Profile
Lynne Gammon

You recognize her face; now you know Lynne

Lynne Gammon is not one to toot her own horn. Talk with her a while, though, and you discover the breadth of her interests, talents, and volunteerism. Oh, and by the way, you learn that she (and her photogenic face) have been featured in publicity efforts for OLLI and the Maine Senior College Network in recent years. More on that later.

For years, an “underage” Gammon was itching to become involved with OLLI.

“I couldn’t wait to be old enough,” she says, in a twist on the typical outlook of middle age. “It’s such a wonderful program.”

She finally reached the magic number and started taking classes some six years ago.

A member of the OLLI Advisory Board since last spring, Gammon serves on the Community Committee, planning trips and other events for OLLI members.

While she acknowledges “feeling my way a bit” in the early months of her three-year term, she is pleased to be learning much about OLLI, and contributing to its stable operations.

In her classes, Gammon has focused mainly on topics in music and the arts. She has participated in “Reader’s Theater Performance,” now led by Paula Johnson and Barbara Bardack. More recently, she took David LaGraffe’s “Improv for Everybody.” She liked it a lot but admits with a laugh, “I was terrified before every class.”

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...to OLLI’s first Literary Fair

April 11, 4–7 p.m., Room 133 and the Forum. There will be a panel discussion, displays of the works of OLLI authors, and an opportunity to pick their brains about the writing process. Former Poet Laureate of Maine, Betsy Scholl, will be our keynote speaker. Refreshments will be provided.

Betsy Sholl is the author of seven previous collections of poetry, including Late Psalm and Don’t Explain, 1997 winner of the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry. A former poet laureate of Maine, Sholl teaches at the University of Southern Maine and in the MFA Program of Vermont College. She lives in Portland, Maine.

Sholl is the 2014 Winner of the Four Lakes Prize for Poetry for her work Otherwise Unseeable.

Bernstein talk opens SAGE season

SAGE got off to a smashing start with the appearance of Jamie Bernstein, daughter of famed composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein, before 200 OLLI members at Hannaford Hall March 10. Jamie, introduced by Bob Bahm, SAGE chairman, presented a program entitled Advancing the Bernstein Legacy.

Jamie, who narrated two Portland Symphony Orchestra concerts entitled Bernstein’s Sacred Side, spoke about growing up with her legendary father and how it continues to influence her life. She showed video clips of his famed Children’s Concerts and discussed the various creative and artistic ways she carries on the Bernstein Legacy.

SAGE programs will continue at 102 Wishcamper through May 13.
Gammon (continued from page 1)

Early on, she twice participated in the OLLI Follies variety show. The first year, she formed a trio with Barb Kapp and Bette Lee to sing “Side By Side”; the second time around, these three “Andrews Sisters” performed their latter-day rendition of “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.”

Gammon’s thespian roots extend back to high school in Millinocket, where she did some acting. She graduated from USM and has lived in Portland almost exclusively since then. She and her husband, Rick, live in the OLLI neighborhood and are fans of all that Portland has to offer, particularly Portland Stage and Good Theater.

The couple has two children. Gammon loved her time as a stay-at-home mom, volunteering in her children’s school and with their Girl Scout troops. This month the parents are looking forward to visiting their older daughter, Andrea, who is studying in the Netherlands.

Gammon has worked in the insurance industry and for a time at USM in media relations. Last May, she retired after 17 years at a Portland law firm.

Not that she’s been sitting around. In addition to her service on the Advisory Board, Gammon volunteers one afternoon a week in the OLLI office, where, she observes, “people are so excited” to be registering for classes and finding a niche in the OLLI community.

The scope of Gammon’s activity beyond the walls of OLLI is impressive. She and her husband recently took up the ukulele, which she embraces as “a happy instrument,” and they host a home group of fellow players. As members of the Falmouth Library Ukulele Ensemble (The FLUKEs) they played the pre-concert for the “Magic of Christmas” performance at Merrill Auditorium last year.

She and Rick also have regular gatherings at their home devoted to appreciation of poetry and of movies. She participates in a book group, is an Iyengar yoga enthusiast, an occasional usher at Merrill, and will soon start reading to children as a United Way volunteer. She is active in her church choir and bell choir.

Now back to that famous face of hers. Gammon’s visage has been prominent on an outsized banner publicizing the Maine Senior College Network (MSCN), of which OLLI is a part. “It’s just huge,” she says, holding her hands several feet apart to illustrate. Her photo has also appeared in print advertisements for OLLI. What’s more, she can be seen in a commercial for the MSCN that currently airs on MeTV Portland.

Tune in to channel 87 if you haven’t seen her yet!

—Amy Liston

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Holocaust is subject of special workshop

An impromptu OLLI workshop will be offered on Saturday, April 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The presenter is Anna Bat-Chai Wrobel, an American historian, poet, and Holocaust Studies educator.

Her workshop, which costs $15, will provide an overview of interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies and their application to historical and contemporary events. Anna will use both primary and secondary sources to introduce participants to the topic, including documentary film excerpts and original poetry.

Please visit the OLLI office or phone the office at 780-4406 to register in advance.
NOTES FROM SUSAN

You may recall that I was quite excited last May because for the first time, OLLI at USM hit 1,500 members. It seemed appropriate that during the year of our 15th anniversary we had 1,500 members.

Yet here we are, in March of our 16th year, and we have just gone up to over 1,700 members! There are no indications that growth is going to slow down any time soon.

The OLLI Advisory Board has been working on the growth issue all year. Some adjustments have been set in place; others are ready to go when needed.

We all need to remember that this level of growth can mean great things for OLLI: more instructors, more classes, more activities, more ideas, more opportunities. The Advisory Board and the staff are keeping their eyes on our growth and implementing changes as gently as possible.

Please remember, any changes at OLLI at USM have been carefully discussed and planned by people who love this program and are working hard to make it accessible and sustainable for years to come.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

Passages

Lenore Fleming

After a long battle with cancer, Lenore Fleming died on March 18 at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. Her daughter Rachel and son Michael were with her.

Lenore was a key contributor to OLLI, including serving on the Advisory Board, chairing the Education Committee, teaching courses, and presenting at SAGE.


Sandra Hale

OLLI member Sandra Hale died unexpectedly in Chicago, a city she loved. Sandra was a woman of service, a sports fan, and an avid golfer. At OLLI, She was an avid reader of Marcel Proust, attending Janet Gunn’s class for five terms as the class read through the classic novel. The obituary in the Portland Press Herald is here: http://tinyurl.com/SandraHale.
Panel to discuss teaching at OLLI on May 5

OLLI’s Education Committee will offer a free panel discussion on “Peer Teaching and Peer Learning at OLLI” on Monday, May 5. This brown-bag lunch event is for everyone in the OLLI community — current faculty, future faculty, and any other interested people. It will take place between 11:40 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. in Wishcamper 211.

Our OLLI instructors have found teaching to be a new and wonderful way to share knowledge from the field they worked in before retiring, or from a new endeavor or hobby. The only “requirement” at OLLI is a passion for a subject and a willingness to teach.

Lifelong learning is unique. Teachers and students are peers, with similar age and life experiences. Students take courses to satisfy curiosity and for the joy of it, rather than as steps toward a degree. As a result, students are engaged and enthusiastic. OLLI is a place with a sense of community and trust.

Our panelists include the following:

Mike Brady does consulting work for the National OLLI Foundation, chairs an academic department at USM, and has published several articles related to our topic.

Fred Brancato teaches Qi Gong at OLLI, as well as courses on spirituality and aging and is a former Advisory Board Chair.

Bill Gregory is a retired minister. He has taught several OLLI courses, most recently teaming with Tim Byrne to teach “God Is at Eye Level,” a digital photography course.

David LaGraffe serves on OLLI’s Education Committee. He teaches improvisational acting courses at OLLI.

Peter Stead teaches recorder classes at OLLI and also participates in an OLLI Special Interest Group that performs publicly. Peter also serves on OLLI’s Education Committee.

Jean Sheridan teaches literature courses at OLLI, and has published articles about higher education, collaborative learning, bibliographic instruction, and writing across the curriculum.

Henry Warren, who also serves on the Education Committee, will moderate the panel discussion. Henry has coordinated several OLLI courses, featuring presentations by Portland Press Herald, PSO, Portland Stage, PMA, and MECA staff.

Each presenter will talk about their work at OLLI for about five minutes; we will also have about 20 minutes of Q & A with the audience.

Get ready to celebrate!

Circle your calendars for Saturday, May 10, for our OLLI Spring Celebration. Watch your Newsletter for further details as our plans evolve!
We’d like to know....

Do you quilt? Knit or crochet? Make jewelry? Create wonderful art or garments with fabric or other materials?

Do you take terrific photographs that would make great note cards or calendars? Are you a wood carver? Do you paint or sculpt? Do you use paper in creative ways to make beautiful things?

Or do you pursue another art or craft that is unique to you?

The OLLI Resource Development Committee has been talking about holding an OLLI Arts and Crafts Holiday Festival on Saturday during Ninth Week in the fall of 2014. But we need to know if there are enough OLLI members who’d participate if we were to move forward with this idea.

We know the creativity is out there…but are you interested in letting your fellow OLLI members know just how talented you are?

All participants/exhibiters must be OLLI members. The price to enter would be a “table fee” of $10.00 per table (you could have as many tables as you need, but each one would cost $10.00), and you would be asked to donate one of the items you’d be selling to a Silent Auction. All table fees and proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to support OLLI. Anything else is all yours.

Please let us know if you’d be interested in participating by e-mailing jneuls@maine.rr.com. Please include your name, what you’d be selling, and the best way to contact you, preferably an e-mail address. You’ll be notified in May if enough people are interested and if the Festival is a go!

Attention all OLLI artists, photographers, and crafters

The Creative Arts Committee’s annual one-day spring exhibit will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and show off your wonderful OLLI talent! Details are on the application forms, which are available in the OLLI office. Application forms must be turned in by April 28.

Artists say “Thank you”

All of the artists from the Art Studio, whose work is now on display in the Hall Gallery on the second floor of Wishcamper, would like to thank the Creative Arts Committee for their time and effort in creating such a pleasing display.

We hope all our friends at OLLI enjoy the show. Visitors are always welcome to visit the Art Studio on Friday mornings in room 103 to meet the artists and see their work in progress.

—Dona Sherburne
Facilitator
Announcements / Calendar / Special Events

OLLI Night Out: Let’s meet to eat

How about some spring shopping and a night out in Freeport? The next OLLI Night Out will be April 22 at Linda Bean’s Maine Kitchen & Topside Tavern. Located at the corner of Main and Bow Streets across from L.L. Bean in Freeport, this inviting restaurant features authentic Maine dishes from field, stream, and shore, including homemade pies. The upstairs dining room is spacious yet intimate.

You can visit the restaurant’s website at http://tinyurl.com/ONOLinda to look at some of the dishes and peruse the menu.

Free public parking is available around the corner in open lots at Middle and Bow Streets.

Save the date: Tuesday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are required by noon on Monday, April 21. Call or write me to hold your place at our lively gathering.

—Barbara Bardack
865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net

Don’t forget the spring raffle

The spring raffle to benefit the OLLI Scholarship Fund will be held during the weeks of April 28 to May 2 and May 5 to 9. The drawing will be held on Friday, May 9.

There will be three prizes this year. First prize is two OLLI classes, second prize is one OLLI class and an OLLI membership, and third prize is a $30 gift certificate to Longfellow Books.

Mark your calendar and participate in this raffle for a good OLLI cause!

A busy community

“WRINKLE IN TIME” a smash hit!

From Prohibition to the quintessential Flapper, Zelda Fitzgerald, participants were enthusiastic and could not wait for the next topic to be introduced: politics, authors, women, music, art, and architecture of the 1920s. Congratulations to the “Wrinkle” Committee for a job well done! See the article and pictures on page 9.

Did you know?

OLLI SIGs (Special Interest Groups) are alive and well! Domenica Cippollone reports that the Recorder group now has 20 members. The Book Clubs are enjoying their reading and monthly discussions. John Sutherland reports that the History Book Club’s selection for April is American Dreams: Lost and Found by Studs Turkel. Elsa vanBergen reports that the Book Club’s selection for April is a memoir set in Maine: Cabin by Lou Ureneck.

Elders for Future Generations has a contact list of 50 members, with 15 or so attending meetings.

The coordinators of the SIGs work hard to keep their contact lists current, send out e-mails to their members, and support the activities of all SIG participants.

—Paula Johnson Community Committee
Walking Club heading out for old favorite treks

In spite of the very cold winter weather, at least a half-dozen, sometimes more, hardy OLLI walkers managed to brave the elements and join us on each of our snowshoe outings through January, February, and March. We soon warmed up as we trudged through the crust and felt satisfied that we had made the effort.

Let’s hope for some milder temperatures now. In April we will begin our new season with two old favorites offering spectacular ocean views. On Wednesday, April 9, we will go to Mackworth Island in Falmouth. On Tuesday, April 22, we will enjoy Wolfe’s Neck Park in Freeport.

Since there will be unpredictable trail conditions, be prepared for wet and even icy footing. Check the weather reports beforehand and come prepared. Sneakers are often not the best choice for foot gear.

We will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring your lunch and water. If you have questions about the walks, please call Pat LeFebvre at 883-2936. Or you can go online to check out each area.

Mackworth Island Trail information is here: http://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trail/mackworth-island-state-park-trail/

Wolfe’s Neck Park information is here: http://www.mainetrailfinder.com/Trail/wolfe-s-neck-woods-state-park/

In May we will begin our walks on Wednesday, May 14, with a new site, the Blackstrap Community Forest in Falmouth, which offers nine miles of hikes in forests with several small brooks running through them. Pay attention to the weather, as there may be wet or marshy areas underfoot. Be prepared and wear appropriate gear.

Blackstrap Community Forest information is here: http://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trail/blackstrap-community-forest/

On Tuesday, May 27, we will enjoy the beautiful ocean view along Cliff Walk at Prout’s Neck and have lunch nearby.
“Wrinkle in Time” a great success

The Roaring Twenties — Prohibition, the Harlem Renaissance, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Women’s Suffrage, and the beginning of Jazz — were all discussed in the three-day “Wrinkle in Time” program organized by Sherry Chapman and her committee consisting of Joy Larrabee, Kathleen Sutherland, Tan Larrabee, John Sutherland, and Terry Foster.

Besides material presented by the committee members, the program was rounded out by presentations from Jason Libby (from the Poland Spring Water Company), Joan Aldrich, Claire Knox, and Mike Berkowitz. The 88 OLLI members attending March 4, 5, and 6 had a grand time and appreciated the delicious food prepared specifically for “Wrinkle In Time” by Aramark, USM’s food service provider.

—Jack Lynch