Profiles

Jim and Judi Czimbal

For the Czimbals, life has been full

They have been married for 40 years. They have been involved with OLLI for 15 of those years — almost 40 percent of their married lives.

They are Jim and Judi Czimbal, one of OLLI’s many student-couples. When they lived in Massachusetts, they took classes at the Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE), an OLLI analogue.

One day they were invited by their WISE instructor to sit in on an undergraduate class at the college where he taught. They were astounded. The college students sat quiet and passive; there was none of the lively discussion that they were used to at WISE. “One of the most exciting things about OLLI is the people in the classes, the wealth of experience they have, and the energy of the give-and-take,” Jim says, adding with a chuckle, “It’s so nice being old.”

Jim and Judi are quick to underscore that OLLI instructors are excellent. They are both big fans of Tan Larrabee’s art history courses and Sherrie Chapman’s offerings, including “Stealing History.” “She could teach you about napkins and it would be interesting,” is the bottom line for Jim.

Judi has taken classes with Carl Smith, most recently “Classical Music for Beginners,” which she loved. She waxes ecstatic about “The Art of Producing a Daily Newspaper,” presented some years ago by the staff of the Portland Press Herald. Jim has taken courses in architecture and in stained glass, which he used to do himself.

Judi grew up in Brooklyn and earned a B.A. in English from Brooklyn College. She started a master’s program in English at the University of Pennsylvania, but married her first husband (who is continued on page 2
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French) and went off to live in Bordeaux for three years instead. She earned a degree in French from the University of Bordeaux.

Judi’s career has been eclectic. She taught English and then worked as a librarian at several institutions, including the French Library in Boston. She has also held several positions in social service: AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) caseworker, program manager for a self-help group for at-risk parents, and social worker at Portland’s Mercy Hospital.

Jim hails from Cincinnati. He earned both an associate’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and a BS in Industrial Technology from Northeastern University, and later an MBA from Ashland College (now University) in Ohio. He worked at General Electric for 25 years, chiefly in quality assurance.

The Czimbals are inveterate travelers. Their favorite destination, according to Judi, is “wherever we happen to be at the time.” Even so, as a result of their three river cruises in Europe, Amsterdam is nearing the top of the list. When they were working, Jim and Judi used to vacation in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Florida during the winter months. For their 30th anniversary they went to Tuscany. They took the OLLI trip to Rome and Sorrento, and are going on a Baltic cruise next year.

Because they miss being close to their grandchildren, Jim and Judi volunteer at Heidi’s House Child Care Center and Pre-School in Scarborough, the town in which they have lived for 15 years. Jim is usually on the floor with the three-to-five year olds, while Judi holds the babies. Each has offspring from a first marriage. Judi’s daughter, Sheila, lives in Columbus, Ohio. Jim’s daughter, Jeannine, mother of Max, 23, and Evan, 12, lives in southern California. His son, John, lives near Albany with grandchildren Mallory, 11, and Ryan, 6.

For over two decades, the Czimbals have been members of the Allen Avenue Unitarian-Universalist Church in Portland. Judi is also interested in Buddhist thought and practice and participates in Saturday sessions with the Insight Community of Southern Maine, Westbrook.

Judi is a foodie who is well versed in French cooking as well as nutrition, and believes strongly in healthy eating. Jim is partial to hamburgers, but loves good food, and they enjoy going out to eat at ethnic restaurants.

While she may have sophisticated culinary tastes, Judi also attends to food as a basic need. She volunteers at the Project Feed food pantry at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. She is in a book club, he plays duplicate bridge, and they have both ushered at Portland Stage Company for many years.

Life is full — and good — for the Czimbals. They’re about to set off on a trip down South.

—Amy Liston
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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.

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Maine Senior College Network
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OLLI NEWSLETTER
OLLI Office:
Wishcamper Center 210
P. O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300
Phone: 207 780-4406 or 1-800-800-4876
TTY 1-207-780-5646
Fax: 207 780-4317
Newsletter E-mail:
ollinews@usm.maine.edu
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Please send newsletter material to the OLLI Office, via our e-mail.

Deadline for the September issue is August 15.

Advisory Board

Summer is a great time to relax and renew and to reflect on another successful OLLI year. In my first year as Board chair, I learned so much about how things work here at OLLI.

I am in awe of how much gets done by a very small staff and many amazing volunteers. In addition to our wonderful faculty members, whose course offerings are the heart and soul of OLLI, 96 other OLLI members volunteered this year to create and implement programs, staff the office, chair committees, plan and run activities, raise money for scholarships, study issues, write reports, and generally help out as needs arose.

Thank you to everyone who played a part!

Some highlights of our 2014–2015 OLLI year:

- Moderate growth in membership — about 1,750 members
- Implementation of a new online registration system, which, despite some angst, has worked well
- 2015 Survey of the OLLI membership
- Study of Special Interest Groups and development of SIG guidelines
- Trip to Croatia
- Always-fun-to-read OLLI Newsletter and Reflections literary and art magazine
- Two new-student orientation sessions
- Fall raffle and Spring book sale, raising $3600 for scholarships
- Brown Bag Lunches featuring outstanding faculty members
- Spring Writers’ Showcase featuring 20 OLLI writers
- One Book–One Community featuring Maine author Lily King
- Continued care and operation of the OLLI lending library
- Fall and Spring Celebrations (Ninth Week performances and art show)
- Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- Initial work on a 2015–2018 OLLI Strategic Plan

Now that this OLLI year is behind us, I hope all of you are enjoying this special season in Maine. While you have some leisure time, if you think of a good idea for a new OLLI program or activity, please contact a member of our Advisory Board. We are always interested in hearing your thoughts and suggestions.

Happy Summer!

—Susan Gesing, Advisory Board Chair
susangesing@gmail.com, 967-5660
NOTES FROM SUSAN

It’s summer. I think we all believed it just wasn’t going to come this year. Maybe the harsh winter is what makes summer so special in Maine.

OLLI will be holding summer classes, but everything else that usually meets in the Wishcamper Center will be taking a break. This will allow time and space for building maintenance and cleaning to prepare for the new school year beginning in September.

A small Facilities Maintenance crew attends to the needs of every building on campus. With fewer students on campus in the summer months, they can concentrate on large projects like floor waxing and sealing, touch-up paint jobs, and window washing. These jobs are made easier without having to work around people.

All Special Interest Groups will reconvene beginning in September. Check the September Newsletter or contact the coordinator listed in the Fall catalog for day and time.

Coordinators are reminded to let Paula Johnson, chair of the Community Committee, know if you would like to book space in September. Never assume that a space is available because no one is currently using it. All space must be booked through the USM booking system. It is never acceptable for a group to occupy any space on campus for more than a half-hour without pre-booking it. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

E-mail from the Online Registration System

Many people have called the OLLI office claiming to have never received a receipt, a confirmation, or any e-mail messages sent by the faculty.

All e-mail generated by the new OLLI online registration system, including confirmations for classes, SAGE, workshops, and trips; and messages from your instructor, have an e-mail address that begins with “NO REPLY.”

The most likely problem is that the security settings on your e-mail are sending all “NO REPLY” e-mail directly to your Spam/Junk folder, or you may be deleting the e-mail without reading it because you don’t recognize the address.

If you look beyond the “NO REPLY,” the address does contain USM.Maine.Edu. This is how to tell it’s from the online registration system.

Cyclists Alert!

A new Bike and Nosh group met in May to plan some summer bicycle outings. We made plans for two trips in June, and we set tentative dates for rides on July 8 and 22 at 9 a.m.

If you’d like to find out more, please contact Shoshana Hoose at shoshanahoose@gmail.com.
Walking Club Plans Busy Summer

In July we move to our summer hours, which means we meet for car-pooling at Back Cove across from Hannaford’s at the end of the parking lot nearest Marginal Way, at **9 a.m.** (Note the time change.) This allows us to walk before the heat of the day occurs. Both July walks are new for us.

On Wednesday, July 8, we will explore some of the newly completed West Side Trail in Yarmouth, a six-mile stretch of forest and meadows with some ocean views. This trail offers a nice diversity of terrain that is not difficult. We will walk three to four miles and eat lunch at a member’s home nearby. On the Web: [www.mainebyfoot.com/west-side-trail-yarmouth/](http://www.mainebyfoot.com/west-side-trail-yarmouth/)

On Tuesday, July 28, we will head to Bath to the Whiskeag Trail, which provides water views and opportunities for birding not unlike a “country walk in Britain...running through a wetland wildlife habitat...” On the Web: [www.mainebyfoot.com/thorne-head-preserve-bath/](http://www.mainebyfoot.com/thorne-head-preserve-bath/)

On Wednesday, Aug.12, we will walk on a portion of the Greenbelt Walkway in South Portland, visiting Bug Light Park. On the Web: [www.newenglandlighthouses.net/portland-breakwater.html](http://www.newenglandlighthouses.net/portland-breakwater.html)

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, we will take our annual trip to Great Diamond Island and eat lunch with one of our walkers. For this walk you need to arrive at Back Cove a little **before 9 a.m.** (at 8:30) to be sure we arrive at the Ferry promptly. Be sure to bring money for the Ferry (about $5 for seniors) and for parking at the Ferry terminal (about $15 per day). On the web: [www.cascobaylines.com/islands/great-diamond-island-maine/](http://www.cascobaylines.com/islands/great-diamond-island-maine/)

For all walks, bring your lunch and water. Be sure to use bug spray and be wary of ticks. We hope we will need sunscreen also.

If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

SAGE Advice

With the new OLLI online registration system, it is necessary for us to change the SAGE registration process.

Beginning with the Fall SAGE program, online registration is **ONLY** for the entire 8-week lecture series. If you would like to register for the whole program, simply register online as you would for any class, workshop, or OLLI Excursions trip.

The cost for the SAGE series is $50, same as OLLI courses. If your OLLI membership is not current, the $25 membership fee will be added to your first registration of the fiscal year, whether it’s a class, workshop, OLLI Excursions trip, or SAGE.

SAGE enrollment will be based on the capacity of Wish-camper room 102.

If you choose to not register for the entire SAGE series, but would like to attend one or two lectures, you will not be able to pre-register at all. We will guarantee that there will be 15 first-come, first-served seats available for walk-ins each week.

Once those 15 are full, other seats may be available shortly before the presentation starts, based on the no-show rate of the subscribers. Walk-in cost will be $10 per person for each lecture.