

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

April 2015 Newsletter



2015 Board Election

The following were elected to the OLLI Board:

- Katy Adams
- Lewis Cohen
- Stan Newman
- Barbara Rollinson

The Committee wishes to thank all of the candidates and the Board, Officers and Staff of OLLI for their help and cooperation.

Condolences

Chuck Lapine, long-time OLLI member and SGL, died earlier this month. Also, **Trudy Kaplan** and **Olga Gilloegly** passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

Open Art Studio

Rose Mosner, our OLLI collage teacher, is inviting everyone to her open art studio on Sat., April 18, from 2:00-6:00

Letter from the Chair



OLLI at American University

We call ourselves "OLLI at American University," but what does that "at" mean? The word became part of our name in April 2008 when the University accepted for its endowment a one-million-dollar grant from the Osher Foundation, with the income to be used to support OLLI. The Memorandum of Agreement memorializing the arrangement noted first that "OLLI is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process" and that AU has a "commitment to serve a diverse student population, including adult learners." It then licensed OLLI to call itself "OLLI at American University."

There are "institutes" at universities across the country. Some are degree-conferring parts of their university, others are not. It's safe to say no two arrangements are alike, but many are similar to the arrangement between OLLI and AU:

- The institute's activities are consistent with the programs and goals of the university.
- The university approves of and encourages the activities of the institute.
- The institute is located "at" the university -- on campus or nearby -- and adds to the university's intellectual footprint in the community.
- The institute governs and supports itself.

Our loose arrangement also includes discounts at the University book store and the Katzen Arts Center gift shop, use of the Bender Library, discounted membership at the Jacobs Fitness Center, and use of the AU shuttle bus from the Tenleytown Metro stop to the campus.

More important, over the past seven years, the University's faculty has enriched the intellectual life of OLLI through the many lectures they have given and classes they have taught on a purely voluntary basis. We greatly value our relationship with the University, and hope to extend it in the years ahead.

pm and/or Sun., April 19, from 2:00-6:00 pm. Light refreshments. Free parking. All welcome. 2939 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. 302, Washington, DC. 202-966-0354. roseart@rcn.com.

Study Group Proposal Reminder

Proposals for Fall 2015 study groups are due to the office by April 27, 2015. Please go to olli-dc.org/studygroupform to submit a proposal online. Thank you.

Thank You to ...

... **Bob Hausman**, for contributing his SGL gift in the Fall. Our apologies for the oversight.

... **Barbara Rollinson**, for all of her work organizing the Spring Open House and organizing the SGR's.

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

Sylvia Brown: Go-Getter for Good

Sylvia Brown has always pushed to improve things. That goal still drives her at 94.

A Rutgers University MSW in Social Work Policy, Sylvia, under the aegis of The Mayor's Office in Newark, NJ, began working out of storefront offices in poor parts of Newark to carry out legislation to help pay for family planning. This entailed not only explaining the contraception services to her clients, but also navigating family politics of providing services to wives whose husbands forbade it. She also had to figure out how to occupy the children tagging along lest they inadvertently betrayed their mothers. Later legislation funded abortions, which despite the need among a teen-aged, unmarried population, doctors were unwilling to acknowledge. Sylvia's efforts helped them by convincing doctors to change their minds.

During these years she also participated in research that led to setting up Patient Advocate programs -- a role she was already fulfilling. Although medical professionals did not see a need for such a role, the patients were grateful and welcomed the program. It is now a standard health-field practice.

All of this was accomplished in five years.

When she and her husband returned to the Washington area on his retirement, she sought ways to encourage new interests for him and joined the Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR). She became the first generation of what is now OLLI, on whose board she has served two terms in addition to "taking the art and literature courses I didn't have time for in college."

Now widowed, she has turned her formidable drive, energy, and intelligence to helping people on a larger scale by becoming a philanthropist. "I've decided that's what I wanted to do," she declares. In addition to her recent generous gift to OLLI of \$25,000.00, she has given to the Levine School of Music, the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, and American University.

"I want to find a way to help people and to make people happy," she says. She has.

News in Context, Looking for SGLs

OLLI has a record of offering several classes each semester to satisfy the demand for in-depth discussion of current news. Requests for registration regularly far exceed the number of available seats. Also,

limited space means that news workers who have taken a class in the previous two semesters almost certainly can't get in despite their continued interest.

To address this demand in the upcoming Fall semester, the Curriculum Committee asks that all interested members seriously consider leading such a class. The present class is led by two members ... so sharing the load can be a good solution. If you cannot propose to lead such a class, please ask a news-focused friend or suggest one to us!

"All Things Shakespeare" Online

If you are one of the many OLLI members who is a Shakespeare devotee, you will want to participate in a combination online discussion group and bulletin board about "All Things Shakespeare."

Not only are many OLLI members regulars at the Folger and the Shakespeare Theatre, they also travel to see performances, from Stratford, Ontario, to Stratford-upon-Avon, as well as making quicker trips to the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore and the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. OLLI's online bulletin board will furnish members with an opportunity to announce and discuss these performances with their OLLI colleagues.

If one of us reads a play or a poem for the first or hundredth time, she/he can share views with others reading the same. We will discuss new books such as James Shapiro's *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606*, which will be published this fall.

OLLI SGLs Osa Coffey, Gina Guglielmo, and Dave Palmeter have agreed to be "active" online participants, but there will be no formal leader of the group. Its success will depend on the participation of OLLI's many Bardolaters. To participate, send an email to [Tony Long](mailto:Tony.Long@american.edu), Curriculum Coordinator.

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