Spring semester 2016 at OLLI has sprung forward with great enthusiasm. It’s so good to finally have everyone back on our campus.

The winter months were busy with committee meetings, SBU championship games, luncheons, a museum outing and OLLI authors talking about their books. A volunteer/committee interest survey was emailed to membership and our beautiful, new Round Table Lounge in SBS S149 was taking shape. It is now open daily for your enjoyment.

We’re proud to announce we achieved our 2015 Fund raising objectives and are working toward a similar goal for 2016. Thank you so much to all who have already contributed again this year.

As the new semester began, members were greeted with reduced wait-lists, new campus venues and an array of stimulating workshops. Special events scheduled trips to NYC’s Museum Mile and backstage at the Opera in March plus Storm King in April. Jaci Trigony recruited a team of volunteers to answer any questions by members. The OLLI office and SPD have done another magnificent job securing space. However, they are still working on the midday parking issues and delays on Nesconset Highway. LOL!

A special nominating committee consisting of chair Bob Mirman, Sue Parlatore and Janet Creamer selected Paul Knel to fill the vacancy for president elect, and the selection was approved by the Board in February. A Board search for 2016-17 Board member nominees headed by John Molfetta is complete and the names of the nominees can be found on page 6. The date of the membership vote is yet to be determined.

Many attended wonderful events like the Author’s Talk in February and March’s Art Wall display with presentations by our extraordinary team of artists, sculptors and photographers. On April 13th, we will hold OLLI’s Literary Tea featuring original poems and stories created, written and read by members. All events highlight the level of workshop leaders we have motivating others to reach their potential.

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The March 2nd General Meeting featured Vice Provost Charles Taber who told us we received a new $25,000 grant from the Osher Foundation thanks to the efforts of the University, Director Wayne Holo, Assistant Dean Carolyn Jankowski and the Executive Board. He also stated we need to create a revised set of Policies and Procedures (aka by-laws) to better clarify the roles of Stony Brook University and our membership. A special Board committee consisting of **John Gobler, Tina Alexander, Paul Knel** and I has been meeting and will present our revisions to the March 30 Exec Board. They will be sent to our OLLI members in April prior to the May 4 General Meeting.

Many will soon be applying to lead our fall workshops or the shorter summer session. It’s time to consider volunteering as a way to give back to OLLI. I can personally say it is both challenging and very rewarding. Please seek additional information from co-chairs **Terri McCoy** or **Jerry Ebenstein**.

As the weeks wind down, we will hold the last of 3 General Meetings on Wednesday, May 4th. Greater participation would be appreciated by the Board since we value your input and votes of approval for initiatives on your behalf. Board and committee meetings are open to all. Please check the online calendar. This semester’s final event will be the gala dinner at the Watermill Inn on Tuesday, May 10. We will be honoring our team of workshop leaders and introducing our new Board for 2016-17. Additional details are in this issue. We hope you’ll join us for another sellout.

The Executive Board and I thank you for your support and feedback as we continue looking forward to a bright and sunny future in Stony Brook University’s OLLI program.

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**A Retiree’s Last Trip To COSTCO**  
**By Mary Lou Boyle**

Yesterday I was at COSTCO buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet Necco, the Wonder Dog, who weighs 191 lbs. I was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had, an elephant?

So because I’m retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn’t have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn’t, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I’d lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care unit with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a Perfect Diet and that the way that it works is to load your jacket pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

COSTCO won’t let me shop there anymore. Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say. Forward this (especially) to all your retired friends…it will be their laugh.
New Exhibit April 1 - 30
at Smithtown Main Library *

Special Reception
Saturday, April 23 from 2 - 4 PM
Refreshments will be served

Photographers

* Smithtown Main Library is located at One North Country Road, at the intersection of Main Street and Route 111.

New Vision
A group of 10 serious photographers, each dedicated to expressing their individual visions, going beyond the traditional methods and extending beyond reality. Our goal is to create an environment that allows each to expand their own vision.
Welcome to the Spring 2016 semester of OLLI at Stony Brook. We hope you are enjoying your workshops.

There are 97 workshops this semester, including eight (8) brand new ones. We extend a thank you to the leaders who stepped up to offer these new workshops. They join the 125 current leaders and co-leaders who year after year volunteer to lead workshops. They are the backbone of our organization. The entire membership is grateful to these volunteers. Take a bow, leaders!!

These are the eight (8) brand new workshops this semester:

1. SORTING OUT THE CANDIDATES ECONOMIC PLANS - **Michael Melnyk** uses a unique approach to explain economics
2. CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE - **Al Tobin** clarifies the laws of physics and chemistry
3. LA FRANCE D’AUJOURD’HUI - **Tasha Greenberg** offers an opportunity to expand and practice your French language skills
4. ITALIAN FOR FUN AND TRAVEL - **Judith D’Onofrio** shows you how to navigate Italy through food, travel and shopping
5. THE ENIGMATIC MARY MAGDALENE – **John Molfetta** shares her story with you
6. CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR THE REST OF US - **David Bouchier** guides you through understanding the music you love
7. MOVIE MAKING TECHNIQUES - **George Rystar** shows how techniques used in making a movie are integral to its effectiveness
8. ISRAELI FILMS - **Richard Rubin** shows films covering cultural / political issues reflecting Israeli / Jewish life in the Middle East

If you are taking one of these workshops, please take a few minutes and send us 3 or 4 sentences about it. This way, members who are considering this workshop the next time it’s offered will have some real information about the workshop. We will submit these comments for the next issue of The Chronicles.

To aid in providing feedback to the workshop leaders, the Curriculum Committee is preparing a brief, generic workshop satisfaction survey. If your workshop leader asks you to complete it at the end of the semester, please do so. It does not have to be signed. It will only be seen by the workshop leader. This is the perfect vehicle to pass your comments along to the instructor. Those leaders who already use a survey find it very useful in preparing the next workshop.

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Curriculum Committee Report, continued

The office has begun collecting applications from the Workshop Leaders for the Fall 2016 workshops. If you are going to lead your workshop again or if you have been thinking about leading a workshop and are ready to do it, a link to the online version of the OLLI Fall 2016 Workshop Leader Application can be found on the OLLI website’s home page. Printed versions are also available at the OLLI office.

Want to try out leading a workshop? How about leading a mini workshop in June? Our June workshops are less structured than those in the fall and spring. Workshop descriptions and schedules are published. Members do not register for a class. They just show up! In the past, all activities were in the SBS building. Applications to lead a June workshop will be available by the end of April. Watch your inbox for that notice from the OLLI office.

Most June workshops are four weeks but you can offer something for one, two or three weeks if that works better for you. To get you thinking, here is a short list of topics OLLI members have requested. Pick one or come up with your own.

The Curriculum Committee will be happy to help you get started. Contact Terri McCoy or Jerry Ebenstein with any questions. Email: terri01mc@optonline.net or jerryeb@yahoo.com

June Workshop requests:

CRAFTS: Knitting, Crocheting, Mat cutting for framing pictures, Beading

GAMES: Mah Jongg for beginners, Chess, Bridge intro

HOME: Interior Decorating, Basic Home Repairs for Dummies, Woodworking and/or Home Maintenance Techniques, Gardening or Landscaping

SOCIAL: Senior Singles in Society, Travel in the USA &/or Internationally, Grandparenting

COMPUTERS: Corel Paint Shop Pro, Proshow Gold

MISCELLANEOUS: Personal Growth, Book Discussion, Medical Ethics, The Three Village Area, Brooklyn, New York City

Wishing you all a great semester.

Terri McCoy

New OLLI Lounge Is Open

Thanks to the joint efforts of the OLLI staff and the School of Professional Development, we are pleased to announce that we now have a lounge for OLLI members. Room SBS S149 is the new OLLI Round Table Lounge where members can relax before or between classes and spend time getting to know other members. The lounge is open daily from 8:30AM until 2 PM. Coffee will be available as well. Special thanks to Carolyn Jankowski and Diane Perillo of SPD who were instrumental in making this possible. Members who have seen the lounge have been pleasantly surprised by the attractive furnishings and the art work of OLLI members on display.
The Executive Board would like to thank our Nominating Committee for their month-long search of candidates for the 2016-17 academic year.

Headed by chair John Molfetta, they received commitments from 9 men and women for the 4 positions available. Other members of the committee were Sue Parlatore, Lily Klima, Frank Tassielli, Ira Kurtzberg and Rich Meyer.

Many members have stepped up for the first time and this adds new ideas, life experiences and visions as possibilities for OLLI’s future. We urge you to give each of their bios your serious consideration prior to the election at a date to be determined.

Your slate of candidates is as follow:

President Elect, BOB MIRMAN: I as born in the Bronx and graduated from Queens College. I served in the Air Force for 4 years. I have been married almost 47 years to my wife Shelly and we have two daughter and four granddaughters. I have been an OLLI member since September of 2012. I was Financial Advisor, Sales Manager and Branch Manager for 36 years in the Investment field. I am Past President of the North Shore Jewish Center Men’s Club, and a member of the North Shore Jewish Center Board of Trustees. I am Past President of The Greater Smithtown Chamber of Commerce. I am a current member of the OLLI Membership and Fundraising Committees. I have also served and chaired two OLLI Nominating Committees.

Member at Large, JOTHI L. CURCIO: Born in India, I arrived in the United States in 1972. I lived in Brooklyn for 7 years and then moved to Long Island in 1980. I have a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Madras, India, and a Master’s degree in Management from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. I worked for Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 29 years. I have participated in the National Organization for Indian Americans and served as President for an organization called the South Asia Forum. I have been a member of OLLI since the Fall of 2012. My husband Carlo Curcio also joined OLLI in September of 2015.

Member at Large, DIANE DRUCKMAN: I was a Principal in the Islip School District for 21 years. Prior to that I was a teacher and District Coordinator of English/Language Arts. I was also Vice President of the Islip SAANYS unit of New York State where I was a contract negotiator and social planner. I also served as Trustee and Vice President of the Smithtown Board of Education. I like to travel with my husband and visit our children and grandchildren in Seattle, Austin and Chicago.

Member at Large, PAUL GREENBERG: I graduated with a Bachelor’s degree from New York University and a Master’s degree from CW Post, LIU. I worked for the Suffolk County Department of Civil Service for 37 years where I became Director of Administrative Services for Suffolk County. I have served with the Miller Place Fire Department for 25 years. I am currently Captain of the Fire Police Company for the department.

Member at Large, THELMA TAUB: I was raised in Brooklyn and graduated from Midwood High School. I attended Barnard College and majored in psychology. I did graduate work at NYU to become an ABD. I met my husband Paul at Barnard and we have three grown children and six grandchildren. I worked at the Center for Public Health Education at Stony Brook and also at H&R Block which I am still active in. I joined OLLI 5 years ago and my brother is an active member of the OLLI in Rochester, New York.

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The Nominees, continued

Member at Large, TERRI MCCOY: I grew up in New Jersey, married and moved to Long Island. Today I have two children and five grand kids distributed between Long Island and California. Professionally, I have a degree in Information Systems and extensive experience in the area of Project Management. As a community volunteer, I taught literacy and basic computer skills. I have co-led multiple OLLI workshops and completed a term as the Curriculum Committee co-chair. As your Member At Large, I will continue to serve the interests of the membership. I am approachable, have a passion for making order of chaos and am a team player.

Member at Large, LESLIE STERNLICHT: I was born and lived in Iowa until I moved to Port Jefferson with my husband in 2000. I have a Juris Doctor degree which I obtained in 1976, and became an accredited mediator spending many years in Iowa as a private practice attorney. Prior to moving from Iowa to New York, I worked for an arts organization and published a monthly magazine that covered the arts in Iowa and Illinois. I joined OLLI approximately 4 years ago and am teaching the “Guided Autobiography” workshop.

Secretary, PAUL TAUB: I joined OLLI 5 years ago. I am a retired engineer/analyst using computer programs to provide aircraft flight test services for performance questions arising from flying the F14 flights for Grumman at their Calverton test facility. I worked over 32 years at Grumman. I have led a Photoshop workshop. Prior to Grumman, I was an aerospace consultant.

Secretary, HELEN EMMERICH: I have been a member of OLLI for 12 years. I previously served on the board as secretary, a position I held for 2 years. I also served as president-elect, president, and immediate past president. I grew up in Atlanta, received my Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and was a facility member in the psychology department at SBU prior to working as a school psychologist and school district administrator in the Three Village School District. I enjoy quilting, reading, traveling and gardening.

The Coins of Childhood

by Bob Hayes

Ah – nickels and dimes – The currency of my childhood. My family didn't have much loose change to spare, So, a few coins were like treasure to me – and a ticket to explore new realms of delight.

A few coins to spend in the corner candy store were so precious! I loved the pretzel sticks and Bazooka bubble gum you could get for what today would be a song. Once in a while I would have saved my change to have enough to buy a wonderful comic book - usually a D. C. comic like Superman, the Flash or the Green Lantern. It was such a small fortune to pay, but such a wonderful world to fall into. It was a time when the good guys won out and the bad guys got their just desserts. Our superheroes were much more than mere mortals but beacons of strength and honesty.

Another great pleasure was buying baseball trading cards. Down at Pop's Hot Dog Stand they were a nickel a pack. It was the era of Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays and Whitey Ford. Each pack was a delight to open, hoping to get a Mickey or Willie! Or, at least doubles of someone like Manny Mota, to use for trading. It was great fun to pass part of the day with your pals flipping cards. It didn't matter so much who actually won the most cards, it was the action and camaraderie that really mattered most.

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Getting To Know OLLI President 2016/2017

The OLLI Executive Board President Elect Paul Knel, who is to become President in June, was born and raised in what was, and still is, the center of the known universe, Brooklyn, New York. Naturally, being from Brooklyn, he was a diehard Dodger fan and went into mourning when the team departed for California. Later he transferred his allegiance to the New York Mets and is proud to say that “he raised a family of Met fans.”

He attended Brooklyn College and graduated with a degree in biology. Upon graduation, he entered N.Y.U. College of Dentistry. Midway through dental school, he married Linda who he has been married to for almost 50 years. Linda is both a librarian and career counselor. She joined OLLI this year, while maintaining part time employment at the library.

After dental school he spent 2 years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and was honorably discharged. When he completed his military obligation, he and his wife moved to Long Island where they have resided first in South Setauket and currently in Port Jefferson. He practiced dentistry for 40 years in his home office and then in the Stony Brook Medical Park.

Paul and his wife Linda have raised 4 children, affectionately known as the “motley crew.” Their oldest son David, is an attorney. He lives in Garden City with his 3 year old “triplets.” Their oldest daughter Wendy, resides in the suburbs of San Francisco with her 5 year old “twins.” She is a Senior Technical Data Analyst/Vice President of Blackrock Financial Corporation. Their youngest daughter Tara, has an M.F.A. in playwriting from Columbia University. She lives in Israel with her 6 children ranging in age from 14 to almost 1 year. The youngest son, Gregg, is a Special Education Teacher with the N.Y.C. Department of Education. Paul says that “with a family this large, it requires quite a bit of mental nimbleness to remember the birthdays and anniversaries.”

Upon retiring, Paul joined OLLI which he has found to be both mentally and socially stimulating. He is currently Co-Leader of the Law and Politics Workshop. He has also been a Conversation Partner, instructing foreign students in the finer points of Brooklynese. As part of the Member Relations and Support Committee, Paul recently braved the freezing cold to sit at the Help Table the first week of Spring classes.

The Knels like to travel both in the United States and Europe. They love to visit arts and crafts fairs. Paul is a voracious reader and will read anything from action/adventure to history and politics. He is extremely knowledgeable in both history and politics and is a major contributor to workshop discussions. Baseball is a must for watching on television, followed by football and basketball.

When asked to be President, Paul was honored and looks forward to working with OLLI to make a significant contribution to the program. He says that “OLLI works best when we all work together to make improvements.”
Eagle Against the Sun: A history of WW2 in the Pacific  
By: Jaci Trigony

December 7, 1941, the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. They also attack the Philippines, Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, Thailand, Shanghai and Midway.

December 8, 1941, U.S. and Britain declare war on Japan.

We have studied the fighting in Guam, New Guinea, The Gilbert and Marshall Islands as well as countless others. On land, air and sea, our troops fought bravely and many died.

Richard Meyer who is the leader of the workshop Eagle Against The Sun, is taking us through the war In the Pacific with the United States as the Eagle and Japan as the Sun. His ability to bring alive the events of that war include the strategy and thought process of those in command for both the United States and its allies and Japan. He brings us into the battles with his recall of facts and vast knowledge of events as they happened. We are there in the cockpit of the fighter planes as they take off from the rolling deck of an aircraft carrier. We are on watch on a battle ship or destroyer knowing we are an open target for the Japanese guns that surround us. We crawl through the dense jungles and swamps, many of us ill with disease.

In the following weeks we will study MacArthur's return to the Philippines, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa and finally the United States’ decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This has become one of my favorite workshops and I look forward to it on Wednesday mornings. Since it has been moved to Frey, there are open seats available. If you love history, especially the Pacific Theatre of World War 2, you should not miss this workshop.
Invariably, when workshops resume at OLLI, my mind returns to its literary mode. Right now I’m thinking about the opening quatrain of Keats’ “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”:

Much have I travell’d in the realms of gold,  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
Round many western islands have I been  
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.

Like so many OLLI members, Ann and I travel. When this is published, we’ll have just returned from St. Maarten for our annual three weeks there. We were in Tucson in January, Tuscany in October. Unfortunately, there are limits that come with age. We can’t sit in a plane long enough to travel to the Far East, we don’t have the stamina to get to Machu Pichu. It’s all okay. We’ve seen enough churches and castles for several lifetimes, we’ve been to the Outback, walked on glaciers, snorkeled in Hawaii, Mexico and the Great Barrier Reef.

What troubles me is that our travels, for the most, have in fact been to “the realms of gold.” We have not seen, and therefore don’t really understand how people (particularly the under-privileged) in countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan, and India live. How have they contended with internal wars, prejudice, Draconian laws and poverty?

To partially satisfy my curiosity, I’ve learned to enjoy “armchair odysseys.” While television documentaries and travel programs have their place, my preference is for quality fiction written by native novelists. The first book we’ve read in this semester’s “Six Immigrant Novelists” workshop is Chimamanda Adichie’s Half of a Yellow Sun. The background is the late ’60s civil war in Nigeria and the starvation/murder of Biafra. It’s superb fiction that teaches us about the religious and political factions of the country, British colonialism and tribal heritage, wealthy and intellectual classes. Later in the term, we’ll get a completely different point of view of the same period in the same country in the recently-published Under the Udala Trees.

In past terms, novels like The Inheritance of Loss have not only provided insight into life in India, but into what happens when natives come to the United States. In The Sound of Things Falling, we experienced what happened during the drug wars in Colombia. In Kate Grenville’s The Idea of Perfection, life in a small town in Australia’s furthest outposts.

For those interested in such armchair adventures, I’d be delighted to email you a compilation I found on the internet in December -- “49 Incredible Books from 49 Different Countries.” Email me at leemarcstein@gmail.com and I’ll send off the article right away.
It was a hot July morning. The car was almost packed for the trip. The bicycles and canoe paddle were stored on the roof rack. The swimming and fishing equipment were packed in the hatch, along with baseball gloves, bats and balls. At last it was time to add the cooler packed with lunch and lemonade.

The Harringtons’, Jim, his wife, Ann and their children, Billy and Susie were headed on a journey. They were setting out for Brandon’s Landing. There they would vacation at the cabin Jim had summered at as a boy.

Jim was pensive, wondering how the cabin and grounds would be. He only had a recent picture of the outside of the house from the O’Neills, who now rented out the house. He hoped the old cabin would provide many of the pleasures he had to Billy and Susie.

Now they were packed and they started on their way. Jim’s mind wandered while driving along the parkway. He wondered how the beach and the lake would be now. Would the old swimming hole still be outfitted with the tree rope he gleefully used to jump from days on end? He thought about how the fishing would be from the canoe out on the lake.

The drive wasn’t too long. About a four hour jaunt. But, with Jim reminiscing it seemed longer than when he was a boy. They took a stop for lunch about halfway there. Filled up with sandwiches and lemonade they headed out for the rest of the way.

It was about 2 o’clock when they exited the parkway at Route 9. They were about a half an hour away from the cabin now. They passed through the small towns of Pine Grove and Townsend. Small houses and vacation cottages dotted the route. Occasionally, a glimpse of the lake could be seen, and then hidden again.

Finally, they came to the dirt road leading into the woods. It was a hot day and the pine trees provided a nice respite from the heat. They were about a mile from the cabin now. Jim felt anxious, wondering how things would be.

They turned off the dirt road and onto a bumpy side path. The grounds were marked by two tall distinguished looking evergreens that flanked the driveway to the cabin. Yes, there it was. The rustic cabin looked inviting, as if it had been waiting for them. Jim smelled the fresh pine air and felt a little giddy (or was he feeling like little Jim again).

Billy and Susie were out of the car like a shot. They headed for the tawny, wooden porch. Jim had spent many an evening whiling away the cool nights on that very porch. Jim and Ann smiled at each other as they saw the kids take off.

Jim eyed the rustic building, glad it looked like he remembered it, sturdy and not too weathered. The brown wooded walls were offset by windows with red shutters. An old styled screen door awaited them.

When Jim got to the front door he fished out the key for the knotted oak door, took a deep breath and opened it. They entered into the high ceilinged lodge room, with stone fireplace. The kids rushed off to find their bedrooms. Jim and Ann went into the kitchen to look things over. The large wood planked table took up almost half the room. Light brown cupboards lined the walls. It was just as Jim remembered it, except that the old wash sink was replaced by a regular one, as well as new appliances.

Jim and Ann could hear the kids jumping and laughing on their beds. Jim smiled at Ann and hugged her. He knew they were at home away from home again, just a tad older.
The Chronicles

MAY 10, OLLI Spring Dinner at the Watermill (4:00 PM to 8:00 PM)
By: Jaci Trigony

For those of you who missed the Holiday Luncheon at the Watermill and heard how great it was, this is your chance to attend and it's going to be even better.

We will again have the full cocktail hour that everyone enjoyed. Unfortunately, due to getting everyone signed in, I totally missed it last time. It will be Butler Passed hot hors d'ouvres and Vegetable Crudite and Cheese Platter station. Hopefully the weather will allow us to enjoy this in the beautiful Watermill gardens. One ticket will be included for a free Beer or Wine. Soda is free. A Cash bar is available for additional wine or beer and mixed drinks. The cost of the dinner will be $45.

Following a Rigatoni a la Vodka Pasta course and a Salad, a choice of one of the following is offered: Chateaubriand/French Cut Chicken with wild mushroom sauce/Pork Chop Rustica/Grilled Salmon/Manicotti. All five of these brought rare raves at the luncheon.

For Desert we are featuring a sheet cake decorated for our workshop leaders. Coffee and Tea is included.

As much as we love good food, we will love even more, good music. The “Denice Given Band” (Website: www.DeniceGiven.com) will perform live, 3 hours of the best music you have ever heard for both listening and dancing. Denice and 3 members of her band will entertain us with music of the 50’s thru the 90’s with Standards, Swing and Latin favorites and Disco and Rhythm & Blues. The band which has had as much as 12 pieces, has performed for years at weddings, dinner-dances, nightclubs, society functions and has done concerts. They are well known all over Long Island and New York City as well as the Tri-State area. It is only because one of our OLLI members is a long time friend of Denice, that we are able to bring a band of this quality to our event. My husband and I had spent many hours listening to Denice and her band bring to life such timeless favorites as the 50’s and 60’s, Stop In the Name of Love, Under the Boardwalk and Unchained Melody and the 70’s and 80’s I’m So Excited, Dancing Queen, and You’re My First, My Last, My Everything. You will leave the Watermill singing and dancing.

We will again be honoring our OLLI Workshop Leaders who without, there could be no OLLI. You our workshop leaders will be our guests and we encourage those of you who have not attended a dinner, please do so for this one. It is important workshop leaders that you register for the dinner as soon as the e-mail is sent that the site is open. We need to know how many of you will be attending since we do expect a large response from our OLLI members and seating at the dinner is limited. Everyone, including workshop leaders, need to be registered in the OLLI system to attend the dinner.
Now that I have been speaking about Ryskind's and working as a soda jerk, I remembered how great it was to make and drink Egg Creams! So here is some history and a recipe for the concoction. Fox's U-Bet chocolate syrup works the best.

History of New York Egg Cream:

This old-time New York thirst quencher is sweet and full of fizz. Despite its name, the egg cream contains neither eggs nor cream. In the beginning, it was a soda produced almost exclusively in New York (particularly Brooklyn). The basic ingredients are milk, seltzer, and chocolate syrup. It is traditionally made in a small Coke-style glass. True New Yorkers insist that it is not a classic egg cream without Fox's U-Bet Chocolate Syrup. It is perfectly proper to gulp down an egg cream. In fact, egg cream will lose its head and become flat if it is not enjoyed immediately.

For many years, the egg cream remained a product sold only through New York soda fountains because bottled versions were impossible to make. The cream, chocolate and soda had a tendency to separate and to go bad after a couple of days at best, and efforts to pasteurize or preserve the product ruined the taste. Today, egg cream drinks are being bottled by a few small companies.

Egg creams became so popular that author Elliot Willensky wrote in his book titled When Brooklyn Was the World: 1920-1957, "a candy store minus an egg cream, in Brooklyn at least, was a difficult to conceive of as the Earth without gravity."

Personal remembrances of Lionel Levy, grandson of Harry Harmatz who was the founder of Ratner's Dairy Restaurant in Brooklyn, New York. Lionel shares his memories of the famous New York Egg Cream in the 1950s:

When I was in my early teens, I worked in Ratner's Bake Shop which was the next store and would barter Danish pastry for egg creams. Life was easy going and the drunks from 3rd avenue or the Bowery would wander in once in a while and we would ask them to leave, and not bother the regular customers. The smell of baked goods and rye bread baking could drive you crazy. I was one of the grandchildren of Harry Harmatz, the founder of Ratners, and was treated like royalty. I have so many good memories of 2nd Avenue, but all my memories are through the eyes of a child. Remember, it was 7 cents for an egg cream and 10 cents for a lime rickey. Pretzels were a penny a piece.

I do not remember if there was a sign on the front of the store, but it was always Austers Egg Cream and the neighbors all would go to Austers for a drink. NYU bought the property on most of the block and are probably going to build on the site sometime in the future.

When I was there as a youth, I tasted the original egg cream, and the taste still lingers in my memory. I do not know who invented the drink, and I am not stating that Louis Auster invented it. What I do state is that he did in fact hide his formula and never allowed anyone to watch him mix his formula. In later years, Mendy Auster, his son, used to lock himself in and boil the mixtures up and put it in glass gallon containers.
The Chronicles

New York Egg Cream recipe:

Ingredients:

- Approximately ½ cup cold whole milk*
- 1 cup bottled seltzer
- 2 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- *Skim or 1% milk won’t foam as well

Preparation:

Pour ½ inch of cold milk into a tall soda glass

Add seltzer or club soda to within 1 inch of the top of the glass; stir vigorously with a long spoon, which will cause it to become white and bubbly with a good head of foam.

Very gently pour 2 tablespoons of chocolate syrup slowly down the inside of the glass; briskly stir with a long spoon only at the bottom of the glass where the chocolate sits. The resulting drink should have a dark brown bottom and a 1-inch high pure white foam top, but if you mix it too much the foam disappears.

Note: Drink immediately! Do not let the prepared egg cream sit for a long period of time (5 minutes or more) as it will go flat.

Makes 1 serving.

The drink was memorable, and had a true chocolate base which was not overly sweet, but rather mellow. I do know that every cab driver in New York City would take out-of-towners, who requested a taste of New York, to Austers.

Sitting down and writing these pages has brought so many flashbacks to the booming 2nd Avenue of my youth. I used to buy egg cream for 12 cents and would pay twenty dollars for that same drink today.

Lionel Levy, West Palm Beach, Florida
October 23, 2008
The cold in the lobby that February week went right through those of us who sat at the Help Table. There were several suggestions for keeping warm such as wrapping ourselves in Indian blankets or starting a small bonfire (great suggestion, but knew OLLI would permanently be on the Fire Marshal watch list). Instead we layered up every day. The fact that four layers puts on 20 pounds was lost on us. Not freezing to death was our first priority. I drank more hot coffee that week than I did in a month. I brought cookies and candy every day and put them out on the Help table hoping to distract people from the realization that this was how it felt to live in Alaska, as if any OLLI members were planning to do so.

This was what our loyal and brave group of OLLI members sat through that first week of the Spring semester. They were the members who always answer the call for help. Although they all have very busy lives, they always find time to say “Yes” we’ll be there. Some of them even came back for a second day. I hope they all realize how much I appreciated their sitting at the Help table that week. We all knew that many OLLI members need the help that first week back.

As in the Fall semester, our office staff of Wayne, Laura, Stephen and Richard, started at 8:00 Monday morning to procure available rooms for OLLI to move classes into that were waitlisted. The Spring workshop schedule for 2016 kept changing throughout the mornings and our Help table made sure that everyone that walked through our lobby had the most updated one. We passed out campus maps and even opened workshop schedules and directed members to buildings that they had never been in before, but now had become home to their workshops. We were surprised how many new members we had who had just joined for the Spring semester. All they knew was the SBS building, because they had come there to register. Our Help table went over their schedules with them and with their map we had given them, walked them through each workshop they would be going too. They said they could not imagine navigating the campus and finding their classrooms without our help. This was why we say “Yes” to the many opportunities presented to us to serve our fellow OLLI members. We all have active lives outside of OLLI, but to many of us, our commitment to serve extends to the workshops we lead and the committees we sit on.

Thank you so much to those who sat at the 2016 Spring semester Help Table. They are: Janet Creamer, Delores Murphy, Sue Palatore, Bob Mirman, Jayne Wall, Paul Knel, Eileen Lohse, Laura Kopp, and Jaci Trigony.

Thank you also to those loyal members who normally would have sat at the Help table but were fortunate enough to be somewhere warm. One member even e-mailed me from South America saying she was sorry she could not help this time but keep her on the list for the next time.
Thursday, February 11, was a very special day at OLLI. Five OLLI members spoke to an assemblage of just under thirty attendees on their experience in writing and self-publishing their books.

The five authors were Jim Roth, Mary Werner, Lee Marc Stein, Paul Wortman and Frank Tassielli. Each author spoke for a few minutes about his/her motivation in writing their book. They also spoke about the process, how they were able to actually publish their volume. The OLLI workshop Memoir Writing, led for many years by Sheila Bieber and Dorothy Schiff-Shannon, was given tremendous credit for inspiring and motivating the authors.

Prior to the talk, all the attendees gathered in Room SBS 114 for light refreshments and some socializing. After each author had the opportunity to address the group about their book, a lively Q and A followed.

The members’ book titles are as follows:
- **Jim Roth** That's How I Remember It and Memories of Estelline
- **Mary Werner** Kraminsson Days
- **Paul Wortman** Think Jung: How I found meaning in my life: A Memoir
- **Lee Marc Stein** Whispers in the Galleries: Ekphrastic and other poems
- **Frank Tassielli** An Italian Boy’s Life

After the Q and A ended, several OLLI members approached the authors, thanking them for the tips and for sharing their experiences in the self-publishing process. A few commented on how they intended to follow the same route as OLLI’s authors.
It was a worthwhile endeavor, enjoyed by all who participated.
Copies of the authors’ books will be on display in the Comfort Room, SBS S149.

The Coins of Childhood, continued from page 7.

And, maybe once every week or two, if the change held out it was time to explore the departments of the five and dime store. In the early years, say before the age of ten, it was the toy aisle that held the wonder and pleasure for kids like me, Why, you could get a Slinky, Silly Putty or a Spaldeen for just about peanuts, Then, in my pre-teens the search moved to the record aisle, 45's of the Supremes, the Temptations and the Beatles headlined the Top 40. On a good week you would walk away with two or three of the newest hits – to be played on a portable record player.

Yes, it was a far cry from the future of Pokemon and Playstation, but we didn’t need cell phones to keep us in touch and entertained – just some trinkets to play and share with a few good friends.
In The Spotlight

The Chronicles

In The Spotlight

The Hohler’s Kenya Update

Don’t let anyone tell you that terrorism or attacks by wild animals are the most serious dangers you face when visiting Kenya. More lethal is the danger both locals and visitors face resulting from mayhem on the roads. Shortly after we opened Hope Children's Home in 2005, Glory, one of our older girls, was walking to school on a Saturday for an extra help session. While crossing the bridge into Meru town on the path next to the road, a speeding pickup truck tried to pass the vehicle it was following. A car was coming in the other direction, and in order to avoid a head on collision, the driver swerved onto the path, killing Glory. He kept on going.

Most of our younger children attend Gikumene Primary School, located down the hill from Hope Children's Home and across Meru Embu Road, the main artery between Nairobi and Meru. Our children cross this road four times a day - going to school in the morning, returning home for lunch, than back to school, and crossing again at the end of the school day. For years we had been pressing local government to put a rumble strip in front of the school - and they had agreed to do so. Sadly, no rumble strip has been put in place.

February 11 was a normal school day. Eight year old Michelle Kirimi had just crossed the road on the way to school with her classmates when she was hit and killed by a speeding vehicle that veered off the road to avoid an oncoming car. Hopefully this tragedy will finally result in action being taken to slow the traffic on this section of Road.

This tragedy is tempered by the fact that 78 of Michelle's brothers and sisters at Hope Children's Home are being fed, clothed, housed, and prepared for an independent adulthood. Sixteen have passed the test to enter secondary schools, and nine are studying at technical schools or universities. Six of the young people we rescued over a decade ago are now living independently. Two have married. Four others are working variously as a beautician, a cosmetics supplier, a teacher, and a cell phone salesman. Donors in the US have made it possible for the Home to buy two greenhouses, land on which to grow food, and milling machines that enable us to sell maize flour to the surrounding community. A school uniform manufacturing scheme and a welding operation at our Technical Training Center holds the promise of moving our operation toward self sustainability. Avery Friedman, a twenty year old from Shoreham, recently spent a month at the Home, and during his visit bought 15 three hundred and fifty pound bags of coffee beans, which he plans to market on the East End, sharing the profits with the Home.

Six Long Islanders just got back from Kenya, having visited our children to assess their needs and also enjoying the natural beauty of the country. When not spending time with our kids, they visited the elephant orphanage in suburban Nairobi, and went on safari to Meru Game Park, where the movie "Born Free" was filmed. They also met with local authorities to hopefully insure that we don’t lose any more of our children on the Meru Embu Road.

Larry Hohler has been a member of the Round Table, and later, OLLI, since shortly after his retirement from the Smithtown School District in 1999. His involvement in Hope Children's Home began several years before it opened. For more information about the Home, access the website at www.hopechildrensfund.org
He Has Raised the Standard of Workshop Leadership!
Barbara Golub

He is professional and polished in his presentation of material that is so interesting and special. I’m talking about Merrill Heit who leads workshops on The History of Western Art and Architecture and also The History of Filmmaking and Photography. He brings to the students his own brand of knowledge and humor. Merrill is well versed in the subject matter of both workshops and gets it across to each and every one of us every week. This past semester in The History of Western Art workshop we learned about the period in history that celebrated Rococo Art which held quite a few surprises for us.

Our film workshop began with the filmmaker George Stevens. As a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, Stevens headed the U.S. Army Signal Corps unit that filmed the Normandy landings and the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. For these contributions, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. What he saw there made such a deep and lasting impression on him that he stopped making the light hearted films that he was noted for. In 1956 he received an Academy Award for “Giant” a film about racial tensions in Texas. We also took a look at the role Hollywood had as a “Maker of Myth” which brought back old memories of Mickey Mouse and The Ruby Slippers.

There is much more “great stuff” to come from the creativity of Merrill Heit in his workshops and we all look forward to being the fortunate recipients.

Update: The new spring semester has started off with a “Big Bang”. We just saw a film about the House Un-American Activities Committee and its relationship to the “Hollywood Ten”. It was a quite a moving experience for us all.

Robert E. Stripling and J. Parnell Thomas examine films to be shown to the House Un-American Activities Committee.
The Chronicles

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life; living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness out of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience.

Henry David Thoreau

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