Profile
Jill Babcock

Fighter for patients’ rights

For Jill Babcock, RN, a patient should be regarded as a person, not a medical record number.

In her OLLI workshop, “How to Advocate for Your Health,” Jill points out that the health care system, the bureaucracy and control of insurance companies, the pharmaceutical industry and its lobbyists, have eroded our options regarding how we wish to live, be cared for, and die.

For Jill, who had spent most of her nursing career in the New York-New Jersey area, the need for patient advocacy became clear when she was at the Babies & Children’s Hospital-Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, which deals with a multicultural population. Her first nursing position was in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. She requested a translator for non-English speaking families, creating an atmosphere of inclusion for stressed parents and combative children during exhausting hospitalizations. Explanations were given in lay terms. Patients’ unmet needs for clear communication and the need for patient advocacy became a focus of her nursing practice.

Jill’s background as a health care professional is impressive: she is certified in pediatric/adult oncology, adult and pediatric emergency room care, health care coaching, and hospice care — this last of which became the most gratifying of all her specialties.

“I found more intense work on an inpatient hospice floor with West Palm Beach Hospice, during a brief stay in Florida…. I [later] found a part-time position as case manager and patient advocate with a home care agency. I was shocked and dismayed to see the irresponsible and negligent care of the

continued on page 4
NOTES FROM SUSAN

Fifteen years and going strong!

OLLI began as Senior College at USM 15 years ago this fall. This upcoming anniversary has caused me to look back over the years and reflect on how far this program has come.

The first term offered seven courses with 306 enrollments. This fall OLLI will offer 62 courses, three Writers’ Workshops and 13 Saturday workshops/mini-courses!

Classes were originally held only on Fridays, when USM classroom space was available.

Now we offer classes Monday through Friday, as well as Thursday evenings, with workshops and mini-courses on Saturdays.

Fifteen years ago, classes were $50 for your first class, and $25 for your second (two classes was the maximum on Friday). Currently, classes are $50 each, with the possibility of 10 courses a week per person! Fifteen years ago, annual membership was $25 and we’re proud to say, it remains $25 today.

In the spring of 2007 (OLLI’s 10th Anniversary) we hit 1,000 members for the first time. Now at our 15th Anniversary, we are on the brink of 1,500 members. We are asking for your help to achieve this goal. See the “Bring a Friend” article below.

The future looks bright with our wonderful volunteers, outstanding faculty, and innovative program.

Here’s to another 15…and more!

“Bring a Friend” program to celebrate OLLI’s 15th Anniversary

According to our recent member survey, almost every member first heard about OLLI from a friend. So to celebrate our 15th Anniversary, OLLI is making it worth your while to talk about us — and it could earn you a gift certificate.

A new line on the fall course registration form asks “Who referred you to OLLI?” If a new member puts in your name and signs up for at least one $50 class, we will send you a gift certificate. It’s that easy!

For the first 100 new members recruited, each gift certificate is worth $15. After the first 100 new members, the gift certificate is worth $10. The certificates are good toward any OLLI program except trips. There are two simple provisions: you have to be a current OLLI member yourself, and the new member must be new or not have been a member of OLLI for at least four years.

Current members are eligible for multiple gift certificates, so talk to your friends, your neighbors, and your family.

We are hoping to get our membership up to 1,500 during our 15th Anniversary. Last year ended with 1,482 members, so our goal is achievable with your help. This program is our way of saying “Thank you for telling your friends about us. We really appreciate it!”
OLLI Advisory Board

I hope you are all having a good summer thus far and that some of you are taking an OLLI summer course offering.

The fall course schedule will be the largest we have ever had, with many great choices for classes. We hope to increase our membership for fall, to make sure all of the courses are filled.

Look for “Bring a Friend” in this Newsletter (page 2) and also for a notice in the fall course catalog to learn how you can help us reach our goal of 1500 OLLI members.

The OLLI Advisory Board welcomes three new members this fall. They are Bob Bahm (he will also chair the SAGE standing committee), Sue Gesing, and Rich Machlin. When you see them, thank them for stepping forward to help lead OLLI.

Also, I am pleased to welcome two current Board members in new roles: Joy Larrabee as our new Board Secretary and Kathleen Sutherland as the new Chair of the Community Committee.

See you in the fall!

—Dick Sturgeon, Board Chair
rbsturgeon@juno.com, 773-3174

Keep on CLYNKING

Many thanks to everyone who has taken the time use an OLLI CLYNK bag to return their bottles and cans to Hannaford.

So far, OLLI has returned 10,516 containers! That’s enough bottles and cans to fill 93.5 lobster traps. You have saved enough energy to light 16.1 light bulbs, 24 hours a day, for a year. And you have saved the emissions equivalent of driving a car 3,042 miles. That’s the distance from Portland Maine to Walla Walla, Washington! (No kidding. Google it.)

And of course, you have earned over $500 for OLLI. Thank you!
geriatric population, in particular those in their late 70s and 80s, widowers and widows who lived great distances from their families.

“I left clinical practice and started my own patient advocate practice, *A Shoulder to Lean On.*” Jill did much pro bono work when she discovered many of those who needed her help were not able to afford her services.

Jill’s assertiveness over the years has not made her popular with many doctors, nurses, hospitals, and hospice organizations, but very popular with her patients and their families.

As a result of her Florida experience, Jill decided to return to the Northeast. This was an easy decision: In 2009 her son and daughter-in-law in Cape Elizabeth announced that Jill was going to become a grandmother.

Jill’s move to Maine did not lessen her crusading desire to work for improved services for seniors. This concern was the basis for her first OLLI workshop, where the concentration was on how to advocate for one’s health. She expanded her second workshop to include more information on hospice and end of life choices because of her experience when her brother was dying in Boston. The experience supported her belief that many for-profit hospice organizations have become so competitive that their financial survival can supersede the needs of the patient. Jill is quick to emphasize that not all hospices or doctors are uncaring. However, understanding all options, even in the best of circumstances, is the key to getting the best end-of-life care.

“Spiritual, religious, cultural, and ethical beliefs drive many decisions we make regarding life and death issues. The decision-making process in all issues is crucial, and if I can make a difference in one person’s life, then I have done my job. OLLI offers some of the best courses on health related issues.” Jill feels strongly that her workshop incorporates the best tools for advocating for yourself...after all, it is your life.

“OLLI has been the most incredible experience on both intellectual and personal levels. The chance to agree to disagree with some of the brightest people I have ever met has enriched my life.”

—Don King

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**Rabbi Sky to offer a mini-course**

Rabbi Harry Sky will be in Maine for the months of August and September and will be offering a four-session mini-course, “A Jewish Dialectic,” at OLLI on Aug. 21, 23, 28, and 30 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost of the course is $25. Full details are available in the OLLI fall catalog, and online once the fall catalog is posted.

Rabbi Sky is one of the founders of Senior College at USM 15 years ago. He moved to North Carolina last year to be closer to family members. We are very pleased that Harry has made OLLI part of his Maine vacation plans.
OLLI Book Club selections, August through December 2012

The OLLI Book Club continues to meet from 3:00 to 4:30 on the third Thursday of the month. New members are always welcome. For details, get in touch with Elsa VanBergen (evanbergen@maine.rr.com).

Below are the books we plan to read between now and next December. The books assigned for the months following October are subject to change, depending on availability of those willing to facilitate discussion. We’re trying to mix up fiction and nonfiction, long and short books, when possible…. Thanks!

August Abide with Me, a novel by Elizabeth Strout, author of Olive Kittredge, about a minister in a small town in Maine striving to regain his calling, family, and happiness following death of his wife. Relatively short novel for summer. Would someone be willing to lead? We will definitely read this for August.

September Garden of the Beasts, nonfiction by Erik Larsen, about American ambassador’s family in Berlin just before WWII. Ruth Story facilitating

October Killer Angels, a novel by Michael Shaara, Jeanne Collins facilitating

November Townie, a memoir by novelist Andre Dubus Would someone be willing to lead?

December The Other Side of the Bridge, a novel by Mary Lawson, exploring moral quandaries of life in northern Canada, following two brothers. Would someone be willing to lead?

Attention OLLI artists and photographers

OLLI is looking for framed, ready-to-hang pictures of “Autumn in Maine.”

These works of art will be hung in the Wishcamper lobby across from the fireplace.

Pictures can be of any size; they must be framed and have a hanging wire. The “Autumn in Maine” display will hang during the fall term.

Artists exhibit their work at their own risk and are not covered by USM’s insurance policy. Artists will be asked to sign a loan agreement prior to hanging their work.

Works should be brought to the OLLI office between Aug. 20 and Aug. 24.

History Book Club in the works

An organizational meeting of a new OLLI History Book Club will be held in room 205 in the Wishcamper Center on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All OLLI members are welcome. The plan is to read and discuss one book each month.

Club members will read and share their thoughts concerning various works of history, including social, cultural, political, and foreign policy history, as well as biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Moreover, we will investigate historiography and the ways in which historians approach their craft.

Contact person is John Sutherland — jfern2003@yahoo.com
Fall art exhibit to be sponsored by Student Computing Services

Student Computing Services is again hosting an exciting Art Exhibit this Fall Semester, in our Portland Lab Facility in Luther Bonney Hall. We look forward to hosting these exhibits, and the students enjoy being surrounded by such a wonderful variety of work.

The theme for this next exhibit is “Celebrating New England.” We cordially invite you to share your framed paintings, sketches, drawings, or mixed media artwork with our USM community. We are looking for landscapes and any other subjects that reflect nature, our land, our culture, or our diverse New England heritage.

The art will be hung during the last two weeks in August and displayed until the third week of December. All art must be flat, framed, suitable for hanging, and light enough for us to securely hang. If you are thinking that you don’t have any work that celebrates New England, may we suggest you get out your art supplies, prop up the easel and get busy! Currently, we ask that you submit no more than two pieces. If our response is limited, we will allow more submissions from our artists later on.

All artists will be honored at our artists’ reception, at a date to be announced later. We look forward to seeing your work.

(Please do not bring your work to the lab until the construction at Luther Bonney Hall is completed in mid-August and we are back in our regular offices.)

Please contact either Cheryl Thompson (cthompso@usm.maine.edu) or Jennifer Hanscom (j hanscom@usm.maine.edu) if you have questions.

—Jennifer Hanscom
Operations Coordinator/Software Support Specialist
144 Luther Bonney Hall, 207-780-5635

Did You Know?

Did you know you are no longer charged individually for parking at USM? For years, parking here at USM was complicated. OLLI and USM’s parking department worked hard to make it as simple as possible, but it was still a challenge. The challenges are history! Gone!

**OLLI is now paying for parking on your behalf.** To be clear, parking isn’t free — OLLI is paying your parking fee for you so you don’t have to. No need to pay at the parking office. No need to use your OLLI-USM ID to get into the garage.

So, what do you do? Just pull up to the entrance of the USM parking garage, push the green button, and the gate will open. Go park. When you leave, slowly approach the exit, the gate will lift automatically, and you can drive out.

You’re welcome.
Walking Club lists
July, August events

**Tuesday, July 24:** We will try again to walk at the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust in Bath, a walk that is mostly along the water.

**Wednesday, Aug. 8:** We will go to Gambo Dam in Gorham, a popular walk from last year, also along the river.

**Tuesday, Aug. 28:** We will have our annual outing to Great Diamond Island, with lunch at a home there. Since we will be taking the ferry to the island, please arrive promptly at our Back Cove gathering place.

For all of our summer walks, meet at the Back Cove parking lot across from Hannaford at 9 a.m. to carpool. Bring your own lunch and beverage. Wear appropriate clothing and bring your sun screen and necessary insect repellant.

If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 or Pat LeFebvre at 883-2936.

Because the weather has been plaguing us on many walks this year, we suggest you call Rae the morning of the walk if you are in doubt about its taking place.

**OLLI Night Out coordinator needed**

OLLI Night Out is a purely social event that brings together 20 to 40 folks for a Dutch treat dinner once a month, from September through June, at a local restaurant. We are currently looking for some person or persons to coordinate these events starting in September. The coordinator’s job is easy and it is a lot of fun for someone who likes to entertain. Here’s what is involved each month:

1. Select a restaurant.
2. Call the restaurant and agree on a date (usually on a slow night).
3. Write a notice for the *OLLI Newsletter* giving the name of the restaurant along with the date, time, and location.
4. Wait for OLLI members to e-mail or call you, telling how many reservations they wish.
5. Tally the number of reservations, and two days before the dinner, let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Then come to the restaurant, greet those who attend, and enjoy dinner!

Terry Foster has been coordinating this effort for several years and has agreed to help the new person or persons get started. In the past, he has offered rides to those needing one. Continuing that arrangement in some way would be great, but that is not a requirement for the new coordinator.

Here’s an easy and fun way for you, or you and a friend, to make a contribution to OLLI.

Please contact the OLLI office or e-mail Terry at tfoster@maine.edu if you are interested.

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**Keep saving those books for the fall book sale**

We have big plans, and they start with you! Books, books, and more books — and goodies to eat and drink! So save your already-loved books to donate to the effort! We’ll let you know when we have room to store them.
Did it!

Preston Hood’s book, The Hallelujah of Listening, has won the 2012 Maine Literary Award for Poetry. Some of these poems were created at the OLLI Poetry Workshop and resulted from the suggestions of workshop participants. The book is $7 and CD $3; they may be purchased at the USM Book Store or ordered online at www.thelostbookshelf.com.

At its annual meeting in June, the World Affairs Council of Maine (www.wacmaine.org/) presented OLLI member Kathleen Sutherland with its Beatrice Chapman Minott Award for 2012. The award is presented annually to someone with a distinguished record of service to the Council.

(Editor’s note: We list OLLI members’ accomplishments outside OLLI. We have simple rules. Announcements must be (1) only for yourself or a member of your family (2) no more than about 50 words (3) about only publications, inclusion in an art exhibit, an award, or a similar achievement (4) about something that happened within the past two months. Submit to ollinews@usm.maine.edu. Include contact information for the Newsletter editors.)