



July 12, 2020

Dear LU member,

Because your safety is our first concern, the Board cancelled the last week of lectures and postponed the Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 2020. Like you, LU has to adjust to a new set of norms. Here is how we will continue to offer you a first-rate educational experience.

The city has closed Fairfield, and even if it reopens, Fairfield cannot offer the social distancing that safety dictates. Since safety regulations are constantly evolving, we cannot rent another space and feel confident that it will meet those evolving regulations. Consequently, the Board has made the decision to offer our courses in a virtual format using the ZOOM platform. We are confident that this will work well, as other Third Age Network members are already doing this with great success.

You may already be familiar with ZOOM from using it for face-to-face meetings with family, friends, and colleagues. Those of you who haven't tried ZOOM will find it free, easy to access and very user friendly. We encourage you to go to the ZOOM website (ZOOM.US) which offers a variety of videos to help you get started using your computer, tablet or smart phone.

ZOOM will allow you to attend lectures in your pjs, enjoy your coffee/tea and stretch whenever you wish, and you won't have to worry about inclement weather or travel. Those with smart TV's can even watch on the big screen from the comfort of their sofa.

We recognize that you may not have the technology to use ZOOM. If you are not interested in getting the required equipment, you may still participate if you can sit in with a friend in your bubble or watch from a family member's computer, because we will broadcast the lectures to any registered member's designated email address. ZOOM will also allow us to expand our audience to include others wishing to participate in our lectures.

While we are adopting this new ZOOM webinar format out of necessity, this new ZOOM platform provides a learning opportunity for our members which fulfills LU's mandate to further life-long learning.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the LU Audio-Visual Team help me get started?

In the coming weeks, the A-V Team will send out information about what hardware and software you will need to participate in the webinars. Closer to the time of the lecture, they will send you specific instructions on how to register and log-in to the webinars.

Can I turn to the LU Audio-Visual Team if I'm having computer difficulties?

Your home technology is your responsibility, and we do not have a large enough A-V team to help you with that. However, if you go online to ZOOM.US, you will find test sites for your device, your audio, your video, and instructions on how to join a meeting.

Will we be able to ask questions of the speaker?

With the webinar format, you will be able to type in your questions, and a Curriculum Committee member will read them to the speaker.

Will we register in the same way?

No, the process will be different but easy to do, and you will still pay for your lectures using PayPal. PayPal will be integrated into the ZOOM webinar registration process. You will be sent instructions on how to register.

If I choose not to participate in these webinars, what will happen to my membership?

Your membership will remain intact for the period in which we offer only virtual programming and your Winter 2020 membership seniority level will be kept as it currently stands. . The "at least one lecture in the past two years" rule for maintaining your membership will be suspended. Once we are back in a lecture hall (hopefully Fairfield), regular membership rules will again apply.

Will the courses cost the same?

Yes, the cost will be \$35 for each course.

Will the entire year's lectures for 2020-2021 be on ZOOM, or only the fall lecture series?

At this time, we do not know the answer to this.

On behalf of all of the Board, we want to extend sincere thanks to our Audio-Visual Committee for taking on a significant commitment to deliver these webinars to you.

Please watch our Learning Unlimited Etobicoke website for further information regarding important dates, the upcoming fall registration process, as well as for links to the fall courses.

Please feel free to submit any questions to our Ad Hoc Communications Committee by replying to this email at registrar@learningunlimitedetobicoke.com and titling your email "Zoom Question"

The Ad-Hoc Communications Committee

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