



The Tides...

Breaking News from

Lifelong Learning



Vol. 15, No. 3, 2025

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

From the Chair.....



Continuing to Move Ahead

Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Spring is here at last! My camellias are in bloom, and the daffodils are about ready to pop.

It has been a busy winter. The first five-week session of classes is over. Don't forget to fill out the course evaluations. Spring Break week begins March 24th with the second five-week classes starting on March 31st.

We have a wonderful array of about 300 classes this spring semester. I hope that you are enjoying the ones you chose. My biggest problem was deciding which classes to choose, but I chose well and am enjoying all of them. We have 467 members enrolled in classes in Kent and Sussex counties – 64 new students! Thank you for spreading the word about OLLI K/S. You are the greatest form of marketing we have.

January Explorations was very successful this year with 1,018 registered and 47 becoming new members this spring semester.

On February 21 our new members were invited to come to our "Welcome Aboard" session. They joined us for lunch and heard about the program and some ways to get involved with OLLI K/S as volunteers. Eleven new members were present.

There are several exciting happenings ahead this spring. I ❤️ UD Day will focus on our "Extraordinary Instructors" this year with an identification game that you may play along with the other members. Each weekday from April 14 through 25 a short bio of one of our instructors will be posted. You may fill out your ballot with your guess of the name of the instructor that day. Each day will feature a different instructor. The mystery instructors will be unveiled and prizes awarded to the winners at the culminating event at the Big Oyster Brewery in Lewes on April 30th from 5 – 7 pm. Come and join the celebration of our successful fundraising efforts. You may choose your dinner selection from the menu. Consider making a generous donation to I Heart UD Day, our major Fund Raiser for the year. Money raised this year will be used to give our instructors an additional \$50 discount (total discount - \$75) toward their membership the semester they are teaching. Please support our "Extraordinary Instructors" with a donation. Watch the Monday Bulletins for additional information and the bios of some of our Extraordinary Instructors".

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Interviews are now taking place to fill the position of Program Coordinator. We are hoping to have the position filled in April. Interviewing for the Program Manager will begin in April.

The State Strategic Plan is moving ahead toward completion after a three-month hiatus. We are hoping to complete the plan by summer.

UD by the Sea registration is now open. This year's four-day event at the beach is shaping up to be the best year of all with EIGHT tracks, including science, gardening, history, environment, food, international affairs, art, and crafts – something for everyone! The Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach is the center of activity for social events and some of the tracks. Many of the tracks will be offsite with bus transportation provided to visit gardens, environmental preserves, galleries, or even a lighthouse. These are just some of the options. Register now while all tracks are open.

A BIG "Thank You" to Tracey, Josh, Lisa, Trish, Dan and Steve for all of their efforts in keeping OLLI K/S successfully moving ahead. We especially appreciate Karen Asenavage's presence in the Lewes and Dover offices this semester. I also want to thank the Council for always being available and ready to pitch in when needed. You are all amazing!!

I especially want to thank all of you -- our members. We continue to thrive because of your support and enthusiasm. Thank you!

Connie Benko, Council Chair

Calendar of Events 2025

March 17 -- Registration reopens for 2nd 5-week classes

March 18 -- Happy Hour. 4-6 p.m., Bethany Blues BBQ, Lewes

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

March 24-28 -- Spring break, No classes

March 31 -- 2nd five-week classes begin

Apr 30 -- I Heart UD Day, Social. 5-7 p.m., Big Oyster Brewery, Lewes

May 2 -- Last Day of classes

May 20-23 -- UD By The Sea, Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach

May 26 -- Memorial Day, OLLI closed

July 7 - 31 -- Summer Session



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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.



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 – 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. Consider making a generous donation.

This year we will have an identification game that you may play along with the other members. Each weekday from April 14 through 25 a short bio of one of our instructors will be posted. You may fill out your ballot with your guess of the name of the instructor that day. Each day will feature a different instructor. The mystery instructors will be unveiled and prizes awarded to the winners at the culminating event at the Big Oyster Brewery in Lewes on April 30th from 5 – 7 pm. Come and join the celebration of our successful fundraising efforts. You may choose your dinner selection from the menu.

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 Monday email for additional details about “The League of Exceptional Instructors” and the 2025 I Heart UD Giving Day campaign.

OLLI Sussex Art Classes Exhibit at the Lewes Library and The Moorings



The work of members in Art of Collage, Beginner’s Acrylic, Intermediate Painting Workshop, Mosaic Wood Art, Stained Glass Fundamentals and Watercolor is now being displayed at the Lewes Library and the Moorings. All are invited to stop by to admire the beautiful works.

*Art Instructors From Left to Right:
Barry Moshinski, Linda Towers, Joe Vescio, Mary Kate McKinley, Georgia Foard, Nancy Horan, Pete Feeney. Missing from Photo: Paul Kehoe
Photo by Mary Kate McKinley*

UD by the Sea

May 20 - 23, 2025

Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center

Rehoboth Beach, 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. For additional information about each track and to register, visit www.oli.udel.edu/ud-by-the-sea, If you have specific questions, email tlmarino@udel.edu or call 302-645-4111.

New Books at the Library Offer Perspectives on Change

Do you know how it feels when change swirls around you in every direction you look, and you don't know what the right next step is for you? If you want calm, head to the library in the OLLI Trinity Faith Education Building on New Road in Lewes. If you want some change, go to that same place. Here's why:

OLLI members have donated amazing books on subjects they know are on our minds in the past months. It's comforting to gain expert perspectives from the authors new to our shelves. Changes? Plenty, Consider *Freakonomics* (by Steven Levitt, 330-Lev) or *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health...* (by Richard Thaler, et al, 330.01-Tha) or *The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century* (by Paul Krugman, 330.01-Kru) or to appreciate where we are, *Hidden History of Lewes* (by Michael Morgan, 9575.1-Mor).

The fiction book cart in the lobby offers a similar choice of calm or change, depending on what you may want. Treat yourself!

All the added books are ready for us because of the extraordinary volunteers who keep the OLLI library shelves tidy and serving us, tucked in and around our classes at OLLI. During the Spring 2025 semester, on Thursdays between 12:30 and 2:30 pm, members of the team of library volunteers are available onsite to help OLLI members in person. If you have questions, you may 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



Members Express Creativity in Many Mediums



Left: In the Valentine spirit, Mary Kate McKinley, instructor, **Art of Collage**.



Right: April Wiaczek, co-instructor, **Art of Collage**.

Below left: Instructor, Linda Towers, **Watercolor For Beginners**.

Below: Instructors Karen McKinnon & Helen Hines, **Osher Craft Circle**, display hand-knitted items.



Left: Instructor, Joe DeFeo, **Basic Chair Making**, talks about the wood. Co-instructor, Ben Calamia (in right photo) helps students learn how to use the drill.



OLLI Members Learn and Practice Many New Skills



Left: **Mah Jongg For Beginners**, instructor Katherine Henn

Right: **Cribbage For Beginners**, instructors Lynn Kroesen & Jay Wheeler

Below left: **Traditional Music Slow Jam** instructors Oliver Hansen & Nikki Roberson

Below right: **Winter Walk**, instructor Maureen Sherlock



OLLI Members Gather at Monthly Socials and Lunch Breaks



Lunch gets lively, as members meet for lunch between classes at the Wyoming Church. (Right) Social Chairman Marge Felty, adds to the evening's fun by introducing games at the monthly Social at The Green Turtle in Dover (right).



Members in Lewes gather for Happy Hour at Bethany Blues BBQ. (Below)



Left: Geraldine Matison



Right: Eileen Grisin

Members Discover Connections

OLLI gives members an opportunity to explore exciting courses and meet new people.

Following a class of **Generational Ancestry**, instructor Jo-Ann Vega, Geraldine Matison had a conversation with Eileen Grisin. They had never met before this class. They realized they were both born and raised in Upstate New York. Eileen had lived in Rochester, only 4 miles from where Geraldine had lived. In addition, Eileen was a teacher at the same school Geraldine's children graduated from. They found they both had frequented many of the same places in the Rochester area.

Kent County OLLI Offers Delaware Government Local and State Political Overview Class



Kevin Spence, Executive Director of the Delaware League of Local Governments (Right) and guest lecturer Gene Dvornick, Town Manager Georgetown, DE. (left) leading a 10 week class on "Delaware Government: Local and State Political Overview" showing the impact local developments can have on state and national political decisions.



Steve Tague, Head Of UD's Rep Theatre Guest Lecturer OLLI Dover

Steve Tague, head of UD's Rep Theatre Co answered OLLI members' questions in Deb Roberts' Theatre Appreciation Class, like, How did the company decide to do the play "Misery" (play being studied in class) for example.

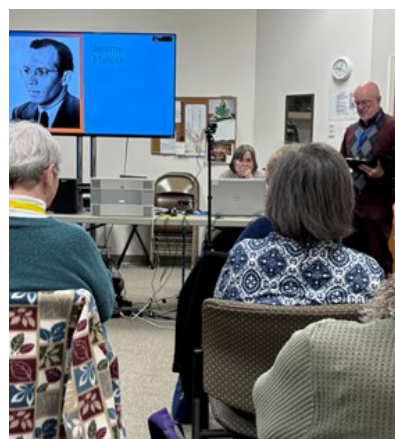
He described procedures the Rep uses to select plays for each season, how Rep actors are chosen for each role, creative makeup techniques and financially savvy, visually engaging set constructions.

Submitted by Wendy Leicht

OLLI Dover Music Lovers Enjoy Many Class Choices

Classical music fans can join Instructor George Christiansen for ***Music from Vienna: From Mozart to Mahler***. Students from George's past Opera Classes, often attend Opera Delaware performances together. Susan Watkins shares ***The History of Motown***, sending students music clips played during her classes for them to enjoy.

Left to Right- Carol Neild leads ***Recorder Ensemble***, Dan Pritchett ***Greatest Scores and Themes for the Silver Screen***, Glen Rill ***Folk Songs Inspire Rebels***.



Submitted by Wendy Leicht

Special Lecture Series Available to OLLI Members

As a member of OLLI you have access to many fun and interesting special events and lecture series. These events are free. You only have to register your interest in attending by clicking a link in the weekly Enews or call the OLLI office. The following is a list of some of the lectures on the schedule during the remainder of the this semester:

Interesting Issues in Constitutional Law – a survey of Founding Principles, the Rule of Law, and Founding Documents

Friday, March 21, Trinity Faith Education Bldg., Lewes, 9 a.m. – noon, Presenter: Miss Mary Boyd.

Current Constitutional issues will be discussed. While it is impossible to cover all relevant topics, open discussion is welcomed. For background, reading Miss Boyd's book, *Apples of Gold – Voices From the Past that Speak to Us Now* is encouraged. Our ultimate question: what did the Founders create and is it still a valuable governing structure?

Miss Boyd is a Constitutional attorney and political advisor. She taught a constitutional Law course at Osher for many years.



Oops, Breached Again: A Brief History of Cyber Attacks

Friday, April 4, Trinity Faith Education Bldg., Lewes, 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Presenter: Josh Strassle.

Josh Strassle explores the most significant cyber attacks in history and their enduring impact. Starting with Kevin Mitnick's infamous hacks in the 1980's, the class examines how cyber threats evolved into more sophisticated operations such as the Stuxnet attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. It also delves into recent incidents, such as the Solar Winds breach. Along the way, you'll uncover the motivations behind these attacks and understand how they shaped the digital defenses we rely on today.

Josh is a recent graduate of UD and an OLLI employee. He spends his free time learning about all things computer and hacking related.



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Tell your friends about OLLI

Help us continue to grow and welcome new members

More Special Lectures

How the Delaware Art Museum became a British Art Powerhouse

Friday, April 25, Trinity Faith Education Bldg., Lewes, 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.,

Presenter: Dr. Sophie Lynford.

Sophie Lynford shares the story of how the Delaware Art Museum came to hold the largest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art outside of the United Kingdom. Most Pre-Raphaelite art can be found in Britain. But during the late 19th century, Samuel Bancroft, an American textile mill owner in Wilmington, Delaware, began acquiring Pre-Raphaelite drawings and paintings. In 1935, Bancroft's heirs bequeathed his art to what would become the Delaware Art Museum, thus making Wilmington a destination for enthusiasts of British art.



Dr. Sophie Lynford received her Ph.D. in art history from Yale University and is the Annette Woolard-Provine Curator of the Bancroft Pre-Raphaelite Collection at the Delaware Art Museum. A specialist in British and American art of the 19th century, Lynford has published and lectured widely on the Pre-Raphaelite movement.

Travel with OLLI Members Now Available

Trips are open to UD OLLI members. (You must be a member during the following semesters for each trip: fall 2025 for Italy, spring 2026 for Maritime Canada and Iceland and fall 2026 for Greece). If you have general travel-related questions, please send inquiries to olli-online@udel.edu. For trip-specific questions, please direct your inquiries to the appropriate tour operator as outlined below. Reserve your spot with the required deposit soon, as we expect demand to be high for all four trips!

Call 1-800-438-7672: Reference OLLI Delaware Trips (Italy, Canada or Greece) and group coordinator Michelle Butler.

Food & Wine: Northern Italy & the Italian Riviera With OLLI Delaware, 10 days, Sep 30 – Oct 9, 2025 <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/italy-2025-olli-delaware>

Canadian Maritimes: Nova Scotia to Prince Edward Island with OLLI Delaware

9 days, May 29 – Jun 6, 2026 --12 days with St. John's, Newfoundland extension -

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/canada-2026-olli-delaware>

Visit Iceland and experience one of nature's most remarkable phenomena—a solar eclipse.

7 Days, August 7th -August 14th, 2026 - sofia@accentontravel.com. or you can call Accent on Travel at (302) 703-0115.

Ancient Greece: Athens, Olympia & Nafplio with OLLI Delaware,

11 days. Oct 1 – Oct 11, 2026 -- 14 days with Santorini & Athens

extension - <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/greece-2026-olli-delaware>



Many Braved January Weather to Attend Open Houses in Dover, Lewes & Ocean View

Current and prospective members braved frigid, icy weather to attend the successful Open Houses at Dover Wyoming Church, January 9th, Lewes on January 13 and Ocean View on January 8.



(left to right) Connie and Joe Bailey, Glenenise Parks and Alice Cataldi, sign up for classes,



Prospective members stop to ask questions at the Instructors tables in Lewes

OLLI K/S Offered Training to New and Returning Instructors



Left -- OLLI Dover Instructors filled a room at the Wyoming Church for Instructor Training prior to Spring Semester Classes. Deb Roberts,

Karen Asenavage, (left) with input from Josh Strassle, Audio Visual Support, led the session.



Instructor Tom Kelly lead Instructor Training in Lewes

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

In Remembrance of.....



Paulette Criaris, 76, of Lewes, an esteemed educator and cherished community member, passed away peacefully Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025. Born in Staten Island, N.Y., she was widely known for her kindness, generosity, and adventurous spirit.

She graduated cum laude from Wagner College with a bachelor's degree in education. Her passion for learning led her to earn a master's degree from Richmond College and pursue postgraduate work at Middlesex Community College. She went on to have a diverse and impactful career as a teacher for the City of New York, an adjunct professor at Middlesex Community College, and a senior software engineer for Bellcore in Piscataway, N.J.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Paulette was skilled in needlepoint and cross-stitch, and she dedicated much of her love and energy to raising and training her beloved Welsh Terriers. A passionate reader, she was a member of several book clubs. As a mahjong enthusiast and teacher, she taught and organized mahjong classes at OLLI in Lewes for several semesters.



Harry Allen Coss passed away peacefully surrounded by family Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, at 97. Harry grew up in Ohio, joined the U.S. Navy, and served on the submarine Sea Robin. There is a photo of him

in National Geographic, painting a map of South America on the submarine to commemorate the rounding of Cape Horn. After leaving the service, Harry settled in Toledo, Ohio, where he started a career in real estate and met and married Mary Weaver in 1949. The family moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1967, where Harry continued his career in real estate. In 1997, Mary passed away. Months later, one of Mary's cousins visited the family to celebrate Harry's 70th birthday and invited an old friend of hers to join them. Harry and Maddy became quick companions and were married in October 1998. In 2004, Harry and Maddy moved to Lewes and lived in a house that Harry designed. Harry became very active in Lewes life, taking piano lessons, art classes at Rehoboth Art League, history classes at OLLI and joining community groups.

Correction from *Tides* Vol 15, no.2

Pictured members of fall class, **Painting Styles and Techniques of Famous Painters**, instructor Nancy Horan, (pictured in the center of the group)

The Tides apologies for the error.

Editor

