

FEBRUARY 2024

Restaurant Veteran Joe Van Horn Brings Chelsea Tavern to OLLI

Pam George, freelance writer at The Write Way, and Marty Cohen

Life Lessons

When it comes to Delaware’s restaurant’s scene, Joe Van Horn has seen it all. He began washing dishes to pay for tuition at St. James Catholic High School for Boys in Chester. He continued juggling full-time restaurant jobs while attending West Chester University.

His on-the-job lessons came with some hard knocks. At one venue, Van Horn wheeled the wedding cake onto the dance floor to an explosion of guest applause. When Van Horn pulled up short, the cake kept going. The sweet splatter on the dance floor — and Van Horn — made it into the wedding album.



Joe Van Horn with partner Elvis Rosales in front of Chelsea Tavern. Photo by Joe del Tufo.

Joe and Columbus Inn’s chef, David Peterson, worked with restaurateur David Dietz to make a move on a property in the Galleria on Main Street in Newark. The three men became partners, and Van Horn and Peterson gutted the Newark restaurant by day and worked at the Columbus Inn at night. They opened Shaggy’s on Main in Newark in 2005 and it closed in 2007.

Van Horn’s next stop was general manager at Conley Ward’s, an ambitious steak house on the still-developing Wilmington Riverfront. This operation was later rebranded C.W. Harborside Restaurant Bar & Patio which, through no fault of Joe’s, unfortunately closed in 2010. In

Joe’s father helped him get a job at a nearby restaurant: the Columbus Inn. Van Horn waited tables in the iconic Wilmington restaurant, as well as overseeing the second-floor private rooms.

recent years, Docklands Riverfront has operated a separate hospitality business in the space.

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Taking a Chance Downtown

Meanwhile, the Buccini/Pollin Group (BPG) was consuming Wilmington real estate, and new residents needed activities. The developer contacted Scott Morrison, a well-known Main Line restaurateur, who met chef Sean McNeice, who in turn introduced Scott to Joe with whom Sean had worked at the Columbus Inn.

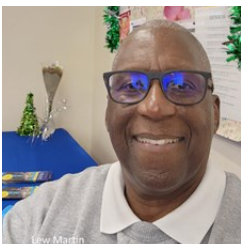
The three partners signed a lease for 821 Market Street in December 2009. Van Horn and McNeice cleaned the space and met with vendors. The trio turned it into Chelsea Tavern in six weeks. They opened in March 2010.

Chelsea Tavern, a craft beer destination, was primarily the vision of McNeice, who used beer as an ingredient in many of the his dishes. In fall 2011, McNeice left and Morrison turned his attention elsewhere. Van Horn eventually took on a new partner, Elvis Rosales and business flourished.

When the pandemic hit, the staff dwindled to Van Horn, Rosales and the chef, who worked open to close, seven days a week, filling takeout orders. When restaurants could open, Chelsea Tavern went back to its regular hours, including Saturday and Sunday brunch.

Chelsea Tavern was one of 10 restaurants OLLI’s task force vetted to take over the lunch service at Arsht Hall. The task force consisted of Glenn Rill, Sheila Weinberg, Eric Beyeler, Donna Adams, Robert Ehrlich was a special advisor and the group was led by Martin Cohen. Joe’s entrepreneurial spirit and his chef’s excellent cooking won over the minds and stomachs of the OLLI group making the final decision.

Now, Joe Van Horn and his Executive Chef, Lee Wroten Jr., will bring their talents to OLLI. Starting in the Spring 2024 semester, they will be serving hot and cold lunch selections, Monday through Friday, at Arsht Hall. As Joe said, “it’s great to go back to school again.”



Lew Martin, Jr.

OLLI Members Serve the Community

Lew Martin, Jr.

On December 20, OLLI members, Lew Martin, Jr. and Jerry Lucas, participated as part of a Wilmington Peacekeepers event in serving meals to residents of Luther Towers I and II. The effort involved the Zagat Foundation, the residence council for Luther Towers, the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, and the city of Wilmington.

They served about 130 people at tables at the two locations and provided take-away meals where needed, serving over 200 people.



Jerry Lucas





Volunteer Spotlight

Jean Youkers



Carolyn Stankiewicz

A passion for astronomy led Carolyn Stankiewicz to embark on her dynamic teaching career at OLLI-W, which has continued for more than a decade. She found OLLI-W to be “a good outreach to share knowledge with others.” From astronomy classes, Carolyn went on to develop courses that involved research on numerous topics. She incorporates TED Talks and keeps things lively with her trivia quizzes. She teaches during spring and fall semesters, plus summer school and January Explorations.



A Philadelphia native, Carolyn earned her B.S. at Neumann University and M.A. at the University of Delaware. She was employed by the federal government, and after retirement, began volunteer work at Nemours Hospital for Children as well as OLLI-W. Other interests include swimming, travel, and foreign films. She enjoys cruises, and says Bermuda is like a second home.

Carolyn serves on Curriculum Committee as area coordinator for U.S. History, Physical Sciences, and Math and co-chairs summer school. She completed two terms on OLLI-W Council.

You may see Carolyn anywhere around Arsht Hall because she jumps in to help “wherever needed,” at Open House or organizing OLLI-W’s first Happy Hour. Volunteering at OLLI-W is rewarding to Carolyn, “because it’s an opportunity to grow within yourself.” She would advise others to participate. “You don’t know how you’ll expand your horizons until you try it. There’s no failure here.” She also values meeting new people, with many becoming close personal friends.

Carolyn’s academic curiosity and creativity combine to make her a popular instructor and volunteer. Her enthusiasm and commitment contribute greatly to the program.

Steve Dombchik



Steve Dombchik is among the most longstanding volunteers at OLLI-W. His introduction to the program was unique — prior to retiring, he got out of work early one day and had extra time, so he stopped at Arsht Hall. When he read the catalog offerings, he was ready to join!

Twenty-five years later, he still appreciates the variety of classes and registered for 17 this semester.

Steve was born in Erie, Pa., earned a B.S. at the University of Rochester, and M.S. and Ph.D at the University of Illinois. He was employed at DuPont for 30 years. He and his late wife, Rhoda, raised three sons and have two grandchildren. Steve participates in several nonprofit organizations, being past president of four.

With his lifelong interest in history and current events, Steve first enrolled in “Great Decisions.” He soon became co-instructor and continues in that role. He taught “Travel Talks” and subbed in many classes. Steve resumed drumming, which he enjoyed decades earlier, by joining OLLI-W bands and orchestra. He teaches percussion sections in Intermediate Band.

A member of the Finance and Fundraising Committees, Steve previously served on Nominating, Strategic Planning, and Curriculum Committees, and the successful “Renewing the Dream” campaign. He was Financial Officer on Council and Chair (2007-2008). Steve and Rhoda were founding members of OLLI’s Legacy Society and major contributors to OLLI’s endowment.

The most rewarding aspects of OLLI-W are “the person-to-person interactions,” Steve says. “They add so much to my life.”

His generous contribution of time and expertise makes Steve an outstanding volunteer, whose approach is easy to follow: “Find something you like to do and do it!”

A Lovely Duet: OLLI and the UD Master Players Concert Series

As he has done in the past, Master Players Concert Series founder and director Xiang Gao has once again extended a generous invitation to OLLI members. In the past, he has provided tickets to the Shanghai Sonatas performance, a full-scale Broadway style musical he composed about Jewish musicians who found refuge in China during and after World War II.

This spring, he is once again offering OLLI members a special invitation, a backstage pass, to the reception following two performances this spring in the Master Players concert series in February and March. The first, on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 3 p.m., features baritone Justin Austin and pianist Howard Watkins.

Justin Austin is a multifaceted musician whose repertoire spans jazz, R&B, musical theatre, opera, and oratorio. He has collaborated with renowned artists such as Aretha Franklin and Elton John and strongly believes in using his artistry to benefit communities worldwide, working with worthwhile organizations like MEND and QSAC to perform benefit concerts for those in need.

Howard Watkins is celebrated as a frequent collaborator with the world's leading musicians and an assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. He has performed in iconic venues around the globe and has served on the faculties of institutions

showcasing a diverse repertoire from classical to contemporary compositions. Recognized as the first piano duo to receive the Avery Fisher Career Grant, their career soared with debut recitals at the Kennedy Center and orchestral performances with

prestigious ensembles. Passionate about American 20th-century music, they have premiered works by renowned composers and curated projects dedicated to this theme. Witness the extraordinary synergy and brilliance of these exceptional pianists as they perform the first piano four hands concert in Master Players history.

After both of these performances, Xiang Gao has invited OLLI members to attend the backstage pass reception. You can meet the performers, chat with fellow OLLI members, and enjoy conversations with other music lovers. For tickets, click on the following link: <https://www.masterplayers.udel.edu/tickets/buy-single-tickets>

If you have already purchased tickets, perhaps for the entire season, contact Rebecca Worley (rworley@udel.edu). As an OLLI member, you are invited backstage. Come enjoy!



such as Tanglewood Music Center and Aspen Music Festival.

In honor of Black History Month, this vocal-piano power duo will perform a diverse program that centers on pieces by composers of color.

Then, on Sunday, March 17, at 3 p.m., the Master Players Concert Series features the piano duo of Christina and Michelle Naughton, acclaimed by the *Washington Post* as “on a level with some of the greatest piano duos of our time.” With seamless communication and captivating performances, they have enraptured audiences worldwide,

January Explorations 2024 Surpasses All Expectations

By Tom Powderly, Chair, January Explorations 2024

The recently completed January Explorations 2024 program was a great success. As many members know, January Explorations, originally known as January Enrichment, was created in late 2020 by a group of OLLI volunteers as a response to the Covid crisis. In person classes had been suspended since March, and January Explorations was a vehicle for staying connected with our members as OLLI moved into its first full year of totally online learning in 2021. The January Enrichment classes would be free, open to all, and an opportunity for members to become comfortable with the online Zoom technology.

OLLI's "new normal" is a combination of in-person, online, and hybrid classes. January Explorations has remained a member favorite, a sample platter of varied OLLI classes enjoyed from the comfort of home in chilly January. While the original need for January Explorations is behind us, our new Director, Karen Asenavage Loptes, could see the value of the program supporting new goals. What better marketing tool to attract new members than the opportunity to sample our product for free. By requiring registration for the program, we now have a mailing list of potential new OLLI members.

Following an internal and external marketing campaign, participation far surpassed our expectations. January Explorations registration was closed after we passed the 1,200 mark. In all there were 3,193 participants in the 33 different courses offering over 60 hours of programming.



January Explorations 2024



While January Explorations 2024 continued to offer popular and entertaining topics ranging from James Bond to the Old West to Broadway, we also included practical topics like understanding your iPhone and Cooking for One. January Explorations also supported the environment with programs like OLLI Gathers Plastics and The Sierra Club Presents. Courses like How the Brain Ages and The Science of Weight Gain helped support a healthy lifestyle among our members.

A new course this year even contributed to OLLI's own future. Curriculum Committee Co-Chair Rose Greer developed and presented a new course "Taking the First Step to Becoming an OLLI Instructor," which will hopefully bring us some new and interesting classes via talented new teachers.

Many instructors reported receiving excellent feedback via online CHAT and follow up emails from participants. It's safe to say that January Explorations 2024 achieved all its goals, and we look forward to next year's edition.

OLLI National Research Council Visits OLLI Delaware

Robert Ehrlich

On Dec. 18 and 19, OLLI welcomed Steve Thaxton of the OLLI National Research Council. After speaking with University Graduate College officials, a Development and Alumni Relations representative and OLLI staff, he visited the OLLI Wilmington and OLLI Kent and Sussex Councils. After introductions, Steve gave a presentation on the National Research Council (NRC) and an overview of OLLIs with references to OLLI Delaware.

The NRC, located at Northwestern University, is perpetually endowed to be of service to OLLIs, and its mission is very simple: To help OLLIs thrive. Soon it will take all the stewardship duties from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which is scheduled to sunset and devolve all its components.

There are 125 OLLIs in the 50 states and D.C. and “to know one OLLI is to know one OLLI,” Thaxton said, “because every OLLI presents in a different and unique way to its community, to its university, to its members.”

Our curriculum is on the academic side, a legacy of the steering committee who along with a UD administrator explored existing centers for lifelong learning before establishing our program in 1980. They took as a model the quite academic program of the Insti-



Steve Thaxton

tute for Retired Professionals at New School in New York.

Among the statistics compiled about Osher members, the NRC looked at popularity of classes in different subject areas for members of different age groups. History is the most popular choice overall. Younger members have greater interest in health and wellness, travel, crafts, hobbies, and gaming.

While one finds considerable variation among Osher Institutes, funded programs share a general set of standards (<https://www.osherfoundation.org/olli.html>):

- A diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating, non-credit courses and educational activities, specifically designed for people who are 50 years of age or older;
- Participants are offered membership and significant opportunities for volunteer engagement and leadership;

- Strong support from the host institution (including a commitment to provide space or cause space to be provided for program operations);
- Established mechanisms for evaluating member satisfaction with offerings;
- A sound and stable organizational structure.

Steve reported that, on average, OLLIs report that about 16% of their membership contribute to annual giving. He said we are amazing. Thanks in good part to I Heart UD Day, 66% of our members contributed in 2022. “Kudos to OLLI Delaware as this is the highest percentage of members who contribute of all the Osher Institutes.”

Every 18 months, NRC has nationwide conferences and invites one staff member and one volunteer. These include training for new directors. Connie Benko’s report on the 2023 national conference is in the Winter 2023 issue of the OLLI Kent/Sussex newsletter *The Tides* (<https://files.constantcontact.com/72269f93701/4fa608eb-8f40-4784-a0e7- ea99ed1f2133.pdf>).

Learn more about the National Research Council: Subscribe to the NRC monthly e-newsletter: <https://sps.northwestern.edu/oshernrc/e-newsletter.php>.

How OLLI Can Contribute to UD

Robert Ehrlich

In November, Mark Clodfelter, Director of the School of Music at UD, was appointed Associate Dean for Professional and Continuing Studies, to begin Jan. 16. In his town hall talk, given as part of the hiring process, he indicated OLLI both as a recipient of UD achievement and as a contributor to the overall mission of service to the non-full time, first-time student population. The University can contribute to make sure that their lives are meaningfully touched by advancing educational technology and they're kept up to date and included.



Mark Clodfelter

There is need to enable UD students to obtain the ability to address real world problems. This could be enhanced by guest lectures from industry leaders and OLLI faculty as well. These folks have a unique point of view. The first group "is at the forefront. They're at the cutting edge of what's going on in real-world applications." OLLI members "have been a part of the real-world applications that have helped us arrive at where we are."

The University also needs to be involved in the community. The community benefits from the solutions by

students of real-world problems. Mark suggests creating a podcast.

"I think that if we enlist our OLLI participants, alumni, and our industrial leaders, that we not only provide a low-cost, high-return-on-investment vehicle for people possessing every kind of interest," Mark said. "... I mean 15- to 20-minute episodes, and we get this out there. This is an onramp. It could be the end in itself. This could be the only touch point. But it could lead to a much deeper relationship for folks to join us because it doesn't require them to do

anything except tune in."

OLLI's outreach into area libraries might be considered both a marketing tool and a vehicle for community involvement. Mark also points out that this involvement of alumni and OLLI underlines the UD committed relationship with alumni and OLLI.

See the January 9 UDaily interview by Nora Zelluk on our director Karen Asenavage Loptes' ideas on collaboration between OLLI and UD.

OLLI Delaware Instructors Share Their Experience

Robert Ehrlich

Some OLLI Delaware instructors have taken their teaching experience on the road and have taught classes or given presentations at other OLLIs.

On Jan. 26, 2023, Bruce Crawford spoke on "Selecting Defense Stocks Using the Govini National Security Scorecard: Critical Technologies Edition" as part of Investing Potpourri

for OLLI at George Mason University. This semester, Bruce continues to co-lead the OLLI Investment Study Group at OLLI Delaware.

On March 17, 2023, Ralph Begleiter gave a lecture, "Adventures of a Global Journalist" at OLLI at American University. Ralph gave a five-week class in Delaware on the subject in spring 2022. You can access

the recording of the American University presentation at https://www.ollidc.org/lecture_recordings.

Sue Linderman is teaching "Racism in America – The History We Didn't Learn in School" during the winter 2024 session of OLLI at the University of Michigan. She most recently taught this course at OLLI Delaware in fall 2023.

How UD supports OLLI

Rebecca Worley, Karen Asenavage, with Brian Medina

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, Steve Thaxton, Executive Director of the Osher National Resource Center at Northwestern University, spoke with OLLI members from all Delaware locations in Arsh Hall. He presented a number of interesting statistics, including facts on the average age, education level, and favorite courses of all Osher members and positioned Delaware within that context, statistics that positioned us as one of Osher's "benchmark" programs. Although all 125 Osher programs are affiliated with colleges and universities, he also noted that many are not as vigorously supported as we are by the University of Delaware. Some members have asked for specifics on that point. Just exactly how does UD support its various OLLI campuses and members?

To begin with, OLLI members are eligible for a University of Delaware ID card and email account. Please contact Brian Medina (bmedina@udel.edu) if you have not as yet secured these credentials or if you have a problem with them. This ID makes OLLI members part of the UD community with access to many of the programs and facilities offered to students, staff, and faculty. That includes the Zoom Pro account we use for online courses. Fortunately, before the pandemic struck, UD purchased a broadly inclusive license to this software program that allowed everyone with a UD affiliation to

download and install the program, without cost (a \$149 yearly value). Because Zoom was so readily available, we were up and online within a couple of weeks. Osher programs without that access took much longer to get their online programs running.

Additionally, the UD Zoom Pro account gives us longer meeting times, larger meeting capacities, and the ability to record and save meetings to the UD cloud. With this ability, we recorded and packaged several courses for on-demand selection, such as the popular "New York: 10 Unique Views." At some universities, the affiliated OLLI must pay for Zoom accounts, a cost included in membership fees.

This UD ID also means that members have access to UD library resources, both in person with the ID card and online with a UD email account, including books, e-books, video and audio recordings, as well as magazines and newspapers. Some member favorites include the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Ancestry.com*, and *ValueLine.com* investment research. In fact, the UD library created a research guide specifically for OLLI members, available at <https://guides.lib.udel.edu/olli>. Additionally, the library provides members with a wide variety of free workshops on topics such as technology, history, research, data usage, and scholarly writing, just to name a few.

With a UD email account, we can also get internet access through Eduroam, the wifi network available anywhere on campus. But Eduroam is also an international wifi access service available to all higher education institutions across the world on any participating campus. Using Eduroam, you may be able to access the internet when you travel, depending on location.

Using this UD ID card, members can also obtain membership to the Carpenter Sports Center facilities, specifically the "Lil Bob" student fitness center. Their facilities include an indoor swimming pool, two multi-purpose gymnasiums, four activity rooms, climbing wall, four racquetball courts, one squash court, locker rooms with showers, and more. Group fitness classes, personal training, UD CROSSFIT, and intramural sports are also available for an additional fee. OLLI members can join the "Lil Bob" for 6 months at \$50 or a full year at \$100.

OLLI members who would like to take a university course or pursue a degree program can do so with the assistance of the PCS ACCESS Center. Through them, you can register for one for-credit course per term as a listener/auditor, without credit or grade, and without paying tuition. To search for available courses, visit <https://udapps.nss.udel.edu/CoursesSearch/>. To obtain additional information and request

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UD Supports OLLI

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applicable forms, please call 302-573-4417.

But in addition to these tangible benefits, the University of Delaware also provides considerable support for OLLI "behind the scenes." As an institute within the UD Graduate College, specifically Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS), OLLI is supported by the leadership and active involvement of Dean Lou Rossi and Associate Dean Mark Clodfelter.

The Graduate College also supports OLLI from a number of other offices. The Graduate Financial Office, for example, assists us with all financial matters and collaborates with the Human Resources team to hire staff and provide human resources needs. The Graduate Communications team produces all of our statewide external publications, including the catalog, and most recently brought WABC to the Open House.

Other UD departments provide significant benefits to OLLI Wilmington by maintaining Arsht Hall and its grounds, assuring that grass is mowed, debris removed, and most recently snow plowed. The UD Safety Team and the UD Police Department meet with OLLI staff quarterly and provide expertise, guidance, and training to keep OLLI safe, including our own safety officer.

OLLI also partners with the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DAR) that actively supports the OLLI Wilmington Fund Raising Committee, the Legacy Society, and shepherds endowments. In particular, they play a key role in fund-raising efforts such as the I Heart UD campaign that keeps member fees reasonable and has provided building and technology updates over the years, including media screens in the lobby and AV equipment in classrooms. Again, other Osher programs must handle their own financial administration, at additional cost. For 2024, the Alumni Association has also invited OLLI

members to join their travel trips planned for Spain and Greece.

We have also lately partnered with the Music School, specifically Xiang (Sean) Gao and the Master Players Concert series. (See the article "A Lovely Duet"). Various OLLI music groups have also begun to work with their counterparts, students and faculty, in the UD music program.

Other partnerships are being forged through OLLI staff and the UD Collaboration Committee to bring institutes, labs, faculty, staff, and students to present in OLLI classes, conduct research, and collaborate to enrich the lives of OLLI members.

So, as Steve Thaxton said, we are quite fortunate that we are affiliated with a university that recognizes our value and supports our programs, in obvious ways, and substantially "behind the scenes." Again, if you need assistance getting a UD ID card and email account, please contact Brian Medina at bmedina@udel.edu.

OLLI Monthly News in Wilmington

<http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>

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Submit articles to rehlich@udel.edu.

Spring 2024 Schedules

OLLI Kent/Sussex in person and OLLI Online

Feb. 5 – April 26, 11-week session

Feb. 5 – March 8, 1st 5-week session

April 1 – May 3, 2nd 5-week session

OLLI Wilmington in person

Feb. 5 – May 10, 13-week session

Spring Break March 25 — March 29, no classes UD by the Sea (Rehoboth Beach)

May 21 – May 24