As we began the first day of OLLI Spring Semester workshops, the weather was the coldest and the wind the strongest in over a decade, but only a handful of workshops were canceled. We had a large number of members on campus; I guess we’re all suffering from a mild dose of cabin fever. It makes you think, what would we be doing if we didn’t have OLLI to go to?

Our fundraising program has already received over $5,000 from member donations, and we have recently welcomed our first three sponsors. The fundraising committee continues to explore other fundraising possibilities as well.

The strategic planning committee convened two focus groups at the end of last semester in the first stage of the planning process. Based on responses obtained from these groups the committee has developed a survey, which will be sent to all members, seeking feedback that will be used in planning our future program growth. We will also be surveying some workshops on select dates to assess classroom usage. I strongly urge you to participate in these surveys so that we can accurately assess the wishes of our membership.

The nominating committee has been working to gather names of members who would like to run for the three member-at-large seats and for President-elect, whose terms begin this May. The slate of names will be presented to the Executive Board at our next meeting on March 11th. If you are interested in running for any of the positions and were not contacted by the nominating committee, you need to submit your name at the April Executive Board meeting. It would then need to be seconded in order to be put on the ballot.

Let’s hope for some milder weather.

Steve
As I sit by the kitchen window writing my monthly article for the March edition of The Chronicles, it’s another February day and another February snowstorm raging outside. And it is COLD! If I’m lucky, I’ll get to the office by noon today, provided the snow stops. Workshops are canceled for the entire day, after a few hours of indecision and two webpage weather info updates with carbon-copy emails to all of our OLLI members. There’s no canceling the day for the OLLI Director, however. There is always plenty of work to do when the semester begins. Half of our staff can’t get out of their driveways. I’m worried about OLLI members not getting my “OLLI is closed” emails, and someone is going to make the trip unnecessarily in the ice and cold. I need more coffee … maybe I’ll just work from home today … but I wish I had those two documents on my desk.…

I can’t think of anyone who looks forward to spring’s arrival more than my wife, Nancy, and me. Even though it doesn’t look like spring yet, I have been reassured that it is indeed coming and it will be here soon. You have my word. Actually, that would be Nancy’s word. She’s the optimist and the one who reassured me it’s coming. I’m not really convinced yet.

Spring semester at OLLI is already here, however, and it’s great to see the workshops starting up, giving me the opportunity to chat with members again. The registration process went smoothly, as noted in my article last month. We had far fewer trouble calls than during our last two registrations. I want to thank the volunteers, the workshop leaders, our staff, and everyone who helped make the registration a success. Some of our workshop leaders stepped up to the call and moved their Tuesday and Thursday workshops to less busy days. The result is a much more even distribution of our workshops and member traffic across our 5-day schedule. As many will recall, the university asked us to help in this regard, and OLLI members responded just like I knew they would.

As we get ready to launch Spring Semester 2015 at OLLI, remember to visit the OLLI website for electronic copies of The Chronicles, OLLI workshop schedules, the OLLI Online Course Catalog for workshop descriptions and special event info, and our OLLI Calendar of Events for dates, times and locations for virtually everything happening at OLLI. If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone, the OLLI website is absolutely the best and easiest way to get the most current information. Here is a list of just a few of the things going on at OLLI in March and early April.

- **Wednesday, March 4** — Art Wall Reception, 1:15 PM, SBS S102
- **Monday, March 9** — Budget Meeting, 10:00 AM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Wednesday, March 11** — Executive Board Meeting, 2:30 PM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Tuesday, March 24** — Fundraising Committee Meeting, 2:30 PM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Wednesday, March 25** — Curriculum Committee Meeting, 2:30 PM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room
- **Wednesday, April 8** — Executive Board Meeting, 2:30 PM, SBS N114B OLLI Conference Room

Wayne
“I Got It! I Got It!”
By Lee Marc Stein

… that’s what my wife, Ann, yelled up to me when she received her OLLI registration confirmation email. I knew what she was referring to. Above all, she was looking forward to taking Bruce Stasiuk’s workshop, and I had warned her how difficult it was to get in. She had made it.

Before Ann joined and early in my own six-year journey with OLLI, I was fortunate enough to experience Bruce’s unique exploration of learning, self-awareness, and just plain fun. Of all the marvelous workshops I took during those years, it was Bruce’s I’d come home and talk about most. I’d show her the few prizes I had won, take her through the current events quizzes, recap Bruce’s interviews with SBU students and guests.

Of course, each of us has been inspired by other workshop leaders. Because of my passion for literature, my OLLI heroes are Carl Siegel, Dan Daley and Inge Kelly.

It was in Carl’s Victorian Novel workshop, taken in my first semester, that I saw how smart OLLI members are. Carl’s mastery of each book awed me and inspired me to launch a workshop of my own.

I first met Dan Daley in what was called the “Advanced Poetry Workshop” and recognized him as a superior poet. It was a few semesters later when I finally had the chance to attend his Faulkner Short Story workshop. Wow! It was not only his superb knowledge of Faulkner (rivaling that of my old CCNY professor who was an acclaimed Faulkner expert) but his ability to spark intelligent (and sometimes heated) discussion that impressed me. Dan’s workshops on James Joyce/Katherine Mansfield stories and on modern poetry are just as exhilarating.

I thought I knew about the short story before I first enrolled in Inge Kelly’s workshop. I not only was a lit major in college but had published a few stories of my own. Between her careful selection of texts and great hand-outs on theory, I’ve learned a lot. Inge is also a marvelous discussion-provoker.

I could take over a whole issue of Chronicles just to sing the praises of all the inspiring workshop leaders I’ve encountered in the arts, sciences and current events arenas. Undoubtedly, each of you could do the same thing.

As you know, OLLI/SBU workshop leaders get no compensation for their efforts. Nor are they granted special privileges when it comes to registering for other workshops. So how do we say thanks? How do we publicly recognize the contribution they have made to our lives? I was brainstorming with Helen Emmerich one day when she told me how she always wanted to honor the magnificent contributions of Ellen Guarnieri … and that led to this solution:

Honor Thy Leader

Here’s how it will work:

1. Form a group with other OLLI members who have taken the same workshop over a number of semesters and who agree that the workshop leader deserves recognition. The group can be any size.

2. Decide upon the amount each member of the group will contribute to honor the workshop leader. If it’s...
$10, that would amount to less than $1 per person for each workshop session during the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donate Online</th>
<th>Donate by Check</th>
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<tr>
<td>Each member of the group does the following:</td>
<td>• Select a group leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Click the “Give to OLLI” button on our web page, then the “Give Now” button</td>
<td>• Each member of the group writes a check payable to “OLLI Commemorative Fund”</td>
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<tr>
<td>on the bottom of the page that comes up.</td>
<td>with the workshop leader’s name as a notation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• On the form that comes up, under “Donation Information,” change the</td>
<td>• The group leader collects all the checks, puts them in an envelope, along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designation to “OLLI Commemorative Fund.”</td>
<td>with a list of contributors with the name of the honoree on top, and brings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• On the bottom, under “Tribute Information,” where it says “Tribute Type,”</td>
<td>the envelope to the OLLI office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>click on “In Honor Of.” Fill in the name of the workshop leader your</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>group is honoring.</td>
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3. The OLLI office will notify the workshop leader of the donation in his/her honor … and the recognition will appear in Chronicles and be posted on the OLLI bulletin board. If your group desires it, the OLLI office will let the workshop leader know who made the donations in his/her honor.

What a wonderful way to thank those who inspire us.

Questions? Contact me at lmstein@optonline.net

Lee
The Chronicles

Conversation Partners Program
by Frank Tassielli

It felt good last week when I returned to the Stony Brook campus to attend an OLLI Executive Board meeting. As it is for many of my fellow OLLI members, the atmosphere on campus seems to re-energize my old bones. Prior to the meeting I wandered over to Room S-123 in the SBS building and checked out the Conversation Partners sign-up sheets. I counted 28 OLLI members who are currently enrolled in this program and decided to contact a few of them to ask how their participation and relationship with their international student is going, and with their permission, I’d like to share with you what a few of them had to say.

Paul Knell has been meeting with a young lady from China; she is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Electrical Engineering, and Paul, a retired dentist, told me that one of the most interesting aspects of the relationship is gaining an “interesting perspective of another person’s culture.”

Carolyn Edricks told me that she and her husband, Ernie, both long-time OLLI members, have formed close relationships with the students they’ve had the pleasure of knowing through their involvement in the C.P. Program. One of the students, also a young woman from China who has been studying for her master’s and PhD degree in Computer Engineering, has been a guest in the Edricks’ home for past holidays, including last year’s Thanksgiving. Carolyn told me that she feels she has learned much from her association with this student and hopes to impart as much of our culture as she has received.

Bob Mirman, a retired financial services manager, is a fairly new OLLI member and began his participation in the C.P. program last fall. The international student he is working with is a PhD candidate in the field of biostatistics, “whatever that is,” said Bob. Last Thanksgiving, Bob and his wife, Shelley, had their student join their family in Setauket for a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner and this 23-year-old graduate student spent the last hour or so of the evening playing hide and go seek with Bob and Shelley’s four young grandchildren. Bob told me that everyone present in his home totally enjoyed the day, which was obviously enriched by the presence of this young woman from China.

Over the years, I’ve spoken to quite a few OLLI members who have participated in the Conversation Partners, and every single person, myself and my wife included, have said how thoroughly enjoyable the experience has been. Both my wife and I have had the pleasure of forming life-long relationships with a young man from Korea, who, after receiving his degree from Stony Brook, is now living in Astoria, Queens and commuting to his full-time job in Manhattan. Another student, a young lady from Korea, completed a trifecta of sorts several years ago when, in the span of about 30 days, received her PhD in math, returned to Korea to marry her long-time sweetheart, and then with her new husband returned to America where both found jobs at Johns Hopkins University.

Hopefully, after reading this article and perhaps speaking to current OLLI members who are involved in the CP Program, you will sign up yourself. If you do, you will no doubt experience the joy and satisfaction that the above members have experienced. The signup sheet is outside room S-123 in the SBS building.

Frank
Friday, December 5th marked the end of OLLI’s fall semester. It also was when more than 150 members and their guests converged on the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook to celebrate the holiday season with a festive luncheon.

The Member Relations Committee served as hosts for the sold-out event. Greeting and registering attendees were volunteers Janet Creamer, Barbara Golub, Diane Hollander, Lily Klima, Sue Parlatore and Doris Weisman. Pat Breslauer, committee chair, and Ira Kurtzberg helped arrange and coordinate the event with the OLLI office staff.

A lively cocktail period preceded the meal as our record turnout arrived and filled the room. Holiday music was provided by Gary Field’s recordings. Table hopping was ongoing throughout the afternoon as our members enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and a chance to socialize with friends.

An added feature was a poster display of past luncheons. Many enjoyed viewing themselves and their friends. This was a collaborative effort by Diane Hollander and Rich Michelson. A display is currently outside the OLLI office in SBS showing arrivals at the recent holiday event.

Warm greetings were offered by President Steve Goldstein, Director Wayne Holo and Assistant Dean Carolyn Jankowski of the School of Professional Development. Each praised our success that semester and the goals we are pursuing in 2015. It was noted that our fundraising efforts, chaired by Lee Marc Stein were now underway with widespread participation.

The delicious meal was enjoyed by all, and many lingered at the conclusion. The only thing missing from the fun afternoon were those of you unable to attend.

Please watch for the details of the Spring Semester event in early May. A “save the date” will be issued once arrangements are finalized.

Jeff
“Table hopping was ongoing throughout the afternoon as our members enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and a chance to socialize with friends.”
The Chronicles

To Save A Marriage (a funny)
Cornelius McDonnell

After 50 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, “This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?”

“Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, ............... But I fish on Fridays.”

Seeking OLLI Sponsors

Good News! We’ve received our first Platinum Sponsor and two Gold Sponsors as well.

Do you know any individual, professional firm or company that should become a sponsor of OLLI? Sponsors provide financial support for OLLI and help us secure the additional classrooms, updated equipment, and more effective software we need. In turn, sponsors benefit by becoming more visible to our 1,000 active members.

For specifics about sponsorships, please contact Lee Marc Stein, 631 476-5797 or lmstein@optonline.net
Spread A Little Sunshine

Do you know someone feeling under the weather, or who has recently lost a loved one? The purpose of the Sunshine Committee, chaired by Tina Alexander, is to send a cheery or sympathetic greeting to those in need of an uplifting message. It’s also a reminder that we in OLLI are part of a very special group, one that offers as much (or as little) social interaction as our members wish to have. Some of us are here to meet other like-minded lifelong learners, while others just want to get more information about a topic that may have eluded their understanding (like technology or investing). Regardless, everyone enjoys spying the occasional personal greeting among the endless reams of junk mail that stuff our mailboxes daily.

If you would like someone to receive a card from OLLI, please send a request to Tina Alexander at alex6001@mail.chapman.edu. A card will be mailed within two days of your request.

In February, Sunshine Cards were sent to Carole Gambrell in sympathy for her mother and to Daniel Hensen in sympathy for his son, Marc Lloyd.