

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

## May 2015 Newsletter



### Thank You to ...

... **Ahmed Achrati, Josh Berman, Ken Coffey, and Marianne Soponis**, who donated their Study Group Leader gifts to OLLI.

... **Eva Baer, Lila Berger, Ben Boley, Sue Boley, Patricia Druck, Charles Doty, Si Efros, Gloria Kreisman, Carol Light, Larry McCarthy, Ellen Myerberg, Robert Nelson, Dave Palmeter, Ellen Passman, Donna Scriven, Meryl Silver, Rhea Smith, Kelly Tueller, and Betsy White** for stuffing, sealing, and stamping invitations for the John Eaton Concert.

### Letter from the Chair



#### Swan Song

My year as Chair of the Board ends at the end of this month. The very able Gloria Kreisman will take the reins in the important coming year as we work out our arrangement with American University.

My thanks go to my fellow Board members for their advice and patience, to Anne Wallace, Mary Fran Miklitsch, Tony Long, and Vivian Booker in our office, and to all the volunteers who contributed to a solidly successful academic year. The academics are the reason OLLI exists.

More than 1,000 people now participate in OLLI study groups. We're used to selecting from a catalog that routinely presents 90 offerings. But it wasn't always this way.

We got our start 33 years ago, when a small group of retirees decided that they wanted more than just a book group. Led by Tina Fried Heller, they created the Institute for Learning in Retirement and began a diligent search for members. The Institute opened in the Fall of 1982 with 11 study groups and 81 members. In addition to Tina, two other members of the founding generation are still active in OLLI: Carolyn Alper and Margo Kranz.

By the time I joined OLLI in 2006, there was a solid "institute" in place -- complete with rented space, a small staff, and a web site, which is how I found it. At that time there were about 500 members and about 50 courses. OLLI then, OLLI when it was founded, and OLLI as it is now, depends heavily on the voluntary efforts of its members -- to develop and lead courses, to find lecturers and, in some cases, give lectures, to arrange social events, to manage a growing fund-raising effort, to negotiate with present and potential land-lords, to stuff envelopes for mailings, etc.

Those of us who benefit from the efforts and foresight of the OLLI founders owe it to them to ensure that an established institution is in place for future retirees. Without the continued voluntary efforts and

financial generosity of its members, OLLI cannot succeed. But with those efforts and that generosity, we can ensure that OLLI will be there for retirees in the years to come.

Dave Palmeter  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

### June Lecture Series

The June Lecture Series is available on the OLLI website. Visit the [Lecture Series web page](#) for a full listing.

### Fall 2015 Semester

The Fall 2015 semester begins Monday, September 21, and ends on Friday, December 11.

The catalog will be mailed the last week of July. Registration opens when the catalog mails. We will send an announcement when this happens. More info to come in the June newsletter.

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Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*