Profile
Barbara Bardack

Enthusiasm is the right word for Barbara Bardack

Barbara Bardack’s lifelong love for acting has inspired an enthusiasm that has enlivened her career as a teacher, a gardener, and now as the coordinator of OLLI Night Out.

A Brooklyn native, she earned an associate’s degree in advertising from the University of New York at Farmingdale on Long Island. She then went into the advertising business on Madison Avenue. She later became a television makeup artist and worked on the inaugural broadcast on WNDT Channel 13 (now WNET) starring Edward R. Murrow.

Following her marriage, she moved to Philadelphia, where she continued in advertising and insurance as a promotional writer and designer. Then it was a move to Cincinnati, where she decided to go back to college. With a degree in reading from Northern Kentucky University, she was launched on a 30-year career as a reading specialist.

“Those years ranged from teaching poor Appalachian students around Newport, Kentucky, to working in Cincinnati’s inner city public schools, where I could witness firsthand the drug culture around the housing projects. I likewise taught in Catholic schools and a private school, where I was more of a social director.” During those years she earned a master’s degree in reading from Xavier University, where she taught in the graduate school.

“All the time I was using my love for acting — that started in high school — to inspire the students to become involved in reading.”

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Important OLLI Winter Term Dates
- Winter classes begin on Tuesday, Jan. 8.
- Spring catalogs will be mailed and on-line by the middle of January.
- Spring class lottery will be held Feb. 6.

WEATHER CLOSINGS
If USM is closed, OLLI is also closed, and THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES. For the most current information call the USM Storm Line at 780-4800 for a recorded message.
Happy New Year!

I’ve decided that this year, instead of making any sort of resolutions, which I would probably break by February, I’m going to celebrate being another year older. With age comes wisdom, or at least some life lessons worth paying attention to.

It’s never too late to learn something new. Step out of your comfort zone. Try something you’re not proficient at just for the fun of it. Nobody cares if you fail, except you. Get over it and have fun!

Be flexible and resilient. Life will always throw you curve balls. Choose your battles carefully. Be sure taking a stand is worth the frustration and energy needed to see it through.

Avoid toxic people, and if you must deal with them, keep your contact at a minimum. They drain your energy. There are so many positive, energy-giving people just waiting to meet you. It’s never too late to make new friends, and friends and family are our most valuable asset.

And if there’s something that you’ve always wanted to do…what are you waiting for? Travel? Move? Write a book? Get a tattoo? Use the good china? It’s time to start checking off your Bucket List.

The clock is ticking, and there’s so much living to do!

Wishing you a happy and contented 2013.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

NOTES FROM SUSAN

OLLII Movers and Shakers: Kali Lightfoot

When Kali Lightfoot took the reins as director of the Senior College at USM in October 2000, she brought with her 21 years of experience in Elderhostel program management.

A native of Michigan, Kali has a B.A. from Western Michigan University and an M.S. in Physical Education and Outdoor Education from the University of Washington. Her early career included teaching and coaching positions in Washington and Michigan. But undoubtedly her most interesting experience was as a wilderness ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in the Mt. Adams Wilderness Area in Washington State. For three seasons she walked the mountain terrain for five and sometimes ten days at a time, generally keeping an eye on any human activity that might endanger the pristine nature of the wilderness.

In January 1979, Kali was hired as New England Regional Director of Elderhostel. In seven years the region grew from 27 summer-only Elderhostel sites to 115 sites offering programs year-round for 14,000 participants. She moved on to other jobs either within, or somehow associated with, Elderhostel. Her favorite job was Director of Elder Programs for World Learning, where she worked with Experiment in International Living sites offering Elderhostel programs in a number of foreign countries.

In 2000 she was selected as half-time director of Senior College at USM. The other half was to be spent developing other senior colleges in Maine. In 2001, USM’s Senior College became the first Osher Lifelong Learning Institute because of a generous endowment from the Osher family. The OLLI name was adopted by the Senior College Board at the time, chaired by Wally Nutting. In 2004, the Osher Foundation chose USM to house the National Resource Center (NRC) for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes with Kali as its first Executive Director.

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The winter season is upon us — I hope you all are well prepared for it! Some may be hoping for an open winter similar to last year’s, and others who don’t mind the white stuff may be hoping for snow. In either case, I want to thank those who have chosen to enroll in one or more of our winter term classes. I expect you will find them stimulating and enlightening.

At the invitation of the Osher Foundation, I was able to represent our OLLI at the National OLLI Conference in Colorado last month. There were 250 people at the conference representing 117 OLLI programs in the USA. It was a stimulating experience.

I learned that we are one of the largest and most successful OLLI programs in the country, as we provide to our members a number of opportunities and courses that others do not. By the same token I learned that many other OLLI programs have more diverse course schedules and course offerings than we do. This is an area the Advisory Board is planning to address. If you have thoughts about this please contact me or a member of the Education Committee.

—Dick Sturgeon, Chair
rbsturgeon@Juno.com; 773-3174

Kali emphasizes that her office helps to connect the 115 OLLIs in all 50 states to share ideas and experiences. Each operates independently and is structured differently: the Foundation wanted to fund a wide variety of program models. But all keep in touch through a monthly newsletter, national conferences, and a website (www.osher.net) — “stealing,” she says, “great ideas from one another all the time.”

Even in difficult university times, OLLI membership is growing 10 to 15 percent a year nationally, currently at 112,000. Growth is aided by the fact that we are a transient nation. “OLLI is important not only for its excellent educational programs, but also as a network for newcomers to a community to make new friends.”

Kali pays high tribute to the “amazing support” that the San Francisco-based Osher Foundation provides for the NRC at USM. The USM-based NRC works closely with them as “Osherland East.”

In addition to her duties as Resource Center Director, Kali and the NRC staff coordinate the Maine Senior College Network (www.mainseniorcollege.org). OLLI at USM is a valued member of both the statewide and national networks.
American Nations: Colin Woodard

Why have Americans struggled so long to define the right relationship between individual liberty and the public good? Why are there increasingly contentious debates over which political party is defending American values and which is undermining them? How can immigrants be encouraged to join our national culture—or does one culture, one nation even exist?

The fascinating book we will be reading and exploring for this year’s One Book/One Community event, American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America, reveals the deep roots of our current political and cultural behavior. It traces the unique ethnographic characteristics that came along with each of the first waves of immigration and settlement, and how they were implemented across the land to create competitive and often mistrustful regions that know no state or international boundaries.

The book’s award-winning author, journalist Colin Woodard, leads us on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, offering a fresh, insightful look at America’s myriad identities. He will show us how the recent elections—like all those before—bear out, on a county-by-county basis, the conflicting ideals that go beyond red states and blue states and will shape our future.

Our One Book/One Community event is privileged to open in the morning with a keynote address in Wishcamper 102 by Colin Woodard, to be followed at 10:00 by four related breakout sessions led by OLLI instructors and running concurrently. Each of the sessions is repeated at 11:00, so you have the opportunity to participate in two workshops.

Then we gather together for a wrap-up session including all panelists, followed by lunch. All Colin Woodard books will be available for sale that day (in paperback, but including signed copies of the hardbound version of American Nations) but you should read our selected book before February 26. It is widely available in paperback; list price is $16.

The registration fee of $25 includes the address by Colin Woodard, two workshops, morning refreshments, and lunch. Pre-registration is required. Please sign up today. Space is limited, and you won’t want to be left out!
Colin Woodard, a native of Maine, has reported from more than 50 countries and is a longtime foreign correspondent for Christian Science Monitor, contributing editor at Down East magazine, and State and National Affairs Writer at the Portland Press Herald/ Maine Sunday Telegram. His work has appeared in The Economist, The Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Newsweek.com, and numerous other publications.

His books include The Lobster Coast; Ocean’s End; The Republic of Pirates; and American Nations, which was named one of the Best Books of 2011 by The New Republic and The Globalist and which received the 2012 Maine Literary Award for nonfiction.

He frequently appears on TV, radio, and new media across the country; is a sought-after featured speaker; and has received many fellowships and awards.

OLLI Presenters

Sherrie Chapman has Master’s degrees in history and public administration from the University of New Hampshire. She also completed three years of post-graduate study in American history and museum studies at the University of Delaware. She has taught several history courses at OLLI.

Draper Hunt, Professor Emeritus of History, USM, has taught OLLI courses regularly since 1998. His books include Hannibal Hamlin of Maine: Lincoln’s First Vice-President and Brother Against Brother: Understanding the Civil War Era.

Joy Larrabee has a B.S. in Nursing and an M.A. in Women’s Studies from The Ohio State University. She has taught at Ohio State, Otterbein College, and the University of New England, as well as at OLLI, where she was a presenter at the 2012 Wrinkle in Time.

Richard Barron Parker, Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima Shudo University, taught American Law and Politics in Japan for more than 20 years. He has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

John Sutherland is Professor of History Emeritus, Manchester Community College in Connecticut. He has taught at OLLI for nine years.

Kathleen Sutherland is Associate Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Women’s Studies, Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She has been teaching courses on the Middle East and Women’s Studies at OLLI since 2005.

Weather Closings: If USM is closed, the event will move to Thursday, Feb. 28. USM closings are announced on the Storm Cancellation line at 780-4800.


Bardack (cont’d from page 1)

Gardening has been one of Barbara’s longtime avocations. Her home in Cincinnati had a garden that featured shaped plants and was recognized by the Federated Garden Clubs of America. That led her to take horticultural courses offered by The Ohio State University that encouraged nonprofits to build gardens in the inner cities.

She carried this “green thumb” expertise with her when she moved to Maine. Barbara was certified as a Master Gardener after completing a course offered the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Subsequently, she worked as a Garden Angel for the disabled and designed and planted the garden at Seventy-Five State Street, a Portland retirement home.

While Barbara does no such physical labor now, she writes for a Web newsletter and blog out of Saco aimed at seniors, and she contributes to the Maine Garden Journal, currently in bookstores.

Deciding on settling in the Portland area took a while. “We looked up and down the East Coast from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and as far north as Jaffrey, New Hampshire. We wanted to be near the ocean and near cultural activities. Actually, Portland wasn’t on the agenda until we saw an article in Down East, I believe. Then we visited, toured the city, and went out to eat. We decided that this was it.” The couple settled in Freeport after finding a small home at the edge of the woods that boasted a little garden.

Barbara quickly immersed herself in Freeport activities, especially community theater, both acting and doing production work. Since she liked to cook, she became a volunteer chef at the Freeport Community Center. Helping to prepare meals for 60 people monthly undoubtedly prepared her for the opportunity to become OLLI Night Out coordinator.

“I was attracted to OLLI by a friend who told me about the Senior Readers Theater, and I had a wonderful time. “ She enjoys taking courses on plays and films.

When Terry Foster sought a successor to the OLLI Night Out coordinator, Barbara said, “It was a natural for me. I like to entertain, I don’t have to have to buy the groceries, and I don’t have to clean up afterwards.”

Barbara’s goal is to seek restaurants around the Portland area (so members won’t have to travel far) that offer moderate prices and are ethnically diverse. Since most restaurants have websites, she can look them up, check out their menus and prices, and then find out if they are willing to host OLLI diners. Only one condition: the restaurant has to issue separate checks. “One person keeping track of 24 orders is too much,” she adds.

—Don King

Announcements

Did it!

Sunbury Press has released author Susan Dahlgren Daigneault’s biography of her father, Lt. Edward C. Dahlgren, a highly decorated WWII veteran and lifelong Maine resident. Dahlgren, “Maine’s Sergeant York”, was a recipient of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Silver Star, and the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest military award for courage above and beyond the call of duty.

The book, In the Shadow of a Mountain: A Soldier’s Struggle with PTSD, is about the price of war paid by Susan’s father and his family during the years after the war. In the Shadow of a Mountain is available through Amazon.com and also in Nook and Kindle versions.

OLLI Night Out: Out to lunch!

To celebrate the New Year and to honor many requests, this month we are going out to lunch downtown on Commercial Street — when no tourists are around.

DiMillo’s Floating Restaurant at 154 Commercial Street will be our noontime destination on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Save the date! Be sure to let us know by Jan. 25 if you plan to join us.

Call Barbara Bardack at 865-2009 or e-mail her at lascala2@comcast.net.
**Passages**

Dick LeFebvre, Pat LeFebvre’s husband, died on Dec. 6, 2012. He was a longtime OLLI student; Pat has volunteered at OLLI since the formation of the Senior College fifteen years ago.

Here is an excerpt from the notice in the *Portland Press Herald*:

Richard Louis LeFebvre Sr. died on Dec. 6, 2012, at the Barron Center in Portland where he received loving and compassionate care.

He was born on Oct. 23, 1934, in Pittsfield, Mass.…

In 1953 he married Patricia Condron, with whom he shared his life for 59 years. Dick’s career as a power plant construction supervisor took them and their four children to multiple areas in five different states. Dick and Pat were happy to retire in Maine, where he found fulfillment in working with Habitat for Humanity, the Tate House as a Docent, various ministries at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church, as well as a part-time employee of Conroy-Tully Crawford Funeral Home.

Polly Keller, Bill Jose’s wife, died on December 13 with her husband and daughter, Elizabeth, by her side. She will be remembered by her friends and fellow OLLI students for her kindness, courage, intelligence, and sense of humor.

Polly had been suffering from CADASIL, a genetic degenerative disease that causes recurrent strokes. Polly’s last stroke robbed her of much of her ability to talk, read, and get around. Feeling that her quality of life was unacceptable, she decided to hasten her death by stopping eating and drinking. Polly died peacefully, pain-free, and on her own terms; an ending she chose to an intolerable situation.

The obituary for Polly in the *Portland Press Herald* for Dec. 23, 2012, provides further details about Polly’s life.

A gathering of remembrance for Polly will be held at 10:30 a.m. on January 26 at the Quaker Meeting House, 1837 Forest Ave., Portland.

Polly was a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood and would be honored if donations were made to this organization in her memory.

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**Walking Club plans ski outing at Twin Brook**

On Wednesday, Jan. 9, we will try an outing at the Twin Brook Recreation Area on Tuttle Road in Cumberland. We skied here before, and directions will be e-mailed to you. If snow permits, we can cross-country ski — or if the snow is unsuitable for skiing or isn’t there, we will snowshoe or walk with proper winter boots. No rentals here, so you will need to take care of skis or snowshoes before the trip.

Bring your lunch and beverages, and we will find a place to eat together. We will meet to carpool at 10 a.m. at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford.

Tuesday, Jan. 22, is our annual meeting at Wishcamper at 10 a.m. in a room to be determined. If you have suggestions for places to walk, be sure to bring directions to them from our usual parking area at Back Cove.

Please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 if you have questions or want to be put on the e-mail list.

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**Lost and Found**

A large, hand-crafted pin with stones was found in Wishcamper 211. Call 799-2931 for more information.
Advisory Board Approves Sponsorship of Global Insights After-Hours Series of the World Affairs Council of Maine

The Advisory Board approved sponsorship of a series of After-hours Programs of the World Affairs Council of Maine to be held in Wishcamper. The first program, on Nov. 26, featured Steve Wessler of the University of Southern Maine speaking on conflict resolution. The second program, on Dec. 6, was “Turkey: Tales of Travel and Culture,” which featured travel writer Tom Brosnahan and four Maine teachers who were sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Foundation. The remaining programs will feature a panel of retired diplomats speaking on their experiences at their foreign posts, Women’s Empowerment in the Muslim World, and possibly a program on South Africa.

The World Affairs Council of Maine is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing Maine people and businesses with programs and events to promote understanding of international affairs affecting us daily. The World Affairs Council has for many years provided the regular Great Decisions courses offered in the OLLI curriculum. Also, the World Affairs Council has been grateful for the space provided by OLLI for programs held from 2011 to the present, such as the programs on the Arab Spring, featuring prominent scholars on Libya and Syria. The World Affairs Council will acknowledge OLLI’s sponsorship by placing OLLI’s logo on its website.