

SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome to Fall Semester 2024

Jean Youkers, Chair, OLLI-W Council

We're delighted to welcome new and returning members to Fall Semester 2024 at OLLI-Wilmington. How wonderful it is to see so many enthusiastic members populating the classrooms in Arsht Hall, with still others participating remotely. It has been over four years since the pandemic closed our doors and though we returned on a limited basis in 2021, it has still taken time to build back up, in terms of members, classes, and instructors. This semester, we have 2,100 members statewide with an array of more than 300 classes in person, online and hybrid. With instructors, committee members and others, our volunteer base has soared to more than 400. This is exciting and reflective of the dedication and generosity of time and talents that make our program successful.



Bless America" on the field at a Blue Rocks game. An outstanding response to I Heart UD Day in May enabled us to purchase new equipment and many new classroom chairs. Selection of the chairs is in progress, and we'll keep you posted on their arrival! Throughout 2024, Arsht Hall has featured art exhibits, craft sales, socials and performances by our instrumental and vocal groups that keep the atmosphere abuzz and glowing.

Many important things have already happened during 2024, and it continues to get better and better. In February, we brought food service to Arsht Hall for the first time since the pandemic, with Chelsea Tavern providing enticing and varied lunch selections each day. New activities keep popping up, developed by volunteers, along with Statewide Director Karen Asenavage Loptes. Karen has now been with us for one full year, during which her endless new ideas have never slowed.

Summer Selections 2024 was a success, with its new flexible format that allowed us to choose regular five-week classes and/or short one or two sessions of informative and very fun experiences. Also this summer, the OLLI-W Solid Gold Singers sang "God

The popular Used Book Sale will return in October, for the first time in five years! And by the way, the Book Sale Committee could still use more volunteers for collection, sorting and selling the books. Watch for more information on how to sign up to help.

We have two dozen committees at OLLI-W that, along with instructors, divide the work of our volunteer-powered educational cooperative into manageable parts. Extraordinary volunteers bring decades of experience in their respective work or interest areas. Everyone contributes in some way in support of our mission to provide educational opportunities, intellectual stimulation and socialization that enhance the quality of life for all of us.

Thank you to all committee chairs, Council members, committee members, incredible instructors, and our wonderful staff. It is a privilege to be among you. We'll be watching for those of you who are new to get acquainted and answer any questions you may have. Enjoy a stimulating, productive, and joyful semester at OLLI-W.

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Conception of Lifelong Learning at UD in Wilmington

In the beginning was the vision

[From the OLLI-W website]

One spring evening in 1976, Art Trabant, President of the University of Delaware, commented to Jack Murray, head of the University's Division of Continuing Education, "I think we should be planning something for the growing population of adults who are now beginning to reach retirement age in the Wilmington area. It has to be within a university context, of course, and should be educational in nature because we are a university. But it should also be something different, something unique and creative."

Jack Murray began considering various ideas. He passed his thoughts on to Richard Fischer, then the University's Associate Director of Statewide Planning, and Nancy Aldrich, a Program Specialist in the Division. At the time, Rich Fischer was working on his doctorate at Temple University in a field called andragogy, the study of how adults learn. [This study resulted in a book with co-authors Henry Lipman and Mark L. Blazey, *Students of the Third Age*, which won the 1993 Phillip E. Frandson Award for literature from the National University Continuing Education Association.]

They put together a plan that was proposed to the University in the summer of 1979. Louise

Conner, former state senator and civic leader, and Nancy Aldrich, liaison with the University, developed a nucleus of potential members which included George Kazan, retired vice-president of research and development at Allied Chemical.

Rich noted in an interview by Debbie Haskell:

"At the same time, an African American gentleman, Charles Blake, had moved to the area. Charles was received by the president of the University of Delaware, Arthur Trabant, to inquire what the University was doing for older adults. Also, a university faculty member in anthropology, Dr. Edwin Buxbaum, who was himself in his late 70s or early 80s, was also very interested in what the University was going to do for retired adults."

Refining the Vision: Sagas of the Start

By George Kazan

[George wrote up the early explanations in the article below which appeared in the first issue of the newsletter.]

"On the fourth day He made the Light, the Sun, the Moon and the Stars and they could see." (Quoted in the more or less style from, you know, Genesis.)

The light shone brightly upon the Academy start-up crew on Oct. 15, 1979, when, with many "Eurekas!" we drove to New York to visit the New School for

Social Research which was to become our paradigm.

What a wonderful model it was! Fourteen years old and 630 members and the name – my, my – *The Institute for Retired Professionals*. Dramatic! Exciting! Breathless! Brimming with vitality! All those characteristics and more.

In New York, the New School is jammed at night like Wilcastle (first home of lifelong learning in Wilmington), but empty during the day (and it is huge), and in 1965 a few people started slowly to come together in the empty rooms to share their specialties with each other.

And with such elegance, we were met by the dean and his council. Our new friends eagerly – and running not walking – began to show us lectures, recitations, dramatic readings, and lunch with two hundred (200! You could count them!) enthusiasts. We heard about the council's duties, the development of the charter, the selection of the courses, the teachers, the fees – \$275 a year – and earning its way.

And at noon, "George, come here, bring your lunch, I want you to meet our poetry teacher; George, come here, I want you to meet our physics teacher; George, come here, bring your lunch, I want you to meet our advanced Spanish class and that Spanish teacher, what a hand-

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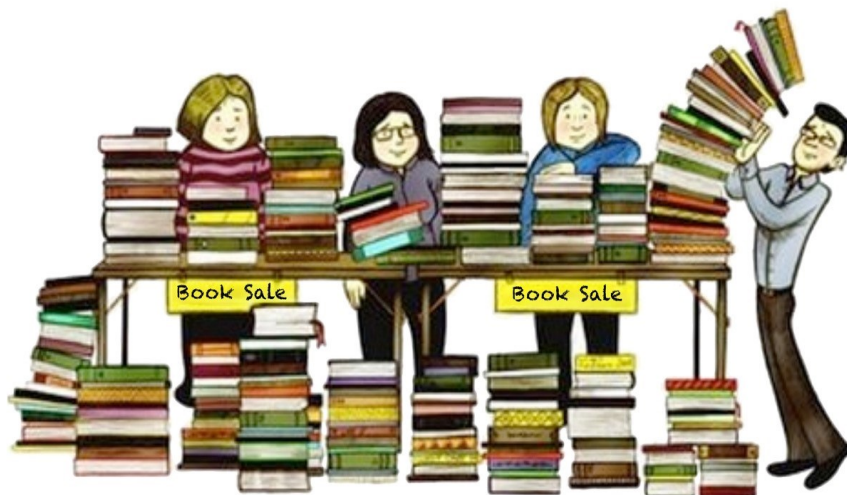
Triumphant Return of the Book Sale

Sherry Rogers

OLLI-W invites everyone to join us for the fall book sale at Arsht Hall from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1.

Whether you are into fiction, history, science or hobbies, this sale will have something for everyone. It will be an adventure in finding something new and fun to read. Donations will be accepted Oct. 21-25. We welcome donations of gently used hardbacks, paperbacks, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, sheet music and computer games. We are not accepting any textbooks, atlases, encyclopedias, magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books or any items with missing or damaged pages. Please! No musty smelling items.

There will be a tent conveniently set up in the rear parking lot where volunteers will help you unload your items. How easy is that!



We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help with donation drop off, sorting books and other items and sale day floaters and cashiers. You pick the dates and times that will work best for your schedule. Volunteering is an opportunity to meet new people, have some fun and contribute to a profitable sale. All the proceeds

will be donated to the Gift Fund, which benefits all members.

More information about signing up to volunteer will be coming your way. Any questions should be directed to Bob Blazovic at rjblaz@udel.edu.

Come one, come all to our fall book sale!

Conception of Lifelong Learning

Continued from page 2

some fellow – right out of a picture in the Prado." I had lunch at 10 different tables.

The lunchroom was vibrating like the New York Philharmonic playing Gershwin with Bernstein gyrating. Everybody talking, talking. The conversation was mostly about the morning's classes but also it was the loving talk of dear

friends. One man, about 75, came up to me and said, "At my age you know you have lost most of your old friends who have warmed you along the way, but here I have found new ones I could never have found in any other way." Bedlam and all, it was the most unforgettable meal of my life.

And after lunch we went to a

dramatic reading of *Hamlet*, about 40 people, and the dramatic coach was a New York dramatist about 80 years old and you could have been listening to Stella Adler or Lee Strasberg at the Actor's Studio.

Fie on your post 65 sloth and depression and killing time; hark-en ye to the Great Teachers and the Great Wisdom of the Years.

How UD Benefits OLLI-W

Karen Asenavage-Loptes, Director

As an institute in the Graduate College, under Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS), OLLI is supported by the leadership and active involvement of Dean Lou Rossi and Associate Dean of PCS Mark Clodfelter. The PCS ACCESS Center team under Michelle Parnell supports OLLI members who would like to pursue course audits and degree programs. The PCS team under Vic Wang offers discounted programs and certificates that OLLI members or their families may wish to pursue.

We are also well supported by the Graduate College with exceptional staff in a variety of other offices. The staff in the Graduate Financial Office under Cindy Rechsteiner assist us with all financial matters and collaborate with the Human Resources team to hire staff and provide for their human resource needs. The Graduate Communications team under Adam Kamras produces all of our statewide external publications including the catalog. His team also supports OLLI in other collaborations such as the recent *Delaware Today* article and marketing, and WPVI 6ABC's visit to the Open House.

Of significant benefit to OLLI Wilmington are the departments throughout campus that support the staff in maintaining Arsht Hall and the grounds. The UD Safety Team under Fire Marshall Kevin McSweeney and the UD Police Department meet with OLLI staff quarterly and provide expertise, guidance and training, keeping OLLI members and staff safe. OLLI members' safety extends to the extensive grounds surrounding Arsht Hall. Mike Loftus and his team assure that grass is mowed, debris removed, snow plowed, and all areas salted. The untiring HVAC team recently completed a 6-month project to restore all cooling units to full capacity.

OLLI also partners with many offices and programs across the University. The Development and Alumni Relations Office has been actively involved in supporting the OLLI Wilmington Fund Raising Committee, the Legacy Society and shepherding endowments and other giving to OLLI. The ONEcard office under Brandon Toole provides OLLI members with a UD ID card useful for many benefits, one of which is the UD Library. Maria Barefoot, the designated OLLI librarian, offers OLLI members and instructors support in utilizing library resources including a wide variety of free workshops with topics in technology, history, research, data usage, and scholarly writing to name a few.

Future articles will highlight the myriad offices and units across UD that partner with OLLI, such as the Sustainability Council and new collaborations with the Biden Institute and Ceramics Studio.

How OLLI Benefits UD

Modified from Carnegie-Mellon University report

We provide the university with audiences for artistic and musical performances, volunteers for research projects conducted by students and faculty, and an opportunity for current and retired faculty to share their passions and expertise with eager, mature students. In addition, the membership fee may be waived for up to two semesters for instructors who are active or retired university faculty members

Membership in Osher provides alumni with an opportunity to strengthen their connection with the University of Delaware.

The Wilmington campus is a locus for mutually beneficial projects carried out by UD student interns.

How UD Benefits OLLI Members

Some of the benefits UD contributes to members are explicit. These are covered in detail on pages 2, 4 and 7 of the Fall 2024 catalog. We also receive the benefit of the contributions UD makes to OLLI that are less explicit. These are covered in the article above.

Conductor, Lifelong Learning Style

by Betsey Cullen

for Margaret Love

Ellington's A-Train iPads your lap, rumbles, makes tracks.
 On board you mark jazz,
 block out lobby talk of terrorists, new hips.
 A sound-proof subway car,
 your chair moves like a sapphire stylus in the groove
 of sultry Harlem nights, neon lit.
 Your right hand a four-four jive while
 left hand and big toe tap
 Duke's syncopated rhythms into bones.
 Ten minutes to class, the next station. You
 dig into Duke, band together
 seasoned trombones, novice reeds.
 Benevolent pied piper,
 you flute synapses into right and left brains,
 offer new connections.
 All ears, your fans wait on the platform.
 Beloved leader,
 you welcome them aboard, ask the oboe to sound an A.



Summer Selection

Tour of Old New Castle

This event was led by Glenn Rill and Suzanne Souder. Jean Youkers reported that we went into the Courthouse, two churches and Amstel House, walked along the Strand, the Green and had lunch at Jessup's Tavern. Glenn and Suzanne gave a well-organized presentation with historical information and emailed their summaries to participants afterwards. This popular event had a waiting list.

Summer Selection

Gulf States: UAE and Oman

OLLI Director Karen Asenavage-Loptes led a "visit" to the Gulf States of the United Arab Emirates and Oman through stories, images, music, food, clothing and artifacts.



Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers

Susan Flook

Versatile instructor Susan Flook began teaching at OLLI-W in 2008 when another instructor suggested she try it out during summer school. Since that beginning, Susan has developed and taught classes ranging from literature to spirituality, inspirational travel such as pilgrimages, poetry, Sufi mysticism, and this Summer Selections three-part program on forest bathing and haiku.

Susan grew up in York, Pa., and majored in French at Muhlenberg College. She earned an M.Ed. in counselor education at Millersville University and was a teacher and guidance counselor in secondary schools for 25 years. In addition, she coordinated a job training program for disadvantaged children and taught ESL (English as a Second Language). She taught English in Germany for a year after graduating from college, in keeping with her lifelong interest in travel and cross-cultural communication.

Old New Castle is home to Susan and her husband, Jim, also a York native and OLLI-W member. They arrived in Delaware in 1977 for his employment at DuPont. They have a son, a daughter and two grandsons. Susan and Jim have enjoyed many travels abroad, the latest being a photographic tour of South Africa with Overseas Adventure Travel.

Susan's other interests include hiking, camping, literature of all kinds and writing, as well as volunteering for Meals on Wheels. She is co-coordinator for the literature area on the Curriculum Committee, of which she is also a past co-chair. She recently joined the Welcome Aboard sub-committee of New Member Relations and Volunteer Engagement Committee, which is planning events for the many new OLLI-W members this semester.

As an OLLI-W instructor, Susan says, "I love that you can teach anything you want to." The wide



variety of courses offered reflect the varied interests and experiences of our volunteer instructors. Her forest bathing class was based on the Japanese practice of connecting to the natural world by taking in trees and surroundings with all senses, slowly and deliberately. It's not

surprising that an experience in the forest or other area leads participants to write haiku to describe the experience, traditionally with only 17 syllables. Here are a few of the many haiku Susan has been inspired to write:

Daffodils holding
Carefree bee does loop-de-loops -
Slowly the heart thaws

Cool evening breezes -
Motionless heron watches
her shadow shimmer

Removing their veils
shy stars dance on center stage -
New moon hides her face

On its way eastward
Cloud rests piggyback on the
broad-shouldered mountain

When she began teaching at OLLI-W, Susan found it "refreshing" because of the interested and active participants, with everyone contributing to class discussions. Her initial enthusiasm "has never waned and will never go away," she says. For others considering teaching, she suggests "just give it a try," possibly starting with a summer program.

Susan appreciates "the diversity of OLLI courses," as well as the opportunity to meet other members with different backgrounds and talents. "It's awesome," she says. Susan certainly contributes greatly to the diversity of interests and talents that make OLLI great. She's awesome herself!



Earth Day at Arsht Hall

For the seventh year, OLLI-W actively celebrated Earth Day 2024 on the Wilmington campus and additionally joined the Newark campus for its “On the Green” event. Activities organized by the Eco Team are shown here. In addition, the Tree Club, Energize Delaware and water conservation groups had tables.



FOOD:

A long-standing topic of importance has been food choices. During this event, participants were able to learn about healthy eating: fruits, grains, legumes and vegetables.



PLANTS: This year, we gave away 1,200 native plants and veggies. They were winter-sowed and then gifted to the many people who joined the event. Members were invited to use these native plants as part of a collective landscape inspired by Doug Tallamy’s “Homegrown National Park.”



ON THE GREEN: OLLI members participated in Earth Day at the University of Delaware on the Green in Newark. Students loved meeting OLLI members from the Eco Team — Judy Winters, Dave Kitts, Cathy Clothier, Bob Blazovic and Fran Green; from the Bird Club — Lloyd Maier; and from the Tree Club — Anne and Jerry Hapka, to talk about how OLLI actively works to care for our Earth for the sake of the coming generations (and future OLLI members).



Eco Team’s Sock Umbrella makes a colorful exhibit on the UD Green.



EV CARS: This was the second year Charlie Carter organized the popular EV car show. More than a dozen electric vehicles were in the nearby parking lot under a sunny blue sky.

Eco Team Gathers

The Eco Team began collecting #2 and #5 plastic in Fall 2023. The effort expanded in 2024 and all of OLLI-W was invited to collect and bring in those plastics on Wednesdays. The 250-pound initial goal was achieved a week before Earth Day. The Eco Team collected 350 pounds of plastic

that was submitted to Eco Plastic Products of Delaware.

A trial collection effort for unused socks occurred in March and April. The collected socks were sent to a North Carolina fiber recycler, Material Return, which converts the socks to useful fiber that is then reused by outdoor wear manufacturer Smart Wool. 5,000 socks were collected.



Mark Mendelson sits on a bench made by Eco Plastic Products of Delaware from recycled plastic.



This cartoon is recycled from a newsletter during an earlier election cycle. OLLI is not only fun but can be funny. The creator was a retired minister who used humor in his practice and taught humor at OLLI. The editor welcomes submissions of appropriate cartoons from members.



The League of Women Voters provides VOTE411, a free, non-partisan voters guide as a service to the voting public.

Visit www.VOTE411.org prior to each election to see a sample ballot for your location, compare the candidates' viewpoints, and text or email yourself your candidate selections for later reference.

OLLI Monthly News in Wilmington
<http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>

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Next Submittal deadline: Oct. 19

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Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu.

OLLI 2024 FALL SCHEDULE

Fall semester starts on Tuesday, Sept. 3

13 week classes — Sept. 3-Dec. 6 (Wilmington in-person)

11-week classes — Sept. 3-Nov. 19 (Kent/Sussex in-person and OLLI Online)

1st 5-week classes — Sept. 3-Oct. 7 (Wilmington in-person, Kent/Sussex in-person and OLLI Online)

2nd 5-week classes — Oct. 15-Nov. 19 (Wilmington in-person, Kent/Sussex in-person and OLLI Online)

Ocean View 5-week classes — Sept. 16-Oct. 16

No classes held on Election Day (Nov. 5) or during Thanksgiving break (Nov. 27-29)