

A message from the Executive Director of The LIFE Institute

Wed., April 1, 2020

Hello LIFE members,

I hope, first and foremost, all of you are keeping well and managing under these difficult circumstances.

Since my last message to you on Monday, March 23, 2020 a great deal has taken place in this very short time period. Our goal is to offer and provide you the members the best programming we can deliver in these unknown times. Countless and numerous emails have been exchanged, Zoom meetings held, phone calls made and received, from staff, instructors, board members, committee members, LIFE volunteers, all working collaboratively with you in mind.

So, let me share with excitement the results to date from these extraordinary combined efforts:

- **LIFE will be offering Spring on-line courses** (Registration will commence April 13, 2020)
- LIFE is also hoping to offer Summer on-line courses (stay tuned for further notice)
- The first selection of these Spring on-line courses will be offered by many of your favourite and well-renowned Instructors: **David Lipovitch, Cultural Studies; Felice Gorica, Film; Olivier Courteaux, History; Mike Daley, Music; Thomas Hart, Philosophy; Amnon Zohar, Politics**
- New technology support and guidance is being offered to all members taking these courses in advance for you to enjoy and participate with confidence

There will be six on-line courses offered to begin. These on-line courses will be offered mostly by live Zoom with an **interactive** portion included. As on-line courses are new to LIFE and to many of our members, it was decided to start with these first six outstanding courses and to make sure we have the infrastructure in place in case of any unforeseen hiccups we may or may not encounter.

After these six courses begin, and we feel confident in our new delivery system, we will then release additional courses to be offered. We are working diligently with instructors and members to make the transition from in class to online as smoothly as possible.

For those of you who might be nervous or intimidated by new technology this is what the Volunteer Curriculum Committee Chair, Sharon Zeiler had to say : *"In these unusual circumstances, Zoom is a good way to connect with people and a very effective way to conduct a meeting or a learning situation. As one who usually has difficulties learning new technology, I found Zoom easy to learn and relatively intuitive to operate."*

LIFE is all about learning. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and continue to learn through this new experience.

Before I close, I want to remind everyone that LIFE is a "not-for-profit" member driven organization. All efforts and decisions have been and are being made with the intention of providing you quality course selection that you expect and enjoy.

Onward and online!



Deborah Bonk Greenwood

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