Profile

Elizabeth Chapman

Probing, seeking describe Elizabeth Chapman’s life

Elizabeth Chapman wears many hats. The oldest dates from the Middle Ages. As a teenager, under the guidance of her architect father, she learned about European medieval towns: their urban structures and the relationships supported by their forms. She learned to look past building façades to the “layers of social meaning” in these ancient places.

Elizabeth and both of her siblings became architects. She continues to practice, even as she has traveled other avenues of work and study. Her various pursuits share themes of creativity and the understanding of that creativity.

At OLLI, Elizabeth has taught twice a year for the last six years. Her most recent course was “Origins of Creative Experience,” and last spring she taught “Art and the Creative Perception: A Basic Neurological Approach.” She gets fired up about “the nested processes of perception and their covalent connections in the brain. I love to try to explain it,” she says.

Elizabeth’s interest in neuroscience started in graduate school at MIT and took on meaning as she mothered a child on the autism spectrum. Now 18 and a student at the University of Connecticut, her son was diagnosed with Asperger’s when he was three. Elizabeth discontinued her practice, devoting herself for the next decade to achieving a “true understanding” of her son’s mind, his needs, and his being. She read deeply, knowing that Asperger’s is much more than trite shorthand about missing social cues.

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Elizabeth Chapman  (continued from page 1)

It was natural that Elizabeth should combine her interest in neuroscience with her artistry. Hailing from generations of painters on her mother’s side, she is a painter and sculptor with a studio in Portland. Her work has been shown in Portland and New York, and she recently sold a painting to a Boston collector. As a fellow at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 2007, she co-taught a course in neuroscience and art that became the core of her OLLI offerings.

As an OLLI student, Elizabeth has enjoyed the classes of Fred Brancato, each of which has felt “spiritual.” She appreciates his “calm” and his inclusive teaching style.

Outside OLLI, Elizabeth serves as the Director of the Portland Center for Restorative Justice. Founded four years ago, the Center grew out of the “faith in action” efforts of Portland’s First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, of which Elizabeth is a member. Restorative Justice focuses on the harms of wrongdoing more than the broken rules, showing equal concern to victims and offenders and involving both in the process of justice. In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Elizabeth trains facilitators to participate in this work. “So many people just see the surface of a problem,” she says, “whereas restorative justice helps affected parties engage at a deeper, more personal, level.”

As a member of First Parish UU, Elizabeth periodically writes sermons. A recent topic was “Perception of Time.” She calls this research and composition “one of the most rewarding things I do.”

Born in Brooklyn, Elizabeth moved with her family to Massachusetts when she was 10. She sailed Buzzards Bay on her father’s 32-foot boat, which she now owns — wearing the captain’s hat. For this interview, she had just come from winterizing the boat and taking down the mainsail before a northeaster. The yacht, she says, “is an extension of my body. It’s like an airplane in the water.” She loves to kayak as well as sail.

Elizabeth and her husband, Carter Manny, a law professor in the USM School of Business, live in Cumberland. They share their hay field with wildlife including deer, foxes, and a moose. Elizabeth has traveled to China and Japan, among other countries. She and Carter will take a biking trip to New Zealand with their son this month.

Elizabeth is a woman who probes beneath and beyond, ever striving to understand. She believes there is value in “adding to a raised consciousness in the universe, across generations, by living in the service of something large.”

We doff our hats.  —Amy Liston

OLLI Follies — Take 2

We are back with a new performance date! Darrell Morrow and Lynne and Rick Gammon will be coordinating what is sure to be an afternoon of merriment and delight.

The show will be held on Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. We’re eager to showcase our abundant and varied talents. So singers, dancers, instrumentalists, poets, comedians, actors, sword swallowers, and anyone else longing for a moment in the limelight, send a description of your act by Jan. 4 to Lynne at lgammon65@gmail.com.

We’ll get back to you with the specifics. Help us to make this an afternoon to remember!

[Ed. note: Here is a YouTube video of one of the acts at the 2010 OLLI Follies: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH-NzmaWO4Y&feature=youtu.be ]
Advisory Board

Online Registration
By the time you read this, some of you will have already gone online to register for Winter Term courses in our new system and hopefully many others will be soon be giving it a try. OLLI Advisory Board volunteers and staff will be available the first week of this month to assist you in the registration process on December 1, 2, and 3, from 10:00 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 in the Wishcamper computer lab, room 128 (next to the auditorium — Room 133) on the Muskie side of the building.

Susan and Rob have been working for over two years (and non-stop for the past six months) to make this online registration work smoothly for all of us and we are grateful for their hard work.

We realize that change is difficult, and some members have expressed concerns about the challenges they will face in using the online process. Staff and the Advisory Board members are aware of these concerns and have made workarounds to the system to make it as user-friendly as possible. Purposefully we are implementing the system for the Winter Term when fewer students enroll in classes and fewer classes fill up. We’ll have a chance to carefully monitor the process and attempt to make any needed improvements to the process before Spring Term. Of course, the traditional mail-in/phone-in registration process will remain an option.

Raffle
Members of the Resource Development Committee deserve kudos for the success of the recent OLLI scholarship raffle. Thirteen volunteers, wearing funny hats to attract our attention, worked 29 shifts to raise more than $1200 — beating last spring’s record! Last year’s fundraising activities provided $5,192 to OLLI students who were able to take 100+ OLLI classes they would not have been able to take without this assistance. Thanks to all of you who supported the raffle.

It has been a busy fall, but classes have now ended and the holiday season is almost upon us. We hope that you will all enjoy this time with friends and family before 2015 arrives and Winter Term starts up on January 6.

—Susan Gesing,
Advisory Board Chair
NOTES FROM SUSAN

OLLI at USM registration goes online!

Beginning Dec. 1, OLLI members are able to register online for all courses, SAGE lectures, workshops, trips, and special events. Currently, for the Winter Term, courses and workshops are the only things listed, but other things will show up throughout the year. This is a brand-new concept for us, and it all will take some time to get used to it.

Prior to anything being posted on the registration site, we will send an e-mail to the membership to let you know. Special events and trips will be announced in the Newsletter. We will do our best to always keep you informed when new registration opportunities become available.

Mail-in and phone-in registrations will still be accepted, just as they have been, but by registering online you will know immediately whether or not you are enrolled in a class or event. Once a class is full, you have the option to be placed on a wait-list, just as you do now.

Of course, there will be glitches in this new system. We have worked hard to make it as simple and clear as possible, but we’re sure there will be things we didn’t think about. Please bear with us. Remember, there is nothing you can do on the registration website that the OLLI staff can’t undo.

And please, let us know how it works for you.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

Downhill Skiers

Join the OLLI Downhill Ski Club and have some fun on the slopes this winter!

For more information, contact Lois Winter at 207-871-8029 or lwinter@maine.rr.com.

Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag at the office for your deposit bottles and cans! Proceeds benefit OLLI.
Community Committee – News Flash

It all began on Monday, November 10, a day like any other day, but wait ... there was something different. The Reader’s Theater Class performed at 1:00 p.m. and their performance was a smash hit. Some of the comments were: “Fantastic show,” “Loved every minute of it,” “Witty, sophisticated, and charming.”

Then on Friday, November 14, the Line Dancing Class and the SIGS; namely, the Recorder Ensemble, OLLI Singers, and the OLLI Senior Players, performed beginning at 10:00 a.m. to a packed house.

In the Forum for lunch, folks gathered and discussed the performances and sampled the punch and cookies made available there. A huge thank-you to all for their cookie donations. After the lunch break, the OLLI Senior Players performed beginning at 1:00 p.m., much to the delight of the audience.

There was no admission fee. You just needed to bring yourself plus friends and family and your own brown bag lunch. Hope to see you at the next celebration! Please read your Newsletter for what is happening at OLLI so you will not miss out.

Happy Holidays to all,
Your Community Committee

Cross-country (Nordic) ski season is coming up

Take advantage of the lovely snow we get in Maine. Come join a congenial group of OLLI x-c skiers. We have several day outings planned, as well as a workshop on Jan.23.

Every two weeks we will ski at a different area. Each trail system will offer skiing for all abilities.

Our schedule of outings for this year includes the following:
Monday 1/12 — Fogg House in Freeport
Monday 1/26 — Harris Farm
Monday 2/9 — Gull Crest in Cape Elizabeth
Friday 2/20 — Pineland
Monday 3/2 — Bretton Woods (meet at 8:30 a.m.)
Friday 3/13 — Smiling Hill

We will meet at 10 a.m. for each outing at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at the Marginal Way end. We will carpool as desired. The meet-up for Bretton Woods, our extra-special outing, will be at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call Bev Blair (799-5043), Valerie Wisch (650-2061), or Susanne Maarten (650-8433, texts preferred)
Walking Club plans annual lunch Dec. 10

In 2014 the Walking Club welcomed more walkers at its outings than any year previously, and we end the year with our annual luncheon on Wednesday, December 10, to put us in the holiday mood.

This year we thought we would try a new venue at the suggestion of one of our members. So we invite those who have walked with us at least once to join us at The Egg and I at 183 US Route 1 in Scarborough. There’s lots of parking and a delectable menu, which you can check online at http://www.theeggandirestaurants.com/locations/scarborough.html.

It should be fun. And we don’t have to limit our seating. Won’t you join us?

THE MORE THE MERRIER! Some of us will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 11 a.m. for those who wish to carpool.

Please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 to reserve a spot. And please let Rae know if you have to cancel after making your reservation. The restaurant wants a count. Thank you.

The Walking Club enjoys an outing

OLLI Night Out goes to lunch

Once again, we will celebrate the winter holidays by gathering on beautiful Casco Bay at DiMillo’s for lunch. This is a premier event in our schedule and we always have a happily satiated crowd. DiMillo’s serves dinner all day, or you can choose from the lunch menu. Check them out online at www.dimillos.com/restaurant.

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 12:00 noon.
Where: DiMillo’s on Commercial Street in Portland.
Reservations: Call or write by noon Monday, Dec. 15.

Hope to see you there.

—Barbara Bardack
865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net
SAGE this fall featured a wide variety of speakers — on Margaret Mead, craft and creativity, international relations with Iran, ecology of Casco Bay, heirloom apples, current events, China, and Duke Ellington.

Clockwise from top left: Lily King, Peter Korn, Matt Ward, Curtis Bohlen, John Bunker, Bill Nemitz, Suzanne Fox, and (center) Val Mollineaux.

Watch for the Spring catalog, with another eight great speakers!