



OLLI

at American University Washington DC



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

October 2007

Mark Your Calendar

October

- 5 Board Meeting: 1 pm, Church
- 8 Columbus Day: Classes Held
- 12 Curriculum Committee: 1 pm, Church
- 17 Study Group Rep. Luncheon: noon, Capital Hall
- 30 Town Meeting: 12:15-1:15 pm, Church
- 31 American Civil War Field Trip 8 am - 5 pm

"The People of OLLI"

Barbara Searle: A Wealth of Ideas

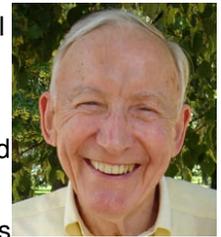
Barbara Searle has led numerous OLLI Study Groups in both science and literature, revealing a breadth of interests she has gained by her readiness to test new ideas throughout her career. With a biology doctorate and two young children at home, Barbara found herself teaching math in California and later accepted a new challenge, to teach math by radio to developing countries. This introduction to developing countries led to a full career with the World Bank, during which she traveled extensively as an evaluation specialist, eventually becoming the Bank's Ombudsman. Barbara describes her varied professional experience as a "non-linear career" path, undertaken with a lively sense of her own freedom to go in new directions.



Upon retirement, living in the D.C. neighborhood of George Washington University, Barbara

Letter from the Chair

I remember the first day, years ago, when I reported for classes at ILR, as we were then called. I approached the Temple Baptist Church from Nebraska Avenue, and pulled on the first door I came to. It turned out to be the door to the church, and it was locked. After rattling it a few times, I went around to the side door. Same thing. Then I tried the third door, the one we actually use. Same thing. It turned out I was a day early. Since then, right or wrong, I have had a "thing" about the lack of signs that announce who we are and where you enter (assuming you get the day right). The church, our landlord, certainly does not suffer from such a lack of identity, with two signs close to Nebraska Avenue, one of them in stone. Nor does American University which enjoys an abundance of large permanent signs on, or in front of, its buildings.



Obviously our veteran members don't need a sign telling them that OLLI meets here and this is the right door. They know they are not going to attend Baptist School or the meetings of some secret society. And our new members (107 this fall) can be presumed to be smarter than I was about finding the right door. I just think we belong to an organization to be proud of and should announce our presence with more than cardboard stuck in the ground.

The new signs are really a small part of a larger effort to tell the world about ourselves. Last June the Board of Directors voted to combine the Membership and Publicity Committees, under the joint leadership of Board Member Helen Schwartz and Jack Chamberlain, former Board Chair, with the goal of making them both function more effectively. And the joint Committee is doing just that. A new brochure describing who we are and what we do has been put together (with valuable assistance from Anne Wallace and Lena Frumin) and distributed (with the help of other members) to libraries, senior centers and similar locations throughout our service area. The next step, which is underway, is to get the

audited every literature course available. She came to ILR in 1999 and made the most of that experience: she loves leading Study Groups, which she designs creatively and collaboratively. She enjoys each new group of OLLI learners, who, she says, are always fully informed and active participants in animated discussions. Barbara has presented several literature courses with colleague Glenn Patterson, and then with Sidney Steinitz, combining literary works of similar themes and eras to create broad perspectives. In one such course, "Beyond Reason," selected poems by Rilke influenced the general discussion of Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, a play that enriched the context of each work.

Barbara finds that leading science courses (this term she leads "DNA Demystified") is equally rewarding, and sees no need for "dumbing down" the complex content of the science she teaches. Again, she credits the Study Group members, who self-select in choosing science courses and arrive with sufficient background, understanding, and desire to learn. Asked what course is her favorite, she answers, "The one I'm teaching now!" She's mainly interested in ideas, she notes, and follows her interests through wide reading, often in book groups.

Barbara Searle is an OLLI member who embodies the habits of lifelong learners: she's always looking for the next approach to interesting ideas and topics and the creative links between them.

--Mary Bullock

Procedure for Nominations for the OLLI Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will appoint a Nominations and Elections Committee by November 2 and charge them with the task of selecting six nominees for four vacancies on the Board for the 2008 election. The Board consists of 12 members elected for three year terms, four members being elected each year. The Committee will make its selections in accordance with the OLLI Policies and

brochure included in packages of materials that local employers give to retiring employees, and to attract some notice in local newspapers.

In addition, as you may have noticed at the 25th Anniversary celebration, OLLI's members and their activities are being filmed. You may well see our film crew in and around our classes and lectures this fall. The result, later this year, will be a short video, reproduced on CD, which will show who we are and what we do for the benefit of those who may be interested in becoming members or Study Group Leaders.

All this is a departure from the recent past when we have relied entirely on word of mouth to attract new members and SGLs. But times have changed. The wave of baby-boomer retirements has begun, and many of us feel we have something approaching a civic duty to make known the opportunity we offer to enrich their retirement years. In addition we need to acknowledge that Study Group Leaders reach their own retirement age, whatever it may be. Our best source of new SGLs is our own membership. As we attract new members, especially from among the recently retired, our chances of recruiting more SGL candidates with the requisite energy and enthusiasm also increase.

Reaching out to boomers in no way conflicts with what will always be our primary source of new members - word-of-mouth recruiting by members at all stages of retirement. And new members do not necessarily mean more crowding and competition for courses. Other programs, such as the new OLLI at the University of Maryland (campuses at College Park and Shady Grove/Rockville, as recently advertised in the Washington Post) or the well established OLLI at George Mason (three campuses), will undoubtedly soak up some of the new demand. But as growth comes to us, we intend to be prepared for it. Our satellite classrooms in Capital Hall, on River Road, and now, for the first time, in the Katzen Center, reflect only part of the effort underway to prepare for growth. On this subject, needless to say, more to come.

Incidentally, if you have views on these,

or any other subjects involving OLLI, feel free to email our staff at olli@american.edu or me at

r.rasenberger@verizon.net.

--Ray Rasenberger

The Mystery of August 8

For some strange reason, we did not receive any of the applications and checks members sent in that were dated

Procedures, completely independent of the current Board, in consultation with one another and with emphasis on the background and experience of each potential nominee.

Members who would like to volunteer, either themselves or a colleague, as a possible candidate may submit a special form to the Committee. Forms will be posted on the bulletin board, and copies are available in the office.

The names of the Committee members will be posted after November 2. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in May. Photos and biographical data of all candidates will be posted in early April and mailed home to every member prior to elections.

Quick Links

[OLLI Website](#)

[Fall Catalog](#)

August 8, 2007. It remains a mystery to us, but if the checks do appear, we will return them all to their owners, uncashed. Thanks for your patience.

Registering with AU

Those who wish to register their cars with AU to avoid AU tickets should call 202.885.3068. Let them know that you are an OLLI member, give your car license number/state, your name and phone number.

GROUND RULES FOR ALL STUDY GROUPS

OLLI members are an intelligent, vocal group, with peer teaching and learning as our mission. But we need to keep some ground rules in mind as the term begins:

Study Group Leaders set the format for the class.

Each person's opinion counts.

Everyone participates-
no one dominates.

It's OK to disagree-but not to be disagreeable.

Speak positively.

Stay focused.

Help begin and end class on time.

**Thanks to
these Study
Group
Representatives
(SGRs)**

**We very much appreciate
your help in keeping our
program running smoothly.**

Study Group Representatives: Fall 2007

101	News in Context	Susan Blacklow
101B	News in Context	Janet Hooper
119	Media and Politics	Peggy Collier
132	Literacy for Globalists	Joyce Francis
133	US Immigration History	Betsy White
134	World Hot Spots	Myrna Whitworth
135	The UN	Marilynn Smith
136	The Cold War	Dan and Carole Powers
138	Civil War Law & Lawyers	Mary McDonough
208	Psychoanalytic Ideas	Sol Gnat
212	Mesoamerica	Carol Levison
213	Human Nature	Sigmund Gordon
301	New Econ. Insecurity	Chuck Lapine
304	Dev. of Econ. Thinking	Kenneth Guenther
319	Financial Planning	Tom Henderson
431	Cosmos	Lois Eberhard
433	Electrical Age	Harold Sharlin
437	Evolution	Joseph Brent
438	Exploring the Internet	Vonn Quayle

440	DNA Demystified	Marilyn Newton
442	FDA Approval	Joanne Dann
509	Calligraphy	Anne Mansfield
527	Ballet	Peggy Pecore
541	Hudson River School	Anna Boyd
543	Sullivan & Gilbert	Naomi Glass
544	Art Themes	Patricia Johnson
546	French Music	Hope Bogorad
548	Van Gogh and Gauguin	Regina Hablutzel
603	Poetry Workshop	Martha Horne
622	Writing your Memories	Vivian Gorden
662	Ancient Drama	Morton Gluck
663	Book of Job	Phyllis Kline
669	New Yorker	Joyce Francis
670	Genesis	Ruth Weisgall
671	Robert Frost	Margherita Allardice
672	Short Stories	Sidney Steinitz
673	Revisiting Shakespeare	Valeria Saak
674	Charles Dickens	Dorothy Hartland
675	British Writers	Barbara Johnson
676	Language	Eva and Alfred Baer
678	Victorian Heroine	Barbara Coleman
679	James and Wharton	Sally Goldblum
680	Shakespeare's Endings	Vee Burke
705	Cuba	Robert Bullock
714	American Civil War	John Kimbrough
731	Church & Synagogue	Sue Boley
751	History of Architecture	Joan Rooks
759	Great American Trials	Stanley Asrael
760	Oppenheimer	Phyllis Homes
762	Lincoln	Burt Epstein
763	Origins of Am. Rev.	Ed Cohn
764	Russian Tales	Mickey Klein
766	Istanbul	Jim Nix
768	Milit History	Jim Doyle
814	Great Ideas	Mel Hurwitz

4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20016 Tel: 202.895.4860

Email: OLLI@american.edu **Website:** www.OLLI-DC.org

Ray Rasenberger, Board Chair / Anne Wallace, Executive Director /

Lena Frumin, Program Coordinator / Barbara Johnson, Newsletter Editor