Profile

Phil Curran

His karma brings Phil Curran along paths of usefulness

An Orr’s Island native, Phil Curran, is chairman of the OLLI Planning Committee. He attended the town’s two-room school and Portland schools, and he lived 20 years on Peaks Island. He served in the U. S. Navy in the South-East Asian and Pacific theaters during World War II, and returned to the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He attended Portland Junior College (now part of USM) on the GI Bill and later graduated from the School of Banking at Williams College.

As a Portland bank official for 39 years, Phil achieved an impressive record of both civic and community service, including membership on boards of The Maine School for the Blind, Goodwill Industries, Prides Training School (for those with special needs), and others.

Phil and Nancy live in Westbrook, where they maintain a tree farm on land occupied since 1775 by Nancy’s family (Hales and Prides). Phil’s activities have included keeping horses, serving as president of the Westbrook City Council, and participating in Westbrook politics.

Phil was board president of Portland Metro and Westbrook Community Hospital, a regent of Walker Memorial Library and for four years a member of the Maine House of Representatives. While in the Legislature, he was simultaneously a member of two Standing Committees: Banking, Insurance, and Consumer Protection; and State and Local Government.

Phil served as board president, treasurer, and director of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. As a backup preacher, he gave numerous sermons at the Prides Corner Congregational Church, publishing 33 of them in book form.

continued on page 4
Since our OLLI calendar follows USM’s fiscal year, July and August are transition months. Board and committee terms, and even OLLI memberships, end on June 30 and begin on July 1. The new Advisory Board appoints new committee chairs, who recruit new committee members. Everyone works to be ready for action by September.

This year the Advisory Board is losing three outstanding members, who will be greatly missed.

Sally Poland has served on the Board for five years. She has been vice-chair, served on the Executive Committee and has always given her full attention and ability to everything she’s undertaken. Her steady presence and thoughtfulness have added a great deal to the Board’s deliberations.

Mary Collins has served six years on the Advisory Board, which is the maximum consecutive years one can serve. During that time Mary has been a member of the Education Committee, chaired the Education committee, served on the Strategic Planning Committee, and chaired the newly formed Volunteer Committee. Mary’s thoughtful insights and contributions will be missed.

Fred Brancato has also served six years on the Advisory Board. He has served as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and as chair of the Advisory Board. His calm, steady, insightful, visionary leadership has helped form the program we now have. He has been invaluable to me as we made some functional and structural changes that will insure OLLI’s security into the future. The whole Institute is better for his leadership.

Many thanks to everyone who has served OLLI this past year. OLLI is an amazing program because of you!

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

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**Important OLLI fall term dates**

**Aug. 1** – Catalogs mailed out  
**Aug. 15** – Deadline for mailing or dropping off class registration forms to the OLLI office to participate in the class lottery  
**Aug. 17** – OLLI members’ class lottery  
**Aug. 22** – Open registration for OLLI courses begins by phone, mail, and drop-in  
**Sept. 12** – Fall classes start
The Gilded Age: A September Visit to Newport, Rhode Island

OLLI Excursions is offering a two-day trip in September to Newport, R.I., to visit four Gilded Age mansions: Marble House, the Breakers, Rosecliff, and the Elms.

All are landmarks of a vibrant era. Audio tours at each location portray life during that period and include memories and experiences of people who lived and worked in these houses. Many aspects of the Gilded Age are described.

One gets a real sense of the monumental buildings, the social life of the rich, the rise of industry and technological inventions, the stories of servants, and the changing role of women that defined the age.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8: Depart OLLI at 7:30 a.m. Arrive in Newport in time for lunch at Bowen’s Wharf. After lunch we will visit Marble House and the Breakers. We will then board the bus and drive to our hotel, the Howard Johnson Inn in Middletown. There will be time to get settled before the bus returns downtown, so that people can have dinner at a restaurant of their choice and a free evening.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9: After breakfast we will visit Rosecliff and the Elms. Following these tours there will be time to take the famous Cliff Walk or check out downtown Newport before we depart. The bus will leave at 4 p.m. and arrive in Portland at 8 p.m.

COST: $170 per person, double occupancy includes hotel, transportation, driver’s gratuity, entry to four mansions, and headphones. There is a $50 single supplement. No meals are included.

RESERVATIONS: Call the OLLI office at 780-4406 to pay with a credit card, or mail reservations and check to OLLI, USM, P. O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104. Registration deadline is August 1. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after that date because of required room reservations.

For questions or further information beyond registration, please call Susanne Wedge at 883-3784 or June Gillis at 883-2645.
Phil and Nancy, self-styled reconciliationists, were among the small group of founders of the Maine Irish Children’s Program. In 1985, they went to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to arrange with officials and groups there for 10-to-12-year-old children of different faiths to come to Maine for summer vacations away from the bitterness and war-torn streets of Belfast.

With his long-standing ties to Maine, Phil has an interest in genealogy. This has occupied much of his time for a quarter century and produced nearly 20 genealogies for various people or families. Some of these works may be found in libraries around Maine, including the Portland Public Library, Maine Historical Society, and the State of Maine Library in Augusta.

What he calls fun is his service as a docent at the Portland Museum of Art for two years and as docent at the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow House for eight years, giving tours of the museums and presentations in local schoolrooms.

Phil became involved in OLLI in 1997 when, he says, “four or five women of the church who had signed up for courses convinced me to take courses. The first was Harry Sky’s on World Religions. I was hooked. However, since Nancy and I regularly went south in the winter, my attendance was necessarily spotty. That changed when we began limiting our trips.”

Three years ago, Phil was invited to be a member of OLLI’s Advisory Board. He became a member of the Planning Committee and two years ago was named its chairman. He says he is pleased with the karma that led him through so many paths of usefulness, including his work with OLLI.

Phil sees the role of the Planning Committee, in addition to monitoring compliance with the existing Strategic Plan and the Plan’s effectiveness, as that of detecting changing conditions and fresh opportunities, and proposing new directions and goals when those seem desirable and attainable.

“Planning Committee members,” he points out, “are expected to be visionary, plotting goals in five-year stretches. Whatever maintains or enhances the quality of OLLI is of interest to us. OLLI is a gem and the place for a person like me.”

—Don King

OLLI Writing Mentor Program Continues

The OLLI-USM program for writing mentors will start its fourth term in September. In collaboration with Ann Dean, USM’s Director of College Writing, the program has explored several forms and modes of tutoring and mentoring students in academic writing. This fall we will focus on one-on-one relationships between OLLI volunteers and USM undergraduates needing writing help. We always welcome new mentors. For more information, e-mail the OLLI coordinator, Jack Lynch, at jlynch001@maine.rr.com or call him at 207-899-4391.
Known to the Abenaki as the “Beautiful Place by the Sea,” Ogunquit has, since the 1890s, attracted artists seeking the camaraderie of their peers and relief from the summer heat of major eastern cities. Two art schools (one quite bohemian!) and year-round residences of important artists established Ogunquit as a permanent artists’ colony that flourished well into the 1900s.

The Ogunquit Museum of American Art shows many of those artists in a beautiful setting overlooking the open ocean. The Museum includes exquisite outdoor sculptures set amidst lovely flower gardens.

Explore the shops in picturesque Perkins Cove, and either bring your lunch or eat in one of the many casual restaurants. The Cove is an active, working waterfront that offers much to see.

We finish the day with a visit to Kennebunkport’s Seashore Trolley Museum, with a ride on a historic antique trolley. The track runs through woods and fields, and the conductor leads a talk on the history of the museum and the place of trolleys in the early days of the twentieth century.

The cost for the day is $40 and includes bus, driver’s tip, and museum fees. Participants should wear comfortable shoes.

Departure is from the Wishcamper Center at 8:45 a.m. with return to Portland at 6:30 p.m.

Reserve by calling the OLLI office at 780-4406 to pay with a credit card or mail reservations and check to OLLI, USM, P O Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104. **There will be no refunds for cancellations made after July 27.**

For questions about the trip call Anita Jones at 797-3612 or Peg Dinan at 781-5432.

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**The OLLI Follies**

Come be entertained by your fellow students and instructors!

**Save the date:** Saturday, October 15, 2011. **And the time:** 3:00 p.m. **And the place:** Hannaford Hall

Advance tickets available at the OLLI office when classes start ($5.00 donation suggested). Suggested donation at the door is $7.00.
Harry Sky moves to North Carolina

Rabbi Harry Sky, co-founder of OLLI at USM, has moved permanently to North Carolina. His new e-mail is Rabbi@triad.rr.com, and he would love to hear from people.

We’re online!

The OLLI Newsletter is now online and in color. Go to www.usm.maine.edu/olli and click on “OLLI News” in the right column. On the next page you’ll find a link to the Newsletter.

And the winner is...

Sue Ewing is the winner in the raffle held by the Resource Development Committee, which raised $672 for OLLI Scholarships. The winner was drawn at the Volunteer Recognition Celebration in May.

Save those books for the sale

OLLI members are urged to search their libraries for donations to for an October book sale to benefit the Keith Sherburne Memorial Fund.

You can bring books in to the OLLI office beginning in September. More information will be in the September OLLI Newsletter.
Walking Club plans July, August treks

For the first two walks this summer, we will meet at Back Cove at 9 a.m. Dress appropriately. Bring bug and tick spray, sunscreen, a hat, and your lunch and water. If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

Tuesday, July 26: The Walking Club will repeat a popular outing from last year. Members will hike the Thorne Head Preserve, part of the Kennebec Estuary in Bath. This is a steep trail in places, and members will need to be able to walk unassisted over rough, uneven ground. We will eat at the trail head.

For those who want to meet us there: Take Route 1 to Bath and take the High Street exit (before the big bridge). Turn left at the stop sign and follow High Street north until it dead-ends at the trail.

Wednesday, Aug. 10: We will hike in the Libby Hill Forest in Gray, a new walk for us. These are forest trails and may be rough and uneven in places. We will have dessert at Cole Farms after we eat lunch.

For those who want to meet us there: Take Route 26 north out of Gray for about one mile. You will approach a left-turning lane onto Libby Hill Road. Turn left there and proceed until the paved road ends at the Middle School. Park to the right of the gate in the gravel parking area.

Tuesday, Aug. 23: Our annual outing will be to Great Diamond Island, and we will eat our lunches at a nearby home. We will take the ferry at 10 a.m. from Portland. Please be a little early: We plan to leave Back Cove promptly at 9 a.m. to reach the ferry terminal and find parking. If you miss us, drive to the terminal and meet us there. This is a longer day; so plan accordingly.

Late summer OLLI Night Out

There will be one more OLLI Night Out event before summer ends — Monday, August 1, at 5 p.m. at Garofalo’s Restaurant in the Higgins Beach Inn at Higgins Beach in Scarborough.

OLLI friends and guests are invited for a Dutch treat meal in a beautiful setting. Take a short walk to the beach before or after dinner.

There is ample parking behind and to the ocean side of the restaurant.

For reservations or to request a ride, e-mail Terry Foster at tfoster@maine.edu or leave a message at 780-4895.

Photography Special Interest Group sought

Over the years, many of us have taken photography courses both at OLLI and elsewhere.

I’d like to form a new Special Interest Group to continue and reinforce what we have learned in class. The purpose of the group will be to support and encourage each other in our development as photographers.

I was thinking of taking field trips to local destinations and then getting together to share and discuss our work. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sharon Hickey at 846-7974 or e-mail me at sharonlh@gwi.net.

I am really excited about the possibilities for this group and look forward to meeting you.

—Sharon Hickey
Maine Jewish Museum,
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and
Temple Beth El invite you to
SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Tribute Dinner Celebration
HARRY Z. SKY
Honoring 50 Years as
A Rabbi in Maine.
Marriott at Sable Oaks
South Portland, Maine
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Please join us on the
Host Committee.
To serve, please contact:

Bette & Sam Novick
O. 207-773-1789
H. 207-773-0477
sbmnovick@cs.com

Formal Invitations to Follow