Dear President’s Desk,

It is exciting to see the progress being made this fall. The weather is great (at least as I am writing this), our workshops are running smoothly, and we are making plans for some new additions to our program.

The nominating committee, chaired by Ellen Guarneri, has proposed Steve Goldstein for the position of President-Elect. Anyone who wishes to nominate someone else may present his/her name at our Executive Board meeting on November 23rd. A general election will be held after that date or, if there are no other nominees, according to our by-laws, the secretary will cast one vote for the sole nominee.

I have had many questions about the progress of our search for a new director. While we are looking at the process solely as the hiring of a Director of “our” OLLI, the University views the process in the context of efforts to fill many other similar positions on campus, and that is an important difference. The University has a protocol for hiring that must be followed in all cases. We are still waiting for permission to advertise the position. When we’ve gotten that, we have to advertise the position nationally (of course, internal candidates may apply as well). Following this, applications have to be evaluated on a variety of measures by the screening committee, and then we will be able to interview candidates. When we make our selection, we have to show that the person meets the requirements advertised for the position, and that we have considered diversity in hiring and all sorts of other things. Arnie Katz, as past president, and I, as president, are representing OLLI on the search committee, which also includes Carolyn Jankowski and Joyce Wellinger from the School for Professional Development, and an as yet unnamed member from the wider University community not affiliated with OLLI or SPD.

In other news, the Executive Board has decided to focus on two major new areas this year. First, we will be doing some publicity to introduce OLLI to local communities. As you have probably heard several times, when we reach 1,000 members, we will be eligible to apply for another grant from the Osher Foundation. We are soooo close! In fact, if only 1 out of about 50 of us encouraged a friend to join, we could easily reach our goal. Think about your friends who haven’t yet discovered the joys of OLLI and invite one (or more) to join for the spring semester. In the meantime, we will be promoting ourselves in the surrounding communities.

Our second focus will be on fund-raising. If we are to keep our membership dues even close to what they now are, we need to increase our income from other sources. In addition, fund-raising is looked on favorably by the Osher Foundation, so when we are ready to apply for that additional grant it will be beneficial to show that we are working on being self-sufficient.

If you are interested in helping with either one of the above activities, or have suggestions for us, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Board – or come to our next meeting (see the calendar for date and time).

In the meantime, enjoy the weather, enjoy your workshops, just enjoy!
Curriculum Committee New Workshop Presentations, Wednesday, November 6, Noon, SBS - N244

Special Events Committee, Monday, November 18, 10 am, SBS - N114B

Executive Board Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 10:30 am, SBS - N114B

OLLI Literary Tea, Friday, November 22, 12:45 pm, SBS - S149

Budget Meeting, Monday, November 25, 9:30 am, SBS - N114B

Hold these dates -

Tuesday, December 3, 2:30 - 4 pm, SBS - S102, Falstaff - The Character. For more information view the flier on the Special Events page: http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli/events.html

Wednesday, December 4, Noon, Bellport Country Club, OLLI Holiday Luncheon, Register at: https://www.campusce.net/stonybrook/account/signin.aspx

December 12, Tour of Grand Central Station and New York Public Library, Information to follow.

PREVIOUS  IN THIS ISSUE  NEXT
Review of “Ancient Greek Literature” Workshop
By Deanna Pearson

I have been a participant in the Ancient Greek Literature workshop for the last three or four years. Led by our very knowledgeable leader, Ellen Guarnieri, we read aloud the ancient plays of Greek writers.

Last year we read The Odyssey by Homer and this semester we are reading 3 plays by Euripides. Some of the stories are funny and all are thought provoking eliciting interesting discussion among the members of the workshop.

If you like mythology and stories about the gods and goddesses this is the class for you.

Review of Photoshop, I-Pad and I-Phone and Photography Workshops
By Carol Goldstein

There are a number of computer-tech-Photoshop courses I have taken and been a part of over the years. I like being “up to date” in what is going on today in this world. Many around me, outside of OLLI, think I know so much about what’s new and current about computers and other smart devices. I know only a fraction of what others know and teach. The real “techies” are Phil Schiavone, Donna Crinnian and Steve Goldstein. Thanks to them, for the courses they teach, Advanced Photoshop, I-Pad and I Phone, Advanced Photography.

Review of “From Hawthorne to Hemingway” Workshop
By Prof. John C. Molfetta

With regard to workshop leaders I have met in my short time as a member of OLLI, I have been most delightfully exposed to Mr. Daniel Daly. Presently in his “From Hawthorne to Hemingway” workshop, not only does Dan bring the authors we are exploring to life and into the classroom allowing us to experience them first hand, but his apparent friendship with each, gives him a depth of knowledge that is kindled only by their association. I’m very much awakened to follow Dan to other of his endeavors.
Review of “Memoir Writing” and “Joy of Writing” Workshops
By Mary Ann Sommerstad

Memoir Writing: a wonderful class full of very talented writers who are very nurturing and supportive of each others work. Often other people’s memoirs give you ideas for your own. Each person is called upon to read from the alphabetical class list. The reader hands out papers (copies of his piece of writing) to the 40 or so people in the class and they follow along as the piece is read and write comments on the papers. Class members discuss the work and then return the papers with the written comments to the reader. It is very gratifying to have such a large number of like minded people review your work in a positive, supportive way.

Joy of Writing: This, too, is a class full of very talented writers - in fact half of the class in also in Memoirs - but this class is smaller, so you read more often and the class can spend more time discussing individual papers. The procedure followed is the same as in Memoirs class - you hand out copies of your paper to everyone in the class for them to follow as you read and write comments. Also you can write any genre you like - people do essays, poems, fiction as well as memoirs. Again, a very positive and supportive group.

Review of “Fun & Games with Math” Workshop
By Terri McCoy

Who knew you could do math without numbers? Or by using rubber bands?

Claude Frank has such a great approach to sharing his love of math with his workshop students. We work individually or in groups, on the problems of the day, all related to math. In the workshop we created a mathematical system consisting of ‘transformations’ and a binary operation. The operation was done using rubber bands and a Zap Board Claude made for his “Math with Rubber Bands” exercise. We then analyzed the resulting mathematical system (called a group) for closure, commutivity, identities and inverses. I was amazed that the rubber bands were right, 100% of the time!

Thanks, Claude, for leading this group.

I enjoyed my time in the workshop.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook

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Review of “English: The Magic of Words” Workshop
By Frank Tassielli

One of the very first classes I signed up for when I joined OLLI in September 2001 was “English: The Magic of Words.” The workshop leader was a gentleman named Cornelius McDonnell, a retired college professor.

As a former English teacher myself I discovered that Cornelius’ way with words and, more importantly, his way with the folks in the class, evoked many interesting discussions, along with a great deal of laughter.

Over the past several years, Cornelius has had many delightfully funny classes and introduced us to many guest speakers, all of whom delighted the class members with their own stories. We’ve had a dermatologist, a foreign service worker, a dentist, a lady who lived under Communist rule in an Eastern bloc country, British Royalty impersonators and many others. We’ve also had a name change: The class is now called “Language and Culture.”

Because of my complete enjoyment of the class, I’ve come to the realization that every Friday morning, at 9 AM, my rightful place is somewhere up front in Cornelius’ McDonnell’s “Language and Culture Class.”

Creating a new Workshop
By Rafi Weiss

Arnie Katz met me last Summer in a writing class. I read a story of the Holocaust which I wrote years ago, afterward he asked if I would like to teach on this subject. I offered instead “The History of the Creation of the State of Israel”.

In September I started this new workshop on Tuesday at 9:am. I was pleasantly surprised that my class filled to capacity. I was also nervous because I am not a teacher by profession, and was not sure how my simple method of presentation will work.

I decided to keep the class low tech. No slides, just handouts and me.

In the first session I told my listeners a little about myself. That I grew up in Israel and witnessed the birth of the new state on May 14th 1948.

My motivation was to shed the common misconception that the Holocaust led to the revival of the Jewish State in the Ancestral land. Instead, it was the Zionist movement, starting in the late 19th century and striving relentlessly for over fifty years, that actually made this event possible.

Tomorrow Oct. 22 I will deliver the 7th lesson to my loyal and rather supportive listeners. Class participation is active and encouraged, last week we had two members of the class speak about their family connection to the history of Israel.

I appreciate the opportunity given to me by OLLI and the constant support from its young staff. The gratification from bringing knowledge to my Olli colleagues is all the compensation I will ever desire.
When I opened the September issue of the Chronicles, the first thing I noticed was the Table of Contents on the first page. It helped me identify what was most important to me in the issue as I only had a few minutes to read it that morning. Although I did return later and read the entire issue.

As the first issue of a new OLLI semester, the OLLI-WHO WE ARE page was so informative. It spotlighted the OLLI Committees and Chairs and the OLLI Executive Board, complete with photos. As a gardener, I loved the OLLI Victory Garden, I hope it continues through the years. The On Campus dining page advised that Jasmine in Wang Center now under new management, had added more types of food to its menu. I didn’t even know there was a Simons Center Café. I need to look it up. At our age, the Medicine and Health page is one we can always learn from.

And then came the October issue!!!!!

Bill Hammer, our Editor, gave us some great topics to write about. I hope to see them in a future issue, written by some of our 981 multi talented members.

Although I park in the garage monthly, I really appreciated the Parking Services Map page. I have never been in the Humanities Building and love the fact that they have an Atrium. I can’t wait to stop in and sit for a while. Although we know that Stony Brook University is known for its music as well as its medical training, it has never occurred to me to enjoy a student recital. I loved Ken Buxbaum’s “Rules of Engagement” (tongue in cheek behavior for the classroom) And, last but not least, Letters to the Editor is a great addition to the Chronicles. Lily Klima is such a good writer. Her humor always pushes it’s way to the surface when she writes. I hope she becomes a regular contributor to our newsletter.

It occurred to me as I write this, that the New Chronicles format that Bill Hammer has worked so hard to create, is OPENING UP THE STONY BROOK CAMPUS--for us. I have been a member of OLLI for 9 years and in only two issues of the new Chronicles, have learned how much more opportunity I have here at Stony Brook both in our OLLI program, and as part of the University.

A big thank you to Bill, for this great newsletter.

Jaci Trigony

Editor’s Note: The Chronicles is a collaborative effort, and without the help of many others it would not exist.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook

The Chronicles

OLLI - Where We’re From

The Six Longest Commutes to OLLI
by Carole Gambrell

Lois Lutwin
Long beach
49 miles

Anita Ross
Long Beach
49 miles

Janet Brown
East Quogue
36 miles

Anthony Healy
Garden City
37 miles

Elzbieta Kulon-Reyniak
Jamesport
37 miles

Not Pictured
Bonnie Marks
Wantagh
37 miles

It is not a surprise that almost half of our members are from the seven closest towns (See chart on next page). What is amazing is how far some of us travel. Lois Lutwin and Anita Ross are the winners, if you want to call it that. They commute 49 miles each way from Long Beach. I asked several long distance travelers to tell us a little about their commute.

Lois Lutwin - This Long Beach commute applies also to Anita Ross who is currently attending OLLI for the 3rd year with me. The commute is very pleasant as we drive along the Ocean Parkway watching the beaches and then over the Robert Moses Bridge for a lovely view of Fire Island Inlet. We have great conversations and the ride seems to fly by. We have been fortunate with the weather except for Superstorm Sandy which washed out our cars, homes and much of the road. From October 29th last year through the rest of the semester we were no shows. We come to OLLI only one day a week which has only been on Thursdays and take 3 classes. First semester ever we took 4 and that provoked “class cutting” to have Lunch!!!. We heard about OLLI through my dear friend Bonnie Yellon who is local and a regular attendee for many years. We enjoy the classes and have met some lovely people and also enjoy seeing all the young faces and fashions of the students!
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook
The Chronicles

OLLI, Where We’re From, continued

Elzbieta Kulon-Reyniak - I heard about OLLI before and as I retired this year, I decided to give it a try. I only come once a week because of the distance. I listen to audio books or NPR on the way.

Anthony Healy - In general, I like the OLLI format and besides Stony Brook, the next nearest OLLI program is at Rutgers University in NJ and clearly Stony Brook is much closer than that. I attend morning workshops twice a week and am headed back home before 1 P.M. The commute is fairly easy since all of the heavy traffic is going the other way.

I could have taken an adult education courses at nearby Hofstra University in Hempstead but I think that the OLLI program offers me a better learning opportunity. The other great thing is the knowledge and experience that the workshop leaders bring to the classroom.

Also, OLLI offers some great social activities. I really enjoyed the New Years’ Eve bus trip to the Cathedral plus the dinner at Carmine’s. In addition, a number of friends and relatives are taking OLLI workshops and this gives me a chance to interact with them.

Janet Brown - I first attended Round Table back in 97 or 98 and have been here on and off since. (I dropped out while raising a nephew from Pre-K through Third Grade, which was a different kind of adventure!). I have enjoyed the memoirs course, music appreciation, science courses, literature, many photography courses, the Peace Course with students from the Honors College, Jung...It has been wonderful to greet friends from the past and to meet new ones as we have explored and learned together. My trip from East Quogue takes me from farmland to the university and I have seen deer and wild turkeys on many occasions! How grateful we are to those who started Round Table.

NUMBER OF OLLI MEMBERS FROM EACH TOWN

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook
The Chronicles

Ode to the Office Staff
From Irma Gurman

Twas the end of September and all through the day, The equipment was running and all was okay;
The leaders had written their workshop with care, They saw that their fifty attendees were there.
Then, all of a sudden there arose such a clatter! The equipment shut down – oy vay! What was the matter?
Now who to our wondering eyes did appear, But our supergirl, Laura? (thank goodness she’s here!!)
She brought her assistants who helped save our day, They brought a projector which we could then play!
Now our workshop is ready and we can convene Cause our star, Woody Allen is back on the screen!

A Hare Among the Daffodils by William Wordsworth’s Dog
with the Collaboration of Cornelius McDonnell

I wandered lonely as a moose
Who spends his day among the spruce,
When all at once I saw a hare
Who didn’t seem to have a care.

‘Tis the breed I really need
To have a most delicious feed.
There he stood, beside a stream,
To any dog a perfect dream.

Towards me he did indeed advance
In a very sprightly dance.
A hound could not but simply squeal
At the thought of his approaching meal.

I gazed and gazed at the coming hare
That I was just about to snare.
But then I saw a red-beaked thrush
Sitting among the nearby brush.

My canine heart began to pound,
Hoping he wouldn’t make a sound.
But then he flapped a brownish wing,
Opened his beak, and began to sing!

All within my breast stood still,
And I was getting ill.
The hare, among the daffodils he stopped,
And down my head I quickly dropped.

My mind was a blur.
I dared not stir.
Where was the lunch
I was hoping to munch?

Slowly, but slowly, I lifted my head
To see if the hare had already fled.
No, he was sitting there, eating grass,
Unaware of my coming coup-de-grâce.

I told myself that I must wait,
If my hunger I was going to sate.
But I had a very itchy paw.
So the ground I began to claw.

I could not wait for the itch to pass
As I lay impatiently in the grass.
But now I heard my feast draw near,
Just a few feet from my ear.

Patience, patience, is what I need,
But to myself I paid no heed.
Too soon did I jump indeed,
And the hare took off with enormous speed.

And now when on my straw I lie,
I sigh and sigh, and cry and cry,
When I think that I did not persist,
And thus a lovely meal I missed.
There have been some exciting new changes in the OLLI office. Recently, Laura West was invited to serve as the Interim Director. Laura’s strong relationships with the membership combined with twelve years of experience and knowledge made her the obvious choice for the position. Since she has taken on the role and responsibility, members have been motivated to stop by and voice their votes of confidence. Workshop leader Carl Siegel pondered, "Who is more adept than Laura?" for the directorship. Cornelius McDonnell informs us he is getting a choir together to sing joyfully in the OLLI office.

In addition to the positive comments, there has been a flood of letters of recommendation addressed to Joyce Wellinger, written by members and workshop leaders. For example, workshop leaders Irma and Sol Gurman resounded, “The woman is amazing and we have actually called her “Superwoman” on numerous occasions…She has always been there for us, has never refused a request for help, and has always handled every situation impeccably…No one could do a better job or deserve it more.” Ken Buxbaum wrote, “Laura knows every part of the operation of the organization and has seen its successes and solved its problems through its growth to 1,000 members.” Liliane Thurau went on to say that Ms. West “inspires both affection and respect for her intelligence, equanimity, and obvious commitment to our organization.” Workshop leader Bruce Stasiuk also endorsed Laura for the director position stating that “she has always been highly efficient, helpful, and remarkably pleasant.” It is perhaps this pleasant quality that has brought the recent surplus of happy faces to the OLLI office.

Team OLLI now consists of Laura West, Jennifer Galloway, student assistant Steve Hayes and our newest addition Wayne Holo. Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting Wayne whose technical expertise has been a Godsend in helping to keep the workshops running smoothly. Jennifer Galloway continues to manage Special Events, the Arts Council, the online registration system, and is currently developing the new OLLI website to be launched in November. While maintaining a busy graduate class schedule, Steve has also become invaluable to the office by answering the busy phone lines, assisting members, and handling various office tasks. With the current staff of four, not only is the organization running smoothly, but many reflect upon an uplifting tone that is leading OLLI at Stony Brook to a brighter future.

Under the new leadership, creative ideas are being welcomed, such as the exciting new Science Unplugged OLLI Coffee Breaks being offered this November. Implemented with the help of Mel Lanz, young scientists from the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science will deliver vivid and engaging presentations to OLLI members. Larry Helner concludes, “Laura West as the new Director of OLLI would steer the organization towards further growth and honors.” In the words of workshop leader Pat Ballan, Laura’s “efficiency, tact, knowledge of mechanics, and grace under pressure have made her indispensible to all. Since she's been the power behind the throne for years, it's only fitting that she be moved up to a position of greater authority and I hope you share this opinion.”
Wednesday
December 4, 2013
Bellport Country Club
at twelve noon
Buffet Lunch
Dessert & Coffee
Beer, wine, soda &
Champagne
Entertainment
by the
Boston
Burlgars

OLLI HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2013

Guests Invited
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Online Registration opens Oct. 30th!
$49 pp
Join your OLLI friends for a festive holiday event. Grand Central Station & NY Public Library Thursday, December 12, 2013

Venture on a unique docent tour of Grand Central Station to explore the main & lower Concourses, Vanderbilt Hall, Campell Apartment, Whispering Gallery, “Terminal City” & more. See the Station dressed for the Holidays and enjoy the many vendor booths. We will also tour the NY Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Bldg exhibition “The ABC of It: Why Children’s Books Matter”. Event Leaders Ros Haber & Lynne Roth

**Itinerary**

8:00am Bus departs promptly from SBU South P-lot
8:30am Bus departs Huntington Exit 49N LIE
10:30am Tour NY Public Library
12:15pm Lunch on your own at Grand Central- & shopping!
2:30pm Grand Central Tour
4:30pm Approximate departure for home

Visit the OLLI website to register [www.stonybrook.edu/spd/ollii](http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/ollii)

$59 includes bus & two docent tours
Event registration begins Nov. 13th at 2pm
Recently I spent days in the Paley Center for Media (you know it as the Museum of Television & Radio). My binge research and viewing paid off handsomely, though, as I lost four pounds and discovered an episode of *Seinfeld* that had never aired. It should have, and if you agree after you read about it, please write to the stations now showing the re-runs.

The lost episode is called “Field of Nightmares.” As you probably know, Jerry (the character as well as the real person) is a great baseball fan. One of the seminal episodes (topped only by “The Contest” in which Jerry and his pals claim to be masters of their domain) is called “The Boyfriend.” Guest star Keith Hernandez is involved in a spitting incident on the way to the parking lot after the game, and the plot and dialogue are highly satirical of Oliver Stone’s *JFK*.

“Field of Nightmares” was filmed two years later, and takes off on the Kevin Costner epic. You actually see more of Shea Stadium than in the famous episode.

The team itself was having a nightmare year. Despite having stalwart hurlers like Sid Fernandez, John Franco, Doc Gooden, Bret Saberhagen and Frank Tanana plus proven position players like Howard Johnson, Jeff Kent, Bobbie Bonilla and Vince Coleman, the Mets were to lose 103 games.

The episode begins with a meal in Jerry and Elaine’s favorite Chinese restaurant. George is railing about the absurdity of dreams, and Kramer, imitating psychologist and dream guru Carl Jung with his pipe, is refuting the argument in German. Kramer’s fortune cookie message is “Keep your head up.”

They pile into a cab to go out to Shea. The cab driver is talking a mile a minute (way faster than the cab is going) about all the celebrities he’s driven. He tells Jerry the craziest ride he ever had was when he drove Harpo Marx. Throughout the whole ride, the driver couldn’t tell whether the honking was coming from inside the car or outside. Finally, Elaine yells “You’re driving me crazy! Will you just shut up!”

They get to the stadium and their seats along the third base line just as the Mets take the field for infield practice. Jerry and Kramer both shout out to HoJo and he waves back.

Now it’s the third inning. Kramer and Elaine are licking ice cream sandwiches. They are absorbed in trying to napkin the stuff off their hands. A high foul ball comes screeching towards them. George screams, but it’s too late. He ducks and the ball strikes Kramer squarely on the head. He flops in his seat unconscious. You can just picture it.

He’s taken off on a stretcher to the first aid room, and the aides lift his floppy body onto a hospital bed. They put an ice bag on the point of impact, but it slides off onto his eyes. He awakens thinking he is blind. Then images of dippy baseball players appear in front of him – Happy Felton with Bob Milliken doing bird imitations on the Knot Hole Gang, Billy Loes explaining how he lost a ground ball in the sun, Bill Lee in his space suit, great A’s pitcher Rube Waddell wrestling alligators, Germany Schaeffer going out to play second base in a raincoat, Wade Boggs sitting down on third base eating a chicken, Rizzuto saying “Holy cow” over and over and over again, Berra mumbling Yogi-isms ad infinitum. Kramer daydreams that he is chained to a bleacher seat and cannot move or even look away.

One of the aides shakes him and tells him he probably has a concussion and can’t fall asleep. Jerry comes into the first aid room and Kramer asks to be taken back to his seat. The aide says he will bring Kramer in a few minutes. When Kramer returns, Jerry points to the scoreboard and says in his narcissistic way “What a nightmare this is for me, Kramer. Look at the score and Elaine got ice cream on my leather jacket.”

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Kramer shakes his fist. “You don’t know about nightmares, Jerry. I’ll tell you about nightmares.” As he begins to relate his visions, George pipes up.

“Nightmares, huh. Who would be cruel enough to name their child ‘Tookie?’ You know, Tookie Gilbert.”

Elaine repeats the name and starts laughing hysterically. She spills her drink on Jerry’s pants. “That’s it. I can’t take it anymore. We’re leaving.”

As they get up, Marvelous Marv Throneberry (the old Met first baseman who, when he complained to Casey Stengel that he didn’t get a birthday cake, was told that he’d probably drop it) is sitting behind Jerry, says something to him about leaving early. Jerry yells “Drop it” and Marv spills a beer on his head.

Theme music comes up.

Is this an episode for the ages? How many times do you think it will air?