

Members Reflect Fondly on OLLI's 25th Anniversary

For some, OLLI is a gift. For others, enrichment. And for one member, OLLI has been a "life saver." As OLLI at BCC celebrates its 25th anniversary, a cross section of OLLI members was asked to reflect on what OLLI has meant to them. The answers all pointed to value.

Consider Ellie Aronoff who moved to Berkshire County with her husband 65 years ago after a career in teaching and volunteering in New York. "I couldn't imagine myself living outside New York. I thought I would die of boredom here," she said. Then she discovered the Berkshire Institute for Lifelong Learning BILL (which later became OLLI).

"BILL and OLLI, with its vast areas of learning and fantastic teachers brought the greatest gift to seniors in the area. It enables smart and lively seniors to have creative class discussions while learning and making new friends. It's the very best of experiences," said the Stockbridge resident. "Where else could I learn about Chaucer?"

Charlotte Finn learned about BILL some years ago in a newspaper article. "My first course, taught by a former United Nations worker, started my continuous journey with BILL (and later) OLLI." Finn says she never ceases to be "amazed by the selection of subjects professional instructors teach. I thank OLLI for treating me to a smorgasbord of classes, season by season. You have enriched my life."

Carole Siegel, a longtime active member of OLLI, says "OLLI has added a lovely dimension to my life with continuous opportunities to learn in so many areas and meet interested and interesting people." The long-time OLLI board member who

(continued on page 4)

Newly Elected President and Three New Directors Kick Off OLLI's Next Quarter Century

OLLI at BCC enters its next quarter-century with a new president, Barbara Lane. As OLLI celebrates its 25th anniversary, she welcomes to the board three new directors: **Bob Braddick**, **Ellen Croibier** and **Monica Sinclair**. Elected to their second two-year terms are **Bob Desrosiers**, **Christopher Guidette**, **Gordon Josephson** (now board vice president), **Virginia O'Leary** and **Chelly Sterman**. Each brings distinct interests and expertise to the board.

Lane and her husband Ed attended some Berkshire Institute for Lifelong Learning lectures in the late 90s when weekenders in Housatonic. On retiring and moving full time to the Berkshires three years ago, she went looking for BILL—Berkshire Institute for Lifelong Learning—OLLI's predecessor organization—and found OLLI. Courses led to a Shared Interest Group (SIG), which led to the membership committee, and before she knew it, a seat on the board.

Experienced in business and well versed in not-for-profits, Lane calls OLLI's membership—now at 1,250 members—its greatest asset. "Our members are a most amazing group," she said. "They are well educated, culturally aware and politically astute." They also are geographically dispersed, posing a logistical challenge. One solution being considered is simulcasting classes with interactive capability.

Diversity is another challenge, one shared by other OLLIs. Lane is open to suggestions on how to reach all segments of our population. She also wants to explore group volunteer opportunities that would enrich the OLLI experience and raise visibility, with Habitat for Humanity, for example. "As we get older, the idea of giving back becomes more important," she said.

Bob Braddick joined OLLI in 2018 expressly to give back. His was not the usual interest in courses, special lectures, trips or SIGs, though he appreciates those programs. Rather, he joined to mentor BCC students. The product of an academic family that appreciated education, he praises community colleges for serving a broad range of people with various objectives. Once he and his wife Hope settled permanently in Great Barrington, the retirement "gratitude moment" hit, and he headed to campus.

During his career in the New York City area as a management consultant specializing in healthcare, Braddick benefitted greatly from influential mentors. He looks forward to being the board's point person for mentoring. "One of life's special opportunities is to give of one's wisdom, experience and empathy to help another be successful in work and life," he said.

Braddick doesn't limit his mentoring to BCC. He also works with entrepreneurs

(continued on page 4)



OLLI president Barbara Lane

Editor's Note

OLLI Saved My Life and Other Great Stories

Of all the laudatory words I've heard in support of OLLI in our recent survey of members, none seem more powerful than those from Terry Weaver, a long-time member. OLLI, he said, "saved my life." He recounted his experience of having to suddenly quit his job because of a medical problem and then being directed by a friend to attend BILL (OLLI's predecessor organization). He said he went to classes with enthusiasm and has "been coming ever since."

For her piece on members' reflections, *Update* writer **Joanna Fribush** spoke with a cross-section of members and confirmed what she already knew—and what most of us suspect—it's hard to imagine life in the Berkshires without OLLI. No wonder our numbers keep growing.

You'll see numerous references to our 25th anniversary in this edition, including our distinctive anniversary logo which should remind you to attend our 25th Gala celebration Sept. 12 at the Proprietor's Lodge in Pittsfield.

So, we've been around since 1994, which to some of us not may seem so long ago. Then again, 25 years is four years more than the time between the end of WWI and the beginning of WWII. And 1994 was a time when flip phones and the World Wide Web was a mystery to many of us.

Technology has taken quantum leaps since then, and OLLI is keeping up. In their article with a clever pun of headline, *Update's* **Virginia O'Leary and Linda Halpern** show how OLLI is accessing information through state-of-the-art technology by using interactive video conferencing across continents in several OLLI social sciences courses.

OLLI continues to attract high-profile speakers. OLLI past President **Peter Bluhm** writes about CNN's White House correspondent, Jim Acosta, who delivered this year's Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture in May, reporting how the atmosphere in the White House is increasingly hostile toward news organizations.

OLLI's next quarter century begins with a newly elected president, Barbara Lane, and three newly elected directors. You'll learn about them and the challenges they face in writer **Kathy Zdeb's** article detailing their experience, background and unique talents.

I close with a plea—as story ideas for *OLLI Update* occur to you, let us know—or better yet—write one yourself and send it to us. We'd love to hear from you. — **Chris Guidette**



Update Editor Chris Guidette

President's Letter

In this, my first letter to you as board President, I want to convey how excited I am about our OLLI's present and future. It's our 25th anniversary year, and we're stronger and more vibrant than ever. Our membership and class enrollment numbers are breaking records, University Day has become an amazing twice-yearly educational event, our curriculum and Distinguished Speakers Series committees continue to enlist lecturers who educate and inspire us, we're experimenting with an encore second summer session, our Mentoring for Success program is strong and growing, and we enjoy an array of special events each year that engage and delight us.

None of this happened overnight or by chance. We owe much thanks to the OLLI Board of Directors and committee members, dedicated staff, and great volunteers who pooled their talents and worked so hard over these past 25 years to make all this possible. Now, it's our turn to keep the momentum going. Our recent membership survey revealed a wealth of experience and talent within the OLLI community. I hope to speak to as many of you as possible over the next few months to get your thoughts and suggestions on where we go from here. But it won't stop there. There'll be challenges along the way, and our OLLI will need each of us, our vision and willingness to commit our time and talents, in the exciting years ahead.

I can't end this letter without mentioning the three OLLI board members whose tenures have recently ended. Carole Siegel, Hal Shair, and Carl Shuster, our former vice president, contributed greatly to our OLLI's success over the years. I know I speak for the entire board in thanking them for their dedication and hard work.

Our 25th Anniversary Gala will take place on September 12th. I hope to see many of you there as we take a nostalgic walk down memory lane, and then look to the exciting possibilities for our OLLI's future.

— **Barbara Lane**

OLLI'S 25th Anniversary Gala – Save the Date

An Anniversary Gala will highlight the 25th anniversary of OLLI at BCC on Thursday, September 12 at The Proprietor's Lodge on Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield.

Those of you who remember the location as the site of the old ITAM Lodge will be amazed at its transformation into a beautiful event venue. Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will start at 5:30 p.m., to be followed by a sit-down dinner an hour later, with festivities to follow. Weather permitting, we'll be able to enjoy those nibbles and pre-meal drinks outdoors on the lodge's lakeside deck.

We have so much to celebrate in this 25th anniversary year, including our extraordinary growth. OLLI, formerly the Berkshire Institute of Lifelong Learning (BILL), started out with 270 members in 1994. We've grown into an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offering dozens of varied educational opportunities and a host of special events to more than 1,200 members each year.

The members of the OLLI Board of Directors urge you to join us as we take a nostalgic look back at the last 25 years, and look forward with great anticipation to the dynamic, exciting years to come.

— **Barbara Lane**

OLLI's Fall 2019 Courses

OLLI's fall semester begins September 13.
Register online at www.berkshireolli.org
or call 413.236.2190 to register today.

Classes that are redlined are full.

MONDAYS

- M101 *The Three Eleanoras*
- ~~M102 *Home, Class and Sexuality in Victorian Literature and Culture*~~
- M103 *Today's Headlines*
- M104 *Gardening for Baby Boomers: 10 Ways to Garden Smarter as You Get Older*
- M105 *Cosmic Matters: At Home in the Multiverse*

TUESDAYS

- T101 *The Housatonic River: Its Beauty & Challenges*
- T102 *Proof and Persuasion*
- T103 *Musical Form and Analysis for the Everyday Listener*
- T104 *Introduction to Bridge*
- T105 *Beyond Mountains, More Mountains: Poetry Fathoms Life*
- T106 *Contemporary Gender Roles, Part 3*

WEDNESDAYS

- W101 *The Role of the Law in American Democracy*
- W102 *What Really Matters: A Philosophy Workshop*
- ~~W103 *Those Williamstown Museums!*~~
- ~~W104 *Writing Your Story*~~
- W105 *Great Decisions*
- W106 *Hot Topics*
- W107 *Partisanship, Gerrymandering, and the Right to Vote*

THURSDAYS

- ~~TH101 *Introduction to Hiking in the Berkshires*~~
- TH102 *Resilience & Thriving in the Face of Adversity*
- TH103 *The Evolving City: Patterns of Change*
- TH104 *Lawrence of Arabia: The Movie, the Man, the Enigma*

FRIDAYS

- F101 *Virgil's Aeneid*
- ~~F102 *Bread and Pasta*~~
- F103 *Enriching Your Modern Art Experience*
- F104 *Science Conversations*
- ~~F105 *Classic Photographic Portraits*~~
- F106 *The Magic of Mendelssohn*
- F107 *Metropolitan Opera Preview*

Record Breaking Tenth Annual Art Show

OLLI's tenth annual art show featured more art by OLLI members than ever before, and more visitors too. Over 500 people came through the doors of the Welles Gallery in Lenox over the weekend of August 9-11 to enjoy paintings, drawings, photography, fiber art, sculpture and more. Kudos to the hard-working OLLI Art Show Committee for a terrific show.



Top to bottom: Sisters and OLLI Art Show Committee members Nan and Maxine Bookless, with Nan's artwork in the show • Attendee viewing the artwork • Attendees enjoying lively conversation at the art show • OLLI artist Stephanie Beling with her work • Lee Hertz with OLLI art show committee member and artist Linda Hertz



Bob Braddick

through 1Berkshire, SCORE and a boutique firm, Blue Hill Partners. In addition to expertise in mentoring and leadership development, he brings to the board experience as a volunteer for an educational foundation and as a board member for United Way, both in Westchester County, NY.

Ellen Croibier is another board member who joined OLLI last year. At about the same time, Croibier and her husband Peter landed in their retirement home in Sandisfield. On a weekend visit to their second home in Otis—a retreat from her working 90-hour weeks as a mortgage banker in New Jersey—she spied their perfect forever home in a real estate magazine. They saw the house the next day, made an offer on their return trip to

New Jersey, relocated their work lives to the Berkshires, and moved to Sandisfield 20 years ahead of schedule.

Croibier remains action-oriented in retirement. Her first OLLI course—Gender Divide in U.S. Politics—prompted her to write a letter to the editor and join a political campaign. The board will benefit from that energy, along with her experience in sales, banking and not-for-profit management. Having lived and worked in France, she appreciates how OLLI classes expand horizons, giving an “eye on the world beyond the Berkshires.”

Classmates inspire Croibier, especially vibrant and involved older individuals with stories about World War II and the Holocaust. One OLLI population she’d like to see grow is the under 65 set. She suspects younger people don’t know about the organization or don’t think it’s for them, despite being eligible at age 50. Holding courses later in the day or on weekends might attract this group, she said, musing about all those years she could have taken courses, if only.

Monica Sinclair joined OLLI three years ago with a different lifelong learning experience in mind. A dual British-American citizen, she knew about a UK organization with a contrasting approach to flexing brain muscles. University of the Third Age (UTA)



Monica Sinclair

is something of an OLLI in reverse: stressing SIG-like interest groups and far fewer structured courses. After finding an OLLI class to her liking, then joining the membership committee, which she now co-chairs, Sinclair gravitated to a familiar format as coordinator of the French Conversation SIG. The smaller group setting of a SIG builds community, she said.

Sinclair loves organizational mechanics, the behind-the-scenes work. She enjoys nothing more than diving into data, scrutinizing spreadsheets and developing systems. She did that in marketing and management positions in the airline industry in England, France and eventually Atlanta, where she closed out her career managing a cooking store’s online shopping system. Additionally, she has 30 years experience as a volunteer

and board member of not-for-profit organizations.

Contemplating retirement, Sinclair and her husband Brian spent a year exploring potential locales. A weekend in the Berkshires sold them on Lenox. “We need to not rest on our laurels,” she said. “We need to actively explore demographics, new geographic areas, new types of courses.”

— Katherine Zdeb

remains active in planning many OLLI programs, said she also appreciates “that OLLI chose to develop a mentoring program for BCC (Berkshire Community College) students. It is a way for some outstanding OLLI members to share some of their expertise and knowledge with students. It is all good. We are fortunate to have OLLI in Berkshire County,” said Siegel.

Long-time member Terry Weaver credits OLLI with “saving my life. I had to stop working unexpectedly because of a medical problem,” he recalled. “A friend and BILL member, Norman Avne suggested BILL. I went to class with enthusiasm and have been coming ever since,” Weaver said.

Will Singleton, an OLLI member of two years and member of the Board of Directors, especially appreciates the people he has met through OLLI. “It has been a really rewarding experience” says Singleton, “to have met people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.”

“My involvement has given me good conversation, friendships and thought-provoking classes,” Singleton said.

Virginia “Ginny” O’Leary is a retired Auburn University dean and professor whose OLLI experiences date back to her involvement with the Auburn branch of OLLI. “You can take the professor out of the university but you cannot take the university out of the professor,” she said in a recent interview. And she lives this adage. Since her return to her native Pittsfield and joining OLLI at BCC, O’Leary has taught a number of courses and serves as chair of the Social Science Curriculum Committee. “It’s a joy to share knowledge with others who are bright, well read, educated and excited to be members of a lifelong learning community,” she said.

Carl Shuster’s take on the OLLI experience covers the perspective of many in the organization. “OLLI has fulfilled our dream of living among a community of committed learners who offer us the pleasure of real friendship as we make our way through our later years,” said the long-time member and former OLLI Board of Directors vice president.

Shuster may not speak for all OLLI members, who numbered 1,255 as of mid-June, but it’s a safe bet he speaks for most of them.

— Joanna Fribush & Chris Guidette

Pilgrimage to the Bard's England

In July, OLLI took its first foreign trip in several years, and it was a booming success. The trip, titled *Shakespeare in the Tudor Age*, offered three nights in Oxford and three nights in Stratford-on-Avon. The trip was suggested by Phil McKnight, a frequent OLLI instructor, who attended and who kept us busy.

Arriving in Oxford Monday at mid-day, we took a quick walking tour of the neighborhood, followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel. Tuesday morning we took a longer and more comprehensive walking tour that included visits to Exeter College and Christchurch College. A few of us also visited the extraordinary Blackwell's Bookstore. The group then spent the afternoon at the nearby Ashmolean Museum, which is replete with relics from all over the ancient world. That evening we returned to Exeter College chapel (stained glass and all) for a concert of Renaissance chamber music, performed on period instruments. (Wow!) Wednesday morning, we heard from Dr. Ben Higgins, an Oxford Don, who spoke movingly about one of Shakespeare's last plays and how the performance and the name were changed over time. Next, our own Philip McKnight offered his detailed thoughts on whether Will Shakespeare of Stratford really was the author of all those plays. Wednesday afternoon we traveled by bus to Blenheim Palace, the home of the Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Winston Churchill. The palace was stunning, as was the art still on display. The palace also offered taped excerpts from Churchill's famous wartime speeches.

Thursday morning we all headed off for Stratford-on-Avon. The trip included a stop at the Rollright Stones, a Neolithic stone circle in the Cotswolds. On arriving in Stratford, we walked to Trinity Church to see Shakespeare's grave. That afternoon we spent an enchanting hour with Sophie Stanton, one of the major actors for the

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). That night, we watched the RSC perform *Measure for Measure*, a comedy about how romance and amorous feeling can conflict with an excess of law and order.

Friday morning, we attended a lecture and talk by Dr. Tiffany Stern, the Editor of the Arden Shakespeare. She was charming and self-deprecating, and we left with a deep respect for the many difficulties facing any editor who seeks to reprint Shakespeare plays, even 400 years after they were written. Later that day we visited Shakespeare's birthplace, a half-timbered structure where his father made and sold gloves to local residents. Then we returned to the RSC building for a backstage tour. We were awed by the complexity of current productions (scores of computer-controlled lights and speakers) as well as the company's commitment to make the plays relevant to modern audiences. We finished the day watching a performance of *As You Like It*, another comedy. This play coined many of Shakespeare's most famous lines, such as "All the world's a stage," and it used his comedic standby,

characters who cross-dress and deliciously slow the course of true love.

Saturday morning our group visited Kenilworth Castle, a giant stone and brick structure that still has many walls standing. It was constructed in stages over several centuries, with the most recent and elegant part built by an unsuccessful suitor of Queen Elizabeth I. Later we were treated to a performance of *Taming of the Shrew*, with sex-reversed roles.

Overall, the trip offered a large dose of Shakespeare in performance, in lectures, and in the discussions we had over our many excellent meals together. The instruction, food and hotels were all extraordinary, and our English guide from Discover Europe was outstanding. Hats off to Phil McKnight for organizing the trip and for finding such outstanding lecturers. And hats off to Discover Europe for finding such a knowledgeable guide and treating our travelers so well. — Peter Bluhm




PHOTO BY SUSAN QUADE

L to R: Donna Weber, Linda Brogan, Lauren Stasiak, Mark Stevens, Amelia Berg, Jennifer Howlett, Christine Hoodith (guide), Phil McKnight, Susan Wozniak, Valerie Bluhm, Mary Claire Brunelli, Marnell Stover, Peter Bluhm. Not pictured: Susan Quade.

Jim Acosta Wows Audience at Mona Sherman Lecture



A packed house greeted Jim Acosta at the Mahaiwe  later

Jim Acosta,  White House Correspondent for CNN, was warmly received at the 2019 Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture. Held at the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington in May, Acosta spoke about the importance of a free press, and the challenges it currently faces.

Acosta began by recalling the historically good relations between John F. Kennedy and the White House press corps. He then contrasted that relationship to Cuba, where Acosta once had the opportunity to question the Cuban head of state, Raúl Castro. Reporters and dissenters are frequently jailed in Cuba, and Acosta



reported that the island's leader had not welcomed controversial questions.

Turning to current events, Acosta reported the atmosphere in the White House is increasingly hostile to reporters. For example, in October, 2018, Acosta had asked Sarah Sanders, the White House Press Secretary, to state that the press in this country is not the "enemy of the people." Sanders twice declined to make that statement.

Acosta then described a testy press briefing one month later. Mr. Acosta, who was in the front row, asked the President several consecutive questions and refused to sit down when so directed.

A White House staffer then approached Acosta and tried to seize his microphone. Acosta eventually surrendered it, and the President then said that Mr. Acosta was "a rude, terrible person." The entire exchange was captured on video.

After the news conference, Sarah Sanders falsely asserted that Acosta had "[placed] his hands on a young woman" while trying to retain control of the microphone. Sanders also released a doctored video of the event tending to make Acosta look more aggressive. Later, the White House revoked Acosta's press pass. Ultimately CNN filed suit and the press pass was restored, but Sanders never apologized for the distorted video.

Acosta's   released on June 11 by Harper Collins. In the book and in the talk, Acosta contended that America is at risk of becoming more like other countries where reporters are routinely attacked. While this country is very special, he said, there is no guarantee that we can keep it that way.

Acosta finished his talk on a cautious but optimistic theme. While acknowledging that "the fight for the truth is really on," he asserted that the press is pro-truth, is not necessarily anti-Trump, and it is certainly not "the enemy of the people." Acknowledging that Americans have real differences, he also emphasized that we should look for a middle ground because "we are all Americans" and "we all breathe the same air." — **Peter Bluhm**



Arthur Sherman, husband to the late Mona Sherman, CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta, and Lisa Sharkey, Mona Sherman's daughter



State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Berkshire Community College Foundation President Gene Dellea, and Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy

‘... and Gladly Do They Teach’

OLLI thrives because of the generosity of our instructors and speakers—all volunteers—who share their insight and knowledge with our members and the public each year. The following instructors and speakers contributed significantly to OLLI over the past year. Please join us in extending our sincere gratitude for all they do to enhance the quality of life in the Berkshires.



Paula Almgren	Kinney Frelinghuysen	David Margolick	Howard Shapiro
Stanley Applebaum	Thomas Gerety	Richard Matturro	Shirley Shapiro
Ashton Applewhite	Gregory Gimblette	Peg McDonough	Carl Shuster
Howard Arkans	Paula Gimblette	Philip McKnight	Claudia Shuster
Mariah Auman	Erica Girgenti	Douglas Mishkin	Greig Siedor
David Baum	Hank Gold	William Moomaw	Carol Siegel
Morris Bennett	Larry Goldberg	Margot Moomaw	Will Singleton
Anna Biasin Zaffanella	Darra Goldstein	Terry Moor	Steven Somkin
Maggie Bittman	Mackenzie Greer	Donald Morrison	Kate Sontag
Sam Bittman	Chris Guidette	Edwin Neumuth	Ishita Srivastava
Anne Blaschke	Hugh Guilderson	Virginia O’Leary	Kenneth Stark
Peter Bluhm	Brian Hailes	David Orenstein	Lance Serman
Michael Boroniec	Linda Halpern	Bobbie Orsi	Chelly Serman
Maura Brennan	Phil Halpern	Tina Packer	William Sturgeon
Robin Brickman	Gwendolyn Hampton Van Sant	Larry Pellish	Leonard Tabs
Cornelia Brooke Gilder	Adam Hinds	Gerol Petruzella	Steve Thaxton
Jock Brooks	Thomas Hodgson	Mark Pettus	Steven Tobin
William Cameron	Gordon Hyatt	Peter Podol	John Trainor
Julie Cassiday	Carol Hyatt	Leah Reed	Nancy Travis
Kara Cohen	John Hyson	Dennis Regan	Mary Trevor Thomas
Alisa Costa	Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina	Jeffrey Robbins	Dien Vo
Letty Cottin Pogrebin	Justin Jackson	Mary Rogers	Nataliia Volkovetska-Ireland
Stephen Dankner	Frances Jones-Sneed	Joanne Rogovin	Stacy Wallach
John Dickson	Gordon Josephson	Ken Roht	Nancy Walters
Bess Dillman	Robert Kahn	Anne Roland	Francine Weinberg
Kit Dobelle	Jamie Keller	Robert Ronnow	Martin Weinstein
Vivian Dorsel	Tessa Kelly	Alan Rubin	Randy Weinstein
Stewart Edelstein	Katherine Kidd	Steven Rubin	Jay White
Joseph Emrich	Thomas Koelle	David Rutstein	Michael Wilcox
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	Thaddeus Kubis	Margorie Safran	Steven Will
Chris Ferrero	Craig Langlois	Peter Samsel	William Wootters
James Finnerty	David Langston	Jim Schantz	Elizabeth Young
Andrew Fisher	Richard Lebeaux	Marney Schorr	Jeremy Yudkin
Karel Fisher	Benjamin Liptzin	Anthony Segal	
Dan Franck	Evan Lurie	Harold Shair	

OLLI UPDATE

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Interactive Techn — OLLI-gy

OLLII continues to provide us with new ways of learning and accessing information through state-of-the-art technology. The Social Science Curriculum Committee is proudly in the forefront of this endeavor by using interactive video conferencing in two courses. OLLI members are now able to speak with experts on the other side of the globe during class time.

In May, “Ukraine in Geopolitical Context” was presented to rapt class members by Natalia Volkovetska-Ireland. A native of Ukraine who earned her Ph.D. there, Volkovetska-Ireland wowed the class with her own extensive knowledge. She was also able to connect the class in real time with two of her colleagues in Ukraine who offered on-the-spot reporting and a live question and answer session.

Nazar Rozlutsky, a scholar and historian whose focus is the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, spoke to the class. As a veteran of the current Russian-Ukrainian war, he was



able to provide first-hand accounts.

The class also video conferenced with Oleksandr Bondarenko, a social studies and history teacher, artist and entrepreneur. He shared his expertise in Ukrainian history as an active member of the Kosiv community. He is also a musician and tourist guide in Ukraine.

OLLII members will have another opportunity to make live international connections during the fall semester. Dr. Virginia

O’Leary will offer “Resilience and Thriving in the Face of Adversity,” during which she and class members will reach a colleague in Singapore through video conferencing. The topic of this course came from a paper O’Leary wrote with Dr. Jeannette Ickovics, Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Yale-National University of Singapore.

OLLII members are enthusiastic about classroom innovations and are becoming more comfortable with new technologies. OLLI members can now speak with instructors and experts on the other side of the globe in certain classes, thanks to new technology we are using.

— Linda Halpern & Virginia O’Leary

