Profile

Mogens Ravn

Mogens Ravn is hardly a melancholy Dane

Mogens Ravn is a modest man who likes to remain behind the scenes. So it was with some hesitation that he agreed to part the curtain for this profile. Mogens has been the layout wizard for this OLLI electronic newsletter for over a year now. He remains on the job even while soaking up the desert sun in Tucson, Arizona, as he and his wife Donna have done for the last five winters.

Mogens joined OLLI in 2009. He has enjoyed a number of courses, including “Great Decisions,” Tim Baehr’s “Practical Zen,” Gale Rhodes’s “Cosmos,” Jim Hatcheon’s class on chamber music, and several film courses, as well as “Beginning and Intermediate Bridge” and “Chess for Seniors.” He especially liked Kathleen Sutherland’s classes, after taking her 2010 OLLI trip to Egypt.

An engineer by trade, Mogens early on became proficient with Microsoft Office tools. In addition to volunteering for OLLI, he does the layout for the Eastern Trail Alliance newsletter, and previously did the same for the Maine Outdoor Adventure Club. “The trickiest part,” he says, “is making all the articles and photos fit and complement each other without leaving white space. I get a lot of satisfaction from this work.”

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Mogens Ravn

(Continued from page 1)

Mogens was born in Copenhagen and came to the U.S. a decade later. After earning a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University, he worked as a design engineer for Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles, which paid his way through graduate school. He received an M.S. degree in engineering from UCLA. He later worked as an applications engineer for Fairchild Semiconductor, and then helped design the first microprocessor produced by Advance Micro Devices.

During a period of self-employment Mogens developed something of a subspecialty in player pianos; among other accomplishments, he designed an add-on that allowed these pianos to play music from cassette tapes. Eventually he moved to Boston to join Teradyne, a manufacturer of automatic test equipment, and stayed until he retired 26 years later. A consultant during his last five years there, he was able to take summers off and spend them in Ocean Park, Maine, where his wife had summered as a child. The couple owned a house there until a few years ago, when they moved to Saco.

Mogens is an outdoorsman. He hung up his skis a few years back, but he particularly likes to hike and bike. Fifteen years ago he and his then-teenage son went on an organized transcontinental biking trip from Astoria, Oregon, to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, averaging 80 miles a day. This adventure took them through the spectacular scenery of the Cascades and the Rockies. “The ride from the top of Teton Pass down to the town of Jackson, Wyoming, continues to be the most exciting bike experience I have ever had,” says Mogens.

The intrepid cyclist has also ridden the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany, around New York’s Finger Lakes, and throughout the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Last year he biked the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Great Appalachian Passage from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh. He has participated in the Maine Lighthouse Ride for the last 10 years.

When not hiking or biking, Mogens enjoys woodworking (he has made several clocks, including one with nonconsecutive numbers), electronics, and lately, model sailboat racing. He likes to go to the theater and to play bridge.

Mogens and Donna are the parents of James, who is chef manager of a restaurant at Boston University, and Will, a tournament chess player who is also a restaurant cook and lives in Biddeford.

The Ravns have traveled to Greece and Turkey, St. Thomas, the Bahamas, and Canada, as well as to Egypt with OLLI. As for Denmark, Mogens went back in 1967 and spent six weeks exploring northern Europe at that time. He visited again in 2012 and was lucky enough to see the house he grew up in, and even have a nostalgic peek at his old bedroom.

Asked if he misses his homeland, Mogens is of two minds: “Yes and no. I’m certainly much more American these days than Danish. However, given the current presidential election campaign and gridlocked congress, I think the Danes may be doing better.”

He may just have some company on that point.

—Amy Liston
[This year we are featuring one of our standing committees in each monthly Advisory Board column. The Education Committee is highlighted for April, and Chair John Sutherland provides this update on the committee’s activities.]

The Education Committee’s charge is to shape the curriculum and recruit faculty, lecturers, and workshop instructors in order to provide a wide variety of educational opportunities for OLLI members in a creative and inclusive learning community. These shall include stimulating courses and other special educational opportunities.

To recruit new faculty, we annually offer a Workshop for Aspiring OLLI Faculty. On Monday, April 4, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Room 211, Jack Lynch will conduct the workshop. This will give OLLI members who might be considering teaching a class an opportunity to share their ideas with veteran faculty and receive feedback. We wish to emphasize that we value enthusiasm as well as experience. Several popular OLLI faculty had not taught prior to joining OLLI.

OLLI also offers Brown Bag lectures by OLLI faculty on a subject from one of the courses they teach. Mike Berkowitz will offer “Is Our Justice Just?” on Thursday, April 28, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Room 211. These lectures give members an opportunity to hear instructors whose courses they have not experienced. They also give fans a chance to enjoy more of what they consider to be a good thing!

OLLI has begun offering an annual Technology Workshop. Rae Garcelon organizes these half-day Saturday morning events, and this summer Will Thieme will conduct a workshop on July 15 on Smartphones. Watch for the summer course catalog for details.

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

Deadline for the May issue is April 15.
NOTES FROM SUSAN

Congratulations to the “Wrinkle in Time” planning committee for an excellent event. Almost 80 people spent three days exploring and reliving the 1950s. Sessions were held on politics, science, family life, art, and automobiles. Music was part of each day, with one day featuring various dances of the 50s. (How did the Bunny Hop ever catch on?)

The committee even planned the menu, featuring popular foods of the 50s. Attendees got into the spirit of the event and brought in various items from the 50s, including magazines, printed ads, dolls, and yearbooks.

“Wrinkle In Time” was intense but enjoyable for everyone involved. Thank you to all committee members: Mary Collins, chair; Mike Berkowitz; Terry Foster; Sue Jennings; Joel Kallich, Kathleen Sutherland; and Judy and Ron Walters — and presenters: Mike Berkowitz, Sherrie Chapman, David Chute, Terry Foster, Sue Jennings, Joel Kallich, Tan Larrabee, and Kathleen Sutherland.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

The Proof Is in the Proofing

Commas, and periods, and semicolons—oh my!

Every month your OLLI Newsletter comes together after being reviewed and copy-edited by a crew of up to seven people, sometimes more. Don King takes the first look at the articles that come into the Newsletter’s e-mail inbox. Once everything is in one place, a group of us does a second reading: Laurie Jensen, Ann Landsberg, John Sutherland, Pat Walsh, Judith Harris, and I. These readers have been at it for several years (along with Joan Kusher, our reader emerita, whose sharp eyes were accompanied by cogent observations on content). Why so many? We’ve discovered that someone always finds something the others have missed. This is not an “age thing”; I’ve noticed this phenomenon since I started in publishing in 1968. We all have different skills.

After Mogens Ravn works his layout magic (see the Profile in this month’s issue), two of us go over the finished work for a last-minute look for any stray word, misspelling, or punctuation we may have missed (we usually find one or two!).

Finally, the folks in the OLLI office have a last look before Rob Hyssong posts the Newsletter to the OLLI at USM website.

Do mistakes sometimes get through? Sure they do; that happens even in fancy mags like the New Yorker. But our goal is always to create a smooth-reading, engaging, accurate account of what’s going on and coming up at OLLI.

—Tim Baehr
OLLI Excursions visits Bessie Smith Moulton

On Saturday, March 26, several OLLI members joined our fearless leader, Gael McKibben, in a visit to Bessie Smith Moulton’s studio. She is a longtime graphic designer and book artist, an international traveler who expresses her experiences visually through words, printed materials, and objects.

What is a book? Smith Moulton says it’s anything you want to call a book. Hers consist of paper, traditional and ancient bookbinding methods, mixed-media sculpture, fabric art, found objects, and much more. The common thread among them is that they all tell a story. Her bright and airy studio, with a view of the surrounding woods, is filled with many of the objects she has created over the years.

If the stories in her works are interesting (and they are!), the stories behind her works are just as interesting: the contexts in which they were created, her inspirations and creative process, and more.

Personal note: Many OLLI events, excursions, and SAGE lectures might seem to be outside our normal interests. A brief description in a catalog or Newsletter article can rarely do them justice. But I’ve never been sorry I went to an event or activity, whether it was about the barns of Maine, designing books, or anything else.

—Tim Baehr
**SAGE Lectures for April and May**

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Hannaford Hall, in the Abromson Center
Walk-ins welcome: $10 at the door

**April 5 Creating a New National Park in Maine’s North Woods**  
*Presenter: Lucas St. Clair, President, Elliotsville Plantation Inc.*  

Appreciated as ecological refuges, outdoor recreational paradises, and community economic engines, national parks have been treasures in the fabric of American democracy for 100 years. However, initial efforts to protect these special places are often met with mistrust and controversy. Lucas will recount his personal, first-hand experiences in creating a new national park.

**April 12 Driving Maine’s 21st-Century Economy with 21st-Century Education**  
*Presenter: Eliot R. Cutler, Chief Executive Officer, Maine Center for Graduate Professional Education, University of Maine*  

The new Maine Center is a revolutionary initiative that includes graduate programs in business, law, and public service under one roof. Eliot will share his vision of how the Center can enable students to excel in a dynamic 21st-century economy that is being redefined before our eyes.

**April 19 Thoughtful Giving: Philanthropy and People Making a Difference**  
*Presenter: Meredith Jones, Immediate past President and CEO, Maine Community Foundation*  

What is a good gift? Are all gifts good? Is there a difference between philanthropy and charity? What is the role of philanthropy in civil society? Who are the philanthropists, and what does philanthropy look like in Maine? Come explore the answers to these and other questions about this uniquely American activity that forms the core of democracy.

**April 26 Music and The Times**  
*Presenter: Allan Kozinn, former music and culture critic, NY Times; current music critic, Portland Press Herald*  

What’s it like working at *The New York Times*? Allan will share stories about his 40 years there, covering classical music — and the Beatles. During the second half of his talk, he will dissect a recording of one of the Beatles’ early songs, showing how their magic came together in the recording studio.

**May 3 The Changing Face of Maine**  
*Presenter: Reza Jalali, Coordinator, Multicultural Student Affairs, University of Southern Maine*  

In recent years, Maine, the whitest and one of the oldest states in the nation, has become home to thousands of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers, who offer a potential new source of vitality for Maine’s aging workforce. Reza will introduce us to the experiences and contributions of our new neighbors.

**May 10 The Grass is Always Greener: One Musician, Two Views**  
*Presenter: Dr. Robert Lehmann, Professor, University of Southern Maine School of Music: Director of Strings and Orchestral Activities; Artist Faculty, Violin and Viola; Conductor and Artistic Coordinator of the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra*  

Two views — from the podium into the orchestra, and from the orchestra up to the podium — are at times incredibly similar and, at others, amazingly different. A professional violinist and conductor immersed in both of these worlds, Robert will explore these congruent and divergent views and share the exacting, rewarding, and vexing challenges of each.
WRITERS’ SHOWCASE

All ARE INVITED
Please join us and enjoy listening to
OLLI WRITERS READ THEIR OWN WORK

May 2, 2016
3:00 – 6:00
Wishcamper Center
The Forum and Room 133

Mix, chat, and share refreshments
with OLLI writers, teachers, and friends

Participation is open to all OLLI writers
whether taking writing classes or not

Submit your work for a five-minute time slot
(500-600 words)
by the April 8th deadline
to ruthtstory@gmail.com
New Gallery Wall Exhibit

We’ve just finished hanging the new exhibit on the Gallery Wall outside the OLLI office. Stop by the next time you are in the building and take a look at what your fellow students have been doing. Exhibitors for the spring term are Paula Steffen, Pat Budd, Rick Tomazin, and Edith Yonan. “Great job” to all. The Gallery Wall looks fabulous.

As a next step, we are looking for folks who would like to exhibit their work in the fall. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Sidney Lincoln at linck7s@maine.rr.com. Watercolors, oils, photography, collage, all are welcome. What is your medium? Let your talent shine!

OLLI Book Sale 2016

Donated books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games will be accepted at the OLLI Office area beginning on April 20 and ending on May 5. Share this notice with your friends and neighbors who may also have items to donate.

The sale will be in 102 Wishcamper on May 6, 2 to 5 p.m., for OLLI and the USM community; and on May 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., for all.

Sweets will also be sold, so if you want to help by cooking up a batch of cookies or brownies, let Dick Sturgeon know by April 20.

We still need volunteers to help sort books, set up on May 6, and take down on May 7. If you can help, contact Dick.

—Dick Sturgeon
772-3174
dicksturg13@gmail.com

Come Join with Other Crafty Folks

Arts and Crafts is a new Special Interest Group meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 3:15 p.m. in Wishcamper Room 103 beginning on April 7th.

Each month different members will introduce the group to the arts and crafts they love, including — but not limited to — fabric and paper crafts, jewelry making, book arts, knitting, crocheting, and mixed media collage. We will learn about and try our hands at new skills.

Contact Sue Jennings at jensusa10@gmail.com for more information.
Those Were the Days . . .

Hats off to the “Wrinkle in Time” (WIT) volunteers! The 1950s program was a wild success due to the research and outstanding presentations by the WIT team. The 75-plus folks who attended the three sessions held on March 8, 9, and 10 were enthusiastic and active participants in the event. A memorabilia table evoked many memories for all of us, and the timeline posted on the wall brought back many déjà vu moments. The 1950s music and food were just the icing on the cake.

As we go to our classes and traverse the halls of OLLI, please give Mary Collins, Chair of WIT, and her team: Mike Berkowitz*, Sherrie Chapman*, David Chute*, Terry Foster*, Sue Jennings*, Joel Kallich*, Tan Larrabee*, Kathleen Sutherland*, Judy Walters, and Ron Walters, well-deserved kudos for their time and effort that brought WIT to fruition.

—OLLI Community Committee

Legend: *Also a WIT presenter

Carnivores Reign in April at Ribs Joint

Eat meat with us at Buck’s Naked BBQ, this month’s OLLI Night Out destination.

The food is authentic, the air is wood-fire scented, and you can even get fish! The funky atmosphere is surpassed only by the honesty of their real slow-smoked tradition of barbecue. Many choices of barbecue and salads and sandwiches are also available.

When: Tuesday, April 19, at 6 p.m.

Where: Buck’s Naked BBQ, 568 Route 1 Freeport. Take exit 20 off 295. Turn onto Desert Rd. (signs for Freeport Village) and then right onto Route 1. Plenty of parking. 865-0600.

Menu: http://www.bucksnaked-bbq.com/menu.php

Reservations: Please, by noon, Monday, April 18.

—Barbara Bardack, 865-2009 lascala2@comcast.net
Season Begins for OLLI Bike & Nosh

The OLLI Bike & Nosh group begins its 2016 season with two rides in April. We are bicyclists of varying abilities and endurance levels, and our rides reflect that. But we always include a delicious treat.

On Sunday, April 10, we will meet at 2:15 p.m. in the Cape Elizabeth IGA parking lot off Route 77 for a 10-mile loop through town, with stops at Crescent Beach, Kettle Cove, and Two Lights. There will be a food stop, too. A driver’s license may be useful to get into the state parks for free.

Please let ride leader Marianne Hill know if you are coming: 601-906-7487 or hillmarros@aol.com.

On Wednesday, April 20, we will meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the Eastern Road end of Scarborough Marsh and bike to Biddeford. It’s 18.2 miles roundtrip. We will ride on the Eastern Trail to Saco and then on city streets. Hybrid or mountain bikes are best, but a road bike with not-too-skinny tires will manage on the trail. We will get something to eat at either the Palace Diner or Supreme Deluxe. Notify Shoshana Hoose, the ride leader, if you plan to come, by e-mailing her at shoshanahoose@gmail.com. She will announce a rain date to those who sign up.

To participate in any of the rides, you must have signed the OLLI release form (available at the OLLI office).

We have future rides planned to Old Orchard Beach, Long Island in Casco Bay, and many other destinations. To join the group, please e-mail Shoshana at shoshanahoose@gmail.com.

Yarmouth, South Portland on Walking Club Agenda

Our new schedule is starting, and there are some new walks and guided hikes on the list.

On Wednesday, April 13, we will take a tour of Yarmouth Village along the Royal River with Amy Aldredge, the executive director of the Yarmouth Historical Society, who will give us information about the old mill and the sardine cannery there. We will also visit the Historical Society’s new facility and eat lunch there. On the Web: www.yarmouthmehistory.org/

On Tuesday, April 26, we will be heading to the Spring Point Shoreway in South Portland for a hike along the ocean from Fisherman’s Point to Bug Light and back. This is a popular walk with spectacular views. On the Web: www.southportlandlandtrust.org/take-a-hike/spring-point-shoreway

For both walks, we will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford’s at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring your lunch and water and come join us. If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 or e-mail her at raegarcelon@gmail.com.