



SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to UD OLLI Online

Neil Cullen, Chair of Council, OLLI-Wilmington

Greetings from your virtual OLLI-W Council Chair, and welcome back as we begin our first statewide Fall 2020 online. While I often feel a bit “disembodied” these days in light of my frequent “Zooms” with family, friends and fellow OLLI members, I love connecting with the many people who contribute to my well-being. In his book *I and Thou*, Martin Buber notes that we find meaning through our relationships with one another. I certainly do, and I have never felt this truth more profoundly than in this COVID-19 moment. Thankfully, we OLLI members can continue to find meaning and connect with one another through our rich and diverse Fall 2020 program.

In early March, when the OLLI-W Council and Jen Merrill, Manager, recommended to the UD Provost, Dr. Robin Morgan, that we end the 2020 Spring Term prematurely to help reduce the risk of our members contracting COVID-19, we could not foresee whether our cooperative would continue this year. But continue it did, as staff members and volunteers quickly turned to imagine a virtual future. Some Spring instructors, with the guidance and support of staff members, continued their courses online, using Zoom, a video conferencing platform unfamiliar to most of us.

In the period from mid-March to early June, the OLLI Councils and the UD Provost approved offering state-wide all-virtual programs for the 2020 Summer Session and the 2020 Fall Term. The staff members and volunteers in Wilmington and in Kent and Sussex Counties (OLLI-K&S) almost immediately



began contacting potential instructors for the Summer Session. The result proved a resounding success with 40+ courses and more than 700 students, and we learned how to use the Zoom technology platform over a wide range of instruction. I offer my congratulations and thanks to the instructors, committee volunteers and staff members who worked so collaboratively to make it

happen.

And now, at a pace which has left me breathless, we have begun our Fall 2020 UD OLLI Online Statewide term with 220 courses and extracurricular activities and many opportunities for social engagement through Zoom. A new statewide group of 25 volunteers and staff members, the Virtual Learning and Socialization Committee (VL&SC), led by OLLI-W Council Member, Lew Martin, guided the launch and implementation including countless Zoom training sessions for instructors and students. And, of course, we continued to rely heavily on our staff members led by our OLLI Managers, Jen Merrill here in Wilmington and Anna Moshier at OLLI-K&S. All continue to work remotely on our behalf, including Joni Bero, Outreach Specialist; Sally Cole, Program Coordinator, OLLI-K&S; Jenna Ford, Administrative Assistant; Andrea Majewski, Program Coordinator; Brian Medina, Technical Support Specialist; Ellen Saienni, Financial Processor; Pamela Vari, Administrative Assistant; and Tim Ward, Classroom Technician.

40 Years of OLLI—Wilmington: Looking to the Future

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

Editor's Note: This is the third message in a series from George Irvine celebrating and reflecting on 40 Years of OLLI—Wilmington.

To say the last few months have been extraordinary is an understatement. All of us—including your OLLI family and UD partners—have been navigating unique situations, unforeseen challenges and the full gamut of emotions that come with all of it. I am truly proud and inspired by the way our OLLI community has responded, adapted and pivoted with the necessary program changes to do our part to keep all of you healthy and safe.

I am extremely grateful to all of our staff and volunteers who have made an online fall program possible—creating an offering of more than 200 classes so current and future OLLI members like you can continue to pursue your educational aspirations.

It's uncertain times like these that highlight the importance of so many resources that make it possible to continue the great mission of this organization: Resources like the UD partnership, dedicated staff and volunteers, sustained funding and more.

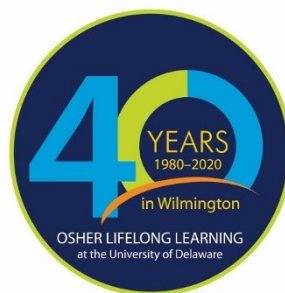
Endowed funds have laid the foundation of necessary support to create a stabilized environment during these unforeseen and uncertain situations. Ongoing generosity of many helps us provide quality programming now, but also enables us to look to the future.

With sustained support, the next 40 years of OLLI could include:

- additional OLLI programs throughout the state
- additional facilities with advanced technology to continue to support high quality virtual programming
- new cooperative learning partnerships with other organizations
- more statewide OLLI programs, like *UD by the Sea*
- dedicated spaces for music performance and practice and creation of OLLI art
- extension of OLLI in-person and online classes to new continuing care retirement communities and healthcare centers
- closer linkages with UD colleges and departments

Together, we can ensure the next generation of curious scholars, innovative thinkers and devoted members will have the same and enhanced quality resources, programs and opportunities that you and your OLLI family experience today.

To learn more about the ways you can commemorate OLLI-Wilmington's 40th Anniversary by helping to sustain and expand OLLI today and into the future, please contact Andrew Walpole at awalpole@udel.edu.





The Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society honors those who build the foundation of future growth for OLLI. Our goal this year is to build the Society to 40 members in honor of OLLI-Wilmington's 40th Anniversary.

Things You May Not Know About Legacy Giving

1. Legacy gifts are easy to set up. It's true. Many people include a bequest for OLLI when creating their will. Or they add a simple one-page amendment (a codicil) to an existing will. You can also name OLLI as a partial beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. Even designating a small percent to OLLI can be powerful.

2. Gifts of all sizes have an impact. A common misconception is that planned gifts are all million-dollar contributions. Not so. OLLI has received gifts from \$1,000 to \$100,000 and more. Whatever the size, donors can support the programs donors love most about OLLI – from performing arts to science or history. Endowment gifts can also support scholarship assistance.

3. These gifts can give back. Options and advantages abound: Want substantial tax benefits and a secure, fixed lifetime income? Want tax-wise planning for required minimum distributions from your IRA? Want to avoid capital gains taxes when donating appreciated stocks or mutual funds?

4. Nothing is written in stone. Most legacy gifts are revocable to provide flexibility. You can adapt your charitable plans without penalty or fuss as your situation changes.

5. The name says it all. Legacy gifts are called such for a reason. They help donors leave a lasting mark at OLLI in a way that is special for them. All Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society members ensure OLLI's long-term financial health, enabling our school to plan its future with confidence.

If you're interested in learning more, contact Nathana Jackson,
UD's Director of Gift Planning at 302-831-6093 or at ndlane@udel.edu.

OLLI Online Summer Session

Gerri Sanchez, Carolyn Stankiewicz, Co-chairs , Summer Session 2020



Both members and instructors had to familiarize to a new type of instruction during the summer of 2020.

At the end of March, plans were underway to provide Zoom instruction for our members for the summer session. The majority of instructors did not even know what Zoom was until they were given instruction, including one-on-one tutoring to get ready for opening bell on July 7.

Over 40 classes were offered with over 50 instructors and co-hosts

Over 750 members statewide attended our summer session which included all three OLLI locations in Delaware: Wilmington, Dover and Sussex.

Some of the feedback included:

"The instructor was very well prepared, including PowerPoint and video."

"We always had front row seats and once we got the hang of it, participation was full and varied."

"As an instructor I was hesitant to see how this is all going to work but to my surprise Zoom proved to be very engaging."

"Breakout rooms put the class into smaller groups where we chatted about topics and everyone got a chance to speak."

"There was a sense of inclusivity which proved to be quite beneficial during this time of isolation for some members."

"It was a delightful way to spend summer mornings in July learning and interacting."

As co-chairs of summer session, Gerri Sanchez and Carolyn Stankiewicz were delighted to have been part of this new endeavor. And kudos to all our instructors in this pilot program which proved that a Zoom online program, although challenging at times, was a success for both instructors and members. Kudos go out to all instructors for a job well done! You stepped up, you learned the skills involving Zoom and you provided a great summer session for our members.

The entire staff, including those in Wilmington, Dover and Sussex, were patient and encouraging during the Zoom training sessions and provided much necessary support during our classes. A special shout-out to Andrea Majewski and Sally Cole, program coordinators, for joining all three locations and putting on an engaging and fun learning summer session.

See you next year in Arsht Hall. Fingers and toes crossed.

Manager's Update

Jennifer Merrill, Manager OLLI-W

Greetings from my home office in Landenberg! Although the registration system did not cooperate with us at first this fall, I'm excited to let you know we are seeing strong enrollment numbers for the fall—over 1,500 at the time of this writing. Our summer pilot included Zoom trainings, new procedures, new partnerships across the state, adaptable instructors and open-minded participants. We pulled it off while planning and executing new procedures for fall. With the support of our Virtual Learning and Socialization Committee and Councils from across the state our instructors are not only practicing with technology, but learning new ways to connect and educate through our Zoom virtual portal. They are sharing tips and techniques and learning from each other to ensure you have the best experience possible this fall. Thank you for your continued participation and support of this vibrant community!

Honors

Roxana Arsht, an early member of the Academy of Lifelong Learning and a benefactor of OLLI-W was recognized in the *News Journal* on August 16 as one of the ten most influential women in Delaware history of the past 100 years. In 1971 Roxana was appointed the first female judge in Delaware. After retirement, she and her husband, Samuel Arsht, devoted themselves to lifelong learning and philanthropy.

Susan Del Pesco, OLLI instructor, will receive the Kandler Award from the Delaware ACLU on October 14. As the ACLU notes, Susan as Superior Court Judge and Advocate, "has dedicated over 20 years to fighting for justice in the First State."

After leaving the bench, she helped protect seniors through crafting a more robust power of attorney statute, and a statute to protect end of life medical choices. She was part of the group that successfully obtained ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Delaware Constitution.

How Some Courses Began

Yoga

From an interview conducted by Pat Pheris on October 27, 2009.

Martha Newlon started teaching at the Academy due to the pressure of a good friend, Nancy Aldrich, the first liaison between Continuing Education and the nascent Academy. Martha says, "I had told her this can't work, for what teacher would be foolish enough to pay to teach when they had been earning an income from teaching before? So, Nancy invited me down to the University for lunch and brought in the heavyweight, Associate Provost Rich Fischer. I was persuaded to teach one term as an experiment. I found that my Academy yoga students were intensely interested and game to try something new with no self-consciousness or embarrassment when things didn't go right with a posture. Their enthusiasm and conviction that yoga was making a big difference in improving their health made teaching a joy and satisfying. I was hooked and eventually left my private classes for which I was paid, as Academy classes grew in size and number of classes. Happily, several of my wonderful private students took teacher training and recruited some other outstanding teachers." Martha added, "The early classes attracted 10 percent or more of the total enrollment of the Academy." Yoga is still a very popular class.

Current Events

Sig Ettinger's wife, Betty, joined the Academy in 1981. When Sig saw the catalog and selection of offerings, Sig was jealous and, two years later, he joined even though he continued working at his business, Bag and Baggage, until 1987. Sig had been a news "junkie" since he was five. He read several newspapers each day and taped many news programs. While in line to register, he noted to Flo Garrett, then University Coordinator, that there was no Current Events class. Flo agreed that there should be one and suggested that Sig offer one. He did and it has continued for over 40 semesters.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers, VDE (Volunteer Development and Engagement)

J. Harry Feldman

J. Harry Feldman's volunteer contributions to OLLI-W have been important and varied. He served on Council for three years, was its chair for 2018-19 and has worked on the Marketing, Computer Support and Fundraising Committees, as well as teaching and assisting with special events. He chaired the 2020 Council Nominating Committee and currently chairs the 40th Anniversary Committee. In addition to making presentations in various classes, he has led a travel course on nearby attractions and a philosophy of religion class.

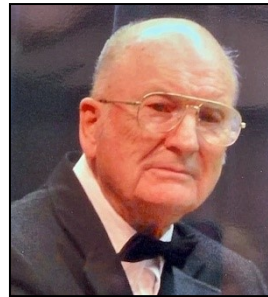


Born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas, J. Harry earned his B.A. at Oklahoma Baptist University and his M.Div. in Philosophy of Religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. After years of independent school teaching and administration, management consulting and marketing, he retired as Executive Director of the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2008.

Married to Jackie since 1990, he has a son and two grandchildren in northern California. J. Harry has strong interests in history, government, and religion. He also describes himself as "a lifelong model railroad addict."

Shortly after joining OLLI-W in 2009, J. Harry was invited into committee involvement by other members. The reward for volunteering? He says, "It strengthens OLLI-W and enhances member experience. It has enabled me to get to know a lot of OLLI members by working with them on projects."

With onsite classes cancelled during the pandemic, J. Harry enjoyed summer session on Zoom and now helps with Zoom training. Members reluctant to embrace Zoom, take heart! Help is available ... and as he points out, "Everybody in the class has a front row seat!"



Carroll Humphrey

Carroll Humphrey has been inspiring OLLI-W music students as a dedicated instructor since 2005. "Band, Beginning Players" provides a comfortable atmosphere for beginners; at the same

time, some students enjoy his approach so much that they return even after they're ready for intermediate or concert level participation. The importance of rhythm and harmony, as much as melody, is emphasized in Carroll's teaching, and he finds it "rewarding to see people wake up to that."

Carroll grew up in Proctor, Vermont. He majored in piano, with a minor in trombone, at Oberlin Conservatory and earned his master's degree in music education at Temple University. He was a junior high band director in the Red Clay School System for 40 years, then organized a community band in retirement. After his first wife died, Carroll joined OLLI-W and was soon urged to teach. "Volunteering gave me a way to continue with music," he said.

Carroll and his wife Joanne Newlin have seven children between them, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. They enjoy traveling.

Besides generously sharing his time and talent in classes, Carroll made a CD of piano music, as an OLLI-W fundraiser.

Along with technical instruction and enjoyment of music, Carroll believes socialization is another benefit of band participation, contributing to a fulfilling experience.

With pandemic closures preventing performance classes during fall semester, Carroll plans to explore other learning opportunities at OLLI-W. Although he is retiring from teaching, we can eagerly listen for the strains of his much-appreciated music as he continues to play in OLLI-W's intermediate, concert and jazz bands once onsite programs resume.

Become an OLLI Council Member!

Ruth Sokolowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

Each year, five of the 15 members of Council “graduate” and must be replaced with OLLI members who are willing to serve for the next three years to make sure OLLI is well run and has a strong future. This year’s “graduating class” consists of Neil Cullen, Ellen Goldstein, Bill Rowe, Lucie Shader and Boyd Sorenson.

Are you interested in serving on Council – or know an active member who should be? This year’s Nominating Committee consists of:

Karen Foster*

Phil Weinberg *

Karen Ingram*

Bill Young

Linda Kellogg*

Ruth Sokolowski*

* Current or previous service on Council

From early September through October 31, the Nominating Committee will be receiving information from members who are willing to serve. In January and February, we will meet with them to answer questions and to consider their backgrounds and experience and the needs of Council. In February the committee confidentially recommends to Council five to eight members we consider well qualified to join Council and who will add to its overall strength and OLLI’s leadership. Council elects the new members in March and their terms start April 1.

OLLI is an Educational Cooperative. To keep it thriving Council needs new members who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and bring skills and experience to the table. Please fill out and submit the information/nominating form for yourself – or to give to someone you think should be on Council.

Now is the time to let us hear from you! Look for a link to further information in the OLLI Statewide Update that’s delivered right to your email box.

OLLI Volunteers: The Keystone of our Academic Cooperative Success Thank You Volunteers!

Boyd Sorenson, Chair, Volunteer and Engagement Committee

Forty years ago, the University of Delaware started an academic volunteer cooperative with the adult citizens of Delaware. The outstanding success of our volunteer cooperative today demonstrates the accomplishments of the partnership between the University and OLLI members. UD provides the facilities and operating staff and our membership provides the students, instructors, leadership, and many volunteers that allow our cooperative to grow and thrive. We learn and have fun together, committed to the concept of lifelong learning and the social interactions that OLLI affords.

How many organizations do you know of where the students provide all the instructors and “people-

power” volunteers that make the organization go, and at the same time, pay a modest fee to cover operating costs? Besides attending classes, OLLI volunteers give generously of their time and talents to make the organization successful, pursuing the goal of excellence in lifelong learning and socialization.

Committed and engaged volunteers are the foundation of our success. Volunteers create and present the programs that serve 2,400 OLLI-W members with ever-increasing program diversity and quality. Thank you volunteers for making OLLI so successful and individually rewarding!

Socializing Moves Online Too



Statewide Social Committee: Gerri Sanchez Reid Kellogg, Pam Vari, Linda Kellogg, Marge Felty, Nancy Marra, Trudie Thompson, Pam Meitner

We miss you! Members tell us again and again that what they love about OLLI is the chance to socialize with their friends.

The Statewide Social Committee is working hard to have member interactions continue so you can meet with old friends, make new ones and keep the fun in OLLI. We have many activities planned for you this Fall, where you will have the opportunity to gather in smaller groups. Here is a sample of some of the fun things to look forward to:

- Morning Jump Start
- Whatever Makes You Happy Hour
- Games Galore
- Thanksgiving at Our House
- Trivia Time

You can also bring us your ideas for more fun and volunteer to host/co-host a session by contacting: Gerri Sanchez (gsanchez@udel.edu) and Pam Vari (pvari@udel.edu)

Remember, classrooms will open 15 minutes early for signing in and chatting with your fellow classmates.

We are looking forward to having you join us. Smiles guaranteed!



Staying Connected

Each and every OLLI member is valuable. As quickly as Arsh Hall closed in March, the Social Gatherings Committee under Gerri Sanchez and Nancy Marra, sprang into action to keep the connections between members.

They launched a volunteer phone tree on March 20th providing regular calls to fellow OLLI-W participants without email access. Two dozen special buddy pairs have enjoyed weekly

interaction and these new friendships continue to flourish.

Do you know of an OLLI-W member from last semester who may be hesitant to tackle a Zoom class, yet desires to stay part of our community? We have volunteers ready to reach out to our valued recent members until we can once again enjoy their company. Contact: pvari@udel.edu

OLLI Tree Club

Jean Spraker

Tree Club is an OLLI extracurricular activity where members learn more about the trees on the UD Wilmington campus and assist in stewarding them. Tree Club members are updating a campus tree inventory and tagging, measuring, and noting tree conditions. The club meets via Zoom on Monday afternoons this fall. Individual members check on campus trees and maintain bluebird houses. The club operates cooperatively, led by Jim Hainer, Jerry Hapka, and Hanna Zyruk.

Tree Club is “getting the word out” about OLLI’s sylvan treasures. The current focus is native species and various oak trees on campus. Black, red, white, white swamp, scarlet, and willow oaks are planted here.

Pictured is a swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), located next to Pennsylvania Avenue, just east of the exit by the Goodstay house. This tree type is native to parts of Mid-Atlantic, Central Midwest, and New England regions. It grows wild in low-lying areas, but adapts to various soil and moisture conditions. The tree transplants well, grows to 80 feet, and provides good shade. Swamp white oaks have ovoid-shaped leaves with shallow lobes on each side, light-gray bark, and grow acorns. It is a good tree to plant for posterity; some swamp oaks are 300+ years old. Its yellow fall foliage isn’t brilliant, but for other features it is a good landscape choice.



Swamp white oak, Goodstay, Jean Spraker

Nature's Shelter

And as we "shelter in place"
Trying to wade through the doldrums of monotony,
We can experience the comfort of spring's serenity
As we bathe in the glory of God's gift of nature.
I seek comfort
In the majestic pink cherry tree
quivering in spring's soft breezes,
As I gaze from my window
Needing validation that these
Repressive days of solitude will pass
Just as the blossoms fade
to the greening of another season's
Whispers on the winds of promise.

Laura Tuttle

Voting Safely and Knowledgeably in 2020

Submitted by Karen Stanley

2020 elections have already been unlike any others. COVID-19 caused spring election delays and expanded absentee voting options in many states, including Delaware.

With two more state-wide elections coming up — the state primaries on September 15 and the general election on November 3, many Delawareans are unsure how to vote safely.

There are three ways to vote in Delaware this fall as a result of legislation passed in June 2020 enabling vote-by-mail for remaining statewide elections. With mail-in ballot applications sent to all registered voters:

- (1) returned completed applications will generate mail-in ballots sent to you.
- (2) The no-excuse absentee option authorized by Governor Carney remains in effect during the pandemic. Fill out an absentee ballot request at the ivote.de.gov voter portal. These ballots are accessed by the voter in response to an email and can be filled out and returned electronically via email (requires an email address, a computer, and a printer/scanner).
- (3) The option to vote in person at the polls still exists; most polling places are expected to be open for the fall elections. Use of face masks and maintenance of personal space between voters are required in 2020.

Voting in person will likely be slower this year due to unfamiliar voting machines (this will be the first time many voters use the new machines purchased in late 2018) and the need to wipe down surfaces between voters. To avoid long waits and potential exposure to COVID, most Delaware voters should consider voting by mail or via the electronic method this year. Since the post office will be affected by large numbers of ballots, ballots should be mailed as early as possible. The New Castle County Department of Elections will have ballot



drop boxes as well which would guarantee a timely arrival and bypass the post office.

How can one best make an informed choice when voting? The website

VOTE411.org compiled by the League of Women Voters provides personalized ballot information for voters in Delaware and nationwide. Enter www.vote411.org in your web browser. Then enter your home address and click “Explore Now” under the “Find What’s on your Ballot” heading. Generally, VOTE411 candidate information for each Delaware election is available at least a month prior to each election day. Candidates at every level, from U.S. Congress down to County Clerk, are covered on VOTE411.

The site includes candidate profiles and responses to an issues survey so that you can compare the candidates’ viewpoints on the same questions, side by side, in their own words. When available, links are included for the candidates’ campaign websites or Facebook pages, for further research. It seems easiest to review the candidates, make a note of your choices, and then fill in your ballot.

Be Aware. VOTE Aware. For more information, contact the League of Women Voters of Delaware: www.lwvdelaware.org, 302-571-8948, or vote411de@gmail.com.



LWV Member Jenn Wells displays the League’s favorite yard sign

Special Events Fridays by Ben Raphael, Chair

Our traditional SEW (Special Events Wednesdays) debuts via Zoom on a new day!

Many of you have enjoyed dynamic speakers on Wednesdays in Arsht Hall. Now, along with continuing to bring some much needed entertainment, we plan to keep you informed and stimulated on **Fridays at 12:30 p.m.**

The first seven weeks of the semester, look for great music from Xiang Gao, UD's violin virtuoso, and a fascinating lecture by Bruce Mowday about Andy Wyeth's stolen art collection. Bruce had planned to present in March when Covid-19 closed Arsht Hall and fortunately can join us this semester. Professor Jennifer Horney, UD's Dr. Fauci, will bring us up to date on disaster epidemiology, and for the first time we will host a forum. The forum



moderator will be the ever-popular Ralph Begleiter, retired UD professor. The panel of political experts attending will include the nationally known radio host and political commentator Bill Press. Tune in for a variety of opinions regarding the coming election.

The last four Fridays of the semester bring Ray Callahan back to the stage via zoom.

Mark your fall calendars to be with us on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Attendance is free to OLLI members as it is a benefit of membership like extracurricular activities.

Look for notice of upcoming events in the Updates emailed three times a week to all and be sure to register for the event so you will receive the link to join a particular Friday session and we can welcome our guests with a full Zoom room.

Read the OLLI-Sussex newsletter, *The Tides* at:
<http://www.oli.udel.edu/kent-sussex/newsletter/>

The Tides...

Breaking News from
Lifelong Learning



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

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Next Submittal deadline: Friday, October 2

Issue date: By Tuesday, October 20

Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu.

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UD OLLI Online Calendar 2020

September 8	Start of fall semester
October 12	End of first five-week classes
October 20	Start of second five-week classes
November 3	Election Day, No classes
November 24	Last day of fall semester