



# OLLI News

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### Welcome

Gerri Sanchez, Chair of Council, Wilmington

Welcome to all returning and new OLLI-Wilmington members. We are back, and better than ever!

This fall, we are excited to offer over 300 courses statewide for our members. You have the choice of online, in-person, or hybrid classes, and for the first time ever, we are offering two on-demand video classes. In response to member feedback, we now have a one-fee membership for unlimited courses. This is a wonderful opportunity to try something new and exciting at OLLI. We are poised to emerge from two years of pandemic-related limitations in better shape than ever.



### We need your help!

Did you know that OLLI-Wilmington has over 20 committees? As a member cooperative, OLLI relies on active volunteers for our programs to operate effectively. Volunteering supports the work done by OLLI Staff, builds a sense of community, and is an excellent way to meet even more OLLI members. The link below will give you a listing of our committees, along with instructions on how to volunteer. Any amount of time that you can give us will be appreciated. Together, we can accomplish so much and make a difference.

I look forward to seeing you at OLLI, and wish you a phenomenal semester!

[Committee descriptions http://www.udel.edu/009742](http://www.udel.edu/009742)

Do you have a comment or suggestion for the OLLI -Wilmington Council? You can contact us at:

[LLL-Council@udel.edu](mailto:LLL-Council@udel.edu)

### Learn more about OLLI at the OLLI-W Forum

Join us for a presentation by OLLI Council and Staff members about the latest statewide OLLI happenings. Members joining the session early will be treated to music by our very own talented OLLI musicians.

Special Events Fridays, online, September 23 at 12:30 p.m.

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## Message from the Director

Jennifer Merrill, Director, OLLI-W, OLLI Online

Welcome back to OLLI and Arsht Hall! On behalf of the staff here in Arsht Hall and working remotely we are happy to have fall 2022 classes underway. Summer brought us plenty of adventure, with the new parking lots, building repairs and even a fresh coat of paint! We welcomed new staff members, too. Luci Angeline joins us as our Financial Coordinator, Debbie Dawson is now serving as our lead on registration and catalog, and Carl Snider joins us in a part-time classroom AV assistant role. They are all wonderful additions to our team!



all semester with microwaves and seating available. This fall we are happy to once again provide space in the lobby for socializing and eating. Our OLLI musicians are organizing concerts this fall so please stay tuned for announcements of days and times for their performances. OLLI musicians are wonderful contributors to our program and we are thrilled to see the rebirth of performances at Arsht Hall.

This fall our OLLI instructors are teaching a tremendous number of classes. Arsht Hall is the home of 129 courses this fall, and our OLLI instructors are offering 107 courses online. Fifteen of our courses are being offered in a hybrid mode so you can participate from wherever life takes you if you can't make it to class on a particular day. Two pre-recorded courses are offered for you to watch on your own schedule.

This fall we will pilot evening activities in the building for OLLI members. In partnership with UD's Center for Political Communication we will offer an opportunity for members to come to Arsht Hall to socialize and participate together in the online National Agenda lecture series. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for popcorn, refreshments and some much needed social time! Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start of the CPC event.

We are continuing to navigate change in Arsht Hall. Please bring your lunch or snacks to enjoy with friends and classmates. The lobby will be available

Remember that OLLI is an educational cooperative. Our community relies on volunteers for many of our activities and programs. If you want to be more involved send an email to the OLLI Council at: [lll-council@udel.edu](mailto:lll-council@udel.edu). We'd be happy to welcome you in one of many roles at OLLI!

### UD Center for Political Communication National Agenda 2022

Join the program live on campus in Newark or in Arsht Hall with your OLLI friends. Light refreshments provided. Doors open 30 minutes prior to program start. Watch the weekly updates for a link to register. This is a free event for OLLI members and their guests.

September 21...The Value of Listening  
 September 28...Balancing Art & Politics  
 October 20 .....Delaware Debates (7 p.m. start)  
 November 9 .....Breaking Down the Numbers



## Meet New OLLI-W Staff Members

Profiles and Pictures by Jean Youkers

### Luci Angeline

The very enthusiastic Luci Angeline joined OLLI-W as financial coordinator in June. A native Delawarean, she was a stay-at-home mom for years, then began working at UD, where she's held various positions since 2004.



Her most recent UD job was grant analyst, which involved assisting professors in managing awards, budgets, and keeping track of efforts. She received extensive training and took classes at UD to learn the different aspects of operations needed for her administrative and financial roles.

Luci enjoys baking. She also goes backpacking and kayaking with her husband. They have four children and five grandchildren, plus another one expected soon.

At OLLI-W, Luci collaborates with volunteers and staff on budgetary matters, purchase orders, receipts and year-end close. She works remotely Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and appears in the office at least twice each month.

Luci likes helping people – staff, students, and now OLLI-W members. One of the biggest things she likes about OLLI-W is the fact that everyone is a volunteer who “wants to be here” and everyone is a part of it.

Besides being a great program, Luci says, “It’s a fun place!”

How lucky we are to have such an energetic new staff member who says she likes doing things right!

### Gretchen Sailer

OLLI-W welcomed new staff member Gretchen Sailer to Arsht Hall during spring semester. She arrived, with her friendly smile, on one of our busiest days: I Heart UD Day.



Gretchen has stayed busy ever since in her role as administrative assistant and it already seems like she's been here forever.

Gretchen grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and attended Wesley College in Dover, where she earned a B.S. in business. Her employment before OLLI-W included 16 years in an investment firm, where her focus was on the research area and dealing with clients.

She and her husband have a 23-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son. She enjoys spending time with her family, skiing, running, and horseback riding.

Gretchen likes her new job at OLLI-W. “Everyone has been helpful,” she said. “It’s a great atmosphere and I love to come to work every day.”

Stop and say hello to Gretchen. She can be found at the desk outside the office in the lobby Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. She assists with updating member profiles, making badges, copies, instructor evaluations, answering registration questions and “just about anything.” And if she doesn’t know the answer to your question, she will find out. Gretchen is also working on planning the 2023 UD at the Sea program.

We’re fortunate to have Gretchen, who brings her love of working with people, her enthusiasm and detail-oriented approach to OLLI-W. And that’s not all – as she noted, “I can make popcorn!”



OLLI-Wilmington Council needs five dedicated members to replace five Council members who will be completing their three-year terms in March 2023.

OLLI Council includes 15 members who work for the membership and with the administrative team to carry out our mission "to provide opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, personal growth and social interaction" and our vision "to be a premier educational program."

The term for this group of five members is from April 2023 through March 2026. Council meets once a month from September through May, with no meeting in January. OLLI Council members are asked to chair or serve on at least one of the many committees that work to make OLLI-Wilmington one of the best and biggest OLLIs in the country.

What is your background and what interests do you have? Under the Academics Division on Council, there are opportunities to serve and have input on the Art, Computer Coordination, Curriculum,

Distance Viewing, Music, Special Events and UD OLLI Online committees. Under the Membership Division, you can work and contribute on the Marketing, Diversity/Inclusion, New Member Relations & Volunteer Engagement, Newsletter, Registration and Social Gatherings committees.

Members of the 2022-2023 OLLI-Wilmington Council Nominating Committee are:

Neil Cullen  
Linda Kellogg  
Lew Martin  
Glenn Rill  
Karen Stanley  
Michael Walsh, Chair

This Committee will recruit and gather information from Council applicants from early September through November 10, 2022. Interviews with prospective Council members will be scheduled for January and early February 2023.

### New Council Member

Mike Walsh has been appointed to serve on Council to fill a vacancy opened by a resignation. Mike has previously served on Council as Vice-Chair for Membership.

"Hi, I'm Mike Walsh, and as an instructor and student, it is now my honor to serve on your Council and work with all the wonderful staff members and volunteers at OLLI who make it such an incredible place to enjoy the gifts of learning, living, and laughing. Thank you!"



## Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers, New Member Relations & Volunteer Engagement

### Ruth and Ed Flexman

Ruth and Ed grew up in different parts of Illinois, where they met as undergraduates. They married and moved to Indiana University where Ed earned his Ph.D. in chemistry and Ruth her Master's. A job at DuPont brought the couple to Delaware where Ed spent 42 years doing research in polymer chemistry. Ruth served as director of Lutheran Community Services for 18 years and also earned her Ph.D. from UD.



From 1995 to 2013, Ruth worked full and part time for the University of Delaware's Lifelong Learning Institute, first as Director in Wilmington and later as statewide Program Coordinator. After retirement, Ed joined OLLI and became an instructor in science and national parks. Ruth taught a writing course and enjoyed sampling a variety of courses. She currently serves on the Curriculum Committee, the Collaboration Committee, and the Fundraising Committee.

Ruth and Ed have two children and four grandchildren, all living in North Carolina. They have enjoyed many family activities together. Travel has been important as a family visiting National Parks and as a couple. Ruth and Ed have visited all 50 states, 16 European countries and Kenya, China, and Japan.

Both cite mental stimulation among the benefits of OLLI participation. Ruth points out that research has demonstrated that brains can create new cells and connections, but stimulation is needed so their brain cells are benefiting as well. Ed adds making new friends to the list.

The Flexmans personify intellectual curiosity and love of lifelong learning. They are certainly role models for contributing knowledge, time, and enthusiasm to the program.

### Libby Zurkow



Libby Zurkow's course "Where to Go Next?" combines expertise of speakers from real estate and retirement living areas with her own 45 years of experience as a licensed real estate broker. The class, which

Libby has taught since 2010, provides insight into decisions to sell, scale down or choose among retirement community options.

A Philadelphia native, Libby earned a B.A. in consumer economics at Wellesley College where she was selected to audit a course at Harvard's Graduate School of Business. She didn't intend to become a realtor, embarking first on a career with Macy's and other retail settings, work that led to a spot on NBC's "Home Show." After a short stint of weekly train trips to New York, Libby stayed put in Wilmington because she had small children and transferred her business skills to the real estate world.

Libby has three children and five grandchildren. Over the years, she volunteered for numerous organizations, co-founding Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware. Other interests include Black poetry and planning a book on home buying. Libby and her partner, Paul Guinzburg, enjoy participating in OLLI-W.

Instructor Saul Reine convinced Libby to teach at OLLI-W, using a format she'd already devised as a senior specialist. Once she began, she loved teaching! Besides being a ham, she enjoys the enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and diversity of her class members.

"It gives me a sense of fulfillment," Libby says. "I didn't believe—at 97—I'd find something I'm so excited about."

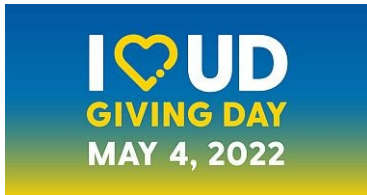
Libby is appreciated for amassing needed information on crucial life decisions, which she shares with wit and charm.

## FY22 Giving Supports OLLI Wilmington

Marty M. Guglielmetti, Betsey Cullen (through FY22) and Alicia Celso (beginning in FY23)  
 OLLI Wilmington Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs

As we begin our fall semester, let's take time to reflect and celebrate the past year's success. We are where we are today thanks to the generous support of our OLLI Wilmington (OLLI-W) family.

In FY22 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022), OLLI-W's fundraising efforts secured \$97,279 for the Gift Fund and \$178,781 for our endowed funds. These generous amounts are consistent with annual contributions made to OLLI-W prior to the pandemic. All donations designated for OLLI-W support programs on campus and online. Council members will work with Jen Merrill to invest Gift Fund donations based on the greatest need.



One notable success was OLLI's participation in the University's annual I Heart UD Giving Day on May 4. OLLI-W members and UD staff sought gifts from the community and raised additional support through giving challenges and donor matches

sponsored by generous OLLI donors and University leadership. A total of 172 gifts raising \$25,092 on the crowdfunding platform made OLLI-W the sixth highest University fundraising project overall. Funds raised during this event will be used to enhance the classroom experience by upgrading AV equipment and to support other areas of greatest need.

We are grateful for the generous outpouring of support over the past fiscal year. To continue the celebration and honor those who supported OLLI-W, we are excited to share that a donor recognition list of all those who supported OLLI-W during FY22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) will be published on the website and in an upcoming weekly email. This new initiative is just one way we can recognize our donors, their philanthropy and the positive impact they have on our people and program

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has given back to sustain and enrich OLLI over the past year and look forward to continuing to give back to the community and programs that make such a difference in our lives.

### Would you volunteer to recruit new OLLI members?

Have you ever thought of volunteering to help OLLI recruit new members? If so, now is the perfect time to do so. OLLI's membership is lower than it was before COVID, and we'd like to attract new members, particularly those from underrepresented groups such as Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Muslims.

The Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee is working hard to determine what courses and activities might attract such members, but we need your help to decide, particularly if you know or are involved with specific underrepresented groups.

If you'd like to join our efforts, please contact Don Sturgeon, Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. His email is [sturgeondl@gmail.com](mailto:sturgeondl@gmail.com) and his cell number is 302-379-4777. We would appreciate your ideas and your help.

## Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society Celebrates Charter Members

Nearly two years after being postponed due to extended COVID-19 precautions, an overdue celebratory luncheon for Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society members was held at Columbus Inn in Wilmington on April 12, 2022. Half the membership of 35 attended the



Marty Guglielmetti, Neil and Betsey Cullen

luncheon in person and others watched a livestream of the event's program via Zoom.

The legacy society was launched in November 2018 to recognize donors who included OLLI-Wilmington in an estate plan. It rapidly expanded and now includes those with intentions benefitting any OLLI campus associated with University of Delaware (UD).

Marty (Marston) Guglielmetti welcomed guests and shared a personal story about what OLLI has meant to her. She then introduced Martha Mitchell, UD's associate vice president of development and principal gifts, who cited early transformative estate gifts to OLLI's endowment and how their growth benefits OLLI now, as today's intentions will go on to impact its future. She also gave heartfelt thanks to Neil and Betsey Cullen as well as other volunteers including Steve Dombchik, Ruth Flexman, Pam Meitner and Marty Guglielmetti who championed the legacy society and fundraising efforts at OLLI that led to greater collaboration with UD's Office of Development and Alumni Relations.



Former OLLI Council chair Neil Cullen talked about how that collaboration led to a successful "Renewing the Dream" campaign at OLLI, adding that 75 percent of OLLI Wilmington's \$4.5 million endowment was built from estate gifts. These funds provide about 15 percent of Wilmington's total operating

expenses annually, a vital element in sustaining OLLI's creative programs.

Jennifer Merrill, director of OLLI at UD-Wilmington and Online, provided remarks on behalf of George Irvine, associate vice provost for UD's Division of Professional and Continuing Studies Department. She expressed gratitude for the work of OLLI's hardworking volunteers.

After publicly recognizing each charter member, including three who have passed away, Nathana Jackson, senior director of gift planning at UD, surprised attendees with a formal proclamation recognizing the legacy society at University of Delaware. The framed document was signed by University President Dennis Assanis and James Dicker, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations, and George Irvine.

If you are interested in learning more about how a gift through your estate can benefit the future of OLLI, contact Nathana at 302-831-6093 or [ndlane@udel.edu](mailto:ndlane@udel.edu).

### UD Password Expiration by Tom Keane

UDelnet passwords are not permanent. You can check the expiration date of your password by logging in to My UD Settings ([udapps.nss.udel.edu/myUDsettings](http://udapps.nss.udel.edu/myUDsettings)) and viewing your password information in the **My account settings** section. You can create a new password there or on the network page ([www.udel.edu/network](http://www.udel.edu/network)). You can also set up security questions that allow you to reset your password in case you forget it.

## Special Events Fridays via Zoom Ben Raphael and Larry Peterson

Welcome to Special Events Fridays! Please check the weekly updates for more details and Zoom links. Here is a little information to whet your appetite:

### September 9 "A Warrior for Peace: Col. Victor Delnore and the Rebuilding of Nagasaki,"

Patricia Magee

Colonel Delnore served as Commander of the Occupation Forces in Nagasaki from 1946-49. Patricia Magee, his daughter, will introduce a 2011 documentary film made by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). Magee, the first American born in post-war Nagasaki, is a retired University of Delaware English instructor and current MALS student.

### September 16 "Falls: A program for balance and strength for the elderly,"

Richard Gordon, MD  
Dr. Gordon will use information from the CDC falling prevention program and a video entitled "Balance and Strength" by Jane Adams.

September 23 OLLI Forum, see page 1.

September 30 UD music program.

October 7 "Medicare Decisions" Joe Cisco

October 14 Ray Callahan TBA

October 21 "Media & Public Opinion in the 2022 Elections" Ralph Begleiter

October 28 TBA

November 4 "Civil Discourse at the Biden School" Timothy Schaffer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Chair of Civil Discourse in the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School at UD.

November 11 UD music group TBA

November 18 "Is there life after the midterms? The path forward for Biden, Democrats and the GOP." Jill Lawrence, Columnist, *USA Today*

Feel free to invite your friends and family.

**Presentations begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and end at 1:45 p.m.**

**OLLI Monthly News in Wilmington**  
<http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>  
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**Next submittal deadline:** Friday, October 21

**Issue date:** Friday, November 4

Submit articles to [rehlich@udel.edu](mailto:rehlich@udel.edu).

## Schedule

### Fall 2022

**October 10** ..... 1st 5-week classes end  
**October 18** ..... Second 5-week classes start  
**November 8**..... Election Day  
no classes, offices closed  
**November 22**..... 11 week session ends  
2nd 5-week classes end  
**November 23-25**..... Thanksgiving  
no classes, offices closed  
**December 9** ..... End of fall semester