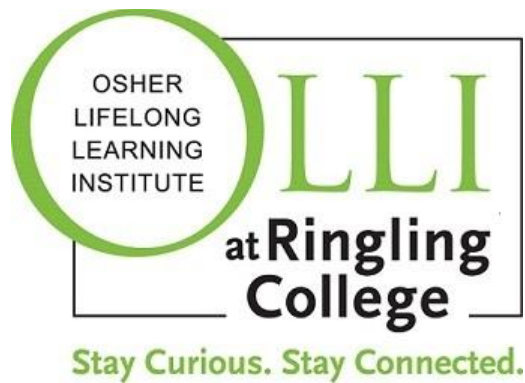




THE NEWS

APRIL 2025

Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

The spring term is almost over, and summer is waiting in the wings. Given the variety of classes that are scheduled, snowbirds might have second thoughts about heading home, and if you live here year-round, you may have a hard time choosing from more than 50 single-session classes, events, programs, and tours.

What's new this summer is that registration opens at **8 am on Tuesday, May 6** for OLLI members and the general public. Just like last year, you do not need a membership to take classes, although a membership will be required to register for certain tours, events, and programs. Summer is a great time to invite friends or relatives to experience OLLI.

And what experiences there are.

Expand your cheese knowledge during a visit to the Artisan Cheese Company in the Rosemary District or discover shark secrets and facts with members of the MISS (Minorities in Shark Sciences) team.

Learn about "Claude Monet's Obsession with Nymphéas" (water lilies) without traveling to Paris or explore "The Artist Colony and History of Sarasota."

Fire up your creative side by trying "Improv Games" or spend the day playing checkers, chess, Trivia, and more at the "OLLI Summer Games: A Play Date for Adults."

Get the facts on "Medical Cannabis: History, Treatment Options and How Florida's Medical Marijuana System Works" or get the answer to this question, "Can You Read Your Dog's Mind?"

Find out how to protect yourself from "Elderly and Vulnerable Adult Fraud," or arm yourself with information on "How to Avoid Internet Scams."

Whatever classes you choose, don't procrastinate. But if you are prone to procrastination, we have a class you shouldn't miss: "Procrastination to Progress: Take Action on Your Goals."

We want to see you during the summer term: May 19-July 11.

The OLLI Newsletter Staff

Reflections From the Editor:

It has been over 10 years since I joined OLLI. My first experience with lifelong learning was when the program was known as the Lifelong Learning Academy, which was located on the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee campus.

On the first day of class, I was a bit nervous and had random thoughts of enrolling in an "academy."

As snowbirds, my husband and I knew only two people in Sarasota. We were not ready to give up our anchor up north. That all changed.

Now, we see OLLI as our community, a place to thrive in retirement.

I participate in two SIGS (Shared Interest Groups): Current Events and Mahjong. I can hear my late mother laugh at that!

I have taken many courses on familiar topics and on topics I had never considered. In the spring term, I learned about managing pain, conflict resolution strategies, and planned death. Morbid? No. Enlightening and helpful.

And we have made many wonderful friendships. In many ways, we made it through the pandemic because of our OLLI ties. Other family members have even moved to Sarasota and become OLLI members.

Finding a sense of community and a place to pursue our love of learning continues to be the hallmark of a successful retirement. We continue to work toward that goal by studying and volunteering at OLLI at Ringling College.

Finally, our newsletter community has grown. New to us is **Judy LaMée**, who recently returned to the Sarasota area after years of living and being active at the OLLI at UNC-Asheville.

Welcome, Judy!

I want to thank **Anne Perry Moore**, coordinator, instructor interviewer, and all-around support; **Tom Miller**, our creative spark and newsletter writer; and **Gary Reinmuth**, who brings 34 years of Chicago newspaper expertise to the newsletter team.

Gratitude and optimism are what I take from OLLI each time.

Thanks to you, my friends. I Stay Curious and Connected!

Marion

What I Love About OLLI!



Judy LaMée is enrolled in the “Writers Workshop” class with Ellen Brosnahan.

Here are a few examples of what her classmates shared:



Arthur B. Lawrence III

From lectures on subjects like THE HISTORY OF NEW YORK and FANTASY AND FABLE to workshops like the WRITERS’ WORKSHOP, OLLI brings together a diverse collection of people with a shared interest in learning and expanding their world view.



Robert Fellman

OLLI is a place to meet people who are interested in things of the mind. A tolerant atmosphere and friendly faces greet newcomers and old-timers alike. It’s a best of Sarasota.



Ellen Brosnahan

OLLI has provided me with the opportunity to explore new areas of interest, to meet and interact with a variety of interesting people, and to forge new friendships.

Spotlight on Mahesh Patel: Our International Man About Sarasota



Relocate, Adjust, Repeat: An International Life—A Memoir

Mahesh S. Patel is a brilliant, unique and an a very funny individual. He has lived in 11 countries and visited 90 while working for UNICEF as a development economist. He was born in New York, raised in India for part of his life, and educated in England, Mahesh is a true blend of Eastern and Western cultures!

Mahesh recently published his memoir, *Relocate Adjust Repeat: An International Life*. Join us for a fascinating discussion on July 25 as part of the summer course lineup. Mahesh, a longtime OLLI student and instructor, will be in conversation with Debbie Mackler and Tom Miller. Mahesh was also interviewed on the *Two Old Bucks* podcast hosted by Dave and Del. **Click [here](#) to listen.**



A Note from Debra Ashby, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers play a vital role in everything we do. They are essential to our mission and help foster the sense of community that defines OLLI. Volunteering is a meaningful way to stay active, meet new people, and contribute to our community.

If you're interested in getting involved, we will work to find a role that aligns with your skills, interests, and schedule.

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Current needs include:

- Office Assistants: Monday-Friday; 2-4 pm
- Greeters: At the beginning of each semester
- Community Outreach: Farmers Market: (third Saturday of the month); 9 am-12 pm; (downtown Sarasota)
- Community Outreach: Free Sundays (second Sunday of the month); 11 am–2 pm; Sarasota Art Museum
- Community Outreach: Jazz Night (second Thursday of the month) 5-7:30 pm; Sarasota Art Museum

In accordance with Ringling College's policies, all new volunteers must complete the application process. Complete online or call 941-309-5112 for more information.

[Learn More About Being A Volunteer](#)

Shared Interest Groups (SIG) Update

The Current Events SIG, led by **Bruce Maggin**, concludes its 2024 - 2025 season in April. Bruce presented a comprehensive overview of the new tariffs, and his level of expertise and experience in international business made this topic comprehensible.

Thank you, Bruce and your team, for your longstanding commitment to keeping this SIG active.

Joan Caruso leads the Mahjong SIG. All levels of play are welcome. You must provide your own Mahjong game card. To learn more contact, joancarusoconsulting@gmail.com.

Gail Sussman-Miller leads the Joyful Women in Transition SIG. It offers a safe place to discuss pertinent issues. For more information, contact Gail at gail@inspiredchoice.com.

Calling all Canasta fans. If you know how to play or want to learn how to play, contact **Marty Betagole** at thatgirl830@gmail.com.

We welcome new member-sponsored SIGs which are a great way to find people with similar interests. Be creative and see if you can find like-minded people in Sarasota.

To sponsor a group, please fill out the form online.

[click here for the online form](#)

Happening at SAM (Sarasota Art Museum)

Make sure you visit the wonderful sneaker exhibit, ***Future Now: Virtual Sneakers to Cutting-Edge Kicks*** before it leaves on May 4. Change is in the air as new exhibits are coming.

[See SAM's Next Exhibitions](#)

Important OLLI Dates:



May 6: Summer registration opens

May 9: Fall course proposals due

May 19 - July 11: Summer term

June 19 and July 4: No classes

[Click Here for the OLLI Summer Catalog](#)

Support Your OLLI

Each contribution is an investment in yourself, your friends, and the future of lifelong learning in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Consider giving a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your annual Required Minimum Distribution each year.

OLLI appreciates your generosity at any level.

[Donate to OLLI](#)

The OLLI newsletter staff: Marion Richter (editor), Gary Reinmuth, Anne Perry Moore, Tom Miller, and Meghan Burrows (OLLI staff).

Stay connected with our updates and share yours. Email: [**marionr44@gmail.com**](mailto:marionr44@gmail.com)



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

[Learn More](#)



**For the online version of this Newsletter,
click [here!](#)**