It feels like we were just browsing the fall catalog and selecting which workshops to take and now the semester is at an end.

Time goes by quickly when you’re doing the things you enjoy, and OLLI fills that role for so many of us.

The beginning of the semester brought us many new challenges, which, by working together as a group, we were able to work through. However, the end of the semester is bringing a few more issues for us to address. As the University community grows, space becomes more and more in demand and both rooms and parking become harder to come by.

The senior staff of the University has asked us to work with them to help elevate the burden of the heaviest traffic days on campus by shifting some of our workshops to less occupied days and times.

I hope everyone will join together in making this effort possible.

While we will be on recess from our OLLI workshops, the office staff will be working hard to get the 100-plus workshops scheduled for the spring semester, and I want to thank Wayne and his staff for all the hard work they put in throughout the semester.

And don’t forget: registration for the spring workshops opens on January 6.

We had a wonderful response to our Holiday Luncheon at the Three Village Inn with 150 people registered to attend.

I want to thank the Executive Board, the committee chairs and their members, and all the volunteers who worked very hard over the semester. A special thanks to all the workshop leaders, for without them there would be no workshops.

In this season for giving, I hope you will keep OLLI in mind.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.
As I write this article for our December Chronicles, our OLLI workshops are entering their final week of the Fall 2014 semester which ends on Friday, December 5 with the Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Three Village Inn.

The holiday season is here, and while this is traditionally a very special time of year for many, occasionally it becomes just a little too much of a good thing for some. Sadly, for those among us who get those not-so-merry feelings when the holidays approach, it often becomes very easy to let all the hustle and bustle get us down. Instead of joy and celebration, the holidays sometimes bring feelings of unhappiness and even depression.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous New Year!

Wayne

Here is a list of what’s happening at OLLI in December and early January. Be sure to visit the OLLI Events Calendar on our website for more information. Also, be sure to watch your email inbox for updates from OLLI.

- Wednesday, December 3 – Literary Tea, 2:30 PM, SBS S102
- Friday, December 5 – OLLI Holiday Luncheon, 1:30 PM, Three Village Inn (Full)
  - OLLI Fall Semester Ends
- Monday, December 8 – OLLI 2014 Strategic Planning Focus Group (1), 1:00 PM, SBS S102
- Wednesday, December 10 – Special Events Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room (registration required)
- Thursday, December 11 - OLLI 2014 Strategic Planning Focus Group (2), 1:00 PM, SBS S102 (registration required)
  - AARP (OLLI) Defensive Driving course, 9:30 AM, SBS N112 (registration required)
- Tuesday, December 23 (tentative) – Spring 2015 OLLI Course Catalog and Schedule available online.
- Thu, Dec 25 & Fri, Dec 26 – OLLI Closed (Christmas)
- Wednesday, December 31 – Special Event: New Years Eve at St. John the Divine’s “Concert for Peace” (Full)
- Monday, January 5 – Spring 2015 Online Registration begins

My hopes and prayers this holiday season for all of my friends and co-workers at OLLI is that each of you is able to find a few moments each day to pause and reflect on the joy that our families and friends bring to our lives. Take a look around and see the beauty that surrounds us and the blessings in our lives. Embrace the true spirit of the season…the spirit of thankfulness, sharing and good will towards men.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous New Year!

Wayne

Member Relations Committee
Pat Breslauer

There’s always an opportunity to meet new people in the workshops you attend. Another way to meet people is to join a committee. The Member Relations Committee is very active in the new member orientation held in the fall, as well as staffing an Information Table for new OLLI members the first week of each semester. Once you know your way around campus you are welcome to answer questions from the newest registrants. If you would like to participate, send me an email at patty.bres100@gmail.com.
When you look over the bulletin that lists all workshops and their descriptions … how do you decide which ones to register for? How do you know what to expect if it’s a fairly new workshop? Wouldn’t it be nice if you had some recommendations! Funny you should mention that. Below you will find some commentaries from OLLI members attending workshops that were new for the fall 2014 semester.

Be on the lookout for these workshops (or the workshop leaders) in the future.

**Reading Latin – An Introduction, led by Tom Hayes**

Believe it or not, learning Latin can be fun! Tom Hayes makes it so. He is witty, clever and extremely knowledgeable – not only in Latin, but in many other languages as well – a veritable linguist!

Grammar is presented as a puzzle – we learn the proper order of words (subject, verb, object, etc.) by creating silly sentences and giggling over them. We’ve learned the translation of words and phrases that we’ve been using forever and never really knew what they meant and also from where they came.

Everyone who is enrolled in OLLI should take at least one semester of this delightful course.

**VIVAT LINGUA LATINA**

Submitted by Marvin & Eleanor Kramer

After fifty years I am learning Latin again. Tom Hayes, the workshop leader, brings his educational background to every meeting. His extensive knowledge of Romans – their history, life and culture is very interesting.

Learning Latin is more fun the second time around.

Submitted by Deanna Pearson

**Introduction To Reading Music, led by Neil Bernstein**

Whether you have some music experience or none at all, you will love the Introduction to Music class taught by Neil Bernstein. Neil brings his knowledge, teaching experience and personality to each meeting.

It is an educational, interesting and fun workshop and I look forward to it every week.

Submitted by Deanna Pearson
Introduction to Reading Music, continued

This is a great class for beginners and those already having some musical knowledge. We work on things like rhythm, notes, key signatures and even simple composing These are basically the elements which are the structure from which music is formed. The best part is how much fun we have!

Submitted by Irene Wehn

I learned to play the piano 20 years ago as an adult. Although I am reasonably proficient, I am not always diligent in reading and playing music as I have been taught, and use shortcuts to make things easier for myself. As soon as I saw this class listed, I decided to take it as a refresher, believing that one can never have too much of the basics.

The class is taught by a former music teacher whose wry humor and wit make it fun and non-threatening; there is lots of laughter! Learners of all levels are included: some starting from scratch with no musical instruction, and others who are self-taught or who have had lessons in various instruments including the guitar and the piano. All want to learn or relearn the basics. This class might also be interesting to those who desire an understanding of how to begin to interpret the lines, notes and symbols on a sheet of music, but who don’t necessarily want to learn to play an instrument.

Submitted by Cynthia R. Shephard

Most began unable to distinguish a treble from a base clef. Within a month the group had begun to grasp the rudiments of the progression of sharps and flats, the identity of many of music’s basic key signatures as well as some beginning fundamentals in composing music within assigned keys. All was overseen by Neil Bernstein with a never ending sense of humor and a gentle encouragement that has been able to brighten even dark and chilly Friday mornings. This is a course of serious learning thoroughly mixed with relaxed laughter. There is much to learn and Neil works hard to see that the learning takes place, but always with a great respect for the humanity of each member in the group. It’s a rewarding way to spend Friday mornings.

Submitted by Jack Cooney

Nuclear Non-Proliferation, led by Les Fishbone

In this frightening world of global terrorism threats, I find it somewhat reassuring to discover there are treaties in place to safeguard our lives. Les Fishbone’s insider’s approach to the subject matter and his lucid presentation make this course easy to understand. As a former member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, he brings many personal anecdotes of his years spent there in the Dept. of Safeguards.

If you are lacking in snappy repartee at cocktail parties when the subject of nuclear fission comes up, fear no more. All kidding aside, you will gain much valuable knowledge in this class, and perhaps be a little less fearful for your grandchildren’s futures.

Submitted by Ellen Balaban

More commentaries on following pages
### Nuclear Non-Proliferation, continued

I wandered into this class early in the semester. There was an empty seat and I had room in my schedule. I was quickly hooked! Did you know that the United States paid Russia to let us help them with their nuclear program? Learn which countries have signed the Non-Proliferation treaty, which ones haven’t and what safeguards are in place. I have yet to see a question stump Les.

If you are considering this for the Spring 2015 semester, look for the new title: “Nuclear Security and Counter-Terrorism”.

Submitted by **Terri McCoy**

Leslie knows his subject thoroughly and his presentation is clear and pleasant. Members will find more interest when Leslie emphasizes issues as: “Why do so few countries have nuclear weapons? How has the United States helped Russia better secure nuclear materials?” and “How is the Non Proliferation Treaty dealing with Iran and how would it deal with other countries that try to get nuclear weapons?”

Submitted by **Jerry Ebenstein**

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### Topics In Philosophy, led by Natika Newton and Michael Colen

From early philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle to 21st century thinkers, metaphysics is presented in a way we can all understand by co-leaders Natika Newton and Michael Colen.

If your earlier education was lacking in this area, you will enjoy the energetic discussions in each class. Material is handed out in each class, no heavy reading or texts are necessary. No prior knowledge is assumed, so poets and scientists need not fear.

Submitted by **Ellen Balaban**

Ms. Newton is an exceptionally fine Workshop Leader. Each session is carefully planned and organized and includes handouts applicable to the particular topics under discussion. In addition, she welcomes comments and questions including those that challenge her philosophical points.

Most importantly, she is enthusiastic and passionate about her subject which is, happily for me,-------Contagious!!

I look forward to each session!

Submitted by **Katherine Bayer**

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More commentaries on following pages
**The Chronicles**

**Opera Appreciation For People Who Think They Don’t Like Opera,**  
led by Claude Frank

Claude Frank's love, enthusiasm and expertise of opera certainly enhance the subject for us newcomers. Utilizing a combination of lectures, videos and humor, Claude provides a painless way to learn about this wonderful art form.

Come join the workshop, and maybe, if you're lucky, the leader will wear his cape to class!

Submitted by **Barbara Walker**

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So you think you hate opera? Think again! If Claude Frank can't convince you otherwise with his infectious enthusiasm, no one can. Through his historical perspective you will gain insights into music and the past that will fill you with the wonder of new knowledge.

Highly recommended for all virtual music and history aficionados and dilettantes alike.

Submitted by **Ellen Balaban**

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**OLLI Talks, led by Carole Gambrell**

I truly enjoyed this workshop. It was a very diverse learning atmosphere. I found that Science Unplugged talks by the students to be very enlightening and interesting. I especially liked the talks on Cosmic Collisions and the Columbian Exchange, although all of the students were very enjoyable. It was nice to see the young people at the beginning of their careers.

Submitted by **Jaynee Wall**

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New for me was to hear a guest speaker every week on a different subject, moderated by Carole Gambrell. The subjects were new and interesting. All of the guest speakers were well versed in their subject and well prepared to give a lecture on that subject.

We might inquire of the Graduate Studies group, what subjects they are prepared to speak on and try to book them. The Medical School might be asked to supply speakers on topical subjects (Ebola virus for example) or areas of expertise. They used to teach a Mini-Medical School in the evenings. There was an interesting list of topics that were covered.

Submitted by **Wayne Keelty**

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**Genealogy For Beginners, led by Karen Jaffee and Susan Mille**

Karen and Sue offered a well prepared and informative workshop on genealogy. They were able to instruct newcomers to the field as well as assist those further along in tracing their ancestry. One note of caution, genealogy can be addictive!

Submitted by **Helen Emmerich**

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More commentaries on following pages
“Who Am I” The Building Blocks Of Personality led by Susan Jacquin

The instructor is very knowledgeable and has a sense of humor. The class has an opportunity to choose which topics to focus on at the next meeting. It is interesting to take the personality tests and then self-evaluate. This is a good review of the psychology I learned in college.

Submitted by Pricilla Hockman

Food: A History Part II, led by Peter Akras

History of Food is a class that offers a refreshing overview of civilization by examining the gathering, cultivating and customs connected to food. The course also introduces you to a unique facilitator who grows and cooks his own grains, breads and shares recipes with the class. He often brings unusual samples of his healthy foods for the class to taste!

Submitted by Len Prager

OLLII Literary Tea!

Join us to hear original poems and stories created, written and read by OLLI members.

Date: Wednesday, December 3
Time: 2:30 pm
Place: Refreshments in S149 followed by readings in S102

RSVP to Laura West

Laura West
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at Stony Brook University
SBS - S101 Zip=4310
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Fax: 631 632-4855
What Has OLLI Done for You?
By Lee Marc Stein

I’m always talking to people about how much OLLI has done for me… and I’m equally interested in hearing how others feel. So a few weeks ago, I formalized that process and began emailing Members to ask for their comments. Here are the first to respond (we’d like to publish your thoughts in future issues of The Chronicles; just email me at lmstein@optonline.net):

“Volunteering as an OLLI workshop leader has enabled me to share my love and passion of Music with my peers. The vast selection of OLLI workshops has enabled me to pursue and expand my knowledge in subjects and topics I enjoy, with participant discussion and sharing of views. OLLI has also provided me the opportunity to establish friendships with many special people who share common interests.” -- Gary L. Field

“OLLI has meant a rebirth for me. I have been able to go back to school and take the liberal arts classes that I missed when I was majoring in engineering. It has also extended my cultural and social world. As they say in the MasterCard ad ‘priceless!’” -- Sol Gurman

“A few words indicating what OLLI has meant to me: Rejuvenation, inspiration, cultivation of creation... Excitation, motivation, contemplation and elation... Satisfaction, validation, celebration of new relations... Appreciation, restoration of vitality, increasing conviviality and serenity.” -- Gilda Candela

“I love many things about OLLI. For example, we explore exciting new subject matter while interacting with very intelligent people from diverse backgrounds. There is also the warmth and collegiality of working with enthusiastic classmates and the stimulation of meeting new people, both members and college students. That is why OLLI makes my day.” -- David Long

Now, What Will YOU Do for OLLI?

As you undoubtedly know by now, OLLI has embarked on its first fundraising campaign. Our purpose is to
• Expand and improve workshop facilities – we desperately need more classrooms!
• Upgrade technology for registration and workshops, and
• Keep our member fees low to continue accessibility for a wide range of lifetime learners.

Please contribute now and benefit from a tax deduction this year. You can donate securely online through the “Give to OLLI” page on our website:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/olli/give
Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind.

--Henri Frederick Amiel

A get well card has been sent to Peppi Schwartz and a sympathy card to Leonard Beekman, on his wife’s passing.