When she talks about OLLI, Janet Stebbins uses words like delicious, vibrant, and fabulous. And though she’s a poet, and one might expect colorful language from a writer, her enthusiasm surrounding OLLI stems from her experience in the classroom — and the board room.

Born in Hawaii to a military family that moved all over the world, Stebbins’s high school years were split: half in Germany and half in England. After receiving her BA at the University of Maine and MA through Tufts, Stebbins began her career in teaching and school administration. She went on to work as an academic dean, mostly at private schools, retiring seven years ago from Pomfret School in Connecticut.

When she retired, Stebbins and her husband moved to Maine, settling at Piper Shores, a retirement community in Scarborough. It was through Piper Shores that she first learned of OLLI.

Starting with a poetry workshop, Stebbins was hooked. “I love it, love it, love it,” she says.

But, Stebbins, like other students, finds herself leaning toward new areas of interest as well — particularly science. “Jim Janak’s course on climate change,” she says, “was fabulous. Fabulous.” Denney Morton’s cathedral class was another. After studying the art and storytelling properties of stained glass, students designed their own. “People were presenting their work,” Stebbins says, “and I found myself weeping.”

It was Morton, Stebbins says, who was instrumental in making her feel comfortable at OLLI, and Morton who suggested she consider a position on the Advisory Board. Stebbins applied, was

continued on page 2
Stebbins (continued from page 1)

accepted, and is now working with the Education and Communications Committees.

Stebbins is also involved in planning the upcoming Literary Fair, proofreading the OLLI newsletter, and finding her way in this new role.

At some point Stebbins might even consider teaching. She has an idea she developed after reading *A Month in the Country*, the story of a WWI veteran suffering PTSD. Though she’s not an expert in PTSD, Stebbins is interested in how art, work, and community can promote healing.

But before she teaches, Stebbins is committed to serving her term on the board — and to writing more poetry.

Since coming to OLLI, Stebbins has become a published author. Her book, *Atlantic Scale*, is a collection of poems available through Amazon and other booksellers. “Because of OLLI,” Stebbins says, “I published my first book — well, one and a bit.” In addition to her own book, Stebbins’s poetry is included in another book, a poetry collection from her workshop group. She credits OLLI instructors with helping her “feel that the poems have a place in the world.”

Stebbins has a long history in Maine. She continues the tradition her great-grandparents started, spending summers on a small island off the coast of Maine. Though her husband passed away last year, Stebbins remains an active resident at Piper Shores. The “we” she speaks of now includes her 100-pound chocolate Lab, Amber.

Like her poetry, it appears Stebbins has found her place in the world — in Maine, and at OLLI. She describes OLLI as a vibrant, vital community, and she’s right. It’s a community reflective of its members, vibrant and vital, just like Stebbins.

—Christine Richards

**Important Dates for OLLI at USM**

Feb. 7 – Deadline for *mailing or dropping off* class registration forms to the OLLI at USM office to participate in the spring class lottery.

*No phone registrations until after the lottery!*

Feb. 10 – OLLI members’ spring class lottery

Feb. 12 – Beginning of open registration for OLLI spring courses by phone, mail, and drop-in

Mar. 17 – Start of OLLI spring term classes

Mar. 18 – Beginning of SAGE weekly lecture series

Mar. 28 – Deadline to receive refund on dropped classes

Apr. 21 – *Contrary to the Spring Catalog, OLLI and USM are OPEN for Patriots Day*

May 9 – End of OLLI spring term

May 12–16 – OLLI spring term makeup week
OLLI Advisory Board

OLLI’s growth — in membership and number of classes offered — is exciting. It’s also challenging. As OLLI keeps growing, we may eventually run out of classroom space. In response to our projections, the Advisory Board has approved a plan for providing additional course times and offerings. Implementation would be for the Fall 2014 Term at the earliest.

If more space is needed, the additional classes will be held in Luther Bonney Hall, just across the street from the parking garage. It is accessible through the enclosed overhead walkway from the garage. The classrooms available to us are close to state-of-the-art electronically and have senior-friendly seating and sight lines.

We hope to maximize the opportunity for all our members who desire a class to have the greatest chance of having it available.

The Board also endorsed raising the minimum size for most classes from 8 to 12 students. This will help us match class size to available classrooms.

Also: Please note the request for nominations to the OLLI Advisory Board in this Newsletter. Board membership is a great way to guide OLLI into its future.

—Dick Sturgeon, Chair
Dicksturg13@gmail.com

OLLI Singers are back

Twenty OLLI members have come back to OLLI Singers to have fun as a Special Interest Group and learn some new music. Led by new co-directors Sally Trice and Chuck Hornberger, the Singers gather at 3:15 PM every Thursday for two hours of song.

Please come and sing with us. Every voice counts. Call Henry Warren at 653-1198 for more information.
NOTES FROM SUSAN

Only a handful of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes throughout the country have designated space on a university campus for their program. We are extremely fortunate that we are one of them. Though the Wishcamper Center is a USM building, it is designed for and occupied by the Muskie School of Public Service and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

OLLI was involved from the very beginning with the design. All of the furniture — tables, chairs, couches — was purchased by OLLI, with our specific needs in mind. When we were choosing tables and chairs for our classrooms, vendors actually brought tables and chairs to Payson Smith (our former home), and OLLI members used, moved, and evaluated various models. Though our current classroom tables were among the most expensive, we decided it was money worth spending to allow for flexibility in room configuration.

Now, five years later, we are having some table problems caused by misuse. These tables are designed for easy moving, with two wheels that can be locked for safety. Please be sure to unlock the wheels before you try to move a table. Forcing locked wheels to move has stripped the locking mechanism on several tables. It only takes a second to unlock — a quick, gentle kick will do the trick.

Then be sure to re-lock the wheels when the table is in place. Someone leaning against an unlocked table could take a nasty spill!

Since it is not possible for OLLI to hire room set-up for each and every class, we made the investment to make it as easy as possible to move the tables and chairs around. Please be sure to move the tables properly. They will provide years of use if we all take care when moving them.

Finally, please be sure to return the tables to the original arrangement when class is over, unless you know that the next instructor to use the room will rearrange the tables anyway. There is a diagram at the front of each classroom showing how the tables should be arranged.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

LOCKED

UNLOCKED
SAGE plans great spring program

SAGE offers two lecture series each year, during the spring and fall terms. Topics have included history, foreign affairs, travel, art, music, stage, science, health, and more. This year’s SAGE lectures, every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30, start on March 18 and end on May 13.

This spring series promises to be as exciting as any series in the past, with presentations by Jamie Bernstein (Leonard Bernstein’s daughter), F. Lee Bailey, and an astronaut.

Look for your SAGE brochure coming soon in the mail.

The SAGE Committee takes a break from hard work.

From left: Bob Bahm, Chair; Lois Winter; Lou Marcucci; Ed Bell; Ann Landsberg; Jack Lynch; Stephen Jenks

OLLI Advisory Board position openings

Have you ever thought of becoming a part of the Advisory Board, the leadership team that helps set OLLI’s policies and programs? There are openings for next year’s Board, and this is the time of year when the Nominating Committee begins reviewing applications for these positions. The Committee will make recommendations to the Advisory Board for people to serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2014.

A leadership position in OLLI can be very rewarding! We are looking for candidates with the following qualifications:

- A collaborative work style
- Previous volunteer board or committee experience, particularly at OLLI
- An understanding of the academic/nonprofit environment
- Facility with using electronic communications (e-mail and Internet)
- Availability for monthly OLLI Board meetings (August–June)
- Commitment to serving on at least one OLLI committee

You may either self-nominate or nominate someone you know. Nomination forms are available at the OLLI volunteer desk on the second floor of the Wishcamper Center or by e-mail—contact Susan Gesing at susangesing@gmail.com. Nominations close April 1.
Weather closings

We’ve been having a weird winter, with bitter cold and not a huge amount of snow. Here is yet another reminder that, if USM closes on account of the weather, OLLI is also closed. The only authoritative source for closing announcements is the **USM Storm Line at 780-4800**. A recorded voice will tell you whether you can stay home or venture out.

If you live in an outlying town and its schools are closed, or if you have any doubts about your safety, you may not want to venture out anyway, even if USM and OLLI are open.

If OLLI is open and you won’t be joining us, you can call the OLLI office at 780-4406 and have a note left for your instructor. That way, they will know who might be missing class.

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Notes from the Community Committee

Happy New Year, OLLI Friends! Please circle your calendars for April 11, 2014, 4–7 p.m., Room 133, for a Literary Fair to honor and celebrate OLLI members who have published their works and those who are in the throes of the creative writing process.

There will be group discussions and a sharing of tips on writing and publishing by event attendees. A display of published works will be located in the Forum just outside Room 133. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, e-mail one of the co-chairs of the Literary Fair Committee:

Janet Stebbins (jstebbi@maine.rr.com) or Tim Baehr (tbaehr@aol.com).

Please watch your future Newsletters for more details.

—Paula Johnson, Chair Community Committee

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A Baker’s Dozen of Special Interest Groups

In addition to our regular course offerings and the SAGE series, OLLI plays host to 13 Special Interest Groups for current OLLI members. They cover a wide range of interests — two book clubs, a bridge club, a photography club, a ski club, and more. Most of the groups meet at the Wishcamper Center at 3:15 on their designated day. The Special Interest groups do not charge tuition or fees Members pay their own way for outings, such as OLLI Night Out, Ski Club, and the Wine-Tasting Club.

Check out the list of Special Interest Groups, with contact information, on page 21 of the Spring Class Schedule.
The OLLI Community Committee is pleased to announce a trip to the French Countryside, May 11–19, 2014. Yes, that’s this May. May was chosen because the trip includes Monet’s garden at Giverny and the gardens at Versailles, both of which would be dismal in November. This nine-day trip includes Caen, Rouen, St. Jeanne D’Arc Church, Rouen’s Notre Dame Cathedral, wine tasting at Domaine Coeur de Lion, a full day at Normandy beaches and museums, St. Michel, a scenic ride through Brittany, Chateaubriand, Angers, Chenonceaux, Chateau D’Amboise, Chateau Chambord, Chartres, Giverny, and Versailles. This tour ends with a half-day on your own in Paris.

The cost of this trip is $3148 plus insurance. Single supplement is $600. There is a minimum of 25 travelers.

Registration forms will be available at the OLLI office. Registration requires a $250 deposit by February 10, with final payment due before March 3, 2014.

Once again, OLLI at USM is working with AAA travel. For specific trip questions, feel free to call Randy Scott at AAA at 775-6211.
Wonderful images from the trip to Turkey