Profile

Stephen Jenks
Always eager to lend a hand

Stephen Jenks admits he’s a “sucker for trying to help any organization I care about.” So that’s how he came to join the OLLI Advisory Board. “I was urged to apply, so I did. And I’m impressed with the group — particularly the way Dick Sturgeon operates as chairman.”

Jenks is a Vermont native who grew up in western New York. He obtained his BA in psychology from the College of Wooster in Ohio and was urged to go to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for a new program entitled Organizational Behavior.

The pioneering course was taught by Herb Shepard, a professor from MIT. It was based on studies in the use of behavioral psychology to change the beliefs, attitudes, and values of an organization so it can effectively adapt to rapid change. One point was important: If you pay attention to people and listen carefully, they will respond positively.

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Which of these flowers are made of glass?

See answer on page 6
Parking in the USM garage is now a benefit of OLLI membership.

Signing up for an OLLI class is quick and easy. Signing up for USM parking has been a hassle. You can register for an OLLI class by mail or on the phone. For parking, you needed to show up in person. But first you needed a USM student ID (available from a different department), then you filled out a parking form (car registration form required), stood in line at the parking office, chose which plan suited you, paid the parking office, and had your ID validated. Whew!

For more than 10 years, OLLI has asked the parking department for simplification of the process. We think we have come up with a system that will satisfy everyone.

**OLLI will pay a yearly parking fee to USM. This will allow OLLI members open access to the USM parking garage, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–11 p.m. No paperwork, no “Parking Plans,” no hassle!**

If you have activated your USM ID for parking, it will continue to work as designated. Otherwise, press the button when you enter the garage and the gates will lift. Exit gates automatically lift when a car approaches. We hope this new system will simplify parking for everyone.

For the immediate future, OLLI is able to pay all parking fees out of its membership revenue, with no additional cost to its members. OLLI is very grateful to USM for responding to our request, thus making parking less of a hassle for our membership.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director of Program

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**NOTES FROM SUSAN**

Those returnables keep adding up for OLLI

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off a bag of returnable deposit bottles and cans at Hanna-ford using one of the OLLI Clynk bags.

- So far, OLLI has recycled 6,866 containers.
- The volume of these containers would fill 61.3 lobster traps.
- The energy saved would light 10.6 lightbulbs for a year.
- The emissions saved is equivalent to a car driving 2,005 miles.

Of course these numbers change regularly.

If you haven’t picked up a bag yet, they are available on a table in the Wishcamper lobby or in the OLLI office.
Resource Development Committee News

[Editor’s note: This is the third in a series of reports on the OLLI Standing Committees.]

The Resource Development Committee is charged with “identifying donors and soliciting support for OLLI. Solicitation may be conducted independently or in conjunction with USM.” However, this formal role has been defined broadly in the past year to allow for a range of activities. These support OLLI and make a creative contribution to the members — in other words, have some fun. And 2012 promises to be more of the same.

Our major undertaking last year was a book sale, which was a great success, despite a broken water main, which caused the sale to be postponed for a week. Thanks to strong backs and agile minds of smiling volunteers, the books were returned to storage and were set up for sale on Ninth Week day. That turned out be a happy windfall because the sale dovetailed nicely with OLLI activities, and we raised more than $1,500 for the support of our programs. Add another $350 for the raffle ticket sales, and it was a wonderful day — and we had a lot of fun.

The committee also sponsored a grant proposal addressed to a separate fund within USM to support this year’s Wrinkle In Time program. The goal was to pay for a share of food costs in order to keep tuition at a reasonable level. That proposal was approved by the Provost, and $1,600 was made available for that program.

Thanks go to former Resource Development Chair Dick Sturgeon for laying out these projects for us to crow about. During the year Dick also worked with committee members and USM to raise funds for OLLI through the USM Development Office annual grant. The results of that are still being tallied.

In 2012 we will continue the raffle and book sale as a tradition and your help is needed. Start saving those books you are reading by the fire or at the beach. We can’t have a sale without books, and we don’t have books without your donations.

We are looking for new ways to involve our members in the annual fund drive this year. We’re also exploring other new ideas to work with other OLLI committees to have fun, learn something, and raise money to support future programs. Education and friendship are the goals, and your involvement is critical to making those happen. Join us!

—Henry Warren, Chair
Jenks (cont’d from page 1)

With an MA and a PhD in organizational behavior in hand, he joined the faculty of the University of New Hampshire at what is now known as the Whittemore School of Business and Economics, in the field of Organizational Development.

There he taught courses in Organizational Behavior, Entrepreneurship, and Consultative Methods for 24 years, 10 as a full-time faculty member and part-time for 14. He retired in 1991 when his partner in the entrepreneurship course decided to retire and both agreed to make room for a new team.

However, UNH didn’t claim all his attention. In 1980 he and 15 others formed the Portsmouth Consulting Group. The group’s members, now down to eight, live all over the country and provide a wide range of consulting services.

A decade after Stephen’s departure from UNH, a former graduate student told him she was overloaded with work and asked him to join her. So they formed Greyledge Consulting, which coaches executives in all sorts of organizations. Stephen admits he’s now a “shadow partner” in the consulting group.

While he was keeping busy — he’s still trying to retire — he and his wife, Carolyn, decided to make their home in Portland. They had learned about Portland in their travels from Durham, New Hampshire, to a summer home on Southport Island near Boothbay Harbor. “I like it, particularly for the lifestyle. It has wonderful attractions, such as the symphony, the art museum, Portland Stage, Good Theatre.” (He serves on the Portland Stage board.)

Stephen became active in OLLI after 2002, when his business travels ended. Carolyn has been taking courses since the 1990s. Encouraged by his wife, he started taking courses in 2004 and now takes one every term: “I look at the catalog and pick one that interests me.”

Stephen is an officer at the First Parish Church in Portland. As he recounts, back in 1991 he and his wife were walking from the West End to the symphony at Merrill Auditorium when he noticed the name of the Rev. Frederick Lipp on the church’s bulletin board. “I thought, how many people have a name like that? It turned out that 30 years earlier Fred and I had been fraternity brothers at college. So we went to church next Sunday and renewed our friendship.” It didn’t take long for Stephen to become involved. He has held several roles in church government, and currently serves as president of the Board of Trustees.

—Don King

Check out the MSCN Newsletter

OLLI is a member of the Maine Senior College Network. The Network publishes a monthly web-based newsletter with articles about other Senior Colleges — and sometimes about us! Recent issues have featured articles by our Joan Aldrich and an announcement that OLLI’s Natalie Murray had been named the Poet Laureate of MSCN for this year. You can find MSCN at this link: http://www.maineseniorcollege.org and the latest newsletter at this link: http://www.maineseniorcollege.org/newsletter.html. The News&Links page has other news, including a copy of one of Natalie’s poems.
Arts Gallery Wall shows four OLLI artists

The new OLLI Arts Gallery Wall is in place in the second-floor corridor outside the OLLI office. During Winter Term, we are featuring the work of members of the Fine Arts committee.

For the Spring term, Pat Budd, Elaine Hunt, Elizabeth Levinsky, and Rick Tomazin will present their artwork.

Please let us know your reactions to the new OLLI Arts Gallery Wall and offer suggestions. We invite artists, photographers, and craftspeople to contact us if they are interested in displaying their work.

All contact information is on the Wall and in the OLLI Office (780-4406).

Think books for the fall

The big success of the OLLI Book Sale last November tells the Resource Development Committee that we should do it again later this year.

We raised more than $1,500 and a lot of blisters and sore backs, all worth the effort put in by a lot of great volunteers. Thank you for doing your part by donating and buying the books we offered.

Now it is time to begin thinking about the next event in the fall. And now is the time for you to begin saving those books you have finished over the summer and those you are reading by the winter fire because you can’t ski.
Three trips already set for OLLI travelers

OLLI Excursions has been meeting for the past several months and planning for the 2012 season. Three trips are already fleshed out, and more are being explored. Here are the three trips to titillate your expectations:

Near the end of May we will travel to Cambridge, Mass., to Harvard’s Museum of Natural History to see the world-famous Glass Flowers Collection, created by a German glass artist and his son, Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also on view in the museum are many minerals and gems, the Fossil Mammal Hall, and the multimedia arthropod exhibit. Lunch and a visit to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s house, which served as headquarters for General George Washington during the Siege of Boston, July 1775–April 1776, will fill out the day.

A trip to Boothbay’s Botanical Gardens in late June will reveal a world of scents and colors, natural flora, and specialty gardens, such as the Five Senses, the Meditation Garden, and the newly renovated Hillside Garden.

In early September a two-night visit to Mt. Desert, Bar Harbor, and Acadia National Park will beckon. Oli’s Trolley (yes, that’s right!), Jordan Pond’s famous popovers, Cadillac Mountain, and the Abbe Museum will all be featured.

Read the coming newsletters for details and reservation deadlines!

Answer to question on page 1: All of them are glass.
OLLI Night Out planned at Sea Dog Brewing Company

OLLI Night Out resumes with its first dinner engagement of 2012: an opportunity to dine with friends at the Sea Dog Brewing Company, 125 Western Ave., in South Portland.

We will gather at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. This is a Dutch treat social event, and all are welcome.

You are encouraged to bring friends/spouses who might be prospective OLLI members so that they can get to know some of those who regularly come to these dinner evenings.

To make your reservations, e-mail Terry Foster at tfoster@maine.edu or call him at 780-4895 and leave a message stating how many will be in your party — then just show up.

If you need transportation, be sure to include your phone number in your message, and he will contact you to make arrangements.

Walking Club plans snowshoeing treks

The Walking Club will try snowshoeing in February, weather permitting.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, we will go to Gilsland Farm (the Audubon facility) in Falmouth, where you can rent snowshoes for $5.

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, we will try Twin Brooks in Cumberland.

Bring your lunch and warm clothing on both occasions. Meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford’s at 10 a.m. to carpool.

For more information, contact Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

Ski Club looking ahead to an active February

Mother Nature has not been very cooperative so far this season. Still, OLLI Ski Club members remain undaunted.

Cross-country skiers will again have a standing date every Friday this month. Plans include the following:

Feb. 3 at Gull Crest, Cape Elizabeth
  (Contact Bev Blair at bblair@maine.rr.com or 799-5043.)
Feb. 10 at Riverside (Contact Bev Blair.)
Feb. 17 at L.L. Bean’s Fogg House (Contact Libby Hyatt at 729-8721.)
Feb. 24 at Smiling Hill (Contact Bev Blair.)

Downhill skiers are planning the following outings:

Feb. 8 to Sunday River (Contact Steve Donahoe at stevedonahoe1@gmail.com or 239-6517.)
Feb. 27 to Shawnee Peak for “Carload Dayz” ($99/car) (Contact Lois Winter at lwinter@maine.rr.com or 871-8029.)

Ski events depend on weather conditions, so be sure to sign up for an event in order to get updates, carpool info, and last-minute alerts. To join the Ski Club’s Member Directory, send an e-mail to Steve Donahoe at stevedonahoe1@gmail.com or call him at 239-6517.
Reflections deadline nears

Reflections, OLLI’s annual journal of arts and literature, showcases poetry, short memoirs and stories, artwork, and photography exclusively by OLLI at USM members.

Reflections receives submissions from many sources. OLLI is fortunate to have several courses in writing, studio arts, and photography. Students and instructors in these courses often submit their work. Reflections is certainly not limited to members of these courses, however: We want contributions from anybody in OLLI.

A volunteer Reflections Committee reviews submissions. This committee is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee, and as chair of the Communications Committee, I attended one of the review sessions last year. I was greatly impressed by the thoughtfulness and fairness of the committee.

One small change will take place this year: Submissions will be reviewed “blind,” which means that, to the greatest extent possible, the committee will not know the identity of the contributors.

So all of you: Consider this your invitation to contribute to Reflections! There’s no guarantee that your piece will actually appear; the journal receives many more submissions than there is space for.

The deadline for submissions is March 1, with the option of extending it. So take a good look at your current work or your archives. Reflections is waiting for you! You can pick up a submission form at the OLLI office, or I’ll e-mail you a copy you can print out. (Call or write Tim Baehr at tbaehr@aol.com or 899-1043.)