

Lifetime Learning Institute

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
IN COMMUNITY WITH
Bard

Council Minutes
Special Meeting
December 18, 2025
2 p.m. Via Zoom

Council & Committee Members Present:

Robert Beaury, Kayla Bell, Carmela Gersbeck, Karen Kane, Collin Lovas, Jill Lundquist, Mary McClellan, Chuck Mishaan, Michael Weinstock, Eleanor Wieder

Guests: Cathy Reinis, Pat Keeton, Linda Sherr, Martha Honey, Felice Gelman

Council & Committee Members Members Absent: L.Walker, Susan Simon, Grace McKay

Call to Order

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

Robert called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the registration process for the DSS event on January 14, 2026 and going forward.

The group discussed and agreed upon the following:

And

- Registration for DSS events will be done using Cognito.
- The cost of Cognito is approximately \$20 per month and LLI will pay for it.
- The Cognito program and all data collected will be maintained on LLI's server in a drive set up for the DSS team.
- The registration form will include an opt-in option, giving registrants the option to receive notices about future (approved by Curriculum) DSS sponsored events. The information collected will be limited to name and email address. If a registrant unsubscribes (changed from opt-in), their contact information will be deleted from the server after the event for which the registrant registered for.
- Linda Sherr will write to Dean Deirdre d'Albertis, letting her know that the DSS team will reach out to the Bard community - including Bard students - inviting them to attend the event, explaining the process DSS will follow regarding registration forms. DA's approval is required for this process to move forward with Bard students.

Insurance

Robert reported that LLI has new insurance coverage as of November 20, 2025. He explained the general details. The policy is in the Council shared drive in a folder labeled "Insurance for Bard LLI."

Carpooling

Collin suggested we table the carpooling initiative due to the multi-layered complexity of designing such a program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by Robert's motion, seconded by Michael, with all in favor.

Next LLI Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 9:30am via Zoom

Submitted by,

Robert Beaury

Appendix A:

Bard Lifetime LLI: FY26 YTD Income Statement v. Adopted FY26 Budget

10/20/25	Actual FY25 (FYE 6/30/25)	FY26 Adopted Budget (FYE 6/30/26)	FY26 YTD Inc. & Exp. @ 9/30/25	Variance: Budgeted FY26E vs. FY26A YTD
Contributions (9480) & Scholarships (9400)				
Dean's Discretionary Fund	(9,250.00)	(9,250.00)	0.00	9,250.00
Bard Music Festival	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	0.00	1,000.00
Center for Civic Engagement (CCE)	(10,800.00)	(10,800.00)	0.00	10,800.00
CCE Leadership Fund (aka Student Sanctuary Fund)	(5,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine Senior to Senior	(3,150.00)	(4,000.00)	0.00	4,000.00
Early College in HS	(2,250.00)	(2,250.00)	0.00	2,250.00
Fisher Center	(1,250.00)	(1,250.00)	0.00	1,250.00
Fund for Visual Learning	(2,750.00)	(2,750.00)	0.00	2,750.00
Hessel Museum	(1,250.00)	(1,250.00)	0.00	1,250.00
Joan Tower Scholarship Fund	(1,750.00)	(2,500.00)	0.00	2,500.00
Student Support & Relief Fund	(3,500.00)	(3,500.00)	0.00	3,500.00
Bard College Endowment Transfer (9790)	(2,700.00)	(1,200.00)	0.00	1,200.00
LLI Donations, Scholarships & Transfers to Bard	(45,150.00)	(39,750.00)	0.00	39,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES + SCHOLARSHIPS / DONATIONS	(69,736.00)	(80,540.00)	(14,443.20)	66,096.80
NET INCOME	(11.00)	(40.00)	64,081.80	64,041.80

Appendix B:

PROPOSAL FOR LLI HOLIDAY PARTY

Our LLI holiday party can NOT be held on the Bard Campus this year, as there is no longer a space that can accommodate our historical group size of 100-115 people with food and drink, (see NOTE* below).

Below is a proposal for a full-service, turnkey event at The Beekman Arms, which will cost \$6,000-\$7,000. We also contacted the Hotel Kinsley in Uptown Kingston, which was much more expensive.

DISCUSSION:

1. Should we spend LLI funds for a holiday party? (Note: the cost could be off-set by charging members \$20 per person).
2. What are the ramifications logically and otherwise of the above.
3. Should we move to an ALTERNATE less expensive, do-it-yourself type party, possibly in the Fall (2026).

COST Beekman Arms (see proposal below)

100 people: \$7,320 OR \$5,320 if members pay \$20 PP

80 people: \$5,856 OR \$4,256 if members pay \$20 PP

NOTES:

- Our Blithewood event with Parkhurst cost about \$3,100 YAG, for reference.
- Off-campus is more expensive, so we converted the Holiday Party from an evening gathering to a late afternoon event.
- If we ask Members to contribute, we recommend NO more than \$20 per person, as we feel it will be a barrier otherwise.
- We arranged for Bard students to provide music.

BEEKMAN ARMS PROPOSAL

December 11 from 3 PM to 5 PM

Banquet Room (adjacent to the sunroom)

Set-up: combination of seated round tables and standing bistro tables

Sample Menu

GUESTS: 80 to 100?

COST (all 2 HOURS except where noted)

\$15 for 1 stationary appetizer (Artisanal Cheese)

\$25 for 5 passed hors d'oeuvres 1 HOUR

\$20 wine and beer

\$ 0 soft drinks, juice, coffee, tea included

\$60 per person

\$ 0 room charge (\$500)

\$ 0 bar set up (\$200)

22% Tip + Fee (no sales tax 501c3)

\$7,320 for 100 people

\$5,856 for 80 people

DEPOSIT: \$250

BALANCE: due 2 weeks prior

MUSIC: we arranged to have Bard students play

DECORATIONS: Beekman Arms holiday decorations in place

BENEFITS: elegant location, close to Bard, full service event with no volunteer resources needed, plenty of parking

DOWNSIDE: expensive, sustainable for future years?

ALTERNATE IDEAS

An event that is not full-service would be more economical. We would find an outside space nearby, hire a caterer, rent furniture if needed, enlist volunteer help for set-up and break down, etc. If we do this it is recommended for 2026 only. Suggest we convert the Holiday Party to a Fall Harvest event, so that Robert I. and Lyn are present to oversee, otherwise other leadership needed.

ELMENDORPH INN (sample venue & cost)

\$75 Rental

\$2,000 caterer TBD (Note: Adams deli type platters/cookies is \$500)

\$540 Wine 3 cases

\$50 Sparkling waters etc.

\$75 Flowers

\$100 Server

\$100 Plates, glasses, napkins

\$100 Table rentals

\$1,540 to \$3,000 Total

BENEFITS: nice old historic home in Red Hook center, inexpensive rental

DOWNSIDE: 20 parking spaces, remainder street parking

Limited seating (wooden chairs along room perimeter)

Volunteer intensive

Limit of 75 people

MONTGOMERY PLACE PAVILION (\$2,500 est)

A Fall Harvest luncheon in the Pavilion with a guided tour of the newly opened Montgomery Place Mansion is another idea, (October 2026).

*NOTE: Bard Campus venues we contacted but declined include: Blithewood, Montgomery Place Mansion, Campus Center North, Chapel of the Holy Innocents, lobby of RKC and others. The only space that actually can accommodate our group size with food and drink is the Bertelsmann MPR, which we deemed not festive for a holiday party.