



The News

Bringing OLLI Home to You

Volume 3, #4 - September 12, 2023

Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

The fall catalog is [online!](#)

First and foremost, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our Summer Adventures program was a huge success! We believe that education has no age limit, and your dedication to expanding your knowledge and skills inspires us all. So, get ready to embark on another incredible journey of discovery, growth, and connection within our vibrant OLLI community.

Gold and Silver Member registration is underway.

Our team of talented instructors offer an incredible lineup of courses. Four new instructors will add in-person courses. Welcome to Tennille Dixon Pawlus, Bob Busch, Michael Gibson, and John McFetridge. Gerald Stulc and Bruce Gobioff, from OLLI at USF-Tampa, will offer two online courses. Check out these great additions.

Try our new opera course, which includes an educational tour of the Sarasota Opera House. Register for the popular Public Art tour, or a new tour of the Limelight District. Learn about places to travel. Look

Stay Curious.
Stay Connected.



*A Note from
Phyllis C.
Brown, OLLI
Director...*

Hello OLLI
Community,

We had an
amazing OLLI
summer program
and made
history, too! For

at the variety of music offerings from classical to jazz to show tunes.

Choose among our potpourri of literary offerings focusing on mysteries, short stories, classic literature, and more. And, there are also new series of Wellness Fridays and History Thursdays. There is something for every interest.

In addition to our courses, we plan to expand opportunities to meet with fellow OLLI members, form meaningful connections, and indulge in stimulating conversations during our coffee breaks, lunches, and special interest groups. We understand the importance of fostering a sense of community and recognize our community continues to welcome new residents.

Lastly, we want to remind you that OLLI is more than just a place to learn. It is a place to belong. Whatever your aspirations or goals, we are here to support you and provide an environment that nurtures your passion for knowledge. Each one of you contributes to the rich tapestry of our community, and we cherish your presence.

So, welcome back, dear OLLI members! We are eager to reconnect, learn, and laugh with you once again. Let's make this semester truly memorable.

**Yours in lifelong learning,
The OLLI Newsletter Team**

the first time in the history of OLLI (and LLA), our OLLI Adventures summer program had 721 registrations. We sold out all seven tours, and only one session out of 19 was canceled due to under-enrollment. 240 people who registered were not OLLI members. That is what I call a SLAM DUNK!

We curated a summer program that did not require a Gold or Silver membership. Our goal was to raise our visibility in the community and to engage prospective members. Jeff Ryder (Chair, Curriculum Committee), and Bonnie Spadafora (Curriculum Committee) along with OLLI staff were instrumental in helping devise a robust and fun summer for our members. Many of the evaluations indicated people had fun and enjoyed the summer programming.

“This was our first experience with OLLI so I had no expectations other than the class description sounded interesting. I was pleasantly surprised.”

“I didn't take a lot of sessions this summer because I was out of town, but this is one that I'm glad to have not missed...”

“...If all your presenters are this good, I can't wait for the fall session to start.”

“This was one of the best classes during your summer session. I'm not even very interested in gardening, but I enjoyed it very much.”

“Great to hear and speak with such fabulous musicians!”

“I brought my in-laws to this lecture. ...They went away totally delighted!”

Fall Membership Update

Tom Miller, Chair,
Membership
Committee



Hi to all our OLLI
Members,

Welcome to our fall 2023 program.

When I think about the OLLI Membership Committee it occurs to me that the best way to grow our membership numbers is to think of every student who takes a class or volunteers with us as really a part-time member of the Membership Committee.

Please talk up your OLLI. When you talk to a friend tell them how much you enjoy your OLLI experience.

When you go out to lunch or dinner with someone, or play canasta or bridge, or meet with your book club, or simply know someone who is moving to Sarasota, talk up OLLI. The most powerful connection between current OLLI members and potential future OLLI members is word of mouth.

A growing OLLI makes for a better OLLI. With more members we can have more courses, lectures, special events, and flexibility. So, take a moment and think how you, too can become a part-time member of OLLI's Membership Committee.

Spread the word, talk us up. You'll be glad you did.

Some of you may or may not know that OLLI has an Advisory Council. The OLLI Advisory Council is comprised of OLLI members who advise me as the Director of OLLI on programs, fees, activities, and resource development to ensure growth in participation, enrollment, and continuity of OLLI. Their service is critical to achieving OLLI's mission to provide high-quality lifelong learning programs and activities for people "50 and better."

Two of our longest serving Council members **Sam Samelson** and **Bev Harms** became emeritus members. Bev served on the Council for 16 years in various capacities. Sam served as chair of the Council for 12 years. Both Sam and Bev have been advocates for lifelong learning for more than 20 years and we thank them for their service and dedication.

The new co-chairs of the Advisory Council are **Holly Freedman** and **Jeff Ryder**. The other

members of the Advisory Council are **Julie Cotton**, **Louise Gallagher**, **Tom Miller**, **Mark Moulin**, and **Jack Sukin**. This spring four new members were appointed to the Council. They are **Colleen Lundwall**, **Marilyn Pinsky**, **Marion Richter**, and **Tobie von der Vorm**. We welcome and thank our new Council members.

As we approach the beginning of the fall semester, we encourage you to be adventurous: try new a course, and meet new friends. This fall we have new classes as well as some courses you have come to look forward to attending.

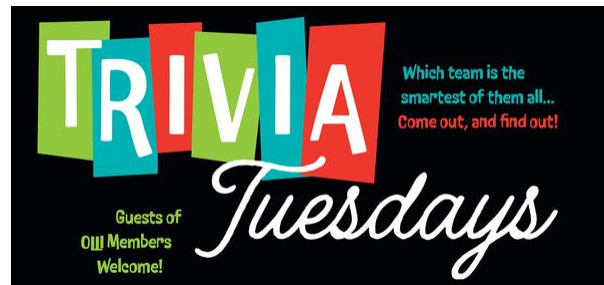
Best,
Tom Miller
Membership Chair

In closing, please join our OLLI Facebook community for the latest updates on OLLI happenings.

Best,
Phyllis Brown

An Eventful Summer

Dave Landsperger, our resident author, shares how his summer may have proven more eventful than yours.



TRIVIA RETURNS!

Read his recollection [here](#).

If you haven't heard, there are a group of OLLI folks who have a whale of a good time once a month at TRIVIA TUESDAYS. Join us for an afternoon of "giggles and guffaws" as we probe our gray matter.

Don't forget to listen to Dave Landsperger's podcast *Two Old Bucks* on Apple, Spotify, and Google. To make Dave easy to find, click [here](#).

Please join us on Sept. 26 for the first TRIVIA TUESDAYS of this new academic year. Register [here](#) or call the office at 941-309-5111.

OLLI Membership Committee:

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

Stay connected with our updates and share yours. Email: mburrows@ringling.edu

[Become an OLLI Member](#)

[Learn More](#)

[Donate to OLLI](#)

Make the Most of Your Giving

Do you know if your former company matches philanthropic giving?

Class registration and membership only cover a portion of what it takes to deliver quality programming at OLLI. That's why we depend on your gifts each year to help us continue the tradition of providing a wide array of class offerings, special events, and the supporting technology. Many companies sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees or retirees. You can double or triple the amount of your gift to make the most impact on OLLI programming. 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.




OLLI is located at the Ringling College Museum Campus
1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34236
941-309-5111
www.OLLlatRinglingCollege.org

View the online version of this catalog [here](#).

View an amended version of Dave's article below.

We Have Hit a Moose

Ladies and gentlemen, we have hit a moose. So said the announcement after our train came to a halt. This announcement was preceded by long-winded announcements in Norwegian and Swedish but the powers that be apparently felt the five-word explanation was sufficient for the English-speakers aboard. We sat there for forty minutes, wondering whether the train was being inspected or repaired or perhaps they were giving CPR to the moose. The train finally started moving but stopped again in less than a mile. Quick learner that I am, I watched the face of the guy across the aisle taking in the Norwegian announcement. The painful look on his face told me the news, whatever it was, wasn't good. Then it was our turn. ***There is a fire on the tracks ahead.***

We were on the Bergensbanen from Bergen to Oslo, billed as one of the most spectacular scenic rail trips in Europe. We'd spent three days in Bergen, Norway's second-largest city and it rained every day. Not a surprise as Bergen averages 239 days of rain a year. The rainfall contributes to the lush greenery of this port city situated between two fjords with white frame houses pinned to the hillsides. We'd ducked into a hotel curiously named Hotel No. 13 where I had a bottle of 77 beer at their bar while a wave of rain passed. We chatted it up with the bartender, whose English was excellent like just about everyone else in Norway. As we left, he called out, "Old Norwegian saying: *There is no bad weather, only bad clothing.*" I'd stopped in at the Bergen Kunsthall, a contemporary art museum, during another brief shower and lucked into a temporary Edvard  Munch exhibit of thirty-four paintings. On a misty morning trek through the University area, seriously off the beaten path, we'd found a house displaying a rusty framed picture of the Beatles' Abbey Road album cover. The address was No. 9, which just seemed right. Think about it.

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The train left Bergen, which is essentially at sea level, and began a long, slow climb past lush forests, lacy waterfalls spilling snowmelt into the fjords and later into whitewater streams and the higher elevation lakes. We went through 180 tunnels – I didn't count them – and peaked at Finse, 1,222 meters [4,010 ft.] above sea level and above the tree line. The landscape was barren save for the glaciers working their way through the rugged mountains. There is no road to Finse, where Amundson and other Arctic explorers practiced. Before we got to Finse, the train stopped at the town of Ål, which was a bit of consolation for us as we didn't get to Å when we were in the Lofoten Islands the previous week. After Finse, the trip was all downhill, literally, until we hit that moose.

We never came upon a fire but the train crept along until it was time for another announcement: ***There is a problem with the train.*** No elaboration, at least not in English. Then the train stopped again. ***Passengers not going to Oslo will get off at Hønefoss and take a bus. We will try to make it to Oslo.*** Where will they go? And how hard will they try to get the rest of us to Oslo? We began moving again and then this came: ***This train cannot make it to Oslo. You will get on buses at Hønefoss. There are not enough buses for everyone.*** Not enough buses? Would there be a lottery? A riot? I looked around, deciding how many of my fellow passengers I could outrun. The Norwegian guy was laughing now. Was he laughing over the absurdity of the situation or because the Norwegians and Swedes got special instructions to which we were not privy? Paranoid much?

Slowly, ever so slowly, the train made it to Hønefoss, where enough buses were now waiting. An hour or so later, we were at the Oslo station, completing our two and a half weeks in Norway. It's a beautiful country and it left us with a lot of memories. Crossing the Arctic Circle. Hot rum toasts at 1 AM after navigating the narrow Trollfjorden. Staying 300 km above the Arctic Circle in Tromsø, where we had the world's best pizza. Bodó, a lively port town where the U2 spy planes used to refuel. Svolvær and Henningsvær in the Lofoten archipelago. Clean air, clean water, friendly people, and not a day over 74F.

Heaven to Floridians in summer. We brought back a lot of memories. We also brought back Covid, but that's a whole 'nother story.