A Gem, a Jewel and a Giant
A Tribute to OLLI Workshop Leader Cornelius McDonnell

My Webster’s New World Dictionary defines a “gem” as “a highly valued person… prized for his value.” And he surely was that.

Its definition of “jewel” is "any person who is precious.” And all who knew him would say that description fit him like a glove. It defines “giant” as a “person of great size and intellect.” And he was that, too.

Yet Cornelius McDonnell was so much more than all that.  (continued on page 4)

OLLI Chorus Performs at CitiField
O Say Can You Sing?

It started off as a typical summer day, hot and muggy, but July 16 proved to be a historic Sunday for OLLI – our chorus sang the National Anthem for the first time at CitiField before 28,000 fans there to see the Mets play the Colorado Rockies.

Stadium staff made every effort to help choristers feel comfortable, providing, for example, lockers to store belongings and time and space to rehearse. Still, the tension and anxiety were palpable as chorus members lined up in the tunnel leading to the field.  (continued on page 5)

“I know we all have obligations and things that take up our time. But OLLI’s strength and success are directly linked to the involvement and commitment of its members. Be as much a part of that as you can. The rewards from getting more involved may not be monetary but they are priceless.”

- Bob Mirman
OLLI President
From the Director
Wayne Holo

I just realized as I began my Chronicles article that we are already finishing the sixth week of Fall 2017. Wow! The time goes so quickly but OLLI’s 2017-18 program is off to a good start. A big part of the success this year is that our volunteer workshop leaders have once again offered the members an incredible selection of workshops to choose from.

Fall registration went well and the numbers look good. Our lottery again produced an 80% success rate on member requests for registered workshop seats. Many of our members are beginning to recognize that smaller wait lists are becoming more common due to the comfortable, large classrooms that the University provides for our program.

Although we have had our share of classroom technology issues this fall, our OLLI staff, which includes Laura West, Leah Todd and Harry Walsh, plus a growing list of talented member volunteers, have done a great job of tending to these challenges in addition to taking care of the many day-to-day tasks in the office.

A new trend at OLLI finds a growing number of our workshop leaders learning to use University online resources with their NetIDs. Our staff has worked hard to help with education, setup and implementation of these technologies and the benefits are starting to show.

I hope that all of our new and returning members are having an enjoyable Fall semester. When you have a moment, please take time to thank a volunteer, a workshop leader, a committee member or a staff member. All of these people are dedicated to providing you with the best lifelong learning experience possible.

Wayne Holo, OLLI Director

OLLI Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 9</td>
<td>2:30pm &quot;Borsch Belt Revisited&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 15</td>
<td>Trip to NYC Armory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 20</td>
<td>OLLI Thanksgiving Break - No Workshops Nov 20-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 8</td>
<td>OLLI FA17 Semester Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 12</td>
<td>12:30pm Holiday Luncheon - The Watermill</td>
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From the President
Bob Mirman

Welcome, all, to a new semester at OLLI at Stony Brook University. And a special warm hello to our new members!

By the time you read this, summer will be long gone and we will be well into our fall workshops. Before you know it, snow may even be on the way (ugh!).

My own journey to OLLI began in April 2012, when I retired and thought, now what? How many crossword puzzles can you do? I soon heard about OLLI from a former client and a friend. The only OLLI I had known until then was the snagletoothed pup-pet from childhood who used to pal around with Kukla and Fran on my black & white TV.

Now, five years later, here I am going to workshops I love at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). I have made many new friends, and somehow I have become President of this fantastic organization. I also did something I never thought I would, thanks to OLLI. I was never a teacher, and might not even have been very good at it. But this past June I took on the task of running a mini-workshop on Op-Ed articles. I considered myself mainly a facilitator in leading member discussions of issues in the news. I loved it – and even got very positive feedback!

My reason for mentioning that is simple: Try it. You'll like it! Consider leading a workshop. Or join a committee. Or go to a Special Event. When a Nominating Committee is announced, throw your name in the ring. In other words, get involved. Do something beyond sitting in a workshop.

I know we all have obligations and things that take up our time. But OLLI's strength and success are directly linked to the involvement and commitment of its members. Be as much a part of that as you can. The rewards from getting more involved may not be monetary but they are priceless. A little corny expression, but in my mind true.

I look forward to seeing you on campus, especially our new members. Have a great year!

Bob Mirman, OLLI President

For Your Information

Heartfelt thanks to the following members who generously gave their time to staff the Fall Information Table in the SBS Lobby, which helped new and returning members find their classrooms and distributed updated class schedules and campus maps:

Bunnye Avril, Carlo Curcio, Jothi Curcio, Dena Fagan, Gary Field, Paul Knel, Laurel Martin, Ed Metzendorf, Bob Mirman, Thelma Taub and Doris Weisman. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Harry Walsh and Leah Todd for setting up the table and providing all the material.
The OLLI Budget: Facts, Myths and Misunderstandings

At each meeting of the OLLI general membership, the topic that generates the most interest is the budget. The latest budget figures are on the website, including the actual spending for fiscal year 2016-17 (f.y. the fiscal year is July 1 to June 30) and the approved budget for 2017-18. To get to the reports, go to the OLLI home page, click on "OLLI Documents" and then click on the two budget reports. Let’s look at the numbers.

Current Income and Other Funding

Membership fees are almost $346,000 (1,067 members at $325 per). The endowment accounts generate about $112,000. Current fundraising, combined with prior fund-raising, adds another $40,000 or so. Bottom line income: about $500,000.

So where does it all go? What else can we spend it on?

The greatest expenses are University fees of over $320,000 for salaries, benefits and other fixed costs. Daily operating costs for room rentals, equipment purchase and maintenance, supplies, special events, and miscellaneous are budgeted for about $139,000. So far, that’s about $459,000

Near the end of the Spring semester, a memo was sent out to all workshop leaders asking them for suggestions on how to make their workshops better. The OLLI staff and budget committee have been working together to review and evaluate each request. Some were approved and implemented for the Fall semester, some are under active consideration and others require more time and information. For example:

Approved and implemented:

* Some computer improvements were made to SBS room N123.
* Loaner DVDs were purchased for the Tai Chi participants to take home to practice.
* Desktop PCs were purchased and connected to the smart boxes in S102, S104 and S109.

Still under review and consideration:

* The suggestion was made to combine room S102 with S104 and room N119 with N121 so that larger workshops can be held in SBS.
* The concept of providing limited honoraria to visiting speakers is also being considered.

We still have over $400,000 carried over each year. Why do we have so much cash?

It’s a matter of cash flow. The University fees are paid in the late summer before membership fees are received. The fees then catch up but are needed about 10 months later. Sounds unwieldy but at least that money can generate greater distributions.

Hope this helps to better understand the OLLI budget.

- Fred Avril, Chair
OLLI Budget Committee

'The Borscht Belt' Author to Speak at OLLI

The noted Catskills photographer and author Marisa Scheinfeld will discuss her work at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in the auditorium of the Center for Global Studies. The audio-visual presentation marks the start of OLLI’s Special Speaker Series for 2017-18.

Ms. Scheinfeld spent six years visiting and photographing the playgrounds of the famed Catskills resorts, capturing what remains of those once-grand summer retreats. The result is "The Borscht Belt," a book of compelling photographs and vivid stories published by the Cornell University Press (2016).

A Catskills Childhood

Ms. Scheinfeld is no stranger to her subject. As a child, she lived in the Catskills year round. After college, she moved to the West Coast to advance her education and nurture her passion for photography.

Returning to the East in 2011, Ms. Scheinfeld turned her lens on the summer playgrounds of generations of New Yorkers for "The Borscht Belt." Talk show host Larry King has hailed her work as "brilliant photographs, and the memories will be indelible in my mind." Ms. Scheinfeld currently teaches in the SUNY system and resides in Westchester County.

"The Borscht Belt," a collection of stories and pictures, is available from online sellers Amazon and Barnes & Noble and at local book stores. The author will sign audience members' copies at the end of what should be a special afternoon of reminiscing. All OLLI members are welcome.

- Jeff Hollander
OLLI Workshop Leader
A Gem, A Jewel and a Giant
(...continued from page 1)

This gentleman, who recently left us, lived to the ripe old age of 98, and the list of friends he made throughout his lifetime is many miles long.

Born in Ireland just after the end of WWI, Cornelius, the oldest of four boys, was raised in the Bronx and in Manhattan’s Hell’s Kitchen. He graduated from Power Memorial High School in Manhattan and went on to earn a doctorate in Modern Foreign Languages from Fordham University. On his retirement from the education field, he joined what was at the time called the Round Table and later renamed the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, better known as OLLI.

I first met Cornelius when he was teaching “English: The Magic of Words.” I knew immediately there was something very special about the man. One of the first qualities I noticed was his ability to not only remember every student’s name, but when speaking with a particular student, that person feel as if he or she were the only one in the room. Cornelius possessed that special quality that made each individual feel very confident and comfortable in his class.

After his workshop ended that first semester, I ventured into some of the other courses OLLI had to offer, but after three or four years I decided to register once again for his early Friday class. The title had changed to “Language and Culture,” and I immediately noticed once again Cornelius’ uncanny ability to draw out the very best in each of his students.

Helping students recognize their talents

Who of us in that class can ever forget how he was able to get both Roger Price and Ben Schwartz to impersonate British faux intellectuals discussing the merits of any one of numerous topical subjects! And those hilarious exchanges between the elegant Lady Margaret of England (by way of Biloxi) and Cornelius’ devotion to his Irish heritage. How skilled he was in drawing out the talents of so many other members of the class, encouraging and succeeding in having so many of the class members share their talents and backgrounds with the rest of us.

Cornelius also taught, along with his wife, Kate, both the Introductory and Advanced French class, and turned many an OLLI member into a devoted Francophile!

Last October, about 90 OLLI members attended the celebration of Cornelius’ 98th birthday at the Lake Grove diner. Everyone agreed that the afternoon was a fun-filled and richly deserved honor and tribute to Cornelius. His expressions of appreciation and love for us all brought tears to many an eye that day.

Cornelius McDonnell leaves a devoted and loving wife in Kate, as well as a son, Kevin, daughter-in-law, Patricia, and his beloved granddaughter, Bridget.

Cornelius, we shall all miss you very much. Rest well in eternal life, my friend.

- Frank Tassielli

Profile of an OLLI Leader

David Bouchier

David Bouchier joined OLLI in 2015 and has been leading workshops in classical music appreciation. This fall, his workshop has been exploring such themes as chamber music, the influence of literature on music and the role of the orchestral conductor.

David, born in London, left school at 16 and spent two years in the post-war British Army before working as a journalist and bookseller in London and later as a tour guide in Greece and Turkey. Rather late in life, he received a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and spent two decades teaching sociology at one of England’s new universities.

A faculty exchange program in 1979 brought him to Stony Brook, where he met and later married Diane Barthel, a professor in the Sociology Department here at SUNY. In 1986, David moved permanently to the United States and taught for a number of years at Stony Brook University and at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead. David and Diane now alternate living in Stony Brook and a village near Uzès, France.

Apart from teaching, David has pursued a lifetime interest in writing. His commentaries and opinion columns have appeared in dozens of newspapers, and he has contributed fiction and non-fiction to literary and political magazines. His humor column, “Out of Order” appeared in the regional Sunday edition of The New York Times over a 10-year period. Until 2015, he hosted “Sunday Matinee,” a lively program of classical music and commentary on the public radio station WSHU. His Monday commentaries can still be heard every week on that station during the “Morning Edition” show.

His two most recent books are about life in a French village, “Not Quite a Stranger” (stories) and “Out of Thin Air” (essays). A memoir, “An Unexpected Life,” will be published by Permanent Press early in 2018. In it, he discusses his hobbies: reading, writing, walking and travel. In an earlier memoir, “Lucky Man,” he summed up his own biography in these words: “I have lived all my life in attractive places in stable, democratic countries. I have always had friendship, and love, and good music, and cats. I don’t see how you can beat that.”

- Elio Zappulla
OLLI Chorus Performs at CitiField

(...continued from page 1)

The moment came when OLLI chorus Conductor Miles Massicotte, a doctoral student and accomplished classical pianist, led our troupe onto the field. The Anthem began at 12:57 p.m., as the scoreboard simultaneously flashed “OLLI Chorus at Stony Brook” and pictures of our group singing.

It doesn’t take long to actually sing the Anthem. However, the music covers a fairly extensive vocal range and, as anyone who has tried knows, it is not an easy song to sing. All the weeks of preparation were put to the test by the happy and excited faces of the group – and they proved more than up to the task. The crowd loved the rendition and loudly showed their appreciation. So did the Mets organization, which afterward gave us a thumbs-up and high praise.

The entire event was summed up by one of our own, Shelly Psaris: “Singing the National Anthem at CitiField was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will always treasure and share with my grandchildren.”

The only cloud, beside those that came with the humid weather, was that the Mets lost.

Since the CitiField appearance, the chorus has gotten two more “gigs” to sing the National Anthem.

We performed it at CommUniversity Day on Saturday, Sept. 23, and have been invited to sing the Anthem on Veterans Day before the Stony Brook University football game at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

There are always a lot of people who go into making an event such as this possible and we are grateful to Carolyn Jankowski and Diane Penllo of SPD, as well as the OLLI office staff. Our Director, Wayne Holo, was very supportive and encouraging and never lost faith in our efforts to make it all happen.

Ira Kurtzberg and Ed Metzendorf
Co-directors of the OLLI Chorus

The following members participated in the singing of the National Anthem at CitiField:

Miles Massicotte, Conductor
Rabbi David Altman
Pam Carr
Linda Kurtzberg
Ed Metzendorf
Tom Needham
Scott Stevenson
Marty Allen
Susan Cardinal
Stuart Koenig
Susan Laskowski
Cheryl Nafman
Shelly Psaris
Bucket Lists

bucket list: A list of things you’d like to do before you die, like visiting the Grand Canyon, falling in love or falling into the Grand Canyon.

From the urban dictionary

How many times in the past have you said, “I can’t wait until I retire so I will have time to __________”. Fill in the blank.

I asked some OLLI members to tell me about something they have been able to cross off their bucket list since they retired.

I didn’t imagine I’d see any of the more creative aspirations found on Internet bucket lists – build an igloo, wrap a snake around your neck or walk on hot coals. But I did think I might see “finish visiting all 50 states” or “learn a new language”.

I wasn’t expecting what I got -- emails about how important OLLI has been in members’ retirement. Well-deserved praise is never unwelcome. Four responses appear below.

But let’s not stop there. Is there anyone who has dreamed of growing bonsai trees or reading the classics and has finally gotten time to do it? Please send me your stories for the next issue of the “Chronicles”.

Rhonda Gordon

I am a little embarrassed to say that one of the first things I put on my retirement bucket list was joining OLLI, although at the time that I put it on my wish list, it was called the Round Table. When we first moved to Stony Brook, I used to take our son to the nursery school in the SBS building. I always passed a room filled with “old people” who sat around a table and looked like they were having a lot of fun.

I asked someone what was going on in there and was told that the Round Table held classes for retired people. Since I’ve always loved learning, I immediately knew that I wanted to join the Round Table when I retired.

At the time, I was home full time with our kids, so I didn’t even have a job to retire from! I eventually went back to work, and as soon as I retired, one of the first things I did was keep my promise to myself and sign up for OLLI. Three years later, I still love it and usually take seven or eight classes a week.

Linda Good

One of the things I was waiting to do when I retired was to join OLLI. That has worked out wonderfully. From that decision I became a bridge teacher, which is very fulfilling and lots of fun for me.

Doris Diamond

I actually wrote a list of things I wanted to do when I retired. One was to “develop a creative outlet.” At that time, I never envisioned what it may be - but once I joined OLLI in 2010 I began taking photography classes and became hooked. I never dreamed that I would create an oracle deck out of my photographs (Gaia’s Vision Oracle Cards) or that I would occasionally have one of my photos on exhibit at a gallery.

Eleanor Foray

Nothing exciting on my bucket list – just the usual, read more, exercise more, recover from a very stressful job. But... OLLI has opened up a whole world of things I know little or nothing about. Time to revisit the bucket list.

- Carole Gambrell

P.S. After sending a copy of this article to the contributors, I got the following response from Doris Diamond: It was funny reading your intro, as one of my bucket list items was to get rid of my fear of snakes – which finally resulted in my having two large snakes wrapped around my neck!

OLLI Annual Holiday Luncheon

The Watermill

Save the Date: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, 12:30 - 4:30 PM

We have a very special OLLI Holiday Luncheon planned this year, to be held on Dec. 12, the week after Fall workshops end. The event will be at the Watermill restaurant, 711 Smithtown Bypass, Smithtown.

The Scotto family, owners of the Watermill, have spared no expense to make their facility one of the most beautiful on Long Island.

We encourage everyone to save this date and make your reservation early. This is sure to be a sold-out event. Visit OLLI’s online course catalog to register.

- Jothi Curcio, Co-Chair
OLLI Member Relations Committee
Stony Brook Hilton Garden Inn Hosts OLLI New Member Orientation

OLLI recently welcomed more than 100 new members to campus during New Member Orientation at the Hilton Garden Inn, just across the way from OLLI’s home in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building.

The Sept. 7 event included not only most of the 128 OLLI members newly registered for the 2017-18 academic year, but also members who had joined the program mid-year last spring, since they had missed last fall’s Orientation.

The Member Relations Committee organized the event with the help of OLLI office staff. Lots of planning and preparation — and enthusiasm — went into it. All committee members took active roles in planning and executing the two-hour event.

Thanks to volunteers Dolores Murphy and Pat Howley, who expertly staffed the sign-in tables.

Relaxed, beautiful venue

The venue was beautifully arranged with large tables to accommodate new members and their table leaders. Everyone helped themselves to beautiful arrays of pastries, fruits, cookies and such, along with coffee, tea and orange juice. Diane and Jeff Hollander added additional decor with a display of photos from the Spring Dinner.

The event started on schedule at 10:00 a.m. Diane Druckman, co-chair of the Member Relations Committee, welcomed the new members and introduced the President of the OLLI Advisory Board, Bob Mirman. Bob spoke about his background and his experience with OLLI. The next speaker, Ken Lindblom, Dean of the University’s School of Professional Development, greeted the audience and discussed the background of OLLI. Wayne Holo, Director of OLLI, spoke about OLLI functions, schedules, the Campus Card and the like, and stressed the importance of checking emails.

Jackie Day, co-chair of the Curriculum Committee, gave an overview of the workshops and asked the new members to fill out forms on the table asking their background and interests, so that future workshops might be developed to meet their needs. Ira Kurtzberg, President-Elect, spoke about the Chorus group organized by the Curriculum Committee and the group’s accomplishments. He encouraged the new members to join. Diane Hollander, who is active in Conversation Partners along with Sue Parlatore, gave details about that program and asked the new members to sign up. Bunnye Avril spoke about special events that OLLI organizes, such as the upcoming trip to Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, and urged new members to participate in these special activities.

Table conversations highlight the event

Then the table conversations started. Each new member was given a package that contained the agenda for the event, the OLLI Member’s Handbook, OLLI Policies and Procedures, Campus Card Application, SBU Transit Map, SBU Parking Map, 2017 Fall Workshop Schedule, New OLLI Member Information Form. Table leaders discussed the information in the Member’s Handbook, such as the History of OLLI, Organization and Member Information, University Services, and volunteer opportunities to serve on OLLI Committees.

All the table leaders, Fred Avril, Bunnye Avril, Jackie Day, Gary Fields, Dena Fagan, Shelden Fagan, Jeff Hollander, Diane Hollander, Jim Howley, Paul Knel, Ira Kurtzberg, Laurel Martin, Bob Mirman, Dolores Murphy, Sue Parlatore, Pat Statuch and Doris Weisman, did a superb job. They made the new members feel comfortable and important, answered their questions and gave them all the information they needed to get the most out OLLI programs. The new members were visibly impressed and clearly enjoyed the discussion.

Jothi Curcio, co-chair of the Member Relations Committee, closed the event by thanking all the board members, committee members and other volunteers who had participated as table leaders, speakers and tour leaders. She also gave information about the campus tour the new members could take. Tour leaders Bunnye Avril, Fred Avril, Gary Field, Paul Knel, Laurel Martin, Bob Mirman and Pat Statuch did a great job of taking the new members around campus on what was a beautiful sunny day.

Wayne Holo, Laura West, Leah Todd and Harry Walsh did a wonderful job, as always, in coordinating with the Hilton Garden Inn, creating and organizing the information packages and troubleshooting.

Members who could not be present but who were involved in the planning were Ed Metzendorf, Thelma Taub and Sheryl Sessa. Thank you very much for your efforts.

- Jothi Curcio, Co-Chair
OLLI Member Relations Committee
OLLI Artists Participate at CommUniversity Day

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, several OLLI artists participated Sept. 23 in the University’s community open house, called CommUniversity Day. They exhibited samples of visual art at tables across from the Zuccaire Gallery at the Staller Center. They also distributed printed information about the OLLI program.

Linda Kurtzberg, Len Sciacchitano, Judy Stone and Bob Stone showed paintings, collages and photography. This offered an opportunity to let students and community members know what OLLI is all about. Len’s photographic interpretations engendered particular interest among students and visitors alike and he was happy to explain his process and results.

- Bob Stone, Volunteer
OLLI Arts Council

Campus and Community Celebrate First CommUniversity Day

(This story segment is taken from Stony Brook University’s website)

Stony Brook University launched a new campus tradition, CommUniversity Day, on Saturday, September 23, 2017. On a beautiful fall day, more than 200 University faculty, staff and students volunteered their time to share some of their areas of the campus with the community. Families, friends and neighbors enjoyed exploring roughly 80 interactive exhibits during the four-hour event.

“We’re proud to offer this new opportunity for visitors to discover more about Stony Brook University and hope that our neighbors and campus community enjoyed the wide array of activities and performances,” said President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD.

The layout for CommUniversity Day was designed to have participants move throughout the Academic Mall, which was divided into “neighborhoods.” Each area was staffed with volunteers, and the wide selection of activities offered guests a new discovery at every turn.

One neighbor, Alicia Brideson from Port Jefferson Station, attended with her son, Patrick, 12, and daughter, Megan, 8. “The students really interacted very well with the kids,” said Brideson. “One student told Patrick that he should try to build his own computer, telling him, ‘the harder the project, the more you learn.’” For Megan, there was excitement in speaking with a member of the Ballroom Dance Club, who showed her a few moves of the cha cha. The CommUniversity Day neighborhoods included The Arts, Health & Safety, Discovery Zone, Traditions, Find Out in 15, Student Performances and Service Groups, Food Court, and a Main Stage.

In his address, President Stanley acknowledged several milestones for the campus, including the 20th anniversary of the Center for India Studies, the 40th anniversary of WUSB radio, and the 50th anniversaries of Stony Brook Hillel, SBU Concerts and the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Cupcakes were distributed to mark the University’s 60th year.
Welcome to another semester of learning in our OLLI program! By now, your schedule is well under way and we hope everyone is enjoying their workshops.

Once again, a big thank you to our workshop leaders and co-leaders for volunteering their time and expertise to create such an outstanding program. We currently offer more than 100 workshops! We know our members – some 1,100 strong – are grateful to have this wonderful resource as a part of their lives. Finally, thanks to the diligent work of the OLLI office staff, we again have many larger classrooms, which has reduced the numbers of people on waitlists.

Workshop Leaders’ Retreat

The Workshop Leaders’ Retreat on Aug. 31 was attended by over 40 leaders and co-leaders. Several spoke to the group about how they plan and present their workshops. Thank you, Sylvia Kirk, Angela Bari, Carl Siegel and Peter Akras, for volunteering your time and expertise for that part of the program.

Our director, Wayne Holo, and Diane Perillo from the School of Professional Development spoke to the group about the availability of technology for workshops and accessing a Net ID at the university. We had many volunteers from the Curriculum Committee who helped set up the room for the event. Thank you, Joan Fortgang, Paul Knel, Eileen Lohse, Sue Parlatore, Sheryl Sessa, Tasha Greenberg, Janet Creamer and Doris Weisman. And thanks, too, for OLLI office staff members Laura West, Leah Todd and Harry Walsh for their contributions toward making this such a successful event.

Chorus Continues to Grow

The OLLI Chorus is growing. We have 16 new members, for a total of 44 as of now. Our esteemed conductor, Miles Massicotte, has suggested several popular songs for the group to prepare for singing at a number of events. Our CitiField Choir sang the National Anthem at the New York Mets game July 16. (See the article elsewhere in this edition that highlights this wonderful experience.)

As soon as Fall semester begins, planning for Spring semester begins. And not long after Spring semester starts, we will be looking again for workshops to offer in the June mini-semester. Remember, everyone, we are always looking for new workshops and leaders to keep our curriculum fresh and engaging. As for our new members, after you have taken some workshops, please consider offering one yourself.

Spread the word so we can maintain the numbers of workshops in the program.

- Ed Metzendorf and Jackie Day, Co-Chairs

OLLI Curriculum Committee

Conversation Partners

In addition to all the wonderful workshops at Olli, the Conversation Partners program is an amazing way to donate a little time and reap big rewards. It is a volunteer opportunity that makes a difference!

The purpose is to talk one-on-one with international graduate students at Stony Brook University so their English proficiency will get stronger. There are no lessons or material to cover – just get them talking. You might want to consider some of the following topics: current events, campus news, cultural aspects, areas of study, sports, family, etc.

Some more ideas:

- Get to know each other; share stories. Watch a movie together and discuss.
- Have coffee or tea together.
- Invite your student partner to your home to share a meal.
- Talk on the phone.
- Go Dutch treat to a local or campus restaurant.
- Share a holiday.
- Meet with several other conversation partners as a group.
- Go to a live event at the Staller or Wang centers and then discuss it.
- Share a community happening.

It's easy to get started:

Everyone is encouraged to participate. Just remember that OLLI members may not request a Conversation Partner by gender, age or race.

Thank you, and we hope to see your name on the list!

- Sue Parlatore and Diane Hollander, Co-Chairs

OLLI Conversation Partners
Events & Trips
Special Events Committee

OLLI offers us a plethora of opportunities to learn new and different things within the confines of the University. But the chances for enrichment extend far beyond the walls of the classroom. Several times each semester, the Special Events Committee arranges excursions to places that we think may be of interest to the membership.

Connetquot River State Park Sportsmen’s Lodge
For example, OLLI members visited a local gem, Connetquot River State Park, in September and learned the history of its Sportsmen’s Lodge.

Kykuit Rockefeller Estate and Union Church
For October, planners arranged a trip to the Tarrytown area and the Union Church there, where members could admire the stained-glass windows of Matisse and Chagall. The itinerary also featured a visit to nearby Kykuit, the estate of the Rockefeller family, with its fabulous grounds and art collection.

Park Avenue Armory / Museum of Art and Design
In November, members can take a guided tour of the recently refurbished Park Avenue Armory, conducted by its historian. Later that day, there will be a docent-led tour of the exciting exhibit at the Museum of Art and Design. Keep your eyes attuned for more information about this trip.

Our Special Events Committee is already looking into other fascinating venues to explore this spring. We are always open to new members and new ideas and would love to have you join us. The next meeting of the committee will be at 10:00 a.m., Monday, Oct. 11, in SBS-N114. Come join us!

- Bunnye Avril, Chair
OLLI Special Events
The Chronicles

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