book often comment on the specifics: who their favorite character was, the author’s choice of title, and variations on the theme.

The May 7th meeting, was facilitated by Joey Stricklen, and reviewed *The Zookeeper’s Wife*, by Diane Ackerman. The June 4th meeting, facilitated by Kay Piemonte, will feature *Three Junes*, by Julia Glass, a delightful local author who has graciously lectured here at Explorers. *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barber, will be the subject of the first book club meeting in September, facilitated by yours truly. If you haven’t read this superb, mesmerizing book, it’s a great summer read!

So, if you have “...loved reading...” like Virginia Woolf, want serendipity in your life, and enjoy the warm fellowship of fellow Explorers, enter this portal to our own literary society. Ben Franklin won’t be there, but you’re sure to see other familiar faces.

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the spring edition of *Compass*. During this last year we have initiated a few changes that we think have created a more interesting publication. As you may have noticed, each edition contains two or three profiles: it is the people here at Explorers, after all, who make this organization the amazing place it is. If you have any suggestions as to other types of articles you’d like to see included, please let me know.

And speaking of people, I want to thank my editorial staff for a great year of journalism! All of you have done superior work in the researching, interviewing, writing, copy editing, and photography that makes this quarterly newsletter so readable and informative. It has been wonderful year of learning for me and I thank each of you for this ongoing opportunity.

—Pat Sylvia

Committee Reports

Compass

Pat Sylvia, Chair

During *The Compass*' 2008-09 publication year the editor has added three new members to the editorial staff, which brings the staff up to eight writers and includes a copy editor. Three regular columns have been added:

Profile, Meet the Instructors, and tidbits.

The editor is encouraging good journalism: articles that are diverse in style, well written, and interesting to readers. The goal is to have *The Compass* a publication that informs and entertains, is looked forward to, and read cover to cover.

Hospitality

Barbara Dee, Chair

Serving cookies and "real" coffee seem to make people very happy at our Friday Coffees, which have been well attended and a welcome learning experiences for Explorers. I want to thank **Gerry Silver** for being such a helpful right hand.

On another note, many Explorers who have been absent because of illness or other problems have received gifts of fruit or flowers from the committee. In response, we have received written and verbal expressions of appreciation, resulting in warm relationships between the givers and receivers. Please let me know if we can be of help to you.

Membership Committee

Shifra Boudreau, Chair

It has been my pleasure to serve as chairperson of the Membership Committee for the past five years. During this time our membership has grown from just over 320 members to almost 400 people looking to make new friends in a learning environment. Many of our members heard of our organization from relatives and friends. However, many others learned about

what Explorers has to offer by attending one of the many informative programs that **Jeanne Louizos, Carol Jerome**, and I were invited to attend at several local Councils of Aging, Alumni weekends at Salem State College, and retirement seminars around the region. Additionally, copies of course offerings and intersession programs were distributed to local libraries, and the Salem Access Cable Station lists our schedule of upcoming events. But more important, the growth in membership could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the committee members who established the "Meet and Greet" program at the beginning of the fall semester and the many follow-up phone calls made to new members to get their feedback.

I would personally like to say, "Thanks for a job well done" to **Meridy Giles, Muriel Goldberg, Irene Kravetz, Shirley Lipman** and **Joe Piemonte** who have been members of this committee for as long a time as I have.

Special Events

Georgie Sawyer, Chair

Last June, 150 Explorers came to our closing luncheon at Danversport Yacht Club. In September, Explorers LLI opened the year with a lovely repast, welcoming all new and returning members. Our Holiday Party, again at DYC, had 163 people in attendance, including several very happy raffle winners.

On June 10, 2009 we will meet to celebrate another remarkable year of learning and friendship. I hope to see you there.

Editors note: four other committee reports were included in the March '09 Compass

Explorers

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Immediate Past President: **Jeanne Louizos**

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Membership: **Shifra Boudreau**

Special Events: **Georgie Sawyer**

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Spring 2009

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

June 10, 2009

11:30 am

Danversport Yacht Club

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