The cool air, the falling leaves, the sun setting earlier and earlier, all the signs of autumn are here. Which means, incredibly, our fall semester is more than half over. OLLI makes our days pass quickly; surely, whatever we’d do without it would never be quite as enjoyable.

With time passing quickly, we know spring will be here soon enough. And so the Curriculum Committee is working full speed ahead on the spring semester workshops. The committee has established a new electronic workshop leader application that will make it easier for both the leaders and the office that processes the applications. As of the last curriculum meeting, we had more than 100 workshops, with 13 new ones. Thanks to Carole and Terri and their entire committee for another great job.

The Fundraising Committee is making strides also. Lee Marc Stein and Jackie Day, along with Assistant Dean Carolyn Jankowski and Director Wayne Holo, had a very successful meeting with University Advancement. The fundraising committee is working hard to implement all the many suggestions that were made. This will be an ongoing process, but to assist us, we now have a link for donations right on our website, making the process of giving that much easier.

Since my last letter, the Strategic Planning Committee has been formed, and Immediate Past President Helen Emmerich has volunteered to chair it. This is a major undertaking as creating a solid Strategic Plan takes much time and effort. I want to thank everyone who has agreed to join the committee. We realized at our first meeting that creating the Strategic Plan will require a large amount of information, and so our first step is to get a few focus groups together. The purpose of the focus groups is to discuss where members feel OLLI is today and where it should be in the next five years, ten years, and so on. So when asked to participate in one of these groups, please do so; it’s your OLLI and we need your input.

Which brings me to the unfortunate news that member turnout at our first General Meeting a few weeks ago was very low. The best way to know what’s happening at your OLLI is to attend these general meetings and to read the Chronicles. It’s your best way of staying informed, so we urge you to make it out to the next meeting.

I conclude with one final friendly reminder for the fall: if you notice that you are getting to your workshops an hour early, it’s just that you didn’t set your clock back.

On behalf of the Executive Board, the committee members, and myself, I want to wish you a safe, healthy, and Happy Thanksgiving.
I like the feeling of knowing that I’m a man of my word and hope that everyone in my life feels the same reassurance when my name is mentioned. Someone much wiser than I once said, “It’s a lot easier to remember what you said, Wayne, if you always tell the truth!”. Having said that, it’s November and I promised Bill I would deliver my first “From the Director” article for Chronicles this month. Ok, Bill actually had to remind me just this morning, but here I am taking a break from the phone calls, emails and day-to-day operations to take this opportunity to give you a picture of some of what’s going on in our OLLI office.

If you follow my periodic email updates to members about the various things going on at OLLI, you already know that I like bullet lists. There will be other OLLI members, board members and officers, and committee leaders writing to you in this edition who will give you more details than I’m offering, but here are just a few things I’d like to tell you about that are happening this fall at OLLI at Stony Brook University:

- **Staffing** - Laura West, our Assistant Director, and Stephen Hayes, our Graduate Student Assistant, continue to show up each day, put on their smiles, roll up their sleeves, and go to work keeping the OLLI wheel turning. New to our staff is our temporary office assistant, Richard “Rich” Michelson. Rich brings a wealth of experience and skills that complement those of our full-time staff and Laura, Steve and I are very grateful to have him with us. I encourage you to stop by to meet Rich if you haven’t already, and please give a thank-you to all of our dedicated OLLI staff.

- **Workshops** - Fall semester is about two-thirds complete as this article goes to print. The semester started September 8 with a record 109 workshops! Planning is already underway for Spring semester. We expect to see another list of over 100 workshops offered in the spring. Among the tasks already under way by office staff and the curriculum committee are (1) confirming classroom availability, (2) reviewing all of the applications that have been submitted to lead workshops, and (3) creating a plan and a schedule to make the first two fit together.

- **Special Events** - This fall is our first time working with professional event planners to help us organize and run special events. A repeat of the very popular New Years Eve at St. John the Divine’s “Concert for Peace” trip will be our first event utilizing the new process. Planning is already underway for spring events with some fun and educational trips in the early planning stages.

- **Fund Raising** - This is an exciting, new, long-term OLLI project and includes a brand new committee, dedicated to helping OLLI raise money. The committee, led by member Lee Marc Stein, recently met with Stony Brook University fund raising leaders to discuss strategies and to coordinate start up of a new section to our web site, “Give to OLLI”. If you have not visited this new section, please do and while you’re there, think about what OLLI means to you and whether you or your family and friends can help by giving something extra. If you can, we encourage you to do as the web page says and “Give Now”! Another way to give is to volunteer. The committee has some terrific, experienced people in place, but they are looking for more. If you have a background in fund raising, and you’re looking for a way to help, please contact Lee or stop by my office.

For more current information, be sure to visit the OLLI Events Calendar on our website: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/olli/about/calendar.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/olli/about/calendar.html). We are working hard to try to keep this calendar current and a useful page for you to visit regularly for important dates.

I sincerely hope you are enjoying your Fall 2014 OLLI experience and look forward to the coming holidays and seeing some of you at the Holiday Luncheon on December 5 at the Three Village Inn!
OLL1 members are the most interesting people. They come from so many different backgrounds. The most common terms that comes up in this month’s list is “teacher”. So many members were involved in education. No wonder our workshop leaders are so good. Below is the name of the workshop leader, the name of the workshop they are leading this semester, and what they retired from.

**Merrill Heit - Pigments, Picks and Pixels and the History of Cinema.** U.S. Government Research Scientist, Interagency Scientific Program Coordinator and Division Director.

**Morty Epstein - Chess for Beginners** - I was and instructor of methods of teaching and textile merchandise at Baruch College while enjoying 36 years as an assistant principal and teacher of business subjects and mathematics in New York City high schools. Member of the college Chess Team.

**Jeff Hollander - The Business of Sports** - I was a teacher, counselor and a New York City Education Administrator of city, state and federal alcohol, substance abuse, suicide,tobacco and violence prevention programs for CSD 24, Queens.

**Peppi Schwartz - Dead Sea Scrolls** - I was a school psychologist in a very large elementary school. This was a very challenging position as I was involved with children, families and faculty in a community with many troubling issues, but I loved the job.

**John Molfetta - Moments in History** - My professional career in the field of higher education has spanned the past thirty years teaching at both the university, college and professional levels. I have held a variety of administrative positions within education dealing with curriculum and course development, educational course statistical analysis, program needs and updating as well as strategic planning. I retired in 1996 with the Academic Rank of Professor Emeritus.

**Sylvia Kirk - Op-Ed Friday & Hello SLR** - I taught Kindergarten for most of the thirty years I taught. Believe it or not, it prepared me to help my OP-Ed group members work and play well with each other. It also prepared me to plan simple, hands-on lessons to help my adult students learn to use their SLR cameras and to understand the concepts involved with photography.

**Pat Ballan - Drawing & Exploring the Metropolitan Museum of Art** - Though I was trained in art, I was a bookkeeper/office manager for fifty years before I retired. I find art and bookkeeping compatible, as both require the balance between black and white.

**Sue Vlahakis - Intermediate Stained Glass Workshop** - I taught math from 1968 through 2002. Interestingly, there are at least 4 prior math teachers involved in the stained glass workshop. I think it appeals to our enjoyment of geometry.

**Catherine McDonnell - Ici on parle Français!** - I taught French for thirty-seven years in both public and private schools at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Now, teaching retirees, I have run the full gamut. It’s so much fun, I cannot stop!
Before the October 15th General Member Meeting (and you should make sure you attend the next one), I was talking to Frank Tassielli. Frank, an Executive Board Member-at-Large, runs the highly-successful Conversation Partners program. Not long into our conversation, he startled me:

“OLLI saved my life.”

I asked him to elaborate.

“I was very nervous, apprehensive and reluctant about the whole issue of retirement because my career was so much a part of my life (I was a high school guidance counselor) and also because I didn’t know how I would fill my time. I have never been handy and I’ve never been one to putter around the house or yard and fixing things was simply not my forte.

“A colleague and friend, who had retired a year or two before me, heard my plaintive cries and told me about the Round Table. As soon as I read the Fall 2001 brochure listing the courses being taught and learning of the general philosophy of the organization, I immediately knew it was for me. I am happy to say that I do in fact love OLLI and have never looked back. I will also say that as much as I enjoy the workshops I’ve taken, I enjoy the camaraderie among its members even more.”

Frank happened to be the first member to make a donation to our brand-new fundraising campaign. When I mentioned that, he said: “When you love someone, you give. When you love something, you give.”

Are you one of us? If OLLI hasn’t saved your life, has it made it more pleasurable? If you, too, are an OLLI lover, it is time to give. We’re striving to continuously improve the OLLI experience. You can give online by going to the “Give to OLLI” page on our website. Or if you prefer, just bring your check into the OLLI office.
Special, limited time offer for those wishing to become an OLLI VIP!

Several of our committees are searching for those special members who would like to give back to OLLI by donating time and talent to keeping this great organization going. Now is your chance to be an OLLI Very Involved Person!

Check out the committees currently in need of new members, select the one(s) that appeals to you most and contact the chair(s). It’s simple, easy, and rewarding! (Sometimes, there are refreshments too!)

**FUND-RAISING** - This group is beginning a major fundraising campaign and we can use more members. Do you have experience in fund-raising? Would you like to be involved in the process? This might be the committee for you.

**Contact:** Lee Marc Stein at lmstein@optonline.net

**STRATEGIC PLANNING** - This is a group focused on developing a plan for OLLI’s future growth and development. Have you had experience in strategic planning? Are you concerned not only that OLLI be available for you to enjoy now, but also that others be able to reap the benefits of OLLI in the future? Then please consider assisting the committee with some of our tasks.

**Contact:** Helen Emmerich at hjemmerich@gmail.com

**CURRICULUM** - This committee is responsible for soliciting workshop leaders and developing the curriculum each semester. They could use some more members interested in maintaining our fine selection of workshops.

**Contact:** Carole Gambrell at carole.gambrell@gmail.com or Terri McCoy at terri01mc@yahoo.com

**SPECIAL EVENTS** - Trips and other events are the purview of this group. They organize and lead trips for OLLI. If you enjoy planning events and outings, then you would find a welcome mat out for you here.

**Contact:** Laura Kopp at lkopp418@gmail.com

Other committees are also open for new members. Check out the OLLI website, or the members’ handbook, for a complete list of opportunities to become involved.

Become the best you can be! Become an OLLI VIP!
Save the Date: Friday, December 5, 2014
OLLI Annual Holiday Luncheon

Three Village Inn
Friday, December 5, 2014, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Join us for a delightful luncheon at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook.

Date & Time: Friday, December 5, 2014, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Three Village Inn in Stony Brook

Price: $40.00 per person (includes a glass of wine or beer,

First Course (choose one)

- Caesar Salad, rosemary focaccia croutons
- *Dinner Salad

Main Course (choose one)

- Organic Salmon, vegetable mushroom broth with root vegetable medley, saffron butter
- Seared Breast of Farm Raised Chicken, creamed spinach, saffron potatoes
- Sliced Chateau Steak, mushroom bordelaise, Yukon gold potato puree, baby carrots
- *Vegetarian Plate

Dessert (choose one)

- Apple Crumb Tartlet, whipped cream
- *Seasonal Fruit

*Optional items – available on request

Registration Begins: Friday, October 24, 1:00 PM

Registration Deadline: Thursday, November 13, 4:00 PM

Sign on 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.
Special Transportation Services

Transportation and Parking Operations in conjunction with Disabilities Support Services offers Special Transportation Services for those community members with a documented disability and/or are injured. Transportation and Parking Operations operates a shuttle service according to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to meet the needs of disabled/injured individuals. Transportation and Parking Operations only honors requests for Special Transportation Services that originate from Disability Support Services.

Should you be interested in requesting Special Transportation Services, please contact Disability Support Services at:

Disability Support Services
128 Educational Communications Center
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-2662
Tel: (631) 632-6748
Fax: (631) 632-6747
E-mail: dss@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
Website: http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/
The Chronicles

Conversation Partners
by Mary Ruhe

I have had three partners over the years. All happened to be Chinese from different areas.

All were graduate students and spoke English, but needed to learn what I would call conversational English. They needed a better understanding of American slang and idioms. I am not a teacher, and you don’t need to be. There is nothing formal to do. It can be just sitting and talking or going on “field trips”. I went to Waldbaum’s with my last student and we just walked up and down the aisles, looking at everything so he could understand American foods. Another time, I got a J&R’s menu and we went over it line by line. One of my partners was so proud when she took her family there that weekend, and ordered for all of them, because she understood the food choices. My last student Li had a birthday in July, and my husband Wayne made an American BBQ for him with burgers, hot dogs, corn, beans, etc. Li brought his friend, who brought a noodle dish, which is a Chinese ritual dish for birthdays in China. I became, by my choice, Li’s “American mother”, and he even started calling me mom. I helped him a few times with problems he had. When his mother came to visit, we all went out to dinner, and even though she could not speak English, Li translated and we had a wonderful dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. His mom was so grateful that Li had me to be there for him while he was in New York.

You only need to meet once a week for an hour. You can do more if you like.

Of course, I received more back than I gave. This is another way to give so little to get so much.

WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

We would love to publish your short article! Tell us how OLLI has affected your life, what’s your favorite OLLI subject or OLLI instructor. We also want to publish your images of OLLI members interacting, or images of the campus. Email your article or images to ollichronicles@gmail.com

Why Is OLLI Important to You?

We’d like to know what you were seeking when you joined OLLI... and how OLLI has delivered on your expectations. Please share your feelings with OLLI Members in future issues. Email us at ollichronicles@gmail.com.
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 our 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’d 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.

Sunshine Cards Have Been Mailed To:
Leonore Janoff, and to Donna Crinian, on the passing of her mother.