



THE OLLI FORUM

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 2 or 82. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

Moshe Arens

717-7634

OLLI's Annual Meeting - A Smashing Success!

OLLI held its annual meeting on June 24th at the Hassayampa Inn, with 130 members participating. Unfortunately, our fearless leader, Leslie Parsons, was under the weather, so several Governing Council Members stepped up to fill her shoes. Ed Gaucher welcomed the large crowd, and Bob Kane served as MC through out the day. At one point a short official business meeting was held, with committee chairs presenting their reports. However, the focus of the day was on something old, and something new.



The "something old" was a look back, celebrating the 15 year history of OLLI and it's predecessor, YLI, or Yavapai Learning Institute. A slide show was presented by two very important people in that history: Rita Wuerhmann, who was our good shepherd through the YLI years; and Barbara Yarrow, who kept everything under control during the huge growth spurt that followed our evolving into OLLI. The "something new" was the small group roundtable brainstorming format that allowed all 130 members to take an active part in looking ahead to expansion of the social aspect of the OLLI experience. Finally, the members enjoyed a "birthday cake," representing both the passing of the old years and the new pounds gained from the catered luncheon and the cake !



Announcing OLLI's NEW Governing Council

Many thanks go out to all of the candidates who ran for a seat on the Council; the Nominating Committee, who worked hard to make the election a success; and to the 231 members who submitted a ballot. Newly elected council members are Hal Freedman, Lydia Garrett, Nikki Krause, Jeff Nimeshein, Joe Rafti (one year term), Jane Albaugh Thompson (one year term), and Phil Winkelstern. They will join with Council members who are returning to complete their two year term: Ed Gaucher, Bob Kane, Sally Landes, and Larry Martin.

We also want to say a big thank you to the members who are leaving the council: Kirk Cunningham, Leslie Parsons, Linn Sampson, Yvonne Wanner, and Ron Woerner.



HELP!

The OLLI Forum now has an “official” staff: Ron Woerner, editor; Joan Woerner, secretary; Edie Shepherd and Judy Davis, proof readers; Patricia Berlowe, layout and production; all OLLI members, reporters.

Our goal is to make the Forum a key element in communications for and about OLLI members and events. In addition, we want to do this without using OLLI office staff in the assembly process, although their input into content will still be essential.

We foresee that the staff of the Forum may need to be expanded before long, but we have one immediate need. We need someone to take over Trisha’s job of layout. All articles, pictures, and information would be funneled to this person, who would then assemble them into an effective, appealing layout, or format. Once the final product has been reviewed by the editor and checked by the proofreaders, it would be sent to Trisha for production and distribution.

We currently produce five issues of the Forum per year, but we believe that number will soon increase. If you are interested in joining the OLLI Forum staff as a layout person, please contact Ron Woerner at leebk@cablone.net, or phone 928-541-9366 for more information.

If we are to achieve our goals listed earlier, we need your help!



Notes from a First-Time Facilitator

Two factors played a decisive role when my wife and I chose Prescott for our second home seven years ago: climate and OLLI. During our many visits to this wonderful community before we purchased a home here, our friend Ed Cornett who has facilitated 45 OLLI courses stressed that we should become involved with OLLI once we settled in. He also suggested, along with others, that I consider facilitating a course in the program.

Thus it was that, in the Spring I session this year, I found myself in front of a group of OLLI students helping them explore food as a metaphor and the conflict between art and life in a half-dozen domestic and foreign films.

My formal training was in education, but I made the transition from the classroom to the business world many years ago. I had forgotten what a delightful experience it can be to help people awaken to new ideas or, at our stage in life, refresh our awareness about concepts and thoughts that may have lain dormant for some time.

During my first opportunity as an OLLI facilitator and challenges became immediately apparent. In spite of the goodwill that participants bring with them to the classroom, it can be intimidating for a first-time facilitator to confront the dynamic generated by an educated group of people with such strong and wonderfully varied academic and experiential backgrounds.

For me as a facilitator, it was an extremely rewarding feeling and great fun to in front of an enthusiastic group of learners again. Another benefit for the facilitator is the give-and-take, question-and-answer format of the OLLI classroom that enables everyone to become better acquainted as we learn together. I definitely recommend the role of facilitator to everyone who is so inclined. I hope that the members of my class gained as much as I did from the experience.

submitted by John Horton



IMPORTANT DATES

- The Fall 1 Schedule will start arriving in mailboxes the week of August 4th
- August 26th - Fall Kick off at Goldwater Lake - potluck
- September 2: start of Fall 1
- October 20: start of Fall 2





Lunch and Learn Starts September 10

The latest innovative experience from OLLI, a new series called "Lunch and Learn," will kick off this fall. Bring your brown bag lunch, eat with friends, and listen to a short talk on a topic designed to stimulate, educate, amuse, and/or entertain you. It is guaranteed you will enjoy the time with other OLLI members while learning in a new short format. And it's free!

The sessions will begin Wednesday September 10th, and continue on September 24th and October 8th. Each session begins at 12:00 noon in Building 1 room 203. Members will bring their own lunches and the speakers will begin at approximately 12:20. In order to have time for the presentation and a following discussion period, Wednesday afternoon classes in Fall 1 will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

All OLLI members are invited to attend these special events, even if not attending Wednesday classes or not eating lunch. If you don't want to brown-bag it, give yourself enough time to buy lunch at the college cafeteria and make it to the meeting in time for the speaker. Be sure to get take-out containers as no plates, silverware, or glasses are allowed in the meeting room.

Lunch and Learn, or L and L as we're sure it will soon be called, is one more way to experience the stimulating combination of mental and social activities that is so unique to OLLI. Put these dates and topics on your calendar, and we'll see you there.

Wednesday, September 10. Topic: Muscle Up! Improve your strength! Improve health! Speaker: Tim Anderson from YRMC.

Wednesday, September 24. Topic: Modern Wellness (Energy) Technologies. Speaker: Sana Keller.

Wednesday, October 8. Topic: 2008 Arizona Ballot Issues. Speaker: Sandra Goodwin, League of Women Voters.

KIDS!

A small boy went to his grandmother's birthday party, and he asked her how old she was. She replied, "62." He was quiet for a moment, looking at her, then asked, "Did you start at 1?"

Listen in
to the
OLLI CORNER
feature of the
Yavapai College
Radio Hour
on KJZA - FM 89.5
and
FM 90.1

Every third weekend of
the month, 4 - 5 pm,
Saturday and Sunday.

Classroom Courtesies

Please be thoughtful
of your OLLI friends,
and turn off your cell
phone before class.
If you are going to
miss a class, please
let your facilitator
know. Thanks!

OLLI Membership Survey, Spring 2008

While there is a core of OLLI members who might be called "regulars," there is also a significant turnover every year: new members coming in and some members leaving. In an effort to determine the cause of this annual turnover, the Governing Council requested that the Membership Committee conduct a phone survey of the 229 members whose memberships lapsed between 12/13/06 and 10/31/07. A survey tool was developed by Clark Engle and Nikki Krause, and Marcie Jones recruited 20 volunteers to make the calls.

Of the 229 individuals identified, 133 were reached, or 58%. Volunteer callers asked for feedback on areas of OLLI that are under our control, such as class content, facilitators, schedule offerings, class times, locations, parking, and other issues. Of the 133 respondents, only 25, or 19%, expressed one or more concerns about OLLI.

Additionally, callers asked for comments, the vast majority of which indicated that the reason the members were no longer attending are issues that are beyond the control of OLLI. The most frequent comments were that the respondent still likes OLLI and intends to return, that he or she doesn't have time, and that there are other interests taking much of their time. Health issues, not interested in OLLI's offerings, and traveling were the next most frequent responses. Finally, very few indicated that issues like moving, work, a death in the family, transportation, or financial difficulties were the reason that they no longer attended.

In conclusion, the turnover seems to be due to individual issues and personal situations, keeping in mind that the statistics were from only 133 people, 25% of whom said they probably would rejoin OLLI. It is impossible to be perfect, but with member feedback and evaluation in a timely manner, we can identify concerns before they become problems.

My personal thanks to everyone involved in this project, especially the volunteer callers and the staff.

Clark Engle, Membership Chairman

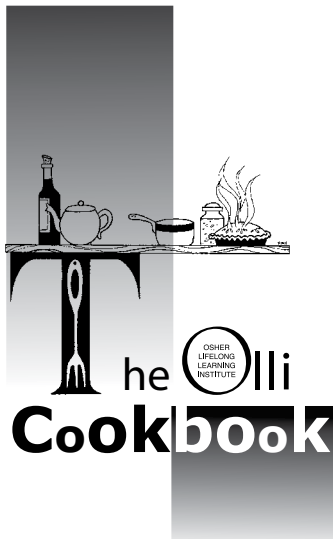
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WELL AS SUMMER

Have you tried the Cold Salmon Mayonnaise Salad or the Fruited Chicken Salad? These delicious summer recipes, given to us by Bob Clark and Eve Lee, are in The OLLI Cookbook. Purchase one for yourself and remember our beautifully wrapped cookbooks for a birthday, housewarming or welcome to our neighborhood gift for only \$15.00! Our contributors shared their favorite recipes as well as wonderful stories about why they were favorites. These cookbooks are the only fundraiser for our organization. We look forward to your support and you can look forward to some fabulous eating!

Coming Right Up!

Future OLLI Forums will include more information on the results of the roundtable brainstorming, an article by a member new to OLLI, a Curriculum Corner Column, more classroom courtesies, and continued information about times, dates, and the nature of upcoming OLLI events. As always, if you have ideas about what you would like to see in the Forum, drop a note in the suggestion box in the OLLI office, or contact Ron Woerner at leebk@cablone.net

OLLI Forum Staff

Ron Woerner, Editor
Judy Davis, Proof Reader
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