



The News

Bringing OLLI Home to You

Volume 3, #01 - March 1, 2023

Dear OLLI Friends,

“Stay Curious... Stay Connected” is our OLLI at Ringling College motto.

As adult learners, our “curiosity” brings us to OLLI and helps us stay “connected” to our wonderful like-minded community

Each term the OLLI catalog showcases new courses, describes old favorites, and offers courses that return to themes students have previously enjoyed.

Spring term, which begins March 13, is no exception.

Music appreciation courses this spring will take us to the Italian Baroque period (1675-1750) as well as the 1960s. Two history courses will highlight the 1950s and the 1980s, typically viewed as two relatively happy decades. *Blacklisted*

Spotlight on

Monroe

Brett, A

Master

Historian



Anne Perry Moore interviewed

Monroe Brett, a person who knows that history needs to be relevant to his audience.

Monroe, who taught all aspects of history at the high school level in the Washington D.C. area, has kept his love of history alive as an OLLI instructor. Monroe believes that history is important because it helps us discern where we are today.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview.

Hollywood and The 1980s - When Harry Met Sally are two more interesting offerings.

The OLLI Book Club this spring will discuss four choices, including a classic. And the Short Story Collective often presents classic writings from Anton Chekhov, Leo Tolstoy, Edith Wharton, Stephen Crane, and other sterling writers alongside current ones. Every term is different!

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Each February is celebrated as Black History Month and every March as Women's History Month. "Celebrated" is a tricky word. These two months come at a time when how history is taught is making news. What are we to say about our history

Susan Hoffman, director of OLLI at University of California Berkeley, addressed this topic in a Feb. 1, 2023 letter to their OLLI members about engaging history. Her thoughtful blog can be read [here](#).

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Dr. Robert Toplin, a retired history professor at University of North Carolina (Wilmington) and Denison University (OH), an instructor at OLLI at UNCW, and a lecturer at OLLI at Ringling College, has recently found that coming out of

"The Truth Hurts"

Dave Landsperger, our resident author, reflects on how his family history informs who he is. And, often the truth hurts!



Read his discoveries [here](#).

Dave also shares his wonderful podcast that highlights the good works of two women who were instrumental in organizing the small village of St-Omer, France to host over 500 Ukrainian refugees. They also talk about sending medical supplies to the frontlines in Ukraine. It's an incredible story.

Click [here](#) to read more.

retirement meant that he did not stop sharing his passions.

In fact, “The courses I taught through OLLI were enjoyable,” he says. “Students attended class because they wanted to examine history. They brought their life experiences into classroom conversations. Almost all of them raised their hands when we opened the floor for discussion. The exchanges of information and viewpoints were consistently lively. An instructor can learn a great deal from their input.” You can read his full text [here](#).

Don’t his comments sound exactly like what happens in our classrooms?

There are many areas of history yet to be taught. Perhaps you would enjoy teaching a class or leading a Shared Interest Group (SIG) here. The possibilities are endless. You don’t have to be a retired history professor or teacher... just a passionate, curious, and a connected learner!

Think about it!

Spring for Learning!

Join us this Spring term for these OLLI lectures:



Trivia Tuesdays Comes to OLLI

Lots of conversation and peals of laughter were heard in McGuire Hall during OLLI’s first Trivia Tuesdays event on Feb. 21. More than 30 participants on six teams gathered for the fun event.

The winning team was **The Clueless Inc.** with members **Virginia Gorgue, Jean-Pierre Gorgue, Susan Ozmon, Kellie Ozmon, Nancy Enander, and Beryl Kuder.** Congratulations one and all!

Susan and Tom Miller organized the event. Drew Mitchell, of B Trivial, challenged participants with questions from geography, movies, and literature to Broadway and even famous Sarasotans. Jeff Ryder also contributed a lightning round of great movie questions.

* **Captured! Stories of American World War II Prisoners of War** • [\(online\)](#) • Thursday, Mar. 23 • 2:30-3:30 pm • Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Harriet Beecher Stowe: Yankee, Abolitionist and Florida

Promoter • Thursday, Mar. 30 • 2:30-3:30 pm • Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

* **A World War II Tour of Europe** • [\(online\)](#) • Thursday, Apr. 6 • 2:30-3:30 pm • Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Understanding Philosophy and Religion in Early China • Thursday, Apr. 13 • 2:30-3:30 pm • Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Who Are the Jews of India? • Friday, Apr. 14 • 10-11 am • Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

[Register here](#) through our website or call the OLLI office at 941-309-5111 to learn more. *We look forward to seeing you!*

Lectures indicated with an asterisk are ONLY on Zoom.

Do join us for another great time at **Trivia Tuesdays** at 3 pm on **Tuesday, Mar. 21**. Come by yourself or form a team (six members maximum). Registration is \$5 per person.

For information or to register, call 941-309-5111.



From the Office of Virginia Shearer

Dear OLLI Students,

I hope you are having a wonderful semester filled with learning and discovery!

I love to hear snippets of your conversations as I walk through the halls of the Museum, while I'm sitting in the

Bistro, and browsing the SHOP. I hear murmurs of engaged discussions through classroom doors and see eager faces through the classroom windows.

I'm happy to also add that not only are there exciting things happening inside the OLLI classrooms, but we are also introducing new programming...

Click [here](#) to read the full interview.

Make the Most of Your Giving

We know OLLI at Ringling College helps you stay engaged and connected. We encourage you, as you make your 2023 giving list, to include OLLI. Class registration and membership only cover a portion of what it takes to deliver our programming. Many companies sponsor matching gift programs and will match your charitable contributions, allowing you to double or triple the amount and impact of your gift.

Visit [here](#) and enter your employer's name to find out if your company has a matching gift program. Have questions? Feel free to call the [Office for Advancement](#) any time at 941-309-4733.

Become an OLLI Member

Learn More

Donate to OLLI

OLLI Membership Committee:

Tom Miller (Chair) and the newsletter staff: Marion Richter (Editor), Dave Landsperger, Anne Perry Moore, Gary Reinmuth; Members: Lois Altman, Jan Parker, Jay Richter, Millie Finkel, and Meghan Burrows (OLLI staff).

Stay connected with our updates and share yours.

Email: mburrows@ringling.edu



OLLI is located at the Ringling College Museum Campus
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To view the web embedded version of the Newsletter, click [here](#).