

OLLI NEWSLETTER

May 2020

www.usm.maine.edu/olli

Profile

Elizabeth Housewright

A Maine native, back home after 40 years away, she has embraced OLLI as a student, instructor, and Board member.

“This sounds interesting! I’ll try it!” Elizabeth Housewright says this as she leans in to a new challenge. This could be her motto, as she has eagerly taken on so many. Born in Portland’s Mercy Hospital in 1949, Elizabeth enjoyed early life in Mid-Coast Maine, and graduated from Falmouth High School. After college in New York, where she met and married her husband, they were off to jobs in California for what they thought would be a brief time.

In the ensuing decades in Orange County, Elizabeth earned her master’s in Biology and was working in a biology lab at California State College at Fullerton when she heard that the library school needed science people. “This sounds interesting! I’ll try it!” At age 40, she completed a library master’s degree and spent several years working at McDonnell Douglas and Beckman Instruments in their corporate libraries. But when there was an opening for a science specialist faculty position in the library at Fullerton, she applied, was hired, tenured, and soon promoted to the number-two position in charge of budgets, staff, and facilities.

Even so, the family returned to Maine in the summers. Her children, invested in jobs in the New York City area, blessed her with four grandchildren.

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Elizabeth Housewright

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In 2012, after 40 years away, Elizabeth and her husband decided to return to Maine and settle in Freeport, where, happily, some grandchildren now reside nearby. She enjoys monthly breakfasts with Falmouth High School friends, is heavily involved with local libraries, and has taken up weightlifting, which appeals to the “scientific aspects of body and brain.”

Though she had known of OLLI in California, it wasn’t until she heard of Gale Rhodes’s “One Culture” OLLI course integrating chemistry, biology, and the arts, that she became involved here. She took classes from teacher Steve Schiffman and others, and was soon offering her own class on Science Great Books. This morphed into her Special Interest Group, now in its sixth year, based on monthly reading and discussion of *Scientific American*. Meanwhile, now-board-member Steve Schiffman noted her progress and asked if she would be interested in joining the OLLI Advisory Board. “This sounds interesting! I’ll try it!” Soon she was “a-Board,” and chair of the Communications Committee. She is now also co-chair of the Social Media Committee of the Strategic Plan soon to launch OLLI’s new Facebook page. Each month now, she looks forward to the Board’s new Zoom meetings online.

What Elizabeth appreciates about OLLI is taking classes with others of a similar age who share expertise and interests. She says it is also wonderful to run into people here who knew her parents. A new interest going forward is a three-session OLLI workshop on Ham Radio. We are indeed fortunate to have such an engaged, curious, and accomplished member on our Board and in our midst.

—Janet Stebbins

Passages

Eleanore Irish, Kerck Kelsey

Eleanore Irish died on March 20 at the age of 102. She was involved in the Senior College at USM (now OLLI at USM) from the start, and took courses until she was 98. Eleanore served on the OLLI Board of Directors (now OLLI Advisory Board). She worked in public health and was a past president and active member of the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging. Eleanore traveled widely and was an avid sports fan. She golfed into her 90s.

Eleanore’s obituary was in the *Portland Press Herald*: <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/01/obituaryeleanore-m-irish/>

Kerck Kelsey died on March 26 at the age of 87. Active at OLLI, Kerck was also a widely-traveled adventurer, historian, sailor, and author. He was happiest enjoying the company and laughter of friends and family at home.

Kerck’s obituary was in the *Portland Press Herald*: <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/15/obituaryalbert-kerck-van-boskerck-kelsey/>

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OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings. Check with the Chair for time and place, or if you wish to address the Board.

WEB SITES

Maine Senior College Network
www.maineseniorcollege.org
 OLLI National Resource Center
www.osher.net
 OLLI at USM
www.usm.maine.edu/olli

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OLLI NEWSLETTER

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 Please send newsletter material to the OLLI Office, via our e-mail.

Deadline for the June issue is May 15.

OLLI Continues in the Virtual Universe.

Your OLLI friends have devised a series of free online classes accessible via the Zoom conference software. Most of us have already seen OLLI e-mails with course listings and registration information. (Registration closed April 24.)

More offerings are being developed. Watch for future announcements of remote-learning activities via e-mail or the Newsletter. Check your e-mail often so you don't miss anything (including your spam folder just in case).

As in "normal" times, the courses cover a wide range of topics. Here are the titles and instructors of the courses beginning the week of May 5:

Six Conversations on Women in Art

Donna Anderson

The Geology of Maine and New England

Irwin Novak

The Biology of the Pandemic: DNA, RNA, Immunology, Modeling, and Immunizations

Walt Allan and Jeri Erikson

Looking at Art: A Museum or Gallery Exhibition Visit

Tan Larrabee

Into the Mystics

Paul Doherty

Award-Winning/Nominated Movies on Netflix

Rob Hyssong



OLLI Excursions Is on the Move (Virtually)

We are all staying home, washing our hands constantly, wearing masks (don't forget to wash the homemade cloth ones after each use!)... However, OLLI Ex can take you out of the house, can feed your wish to travel, can take you to many parts of the world, can remind you of places you have been, can search with you destinations you haven't yet seen. And, how can that be?? Ahh, by the modern magic of virtual travel. Many of you may have already taken such trips during March and April, or you may have even explored other goals.



Below is a compilation of links to various locales that might be of interest. I did test them all on my PC, though some of you might hesitate to open videos or YouTube selections. Some sites will have further embedded links and/or videos for you to enjoy. Possibly there are some you might not be able to open at all. However, these OLLI Ex choices might encourage you to Google travels on your own. Bon voyage!

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/mar/23/10-of-the-worlds-best-virtual-museum-and-art-gallery-tours>

<http://gardentoursnewengland.com/blog/>

[https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2020/04/03/the-national-geographic-museum-releases-a-virtual-tour-of-its-current-exhibition-becoming-jane-the-evolution-of-dr-jane-goodall/?](https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2020/04/03/the-national-geographic-museum-releases-a-virtual-tour-of-its-current-exhibition-becoming-jane-the-evolution-of-dr-jane-goodall/)

<https://www.veranda.com/outdoor-garden/g32108229/royal-gardens/>

https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/now-at-the-met/2020/150-anniversary-president-director?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Membership&utm_campaign=2020_0413_Mem_Anniversary&cs=

https://www.sothebys.com/en/series/a-celebration-of-colour?cmp=email_Daily_Marketing_Email_L20050_L20160_L20228_Private_Look:_At_Sothebys_London_a_Celebration_of_Color_31-Mar-

<https://www.cnn.com/style/article/what-to-do-at-home-streaming-art-museums-concerts-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

https://www.kcet.org/shows/expeditions-with-patrick-mcmillan/episodes/the-longleaf-empire-francis-marion-national-forest?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kcet

https://www.kcet.org/shows/great-museums-the-art-of-islam-at-the-met-and-the-louvre/episodes/great-museums-the-art-of?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kcet

<https://www.veranda.com/outdoor-garden/a31982296/virtual-tour-highgrove-house-royal-gardens/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rU04yNlJjE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2fDdp0PfrUOjL5dOJ3JD7VM8H1eTfU86D8NHnA UT4Ms3AanvZtYdOqsE4/>> (concert)

https://www.sothebys.com/en/articles/explore-museums-around-the-world-from-the-comfort-of-your-own-home?cmp=email_Daily_Marketing_Email_Discover_the_Encyclopedic_Collections_of_Museums_Around

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OLLI Excursions (Continued from page 4)

[the World 13-Apr-](#)

<https://nhgardensolutions.wordpress.com/author/allenorcross/>

Osher map library has virtual jigsaw puzzles a new one each week:

<https://oshermaps.org/jigsawpuzzles/>

Finally, this four minute visual performance of Beethoven's 5th: http://www.scgrandmusicclub.com/email_documents/a31df818-3fb5-49f7-b58d-eae5e538e842.MP4

I want to thank members of the Community Committee (home of OLLI Excursions) and personal friends outside OLLI who helped put this together.

—Gael McKibben

A Few Words about the Walking Club

Once again it saddens me to cancel both of our May walks, but we can only hope we will have better news next month.

I'm sure that as you are taking your solitary walks around the area, you are seeing daffodils starting to bloom. You may be thinking of the glorious displays we have seen in past years at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Saco. Yes, we were scheduled to visit it on May 13th, which it turns out may be a little late for the full spectacle this year. But perhaps you will take a drive down there for a pick-me-up to view nature's abundance. I understand the gates are still open. So you can park and walk down to the river. Just a suggestion for all of us walkers.

—Rae Garcelon



These are photos taken on a walk in 2018 at Laurel Hill Cemetery in full bloom.