

OLLI NEWSLETTER

October 2021

www.usm.maine.edu/olli**Passages****Janet Stebbins**

OLLI member Janet Stebbins died on September 8 after a long illness. She was well known at OLLI as an instructor, Board member, and in other key roles. Janet was contributing her thoughts and wisdom, from home, almost until her death. Members who knew her will remember her infectious laugh and her deep humanity.



Below are some appreciations and remembrances from two of her longtime friends, plus Janet's own message and some links to further information.

Anne Cass

Isolating one memory is a challenge after a nearly 40-year friendship.

Janet's cottage on MacMahan Island was her special place—and she shared it generously. One summer shortly after my husband and I moved to Maine we were enjoying the ocean breeze, the pine scent, morning coffee, and company. Janet began to talk about OLLI, and had such enthusiasm for the organization that both Dick and I signed up. I soon learned that Janet was not only a member, but also the current Advisory Board Chair - as well as being famous for the rum balls she regularly brought to OLLI bake sales. I will always remember her generous spirit, her joyous laugh, her horrible puns, and her dedication to her family, friends, and students.

Carla Mortensen

My life has been the richer by far for knowing Janet since the fall of 1977. I'll miss her every single damn day.

Janet loved raspberries, but she would never buy them for herself. She didn't think she deserved them, so others would have to buy them for her instead and deliver them with specific orders for

IN THIS ISSUE

[Hint: Click on these to jump to their page.]

- [Facebook page](#)
- [Advisory Board](#)
- [Looking Ahead to Winter Term](#)
- [OLLI Volunteers Needed](#)
- [SAGE in October](#)
- [Walking Club](#)

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

(Continued on page 2)

Janet Stebbins

(Continued from page 1)

her to eat them, immediately, all by herself. She loved extreme weather events (blizzards! hurricanes!) and took great delight in explaining isobars and millibars to anyone who would care to listen. She loved dystopian science fiction and NCIS. In addition to loving her Maine island home, she loved the British Isles and the Dutch city of Delft.

Janet drove fast and hated school buses and would close her eyes while driving to avoid seeing them, a combination that could terrify the unwary passenger. She hated cicadas, a fact which I only learned when she helped me drive a rented U-Haul from Washington DC to Boston MA on a steamy June weekend during the emergence of Brood X. Litter on the street made her very grumpy and she grieved deeply, with many of us, for the environmental degradation of the planet and for the difficult decades that lie ahead for us all.

If I were to try to sum Janet up in a phrase, to try to encapsulate our decades of friendship and conversation, it would be “generosity of spirit.” Janet was privileged in many ways, and she knew it and carried it lightly. Like myself and other people without biological children, she poured her best self into her students, her friends and colleagues, and the next generation of her family as well as her furry familiars.

I am grateful that she has been liberated from her seatbelt of suffering and that she is now free to move about the universe.

Janet Stebbins

[Yes, she wrote her own obituary.]

Janet (Jones) Stebbins passed away (peacefully, after a long illness, trampled by butterflies, laughing hysterically) on September 8, 2021 in Saco, Maine. Born in 1954 in Honolulu, Hawaii to Wilson and Eleanor (Wideman) Jones, she grew up in an Air Force family and moved frequently. When her mother died in 1963, her father married Sara (Walker), and they subsequently welcomed Heather (Jones) Sano, and Thomas Jones. She attended high school in Germany and England, and college at the University of Maine (B.A. English). Following a Masters’ Degree from Tufts, she taught in Maine, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, ending her career as Academic Dean at Pomfret School. With her husband John, retirement took her back to the Portland, Maine, area where she was active with OLLI, the local senior college. Throughout her life she enjoyed reading and writing poetry, and summering on MacMahan Island with numerous cats and dogs. Predeceased by her father, mother, and husband, she leaves her step-mother Sara; sister Heather and her two children Madelyn and Christopher; her brother Thomas, and his wife Lisa (Brisson); and numerous fine cousins and friends. Her ashes will be buried at her favorite place.

Janet was profiled in the February 2014 issue of this Newsletter. [Click here](#) to read it.

Her on-line obituary was posted [here](#).

Do You Know?

Do you like riddles? For fun, take a peek at our [Facebook page](#). Consider joining a Pop-Up group.

—The Social Relations Committee

ADVISORY BOARD

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OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings. Check with the Chair for time and place.

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 November issue is October 15.

Advisory Board

As I read through the catalogue for the fall semester, I was once again struck by the vitality and intelligence of the volunteers who make up our OLLI organization. Right now with the pandemic restricting our ability to gather at Wishcamper and see all who make OLLI such an exciting and educational organization, it is easy to forget this. That is until you look at the catalog. This fall 64 OLLI members offered fellow members 45 classes and 13 workshops.

The range of topics for classes and workshops is amazing. They fall into many categories including, but not limited to, philosophy, spirituality, history, literature, current events, science, art history, films, and music. You could opt to learn new skills ranging from bridge to drawing, to playing the ukulele, to managing your retirement and writing your memoirs. This fall you could even have attended a teaching forum offered in collaboration with the OLLI Teaching and Learning Committee. It was offered for free to those currently teaching and those considering teaching in the future. It helped them to discover and share thoughts about best practices to models of teaching and learning.

Thanks to all our members who volunteer to make sure our offerings for classes and workshops are numerous and fantastic.

—Sue Jennings, Chair

From the Director

The Fall Session

Our fall session is off to a rousing start, with many new classes and instructors as well as some of your favorite teachers. Be sure to keep watching for the Constant Contact e-mails we send to you about pop-up discussions, activities, and game nights, which are offered monthly and are free of charge. We will also share more links with you about lectures and presentations from USM and from our community partners, so you have a wide variety of ways to learn. Next month I'll share more news about some upcoming OLLI and USM programs that you will find both enjoyable and intriguing.

Looking Ahead to the Winter 2022 Term

Winter weather? Parking challenges? No worries—OLLI will be remote for Winter 2022. Right now we are working on the winter schedule and can see that you will be able to choose from a wonderful variety of courses and workshops that make getting through the cold and snowy winter a bit easier. By mid-November we will

(Continued on page 4)

From the Director (Continued from page 3)

share those courses with you in a new, vibrant catalog that will have deep interactivity, allowing you to “meet” the instructors, find classes in every discipline, and navigate the schedule to show you the offerings on each section and day. Our 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2020 (pre-vaccine) winters were equally as popular, so we hope that this winter session will draw you into safe, interesting, and spirited Zoom classes.

We are working on solutions for the Spring 2022 session and will share more news about that term when we have more information.

—Donna Anderson, Director of OLLI at USM

We Need Our OLLI Volunteers More Than Ever!



The OLLI staff is eager to connect with our volunteers, given the disappointingly slow work-study student recruiting process. If you are interested in working for us either remotely or in person (we can bring people on campus by appointment), please contact Megan.Saul@maine.edu for more information.

Volunteers can help us with customer service to our members. There are plenty of opportunities to learn and assist us in these creative areas:

Accessibility and OLLI Member Care

- Closed Captioning
- Technology Help
- Member Services

OLLI Programing

- Leading a Pop-up discussion or social event
- Teaching a class or workshop
- Assisting in Classroom management

Creative Endeavors

- Videos
 - Video editing, including SAGE lectures, Faculty videos, and more
 - Video filming, including member and volunteer stories
- Social Media
- Writing
 - Blog posts
 - Newsletter articles
 - Member, volunteer, and faculty spotlights

Future

- Photography (for the future—once we’re back in person)



SAGE in October

Fascinating Waste Management; Author Lois Lowry; an environmentally savvy Maine start-up; and improving implementation of the 2001 Wabanaki Studies Law

On October 5, Katrina Venhuizen, Senior Environmental Educator at ecomaine, will lead our SAGE audience through the fascinating and fast-paced world of the journey of waste! We will virtually tour Ecomaine's single-sort recycling facility and waste-to-energy facility, located in Portland, Maine. Katrina has a passion for sharing her knowledge in the preservation of our environment through waste diversion and contamination reduction. We hope you will come away from this talk inspired to create your own plan for waste reduction.



Katrina Venhuizen

On October 12, we welcome back to SAGE distinguished children's author Lois Lowry. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Lowry has lived all over the world. She attended elementary school in Pennsylvania, junior high school in Tokyo, and high school in New York, followed by Brown University and the University of Southern Maine. Plus, Lois holds honorary degrees from six other universities. She has twice been the recipient of the Newbery Medal, given each year for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature by an American author. Lowry has also received the Regina Medal, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, the Mark Twain Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Chicago Tribune Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and countless other honors for her work.



Lois Lowry

On October 19, three young Maine entrepreneurs will visit SAGE: Joshua Henry, Matthew O'Malia, and Scott Dionne, founders of GO Lab: Wood Fiber Insulation Made in America. They will share their story of getting this Maine startup off the ground. For over 25 years, many European wood fiber insulation producers have provided that market with high-performing, environmentally friendly thermal and acoustical solutions. GO Lab, Inc. will be the first domestic manufacturer of wood fiber insulation in North America—and it will happen in Madison, Maine.



Matthew O'Malia

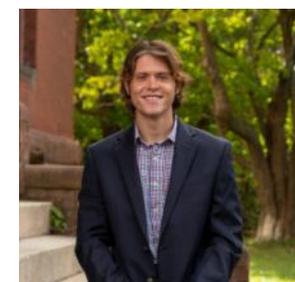


Joshua Henry



Scott Dionne

On October 26, Nolan Alvtar, a Wabanaki student currently attending Harvard for his Masters, will be sharing with us his project findings as a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow. The project centered on Wabanaki voices, writing, and stories in order to create better implementation of the Wabanaki Studies Law that passed in 2001. Nolan's project discusses the current barriers to implementation of the law and describes how Wabanaki Diplomacy can lead the way to addressing issues such as decolonization and antiracist conviction in Maine education.



Nolan Alvtar

These SAGE programs are all on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 via our Zoom Webinar. You can purchase admission at \$10 for each individual program throughout the fall, and you will then receive both an e-mail confirmation and your link to each program. To register, [click here](#).

Walking Club Visits Popham Beach and Riverfront Woods

After a last-minute substitution in August and a successful walk in September, the Walking Club will visit Popham Beach in Phippsburg on Wednesday, October 13th. We will see if climate change has impacted this popular state park.

On the Web: <https://www.maine tourism.com/listing/popham-beach-state-park/3021/>

On Monday, October 25th, we will visit a new area in Yarmouth, the Riverfront Woods Preserve, for our annual volunteer outing. Erik Donohoe, the park specialist, will work alongside us and provide directions for our group. You will need to make a reservation for this event and bring a good pair of work gloves, as we will be pulling up some glossy buckthorn as part of the invasive species management. After the walk we will gather at the Royal River Park for lunch and treats.

On the Web: <https://rrct.org/preserves-trails/riverfront-woods-preserve/>

I hope you will join us for these two ambitious outings. Bring your lunch and water and a folding chair. You may need sun-screen and bug repellent. For both walks we will meet at Exit 17 in Yarmouth at 9:45 to carpool. Please be prompt. If you have questions, contact Rae by e-mail at raegarcelon@gmail.com.

Please remember to reserve your spot for October 25th.

Note: **This walk is not open to new walkers.**



A large group enjoyed finding the fairy houses at Pride's Preserve in Westbrook.



On a foggy day last August we salvaged a day with a walk at Winslow Park in Freeport.

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