The ever-shortening daylight hours signal the final sessions of our fall semester. Time certainly flies fast when you’re learning and having fun. From sessions on politics to photography, sports to science—our members flourished as they explored new ideas and activities.

Our team of elite workshop leaders have done it again!

We’re all looking forward to the upcoming festive season spent with friends and family. But before we move into 2016, I want to again extend thanks for the tireless efforts of our leadership and membership.

The OLLI office staff resolution of previous wait-list issues makes us confident that next semester’s nearly 100 projected workshops will fill-up smoothly. Many new titles will be offered alongside your old favorites. January 5th begins the initial registration period.

The Executive Board and their related committees have been working hard since last May. Many members will stay busy during the Winter recess creating new events and opportunities, as well as exploring renovations that may include a new OLLI lounge.

Our Nominating Committee is contacting interested candidates for the recently vacated office of president-elect. A special election will then be held once the process has been completed.

Your recent donations have moved us closer to our 2015 goal and will be utilized where most needed. We thank everyone for their generosity and remind all that there’s still time to make your tax-deductible contributions by the December 31 deadline.

The Holiday Luncheon at the Watermill will be our biggest ever. More than 200 will enjoy an afternoon of live music, great food, and, most importantly, socializing with OLLI friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

Your OLLI team and I wish all a very happy and healthy holiday season. Stay warm and safe until we meet again in 2016.
With the anticipation of autumn leaves soon turning to winter snow, so also is the anticipation of our OLLI workshops ending soon as we enter the final week of the Fall 2015 semester. Although workshops end on Friday, December 4, many of our members, guests and staff will gather the following week to celebrate at the annual OLLI Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8. This year’s event will be held at The Watermill in Smithtown and the word on the street says it’s going to be spectacular!

I can hardly believe it’s already December. And I have not done ANY Christmas shopping. Thank goodness for Amazon! Truthfully, everyone in my family is like that, so I don’t let it bother me too much. We play it one holiday at a time and as I write this, there are still 2 days until Thanksgiving. My wife Nancy absolutely LOVES Thanksgiving. So do I, but Christmas is a big deal at our house too. It’s difficult for me to pick a favorite season, since there is something special I enjoy about all of them. But if asked, I would probably choose the winter holidays. For me it’s the time of year when I find myself wanting to put aside deadlines, project plans, and task lists and turning my focus inward to devote time to and to reflect on what I regard as the most important things in my life: faith, family and friends.

I love this time of year. I always have. And it never fails to bring back memories of winter holidays when I was a boy. I would bet that many of us remember simpler times when we look back at our childhoods. I certainly do. I am so grateful for the blessings I enjoyed growing up and those which I have carried with me and continue to enjoy. Most if not all of those memories and blessings are connected to people in my life, both past and present. And that includes my new family and friends here on Long Island. They say that every day is a chance to create new memories. I pray that during the coming holidays, yours will all be good ones.

As our office staff, committee members, workshop leaders and volunteers put together the finishing touches to another successful semester at OLLI at Stony Brook University, preparations have already begun for Spring 2016. Our workshop leader applications have been completed, submitted and reviewed and once again it looks like yet another interesting and vast assortment to choose from when registration begins on Tuesday, January 5. Be sure to watch your email inbox in December for more registration dates and details. And don’t forget to visit our online Events Calendar on the OLLI website. Below are some dates and events from that calendar:

- Wednesday, December 2 – OLLI Executive Board Meeting, 2:30 PM, SBS N244 JOB Conference Room
- Friday, December 4 – OLLI Fall 2015 – Semester Ends – Last Day of Workshops
- Tuesday, December 8 – Holiday Luncheon, 12:30 PM, The Watermill in Smithtown
- Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day – OLLI Office Closed
- Friday, January 1, 2016 – New Year’s Day – OLLI Office Closed
- Tuesday, January 5 – OLLI Spring 2016 – Online Registration Begins
- Friday, January 15 – OLLI Spring 2016 – Online Registration Ends
- Monday, February 15 – OLLI Spring 2016 – Semester Begins: First Day of Workshops
- Monday, February 29 – OLLI Food Drive – SBU Campus Food Bank: February 29 – March 14

Happy Holidays!
Wayne
Hello readers,

This month we’ve got good news and regretful news.

For 17 years, Karl Demuth has led workshops at Round Table and OLLI. I’m sorry to report that Karl will be moving next year and will no longer be at OLLI. With his permission, I am including his recent email to the Curriculum Committee:

Dear Terri,

I am very sorry to have to notify you that I must cancel my workshop “The Cause” for the spring semester. I submitted my application just to be safe because I was not sure that I could finish my topic of the American Revolution by December. Now I know that I will. The other problem is that I have decided that I will be moving from Long Island at some time in the spring to live with my daughter in Massachusetts.

I have given workshops for the Round Table (OLLI) since 1998. They have provided an immensely satisfying experience for me and I will miss them and the wonderful members who participated with me.

Thank you.

Thank you, Karl, for your dedication to OLLI. You will be missed by your OLLI friends. Good luck to you.

While Karl’s workshop will no longer be offered, we do have new ones to present to you, the membership. This spring, we have 8 applications for new workshops. There are two in History & Politics and Languages and one each in Finance & Business, Science, Music and Arts. Something for everyone! Below is a description of each.

**Sorting out the Candidates Economic Plans** led by Michael Melnyk, will look at the candidates positions on the economy and their plans. We’ll start with understanding typical economic indices like GDP, trade balances, national debt, social security solvency etc. The candidates goals for the economy and their plans to achieve their goals will be examined. The class will follow the candidates and their positions as they evolve.

**Creation of the Universe** led by Al Tobin will study the laws of physics & chemistry that lead to the creation of the fundamental particles and energies in the Big Bang, the formation of stars, galaxies, supernovae, the creation of the earthly elements, the Solar System and Earth, climate change, the Goldilocks phenomenon, the discovery of ancient and modern materials and engineering systems essential to the Modern World.

**La France D’aujourd’hui** led by Tasha Greenberg is geared to the intermediate level and will offer French language students another opportunity to expand & practice their skills. French language movies will be featured and current French publications will be used as the basis for discussion.

Continued on page 3
The Chronicles

Curriculum Committee Report, continued

Italian for fun and travel led by Judith D’Onofrio will show you how to navigate through food, travel, shopping and who knows? Whether you plan to visit this wonderful land or just to explore this lyrical language, join us and see where this journey leads us! This workshop is for beginners.

The Enigmatic Mary Magdalene led by John Molfetta will share with you her story as you are taken through her supporting role as seen in the canonical gospels, to Pope Gregory as he stigmatized her for centuries from a close companion of Jesus to the marginalization of women within the church. With early documentation as well as the discoveries found at Nag Hammadi and the Dead Sea Scrolls a new light shines on Mary. This mini workshop runs the FIRST 6 weeks of the semester.

Classical Music for the Rest of Us led by David Bouchier will show you how to understand the music you love by exploring the glorious age of classical music from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. You will learn about the lives and loves of the great composers, and how their music was influenced by the history of their times. Themes will include musical fashions like romanticism and modernism, the influence of nature and culture, literature and poetry. No musical knowledge is necessary.

Movie Making Techniques led by George Rystar will explore the techniques used in making a movie are integral to its effectiveness. An Alfred Hitchcock movie, for instance, is known for creating suspense. How is this done? This workshop will examine excerpts from many movies to see how various techniques influence the narrative, the emotional effect, and the theme of a movie.

Israeli / Middle East Cinema led by Richard Rubin will feature hand-picked independent style films, covering cultural / political issues reflecting Israeli / Jewish life in the Middle East, varying in tone from dramas to comedies with everything in between. This 2-1/4 hour workshop will include an approximately 1-3/4 hour film presentation with ½ hour follow up discussion. Films currently being considered are The Green Prince, Sarah’s Key, The Gatekeepers, Aida, Hanna’s Journey and Wadja.

Look for the Spring 2016 workshop catalog in early January and give one of these new workshops a try!

Special Events Committee Announcement

Special Events Committee has planned many exciting events for the Spring Semester

February 2016
Luncheon and Talk

March
Backstage at the Metropolitan Opera and Museum Mile

May
Storm King Art Center Including lunch at the River Grill

June
Connetquot Park in Oakdale

Specific dates for these events will follow along with sign-up instructions
As a kid in the 1940’s what do you do on a warm summer’s night in Brooklyn, New York? No television, no computer games, no i-pods, no texting, so what do you do? Not knowing about these future amusements, my friends and I improvised.

We played my favorite game—Punch Ball in the long narrow alley-way next to the apartment house where we lived. It was played with a “Spaldeen” (a “Spalding Hi-Bounce Ball”, which is a small rubber ball, supposedly made from the defective core of a tennis ball without the felt.) There was no batter so you would throw the ball into the air and use your own fist as the bat and punch it toward the outfielders, then run the bases. It was scored like a regular baseball game.

We also played “Hit the Penny” which consisted of putting a penny on the seam in the sidewalk. Players stood at either end of the sidewalk box behind the line defining the box. You were not allowed to step over this line. We took turns throwing a ball at the penny, trying to hit it. Hitting the penny counted for one point; flipping it over counted for three, 21 points won. My father who was extravagant used a nickel when he and I would play. He loved this game.

“Hide and Go Seek” was a favorite game among us kids. Someone would be chosen as “it”. He or she would close their eyes counting to ten at home base. Someone else would go up to “it” and making a circular motion with their hand on “it’s” back would say—“Make a shimelachem and the last one found is “it”(I have a feeling that this was the Jewish version of the game). “It” would then say, “Ready or not, here I come!” The hiders either remained hidden or they came out of hiding to race to home base; once they touched it, they were “safe” and couldn’t be tagged. If the seeker tagged another player before he reached home base, that person became “it”.

Another favorite game for the girls was “Potsie” also called “Hopscotch”. You tossed a stone into a numbered box and then hopped up the court, turned and picked it up after making a round. The court was drawn with chalk on the sidewalk. Each box was numbered from one to eight with a home box at the far end. The player tossed the stone into box one. It had to land directly inside the box without bouncing out or touching the line. The player lost her turn if the stone went into the wrong square. Single squares were hopped on one foot. Side by side squares were straddled. This was repeated throughout of all of the numbered squares. You were out if you stepped on a line, or lost your balance. The first player to pick up the stone from every numbered square was declared the winner.

I think that the most played game was “Jump Rope”. We started with a single rope which was held by a girl at either end while the other girls jumped in the middle. When we felt proficient enough we tried “Double Dutch” which was two ropes being swung at the same time. It wasn’t easy but lots of fun.

One thing we did that our parent’s would not have been happy with was to roast “mickies” (potatoes) on an open fire in the empty lot on the next block. The nickname of “mickies” evolved from Irish immigrants who bought hot roasted potatoes from street vendors in Boston and New York. The neighborhood boys who were more daredevil types would start the fire and then we would put our potato on a long stick and hold it in the fire until it turned black. No potato since has ever tasted as good as those.
The Chronicles

Brooklyn Kids Knew How to Have Fun, continued

The most popular thing we did in daylight hours was to go roller skating. There were clamps on the front of the skates which you clamped onto your shoes and tightened them with a skate key which you hung on a string around your neck. A strap went across your ankle to hold the back on. There was a lot less traffic in those days so that you could skate in the gutter being reasonably safe. We even took our skates to Prospect Park which was a distance from where we lived. It was a lot of fun skating in the park. We visited the zoo, had a bag of peanuts for five cents and even gave some to the squirrels.

If we could afford it, sometimes we were able to rent a bicycle for an hour either at Prospect Park or at the boardwalk in Coney Island. The charge was fifty cents an hour which wasn’t easy to come by.

On rainy days my girlfriend Minerva, who lived in an apartment on the other side of our apartment house, and I stayed in and drew pictures all day. Sometimes Minerva, Herbie who lived on my side of the building on the second floor and I would play “Monopoly” which to this day hasn’t lost its popularity. “Monopoly” is a board game that I’m sure everyone knows and doesn’t need an explanation. It started out using names of Atlantic City streets and now the game uses names of streets from cities and countries all over the world.

If I haven’t given enough of an account of those precious fun-filled days and nights then here are a few of the expressions we used as kids: “Finders keepers, losers weepers”,”No Fair, Do Over”, “Dare, Double Dare”, Playing “for fair,” “for keeps” and “Red Light Green Light, 1 2 3”.

P.S. I almost forgot one of the most important events that happened every evening and made our world complete. It was when you heard the bells ringing on the “Bungalow Bar” ice cream truck and asked the driver for your favorite ice cream pop. If you were lucky, after you finished the ice cream, and you got the pop with the stick that said “Bungalow Bar”, then you turned the stick in for a free pop.

Barbara Golub

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An unusually large and enthusiastic group of OLLI members met on Friday November 20th for the Fall Literary Tea. Once again Rhoda Spinner had assembled a talented group of OLLI writers and poets to share some of their work. There were 56 entries by 22 authors, including poems, stories and brief essays. Many of the pieces were humorous, so we in the audience spent much of our time laughing. Others were more serious and some told of tragic experiences. As usual, Wally Collier provided a beautiful color photograph for the cover of the collected papers.

We especially enjoyed listening to the humor of John Williams, who wasn’t able to attend, and we thank Bob Stone for reading the work for us. Bob also read some of his own poetry, including a very moving piece about an ant.

Poetry ranged in subject matter from conversations overheard in a bathroom stall (in a poem by Kathee Shaff Kelson) to memories of an Irish grandfather (in a poem by Bob Hayes), and instructions for mourning (in a poem by Lee Marc Stein).

The afternoon ended with a children’s story with the unlikely title of “The Vegetarian Zombie,” by Lillian Heckinger.

We were all impressed by the literary talent in the OLLI student body, and we look forward to next spring’s literary gathering. We also hope that those of you who have not yet attended one of these Literary Teas will join us in April of 2016. You don’t have to bring a poem or story to take part in these sessions. Just come, share in the refreshments, and enjoy the experience.
I was nervous and excited on March 3, 2015. All I knew was his name was Gary and he was 6’2”. We were meeting for the first time and we were to be “Conversation Partners”. I had no idea what our meeting would bring and I’m sure he felt the same way.

I liked him from the moment we met. A great guy with everything going for him: kind, polite, sweet and smart. He had it all!! This is going to be interesting. First surprise, it was his birthday!!

Since I have a fear of flying and have not traveled the world, this was an opportunity to explore other cultures. I was immersed from the beginning and brought a map so Gary could show me where he was from. I started cutting out articles about China that I thought he would like and began to learn a little bit about his culture and family.

I know OLLI suggests a half hour meeting. We seem to double that and I always wish we had more time. He is a pleasure to be with and time just flies. Gary is always upbeat, happy and truly loves life.

We have done some interesting things, like going to Trader Joe’s, which was so much fun. He told me he had trouble figuring out what comes in closed packages, so I suggested we go shopping. I also took him to Avalon in Stony Brook Village. So close, yet he had no idea it was there.

My husband Jeff became another person in his life and we have gone out for lunches and dinners together. A basketball game is next on the agenda. We were thrilled to experience his first spaghetti and meatballs!! The highlight for me was having him for the Jewish holiday. He melded quickly with our family and friends. It was as if he had always been in our life. He loved the gefilte fish and matzo ball soup but the brisket was his favorite. Who knew??

With Thanksgiving approaching, the first thing my kids asked, “Will Gary be coming?” Absolutely!!

Now the hard part. Gary is graduating on December 17th. We were so honored that he invited us to the ceremony and are thrilled to attend.

We will be meeting his girlfriend Fang Fang who is coming from China. She is a journalist and an artist in Chinese paper cutting.

I feel as though we are already close friends having exchanged several notes translated by Gary.

When he visited China this summer, he brought back beautiful gifts from his parents and sister and a magnificent picture Fang Fang made for us. It hangs in a prominent place in our den. I cannot tell you how much this meant to us.

When Gary graduates with his advanced degree in computer science, he will likely get a job in California or Washington. I am so happy for him but sad our meetings will end. It will be very hard to say goodbye. I do know we will always be in touch. Thank goodness for texting!

There is a special spot in my heart for him and it will always be there. Will I get another Conversation Partner……?? Of course, but he or she has a very hard act to follow.

His name is Gary………….and he is VERY special!!!
Old as we get, there are some habits or addictions from our youth that we can never shake. They stick with us like rubber cement (remember how you used to make balls of the stuff and throw them across the classroom?).

Once I had a problem with alcohol, licked it, and haven’t touched it in over 30 years. But alcohol was the EASY addiction. I still haven’t licked (or unfortunately I have) the tougher addiction, the one that’s stuck to me all these years: PEANUT BUTTER!

I’m not sure at what age I started – probably at four or five. I still clearly see my mother lugging giant jars, gallons, in her shopping cart up the hill from Morris Avenue in The Bronx.

It was Skippy Smooth to start (say that with a mouth full of P.B.), but I quickly moved to Chunky. There was little brand-switching in those years, especially because Skippy sponsored one of my favorite TV shows – “You Asked for It” with host Art Baker. One of the commercials was “Three Ways to Get Skippy off the Roof of Your Mouth.”

“Man cannot live by bread alone; he must have peanut butter.”

-- James A. Garfield (yes, that Garfield, 20th President of the United States)

White bread wasn’t allowed in our house, so if I wanted my P.B. on that, I had to go next door to my friend Jerry’s. Rye bread was okay, and the few times we had matzo in the house, I tried to get my P.B. on them (but always managed to pulverize them into dust). I became a purist by my 10th birthday – just a jar of P.B. and a spoon. I would see how much I could intake without choking before I resorted to taking a swig of milk.

As I got older, I started experimenting with my drug of choice. No Elvis sandwiches (P.B. and bananas), but I tried P.B. with lox on a bagel, with cream cheese, with every kind of jam, jelly and preserve, on omelets, with bacon, with American and Swiss cheese.

And once out of my mother’s home, I would sit in my apartment with a jar of P.B. and a bottle of Scotch. I’ve repressed most of my other interactions with the good stuff during my bad first marriage, but I will tell you that the very last short story I wrote between the ages of 21 and 60 was about a sad sack who sculpts in peanut butter.

Alcohol sits in our Great Room cabinet untouched by me, beer resides in our refrigerator similarly untouched, but I cannot have P.B. anywhere in the house. Sometimes I can leave it alone for two or three days, but then it calls out to me. Maturity has given me some discipline – I only will take two or three giant tablespoons a day, and then put the jar back in the refrigerator.

Maybe I’m still a kid, though, because I believe that my wife won’t notice when I take a bit from the jar. (Unfortunately, you can’t replace P.B. like you can fake-fill a bottle of Scotch.)

Oh, how I lust for it! When I don’t have it in the house, I dream of it for nights. What a cruel, cruel world it would be if there was life without peanut butter.

But I won’t have death without peanut butter. When I die, I have asked to have my ashes kept in a peanut butter jar. I imagine it will have housed the organic variety.
We need your input!

If you want a bereavement or get well card sent please contact Sue Parlatore at SueParl@aol.com

Is there something you’d like to say about your workshop moderator, The Chronicles, or OLLI?

Would you like to be involved in the publication of The Chronicles?

Do you know someone in OLLI who is doing great things outside OLLI?

We’d love to have your input. Please send it to OLLIchronicles@gmail.com
Cards have been sent to Susan Jacquin and Barbara Golub

To everything there is a season,
A time for ever purpose under the sun:
A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill and a time to heal...
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance...
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to lose and a time to seek...
A time to rend and a time to sew;
A time to keep silent and a time to speak;
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8