

## National Correspondent's Insights on President Trump Stir OLLI Members

### '... Six Lies a Day'

It may take a political neophyte reporter to cover a political neophyte candidate for President who defies every cannon of American politics.

Katy Tur, the NBC News national correspondent who covered Donald Trump's presidential campaign from its inception in 2015, shared that and other insights with an audience that packed the Mahaiwe theater at OLLI's annual Mona Sherman Memorial lecture in Great Barrington on May 25.

Tur, who also is an MSNBC anchor, said she aspired to assignments in Middle Eastern war zones and had little experience covering national elections, but was nevertheless plunged into the campaign "at a time no one really thought Trump could win." Her campaign assignment would be "six weeks, tops," she was told by her boss.

It began to look like her boss might be right when Trump publicly denigrated the heroism of Arizona Senator John McCain, who suffered for five years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. "Every Republican political leader in the country told me Trump's campaign was finished (for making fun of an American war hero)" she said.

The day after those famous remarks, Tur said she attended a raucous 20,000-person



PHOTOS BY KIRK SWISS

(continued on page 5)

## Ken Stark's Accounts of Symphonic Giants are Spellbinding

There are those who skim the surface and there is Ken Stark, who has only one mode, whether the subject is music, wine, Tanglewood, theater or OLLI: full immersion.

That commitment has been a treat for OLLI music lovers, who have enjoyed Stark's spellbinding accounts of the lives and careers of Beethoven, Bach and other symphonic giants. At the conclusion of every term Stark gives each of his students a CD of selected compositions by the subject composer, which he prepares. His next course, "B is for Brahms," is scheduled for the fall term.



Stark, and his late wife Lynn, who passed away last year, first came to the Berkshires about 15 years ago for a weekend visit, recalled Stark. "We went to one Tanglewood concert and we were hooked," he said in a recent interview. Now he is a member of Tanglewood's gala committee and the Tanglewood Annual Fund Task Force. He often attends all

(continued on page 2)

## Appreciating OLLI Volunteers

This edition of *OLLI Update* puts the spotlight on the many volunteers who instruct us, plan our activities and run our organization in a well-managed and financially sound manner on behalf of close to 1,200 members.

Take a moment to read through the list of instructors on the volunteer page and you'll appreciate the breadth and depth of subjects and ideas these generous teachers cover. With high education and intellectual heft, their unceasing efforts make their courses truly worthwhile experiences.

Just a few examples: for his *Fine Art Photography* class, **Thad Kubis** travels around Berkshire County with students, demonstrating technique and taking time to review and critique each participant's portfolio of photos.

Experiencing **Richard Matturro's** courses on Shakespeare's plays is almost as entertaining and enlightening as viewing the plays themselves. Each class comes with a set of thoughtful questions to consider from any perspective—novice, enthusiast or scholar.

What a treat for the adventurous was **Ray Grogan's** kayaking class. Even after the class time spent on beautiful Laurel Lake, participants were encouraged to go out on their own using Ray's kayaks and life jackets—at no cost.

**Anna Zaffanella** travelled to Mantua, Italy to research primary source material and art for *Four Renaissance Women*. In four weekly sessions this scholar enthralled her students with colorful details of the lives of women who not only lived scandalous existences but influenced western European life in extraordinary ways.

And imagine the amazement of participants in **Wayne Hammond's** class on *Exploring Early Manuscripts and Printed Books* at the Williams College Chapin Library when he passed around centuries-old parchment scrolls for each student to hold and read. Now that's getting the "look and feel" of an interesting subject.

**Howard Arkans'** film courses are true labors of love. Whether the theme is a history of American comedy or movies relating to food, participants are treated to classic feature-length films in the comfort of the Triplex Cinema—all arranged by Arkans. He always provides informative discussion about the directors, producers and actors featured, and gives a quiz at the end of each movie, with a box of Raisinets to anyone who gets a right answer.

This edition's *Instructor Profile* feature by Assistant Editor **Judy Katz** showcases **Ken Stark**, musicologist, wine connoisseur and biker. At the conclusion of every term Stark gives each of his students a CD he himself prepares of selected compositions by the composers he lectures on.

Besides instructors, this issue also covers OLLI volunteers who have distinguished themselves by their service to OLLI and the larger Berkshire community. Assistant Editor **Katherine Zdeb** interviews OLLI board member **Carole Siegel**, who recently earned a lifetime achievement award for her tireless work with Berkshire non-profits. Zdeb also reports on **Arline Breskin** who has been honored for her leadership of OLLI's Special Events Committee.

You may have examples of praiseworthy volunteers in your experiences with OLLI. Let us hear from you. Or better yet, write a story about it for *OLLI Update*. We owe a great deal of thanks to our many volunteers.

— **Chris Guidette**



Update Editor Chris Guidette

(Ken Stark continued from page 1)

three weekend concerts, and sometimes a pair of mid-week performances as well.

Stark's musical background is varied. He played trumpet in his high school and college bands and plays piano as well, he said. However, Stark didn't come by his knowledge of composers, their lives and times and their music by taking classes. That expertise, he said, was acquired through many hours of research and self-study.

Stark's OLLI students give him high praise and he returns the favor, extolling the intelligence and knowledge of his class participants. His role, he says is to share information—a teaching style honed by instructing undergraduate and graduate classes at City College of New York (CCNY). His students often rated him "awesome" on the CCNY online faculty rating site.

Stark credits his late wife for developing his interest in fine wine. One day, he said, she read about a wine course in an adult education brochure and said, "we should take this." They did. Stark now collects wine and admits he possesses some notable vintage Ports and Bordeaux.

A Toledo, Ohio native, Stark moved to New York in 1979 after receiving a master of clinical psychology degree from Eastern Michigan University. Stark acknowledged his motivation for the move was to be with Lynn, whom he had met on vacation in Montego Bay, Jamaica. In New York, he worked for the New York State Department of Education, devoting 35 years to the field of special education until his retirement.

Besides his musical pursuits and interest in fine wine, Stark is active as a trustee of the Berkshire Theater Group and serves as vice president of the Berkshire Bach Society. The popular classical music instructor is a graduate of OLLI's Leadership Academy.

But Stark's life is not all music and art. There's a Can-Am Spyder three-wheeled motorcycle in his garage to ride over the back roads of Berkshire County as he often did with Lynn.

"We came here for culture," he says, "and we immersed ourselves in the Berkshires." — **Judy Katz**

## OLLI's Fall Classes

Fall classes begin September 20. For further information about OLLI classes call **413.236.2190** or visit [www.BerkshireOLLI.org](http://www.BerkshireOLLI.org).

### MONDAY

M101 – World War One: 1918-1919  
M102 – *The Glass Menagerie*  
M103 – Vernacular Architecture  
M104 – Systems of Inequality

### TUESDAY

T101 – Creative Aging  
T102 – Going Nuclear  
T103 – Today's Headlines  
T104 – Elements of Film Music  
T105 – Income Inequality/Berkshires  
T106 – B is for Brahms

### WEDNESDAY

W101 – Shakespeare & the Law  
W102 – Ovid's *Metamorphoses*  
W103 – Blacks in Berkshire County  
W104 – The Right to Vote, Part 2  
W105 – Are Robots Moral?  
W106 – Poetry Fathoms Life

### THURSDAY

TH101 – Behavioral & Mental Health  
TH102 – Women Authors  
TH103 – Gender Roles 2  
TH104 – Writing Your Story  
TH105 – Hiking  
TH106 – Hot Topics

### FRIDAY

F101 – Modern Art Experience  
F102 – Architectural Gems  
F103 – 20th Century Comedy, Part III  
F104 – Riefenstahl, Hitler's Filmmaker

### OLLI UPDATE

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## It Was – and Still is – a Very Good Year

### OLLI Annual Meeting

**M**embers packed the Mahaiwe Theatre May 25 for OLLI's Annual Meeting, which opened with remarks by Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy, who praised the organization and its leadership. Kennedy said she was very proud that the Berkshire OLLI was one of only three others to be affiliated with a community college.

Peter Bluhm, OLLI's president, enumerated OLLI's achievements over the year. He thanked the outgoing board members, Tom Koelle and Maxine Bookless, for their service to OLLI. Members then unanimously elected Joe Gerard, Will Singleton, Barbara Lane and Art Sherman to two-year terms on the OLLI Board of Directors. A vote to amend OLLI by-laws enabling board members to participate and vote at board meetings via electronic means was passed.



OLLI President Peter Bluhm

PHOTO BY KIRK SWISS

Bluhm gave highlights of key 2017-18 accomplishments. He reported:

- 73 courses were offered and participation was up by 15 percent.
- There are now 1148 members, up 12% over last year.
- He thanked all the committee chairs and mentioned there will be another University Day on August 14. The topic will be "1968: 50 Years Later," organized by historian Kate Kidd;
- The Volunteer Leadership Academy was held for the fourth consecutive year (just completed) thanks to co-founder Howard Shapiro and board member Chelly Sterman who chaired this year.
- An event to honor Art Sherman raised \$37,000 to create the Sherman Family Endowment. These funds will help enable the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture series to continue for many years to come. Mona was a former OLLI president instrumental in helping the Berkshire Institute for Lifetime Learning (BILL) become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

OLLI Treasurer Len Tabs reported OLLI is fiscally sound. Our endowment fund has been growing and our profit and loss statement shows a surplus for the end of the fiscal year, he said.

In his remarks, Bluhm gave a broad overview of the intellectual and entertaining joys of OLLI.

"During the past year we enjoyed broad opportunities to expand our minds and to more fully enjoy our lives," he said. "We read Aristophanes, Aeschylus, Beowulf, Borges, Wilder and Shakespeare. Our social studies ranged from the Renaissance, through World War I, and up to the current day regarding such issues as voting and immigration.

"We watched comedy films and we discussed the Quran. We debated the headlines of the day, environmental law, advances in medicine and current science issues. We studied the psychology of emotion and perception and we walked the Berkshire Hills," said Bluhm.

The OLLI President thanked numerous volunteers and Executive Director Megan Whilden. "Her knowledge of the Berkshire County cultural landscape, political structure and media markets has proven invaluable in attracting new members and in raising our visibility," he said. Bluhm also had praise for Whilden's assistant, Norah Beauregard for "hard work" in maintaining office operations.

— Sandi Rubin

## OLLI's Special Events Chair is Honoree

### Won't "Retire from Her Retirement"

If Arline Breskin could sit on her hands for the luncheon in her honor on Sunday, September 30, she would. Maybe. But Breskin, chair of OLLI's Special Events Committee for 20-odd years, has too much knowledge and too much enthusiasm to contain.

For example, as engaged and supportive as are her committee members, none has yet learned how to make computer-generated place cards. So those who check in at noon at Cranwell in Lenox will find their seats by way of the guest of honor. Likewise, the centerpiece vases will find their way to the celebration from storage in Breskin's "OLLI garage." No greater love hath a member than to devote some real estate to the organization.



Event co-chairs Carol Sabot and Steve Tobin have planned a festive affair. There will be songs and stories, photo collages and slideshows, testimonials in person and in print, and more. While the honoree will not have a hand in the plated luncheon, her recipes will be shared in a memento booklet. That alone is worth the \$75 admission.

"Jewish moms love to cook, always," said Sabot, noting Breskin's decades of catering in Westchester County, NY, and later in the Berkshires for OLLI and others. Her food is a bonus to the main event, an educational outing. Tobin noted another aspect. "Arline creates events where people can meet outside of classes. This social fabric is an integral part of OLLI," he said.

Breskin admits to being "overwhelmed" by the honor. Little overwhelms her when it

comes to event planning, however. It's all in the details, from spreadsheets to designated meeting spots, and from arranging an OLLI-only tour component to being the last one to board the plane. "We didn't leave anyone in Cuba in 2013," she said.

Her children ask their mother when she will "retire from her retirement." The recent roster of special events—High Lawn Farm, Bennington Museum and Bennington Center for the Arts, Jacob's Pillow, Tanglewood, Mystic Seaport and Storm King Art Center to name a few—speaks volumes as an answer.

"A great committee can do almost anything," said the honoree. Bonnie Desrosiers, who has interacted with Breskin on the OLLI board and special events committee, might disagree. "Arline exudes an energy level that puts us all to shame," said Desrosiers. "Arline's leadership has contributed to the success of OLLI in so many ways. She truly deserves this honor."

To purchase tickets to the Arline Breskin celebratory luncheon on Sunday, September 30, call 413.236.2190 or visit [www.BerkshireOlli.org](http://www.BerkshireOlli.org).

— Katherine Zdeb

PHOTO BY SUSAN GELLER

## Hello OLLI on TV!

*Hello, OLLI, well hello, OLLI  
We're so glad to have you here  
where you belong.*

*You're looking swell, OLLI  
We can tell, OLLI*

*You're still growing, you're still  
glowing*

*You're still going strong...*

If you've seen any of the recent *Hello OLLI* TV interview programs on local cable stations, you'll recognize this theme song, heard at the beginning of each episode. Lyrics are by OLLI Board of Directors member Carl Shuster. The music was arranged and recorded by the Grace Notes, an a capella chorus at Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield.

Virginia (Ginny) O'Leary, an OLLI board member and this year's host of *Hello OLLI*, interviewed fourteen different OLLI instructors over the past year.

"It's a whole lot of fun," she says. "As



Miss Hall's School production interns with OLLI instructor and renowned baritone Benjamin Luxon, a Hello OLLI guest

PHOTO BY MEGAN WHILDEN

soon as I've interviewed someone, I want to take their course."

Indeed, all the half-hour programs generate excitement about upcoming courses by having instructors discuss their topics and personal backgrounds. O'Leary prepares by learning about interviewees before taping. But each conversation takes its direction from the instructor's style. Frequent questions are, "Why did you choose your topic," and "How did you get interested in your topic." These questions are particularly relevant, since a number of OLLI presenters teach not about their

professions, but about their avocations.

*Hello OLLI* is recorded at the Pittsfield Community Television (PCTV) studio in Pittsfield with the help of a team of senior interns from Miss Hall's School. Two half-hour programs are produced each month from October to April.

OLLI members can view selected *Hello OLLI* programs on demand, as well as OLLI courses that have been recorded to share with the public, on OLLI's website by clicking "OLLI on TV and Video" under "Programs & Events." — Linda Halpern

(Corespondent continued from page 1)

rally in Alabama and witnessed an outpouring of Trump support. “People told me they liked his words about McCain because ‘he says what he thinks.’ Trump, she said, “is the outsider who is willing to say what others won’t.”

“That’s when I told (the evening news desk) I thought Trump could win.”

Tur is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling *Unbelievable, My Front Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History* which chronicles her months reporting on the Trump campaign. She recounted enduring Trump’s wrath for her forthright television coverage. She noted Trump tweeted “that I should be fired. He called me a liar in front of millions of people on national television.” She said she “received death threats from his followers.”

Many Tur observations centered on Trump’s portrayal of himself by creating false self-images. She cited a *Washington Post* study based on fact checking numerous claims Trump has made since he took office. The study concluded Trump has lied more than 3,000 times. “That’s six lies a day.”

Her critical commentary about Trump was well-received by most in the audience who identified themselves as members of the Democratic Party. To one audience member’s question about how Americans could elect Trump president, she urged people to read multiple news sources and consider the views and feelings of fellow Americans from different parts of the country and different traditions.

Tur’s presentation marked the tenth anniversary of the annual Mona Sherman lecture series, named after one of the founding presidents of the Berkshire chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which makes the annual presentations available to the public at no charge. — **Christopher Guidette**

## OLLI’s Carole Siegel Honored by Non-Profit Group

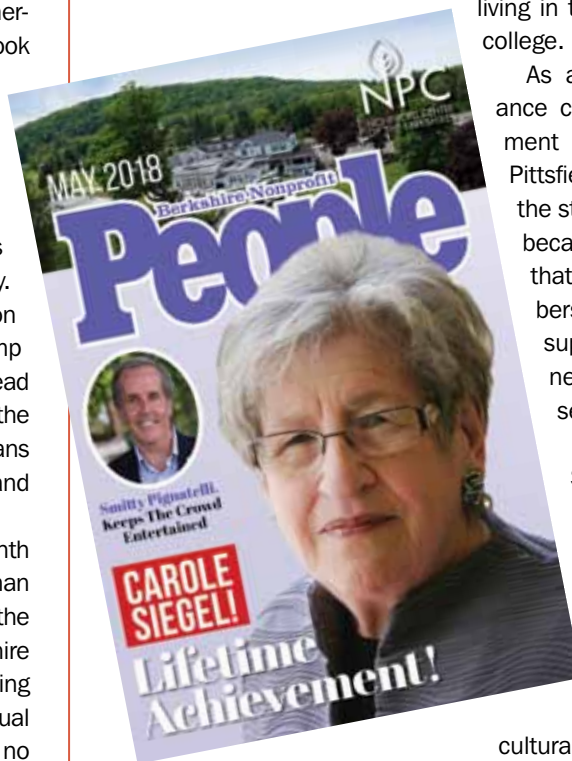
### Her “Helping Hand” Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

The crowd took to their feet May 22 when OLLI at BCC board member Carole Siegel won the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires’ (NPC) Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring her with the morning’s only standing ovation. Nearly 250 people gathered at the Country Club of Pittsfield for the inaugural event recognizing exceptional staff and volunteers in the nonprofit sector.

There are hundreds of nonprofits in the Berkshires. Siegel’s helping hand has reached out to a good share beyond OLLI: Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire Center for Children and Families, Hospice Care of the Berkshires, Berkshire United Way, Kids 4 Harmony, Tanglewood and Berkshire Theatre Group to name a few. Her award, one of seven determined by a panel of business and civic leaders, acknowledged Siegel as a leader and role model who has made “an enduring and profound difference” in the community.

Liana Toscanini, executive director of the NPC, thinks that the judges got it right. “Carole won because of the length and breadth of her volunteer service in our county. Volunteers don’t often get recognized and most would prefer to work behind the scenes. But it does feel good to be thanked every once in a while,” she said.

One might think the uber-volunteer a Berkshire native, so deeply embedded is she in the community. Not so. She moved from Brooklyn to Saratoga Springs, NY, at age six, living in the Spa City until moving to Pittsfield after college. Pittsfield stuck.



As a high school history teacher, then guidance counselor, and eventually a school adjustment counselor, Siegel touched thousands in Pittsfield schools over 30 years. They stop her on the street, say hello in coffee shops. The schools became conduits to community organizations that help troubled students and family members, even teachers, for whom she created support groups. On retirement, those connections endured and evolved into volunteer service.

Saratoga endured in a different way. Siegel recently realized that her lifetime of listening, supporting and guiding people toward solutions began at the unlikelyst of places – at the Lincoln Bathhouse in Saratoga. The bathhouses were among the best customers for her father’s commercial laundry. He had learned from the Lincoln’s director that there was a

cultural disconnect between the small-town bathhouse staff and more worldly clients. Many of those taking the 21-day mineral bath regimen had emigrated from Europe, some of them Holocaust survivors. Bathhouse staff knew little of such trauma.

Siegel’s father saw a solution in his daughter, and the director agreed. For three summers the undergraduate history major sat behind a sign labeled “Guest Relations.” She greeted the Lincoln’s customers, listened to their stories and shared them with staff; communication channel opened, a lifetime of community involvement undertaken.

“I love to feel like I’m making a difference,” she said. “I learned from my father that you can’t just sit. You have to live in a place, have to be part of it, speak up.”

## OLLI Members can Visit UK and Shakespeare's World in the Tudor Age

OLLI is offering a weeklong trip to England, titled Shakespeare in the Tudor Age. In July of 2019 OLLI travelers will enjoy a week in Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon, taking a close look at the Bard himself, his work, and the historical context in which he lived.

This is the first sponsored foreign travel in some years for OLLI. The Shakespeare theme of the trip will complement four recent courses on Shakespeare's plays taught by Richard Maturro, as well as the course *Shakespeare and the Law*, offered in the fall of 2018 with instructor Philip McKnight. McKnight will guide the summer trip to England.

The OLLI tour will first visit Oxford, the quintessential university town with 38 colleges, many dating back to the 13th century. The itinerary will include a walking tour of the campus and lectures on Shakespeare from distinguished Oxford dons. Dinner will be served at the Ashmolean Museum, and the group will attend an evensong service performed by a choir of men and boys at the Christ Church Cathedral. There will also be a visit to nearby Blenheim Palace, home of the Duke of Marlborough and Winston Churchill's family.

The group will then travel to Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, to see three Shakespeare plays produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The schedule there also includes a lecture from an editor of the Arden Shakespeare edition, a backstage tour, and another lecture from an actor or director from one of the three plays. The group will also walk through a nearby ruined castle and visit Shakespeare's tomb at Holy Trinity Church.

A detailed brochure, with itinerary and price, is available on request at the OLLI office. Dates for the trip are July 14 to 21, 2019. Advance registration will open in September, with a discount for OLLI members. At BCC on Monday, September 17, at 10am, OLLI will host a information session on the England trip. It's free and open to all.

— Peter Bluhm



Shakespeare Memorial Theatre



Stratford-upon-Avon

## Faculty Appreciation Party at The Lenox Club



Clockwise from top left: Phil McKnight and Art Sherman, Mariah Auman and Jenny Hansell of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Sam and Gwendolyn VanSant, Will Singleton and Valerie Bluhm

## Thank You to our Instructors and Speakers

OLLI thrives because of the generosity of our instructors and speakers, who share their insight and knowledge with our members and the public each year. The following instructors and speakers contributed significantly to OLLI in 2017-2018. Please join us in extending our sincere gratitude for all they do to enhance the quality of life in the Berkshires.

Tahirah Amadul Wadud  
Tad Ames  
Howard Arkans  
Marshall Ash  
Mariah Auman  
Gene Bell-Villada  
Bernard Berofsky  
Robin Berson  
Anna Biasin Zaffanella  
Peter Bluhm  
Thomas Bowler  
Jock Brooks  
Jennifer Browdy  
Kate Byrne  
Deborah Caine  
Ivan Caine  
Jahaira Camer  
William Cameron  
James Casebere  
Jerri Chaplin  
Sharon Claffey  
Surai Commuri  
Jeremy Cone  
Charles Dew

John Dickson  
Kit Dobbelle  
Vivian Dorsel  
Eric Doucette  
Stewart Edelstein  
Richard Evans  
Steven Fein  
Zachary Finch  
Benjamin Forman  
Peter Friedmann  
Gregory & Paula Gimblette  
Deborah Golden Alecson  
Andrea Goodman  
Mackenzie Greer  
David Greetham  
Brian Hailes  
Phil Halpern  
Wayne Hammond  
Gwendolyn Hampton  
VanSant  
Drew Herzig  
Adam Hinds  
Gordon & Carol Hyatt  
Don Hyers

John Hyson  
Phyllis Jaffe  
Kathryn Jensen  
Gordon Josephson  
Christina Judd  
Jamie Keller  
Mehernosh Khan  
Katherine Kidd  
Thomas Koelle  
Phyllis Kornfeld  
James Kraft  
Thaddeus Kubis  
William Latimer  
Tim Lebestky  
Paul Lennard  
Judith Lerner  
Cecilia Macheski  
Richard Matturo  
Shawn McIntosh  
Philip McKnight  
Basil Michaels  
Gregory Mitchell  
Melanie Mowinski  
Jim Nejaime

Ed Neumuth  
Virginia O'Leary  
David L. Orenstein  
Mary Rogers  
James Ruberto  
Stuart Schweitzer  
Anthony Segal  
Daniel Shustack  
Greig Siedor  
Leonard H. Sigal  
Steven Somkin  
Naomi Spatz  
Kenneth Stark  
Lance & Chelly Sterman  
William Sturgeon  
Leonard Tabs  
Alexandra Tinari  
Steven Tobin  
Nancy Vale  
Daniel Valenti  
Barry Verkauf  
Barbara Waldinger  
Stacy Wallach  
Nancy Walters  
Harriet Warshaw  
Martin Weinstein  
Randy F. Weinstein  
Michael Wilcox  
Setsuko Winchester  
Charles Wohl  
Elizabeth Young  
Jeremy Yudkin

## Survey Results Are In: Respondents Agree OLLI is a Good Value

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Berkshire Community College (BCC) has completed its first membership survey since 2011. With a response rate of 41 percent, returns exceeded the “gold standard” of 40 percent established by survey research professionals. Females accounted for 71 percent of responses, males 29 percent. Fifty three percent of respondents were between the ages of 66 and 75, while 28 percent were between 76 and 85.

Ninety percent of respondents either agree or strongly agree that OLLI is a good value for the money and 86 percent are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the OLLI program.

OLLI members are well educated with 41 percent holding masters degrees and an additional 24 percent having either doctorates or professional degrees. Most—81 percent—are retired. Half the respondents said they moved to the Berkshires for its cultural

offerings—52 percent—or the area’s natural beauty—50 percent. Interestingly, 4 percent said OLLI was one of the factors that drew them to the area. The majority—78 percent—are quite social, engaging in social activities outside of OLLI several times a week.

There is much more to be learned from the survey, as open-ended questions such as “what topics you would suggest for new courses,” are categorized and analyzed. An eyeball test indicates an interest in history outweighs other popular topics of such as art, music and literature.

The results of these analyses will be reported in future editions of the *OLLI Update* and will be used to guide policy formulation and programming by OLLI leaders as we approach our 25th anniversary with a steadily increasing membership and bright future.

— Virginia O'Leary



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## SIGNificant News

**S**hared Interest Groups (SIG)—a relatively new Berkshire OLLI initiative—are growing into one of OLLI’s most popular activities, now comprising more than 120 participants in ten different groups.

By joining a SIG any OLLI member can brush up on conversational French skills, go downhill skiing with friends, dissect a whodunit with fellow sleuths, read a play, enjoy great music with aficionados, mingle with other singles, explore contemporary gender roles and more.

OLLI President Peter Bluhm, Executive Director Megan Whilden and SIG coordinator and OLLI Board of Directors member

Barbara Lane recently hosted a “thank you” get-together at Berkshire Community College for SIG facilitators and praised their tireless efforts in establishing and maintaining their groups.

The facilitators included **Deborah Caine, Judy Cromwell, Carol Sabot, Monica Sinclair, Chelly Stermann, Lance Stermann, Ellen Tabs, John Tinger, Nancy Vale** and **Barbara Waldinger**. “The facilitators agreed forming a Shared Interest Group is a great way to explore a particular interest, hobby or passion

with other members of the OLLI community. SIG members themselves determine the direction their group takes, when and where they meet and what they do” said Lane. And they are free for all OLLI at BCC members.

Suggestions for new SIGs have included: a chess club, a wine-tasting group and a supper club. We’re hoping to find OLLI members interested in leading these. If you’re interested in joining one of Berkshire OLLI’s SIGs or would like to form a new one, contact Lane at [barlane@earthlink.net](mailto:barlane@earthlink.net) or Whilden at 413.236.2190.

— **Barbara Lane**

