



The Tides...

Breaking News from

Lifelong Learning



Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Kent/Sussex County

Members Gather to Express Their Appreciation

On November 21 100 OLLI K/S members and guests gathered for a pot-luck luncheon in the Trinity Parish Hall in Lewes to celebrate the end of the fall semester and express their appreciation to Emily Mathews, our Program Coordinator, and Sally Cole, our Program Manager. Members perused the display of paintings and baskets produced by members, enjoyed the pulled pork, barbequed chicken and a large selection of side dishes and desserts provided by the members and viewed a comic video newscast produced in one of our most popular classes.

Connie Benko, Council Chair presented Emily and Sally with gift cards and floral arrangements. The event concluded with five carefully chosen selections sung by the Elder Moments.



Photos by Lynn Kroesen,
Jay Wheeler & Paul Smith

See more photos page 7



From the Chair



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May you have a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

As always, we have had a successful and memorable fall semester at OLLI. Our instructors have excited us about learning by introducing us to new ideas and information. We have become more creative in the arts and music. We have become more appreciative of the world around us. We have made new friends. Lifelong learning truly enhances the quality of our lives. Thank you for being a part of it!

This semester has seen a wonderful return to the End of Semester social event for the first time since 2019. It was a great success with over 100 members and guests in attendance at Trinity on Nov. 21. We enjoyed the display of the works of our talented artists and craftsmen, the OLLI K/S video, and the music of the Elder Moments. Mostly we enjoyed having an opportunity to enjoy the taste treats all of the dishes you prepared and brought for us to share. Maybe we should collect recipes and produce an OLLI Cookbook!

The Statewide Strategic Planning Committee has taken a three-month hiatus. They will be ready to work with their counterparts from Wilmington to prepare the Statewide Strategic Plan for presentation by summer.

January Explorations is just around the corner. The schedule for one and two session classes is out, and registration is open. The classes are all online on Tuesday through Friday during the second and third weeks of January, and they are FREE! Register now and tell your friends, neighbors, and family to check us out and give OLLI a try. Once they get a taste of what we are all about, they may want to join us for the spring semester.

As you are aware there have been some major changes at OLLI K/S. Sally Cole, our Program Manager, and Emily Mathews, our Program Co-Ordinator, are leaving our program. They will both be greatly missed. The remaining staff; Karen Asenavage, our State Director; the Council; instructors; and you, our amazing members, will be stepping up to keep our program moving forward until new Program Manager and Coordinator are hired and begin their work. Please consider helping in any way that you can during the next few months to keep our program advancing.

Because of these changes the decision has been made to delay the grand 50th Anniversary Celebration – “Together We’re Golden” until the end of the fall semester 2025. We will be having Happy Hours in Lewes and Dover each month and Spring Semester culmination event in Lewes. Please join your friends at these events. More information is in the weekly updates arriving on Monday mornings in your computer inbox

Have a blessed holiday season. See you at the Open Houses in Lewes – January 6, Ocean View – January 8, and Dover – January 9.

Connie Benko, Council Chair OLLI K/S

Message from Sally



Dear OLLI Kent/Sussex Community,

As I reflect on the past five years, my heart is full of gratitude, pride, and deep affection for this extraordinary community. It has been an incredible journey—one marked by challenges, triumphs, and the unbreakable spirit that defines OLLI Kent/Sussex.

When the world shifted overnight in 2020, we adapted together with courage and resilience. Whether through our infamous virtual Happy Hours, the seamless transition to online learning, or reopening our doors at the beautiful Trinity Faith campus, we proved that nothing could stand in the way of OLLI's mission. Embracing hybrid programming further strengthened our ability to connect and grow, ensuring our community remained vibrant and engaged.

We've weathered difficult times together, from navigating a global pandemic to saying goodbye to cherished instructors, members, and colleagues. Yet, we've also celebrated incredible milestones—our growing membership, the success of fundraising through the I Heart UD Day campaigns, and the joyful return of in-person camaraderie. On a personal level, I will forever hold close the kindness and support you've shown my family during my husband's cancer diagnosis and my recovery from ocular shingles.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my departure from this role. I never imagined this day would come, and I am truly, terribly sad to leave. OLLI has been more than a job—it has been a privilege and a joy to work alongside you, to learn with and from you, and to witness the magic of this community in action.

But OLLI is not about one person. It is not about me, Emily, Ralph Begleiter, or even Connie Benko. OLLI's magic lies in its collaborative spirit—the members, instructors, volunteers, and our incredible Kent/Sussex team. This spirit is the heart of OLLI, and I know it will continue to thrive, grow, and inspire for years to come.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of leading this remarkable program. OLLI Kent/Sussex will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I look forward to watching it flourish in the years ahead.

Wishing you continued joy and enrichment in the fellowship and learning that make OLLI so unique.

Thank you for everything—you have truly made these past five years unforgettable.

With deepest gratitude and love,
Sally

Calendar of Events 2025

- Jan 6 -- Open House, Lewes, 10 a.m.-noon
- Jan 8 -- Open House, Ocean View, 10 a.m.-noon
- Jan 9 -- Open House, Dover, 10 a.m.-noon
- Jan 14-24 -- January Explorations
- Jan 19 -- Happy Hour, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Green Turtle, Dover
- Jan 20 -- MLK Day
- Jan 21 -- Happy Hour, 4-6 p.m., Bethany Blues, Lewes
- Feb 3 -- Spring Semester Classes begin
- March 24-28 -- Spring break, No classes

Thank You to Our Instructors & All Our Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers, for your amazing generosity. All our volunteers are special. To our Instructors, we appreciate your on going resiliency, flexibility and dedication to sharing your knowledge, experiences and expertise with fellow lifelong learners.

Kent/Sussex Instructors for Fall 2024

Cezarina Cornejo Alzona
 Jack Bartley
 Jerome Bayer
 Diana Beebe
 Ralph Begleiter
 Patty Bennett
 Dan Bilharz
 Claire Brown
 Roo Brown
 Brendan Buschi
 Ben Calamia
 Alice Cataldi
 Joe Chaikel
 George Christensen
 Joseph Cisco
 Randi Cohen
 Dorian De Maio
 Joe DeFeo
 James DeMartino
 Carol DiSabatino
 Susan Donahue
 Russell Endo
 Janet Enslen
 Marlene Evans
 Sheila Exum
 Peter Feeney
 F. Gregory Gause
 Ray Glick
 Norm Golden
 Veronica Grady
 Dorothy Greet
 Oliver Hansen
 Robert Heifetz
 Katherine Henn
 Erica Holmes
 Nancy Horan
 Charlene Jehle
 Elizabeth Jelich
 Robert Jeter
 Denise Kaercher
 Bette Kaupa
 Thomas Kelly
 Catherine Kennedy
 Rodney Lau
 Tracey Marino
 Christopher Mark

Steuart Martens
 Nancy Martin
 George Massey
 Susan McFarlane
 Maurice McGrath
 Laura McGrew
 Mary Kate McKinley
 Karen McKinnon
 Pam McMillan
 Linda McSweeney
 Barry Moshinski
 Rita Myers
 Bobbi Neaton
 Carol Neild
 Jim O'Leary
 James Patterson
 Carol Pollio
 Frank Powers
 Paul Puch
 Glenn Rill
 Nikki Roberson
 Deb Roberts
 Marty Rosensweig
 Robin Roth
 Joy Russo
 Susan Salkin
 Karen Schaub
 Maureen Sherlock
 Harriett Smith
 Tamara Steele
 Patricia Thompson
 Trudie Thompson
 Liisa Trala
 Jo-Ann Vega
 Joseph Vescio
 Larry Watkins
 Susan Watkins
 Patrick Weaver
 Carol West
 Patricia White
 April Wiaczek
 Stephanie Williams
 William Zak
 Mike Zito

K/S Online Instructors Fall 2024

Joseph Anastasio
 Nancy Archey
 Deborah Brown
 Laura Fravel
 Rick Grier-Reynolds
 Peter Harrigan
 Leonard Hayduchok
 Michele Procino-Wells
 John Roberts
 Susan Salkin
 Michael Salvatore
 Nicholas Simmonds
 Rae Tyson
 Larry Watkins
 Amber Woodland

K/S Hybrid Operators Fall 2024

Brendan Buschi
 Bruce Crawford
 John Roberts
 Joshua Strassle
 Tom Kelly
 Lynn Kroesen
 Tracey Marino
 Pat Newcomb
 Madeleine Nichols
 Marty Rosensweig
 Karen Schaub
 Larry Watkins
 Susan Watkins
 Trudie Thomspon

Thank You Volunteers

Notes of Appreciation For Sally and Emily

Sally has exemplified the Osher Foundation's vision by encouraging excellence and promoting long-term sustainability and success of UD's OLLI program, and particularly OLLI Kent/Sussex.

Sally fostered an exceptionally strong sense of community among the members, volunteers, and staff of a program one-fifth the size of its sibling to the north. Like *The Little Engine That Could*, Sally approached every project, task, and challenge with a positive, can-do spirit – and delivered remarkable results.

Those fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with Sally discovered firsthand how regularly she went beyond what was expected to deliver superior outcomes. Because words such as “impossible” and “can’t” are not in Sally’s vocabulary, she inspired many to achieve more than we thought we could. Although someone eventually will succeed Sally, no one will ever replace her.

During the 2023 I Heart UD Day campaign we invited members to create “OLLImericks”. I can’t let Sally leave without one final ditty:

*There once was a gal named Sally
Around whom OLLI folks did rally.
She always gave both heart and soul.
So we're awfully sad she's taking a stroll.
But we've many fond memories to tally.*

Thanks for your dedicated service, Sally, and especially for your kindness, patience, and friendship. All the best to you in your future endeavors. I hope our paths intersect yet again!

Pete Harrigan

Thank you, Sally! Thank you, Emily! Your support has always been unwavering. Your warmth and good humor and competence made all the difference to me. I don't know what else to say. This is one of those times when words seem inadequate. I will miss you both. I will miss your kindness. I hope you both find fulfillment in your future endeavors.

Brendan Buschi

Sally is really a wonderful person as well as a terrific professional. When I had health problems and had to cancel my class last spring, she immediately let me know that my health was much more important than any inconvenience or problem for her. She was, throughout, completely supportive and understanding. I'm going to miss her a lot!

Dan Pritchett

Dear Sally, The entire staff and student community will feel the loss as you move on to your next adventure. Your expertise, dedication, and kindness will be missed by all.. Best wishes for your next chapter.

Charlene Jehle

Sally has put up with me for five years! I will miss her so much. She's irreplaceable.

Roo Brown

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the hard work and dedication you bring to OLLI every day. Your professionalism, positive attitude, and unwavering commitment have made OLLI the success we have today. I appreciate the support you have given me as the newsletter editor as I try to promote all the many opportunities that OLLI membership has to offer.

Lynn Kroesen

Notes of Appreciation For Sally and Emily

Oh my, you two will be sorely missed! It is so much a part of the joy of belonging to Osher and coming to classes to be greeted by both of you. And when time allowed us to actually chat a little and enjoy some camaraderie, our day was complete. We were truly blessed, and we knew it, to have you as our leaders. Thank you, Sally and Emily, for your extremely capable leadership and for everything else you gave us especially yourselves.

Lee Mussoff and Bill Sharkey

It's hard for me to express how devastated I am by the departure of Sally Cole and Emily Mathews from our OLLI Kent/Sussex program. Sally and I have become very good friends, and Emily and I were on the same path – she fit PERFECTLY into our outstanding staff! Sally started shortly before the COVID-19 Pandemic and was instrumental in holding our “downstate” OLLI program together through thick and thin, on Zoom and otherwise, particularly with personnel shortages brought about by the pandemic and other factors.

I understand completely why Sally and Emily departed, but I don't understand why the OLLI program at UD apparently did not see this coming. Sally and Emily, please know that we love and respect you, and we all hope that your lives going forward will be for you absolutely “the best of all possible worlds!”

Trudie Thompson

To Sally: Thank you for being you, Sally Cole. We've watched your resilience and elegance with appreciation. You have been our undaunted problem solver, polite, cheerful, loving and always looking ahead to the future. We recognized you as a force of light and we are immensely grateful for your work on our behalf. Thank you!

Madeleine Nichols

Dear Sally,

I'll miss you Sally. Beyond “job” skills, you were someone who listened, really listened. Calm, always focused, you consistently followed through on the big and small things. May peace, happiness and great adventures be yours in the years ahead.

Wendy Leicht

Tribute to Sally,

I first met you when you began working in the Thomas building -- that was the beginning of an amazing “Flight” for OLLI K/S. You have successfully guided us through challenges, such as going online following Covid when everything shut-down and you got us online and continued to have Friday Happy Hours – all with No Staff. You oversaw our move from the Thomas Building with all our “stuff” to Trinity where it stayed in boxes until we were able “move in” and set up the offices, library, and classrooms. Little by little we began in-person class and discovered “Hybrid” that you, Derek, Paul, Ralph, and so many others spearheaded as a pilot for OLLI K/S. You guided us through the merger of Kent and Sussex county OLLIs to become a stronger OLLI. Your defense and promotion of OLLI in our communities and statewide has been the key to our continued growth. You are a friend whom I will continue to value and to stay in touch with for many years.

Connie Benko



Notes of Appreciation For Emily

Dear Emily,

I hope you know how appreciative we all are for your long hours, dedication, and support of the Osher community. You will be sorely missed. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. So sorry to see you leave.

Charlene Jehle

Emily helped me with several computer technical issues related to online zoom courses. She was knowledgeable, responsive and patient. While checking in OLLI movie attendees at the Cinema Art Theatre, Emily surprised me when she knew my name without me telling her. Emily recognized everyone and made them feel special. I shall miss her smile and expertise.

Dolores Fiegel

To Emily: Thank you for your smile and understanding, always. You did superior work for all of us at OLLI. and you made it appear easy. You raised the spirit of every person you encountered. This is your superpower. We are grateful for it!

Madeleine Nichols

It is hard to know where to start to say "thank you" for all that you have done for OLLI K/S in less than a year. We were able to take advantage of your organizational skills, enthusiasm, and welcoming nature to become a better OLLI. You were my most valuable right hand for UD by the Sea last year. I value you and hope to be able to continue our friendship. Best wishes for success as you pursue new avenues. Someone will be so lucky to have you!

Love, Connie

Members Express Appreciation at Pot-Luck Luncheon



Continued from page 1

Top L-R: Connie presents a floral arrangement to Sally
Maurice McGrath explains

making baskets to Ann Darling

Bottom left: Sally with Susan Watkins and Joe Deems

Right: Resourceful Josh holds a mic to the speaker for the video presentation



Photos by Sally Cole, Lynn Kroesen & Jay Wheeler

OLLI INSTRUCTOR PROFILE -- PAT WEAVER

by Wendy Leicht



Kent County OLLI Instructor Pat Weaver has been a member of OLLI Dover ever since it began at the Modern Maturity Center, nearly 15 years ago. As a new member, he devoured courses, taking many of past instructor Art McLaughlin's art, pharmacology and music courses. Despite teaching many OLLI courses, Art admitted he wasn't a confident public speaker, and often credited Pat for "keeping him motivated".

Pat kids that he was "lured" into teaching. In truth, his communication skills, depth of knowledge in several areas, and great sense of humor, made him an obvious choice to become an OLLI instructor, a job he has embraced, much to the delight of his many students.

Pat, whose friends affectionately label him a "history nut", is a passionate student of history. You'll often find him exchanging books or immersed in lively conversations with fellow history buffs. His ancestry research even revealed connections with Kent/Sussex Program Manager Sally Cole. He has taught THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM and GREAT FILMS ABOUT WAR, and strongly believes in going beyond pure data. He feels "Most people know the facts, I want them to understand the particular impact on civilians". He says his personal background, such as family relations involved in the Nuremberg trials, his father's experiences, being born but not raised Jewish, and as a draftee in World War II, and his wife's ancestor, whose farm was destroyed in the Civil War, has added fresh insights to his rigorous research on these conflicts.

Pat adds to his history offerings with a mix of courses ranging from MEL BROOKS FILMS, to SONG OF THE SOUTH, DOCUMENTARIES ON WIDE RANGING SUBJECTS, THE FILMS OF TOM HANKS and ROBIN WILLIAMS. He says these courses are "mostly entertainment", but adds with a smile, "Kleenex is available for any movie tear jerkers". Brief class discussions shed light on the complexities of movie making, subject matters addressed, and the brilliant acting, writing and comedic skills of the singularly talented individuals, whose works bring a deeper understanding of the tragic and comic manifestations of the human condition.

Pat has also recruited OLLI members to become instructors, like Denise Kaercher, who went on to lead or teach in CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEALTH AND GREAT WOMEN IN AMERICAN LIFE, and to serve on the Kent /Sussex OLLI Council.

Pat obtained BS and MS degrees in Economics, followed by a career as an Industrial Engineering Manager at Playtex. OLLI is a fortunate beneficiary of Pat's post retirement time, as he generously donates his many talents, knowledge and enthusiasm. both as a popular instructor and a true lifelong learner, who takes and contributes to numerous OLLI courses.

Seemingly never idle, Pat is also actively involved in the Lions Club, and the Del-Mar-Va Boy Scouts of America, where he has served as Chair of the Eagle Board of Review..

Next time you see Pat, ask what his next course will be. Whatever the topic, as his students will attest, you'll walk away knowing more about it, and enjoying every minute of the journey

www.OLLI.udel.edu/Kent-Sussex/

OLLI Director Meets With Kent County OLLI Members



42 Kent County OLLI members met with UD Statewide OLLI Director Karen Asenavage Loptes for a November 4th meeting at the Wyoming Church. Over lunch, they discussed present and future OLLI plans, after the departure of Sally Cole and Emily Mathews. Karen stayed well past the time allotted, encouraging questions and a free exchange of ideas and observations.



Submitted by Wendy Leicht

Similar meetings were held in Lewes on December 2nd and 3rd for Sussex County members. Karen announced that the hiring process is well under way and that the positions will be filled as soon as possible.

Delaware Theatre Co., Artistic Director and Actor Lead Theatre Appreciation Class

Delaware Theatre Company Executive Artistic Director Matt Silva and Charlie Delmarcelle, the actor/narrator in the Company's production of "**Every Brilliant thing**", a play about suicide the class is studying, led a spirited, insightful presentation at a Theatre Appreciation Class in Dover November 14th. Their observations led to a deeper understanding of the theatrical and acting techniques used to deal effectively with this emotionally charged complex topic.



Kent County OLLI Focus on Art and Artists



Susan Salkin(left,) leading class on ground breaking African American Artist Faith Ringgold in **Great Women in American Life**



Dover Instructor Sheila Exum stands by her artwork, exhibited in a **Pop Up Art Show** at UD in late October.



OLLI Partied Like It Was 1776



On Thursday, December 5 the Lewes Friends English Country Dancers presented "An 18th Century Dance Party and Open House" at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes. Dancers invited community guests from OLLI and The Overfalls Foundation to party and dance like it's 1776. Participants joined in, to dance 18th Century dances with Friends in 18th Century fancy attire.



Photos by Trish Dennison

UD by the Sea

Save the date! Start planning now!

May 20 - 23, 2025

Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center

Rehoboth, DE

Beginning with a welcoming reception on Tuesday, May 20 OLLI members and guests from the entire state of Delaware can experience Osher instructors and subject matter experts to learn about Delaware's seashore communities, their history and their contributions to the state's economy. Other tracks will focus on foreign affairs, gardening, healthy eating and crafts. Participants can choose from eight learning tracks. Tracks include two days of intensive learning and fun through presentations, field trips and demonstrations. Participants can also enjoy evening social events at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center.



Pictures from 2023

Celebrating “Super Hero” OLLI Instructors -- April 30, 2025

Mark Your Calendars



I Heart UD Giving Day in 2025 will celebrate those who make OLLI Kent/Sussex the extraordinary learning community that it is: our dedicated volunteer instructors.

“The League of Exceptional Instructors” campaign is intended to support those who create and deliver dozens of courses each semester for in-person classes in Lewes, Dover, and Ocean View, as well as hybrid and online-only learners statewide.

Donations to the Kent/Sussex Gift Fund on I Heart UD Giving Day – April 30, 2025 – will be used to recognize, reward, and recruit instructors so we are able to offer a curriculum that appeals to members of all ages. Funds also will be used to modernize classroom equipment, upgrade facilities, and make other improvements to propel membership growth.

Those who donate at least \$25 to the Gift Fund during “The League of Exceptional Instructors” campaign will be able to nominate a favorite instructor as a specific superhero of their choosing. Nominations will be shared with OLLI members during our I Heart UD Giving Day “Power Hour” and at the end-of-day social event.

In addition to the Gift Fund, I Heart UD Giving Day donors may contribute to the Kent/Sussex Expanding Horizons Campaign or the Kent/Sussex Scholarship Fund.

Watch your email and future editions of The TIDES for additional details about “The League of Exceptional Instructors” and the 2025 I Heart UD Giving Day campaign.

Submitted by Pete Harrigan, Committee Chair

Library NewsVolunteers Re-organize Collection of CD's

When OLLI members return for class in spring 2025, they may be surprised to find one visible change in their library in the OLLI education building on New Road in Lewes. The CDs have been moved to shelves nearest the hallway door, which gives a bit of shelf space among the books. What's happening behind the scenes is an item-by-item checklist. Thanks go to Laurie Nelson, Jean Pfluger, DeAnna Poling, Floyd Smith, and April Wiaczek. We all remain grateful to the OLLI Kent-Sussex members who donate books for the library collection and the fiction book cart in the lobby.

Special thanks to the Library Committee members and advisors: Bernard Gilmore, Lynn Kroesen, Linda Levin, Laurie Nelson, Cynthia Opderbeck, Jean Pfluger, DeAnna Poling, Nancy Sakaduski, Floyd Smith, and April Wiaczek.

Submitted by Madeleine Nichols, Library Committee Chair



Tell your friends about OLLI

Help us continue to grow and welcome new members

Members Actively Engage Mind and Body



Top L-R: Instructor Tom Kelly, **The Life and Times of LBJ**. Instructors Joe Vescio & Barry Moshinski (L-R) with **Beginner's Acrylic** students.

Middle: Instructor Janet Enslen. **Autum Walk. Tai Chi Basics**, led by Bette Kaupa & Marlene Evans.

Bottom: **International Folk Dance**, Tamara Steele, instructor, Instructor, Catherine Kennedy, **Intermediate Bridge**.

Photos by: Sally Cole, Sherry Cofer, Emily Mathews

OLLI Opera Fans Gather For Opera Delaware “LA BOHEME” Performance



It was “eat, drink and be merry” for 28 OLLI opera fans who met to enjoy the Opera Delaware performance of “La Boheme” followed by dinner at the Chelsea Tavern. The Company’s General Director, Brendan Cooke and featured cast member Emily Maravich, stopped by the Chelsea Tavern to greet the OLLI group.

OLLI Members Get Private Tour of the Biggs Museum

Private OLLI tours run by Susan Salkin and instructor Laura Fravel, Instructor and Curator of American Art at the Biggs, capped off the online “**American Art in the Gilded Age**” OLLI course. Sixty (60) members signed up for the event. Question and answer periods were informative, lively and engaging, causing even lukewarm art fans to say they “loved” the tour and their time at the museum.



*Submitted by Wendy Leicht and
Susan Salkin*

**OLLI JANUARY
EXPLORATIONS**
FREE ONLINE MINI-COURSES

January Explorations 2025, **January 14 to 24**, is a two-week series of online short classes, featuring one to two sessions each on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There is no cost to participate in January Explorations, however registration **is** required. All sessions take place online via Zoom, with first-come, first-served attendance. The program will consist of presentations on a wide variety of topics.

Join us for this fun and fascinating series of online short courses and sample what OLLI is all about—engaging and diverse conversations and learning with friends and peers.