As the hours of daylight grow shorter and shorter, we are constantly reminded that change is in the air. Sweaters have replaced shorts, rustling leaves are under our feet and the beloved New York Mets are playing in this year’s World Series.

Plenty of change has also been occurring at OLLI, which is heading toward the final weeks of the fall semester. In September, many of us were able to get into nearly all requested workshops due to enlarged classrooms. This wonderful effort has been studied to hopefully replicate it in the spring. Our OLLI office, The School of Professional Development and our Curriculum Committee worked very hard to accomplish that goal.

An encore pat on the back to Carolyn, Joyce, Diane, Wayne, Laura, Rich, Stephen, Terri and Jerry for their superb team effort. We all wish Joyce Wellinger, formerly Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at SPD, only the best in her new Stony Brook University position. Her guidance and commitment to OLLI will be missed.

Emails have recently gone out to the entire membership seeking applications for February, 2016 workshop leaders. We anticipate more than one hundred workshops with many new topics added to the mix. I can truly say from experience, that there is nothing more rewarding than leading a group of responsive members each week. All are encouraged to consider sharing your expertise or special interests with others. Try it, you’ll like it!

Our Fall Fundraising campaign is now being launched. Please note Fred’s article in the Chronicles concerning the details on how to donate. Since everyone benefits from the generosity of those already contributing, we hope others will now decide to step up too. Building this fund will enable us to delay membership fees rising in the near future and continue to provide us with better space and equipment. Your participation prior to December 31st is greatly appreciated.

Our OLLI committees are busy planning new events to help us stay active during the winter months. Our office will be announcing evenings at the Staller Center, football and basketball games with special OLLI seating, guest speakers, and of course, future trips and our holiday luncheon. Jaci and her Member Relations volunteers are planning a fun event on Dec. 8th. Please read her article on page 5 for more details.

Throughout this semester, many of you have kept in touch with your elected leaders. We all appreciate the input and encourage you to continue letting us know what is working well or how things could improve.
In the fall of 2014, a tradition was started. A brand new meeting, just for workshop leaders, was announced. Leaders would have the opportunity to meet informally with each other and all resources and support currently available to leaders were on the agenda. This meeting was the brainchild of the then Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee, Carole Gambrell. It was standing room only and a second meeting was held to accommodate the overflow of leaders who wanted to attend.

That first meeting must have been a hit because his semester, the attendance increased by 50%.

If you were not among those present, here’s what you missed.

Jeff Hollander, OLLI president, welcomed the leaders and gave them an overview of the topics that would be presented.

Jerry Ebenstein, Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee stressed the importance of taking attendance especially for the initial weeks. He discussed dropouts, waitlists and non-registered members. Jerry brought up using an assistant or greeter to help with tasks such as handing out surveys and taking attendance.

Carolyn Jankowski, Assistant Dean, spoke on finding different ways to offer a workshop and how to best use the rooms we have. This included using the entire day (8:30 am to 5:00 pm) to schedule workshops.

Some leaders are already offering two sessions of their workshop or have been able to offer it on two different levels.

Steve Goldstein, Immediate Past President, reminded the leaders of the available resources to them including:

- A list of members in their workshops for attendance purposes
- Training on equipment
- Making copies for handouts
- The budget for materials and supplies
- Reimbursement for classes taken to increase a leaders’ knowledge for their workshop
- Garage parking passes for guest speakers
- Increasing their skills in Power Point
- Computer training (distribution lists, email articles, links)

Terri McCoy recommended that the leaders get feedback from the members in their workshop at the end of the semester. Some of our leaders already do this and use it to guide them when planning their next workshop. It is completely anonymous and a form that has been used by Steve Goldstein was available as an example.

There were suggestions from the leaders on several topics during this meeting. They will be reviewed and addressed by the Curriculum Committee and/or the Executive Board.
Why OLLI Fundraising is Important
By Fred Avril

As the leaves start to change and fall, it’s time to continue OLLI’s 2015 Fundraising Campaign. Our program was begun in late 2014 and to the many members who have been most generous, Thank You. However, we are still several dollars short of our 2015 target. Thus, we need additional members to help us meet our goal this year prior to December 31st. We hope that all members of OLLI will give each year.

So where can the money be most useful? You’ve seen an increase in the number and size of classrooms to accommodate larger workshops and reduce waiting lists. Within many classrooms, there are microphones for workshop leaders where necessary and improved amplifiers connected to DVD players. These and other improvements are planned for additional classrooms. Upgraded software has improved the registration process, but we need the funds to upgrade this and the software for key office functions. Finally, we have begun to replace worn out furniture in many classrooms.

Giving is easy. Checks made out to the OLLI Commemorative Fund can be mailed or dropped off at the OLLI office in Room S101 of SBS. Or go to the OLLI website with a credit card, click on Give to OLLI and then on the Give Now button. Please note that these are the best ways to give to OLLI and that 2014 contributions do not count toward the 2015 goal. In addition all contributions are fully tax-deductible. Any and all amounts are appreciated, and thank you in advance for your support.

Scoring A Trifecta
By Ellen Balaban

Seriously, what had I been thinking? I planned to take three OLLI classes back to back on a Friday, the day I normally reserved for personal maintenance. Well, I was certain I could never enjoy all three of these classes without getting agita, so there might still be hope for my old beauty regimen. Unfortunately, I found these three classes so enriching, I was forced to let my hair go grayer and my nail polish chip away.

Amazing, considering these were classes I never tried before, and one was a completely new class given at OLLI.

In case you are curious what these classes are, I will share my trifecta winnings:
1. Op-ed, with Sylvia Kirk
2. Law and Politics, with Bob Ober, Paul Knel, and Len Farano
3. Turn, Turn, Turn, with Rabbi Steve Karol

So even if you are not a winner at the track, you can still be a winner at OLLI!
The Member Relations Committee again this Fall set up their Help Table in the lobby of the SBS building the week of September 14 through September 18. The Saturday before classes started, I walked the Stony Brook campus to familiarize myself with the buildings that I had walked by so many times before but not paid attention to. For years my workshop world had been in SBS and SAC but I knew that this year my world would be expanding into other campus facilities.

Because our workshops were going into new Stony Brook buildings for the 2015 season, it was especially important that the Help Table staff be on hand to pass out campus maps and updated Workshop Schedules. Our staffers even physically walked some new members who were new to OLLI and the Stony Brook campus to their buildings for their workshops.

Although we have been in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) and Student Activities Center (SAC) for many years, Frey Hall; Frank Melville Memorial Library; Psychology; Javits; Staller; Humanities; Lauterbur Hall and Tabler Hall were relatively new to everyone this year. Humanities was the easiest building to direct people to. All we did was point to the building behind SBS. Lauterbur Hall and Tabler Hall were the two farthest and Eileen Louhse and Robert Ober were kind enough to give us great directions to get to them. I learned that Lauterbur Hall was named after the man who invented the MRI through his Stony Brook research and was awarded the Nobel Prize for it. Back at SBS we also were given additional rooms in the North wing and also room S228 on the Second Floor of SBS.

Our Director Wayne Holot and Assistant Director Laura West, started very early on Monday morning, September 14 to secure larger rooms for our workshops and cut back the wait lists. On that morning alone, we had three updates in our Fall 2015 Workshop Schedule as Wayne and Laura were able to move classes from smaller rooms to larger ones in another building. The wait lists just kept melting away. When new Stony Brook students arrive on campus, it takes two weeks for them to settle into their respective classrooms. It is only after those two weeks, that OLLI is able to tap into the classrooms that Stony Brook University is not using and claim them for OLLI workshops. We want Wayne and Laura to know how much we appreciate all their work.

The following are the list of Member Relation committee members who sat at the Help Table from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM that first week. Thank you so much to all of you:


I am constantly amazed how our wonderful OLLI members work together and for each other, to make our program even better. They are the workshop leaders, the people who chair and serve on our committees, our newsletter staff and our board members. Each puts in many hours of their unpaid time. The Help Table is just one of the ways we reach out to each other to make such a great organization I am so proud to be part of.

Jaci Trigony, Chair Member Relations Committee
You don’t have to choose one of the above – especially if you’re fortunate enough to be in Donald Bybee’s “Practical Mysticism” workshop. It’s OK if you’re an atheist or if you’re deeply religious. It’s OK if you don’t have answers to life’s problems, it’s OK if you can’t untangle yourself from the constraints of growing old, and it’s even OK if you repeat something you said in the previous session.

This is my second semester in the workshop. In a sense, I’ve been failing the course because I tend to believe in the first choice above -- it’s not OK that I’m OK. I commented a few weeks ago “I don’t want to settle for OK. I do not want to go gentle into that good night.” That was OK, too, I was told.

It’s a great workshop to explore who you are and what you’ve done and how you feel. It’s about achieving serenity – if that’s what you’re seeking. Workshop members share very personal experiences with the assurance that what they talk about stays in the classroom. This is true of the Memoir Writing workshop and a number of others.

Before I enrolled in the workshop, I had the ability to deal fairly well with certain life situations – family relationships that aren’t optimal, the political rightness and righteousness of my neighbors, incompetence among merchants and medics. I am OK with all that.

I am OK with what I achieved in my career (and ecstatic with retirement) … but I’m not OK with my accomplishments as a poet and short story writer. I’m OK with not having ever read Thomas Harris’ I’m Okay, You’re Okay… but I’m not OK with how great books I’ve never opened or that I really “don’t know much about history,” biology (and Sam Cooke). Of course, that’s one reason OLLI is so important to me.

What I’m realizing as I write this is that the three choices above are not mutually exclusive. They’re all part of a Whole. And the Whole incorporates the concepts of being practical and practicing mysticism very easily, just as it accommodates the concept of passionate indifference. While the workshop has a Buddhist bent, I can also see how the meme “OK” is akin to major precepts of Rational Emotive Therapy. Everything fits together – for the moment.
The Chronicles

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We need your input!

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

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

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

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

We’d love to have your input. Please send it to OLLIchronicles@gmail.com
On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 12:30 PM, OLLI will hold its Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Watermill in Smithtown. It is being held the week “after” fall workshops end. A recent major renovation by the Scotto family, owners of the Watermill, have made it one of the most beautiful venues on Long Island.

We will again take reservations for groups at reserved tables. However, ALL requests for reserved tables MUST go thru Jaci Trigony, Chairman of the Member Relations Committee. The OLLI office WILL NOT be accepting any requests for reserved tables or forward any requests to Member Relations. After you have made your reservation on the web site, you can request a reserved table by e-mail, to Jaci at Member Relations, giving the full name of each of the members at that table. This year we will accept reservations for 4 or more people but they will share a table with other reserved members. The e-mail for Jaci Trigony is jacitrigony@aol.com. She will accept reservations after the site opens.

For dancing, we will again enjoy the music we enjoyed at our Spring Sunset Dinner. Men should start looking for their “holiday tie” for the “holiday tie” brigade.

MENU:
* An hour of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres with a Vegetable Crudite and Cheese Platter station.
* Rigatoni a la Vodka Pasta Course, Garden Salad.
* Choice of (1) Chateaubriand; French Cut Chicken with Wild Mushroom Sauce; Pork Chop Rustica; Grilled Salmon; Manicotti
* Desert: Brownie a la Mode
* Coffee and Tea
* Price: $45.00 (Ticket includes one beer or wine)

Please watch your e-mail for the date the reservation site opens. It will be the first week of November. Be sure to make your reservation early as this is going to be a sold out event.
The Chronicles

A Tribute to Bruce Stasiuk

An excerpt from a June 26, 2015 Newsday article written by Karen Lipsol

provided by Ken Buxbaum

Bruce Stasiuk of Setauket, who broke his neck at age 17 in a trampoline accident, never let his disability stop him. He taught school for 34 years and has shown and sold his work as a painter.

On June 28, 1972, a young schoolteacher named Bruce Stasiuk, secured a small piece of Long Island history for himself as he was driving his Karmann Ghia convertible with a friend on the Long Island Expressway. Heading east, they were the first to travel the final 2-mile stretch of New York Interstate 495, from Exit 71 to Exit 73.

In a Newsday story about the event, the two friends were labeled “adventurers.” To reporters who gathered around his car, he quipped: “This occasion is historical . . . maybe we’ll change our names to Lewis and Clark.”

Now 71, Stasiuk (pronounced Stah’-shook) looks back on that moment wryly. “I was a little bit of a smart---,” he said recently in the Setauket home he shares with Gina, his wife of 49 years, and their frisky 2-1/2-year-old French bulldog, Mugs.

Both the trip and his quip, uttered 43 years ago today, may have been Stasiuk’s key moment in the spotlight. But those who know him are likely to emphasize other parts of his life, especially his 34 years as an elementary school teacher whose inventive methods and ideas touched more than three decades of children. Even when Stasiuk’s life was ordinary, they might say, it was extraordinary.

"Of all the teachers I've ever had, he was the best," said Darlene Dougherty, who as Darlene Philibert was a member of Stasiuk's 1974-'75 fifth-grade class at Norwood Avenue Elementary in Port Jefferson Station. Even today, said Dougherty, who now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, "it's like there's a fan club on Facebook" of Stasiuk's former students.

That lasting dedication reflects the importance of exemplary people in our daily lives, said Gail Satler, a sociology professor at Hofstra University. We may worship celebrity as a society, but "for any community to thrive, there have to be people who extend themselves beyond what they have to do -- people who take it upon themselves to create a fabric for the community and are willing to be unsung heroes."
Conversation Partners  
by Pat Breslauer

Already six percent of OLLI members have stepped up to become Conversation Partners with a graduate student here at Stony Brook University. It is a unique opportunity to get to know a foreign student studying here while simultaneously introducing our lifestyle and culture to them. Perhaps most importantly, the student gets to practice his/her English.

These students live far from home, without a fixed support system. They reside in Stony Brook, but haven’t necessarily seen Stony Brook Village, or anything else off campus. OLLI members could really expand their understanding of their temporary home.

If this opportunity appeals to you, it is not too late. We’re looking for a commitment of just ½ hour a week – though it could be more - at a time mutually convenient to both you and the student. You may sign up outside room S-123 in SBS. Include your name, email and available time. Students periodically select a Conversation Partner based on their availability.

Both Frank Tassielli and I heard from OLLI members who maintained long term relations with their Conversation Partners when we addressed classes early in October. Sharing an American Thanksgiving and attending weddings were real highlights. You just never know!
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Speedy recovery card has been sent to Linda Ebenstein

When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could nothang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

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