

Upcoming Lunch & Learns

Lunch & Learns are one-hour sessions on a variety of topics held around the lunch hour. Free to members, these Zoom sessions are an important member benefit. Even though they are free, you must register for them on the OLLI website in order to receive a Zoom link. Oh, and bring your own lunch!

New topics are added regularly. You can find the current offerings on the main catalog page of the OLLI website in the *Additional Happenings* section. Or, type Lunch into the lime green search bar.

Following is the schedule of Lunch & Learns through year end:

September 1 – 11:00 a.m. – Creating Enticing Visuals for OLLI

September 16 – 11:30 a.m. – Ron’s Rescue and Restoration Garage

September 24 – 11:00 a.m. – Ready for 100 – What Does It Mean?

October 15 – 11:30 a.m. – The Marquis de Lafayette Visits New Hampshire

November 13 – 12:00 p.m. – Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner

Be sure to check these out – you sure can’t tell what they’re about from looking at the titles!!! [Click here](#) to check for current offerings.

WHERE IS MY ZOOM LINK?

Submitted by Jane Fletcher, Interim Program Director

If you registered for a fall course and did not find your Zoom link in your email inbox it is not because it wasn’t sent to you.

It has become apparent that email providers may be managing them differently. Please check your spam or junk folder (in Gmail, possibly your promotions folder) for the email from your class moderator that contains the link to your course.

If you still cannot find it please email the moderator or call the OLLI office at (603) 513-1377 and staff will be happy to assist. OLLI apologizes for the inconvenience this is causing.

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Fall Term – Take a Second Look

These courses, coming up in the next six weeks have seats available. Check them out!

- 🌀 Poetry Reading by NH Poet Laureate
- 🌀 Muhammad and the Birth of Islam
- 🌀 Duke Ellington
- 🌀 What is your Food Science IQ?
- 🌀 Sustainable Urban Farming: Tour Hip Peas Farm
- 🌀 Freedom Trail Stories Part 2
- 🌀 Exploring the Amesbury Millyard - a Virtual Walking Tour
- 🌀 New Communication Strategies for Those with Dementia
- 🌀 America's Social Contract: Where It Started and Where Are We Now?
- 🌀 Denmark and France Under Nazi Occupation: Rescue, Memory and Myth
- 🌀 Bridge for your Brain: More Techniques for Declaring a Bridge Hand
- 🌀 Living with Bears in Your Community
- 🌀 Light, Color, Pigments: Some Stories, Some Science
- 🌀 Hermit: The Mysterious Life of Jim Whyte
- 🌀 Current Events: Here, There and Everywhere
- 🌀 Let's Be Blunt, a Joint Conversation About CBD
- 🌀 Tramping Abroad - What You Need to Know when Traveling Far Afield
- 🌀 Forecasting the Weather and Large Scale Weather Patterns
- 🌀 Exploring Japanese Art: Wabi-Sabi, Humility and Hidden Beauty

Learning for the Fun of It

THE HALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE LATEST NEWS
FROM THE OLLI OFFICE, 25 HALL STREET, CONCORD

Submitted by Jane Fletcher, Interim Program Director

A Look at OLLI During COVID

It is no secret that OLLI volunteers and staff work as a team from the administrative level to leadership level. The volunteer leadership, members who serve on the Steering Committee, receive monthly program updates from OLLI staff that are prepared using data from automated reporting systems. Monthly updates provide our leadership with snapshots of membership and registration numbers as well as OLLI's financial statements.

Although the general membership receives a summary of that information in the annual report around mid-November, considering the impact of COVID, I thought you might be interested to know how OLLI looks right now. Why now? Roughly half of our members were due to renew on August 1 and fall registration opened on August 3 so, although it is still early in our fiscal year, we already have a half-year of data to consider.

We Look Pretty Good!

Support from the Bernard Osher Foundation and Granite State College contributes to the financial success of OLLI, but the strength of OLLI relies on the support of members. Membership numbers, member participation and member donations are all indicative of the level of member support.

On July 31, the day before August 1 renewals were due, OLLI had reached a peak membership of 1319, the highest number of members ever, and member donations had exceeded our goal for fiscal year 2020. Following the renewal date, membership has declined by 29% (i.e., reduction based on members who did not renew.) The decline in membership may be temporary considering that online classes do not appeal to everyone. But also know that OLLI has continued to attract new members. Newly-retired people, people working from home and even people from other states have joined specifically because courses are being offered online! Last fall OLLI offered 242 courses. This fall, to ensure quality was not lost in an online delivery mode, just 55 courses are being offered on Zoom, a 77% reduction. However registrations (how we measure participation) had only declined by 58% in mid-August. With the reduced number and change in format, participation is comparatively reasonable.

How Do Other OLLIs Look?

OLLI at Granite State College is part of a network of 124 OLLIs across the country. We are glued together through the OLLI National Resource Center (NRC) that, among other services, offers us an online discussion board, monthly newsletter, biannual conference and individual attention.

The NRC has also been offering OLLIs a national snapshot of activity that lends us a perspective on trends. Using periodic surveys of the network, they reported that all 124 OLLI programs have experienced the impact of COVID. Recently 114 OLLI Directors revealed the following about their Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes' programming and operations during the pandemic:

- **Fall 2020 course delivery mode:**
 - 81% remote only, 19% combined remote/in person
 - **OLLI at GSC – remote only**
- **Winter/Spring 2021 course delivery mode:**
 - 28% remote only, 11% combined remote/in person
 - 1% no courses, 61% no decision yet
 - **OLLI at GSC – remote only (with the option to add in person)**
- **Fall 2020 catalog**
 - 42% printed catalog, 58% online catalog
 - **OLLI at GSC – online catalog**
- **Staff furloughs or layoffs**
 - 68% no, 32% yes
 - **OLLI at GSC – no, but the full time Director's job remains vacant**

A Look at OLLI Post-COVID

Thanks to you, OLLI has a healthy rainy-day fund that will help us through the financial challenges of the near-term future. It is important to understand what it means that we are a program of Granite State College. Granite State College is part of a public university system that is experiencing decreasing student enrollments, increasing refunds, and general budgetary uncertainty. As has been reported in the news, the University System of NH, the umbrella organization that ties together Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of NH, is tightening its belt. Each of these public institutions has been directed to significantly reduce expenses over the next three years to mitigate projected shortfalls. OLLI has participated in expense reduction in multiple areas commensurate with the reduction in our revenues. Please be assured that our rainy-day fund remains intact and continues to be dedicated solely to the OLLI program.

For the past 16 years OLLI has been fortunate to have received immeasurable support from Granite State College, our host institution, our home. We've enjoyed services from GSC's IT, finance/ administration, and marketing

Continued next page

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continued

departments as well as ample parking and clean, safe campus classrooms.

Post-COVID OLLI may find that our home looks and feels different. In some areas it may even be unrecognizable due to campus changes. But Granite State College will continue to be OLLI's home. We can count on the college to continue to support OLLI's mission, programming and operations regardless of where or how our lifelong learning occurs.

Your OLLI Steering Committee is gearing up to work on a new strategic plan that will address OLLI's foreseeable challenges and plan for a successful future. Change brings opportunities and OLLI will find them! In the meantime, thank you, volunteers and members, for your patience and understanding and for your willingness to explore our brave new online world!

Be well.

Jane Fletcher

Seacoast Community Get-Together

Submitted by Sandy O'Neill, class of 2013

If you live in Dover NH you are about to be invited to the second Seacoast Community Get-Together on Zoom. Seacoast OLLI is trying to keep our members connected with various activities and the Dover event on September 15 will explore why you enjoy living in Dover, what are the great restaurants and activities that you avail yourself of in Dover.



Look for an email invite coming to you from Tessa McDonnell. She and Beth Wagner will facilitate the discussion and Sandy O'Neill will serve as the Zoom moderator.

Book Clubs

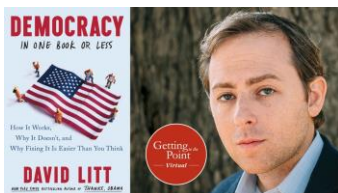


Seacoast Political Book Club

Submitted by John Russell, Class of 2014

The September book for the Seacoast Political Book Club will be *Democracy in One Book or Less* by David Litt. The democracy you live in today is different—completely different—from the democracy you were born into. You probably don't realize just how radically your republic has been altered during your lifetime.

Poking into forgotten corners of history, translating political science into plain English, and traveling the country to meet experts and activists, Litt explains how the world's greatest experiment in democracy went awry. Despite his clear-eyed assessment of the dangers we face, Litt remains audaciously optimistic. He offers a to-do list of bold yet achievable changes—a blueprint for restoring the balance of power in America before it's too late.



We will meet via Zoom on Monday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to join, contact John Russell (russelljohn@comcast.net) to receive the zoom link.

Concord Chapter Chat

Submitted by Mary Davies, Class of 2007

Meeting by Zoom on the second Monday of every month at 12:30 p.m. To receive an invitation with a link, email Mary Davies at marbob75@yahoo.com by 11:00 a.m. on the Monday of the meeting.

September 14 *The Mountains Sing* by Que Mai Phan Nguyen

Discussion leader: Phyllis Benoit

An epic account of Viet Nam's 20th century history, this is a multi-generational tale by a gifted Vietnamese writer. She writes of the beauty and cultural richness of her country while following how the Tran family is trying to survive famine, violence, war and hardship.

October 12 *The Second Sleep* by Robert Harris

Discussion leader: Sally Embley

Things are not what they seem in Wessex Village in 1468. This mind-bending story of the past but set in the future has suspense, plot twists and well-drawn characters. This Harrison thriller gives the reader lots to puzzle.

November 9 *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver

Discussion leader: TBD

Dellarobia Turnbow is a restless farm wife living on a failing farm in Appalachia. Her story is set against a climate change related crisis for the Monarch butterfly. Kingsolver combines her writing skill with a background in science.

The world of OLLI at Granite State College was rocked on Wednesday with the news of Ginny Gerseny's passing.

Members who have been part of OLLI since its beginning in 2004 credit Ginny with OLLI's very existence.

Peg Fargo: Ginny Gerseny had moved to Concord to be near her son, Robert and his family. She heard about the concept of OLLI and immediately contacted Sue Staples to be a part of this project. Ginny became the first chair of OLLI at Concord and although she always called it "Oh-lee", she became intensely dedicated to the success of a program she believed would be a major force in learning for seniors.

Sue Staples (OLLI's first Program Director): "How will I get a group of older adults in Concord interested in starting an OLLI group?" Luckily for me, one answer to that question came when I visited the activities director at Pleasant View Retirement Community. She introduced me to Ginny Gerseny and a few of her friends and we were off and running!

Ginny was a strong believer in lifelong learning and shared so many of her talents with us. She helped me with early program development, hosted planning meetings, taught courses, encouraged others to join – and always offered me friendship and advice during those formative days.

Martha Clapp: For OLLI to have evolved from its humble beginnings in New Hampshire, to where it is today, has taken many Movers and Shakers. One of those was Ginny Gerseny.

I remember a moment many years ago when a staff member looked at a few of us volunteers and said "Think about it, where would we be without Ginny?"

We can see now where we are without her, but we are indebted to her existence and leadership in OLLI that we are here.



Remembered

Michael Bujnowski: It was sometime in 2006 when I saw a local newspaper article about this organization called OLLI. I attended an informational session in Manchester about what volunteers wanted to accomplish with OLLI. I signed in and listened intently. It was so interesting, that I went back home and sat on the couch. Two days went by and I received a call from Virginia Gerseny. She asked me to become a member of OLLI and become a member of the Central Committee. Ginny was a force! She was smooth and persuasive. I immediately fell in love with her. In the years that followed I became an admirer of her.

She gave classes even when she was not a subject expert. One of my favorite classes was a multi-week class that she gave on the Bible. She had a way about her that made you want to listen intently. Another class was on stained glass. Ginny read a book on stained glass and decided to give a class. The class consisted of visiting several churches in Concord and listening to Ginny critique the stained-glass windows. One fellow asked a question and Ginny said, "I don't know the answer to that all I did was read a book on stained glass so I could give this class."

She was instrumental in organizing OLLI Brown Bag University (OBBU). These were all-day sessions on one topic. The first I attended was on the country Scotland. I remember an OLLI member, Ms. Douglas, who sat in the front row completely dressed in an authentic Scottish garb. Another OBBU was about the railroad complete with a railroad conductor, in uniform, making a presentation.

For me, the most touching event was when Ginny organized a theatrical luncheon at the Concord Country Club. She put on a one-person show of Harriet Beecher Stowe. She made her own costume and stood there for 45 minutes reciting from memory an amazing historical story. Maybe it was just me, but I confess I had tears in my eyes.

Peg Fargo: An inveterate teacher, she taught courses, , scoured the community for presenters, chaired Central Committee for Concord, served as chair of steering, organized events, designed the class assistant program, recruited new members for our committees, worked on all the details that would guarantee success of a new program and never missed her Friday afternoon bridge game!

Norma Steiner: She was instrumental in organizing the OLLI site in Concord and I recall her dedicated efforts. There is so much to remember about how Ginny Gerseny helped pull together a group of seniors from the Concord area to form a second OLLI site back in 2004. At one point, we wondered if it would happen, but faithful Ginny was determined and thanks to her dedication, it happened and has prospered. She would not accept the word "No" from anyone!

Martha Clapp: She was a woman filled with ideas and skills, from suggestions for classes to planning functions and seeing to their successful production. Of course she was a presenter herself, and one of my most memorable "Out and Abouts" was a tour of Stained Glass Windows in Concord.

Sue Staples: It is said that one is lucky in life to do good work with great people. I feel very lucky to have known and worked with Ginny and will always think of her with respect and deep appreciation.

Jane Fletcher: She was an OLLI pioneer and one of the first members I met when I started 9 years ago. She welcomed me with open arms and was very kind to Christina (OLLI staff) and me. She'd send us notes addressing us as "OLLI angels." (Haven't been called that since!)



New Members Flock to OLLI

Submitted by Jacki Fogarty, Editor

Jane Fletcher reported in the Hall St. Journal column (page 2) that OLLI suffered a 29% decline in membership as of the August 1 renewal date, but also that new members have found us. In fact, 27 new members joined OLLI since July and an additional six came on board during the second half (the new Zoom half) of Spring term.

I invited those new members to tell me what brought them into OLLI as we are rewriting the book on keeping members engaged and happy in a remote environment. Ten of them responded with enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to participate in our rich online learning and social programs.

I am a new OLLI member. I became a member because I am recently retired, and I was looking for opportunities to enrich myself, to keep learning, and find ways to participate in the community. I must admit that the pandemic precipitated my enrollment since they offered classes online. It offered the possibility of learning while at home. I also must admit the price was right for me. A good friend talked about her courses at OLLI. They seemed very interesting so I inquired. I was surprised by how many courses I was interested in taking. OLLI offers a nice variety. Tanya Soha

I learned about OLLI through my sister. She has been an active member for 8 years. She's told me about some of her classes and especially the ones about old movies and movie stars really intrigued me. When Covid necessitated Zoom classes I realized I could finally join from Pennsylvania. And join I did! Terri Davis

Thanks for your warm welcome. I will check out your newsletter. Your reaching out with this email is part of what I hope to gain from OLLI. I moved to Portsmouth NH from PA last September so am looking for new friends and new activities. I saw the OLLI ad in the *Portsmouth Herald* and immediately knew what the organization did. Hard to remember exactly where, why, or how I first learned the acronym OLLI. I have several relatives connected with the University of IL (my alma mater) and know there is an OLLI on the Champaign/Urbana campus. I appreciate your warm offer of assistance and look forward to meeting you via zoom or in person in the near future. Pauline Jordan

Recommendation of friends, although it took me a while (probably too long!) between the time I heard about OLLI and the time I signed up. Was *finally* going to sign up this year, and the covid-19 situation gave me an extra push. For now, I'm being careful about time spent in enclosed spaces, so online events are welcome. Thanks! Gretchen Brown

Thanks so much for your email! I've been a member of the University of Southern Maine OLLI for several years and have enjoyed it very much. With classes now being offered online, I thought it would be interesting to see what other OLLI's are offering, and was thrilled with Granite State College's offerings. I'm from New Hampshire, so crossing the state line was a natural step for me. I joined right away and registered for the Japanese art class in October, which perfectly complements a class on museums I'll be taking through the Maine OLLI.

I think this is one of the silver linings of the pandemic — the ability to access high quality classes around the country. Learning opportunities have never been so plentiful and available.

Sending my best, Linda Anderson

Thank you for your note! I saw an article in our local paper about your organization offering interesting classes so I went online and signed up to join and take a class! I'm taking the class about organizing your important papers -- what a great offering! I'm working full-time now but expect to retire within 10 years or so and am learning about interesting things to do on the way to that end. LOVE the idea of this organization and I'm looking forward to getting involved! Thanks. Colleen

I saw the ZOOM class that you offer. I don't remember if I saw it in the *Concord Monitor* or an ad online. I saw some classes and some trips, and the \$40 would not put me out of business, so . . . I did get a lot out of the ZOOM lesson, and look forward to more classes. thanks Bob McDermott

New Members *(continued)*

My wife Sandi and I recently moved back to seacoast New Hampshire. While we have many friends in the area, we also appreciate exploring new venues, new ideas, and new people. Looking forward to getting involved with OLLI.

Best, Greg Driscoll

I became interested in OLLI when my son who works for Granite State College sent me an e-mail about it. When I logged onto the website I noticed a class about Zoom which I was interested in, so I applied and had a 1/1 class which was enough to get me going.

Regards, Bill Wheeler

I've been retired for two years, though I continued some adjunct teaching during those two years. In Fall 2019, I began taking classes through the CALL Program at Keene State, which I found enjoyable and stimulating. My wife learned about OLLI that fall, and we attended a Preview session in Concord in January to learn more about the program. I was attracted to OLLI by the single session, focused topic format of many of the OLLI offerings, and the rich diversity of subject matter. It afforded the opportunity to learn more about a specific subject, topic or idea, without having to make a lengthy commitment. Both formats offer a unique experience. Participating in OLLI classes enables me to broaden my learning and still keep my calendar open for travel and other activities.

And then there was COVID, just as we returned from a month of travel. I had not yet registered for spring classes, and now everything was shutting down and going online. I put OLLI on hold. But now, with fall approaching, travel limited, and all of us more savvy with online media and communication, I am ready for the new term. I am signed up for 4 OLLI classes this fall, each as different as the next. I am excited to dive in and learn. I am also thinking about some classes I might be able to offer at OLLI, perhaps this spring.

Jonas Taub

OLLI has created some excellent short videos that are worth a new look. My personal favorite is the very first one which I rediscovered while reviewing Ginny Gerseny's OLLI experiences. It's 7 years old, but if you have five minutes, listen to these OLLI members explain why they are so invested in this program (it's also fun to reminisce about sitting elbow-to-elbow in a classroom!!). Click here: [OLLI Video](#)



Chair's Chat

Submitted by Bill Faulkner, Class of 2010, Steering Committee Chair

Hello to you, hopefully a member, and/or possibly a friend of OLLI at GSC,

The lifeblood of OLLI is its members, and I wonder what attracted you to become a member. Was it a particular course offering, the recommendation of a friend, hearing about our Lunch & Learns, perhaps a gift from someone who recognized you would enjoy and benefit from being connected to us? Likely, it was a combination of things, maybe including our book clubs and more.

As Chair of your statewide Steering Committee, I realize that your site's Central Committee and subcommittees, each of which has volunteers actively participating on it, perform the essential day-to-day operations upon which we rely. I applaud them for their success in curriculum planning, finding knowledgeable and engaging presenters. No one contacted me to ask about attending our August 24th Steering meeting, but I want you to know that the largest portion of it was

dedicated to topics identified and presented by your site's Central Committee chair and her counterparts in the other sites (Concord, Conway, Manchester and Seacoast). Satisfied members and high quality courses are key in their opinions, as they are in mine. Do let me or them know your views on what we might do, what we might do better, or what we might do better to please you.

Bill Faulkner, a volunteer

123bill456@comcast.net

Steering Committee meetings are held on the Zoom platform and give members the opportunity to observe our governance structure firsthand. The next OLLI Steering Committee will meet on September 21 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome (of course, only delegates may vote)! Contact Bill Faulkner at 123bill456@comcast.net for a Zoom invitation.

September Calendar

All meetings are by Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Concord

Friday, September 4 Concord Mug 'n' Muffin – Favorite Things – 10:00 a.m. (Jacki Fogarty, contact)
Friday, September 11 Concord Membership Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Jacki Fogarty, contact)
Monday, September 14 Concord Central Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Iris Altilio, contact)
Monday, September 14 Concord Book Club – 12:30 p.m. (Mary Davies, contact)
Monday, September 21 Concord Curriculum Committee – 1:00 p.m. (Donna Frost, contact)
Tuesday, September 29 Concord Mug 'n' Muffin – Hiking Trails – 1:00 p.m. (Jacki Fogarty, contact)

Conway

Manchester

Friday, September 11 Manchester Curriculum Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Dee Angwin, Bob Jones, contacts)
Monday, September 14 Manchester Book Club – 10:00 a.m. (Mike Baker, contact)
Friday, September 25 Manchester Central Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Su Bennett, contact)

Seacoast

Thursday, September 10 Seacoast Curriculum Committee – 1:00 p.m. (Sandy O'Neill, contact)
Tuesday, September 15 Dover Neighborhood Get Together – 1:30 p.m. (Sandy O'Neill, contact)
Wednesday, September 16 Seacoast Central Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Pat Boyle-Steed, contact)
Monday, September 21 Seacoast Political Book Club – 1:00 p.m. (John Russell, contact)

Statewide Meetings and Events

September 1 - 31 Granite State College – all campuses – closed
Tuesday, September 16 Curriculum Council – 1:00 p.m. (Laurie Galletta, contact)
Monday, September 21 Steering Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Bill Faulkner, contact)

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, October 13 Curriculum Council – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21 Manchester Mug 'n' Muffin – Fall Florals – 10:00 a.m.

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OLLI National Resource Center

Learning sites at Concord, Conway, Manchester & the Seacoast

The *Outlook* is published monthly and sent to all current OLLI members. OLLI members are invited to submit articles of interest to the general membership. Articles and comments may be emailed to OLLIOutlook@aol.com. Thank you.

Jacki G. Fogarty, Editor

Class of 2012