



U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Number XXV

December 1990

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

U3A INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD-WIDE DISCUSSIONS

A group of ten U3A members recently took part in a world-wide session discussing the Appleton Consensus: 'Suggested International Guidelines for Decisions to Forego Medical Treatment'. The guidelines are the work of 33 physicians, ethicists and medical economists from all parts of the world, brought together by the Lawrence University, Appleton, U.S.A. The consensus was reached after two conferences and correspondence over a two year period.

Hawthorn tutor, John Balfour, was asked by John M. Bailey, PhD, Professor of Ethics in Medicine, Science and Society at Lawrence University to convene one of 250 world wide groups. Professor Bailey is also Editor of the Appleton Consensus.

The Consensus seeks to arrive at acceptable ethical and moral positions for physicians both as individuals and as members of their profession when faced with decisions regarding the foregoing of medical treatment. Throughout the study edition of the consensus the participants stress the need to place the welfare of the patient in the highest place in medical decision making, while at the same time ensuring that such decisions do not go against the public interest.

The guidelines were divided into four parts:

1. Decisions involving competent patients or patients who executed an advance directive before becoming incompetent.
2. Decisions involving patients who were once competent, but are not now competent, who have not executed an advance directive.
3. Decisions involving neonates and other patients who are not now and never have been competent.
4. Scarcity.

The U3A group found the discussions an interesting exercise. They enthusiastically debated relevant aspects of the consensus including: refusal of medical treatment; quality of life judgements; communication with incompetent patients' agents; requests for intervention intended to terminate life (voluntary euthanasia); assistance in dying (medically assisted suicide); cost effectiveness of certain treatments; allocation of scarce medical resources.

Individual reports from the participants in the discussions have been sent back to Appleton University where reports from the working groups world-wide will be evaluated.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS PRESSURE

Nature and the land are enormously resilient, they can be repaired so why are governments holding back from positive moves to fight ozone layer depletion and pollution?

This was the question posed by Peter Allen at the September Forum. Peter, who is Victorian Campaign Director with the Australian Conservation Foundation, addressed the fears and facts of conservation. At the head of the fears was ozone layer depletion. It was first established that chlorofluoro carbons and halons were damaging the ozone layer above the earth's atmosphere in 1974. It is now known that it takes the damaging gases six years to get up to the ozone layer and then they hang around for another thirty years. But production still continues.

Global warming is another worry and carbon dioxide gas is the main contributor. This warming is now proceeding at an unprecedented rate and we can look forward to a future in which large areas of the planet will become uninhabitable - the tropics will become temperate, temperate areas will become dry and hot; while the tropical forests will disappear along with most of the Pacific islands as the ocean rises. Agricultural activities will be disrupted by the weather changes and also by the general growth of pollution in rivers and lakes and acid rain ruining large tracts of forest.

Meanwhile very little is being done to halt the process. There are very powerful industrial, vested interests, and in some cases personal interests. Consumers insist on new freeways, faster cars and elaborate throw away packaging, for instance.

It is a fact, Peter said, that technology exists to replace the chemicals that are causing the ozone depletion and Victoria is actually leading the world in this development, but governments will make no changes until people demand them.

It was consumer resistance which reduced the production of chlorofluoro carbon spray cans; one woman in West Australia collected 35,000 signatures for a petition to bring back the milk bottle in that state. (Melbourne is the only capital city with no environmentally sound milk containers).

Peter Allen pointed out that two hundred-year-old trees are being used to make tomato stakes, building pallets, housing frames and tissues. For these throw-away items and many housing needs, plantation timber can be used. It is 20% more efficient due to harvesting convenience and accessibility. He suggested we should ask for treated pine instead of native hard wood when we need a new door or window sill.

Recycling is a very important factor and Peter believes we in Australia can lead the way in repairing the planet by setting an example for others to follow.

COMPLIMENTS FROM GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, QLD

The August issue of the Australian Journal on the Ageing carried an in-depth article on U3A's role in research into the benefits of education in later life by Rick Swindell, Division of Education, Griffith University, Queensland. In the following extract he acknowledges Hawthorn's contribution to research and the need to share the results through a Network organisation

" Now that U3A is firmly established throughout Australia it would seem that U3A would be the logical body to undertake the systematic collection and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative information about the nature and strengths of various educational programs for older learners. The skills and interest needed to undertake such a task lie within the membership of the various U3A campuses as has been well demonstrated recently by Shoalhaven and Hawthorn U3A campuses, each of which has produced excellent analytical reports about their own organisations. These reports, (and there may be others produced by other U3As) provide substantial information which would be of benefit to all U3As, as well as to bodies concerned with improving the lot of all older Australians. Unfortunately, there is currently no mechanism by which information about these and similar initiatives can be readily shared with others. However, a State-wide U3A network organisation is now in operation in Victoria, and similar bodies are emerging in other States. Once established, U3A networks would likely be in a sound position to co-ordinate the compilation of data and information about educational opportunities for older adults, and to assist with the flow of this information as needed.

"The commonsense do-it-yourself philosophy of U3A, which recognises the strengths and abilities of older learners and which, in Australia, is independent of the vagaries of external funding, suggests that the movement is here to stay."

Anyone wishing to read the full text can obtain a copy from Judy Elsworth at the office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIA WARD

The Soroptomist Club of Chisholm Inc. has selected Julia to receive their Adult Literacy Award for 1990. It is in recognition of her work with the Life Writing Correspondence Course of which she is the Project Officer. Julia is part of the Hawthorn Community Education Project, co-ordinated by Judith Elsworth. We congratulate Julia, and also recognize the work of Judith as organizer of all aspects of the Project. U3A enjoys the association with Community Education, as we work together in the interests of older people at Wakefield Street.

U3A AT ORANGE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Orange U3A have organized a New South Wales Conference for 14th - 15th March, 1991.

If you are interested, all relevant material is available at the office.

It includes programs, residential information and enrolment forms.

The main speaker on the first day is Dr. Rick Swindell of Griffith University, with whom Hawthorn had considerable communication at the time of the production of "The First Four Years". Elsewhere in this Newsletter is an account of comments about this in an article by Dr. Swindell in the Magazine "Australian Journal on the Ageing".

C.A.E. TOURS

We have received notification of three tours which are being conducted by the Council of Adult Education early next year. They are as follows:

1. High Country Wildflowers & Huts - 25-28 January, 1991
2. Gippsland Lakes - 15-18 February, 1991
3. Autumn in the Alps - 25-28 April, 1991.

The relevant brochures may be inspected at Wakefield Street should you be interested to joining any of the above tours.

A PLEA FROM THE OFFICE

To enable records of class numbers to be maintained accurately and to ensure that everyone is placed into the class of their choice, we need to have feedback from members. The following notes are a guide to our requirements and we would accordingly ask that members do their best to let us have this information:

1. At the opening of a new U3A year, members are advised if their application has been accepted for the class of their choice.
2. Do please confirm that you will be attending the class.
3. If after being advised of your class, you decide not to join it, or having started you feel that it is not what you expected and you do not wish to continue, then please let the office know so that members on a waiting list can be informed that they may start.
4. If you are absent for three weeks without advising the convenor or tutor of the reason, then it will be taken that you no longer wish to attend the class and anyone on a waiting list will be informed of the vacancy.

We again ask for your assistance to adhere to these guidelines and so help us to help you, the members.

Finally, a reminder that if in the next year, 1991, you wish to rejoin your present class, or to join some other class then you must fill out the class application form at the end of the newsletter and send it without delay to the office.

IMPORTANT

**YOUR 1991 SUBSCRIPTION
IS NOW DUE**
\$20, SINGLE
\$30, DOUBLE

It would be very helpful if you could advise us
if you do not intend to renew your subscription.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

For your information, the office at Wakefield Street will be closed from
Friday, 21st December, 1990 -
Tuesday, 29th January, 1991.

CURRENT COURSES

Although a class may be full, people do have to withdraw for various reasons, so a waiting list is kept for each course.

PLEASE NOTE: ANY MEMBER WHO IS ABSENT FROM A CLASS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE OFFICE, OR YOUR TUTOR, WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN.

ART APPRECIATION Convener: Sue Van Dorssen

HISTORY OF EUROPEAN ART

Group 1 25th February - 1st July, 1991

This group is a continuing course from 1990; starting with Roman Art and Architecture then Early Christian and Byzantine Art, the Dark Ages and the re-emergence of Christian civilization.

Group 2 19th August - 2nd December, 1991

Mondays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 25th February, 1991

ART HISTORY Convener: Martin Merchant

The reason and need for art expression in the changing generations of mankind will be developed, together with an appreciation of the styles, methods and materials used. Date to be announced.

Fortnightly, Tuesdays, 2.00 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

ART - PRACTICAL Tutor: Lorrie Conder

The group will cover the mediums of oils, watercolour, pastels, etc. You may do your own thing, or follow topics suggested. Help will be given on request with regard to techniques, colour combinations, and imaginative approaches you may wish to use.

Thursdays, 1.00 p.m., Hawthorn Artists' Society, Cnr. Glenferrie & Manningtree Roads, Hawthorn. Comm. 21st February, 1991

BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY & THE

PURPOSE OF LIFE Convener: Trevor Moffat

The class will read through a set book and discuss its relevance to human relationships. The overall objective, of course, is to take an wholistic overview of life, considering aspects of our Biologic, Psychologic and "Spiritual" development, and their interaction with each other.

Mondays, 12.30 p.m., Recreation Centre. Comm. 25th February, 1991.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - CONTEMPORARY WRITERS AND SOCIETY

Tutor: Pamela Rogers

This course should appeal to both men and women who enjoy reading and are interested in lively and thought provoking discussion on subjects such as the relationship between the writer and society, concerns of modern men and women as they are explored in contemporary writing, and aspects of writing style as a means of communicating ideas and emotion. As well as contemporary novels, short stories, poetry and some classical literature will be introduced. A book list will be provided.

Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m., Wakefield Street. Comm. 26th February, 1991

CHESS FOR PLEASURE Convener: Egon Donath

This course will commence if up to 20 members are interested, whether beginners or more advanced. "You don't need to be a Bobby Fischer" says Egon. Date to be announced.

COMPUTERS - AN INTRODUCTION Convener: Vic Kennedy

This is a simple, 6-session course, designed for people who have had no contact with computers, but who would like to get some understanding of what these machines are, how they work and what they are used for. The course will emphasise 'hands-on' experience; participants will get a chance, in each session, to actually use a computer. No expertise in maths will be required, and the course will make only passing reference to maths (though we will be looking at 'number systems' and what numbers mean in the system we use in everyday life). Ample notes will be provided.

Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m., 89 Power St., Hawthorn. Comm. 26th February, 1991

CONTRACT BRIDGE Convener: Bill Zimmerman

An introduction to this fascinating game. It is necessary for there to be at least twelve students to make the course viable. Bill advises that he has duplicate boards, and a duplicate game could be organised for those with some experience, if at least 12 people are interested.

Mondays, 2.00 p.m. Recreation Centre. Comm. 25th February, 1991

THE CRUSADES - A MEDIEVAL INTERCONTINENTAL CONFLICT

Convener: Andrew Ehrenhreutz

A colloquium type of course with instructive role of the tutor and active contributions of the participants.

A pre-requisite: Prior to the first session, every participant should read any general (popular) book on the Crusades, she or he may find in a locally accessible public library.

Tuesdays, fortnightly, 2 p.m., Wakefield St. Comm. 26th February, 1991

CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUSTRALIA & THE WORLD Convener: Wolfe Flack
Ours is a discussion group which deals with any current affair whether information is from the press, radio or television or even raised by members. Sessions commence by the convener reading items from the press which are considered to be of particular interest to the group. Discussion takes place with the readings after which members of the group are free to raise any item they may consider of interest.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Uniting Church, 8 Power Street, West Hawthorn.

Comm. 28th February, 1991

CURRENT AFFAIRS - SOUTH-EAST ASIA &

PACIFIC COUNTRIES Convener: Jean Aikenhead

A discussion group in which all are expected to participate. Each session will start with current affairs, concentrating in our own area. In 1991 we will also discuss important topics - e.g. comparative religions; sustainable development - rather than detailed background studies of individual countries. There was consensus in the 1990 class for this suggestion.

Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m., Balwyn Library.

Comm. 26th February, 1991

DRAMA FOR FUN Convener: Rion Jennings

A light-hearted approach to drama with play readings, poetry and performances of short plays at the centre.

Thursdays, 9.30 a.m., Wakefield Street.

Commences: 7th March, 1991

DRESSMAKING Convener: Patricia Morris

This is an opportunity for ladies with sewing skills to enjoy a pleasant few hours with others who have the same interests under the guidance of an experienced teacher/supervisor.

Wednesdays, Tresise Centre, Cnr. Bowler & Munro Sts. Comm. 27/2/1991

GARDENS OF EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA Convener: Maurice Stratton

A series of 20 talks, illustrated by approx. 150 colour slides, lasting 90-105 minutes, divided into 4 groups -

- (1) Ancient Greece, the Roman influence in Europe, the Moorish influence in Spain, Historic old towns of Germany, a portrait of USA;
- (2) The Swiss and French Alps, a journey down the Rhine, the Canadian Rockies, Scenic Great Britain and the Fjordland, Norway, Salzburg and the Salzkammergut, Austria,
- (3) Cathedrals, castles, chateaux, galleries and museums of Europe;
- (4) Historical and famous gardens of Europe and the U.K. and those in Victoria.

Wednesdays, 2.p.m., Balwyn Library

Commencing 10th April, 1991

LANGUAGES

French (Beginners) Convener: Walter Butler

Tuesdays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 26th February, 1991

French (2nd Year) Convener: Adele Chambers

This course is for students who have already done one year with USA, or equivalent. It includes some grammar, writing exercises & conversation

Fridays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 22nd February, 1991

French Conversation Convener: Anna Ghiurekian

Reading of contemporary French texts from literature or magazines - explanation of vocabulary and points of grammar.

Mondays, 10.30 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 4th March, 1991

German (Continuing) Convener: Ken Bandman

This course is attempting to encourage the student to face (linguistically) various situations. Members should be willing to prepare written homework for correction and class discussion.

The current course will finish on 26th July and resume on 4th October.

Thursdays, 11.30 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 28th February, 1991

Italian (Beginners) Convener: Maurice Berah

Mondays, 10.00 a.m., Hawthorn Library Comm. 4th March, 1991

Italian (Continuing) Convener: Maurice Berah

Mondays, 11.00 a.m., Hawthorn Library Comm. 4th March, 1991

Japanese (Beginners & 1st Year) Convener: Joyce Berdy

Beginning to read and write Japanese and an introduction to grammar.

Mondays, Beginners, 10.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

2nd Year, 11.00 a.m. Comm. 4th March, 1991

Japanese (Intermediate I & II) Convener: Geoff Matenson

Intermediate I Text Book: Alfonso Nihongo Vol. III

Course will be based on Alfonso Nihongo Vol. III with additional material supplied as required. Familiarity with Kana is essential in order to understand the textbook. Kanji (Sino-Japanese) characters will be introduced at least as prescribed in the text.

Mondays, 12.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 25th February, 1991

Intermediate II Text Book: Alfonso Nihongo Vols. III & IV

Course will be based on Alfonso Nihongo Vols III & IV with additional material supplied as required. Familiarity with Kana and some Kanji required as for Intermediate I.

Mondays, 2.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 25th February, 1991

Note: In both classes easy conversation based on set situations and circumstances will be practised. Class members should be willing to prepare written and conversational homework class discussion.

Latin (Continuing) Convener: Helen Gordon

Wednesdays, 11.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield St. Comm. 27th February, 1991

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY (How does my body function?)

Conveners: Frances McCallum, Greta Burman and Claire Pullin

Learning about the body, its properties and how it works, is a fascinating study which can help us to keep functioning well. If difficulties arise, it will enable us to discuss them with understanding and prevent delay in seeking treatment. Topics to be covered include: The life of cells; the skeleton; joints and muscles; how food and oxygen are distributed and utilised; how waste and toxins are eliminated; and the body defences. Systems which control and co-ordinate body functions; the brain, nerves and hormones. Reproduction; stress; what is health?

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Wakefield Street. Commencing 26th February, 1991.

MAH-JONG FOR BEGINNERS: Convener: Lois Thomas

A fascinating Chinese game popular in many countries. The basic method played by most Chinese is the game followed by this group.

Bring your own mah-jong set if possible.

Fridays, 1.45 p.m., Wakefield Street. Commencing: 1st March, 1991

MARINE BIOLOGY Convener: Frances McCallum

The course will identify and discuss the often mysterious objects encountered on beach walks. We will talk about the fascinating ways in which evolutionary forces have acted to adapt living organisms to the stresses, strains and advantages of life on the sea shore. There will be two beach excursions.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Wakefield Street. Commencing: 7th March, 1991

MUSIC - AS ONE LIKES IT Convener: Ven Houston

This course is a general (not progressive) study.

New students welcome at any time providing the quota is not full.

Tuesday, 12 noon, Hawthorn Community House. Comm. 26th Feb., 1991

NEW PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY Convener: Fred Rosedale

In Search of Meaning

This course shows how each of us can work creatively in our own lives to help bring new meaning and order to the universe we share.

Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m., Recreation Centre. Comm. 26th February, 1991

NEW ECONOMICS Convener: George Charles

This discussion group is free from figures and is in plain language that all can understand. Its aim is to seek a greater awareness of the world about us by looking at the history and the background of economic systems at home and abroad.

Thursdays, 11.45 a.m., Wakefield Street. Comm. 7th March, 1991

PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY Convener: Alexe Gale

In this course a book is studied whose content covers social, philosophical and psychological issues. The aim of the group is to increase awareness and discuss how old and new concepts affect our behaviour and well being. The books studied in 1990 were Scott Peck's "The Road Less Travelled" and Fritjof Capra's "Uncommon Wisdom".

The book for 1991 has not yet been chosen.

Wednesdays, 12.30 p.m., Recreation Centre.

Comm. 6th March, 1991

SEE THE PICTURES, HEAR THE STORIES Convener: Edith Santer

A series of 4 slide talks at Wakefield Street and 4 visits to the National Gallery of Victoria by an ex N.G.V. Voluntary Guide to be held monthly at Wakefield Street or the N.G.V. as appropriate.

Commencing Tuesday, 5th March, 1991 at 2 p.m. at Wakefield Street and subsequent dates of lectures will be advised to course members.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Conveners: M. Black, G. Triaca and J. Jackson

An on-going course with guest speakers covering a range of subjects and followed by discussion and question time.

The range of subjects covered are: drug and child abuse; adoption; migrant assimilation; health; welfare; and other social issues affecting our community. We are a self-help group and the co-operation of all members is needed for our success. Members are also invited to talk about their life experiences or other subjects of their choice.

Wednesdays, 2 p.m., Recreation Centre.

Comm. 27th February, 1991

THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

An informal group, led by Beryl French, discussing thoughts and ideas relevant to today's society.

Fridays, 10.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Comm. 22nd February, 1991

TRAVEL Convener: Betty Burstin

An informal group discussing all aspects on independent/unusual travel. Group participation is welcomed. Occasional guest speakers will be invited to talk on their experiences.

Last Wednesday of each month, 5.00 p.m., Wakefield Street.

Commencing 27th March, 1991.

NEW COURSES

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY Convener: Alf Floyd

This course covers the following:

1. Reasons for Transportation; some case histories;
2. First Fleet;
3. The infamous Second Fleet;
4. Governor Macquarie and explorers;
5. To 1850 - Victorian Constitution;
6. Women in early Australia.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Hawthorn Library. Commencing: 7th March, 1991

BASIC ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY Convener: Brenda Starkey

A series on the normal structure and function of the human body. There will be brief reference to things which can go wrong, but unless the normal is understood, if only superficially, it is impossible to recognise the abnormal. The focus is on getting under your skin!

A BOUQUET OF HERBS Convener: Ernestine Lobb

An exploration of the uses of culinary, fragrant and medicinal herbs.

Fridays, 10 a.m., 4A Dalny St., Malvern. Commencing: 1st March, 1991

PAPER MADE FROM RECYCLED PAPER Convener: Pat Keane

Learn to make your own notepaper, envelopes and cards from newspapers, computer paper, used envelopes, etc. Date to be announced.

PLEASE NOTE:

Enrolment forms are found at the end of the News Notes. It is essential that one form should be completed for each course you wish to take, accurately including telephone number and postcode, and returned to the office at 24 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn, 3122 without delay.