Profile

Joy Larrabee

*Volunteering plays major role in Joy Larrabee’s life*

It might be somewhat fanciful to state that Joy Larrabee’s experience as a volunteer cook at Outward Bound on Penobscot Bay’s Hurricane Island helped to bring her and husband Tan (artist and regular OLLI teacher) to Portland.

Now one of the new members of the OLLI Advisory Board, Joy brings to the board a professional background amassed during 40 years of work in a variety of healthcare and university settings.

A Connecticut native, she moved to the Boston area while her husband went to graduate school. Joy began a career in nursing; she held a diploma in nursing from Hartford (Conn.) Hospital. Her specialty was in pediatric critical care. She moved into administration at Boston Children’s Hospital, where she became a nurse manager.

After 20 years in the Boston area, she and Tan moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he had taken a teaching position. Joy continued in administration as nurse manager at the Ohio State University Hospitals and Columbus Children’s Hospital. At Ohio State, she earned a B.S. in Nursing from the Department of Nursing and then an M.A. from the Department of Women’s Studies. During that time she was assistant director of Critical Care at Grant Hospital in Columbus and administrative associate to the chief operations officer at Columbus Children’s Hospital.

continued on page 4
I’m often asked, “What criteria does OLLI use to select its faculty and courses?” This has been an ongoing discussion since the beginning.

OLLI is different from “higher education.” OLLI students are not striving toward an accredited degree. We are lifelong learners, learning for the joy of it. We model peer learning. The faculty member of one class is the student in another. We recognize the life experience that every student brings to class.

OLLI encourages people to teach their passion. It might be their lifelong vocation, or it might be some newfound interest. We do not guarantee that every class is taught by a leading expert in the field. We do not rule out subject matter based on academic standards. One of the most marvelous things about OLLI at USM is the wide range of courses. And remember, all faculty volunteer their time and energy.

Very few “rules” apply to OLLI classes. One is that classes must have eight students to run. This is a USM standard and is a good guideline for OLLI. If eight people are interested in exploring a subject, OLLI supports their interest.

Not every class is right for every person. OLLI will do what it takes to satisfy our members. OLLI students may request a full refund during the first two weeks of classes. Anytime during the term, OLLI students may transfer from one class to another, space permitting.

In 14 years, there have been remarkably few “lemons” at OLLI. Hundreds and hundreds of wonderful courses have been taught by outstanding faculty. We are so lucky!

—Susan Morrow, Assistant Director of Program

Dick Budd planning Roman Republic course

Dick Budd would like to teach a course in the Fall term of 2012 titled “History of the Roman Republic.”

It will cover Rome’s rise from a small village to master of the Mediterranean, the social and military organization that made it possible, and the impact Roman institutions still have on our society.

Creating this course will require a great deal of work to organize all the information into a coherent series of lectures, and Dick wants to be sure that enough people are interested so that the course will get the necessary minimum of eight attendees.

If you would seriously consider taking this course, please e-mail him at ursus@maine.rr.com.
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OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings, which usually take place on the second Friday of the month. Check with the OLLI office for time and place. Please contact the chair if you wish to address the Board.

OLLI Advisory Board

This month I have a couple of items to share in the way of alerts regarding upcoming events and activities.

Shortly after the first of the year, you will receive a notice of an OLLI survey, which I encourage you to take the time to complete. It will be short but will contain some important questions and an opportunity for you to express your opinion about OLLI and what we have offered as well as thoughts about future OLLI opportunities.

I also want to remind you of the *Wrinkle in Time* event coming March 6 to 8. It is shaping up to be a tremendous experience and will be well worth attending. Look for further information in the early spring.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the faculty, who have provided a full and interesting array of courses for the Winter term.

—Dick Sturgeon, Chairman

Those returnables keep adding up for OLLI

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off a bag of returnable deposit bottles and cans at Hannaford using one of the OLLI Clynk bags.

If you haven’t picked up a bag yet, they are available on a table in the Wishcamper lobby or in the OLLI office.

OLLI Closings — Winter Weather Alerts

When the North Wind blows
And it really snows
OLLI will close.

When USM shuts it doors, so will we. Listen to radio alerts or call the USM Storm Line at 207-780-4800.
While in Ohio, Joy went into the teaching field, first as a teaching assistant at the Department of Woman’s Studies at Ohio State, and later as an instructor at the Department of Nursing at Otterbein College (now University) in Westerville, Ohio.

During many years, she and Tan spent summers in Canada on Prince Edward Island, where they have family ties and a summer home. She spent part of her summers as a volunteer on the cooking team at Outward Bound on Hurricane Island on Penobscot Bay. (She had previously attended Outward Bound on a dare from her son, who had already completed the program.)

When Tan decided to retire early, they knew where they wanted to be. “We found Portland a very livable city, one we wanted to be part of, and it was close to Prince Edward Island.” Before her own retirement, Joy continued teaching for five years as an assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at the University of New England.

Encouraged by Tan’s brother-in-law, a retired Unitarian minister, the Larabees joined the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church. The church’s concern with social issues was one particular attraction; Joy is now an at-large member of its Governing Board.

Retirement has involved an active volunteering career, with two efforts in particular using her nursing background. One was on a general surgical trip to Haiti, where, as she says “we worked very hard from 6 a.m. to midnight.” Another was a sojourn to India, where she passed on her knowledge in pediatric critical care to nurses.

Joy eventually found her way into OLLI. She started taking courses, particularly in literature: “I like the atmosphere; everyone has something to contribute. And I loved being in school, learning new things.”

Joy’s background drew the attention of Mary Collins, who brought her into the Education Committee. On the Advisory Board, Joy hopes her professional background can help the board in developing programs and solving problems.

Joy hasn’t given up teaching completely. She will teach a section on women at the *Wrinkle in Time* program in March.

—Don King

**Good news for those with hearing impairments**

OLLI has purchased a portable assistive listening device, which can be used in any Wishcamper classroom. Students using the device will be able to hear clearly through headsets that are directly linked to the instructor.

Any OLLI student with difficulty hearing may request the use of this system. Please contact the OLLI office as soon as you register for class if you wish to try this device.
Education Committee News

[Editor’s note: This is the second in a series of reports on the OLLI Standing Committees.]

The Education Committee’s charge is to shape the curriculum and recruit faculty, lecturers, and workshop instructors in order to provide a wide variety of educational opportunities for OLLI members in a creative and inclusive learning community.

This committee is responsible for providing faculty development and support, and for assuring stimulating courses and special education opportunities, over a wide variety of interest areas. The committee benefits from the wisdom and experience of Joan Chadbourne, Ken Hamilton, Val Hart, David LaGraffe, Joy Larrabee, Rich Machlin, David Morton, Annette Rowley, Betty Smith, Mary Jo Steckevicz, and Henry Warren. Joan Aldrich is Chair of the committee; she assembled the group for its first meeting on November 28.

Since then, Joy Larrabee, Rich Machlin, David Morton, and Joan Aldrich have met twice to review and analyze enrollment statistics from the past ten terms. Each took on a specific task — reviewing all the courses that failed to reach minimum enrollment; reviewing all the courses that did reach maximum enrollment; breaking the entire curriculum, over all ten terms, into categories by subject content — and so on.

Also, Joan Aldrich, David LaGraffe, and Ken Hamilton have been perusing websites of other OLLIs nationwide to glean ideas and to familiarize themselves with faculty recruitment practices elsewhere.

The SAGE lecture series, events such as *A Wrinkle in Time*, and historically, *One Book, One Community* all fall under the Education Committee’s responsibilities. The *Wrinkle in Time* Committee is coordinated by Sherrie Chapman and benefits from the excellent teamwork of Mary Collins, Terry Foster, Joy and Tan Larrabee, and Kathleen and John Sutherland. This group was formed prior to the creation of the current Education Committee, and our thanks go out to each participant. *A Wrinkle in Time* promises to be one of the most exciting OLLI events of 2012.

OLLI members are invited to share questions or concerns about the Education Committee’s work to any member of the committee. Contact any one of us in person, drop a note in the office mailbox, or e-mail Joan Aldrich at aldrich1822@gmail.com.

The OLLI website ([http://usm.maine.edu/olli](http://usm.maine.edu/olli)) provides a QUICK LINK to OLLI courses and lectures, as well as to the SAGE brochure. Past catalogs and SAGE brochures are listed as well.

Many thanks to Susan Morrow and Rob Hyssong for providing an excellent overview of recent enrollment statistics and of the history of OLLI at USM. We appreciate their teaming with us to achieve the best possible outcomes in curriculum planning and faculty recruitment.

—Joan Aldrich
Walking Club to take Wolfe’s Neck Park trek

The Walking Club will visit Wolfe Neck Park in Freeport on Wednesday, Jan. 11. If there is snow we can snowshoe, but most of the trails are cleared well enough for those who prefer to walk. If you do not have snowshoes, you can rent them at L.L. Bean.

We will meet at Back Cove at 10 a.m., as usual. Bring your lunch and water. Wear sturdy winter boots if you are walking.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, we will hold our annual meeting at 10 a.m. in Room 113 at Wishcamper. No walk is involved with this event. Refreshments will be served.

Below:
Jerry Gordon with several of the OLLI walkers at Kelsey Brook in Freeport. Jerry has been a leader of the Walking Club through its early years.

OLLI Ski Club’s January plans

OLLI Ski Club members anxiously look out their windows every morning in search of… snow!

Cross-country skiers have a standing date every Friday in January, weather permitting.

Plans include:

Jan. 6 at Smiling Hill (contact Bev Blair at bblair@maine.rr.com or 799-5043).

Jan. 13 at Bradbury Mountain (call Libby Hyatt at 729-8721).

Jan. 20 at Twin Brooks (contact Madelyn Murphy at mjmurph@ymail.com or 885-9720).

Jan. 27 at Pinelands (contact Bev Blair).

Downhill skiers will head to Shawnee Peak for “Carload Day” ($84/car) on Monday, Jan. 9 (contact Susan Gilpin at susanogilpin@gmail.com or 310-0329) and to Mt. Abram on Wednesday, Jan. 18 (contact Steve Donahoe at stevedonahoe1@gmail.com or 239-6517).

Ski events depend on weather conditions, so be sure to sign up for an event in order to get updates, carpool info, and last-minute alerts.

There is no club meeting planned for January. The Event Calendar is mapped out, and we only need a good old-fashioned Maine winter to make it happen. Any communications to club members will be sent via e-mail. To join the Ski Club’s Member Directory, drop an e-mail to stevedonahoe1@gmail.com or call 239-6517.

Below:
Jerry Gordon with several of the OLLI walkers at Kelsey Brook in Freeport. Jerry has been a leader of the Walking Club through its early years.
Meet us at the Fair for *A Wrinkle in Time*, a cultural event that explores the impact of specific cities and years on our lives today. We began our symposium series in 2007 with Vienna in the year 1888-1889. In 2009, we visited San Francisco’s 1967 Summer of Love. This year, for three days, our seminar will focus on Chicago’s World Fair of 1893 and the numerous people and events showcased at the Fair. Although few people recognize it as such, 1893 was a pivotal time in American history. The Fair highlighted the change in America from a rural to an urban society, from national concerns to international importance, from an agricultural to an industrial economy, and from gaslight to electricity. A series of speakers will highlight a variety of Fair-related topics, including Chicago in the 1890s, the art and architecture, the landscape, the role of women, the Midway and other amusements, music, and the State of Maine’s presence at the Fair. Presentations will be followed by guided sessions to allow exchange of ideas on the important influences of this era on our current lives. At issue will be the tension between traditional and modern culture.

The registration fee is $50 per person, which includes the program, lunch on Wednesday and Thursday, coffee breaks, and snacks. *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larsen is the **required** text for the seminar; all participants should acquire this text (available at the USM Bookstore) and read it **in advance**. **Enrollment is limited, so register early.**

**Registration Form — Wrinkle in Time**

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Home Address _______________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ____________ Zip _____

Home Telephone ____________________________ E-mail____________________________

Number of registrants for *A Wrinkle in Time*: _____ @ $50; Total Fee: ________

Please indicate payment method:

Enclosed is a check payable to Osher (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) for $____

Please charge my Visa MasterCard Discover credit card $____

CreditCard Number____________________________ Expiration date____________

VSE Code _________ Name on Card____________________________
Natalie Murray honored

The Maine Senior College Network has named Natalie Murray its Poet Laureate for this year. Here is the announcement from the MSCN Newsletter:

MSCN’s new Poet Laureate, Natalie Murray, has been a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine since it was founded as Senior College at Portland. Natalie is a very active OLLI member, and she has studied poetry in OLLI courses with instructors Claire Knox, Pat Budd, and Denney Morton. Natalie and her husband David, who is also an OLLI member, live in Falmouth.

On December 16, Kali Lightfoot announced the honor at the OLLI Advisory Board meeting and presented Natalie with a new Kindle on behalf of MSCN.