We may be senior adults, but our curiosity is still going strong. For 24 years, Washington University’s Lifelong Learning Institute has fostered and fed such curiosity by offering peer-led, not-for-credit courses on a mind-spinning range of subjects.

Now, thanks to new funding from The Bernard Osher Foundation, our institute’s commitment to senior-adult learning has been strengthened. As the newest member of the national network of Osher Institutes, we will be known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University (OLLI). Our membership raises the tally to 123 lifelong learning institutes supported by the Osher Foundation on university and college campuses across the country.

“By becoming an Osher Institute,” Director Katie Compton said, “we are part of a wonderful group with whom we can exchange ideas. It has been gratifying for our well-established Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University to receive this national attention.”

The benefits of the affiliation are numerous, Katie stressed. She expects funding from the Osher Foundation to help secure our institute’s future. More immediately, it will not only bolster our existing operation but also expand our curriculum and physical capability. An increase in classroom space, long wished for, will become a reality. Enhanced marketing efforts will more effectively spread the word about our rich offerings. Finally, in keeping with Osher recommendations, the minimal student age will drop from 55 to 50 years.

And yet, Katie emphasized, the heart and soul of our institute will remain the same. The format and philosophy that have made our program successful will not change. We will continue to staff our program with volunteer facilitators who have experience or avocational interest or even just deep curiosity in their subject matter. Our emphasis on peer learning and active class participation will remain paramount. And, no worries, the welcoming environment that has fostered so many new friendships and interests is here to stay.

In outlining the importance of the new partnership, Mark Rollins, dean of University College, remarked: “The grant from the Osher Foundation is a major contribution to the fundamental mission of University College, which is to provide opportunities in various forms and promote learning for life. OLLI is a significant asset to Washington University.”

The Bernard Osher Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, was founded in 1977 by businessman and community leader Bernard Osher. The foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts.
Message from the Chair

Ah, spring. When an OLLIer’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of . . . new classes. Yes, beginning April 1 we have an exciting eight weeks to look forward to as the ice, snow, puffer jackets and boots disappear and warmer, gentler weather prevails. As of this writing, we have a total of 40 classes lined up for the spring.

There is exciting news to report. After many months of work LLI received a grant of $100,000 from the Osher Foundation, and we will henceforth be known as Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University. Never fear. Nothing will change in the way OLLI is structured or operates. However, the funds will allow expansion of our facilities, at long last, with two new classrooms located in the lower level of our building. Renovations are currently under way and tours will be available soon, if they have not already started. You will see more detail concerning the changeover in the Director’s column.

As usual, our Curriculum Committee continues its superlative work in designing new and stimulating classes as you will discover in the spring course brochure. The Committee is always interested in suggestions from the membership, so if you have ideas for courses, contact a Curriculum Committee member (David Brown, Tom Mitchell, Charles Kuhn, Dave Matter, Don Godiner, Jamie Spencer, Gene McNary, Dennis Smith, Michael E. Nolan, Dennis Smith, Nancy Harvey, Karen Sterbenz, and Nancy McKee) or Katie Compton. Of course, new classes require new facilitators, so if putting together a syllabus and leading a class in a subject near and dear to your heart appeals to you, please contact one of the above.

Next year will be a big one for OLLI, the 25th to be exact, and work will soon begin on planning the silver anniversary celebration tentatively scheduled for some time in June, 2020. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event by joining the 25th anniversary planning committee, contact Steve Radinsky, chair of the Marketing Committee, who will be leading the effort.

Bos Irvine has joined OLLI’s Executive Committee to take the place of his wife, Kathy Irvine, who passed away unexpectedly in January. Kathy, a longtime member of OLLI who joined the Executive Committee in 2017, was a dedicated and involved member of our group, and she will be missed.

Additional activities to look forward to this spring include the Jasper Lecture in March, a Show-Me OLLI and Writers Showcase in May, and the Annual Meeting. I hope you plan to attend all of these, and bring a friend, or two, to the Show-Me event. See you there.

--Joan McDonald
Notes from the Director’s Desk

You have no doubt heard the exciting news that our LLI has been chosen to be part of the Osher national network of lifelong learning programs. We will now be known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University in St. Louis (OLLI) and will continue to function as part of University College. The grant that we have received from the Bernard Osher Foundation makes it possible to refurbish two large rooms in the lower level of our building and to ramp up our marketing efforts. As you know, lack of classroom space has become an issue in the last few years. Hopefully, members formerly unable to get into popular courses because of room size restrictions will now be able to do so.

Work has begun on renovating the rooms and we are planning to use them in the upcoming spring term. These rooms will be accessible by stair and by the elevator which you see when entering the garage. On March 25 (Book Sale day) we will have an open house (see insert in this mailing) and everyone will have an opportunity to see the new rooms and find out how to get to them. We have noted in the course brochure and online in which room each course will be held.

Meanwhile, the regular routine of OLLI goes on and we have been busy preparing for our spring term. We are offering 41 courses, five of which are 4-week courses. Forty-nine volunteer facilitators have worked hard to prepare these courses. Please read through the course brochure carefully. If there is a course you would like to take, but do not see listed, perhaps you will consider facilitating it yourself. Most facilitators agree that the best way to learn something is to facilitate a course on that subject! That is what peer learning is all about.

Sally Kopman, Louise Lansbury and Silvia Madeo welcome a mystery writer to their Detective Fiction class.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the extraordinary service rendered by Sally Kopman who has facilitated the very popular Detective Fiction course for 16 years. She started in the fall of 2002 with a course that traced the development of literary detectives from Sherlock Holmes to V.I. Warshawski. Every fall since then she has led a Thursday morning course in which students read and discuss seven detective novels by an array of authors from all over the world. In 2004 Louise Lonsbury joined her as co-facilitator and in 2015 Silvia Madeo completed the facilitating triumvirate. This fall all three will pass the facilitating baton to new facilitators Andrea Clark and Sam Bertolet.

Hats off to facilitator Stanley Misler who presented one of the Lacy Medal Award Lectures at the meeting of the 11th annual Midwest Islet Club held at Washington University. The Record article announcing this recognition stated, “Indeed, those lucky enough to attend Dr. Misler’s lectures at WashU Med School and elsewhere will remember his enthusiastic and entertaining style of teaching, which often involved using poetry and music to interact with students.” Here at OLLI, those who have taken Stanley’s courses know that he is still as enthusiastic and entertaining as ever. This spring he will facilitate two courses: “Jewish Music in Historical and Social Contexts” and “Doctoring in Century 21: A Perspective on Modern Medicine.” He is emeritus faculty member of the Department of Medicine (Nephrology), Cell Biology/Physiology and Biomedical Engineering at WU.

Congratulations to Annette Eckert who published a cookbook recently. A retired St. Clair County judge, Annette wrote the book with the retired food editor of the Belleville News-Democrat. It includes hilarious stories previously shared with the Thursday morning memoir writing class at OLLI. The 67-page cookbook, called “Kitchen’s Open,” also contains recipes.

A big thank you to Lou Lucas who came in on very short notice and made copies for a class manual that had to go to the printer right before the Christmas break. Thank you to Kate Boyne who put labels on envelopes before the winter mailing. We depend on volunteers whom we can call to do a variety of office tasks when Denise and I are swamped. Would you like to volunteer? We can always use more volunteers to help with our mailings: many hands make light work!

Thank you to Kathianne Crane, Tom Mitchell, Nancy McKee, Susan Bishop and many others who have contributed books, calendars, DVDs and tapes to the OLLI library and to the “Take One” basket on the table in the front hall. If you are downsizing your book collection, please think of your friends at OLLI and bring your books in to share.

A big thank you to all who have given to the General, Endowment and Scholarship funds. Please continue to give generously! Consider giving a tribute gift in memory of the wonderful OLLIers we have lost recently.

- Katie Compton
TRIBUTES SPRING 2019

IN MEMORIAM
Erle Lionberger
Milica Banjanin
Joe Callahan
Kathy Irvine
Jeanne Milder
Saul Boyarsky
Dick Summers

IN HONOR OF:
Katharine Irvine
Learner, Facilitator, Enthusiast

As her husband, Bos, put it, Kathy Irvine “took up no cause, project, or challenge without full engagement, energy and boundless enthusiasm.” She started two successful in-home businesses and enjoyed a 30-year career as a residential real estate agent. In retirement, in addition to traveling all over the world together, she and Bos relished their time at Lifelong Learning, continuing their education as students and serving as facilitators. Kathy died in late December.

From John Dwyer:
I knew Kathy as a Lifelong Learner with an enthusiasm for biography. She recruited me for my first time as a co-facilitator, for a course on Alexander Hamilton, followed quickly by one on Thomas Jefferson. Once into a topic, she was a fountain of ideas and, not least, recommendations for books and other resources for us to broaden our coverage. During planning sessions, she was a firm taskmaster, cutting through Bos’s and my digressions to steer us back “on course.”

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS

Endowment
Richard & Margaret Diemer
Sam Rynearson
Robert & Martha Senior
John & Susan Rava
Leslie Block
Ben & Radine Borowsky

General Fund
Molly Strassner
Anne Hetlage
Allen Sherman
Eliot Katz
Greta Camel
Jeffrey Osburg
Gail O’Brien
Alfred Goldman
John & Kathleen Rorris
Gary Handelman
Kenneth Beck
Fran & Peggy Oates
Karen Coburn
Susan Busch
Nancy Schaprio
Franklin & Rachel Haspiel
Ann Lux
Elizabeth Wild
Pat Hyland

Scholarship Fund
Ruby Lapin
Katherine Maxson
Bill Cooper
Assimo Azariadis
Michael E. Nolan
Larry & Silvia
Madeo
Paula Smith
Marilyn Fries
Marlene Hunter

In Memoriam
Erle Lionberger
Milica Banjanin
Joe Callahan
Kathy Irvine
Jeanne Milder
Saul Boyarsky
Dick Summers

In Memory of:
Jay Lapin
Don & Linda Cohn
Ted Listerman
Michael Wiedl
Jay Cohn
Don & Linda Cohn
Ann Rynearson
Sam Rynearson
Marlene Hunter
Anna Amelung
Clifford Bellone
Nina & Arnie Kaplan
Don & Linda Cohn
David Gee
Kim Gibson
Ray Malone
Jerry Kottler
Elizabeth Davidson
Elizabeth Perkins
Kathy Irvine
Joan McDonald
Myra Sue Rosenthal

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University in St. Louis

Scholarship Fund
Ruby Lapin
Katherine Maxson
Bill Cooper
Assimo Azariadis
Michael E. Nolan
Larry & Silvia
Madeo
Paula Smith
Marilyn Fries
Marlene Hunter

In Honor of:
Ruby Lapin
Jeannette Altman
Hap Burke
Maurice Lonsway

Endowment
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Robert & Martha Senior
John & Susan Rava
Leslie Block
Ben & Radine Borowsky

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Allen Sherman
Eliot Katz
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Jeffrey Osburg
Gail O’Brien
Alfred Goldman
John & Kathleen Rorris
Gary Handelman
Kenneth Beck
Fran & Peggy Oates
Karen Coburn
Susan Busch
Nancy Schaprio
Franklin & Rachel Haspiel
Ann Lux
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Pat Hyland

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FYI: We have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with highlights of classes and important information. Please join us there and share your ideas. Check us out and be sure to check the “like” box.

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“Only when you look back on your life do you realize how many transferable skills you’ve accumulated,” Brenda Lambert said. She was speaking of the influence of her work experience on OLLI course development. For three years she has facilitated an African American literature course for each fall, spring and winter session.

A St. Louis native, Brenda spent the first five years of her working life as an elementary teacher. A move to California prompted a succession of jobs that led to an impressive career with Capital Group, one of the world’s largest investment management companies. “My work dealt chiefly with corporate insurance, involving lots of numbers, but it proved ideal for developing skills in analysis, decision-making and future-planning,” she said. “And, since I was usually the only woman and the only minority around the conference table, I had to be verbally adept to get my views heard.”

Upon retirement, Brenda returned to St. Louis, where she looked for senior adult courses with an academic emphasis. After finding OLLI online and attending Show-Me OLLI, she signed up for a course in architecture led by Karen Sterbenz. Soon hooked, she found herself joining Karen as co-facilitator of a short-story course. “That’s when I realized that literature could fill my educational need,” she said.

As a facilitator, she hit her stride with what has become a great love, African American literature. “Although I attended an all-black high school, there was little emphasis on African American literature in those days. The field has really opened up.” She built her first course around writer James Baldwin. And because she could find no single text with a survey of Baldwin’s essays, novels and plays, she created her own course booklet.

Since then, the venerable works of Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston and Ralph Ellison have shared Brenda’s course roster with contemporary writings. Included in the latter are Toni Morrison’s novels, Nikki Giovanni’s poetry, Isabelle Wilkerson’s nonfiction work “The Warmth of Other Suns” and Colson Whitehead’s novel “The Underground Railroad.” For spring, her offering is Rachel L. Swarms’ “American Tapestry,” about Michelle Obama’s ancestry.

While facilitating one course, Brenda simultaneously plans future courses. To select a book to feature, she reads through multiple possibilities, taking notes and keeping files. Although she sometimes goes solo, her co-facilitators have included Bettye Dew, Cindy Turner Johnson and Susan Bromberg.

“I like to say my classes are like the old Burger King slogan ‘You can have it your way,’” she said. “Come for social enjoyment only; come to participate in the discussion; or come for something deeper, perhaps to present a report, calling on your own skills.”

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**A Facilitator’s Story: Brenda Lambert**

Facilitator Brenda Lambert (right) with OLLI student Virginia McCann during a class break.

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**Saul Boyarsky**

**Early LLI Member and Facilitator**

As a facilitator in LLI’s early days, Saul Boyarsky, M.D., exercised his interests in medicine, law and ethics. He led two series of courses, one entitled “Truthfulness in Public Life” and the other centered on comparative religions. In 2000, near the end of his term as chair of LLI’s Steering Committee (later the Executive Committee), he and his wife, Rose, moved back to their previous state of North Carolina, where he died in January at age 95.

“Saul looked at things a little differently,” remarked Larry Kahn, a member of LLI’s founding committee. “While his views were sometimes controversial, his scientific research skills and imaginative approach were always notable.” Larry recalled a trip that he, Saul and other LLI members made to Holland, Mich., for a conference bringing together lifelong learning institutes across the country. “We enjoyed representing our unit and learning about other institutes. Saul was not only an interested participant but also our van driver.”
Who Can It Be?

At OLLI, truth be told, we are surrounded by interesting, engaging, intelligent people. It’s inspiring, if sometimes overwhelming. Occasionally, though, even amongst all the brilliance, someone can stand out—a true Renaissance man. I do not use the term lightly when I apply it to the subject of this piece. I left my time with him somewhat stunned, staggered to my car, and tried to process what I had learned.

Born near Bavaria, Germany, in a detention camp, our classmate was brought to the United States when he was nine months old. He grew up in University City and was what he termed a “bad student.” The fact is, he was bored. High school became more of a challenge when he discovered he cared about his studies. He was surrounded by other college-bound students, many of whom were the children of Washington University professors.

His high school experience made his time as a Wash U student seem comparatively easy. In college he was on scholarship, so he loaded his schedule with as many classes as possible, majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in music, computer science and biology. Summers found him working as a proofreader and then as a research chemist, becoming the author of two published articles.

After finishing his bachelor’s degree, he spent time at Cornell working on a PhD in biochemistry. Dropping out of school, he moved to Israel to volunteer at a kibbutz. His work there cemented his determination to complete his education. I suppose holding a chicken while it was vaccinated would convince most of us to set our goals on something else. Ditto for his other jobs in the kibbutz: catching fish, stomping cotton and, only after extensive training, apple-picking. It’s also possible that the restrictive system itself was enough to dampen his enthusiasm for kibbutz life. When presented with his marriage options (matchmakers really exist), he left and moved back to the St. Louis area to marry someone he had known in high school.

Along the way, our classmate would earn an MBA from St. Louis University and become what some would term a polymath. Just listing a small portion of his accomplishments is exhausting. He worked as an engineer in various fields, becoming an expert in computer science. He designed video games—remember Atari? You may have played some of his games—and, along with his daughter, reviewed games for journals. Thanks to him, Michelob Ultra was brought to St. Louis. He taught machines to make beer, for goodness sake!

Our classmate said he knows enough about Artificial Intelligence to not be afraid of it, suggesting a couple of books to help me out on that subject. I think my favorite of his jobs (definitely better than the chickens) was when, working with paint pigments for Pfizer, he was in charge of yellow. Who wouldn’t want to be in charge of an entire color? Alas, he joked, he never made the promotion to red.

Fortunately for us, one of our subject’s longtime and current passions is opera. He has facilitated 37 opera courses for OLLI, none of which have been repeats. He loves opera because he considers it the lowest form of art, traditionally chock full of sex and violence, written only to sell tickets and telling stories everyone can understand. He proved his point to me by comparing “Don Giovanni” to current events in which a powerful man sexually exploits women. He described “The Marriage of Figaro” as an example of sexual harassment.

One last tidbit of information about our Renaissance man is that he is quite a woodworker, creating (or, as he says, “bringing out what is already in there”) beautiful bowls and rolling pins, among other works of art. Look at the candy dishes outside of Denise’s office!

Our classmate taught me much in a short period of time. I can’t wait to sign up for his class!

-- Rita Hulbert

(Answer on Page 8)
The Lawrence Jasper Lecture
Prof. Gary Patti

Michael and Tana Powell Associate Professor of Chemistry, Washington University in St. Louis

“Eating for Two: Therapeutic Interventions That Prevent Healthy Tissues from Feeding Cancer”

Thursday, March 14, 2019
1:00—3:00 p.m.
Room A/B West Campus Conference Center (Lower Level)

OLLI Open House
Monday, March 25, 2019
12:00—3:00 p.m.
Remarks by Dean Mark Rollins at 12:30 p.m.

OLLI Writers Showcase
Friday, May 3, 2019
1:00—3:00 p.m.

OLLI Celebrates Veterans Day

OLLI veterans and friends gathered for the fourth annual Veterans Day event on November 9, 2018. Charles Schneider and Cathy Reidesel facilitated the event. OLLI veterans shared stories of their wartime/peacetime service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Special guest Jim Pettit, Operations Director of the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight, spoke about this 501c3 organization, whose mission is to transport America’s most senior military veterans safely to Washington DC in order to experience the memorials built in their honor. They are dedicated to these heroic men and women having one of the best days of their life.

OLLI veterans attending the event included: Dan Ellis, Sheldon Enger, Bill Von Glahn, Richard Sohn, Jack Karty, Howard Hearsh, Tom Hahs, Butch Sterbenz.
NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT OLLI

Answer to “Who Could It Be?”: Sol Guber