



# SOAR Photo Feature Story

## "Weeks Nine, Ten and Eleven – Spring 2010"

*R. Kreuzer 05/26/10*

*Continuing from the end of week eight...*

We had to say "good-bye" to Leon LeBeau's "Art Workshop B." However, he'll be back, and he's offering 2 art courses in the upcoming fall semester.



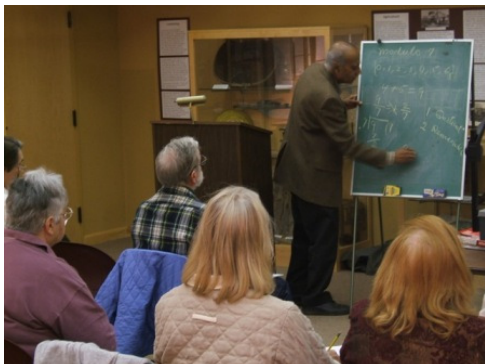
Tai-Chi classes moved outside these last few warm weeks. Pam March's assistant, Sam Whitesell, took over several times for Pam.

Classes ending Week Nine included: "Mah Jongg" (with Brenda Francey and Kay Russell) – lots of concentrated play; and "Financial Planning" (with Eleanor Menz) – hopefully all the participants can now face their increasing financial challenges with more courage based on knowledge.



"Current Events" (with John Casserly) wound down in Week Ten. Participants agree it's OK to disagree – discussions are lively AND civil (even when talking about politics).

One of our long-running classes,



That leaves five classes which started (and ended) during the last three weeks of the SOAR spring semester. *(Who keeps saying there isn't anything to take when they return from their winter home away? There were 5 great courses offered during the "spring part" of our SOAR spring semester!)* Chanchal Singh did a two session course called "Fun with Math: Puzzles and Pastimes."

He amazed his participants by showing them some very strange phenomena based just on the simple functions of adding, subtracting multiplying and dividing.



We also had a five session course going; it met once, then twice a week during the last two weeks. This was "The Great War: The Western Front (1914-1917), with Lou Ann Lange. She brought in readings, film and PowerPoint to accompany her lectures, which give participants a first-hand feel for what this war was like and what ramifications it had for the future.

The remaining three courses met only once, but that

did not diminish their importance or the pleasure the participants had in learning about these topics. Clarkson Professor Ken Visser introduced us to "Small Wind Turbine Technology," a topic that is locally current in our region. Another Clarkson researcher,



Professor Dick Partch, talked about his research involving "Sandpaper, Toothpaste and Silicon Wafers," an intriguing title which led to an understanding how diverse things can be inter-related. The last class of the semester – which started and ended in Week Eleven – took us across the border to Canada ("Canada: Questions and Answers" led

by St. Lawrence Professor Joseph Jockel). Topics that day ranged from what is Canada's biggest export (*cars!*) to the psyche of the Canadians (*described as the "decaffeinated calmer Americans"*).



And so, we have come to the end of another SOAR semester. Having taken, or dropped in on, all but two of the courses, I feel qualified to pronounce this semester as one of the best! What an array of shared knowledge and expertise and what opportunities to learn and do things. And what an incredible group of presenters we had! THANKS TO ALL YOU PRESENTERS! Thanks also to the behind-the-scenes team who makes it all happen. And thank you, my learning friends – your questions, comments and participation is also an integral part of what SOAR is: a true lifelong learning group in the North Country. rk

*p.s. Visit the new SOAR web site at [www.soarnorthcountry.org](http://www.soarnorthcountry.org) to get a visual review (i.e. an array of photo galleries – one for each course) of Spring Semester 2010!*

*(photographers: Pat Harrington and Ruth Kreuzer)*