

President's Message

On December 28, 2006, your president was off to London to see the Queen. Actually, a whole bunch of Queens, as I went with my Red Hat group and there were about 30 queens (each group has one). The Union Jack was not flying over Buckingham Palace, so we were told that Liz was in Scotland for the holiday. On New Year's Day the Union Jack was flying, so the Queen was in the building. We were invited to sport our purple outfits and red hats in the 21st London New Year's Day Parade. We rode in open-air double-decker buses as the walk was two-and-a-half miles. Quite a lot since we had already worn ourselves out. We were 137 strong.

Highlights: Riding the London Eye, Harrods department store, an English pub, New Year's eve on the balcony right across from the fireworks, seeing the old Scotland Yard, visiting with British cabbies, but my all time favorites were Stonehenge, Bath (pronounced bahth), and best of all, a long visit to the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Park. I was not going to leave there without seeing that. The flights are long and recovery is hard on our old bones but with the English pound what it is, staying for a long time would be very expensive. Yes, I have pictures.

Many thanks to my intrepid crew who help to make ElderCollege what it is. You have a wonderful, behind-the-scenes group with Hospitality, Curriculum, Newsletter, Membership, Audio Visual, Office Manager and the list goes on. There are a whole lot of people who open for classes, teach, facilitate and you are my heroes. My love and good thoughts go out to Julie Ley who is struggling to get back to health. Julie, we didn't realize how much you really did. Get well soon. LaMerne

SUNDIAL BRIDGE TRIP

Is anyone interested in a trip in spring to the **Sundial Bridge** in Redding, Calif.? Western Discovery has an exciting overnight trip planned that also includes Turtle Bay Exploration Park, a professional guide, meals, hotel, motorcoach and more. Complete information is on the yellow sheets on the sign-in table at ElderCollege. This sounds like a great trip.

VERY IMPORTANT SPRING CURRICULUM ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

Dr. Eric Rasmussen of the University English Department will present four Shakespeare Comedies for us. The course will focus on the evolution of the comic genre in Shakespeare's writing from the early comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to the darker "problem" comedies, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Measure for Measure*. We will divide our time between studying the texts and viewing taped performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the New York Shakespeare Festival, the BBC Shakespeare TV series and feature films.

(Recommended reading: *Four Comedies*, by William Shakespeare, edited by David Bevington and Scott Kastan; Bantam Classics, 1988. ISBN: 0-533-21281-8.)

The dates of the events will be Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24; May 8, 15. Time: 12 noon-1:30 p.m.

"Going to Hell in a Handbasket" was canceled on January 25. It has been rescheduled for February 10, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Business Meeting, May 18, 2007; noon-2 p.m.

Spanish Class will be held on March 16, March 23, and April 27, along with all other dates listed.

"Stress-Free Schools" presentation will be on March 30, 10-11:30 a.m.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING OLD
84-year-old Harriet Doerr uses her experiences in her
novels
by
E. Louise Smith

"Don't call me a senior citizen," 84-year-old Harriet Doerr snapped at me. "I hate euphemisms. I'm old. There's nothing wrong with being old."

Such indignation was unexpected coming from this tiny, fragile-appearing, white-haired, legally blind lady who was led to the speaker's podium by her daughter.

Doerr was at Rio Hondo College to talk about her second book, "Consider This, Senora."

"Your age doesn't matter if you're at all interested in something. Old age gives you a very long point of view. It gives you a backward look which is wonderful for a writer. What happens to memory as the years go by, I think, is that it gets mixed up with imagination. Who's to say if what I write is actual fact or not? It doesn't matter. It's how I remember it.

"The wisdom of old age never comes. As soon as we think we have the answer, another unfathomable question comes up that we have to figure out."

In 1983, Doerr published her best-selling novel, "Stones of Ibarra," which was turned into a Hallmark Special for television starring Glenn Close. In 1984, it won the American Book Award for Fiction.

She was 73 years old when she started this whole new career.

In 1972, while they were living in Mexico, Doerr's husband died. In spite of her great love for Mexico and the Mexican people, clearly shown in her two novels, Doerr returned to the United States to earn the bachelor's degree she had abandoned for marriage.

"I was late the first day. The door was closed when I arrived at the classroom," Doerr said. "Very discouraging when you're 65 years old and know that everyone inside is 19 or 20.

"I stood there and thought to myself, 'You foolish old woman, what are you standing here for? Just go home.'

"I almost left and then I remembered something that baseball player, Bob Gibson, said. 'I don't believe in standing around the mound waiting for the catcher's signal to try and scare the batter. My philosophy is just hum it in there, baby, and let's see who's best, them or me.'"

"I just opened the door and went on in," Doerr said.

She graduated from Stanford University in 1978. Doerr went immediately into the graduate writer's program and wrote many short stories which finally became "Stones of Ibarra," a novel about her life with her husband in an isolated area of Mexico, where they were the only Anglos.

"If I hadn't received a lot of encouragement, I never would have written because I have no sense of security about my writing at all," Doerr said.

She was once asked by a young writer if she were happy during the 42 years she was doing nothing but being a wife, mother, gardener and charity worker.

"I couldn't believe the question, and I asked her to repeat it. Then I said I never heard of anyone being happy for 42 years. But it was exciting when I could change the occupation on my income tax forms from 'housewife' to 'writer.' I felt like pouring a bottle of champagne over the papers."

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THE BOOK SHELF AT ELDERCOLLEGE

ElderCollege has a bookshelf for all of us to enjoy, where we can donate our unwanted books, CDs, magazines, videos, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles. Feel free to take home whatever appeals to you.

COMING METAPHYSICS CLASSES

We invite you to join the Metaphysics Class meeting for a presentation by Vicki Linn on February 15, 2007, at Elder College, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Vicki is a clinical hypnotherapist and is proficient in massage, Reiki and channeling. She works with Circle of Life Hospice and as a spiritual care counselor. Come hear how she uses her special gifts in the Reno community. Her subject will be something like "Living with paranormal gifts."

Madeline Nichols will be speaking March 29 to the Metaphysics class from 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Her subject will be something like "Healing with sound."

EDITORIAL
By Louise Lang

I hope you can read my New England writing. The holidays happened for me in the middle of New Hampshire, (New Hampshire to us). It wasn't much colder there than in Reno, but it felt a lot colder due to the humidity. I had a great time with my sister Mahgie, her son Kriss, and the dogs: Beethoven and Zack. That area had a warmer than usual November and December. Then it suddenly got cold. While I was walking in the village — so small they have no gas station — I passed a woman who said to me with a big smile, "Well, we finally got some winter weather." She seemed to welcome the cold that I was just tolerating. I dressed for the Arctic every day, long johns and earmuffs and mittens. Locals didn't, of course.

I lived there during the sixties, and in many ways I still miss the small towns where everyone knows everyone, and there is still much undeveloped forest, many lakes and rivers and ponds. In spite of barking dogs, my sister has had bears come and pull down her bird feeders for the seeds. Her side yards are trees, and her back acreage is natural forest with a stream. It's very peaceful.

Our dear friend **Julie Ley** is a patient at Regent Care, 555 Hammil Lane, Room 315 A, Reno, 89511-1004, and would love to hear from us. Address mail to Apollonia J. Ley. Her mind and spirits are good, but her body hasn't caught up with them as yet.

Scholarships covering tuition at ElderCollege are available for the 2006-2007 academic year. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from such assistance, please contact the Scholarship Chair, Margo Daniels, at 322-1469 or call and leave a message at ElderCollege and your call will be returned. The scholarships are good for one year only and do not include parking.

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CALL TO CURRENT OR EX-MUSICIANS

Anyone interested in forming a musical group, please take notice. If you currently, or in the past, have experience, however limited, in playing any musical instrument and would like to have some fun on a very informal basis, please contact Ron Abdo at (775) 828-0726. (We will not be practicing at ElderCollege.)

To use the **UNR Library** you need to obtain a WolfCard. Shera will assist in getting one of these so please call her at (775) 784-1676 at least 24 hours in advance of picking up your card. You will need to give her your name and birth date. She will explain where you can pick up the card. Please contact her if you are going to use the library (not if you "think" you will use it).

Facilitators and class monitors: We know emergencies arise. Zane Nelson, (775) 348-8683, LaMerne Kozlowski, (775) 358-1746 or (775) 750-6290, Louise Lang (775) 322-8700, and Pat Zimmerman (775) 322-3949, are your emergency call people that can be at ElderCollege the quickest. Please give them as much advance notice as you can. Remember they may not be able to stay to lock up, so they will ask someone to attend to that duty.

CALENDAR

Plan to attend the following events in addition to our many interesting classes:

1st Tuesdays	Board of Trustees meets at 1 p.m.
Every Tuesday	Cracker Barrel at 2 p.m.
1st & 3rd Mondays	Coop Group at noon
2nd Mondays	Mystery Readers Group at 10 a.m.
Watch for dates of	Brown Bag Lunch at noon

Please be in class on time!

Arriving late disrupts because of the noise of the buzzer, then by someone having to go and press the button to let you in, and then your late arrival also distracts attention from the presenter. It is inconsiderate to be late for classes.

All classes are held at ElderCollege, 401 W. Second St., Rm 235, unless otherwise noted.



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