



APRIL 2021

Planning Ahead for OLLI-W

Jennifer Merrill, OLLI Wilmington and UD Online Manager

Spring is normally full of optimism and rejuvenation and it is particularly acute in all of us this year! I know many of you have received your COVID-19 vaccine. Thankfully most of our staff members have also received at least one dose of a vaccine.

By now you have heard that the University of Delaware is planning to resume most on-campus activities in the fall of 2021. Specifically, President Assanis announced that 95% of undergraduate classes will occur face-to-face on the Newark campus next fall. Very large classes will remain online. Residence halls will be filled to capacity.

This article is being re-written a second time following that announcement. In this time of planning for the post-pandemic University programming much remains uncertain and changes almost daily. With six foot distancing requirements as currently mandated Arsht Hall usage is essentially limited to the first floor. Second floor room capacities are limited to a handful of students. More importantly, the building's elevator occupancy drops to one precluding classes or activities on the second floor due to the high volume of members who require an elevator for their mobility or their class materials.

Take heart, online classes will continue regardless of our presence at, or absence from, Arsht Hall.

What I hope you recognize is that our staff and volunteers are dedicated to re-establishing as much in-person programming as possible while implementing all of the protocols required at the time of planning, such as masking and social distancing. If restrictions are lifted after our schedule is created we will reduce the requirements accordingly. We are all optimistic about the positive impact of the vaccines on our community.

You may not yet have seen the inclusion of OLLI in two new publications. University of Delaware's President Assanis included OLLI in his annual report: <https://www.udel.edu/about/leadership/president/annual-report>. An article in *Delaware Today* (April issue) features the OLLI program.

Mark your calendars for a fun event on Wednesday, May 5. Join us as we celebrate all things OLLI on *I ♥ UD Day*! Stay tuned for more details we will share through Facebook, in the online updates and your email inbox.

I hope you are enjoying spring online classes and will join us this summer—online or in-person for a selection of outdoor—but in-person—classes!

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New OLLI-W Council Members



Linda Kellogg

At its March meeting Linda Kellogg was elected as Council Chair and Gerri Sanchez as Executive Vice Chair. Council also elected five members for three-year terms that began April 1. Council welcomes these newly elected members who will be leading and reporting from various committees soon.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Karen Foster, Karen Ingram, Linda Kellogg, Phil Weinberg, Bill Young and Ruth Sokolowski (chair).

The bios and photos submitted by the new members are below.



Gerri Sanchez

Judy Diner

I am delighted to serve on the OLLI Council and grateful for our stimulating learning community.

I currently co-teach two French classes, serve on the Curriculum Committee as an Area Coordinator for literature courses, and co-chair the Instructor Development sub-committee. Since joining OLLI in 2014, I have enjoyed classes in literature, writing, history, music and art appreciation, book clubs and learning to knit. Prior to OLLI, I served non-profits as a manager and fund-raiser.

OLLI offers growth opportunities for mind and body and enriches lives in countless ways! I am excited to have a role in our continuing success.



Charles Johnson

I joined OLLI-W upon retiring seven years ago. Interested in art, but having no experience, I took some drawing classes and then moved to introductory watercolors. Settling into oil painting, I enjoyed classes in oil painting and abstract painting, as well as other classes from opera to medicine of the Middle Ages, from Machiavelli to the turbulent Middle East, from advanced poetry writing to advanced writing.

I hope that my experiences in curriculum development and review at the college level and in strategic planning in business will be of value to the OLLI program.



Linda Julius

I am very excited to be on the Council because OLLI perfectly aligns with my value for personal growth, engagement and continuous learning.

I first enrolled in OLLI in the fall of 2018. I have been enriched by my experiences inside and outside the classroom. In addition to taking numerous courses each semester, I helped design and co-instruct the "Exploring White Identity and Privilege" course in the spring of 2020. I have also volunteered for several activities, giving me the opportunity to meet other OLLI members.

I am honored to be part of this leadership team and will bring my energy, commitment, and passion for Diversity and Inclusion to this important role.

**Glenn Rill**

I have been a member of OLLI-W for 11 years and a member of its "guitar community," where I've formed many wonderful friendships in guitar classes/jams and even joined a quartet band named "It's Never Too Late." I've also taught several sing-along "history of music" classes at OLLI, including on Zoom. My education was in computer science and math at the University of Maryland. Most of my career was in computer technology at DuPont, and I also taught high school math. I look forward to using my skills to help make OLLI as rewarding to others as it has been to me.



Learn more about Glenn's transition to Zoom at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhocTAW9bvU>

Rebecca Worley

I never thought retirement would be like this. I joined OLLI in 2016 when I retired after 38 years with the University of Delaware's English Department, and started by going back to my "first love," teaching literature, specifically mysteries, historical novels, and other worthwhile literary fiction. Since those days, I have become more and more involved with the efforts of the Collaboration Committee to enhance the relationship between these two communities, something I will continue to work at as a member of Council.



Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers, VDE (Volunteer Development and Engagement)

Corky Connor

Corky Connor's creation, "Cultural History of Food and Wine" is a unique series of courses that evolved from her love of history, cooking, and travel. The classes focus on the origins of food and beverages and the impact on society from cultures throughout the world, concentrating on a different country or area each semester. Italy, France, and the Iberian Peninsula have been on the menu and the Caribbean will be highlighted in a future semester. An OLLI-W instructor since 2015, Corky began teaching food and wine classes separately, then combined the two. She has served on the Reception Committee and assisted in other classes.

A Pennsylvania resident, Corky grew up in the Philadelphia area and earned her BA at Drexel University in accounting and finance.

Corky operated her own food industry corporation, Corky Connor LLC, which included a restaurant, catering business, cooking school, and TV work. Her work often took her to Europe and led to meeting cooking gurus James Beard and Julia Child. Now semi-retired, Corky continues to run her gourmet/confection brokerage.

Corky has two children and four grandchildren. She volunteers for Tri-State Bird Rescue, Kennett Square Senior Center, and local events. Corky enjoyed taking many classes over the years, studying several languages. She's traveled to all seven continents, reading the history of each country before visiting.

Volunteering has been rewarding because of "meeting people" and enjoying the research necessary for teaching. With her energetic and creative approach to teaching, sharing so many interests and talents, Corky is an inspiring contributor to the OLLI-W program.



Neil Cullen

Neil Cullen's tenure as OLLI-W Council Chair, 2020-21, started off with a challenge when Covid-19 sent OLLI-statewide into a spin. "We had to quickly shift gears to a completely virtual experience," he said.

Neil readily embraced the challenge, along with a team of volunteers and supportive staff who mobilized resources and brought the program to Zoom beginning in summer 2020. "The amazing volunteer base that we have is a blessing" Neil said. "Working together makes the ideas flow and we end up with solutions. We proved faster on our feet than anyone would've imagined."

Born in Auburn, NY, Neil graduated from the University of Rochester, then joined the Peace Corps, teaching English and coaching track at a school in Nigeria. When he returned, he earned an MA in Student Personnel, and later a PhD in Higher Education Administration. He served in a variety of administrative posts, including Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, Michigan State University, and the City University of New York.

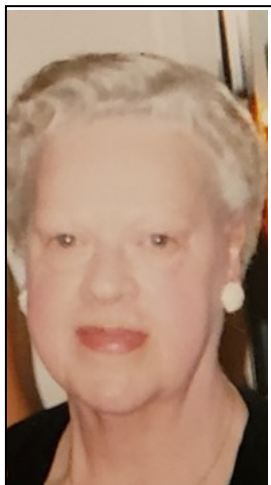
After retiring in 2004, Neil moved to Pennsylvania and soon joined OLLI-W. He has served as Executive Vice Chair, Fundraising Committee Chair and he co-chaired the OLLI-W Fundraising Campaign in 2020, along with his wife Betsey, an OLLI-W poetry instructor.

The Cullens have two children and three grandchildren. Besides OLLI-W, Neil's interests include yoga, Pilates, and participation in the Chester County Choral Society. He also walks two to four miles daily.

He enjoys volunteering for "the joy of interacting with other people." Neil makes an invaluable contribution to the OLLI-W community by sharing his time, expertise, and joy.

Ethel Sayre (1923-2020)

A Legacy Living On Through OLLI



In late 2020, the OLLI community learned of the passing of Ethel Sayre, a longtime student and supporter of OLLI-Wilmington. A member of OLLI since the 1990s, Ethel loved learning with her OLLI family. Those classes and opportunities inspired her to include OLLI in her estate plans; qualifying her as one of the first members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society. Her transformative gift will create an endowment in Ethel's name, providing essential income in perpetuity for OLLI's operations.

Ethel enjoyed 43 years of marriage with her husband, James, before his passing in 1992. She retired from the DuPont Company after 33 years and had three key activities in her life and friends associated with each: Opera Delaware, the Delaware Symphony, and her wonderful Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Her love of opera was nourished in the classes she took at OLLI. Dr. Larry Peterson reports that Ethel was a regular in discussing opera productions. He and other opera instructors will miss her lively presence.

On behalf of the entire OLLI-Wilmington community, we thank Ethel for helping to continue OLLI's mission and dedication to lifelong learning.

If you would like to make a gift in memory of Ethel, please visit OLLI's [secure website](#) or mail checks to: University of Delaware, Gifts Processing, 83 E. Main St., 3rd Fl., Newark, DE 19716. Make checks payable to "University of Delaware" and include on the memo line: "To OLLI-W in memory of Ethel Sayre."



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What is the Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society?

The Legacy Society is a giving society that recognizes and celebrates members who plan for OLLI's future.

What are the benefits of membership in the Society?

Members share satisfaction from insuring future members can enjoy the school we love. Society members receive invitations to unique events, a special lapel pin, and special recognition throughout the years.

What types of gifts qualify for membership?

Documented bequest intentions (i.e., in a will) ranging from \$1,000 to transformative gifts, remain the most popular way to remember OLLI, but there are many options to consider.



For more information, contact **Nathana Jackson** in UD's Gift Planning Office at 302-831-6093 or ndlane@udel.edu.

OLLI-W Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Phil Weinberg, Council Finance Chair

Each Spring, the OLLI-W Council presents the approved budget for the next school year in the OLLI-W newsletter. The next fiscal year (FY2022) begins on July 1 and ends on June 30, 2022.

Overview

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the last fiscal year was much different from what we ever expected. We had to stop classes in early March 2021 and determine how to proceed. As a result of the closing of Arsht Hall and the implementation of online classes in Fall 2020, one of the items we needed was to re-work the current FY2021 budget originally approved in Dec. 2019. Later that Fall we created several budget scenarios to reflect what might happen in FY2022. The results of the FY2021 revision and FY2022 budgets are included in this report.

Changes from FY 2021 to FY 2021 revised

In FY2021 the original OLLI-W operating budget totaled \$1.71 million versus \$1.70 million in FY2020. The revised FY2021 budget totaled \$0.66 million. As a result of our successful online Summer program combining all the statewide OLLI programs, the revised budget assumed a continuation of this scenario for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. With fewer people registering and lower fees, our revenues were reduced. However, this was balanced by significant expense reductions. Arsht Hall was closed and the University of Delaware graciously agreed to forgo charging OLLI-W for facility support and maintenance. Office expenses were considerably reduced. It was decided to forgo the annual contribution to our capital expense account (used for future major projects). Results can be seen in the table below.

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FY22 Alternate Budgets	Original Budget	Revised Budget	OPTION 1 Budget	OPTION 2 Budget	OPTION 3 Budget
Alternate Budgets >>>>>>>>	FY21 (Orig.)	FY21	FY22 (on-line Fall & Spring)	FY22 (on-line Fall only)	FY22 (in-person Fall & Spring)
Revenue & Expense Summary for Operations					
Membership Fees	\$ 1,221,775	\$ 461,065	\$ 519,200	\$ 790,600	\$ 1,074,000
Annual Giving (Contributed to Operations)	\$ 239,710	\$ 21,810	\$ 21,400	\$ 134,698	\$ 220,358
Fund Income (Contributed to Operations)	\$ 220,510	\$ 179,638	\$ 153,958	\$ 215,510	\$ 215,500
Misc. Revenue	\$ 32,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,400	\$ 34,300
Total Revenue	\$ 1,714,195	\$ 662,513	\$ 694,558	\$ 1,159,208	\$ 1,544,158
Personnel	\$ 691,000	\$ 620,000	\$ 634,000	\$ 739,000	\$ 769,000
Facilities					
a) Capital Reserve/Transfer	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
b) Facilities/Maintenance Expense	\$ 553,193	\$ 28,693	\$ 49,158	\$ 344,408	\$ 559,658
Other Expenses	\$ 270,001	\$ 13,820	\$ 13,900	\$ 75,800	\$ 115,500
Total Expenses	\$ 1,714,195	\$ 662,513	\$ 697,058	\$ 1,159,208	\$ 1,544,158

OPTION 1: Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 online only

OPTION 2: Fall 2021 online and Spring 2022 in-person with some online

OPTION 3: Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 in-person with some online

(Continued from page 6)

FY2022 – 3 scenarios

Without knowing how we would operate in the FY2022 budget, it was decided to create three operating options. The results are shown in the table. Fee revenue would increase from option 1 to 2 and from 2 to 3 as we see increased registration numbers and a return to a more normal fee structure. Similarly, our expenses would increase as we re-open Arsht Hall and return to a more normal operating mode. The table shows the proposed budget changes from Option 1 at \$0.697M, Option 2 at \$1.159M and Option 3 at \$1.544M. The one significant difference is the re-opening of Arsht Hall and its associated expenses. The table illustrates how our revenues and expenses differ among the options. The OLLI-W Council approved each budget

scenario and will use the one that coincides with the operating decision that will be made this spring.

Perspective

In looking at our budget, it reflects the nature of our cooperative. Since our instructors volunteer, their services do not constitute a budget expense. We should pause to note how fortunate we are at OLLI-W 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 a large number of courses, have a relatively large endowment and enjoy the philanthropic support of most of our members. We are fortunate indeed!

My First Encounter

Susan Dion

In the early 1960s my father and grandpa Dion purchased several acres of land in rural North Windham, Connecticut, just outside our town of Willimantic. The property had an old three-story farmhouse and an enormously long wooden warehouse with several tall wide sliding doors that accommodated tractors, harvesters, and other large farming implements for sale. A couple of smaller buildings and sheds rounded out the holdings sitting near the frontage of the colonial Boston Post Road (but referred to more commonly as Route 6 at that time). Toward the rear of the property were wide-open deep fields with a crumbling and faded wooden red barn mid-way back and close to the adjacent small Russian cemetery.

One bright warm day, shortly after my dad took ownership, my younger sister Barbara and I joined mom for a quick stop at the

location. The car made a peculiar sound as its tires slowly crunched along on one of the three gravel roads on the property – a sound that would become all too familiar over the next thirty-five years. As we passed the farmhouse on our left, which Dad was renovating into apartments, we moved toward the long warehouse. I saw that Dad and two strange men were sitting outdoors to the right near two of the smaller weather-beaten out-buildings. Mom drove past them and parked the car behind the structures. I jumped out – no seatbelts to unclick – and noticed that twin doors opened outward on a narrow rectangular building revealing a wooden boat hoisted upside-down on a frame. Barb and I peered in on this novelty but then ran the short distance toward Dad and the strangers.

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(Encounter continued from page 7)

"STOP" hollered one of the men as he abruptly flew out of his chair. Momentarily frozen and stunned, I kept my eyes on the darkly tanned scrawny older man but reflexively put my arm out to keep my little sister behind me. Dad and the other fellow stood up and pointed down toward my shoes. In the patches of stubby grass and sandy dirt just a couple feet away were two brown humped ovals, big enough for me and Barb to sit upon but each had a thin dangerous spear aimed in our direction -- and one appeared to be moving toward us. We retreated a couple steps as Mom arrived behind us.

"What is it?" Barb and I warbled in unison. The stranger who had yelled at us took one long stride and picked up a creature by its shell thus covering much of his upper body. "This is a prehistoric animal," he said as he flipped the oval hump to its creepy underside with lots of waving tiny legs and weird parts. Although the needle-like spear now looked softer as it swayed, it still was threatening to us. The man assured us, however, that the creature did not sting or attack people though it might hurt if you stepped on the sharp point in bare feet at the beach. The beach!!!!??? I had not encountered them on occasional visits to the Connecticut or Rhode Island beaches, yet he said that's where these prehistoric animals lived. Nope, this was my first time to meet a living fossil — though I would

observe many more in the future, both in their natural habitat and in aquariums and marine life centers. Later, I would watch my children and grandchildren express awe when they were introduced.

About sixty years after my first encounter, my Sea Grant instructor in a Fall 2020 University of Delaware Lifelong Learning class on "The Science of the Delaware Coasts" provided an illustrated lively Zoom lecture on Delaware's official state marine animal: the horseshoe crab. He confirmed that the misnamed animal was indeed prehistoric. Its present form dates back twenty million years, though it is related to trilobites of 540 to 500 million years ago. The refresher discussion covered the horseshoe crab's distinctive and valuable blue blood which has an important role for medical research and applications for humans. (It may assist with untangling the mysteries of COVID-19 and our current pandemic.) Yet humans are also the greatest threat to the horseshoe crab's existence. I thought back to my first time as a little girl in eastern Connecticut and I wondered. For what purpose did the two old salts who repaired boats in rented space on my father's property bring the ancient creatures to an inland spot? Was it for amusement or for bait, or something else? The brief episode remains so vivid to me, yet I have no answer to this question. It is one I did not pose so many years ago.

Chris Petrone, Delaware Sea Grant instructor, with the Johnette D. Bosarge Memorial Award. UDaily, June 19, 2017



Special Events on Fridays

All events at 12:30 p.m.

- April 9 **The Operation of a Modern Organic Dairy Farm** Edwin R. Fry, Fairhill Farms, Chestertown, MD
- April 16 **Delaware Art Museum's new painting acquisition: Robert Duncanson's: *On the Banks of the Doune, Scotland*** Lyn Groves
- April 23 **The OLLI Tree Club**
- April 30 **Newark Symphony Orchestra: Vivaldi: *The Seasons*** Simeone Tartaglione
- May 7 **The Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover Air Force Base** Michael Hurlburt

Look for updates and links to these member-only events in the Statewide OLLI Updates.

HOORAY for VOLUNTEERS

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month

Linda Kellogg

Each and every one of our OLLI Volunteers shares their special gifts of talent and time generously with the rest of us.

Some of our committees were put on pause due to Covid and the closure of facilities. Those volunteers are eagerly standing by to re-engage. Other committees went into overdrive to meet new needs none of us could foresee. And brand new volunteer opportunities were created to see us through.

Our dedicated OLLI staff also contributed many extra hours, smoothing our path to online and statewide course options.

Please join us in thanking your fellow members for teaching, being virtual classroom assistants and volunteering for committee work. Volunteers make us vibrant and strong.

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

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Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu.

UD OLLI Online Calendar 2021

April 5 Start of 2nd 5-week classes
May 7 End of spring semester
June 29, 30, July 1 Summer session orientation
July 6 to July 29 Summer session classes