



The Tides...

*Breaking News from
Lifelong Learning*



Vol. 15, No. 1, 2024

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

Kent/Sussex Council for 2024-25



Standing (L-R) Lynn Kroesen, Communications/*The Tides*; Madeleine Nichols, Library; Denise Kaercher, Community Relations; Connie Benko, Chair; Jim O'Leary, Academic Affairs; Nick Simmonds, Strategic Planning; Tom Kelly, Executive Secretary.

Seated (L-R) Deb Roberts, Academic Affairs; Marge Felty, Social; Beth Jelich, Travel; Kathy Henn, Recording Secretary; Karen Schaub, Finance; Trudie Thompson, Community Relations.

Not pictured: Denise Bridgens, Travel; Paul Collins, Development; Rosemary Engle, Member Relations; Peter Harrigan, Marketing & Communications; Wendy Leicht, Communications/*The Tides*; Susan Salkin, Vice Chair; Lee Stanford, Member Relations.

From the Chair



Leaves are falling, days are shortening, and school has begun. As a teacher and a lifelong student, this is my favorite time of year. Judging by the number of classes being taught and the number of members participating in OLLI, many of you share my enthusiasm.

Our fall semester began in August with very successful Open Houses in Lewes, Ocean View, and Dover. It was so good to see many new members coming to find out what we are all about and register to enrich their lives. We were also appreciative of the Moo Mobile making visits with their delicious UD ice cream.

I am happy to report that there are over 300 classes being offered in-person, online, and hybrid this fall with 2331 members statewide, 498 in Kent and Sussex counties. You are the best “marketers” for OLLI. Please encourage your neighbors, friends and family members to join us for the Spring semester that begins in February. January Explorations offers free classes in mid-January for our members and potential new members who may want a taste of lifelong learning.

Don't miss the special one-time presentations and tours that are offered to our members this fall. Information about these special opportunities are in the weekly OLLI K/S updates and posted on the bulletin boards at our sites.

Calendar of Events

Oct 18 - **Jazz Age Illustration**, 10:45 - noon, Trinity Ed Bldg.,

Oct 23 -- **Estate Planning Workshop**, 2:30-3:30, Trinity Ed Bldg.

Nov 15 -- **The Mountain Men**. 10:45 - noon, Trinity Ed Bldg.,

Nov 19 -- Last day fall semester

Nov 20 -- Happy Hour, Dover, 4:30-6:30, Green Turtle, Dover

Nov 21 -- Potluck Social, 11:30- 2 p.m., Trinity Ed Bldg., Lewes

Nov 21 -- **The History of the World Oil**, 2:30 p.m., Trinity Ed Bldg

Dec 5 --Lewes Friends English Country Dancers, 18th Century Dance Party & Open House, 1 -3 p.m.St.Peter's Episcopal Church

Dec 5 -- Happy Hour, 3-5 p.m., Rose & Crown, Lewes

This is a banner year for OLLI K/S. We are each celebrating anniversaries: Kent -- 15th and Sussex -- 35th. “Together We’re Golden” is our theme for this special year. We need your help to design a logo for us. Please place your designs in the box marked “Together We’re Golden LOGO” in the entry hall at Trinity and Wyoming by December 2.

We are also going to be celebrating the end of our successful fall semester with a Potluck Social at Trinity church in November. The date and time will be posted at each location and in the OLLI K/S weekly updates arriving in your email each Monday. Members of our creative arts classes will be exhibiting their craft projects and works of art, and Elder Moments will be entertaining us with songs.

Look in your mailboxes for the Spring semester issue of the OLLI Catalog in late December with registration in January.

Enjoy the coming Holiday Seasons.

Connie Benko, K/S Council Chairperson

Message from Sally



Dear OLLI friends,

At OLLI, we are more than just a place for lifelong learning – we are a community of individuals who share a passion for knowledge, curiosity, and camaraderie. As we look to the future, we believe that strengthening connections among our members, both within the walls of our classrooms and beyond, will enrich everyone's experience. Whether you are attending classes in person or participating online, being a part of the OLLI community means building lasting relationships and finding ways to support one another. But how can we foster even stronger ties among our members?

One idea is to encourage participation in social events and group activities outside of class. Our current monthly happy hours, semester socials and organized trips are a great starting point, but we can take these even further. Consider coordinating a meetup in your local area, such as group lunches, movies, book clubs, or even museum trips. These small gatherings allow members to connect on a personal level, share experiences, and build friendships. By stepping outside of the classroom, we can create new and meaningful ways to engage with one another.

Another opportunity is through volunteering. Many of our members already dedicate their time and talents to supporting OLLI as instructors, but there are always more ways to get involved. Whether helping with administrative tasks, assisting instructors, helping to plan an event, or spearheading a new initiative, volunteering creates a sense of ownership and belonging within our community. Your efforts directly contribute to the success of our program, and, in turn, build bonds with fellow members.

We are also exploring new ways to integrate our various locations. We envision cross-site collaborations, where instructors or members from one location lead activities or deliver lectures in another, creating connections across counties. Imagine a series of "instructor swaps" where members can experience different teaching styles, share ideas, and get to know peers from other sites. This inter-location exchange can broaden our community and deepen our shared OLLI experience.

Ultimately, our community is what we make of it. Whether through shared learning, social events, or volunteering, each of us has the power to contribute. I welcome your ideas on how we can continue to build and sustain our OLLI community, both within our classrooms and beyond. Together, we can create a stronger, more connected lifelong learning experience.

Always with gratitude,

-Sally Cole, Program Manager

Tell your friends about OLLI

Help us continue to grow and welcome new members

Tom Kelly, Accepts Position on OLLI/ Sussex Council



I grew up in Philadelphia and moved to Houston, Texas in 1986. I went through all of my higher education at the University of Houston. I had lost my hearing when I was 19 and being deaf, I didn't think I'd be able to teach in a classroom, so I went into "Public History." I worked for about five years with a consulting firm that did historical research for various law firms, the government, state historical commissions, and museums. That job required a LOT of travel, and it wasn't working out too well since I had a wife and young daughter at home.

I left that job and began teaching in the Houston area as an adjunct faculty member at any college that could use me. I latched on to a full-time position with the Lone Star College system, which is one of the biggest community college systems in Texas. I worked for Lone Star for 18 years.

Covid changed everything. Both my wife and I decided to retire. Our daughter had moved to Philadelphia during the lockdown period. I have a friend who owns a home near Bethany Beach and I had visited this area multiple times. We decided to move to Delaware closer to our daughter.

I don't even remember how I came across OLLI. Probably just random searching around on the internet, looking for some way to use my newly acquired free time. I signed on for a few classes and found out that OLLI could use a history teacher, so here I am. I've been teaching classes for about three years now and I love the program for a bunch of different reasons. Mostly I like meeting new people who are not just my immediate neighbors. Being able to continue teaching is just good for my soul. As a member of the Council, I hope I can contribute something that will help the organization grow and be an influence in the lives of many people in Sussex County.

Josh Strassle, Our AV/ Tech Guy



My name is Joshua Strassle. I got my degree in computer science/ cybersecurity from the University of Delaware as a 2024 graduate. I had previously worked with UD as a cyber security researcher. My time at OLLI has been wonderful so far. I love being able to assist and teach members about technology, while at the same time, learning from their vast knowledge. I look

forward to helping make everyone's lives easier and hopefully being able to create a more enjoyable learning experience.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

The Tides is published quarterly, with special editions as appropriate. If anyone has information, news, pictures or items of interest to share, the Council wants to hear from you. Please contact Lynn Kroesen at kroesen2@gmail.com or the OLLI Lewes office.



Students Explore Sound Healing

During a one-day class, members learned about and experienced the different types of sound healing instruments. Dr. Carol Pollio (Far left: demonstrating the tuning fork) talked about the history, science and benefits of sound healing and how to use it to improve relaxation, healing and wellness. Mary Lampert (left) demonstrated the use of rhythm and frequency.



Members Tour Alpaca Farm



Above: Tour guide Elaine Heinlein, allowed everyone to feel the softness of the alpaca fiber.

Right: Diane Barlow feeds pelletized food to one of the male alpacas.

Photos by Lynn Kroesen

On September 13th, OLLI members gathered at the Four Acres Living Alpaca Farm in Frankford, Delaware for a tour of the farm organized by instructor Maureen Sherlock. Participants learned about the alpacas and the workings of the farm. Everyone got to feel the softness of the fleece on the animal and the natural fiber harvested from the alpacas.

The class also learned about the breeding process and all the ways the farm works to keep the alpacas healthy.



Benefits of OLLI Membership

Take advantage of these one-time one-day classes on issues of interest today.

Oct. 18, 10:45 - noon, Trinity Education Building, **Jazz Age Illustration**, Heather Campbell Coyle, presenter.

Heather Campbell Coyle, Curator of American Art at the Delaware Art Museum, will explore “Jazz Age Illustration”, the Museum’s major fall show and the first exhibition to survey the art of illustration in the 1920s and ’30s. Dr. Coyle has been working on this project for five years, and she will share some of her favorite research discoveries and behind-the-scenes stories in this illustrated lecture.

Nov. 15 - 10:45 - noon, Trinity Education Building, **The Mountain Men Era**, Dorian DeMaio, presenter.

In the 19th century, reports of a vast land filled with beavers and other furs attracted a unique group of Mountain Men who in their pursuit of fur riches crisscrossed the west, opening pathways for pioneers.

Nov. 21 - 2:30 p.m., Trinity Education Building, **The History of the World Oil Market...In One Slide**, F. Gregory Gause III, presenter.

Oil is the most strategic commodity in the world and has been so for over 100 years. The twists and turns in the control and the price of oil have mirrored the rise and fall of power more generally. This lecture uses a graph of the price of a barrel of oil from the 1850's to last year to chart how power in the world oil market has shifted over time. The lecture concludes with a reflection on oil's centrality during our current period of energy transition and climate change.

Register online or by calling 302-645-4111

OLLI Kent-Sussex Library Welcomes New Volunteer

Thank you to volunteers April Wiaczek, DeAnna Poling, Floyd Smith, and Laurie Nelson for keeping their forward momentum for the Library in the Trinity education building on New Road in Lewes. Thank you to the OLLI Kent-Sussex members who donated books for the library collection and for the fiction book cart in the lobby.

Please join us in welcoming Jean Pfluger as a new volunteer to the Library Committee! Her interest and experience bring excitement for this year, as we prepare for the upcoming April 2025 celebration of OLLI's history.

OLLI members can visit the library at any time during the OLLI KS office open hours. Also, during the Fall 2024 semester, on Wednesdays between 10:30 am and noon, one or more members of the team of library volunteers will be available onsite to help OLLI members in person.

If you are interested in volunteering a few hours, as your schedule may allow, we encourage you to join the team. There is pleasant work to be done to make the OLLI KS library even better. Stop by to chat with library volunteers on Wednesdays, contact the OLLI KS program office, or e-mail Madeleine Nichols at nicholsm@udel.edu.

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

Fall Classes Encourage Students to Explore New Ideas



Left: Joe Vescio, instructor **Beginner's Acrylic**, helps students get the right colors.



Joan Williamson displays her finished painting.

Below: Instructors become students-below. French Instructor Alice Cataldi shows her finished piece from the **FUN WITH ACRYLICS** class, as Instructor Liisa Trala looks on. (left).



Far left:: Instructor Sheila Exum works with fellow instructor Liisa Trala in her **3D PERSPECTIVE DRAWING** class.



Right: The **ARMCHAIR ADVENTURES** class continues to enjoy being transported to far off places from Myanmar, to Egypt and more, by the first hand accounts of travels by different instructors.



Instructor Patricia Malcolm (left) and Glenn Rill (far left) teaching **FOLK SONGS INSPIRE REBELS**, explore the rich historical, cultural, background and key players in the ongoing development of these popular music types. Classes listen to many classic pieces played by renowned performers, which keeps members' feet tapping!

Photos by Trish Dennison, Lynn Kroesen, Wendy Leicht

Open Houses Generated Excitement for Fall Semester



Top left: Gary Grunder and Joan Sciorra welcomed all who entered at the Lewes Open House.

Top Right: There were many inquiries at Open House in Ocean View

Left: Diana Beebe displayed her **Fun with Fabric**

Bottom right: Instructor James De Martino, **The History of Whiskey in America** at busy Dover Open House August 8th.



Bottom center, Paul Puch & Rodney Lau display their stained glass piece

Bottom right: AnnLyn Martin & Joe Vescio make a stop at the MOO Mobile

Photos by Lynn Kroesen, Wendy Leicht, Tina McBride, Jay Wheeler



Members Meet For Conversation and Laughter



Happy Hour along the canal at the Wheelhouse in Lewes brings out students, instructors, friends and neighbors.



Nancy Gardner, Carol Neild and Elizabeth Jelich on August 28th, enjoying the tradition of gathering to honor Kent County OLLI Instructors at the Harvest Ridge Winery.

Laughter, good conversation and a light dinner, drew nearly 30 people to the ever popular Dover monthly socials at the Green Turtle, September 19th.

Photos by Lynn Kroesen & Wendy Leicht



Artist Leads Private Tour For OLLI Members At The Biggs Museum

"My oldest sister took me for a pony ride. When I came home, I asked for pencil and paper. I've been drawing ever since" Rebecca Raubacher.



On June 27th, OLLI members from throughout Delaware, were treated to a private tour of the Rebecca Raubacher exhibit at the Biggs Museum. Led by the artist herself, organized by Susan Salkin, those attending could ask questions, to gain first hand insights into the artist's inspirations, painting techniques and subject choices.

Fun, Informative Day Trip to Milton



OLLI members enjoyed a fun, informative day trip to Milton during the second week of the summer session on June 25th led by Instructor Pat Thompson, beginning with lunch at the Irish Eyes Restaurant. A stroll through town, interspersed with historic insights, was followed by talks at the Milton Historical Society by Executive Director Dee Dee Wood (right with Instructor Pat Thompson and above addressing OLLI members).

Photos by Pat Thompson and Wendy Leicht

Members Visit Local Sites During The Summer Session

AIR MOBILITY COMMAND MUSEUM

On July 10th OLLI members, guided by retired Air Force personnel, learned details of Air Force history and the meticulously restored aircraft on site, during a tour of the Air Mobility Command Museum at the Dover Air Force Base. Though located in our smallest state, this base is the largest and busiest air freight terminal and military mortuary in the Department of Defense



WHITE WINES TASTING CLASS AT NOBLES POND

OLLI members met for a **WORLD CLASS WHITE WINES** tasting class June 26th. Wine aficionado Walter Makarucha demonstrated wine tasting techniques, and described the origin and unique characteristics of the generally unfamiliar wines. Deliciously creative appetizers, appropriate for each wine, prepared by Deb Roberts were served.

A STEP BACK IN TIME FOR VISITORS

Right: OLLI members step back in time during a visit to the Dickinson Plantation July 11th.

Submitted by Wendy Leicht



Spreading Information About OLLI



L-R: Lynn Kroesen, Trudie Thompson and AnnLyn Martin at Coast Day on October 6



Denise Kaercher, Betsy Patterson and Rosemarie Van Thorpe spread the word on OLLI at a Thrive event at Nobles Pond.

OLLI Kent/Sussex Contribute to Statewide Programs

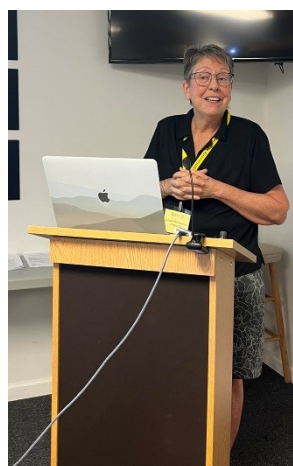


Above: Graphic Presentations Class for Instructors led by Ralph Begleiter and Derek Cole

Top Right: Instructor Linda McSweeney led a session in all three locations re creating a “Google Sure” for your courses.

Right: Members participate in Statewide Strategic planning program that will help to guide the future of OLLI.

Photos by Sally Cole



In Remembrance of.....



Chester "Chet"

Poslusny, 77, died unexpectedly on July 29th, 2024, in Lewes, DE. Chet was born in Staten Island, NY. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1967 serving as an E4 Sergeant, and attending the Defense Lan-

guage Institute in Monterrey, California. After serving his country, Chet attended County College of Morris, Florida Atlantic University and Hood College to pursue a 30+ year career in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Chet and his wife of 53 years, Denise, moved to Damascus, MD at the start of his government career. After several years, they moved to Olney, MD, where they became active in the school community for sports and music while raising their kids. Upon retirement, Chet and Denise moved to Lewes, DE in 2003; where Chet pursued a second consulting career, was a substitute teacher at local middle and high schools and recently held a part-time position with OLLI where he made many friends. Chet was a member of the Dirty Hands Gang for the Overfalls Foundation, a member of the HLFM Tentations and embraced his love of language and conversation working with J-1 students in the International Student Outreach Program. Chet was a kind, caring man that lived his life by the mantra, "If a friend needs help, you help them."

Chet generously used his love of music to play banjo and guitar with the Back Bay Strummers and to entertain at local church dinners and senior citizen homes, entertaining our elderly population with songs from their youth to their golden era. Chet established a regular following for his solo, acoustic guitar act "Acoustic Waves", in several local establishments, and he regularly played in downtown Rehoboth in the alley at The Coffee Mill, entertaining tourists and locals for the past 15

years.

He was an adventurer and participated with his "cowboys" in a yearly cattle drive in Southwest Texas, rode 60-80 miles a week with his biking friends on local trails and was known to cross country ski across empty lots during rare Lewes snowstorms.

Chet was fascinated by the newest local brew, hot sauce, or the latest Martin guitar. He touched so many lives with his electric smile and caring heart.

Special Note from Sally

Chet was an invaluable part of our OLLI community, known for his unflappable good nature and his dedication to providing technical support to our instructors and members. His kindness and willingness to help made him a beloved figure among our members.

In addition to his technical expertise, Chet was a talented musician. Chet brought joy to many of us through his performances at our events, including the much-loved UD By the Sea. His music and spirit will be sorely missed.

With deepest sympathies,
Sally Cole
Program Manager, OLLI Kent/Sussex



Save the Date
Anniversary Luncheon
April 4, 2025

In Remembrance of Peggy Abbott.....

Peggy Abbott and I met early in the life of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, if memory serves me, before Osher invested in our future. I would surmise at least a decade ago. What sparked our friendship was our connection as native New Yorkers. Unless you are one of us, it is hard to understand that special vibe that links New Yorkers no matter how long one may be away from "The City" as we call it.

What also connected us was our love of learning. As recently as the fall session of 2023, Peggy was once again in my class. This time it was "The Merchant of Venice". She was there with her usual enthusiasm and her shining intelligence, ready to do "battle" with the subject at hand. I cherished and will long remember her New York wit and insightfulness. Peggy knew, as I did, the

very many truths about human behavior in this play and in the many other readings we shared from our experiences on the sidewalks of New York. It goes without saying that Osher (and I especially) will miss what Peggy brought to our program. The diversity of the membership, coming as they do from so many places and their unique backgrounds, is a very large part of what makes OLLI, OLLI.

To the friends and family of Peggy Abbott within OLLI and those outside of it, I hope you take comfort from having known and cherished this very special woman and her many gifts.

Submitted by Bob Heifetz

Lewes Author Donates Plant-Based Eating Course



Sally Cole, left, Accepts a copy of the "Journey to Wellness" online course from Dorothy Greet.

Members of OLLI will be able to explore the benefits of plant-based eating thanks to a donation from Lewes resident Dorothy Greet.

Greet, a retired clergywoman, used her experience of having a heart attack at age 70 to develop a 2½-hour course focused on improving health and longevity through plant-based eating. She donated her online course, called "Journey to Wellness", to OLLI in Lewes so members may view it at their convenience.

A volunteer instructor at OLLI for more than a decade, Greet also documented her passion for plant-based eating in a book, "Go Veg With Class", published in 2023.

"Journey to Wellness" provides the tools and knowledge to embrace plant-based eating for personal and planetary health. It includes recipes, preparation demonstrations and an interview with longtime local plant-based eating practitioner Barbee Kiker, also an OLLI instructor.

"I think of these meals as 'E-meals'," Greet said. "They are easy, economical, ethical, earth-friendly and excellent!"

"We are grateful to Dorothy Greet for her service to OLLI and for generously making her course available for the benefit of fellow OLLI members," said Sally M. Cole, UD program manager for OLLI in Kent and Sussex counties.

Submitted by Pete Harrigan