Elaine Liner, long time theater critic for the Dallas Observer and newly minted playwright, will be the keynote speaker at the 2014 Seniors Active in Learning Instructor Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 A.M. in the clubhouse of the Hills at Prestonwood Country Club, 6600 Columbine Way in Plano.

We welcome Elaine, a former SAIL instructor, who captivated us with informative and lively classes on how to watch and criticize movies. All of Elaine’s classes began with a recap of the latest plays she had seen. For a few moments each week we traveled with her from one theater company to the next, received a quick plot abstract, heard how the actors approached their role, and pictured the stage settings.

This past August, Elaine dramatically expanded her already extensive resume! Many of us SAIL’ers followed her to Edinburgh, Scotland through Facebook as she morphed from theater critic to playwright and actress. Bravely and triumphantly she marketed and presented her solo one-act comedy, *Sweater Curse: A Yarn about Love*, at the annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Per the website, its scope includes “theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, cabaret, children’s shows, musicals, operas, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.” This festival dates back to 1947 and is the largest of its kind in the world.

Elaine’s newest play, entitled *Finishing School* is currently being staged at The Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive in Dallas. It runs through March 20. The teaser is as follows: *Is assisted living like high school all over again?*

Everyone! Mark your calendars for May 7 to come honor our amazing instructors and, in addition, treat yourself to the witty observations of theater critic, playwright, actress, blogger, knitter, occasional restaurant reviewer, and part time swim instructor, Elaine Liner!

\--- Muriel Dean

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**Notice of SAIL Annual Meeting and Instructor Appreciation Luncheon**

May 7, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.
Prestonwood Country Club:
The Hills
6600 Columbine, Plano, Texas

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The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2014-2015:

President: Madeline Meyer
Vice-Pres.: Shellie Lewis
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Munzell
Secretary: Jean Bauer
At large: Mary Jo Johnson & Fred Hondowitz
We extend a warm welcome to the 105 new members in SAIL this spring! We currently have 507 students enrolled in classes which is a new record. Thanks to Jean Martin, our coordinator, who is extra efficient these days and keeps everything running smoothly.

Among the classes offered for the first time this spring were: Eureka! It’s Math, The Search for Intelligent Life, Pop Music Icons of the 1980’s, Roundabout Book Club, and U.S. Prisons and Prison Reform Movements. Some classes have limited enrollment and are offered each semester so that we can accommodate as many people as possible. We continue to be inspired by our excellent teachers.

Several of our members are in their nineties and, by example, have shown us their commitment to a goal of life-time learning.

A six week summer session will begin June 2nd. There will be fewer course offerings compared to the fall and spring terms, but the cost is only $20 for those topics that interest you. Perhaps your summer plans will include some travel. Our guest lecturer, Teresa Wilkin, told us about the opportunities available through the Road Scholar Educational Adventures created by Elderhostel. Have a safe and enriching summer.

Memo to SAIL Students and Instructors from the SAIL Board of Directors:

We are a smart bunch of people. Most of the time that is a good thing. Sometimes a few of us get carried away.

The Board has received multiple complaints of the following: raising of voices, standing without being asked to do so by the instructor, unrelenting disagreement with presentation content, attempts to carry on a one-on-one conversation with the instructor, completely off subject comments, repeated efforts to demonstrate your knowledge, verbalization of personal prejudice, and grandstanding.

Responsibility for creating a comfortable learning environment is shared by students and instructors. Instructors have the authority to set the rules and may ask a student to leave or cut off discussion if a student persists in interrupting. We always learn more when we are actively listening than when we are talking. We value and respect all of our students and instructors.

What book have you read recently that you would recommend? ..... by Ann Grant

Jeannine Watson, Threat Vector - Tom Clancy
Mary Jo Johnson, Book Thief - Marcus Zusak
Elizabeth Whatley, Best Kept Secret - Jeffrey Archer
ChiChi Hoquee, Peony in Love - Lisa See
Barbara Collins, House Rules - Jodi Picoult
Julia Kidd, The Shack - Wm. Paul Young
Rick Newbern, Pop Goes the Weasel - Jas. Patterson
Pat Newbern, World Without End - Ken Follett
Mike Creecy, Killing Jesus - Bill O’Reilly/M. Dugard
Raye Achilli, The Ripper - Isabel Allende
Joe Savage, Things That Matter - C. Krauthammer
Ann Grant, Love in a Cold Climate - Nancy Mitford
Frank Dickey, Path Between the Seas - David McCullough

DID YOU KNOW? The SAIL office has a case full of interesting books donated by members for your reading pleasure. Come check them out - LITERALLY!
Profile: A SAIL Founding Couple

In 1996, Sally and Dick Roberts noticed a small article in the local newspaper. It was an invitation. The article invited those interested in adult education to come to a planning meeting sponsored by Elderhostel and Collin County Community College. That group became the founders of Seniors Active in Learning or SAIL. The Roberts have been an important part of SAIL ever since, taking Board of Director positions, giving talks on SAIL around the community, serving on committees such as Strategic Planning and, of course taking many classes. Dick was SAIL’s first president and served two terms.

Dick Roberts came from New York City to the University of Oklahoma, got his business degree, joined the Army, spent time in Korea as a Field Artillery Officer and eventually went back to NYC. Opportunities in the textile business brought him to Dallas where he had spent time as a college student, drawn by the culture, sports and warm weather.

Sally Lenarsic was born in Bay City, Michigan, left there to go to flight attendant school in St. Paul, Minnesota, was employed by Braniff Airways and Pan American and traveled all over the world. While flying for Braniff, she was based in Dallas. Sally and Dick met in their apartment complex near Love Field in the late 1950’s. Imagine all those young adults in a vibrant city, full of opportunities for fun and interesting careers. Since one could not be a flight attendant and be married, Sally decided she would give up her flying career for Dick. They were married in 1960.

They raised three children (Leslie, Dana and Andy) in a new area of Richardson, Canyon Creek, where they still live today. They loved to travel, so family vacation time was spent in a camper visiting all the national parks and sights in the USA.

Sally went back to school while the children were young, and nine years later had an Associate Degree in child development from Eastfield Jr. College and a B.S. Degree in generic special education from the University of Texas at Dallas. Later on she used her knowledge and writing courses to write a historical fiction book for children, called The Legend of Crystal Lake (Eakin Press, 2001 – check it out on Amazon.com). Dick changed jobs to work for the IRS. Together they were active in their children’s and in their church activities such as Marriage Encounter and mentoring engaged couples, and later mentoring at their local elementary school.

When the children were grown, Dick retired early so they could travel. They went on 38 different trips with Elderhostel groups, becoming hosts and ambassadors. One trip several years ago was to a Texas Rangers Spring Training baseball camp in Arizona where they met coaches and players and left with behind-the-scenes memories. More recently, most of their traveling has been to visit their children and grandchild in various parts of the country.

Their love of learning something new goes on. Sally took drawing and painting lessons through SAIL. She is now a budding artist and exhibits her work in SAIL art shows and at other venues. Dick also exhibits his photography. (A favorite place to take pictures, he says, is in the Hill Country at bluebonnet time.) Dick likes his New York Times Sunday crossword puzzles and enjoys making his own wine. Some of their favorite SAIL classes are literature, history and music.

Individually and together, Sally and Dick Roberts have been a great asset to SAIL. We owe them a debt of gratitude, all because they saw a small article in the newspaper in 1996.

------Ann Grant
CALLING ALL ARTISTS
TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL SAIL ART SHOW

The SAIL Social Committee is sponsoring the fifth annual exhibition of SAIL artists on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. All skill levels and types of art, including the written word (short stories, poetry, etc.), are welcome. The exhibition will be held at the Courtyard Center Campus from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

EXHIBITION GUIDELINES:

1. Exhibitor must be a SAIL member or instructor.

2. No more than two pieces of art per participant.

3. Art should be brought to the SAIL office on Tuesday, April 1st or before 9:00 am on Wednesday, April 2nd. All artwork left at the SAIL office the day before the Exhibition will be locked up overnight. All art will be returned to the artist and should be picked up after the Exhibition.

4. You must register by calling or emailing Debby Worthington at 214-785-9014 or debby264@verizon.net no later than March 26th with the following information which will be displayed with your artwork:

   A. Name of participant

   B. Category of Artwork (i.e. oil painting, drawing, pastels, photography, paper crafts, jewelry, quilting, flower arranging, short story, poetry, etc.)

   C. Approximate size of the piece

   D. Title of piece

   E. Comments (any comments the artist would include on their place card).

5. Be sure to put your name and telephone number on the back of your piece.

6. If your display piece is for sale, you may put the price of the artwork on the backside of the piece. Also, if you sell your artwork, please feel free to bring business cards to place next to your art. Members interested in purchasing an item on display or other pieces you’ve made will contact you directly.

If you have an easel (or two!) please bring it with your artwork. There is no cost to exhibit or attend this function. Family and friends are welcome to see the exhibition (you do not need to be a SAIL member to attend the Art Show).

Seniors Active in Learning, 4800 Preston Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75093. Telephone 972.985.3788