Profile

Matt Goldfarb

Both teacher and student: That’s Matt Goldfarb

M att Goldfarb was Portland born and bred. He biked his paper route, whatever the weather. His family had lived at eight local addresses by the time he graduated from Deering High School. “We couldn’t pay the rent,” Matt explains drolly.

He went on to a 50-year career as an attorney, specializing in civil law with a focus on collections. Matt returned to the Portland area in 1965, and now lives with his wife, Lynn, in Cumberland Foreside.

Matt joined OLLI four years ago, after retirement. He started teaching early on, but the course content was not necessarily what you might expect from a lawyer. His first offering was “Mark Twain and Huckleberry Finn: Two Missouri Boys Who Changed the World,” which addressed “the paradox of Samuel Clemens growing up in a slave state and how he came to write the greatest English language novel that was anti-racist.”

Matt has always been interested in literature. “It is what I would have done if I hadn’t thought it was necessary to prepare for a legal career. I didn’t think I would be able to hack it in academia.” Among the first OLLI classes he took were a Great Books course with Mary Collins, and John Collins’s (no relation) course on Russian literature.

He subsequently took other courses with John Collins, including “James Joyce’s Dubliners and Sherwood Anderson’s Winesburg, Ohio: A Comparative Study.” Likely influenced by his father, a motion picture projectionist, Matt is taking two film courses this
fall, with Pat Reef and Stephen Gleit.

His experience in Janet Gunn’s years-long course on Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time* (yes, he has read the entire work) was profound. “It was the best I’ve ever experienced in peer teaching. I got a rush from the intellectual excitement,” he says. Beyond that, class members forged an emotional bond. “There was a lot of soul-baring,” he says, due in large part to the early prompting of a class member who passed away while the group was still meeting. “We all came together and shared our reactions. We depended on each other.” Several of his Gunn/Proust classmates have taken the courses that Matt teaches.

Recently elected to the OLLI Advisory Board, Matt had already served on the Education Committee for several years. He is the new SAGE lecture chair, and in that capacity is looking for speakers “with a certain amount of scintillating character—content as well as sizzle.” The slate for spring 2016 is a work in progress.

In addition to his Twain class, Matt teaches “Anti-Semitism 2015: Current and Historical Arc of 2500 Years,” which he offers for the second time this fall. He has collaborated with faculty member Kathleen Sutherland to present “The Ethnic Fabric of Portland,” a course that assembled older, settled immigrants as well as more recent asylum seekers for discussion of the city’s diverse makeup.

Matt feels “the impulse to teach.” As an attorney, he worked mostly as a solo practitioner under contract to insurance companies, but he also led seminars for continuing legal education concerns. Among these was “Bridging the Gap,” a program of the Maine State Bar Association, which addressed the needs of lawyers newly admitted to the bar.

Matt’s teaching and lecturing in continuing legal education forums became the foundation for his joining the OLLI faculty. He is a keen observer of teaching styles and methods, noting especially what techniques promote spontaneity in the classroom. He appreciates the teacher who can foster comfort levels that “let thoughts and ideas cascade over [the students’] heads like a shower.” He learned from Janet Gunn, for example, “to present ideas in a way that the class responds to naturally, and becomes an organism.”

Matt earned an AB in History and Government from Boston University, then an LL.B. from Boston University School of Law. He and Lynn have two children. Leah Beth is a tutor who has two adult children and a stepdaughter. She and her husband, Stuart Farmelant, are moving to the New York City metro area. Jamie is a lawyer in New York City. He and his wife, Alyson, have three children.

Like many OLLI folks, Matt and Lynn travel a good deal. They have been to most Western European countries; distant lands such as China, India, Russia, and South Africa; Mexico; and “pretty much every Caribbean island you can think of.” Closer to home, they planned a mid-September trip to New York to spend the Jewish New Year with Jamie and his family.

Matt was back in time for classes, as teacher and student.

—Amy Liston

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**Fall 2015 OLLI RAFFLE!!**

**YOU can support the OLLI Scholarship Fund**

**AND have a chance to win FREE CLASSES!!**

**October 26 – November 6, 2015**

**Wishcamper Center Lobby**
The OLLI Advisory Board came back to school early this fall, meeting for a retreat in August to work on planning for 2015 and beyond. This is the designated year for us to update our long-range plan, and our ad hoc strategic planning team has met often in the past several months to draft three-year goals, along with objectives for this current year. This month, the Board will finalize these and then share with the membership our plan to keep OLLI vibrant over the next three years.

September was a busy month, with 80 classes and workshops getting underway. Did you notice new faces in the hallways and classrooms? Many new students have joined OLLI and 25 of them came to an orientation the week before classes started. It was interesting to hear the many ways that people learned about us—mostly through word of mouth, but occasionally from having attended an OLLI in another part of the country—and then looking for a similar learning experience when moving here.

Speaking of other OLLIs, did you know that there are now 119 OLLIs around the country, and that each one is unique? Steve Thaxton, new Director of the OLLI National Resource Center (and former 2014–2015 graduate student intern in our office) put it this way: “To know one OLLI is to know one OLLI.” If you’ve attended classes at another OLLI, you understand this. Yet we have much in common. Other than all having received endowment funds from the Bernard Osher Foundation, we all adhere to certain required guidelines. Our programs must include the following:

- Non-credit educational programs specifically designed for seasoned adults aged 50 and older
- Strong support from the leadership of a university or college
- A diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating courses
- Robust volunteer leadership
- Established mechanisms for evaluating participant satisfaction with educational offerings
- Sound organizational structure

Although there are many senior colleges throughout the country, only 119 are OLLIs. While there are 17 senior colleges in Maine, of which we are one, we are the only OLLI.

Susan Morrow and I are heading off to Charlotte, North Carolina, this month for the Osher Institutes National Conference. I really look forward to networking with volunteer leaders of other OLLIs, talking about our experiences, learning about their challenges and successes, and sharing some stories with you next month.

Hope you are all enjoying your fall classes!

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

OLLI Runs on Volunteers • OLLI Runs on Volunteers
NOTES FROM SUSAN

Our Fall Term is up and running and going as smoothly as possible. As you all know, this was the first Fall Term of online registration. Almost 80% of our members used the online system to register! I'm so proud of all of you.

Many of you have been willing to step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. Most people have found the online registration system easier than they had expected.

And there is another reason I'm so impressed at the smooth opening of the term. I was out of the office for all but three days of the three weeks before classes began. As you can imagine, this is the busiest time for the OLLI staff.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff, but especially Rob, for the extra time and effort they put in to make sure everything was done and ready for the start of the term.

Rob not only completed his job, he picked up most of my "start of the term" workload, oversaw the recently returned work-study students, worked with the fall faculty, and provided all customer service that the office volunteers could not provide—an overwhelming job at an extremely busy time. And he did it all with patience and grace.

I am truly grateful to him and appreciate all he brings to OLLI.

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

Yoga Meditation Offered

For three weeks in October, you can learn and enjoy SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION. This discipline is an opportunity for you to learn a particular technique that is helpful to find inner quiet and serenity, and to alleviate stress. This time-limited SIG could be a gift to yourself.

Karen DeNitto will facilitate the sessions. She holds a BA from Vassar College, an MEd from Lesley University, and has completed studies in Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, she has studied and traveled with the founder of Sahaja Yoga Technique.

You may join Karen, free of charge, on any or all of the following:
Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m. on October 6, 20, and 27.

No physical movement or stretching is involved. For more information, please contact Karen DeNitto at karenann108@gmail.com and provide your name and telephone number so she may call you.
Help Foreign Students Improve Their English Fluency

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., Oct. 15 to Nov. 19.

This is an opportunity to engage in fascinating conversations with students from countries such as Japan, Mexico, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Syria, Congo, and Saudi Arabia. Classroom instructors will suggest topics and offer interactive activities to keep the conversations lively. No charge. Speaking a foreign language is not a requirement in order to participate.

Contact Michelle Perry at michelle.d.perry@maine.edu 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, 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

From the Education Committee

Brown Bag Lunch

Michael Wygant will speak on “Experiences in the USSR During the Cold War” on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 11:45 to 12:45 in Room 113.

Michael had a 30-plus-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy.

He will talk about life in Moscow during the period, which included the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and the later Ussuri River Conflict in the Soviet Far East, a violent confrontation pitting the Red Army against Chinese troops.

He traveled around the USSR during this period and will talk about some of his experiences in the Russian interior and in such places as Ukraine and Belarus.

OLLI History Book Club

We invite you to join us!

If you love history, you might really enjoy becoming a part of this Special Interest Group. Just beginning our fourth year, we have read a wide array of books dealing with history—including biographies, non-fiction books covering a specific topic, and some fiction.

We meet at 3:15 in Wishcamper, usually on the second Wednesday of the month (except for December, July, and August). Members take turns facilitating the discussion.

The next two books on our reading schedule are The Flowering of Ireland – Saints, Scholars and Kings by Katherine Sherman on Oct. 14 and Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China by Peter Hessler on Nov. 4.

For more information or a complete schedule for the year, please contact Susan Gesing, susangesing@gmail.com. All OLLI members are welcome!
Harvard Art Museums Next for OLLI Excursions

OLLI Excursions will go to the Harvard Art Museums on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The recent reconfiguration and expansion of the three art museums at Harvard have united their remarkable collections under one roof. Under construction for six years and reopened last November, the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler--each with a different history, collection, guiding philosophy and identity--are now known collectively as the Harvard Art Museums.

The problem of designing a contemporary addition to the Fogg's Georgian Revival building was solved by prize-winning Italian architect Renzo Piano. Now, connecting the historic with the contemporary architecture of the new building, is a striking pyramidal glass roof creating a stunning atrium overlooked by several stories of galleries.

Objects exhibited are from the vast holdings of western art from the Middle Ages to the present (Fogg), works from central and northern Europe (Busch-Reisinger), and pieces from Asia and the Middle East (Sackler). The three collections retain their distinct identities in this "new" museum. Yet when interspersed, they provide exciting opportunities to experience works of art in a broader context.

OLLI's own art historians Tan and Joy Larrabee have made a preliminary visit to HAM and will accompany the trip to prepare you for many of the works you will see. They will also be in the galleries during our stay.

Lunch is on your own. Snacks, sandwiches and salads are available from the small but delightful museum cafe.

Trip is limited to 42 OLLI members. Cost is $45 and includes the tip for the bus driver. Departure is from Wishcamper Center at 8:30, returning to Portland at approximately 5:30. Deadline for registration is Oct. 22. There will be no refunds after that unless the space is filled from the waiting list.

To reserve, use the online OLLI registration system beginning Oct. 5 (www.usm.maine.edu/OLLI). OR, beginning Oct. 9, you may mail your check to OLLI, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104, OR you can call 780-4406 to pay with a card, OR you can register in person at the OLLI office.

For further information call Gael McKibben at 774-7177.
For all you bikers: Get ready to roll

“NEWS FLASH!! The SIGs (Special Interest Groups) have had their first meetings. So the fun has begun! Here’s what the BIKE & NOSH group is up to in October; then the group will be on hiatus until spring.

As background: The Bike and Nosh interest group organized in the spring and has taken several rides since then. The destinations have included the Eastern Trail in Scarborough and Old Orchard Beach, South Portland (with stops at Scratch Bakery and 158), and a lovely day on Chebeague Island.

Three rides are planned for October. If you'd like to join us, please sign a release form (available at the OLLI office) and contact the leader listed by each ride.

After our winter hiatus, we will hold a planning meeting in March to set dates for the next batch of rides. If you'd like to get on the list to be notified, please contact Shoshana Hoose (shoshanahoose@gmail.com)

Upcoming Rides

Oct. 2, 9:20 a.m., meet at Casco Bay Ferry Terminal to catch 9:30 boat to Peaks Island for a ride around the island. Contact Ginny Remick (ginnyleejoyce@yahoo.com).

Oct. 18, 1 p.m., New Gloucester ride through apple orchards to see fall foliage, exact location TBA. Ride will be 20+ miles with a shorter option. Contact Shoshana (shoshanahoose@gmail.com).

Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m., Old Orchard Beach, exact distance and location TBA. Contact Steve Shapiro (spshap@maine.rr.com).

OLLI Creative Arts Committee

Come take a look at the new exhibit of OLLI art work on the Gallery Wall outside the door to the OLLI office on the second floor. Whether you make a special trip (it's worth a special trip), or wander over during a class break, come check out the work of our talented artists.

Exhibitors for the Fall 2015 exhibit are Sidney Lincoln, Ann Adjutant, Didi Washburn, and Nancy Chadbourne. Thanks to Sidney, Ann, Didi, and Nancy for allowing us a chance to enjoy their work.

If you are interested in displaying your art on the Gallery Wall, contact Sidney Lincoln to get your name on the list. There is a new exhibit each spring and fall.

Foreside Tavern next for Night Outers

Welcome October and fall by joining us for dinner at the Foreside Tavern in Falmouth.

A great favorite of ours, this cozy family-owned restaurant features food from local sources like Silvery Moon Cheese and Harbor Fish. Their selections are unusual but beautifully prepared, and the service is excellent.

Check out the website for information and a menu: www.theforesidetavern.com.

Be sure to be part of our gathering.

When: Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Foreside Tavern,
207 Route 1, Falmouth,
781-4255

Call or write me.
—Barbara Bardack
865-2009
lascala2@comcast.net
Two October Treks for OLLI Walkers

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, we will visit Kelsey Brook in Freeport. We have walked here before, through the woods along the brook with some uneven terrain and some elevation, and with a bit of fall foliage to view. It's a pleasant fall site. For lunch we may head to the Bow St. Market, where there are tables inside. ([freeportconservationtrust.org/areas/east-freeport-trails](http://freeportconservationtrust.org/areas/east-freeport-trails))

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, we will try a new walk for our group in Cumberland. It's Knight's Pond and Blueberry Hill, with a "ridge of rare hickory and oak" and a delightful hidden pond along the way, where we may find a spot to eat our lunch, weather permitting. This walk should provide some beautiful foliage, a variety of terrain, and some elevation. We will have a guide with us to explain this unique and abundant community treasure. ([www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/knights-pond-and-blueberry-hill](http://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/knights-pond-and-blueberry-hill))

We will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford on the Marginal Way end at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring your lunch and water. Walking sticks may be useful. If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304.

Want to Keep Fit?

Here’s a reminder that all OLLI members can join the Sullivan Rec & Fitness Complex for the visiting college price of $45 for 4 months, $75 for 8 months, or $100 for 12 months if they would like.

From the website:

The Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex, a Department of Student & University Life, is a multipurpose facility designed with your fitness, recreation, and wellness in mind and conveniently located on the Portland Campus of the University of Southern Maine.

The complex boasts two air-conditioned fitness centers in addition to locker rooms with saunas. The main Fitness Center is a larger weight room offering a large free weight selection, and a variety of weight and elliptical machines. The Body Shop is a smaller fitness center with a variety of weight and elliptical machines, and a smaller free weight area. Either Fitness Center can accommodate the needs of all students and members. The complex also houses the main gym, comprised of three basketball courts, three racquetball courts, a squash court, and two multipurpose rooms. Racquetball courts can also be converted for Wallyball play.

We also offer Pickleball on Tuesday afternoons this semester from 1 to 2 p.m.

Check us out at [http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex](http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex).