Profile

Shoshana Hoose

For Shoshana Hoose, life means cycling along.

Shoshana Hoose got involved with OLLI before she was even eligible for membership. Years ago she worked with members of OLLI’s theater group and other community volunteers to launch a public-access TV show called *The Second Act*. The show featured people over 50 “doing interesting things” in the latter part of their lives.

Shoshana now considers the idea of a life in two acts to be simplistic. Her own life comprises many acts, and she has consistently kept her eye on what is most important and meaningful to her. She recently began a new career teaching English as a second language at Portland Adult Education (PAE). She had volunteered in this capacity for 10 years and was so enamored of the work that she earned a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language from Salem State University in Massachusetts.

Two years ago she was hired at PAE. She teaches three classes of immigrants and absolutely loves it. “I am so happy I did this. I’d say to other people, ‘Just dive in,’ do whatever you really want to do.” She is now pursuing a master’s in English as a Second Language through an online program of Hamline University, St. Paul.

Shoshana is founder and coordinator of OLLI’s Bike & Nosh Special Interest Group. The group had a most successful inaugural season, and it now numbers some 30 cycling aficionados. “I’m really happy with the response we’ve gotten,” Shoshana says. Most rides are 10 to 20 miles roundtrip, with a food stop tossed in.

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Shoshana Hoose  
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Last year members rode on Peaks Island, Chebeague Island, the Eastern Trail to Saco, and to New Gloucester farms, among other locales. The new season gets underway in April.

Bicycling is in Shoshana’s blood. When she was growing up in Newington, Conn., her mother was an avid cyclist who took her children on bicycling/camping vacations. Shoshana got the bug. She prides herself on riding to work and on errands, as well as for recreation.

Shoshana handled publicity for the Bicycle Coalition of Maine while also working for the Portland schools. She currently writes a bimonthly column focusing on cycling and walking for the Source section of the Maine Sunday Telegram. The column, “Leg Work,” has tackled such controversial topics as replacing brick sidewalks for pedestrian safety and the right of the cyclist to “take the lane” of vehicular traffic by riding in the middle.

Shoshana has been a writer all her life. She wrote for the Newington paper starting in high school. After graduating from Yale University with a degree in ethology, she spent a short time researching animal behavior (in Long Island Sound and in Israel) before deciding that “I was more interested in people.” She embarked on a two-decade newspaper career in several states, ending as a reporter for the Portland Press Herald for 12 years.

By then, “The world was turning to video,” and Shoshana followed suit. She became Communications Coordinator for the Portland School Department, and for part of that tenure managed its educational TV station. She has produced five documentary films, including the widely viewed “Anchor of the Soul,” about Portland’s historic Abyssinian Meeting House.

Taking a cue from her activist parents (her father was a Connecticut legislator and Supreme Court judge, her mother a botany researcher) Shoshana has a passion for social justice. Two causes stand out: gun reform and immigrant rights.

Shoshana was twice held up at gunpoint in college. These incidents prompted her to write an investigative paper about the power of Connecticut’s gun lobby in thwarting stronger gun laws. She has been involved in gun violence prevention efforts in Maine for years. She’s currently volunteering for Maine Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in the effort to pass a state referendum that would mandate universal background checks for Maine gun sales.

In the context of her volunteer and professional work, Shoshana has testified many times at hearings in Portland and Augusta on immigrant issues, among them preserving welfare for asylum seekers.

A longtime second alto with Portland’s feminist women’s chorus, Women in Harmony, Shoshana and her fellow singers pursue a mission of social justice. She also belongs to Congregation Bet Ha’am in South Portland and has been deeply involved with its social action committee.

Shoshana is the mother of two daughters: Hannah, who is an elementary school teacher in Seattle, and Ruby, who works for a health care startup in San Francisco.

A recent trip to see her daughters led Shoshana to Davis, California, a bicycling mecca where 22 percent of the population rides to work.

She’s on a roll.

—Amy Liston
The Evolving of the OLLI Library

Like much at OLLI, the library off the first floor lobby of Wishcamper has undergone change over time. It had its beginnings years ago, when OLLI administration was over at the Payson Smith building, as a locked repository for a copy of one book from every class.

When Wishcamper opened, the current space was designated as the OLLI library. Harold and Peggy Osher furnished the room in honor of Bernard Osher’s 80th birthday. Bernard is Harold’s brother and OLLI at USM’s benefactor and name sake. The storehouse of textbooks was moved in and the original idea was that the room would be a reference and resource library, not a lending one. To this day it includes many books from the personal library of Rabbi Harry Sky, who started the ball rolling for a senior college at USM.

A few years ago OLLI concluded that the library space was underutilized. What to do? The advisory board formed an ad hoc committee that wrestled with the issues of who would maintain it, how would it best serve OLLI students, and whether it could become a lending library.

That committee soon recommended that it should indeed become a place where OLLI folks could borrow books using a simple sign-out system, and that volunteers monitor it, check in returned books, and organize the offerings so that anyone could easily find a volume of interest. Dick Budd has been masterfully reviewing incoming donated books and assigning nonfiction Dewey decimal numbers. There are also labels on right-hand shelves to indicate general categories such as History. Fiction and poetry are shelved on the left side, generally in alphabetical order by author.

With this groundwork done, it was recently decided that instead of becoming a full standing committee, the OLLI library would become a subcommittee of the Education Committee, with a Librarian (currently Elsa van Bergen) to oversee things, our Dewey decimal specialist, and a few volunteers taking turns from term to term to check in and reshelve books left in the Return box. Education is surely one of the library’s benefits, but so is entertain-
ment. The library can also serve as a quiet, cozy place to rest and browse between classes.

Do you need a book to amplify a course or a private interest or activity? We have *The Lives of the Great Composers*, *Writing Creative Nonfiction*, *How to Read a Poem*, shelves of excellent biographies of historic figures and pop culture ones, self-help guides, and so much more. Do you want help in trying to understand our turbulent world? We have *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion* and *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq*. Or do you want to escape from it? We have *Brooklyn*, the novel by Coim Toibin behind the current Oscar-nominated film, and mysteries from the likes of Elizabeth George or Tami Hoag, and modern classics, and Chaucer, Ovid, the complete Shakespeare, and . . .

Just fill out the sign-out sheet for up to two books at a time, yours for a month. Please do return your selections promptly so others might enjoy them. This will avoid volunteers contacting you if a book is quite overdue.

Occasionally the space is used for a meeting; if you are coming at such a time to return your book, you may leave it in the OLLI office.

As you consider books to donate to the upcoming OLLI book sale in May, see if there are any titles that might be suitable for the library. Toward the left by the window there are shelves for donations. Thank you.

It’s our library, ever-evolving!

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**Writers’ Showcase**

In early May we will present the 2016 edition of the Writers’ Showcase. Twenty prose writers and poets from OLLI will read brief passages from their works.

We also expect to have a keynote speaker, [Susan Conley](#), whose 2013 novel *Paris Was the Place* made the Indie NEXT List and was an Amazon Big Fall Books Selection. She teaches at USM’s Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing and was a co-founder of [The Telling Room](#) in Portland.

We will post more information about the Showcase, including how to submit works to it, in the April *OLLI Newsletter*.

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**Re-Careering After Mid-Life**

OLLI courses and USM’s Professional Development Programs (PDP) fall under the general heading of Professional and Continuing Education. OLLI members may sign up for PDP courses. Though most are probably not of interest (such as “Applying Positive Psychology to Build High-Performing Workplaces”), some may be worth exploring.

One interesting two-session course, “Re-Careering After Mid-Life,” is being offered in late April. The subtitle of the course is “Organizing Serendipity for those with Lots of Experience!” The course description states the goal of the course: “Participants will leave the course prepared to identify their success patterns, define and articulate the skills they want to offer the workplace, and build a marketing strategy.”

OLLI members can enroll by visiting the [catalog page](#) for the course (click on the link), logging in with their regular OLLI login and password, and adding the course to their cart. Note that this is a PDP course, and you cannot register through the OLLI office.

➤ Please notice that the cost of PDP courses is substantially greater than the cost of OLLI courses. This two-session course has a tuition of $150.

NOTES FROM SUSAN

We all survived the online registration debacle for Spring 2016! A week later, the OLLI staff is still trying to clean up some items and unravel some tangles. The problems were 100 percent with the software company—not OLLI, not USM. We are now all working together to try to make sure it doesn’t happen again.

It was as frustrating for the OLLI staff as it was for you. Most people were frustrated, even angry, but managed to be polite. However, several allowed the situation to bring out their bad side. Messages were left on our voice mail system with rude, vile language. People yelled at our work-study students, who were trying to help.

And for the first time in 15 years, I abruptly ended a phone call and hung up on a customer. I know the majority of you reading this will be appalled that anyone would behave so badly, and I’m not writing this to generate sympathy, just mutual understanding.

Our organization is approaching 2,000 members, and we have just three staff positions. We rely heavily on volunteers and work-study students, who do not always have answers at their fingertips. We cannot always answer the phone live, but we ALWAYS return calls left on the voicemail. During the first two days of registration, we received over 200 voicemail messages and 120 e-mails, and we responded to each and every one.

Now as we move forward, please be sure you have received confirmation for every class that you have registered for. If you did not receive a confirmation, please call us. We don’t want any registration to fall between the cracks. We will be working with our faculty to address wait lists; we try very hard to accommodate as many OLLI students as possible.

And finally, thank you to the vast majority of you who showed patience and understanding as we worked through a very difficult registration situation.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

Wrinkle in Time 2016: OLLI Revisits the 1950s

March 8, 9, and 10 we will time-travel back to the 1950s, when life was sweet and simple—or was it? During these three days, we'll explore the music, Joseph McCarthy and Margaret Chase Smith, the invention of the computer, family life, art, social issues, and automobiles.

You can register online under “Special Events” or call the OLLI office. Cost is $80, which includes two fabulous lunches from the ’50s (can you guess what will be served?)

The complete schedule can be found on page 6 of the February Newsletter.
From the Education Committee

Three Brown Bag Events.

These sessions are open free of charge to all OLLI members. Please arrive as early as possible as the room can fill up quickly.

Tom McGovern: “Good News for Psychological Well-Being.”
Thursday, March 31, 11:45–12:30 p.m., Room 211.

“God created man because he loved to tell stories,” wrote Elie Wiesel. Jesus was a Jewish storyteller par excellence, who left behind a spiritual treasure trove that challenges us to think, to feel, and to act in renewed ways. In this talk, Tom will illustrate the current research on virtues and character strengths for psychological well-being with one of the most familiar but misinterpreted Good News parables.

Jack Lynch: “Workshop for Aspiring OLLI Faculty.”
Monday, April 4, 11:45–12:30 p.m., Room 211.

Jack and a panel of veteran OLLI faculty will hold a Brown Bag workshop for OLLI members who might be considering teaching a class. This will be an opportunity to present your idea for a course and receive feedback. First-year faculty are also invited to share their experiences.

Mike Berkowitz: “Is Our Justice Just?”
Thursday, April 28, 11:45–12:30 p.m., Room 211.

Just how good is United States justice? While ours is a great country, our system of justice is flawed. Some examples: What’s wrong with punishment? How should we treat juveniles? addicts? insanity? Is race a factor? Should economics be a factor? Should we follow laws that aren’t moral? These and other questions will help us look at the laws, the law-breakers, the law-makers, and the law-shapers.

OLLI Book Sale

This is another reminder to save your books to donate for the sale, which is scheduled for May 6 and 7. OLLI will begin accepting donations on April 20. CDs, DVDs, books on tape, and puzzles are needed as well.

If you would like to volunteer to help with pre-sale sorting and storage or on the sale days, contact Dick Sturgeon at dicksturg13@gmail.com or 773-3174.

We hope to be selling cookies, brownies, and other sweets on sale days, so if you would like to show off your baking skills, contact Dick.

Reminder

If USM is closed or has modified hours due to weather or other circumstances, OLLI will also be closed or have modified hours. The USM Storm Line is 780-4800. Radio and TV announcements may not be current.

Join the Ukulele Fans

OLLIUKES! is a new Special Interest Group meeting on Mondays at 3:15 p.m. in Wishcamper Room 103 beginning March 7.

We are a community group coming together to share and have fun playing a wide variety of ukulele music. All levels welcome!

Contact Cheryl Eling at cfeling@gmail.com for more information.
OLLI Excursions Brings You to More Hidden Treasures

Are you now buying your books online or reading on Kindle? Visit a book artist who creates hand-printed books and unique handmade volumes—works of art in limited editions. Then visit a master printer who prides himself on beautiful, carefully designed and produced books. Meet an artist who has spent years developing new typefaces. Follow those with a stop at an amazing book “show and tell.”

March 26 (Saturday) we will go to the studio of Bessie Smith Moulton, graphic designer and book artist. Her work can be found in the Maine Women Writers Collection; locations across the country as far as Stanford University in California; and in Hungary; the Library of Alexandria, Egypt; and Trinity College, Dublin. Inspired by her travels in Europe, the Near East, and Asia Minor, her journeys are learning experiences and sources of artistic inspiration. Her books investigate her interests in words, religions, colors. Phil Isaacson, past art critic for the Maine Sunday Telegram, said “Her works are masterpieces of typography, letterpress printing, and design, and float from the chaste to the jubilant. They are complex and irresistible.”

April 4 (Monday) our goal is the print shop of Wolfe Editions. David Wolfe, master letterpress printer for over 20 years, specializes in relief and intaglio printing, i.e. letterpress, photopolymer plates, and the assorted engraving processes of etching and lithography. Not only is he a printer of fine books, he also produces fine art posters and broadsides. His busy Portland studio houses nearly a dozen presses, a casting machine, thirty cases of antique wood type, and a hundred different cases of hand type. All are used in his productions at one point or another.

Mark Jamra, internationally known typeface designer, will join us at David’s. Classically trained and considered a master by his peers, he has received awards worldwide. Jamra learned the traditions of type design from masters in Switzerland and taught in Germany for twelve years. He came to Portland to teach at The Maine College of Art (MECA) twenty years ago. He was featured in a November article in the Maine Sunday Telegram about developing the first commercially available and most complete typeface for the Cherokee language.

The final stop in this series is at the free Book Arts Bazaar, which all Hidden Treasure attendees are urged to attend. The annual festival is on Sunday, April 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wishcamper Center. It features the Northeast’s community of book artists, papermakers, bookbinders, printmakers, educators, writers, and all things related to the making of books.

We will gather at 9:30 a.m. at each site. Details and directions will be sent several days in advance. Transportation is on your own. Visits last approximately an hour and a half.

Cost for each of the two tours is $15. Registration is limited to a maximum of 20 OLLI members.

To reserve, use one of these methods:

Beginning March 3
Use the online OLLI registration system (www.usm.maine.edu/OLLI).

Beginning March 8
Mail your check to OLLI, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104.
Call 780-4406 to pay with a card.
Register in person at the office.

Final deadline for registration is March 18. No refunds thereafter.
For further information, call Gael McKibben at 774-7177.
Want to Help Foreign Students Improve their English?

You are invited to join USM undergrad English language learners in International Cultural Conversations on Thursday afternoons from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m., March 17 to April 28.

This is an opportunity to engage in fascinating conversations with students from countries such as Japan, Colombia, Vietnam, China, Spain, Syria, Congo, Korea, and Saudi Arabia.

Classroom instructors will suggest topics and offer interactive activities to keep the conversations lively. There is no charge. Speaking a foreign language is not a requirement for participation. Please contact Michelle Perry at michelle.d.perry@maine.edu or 780-4365 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, Volunteer

“Meeting, 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 flies by! The instructors are upbeat, initiate conversational ideas, and make the session enjoyable to everyone. I look forward to each and every class.”

—Carolyn Murray, Volunteer

Walking Club Plans Two March Outings

We have two more winter outings scheduled for March.

On Wednesday, March 9, we will be snowshoeing at Twin Brook Recreation Area in Cumberland. This is an area we have visited before and provides a variety of trails, suitable for cross country skiing or snowshoeing, whichever conditions prevail. For this outing, call Bev Blair at 700-5043 if you have questions.

On Tuesday, March 29, we will visit the Spear Farm Estuary Preserve in Yarmouth and have lunch at a nearby home. This spot is better for snowshoeing as some of the trails are narrow and uneven.

For both outings we will meet at Back Cove at 10 a.m. to carpool. Please arrive before 10:00 to insure you will find the group, especially if you are new. Bring your lunch and water. Dress in layers and bring some regular boots to change into after we finish.

If you have questions, please call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 or e-mail me at raegarcelon@gmail.com.
**For Bikers, It’s Time to Make Plans**

The Bike & Nosh group will meet on Thursday, March 10, at 3 p.m. in Wishcamper Room 105 to plan our spring and summer outings. This is an important meeting, so please plan to attend.

All are welcome, including anyone who has not previously participated in the group. We go on bicycle trips of varying lengths and levels of difficulty. There’s always a treat along the way, and a chance to socialize. Riders must wear a helmet, follow safety rules, and be responsible for their own bicycle.

For more information, e-mail Shoshana Hoose (shoshanahoose@gmail.com).

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**History Book Group Invites OLLI Members**

OLLI members are invited to join the History Book Group, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at 3:15, September to June, this spring in room 205 of the Wishcamper Center.

Book choices are submitted by attendees and voted on in the spring, and a calendar for the year is created. There is no obligation to read every book or attend every discussion.

These upcoming books might be of interest to some of you.

March 9 *The Teacher Wars: A History of America’s Most Embattled Profession* by Dana Goldstein. The *New York Times* review said, “Teachers are, by and large, poorly trained and ill equipped to flatten social, racial and economic barriers. Their pay is pathetic …. So too are the conditions in which they often work.” Also: “[T]o improve our schools, we have to help teachers do their job the way higher-achieving nations do: by providing better preserv-ice instruction, offering newcomers more support from well-trained mentors, and opening up the ‘black box’ classroom so teachers can observe one another without fear and share ideas.”

April 13 *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow. This fictional history, set in New York City from 1902 to 1912, centers on a family dealing with the issues of the period, including racial conflicts and tenement life. The author irreverently weaves fictional and actual characters into his story lines.

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**Get Hot with OLLI Night Out**

Tired of snow and cold? Then join us as we resume OLLI dining events at Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant in Portland.

March can be cruel, but the margaritas are soothing and the chips salty. Be sure to be with us for this fun event.

When: Tuesday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant, 242 St. John St., Portland; 874-6444

Reservations: Please call or write by noon Monday, March 28

—— Barbara Bardack, 865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net