



# OLLI *Connections*

Vol. 1 Issue 1  
January 23, 2017

## OLLI News!

OLLI is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Hott Memorial Fund and a \$5,000 grant from the Brown Family Foundation this year.

These funds will be used to upgrade some of our aging computer equipment and enhance services available to our members.

Three laptop computers will be replaced with newer versions that will be available for use in the computer lab, thus increasing the number of seats available for classes held in that space.

OLLI will also be installing new hearing assist systems in both classrooms to help our hearing impaired members more fully participate. We hope to have the system installed by the beginning of the spring term.

A portion of the Hott Memorial Fund grant has been earmarked for scholarships to help those who need financial assistance to cover the cost of membership and participation. More information about the OLLI scholarship program is available on the website at <http://www.olliatwvu.org/scholarships/>.

Thanks to a grant we received earlier in the year from the Osher Foundation, OLLI also has a new brochure. Designed by Diane Cale, the brochure provides an overview of our program for anyone interested in a sneak peek. Copies are available in the member lounge and will be distributed around town. If you would like to have a few for friends, family, clubs, church, etc., please stop by the OLLI office and grab a few.

## Director's Letter

Welcome to the first issue of the new OLLI at WVU member newsletter, *OLLI Connections*.

*OLLI Connections* will feature articles of interest to our members including upcoming OLLI events; highlights from past events; business and programming updates; recognitions, remembrances, and thank-yous; and more. If you would have a suggestion for a story or would like to contribute an article, please let me know by emailing [jascenna.haislet@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jascenna.haislet@hsc.wvu.edu) or stop by the office.

The newsletter will be published bi-monthly and distributed via email to our current members. It will also be posted on our website. If you are unable to read the newsletter online, you may request a printed copy by calling the OLLI office at 304-293-1793.

*Jascenna*

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## Special OLLI Member Meeting Scheduled

OLLI at WVU will be holding a special member meeting on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. to vote on proposed changes to the membership fee structure. Members will receive a formal announcement about the meeting as well as more information about the agenda in the mail by the end of February.

To learn more about the proposed changes, you may wish to attend a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. in classroom B. We will discuss the current state of the OLLI budget, plans for fundraising initiatives, facility concerns, technology needs and plans, volunteer opportunities, and the proposed changes in membership fees. As a membership organization, your input is important. We want to hear from you! (*This will be a repeat of the first two Town Hall meetings. However, everyone is welcome.*)



## Holiday Open House



OLLI welcomed more than 160 guests for a Holiday Open House at the Mountaineer Mall on December 7th. The festive event featured a bazaar with more than 20 vendors offering a wide variety of arts and crafts. Entertainment was provided by OLLI's Lap Dulcimer 101 class, under the direction of Judy Werner, and the Mon River New Horizons Band, directed by Lindsey Williams.

Winter course catalogs were available for a sneak peak at what OLLI has to offer in January. Volunteers sold OLLI gift memberships, complete with an OLLI travel mug, winter course catalog and decorative gift bag, and offered snowflakes to hang in the member lounge as tribute gifts to the program.

Thank you to all who generously volunteered in make the Open House the success that it was. Thank you to the staff of the Mountaineer Mall who set up the tables and chairs. Thank you to our entertainment. Thank you to our vendors who offered a delightful selection of gift ideas for the holidays and to everyone who attended.

We look forward to making OLLI's Holiday Open House and Bazaar an annual event.



## Every Gift Makes an Impact!

Lifelong learners value education - for themselves and others. Daily, we see the educational and social impact OLLI has on our members.

In order to sustain our quality programming, your financial support is needed. Although OLLI is tremendously fortunate to have a wealth of passionate, qualified members, friends and others willing to volunteer their time and expertise, we still have many annual operating expenses necessary to offer such a program. These include classroom and office rental and maintenance; utilities, technology and internet access; staff compensation; marketing and community outreach; and course materials.

Financial support from WVU and earnings from the Osher Endowment cover about 45% of these expenses. Our current membership fees cover 15%. Therefore, the remaining 40% must be raised through donations, gifts, and grants.

Your consideration of a tax-deductible gift to OLLI at WVU today or in the future will benefit the program and help secure your OLLI legacy. For more information, visit <http://www.olliatwvu.org/make-a-gift/>.

## Thank You!

As OLLI at WVU strives to achieve financial sustainability and launches a new annual fundraising initiative, we would like to say Thank You to all who have generously contributed to one of our donation funds during the first half of the 2016/17 year. If you made a gift prior to December 31, 2016 and your name does not appear on this list, please contact the OLLI office so we can be sure to verify that it was received.

Michael and Hilary Attfield

Betty M. Bailey

Carole Boyd

Jane Cardi

Stan and Judy Cohen

Thomas and Hope Covey

Charles and Margaret Craig

Ann Davidson

Joann Evans

Judith Hall

Jim Held and Bonnie Brown

Karen S. Long

Betty Maxwell

Stephen and Connie McCluskey

Joseph P. McFall

Robert and Miriam Miller

Andy and Judy Morris

Bryon and Carolyn Nelson

James O'Connell

Alan and Gwen Rosenbluth

Cecilia Aguilar Spade

Wallace and Norma Venable

Bill Weiss

Karl and Pam Yagle

## Mark Your Calendars!

January 23

March 17

March 20

March 22

April 10

April 17

June 19

Winter term begins

St. Patrick's Day Party

Spring registration begins

Membership Meeting

Taste of OLLI Open House

Spring term begins

Summer course proposals due

Summer registration begins

## Why Do I Like to Volunteer at OLLI?

When I first retired I wanted to find something to help fill my days and was lucky to discover OLLI. What a wonderful way to spend time: learning about a lot of things that I'd not had the time or the resources to learn before! So many courses have enriched my knowledge over the years. And to think that most of the hard work of preparing for and teaching those courses is done by volunteers, people who wish to share their particular interest and/or expertise with others, is just amazing. I don't feel I can teach but I do understand that there are lots of support areas needed for those who can.

One of the real pleasures of volunteering is joining others whom you know or are acquainted with or whom you would like to know -- and working together with them on a project of mutual interest. It doesn't matter what sort of project it is, from compiling bulk mailings to serving on a committee where your ideas count and can be added to or combined with other ideas to further the committee goal. Working together with others gives you a sense of camaraderie. Plus you feel that you have done something worthwhile and for a cause greater than your own pleasure. That's part of why I like to volunteer at OLLI.



I also like to work on projects where I am not necessarily working with others, projects where I've been given the responsibility to do a particular task or figure something out. And OLLI has plenty of that sort of task too. I've been involved with several and have enjoyed most of them. Every time, I felt that what I had done was helping OLLI, an organization that gives so much to so many. And it's close to home; it's not just sending a check off in the mail. OLLI is something I want to give back to in whatever way I can. I feel that the luxury of retirement is being able to have the time to do that.

- Connie McCluskey

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## Volunteer for OLLI

As a non-profit membership organization, OLLI depends on the generous support of our volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our program, helping to defray the costs associated with offering courses, lectures, workshops, trips and more.

OLLI welcomes volunteers from all walks of life. If you're interested in volunteering, contact the OLLI office at 304-293-1793 or submit the Volunteer Information Form online at <http://www.olliatwvu.org/>.

OLLI is currently seeking volunteers for the following tasks and projects:

- Class Hosts
- Office Assistants
- Committee Members
- Instructors

and

- Storytellers

*see page 4 for more information about this exciting opportunity!*

## Travel with OLLI

### Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park

August 11 — August 17, 2017

7 Days • 9 Meals

**Reservations and deposit due February 11, 2017**

Ice-fields, rushing streams, lovely waterfalls, glacial peaks and towering summits are just a few of

the scenic wonders awaiting you in the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park. Visit Head - Smashed - In Buffalo Jump, one of the world's

oldest and best preserved buffalo jumps and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ride aboard a Jammer (open-air touring car) during your visit to Glacier National Park. Overnight at the stunning Emerald Lake Lodge. Journey along the unforgettable Icefields Parkway. Stop at Columbia Icefield and choose a ride across this mass of glacier ice or take a walk on the Glacier Skywalk. A 2-night stay at the iconic Fairmont Banff Springs hotel lets you explore Bow Falls and the Hoodoos (the "Land of the Sleeping Giants").

More information at <http://www.olliatwvu.org/for-members/travel-with-olli/> or call the OLLI office.

Join OLLI on Tuesday, January 31, at 10:00 a.m. for an information session about the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park tour with Collette Travel representative Jake Savage. R.s.v.p. by Friday, January 26, at 5:00 p.m. by calling the OLLI office at 304-293-1793.

#### Just Added:

Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park Tour Information Session with Collette Travel representative.

Tuesday, January 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Advanced registration requested.

## Telling Your OLLI Story

This past fall, OLLI received a grant from the Osher Foundation to support our efforts to reach new members through new marketing initiatives. One of those initiatives is the creation of a short video about our program that will be featured on our website and used at various fairs and presentations. From this video, we will also produce a shorter piece to air on public television and commercial broadcast television.

We want to share the OLLI experience and invite the community to join us as members, volunteers, instructors, donors, and friends.

And we need your help! We are seeking volunteers to appear on camera, telling your OLLI story or delivering a brief narrative written by another member. As OLLI members, you are the ideal spokespersons for the engaging activities our program offers.

We plan to begin shooting the video in early February. If you're interested in helping, please contact the OLLI office at 304-293-1793 or [olli@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:olli@hsc.wvu.edu).

## Be an OLLI Ambassador

Share your OLLI experience with a friend or family member!

As any marketing professional will tell you, good word-of-mouth is the best tool an organization can have in its promotional toolbox. A personal recommendation is far more likely to inspire action than a pop-up ad online or a 30 second radio spot.

Members are invited to bring a guest to a class. Please call ahead to let us know as some classes may be full and even have a wait list.

If a friend decides to join OLLI as a first-time member and mentions your name, you'll be entered in a drawing to win a \$25.00 gift card to Barnes and Noble.

## In Memoriam

OLLI acknowledges the passing of the following members and friends in recent months.

June:            Ida Marie Chico  
                     Jack Frost  
July:             Marilyn Snyder  
December:     Betty Lue Wolfe

## New OLLI Website

Members and visitors may have noticed some changes on the OLLI website lately. A big thank you to our Professional Technologist, Sonja Jewell Kelly, for her many hours of work transferring our website to the new design rolled out by the WVU School of Public Health last month and for stream-lining the content. We hope you find it a little easier to navigate.

New or updated features on the site include a Google calendar on the front page so you can quickly see what's happening at OLLI today and a photo gallery with some of our favorite pictures from OLLI classes, trips, and events, located under the About Us tab.

On the For Members page, you will find the new OLLI Membership Handbook. Adopted in December 2015 and updated in September 2016, the Membership Handbook contains information about the mission, goals, organizational structure and governance of OLLI; membership and registration policies and procedures; volunteer opportunities; communications policies; and more. A copy of the OLLI at WVU strategic plan, School of Public Health organization chart and support chart for OLLI, media waiver, confidentiality forms for volunteers, liability disclaimer and non-discrimination statement can be found in the appendices of the handbook.

## Medical Decision-Making Research Study in Older Adults

You are invited to participate in a research study examining medical decision-making in older adults. This study will entail one session either on WVU campus or in your home lasting 75-90 minutes. You will be asked to view an educational video containing information about medical treatments and fill-out several questionnaires. You will receive \$10 to compensate your time.

To be eligible to participate, you must:

- Be at least 65 years old
- Be fluent in English
- Have no terminal diagnosis/illness

For more information, or to sign up for the study, please contact Jarred V. Gallegos at (304) 276-0482 or [WVUMedicalDecisionMaking@gmail.com](mailto:WVUMedicalDecisionMaking@gmail.com) (Principal Investigator: Barry Edelstein, Ph.D.)