



at Granite State College

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute OLLI at Granite State College



at Granite State College

Late Fall 2007 Newsletter

## Notes from the Director

At our Fall Previews, just before classes began, we welcomed current and prospective members by providing a taste of coming events. Both Committee members and presenters offered overviews of upcoming classes, accompanied by refreshments and registrations. New member sign-ups reached 48, a new record!

**Membership:** We're getting very close to our goal of 500 members; the count at press time is 490, representing more than 60 towns and communities in Southern New Hampshire.

Join us in reaching our target soon, by bringing into membership your friends and relatives. You, our members, are our very best advertisement to share information on the benefits of OLLI membership – especially the wonderful OLLI programs.

**OLLI Staff:** Joining Joan Gillis and me in the OLLI office in Concord this month is Christina Link. A resident of Londonderry and mother of two, Christina has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from UMass at Amherst. Her most recent professional experience was in the Financial Aid Department at Hesser College. Please welcome our new Program Assistant. Christina's experience and engaging personality will surely add to the OLLI experience.

**Classes:** The level of enthusiasm for OLLI Fall classes was great; attendance was steady; presenters reported lively discussions in the classrooms and afterward; the day trips were especially popular.

Our Curriculum committees are zeroing in on an equally wonderful Spring session. Catalogs will be available in late February; classes begin the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>.

End-of-session Celebrations, have taken place in Concord and Manchester. People shared their OLLI experiences and chatted about their favorite classes and presenters.

*Virginia Martin, Director*

## News from the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has appointed Peg Fargo of OLLI at Concord as the recorder and Elaine Emery of OLLI at Seacoast as chairperson this year. The group has already been at work clarifying procedures, such as Course Monitor Guidelines, for the benefit of all the sites. On October 3, the group met to establish goals and an action plan.

The Steering Committee goals between now and Spring 2008 are to provide support and guidance for the local committees and other OLLI working groups, to develop a working structure for the organization and to help initiate an OLLI Advisory Council. (The Advisory Council will be composed of OLLI members, Granite State College representatives and community members; the role will be to ensure that the program realizes its mission of lifelong learning for seniors in New Hampshire.)

*Elaine Emery, Steering Committee Chair*

## Information from Manchester

As OLLI Fall classes come to a way-too-soon end, we hope you've found that many new thoughts have been generated, many new relationships begun and old friendships renewed.

Space limits us to brief highlights of the classes in Manchester (other sites follow). Visits to the Van Otis Chocolate Factory, to Livingston Park for mushroom hunting and to Frank Lloyd Wright's Zimmerman House coexisted with an 8-session weekly news review focusing on current events. Offerings that simplified stocks and bonds and demystified household repairs joined Civilization and the Jews, The New Middle East, The Bee Mystery and the Civil War Soldier. Sherlock Holmes, Katherine Hepburn, Confucius, Joseph Campbell and Beauty in Science and Spirit were intriguing class subjects. The Bridge and a Holiday Cooking Tour included time for socializing, alongside learning to use computers, to check out your family tree with genealogy and to explore your own personality profile. Whew! And, just wait until you see the Spring catalog!

*Curriculum Committee, Manchester*

Visit the OLLI National Resource web sight to explore lots of ideas shared by other OLLI programs:  
<http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national>

**Manchester Breakfast Program:** Twenty-eight OLLI members attended a buffet breakfast at Bethany Chapel. Robert Babb, Conductor, presented



*Photo by Bob Steiner*

an interesting program on his background in music and the formation of the newly organized Festival Orchestra. Members were invited to purchase discounted tickets to the orchestra's first performance at the Palace Theatre.

*Norma Bolduc, Chair, Publicity Committee*

## Seacoast Events

**Hampton Marsh Tours** – Interest was so high that the Seacoast OLLI had to schedule an additional program at the Hampton Marsh. More than 40 people took part in the two tours, listening to NH Audubon's Peter McKinley talk about the health of the marsh and its inestimable value to migratory birds and the local ecology. The program was planned as a follow-up to an OLLI program that Peter did last spring at RiverWoods in Exeter. In their subsequent evaluations, people not only asked for another program in the spring but wanted it to be more than one session in length. We are working on it.

**Stonewalls** – Another Seacoast program beset by a huge number of signups is "Stonewalls: A New Hampshire Treasure." More than 40 people registered. To accommodate the large number, instructor Janice Griffith prepared a slideshow and presentation to precede the field work. She knew she would not finish the wall in one session, so those interested were invited to return and continue working the next morning. The Great Bay Discovery center in Stratham has graciously offered not only a beautiful site for the wall but also an excellent room for the presentation.

**Seacoast Curriculum Committee:** During its first two years, the Seacoast OLLI Committee has developed its program offerings during its regular

meetings. Growth and loftier goals have led to the formation of a subcommittee to do much of the brainstorming and legwork required. The full committee then reviews the suggested programs and determines the ones to be offered. Hopefully, this process will also give more opportunity for coordination with programs being developed in Manchester and Concord. Subcommittee members include Nancy Warren, Janet Tucker, Jeff Hillier, and new members Joann Griffin and Peg Lahey (welcome aboard!).

**Spring in the Seacoast:** Several new and exciting programs are being considered for OLLI's spring term in the Seacoast. "People & Plants" will look at the critical role that plants play in our medicines. "Life after Work" will help our "over 50" folks plan for meaningful and satisfying ways to spend the upcoming years. "Guns, Germs, and Steel" promises an exciting literary experience. Topics in an education series may include No Child Left Behind, great books for children, special needs children, educational games which grandparents can play with their grandchildren, and the mushrooming role of technology in today's classroom. Other Seacoast proposals include a visit behind the scenes at a local bookstore, "Numismatics & Metal Detecting," and a look at life on a family dairy farm. Two exciting places in Portsmouth will hopefully host other sessions. Stay tuned....

*Jeff Hillier, Co-Chair, OLLI at Seacoast Committee*

## Reporting from Concord...

What a dream class! Fabricated when the Concord Committee realized NH had several people involved with either the US Information Agency or who were Ambassadors, the committee asked five people to be speakers for "Presenting Americans Abroad" – a four-session look at how they felt America was presented to the world.

No one wanted to leave at the end of each session! The attendees' questions were challenging as well as interesting. The speakers were George Bruno, Ambassador to Belize, Richard Swett, Ambassador to Denmark, and Pat Ayers, Marilyn Johnson and Don Gilmore, all three of whom were in the US Information Agency and served in many countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. One of the most interesting parts of the course was the insider's look at how the State Department is organized and how embassies function.

*Virginia Gerseny, Chair of OLLI at Concord*

## Winners of Free Course Raffles

One name was drawn at each of the three Fall Preview events held in Manchester, Concord and on the Seacoast. Winners received a coupon to one free fall course of their choice.

The lucky winners were Roger Paradis, a new member from Manchester, Mary Jo Kremer from the Seacoast and Ken Doak from Concord.

## Speakers Bureau Seeking Venues

The OLLI Speakers Bureau has helped spread the word about the advantages of lifelong learning for seniors.. If you know of an organization such as a club, church group or civic organization that is looking for a speaker, suggest that they invite a member of the OLLI Speakers Bureau.

Contact Sue Staples, Coordinator, Speakers Bureau at [skstaples@comcast.net](mailto:skstaples@comcast.net) or call her at (603) 472-5483.

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OLLI members enjoying the great outdoors during A Fall Mushroom Foray. Photo by Margaret Porter

## Learning for the Fun of It!

## Help Wanted

**With your help, we can do it all.**

**Writers:** If you have enjoyed the preceding articles about OLLI and the OLLI experience, perhaps you'd like to write one of your own! Newsletters are published bi-monthly (may become monthly). The next issue is due out in mid-January. Please contact Norma Bolduc at 624-0926 or email [boldnor@hotmail.com](mailto:boldnor@hotmail.com) if you have a hidden writer within you.

**Newsletter Editor:** The Publicity Committee needs to find someone to spearhead the newsletter project. The Committee is considering a monthly newsletter – brief, newsy and timely. If you or someone you know would like to help with make this happen, please contact Norma Bolduc at 624-0926 or email [boldnor@hotmail.com](mailto:boldnor@hotmail.com).

**Volunteers:** A volunteer is someone who gives willingly of their time and talent. The OLLI organization has grown each year thanks to the support of our volunteers. Some help in the OLLI office, others serve on one or more committees (Publicity, Curriculum, Fund Development, Steering, for instance). Several members serve on the Speakers Bureau (part of the Publicity Committee).

If you would like to help OLLI continue to grow, please consider volunteering a few hours of your time. To do so, contact the OLLI office at (603) 513-1377 or [olli.office@granite.edu](mailto:olli.office@granite.edu)

## Financial Assistance Fund

OLLI at Granite State College has a limited fund that offers tuition and membership assistance, created by donations from individuals, OLLI members and community partners. The process is simple, friendly and confidential – call the OLLI office (603-513-1377) for more information.

OLLI at Granite State College  
8 Old Suncook Road  
Concord, NH 03301

[olli.office@granite.edu](mailto:olli.office@granite.edu)

603 513-1377

[www.granite.edu/olli](http://www.granite.edu/olli)



## OLLI Gift Memberships Available



Looking for the perfect gift? Purchase an OLLI Gift Membership for friends and family members. The Gift Membership comes with an attractive certificate entitling the recipient to a membership through February 2009 and puts them on the list to receive catalogs in the first mailing. Call the office (513-1377) for the order form or to purchase by credit card.

### Mark Your Calendars



Catalogs mailed: Late February

Spring Previews: March 4, Seacoast • March 5, Concord • March 6, Manchester

Classes begin: March 25, 2008

Watch for further details.

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8 Old Suncook Road  
Concord NH 03301