



## OLLI News in Wilmington

MARCH 2020

### 40 Years of OLLI-Wilmington: Helping Fulfill UD's Mission

George Irvine, University of Delaware Interim Associate Vice Provost  
for Professional and Continuing Studies and Online Initiatives

*Editor's Note: This is the first of three messages from George Irvine celebrating and reflecting on 40 Years of OLLI—Wilmington.*

As I continue to meet OLLI members at events and programs, the synergy between the University of Delaware and the academic community is more and more evident. As members you know that you are part of a community of learners who are not driven by test grades or marks on a paper, but by the love of knowledge and discovery. That is at the very heart of UD's mission.

With this alignment in purpose, OLLI is a valued part of the continuum of learning at the University, offering people of any age the joy of learning, connecting with peers and building lasting friendships. From my work across campus, the message from UD leadership is clear: Working with the community to provide learning opportunities at every stage of life is what a university does when it is at its best, and OLLI helps UD be at its best.

The decades of OLLI being an integral part of UD have been mutually beneficial, enhancing the

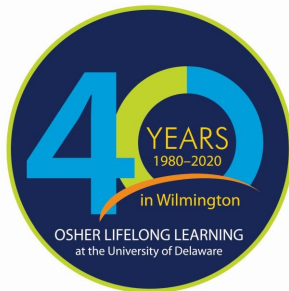
missions of both while growing unique and meaningful programs. The critical resources UD provides OLLI—shared governance, infrastructure, finances, experts to consult and more—are more than worth the investment knowing that lifelong learning has benefits far beyond the classroom as research shows that it helps individuals live longer and healthier lives.

Through the years, the relationship has proven to be at its best with open communication and a focus on providing members like you with diverse learning opportunities and a sense of belonging. As we continue, I look forward to sharing a look back at some of the greatest milestones in the 40 years of OLLI-Wilmington in the next issue of the newsletter.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or want to share your favorite OLLI-Wilmington memory throughout the years, contact J. Harry Feldman, Chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee, at [jharryf@icloud.com](mailto:jharryf@icloud.com) or leave a note in the committee's mailbox.

#### OLLI 40th

Save the Date!  
OLLI 40th Anniversary  
Event  
Friday, October 9  
Stay tuned for details.



#### Did You Know?

##### In the Beginning

UD subsidized a portion of lifelong learning operations for the first 3 1/2 years.

##### In Fiscal Year 2021

Member fees cover 71% of OLLI expenses. The remainder is covered by income from gifts and endowment income.

See page 2 for details of the OLLI budget.



**Beware of scams see p. 7**

## OLLI Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Phil Weinberg, Finance Chair

Each spring, the OLLI Council presents the approved budget for the next fiscal year. The next fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30, 2021. The FY 2021 budget is in the pie charts to the right.

### Overview

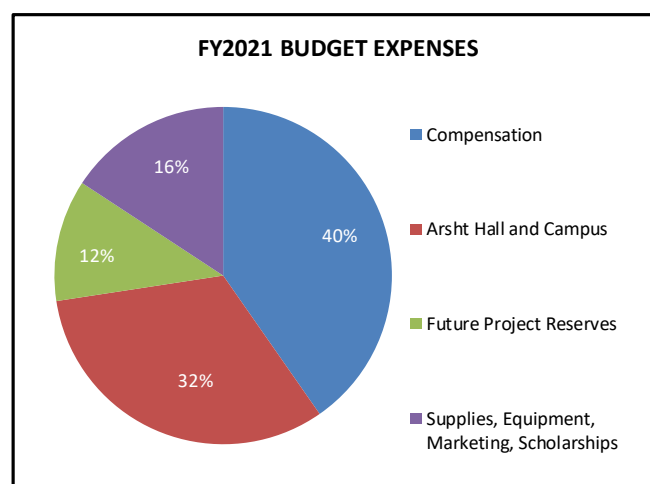
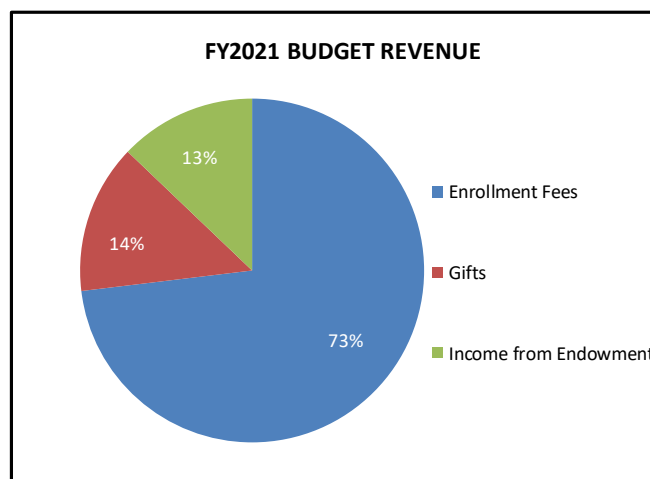
For FY 2021 the OLLI operating budget totals \$1.71 million versus \$1.70 million in FY 2020. We will have three principal sources of revenue: enrollment fees, gifts, and endowment income which comprise, respectively, 73%, 14% and 13% of total revenue. Our expenses will consist primarily of staff compensation (40%), supplies, equipment, marketing and scholarships (16%), Arsht Hall and Campus support, which consist of building use and maintenance (32%), and capital expenses to maintain and improve Arsht Hall and our campus (12%).

Our budget reflects the nature of our cooperative. Because our instructors are volunteers, their services do not constitute a budget expense. In most schools and colleges, teacher compensation is the primary cost of operation. In OLLI-W's case, maintaining our own building and campus (44%) and paying our staff members (40%) comprise 84% of the expenses.

### Changes from FY 2020 to FY 2021

Total revenue and expenses will increase approximately \$10,000 (0.6 %) in FY 2021 compared to FY 2020, indicating our success in controlling expenses.

To avoid future large increases in member fees, Council approved a 2% increase in member fees (\$5 per semester). Last year, FY 2020, marked the first time in five years that Council had increased the fee. To focus member attention on the need to renew Arsht Hall, we kept the fee low for five years while we were trying to raise funds for the Renewing the Dream Campaign. It is anticipated that future fee increases will be small and manageable for our members. Be aware that we have sufficient



scholarship funds to meet any additional financial-aid requests resulting from the gradually increasing fees.

In FY 2021 we will require a \$60K increase in the use of our gift funds, some of which will enable us to purchase some new classroom chairs and tables. In the short term, we clearly benefit from the gift fund reserves that have accrued over time. In the long run, however, the higher building and campus expenses will require additional revenue sources beyond those available from membership fees and the current endowment. We will turn attention to this need as a part of our strategic planning for the next five years.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Budget. Continued from page 2)*

## Perspective

In looking at our budget, we should pause to note how fortunate we at OLLI are to attract so many members and to enjoy such a high portion of revenue coming from gifts and endowment income. Most comparable cooperatives have fewer members and depend almost solely on enrollment fees. We, on the other hand, partner with a major university, have our own building, offer 300 courses, have a relatively large endowment and enjoy the philanthropic support of most of our members. We are fortunate indeed.

### OLLI Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 20–23

#### Volunteer Development and Engagement (VDE) Committee

We are a 40-year-old educational cooperative focused on lifelong learning and one of the best in the country!

Members who volunteer make this happen. They include our skilled instructors, the members who arrange our music programs, the people who work at the travel and registration desks, as well as our OLLI Ambassadors who distribute course catalogs to various residential communities. These are just a few of the many volunteer opportunities that make OLLI work for all of us.

Volunteers are the keys to our success with offering outstanding educational and social programs. National Volunteer Week overlaps with OLLI Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 20–23. During VAW more than 500 OLLI volunteers will be celebrated for their service. We'll share more details about VAW as time draws closer to April 20–23. Keep posted and take time to congratulate yourself and others for volunteering to make OLLI so enjoyable for so many.

## Don't Miss These Two Unique Northeastern Trips Coming Soon!

Karen J. Stanley, Travel Committee

A six day/five-night motor coach tour of **Cape Cod and Nantucket** departs September 26. Travelers will spend two days in Connecticut, with guided tours of Essex and Mystic Seaport, the largest maritime museum in the United States. This recreated seaport village comprises dozens of real New England buildings brought from multiple locations. Historians, musicians and storytellers will serve as guides.

Two days are devoted to Cape Cod's historical landmarks. Traveling the Old King's Highway, we will tour diverse structures, hear the Pilgrims' stories of Corn Hill and visit the landing site at First Encounter Beach. Dune tours and a wine tasting complete the first day. A cranberry bog tour and visits to Plymouth, home of the Pilgrims, and Plimoth Plantation conclude the 17th-century experience. The following day, a high-speed ferry takes us to Nantucket. Cobblestone streets, galleries, shops, museums and a tour of the island await (comfortable shoes required). The final day, we arrive back in Wilmington in the late afternoon.

A remarkable three-day trip to the **Hudson River Valley** begins September 15. A guided tour of West Point, lunch at the historic Hotel Thayer and trip down to Tarrytown, NY complete the first day. Area sightseeing around Tarrytown includes Boscobel, a neoclassical mansion and one of the most beautiful estates in the Hudson River Valley, and the Union Church of Pocantico Hills with its stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse.

The final morning we visit Kykuit, home to four generations of the Rockefeller family. This Beaux-Arts house with an Italian garden is considered the best work of architect William Bosworth in the United States. Outside, there are over 70 sculptures to view and enjoy. Come and join us for one or both of these historically enticing and uniquely charming trips.

The Travel Desk is open in Arsht Hall Lobby on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45-12:30 p.m. Information is also available online at <http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/travel/>.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers, VDE (Volunteer Development and Engagement)

Each month we will profile outstanding OLLI-W volunteers.

To nominate a special person, place their name and yours in the VDE lobby mailbox.

### Myriam Medinilla

Myriam Medinilla is a treasured volunteer who has generously shared her time and talents during her nine years at OLLI-W. An instructor for three levels of Spanish, including two sections of "Beginning Conversations," she also volunteers on committees, including Marketing, Open House, Ambassadors, UD by the Sea, the Outreach program and "wherever help is needed." She served on Council from 2016-2019.

After graduating from the University of San Carlos in her native Guatemala, Myriam taught biology in elementary school and high school. She moved to the United States in 1972 when her physician husband was accepted for a Neurosurgery specialty here. She didn't speak English so she could no longer teach biology. She found a new career as bookkeeper/manager in a medical office, where she spent 30 years, retiring in 2011. She and her husband have three children and nine grandchildren.

Myriam jumped into the volunteer arena as soon as she joined OLLI-W, checking the box for volunteer interest on the registration form. A few weeks later, she was leading an informal lunch group for members practicing Spanish conversation. The following year, she became an instructor, returning to her beloved teaching role. Myriam thanks two volunteer friends Ross Wilcox and Mary Shenvi, who help with the Spanish classes.

"Together we can achieve more things," Myriam says of her volunteer involvement at OLLI-W. "And when we see the results, the satisfaction is incredible. Thanks to all who have collaborated over all these years. I like to help keep this learning center alive, so that new generations can enjoy it as we enjoy it now."



### Eve and Marvin Stone

Creativity and enthusiasm light up OLLI-W's art rooms when Eve and Marvin Stone present their popular courses in oil painting and watercolor painting, respectively. They have been sharing their knowledge and talents here every semester for the past 16 years.

They both grew up in New York, knowing they wanted to be artists and met while studying art at the Pratt Institute, then a leader of many exciting changes taking place in graphic art and industrial design. Marvin moved to Delaware first, recruited to work at DuPont. Two years later, Eve graduated, they married, and soon opened their own graphic art business, "Stone Design." They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

After 35 years in business, Marvin and Eve retired and decided to spend their time painting and sharing the joy of art through teaching. So, they took a course on teaching adults before they began as instructors at OLLI-W.

Traveling all over the world, the Stones have used both photography and sketching to capture scenes and subjects for use in their painting courses. They were profiled in a video in their home studio on WHYY-TV Channel 12 in 2017.

They regard painting as an "exciting approach to life" which enriches their lives and their students' lives, providing new ways of self-expression.

Both find volunteering at OLLI-W very rewarding, as they meet wonderful people and nurture untapped potential. "It is thrilling to see beginners become talented painters in just two years," Eve says. "I'm glad we can pass it forward."





## Tree Club Update by Jean Spraker

Last year the Tree Club began as an OLLI extra-curricular activity under the leadership of Jim Hainer and Jerry Hapka. The group gathers on Monday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. next to the club's easel before heading off for an hour of tree-related tasks.

The 15 regular attendees include people from all walks of life and levels of horticultural expertise. There's a spirit of sharing and camaraderie as we split up into small teams for our various tree-related activities. Newcomers are welcome at any time.

The Tree Club's major effort is an inventory update of all trees growing on the campus. This is an effort that will take a number of years to complete, but the club is making good progress. More than 300 trees have been inventoried. Tree Club teams identify each tree, measure tree girth and height, and note factors affecting tree health—such as encroaching ivy and diseased areas. This information is recorded on field charts, then entered on a master inventory maintained by our dedicated recorder, Hanna Zyruk.

The club has also taken on maintenance of the bluebird houses that are scattered over the campus.

As outreach, the Tree Club has set up an informational board on an easel near the north rear door exiting onto the Arsht Hall terrace. There, OLLI members can find out about notable campus trees or pests that affect trees in our area. The club created a "Featured Tree Walk" (available on laminated cards at the easel) that enables you to take a self-guided tour and to see the varied trees growing along campus paths.

New activities planned for this year that include upgrading memorial/ recognition-tree signage, tree-awareness events around Arbor Day in April, and greater collaboration with UD landscape planners. In these ways, the Tree Club helps OLLI join other organizations and government agencies around the country which steward our urban forests.



Learning about the lantern fly at the Tree Club easel.

## Polymer Clay Guild Produces Unique Beads of Courage

Karen Foster

Several years ago, OLLI members who enjoyed working in polymer clay formed the Delaware Polymer Clay Guild. This informal group meets monthly as an extracurricular



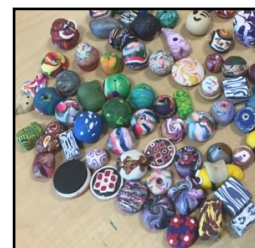
Guild members with beads.  
Photo by Karen Foster

activity. Besides discussing projects that members are working on, the Guild has begun to work with Beads of Courage, an organization that empowers seriously ill children going through medical treatments by giving them a bead for each procedure they face. Children collect and string these beads over the

course of their illness as a symbol and as proof of their bravery and courage.

Although most of the beads are small uniform glass beads, children get to select a special bead to symbolize certain milestones. Members of the OLLI group made more than 100 unique beads last semester to send to Beads of Courage. At the organization's headquarters, volunteers sort the beads and send them to children's hospitals all over the country where the children can select a favorite.

This spring semester, the guild has again set a goal of sending 100 beads.



## Summer Session In-Lobby Registration

Carolyn Stankiewicz and Gerri Sanchez, Co-Chairs, Summer Session 2020

You are invited to enroll in engaging morning classes (9 a.m. to noon) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and, Thursdays from July 7 to July 30. You do not have to be a member of OLLI to attend summer classes, so invite your friends for a "taste of OLLI."

This offering is particularly appealing to those who may be retiring in the near future and have some flexibility for attending summer courses, such as teachers. Many of our current students had attended a summer session, loved it and continued to join us for our regular semesters.

Summer Session course catalogs will be distributed (no mail delivery) on or before April 20. Stop and pick one up for yourself or pick up several

for distribution to various places, such as libraries or eating establishments.

Registration will be held from Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Lobby. Personal checks and credit cards are accepted. The fee for SIX courses (each course offered once per week) will be \$95. Instructor fee is \$70. Courses will be offered at our Arsht Hall location and, for the first time, some courses will be offered at the STAR campus in Newark. Check it out!

If you have been a regular during our summer session or want to try it for the first time, you are cordially welcome. We usually have close to 500 students during the summer with around 40 classes offered. Hope to see you in July!

## Early Spring Plans at Goodstay Gardens

Friends of Goodstay Gardens

Did you know the wooded area beyond the wall on the eastern side of Goodstay Gardens is part of the gardens? This natural area, known as "The Park," was always an intentional part of Robert and Ellen Wheelwright's design plan. The meandering path and naturalized plantings provide contrast to the more formal "garden rooms" of the main garden. Spring brings masses of blooming bulbs to the forest floor and along the little creek. Snowbells, grape hyacinths and trout lilies will be poking their heads up shortly. Several fern varieties thrive in summer's dappled shade provided by the tree canopy of sycamore, oak, tupelo and southern magnolia.

After all of the activity last year with the boxwood replacement and other projects, this area has been patiently awaiting its turn to receive attention. This spring will be devoted to cleaning up this area by removing undesirable brush and invasives, refreshing the pathways and planting more native understory plants.

Volunteer days begin March 18 in the gardens, so expect to start seeing the transformation take shape as early as April!



## “Why We Need Your Help: Plastics in Wildlife”

Jennifer Caldwell, ECO TEAM

There are about 5 trillion pieces of plastic in the world’s oceans right now — enough to circle the globe over 400 times! We add about 8 million pieces every day. More than 90% of that plastic is microplastic — plastic in pieces less than about 1/4 of an inch, which are easily ingested or picked up by many different species of wildlife. Much of the plastic floats on the surface of the ocean, but a lot of it is distributed throughout the depths of the water, where it affects wildlife from the smallest organisms to the largest creatures on the planet.

Ingestion of plastic has been documented in hundreds of species of animals, most of which are seabirds. For example, in the Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, home to 3 million nesting seabirds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientists have discovered that Laysan albatrosses unwittingly feed their chicks about 5 tons of plastic every year when they mistake the small pieces for food. More than 97% of chicks tested had plastic in their stomachs. Developmental delays in young animals,

reproductive problems, even cancer can result from exposure to plastics.

In addition to ingesting plastic, wildlife can get entangled in plastic, leading to injury or death. Fishing lines and plastic bags can get wrapped around legs, wings, fins and flippers and restrict the animal’s movement or even cut off circulation to the limb. If either of those things occurs, the animal can’t forage for food or escape from predators and its life is in peril.

With only about 9% of the world’s plastic being recycled, the best way to prevent plastic from getting into the ocean and affecting wildlife is not to use it in the first place. Please join the OLLI ECO Team in our challenge to reduce the use of single-use plastic! See information in the Arsht Hall lobby to participate.



### BEWARE OF SCAMS

The OLLI-W program will **NEVER** request financial contributions from you in the form of gift cards or similar payments. *Contributions to support the OLLI-W program will ONLY be sought through the University’s Development and Alumni Relations Office with payment directly to UD.* You will never be solicited via email for your registration fee. You will never be asked via an email from an OLLI-W committee, committee chair, or individual for a financial contribution that asks for payment to any person or entity other than UD. Costs for class materials and trips or special programs will be handled directly by your OLLI-W instructor, travel agent or registration process that **YOU** initiate. Should you receive a request for gift cards, a check or other form of payment that you believe is intended to support the OLLI-W program, **STOP**, contact the office, and report the request. *Be suspicious of anyone requesting gift card purchases via email—it is a popular scam.*

### OLLI Opera Trip / Day in New York City

Annie Gilmour

OLLI now offers an annual bus trip to the Metropolitan Opera in New York. This year’s trip will be on Saturday, April 11, to see *Tosca*, starring the amazing Anna Netrebko.

After purchasing your ticket for the matinée at metopera.org, please contact Annie Dugan Gilmour (anniedugan@aol.com) to be added to the bus list.

If you would prefer to spend the day touring The Big Apple and all of its wonders or seeing a Broadway play, for example, there will be a drop-off at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Please contact Annie at the above email address if you wish to purchase a ticket for the bus.



## Special Events Wednesdays

**12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 105**

**Introductions at 12:40 — Members Only**

Ben Raphael and Joan Miller

**March 18 — Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography — Karl Leck**

**March 25 — Marty White, YMCA of Delaware — Senior Health and Wellness**

**April 1 — No program (spring break)**

**April 8 — Ardensingers — Gilbert & Sullivan Concert**

**April 15 — Charlie Zahm — Scottish Music Concert**

**April 22 — OLLI Eco Team — Celebrating 50 Years of Earth Day**



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

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**Next Submittal deadline:** Thursday, April 9

**Issue date:** By Monday, April 27

Submit articles to [rehlich@udel.edu](mailto:rehlich@udel.edu), or place in the editor's mailbox in the Lobby.

## Friday Lecture Series

**12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 108**

**Free and Open to the Public**

**March 27 — Penn Aging Survey: Predictors for Successful Aging — Zvi Gellis, director, Penn Center for Mental Health and Aging Research**

**April 3 and April 10 — No programs**

**April 17 — Healers: The Deeper Impact of Pet Therapy — Lynne Robinson, executive director and founder, PAWS for People**

**April 24 — OLLI Eco Team — Earth Day Celebration**

## Next Social Events

Gerri Sanchez and Nancy Marra

The Social Committee is excited to announce the dates of the next spring socials: Thursday, March 26, at 1:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, April 15, at 1:45 p.m. Please join us for delightful company and delicious treats!

We need donations of cookies (homemade or store bought), cut vegetables, fruit, or cheese and crackers for the events. To provide food for any of these events, please contact either of the Committee Chairs: Gerri Sanchez ([gsanchez@udel.edu](mailto:gsanchez@udel.edu)) or Nancy Marra (302) 477-1446.

## Calendar 2020

**March 30 to April 3** ..... Spring Break, OLLI closed  
**May 15** ..... End of spring semester  
**May 19 to May 22** ..... UD by the Sea  
**July 7 to July 30** ..... Summer classes  
**September 8** ..... Start of fall semester  
**October 9** ..... OLLI 40th Anniversary Event  
**November 3** ..... Election Day, No classes  
**November 25, 26, 27** ..Thanksgiving, Arsh is closed  
**December 11** ..... Last day of fall semester