Irv and Audrey Williams are one of OLLI’s many student-couples (the exact number is still being researched as of this posting). As such, they embody two outstanding aspects of OLLI membership: the love of learning and the sharing of that enthusiasm with like-minded — and in this instance very close — others.

Audrey came to OLLI first, through a friend. Her initial class was “Hawaiian Applique,” in which students were assigned to make a pillow. “I bombed at it,” she says, looking not the least distressed. “It was a disaster, but I had a good time.”

Meanwhile, Irv was working, as he has for 15 years, as Adjunct Professor of Early Childhood Education at Southern Maine Community College. A native of Baltimore, Irv earned his bachelor’s degree at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, and his masters in Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Antioch University New England. Before moving on to SMCC, he taught for 23 years in the Portland schools.

Audrey hails from Rumford, Maine, and always thought of herself as a “small-town girl.” But more on that later. Like Irv, she spent a career working with young children. After receiving her bachelor’s in English from the University of Maine, Orono, she earned a master’s in Special Education from USM. In addition to working with children with disabilities, she was a kindergarten teacher and a teacher of young ones learning English as a second

continued on page 2
Irv and Audrey Williams (continued from page 1)

language. Audrey continues to volunteer at the lab school that Irv formerly ran at Portland Arts and Technology High School.

At OLLI, the couple’s interests have converged at times, diverged at others. Together they took “The History of Rhythm and Blues” with Rich and Pam Machlin and “Folk Music in Caribbean Latin American Culture” with Ray Brandt. Naturally, that prompted this writer to ask if they are musicians. “No,” said he. “I play the piano kind of badly,” said she. Yet Audrey is also a tenor with the OLLI Singers, a Special Interest Group that gains an audience twice a year on Performance Day.

Irv particularly enjoyed “Women in American History” with John Sutherland. They both loved Ruth Story’s class on Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction, and the various iterations of Sarah Franklin and Betsy Wiley’s class on contemporary American fiction.

“I’m amazed at the amount of time [OLLI faculty] put into pulling these classes together,” says Irv, a potential faculty member himself. He is thinking of developing a course based on the film series 7 Up (now 56 Up). Audrey calls OLLI “a lifeline.” Along with their classes, the two are members of Elders for Future Generations, an OLLI Special Interest Group devoted to education and activism for progressive causes. The group delves into issues like clean elections and climate change.

Irv and Audrey are members of Portland’s First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church. This spring Audrey is taking “Can the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism Save the World?” with Christina Sillari, minister of FPUU.

For leisure, they walk five miles every day. She does yoga. They love to travel, having been to the United Kingdom half a dozen times, and to Italy, France, and other European countries. Irv is the “master planner” who does dutiful research on every destination. Last summer they spent seven weeks touring the Canadian Maritimes. This month, like sensible Mainers, they are headed to St. John, Virgin Islands, where they will camp for a week. They have summered on Cliff Island in Casco Bay for 25 years.

Irv and Audrey became beaming grandparents last December, when their son Patrick and his wife, who live locally, welcomed baby Harvey. Their daughter Hannah and her husband are expecting in August. The proud grandparents are contemplating a move to the D.C. area next year for some intensive hands-on childcare.

After living in Portland for 30 years, the aforementioned “small-town girl” and her husband went to live off the grid in New Vineyard, Maine. “We were miserable,” says Audrey, lamenting the relative isolation and quietude. They stuck with it for two years. The Williamses migrated back to city life and now make their home in South Portland.

They are city folks, after all.

—Amy Liston

Spring/Summer Gallery Exhibit Starting March 16

March 16 is more than the first day of classes! As you walk toward the OLLI office, you will be greeted by the new Gallery Exhibit. Our artists for this spring are Judy Calise and Betty Smith, who will present their watercolors; Harold McWilliams, who will display his photography; and Molly Morell, who will present her work in acrylics.

OLLI is indeed fortunate to have so many fine artists working in a wide range of media. Please take some time to examine and admire their work!

—OLLI Creative Arts Committee
Somehow we’ve all survived the snows of February, and at least the calendar says that spring is just around the corner. With OLLI’s Spring Term about to begin, hopefully many of you have registered for one or more of the wide array of classes, workshops, and SAGE lectures.

What an amazing faculty we have, with new teachers and creative new courses continually being added to the curriculum. And the SAGE program never ceases to amaze us with topics as diverse as midwifery in Africa, Victorian-era Portland, specialty coffee, children’s books, and more.

One of OLLI’s most popular special events — One Book/One Community — will be held on March 6. How fortunate we are to have award-winning author Lily King with us as keynote speaker to talk about her book *Euphoria* and to kick off a full day of stimulating talks and discussion. Thanks to our event coordinator, Ruth Story, and her able committee for making this happen!

How about finding a fun way to use the knowledge acquired in your academic life to help a USM undergraduate in writing a thesis for the Honors Program? Jack Lynch, Advisory Board Vice-Chair, is working with the program’s assistant director to pair OLLI volunteers with students.

Volunteers would meet several times with a student, giving feedback on the work and helping the student finish up the thesis. Volunteer readers would also meet with the student’s thesis advisor and the “first reader.”

The USM Provost is very interested in this possible collaboration between OLLI and the undergraduate honors program. If you have interest or expertise in classics, fine art/education, philosophy, finance, political science, or environmental science, why not consider becoming an honors advisor? Contact Jack Lynch at jlynch001@maine.rr.com for more information.

Think spring!

—Susan Gesing, Advisory Board Chair
susangesing@gmail.com, 468-0033

**Reminder**

Nomination Forms for positions on the OLLI Advisory Board are due by March 15. Forms are available in the OLLI office.
NOTES FROM SUSAN

Spring! Even though it doesn’t look like spring outside, spring registration at OLLI is going great! Over 1000 members of OLLI at USM have signed up using our new online registration system. If you found the online system daunting, you can always register by mail and phone (780-4406).

As I write this, 10 of the 75 courses and workshops are full, but that means that 65 courses and workshops still have space available. As a matter of fact, several courses are currently in danger of being canceled due to low enrollment. If you are considering signing up for a course this spring, be sure to do it soon.

One Book/One Community is a special day-long event that is scheduled for Friday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The featured book is Lily King’s Euphoria. Lily will be the keynote speaker, followed by a variety of book-related workshops. Many thanks to Ruth Story and her committee for planning this event. It’s always a highlight of the OLLI year.

On-line registration for SAGE, our 8-week lecture series, will be in full swing by the time you read this. SAGE lectures are held Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 102 Wishcamper. When you use the online registration system, you will have two options: you may sign up for all 8 lectures for $50, or you can sign up for individual lectures for $7 each, but do not sign up for both options or you will be charged twice. And of course, if you prefer, you may mail in or phone in your registration for SAGE.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

It’s no joke! — Reflections 2015

It’s that time of year again. Time to polish your poems and shine up your short stories, memoirs, and essays. Time to digitize your best photos and art works for submission to Reflections 2015. You may submit up to two pieces in each genre; Poetry, Prose and Art.

- Submissions must be done via an e-mail attachment. Paper submissions will not be accepted.
- We regret that we cannot accept revisions of poetry or prose after entry.
- If you submit the same piece or pieces to other journals, it is your responsibility to notify the other journals if you are accepted by Reflections or, conversely, to notify Reflections if you are accepted by another journal.

Be sure to include a short biography in your e-mail; nothing fancy, just something you’d like readers to know about you. We encourage everyone to enter their best work through our submission process starting in March. The link to the entry submission instructions is here: http://usm.maine.edu/olli/olli-reflections-magazine

If you have questions about the submission process, please call Tim Baehr after March 14 at 899-1043 or e-mail him to set up a time to talk at tbaehr@aol.com.

Deadline: April 1, no foolin’!
Education Committee Announcements

Teach at OLLI? Why not!

Tuesday, March 31 11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Jack Lynch and Joy Larrabee and a few other experienced OLLI instructors will listen, encourage, and offer food for thought to any OLLI member ruminating, contemplating, or planning to teach an OLLI course for the first time.

Our goal is to expand your universe of possibilities so you will have more fun sharing your passions and interests. Recent first-time instructors willing to share their experience and reflections would be most welcome to join us as well.

There is no fee, no registration; just bring your own brown-bag lunch and your wild or not-so-wild ideas. The room hasn’t been assigned yet; check at the OLLI office the day before we meet. Please address questions to Jack Lynch at jlynch001@maine.rr.com.

Two teachers to give previews of classes

Thursday, April 23 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Literature instructor Sarah Franklin
Thursday, April 30 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Math instructor Stephen Schiffman

Beginning this term, the Education Committee is offering two brown-bag lunches, which will feature faculty making presentations from classes that they teach at OLLI.

This will broaden the educational experience beyond our course offerings for interested OLLI members and enable them to become acquainted with more OLLI faculty. We hope that this will be a staple of future Fall and Spring Terms.

Look for more information in your April newsletter.

Technology Workshop

Saturday, May 2 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Do you sometimes feel like Fred Flintstone, transported to the Starship Enterprise, when you pick up a tech device?

Join us on May 2 for an all-day workshop about four of the most popular technological devices: the laptop, the tablet, the E-Reader, and the smartphone. We will receive some straight talk from three competent users — Rob Hyssong, Program Director of OLLI; David Morton, current faculty member; and William Thieme, owner of ThiemeComputerServices.com. They will explain each device, its applications, cost to purchase, and cost to operate monthly based on your usage. You need to bring one device you currently use for the afternoon session to receive hands-on help from a tech wizard. Cost for the day is $25. If you have questions about the workshop, please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.
WRITERS’ SHOWCASE

Everyone is invited to enjoy listening to OLLI writers read their work

All OLLI writers are encouraged to participate

Sign up for one of the 20 time slots (five minutes max.)

Contact Janet Stebbins — Phone: 730-3532
E-mail: jjstebbi@maine.rr.com

Mix, chat, and share refreshments with OLLI writers, teachers, and friends

May 4, 2015, 3p.m. – 6p.m.
Wishcamper Center
The Atrium and Room 133

Save the date / save the books

The Third Annual OLLI Book Sale will take place on May 1 and May 2. It will include books of all types (except textbooks), DVDs, CDs, jigsaw puzzles, and games (they need to have all their pieces).

OLLI members and members of the USM community will have exclusive access to the sale on Friday, May 1, from 2:45 to 5:00 p.m. On Saturday, May 2, the sale is open to all from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

Books and the other items may be donated at the OLLI office on the following dates ONLY: April 15–17, 20–24, and 27–30.

All proceeds will benefit the OLLI Scholarship Fund.
Looking for a way to engage with the international community in Portland?

You are invited to join USM undergrad English language learners in International Conversations on Tuesday afternoons from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., March 17 through April 28, in room 133 Wishcamper. This is an opportunity to engage in fascinating conversations with students from countries such as China, Congo, Iraq, Syria, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Rwanda. Classroom instructors will suggest topics and offer interactive activities to keep the conversations lively. There is no charge. Please contact Jessamyn Schmidt at jessamyn_schmidt@yahoo.com or 780-4586 to join the conversations.

“Superbly organized activities...wonderful young adults bravely trying to learn English...friendly fellow volunteers...lots of laughter...and best of all, after each session you come away feeling that you’ve helped the world in some small way.”

- Eve Rubins, OLLI Volunteer

“Weeting, getting to know and conversing with the international students who take the OLLI Conversations Class is interesting and fun. The two hours of classroom time fly by! The instructors are upbeat, initiate conversational ideas, and make the sessions enjoyable to everyone. I look forward to each and every class.”

- Carolyn Murray, OLLI Volunteer

Joe’s Boathouse
next for Dining-Outers

We’re back and happy to be meeting again for a delicious meal and talk, talk, talk.

March means easing into Spring dining, and we’ll be having our meal at 4:00 p.m.

Late lunch? Early dinner?

Joe’s Boathouse at the picturesque Spring Point Marina will be the place, and choices will be from their “in-between” menu. The selections are a small sampling of luncheon classics from their regular menu, such as chowder, salads, calamari and mussels, and sandwiches.

Don’t miss this one.

When: Tuesday, March 24, at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Joe’s Boathouse, 1 Spring Point Drive, South Portland

Reservations: Absolutely required by noon Monday, March 23. Call or write Barbara Bardack 865-2009 lascala2@comcast.net

Hope to see you there.

Special Interest Group

The Village Concept: Aging in Place

Many seniors are not attracted by retirement communities. They just wish to grow older at home. Members learn how to create “Villages,” allowing people to age in their own homes as long as possible. For more information, contact Len Freeman at len.freeman@maine.edu.

New Member Orientation

If you are a new member of OLLI (or a baffled veteran), we invite you to attend an orientation session on Tuesday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m., in Wishcamper Center, room 102. There will be a brief presentation followed by a chance to ask questions of experienced OLLI members. If you plan to attend, please call the OLLI office at 780-4406.
Yarmouth, Portland on Walking Club Schedule

On Wednesday, March 11, we will be hiking or snowshoeing in the Community Garden in Yarmouth. The garden is off East Main Street. The property features several open meadows and young and mature woods. It is home to a variety of birds. We will eat lunch at a nearby home.

On Tuesday, March 24, we will visit Evergreen Cemetery on Stevens Avenue. Depending on weather and snow conditions, we will either hike or snowshoe at both locations.

You will hear more from me as the time approaches. Dress in layers, pay attention to suitable foot wear, and bring water and your lunch.

We will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. If you have questions or want to be on the Walking Club mailing list, please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

Help Count River Herring
An environmental volunteering opportunity

Want to help count river herring? The count is used in resource management decisions. Want to volunteer from your home by watching a video?

Throughout Maine, New England, and the whole East Coast of the United States, citizen scientists take the time each spring season to count river herring during their migration to spawn. This past season, the river herring run at the Nequasset Fish Ladder in Woolwich was video recorded, and now the herring need to be counted.

The volunteer counts are used by municipal, state, and federal-level managers to help make policy decisions such as commercial harvest rates for both onshore and offshore fishers.

Please contact Jason Smith (research assistant — Muskie School of Public Service) at jason.m.smith@maine.edu or 251-1628 to learn more about how you can join in.

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