Greetings from the NRC

December 2022

The holidays really begin in our downtown Chicago neighborhood the week before Thanksgiving. That’s when the lights are ceremoniously turned on with a traffic snarling parade along Michigan Avenue, just down the block from the NRC offices. It marks the beginning of the season, cues the credit cards to be drawn out, and makes me start humming the melody of “Silver Bells.” But it also signals a subtle change of attitude. People adopt a slightly better mood. No, the constant honking of Chicago drivers continues, just a little shorter leaning on the horn. There are more smiles (or nods when masked) and the baristas and shoppers are a bit warmer. It leads my mind to gratitude for the generosity of spirit and cheer that even simple gestures can make.

To that point, and on behalf of the Osher NRC team, I want to express our thanks to many of you in the Osher Network. First, to our tireless (but yes, tired at the end of the fall term) directors and staffs at all 125 Osher Institutes. Your efforts are many, your creativity boundless, and our gratitude is less than you deserve. To our volunteers – whether instructors, leaders, coordinators or increasingly technology ambassadors – thank you for your service and the
goodwill it spreads throughout your Institutes. To our university hosts, the administrators, deans, provosts, presidents, and facility staffs, thanks for your patience and firm belief that serving older adult students is an important part of what we collectively do as educators. To our patron, the trustees, and the staff of The Bernard Osher Foundation, thank you for your abiding generosity, foresight, and enduring commitment to lifelong learning as a key agent of purpose in later life. And to our Osher members, who recognize the importance of learning in community, we thank you for sustaining your local Institutes with your membership and especially your steadfast engagement.

Finally, my thanks to all the contributors to this National Newsletter during the past year. Those of you who share inspiring and productive stories of local OLLIs help us discover, write, and edit this newsletter. We appreciate you and welcome more of your contributions and more contributors to this space in the coming year.

Please enjoy our final Osher Network Newsletter of 2022 with the NRC team’s sincere thanks for your attention and our wishes for healthy and happy holidays,

Steve Thaxton, Executive Director

Osher NRC
National Resource Center for Osher Institutes
The Osher Institute at Louisiana State University (LSU) recently participated in the “Walk to Remember” and won third place for organizations raising the most money! “The Walk to Remember is the largest event in the greater Baton Rouge area to raise awareness regarding Alzheimer’s disease and funds to support the program and services Alzheimer’s Services provides to local families affected by Alzheimer’s or other memory-related impairment.”

This was the first year that OLLI at LSU walked with this Alzheimer’s group and they were so excited to have been able to raise so much for a wonderful cause. The OLLI group also had a booth at the event where they ran out of all of their promotional items. On a warm day their handheld fans were especially popular. All participants walked a mile, listened to a local band, visited everyone’s booths, and enjoyed delicious jambalaya. OLLI coordinator, Tarilyn McBride expressed what a great day it was for their members, and for such a worthy cause.

Submitted by: Tarilyn McBride, Coordinator, OLLI at Louisiana State University

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OLLI AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY In ST. LOUIS
Lost Memoirs Reunited with Family
As is the case at many Osher Institutes across the Network, memoir writing classes are a staple at the OLLI at Washington University in St. Louis and have been for nearly three decades. The stories and photos shared by class members are sometimes new to the family and friends of the writer. Other times, it is a compilation of favorites told over and over again. The resulting printed memoir is a keepsake that can be passed down through a family for generations, though sometimes it gets tucked into a drawer or filing cabinet for a few decades. This was the case for the memoir and photos of former OLLI member Lilo Fuaman. However, a little office cleaning led to the reunification of these stories and photos to her family.

OLLI director Janet Gillow shared “We have been cleaning and organizing around the office and happened upon memoirs and old family photos from OLLI member Lilo Fauman pertaining to her family’s escape from Nazi Germany.” Janet did some research to see if she could find any family members of Lilo Fauman to reach out to in her attempt to reunite these documents. As fate would have it, Janet was able to locate Lilo Fauman’s granddaughter, Laura Horowitz, who happens to be a former colleague of Janet’s. Like her grandmother, Laura knows the importance of sharing stories as she co-founded an organization called We Stories. Its mission is to help families start and strengthen conversations about race and racism to create change.

When Janet reached out, Laura was thrilled to stop by the OLLI office to pick up her grandmother’s work. She brought her son Jonah, Lilo’s great-grandson, with her and shared these special memories and stories with him.

Submitted by: Janet Gillow, Director, OLLI at Washington University in St. Louis
OLLI AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

International Day

OLLI at Penn State, University Park, recently partnered with Penn State Global community engagement programs to host an “International Day” social event. Osher attendees had the opportunity to visit cultural displays, engage and converse with international students and graduate students, and Humphrey Fellows. Together, the two units created an intimate atmosphere for a show and tell from around the world.

The international volunteers filled the room with displays of their culture from China, Bangladesh, Mexico, Colombia, Vietnam, South Korea, Brazil, Iran, Suriname, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. Their displays included photos of their country, cultural items, and clothing. A highlight of the event was a musical presentation of Chinese instruments and dancing. By the end of the event, the international volunteers mingled with other volunteers and OLLI members, which included an impromptu fashion show of traditional clothing.
Dr. Duyen Le, a Humphrey Fellow, said, “It was a great opportunity for me to understand more and experience the diverse cultures of different countries. I am also proud to share my country’s beauty features with international friends.” Dr. Le is one of 12 Penn State Humphrey Fellows from the 2022-23 cohort – a program established in 1978 to honor Vice President Hubert Humphrey. There are 13 U.S. Universities with Humphrey Fellowship programs, including seven on Osher Institute affiliated campuses.

OLLI member Tony Ludovico shared, “OLLI’s International Day event was truly fascinating. As a new member, it offered me an opportunity to meet other OLLI participants and to spend some time socializing with people who shared interesting aspects of their cultural heritage. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing them, some displaying clothes and articles from their native countries. Once again, I come to appreciate how much more there is to learn about others from around the world.”

Submitted by: Spring Younkin, Program Specialist and Emily Hoffman, Communications Coordinator, OLLI at Penn State, University Park

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**NRC UPDATES**

**We want your feedback!**

**Osher Network Newsletter Survey**

The Osher National Resource Center is conducting an interest survey to ensure that our monthly e-newsletter is serving the needs and interests of our readers. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey. All responses are confidential, no identifying information is collected. Thank you!
QUICK TIPS FOR HELPING OPERATE AN OSHER INSTITUTE

Quick Tip - The Season of Giving

The holidays are a perfect time for fundraising campaigns both big and small. 'Tis the season of giving; your members and donors are more apt to donate in the spirit of the season. Throw a holiday party. This time of year is great for getting members, volunteers, and staff together to celebrate their successes. You can honor contributions from volunteers, the effectiveness of your staff, thank your members, and potentially tie some fundraising into the parties. Finally, give the gift of OLLI! Some OLLIs run gift certificate membership plans for members (or others) to purchase and give to friends and family. These run the range from gifting a class to an annual membership.

There are many more ideas to spread the holiday spirit among your OLLI, hopefully these few will add to your wonderful holiday season.

CAREER OPENINGS IN THE OLLI NETWORK

Job Board

Administrative Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Southern Oregon University

Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh

Director of Development, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Florida Atlantic University

Is there a staff opening at your Osher Institute? Please send it to us at oshernrc@northwestern.edu