



Resources for Life Long Learners in Newton and Surrounding Communities

Elderhostel, INC. 175 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02111 1-877-426-8056
<http://www.elderhostel.org>

Elderhostel is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing a diverse and affordable selection of learning adventures to individuals 55 and over. During the past year over 200,000 attendees participated in close to 10,000 programs in the United States and more than 90 countries around the world. Detailed information on trips and programs and trips are available on their web site and through the organization's many catalogues.

- **Traditional programs** are based on Elderhostel's early offerings and venture to nearly every corner of the globe to examine almost every conceivable subject. Traditional Programs provide Elderhostelers with the opportunities to study diverse cultures, delve into ancient histories, study literature and art, and learn about modern peoples and issues.
- **Exploring North America** are itinerary-based programs trace themes through designated areas of the United States and Canada. These programs are segmented into seven types: American Heritage, American Landscapes, Cultural Arts, Food & Wine, Houses & Gardens, National Parks, and Signature Cities.
- **Adventure programs** set aside at least a third of the total program time for outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, and biking.
- **Service programs** involve both learning and hands-on doing to serve the needs of a community. From conducting wildlife or marine research to protect endangered species to tutoring school children to building affordable housing, service programs afford Elderhostelers the chance to give something back to society.
- **Shipboard programs** explore the world's most fascinating waters - from the Aegean Sea to the Mississippi River, Antarctic waters to the canals of France. Participants can study history, art, ecology, and culture aboard a floating classroom.
- **Intergenerational programs** are designed to appeal to Elderhostelers and their age-eligible grandchildren or young companions.

Life Long Learning Institutes (also called Institutes for Learning in Retirement)

A Life Long Learning Institute (LLI) is a community-based organization of retirement age people dedicated to meeting the educational interests of its members. Although every LLI is unique and independent, many LLIs are sponsored by a college or university; provide unique, non-credit academic programs developed by the members themselves; and have an open membership for retirement age learners regardless of previous education. In addition, most LLIs are governed by their own members, and have members leading some of the academic coursework in lieu of professional faculty. There are over 500 LLIs in the United States and Canada. There are over

1000 in other countries around the world, where they are usually called Universities of the Third Age.

The Elderhostel Institute Network (<http://www.elderhostel.org/ein/intro.asp>) is a voluntary association of Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLIs) organized in 1988 by twenty-four LLIs in collaboration with Elderhostel, Inc. The purpose of the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) is to strengthen and support the effectiveness of their programs and spread the LLI concept to new communities. EIN does not prescribe fees or approve curriculum; those decisions are made independently by each LLI.

The first Institute for Learning in Retirement was created in 1962 under the sponsorship of the New School for Social Research in New York City. Over 50 new LLIs are begun each year in the United States. A typical LLI has 200 – 300 members, many of whom volunteer their services to lead courses, serve on committees, or help with the logistics of managing the program.

Currently in the Boston area there are Lifelong Learning Institutes connected with Boston College, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Many of these institutes have waiting lists so individuals are encouraged to explore several different programs.

Boston College Alumni Association Institute for Learning in Retirement

<http://www.bc.edu/friends/alumni/about/other/ilr/>
Alumni House, 825 Centre Street, Newton, MA, 02458-2577
617-552-2950 BCILR@BC.edu

In 1992 the Boston College Alumni Office founded the Boston College Institute for Learning in Retirement for the personal enrichment of retired and semi-retired alumni and friends of Boston College. Classes meet for two hours on Mondays and Tuesdays for thirteen weeks in the fall and spring at Alumni House on the Newton campus. Members assume responsibility for sharing their knowledge and experience with others. In addition to the classes, there are lunchtime speakers. Active membership has grown to 450 over the last decade. There is currently a waiting list.

Brandeis Adult Learning Institute (BALI) MS 085

Brandeis University, 415 South Street, Waltham, MA 02454
781-736-2992
bali@brandeis.edu <http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/bali>

Established in 2000, the BALI Program comprises a diversity of courses, seminars, lectures, and programs combined with social events and local and regional activities designed for retired, semi-retired, and other adult participants. The emphasis within this non-credit program is on peer leadership, providing opportunities for individual and group participation and research, assigned readings, and individual presentations, sustained by an atmosphere of sociability and mutual encouragement.

BALI members may choose to participate in directed study groups on a variety of subjects. Composed of five to twenty participants, these study groups generally meet for ten consecutive weeks. While most of the study groups are peer led, some are conducted by visiting specialists. Areas of study include current events and issues, politics, literature, philosophy, art, music, theater, films, religion, and science, to name just a few of the wide gamut of educational opportunities. Members are welcome to suggest topics and leaders for courses in future semesters.

A special “Lunch and Learn” program offers presentations by professors and specialists in their individual areas of teaching and research. Occasionally there are shorter courses, symposiums, field trips and social events. In the spring, 2004 study groups are offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement

Leonie Gordon, Director gordon@hudce.harvard.edu
51 Brattle St., Cambridge 617-495-4072

Established in 1977 by Harvard's Division of Continuing Education, the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement is a membership organization that offers courses in a wide variety of subjects to approximately 500 retirees. All courses are designed and led by members themselves and are conducted in seminar format involving active class participation.

Membership in HILR is not restricted to Harvard alumni or affiliates. Because of the need to maintain a cap of 500 on the membership, a limited number of new members can be admitted each year. The Institute seeks candidates who are intellectually committed to group study, lively discussion, and oral reports, and who show a willingness to serve on one of the program committees. An Admissions Committee consisting of member volunteers reviews application forms and interviews all candidates.

LETS Program: Life Enrichment Through Studies

Gerontology Institute, UMass Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393
617-287-7312
<http://www.lets.umb.edu> Contact: Mary.McCarthy@umb.edu

Established in 1999 with a University of Massachusetts’s Service Endowment grant and with support from the Gerontology Institute of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, LETS is one of 18 LLIs operating in Massachusetts and is the only program associated with a public university in the city of Boston. Most of the LETS instructors, called “facilitators” are retirees. Many are retired or current UMass Boston faculty. Others are LETS members who volunteer to facilitate a course of their interest. LETS members come from over 50 cities and towns, particularly from the South Shore, Quincy, Milton, South Boston, and Dorchester. However, most members have had no previous contact with the University.

Nearly 50 courses or seminars on a variety of topics are offered each year. They meet once a week during the day and last anywhere from 4 to 12 weeks. Field trips, special lectures, and social events are also included in the offerings. Most seminars are held at the Harbor Campus of UMass Boston. Members may take up to three per semester, serve on committees, and participate in operating the program. They can participate in brown-bag lunch discussions, attend special events, and use the UMass Boston’s library and Clark Athletic facilities on campus.

Tufts Institute for Lifelong Learning

Medford, MA 02155 617-627-5885 <http://www.tufts.edu/alumni/ed-tilr.html>

The Tufts Institute for Lifelong Learning (TILL) offers alumni, Medford and Somerville community residents and friends of Tufts the opportunity to return to the classroom with on-campus study groups and online distance learning courses. With course offerings focusing on

subjects as varied as modern art, the world economy and memoir writing, TILL provides a wealth of options for intellectual inquiry. Participants also participate in informal "Lunch and Learn" sessions and book club discussions.

By design, TILL focuses on involvement; class participants apply for membership to the TILL community, register for courses, and volunteer on committees. Courses depend on committed volunteer instructors and members. As a self-governing body, TILL relies on its members to serve on committees dealing with admissions, curriculum, finance, marketing, special sessions, hospitality, and the program's newsletter. TILL was launched by the University in October 2000 and is supported by the Tufts University Alumni Association and Tufts University.

Other University-Based Programs

Andover Newton Theological School

210 Herrick Rd, Newton Centre, MA 02459
Phone 1-800-964-ANTS
<http://www.ants.edu/>

Andover Newton offers many educational opportunities for life long learners. Individuals who wish to audit one or two courses per semester pay a \$100 registration fee per semester. There are also workshops, seminars and E-learning courses.

Boston University Evergreen Program

808 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 112, Boston, MA 02215
617-353-9852 www.bu.edu/lifelong/evergreen

The Boston University Evergreen Program, which began in the summer of 1980, offers a specially designed course of study and activities for persons 58 and over. The program includes lectures, discussions, artistic and cultural events, physical education, and recreation. Faculty members and distinguished guest instructors teach in both the lecture and workshop format. The Evergreen Program is offered under the auspices of Boston University Metropolitan College.

Each semester Evergreen conducts a lecture and discussion series. In the spring of 2004, the topics included: "there are several one hour Evergreen classes that meet weekly; typical courses topics are aspects of literature, music, art, and current events.

Through Evergreen individuals over the age of 58 can register to audit regular university courses at a per course price of \$50. Acceptance into a course is at the discretion of the instructor and is on a space available basis. To participant you must register in person at the Evergreen Office and present a class admit note to the faculty member teaching the class. The Boston University course schedule is available on the Boston University web site.

Hebrew College

160 Herrick Road , Newton Centre, MA 02459
Phone: 617-559-8709
<http://www.hebrewcollege.edu>

The Center for Adult Jewish Learning (CAJL) at Hebrew College offers an extensive continuing education program at their Newton campus and community satellite locations. The educational

program includes lectures, language study, an intensive two-year adult Jewish learning program, and a Jewish Women's Studies program. The college also offers courses on the internet.

Learning Opportunities at Art, History, and Science Museums

Many of Massachusetts' outstanding art, history, science and special interest museums, botanical gardens and zoos offer classes and lectures for adults. Many of these institutions have highly specialized educational programs that train volunteer docents to lead tours of the museum's collections. In addition to their specialized training, docents may be able to enroll in an institution's other educational programs for reduced or waived fees.

Community Based Educational Programs

Lifetime Learning

Newton Community Education
Laurie Swett, Coordinator 617-559-6994.

Lifelong Learning is a nonsectarian, nonprofit, self-supporting educational program for seniors sponsored by Newton Community Education. Created by seniors in 1982, Newton's Lifetime Learning program is the first and longest running program in the area. Classes are held eight Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm in the fall and the spring. Lifetime Learning rents classroom space at Congregation Mishkan Tefilia, 300 Hammond Pond Parkway, Chestnut Hill. Participants may enroll in two courses by term for \$39.

In addition to offering a variety of courses each term, there is a Sound of Music performance series that showcases a different, highly accomplished musician each week, and a News and Views lecture series that features lectures by authorities from the fields of world affairs, politics, law, education, and the media. All of the speakers and instructors volunteer their time.

Lifetime Learning has grown to over 300 active members who reside in Newton and the 32 surrounding communities.

Compiled by Tamara J. Bliss, Ph.D. for Discovering What's Next: Revitalizing Retirement Forum, January 22, 2004

Based on information published in organizational web sites and catalogues