Doesn’t Cost a Dime
Five Days—Five Events—All for Free

In 1969, “Europe on 5 Dollars a Day” was our bible as my husband and I traveled through France and England. At that time, we didn’t mind if the loo was just down the hall and up a few steps. Today a single grande coffee frappuccino from Starbucks would put you over the price limit for an entire day on the road in 1969.

Yet, even in 2018, bargains do exist at Stony Brook University. Here are some recent examples:

**Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel,**
Simon Center; Monday, March 19, 5 p.m.

“Does my dog really love me? Yes.” That was the beginning, and facetiously threatened end, of a very funny and informative talk by Carl Safina, expert, author and Stony Brook professor. The minds of dogs, and other non-humans, are rather similar to ours, displaying consciousness, self-awareness, empathy, non-verbal communication, imitation, teaching and grief. But then every pet owner already knew that.

Bonuses: Free wine, fruit and cheese (continued on page 4).

“Remember, life is not always easy, even at this stage, and change will continue to be inevitable. But sticking with OLLI is worth it. So, get up, get ready, accept change and help one another make the best of it. OLLI needs you!”

- Bob Mirman
OLLI President
From the President

Bob Mirman

I am a kid from The Bronx whose parents never owned a house. I didn’t know anything about a lawn. When Shelly and I bought our first house, which was newly built, I turned a patch of Long Island sand into grass. Long Island was a major change from The Bronx, and growing our lawn was a challenge. But I stuck with it, and the result was well worth it.

This will be my last article as President of OLLI at SBU. It’s been a challenging time, for me, our board, the OLLI office and, of course, all of our members. As you know, things will be changing come fall, things that have been set in motion by circumstances largely beyond our control.

Please welcome and give your support to our incoming President, Ira Kurtzberg, and our OLLI board, who will be working hard for all of us to manage the changes ahead. And let me also express my gratitude for all the current board members, OLLI staff, workshop leaders and OLLI members who have given so much of themselves this past year.

As I write this, there are many unknowns and works in progress, especially involving parking and workshop space. But whatever the result, we will adjust because of who we are. I truly believe that. I hope you do, too. My faith in our future is born of experience.

After five years with a pharmaceutical company, I left a job that paid a salary and bonus and that provided a company car, and took a position that was commission only. Change, yes. Challenge, absolutely. But I went on to become a manager of a few offices in financial services, and after 36 years, I retired after a successful career.

Along the way, I learned my share of lessons, as I know all of you have. Mine included separating what I could and could not control and accepting it all humbly and wisely. I urge you not to let age, circumstance, past experiences or concepts stop you from embracing the coming changes at OLLI.

Remember, life is not always easy, even at this stage, and change will continue to be inevitable. But sticking with OLLI is worth it. So, get up, get ready, accept change and help one another make the best of it. OLLI needs you!

- Bob Mirman
OLLI President

OLLI Events Calendar

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Friday, May 4</td>
<td>OLLI SP18 Semester Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 10</td>
<td>12:30pm Spring Celebration Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 4</td>
<td>Summer Workshops June 4 - 28</td>
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From the Director

Wayne Holo

Some of you may have received this information in the email I sent to our OLLI membership on Wednesday, May 2nd. Others may have heard it at the General Meeting held that afternoon. But for those of you who have not yet heard our plan for Fall 2018, here it is.

Good news! Special hang tags for OLLI member cars will be available during the 2018-19 registration period. These hang tags will allow OLLI members to park in faculty staff lots Monday through Thursday beginning at 3:00 PM and all day Friday, which will correspond to our on-campus workshop schedule.

On-campus classrooms on 1st floor in SBS and 3rd floor in the SAC building will continue to be used by the OLLI program on those days and times. OLLI will not be using academic classrooms this fall (Javits, Frey, Humanities, etc.) due to the excessive level of technical support these rooms require. Since we began using these rooms 2 years ago, this support, which was previously provided by University staff, has become the responsibility of our OLLI staff. Unfortunately, these trouble calls have increased to the point where there is not enough time for our office staff to devote to the core processes and activities of our program such as scheduling, communication (emails, website, Chronicles), committee meetings, and a host of important day to day and scheduled administrative. The focus of our office must be dedicated to these important functions and not solving technical issues all day long with computers, projectors, and other related classroom equipment.

In addition to our plan for continued use of on-campus resources, OLLI, SPD and volunteer leaders completed tours of a number of nearby off-campus venues. Analysis and negotiations are currently underway to add at least two and possibly more of these to our pool of available classrooms. Based on the information gathered to date, Temple Isaiah, Ward Melville Heritage Organization and the Setauket Neighborhood House are our top choices. These facilities, when combined with on-campus resources, will allow OLLI access to parking and classrooms for an even greater number of workshops. Some of these off-campus rooms are large enough to offer workshops with up to and in excess of 100 seats during prime-time each day. They also offer one level environments complete with restrooms, on-site staffing, ADA access and space for study and snacks between workshops.

As we continue to finalize fall details, please continue to watch for updates from the OLLI office. As always, thank you for your continued support of our OLLI program and our efforts which so many of you have expressed in your calls, emails and visits to my office.

Have a fantastic summer!

- Wayne Holo
OLLI Director
Curriculum Committee Report

The spring 2018 semester has now come to an end, and we hope you had an enriching and enjoyable learning experience. Our dedicated workshop leaders and co-leaders once again volunteered their time and expertise in many subject areas to create the many wonderful workshops that are the foundation of our program. The OLLI office staff worked hard to schedule some 100 workshops for our five-days-a-week, ten-week program.

We are all anticipating changes in the OLLI program for the Fall semester. But whether on campus or off, our workshops will remain the core of OLLI, and the Curriculum Committee will play an important role in keeping our workshop program strong.

Over the last few months we have developed initiatives that we hope are already enriching our workshops.

The OLLI Speakers Grant gave workshop leaders a resource for inviting outside presenters. The pilot program has already been used by five creative workshop leaders. For example, the Poets at Work workshop brought in a widely published poet to speak about poetry and to critique the poetry of participants. Another workshop, Classical Music – A Thousand Year Journey, had a presentation by the Music Director of WSHU radio on the evolution of radio music programming.

Another Curriculum Committee initiative over the past year was to formalize a relationship between OLLI and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. OLLI members are participating in “Talking Science,” an undergraduate course that teaches students the skills of communicating science to the public. OLLI members in this intergenerational program have offered encouragement and suggestions to budding student scientists.

We hope the Speakers Grant and Talking Science programs will continue, but whether or not they do, the Curriculum Committee remains committed to pursuing new opportunities to enrich OLLI workshops.

- Jackie Day & Ed Metzendorf
  OLLI Curriculum Committee

Budget Report

The approved budget for fiscal year 2017-18 and actual spending through Jan. 31, 2018, have been posted on the OLLI website. To see the report, go to the OLLI home page: www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/olli/, click on OLLI Documents in the left-hand column and then click on 2017-2018 Budget as of 1/31/18 COB Actuals (PDF).

On the surface it looks as if OLLI is quite solvent, but there are still two months remaining in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. Wayne and Diane are working toward obtaining sustainable contracts that will keep the Stony Brook Foundation accounts in the black. We have also asked workshop leaders for requests for items that would improve their workshop experience beyond the normal supplies that are included in their annual spending budgets.

As current expenditures and the fiscal year 2018-19 budget are finalized and approved, they will be posted on the website and discussed in future issues of The Chronicles.

- Fred Avril
  OLLI Budget Advisor

Spring 2018 Literary Tea

The Literary Tea is an event that takes place every semester to celebrate the poets and essayists of OLLI and their work.

For 25 years, this impressive event was organized and conducted by Rhoda Spinner, a past President of the OLLI Board (1996-1997). When Rhoda decided to retire from this responsibility, OLLI members looked for a new Faye Graber, Chairperson of the Art Council, stepped forward to organize the event and Lily Klima volunteered to emcee.

OLLI members who wanted to participate submitted their poems and essays to Laura West in the OLLI Office. Wallace Collier collected the material and put it together into a 60-page book, which was distributed to all participants at the event.

On the afternoon of April 18, attendees assembled in the OLLI Lounge to enjoy a lunch of salad, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and (of course) tea and then moved into the classroom where the readings took place.

The next two hours were just pure joy as the audience listened, enjoyed, reveled in and applauded an array of poems and thought-provoking, serious, light-hearted and even hilarious essays.

The Literary Tea Spring 2018 book is available for review in the OLLI Office.

- Jothi Curcio, Co-Chair
  OLLI Member Relations Committee
Doesn’t Cost a Dime
(...continued from page 1)
Five Days—Five Events—All For Free

The Emerson String Quartet: Four Extraordinary Decades
Music Library, Tuesday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.

The Emerson Quartet, the university’s resident string ensemble, is big -- Classical Music Hall of Fame, nine Grammy Awards, Avery Fisher Prize. That kind of big. For four decades, the members of the Quartet have played together and been friends. The fascinating panel discussion was filled with anecdotes about their careers and their music.

The accompanying exhibition chronicling the group’s career is permanently on display in the library.

Art Crawl
Wednesday, March 21, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m. our group embarked on a guided tour of three of the university’s five art galleries.

The second stop was at the Staller Center to meet four art students and to hear about their work. These impressive pieces, created for their MFA theses, offer four very different responses to the topic of “time.” In one, an entire wall is covered with undulating charcoal lines evoking physical movement through space. In another, a projected silhouette of an Indian woman dances across a maze of colorful saris draped from the ceiling, echoing memories from the artist’s childhood.

The exhibit will be in the Zuccaire Gallery until April 14.

The last stop was at the Wang Center to view the quirky exhibit, ”Potasia: Potatoism in the East,” an entertaining survey of artworks with the potato as their central subject.

This fun tribute to the potato can be seen on the lower level of the Wang Center until June 15.

Motif of the Potato in Korean Media
Wang Center, Thursday, March 22, 4:00 p.m.

As part of Potasia, translator Grace Jung lectured on the theme of the potato as a significant motif in Korean literature, film and television. An example is North Korea’s early experiments with propaganda. In Korea, the potato, not rice, is the food of the poor. During the famine of 1994-1998, the North Korean government used television to convince the population that potatoes, which are easier to grow, were a desirable food choice. Clips from various TV shows were shown, including a children’s cartoon in which an army of potatoes marches in to save the world.

Bonus: Anyone who asked a question got a free bag of potato chips.

Nara Avetisyan Piano Recital
Staller Center Recital Hall, Friday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

There is something magical about listening to a piano in a small venue. I spent a pleasant hour with Mozart and Liszt being played by Ms. Avetisyan, a student in the master degree program in music at Stony Brook. To say she is a “student” is a little misleading. She has won numerous awards and made recital, concerto and chamber music appearances throughout Armenia, Russia, England, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the United States. The students are already world-class musicians when they arrive. Nearly 300 student recitals are presented throughout the year as a major requirement of the graduate music performance degree.

The piano recital was a restful end to a busy week. If you have the stamina, there is no end of events you can attend. To see what’s happening on campus, check the Stony Brook University Calendar.

- Carole Gambrell
Spring 2018 Art Wall Installation

The latest installation of the OLLI Art Wall includes paintings, photographs, wood carvings and sculpture, ceramics and drawings – all by OLLI members.

The exhibit in S102 opened March 23 with a reception hosted by the OLLI Arts Council. The Wall hangings were organized by Faye Graber, who introduced the artists in attendance to explain the processes and techniques used in their creations.

In addition to the hangings in S102, OLLI members can view selected drawings from Arline Goldstein’s workshops in S149.

The reception featured lunch and assorted pastries and entertainment by the fine guitar duo of Ron Pace and Gary Passavia.

Thanks to Laura West, for arranging for the food and refreshments, collecting the art, creating the labels and helping in so many ways, and Harry Walsh for setting up the tables for the installation.

Literary Tea

The OLLI Arts Council is active in encouraging all forms of the arts created by our members. This year, it revived the Literary Tea, an event open to all OLLI members that was organized for many years by Rhoda Spinner.

The Spring 2018 Literary Tea was held April 18 in S102 and featured readings of poems, stories and memoirs written by our members (see page 5 for more details on the event).

- Robert Stone
Arts Council
Behind the Scenes at Citi Field

OLLI members recently got the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the New York Mets organization at Citi Field. With excellent guides leading the way, we toured the clubhouse, field, dugout, bullpen, Mets Hall of Fame, and luxury boxes and restaurants on different suite levels on April 19, a day the Mets were playing in Atlanta.

Most insightful was the chance to view the field from the press box, the perspective journalists, sportscasters and producers have. Different sections are allocated to radio, television and newspapers. We also got to see the production area (scoreboard control room) and the interview room. Some of us even got to play interviewee.

The Mets locker room was a favorite. There we saw and heard about the assignment and location of players’ lockers. Nearby we got a bird’s eye view of the indoor batting cages and learned when they are used.

Then off to Astoria we went. With a list of recommended restaurants in hand, we spread out, but all reported having enjoyable lunches.

The light drizzle didn’t dampen our spirits, and a winning time was had by all – even diehard Yankee fans.

- Bunnye Avril
Special Events Chair
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The Chronicles

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