



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

"Learning for a Lifetime"

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Winter 2020

Freedman OLLI Fall Address Series Launched in September

"My mother, Henrietta Freedman, had a great love of learning," Judith Lawrence said, in her greeting to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute audience and guests on September 5th. "And while my mother was one of the founders of this institute, my father was always quietly behind her." That is why she and her husband, John Lawrence, wanted to honor both of her parents in endowing the new Henrietta and Rudolph Freedman Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Fall Address. It was a pleasure, she said, to be present for the launching of the annual lecture series.

In adding his own greeting, John Lawrence remarked, "Education and learning should not be just for personal gain but as a way of giving back"—words that could have been the credo for the event itself. They were applicable not only to OLLI's founding and its new lecture series, but also to the day's program.

The speaker for the inaugural Freedman Fall Address was Mary M. McKay, the Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation dean of the Brown School at Washington University. The mission of the Brown School, she said, is to "create social change through path-breaking research and educational excellence." The school comprises three disciplines: social work, public health and social policy. Much of Dean McKay's talk illustrated how these disciplines intersect and work to

create "new solutions to the thorniest issues we face." She acknowledged that the challenges are deep, and said, "That only energizes us."

One of the goals of the Brown School, a diverse community, is to reduce and eliminate disparity. McKay described how Brown School professors conduct research both locally and globally. Jason Purnell, for example, leads a St. Louis program that uses collaborative community action to advance health equity; it is now expanding into school-based health services. Another St. Louis project is led by Sean Joe. In examining race, opportunity, and social mobility in the region, it works to reduce inequality in adolescents' transition into adulthood.



**John Lawrence, Judith Freedman,
Katie Compton, Joan McDonald**

The Brown School's global projects are far-reaching. For instance, Lora Iannotti heads up child nutrition projects in Haiti, Ecuador, and East Africa, where she collaborates with local partners. Fred Ssewamala's research, meanwhile, focuses on sub-Saharan Africa. His projects seek to improve life chances and long-term development—including health, mental health, and educational outcomes—for youth impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS.

"Social policy is now the number one specialization at the Brown School," McKay said. "This is a generation that is trying to take the future in their own hands."



Executive Committee

Joan McDonald, *Chair*

Steve Radinsky, *Vice Chair*

Don Cohn, *Past Chair*

David Brown, *Curriculum Chair*

Julien Worland, *Secretary*

Bettye Dew, *Communications*

Heather Corcoran, *University College Interim Dean*

Katie Compton, *Director*

Bos Irvine

Silvie Madeo

Dan Ellis

Cathy Riedesel

Curriculum Group Leaders

Art/Architecture:

Tom Mitchell

Contemporary Issues:

Gene McNary

Creative Writing:

Dennis Smith

Entertainment Arts:

Nancy Harvey

History:

Bill Von Glahn

Literature:

Don Godiner

Jamie Spencer

Math/Science/Technology/

Charles Kuhn

Engineering/Medicine:

TBA

Religion and Philosophy:

Michael E. Nolan

Social Studies:

Nancy McKee

Karen Sterbenz

Message from the Chair

At the beginning of each academic year, we are privileged to hear an address by a member of the faculty of Washington University. This year, the 24th, was unique in that the address took place in a beautiful new venue, the Forest Park Golf Club, and was known by a new name: The Henrietta and Rudolf Freedman Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Fall Address. The event was made possible through a gift from Henrietta's daughter, Judith Freedman, and her husband, John Lawrence. They, along with their daughter Maisie, flew to St. Louis from London for this very special occasion. Dr. Barbara Schaal, dean of the school of Arts and Sciences, introduced the speaker, Dr. Mary M. McKay, dean of the Brown School of Social Services at Washington University. She spoke of the school's continuing legacy of creating vital knowledge, initiating social change and preparing leaders to address social and health challenges, both locally and globally.



Our Curriculum Committee once again came up with a comprehensive roster of classes for the 686 members registered for the Fall Term, over 100 of whom were new to our community of learners. The classes encompass everything from the dynamics of politics, to the drama of opera, to the distinction between prose and poetry, to discoveries in the scientific field. Would you like to try your hand at facilitating? If so, contact the Curriculum Committee for further information.

Our Show-Me-OLLI events, usually held each May and November, continue to be our best recruiting effort. In September, we had an extra Show-Me presentation which attracted about 40 guests. Our hope is that with the last Show-Me in November, along with ongoing individual recruitment efforts, we will have enrolled a record number of new members in 2019.

The third Annual Hootenanny was scheduled for Sunday, October 27, at the Ethical Society to benefit our scholarship fund, which helps those members who would like to join but need a little financial help. In 2017, the event raised \$1200, a tally boosted to \$1300 last year. With a little luck, this year's results may be the best of all.

Last, but not least, this is a reminder that on May 27, 2020, in conjunction with our annual meeting, we will be celebrating the silver anniversary of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University. Planning for the meeting and luncheon, to be held at the Knight Conference Center on the main campus, is underway. Save the date.

Happy holidays, everyone. We look forward to seeing you again in January.

--Joan McDonald

Newsletter

Editor: Bettye Dew

Photos: Eliot Katz

Contributors: Katie Compton

Bettye Dew

Joan McDonald



Notes from the Director's Desk

I am pleased to report that our enrollment is up again with 686 students registered in the fall term. We have reached our goal of 1000 members! Thank you to all who worked so hard to recruit new members. Indeed, we will have much to celebrate in May 2020 when we observe the 25th anniversary of OLLI!

We have come a long way since 1995 when Henrietta Freedman and about 50 students gathered in small study groups to start the Lifelong Learning Institute at Washington University. Although we are bigger, the heart and soul of OLLI have not changed because the cornerstones of OLLI have not changed; they are still peer learning and active participation.

Steve Radinsky is heading up the committee that is organizing the 25th anniversary. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 27! If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please let Steve or me know.

Ellen Boone is organizing the publication of the silver anniversary edition of Potpourri, a collection of OLLI creations, which will include memoirs, poetry, fiction, humor, photographs, drawing, and essays. Submissions are welcome through January 6, 2020.

In the spirit of collaboration and reaching out into the community, we will present two special OLLI programs at the brand new Mirowitz Center at the Covenant Place II Cahn Family Building on the I.E. Millstone Jewish Community Campus. Arnie Kaplan and Anna Amelung, two longtime OLLI facilitators, will be taking their "show on the road" in January and February. Check out the "Special Programs" section of the course brochure and sign up!

Many thanks to Michael Asbury, Butch Sterbenz, Joan Dellbringge, Dan Ellis and many others who have donated books to the "Take One" Basket on the front table. We love to recycle books!

Thank you to Lydia Long who donated the large laminated up-to-date world map in room A.



OLLI facilitator Cindy Turner-Johnson (right) at the St. Louis Literary Awards Ceremony on Oct. 24, 2019 with this year's winner, Edwidge Danticat. Cindy and Michael E. Nolan facilitated a course on Danticat's novels in the summer 2019 term.

The OLLI book sale will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Be sure to obtain and read all texts for your winter courses. Topics should be approached from the common knowledge of all participants. After all, peer learning is what we're all about here at OLLI. We count on everyone's participation.

In Case of Inclement Weather

Always call the OLLI office (314-935-4237) if you are unsure whether there will be class. We will leave a recorded message if classes are cancelled. Cancellation of classes will also be noted on our website. You can check KMOV—Channel 4 (4Warn Snow Alert Program), KTVI (Channel 2) and KSDK (Channel 5) as well. OLLI will be included on their scrolling lists. We close more frequently than the University for obvious reasons.

Don't forget...

...to tell your friends about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. We have business cards in the office as well as OLLI brochures. Stop by if you would like to have some to pass out to friends. Word-of-mouth is our best advertising!

- Katie Compton

Did you know that you can make a tax-free charitable gift from your IRA to support the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute? If you are age 70½ or older, you can make tax-free gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per calendar year directly from your IRA to Washington University and other qualified public charities.

To qualify:

You must be 70½ years of age or older when the distribution is made. Your spouse also may be eligible to make such gifts up to \$100,000 per year from his/her IRA.

The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Washington University.

Your gift must be outright. Tax-free charitable IRA rollover gifts cannot be used to fund a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, a donor advised fund, supporting organization, or a private foundation.

Please remember that tax-free charitable IRA gifts must transfer directly from your IRA to the university. Also, please indicate that you wish to direct your support for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. To learn more or to notify us of your gift, contact the Office of Planned Giving at **800-835-3503** or **314-935-5373** or **plannedgiving@wustl.edu**.

Consult with your legal or tax advisor before making a charitable gift.

❖ TRIBUTES WINTER 2020 ❖

Thank you to everyone who has given to the General, Endowment and Scholarship funds. Please continue to give generously! Giving a gift as a tribute in memory of one of the OLLIers we have lost recently is a nice way to remember them. You can give a gift online by going to our OLLI website and clicking on the GIFTS tab. You can also write a check and put it in one of our tribute envelopes found on the table in the OLLI hallway.

IN MEMORIAM

Stanko Banjanin

Terry Shute

Fred Kraus

Fran Brownstein

Charlotte Eldredge

Jerome Kaskowitz

Anabel Hudgins

Jack Clancy

Karen Sterbenz

Fran Gould

Jim Voelker

Fran Gould

Irene Cortinovis

Ruby Quarterman

General Fund

Gladys Barker

Emily Guignon

Anonymous

Edward O'Brien, Jr.

M.D.

Judith Ugalde

Al Rose

Harvey Gerstein

Jamie Spencer

Gail O'Brien

Elizabeth Wild

Barbara Cossarini

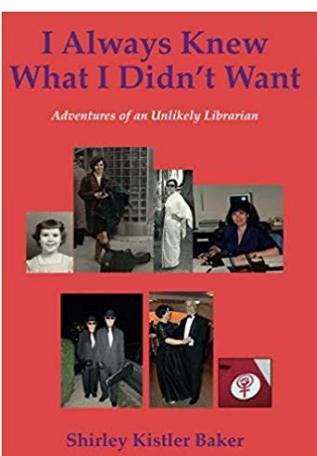
Geraldine Schiller

Barbara Osburg

Karen Adderton



OLLIers gather at a special event honoring Ann Ryneerson who died in September 2018.



Hats off to OLLI member Shirley Baker whose memoir, *I Always Knew What I Didn't Want*, is available on Amazon.com as an eBook and a paperback. "It's been decades of making notes and seven years of writing - 355 pages and 157 images - with lots of help in getting it ready to publish," says Shirley. "It's been hard work, but I am delighted to have fulfilled my promise to our children."

IN MEMORY OF:

Michael Altman

Ruby Lapin

Terry Shute

Ruby Lapin

Stanko Banjanin

Bob Streett

Fred Kraus

Bob Streett

Anabel Hudgins

Ruby Quarterman

IN HONOR OF:

Ed Ziegelman

Steve & Myra Radinsky

Sheldon Enger's 2nd Bar Mitzvah

Steve & Myra Radinsky

Katie Compton

Alan Raymond & Myra

Rosenthal

Richard & Margaret Diemer

Scholarship Fund

Paula & Morton Smith

Ellen Moceri

Robert Merenda

Steve Radinsky

Susan McCorkell

Judith Ugalde

Elizabeth Wild

Barbara Cossarini

Nina Kaplan

Potpourri—Silver Anniversary Edition

In connection with the silver anniversary celebration, you may have noticed the classroom posters announcing the resurrection of our literary journal Potpourri. Last published in 2004 and 2006, the 2020 edition will be a big part of our 25th anniversary celebration and will be available for purchase at the annual meeting in May. Submissions are currently being sought for this new silver anniversary edition, so if your inner muse is bursting to break free and you have an essay, poem, short story, art or photograph that you'd like to submit, get thee to the submission form box located on the hall table.

A Facilitator's Story: Polly Willard

At OLLI, some facilitators draw their course subjects from their professional fields, while others take inspiration from an avocation, a hobby or avid curiosity. And then there are facilitators who do both. Polly Willard, for one, offers courses in art history, in which she has professional experience, and in poetry writing, a personal enthusiasm.

In art history, she is backed by her years of teaching in the St. Louis Community College system, mostly at the Forest Park campus. Although she taught a gamut of art courses, her passions were design and art history. "I loved teaching," she says. "I said I would have paid them to let me do it!" (Which makes her perfect for OLLI!)

While she has facilitated OLLI courses that focus on specific art periods, such as Cubism and Abstract Expressionism, she often gravitates toward themed surveys. The inspiration for one of her courses came from an article in National Geographic magazine. "It described how the measurements taken of handprints on cave walls suggest they were made by women," she recalls. From that light bulb moment, she devised a course called "Women Artists: Cave Painting to 1800."



**Joe Ruwitch, Ed Moorman, Warren Hauff,
Linda Munsell, Claude Bernard. Center
front: Polly Willard.**

For the winter session, she will offer Part II of a course begun last spring, "Women in Art History." While the first half featured women artists of the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Neo-Classical eras, the second will cover the 19th and 20th centuries. The goal of the course is "to examine the role of women in early art, understand why they were denied public participation and learn what they achieved despite societal restrictions." In convents, surprisingly, women artists had more freedom.

Also listed on the winter roster will be the ongoing Poetry Writing class Polly started seven sessions ago. Each term, new students join several regulars to write and share poetry. "We alternate between writing free verse and fixed verse," she says. "We might practice what one student calls 'the dreaded sestina' or try writing a villanelle. Students might grumble but they meet the challenge."

Most of all, Polly wants to encourage students to use their imaginations. "I myself came to poetry late," she says. "It benefitted me to start this class at OLLI, where I didn't feel intimidated. Although I have attended excellent poetry workshops, I've never formally studied, for example, the villanelle. I tell my students, 'I'm not your teacher; I'm your organizer.' We're all learning together."

And isn't "learning together" the very essence of OLLI's mission as envisioned by our founders almost 25 years ago?

From Our Classes

When space allows, we like to include samples of classroom work. In the Fall Session, Karen Sterbenz and Esther Smoller offered a unique (for us) four-week course in restaurant reviewing. Class research included dining together at restaurants each week! The (shortened) review below is from that course.

Robust: It's a Must

Robust, located in Webster Groves, is a great restaurant find. Although billed as a wine bar, it serves lunch and dinner with great distinction.

Their featured soup, a corn-shrimp chowder, is hearty, with a nice kick. It's been on the menu for quite a while and comes with a couple of savory toasted bread slices. Their chicken salad sandwich, offered forever, is served on a vanilla bun—soft and not too sweet—with a side of spring salad and herb-filled dressing. That's what I usually order. At dinnertime, I have enjoyed their crab cakes, ordered

from the appetizer menu but more than adequate for my meal, especially when prefaced by the soup.

The dessert menu changes seasonally, and almost anything you choose is well worth the price. I ordered a dessert flight, the best of all possible worlds. It included a scrumptious, trifle-layered brownie with lots of real whipped cream, a small slice of key lime pie and salted caramel crème brûlée. Other visits have included a blueberry tart with pudding and a creamsicle-type dessert with orange pudding.

I have never been disappointed with what I've eaten at Robust, known for its mid-priced, quality food. The iced tea is real (no fruity stuff), the wait staff is friendly and efficient, and parking is available on the street or right next door. Friends have ordered the wine flight with dinner and been satisfactorily impressed.

Robust is located at 727 W. Lockwood. Reservations are recommended, especially for dinner.

—Karen Sterbenz

Who Can It Be?

Our mystery classmate has an unusual surname that can set off a guessing game. Is it Polish? Nope. Hungarian? No. But Eastern European? Yep. Czech? Some might say so, but I would not. Turns out, it's Bohemian. Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) was not yet a country in the early 20th century when his paternal grandparents emigrated, separately, to this country.

While our friend never knew his paternal grandfather, he came to know his Bohemian grandmother, a seamstress, only too well. "She was what might be politely called 'strong-willed,'" he says. One vivid memory is of a game of Bunko the two were playing. "Before long, I realized she was cheating on me, her young grandson. She knew I'd caught her, but she kept it up—for pennies!" Luckily, he has loving memories of his maternal grandparents, Illinois farmers of French, Dutch, and Polish heritage.

He grew up in what was then an unincorporated area of Chicago, in a house across the street from a 180-acre farm. His elementary school was only eight blocks away, but his high school was in the suburb of Hinsdale, where he was one of 600 in his graduating class. He found his niche through playing the clarinet in the band and orchestra and through accelerated math classes.

While considering colleges, he came up with his own ranking strategy. For all Midwestern colleges listed in Lovejoy's College Catalogue, he took the total number of books in their libraries and divided it by student enrollment. (And this was before calculators!) Of his three top choices, Washington University gave him the best package. "My method was unusual, but it worked for me," he says.

At WU, he took his time settling on a major. From nuclear engineering, he moved to theoretical math, then to music, and finally to history, which proved a good fit, considering his penchant for stories. He still marvels at a history professor named Diedrich Gerhart, who arrived on day one already having memorized his syllabus and all the students' names. He lectured without notes and gave oral mid-term exams.

Another history professor, John Murrin, also lives on in our mystery person's stories. While lecturing on colonial America, the professor mused that the only way to understand the uproar over the tax on Madeira wine was to taste some, but only if made from pre-1890 vines. Our

classmate and his friend took up the challenge and ordered a bottle. "In 1968, I was earning one dollar per hour working at the Brown Social Work library and that bottle cost \$25. When we presented it to Professor Murrin, the three of us sat in his office, sipping vintage Madeira, eating cheese and crackers, and talking colonial history."

He stayed on at the university for a MAT, graduating in spring 1969. In mid-August, he landed a teaching job at Parkway Central High School through what he calls "blind luck." "An American history teacher had died on the Saturday before I chanced to call about my resume on Monday. That got me an interview."



Our subject is on the left

After three years, he moved to Parkway North for an additional 29 years of teaching. His three teaching maxims include: know your subject very well, be decent at communicating, and be good at listening. Besides history, he taught American Studies, Criminal Law, Urban Studies, and Anthropology. It's easy to imagine that some of his former students are now relating stories about their old history teacher.

In retirement, he again has three requirements for himself: get out of the house every day, pick up a new venue every year, and take a trip every summer. The "new venue" requirement is directed largely toward two of his great loves, for he is quite the man about town when it comes to theater and music. He enjoys all forms of theater and can relate content from plays seen years ago. One venue, though, that he has never added to the list is The Muny; his biggest complaint about St. Louis is its summer weather.

Five or six years ago, he heard about OLLI from his WU alumni rep and has been an avid participant ever since, taking art, music, literature and history classes. He hadn't been at OLLI long when Jay Cohn recruited him for the crew of greeters directing students during the first week of each session. One qualification was that he already owned a straw boater! (Another might have been his rich speaking voice.) For some four years now, he has been the organizer for the greeters. So, look for him as the winter session starts and greet him, for a change.

(Answer on Page 8)

Celebrating OLLI's 25th Anniversary, May 27

So, what do you do if you're looking at a major milestone, your 25th anniversary, say? Well, at OLLI, no hesitation, we're throwing a party! We have 25 successful years to celebrate. And to make the day truly sterling (as in silver), we need your presence. We hope you'll plan now to come.

Since its founding in 1995, our institute has grown from a few dozen people in borrowed classrooms to the impressive numbers and comfortable facility we enjoy today. Happily, an OLLI committee is at work planning the big celebration. It is set for Wednesday, May 27.

"It will be a noteworthy event," says Steve Radinsky, chair of the 25th Anniversary Committee. "Twenty-five years ago, the idea of lifelong learning, as envisioned by Henrietta Freedman and her founding committee, came to fruition with the support of University College at Washington University. The new institute gave people of all backgrounds the opportunity to exercise their joy of learning or teaching (or both) in camaraderie with others."

The 25th anniversary celebration will feature a delicious buffet luncheon at the lovely Charles Knight Center on WU's Danforth Campus. As Steve says, "We have much to be grateful for during these 25 years: great administration, terrific facilitators, increased membership, a variety of great classes and now, thanks to the Osher Foundation, two beautiful new classrooms and a better financial outlook."

Committee members include Joan McDonald, Cathy Riedesel, Julian Worland, Dan Ellis, Silvia Madeo, Kelly Jordan, Bos Irvine, Yvonne Tisdel, Nora Cahill, Myra Radinsky, and Don and Caryl Godiner.



Plan to join Kelly Jordan and Steve Radinsky, both on the planning committee, at the 25th Anniversary Celebration in May.

Fall Luncheon Honors Facilitators

When a large group of facilitators gathered at OLLI in mid-September, it was not for the usual workshop. There were no speeches, sample lessons or PowerPoint presentations. The facilitators were there simply to socialize and enjoy a special luncheon in their honor. It was OLLI's way of expressing gratitude for the substantial, even monumental, efforts they put into planning and leading classes. They are volunteers who embody the meaning of the word facilitate, for they "help bring about" the learning that goes on within our walls. Plus—for a Thesaurus overload—they loosen us up, smooth us and unclog us!

But calling this group "facilitators," rather than teachers, is less a matter of semantics than of philosophy. At OLLI, we stress peer learning and class participation rather than hierarchy. While some of our facilitators are experts in their course subjects, many others create courses out of enthusiasm or curiosity for a subject. At OLLI, whether students or facilitators, our goal is to be lifelong learners.



NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT OLLI



The 3rd Annual Hootenanny was held on Oct. 27, 2019 at the Ethical Society of St. Louis. A good time was had by all and \$1310.00 was raised for the OLLI Scholarship Fund.

Hootenanny!



Mary McKay, Niedorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean of the Brown School, speaks to the gathering.



OLLIers gather at the Freedman Fall Address.



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