Profile

Don King

A curious mind helps keep this former editor active

Don King has been editor of this newsletter since 2006, when he first came to OLLI. He stepped in to fill a vacancy when the previous editor relocated. This is the same man who spent more than 35 years as copy editor and book review editor at the Maine Sunday Telegram, Portland Press Herald and the now-defunct Portland Evening Express, until his retirement in 1991.

At the outset, Don took numerous photographs for the OLLI newsletter — print edition only at that time — in addition to his editorial responsibilities. He also wrote monthly profiles until the spring of 2014, almost 80 of them in all. He enjoyed this task. “I’ve met a lot of interesting people over the years,” he says. “There’s no such thing as an uninteresting person.”

Don grew up in Bangor and has been a Mainer all his life. The exceptions to this loyal residency are two years of Army service and his travels, about which more below. He is from French-Canadian ancestry on his father’s side, and Irish stock on his mother’s. He recalls his father’s story of the Ku Klux Klan seeking to intimidate South Brewer mill families when his parents lived there in the 1920s.

Don had a physical at Fort Williams just before atomic bombs were dropped on Japan to end World War II. He was drafted during the Korean War and served stateside. Under the GI bill, he earned an MA in history from the University of Maine, Orono, while working at the Bangor Daily News before moving to Portland in the late 1950s.

As an OLLI student, Don has favored topics in history, current events, and world literature. He likes to sample the offerings. “You

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take a chance (on courses), and most of them work out,” he says. He has taken classes every term. This winter he enrolled in Jim Janak’s “The Earth’s Climate” and Betsy Mayberry’s “Russia Resurgent.”

Since his retirement Don has led an active life as a volunteer. He devoted many hours over the years to the Maine Historical Society and the World Affairs Council of Maine. Don belongs to the Baxter Society, a book arts club in Portland. He regularly attends the Portland Symphony, Ovations, and Portland Stage.

Above all, Don has been a traveler who likes to link his sojourns to the study of history and current events. He took 14 Elderhostel trips and OLLI-sponsored adventures to Ireland, Sicily, and China. In China, he lost his passport, and had to stay three days longer to get the required visa to leave the country. His last Elderhostel trip took him to Berlin and to neighboring Potsdam, where he viewed the table on which Truman signed the order to drop atomic bombs on Japan.

Don is an admitted Anglophile who has been to Great Britain seven times. He likes the smallness of the isle, which allows for various trips from its London hub in a short time, for instance, to Oxford, Cambridge, and Wales, and to Dover and across the English Channel by Hovercraft and back.

As you might imagine, Don is an avid reader. He enjoys histories, biographies, and mystery stories. He is a fan of historical fiction writer Hilary Mantel, and he looks forward to her new book, The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher.

Don will continue to seek out courses, readings, and events, including SAGE programs that stimulate the intellect.

“I have a curious mind,” he says, modestly.

No doubt about that.

—Amy Liston

Open positions on the OLLI Advisory Board

There will be positions open on the Advisory Board for 2015! This is the leadership team that helps determine OLLI’s policies and programs. If you would like to be considered for membership on this dynamic leadership group, now is the time to apply.

We are looking for candidates with the following qualifications:

- A collaborative working style
- Previous volunteer experience at OLLI (for example, as a teacher or as a member of a standing committee, special committee, or ad-hoc committee)
- An understanding of the academic/nonprofit environment
- Comfort in using basic electronic media
- Availability for monthly Board meetings (September through June)
- Commitment to serving on at least one standing committee

Nominations will close on March 15. Recommendations will be made by the Nominating Committee to the Advisory Board for members who will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2015.

Nominating forms are available at the OLLI volunteer desk or by e-mail and may be returned to the Nominating Committee mailbox on the second floor of Wishcamper Center. If you have questions or wish to receive a form by e-mail, please contact Joy Larrabee at joylaraby42@gmail.com.
ADVISORY BOARD
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Dick Sturgeon, Chair Emeritus; Volunteer Coordinator

OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings. Check with the OLLI office for date, time, and place. Please contact the Chair if you wish to address the Board.

WEB SITES
Maine Senior College Network www.maineseniorcollege.org
OLLI National Resource Center www.oshi.net
OLLI at USM www.usm.maine.edu/olli

OLLI NEWSLETTER
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Newsletter E-mail: ollinews@usm.maine.edu
Tim Baehr, Managing Editor
Don King, Editor
Amy Liston, Contributing Editor
Mogens Ravn, Layout Editor
Please send newsletter material to the OLLI Office, via our e-mail.

Deadline for the February issue is January 15.

Advisory Board

Happy 2015! The New Year will be off to a good start for OLLI members who are taking one of the 28 stimulating courses in our Winter Term. First day of classes is Tuesday, January 6, and the term runs through February 12.

Online registration, new to each one of us, was remarkably successful — thanks to the hard work of Susan and Rob, the hands-on assistance provided by Advisory Board members and office staff, and the cooperation and patience exhibited by our members. At this writing, we have had 654 enrollments, with more still coming in. So far 504 people (or 77 percent) registered themselves — a percentage that exceeded our expectations. It wasn’t without some angst, but the process did work — and we appreciate all who helped to make it happen.

The Advisory Board has been working on a membership survey, mandated by our three-year strategic plan for 2015. Once again it is time to measure who we are as OLLI members and to find out what our members think about OLLI’s programs. A subcommittee headed by Jack Lynch has been working with OLLI members Steve Thaxton and Marti Rosenblum, who have expertise in market research and surveys. You will be receiving information in early February about taking the online or paper-and-pencil survey. We hope that all of you will respond so that the Advisory Board can use this current snapshot of the OLLI membership for planning purposes.

Hoping for all the best for everyone in 2015.

—Susan Gesing, Advisory Board Chair
susangesing@gmail.com, 207-567-8097

Weather Closings

It’s simple: When USM classes are delayed or canceled, OLLI classes are also delayed or canceled. But even if we’re open, if you are unsure about travel, make some hot chocolate and stay home!

Don’t rely on TV or radio announcements for closing notices! Call the USM Storm Line at 780-4800. It is the only official source of information.

Do it now: program 780-4800 into your phone, or put it on a sticky note by the phone or stick it under a magnet on the fridge.

OLLI Runs on Volunteers ● OLLI Runs on Volunteers
I’m so proud of you all!

It is a big change to go to online registration, but you came through with flying colors! We have been anticipating this change for almost two years. Much time and preparation has gone into making the transition as smooth as possible.

Rob Hyssong, OLLI’s Program Coordinator, was part of the original USM committee that started the process by researching various systems. Once the field was narrowed to three systems, Rob and I attended meetings to choose the final product. Once the product was chosen and bought, the trainings began. We spent much of last summer planning, with weekly meetings during the fall, in order to roll out the system in time for winter registration.

We owe a load of gratitude to Rob for the time and effort he put into this. Not only did he do the heavy lifting on this system, he did it while he maintained all of his regular workload and took on extra duty while our financial person was out on medical leave.

In addition to Rob, I need to thank Steve Thaxton, our fall graduate intern (an OLLI member). Steve took on OLLI as a special project for his graduate studies. He jumped in with both feet, attending meetings, working with committees, staffing the volunteer desk, and working closely with us to roll out the registration system. Steve both put together tutorials and volunteered in the computer lab to assist OLLI members with their registration. Steve is hoping for a future in a program like OLLI, and I suspect he gained some valuable knowledge and understanding of our program in a relatively brief period.

And here’s more good news. Winter registration is the largest winter ever. And 77 percent of the enrollments were done by individuals online by themselves! WOW! You are awesome!

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

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**NOTES FROM SUSAN**

OLLI Winter Classes

January 6 - February 12

Jan. 1-2: OLLI and USM closed for New Year’s
Jan. 6: OLLI winter term classes start
Jan. 16: Deadline to receive refund on dropped classes
Jan. 19: OLLI and USM closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb. 12: OLLI winter term ends
Feb. 16: OLLI and USM closed for Presidents’ Day
Feb. 17-19: OLLI winter term makeup week

Register Online at [www.usm.maine.edu/olli](http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli)

Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag at the office for your deposit bottles and cans! Proceeds benefit OLLI.
Nancy Hill Payne

Passionate about Lifelong Learning

Passion is a powerful force. It’s the energy that fuels the human spirit. People with passion are driven to pursue and create; to move beyond a comfort zone and achieve the potential that resides within. Nancy Hill Payne was all about passion. A mother, business woman, author, painter, state legislator and community activist…in her ninety-four years on this planet, Nancy Hill Payne was radiant with love and contagious energy; she celebrated humanity and changed our world for the better.

“She was so alive!” says Susan Morrow, Assistant Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). “She was so in tune to whatever was going on in the moment. Nancy was a spark of energy that could hardly be contained. She was funny, witty, had a wicked sense of humor and she was totally engaged. Nancy believed she could do anything…and she did.”

Never one to rest on her laurels, Nancy Payne had a knack for reinventing herself. After the death of her husband, and at a time when few women dotted the political landscape, Nancy Payne was elected into the Maine State legislature in 1978. In 1984 she was elected at the state convention to represent Maine on the Republican National Committee.

Nancy was active in a plethora of civic groups including the United Way, Junior League, Cub Scouts, and the American Field Service. In addition, she served on the boards of the YWCA, Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, and the Portland Red Cross. But it was the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that really captured her attention and her heart.

“Nancy was here from the beginning,” says Susan Morrow. “She was one of the founding members of the Board and OLLI was one of her passions. Nancy recognized that people were living longer, healthier lives; that they didn’t retire and sit in rocking chairs.”

Nancy recognized that giving people a common focus, a reason to get out of the house, was vital. “My mother knew that intellectual engagement would actually keep people healthy,” says Tony Payne. “She witnessed the social value of staying connected to peers and engaged in the community, of sharing knowledge and learning together...she understood the potential importance and lasting impact OLLI could have on our quality of life.”

Nancy Payne’s passion for learning and connection, and her devotion to OLLI’s potential was the driving force behind her decision to create a planned gift. “OLLI was particularly meaningful to her,” says Tony Payne. “Very early on she made a real commitment to OLLI of time, talent, and treasure. That’s why she made arrangements for this gift during her lifetime; she wanted to leave a legacy to OLLI that would be enduring.”

“It’s a wonderful demonstration of the faith and the commitment that Nancy continues to have in us,” says Morrow. “She was passionate about lifelong learning. She recognized the value that OLLI brought into her life and into lives of others. We honor Nancy and her gift each day.”

“Planned giving speaks to a number of emerging dimensions and trends in society,” adds Tony Payne. “We’re living longer — 80 is the new 60. We’re going to spend a lot more time above ground, so we’ll want to have our lives enriched with all our synapses firing. My mother’s gift will ensure that those extended retirement years will offer future generations lives that are full of vitality.”

If you would like to help support educational opportunities for OLLI at USM, consider making a planned gift through your estate plan. There are many ways to give and many gifts can benefit you as well. Contact Bonnie Vance at (207) 780-4448 or bvance@usm.maine.edu today to learn more.
OLLI goes to Croatia

Thirty-one OLLI at USM members traveled to Croatia from Nov. 14–24, 2014. During that time, we visited nine cities in Croatia and Slovenia (with a brief cross-over to Bosnia).

Croatia has two distinct regions: the interior, which is similar to Germany/Austria; and the Dalmatian Coast, which is just across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. The contrast in landscape, food, people, and cultures makes Croatia an amazing place to visit.

From beautiful rural scenes to breathtaking ocean views; from new modern buildings to Roman ruins; from magnificent forests and waterfalls to awesome cathedrals, Croatia offered new and exciting venues every day of our trip.

Our tour guide was a 32–year-old young woman who lent an interesting perspective to Croatia’s turbulent history, especially the war during the 1990s and its impact on her family and friends.

Though Croatia has been rebuilding for about 15 years, much destruction from the war is still evident, reminding us of the scars that remain. The people were warm and friendly, the food was wonderful, and the sights were incredible.

— Susan Morrow
Vietnamese Restaurant Next for Dining-Outers

Come celebrate the New Year with us by having a meal at Thanh Thanh 2, a local Vietnamese eatery. (See http://www.thanhthanh2.com/ for the website and menu.)

Vietnamese New Year is the same as Chinese New Year and this year, the year of the goat, comes earlier in February. Called Tet, it celebrates the first day of spring on the Vietnamese lunisolar calendar. Observances include visiting, repairing old enmities, gift-giving for good luck, and special foods.

Location: 782 Forest Ave., Portland
Date: Monday, January 19, at 12:00 noon (school holiday)
Reservations: Required by Wednesday, January 14
Call or write: Barbara Bardack, 865-2009, lascala2@comcast.net.

This is the last dining-out event until late March of 2015, so do join us for this event.

Attention Cross-Country Skiers

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 2 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

Paper copies of the schedule are also available in the lit rack on the second-floor landing at OLLI. Please feel free to take one.

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)

OLLI Follies update: It’s not too late!

We are still looking for a few more acts to fill out our show.

The date of the show is Sunday, March 29. Showtime is 3 p.m. and we’d love to have you participate. It’s sure to be an afternoon of fun.

Send an e-mail to lgammon65@gmail.com with a description of your act. You will be glad that you did!

Discussion Group: “Women and Aging”

On January 14th, 3:15 p.m., in the OLLI Library, we will have a short interest meeting to flesh out a monthly discussion-potluck group, “Women and Aging.” We will meet in one another’s homes, sharing food, personal experiences, and books related to Women and Aging. FMI: Pat Taub, pparee2011@gmail.com.