



**STONY BROOK  
UNIVERSITY**

**OLLI LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:**

**BARRY LEWIS**

**Wednesday, June 23, 2020**

*Virtual via Zoom\**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED:**

**OUR CLASSIC CATSKILLS**

Barry Lewis will take us on a journey back to the Classic Catskills resorts we all loved in our youth. The Concord, Grossinger's, Raleigh, Nevele and the Stevensville were just a few we visited for top entertainment, outdoor sports and the FOOD! Who can forget the never-ending parade of appetizers, entrees, desserts and "sides". We ate until we burst and then took more "For Later" as per Mal Z! Top names from Milton Berle and Jerry Lewis to Alan King, Jerry Stiller and Jerry Seinfeld honed their craft on stages. Many resorts also had a darker side and he'll share how the owners kept mobsters at bay as much as possible.

**BARRY LEWIS**

Barry Lewis, former Executive Editor of the Times Herald-Record newspaper in Middletown, NY, has a genuine historic appreciation for the Catskills and its famed Borscht Belt resort area. Born in Brooklyn, he spent most childhood summers from the 1960s on at hotels and bungalow colonies while his father Eddie Lewis, an entertainer, worked as a "tumbler" at several resorts. Barry's family moved to Liberty, NY in 1977 when Eddie became Director of Entertainment at the Stevensville Hotel in Swan Lake, NY.



Barry was a busboy and waiter at various Catskills hotels plus a pool manager. His journalism career began in HS writing a weekly column for Panorama Magazine, interviewing celebrities at the area's top resorts. A Marist College graduate in Communications, Barry became Sullivan County Editor for *The Record* in 1999 after years as a regional reporter. In 2000, he began a weekly column, writing about his life in the Catskills. He penned nearly one thousand columns. In 2008 Barry began chronicling the history of the Catskills as a tourism destination, creating a Classic Catskills website that featured many hotel owners and videos with the county historian. He also published the book "*From Brooklyn to Bucolic*", which is a collection of his columns.

Barry speaks throughout NY and Florida about the Catskills then and now, winning state and national journalism awards and honored by many civic and community groups. In 2019, Barry left the Record and is now Vice President of Communications for the Construction Contractors Association. Barry Lewis resides in the Town of Neversink, NY with his wife Bonnie and dogs, Boo Boo and Bitsy. He has three grown children and is a very proud grandfather.