



OLLI

at American University Washington DC



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter November 2009

Calendar

November

- 6: Study Group Leader
Lunch (noon, Mary Graydon Center)
- 6: Board Meeting (1:30 pm, TBC)
- 13: Curriculum Committee Meeting (1-2:30 pm, TBC)
- 18: Civil War Trip
- 20: Katzen Center Tour
- 25-29: Thanksgiving Break

December

- 11: Holiday Luncheon (noon, Mary Graydon Center)

December Luncheon and May Annual Meeting

Our Holiday Luncheon will take place on Friday, December 11 at noon in the Mary Graydon Center on American University's main campus. Come celebrate another great semester.

Reservation forms will be available next week.

Letter from the Chair

OLLI Countrywide



Each year, the Osher Foundation convenes a National Conference attended by representatives of the 120 OLLIs now supported, in part, by the Foundation. The foundation encourages the exchange of ideas regarding the programs and procedures of the various organizations. The aim is to improve each institute's operations and thereby enhance the learning opportunities of all participants. I had the privilege of attending the conference this year with Lena Frumin, our Program Manager. The conference was at a resort hotel in Park City, Utah. Since it was early October and ski season had not yet arrived, we attended all general meetings and divided up the smaller breakout sessions.

Attending the national conference for the first time, I was impressed with the diversity of OLLIs represented. The individual sessions that I attended were mostly concerned with creating partnerships within our community and beyond, with most OLLIs having similar goals and aspirations. I gained some perspective into ideas about our way of doing things. I also picked up some good points on providing leadership. All these things will be discussed during the coming weeks with a view toward improving what we do, while maintaining our goals.

A major part of the experience of the conference, like our own organization, is the socialization. I enjoyed meeting many representatives of other OLLIs, particularly the ones nearby. In fact, we are currently exploring ways to get together with our counterparts at Johns Hopkins, George Mason, Towson University, and the University of Maryland. You may well hear more about these gatherings in future newsletters.

--Don Quayle

The People of OLLI: Vee Burke

Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon is May 12, 2010 at Kenwood Country Club.

National OLLI Resource Center

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to go to the OLLI conference with Don. I encourage you all to look at the [National Resource Center](#). They have a conglomeration of interesting stories, [blogs](#), [authors](#), [life stories](#), and a [journal](#) that I encourage you to write for. The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) Review publishes relevant research, stories, poetry and articles-- all available online as well as distributed nationally. If you want to see how other OLLIs operate, I have left a stack of their catalogs in the Temple Baptist Church annex office for you to look at.

--Lena Frumin

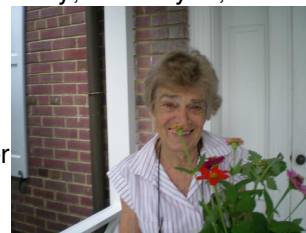
Katzen Center Tour

Tour the Katzen Center exhibit on Aboriginal Art with



Museum Director, Jack Rasmussen, **Friday, November 20 at 1 pm**. Meet inside the gallery. Please click this link to [rsvp](#) so we know how

A small woman with heavy eyebrows shading merry, hazel eyes, Vee came to OLLI at the prompting of her old University of Chicago friend Brad Patterson (currently an OLLI SGL) who urged her to teach a course on welfare reform based on her work in Congress and at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Vee's work for a subcommittee of the Joint Economic and Welfare Committee led to annual CRS reports about government programs ranging from Medicaid, cash aid, housing subsidies, and food stamps to tax credits and job training. "Vee was the US expert on welfare, and her highly respected research was indispensable for creating the Clinton welfare reform legislation," Patterson explains. *Nixon's Good Deed: Welfare Reform*, which she wrote with her husband, *Los Angeles Times* reporter Vince Burke, was published just after his death in 1973.



In 1974, Vee moved to CRS where she continued to specialize in the "social safety net" system. The next 30 years were rewarding ones because of the intellectual stimulation of defining things accurately and the delight of working in an organization "where everyone respected each other and joined in the pursuit of figuring out what is what." It was a privilege to be there, Vee says, adding that it was also a good place to develop meaningful friendships.

Although her OLLI course on welfare reform was, by all accounts, very successful, teaching the same class again would never appeal to the adventurous Vee Burke. So she next led two different Study Groups in philosophy. Regardless of subject matter, Vee's OLLI students find her an empathetic leader who encourages group discussion. David Palmetter, another OLLI SGL, elaborates, "I've taken two of Vee's classes, *The Idea of Justice* and *Aristotle's Rhetoric*. She is deeply knowledgeable about her subject matter, and invariably patient with us even when the study group gets a bit rambunctious --which can happen with courses that touch on hot-button social and political issues. Her classes are a sheer intellectual delight -- the kind of class I came to OLLI hoping to find."

When she retired from CRS, Vee settled on the activities she most wanted to pursue: swimming, playing the piano, and inviting friends over for dinner. Her grandson gave her a book on playing the piano, and she now plays Brahms's "Hungarian Dances". One of her daughters asked Vee to shop with her for upholstery materials, but instead, she drove Vee to the YMCA where she had enrolled her mother as a member and where Vee now swims regularly.

With her four children, Vee recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the huge Burke family tent. And when one of her daughters and her husband visited recently, while collaborating on a book, Vee found it especially touching that they were working together in the adjoining studies as she and her husband Vince had done decades ago with their

many people to expect.

book. All of her children "are good persons," she says proudly.

There will also be a sign-up sheet at the Temple Baptist Church.

--Jacqui Gallagher

OLLI Authors

Contact Ruth Darmstadter if you would like to share your book during the Winter Open House. Call her at 301.229.0419 or email joelruthd@verizon.net

Condolences

We will miss Larry Shulman and Irwin Vogel who passed away last month.

Caregivers' Support Group

Flora Ingenhousz invites you to a Caregivers' Support Group she is facilitating beginning November 4th in Silver Spring.

Please feel free to contact Flora with any questions.

Flora Ingenhousz,
LCSW
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Civil War Trip

It isn't too late to join the Annual Civil War Bus Trip as they venture to Antietam National Battlefield on **Wednesday, November 18** from 8 am to 5:30 pm. The cost is \$40. [Contact](#) the office (202.895.4860) so we can send you a form and add you to the list.



Iona Art Reception

Please join Iona Senior Services in welcoming their new Artist in Residence, Grace Lebow, and their Special Guest Artist, Helen Grunstein

Thursday, November 5th from 5:00-8:00 PM

4125 Albemarle Street, NW

Refreshments will be served.

Please press this link to [RSVP](#) or call (202) 895-9407.

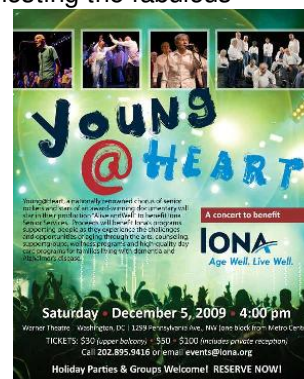
Young at Heart

On December 5th at 4pm Iona House will be hosting the fabulous chorus, Young @ Heart, at the Warner Theatre! This group, whose average age is 80+, sings everything from the Beatles to Sonic Youth and Cold Play. This should be an inspiring event.

Questions? Call (202) 895-9416 or email

events@iona.org

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Don Quayle, Board Chair/ Anne Wallace, Exec. Director/

Lena Frumin, Program Manager/ Barbara Johnson, Newsletter