Profile

Mike Berkowitz

*Clearly a man who likes to have fun*

Mike Berkowitz has been bringing his unique perspective and teaching methods to OLLI since 2009. During that time he has delivered 16 courses, given workshops, led brown bag discussions, made presentations at two “Wrinkle in Time” events, and served on the Education Committee. Mike’s classes at OLLI offer a psychology-based perspective on a variety of topics.

**How are your classes structured?**

“In the current offering ‘Psychology Looks at the Movies, 8,’ for example, I’ll do a 15-minute psych mini-lecture, show selected clips from movies for another 15 minutes, and then open the discussion on how the movies show those aspects of psychology and what the implications are for today’s society. Psychology is rich and exciting, offering insight into ourselves and society. I try to use it to challenge folks to think in new ways.”

Past classes have included other topics for Psychology Looks At—news, inequality, history, society, schools, heroes, grandchildren, experiments, literature, and culture—along with lighter fare such as songs of the ‘60s, mind/body, ourselves. Workshops and brown bags have included a simple look at science, creating PowerPoint slideshows, and building Web pages.

Mike offered a 45-minute brown bag session: “Is Our Justice Just?” on April 28th and will teach an expanded summer course, “Psychology Looks at Justice.” For the Fall semester he will offer “Psychology Looks at Elections.”

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Education and Career Highlights

After completing his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology at Brown University in 1972 and his Master’s in Child Behavior and Development at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst in 1975, Mike began a teaching career that spanned more than 30 years, included early childhood to undergraduate students, and took him across the country to Oregon and as far south as Miami. His longest stint was teaching fifth grade in Limerick, Maine.

Is there a favorite time/place/student body that stands out?

“Each experience was exciting and different, everything fit at the time it happened, and I have found my niche at OLLI. At first I was nervous about the intelligence levels and experiences of members. On my first day I learned that one student had published two psychology books! I soon realized the richness, maturity, and enthusiasm people bring to my classes—very different from teaching undergraduates. I love the variety of learning experiences offered at OLLI. It provides such good opportunities for people who want to stay active and involved. Teaching here has helped me find my sense of purpose after retiring.

“However, there is something that concerns me. My classes tend to be about ninety percent liberal, leaving little room for conservative views. I’m a liberal, and while I make my position clear, I’m open to and interested in hearing both sides of an issue. I would like to see the liberals in my classes become more open to listening to the conservative side. In a learning environment like OLLI, we need to respect and allow for differences, even if we respectfully decline to agree with them.”

What are some of your other interests?

Self-publishing – “I wrote poems about teaching elementary school and self-published the collection. There are so many tools on the Web now to help this process; I found it fun, very satisfying. I highly recommend it.”

Hiking – “I set myself a goal when I turned 50 to hike the entire Appalachian Trail over seven summers, a few weeks at a time as a ‘section hiker,’ not a ‘through hiker.’ It was a valuable learning experience that left me with a sense of accomplishment when I completed it. I’m currently hiking in all the National Parks; I’ve been to 40 so far, leaving five more to do.”

Running – “I ran the Boston marathon in 1978 in 3 hours and 40 minutes. Bill Rodgers, whose picture was in the paper, quit after 2 hours and 10 minutes that year.”

Basketball – “I played until I was 60, proving practice doesn’t make perfect.”

Serious yard work – “I like exercise that gives me a sense of accomplishment, like cutting down 50-foot trees with a bow saw, or shoveling snow off a 100-foot driveway.”

Relaxation – “I enjoy movies and making my own pizza, which I found necessary when moving to Maine 35 years ago.”

Entrepreneurial experience – “I ran the world’s smallest small business, making educational materials for teachers. It was a fun, fascinating, financial failure that Turbo Tax said would be reclassified as a hobby, not a business, since it didn’t make any money.”

We OLLI members are indeed fortunate to have so many diverse opportunities to expand our awareness and exercise our mental muscles with instructors of the caliber of Mike Berkowitz.

—Pat Walsh
Advisory Board

[This year we are featuring one of our standing committees in each monthly Advisory Board column. The Community Committee is highlighted for May, and Chair Paula Johnson provides this update on the committee’s activities.]

It’s an OLLI World After All

Since I discovered OLLI, I have shared my delight and enjoyment of the classes, SIGs, and all that OLLI offers. Now, as Chair of the Community Committee, I’m sharing with you what the committee does for all of you. The Community Committee’s mission is to strengthen a sense of community among all members. Some of the ways we are doing that is through events like the following:

- One Book/One Community
- Wrinkle in Time
- Local Excursions (“Hidden Treasures”)  
- Day Trips (beyond Maine; e.g., Boston)
- Extended Travel (OLLI Administration with assist by committee)  
- Literary Fair and/or Writers Showcase (upcoming May 2nd )  
- Spring (May) and Fall (November) Celebrations, a/k/a Ninth Week*

*Due to various factors, there are times when these celebrations fall on or before so-called ninth week. Look for the Spring Celebration announcement on page 6 of this newsletter.

We are open to creating new events, either educational or social, that would appeal to OLLI members and foster bonding among our members. Most of all, we want to have fun—you know, “Live, Laugh, Love.” Reminder to all, the rule of thumb is to plan events held at non-class times. If you have ideas, please let us hear from you!

Additionally, we have oversight of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These groups meet after classes from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. and are open to all OLLI members. They are listed in our course catalogs with coordinator contact information and meeting times. SIG members share ideas and their expertise with one another. These SIGs are not classes and are meant to be fun experiences for those who participate. Please read the OLLI Newsletter for updates on the SIGs. The Walking Club, OLLI Night Out, and the Bike & Nosh SIGs publish information of dates and times of their events. Other SIGs meet either weekly or monthly at the Wishcamper Center.

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NOTES FROM SUSAN

At our bimonthly University Division meeting, I was asked to report on what has been happening at OLLI for the past month, what’s happening currently, and how the summer is shaping up. Others at the meeting had three or four things to report. I had 10 major items. Here’s my list:

1. Spring term is going very well. After the rough start of registration, enrollments are slightly ahead of last Spring.

2. “Wrinkle In Time,” our 3-day event in March, was a glowing success.

3. SAGE, our Tuesday morning lecture series, is both interesting and well-attended this spring.

4. Summer catalogs have been mailed to members. OLLI at USM is offering 20 classes and 16 workshops this summer.

5. On-line registration for summer begins Tuesday, May 10. A representative from our registration software company will be here on site to assure smooth registration.

6. The OLLI annual book sale will be held May 6 and 7. All proceeds from the sale go to OLLI scholarships, allowing people to attend classes, workshops, and lectures who might not be able to otherwise.

7. The Ninth Week Spring Celebration will be Saturday, May 7, with lots going on all day.

8. The OLLI Advisory Board will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in May.

9. OLLI will sponsor a day trip to Quincy, Massachusetts, to visit the Adams National Historical Park.

10. OLLI will be traveling to the Tuscany region of Italy in November. This trip includes Florence, Venice, Pisa, Siena, and Cinque Terre.

Whew! OLLI at USM continues to be a vibrant and active community with many, many volunteers to allow all of these things to happen. What a program!

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director for Program

OLLI Book Sale

Final notice for the sale on Friday, May 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. for OLLI and USM community members, and on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all.

Donated books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles will still be accepted at the OLLI Office through May 5.

Remember that the proceeds are supporting OLLI scholarships.
Advisory Board  (Continued from page 3)

This committee’s Creative Arts Subcommittee is to be commended for their work in the Gallery outside the OLLI Office on the second floor. They change the art work periodically and announce this in the Newsletter. Please see the April Newsletter announcement; we are looking for fall exhibitors.

As Chair of the Community Committee, I find that words are not enough to thank all the folks that contribute their time and talents to help us meet our goals. We are a volunteer organization, and all of you have created a wonderful OLLI world for all of us. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

—Paula Johnson, Chair
OLLI Community Committee
pjohnso1@maine.rr.com

Etatonin Shrdlu — A Personal Journey

I’ll get to who Etaoin Shrdlu was in a minute. For now, I want to tell about the OLLI Excursion to David Wolfe Editions, an old-fashioned hot-metal typesetting and letterpress printing studio. We were also visited by Mark Jamra, an internationally known type designer, who developed the first commercially available and most complete typeface for the Cherokee language. This was one of the Excursions’ “Hidden Treasures” visits, led by our intrepid Gael McKinnon.

David Twiss, David Wolfe’s associate, showed us around the studio, explaining how the equipment worked, including the linotype, a Monotype machine, and various antique printers.

The linotype machine brought back vivid memories. I hadn’t seen one in action in about half a century. Typesetters once assembled lines of text one letter or number at a time, creating each line on a composing stick. It was a slow and laborious process.

Then in 1884 Ottmar Mergenthaler invented a machine that would cast whole lines of type on the fly. Strike a key on the keyboard, and a bunch of connecting levers released a mold, or matrix, from a compartment corresponding to the letter on the key and dropped it into a narrow tray. When a line of matrices was complete, an alloy of molten lead flowed into the line, creating an entire line of type. The matrices then traveled on a

Clockwise from upper left: Galley tray with linotype slugs, linotype machine, etain shrdlu, small printing press, David Twiss, handset type

(Continued on page 6)
It’s that time again! **Saturday, May 7th**, is the date to bring yourself to the Wishcamper Center to be with friends, to be entertained, and to socialize. The happenings are as follows:

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Book Sale</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>Photography Gallery</td>
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**Performances:**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Reader’s Theater Class</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Recorders</td>
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<td>11:15 – 12 Noon</td>
<td>OLLI Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dance Demonstration</td>
<td>Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>OLLI Senior Players</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong>*</td>
<td>Forum</td>
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*** Bring your brown bag lunch; drinks will be provided.

*** Please support our OLLI Scholarship Fund and purchase your dessert from the Book Sale gang.

Peruse the book sale; view the amazing Photography Gallery; and enjoy the music, dance, and theater entertainments of your friends. Come celebrate the talent of your fellow OLLI members and show your support of all that is OLLI!

—*The Community Committee*
OLLI Excursions Travels Back in Time

On Tuesday, June 14, OLLI Excursions will spend the day at the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Massachusetts. OLLI’s own John Sutherland will lead us into the lives of John Adams (1735–1826), America’s second President, and that of his son, John Quincy Adams (1767–1848), sixth U.S. President. John will also explore the achievements of the third and fourth Adams generations.

What stands out in the lives of John and John Quincy Adams is not only their presidencies, but that those offices do not define their remarkable careers. John’s pre-presidential service was outstanding, and he led the way in demanding independence from Great Britain. His diplomacy was vital in ending the Revolutionary War and then acquiring recognition and assistance from European nations. And his fiercely independent wife, Abigail, relentlessly pushed against the boundaries of women’s place in late 18th century America.

John Quincy’s diplomatic successes include being on the negotiating team that ended the War of 1812. As Secretary of State, he authored the Monroe Doctrine, which precluded further European colonization in the Western Hemisphere. Following his presidency he battled against Congress’s refusal to consider citizen petitions against slavery, thus becoming a major anti-slavery spokesperson.

He remained an unyielding defender of First Amendment free speech rights. Louisa Catherine, his wife, was a great political asset. In her letters, poetry, and memoirs she moved into the realm of mid-19th century feminism.

The tour’s first stop is at the United First Parish Church and the Adams family crypt. Following a light buffet lunch, we will tour the birthplaces of the two presidents. Lastly, we will drive to “Peacefield,” known to the family as the “Old House,” and home of four generations of the Adams family. There we will not only tour the house, full of original Adams furnishings and artifacts, but have time to explore the beautiful gardens and the Stone Library, the Adams’s private library of over 14,000 books, documents, and maps.

The trip is limited to 49 OLLI members. Cost is $57, which includes our lunch and the tip for the bus driver. Departure is from the Wishcamper Center at 8:15 a.m., returning to Portland at approximately 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is May 27. There will be no refunds after that unless the space can be filled from a waiting list. To reserve, use one of these methods:

- Beginning May 10 by using the online OLLI registration system (www.usm.maine.edu/olli)
- Beginning May 17 by mailing your check to OLLI, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104
- Beginning May 17 by calling 780-4406 to pay with a credit card
- Beginning May 17 by registering in person at the office.

Don’t procrastinate too long, as seats will fill quickly. For questions contact Gael McKibben (774-7177) or John Sutherland (420-3620).
History Book Readers Invited

OLLI members are invited to join the History Book Reading Group, which meets the second Wednesday of the month, at 3:15 p.m. (3:00 when no classes are held), September through June, in room 205. Book choices are submitted by attendees, 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.

May 11: Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War, by Tony Horwitz. This book is a hard-driving narrative of one of America’s most troubling historical figures: the fearsome John Brown, whose blood-soaked raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in October 1859—a “misguided, wild and apparently insane” act, in the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison’s words—helped to push the nation into the most devastating war it would ever endure.

June 8: Isabella: The Warrior Queen, by Kirstin Downey. This is a biography of Queen Isabella of Castile, the controversial ruler of Spain who sponsored Columbus’s journey to the New World, established the Spanish Inquisition, and became one of the most influential female rulers in history. Born at a time when Christianity was dying out and the Ottoman Empire was aggressively expanding, Isabella was inspired in her youth by tales of Joan of Arc, a devout young woman who unified her people and led them to victory against foreign invaders. In 1474, 23-year-old Isabella defied a hostile brother and a mercurial husband to seize control.

For more information, e-mail Sue Gesing at susangesing@gmail.com.

OLLI at USM is Going to Tuscany!

The 2016 international trip is to the Tuscany region of Italy. Our 9-day trip will be November 12–20, 2016. We’ll stay in one hotel for the entire time and make day trips to Florence, Venice, Pisa, Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano and Cinque Terre. Flight, hotel, buses, guides, and ALL MEALS in local restaurants are included in the price!

The cost for the trip is $2775 (double occupancy). In addition, every traveler must purchase travel insurance. Once again, we will be traveling with AAA. Randy Scott, our AAA agent, will travel with us to ensure that the trip goes smoothly.

All travelers must be OLLI members, and they must be able to walk 1.5 miles unassisted over uneven terrain and climb the equivalent of two flights of stairs.

Registration forms can be picked up in the OLLI office. A $300 deposit is required with your registration. Registration forms will be accepted in the OLLI office beginning Thursday, May 5, until the trip is filled. This trip can only accommodate 40 travelers, so register early: it is bound to be a sell-out!
Join the Bike & Nosh Group in Old Orchard Beach, Naples

We have two rides scheduled in May. You are welcome to join us, provided you are a current OLLI member and you return a release form to the office. Please notify the ride leaders below if you plan to come on one or both of the rides.

**Wednesday, May 4, at 9:15 a.m.: Old Orchard Beach loop**—either 10 or 20 miles. Meet near the Old Orchard Beach train station, 11 First St. Let’s assume that parking across from the station will still be without charge at this early date.

The ride will be in two parts, each about 10 miles. We’ll first ride southwest to Camp Ellis and return to the center of town. For the next part we’ll ride in the opposite direction to Pine Point, and then head up to the Eastern Trail and ride to a connector trail down back to the starting spot.

A nosh spot is Beach Bagels, near the center of town. This is a chance for a road ride before the roads get busy. We’ll make stops to view the ocean—maybe you have a favorite area to visit.

Ride leader is Steve Shapiro: spshap@maine.rr.com or 774-7383. (Cell 518-0100 day of ride only). Possible rain date is the following Friday.

**Wednesday, May 25, at 9:30 a.m.: Naples**—Park at Naples Town Hall on Route 302, less than a mile north of Naples Causeway, on the left. We will ride on back roads to several parks of Sebago Lake State Parks. Bring a picnic lunch.

Most of the roads will be tarred roads; some areas within the park will be hard-packed gravel. The total ride is approximately 18 miles.

Notify Connie Piper, ride leader, by Tuesday, May 24, if you ARE coming: npiper@maine.com or 712-0974. If you have a last-minute change of plans, please let her know.

Like Italian? Ricetta’s Is for You

Our May OLLI Night Out will be held at Ricetta’s Brick Oven Ristorante, which has been voted Maine’s best pizza for over the past 20 years. That’s molto buono.

Choose from a wide variety of Northern Italian cuisine including antipasti, soups, pastas, mouthwatering entrees, and delicious desserts. We love the atmosphere, too.

Be sure to join us.

**When:** Tuesday, May 17, at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Ricetta’s, 240 US Route 1, Falmouth; 781-3100; www.RICETTAS.com

**Reservations:** Please, by noon, Monday, May 16.

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

Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag at the office for your deposit bottles and cans! Proceeds benefit OLLI.
Walking Club Plans Two May Outings

On Wednesday, May 11, we will have another interesting outing, this time to Biddeford, to hike in Clifford Park, a large tract of forest that contains a granite quarry and several vernal pools along its 22 miles of trails. We will also be able to visit the renovated Pepperell Mill to see one of our former member’s apartment there. We will eat lunch by the Saco River if weather permits. Just Google Clifford Park for several news releases.

On Tuesday, May 24, we will make our yearly visit to the beautiful ocean walk along Prout’s Neck and have lunch at a member’s home nearby.

For both walks, we will meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 10 a.m. to carpool. Please bring a few dollars for gas money for your driver for the Biddeford outing, as we are going a bit farther from Portland than usual.

Watch the weather for both walks to determine best foot gear. Since this is the start of tick season, bring bug spray if you use it. Bring your lunch and water for both walks.

If you have any questions, please contact Rae Garcelon at raegarcelon@gmail.com, or call her at 846-3304.

Part of the largest group of 26 to participate in an OLLI walk in several years stops by the Royal River in Yarmouth to hear about the cotton and paper mills there.

A New Service for OLLI Members

Looking for a home for kittens? Want to share a ride to Boston? Have an old set of golf clubs that needs a new home?

Starting in early May, OLLI members can take advantage of a new community bulletin board across from the elevator on the ground floor of Wishcamper.

Fill out a card (provided) with info about whatever you are missing, needing, or offering, and post it on the board (thumbtacks provided) for other OLLI members to see and respond to. Include your contact information and the date of posting.

The Communications Committee will monitor the board and will remove older cards to refresh the offerings and to provide space for new cards. There is even a pen there in case you forget yours! Check the board before or after class or as you wait for the elevator, since new items may appear daily.

Let the posting begin.