Letter from the President

As President of the OLLI Advisory Board, first let me welcome our new members (65 strong) and our returning members to a challenging and yet very exciting new semester.

At our General Meeting on Oct. 12, we learned that our Director, Wayne Holo, had resigned. A search is being launched to find a replacement. Ed Metzendorf, our President-elect, and I will participate. We obviously thank Wayne for his service to OLLI and wish him well.

When the Spring semester ended in May, we had one specific goal in mind: WE NEEDED TO REMAIN ON CAMPUS. We accomplished that with the help of Judy Greiman, Senior Vice President and Chief Deputy to the President of the University, and Joan Dickenson, Director, Community Relations. Both are part of Stony Brook University's upper administration. Without their help we never could have achieved that goal. Thank you, Judy and Joan.

(continued on page 2)

"Now it is time to work together to improve our program. ... The Board is also working diligently with SPD so that we have one voice in order to make changes. But the Board cannot do it alone. When we call upon you, our members, please volunteer. TOGETHER WE SHALL SUCCEED."

- Ira B. Kurtzberg
OLLI President

In This Issue..

- The Letter from the President
- Spring 2019 Special Events
- The Third Age
- New Member Orientation
- Budget Report
- Chorus at Citi Field and Gurwin Nursing Home
SPD is listening to our needs and working with us to accomplish our goals. As our membership has been told on previous occasions, the configuration of our present program is a pilot program and a work in progress. As a result, we are working together to make changes.

Some of the more important ones discussed at the meeting were:

1) Reducing the time between workshops to 30 minutes, from the present 60 minutes.
2) Increasing standard workshop periods back to their former 1 hour 15 minutes.
3) Conducting a parking study to see about obtaining additional parking spaces at the faculty/staff parking lot, which we used before, especially Wang and SAC.
4) Starting workshops at 9 a.m. instead of the present 8:30.
5) Getting larger classrooms for workshops that draw higher registrations and rooms suitable for workshops with special requirements like audio/visual equipment and suitable seating for A/V presentations.
6) Expanding summer sessions beyond June to July and part of August.
7) Forming special interest clubs, like a hiking club, bowling club, investment club, drama club, to suggest just a few.

If you wish to form a club and have some people interested in doing so, please let me and/or Ed Metzendorf know by sending us an email. I (Ira) can be reached at ibkurtz@hotmail.com and Ed at saab92@optonline.net.

**OLLi Events Calendar**

| February | Luncheon with the Chef and/or Sommelier |
| March    | Philadelphia Flower Show               |
| April    | Tour of the Cold Spring Harbor Labs    |
| May      | A Unique Experience at the Bronx Zoo   |

We will be hosting “focus groups” where members will meet with Diane and a Board Member about their thoughts on our program so that we may further improve it. This will consist of small groups of members, and different members at different times, who will be able to speak freely about the program and any issues they may wish to raise.

We have also distributed a questionnaire in our workshops about parking. If you received one, please complete it, as this survey is important. That is being followed up with a more comprehensive questionnaire about the overall program. Your input will be extremely helpful regarding the Spring semester. We really need your cooperation.

I am also asking for volunteers to help with the parking-lot study, which will be extremely helpful in deciding whether or not we will be able to obtain additional parking spaces at the faculty/staff lots. What has to be done will be explained at a future date, but, again, we need volunteers to participate.

Bob Mirman, our Past President, will be in charge of putting together articles for the Chronicles, so you may contact him directly as he would like members to write about different events they have participated in, or topics that are important to them. Bob can be reached at sbmirms27@gmail.com.

The chorus will be putting together music for an OLLI song, but we need some help with the lyrics. If anyone feels up to the task, please contact me or Ed Metzendorf, as we are also co-directors of the chorus. You will be working directly with us and our terrific conductor, Miles.

The Special Events Committee put together an exciting trip to Gettysburg, Penn. In the future, when we have a long-distance trip, we will be have a bus to take us to and from our destination.

Diane Perillo is very excited about helping us with all of these new changes and will work to ensure that our needs are met so that positive changes will take place. Thank you, Diane.

The Board is also working diligently to achieve these goals in concert with SPD so that we have one voice in order to make the changes that are outlined above. But the Board cannot do it alone. When we call upon you, our members, please volunteer. TOGETHER WE SHALL SUCCEED.

Thank you. I am looking forward to working with everyone to make this a very successful year.

Ira B. Kurtzberg
President

- Ira B. Kurtzberg
OLLi President
The Third Age

Traditionally people recognized three stages of life: youth, middle age and old age. As people are generally living longer now, some people have begun to refer to four stages of life: youth, middle age, third age, and old age.

The “third age” is generally considered to coincide with the time of life when many people “retire.” However, our vision of retirement has changed. Instead of adopting a passive, sedentary lifestyle, many people are using this “third age” as a time to remain active and engaged. It is an opportunity to pursue interests that one may not have been able to do when working full time or raising a family.

My personal vision for this “third age” is to be a “lifelong learner.” This is the reason I joined the OLLI program in 2013. I have attended many interesting workshops and have met many interesting people. In 2017, I was encouraged by Ira Kurtzberg to become a Workshop Leader. In the “Wellness and Aging” workshop I lead, we discuss ways we can maintain our health and the quality of life as we age.

I hope you enjoy and value the Stony Brook OLLI program as I do. Now is a good time for us all to share our good OLLI experiences with our friends, and encourage them to join OLLI.

- Lou D’Onofrio

New Member Orientation

New Member Orientation was held Sept. 6 at the Setauket Neighborhood House. Some 45 new members received a personal welcome to the OLLI community from leaders and general members who sat and chatted with each newcomer about the experiences and opportunities OLLI offers.

Ed Metzendorf, OLLI’s Vice President and President-elect, provided details about parking and maps showing lot locations. OLLI President Ira Kurtzberg outlined our current program and discussed what he sees in OLLI’s future with regard to weekend-long or even longer trips as well as current “field trips,” dining experiences and other programs.

New members were also provided with contact information for OLLI leaders and office staff.

- Sheryl Sessa
  New Member Co-Chairperson

Budget Report

The 2017-18 membership was 1,056. The final count for the 2018-19 year has not been confirmed, but we know it is lower than last year’s. The School of Professional Development/OLLI administration and the OLLI Advisory Board are all working closely to address member concerns.

New budget reports will be presented in the near future that will show income and spending in chart form, which will be an improvement over the current spreadsheets. For now, we are pleased to report on accomplishments and physical improvements that have been made since the Spring 2018 semester and others that will be made by the end of the current semester. These include:

- Using endowment earnings to combine rooms N119 and N121 in SBS into one room that can accommodate 40 people. SPD, OLLI, and the OLLI Advisory Board worked together to create a larger air-conditioned room for the membership.

- Note that the North rooms 112, 114, 119 and 123 are SPD space, but they are available to OLLI during all weekdays. All of the South rooms are OLLI space all of the time.

- Some of the $50,000 bridge fund as part of the second $1million grant from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes is funding state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment that can be found in the South rooms. These A/V enhancements will bring new depth to the workshops. The grant also funded new laptops that are used in the SAC.

- In light of the condensed workshop schedule, the administration hired student employees. Their role is to assist workshop leaders so members can get the most out of their time leading a session.

The budget reports in the new format will be presented in future Chronicles issues along with updates on changes, improvements and spending.

- Fred Avril, Budget Advisor
As Chorus members mingled one last time, residents expressed their appreciation. Typical was one resident who had been singing along in the front row and who gushed: “This was great. I used to sing when I was young and I really enjoyed today!”

The Chorus’ own David Altman, a rabbi, led the group in prayer and helped reinforce the special connection Chorus members and residents came to feel. The performance ended with favorites such as “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and our signature “National Anthem.” Everyone in the Chorus agreed that meeting the residents and spreading joy and love through the universal language of music was incredibly rewarding. The OLLI Chorus is definitely ready to take to the road again next semester!

The group is grateful to all who have made its adventures possible. Members especially appreciate all the behind-the-scenes support of the New York Mets organization; the Gurwin staff; the OLLI office and SPD staff; and the dynamic duo of Ira Kurtzberg and Ed Metzendorf, the Chorus’ hard-working co-directors. The following members participated in the performances at Citi Field and/or Gurwin Nursing Center: Rabbi David Altman, Flo Scully-Benoit, Lorraine Colombo-Booras, Elaine Cappelletti, Sue Cardinal, Diane Eiderman, Rosamaria Eisler, Dena Fagan, Pat Gobler, Stu Koenig, Ira Kurtzberg, Linda Kurtzberg, Miles Massicotte, Ed Metzendorf, Suzanne Neske, Joe Pleva, Shelly Psaris, Joan Roehrig, Mary Ruhe, Paula Steinberg, Scott Stevenson, Lorraine Wysolmierski.

About The Chronicles

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