Profile
Rich Machlin

Folk music a major part of Rich Machlin’s life

Rich Machlin says he first became interested in folk music while growing up in the Washington, D.C., area in the late ’50s, listening to his older brother’s records of The Kingston Trio and their imitators, such as The Lettermen.

“But more significant,” he says, “were the 78 LPs of my father, featuring Paul Robeson, The Weavers, Woody Guthrie, and Pete Seeger. They belied his political considerations.” Eventually that led to Rich’s teaching a folk music course at OLLI.

His connection with New England was made at Boston University, where he earned a degree in American Studies. However, double-dip unemployment and the Blizzard of ’78 propelled him southward to Philadelphia.

After stints in the hotel and export business, Rich opened a restaurant in an area of abandoned warehouses. The restaurant for 20 years, adding a 100-seat acoustic music club later on.

Rich explains, “Acoustic music generally means unplugged instruments, although I did allow electric guitars and the like. It’s more a matter of a general sensibility than a definite meaning.”

His club featured such folk singers as Ramblin’ Jack Elliot and Odetta, but the size of the club didn’t handle the likes of Bob Dylan. Business kept him from attending many folk festivals, but he did close his club during the Philadelphia Folk Festival because his customers would go there.

The restaurant business was
continued on page 4

Important Dates

Walking Club

OLLI Night Out
Mon., May 20. See page 7 for details.

OLLI Excursion

SAGE Lectures
Tues., May 7: Peter DeTroy, “The Heart and Soul of Lawyering”


Raffle
Thurs., May 16: Deadline for buying raffle tickets. See page 5 for details.

Ninth Week
There’s been a lot in the media lately about the financial problems of the University of Maine system, and especially USM. Many people have asked me if the University’s financial problems will have any effect on OLLI.

OLLI at USM is a self-sufficient institute. All of our expenses are covered by membership fees, SAGE fees, and class tuitions, in addition to our generous endowment from the Osher Foundation. We should be financially secure well into the future.

But that’s not to say we shouldn’t be concerned about the cuts to USM. Programs are being cut. People are losing their jobs. Building maintenance is being deferred. As residents of the Greater Portland area, and taxpayers of the State of Maine, we need to care about USM. It is a vital piece of our community, enriching and changing lives of both young and old.

—Susan Morrow
Assistant Director for Program

Thinking of teaching? Experts will give advice

Have you considered becoming an OLLI instructor?

If there is a subject you are knowledgeable about and have an interest in teaching, OLLI’s Education Committee can offer support and encouragement. Bring your lunch and join in for a relaxed and informal discussion, along with a great panel consisting of both brand-new OLLI teachers and those who have taught for many years.

The panel will include Joan Aldrich, Tim Baehr, Rich Machlin, David Morton, Ellen Richards, and Evy Newlyn.

The topic: “Tips for First-Time Teachers.”

The time: Tuesday, May 7th, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., or a bit later.

The place: Wishcamper 133 (Lee Auditorium). For more information, call or e-mail Joan Aldrich at 799-2931 or aldrich1822@gmail.com
Summer Session—Important facts

- The Summer Catalog has been posted on line at this address: [http://tinyurl.com/OLLI-Summer](http://tinyurl.com/OLLI-Summer)
- The printed catalogs should be in your mailbox by May 6.
- We have a lottery for classes with more than the allotted registrations. To participate in the lottery, your registration form must be in the OLLI office by Monday, May 13.
- The lottery will take place on Wednesday, May 15.
- Phone registrations begin after the lottery, on Monday, May 20.
- Classes for the six-week Summer Term begin on Tuesday, June 25.

Passages

“Mary K” Karatsanos

Mary McKeough Karatsanos, 90, an active volunteer of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, died March 17 in Portland.

A lifelong resident of Portland, she attended St. Pius Church and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where she was both a Eucharistic Minister and lector.

She was employed for many years in the insurance industry and was national president of the National Association of Insurance Women.

Harry Sky asked Mary (known to those around her as Mary K) to organize the Senior College and manage it with a system of volunteers. She was in charge of the office (with a lot of support from Terry Foster and Barbara Scola) until Susan Morrow was hired as Kali Lightfoot’s assistant. Mary was Board secretary before that post was a Board position, became a Board member, and was a prime cheerleader for OLLI from the beginning.

Mary K’s obituary appeared in the Portland Press Herald on March 19: [http://tinyurl.com/Karatsanos](http://tinyurl.com/Karatsanos)

She was profiled on page 5 of the OLLI Newsletter last December as one of OLLI’s “Movers and Shakers”: [http://tinyurl.com/Mary-Profile](http://tinyurl.com/Mary-Profile)
Rich Machlin (cont’d from page 1)

taking its toll on Rich. He had
friends in Maine and had visited
Biddeford Pool. Each time he
returned to Philadelphia, he
kept mulling over taking a dif-
ferent direction. That eventually
led him to sell his restaurant
and club and move his family to
Peaks Island, where they
bought a home four years ago.

Rich says, “At first I was
somewhat disappointed in the
intellectual life I found in Port-
land. I was looking for lectures
and classes, and I somehow
found OLLI and started taking
classes three and a half years
ago.”

He approached Jack Lynch,
who was teaching a folk music
class. “I explained my back-
ground. He asked me to join his
class as sort of a color analyst.”

Rich was soon asked to join
the Advisory Board. As a mem-
er of the Education Commit-
tee, he was urged to teach a folk
music class based on the society
in which folk music grew. Thus
came his present class, “This
Class Is Not about Bob Dylan:
History of American Folk Mu-
sic.”

“It’s a case of music sung by
the poorer people in the South
and passed on from person to
person. It flourished in the rural
areas, the mountains, the cotton
fields, the prisons. Anthropolo-
gists Alan Lomax and Harry
Smith traveled through the area
recording hillbillies, sharecrop-
pers, and bluesmen. They both
transcribed and translated the
songs.”

He points out that the differ-
ence between folk and country
music is arguable. “It’s de-
efined by whom the music pub-
lishers are selling it to.”

For his class, Rich has relied
on some literature, but he has
largely used his own back-
ground as a resource. The In-
ternet has also proved invalua-
ble. “I can track down a par-
ticular song from its author,
who featured it, the arguments
over copyrights, the resulting
court cases, and what record-
ing are available.”

Rich has fit in to his new
home on Peaks Island. He
served one year on the Town
Council, where he found out,
“The smaller the concern, the
angrier the people. However,
I’ve done my civic duty.”

—Don King

Did it!

OLLI member Linda
McLoon’s first two books in
the Brookmeade Young Riders
Series, Crown Prince and
Crown Prince Challenged,
were published last fall by Tra-
falgar Square Books. They
have garnered praise from best-
selling authors, teachers, pro-
fessional horsemen, and read-
ers of all ages for their believa-
bility, accuracy to equestrian
detail, and lessons in horse-
manship, friendship, and grow-
ning up.

One reviewer wrote: “Plenty
of excitement to keep young
readers turning the pages as
they absorb accurate infor-
mation about riding and horse
care, as well as a few important
life lessons!”

Linda will be presenting an
illustrated PowerPoint at vari-
ous venues in Maine. For more
information, go to her website:
www.LindaSnowMcLoon.com

Remember to pick up a
CLYNK bag at the office
for your deposit bottles
and cans!
Two days in May

Our OLLI Spring Celebration 2013 will encompass two days in May. Plan now to join us for “Ninth Week” to celebrate us and what we do. The creative sharing and performances are as follows:

Thursday, May 16, 2013

| Room 102 | 10:30 a.m.  | Poetry Group |
| Room 102 | 1:00 p.m.  | Memoir Writers |
| Room 133 | 1:00 p.m.  | OLLI Senior Players SIG (Special Interest Group) |
| Room 102 | 3:00 p.m.  | OLLI Singers |

Refreshments will be served following the Singers’ concert.

Friday, May 17, 2013

| Room 102 | 10:00 a.m.  | Art Show (all day) |
| Room 102 | 12:30 p.m.  | Recorder Ensemble Group |
| Room 133 | 1:00 p.m.  | OLLI Players Performance Class |

Refreshments will be served following the 1:00 p.m. performance.

We urge you, our peers, to bring your family and friends to “Two Days in May” and enjoy our community of talented people.

We have a crazy idea! You could bring your lunch and stay for the day to enjoy all that is being offered to you free of charge. Say “YES” and help us CELEBRATE!

—OLLI Community Committee

It’s raffle time!

Twice a year OLLI bolsters its scholarship fund to provide course opportunities for students who cannot afford the tuition. Members have been generous in their support by purchasing raffle tickets, which have been available since April 24 and will be on sale till May 16.

A drawing will be held on May 17 during the Ninth Week festivities at the end of the semester. First prize will be tuition for two classes or their equivalent in SAGE programs or workshops. Second prize will be tuition for one class and membership for next year. Tickets are $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00. Think of this as a Win-Win Raffle: two lucky people will receive free courses, and our OLLI scholarship fund will benefit from generous donations from the rest of us. Look for the table in the lobby or a fellow student in your classroom and get your tickets.
Inside Wishcamper: The lobby, the library, and the atrium
Walking Club plans two trips in May

**Wednesday, May 8:** The Walking Club will enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Prouts Neck Cliff Walk in Scarborough, and we will eat our lunches at a nearby home.

**Tuesday, May 28:** We will try a visit to the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge and the Wells Reserve in Wells. This walk was rained out last year, though two hardy walkers did make the trip there.

As usual, we meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring your lunch and be prepared for sun and insects, depending on the weather. These are not difficult walks, but there will be some uneven ground.

Call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 if you have any questions.

**OLLI Night Out:**
**Parker’s supper set again for May 20**

May flowers will be celebrated while we have a delicious supper at Parker’s. This was a March selection, which was snowed out.

We will meet Monday, May 20, at 6 p.m. at the restaurant, which is located at 1349 Washington Ave. It’s just a few blocks north of Canco. There’s plenty of parking.

Check out the Veal Parmesan or Seafood Marinara. Molto buono!

To reserve a place, please call or e-mail Barbara by Friday, May 17.

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

**Time remains to join trip to Fruitlands**

There is still time to sign up for the June 12 trip to Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Mass., historical site of a 19th century utopian living experiment and home to collections of Native American and early American art as well as Shaker documents and artifacts.

The 2013 season includes contemporary art with an Artist in Residence and a juried Art-in-Nature sculpture exhibit. A side trip to the unique Museum of Russian Icons rounds out the day.

To reserve, call the OLLI office or mail in your reservation and the $47.00 fee. **There will be no refunds after May 31.**