

## Why OLLI? – Margaret’s Story

*Submitted by Michael Baker, Class of 2010*

There’s no one answer for why people become OLLI members. For some it’s to continue their education, for others it’s to learn a new skill; still for others it’s a chance for sociability with people of their own age, to make new friends with common interests. For one woman it was to create a distraction after the devastating loss of her husband.

A transplant from England, Margaret came to this country, one day shy of her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, to visit her older brother and to explore and compare nursing practices with those of England. The plan was to stay for six months and then return home. Little did she know that she would meet John, the love of her life, marry him, raise a family, and spend their early years restoring an old colonial house that, in her words, “needed some serious TLC.”

As Margaret became a bona fide New Englander, learning how to hook and braid rungs, she quit her nursing career after marriage to take on the role of wife and then mother.



John’s health began to deteriorate following a bout with pneumonia in 1998 and gradually worsened over time until 2004 when he became seriously ill and died at age eighty.

“His death in 2004 was absolutely devastating for me,” Margaret says; “I felt both emotionally and physically diminished. I couldn’t even read a book because I was simply unable to absorb what I was reading. I was lost and lonely.”

As luck would have it, Margaret’s daughter, Mary, had a friend whose mother, Reta McGregor, was both a member and a presenter in the OLLI program. Reta introduced Margaret to OLLI and, before long, she was renewing her love of history,

## IN THIS ISSUE

CLICK ON ANY TOPIC TO GO TO THE PAGE CARRYING THE ARTICLE

[MARGARET’S STORY](#)  
[PRESENTER PROFILE](#)  
[LET’S GET CRACKIN’](#)  
[CELEBRITY ENCOUNTERS](#)  
[CONCORD BOOK CLUB](#)  
[GIVE LOCALLY](#)  
[DECEMBER CALENDAR](#)

[HALL STREET JOURNAL](#)  
[PHANTOMS OF THE AUDI](#)  
[OLLI-TAIRE WINNER](#)  
[WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?](#)  
[LUNCH BUNCHES](#)  
[CHAIR’S CHAT](#)

reading literature that she had long neglected, and meeting interesting people of her age, making friendships. Moreover, she was encouraged to volunteer and it was obvious to her that her time and effort would make a difference to this relatively new organization.

She joined the Curriculum Committee, and later, serving as chair of the committee, she watched OLLI grow from a fledgling organization offering a few courses and educational opportunities to the vibrant organization of today with its travel experiences, a thick catalog of educational courses and wide variety of social activities. “Believe me OLLI was a lifesaver for me, and I strongly recommend it.” For her OLLI is “a place to make new friends and a chance to do something meaningful in a wonderful community of adult learners.”

Sure, there are as many reasons for being a member of OLLI as there are members. Margaret’s is only one story, but her story also encapsulates the very reason OLLI exists – to bring folks together who want to continue to learn but also want to meet new, interesting people and make new friends, and perhaps volunteer a few hours of their time and their talent to the organization.

#### ***T'was some night before Christmas . . .***

. . . about 15 years ago when Dean Judy Zubrow began exploring the idea of starting an Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning at Granite State College. Due to her efforts GSC was awarded an initial gift of seed money from the Osher Foundation to grow our OLLI. Before long Judy, some volunteer elves, and a part-time Director who may or may not have had *cheeks like roses and a nose like a cherry*, had achieved success!

500 card-carrying, OLLI members, whose *stockings hung by the chimney with care*, was exactly what was needed to receive the gift of an endowment from the Osher Foundation! The endowment was intended to provide annual interest income to supplement our budget and build assurances for sustainability. Since then the Osher Foundation has continued to grant gifts to OLLI that have brought even more joy to members *than visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads*.

For example, fast forward those *eight tiny reindeer* to 2014 when OLLI received a gift to help it become the recipient of more gifts! That's right, the Osher Foundation gave our OLLI a gift to start a fundraising program. Why didn't the Foundation just give us a grant, you ask? Consider this: if *a chubby and plump, right jolly old elf* were to



leave you a NH lottery scratch ticket worth \$100,000 what would you do with the money?

Would you pay off debts, give some to relatives, travel, buy the *stump of a pipe*? You might just spend it all. By investing in a fundraising program the Foundation *was laying a finger aside of its nose* and committing to building funds rather than spending them. And it works—every year we add to our *bundle of toys* . . . I mean our OLLI savings account.

Our OLLI relies on gifts: earned interest from endowments, in-kind gifts from Granite State College, gifts of time and effort from volunteers and financial gifts from members. I hope you will consider joining the Bernard Osher Foundation, GSC, and me by giving a gift to OLLI this year . . . *you have nothing to dread* . . .

#### **Gift Giving Idea**

The OLLI office can help you finish up that holiday gift list. OLLI Memberships are the perfect gift for the adult who has everything. Call the OLLI office today at 603-513-1377 to purchase a membership which will be valid until January 31, 2020.

#### **OLLI Class Scholarships**

Your volunteer Steering Committee believes that OLLI should help with the cost of class fees when a member experiences financial challenges. A simple call to the OLLI office expressing your need is all that is required. Staff will not ask you intrusive questions and your request is kept confidential. Scholarships are limited to \$60 per OLLI term and may be used solely to cover class fees. Please call the OLLI office and ask to speak with Laurie or Jane for more information.

#### **Weather Cancellations**

Granite State College's winter weather closure policy can be found at: <http://my.granite.edu/safety-security> . Announcements will be posted on WMUR TV and its website [www.wmur.com](http://www.wmur.com) and are campus-specific. (For example, Manchester may be closed while Portsmouth remains open.) The OLLI Office will be closed if GSC-Concord is closed. Please do not call the OLLI Office for information on closings.

**For safety reasons, OLLI meetings and activities are considered cancelled if the GSC campus where they were to be held has been closed.**

If GSC remains open but OLLI decides to cancel an event or class due to weather conditions, those registered will be notified by email or phone.

OLLI members are personally responsible for their own safety and must exercise good judgment when making traveling choices in inclement weather. GSC advises you not to travel if you believe you may be putting yourself in harm's way.



*Happy, healthy  
holidays from your  
OLLI staff  
George, Laurie, Tessa  
and Jane*

# Presenter Profiles

*Our prolific presenters, those who have presented numerous OLLI courses, often in multiple sites, have earned a special place in heaven. Remember that these are volunteers who use their own time and resources to research, plan, develop and present their course content to a grateful and enthusiastic OLLI audience. Each month we introduce one of them to you so you can learn about the person behind the course topic.*

## Phil Valley

*Submitted by Jacki Fogarty, Class of 2012*

Phil Valley has lived a life of stunning contrasts beginning with his early adult life in a religious order where he taught Humanities and Great Books courses. There he participated in the inception of Elder Hostel giving seniors an opportunity to live on campus and attend summer courses. Elder Hostel was, for Phil, a forerunner to his OLLI activities.

Phil's education included Master's Degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and St. John's College in New Mexico where his specialty was the History of Ideas. In addition he received a Ph.D. in English and Humanities from New York University, in a program that included studies in both Europe and Asia, where he was fully immersed in the works of ancient philosophers.

In his middle age Phil's life took a different turn when he fell in love and married and became a father to seven children. His family now includes 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who live near and far and provide many opportunities to visit and enjoy all over again his love of family.

After leaving teaching Phil started a second career working at a local nonprofit as Director of Services for Seniors which supports elderly individuals who wish to remain living in their own homes. This marked a big change from his earlier career but a natural transition based on his lifelong love for and support of the elderly.



Upon his retirement eight years ago, Phil began doing hospice volunteer work in a local nursing home where he developed relationships not only with his clients but their roommates and others he meets in his regular visits. He delights in buying scratch tickets for an elderly gentleman hoping to win "the big one," and bringing others souvenirs from his many travels.

Phil had the pleasure of meeting Zane Knoy when they were both involved in the Manchester and NH Councils on Aging. At the time Zane was an active participant in OLLI and, when he suggested co-teaching a course, Phil was all in. In his nine years as a presenter and member, Phil has taught many courses on the Great Books, philosophy, hospice and the popular *Films on Aging* course. For many years he also served on the OLLI Curriculum Committee in Manchester and is well known for his relentless recruiting of retired professors who were his former colleagues. Among the things he most enjoys

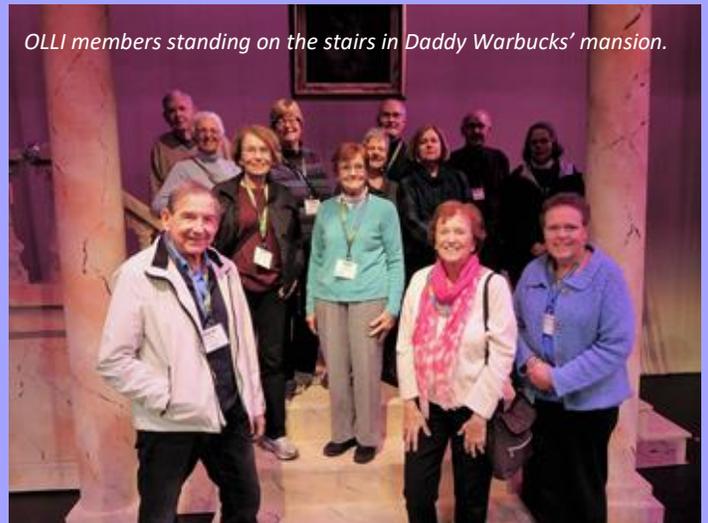
about teaching OLLI members is reintroducing class members to texts they first read in their youth and reexamining those great works with a deeper appreciation that comes from a life well-lived.

## Phantoms of the Audi

*Submitted by Ray Mercier, class of 2015*

OLLI students received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Concord City Auditorium with the help of Carol Bagan, a Friend of the Audi, and Allwynne Fine, the director of "Annie." We viewed the labyrinth of dressing rooms and prop storage, and learned about the history of this beautiful auditorium, which opened in 1904. Saved from being turned into office space in the 1990s by the "Friends of the Audi," the story is inspiring because no one person saved the City Hall Auditorium. It was saved, and is still maintained, by a multitude of people all doing their little part to accomplish a great thing together.

*OLLI members standing on the stairs in Daddy Warbucks' mansion.*



# Let's Get Crackin'

Submitted by Jo Hendry, Class of 2012

OLLI members were recently treated to a tour of Taylor Egg Products in Madbury, NH. Bill Taylor, past president of the organization, led the tour. He and his two sons run the amazingly complex operation. The family has been involved in the industry since the early 60's, originally owning some 125,000 chickens. By 1973, they decided to move into the "egg cracking" business, processing liquid egg product, rather than selling whole eggs, and by 1980, all the chickens were gone and the buildings were converted to a state-of-the art mechanized processing facility.

Thanks to automation, the company can process 500,000 eggs a day with the help of about a dozen workers. The workday runs 4:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., five days a week. Taylor Egg Products is one of 19 egg product facilities nationwide. It supplies liquid egg product to businesses in an area that stretches from Providence to Albany to Bangor. About 90% of the eggs are sourced from Pennsylvania, with the remainder from more local farms. In all, Bill said, they have contracts for up to 700,000 laying hens. Their primary customers are commercial bakeries.

Taylor Egg Products prides itself on environmental stewardship. The operation produces 16-18 tons of flaked eggshells per week. So what happens to all those eggshells? Most of them are composted. From April to June Taylor Egg also makes them available to farmers to spread on the cornfields.

And how about the water needed? The process requires 4,600 gallons of water a day, luckily available from their own well. The wastewater is trucked to the treatment plant in South Berwick, ME.



*Although largely mechanized, the process is overseen closely by staff to be sure there is no contamination of any kind on the conveyor.*

And what generates the wastewater? The company cleans and sterilizes the equipment for 2½ hours every day (including 3 miles of pipeline!). It also washes the eggs, breaks them, collects and filters the liquid egg product, pasteurizes it and then ships it in 250 gallon containers to the customers.

Every day and every step is overseen by a Federal inspector to insure that safe handling is in place. In addition, Taylor Egg Products sends samples daily to two different testing labs for cross-referenced reports.

As you can see, this industry is no shell game!

---

## Congratulations to the First Winner in OLLI-taire!

Submitted by Jacki Fogarty, Class of 2012

The first OLLI-taire winner surfaced in mid-November. Lise Juliani, class of 2017, presented her run of 13 cards in the hearts suit and received a Dunkin Donuts gift card for her collection efforts.



Lise is an enthusiastic OLLI member who waited impatiently to get old enough to join OLLI. Once she did, she jumped in with both feet, taking classes, joining committees and volunteering in a variety of capacities.

If you have attended Concord events, you may have seen and tasted her beautiful baked creations. She has become the secretary of Concord's Central Committee and is in the process of developing an OLLI-wide Facebook communications campaign. (If you checked OLLI's Facebook page last July, you enjoyed Lise's countdown to registration.)

Back to OLLI-taire, Lise can be found at classes and events bartering, trading and helping other members work on their collections – it's no surprise that she was the first to collect a prize.

For more information on OLLI-taire, please click [here](#).

**Concord's Mug 'n' Muffin – Celebrity Encounters** lived up to its billing as members sipped coffee, munched on muffins and entertained each other with stories of meeting celebrities.



**Gary Gordon**, a man of many interests of which sports is NOT one, spent a summer in physical therapy after a major knee injury. He struck up a conversation with a fellow patient and they enjoyed weeks and weeks of discussions on many topics. When his newfound friend was ready to leave, he stopped by to say good-bye, shook Gary's hand and thanked him. "For what?" Gary asked. "Well, you know, for not asking a million questions about baseball." That's when Gary learned that he had been rehabbing next to Concord's own **Bob Tewksbury** (and shortly after he even learned who the All-Star pitcher was!)

**Ed McMongle**, fortunately, was not bluffing when he told **Arthur C. Clarke** how much he enjoyed both the book and the movie he had written. Clarke, who visited Ed's college science club to speak on geosynchronous orbits for satellites (the beginning of telecommunication and GPS), sat down with a small group around a café table. He began quizzing Ed on elements of the productions and Ed was quite knowledgeable and perfectly capable of a whole conversation discussing 2001: A Space Odyssey.



**Peg Fargo** boarded the sailboat *Clearwater* to join **Pete Seeger** and a group of young people in cleaning up the Hudson River. After pulling up to the shore, Seeger noticed an old tire floating in the water and yelled at Peg to go get it. So she waded in, retrieved the tire and rolled it up the hill to the disposal area. Seeger never learned her name, but when he saw her again, he sure did remember "Tire Girl."

**Peter, Paul & Mary** featured in two members' recollections. **Janet Cerat** was a great fan and received tickets to a concert for her birthday. She and her friend loved the concert and, at the end, her friend said, "Wait, I have another surprise," and led her back stage. She met all three, but, when Paul and Mary were called away, Peter said to her, "I understand today is your birthday," and proceeded to sing a very personal happy birthday to her.

**Jane Thul**, also an avid fan, along with a group of friends, attended concerts whenever they were held in driving distance throughout the midwest. In 1979 they made their way to a concert in Rochester without having tickets in advance. Waiting in line to buy them, they were delighted when **Peter Yarrow** came out holding a note and asking, "Did anyone write this note?" "Wish I did," answered Jane, and a conversation ensued. After the concert Peter sought them out, noting that he could see them in their front row seats singing the words to every single song. Dubbing them the "Rochester 7," Peter invited them to seek him out any time they attended a concert. In short order Jane had become a good friend, sharing letters and pictures over the years. "I've played his guitar; he's played mine. And we've sung together. You know, he's just real people."



**Richard Frye** boarded a crowded commercial flight from D.C. to Manchester. As luck would have it, a window seat was open next to a good-sized man who was obviously crippled. He made it as easy as he could for Richard to climb over him to his seat and they each spent the flight immersed in their own thoughts. But Richard was certain he had seen the man's distinctive bearded face before and it bothered him the whole time. It was only after deplaning that Richard realized he could have spent the hours in flight talking to **C. Everett Koop**, the former surgeon general, best known for his warnings about smoking and other health issues.



**Phyllis Benoit** was an enthusiastic volunteer for the John F. Kennedy campaign (and others) resulting in meeting several prominent politicians in the 50's and 60's. But it was when she and a friend found their way into a rowdy pre-inaugural party, the noise forced Bobby Kennedy to leave his office. The Secret Service moved in to escort Phyllis and her friend out of the party, but not before **Bobby** and **Lyndon Johnson** shook their hands, thanking them for their service. The girls' claim to fame came when the incident was included (without names) in Theodore White's book, *The Making of a President*.

While in an Army hospital in Okinawa recovering from pneumonia, **Dan Fogarty**, received a visit from Gold Glove shortstop, **Jim Fregosi**. As other players made their rounds in the ward, Fregosi, NOT a member of the Boston Red Sox, spent a good 10 minutes sitting on Dan's bed praising Carl Yastrzemski and talking about games he played against the Boston Red Sox.

**Chris Pappas** ("not that one," as he always introduces himself) described an elevator ride with **Ringo Starr**, **Joyce Prowse** cleaned **Ricky Craven's** teeth, **Ed McMonagle** showed us an autograph from **Richie Havens**, **John Walker** met Navy pilot **Ed Asner**, **Bev Kibby** met **Ted Kennedy** and **Sargent Shriver**, **Kit DeVries** met **Barack Obama**, **Marcia Gray** sang with **Brenda Lee**, **Gary Gordon** shook hands with **Haile Selassie**, King of Ethiopia, and the stories kept coming . . .

Special guest, **Paul Brogan**, frequent OLLI presenter, shared several celebrity stories. His first celebrity meeting came after a Beatles concert with his unimpressed father. As they were waiting for their car, **Paul McCartney** was too, and they had a chance to chat. Little did he know that would be the first of decades of celebrity interactions. Having interrupted **Joan Crawford** in the middle of cleaning her bathroom to pick up an autographed picture for a friend, Paul went on to describe her as a warm, gracious and unpretentious woman. As was **Jackie Kennedy Onassis** who dropped in at the Concord Theatre and was invited by manager Theresa Cantin to be her guest. Mrs. Onassis's smiling reply as she paid for her ticket: "Why no, you have to make a living."



## What's

### On Your Mind?



A column where members' questions are asked . . .

And answered . . .

Dear OLLI Outlook,

I get frustrated when I'm in a class with another person who consumes all of the attention from the presenter leaving no time for the rest of us to ask questions or discuss key points but I don't want to cause a fuss. Should I just put up with it?

Dear Member,

Your frustration is valid and should be addressed. Fortunately many of our volunteer presenters have been teachers or trainers in past careers and are skilled at managing classroom behavior like you've described. When that is not the case you have 3 options:

- See the Presenter after class and describe your frustration. The Presenter may or may not realize it is an issue. You don't have to single out the individual consuming the attention.
- See the Class Assistant after class and ask if they would be willing to explain the situation to the Presenter, again without naming names.
- Contact the OLLI Program Director, Jane Fletcher, [jane.fletcher@granite.edu](mailto:jane.fletcher@granite.edu)

The OLLI Code of Conduct policy which can be found at: <https://olli.granite.edu/policies>, is meant to address any situation that might make a member feel uncomfortable or disrespected. The OLLI Program Director is always ready to listen and help.

The OLLI Outlook welcomes your opinions and questions. Please direct them to [OLLIOutlook@aol.com](mailto:OLLIOutlook@aol.com).

## Give Locally

Submitted by Phyllis Benoit, Class of 2008

Why you should give locally? If you wanted a stop sign at the end of your street, you would not begin by calling the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington! Think about your passions. Is OLLI one? Please give locally and put OLLI on your list. Thank you.



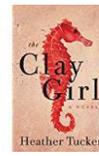
Your generous donations work to maintain affordable dues and class fees, supplement scholarships, ensure program sustainability and build organizational capacity. Thank you for supporting OLLI at Granite State College.

Click [here](#) to access the [online donation form](#) or mail your check payable to OLLI at Granite State College, OLLI Office, 25 Hall Street, Concord NH 03301.

## Concord Book Club

Submitted by Mary Davies, Class of 2013

Chapter Chat is open to OLLI members throughout the state.



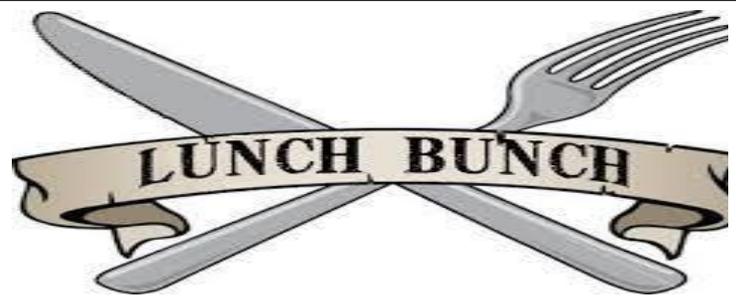
The book club meets on the second Monday of the month, 12:30 p.m. at Granite State College, Concord

### December 10 - *Clay Girl* by Heather Tucker

Ari, short for Hariet, grows up with an abusive father and an alcoholic mother and five other sisters. The novel is written through the eyes of a tough and gifted 8-year-old. The story is disturbing but hopeful.

### January 14 - *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

Sad, funny, endearing are all used to describe this novel and its quirky heroine. Set in Glasgow, Eleanor is lacking in social skills and friends but things change. The story is an emotional roller coaster with lots of humor.



### Concord Lunch Bunch

Submitted by Phyllis Benoit, Class of 2008

Granite State Restaurant at the Centennial Inn  
Saturday, December 8 at 11:45 a.m.  
Park in the back and take the elevator to the first floor. Enjoy holiday decorations and order from their delicious menu. Everyone is invited. RSVP to Phyllis Benoit if you plan to attend by emailing [ppigula@att.net](mailto:ppigula@att.net) or calling 774-7721.

### Seacoast Lunch Bunch

Submitted by John Russell, Class of 2014

Take a break from holiday preparation and join us as we celebrate Poinsettia Day, Wednesday, December 12, 12:00 noon, at Kelly's Row in Somersworth. RSVP to John Russell ([russelljohnt@comcast.net](mailto:russelljohnt@comcast.net)) by noon on Monday, December 10 if you plan to attend.



## Chair's Chat

Submitted by Sharon Kace, Class of 2010, Steering Committee Chair

Every year from Thanksgiving throughout the holiday season, our attention turns to all types of activities filled with calorie-rich food . . . parties with friends, family dinners, lunches with coworkers, etc., etc. It was just as evident at the last Steering Committee meeting in late November as a buffet of topics was presented to the members. The team chewed the "food for thought" thoroughly on a wide-ranging menu to help our members develop an appetite for more OLLI participation.

Our appetizer was a discussion of the history of our Steering Committee and how it has developed over the years to accommodate the growth and changes of our organization, even including a little indigestion that was rapidly corrected.

A perfect salad course was the follow-up to last month's presentation by our volunteer, Lise Juliani, about the whys and hows to implement a major social media initiative. How delicious, as this topic was not even considered when OLLI at GSC was established almost 15 years ago but is now an item on the menu in many of our lives. OLLI recognizes that social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) is an outside influence that mandates we utilize the availability of this new cuisine to communicate with our audience effectively.

The OLLI monthly newsletter, *The Outlook*, became the entree topic and the nibbling began. Jacki Fogarty, editor, provided discussion topics/questions last month for the committee members to consider and followed up this month by graciously answering questions and accepting critiques with her usual aplomb.

Iris Altilio added the necessary side dish, a follow-up report on the progress of a proposed Member Handbook. An outline has been detailed and a menu is now taking shape. Volunteers have been recruited, however, a few additional members to this team would be helpful to stir the ingredients.

With great anticipation the dessert course arrived . . . a discussion regarding the possibility of hosting an OLLI at GSC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. It sounded delicious . . . a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Bill Faulkner then volunteered to assemble a team to establish the theme and handle the details.

As an extra treat, we added three guests, Su Bennett and JoAnn Meyers of Manchester and Lise Juliani of Concord, to the assemblage; each increased the flavoring of the discussions. Remember, any OLLI member may attend and partake of the buffet of topics at Steering Committee (or any committee) meeting. Simply check the date, time and location in the calendar on the back page of *The Outlook*.

May your tables be full of friends, family and, of course, food during this festive holiday season.

Bon Appetite!  
Sharon

The Steering Committee's next meeting will be Monday, December 17, 10:00 a.m. at Granite State College, Concord. All members are welcome.

