Profile

Reflections on Reflections

Our literature and arts journal gets its start.

Seventeen years ago our organization was known as Senior College, with 481 enthusiastic participants. Even then some members had forward-looking ideas. One member, Keith Sherburne, wanted to establish an outlet for our creativity, so he wrote the following proposal to the Board.

PROPOSAL

Date: September 22, 2000
To: Wallace Nutting, chair, and the Board of Senior College
From: Keith E. Sherburne
Re: An annual journal by Senior College Participants

Subsequent to conversations with Rabbi Harry Sky, I wish to propose the long-term undertaking of a periodical publication by the participants of Senior College-Portland. Unlike the book Senior Perspectives: Spirituality, released some time ago, this journal would be an annual publication, on-going and regularly anticipated by its audience. The format (or look) of the journal would be modeled on a literary magazine (such as Boulevard or Glimmertrain) or a publication such as Atlantic. A conference with University publications would lead us to the fiscally, aesthetically appropriate look. I foresee a cost to the consumer of about $5 an issue to start. I propose May as the month of publication annually because it is the culmination of the school year.

The content of the journal would be drawn from submissions in all forms of expression (painting, photography, creative fiction and non-fiction, music,
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opinion pieces) by Senior College–Portland participants. It would relate to an announced theme. The theme for 2000–1 is “Imagine that….” Themes in subsequent years would develop from suggestions solicited from the school community.

To the end of making the editorial work efficient and effective, I have asked four persons to form an editorial board with me as chair: Charles Acker, Natalie Murray, Julian Sachs, Edith Yonan. I propose that the editorial board be on-going: that is, that an editor accept the position as a permanent one; commit, however, for a minimum of one year; be free to step down at the end of that time.

Because of the projected time line (a May publication), an early response to this proposal would be much appreciated.

cc: Harry Sky
   Dick Carter
   Charles Acker
   Natalie Murray
   Julian Sachs
   Edith Yonan

A few things are worth noting here.

The themed issue format lasted five years. In addition to the first theme (“Imagine that….”), the next four were “The Forward Eye,” “The Road Less Traveled,” “Through the Looking Glass,” and “One Spark of Nature’s Fire.”

In the 2006 issue, the editor, Edith Yonan, noted:

Unlike the first five issues, this issue has no underlying theme, due in part to several suggestions from OLLI members that a theme stifled their creative juices.

As a result, submissions have run the gamut from the humorous to the haunting. There is surely something to engage each reader.

Over the past 17 years, Reflections has had six editors: Keith Sherburne, Edith Yonan, Pat Muzzy, Domenica Cipollone, Pat Budd, and Ruth Story. Keith passed away before the eighth issue, Domenica moved away, and the remaining four are still active members of OLLI.

Reflections remains an outlet for the creativity of our members. With a membership approaching or passing 2000, it has by necessity had to become more selective. But that selectivity has merely meant that many excellent submissions couldn’t be included because of the 32-page limit in the budget. It has also meant that there is a limit on how many items a person may submit and how many items by one person can appear in Reflections.

A few years ago, in keeping with the standard practice of most literary and art journals, submissions became “blind”: the editorial staff does not know who submitted what. This has complicated the submission process for both submitters and Reflections volunteers. A “submissions manager,” not on the selection committee, has to create and coordinate several collections of submissions and names.

Submissions in the past have been typically hard-copy written materials and original art and photos. All of the written submissions had to be typed by a volunteer. Today, all submissions are electronic and arrive by e-mail.

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NOTES FROM SUSAN

The OLLI office recently received a report from Sen. Susan Collins’s office.

Collins is the Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and this report deals with “Fighting Fraud.” The report lists the top 10 types of scams that target our nation’s seniors.

The number-one scam, by a long shot, is IRS Impersonation Scams. This occurs when you receive a phone call, supposedly from the IRS, and they insist that you owe the IRS money that must be paid immediately. Other scams listed include Sweepstakes scams, computer scams, and identity theft.

But the thing that really jumped out at me is that while other states are reporting 7, 9, 2, 6, etc., cases of fraud, Maine reported 800! Texas reported 271, California 145, New York 113, but Maine reported 800 cases of fraud against seniors!

Yes, Susan Collins is from Maine, and she chairs this committee. But 800? Are we easy targets? Is Maine targeted because it’s the “oldest” state? Do we report things more often? Did Sen. Collins’s office actively solicit responses?

Fraud against seniors is real and apparently very active in Maine. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up. Do not engage in conversation and do not hesitate to call the Aging Committee’s Fraud Hotline at 1-855-303-9470.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

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The Reflections deadline for the 2017 issue has been extended to April 24: procrastinators rejoice! Elsewhere in this issue, we are reprinting the directions and rules for submitting. Many thanks to all who share their creativity, and a bit of themselves, with the OLLI community!

—Tim Baehr, Submissions Manager
Brown Bag Events from the Education Committee

Appeal for New Faculty
Jack Lynch

On Monday, April 3, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 211, Jack Lynch and a panel of veteran OLLI faculty will welcome proposals for new courses or workshops from OLLI members.

This workshop is for members who have not previously taught at OLLI. Are you passionate about a particular subject or skill that you might wish to share with others?

Come and present your idea and receive feedback. Credentials are less important than knowledge and desire to teach. Even if you haven’t taught before, your inner teacher may be nudging you! See you Monday, April 3, 11:45 to 12:30.

Children of the Acadian Deportation: When History Gets Personal
Tim Baehr

During the French and Indian War of 1754 to 1763, the British forcibly rounded up and deported about 10,000 French residents of Acadia — what is now the Maritime Provinces of Canada. This Brown Bag talk traces the fate of members of the Robichaud family — ancestors of the presenter — who were deported to France in 1758. Two brothers returned in 1774 and settled in New Brunswick, where many descendants still reside. This presentation is both a historical and a personal story of deportees overcoming hardship with luck, persistence, and grit.

Tim Baehr is the descendant, through his mother, of the Robichaud family. He recently visited New Brunswick to meet some distant cousins for the first time and obtain some historical documents about the family. He is in the process of translating some of the material from its original French.

The presentation is April 25 from 11:45 to 12:30 in room 211.

OLLI Book Sale—Plus Edible Goodies

Annual Book Sale to Benefit OLLI Scholarships:
• May 5, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for OLLI and USM campus members only
• May 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for everyone
• Room 102, Wishcamper Center

If you have books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, puzzles, and games to donate, bring them to the OLLI conference room on the second floor of Wishcamper between April 19 and May 4.

Donations of cookies and other baked goodies can be dropped off at the OLLI office, two days before the sale, on Wednesday, May 3.

Please let Sarah DeDoes know of your planned donation of edible goodies via e-mail (sdedoes@maine.rr.com) or telephone (774-1520).

Thanks! —Dick Sturgeon
Deadline for *Reflections* Extended to April 24

Deadline extensions are common among literary journals. We’re repeating the rules so you don’t have to dig out last month’s *OLLI Newsletter*.

*Reflections* is OLLI’s annual journal of literature and art created by OLLI members. You can send in your submission between now and April 24. You do not have to have taken a writing or art or photography class at OLLI to submit. You **do** have to be a current OLLI member. Below are the rules and regulations about submitting; be sure to follow them closely.

**OLLI Reflections Submissions 2017**

Send an e-mail with the following required information in the body of the e-mail:

- Your name
- Your **phone number** and e-mail address
- A short biography (35-word maximum)
- The category of work you are submitting
  - Art (including photos)
  - Poetry
  - Prose
- The title of your work (same as the file name of your electronic submission; see below)

Attach your submission to an e-mail and send it to tbaehr@aol.com with “Reflections” in the subject line.

The rules (Read these carefully. **You must follow all the rules.**)

**General** — **Deadline is April 24, 2017.**

- You must be a current OLLI member.
- You may submit up to two works in each of the three categories. **Each submission must be sent as an attachment in a separate e-mail.**
- Do not put your name anywhere on your submission. All submissions are judged “blind.” If the painting or drawing you photograph has your name on it, cover the name.
- If you submit elsewhere, you must let us know if your work is accepted. If we accept your work, you must inform anyone else to whom you submitted your work.

**Written submissions**

- Prose: 1,000 words or less, 12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins, pages numbered
- Poetry: 12-point type, single-spaced, pages numbered
- Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text format (rtf) **only.** We **can NOT** process Apple Pages or Adobe .pdf files!
- We cannot accept revisions to your submission after we receive your entry.

**Photo and art submissions**

- Electronic (digital) file in .jpg or .jpeg format (this is the regular format for most cameras)
- Artwork: Take a digital picture of your non-photo artwork.

Make sure that you name or rename the electronic file (written or photo or art) with the same title as you list in the actual submission. **If you don’t do this, we may lose track of your submission!**

- For a story titled “Joe’s Boat House,” send an attachment with the file name joesboathouse.doc
- For a photo titled “Sunset at Biddeford Pool,” send an attachment with the file name sunsetatbiddefordpool.jpg

**Don’t let this technical stuff stop you!** If you have questions or problems, get in touch with our submissions manager, Tim Baehr, at tbaehr@aol.com or 899-1043.
Delights at Paciarino for the OLLI Wine Tasting Group

One recent February evening, 23 OLLI members met at Paciarino (pah-chah-REE-noh), an authentic Italian restaurant in the Old Port, to taste some wonderful food and wine in an exuberant atmosphere.

Paciarnino’s owners, Enrico Barbiero and Fabiana de Savino, who are from Milan, make their pastas and sauces in-house and offer an impressive list of affordable Italian wines. Fabiana, our host and sommelier, holds the view that wine and food are fun, especially when shared with convivial people. This, our first wine-tasting evening at the couple's homey restaurant, exceeded our high expectations.

Our group, like every OLLI Special Interest Group, is open to all OLLI members. Wine aficionado Jack Lynch organizes the tastings and maintains a list of interested participants. To join in, just e-mail Jack at jlynch001@maine.rr.com.

About three weeks before each event, Jack e-mails the date and time of the upcoming tasting along with instructions to reserve a place. During the tasting, Fabiana provides concise wine information and is happy to answer all questions. Our lively discussion adds to the fun.

The cost of food and wine is $35, including tax, and is payable directly to the restaurant. We taste four half-glasses of wine chosen to illustrate and contrast features of grapes or regions. In February we enjoyed Montepulciano d’Abruzzo, a Pinot Noir (yes, who knew the Italians would grow that grape!), a Barbera, and an earthy but subtle Lagrein from Alto Adige near the Austrian border — a grape and a region unknown to any of us.

To keep costs down we requested simple country appetizers and cheeses, but Fabiana also delighted us with an unforgettable, close-your-eyes, definitely-not-your-grandmother’s velvety pesto sauce over a simple pasta.

Paciarnino is closed to the public on Mondays, so we have the restaurant to ourselves. There is plenty of room for you and your OLLI friends, whether neophytes or seasoned tasters. We welcome you to taste with us.
Walking Club: Willard Beach, Falmouth Nature Preserve, New Schedule

On Wednesday, April 12, we will enjoy some ocean views as we walk from Willard Beach to Bug Light along the Spring Point Shoreway in South Portland. We will return through the neighborhood streets.

On Tuesday, April 25, we will try a new walk at the Falmouth Nature Preserve off Rt. 88 in Falmouth. These 34 acres offer a variety of spring wildflowers, a tidal creek, and some interesting terrain well hidden in the middle of a residential area.

For both walks we will meet to carpool at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 9:50 a.m. Bring your lunch and water. If you have questions or are a new walker, please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 or e-mail me at raegarcelon@gmail.com.

The new schedule for walks in 2017–18 is now available in the OLLI office or online from me.

—Rae Garcelon

April Reprise of OLLI Night Out

Our planned dinner for March was canceled due to bad weather, but high interest demanded we rebook Woodford Food & Beverage for April.

As mentioned earlier, this brasserie-style restaurant is new on our list and only minutes from USM. Steak, chops, and a fabulous cocktail menu are featured. The chef has worked at Fore Street and Bresca, so he knows his stuff.

Most people park down the street at the Woodfords Club, though a few spaces are available in front of the restaurant.

Come celebrate spring (we hope) with us.

When: Monday, April 10, at 5 p.m.

Where: Woodford Food & Beverage, 660 Forest Ave., 200-8503. Website is http://www.woodfordfb.com

Reservations: A MUST by noon, Sunday, April 9. Call or write Barbara Bardack, 865-2009, lascala2@comcast.net.

Walkers Eleanor Brackbill, Norma Stover, Ann Babbitt, and Bruce Napolitano in Yarmouth

The Royal River in March