Welcome to our 25th anniversary, plus one. Last year, we had some ups and downs – not to mention hurricanes and snow storms – but we are off to a good start this year. Registration went smoothly, our enrollment is steady, and plans are underway for a great year.

Last spring, the Executive Board distributed a Volunteer Profile to as many members as we could reach in our workshops during the final week of the year. One hundred ninety-six members expressed their willingness to be involved in numerous activities to support and improve OLLI, and some of them have been busy already. This summer, the Technology Committee, headed by John Gobler, has been working hard to evaluate our equipment inventory and make sure workshops leaders are well-trained on any equipment they may be using. The Chronicles editor, Bill Hammer, has refined and improved the newsletter, both in terms of technical issues and in providing content of interest to our members. New Member Teas coordinators, Janet Creamer and Barbara Chadakoff, along with Member Relations Chair Jeff Hollander, organized our gatherings for new members.

Director Janet McLean and staffers Laura West and Jennifer Galloway have, as usual, worked their magic throughout the summer with registration and preparation for the new year. One big loss to OLLI this year will be Dean Paul Edelson, who is retiring from his position as Dean of the School of Professional Development. He was the catalyst for the founding of the Round Table, OLLI’s forerunner, and a constant supporter for the past 25 years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

I am excited about the outlook for our 26th year. We have an active Board, with lots of energy and good ideas to make our organization even better than it already is. But we need input from you, the members. If you have ideas for workshops, projects, events, or anything else, share them with me or any member of the Executive Board. As the Carpenters sang: “We’ve only just begun…”
From the Director

The start of the 26th academic year brings great promise and opportunity for renewal of old friendships and for meeting new classmates. We welcome a bumper crop of 152 new members to OLLI at Stony Brook, bringing the total membership to 980! Please extend a warm OLLI welcome to all new members that you encounter and show them the ropes.

A combined effort of many hard-working volunteers brings about the amazing organization required to present the 95 workshops this semester. On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank the following individuals, who have shared in the preparation of Fall, 2013.

Workshop leaders - all those members who lead, co-lead and assist in the presentation of the many OLLI workshops – (too numerous to mention here), but very much appreciated.

The Curriculum Committee – Ellen Guarnieri, Carole Gambrell, Terri McCoy, Rita LoMonaco, Maxine Hartman, Doris Weissman,

The New Member Committee- Barbara Chadakoff, Janet Creamer, Jeff Hollander

Hosts of the “Gatherings” – Pat Breslauer, Betty Fecci, Bina Firestone, Irma Gurman, Lily Klima, Jeff Kochnower, Arlene Lesser, Teri Maurelli, Mary McClave, Sue Parlatore, Fran Schapira, Ellie Schotz, Delores Serri, Linda Steffens, Lynn & Mel Stern, and also Lynette Zappulla,

The STARS – Registration Committee – led by Ellen Guarnieri, Pat Statuch and team

The Communications Committee – Dan Hensen, our mail man, and the many members who assisted in the “mass mailings”.

The Executive Board – presided over by Helen Emmerich

Office Staff – Laura West, Jennifer Galloway & Steve Hayes for their hard work & support

All OLLI members – for your on-going participation, patience & support.

Reminder: Before you ask for information in the office, please always check the bulletin boards and/or the OLLI website for the most current information on meeting announcements, dates, times and Special Events trips. www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli

P.S. The Curriculum Committee is now looking for workshop leaders for Spring ’13. If you’re interested contact Carole Gambrell (751-5204) or Terri McCoy (474-1514)

Spring Applications will be available, October 4th with a deadline return of October 31

Late Breaking News: As most of you know, for the past almost 13 years, since 2001, I have been involved with directing The Round Table/OLLI lifelong learning program. On September 20th, 2013, I will be retiring from this position to spend more time with my young grandchildren in Commack and Colorado, with my older parents in Canada, enjoying my second home in Tucson, golfing and travelling with my husband.

Working with the members, office staff and SPD staff has been a rewarding experience and OLLI will always be in my thoughts. Thanks to you all for the “OLLI opportunity” to be part of this “extraordinary” and successful lifelong learning program at Stony Brook University.
From the Editor

With a goal of making The Chronicles more interesting and relevant, easier to read and to navigate, we have made several changes that I hope are both evident and successful. By removing the multiple layers of navigation buttons from the top of each page we have reduced the memory size of the publication significantly, thus making downloads faster while adding valuable space for content. The Table of Contents on the first page provides an easy way for readers to decide what articles they want to read, and the order in which they want to read them. To further ease navigation, the buttons at the bottom of each page allow the reader to easily scroll through the newsletter.

Greater utilization of computer resources has allowed us to retain previous sections, while adding new ones. The Chronicles now includes information about campus activities and services of interest to our members, in ‘On Campus’; we acknowledge the achievements of OLLI members in ‘The Brag Board,’ and provide medical and health news of relevance to OLLI members in ‘Medicine and Health’.

The ‘Letters to the Editor’ section will provide a forum for OLLI members to comment on issues regarding OLLI or The Chronicles. In future issues ‘In the Spotlight’ will highlight OLLI members whose efforts are helping to make the world a better place. We anticipate that in the future literary works will have their own publication. Until then they can be accessed from the Literary Supplement on the back page. Contact Rhoda Spinner about future plans for publishing literary works.

I greatly appreciate the assistance of Carole Gambrell for helping us all think ‘outside the box,’ and Helen Emmerich and Terri McCoy, for their patience and being sounding boards in the creation of this issue. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on these changes and will continue efforts to enhance The Chronicles.

Finally, we would like to update the look of The Chronicles. If you have an idea for a new banner for the Home Page and another for subsequent pages of The Chronicles, please email the design to: ollichronicles@gmail.com. The Editorial Board will select a final version for the masthead.

Thanks for reading The Chronicles,

Bill Hammer,
Editor
Welcome to the fall 2013 semester of OLLI Stony Brook. The Curriculum Committee was hard at work last spring ensuring that there would be stimulating workshops for this fall session. Hmmm, you say … what takes so long? Funny you should ask.

Let’s start at the beginning. All year long, committee members keep an ear out for members who could be potential workshop leaders. Committee members are scouts and salespeople. They are aware of what members are interested in and encourage them to follow their passion and share it with their peers (with or without a co-leader). There are 2-3 committee meetings each semester.

In September and February, the committee starts planning for the following semester. Committee members contact current workshop leaders and potential leaders to get a commitment for the following semester. All new workshops are presented to the committee for approval.

New for the September 2013 semester, working in conjunction with the Technology Committee (formerly House and Equipment Committee), each workshop leader was contacted to determine workshop equipment needs. Training was offered on all the equipment.

Shortly after each semester begins, the committee supports workshop leaders by contacting them with a “thank you for volunteering” phone call. At that time pertinent details outlined in the Workshop Leader Handbook are reviewed and problems are addressed. New for fall 2013, Workshop leaders will be asked to contact the Chairs of the Curriculum Committee, and not the office, with questions, complaints, and/or requests.

So there you have it … this is how workshops are born and raised! When a committee member approaches you to lead a workshop, talk to them about how it could happen. What would you need in order for you to say YES?

Welcome aboard, prospective workshop leaders!
## OLLI Committees and Chairs
Check the OLLI calendar for exact dates and times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td>Frank Strakosh</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>Jerry Eberstein</td>
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<td>Conversation Partners</td>
<td>Frank Tassielli</td>
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<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Carole Gambrell • Terri McCoy</td>
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<td>Member Relations</td>
<td>Jeff Hollander</td>
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<td>Ruth Pasternak Fund</td>
<td>Joan Scott</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Bob Stone</td>
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<td>Technology</td>
<td>John Gobler</td>
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<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Tina Alexander</td>
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## OLLI by the Numbers
2012 - 2013

- 981  # of members
- 156  # of new members
- 184  # of fall/spring workshops
- 20   # of summer workshops
- 1 in 7  # of OLLI members who led workshops

## OLLI Executive Board
Meets the last Wednesday of the month. All meetings are open to the membership.

- **Helen Emmerich**
  - President
- **Joe McVeigh**
  - President-Elect
- **Arnold Katz**
  - Immediate Past President
- **Jerry Ebenstein**
  - Chairperson
- **Eileen Lohse**
  - Secretary
- **Terri McCoy**
  - Co-Chair
- **Carole Gambrell**
  - Co-Chair
- **Bob Stone**
- **Abe Trenk**
- **Frank Tassielli**
- **Joan Scott**
- **Jeff Hollander**
- **Members-at-Large**

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**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook**

**The Chronicles**

**OLLI - WHO WE ARE**
by Carole Gambrell
# September 2013

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Join any OLLI committee by attending meetings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:30 am Wang, LH 2 Orientation &amp; Tours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OLLI Workshops Resume **** You have ??’s Stop by OLLI Info Desk in SBS-Lobby this wk only.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12:00 - WANG L.Hall 1 General Member Mtg: -JOIN US-</strong></td>
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<td>10 am- N114 Special Evts Comm.</td>
<td>9am Arts Council N114B</td>
<td><strong>10:30-N244 Curriculum Mtg</strong></td>
<td><strong>3pm</strong> Link opens for OLLI bus trip to Nova’s Ark</td>
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<td>Collect Art this wk</td>
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<td><strong>10:30- N114B Exec. BD. MTG</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hang Art Wall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Save-the-date Fri. Oct. 4 Meet-the-Artist Reception</strong></td>
<td><strong>OLLI INFO DESK 9/9-9/13 - in SBS Lobby - 9-1 M,T, Th &amp; 9-11 W,F</strong></td>
<td><strong>For all important announcements – refer to our website at:</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli">www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli</a></strong></td>
<td><strong>For all membership information – refer to the Member Handbook</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office phone number: 632-OLLI</strong></td>
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*Bulletin boards regularly for updates & information*
I have been a member of OLLI since September of 2001, and have been involved in the Conversation Partners Program for the past several years.

To say that my experience with this program has been exciting and exhilarating is putting it mildly.

The first person with whom I was put in contact with was a Ph D candidate from South Korea. In the two years I knew this young lady, we met just about every week. At first our meetings were simply get-acquainted sessions, and they usually lasted between 30-45 minutes. We would either walk on campus or have a cup of coffee at the SAC Center. I discovered almost immediately that she was not only bright and effervescent, but also eager to learn more about American customs and traditions as well as the English language with its many contradictions, idioms and colloquialisms. I also learned a great deal about her family, who lived in Seoul, her language and her customs and traditions during these meetings.

After a month or so our meetings expanded. We went to a Korean restaurant, then to an Italian restaurant; we also went hiking at Jacob Smith State Park in Smithtown. About a year after I first met her, I signed up to meet another international student, and this time the young lady was a Ph D candidate from mainland China. The three of us met together and shared our respective viewpoints about our language and culture and even ventured into the area of international politics, which not surprisingly was extremely interesting to the three of us.

Both young ladies went home to their respective countries during one of the mid-semester breaks and when they returned informed me that while home they married their long-time sweethearts. They were eager to tell me all about their weddings and show me their wedding albums. One of the new husbands remained in Korea, while the other returned with his new bride and he too became a doctoral student at Stony Brook. I learned that these three individuals all had a very good grasp of the English language, albeit with a very strong accent, and often times the pronunciation of certain words proved to be quite a challenge.

On a few occasions my wife (not an OLLI member) accompanied us at one of our get-togethers. A couple of times, they came to our home and one of the things that struck me about those occasions was how interested they were in learning about various family photos we have hanging on our walls in our home. Naturally, their questions led to discussions about family values and customs and again, not surprisingly, I learned that Korean and Chinese families share many of the same values as American families. On one such occasion, they seemed especially intrigued as my family and I enjoyed a backyard barbecue. The presence and energy of my three pre-teen grandchildren was certainly a highlight for all of us.

I am writing this article because as a recently elected member of the Executive Board, I have been charged by our president, Helen Emmerich, to encourage OLLI members to sign up for the Conversation Partners program.

When the Fall session begins I will be making brief announcements about the Conversation Partners Program at the beginning of my classes, obviously with the instructor’s permission. You will also see posters on the walls of various classrooms urging you to join this wonderful and exciting program.

Interested OLLI members may sign up outside Room N-255 in the SBS building, or may contact me if they wish further information.

Frank Tassielli
When I first proposed to lead a workshop in June entitled The New Victory Garden, I had no idea that a raised bed would be available for planting our very own vegetable garden right outside the SBS building. So with the blessing of Janet and the grounds keeping staff, we dedicated the end of our first class to soil sampling and weeding the bed followed by incorporation of lime, peat moss and fertilizer in preparation for planting of transplants and seeds.

Like all successful gardens, we started with a planting plan for the 5 x 5 foot area where we planted transplants of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, basil and sweet potatoes all nicely labeled with variety name. The remaining area was further subdivided into planting squares for seeds of Swiss chard, lettuce, soybeans and sunflowers. Mel Bartholomew of Square Foot Gardening fame and a former Long Island resident would be proud!

All but the eggplant and one tomato plant survived (replaced by another basil) and are doing fairly well even though the SBS building blocks the morning sun from reaching the plants. The other drawback was the lack of a readily available water supply but the rainfall in June was more than adequate. Unfortunately the workshop ended before harvest time but we were still able to taste some dishes at the end of the last class made with overwintered favas, garlic and mint along with last season’s lima beans from my own garden.

See the photos for some of the hearty attendees who were unafraid of getting a little dirt under their fingernails and obviously believe the old adage that “at the end of the day, a gardener should smell like dirt.” By the time the fall session starts in September, the OLLI Victory Garden should be ready for the “Victory Harvest.” Now if only one of our members could just make us a nice looking sign for the garden….
I have taken classes with Bob Ober for the last three years and have decided that he is a walking encyclopedia! His wealth of knowledge on a vast array of topics is nothing short of amazing and his classes are always filled to capacity because they are so informative and thought provoking.

For the past two years I have had the pleasure of being in his Law and Politics class and have learned so much. Along with his own presentations, Bob frequently has guest speakers with varied backgrounds. We have enjoyed discussions with people in local government and those running for office, newsmen, law enforcement officers and others involved in the community in various ways.

Probably the most interesting guest speakers we have had were two men who were convicted of murder and ultimately exonerated after many years in prison. Martin Tankleff was one who was most familiar to us because he grew up in Port Jefferson. We discussed the criminal justice system and the death penalty in many classes, with Bob giving us some very thought provoking statistics.

The highlight of our class last year for me was a trip to Manhattan to see a play based on the true stories of several people who were wrongly convicted of murder and imprisoned for years before being exonerated. We listened to their bone chilling stories and were shocked and horrified that such miscarriages of justice had taken place. Bob had arranged for us to meet the actual people portrayed in the play, but alas, it was the night that Superstorm Sandy was bearing down on us and the city was going into lockdown. We had to make a hasty exit for home after the play. Some of us also saw the movie about the “Central Park jogger” which was about the teens who were convicted of brutally raping and beating her and then, after serving long jail sentences, were eventually exonerated of committing this crime.

I have learned many things in Bob Ober’s classes and have accumulated stacks and stacks of notes and handouts that I am most reluctant to destroy because they contain such interesting information and I am an information junkie! But, most of all, I have been encouraged to consider the multitude of facts presented in the class and realize that we live in a very complex world and, I suspect, sometimes look at things too superficially because it is easier. Bob has changed that by encouraging us to heighten our awareness of what is going on in the world around us and consider the impact of things on our lives and our world.

I can’t wait to see what interesting and thought provoking things we are going to learn this semester!
For we years, my home was Astoria, Queens—known as Little Athena—with my parents and six of us children. We fostered friendships with teenagers and young adults of similar ethnic backgrounds.

Leading a hermetically sealed life, our first language was Greek at home, in church and socially. Once I attended school, I learned to appreciate the English language. When I entered the business world with Pan American World Airlines, I learned to mix and meld with people of all nations and loved it.

When my parents moved to Port Jefferson I met and married my husband, George, who was from Tennessee (of the same heritage as mine). We lived in the house that George built! Our three children were raised in Centereach, where English was their first language and life for all of us, for the most part, was living the American way. Except for the close link at church and social functions when my parents were alive and keeping the flame of their native tongue burning, English was predominant for my children.

I am proud, though, that they have great pride in being Americans, but also appreciate their Anatolian-Greek heritage. Their friends have often told me how much they love Greek food and are fascinated by the lively music and dance that everyone alludes to in the movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding.”

When I bought my first car, as 1951 Chevrolet, my children were able to enjoy all parts of Long Island: Jones Beach, the parks, and North and South shores. I named my car Antigone and at times, when feeling nostalgic for my hometown, I would drive us to Astoria, although I know I “can’t go home again” to stay.

Since the loss of my husband, and with my children on their own raising their families, I attend Stony Brook University classes with more than 900 seniors in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Studying French and Spanish with others is fun, though my fondest passion is links to Greek.

Above all, I have the best of both worlds—having my children and their families on Long Island, where they prefer to live, and continuing my education with the elderly.

Meanwhile, I am an active member of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture, which has partnered with Stony Brook University to create a Hellenic Studies Center on campus. At home or elsewhere with others, I maintain close friendships with fellow Greeks to use, and not to lose, the Greek language.
Jasmine in Wang Center 2nd floor  
Under new management as of fall 2013. Jasmine serves Chinese, Indian, Japanese Grill, Sushi, and Thai food, along with other Asian cuisines. The authentic cuisine is made with the best fresh ingredients. In 1984, new owner, Malhotra, opened Dawat, for many years rated by Zagat as the best Indian restaurant in NYC.

Union Commons in Stony Brook Union  
It offers UPick Chopped Salads, made-to-order sushi, Mulberry Street Pasta, Picantes Mexican cuisine, Charcoals Grill, and Halal hot food entrees. The Grab-N-Go selection includes homemade soups, salads, sandwiches, kosher, halal, vegan, and vegetarian items. It is also home to the Union Deli, Starbucks, and Delancey Street, a Glatt Kosher Delicatessen Restaurant.

Food Court in Student Activities Center  
You'll find Yogurtmania and Omelet Pan, which offers made-to-order omelets with your choice of fillings. For lunch and dinner, pick from the extensive salad bar, Mulberry Street's New York style pizza and Italian cuisine, Charcoals Grill, Native Spice (hot food entrées and sides), and Wrap-it-Up sandwiches and wraps. Grab-N-Go has vegan, vegetarian, kosher, halal, and sushi options.

Simons Center Café  
The Café has a fresh and modern style that focuses on organically inspired French, Italian, and American cuisines. The menu is crafted daily by Chef Paolo Fontana, who has worked in many famous restaurants including Mirabelle. The array of options for soups, salads, entrees, and desserts is bound to leave you longing for more! The Café’s inspiration is fueled by New York City and Long Island style of cooking and living—fresh and vibrant. Open M-F 8:30am-10:am, 11:30am-2:30pm
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook

The Chronicles

Banking and ATM  (map #2)
Who: Teachers Federal Credit Union
Where: Lower level • Student Activities Center
What: Offers checking & savings accounts & ATM.
Phone: 632-4600

ATM  (map #3)
Who: Bank of America
Where: Main entrance • Stony Brook Union

Printing and Shipping  (map #4)
Who: FedEx
Where: Lower level • Melville Library E-0320
Phone: 632-1831
Website: stonybrook.edu/fsa/fedex-office

Locker Rentals  (map #2, 3, 4)
Where: Library Study Lounge, Stony Brook Union Building, Student Activities Center
What: To rent lockers for $46 per year go to Stony Brook Union Room 250.
Phone: 632-6517

Movie Rentals  (map #3)
Where: Lobby • Stony Brook Union
What: Kiosk is stocked with DVDs of new movies every Tuesday. Daily rentals are $1.49 for first night and $1 for each additional night.

SBS Building  (map #6)

Parking for SBS building  (map #7)
Frank Silverman, a recent OLLI member of the Advanced Photoshop workshop and several previous workshops, has won 2 ‘Grand Prizes’ at the Gurwin Rehabilitation center with these beautiful images. In addition to Gurwin, Frank has his images hanging in the halls of North Shore Hospital, Mather Hospital, and Long Island Jewish Hospital where residents and guests enjoy his work.

He recently had an exhibit of more than 30 of his beautiful landscapes and nature images at the Smithtown Library.

If you or an OLLI member you know has achieved a special goal, won a contest, or received a special award, let us know and we will announce it to the OLLI membership here.

*Waiting in Dubrovnik, Grand Prize, Travel*  
*Dragonfly, Grand Prize, Nature*
Dear Editor,

This section will provide an opportunity for readers to share their opinion or briefly discuss something OLLI-related, or something that they have read in The Chronicles.

If you have a strong feeling that you want readers to consider, write a letter to the editor. Letters to the Editor exists to provide a forum for public comment and a place for you to express your opinion or point of view. To do so, send an e-mail to the editors at: ollichronicles@gmail.com.

Write ‘Letters to the Editor’ on the subject line. All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. We will not publish your phone number or e-mail address.

For us to print your letter it must adhere to the ethics and laws of responsible journalism and reporting, e.g., avoid libel, copyrights infringement, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, harassment, and slanderous innuendo.

We look forward to reading your letters,

The Editor.
Stony Brook Medicine has created the Dalio Center for Cardiovascular Wellness and Preventive Research to conduct groundbreaking research and develop innovative treatment options for patients with and at risk of coronary artery disease, heart failure and Alzheimer’s disease.

Michael Poon, MD, Director of Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging at Stony Brook Medicine, is leading the new research center, located on the ninth floor of Stony Brook University Hospital, in developing new preventive and non-invasive treatments of cardiovascular disease. Under his leadership, the center will study EECP (Enhanced External Counter-Pulsation), which uses cuff-like devices on the legs to increase blood flow to the heart by squeezing in sequence with the patient’s heartbeat, as a way to enhance the blood flow to the heart by developing collateral blood vessels and enhancing coronary blood flow and reserves.

The center will focus primarily on studying the noninvasive diagnosis and treatment of endothelial dysfunction – a condition in which the endothelium (inner lining) of blood vessels does not function normally, resulting in a myriad of cardiovascular diseases – and on the effect of EECP in preventing the progression of cerebral, coronary and peripheral vascular diseases.

Research at the center is also being supported by several recent philanthropic gifts that were matched by the Simons Foundation Challenge Grant. One major gift, from Stony Brook University alumni Eugene and Carol Cheng, established the Carol and Eugene Cheng Cardiovascular Imaging Research Endowment. Funds from the gift were used to purchase the EECP machine. Another major gift of $750,000, from Charles A. Gargano, former U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, is being used to establish the Ambassador Charles Gargano Chair and professorship in Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

The research being conducted at the center could ultimately benefit not only patients with or at risk of developing coronary artery disease, Dr. Poon said, but also heart failure and Alzheimer’s disease patients, as the results are translated into new approaches to patient care. Thousands of patients will benefit from receiving EECP as an FDA approved treatment during the course of research exploring alternative uses for the therapy.

For more information visit: http://stonybrookmedicine.edu/imaging/dalio
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook

The Chronicles

Literary Supplement

A collection of literary works and poems by OLLI members.

17 Memoir Writing Takes No Vacation, by Rita Edwards
18 I’d Rather Be Wright, By Lee Marc Stein
19 The Boys, by Len Sciacchitano/The Seagull and the Crow, by M. L. Boyle
20 The Literary Tea, by Rita Edwards
21 Oeuvre Autobiographique, by Cornelius McDonnell
22 The End of The Raven, by John Gobler

Sunshine Cards Have Been Mailed To:
Dorothy Sterrett, Arline Goldstein, Nola Makofsky,
Grace Mulligan, and Bob Shinberg

Our Sympathy goes to the families of: Roz Kamholtz,
Bob Belsten, Santo Albano, and Marion Foote.

The Chronicles is published by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, School of Professional Development, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794-4310 (631) 632-7063.

Editor: Bill Hammer; contact the editor at ollichronicles@gmail.com
Website: http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli/index.html

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Memoir Writing Takes No Vacation
by Rita Edwards

They sit in a circle, conversing happily with their neighbors, as they pass around copies of the latest piece written by one of the members. He or she begins to read. All is quiet. They listen – they laugh or they are grim, depending on the mood of the piece - but none appear untouched. When the reading subsides there is a moment of contemplation, and then hands rise up as listeners take the floor to offer their comments.

Welcome to a summer meeting of the Memoir Writing workshop, under the guidance of leaders Sheila Bieber and Dorothy Shannon - the group that never takes a vacation.

The group has met under the same two leaders for about six years. During the regular semesters of OLLI, it meets once a week, usually on Fridays, usually from 10:30 to 12:30, usually in room SBS S102. During the summers, the group has chosen not to stop, but to continue meeting, at least once a month, at one another’s homes. The creativity continues to flow.

The Memoir Writing workshop began again in September. Perhaps in the future you will decide to enroll. Welcome to a very encouraging and fulfilling experience.
I'd Rather Be Wright

By Lee Marc Stein

It was Henry Clay, loser of three national elections, who said “I’d rather be right than President.” That’s no bold statement today. Whether you’re a Republican or Democrat, conservative or progressive, we can all agree being President is an impossible job that relatively few really want – not even Donald Trump.

At our stage of life, most of us, most of the time, are quite content to be ourselves. But there are those days – when we’re not happy with ourselves, feel neglected, still want to be famous – when we long to be someone else. Me, I’d rather be Wright.

And my first choice would be Steven Wright. He’s much more than a comedian; he’s a surrealist word painter. Who else would say

“Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line. He caught every other fish.”

“Some people are afraid of heights. Not me, I’m afraid of widths.”

“If you can’t hear me, it’s because I’m in parentheses.”

Sometimes I wish I were Steven Wright only because he is so deadpan in his delivery. Why can’t I restrain myself when I rattle off my terrible puns?

When I regret I hadn’t been more of an athlete, then I’d rather be David Wright, stalwart third baseman for the Mets. Much as I admire Jeter, Cano and Granderson, Wright has all the potential going for him and is free from controversy.

When I struggle with my writing – either these pieces for Chronicles or my poetry or short stories – then I’d rather be Great Playwright. Not Shakespeare nor anyone dead, not Neil Simon nor anyone super popular, but someone really literate not everyone understands (perhaps an Edward Albee or Tom Stoppard).

If you’re a big Dave Brubeck fan, as I am, sometimes you’ll wish you were Eugene Wright, the inimitable bass player in that famed quartet. Imagine being there with Dave, Paul Desmond on sax and Joe Morello on drums, plucking those strings, tapping into the music of the spheres.

In the great history of American inventiveness, some people would have liked to be Edison, Fulton, Whitney, Philo Farnsworth, or Howe. I’d rather be Orville Wright. I don’t remember from my Landmark Books which brother he was. I just like the name Orville better than Wilbur.

I’d rather be Frank Lloyd Wright so I could be mentioned in a Paul Simon song. Never mind being an architect (I had trouble with Lincoln Logs). Frank, whose arrogance was legend, did say one thing many of us agree with: “The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes.”

Actually, since my tastes lean much more toward painting than architecture, I’d rather be Joseph Wright, an English landscape and portrait painter. He has been acclaimed as “the first professional painter to express the spirit of the Industrial Revolution”. This Wright is notable for his use of Chiaroscuro effect, which emphasizes the contrast of light and dark, and for his paintings of candle-lit subjects.

Steven, David, Play, Eugene, Orville, Frank Lloyd, Joseph – that’s 7 Wrights. That doesn’t make me wrong.
The place was almost empty, a few couples were seated quietly, whispering as if noise, as if energy would be disrespectful. The place seems to be waiting, waiting for that event occurred every Thursday.

He sat at their table, he was early, much too early; he was prepared to wait, he would read his newspaper until they came. After a while he put down the paper and for some reason he remembered his grandfather; he remembered a time his grandfather had taken his hand and led him to that small park just off Myrtle Ave where the old men meet. Endless debates; WWII politics, the church, he didn’t understand what these old men were saying but he understood laughter, he understood emotion, he understood passion. Sometimes these men left in anger, but they always returned as if there was an unspoken, undefined respect, a special understanding.

He picked up his newspaper and waited. One by one they came, all sizes, all kinds of backgrounds, some wealthy, some not so. They came and greeted each other and smiled, then sat at the round table. She gave them coffee, discussions started, noise and laughter came easily. More came, more tables were added. It had started, the place came alive. Sometimes heated debates started. The help had learned years ago, if possible, don’t seat the others near this group. In some ways the area these men occupied on this day, this space these men owned.

With humor and a smile, one by one she took their order. She joked with them and seem to understand what was happening. The food came and they ate. On these Thursdays no one was on a diet, no one consisted their health. Perhaps they thought on these Thursdays, eggs, bacon, and the like would magically turned into health foods. On these Thursdays in this place for these men, it was safe to eat anything.

Then it ended, one by one they left “have a good weekend, have a great day.”

Now alone with a fresh cup of coffee, he thought of his grandfather, those men in the early 1940’s and those men today; all have much in common, all a deep understanding of what it means to be who they are. He sat back and smiled, he knew these men perhaps all men in all kind of different places, would always find ways to gather together in a safe place, a safe place where it is possible to be boys.

The Seagull and the Crow

By ML Boyle

The seagull and the crow
Are they lovers or are they foe?
Do you think I’ll ever know
About the seagull and the crow?

On the rocks they hide and seek
When we cruise by I try to peek
But they are shy and so very meek
That I do not discover what I seek.

They play together on the jetty
I have my camera ever ready
But my hands are none too steady
My photos only show the jetty.

I don’t believe I’ll ever know
about the seagull and the crow
I hope they’re friends and are not foe
But I don’t think I’ll ever know.
A
other of our semi-annual Literary Teas graced SBS S102 at noon on Friday, April 26. 
Rhoda Spinner, organizer extraordinaire, guided us to delicious refreshments in Room 149 after which we moved to 102 for an afternoon of splendid poesy, metaphor and narrative. Before the readings began, Rhoda thanked Wally Collier for composing the beautiful cover for the Booklet.

Creative OLLI members read their works in free verse, rhyme, sonnet, and limerick, or in narrative or literary prose. Applause, gasps, or laughs of delight from the audience punctuated all their readings.


Ginger Williams offered five evocative works: “The Fifth Graders…”, “Generations-For Lilly”, “Listening to The Wind in the Willows in Our Old Blue Ford”, “Elm Trees Lined the Streets…”, and “Four Haiku”. Barbara Chadakoff read “Trying to Be ‘Spataneous” to appreciative laughter. Sheila Blume offered eight of her contributions to “Dictionary in Limerick Form” and three other works, to high applause. Eileen Lohse followed with her humorous work entitled “Jalopy!”

- confiding thoughts of the jalopy itself. Again the mood changed, with Faye Graber’s philosophical “Validation: Youth, Maturity, Older.” Bob Stone treated us to his beautiful “Ascending (The Ages of Man)”, and then Rita Edwards had us pondering as she read her story entitled “Lenny”. Tobey Meistrich introduced us to her works “Bliss but No Bris” and Patrick.” Lee Marc Stein emulated the great essayists with his humorous work entitled “Maybe It’s Hiding With The Single Missing Socks” followed by “The First Twitter Account (after Paul Klee’s The Twittering Machine)” and “The Society Painter At Le-Bac-Du-Sud.” Rose Wiesner offered her deeply personal works “Gravity”, “Deirdre’s Kitchen”, “Chair” and “In the Company of My Pajamas”.

Sheila Eisinger’s extended metaphors in “Changing Landscape”, and “Leaving and Returning” and her work “From Start to Finish” brought applause. Linda Good read her descriptive “A Day in the Park” followed by Lillian Heckinger’s return to childhood with her poem “Bones On Broadway”. Our final contributor, Marilyn Goodman, read “Oh, What a Day It Was”, which closed with a happy ending, as did our thoroughly enjoyable and exciting afternoon.
Once upon a day so dreary,
I just pondered weak and weary,
While my eyes were quite so teary,
I had a feeling that was eerie.

I had just retired; my future was not aglow.
I felt like the Raven of Edgar Allan Poe.
Such woe, a body-blow, condemned to watching video.

Then along came a member of OLLI, named Molly.
O, so jolly, without a trace of melancholy.
“Come with me,” said she, “and take a class or two.”
Of what she meant I had not a clue.

Then what a shock I got!
What I saw just hit the spot.
I heard singing, and laughing, joking, debating,
Chatting, discussing, orating.

I felt so elated, stimulated, emancipated,
Animated, elevated, almost inebriated.
What a world had I just found?
Where such fun did all abound.
Where the joy does indeed astound.

But my mind was quite a mess.
The reason why I must confess.
Should I take mythology, psychology, zoology,
Cetology, geology, dendrology, gemology?

“You must take Language and Culture”,
Said Tom, the culture-vulture.
“You will learn all about Languedoc,
Little Rock and Hancock,
Antioch, Medoc, Dvorak and Sheetrock.

How about French?” said I to Joe.
“Oh, there you will speak in the style of Gounod,
Of Marot, Rameau, Rousseau and Joeblow
You’ll learn things nouveaux, and study Rambeau.”

“I would like to meet some other members”, I said to Annette, the brunette.
“Well, here are Claudette, Colette, Georgette, and Gilette,
Lynette, Nanette, Yvette, and Dragnet.”
Oi vey, said I, what an octet.

“What about the language lunch,” said I to Guy.
As I looked at him straight in the eye.
“Oh, there you will meet with Laura West
Who is simply the best of the best.
She does all her work with unbelievable zest.
To that we all can well attest.”

“And then you’ll meet with Jennifer, a gem,
In fact, the crème de la crème.
On the computer adept,
Who is ever ready to help the inept.”

And how can we not say thanks to Sheila Price,
Who always and ever is simply so nice.
Who, for this lunch takes care of the bill, with skill.
And we hope, indeed, it’s not overdue.

My life now, is no longer dreary,
I’m no longer weak and weary.
In fact, I am ever so cheery.
For I’m living my dream on the OLLI team
In the groves of academe.

All hail to the OLLI guys and gals.
Among whom we’ve all got pals.
You are people upbeat,
Totally elite.
For learning ablaze, who always amaze,
Whom I can’t overpraise.
The End of the Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe’s Cat
from Henry Beard’s Poetry for cats

On a night quite unenchanting, when the rain was downward slanting,
I awakened to the ranting of the man I catch mice for.
Tipsy and a bit unshaven, in a tone I found quite craven,
Poe was talking to a Raven perched above the chamber door.
“Raven’s very tasty,” thought I, as I tiptoed o’er the floor,
“There is nothing I like more.”

Soft upon the rug I treaded, calm and careful as I headed
Toward his roost atop that dreaded bust of Pallas I deplore.
While the bard and birdie chattered, I made sure that nothing clattered,
Creaked, or snapped, or fell, or shattered, as I crossed the corridor;
For his house is crammed with trinkets, curios and weird decor----
Bric-a-brac and junk galore.

Still the Raven never fluttered, standing stock-still as he uttered,
In a voice that shrieked and sputtered, his two cents’ worth-------
“Nevermore.”

While this dirge the birdbrain kept up, oh, so silently I crept up,
Then I crouched and quickly leapt up, pouncing on the feathered bore.
Soon he was a heap of plumage, and a little blood and gore--------
Only this and not much more.

“Oooo!” my pickled poet cried out, “Pussycat, it’s time I dried out!
Never sat I in my hideout talking to a bird before;
How I’ve wallowed in self-pity, while my gallant, valiant kitty
Put an end to that damned ditty” -------then I heard him start to snore.
Back atop the door I clambered, eyed that statue I abhor,
Jumped-------and smashed it on the floor.