

# A SHORT HISTORY OF ADVENTURES IN LIFELONG LEARNING

**Adventures in Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.)**, began in May of 1995, when Gene and Florence Frank approached Three Rivers' Administration to introduce the concept of bringing an Elderhostel Outreach program to Norwich, similar to one that they had attended at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. The Franks met with Barbara Segal, who was then Director of Marketing and Recruitment in the Student Services Division. Ms. Segal enthusiastically agreed to support the group. The Franks then held a meeting at the college for the purpose of forming this organization of seniors who would join and support such a program. The Department of Continuing Education & Community Services became the sponsor of the program.

In September 1995, the group held an open house and registration period for eight noncredit classes being offered that fall. Over 75 people joined and attended classes. The following spring, another open house and registration was held and this time fourteen noncredit classes were offered. Membership grew to over 120 people. The program continued to grow and by the second year the membership was over 150 members, and the organization went from provisional status to full membership in the Elderhostel Institute, the umbrella group that administered the Outreach Program. By the tenth year, membership had grown to over 250.

Early courses offered a variety of subjects that included *Gardening, The Supernatural and New England, Futurism, Book Review, Piano Lessons, Creative Writing, Comparative Religion, Local History, Astronomy, Connecticut Authors, Ethics, Current Events and Classic Movies*. The current curricula has grown to offer classes in such categories as *Computer Classes; Field trips to museums, Art Galleries, National Historic Homes, and other interesting places; Faculty Lecture Series; Ethnic Series; Health & Well-Being; Author Anthologies; Book Discussions; Classic Movies, and Education Enlightenment*.