



# The News

Bringing OLLI Home to You

February 2024

## Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

Did you know that El Niño returns to Florida every five to seven years?

Unseasonably cold temperatures, more rain, and windy days welcomed us to 2024. Full-time Sarasota residents seemed to grumble at needing to wear a sweater, forsaking shorts, and sandals, while snowbirds delighted at not having to bundle up. Love those hearty Michiganders and Minnesotans. After enduring 2023, the hottest year on record, this leap year has already brought us some climactic surprises.

Stay tuned. Spring and sunshine are just around the corner.

### Kudos to Us

Winter enrollment continues to set records. To date, we have over 1,400 registrations. Are you registered? There's still time to enroll in classes starting in February. On another positive note, our combined membership (Gold and Silver) is also over 1,000. Way to go, OLLI members! Check out the catalog online at <https://olliringlingcollege.org/course-catalog/>

### Making a Difference

The Sarasota Art Museum showcased a small collection from the Embracing Our Differences exhibit. As a treat to OLLI members, *Sarah Wertheimer, Executive Director of Embracing Our Differences, led a guided tour on Nov. 17, 2023.*

## COMING UP

### Presentation: Impact Theatre Comes to OLLI

Monday, Feb. 19 • 3-4:30 pm

Free to Gold and Silver Members (pre-registration required)

Walter Gilbert and Bette Zaret, co-founders of Impact Theatre, will share how this local program connects area teens with local Holocaust survivors and African-American elders who bore witness to and survived oppression, segregation, and persecution. Join us for an informative overview of the Impact Theatre project.

### Trivia Tuesday

Our Trivia Tuesday events continue to be popular. In January, over 30 guests attended this fun and lively event. Worried about FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)? Don't be. Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 2:45 pm in the Bistro. We would love to see you and a friend.

### Understanding Medicare: What You Need to Know

Friday, March 1 • 10-11:30 am

Free to Gold and Silver Members (pre-registration required)

Janet Lambert, a Medicare and Medicaid educator, will untangle the myriad of questions newcomers to Medicare might have. Topics she will cover include: When am I eligible? How do I apply? What is the cost? Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage, and How to

The annual Embracing Our Differences exhibit at the Sarasota Bayfront Park continues until April 14, 2024. The exhibit consists of 50 billboard-sized works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. They were chosen from 16,604 entries from 564 schools in 44 states and many countries.

For more information, visit <https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/> to learn about the importance of this exhibit in teaching about inclusivity and differences.



## Ready, Set... Spring

Join us for the **Spring Preview** on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 2:30-4 pm in McGuire Hall. This popular event will feature both new and veteran instructors highlighting the courses they will be teaching.

Coming up this spring are more than 40 courses, six lectures, and special programs. We have classes on Artificial Intelligence, movies to put you in New York state of mind, something for opera lovers, and a special session on Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. Spring is where it's at.

Spring term runs: March 11-May 3

**Gold Member** registration begins on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

**Silver Member** registration begins the following Tuesday, March 5.

**Register online, in person at the OLLI at Ringling College office, or by phone (941-309-5111).**



Choose a Plan. Bring your questions and get some answers. Click [here](#) to register for these events.



## Teachable Moments?

Do you know someone who would be a good instructor for OLLI? It could even be you. Tobie van der Vorm, a member of the Advisory Council, is chairing a new committee to recruit instructors.

Maybe you have an interest in history, science, music, technology, or an entirely new subject. If you do, we would like to hear from you.

To get the discussion started, email [tobievdv@gmail.com](mailto:tobievdv@gmail.com). In the subject line write *OLLI Instructor*.



## VOLUNTEER FOR BETTER HEALTH

**By Renee Simon**

Do you want something that is good for you and that doesn't involve diet or exercise?

How about volunteering? It's no secret that doing for others improves your life. Here's why:

- you have a sense of purpose
- you make new friends and social connections
- you are physically active
- you are mentally stimulated

And what better way to give back to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College (OLLI) than becoming a volunteer. Not only will you be helping yourself, you'll be sharing your time and talent with others. The more you give, the more you will get.

Volunteerism is essential to the OLLI mission. The staff is small and we can't do it all. That's where you, as a volunteer, come in:

- assist in the administrative office
- welcome students back to campus and help them get to their classroom
- help out at special events
- distribute program booklets
- provide tech support



## A Note From Tom Miller, Membership Committee Chairperson

Hi Members,

Circle March 7th on your calendars!

All members are invited to the *OLLI Member Appreciation Bash*. It's a party just for you in acknowledgment of your support and participation.

Our special guest will be Dr. Larry Thompson, President of Ringling College of Art and Design, who will welcome members. A terrific band Soul Sensations provides the music. There will be light nibbles, drinks, and a cash bar.

We want to see you at the Marcy and Michael Klein Plaza at the Sarasota Art Museum.

**March 7 • 4-6:30 pm RSVP by Feb. 22, 2024.**  
Click [here](#) to register

This event is designed to salute YOU, our members. Please make plans to attend! You will have a ball!

Best,  
Tom Miller

- meet potential new members at community events like the Sarasota Farmer's Market, Free Second Sunday and Jazz Thursday at the Sarasota Art Museum
- serve on committees that help guide OLLI

It's simple to become a volunteer. The application is available on our website. This is the link: <https://form.jotform.com/233516776620964>. After you fill out the application, there will be a brief interview to find out the best way for you to use your time and talent. If you have questions, please contact me at 941.309.4316 or [rsimon@ringling.edu](mailto:rsimon@ringling.edu)

No workouts, no crash diets, no stress, no sweat. That's the joy of being an OLLI volunteer. It's good for you and good for OLLI.

## Donate to OLLI: Make the Most of Your Giving

Every monetary contribution to OLLI at Ringling College is an investment in yourself, your friends and the future of lifelong learning in Sarasota. Every member is encouraged to give OLLI a donation at a level they can afford.

Please consider making a gift that will allow OLLI at Ringling to continue to offer courses, lectures and workshops at affordable fees and expand our reach and visibility in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Class registration and membership only cover a portion of what it takes to deliver quality programming at OLLI. 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.

Do you know if your former company matches philanthropic giving? 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 at 941-309-4733.  
Click [here](#) to make a donation. We thank you!

### **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 and Meghan Burrows (OLLI staff).

Stay connected with our updates and share yours. Email: [mburrows@ringling.edu](mailto:mburrows@ringling.edu)



Become a Member

Learn More

Donate to OLLI



OLLI is located at Ringling College Museum Campus  
1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34236  
941-309-5111  
[www.OLLlatRinglingCollege.org](http://www.OLLlatRinglingCollege.org)

[Click here for the online version of this Newsletter.](#)