It is hard to believe this is my last president’s message. I know that as you get older, time passes more quickly, but this year has gone by at rocket speed.

OLLI has had an eventful year:

Our first full-time director, Janet McLean, retired unexpectedly shortly after the fall semester began. It took until April to get the various approvals needed to post the position and eventually hire a replacement. We were extremely fortunate to have Wayne Holo sent to us this fall as a temporary worker to help in the office, and then for the search committee, after a vigorous and lengthy search, to find that he was the most capable and best qualified applicant for the director’s position. As Wayne says, “It was meant to be.”

Laura West, as Acting Director (now Assistant Director), Wayne, and our student assistant, Steve Hayes, worked together as a team to keep OLLI on track and operating smoothly despite the staff reduction due to Janet’s retirement and Jennifer Galloway being on maternity leave. Many members commented on how well things were running, but those of us who saw them every day know how hard the three of them worked to make it all seem effortless. It was really stressful at times. Much kudos to them all!!

As you know, we offered a record number of workshops in both the fall and spring semesters. We are all grateful to the workshop leaders who came through for OLLI to accommodate our steadily increasing membership in this way (and to the members of the Curriculum Committee who twisted a few arms in the process). We reached our goal of 1,000 members this year, and without those new workshops things would have gotten really crowded.

We took a real beating with the weather this winter, having to cancel an unprecedented (at least in my memory) six days of workshops due to snow. Special thanks are due to our workshop leaders who had to adjust their workshop presentations to squeeze what they wanted to cover into fewer sessions and/or to add extra sessions in May.

A special thank you is due to those members who volunteered on various committees and especially to those of you who gave of your time to help in the office at crunch times.

We have started some fundraising activities in an effort to keep membership fees as low as possible as our expenses continue to rise. New ideas and projects are brewing and will be further developed next year, and any ideas which you have along these lines will be gratefully considered.

I must say I have really enjoyed my year as president. It has been hectic at times, but I feel we are entering a new cycle in our organization and I am proud to have been a part of that this year. However, by far the best part of this year has been meeting and getting to know so many of our members. You are truly a wonderful group of people and we are all so lucky to be a part of OLLI at Stony Brook. Many thanks to you all for your support.

Enjoy your summer, be safe, be happy, be healthy, and be on the lookout for your OLLI registration materials in July!
For the fall 2014 semester we would like to introduce a new workshop. Think TED Talks. TED is a nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. One of its many parts is the award-winning TED Talks video site offering short riveting talks by remarkable people.

This would be OLLI’s TED Talks. The only thing that unites the talks is that the speakers are passionate about their subject.

All we need now are OLLI volunteers to be presenters. This is a great opportunity if:

* You’ve thought about leading a workshop, but weren’t sure. It gives you a chance to try it out.
* You’re passionate about a topic, but feel an hour is all you need to cover it.
* You’ve given a great talk in another OLLI workshop and would like to repeat it to a wider audience.

You have up to a full 75 minutes. The time can be divided up any way you want. For example, it can be part talk and part discussion or Q&A.

Please let us know if you think you would be interested.
Co-Chairs Curriculum - Carole Gambrell: carole.gambrell@gmail.com, Terri McCoy: terri01mc@optonline.net

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**OLLI Literary Tea**

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

Date: Wednesday, May 14

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Refreshments in SBS room S149

Followed by reading in SBS room S102

Deadline to submit work: May 7, in the OLLI office

Works may be left in Rhoda Spinner’s OLLI mail box

Guidelines: 1 story, 2 pages maximum or maximum of 4 poems
Join us on May 21 for a trip to the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, Mim’s Cafe, and docent tour of the Nassau Museum of Art’s exhibit “Garden Party”

- The Mission of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County is to teach the history of the Holocaust, the dangers of antisemitism, racism, bullying and all other manifestations of intolerance.

- The OLLI trip will include a tour of the museum with a docent(s) and a presentation from a Holocaust survivor.

Lunch at MIM’s Cafe in Roslyn is included.

Spend the afternoon at the Nassau Museum of Art, Enjoy the museum, sculpture gardens, and a docent led tour of their current exhibit - Garden Party.

**Garden Party**

Featuring:
Chagall, Hockney, Mapplethorpe, O’Keeffe, Prendergast, Rivers, Rosenquist, Tiffany, More!

*Garden Party* explores the imagery of outdoor entertainments and garden parties through paintings, sculpture, costume, fabrics and decorative arts and designs. The project also takes advantage of the museum’s incomparable 145-acre property, richly embellished with beautiful gardens and sculpture.
The Chronicles

OLLI's SPRING LUNCHEON at Three Village Inn

Wednesday, May 7, 12:30-3:30 PM

All are cordially invited to join your fellow members for a relaxing and fun-filled afternoon to celebrate our best year ever.

Price: $40 per person includes a glass of wine or beer

Entertainment: The Pipettes

Menu: Three course luncheon includes organic and free-range entrees

Appetizer: Caesar Salad or *Garden Salad

Entree: Organic Salmon, Seared Breast of Free Range Chicken, Sliced Chateau Steak, or *Vegetarian Plate

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse or *Fruit

*Optional items - available on request

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 30

Sign in to the OLLI website to register from the Course Catalog and select Special Events. Use the Member Registration Form.

Guests are invited. Use the Guest Registration form.

Member Relations Committee

A another year draws to a close and, thankfully, more members than ever have participated in a wide range of activities. For those who were able to volunteer, we truly could not have accomplished what we did without you.

Neither oppressive heat nor bitter cold and snow could keep you from your appointed rounds.

We encourage others to join in the ongoing effort to make our wonderful OLLI program more “user friendly”. Providing support services helps keep everyone connected despite outgrowing the original Round Table.

That said, please consider getting involved in this summer’s late August and early September new membership activities.

They include hosting or assisting at a New Member Gathering, leading a campus tour or assisting on Orientation Day, and helping disseminate important information when our workshops resume for the Fall semester.

Please let us know if you will be joining our team; Contact Jeff Hollander.

Enjoy the summer.
Candidates for the Executive Board for 2014-2015 (in alphabetical order)

**Jeff Hollander** - candidate for President-Elect. My journey North began after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1965 and heading to New York’s Catskills. This waiter met the counselor of his dreams, Diane, and we were married in 1967. While living in Queens, our two wonderful children, Barrie & Jason, were born. We then moved to suburban Lake Grove. A forty year career with the NYC Department of Education began as a teacher and evolved into an Education Administrator in CSD 24, Queens until retiring in 2006. Friends led me to OLLI in the fall of 2010 and my desire to learn was rekindled. Wonderful instructors motivated me to explore new workshops of interest. In 2011, I joined the Member Relations Committee and the Conversation Partners program. My co-facilitation of the Business of Sports workshops began in 2012 and, in 2013, I became an At-Large member of the OLLI Board. This transitioned into chairing the Member Relations Committee while working with dozens of extraordinary people.

**Bob Dohrenwend** - candidate for Member-at-Large. I joined OLLI about 3 years ago after retiring from the Suffolk County Police Department. I am on both the Art Council and Technology Committee. I have really enjoyed my experience at OLLI and look forward to working on the Executive Board if I am elected.

**Pat Breslauer** - candidate for Member-at-Large. We are all so fortunate to have OLLI in our lives. I joined immediately after retiring from my teaching career in Kings Park ten years ago. I took various courses, concentrating on those related to photography. I’ve made wonderful friends and learned a lot both from the classes I took as well as teaching Composition in Photography for five years. I’m President of my neighborhood Civic Association and chair of OLLI’s first fundraiser – a Wine & Cheese Art Auction. This year I hosted a new member tea. I seek the position of Member-at-Large to further give back to this organization that has made such a difference in my life.

**Paul Knel** - candidate for Member-at-Large. I was born in Brooklyn and spent my formative years there. After graduating high school, I obtained a BA in Biology from Brooklyn College. I continued my education at NYU College of Dentistry, receiving my DDS in June 1968. I spent the next two years in the US Army Dental Corps. After being honorably discharged in July 1970, my wife and I bought a House on Long Island. During the next forty years we established a dental practice and raised four children. Our four children produced ten wonderful grandchildren. As you can imagine they keep us very busy. I retired in November 2010 and joined OLLI in September 2011. My two years at OLLI have afforded me an opportunity to both learn new things and socialize with a diverse group of people.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook

The Chronicles

Candidates for the Executive Board for 2014-2015, continued

**Laura Kopp** - candidate for Member-at-Large, is a retired teacher who has been a member of OLLI for the past eight years. Born and raised on Long Island, she graduated from Bellport High School and earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Bucknell University and a Masters from Stony Brook. For over thirty years, she taught both elementary school and high school Mathematics and served as the Dean of Students in the Sachem School District. Because of the OLLI program, Laura has developed a passion for bridge and a new community of friends. She has also participated in a variety of OLLI courses. When not in class, Laura enjoys traveling. She and her husband have recently enjoyed two bucket list adventures, Antarctica and an African safari.

**Eileen Lohse** - candidate for Secretary. After being the OLLI Executive Board Secretary for a year, I think that I finally have a clearer idea of what the position entails. I would be happy to do it for another year. I have been a member of OLLI for about five years and have enjoyed the workshops I have attended. I joke that OLLI is my third career, for I've been an elementary school teacher and later a registered nurse, but OLLI workshops are much more fun! Eric and I have been married for 48 years and enjoy traveling. I love to draw, to read (especially mysteries) and also to do genealogy – another kind of mystery. While I have been writing memoirs for years, OLLI has now introduced me to a new passion – writing fiction.

**John Molfetta** - candidate for Member-at-Large. Since joining the ranks of OLLI I’ve found a new population of folks who bring a very different, but extremely rewarding experience, to the process and meaning of continuing education. I’m an involved member of the curriculum committee as well as participating to some small degree with new member information. My main enjoyment has been the interaction of the folks who attend my workshop (Moments in History). It is, as I believe, a very real forum (roundtable) for the free flow and exchange of ideas and opinions which therein is the foundation to the success of OLLI. My professional career in the field of higher education has spanned the past thirty-five years teaching at both the university and college levels. I’ve held a variety of administrative positions within education dealing with curriculum program and course development, educational course and program statistical analysis, as well as program needs and updating. I enjoy the Academic Rank of Professor Emeritus.

**Lee Marc Stein** - candidate for Member-at-Large, joined OLLI in Spring 2009 (he couldn’t wait for the Fall semester). Since becoming a Member, he has led workshops on noted American and international novelists for six semesters; offered Bob Dylan’s Life and Music in June Activities; contributed articles frequently to The Chronicles; participated in numerous Literary Teas; and helped in creation of a new Member recruitment ad. Currently, he is heavily involved in launching nichollsrroad, OLLI’s online literary review. Lee spent his career in direct marketing as a corporate manager, agency executive and consultant.
The (Jewish) Lord Mayor OF Dublin
by C.J. McDonnell

“I quote” the Mayor. Naturally, I have no way of knowing his exact words. I was in Dublin when Robert Briscoe, the Mayor of Dublin, arrived home after his three-month triumphant tour of the United States. During the time he spent in our country he was always referred to as the “Jewish Mayor of Dublin”, much to the amusement of the Irish. The newspapers had headlines referring to him in such a manner. Television announcers referred to him in such a manner. At the dozens of functions he attended he was introduced as such. To the Irish he was simply Bob Briscoe. Nobody ever thought of him as the Jewish Mayor. He was a very admired and beloved Irish patriot.

Bob Briscoe – nobody called him Robert – was probably the most popular politician in Ireland. He had fought bravely for Irish independence, and he had a reputation as that of a the man who would never refuse even the most dangerous missions. The Mayor was a very cordial, and gregarious person. My cousin told me that Bob Briscoe probably never refused an invitation to any kind of meeting or reception. He just loved people. At the era of which I write, he, as Mayor, received and dined important visitors from all over the world.

“We are having a reception for him tonight”, said my cousin, a politician. “Why don’t you come along and meet him?” I accepted with alacrity.

When we arrived at the hall there were about 200 people waiting for the entrance of the Mayor. We paid about 50 cents each to get in, and were served tea and bread. People were already laughing about the title he was given in the United States. At 8 p.m. sharp, the man of the hour appeared to great cheering and applause, to hand-shaking, back-slapping and laughter. He seemed to know everybody’s name. I was introduced to him and received a hearty handshake. The Mayor was in his element. After about twenty minutes we were asked to take our seats to hear an account of the Lord Mayor’s American tour.

“As you all know, I am the Jewish Mayor of Dublin.” Roars of laughter. “In fact, I am the Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin.” More roars.

“And, as you are well aware, I was lionized, extolled, and almost venerated all over the United States. In city after city, Americans were amazed that the Irish had chosen a man of Jewish blood to be the mayor. I received the keys to a dozen cities and was made an honorary citizen of each one. All this because I am the Jewish Mayor of Dublin.”

The laughter was almost non-stop.

“Before I arrived in New York I had been told that, as I descended the plane, I would be greeted by representatives of the New York City Police Department Fraternal Emerald Society, forming a line on one side, and by representatives of the Fraternal Shomrim Society on the other. The big question on New York TV was ‘Is he Jewish first and Irish second? Or, is he Irish first and Jewish second? Whose hands would he shake first?’ So, when I got to the bottom of the plane’s stairs, I crossed my arms at my wrists and shook a Jewish hand and an Irish hand simultaneously. Later, I was told that the laughter all over New York was loud and long.”

So was it loud and long in the Dublin Hall?

“I can’t remember”, he continued, “the number of corned beef and cabbage dinners I ate.” More laughter, as corned beef and cabbage is an American dish, and is practically unknown in Ireland.

“Also,” he said, to the enjoyment of those of us present, “I was greeted hundreds of times with “Top of the mornin”. In Ireland, “Top of the mornin” is usually said for the benefit of tourists.

The Mayor spoke for an hour, regaling us with story after story. At the end, he could hardly stop praising the people of the United States for their kindness and generosity. He told us that Boston put off its St. Patrick’s Day Parade until March 18, so that he could attend.

Today the Emerald Isle Immigration Center in Queens, New York, offers the Robert Briscoe Award to a member of the New York Jewish Community who betters the lives of immigrants.

I have the most pleasant memories of the evening I spent in the company of Bob Briscoe, Irish Patriot and Mayor of Dublin.
I have been a member of OLLI (AKA The Round Table) for nearly 15 years. In that time I have taken courses with some pretty dynamic instructors, but this semester I think I have hit upon the champ, John Molfetta. His course, “Moments in History” is extremely interesting. He doesn’t choose the usually dull history moments, but moments and personalities that are out of the box. His Power-Point presentations are also fascinating and one can tell he works pretty hard on them.

I look forward to taking more courses with him in the future.

Stuart Koenig

Dan Daly teaches various courses on Mondays from 10:30 - 11:45. I have taken his American Lit and Chekhov short stories courses during this past year.

Both classes were enlightening and entertaining. A former Suffolk County Community College professor, Dan brings erudition and dry humor to our lively class discussions. If you always wished you had paid more attention in your literature classes in college, this is the class for you. You will gain new insights into literary characters as well as contemporary moral dilemmas. Once you have become a “Dan Fan”, you will likely be signing up for more of his classes.

Ellen Balaban

Best Class: Am I My Father’s Son

Friendliest Class: Watercolor Studio

Nicest Class Coordinator: Writing your Autobiography

Most informative: Neuroscience Class

Most entertaining Class: OpEd Thursday

Most enthusiastic Class Leader: Let’s Put on a Show

Wouldn’t give up any of them.

Alex Ames

I enjoyed all the courses that I took at OLLI. I would like to see a course taught on what is going to happen in the next five to ten years. All the best, Pat

Pat Murphy Pidgeon
I have been thrilled with the Poetry Out Loud class led by Florence Mondry. It has been such a refreshing experience to be in a class where everyone’s opinions are respected and where members can express their opinions about the poetry we all read in class — chosen by members.

We bounce ideas off one another to see if they will fly, and we do so always in a friendly and collegial spirit. Our leader encourages us all to respect one another’s views. There are no (well, few!) egomaniacal outbursts here! We are all as one, searching for the significance of the poems that we dissect together. We do this in a wonderful spirit of camaraderie. We all try to unravel the significance of a poem, study its structure and its figures of speech, its language and sounds, its music.

The atmosphere in class is warm and relaxed. Any and all new ideas about the poems, even some that seem far out, are welcomed and examined. Whatever our previous exposure to or experience with poetry has been like, we are all learning new things every week both about new poems and those we thought we had mastered. (Surprise!) And we learn much, too, about the poets who have created them.

Thanks in large part to the warmth and intelligence of leader Florence, the mood in the class is often jovial, sometimes quite serious. Poetry is treated by this group with the reverence that all great art merits. So glad I signed up!

Elio Zappulla

My OLLI experience has been wonderful! Meeting vibrant, intelligent fellow members a joy! All eager to learn, stay involved and share good humor and senior moments, LOL.

Kudos to Irma and Sol for providing a fun, lively workshop on Woody Allen. Everything you want to know about this playwright, director, actor/comedian, is presented through film clips, interviews, articles, discussion. His love of movies, sports, jazz, clarinet and family dynamics are shown in a well researched manner, by a husband/wife team who are a show unto themselves. They are a hoot, adorable, and their banter is a riot. Hard to find a seat in the house......Can’t imagine the amount of work and research that went into their workshop.

Thank you Irma, thank you Sol for such an entertaining and informative workshop......

Lynn Pismeny
Letters to the Editor, continued

This semester, I led a workshop on Elder Law Advance Directives, in particular, the Health Care Proxy and the Living Will. It was the first time I taught a full semester class. I enjoyed it immensely.

I will continue to lecture on advance directives but will have guest speakers address an assortment of different matters.

Peter Walsh

Sunshine Cards Have Been Mailed To:
Lita Kerin, on the passing of her husband, Leonard.

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