

## OLLI NEWSLETTER

October 2020

[www.usm.maine.edu/olli](http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli)

## From the Director

Donna Anderson

### A Quick Snapshot of OLLI today

As you all have witnessed, OLLI quickly shifted in mid-March from face-to-face classes to remote learning. Staff and the Advisory Board have worked together to press forward to expand the number and variety of classes, workshops, and activities we offer virtually, and to offer the training and tools that our faculty and members need to learn together. To give you a sense of how this transition has moved along, I would like to share the following statistics:

#### Spring Session, original plan

**58 courses, 12 Workshops, and 1,400 enrollments**

#### After the Covid 19 shift

**Spring Session, phase 1: 15 classes, 3 workshops, and 211 enrollments**

**Spring Session, phase 2: 7 classes and 133 enrollments**

**Summer Session: 21 classes, 4 workshops, and 368 enrollments**

**Fall Session: 49 classes, 8 workshops, and 879 enrollments**

Clearly the shift to remote learning had a dramatic impact on OLLI. But the good news is that OLLI staff, faculty, the Advisory Board, and committees worked intensely and quickly to create a new virtual OLLI that allowed a significant number of learning opportunities to continue. We should be proud that OLLI was able to make this dramatic change, one that not all OLLIs were able to do.

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## From the Director *(Continued from page 1)*

We want to continue to expand our Zoom offerings by cultivating new faculty and encouraging our members to participate in virtual programs, and this is another way of looking at our progress:

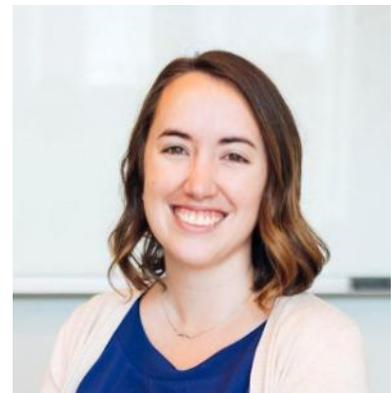
**In the fall session we have 92 percent capacity in our courses and workshops. This statistic means that our offerings have strong registration.**

**Compared to this time last year, OLLI membership is at 63 percent. While we have lost a number of members because of the shift to remote learning, this percentage is above average for OLLIs nationally.**

The bottom line is that OLLI—through its staff, Board, and committees—will work together to strategize about how we can move ahead to expand our curriculum, to encourage innovation and experimentation, to offer activities during the day and evening to combat social isolation, and to develop a membership drive to regain learners moving forward. We have lots of work to do, but we are making strides in continuing to make OLLI sustainable and important to our community and membership.

### OLLI's New Staff Member

We are pleased to introduce Megan Saul, OLLI's new full-time administrative assistant. Megan comes to us from the University of New England, where she worked in the College of Graduate and Professional studies, supporting the budget planning and monitoring process and working on marketing and administrative tasks in the department. She was originally from the West, attending California State University and Northern Arizona University, where she received her BA in English. Megan's position is a new one for OLLI, including procurement (Sue's old responsibility), customer service, and editing (Linda's area), and new roles in marketing and promotion, volunteer management, and greater administrative support for OLLI's Director, Advisory Board, and committees. As with all of the staff, Megan will be working from home for the foreseeable future, but as she moves forward in OLLI, you will have interaction with her in her various areas of responsibility.



Megan Saul

—Donna Anderson, Director

### President Cummings Welcomes OLLI Members to the Fall Session

On Wednesday, September 23, at 3 p.m., USM President Glenn Cummings spoke to a group of OLLI volunteers to welcome OLLI members to the fall Session and discuss the new five-year strategic plan for USM. A link to a recording of the session will be sent out soon. All members are encouraged to watch.



**ADVISORY BOARD**

Susan Jennings, Chair  
 Steve Schiffman, Vice-Chair  
 Peter Curry, Secretary  
 Paul Doherty,  
 Elizabeth Housewright  
 Gael McKibben,  
 Rae Garcelon  
 Georgia Koch  
 Walter Allan  
 Betsy Wiley,  
 Karen Day  
 Matt Goldfarb  
 Star Pelsue  
 Steve Piker

The new chair assignments, plus the names of three new members, will be listed next month.

**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](http://www.maineseniorcollege.org)  
 OLLI National Resource Center  
[www.osher.net](http://www.osher.net)  
 OLLI at USM  
[www.usm.maine.edu/olli](http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli)

**OLLI STAFF**

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 Rob Hyssong, Program Coordinator  
 Anne Cardale, Program Director of  
 the Maine Senior College Network  
 Megan Saul, Administrative Assistant

**OLLI NEWSLETTER**

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

**Deadline for the November issue is October 15.**

**Message from the Advisory Board Chair**

In August the OLLI Advisory Board held its first-ever remote retreat. We spent a lot of our time talking about what OLLI needed to do to meet the needs of today, as well as thinking about what future needs might be. Specifically, we worked to identify:

- Things that need to be done now that are not being done
- Things we do now that we must continue to do now
- Things that we do now that—at least for now—we do not need to continue doing.

To follow up on the meeting, we decided to tackle the issue of our Standing Committee structure first. A lot has changed in our environment, and we wanted to assure that committees did not overlap in their responsibilities and addressed the current and future needs. Going forward, we will have five standing committees.

The **SAGE Committee** will continue to find excellent speakers for the series of lectures—presented remotely for now—that will be presented in the fall and spring semesters.

The **Teaching and Learning Committee** will address what our educational offerings will be and how we will deliver them.

The **Membership and Administration Committee** will work on issues related to membership retention and expansion, volunteer recruitment and management, nominations for the Advisory Board, and liaison with the OLLI staff.

The idea for the **Social Relations Committee** grew out of our perceived need for supporting the need for social contact and communication with all OLLI members, something we are missing by not being able to gather at Wishcamper. The committee will work to support existing communications methods and explore new opportunities for establishing new online connections. It will also work with the Special Interest Groups.

The fifth committee will work on **External Relations**. It will help us to pursue relationships with other organizations that provide seniors with social and educational interests, such as members of the Maine Senior College Network and other OLLIs. It will also work to strengthen our relationship with USM.

There is still some work to be done to get the new committees up and running. We will keep you posted in the newsletter on our progress.

—Sue Jennings; [jensusa10@gmail.com](mailto:jensusa10@gmail.com)



### OLLI Social Events: October 2020

The ZOOM Social Activities at OLLI have been a success! We are continuing a similar format and offering more events for the next couple of months. As before, there is no cost for the programs, but you do have to be a current OLLI member and register for events. Click on the blue box to get started.

**Become a Member and/or Register**

If you have ideas for other types of ZOOM social events or want to lead a session, please send your suggestions and offers to Sue Jennings at [jensusa10@gmail.com](mailto:jensusa10@gmail.com).

HAVE FUN!

### OLLI MEET & MINGLE

Wednesday, October 14, at 3 p.m.

Join and renew relationships with fellow OLLI members. An opportunity to chat with Board members.

The summer M&M brought together 40 people!



### CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSIONS

Steven Piker

Friday, October 9, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Current events are sizzling(!) Let's get together and share thoughts and feelings on a couple of them.

Many Trump supporters are thoroughly decent human beings. Join us for an opportunity to discuss and evaluate this thesis. Discussion will be the name of the game. All viewpoints will be welcome. We will be really glad if you can join us.



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## Social Events

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### GAME NIGHT ON ZOOM

Star Pelsue

Oct. 12, 7–8 p.m. & Oct 26, 7–8 p.m.

Looking for some good ol' fashioned fun? Join OLLI for more virtual trivia games.

You will need to provide your own snacks and beverages. We will provide the questions. You are one click away from an evening of good company and laughter. Make sure you mark your calendars and register for this fun time. Keep an eye out for other games like Pictionary, Charades, or Scattergories. If you have a game you would like to play, let us know and we can work together to make it happen.



### POP-UP ZOOM DISCUSSIONS

Elizabeth Housewright, Sue Jennings, and Joel Kallich

**Monday, October 12, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.: The Arts:  
Oklahoma! (Sue and Joel)**

Join Joel Kallich and Sue Jennings for a discussion of the 1999 production of *Oklahoma!* starring Hugh Jackman at the National Theatre, London. It's not just about the music but invigorated with historical context and deeper meaning. The musical is available on BroadwayHD, a streaming service for theater fans at [www.broadwayhd.com](http://www.broadwayhd.com). It costs \$8.99 a month and can be canceled at any time.

Pop-up discussions consist of small groups in order to make sure that people who share the interest can connect, so if there is demand for more than one session we can consider holding a second.

### OLLI COCKTAIL PARTY VIA ZOOM!

Terry Foster

Wednesdays, Oct, 7, and Oct, 21, 7 p.m.

OLLI is hosting a cocktail party, with Terry Foster at the piano.  
So fix your favorite cocktail and Zoom on in!



## SAGE in October

### Avoiding scams; preserving our water source; law school challenges in the pandemic; sharing stories across generations

On **October 6**, Michael Desrosiers and Judith Shaw will be talking about how they have been successful in helping to catch scam artists and fraudsters in Maine. Michael Desrosiers was a Postal Inspector for 28 years. Mr. Desrosiers specialized in the investigation of mail fraud scams and the arrest of those who use the US Mail to perpetrate fraud. Every individual he arrested during his career pled guilty or was found guilty by a jury. Judith Shaw serves as the Securities Administrator for the State of Maine Office of Securities, having been appointed in 2008. Judith is co-chair of the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention, a coalition of public and private partners dedicated to reducing elder abuse and financial exploitation.



Michael Desrosiers & Judith Shaw

Only a handful of surface water sources in our entire country are as clean as Sebago Lake. Paul Hunt, Portland Water District's Environmental Manager, is charged with making sure the water that helps sustain our lives remains clean. Typically, surface water is removed, treated, and then sent to our taps. Join us on **October 13** to learn how the Portland Water District is atypical and how it is aggressively working with the big picture in mind. Learn how preserving our water source is much more than water testing. Paul will give us insights into the unusual way the Water District's initiatives impact water treatment, and how preserving our vast watershed impacts our everyday lives and enhances our local economy.



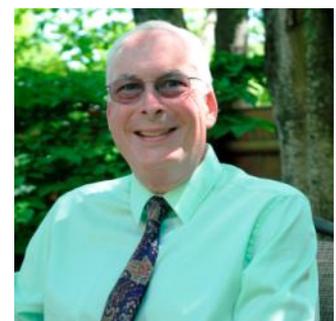
Paul Hunt

Dean Leigh Ingalls Saufley and Harold C. Pachios return to SAGE on **October 20**. Both friends of SAGE will explore "Building on the Past to Improve the Future: Maine Law's Plans and Aspirations." Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and newly installed Dean of Maine Law, Leigh Saufley will present her plans for the law school. Her co-presenter is Harold C. Pachios, a founding partner of the eminent Portland law firm, Preti Flaherty. What does the future hold for the law school during the pandemic? What are the challenges to both students and faculty? From their unique perspectives, our speakers will address bravely our new world.



Leigh Ingalls Saufley and  
Harold C. Pachios

Like many of us, you probably have memories of sitting around a table with family members and retelling the stories of our lives. On **October 27**, the SAGE audience will learn how stories can be used to illustrate why certain objects are important to us and how we can share those stories with others. Tom Meuser, PhD., Director of the Center for Excellence in Aging and Health (CEAH) at UNE, will tell us about the importance of such stories. As a clinical psychologist, Tom uses his research and teaching focus on narrative gerontology to promote quality aging in Maine. He will share his experience in enhancing the wellbeing of over 350 older volunteers through facilitating communication between the generations about what matters most in life.



Tom Meuser

# Walking Club

## After a Rigorous September, Two Easy Walks for October

One of our popular annual outings involves volunteering to help some local area with fall cleanup chores. We will continue that this year. On **Wednesday, October 14**, we will walk around Riverside Cemetery in Yarmouth and then help them spruce up the area by picking up trash and wilted flowers before winter sets in. This is a surprisingly pleasant, spacious site on the Royal River, and the president of the board of the cemetery will tell us about this unique property. I hope you will join us for what has become a Walking Club tradition—giving back to our communities. We will meet at Exit 17 in Yarmouth at 9:50 a.m.

On the Web: <https://www.riversidecemeteryme.com/>

On **Monday, October 26**, we will return to Wolfe’s Neck State Park in Freeport, one of our favorite places to walk. (This is not the camping area we visited in July.) You may drive there on your own, as there is ample parking. We’ll meet at 10:15 at the park.

On the Web: <https://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trails/trail/wolfe-s-neck-woods-state-park>. directions: <https://www.wolfesneck.org/map-directions/>.

For both walks bring your lunch and a folding chair, as we will eat outside at both spots. You may need some insect repellent and sunscreen, and remember to bring your masks.



Professor Mike Retelle of Bates explains the topography to a large group at Morse Mt. in September.



Mike explained how wave action has reshaped the dunes.



We learned how climate change has impacted the marsh.



The group stops to enjoy the view at Kettle Cove in August.



Leigh Kirchner enjoys lunch at Kettle Cove.

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