



The Tides...

Breaking News from

Lifelong Learning



Vol. 16, No. 3, 2026

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

Local Authors Display Their Books at Book & Puzzle Swap

A Book and Puzzle Swap was held at Trinity for OLLI members from Kent and Sussex on March 25. Eighteen authors, who are members and instructors, were invited to display their published books to our members who then had the opportunity to purchase their books. Members who are involved in art and craft classes were also invited to display their paintings, stained glass, and craft items.

Members of the social committee provided sweets for a buffet table that participants could sample while becoming acquainted with other members and

friends they have made at OLLI this year. We all went home with some exciting new books to read and puzzles to challenge us.



Jay Wheeler helped members swap puzzles.



Left: Maud Banks found a book she liked.



From the Chair



I am sitting in my office with a beautiful 60 degree morning outside the window. I have even heard rumors that there is no snow remaining on the streets of Dover? Is it really Springtime? It sure looks that way from the OLLI calendar. We are beginning our second five-week classes, and the eleven-week instructors keep rolling on. I want to thank everyone involved, Members, Instructors and Staff, for working through all the scheduling mayhem caused by Mother Nature. Snow is gone, now we can look forward to the joys of summer interlopers and the traffic jams they create.

From my experience as an instructor and a participant, the first five-week classes were brilliant. OLLI attracts such an amazing group of knowledgeable people. Our instructors are fantastic, and the questions and comments from participants challenge them to think about their own expertise from different perspectives. It is truly a learning "Community."

On the topic of instructors, I would feel remiss if I did not tip my hat to Dan Pritchett. Dan has been teaching several classes in multiple locations, giving lectures in local libraries, speaking at happy hours, and planning the trip to see the musical "1776" in Philadelphia. You are making me feel like a slacker Dan! And we all appreciate you so very much!

OLLI's major fundraising effort, I ♥ UD Day, is coming up on April 29, 2026. This year's theme is "OLLI Everywhere-Come Grow with us!" Marty Rosensweig is leading this effort and we hope everyone can contribute. Keep your eyes on the weekly e-mail announcements for more information about this important day.

Calendar of Events

- Mar 30 -- 2nd five-week classes begin
- Apr 21 -- Happy Hour, 4-6 p.m., Wheel house, Lewes
- Apr 23 -- Happy Hour, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Green Turtle, Dover
- Apr 24 -- Fun Friday, visit to Old State House & Biggs Museum
- Apr 29 -- I Heart UD Day, Social, 5-7 pm, Big Oyster Brewery, Lewes
- May 1 -- Last Day of classes
- May 13 -- Instructor Brunch
- May 19-22 -- UD By The Sea, Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach
- May 25 -- Memorial Day, OLLI closed
- June 22- July 24 -- Summer session

If you haven't already registered, check out the tracks being offered during this year's UD By the Sea! Some really interesting topics ranging from the environment, to Lewes Art, and the Farm to Table lifestyle. UD by the Sea takes place in Rehoboth from May 19-22. Come on out.

Tom Kelly



Monica's Message



Spring's warmer days are upon us. Thank you to everyone who persevered through a long winter to attend or teach classes in Kent and Sussex Counties. I look forward to a strong and engaging second half of the spring semester.

Volunteers are the foundation of OLLI's success. From our instructors and Council members to committee and outreach volunteers, your commitment continues to make OLLI exceptional. If you have not yet taken on a volunteer or instructor role, I encourage you to connect with a committee chair, Council member, or staff member to explore opportunities for involvement.

Please mark your calendar for I ♥ **UD Day on April 29**. This year's theme, "**OLLI Everywhere: Come Grow with Us!**" reflects our continued growth across Kent and Sussex Counties. All funds raised through this annual day of giving will support the expansion of class locations and the use of larger spaces to better serve our growing

membership. The I ♥ UD Day planning committee, led by Marty Rosensweig, has several engaging activities planned, including a virtual scavenger hunt and a Happy Hour at the Big Oyster Brewery in Lewes.

UD by the Sea, hosted by OLLI in Kent and Sussex Counties, is a four-day program taking place **May 19–22, 2026**, at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Designed by OLLI members, the program offers a blend of educational sessions, local experiences, and opportunities for social connection in a relaxed coastal environment. Participants may commute daily or take advantage of a discounted hotel rate at the Atlantic Sands. Space remains available for approximately **40 additional registrants**. We hope you will consider joining us for this enriching experience. Additional details and registration information are available at [UD by the Sea Information](#).

The **Summer Selections catalog** will be released shortly, and I encourage you to consider participating in our upcoming activities and classes. Flexibility is the central theme of this year's Summer Selections program, offering more than **30 classes** across Kent and Sussex Counties during the five-week period from **June 22 to July 24**. Participants may register for a flat fee of **\$125** for unlimited classes or **\$20 per special event**. My sincere appreciation goes to Program Coordinator **Lisa Coldiron**, our dedicated instructors, and the many long-time members who shared valuable feedback during the development of this new structure. Insight regarding the unique circumstances of members and instructors living near the beach was particularly helpful in shaping this more flexible program.

Finally, please join me in expressing appreciation for our outstanding staff and dedicated Council members. **Tracey Marino** and **Trish Dennison** continue to work diligently on planning for UD by the Sea; **Lisa Coldiron** collaborates with instructors and partner organizations to expand our course offerings and classroom locations; **Matt Munro**, **John Scialabba** and **Steve Ward** provide essential technological support; and **Lisa Siefert** ensures that materials are ordered and that members are warmly welcomed in Lewes. Our Council members generously contribute their time and expertise to ensure that our programs meet and exceed member expectations and that the future of OLLI in Kent and Sussex Counties remains strong.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Monica Browne

Manager, OLLI Kent & Sussex Counties

A logo with the text "WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS" in blue capital letters. The heart symbol is red. The entire logo is enclosed in a red rectangular border.

OLLI Everywhere - Come Grow With Us!

Wednesday, April 29



This year, **I Heart UD Day** (Wednesday, April 29) will highlight the exciting growth in OLLI membership and course offerings throughout Kent and Sussex counties. To sustain our growth, and allow us to deliver superior OLLI classes to southern Delaware's burgeoning 50-plus population, we are seeking donations to help us offer more classes in both our current and additional locations. By supporting our **OLLI Everywhere - Come Grow With Us!** campaign, you will help provide the financial resources to make our expansion possible. Generous pledges from the OLLI Kent/Sussex

Council members will provide a dollar-for-dollar match to unlock increased giving.

Beginning April 13, you can discover the various locations OLLI currently holds classes, possible new locations, plus interesting places throughout Kent and Sussex counties by participating in a virtual scavenger hunt. We will publish clues in the form of riddles, identifying these locations. The mystery locations will be unveiled and prizes awarded at the culminating event at the Big Oyster Brewery (1007 Kings Highway) in Lewes on April 29 from 5 - 7 pm. Come join the celebration of our successful fundraising efforts! (Dutch Treat).

Watch your Monday emails for additional details about **OLLI Everywhere - Come Grow With Us!** and the virtual scavenger hunt.

Many thanks from your OLLI Everywhere Committee: Diane Barlow, Connie Benko, Monica Browne, Susan Donahue, Donna Nacchia, Marty Rosensweig and Nick Simmonds.

Instructor Dan Pritchett on the Road



Dan Pritchett, dynamic instructor of the very popular "**1776, The Year And The Musical**", gave talks on Delaware's John Dickinson, whose life he described as a "profile in moral and political courage" to packed audiences at the Lewes Public Library and at OLLI Dover's March Happy Hour.

Working with OLLI staff, Dan arranged a trip via bus for members to see a revival of the "**1776**" play at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia in May. Dan will do another talk on April 13 at the Lewes Public library, in honor of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, "The Declaration of Independence. What you didn't learn in school".

Submitted by Wendy Leicht



Special Activities for Members are Planned for Spring and Summer

The Sussex Social Committee has been busy this semester. In addition to the Happy Hours at the Wheelhouse on the third Tuesday of each month from 4 -6 pm, about 20 members visited Gallery One in Ocean View on February 20 and then went to the Ocean Pines Brewing Company for a Happy Hour.

A Spring Fling was held at Trinity for OLLI members from both counties on March 25. The highlight of the afternoon was a Book and Puzzle Swap. We invited 18 authors who are members and instructors to display their published books to our members who then had the opportunity to purchase their books. Members who are involved in art and craft classes were also invited to display their paintings, stained glass, and craft items. Members of the social committee provided sweets for a buffet table where members could sample while becoming acquainted with members and friends they have made at OLLI this year. We all went home with some exciting new books to read and puzzles to challenge us.



On April 24th a trip is planned to visit The Old Statehouse and Biggs Museum in Dover. We will be car-pooling to Dover from Trinity leaving at 9 am. After our guided tour of the Statehouse, we will walk to the Grey Fox Grill for lunch. In the afternoon we are scheduled for a guided tour of the Biggs Museum. This will be Senior Day at the Biggs with special events available to us. Please register at Trinity by **April 20th**. The only charge will be for your lunch. We have a limit of 25, so don't delay registering.

We will be celebrating our successful fundraising for I ❤️ UD Day on April 29 at the Big Oyster Brewery in Lewes at 5:00 pm. Join us for some special activities and a concert by the Elder Moments. We will be ordering dinner from the menu. More information will follow.

Stay tuned for the Special Activities planned for the summer. They will be advertised in the OLLI K/S Monday Update. Join us at the Wheelhouse for Happy Hours.

Connie Benko, Sussex Social Chair

Photos by Lisa Coldiron



Who Needs Romance When You Can Have Wine?

Wine expert Walter Makarucha introduced OLLI members to a selection of German White Wines, paired with appropriate, light food selections provided by instructor Deb Roberts and served by Instructor Trish White and John Roberts. Members learned about each wine's geographic origins, history and distinct flavors.

Submitted by Wendy Leicht

UD By The Sea

May 19 - 22, 2026

Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center, Rehoboth Beach, DE

Beginning with a welcoming reception on Tuesday, May 19 OLLI members and guests from the entire state of Delaware can experience Osher instructors and subject matter experts.

Participants can select from the following programs:

- **Lighthouses and Shipwrecks** – Explore Delaware's coastal lighthouses and shipwrecks.. *Led by Jim O'Leary.*
- **Ecology and Evolution** – Study local habitats.. *Led by Jack Bartley.*
- **Farm to Table** – Visit local farms and engage with farmers and chefs. *Led by Marty Rosensweig.*
- **Lewes Art and Artists through History** – Meet local artists and enjoy a presentation from the Delaware Art Museum. *Led by Linda Dylla.*
- **Environmental Impact on Coastal Sussex County** – Examine environmental influences on the region. *Led by Connie Benko.*

- **International Affairs Nexus** – Engage with experts discussing current geopolitical and foreign policy issues. *Led by Trudie Thompson.*

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.



Photo from UD By the Sea in 2025

Instructor Jack Bartley Speaks at Dickens Theater

On March 4, Instructor Kolinda Scialabba arranged a wonderful interview at the Dickens Theater in Ocean View with Instructor Jack Bartley, who spoke about the rewards of teaching OLLI classes and sharing personal expertise and passions with our members. We were especially delighted to hear Jack play and sing Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi! What a talented guy!

Many thanks as well to all the OLLI members who joined us to show their support — your presence made the event even more special!

Submitted by Lisa Coldiron



The Fun of Learning By Playing



Learn to play Cribbage for Beginners, Instructor Lynn Kroesen



Intermediate Chess, Instructor Jim Rizzitano

Mah Jongg For Beginners,
Beth DeFrances, instructor,
Ocean View

Photos by Lisa Coldiron & Lynn
Kroesen

**PRACTICING MEDITATION
AND BREATHWORK,** instructor
Cathy Jacobsen, Ocean View



OLLI Couple Travel Up and Down Delaware to Attend Summer Selections 2025



Longstanding OLLI members from Rehoboth Beach, Dan and Norine Bilharz decided to maximize their enjoyment of Summer Selections 2025 by signing up for as many day trips as possible. From the catalog listing more than 60 classes, tours and special events, they chose a variety of programs that resulted in their traveling throughout Delaware having interesting experiences and visiting other OLLI locations.

Dan and Norine's trips ended up totaling 750 miles during the four weeks of Summer Selections. "It was a lot of fun," said Dan. The two had nothing but high praise for every program and instructor.

Among their favorite programs was "Conversation and Culinary Advice with Chef Alex Neaton," which took place in Dover. This was a cooking demonstration with lunch, presented by Alex Neaton, Longwood Gardens chef, whose mother is OLLI member Bobbi Neaton.

"Fort Delaware and Pea Patch Island" was a two-part program, organized by instructor Tom Powderly. Historical background was discussed on Zoom the first week. The following week, the group met at Delaware City and went via ferry to Fort Delaware for an interesting tour.

When they traveled to OLLI in Wilmington for one of the "Food and Wine Tasting" programs developed by Walter Makarucha, they toured Arsht Hall for the first time and visited Goodstay Gardens. They described a great presentation, with great food and wine.

Norine and Dan included a Zoom class in their itinerary, "A Virtual Cruise Down the Delaware River" presented by Gary Letcher. They also participated in the weekly "Our Favorite Movies on the Big Screen," organized by Marty Rosensweig, at the Cinema Art Theater in Lewes.

Connie Benko's "Walking Through Lewes History" was another informative and much enjoyed tour featuring historic buildings, architecture, and historical events in Lewes.

"Raising the Flag at Iwo Jima: The Controversy of an Iconic Photograph" with instructor Tom Summers meant another trip to Dover. Dan said it was "very informative, providing a fantastic background."

Glenn Rill and Suzanne Souder led the thorough "Historic Old New Castle Walking Tour" which took participants through the lovely town and historic buildings, ending with lunch at the quaint Jessop's Tavern. This was yet another day trip that Dan and Norine enjoyed.

The trips north enabled Norine and Dan to meet classmates from Dover and Wilmington who had only been faces on the screen during Zoom classes before. They enjoyed meeting new people and reconnecting with OLLI friends from throughout the state.

"We've been amazed at how informative the presenters are and how passionate they are," said Norine. "We're lucky to have them sharing their passion with us."

Dan and Norine, Pittsburgh natives, spent their careers in Harrisburg, where Dan worked in the information technology industry and Norine was a registered nurse. In 2013, they retired and moved to Rehoboth Beach and joined OLLI. Dan teaches English Country Dance at OLLI in Lewes. Norine also does English Country dancing and assists with a crocheting class in Lewes. They take classes year-round and haven't missed a semester at OLLI in the past decade.

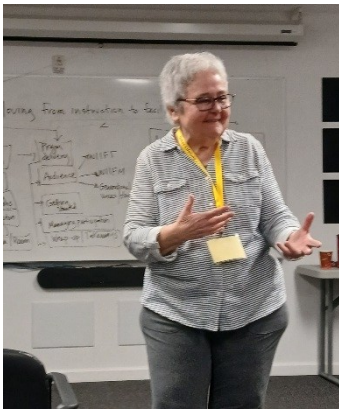
The flexibility of Summer Selections, with weekly and one-time options, enables members to have a variety of new experiences. Dan advises people who don't have a lot of time to take advantage of the one-day programs. "They're so worthwhile!"

As energetic students, instructors, travelers, and dancers, Norine and Dan display a true passion for learning, exemplifying the OLLI motto, "Curiosity Never Retires."

Norine and Dan are looking forward to this coming summer, when ongoing and one-day classes will again be available through Summer Selections from June 22 – July 24. Registration will open on May 11.

Submitted by Jean Youkers

Instructors Learn Ways to Refine Their Craft



On February 20, Instructor Jo-Ann Vega presented an engaging and insightful presentation, “Moving from Instruction to Facilitation,” to a wonderful mix of seasoned OLLI instructors and new prospective instructors, all eager to grow, connect and refine their craft. The session focused on strengthening OLLI’s mission by acknowledging the tremendous contributions of our faculty, identifying and sharing best practices, promoting active learning techniques and encouraging other folks to join this valuable group!

We are so grateful for the energy, dedication, and heart our instructors bring to OLLI. We look forward to offering additional support and meaningful professional development opportunities for our truly exceptional teaching community!

UD Theatre Department’s Steve Tague Visits Dover Theatre Appreciation Class



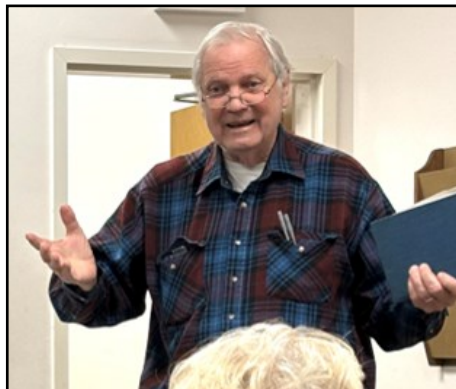
UD’s theatre department’s Steve Tague, actor, director, former Artistic Director of the Rep, discussed the complexities of the play “**Art**” being studied in class and performed at the Rep in the 25-26 season. He also addressed the financial challenges facing the arts today, but felt that “AI was not a threat to live theatre.”

The class also analyzed, then attended the US debut of the musical, “**Glory Ride**” at Delaware Theatre Co. Many said it was the best play they’d ever seen performed there.

Dover In The Revolution, Part II Guest Speakers

Instructor Beth Jelich’s class, **Delaware in the Revolution, Part II**, featured Guest lecturers, Tom Welch (left), who did a presentation on the important, yet little known Revolutionary War figure, Allen Mc Lane. Joseph Sullivan, (right) from the Delaware Archives, led a meticulously researched presentation on The Road to Yorktown. OLLI instructor and class tech assistant Susan Watkins, using her knowledge as a retired registered nurse, discussed medicine and diseases of the Revolutionary War period.

Submitted by Wendy Leicht



Open Houses Net 118 New Members



Above: The registration desks were busy helping new and returning members in Lewes.

*Rt: Mary Kate McKinley describes some of the pieces students produce in her **Art of Collage** class*



Barbara Trent and Karen Asenavage Lopes, UD Director, OLLI, flank potential new member (left) Instructor Carol Neild with member Doug Miller at January Open House in Dover.

Submitted by Wendy Leicht



Dover Looking to Expand Outreach

Kent/Sussex Program Manager Monica Browne, Director OLLI Karen Asenavage-Loptez, Program Coordinator Lisa Coldiron and UD Associate Dean Academic and Continuing Studies, Mark Clodfelter met at a Council member lunch March 3rd in Dover. The open discussion centered on productive ways to support Dover and expand OLLI outreach in Kent County.



Special Lectures 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:

Lewes 250 and Kent/Sussex OLLI presents:

The Declaration of Independence: What You Didn't Learn in School!

Lecturer Daniel Pritchett, a retired Capital School District and Delaware State University instructor.



April 13, 2026, 4 – 5:15 p.m. Lewes Library

Discover the Camino De Santiago

Learn about the Camino de Camino de Santiago de Compostela, famously known as “The Way,” a hiking pilgrimage in Spain. There are eight official routes listed by the Cathedral of Santiago that would enable one to receive a certificate called the Compostela. Each route has a minimum distance, usually over 100 km. A hiker's goal may not be obtaining the Compostela but simply to enjoy hiking a well-marked route for physical, mental or spiritual health.



Presenter by Cezarina Cornejo Alzona, will share the gifts of what she learned from earning 7 Compostela.

April 29, 2026. 12:45-2 p.m., Ocean View Community Center, Ocean View.

Register by calling 302-645-4111 or go online.

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

In Remembrance of.....



Elisabeth Amanda Alexander Stoner, 91, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Elisabeth graduated from Hillsdale School and attended Smith College. She graduated from West Chester University

summa cum laude. At that time, she won a poetry-writing contest sponsored by Wing's Press, Belfast, Maine. Her prize was the publication of her first book, "Watermark."

In 1952, she married John Thorp Stoner. They became the parents of 3 children. The marriage ended in 1978. While living in Sewickley, Pa., Elisabeth operated a freelance business, teaching and lecturing on design with plant material, arranging flowers for weddings, decorating events, exhibiting in

art galleries and entering design classes at the Philadelphia Flower Show, where she won many awards, including Best in Show.

Elisabeth served as a volunteer and as president of the Child Health Association of Sewickley, for which she wrote, directed, and choreographed her original musical, "New Faces from Outer Spaces."

Following a career as a teacher, poet, writer, editor, artist, and designer, Elisabeth retired to Milford. She was active with MERR Institute and taught poetry writing at OLLI/Lewes. While teaching, she published four more books of her poetry, prose, and photography.

A gathering to celebrate Elisabeth's life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 9, at the shelter on Slaughter Beach. All are welcome.

OLLI Marches in Dover's St Patrick's Day Parade

