

OUTLOOK

A publication of OLLI at the University of New Hampshire



Spring Preview Events

Mt. Washington Valley Open House

Tuesday, January 20

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Mt. Washington Observatory Offices
2779 White Mountain Highway
North Conway

Seacoast Preview Event

Wednesday, January 21

10:00 a.m. Social Gathering

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Program

St. John's United Methodist Church,
28 Cataract Avenue, Dover

Capital Region Preview Event

Wednesday, January 21

1:30 p.m. Social Gathering

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Program

Tad's Place at Havenwood Heritage Heights
149 East Side Drive, Concord

Greater Manchester

Coming Attractions

Friday, January 23

12:30 p.m. Social Gathering;

Visit Sponsor & Partner Tables

1:15 to 3:00 p.m. Program

UNH-Manchester

88 Commercial Street, Manchester

Cross fingers for good weather; there are no snow dates for any of the preview events. The OLLI Admin team will monitor weather forecasts and provide notice of cancellation the evening before the event by email.



JANUARY 2026 - IN THIS ISSUE

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Winter Vacation

Remember that? The two-month period we've had between the end of Fall Term and the beginning of Spring Term when OLLI offered nothing new to learn? When you thought you'd just relax and drink flavored coffee? Sleep late and watch game shows? Aaaaah, how peaceful . . .

And, instead, you were bored by the time you finished putting away the Christmas cards?

Not this year! Here are five courses, all on Zoom, you may enjoy during Winter Term.

Click the course name for more information and to register

01/07 [What Seniors Should Know When Selling Their Home](#)

01/16 [Surrender: My Journey from Guerrilla to Grandmother](#)

01/22 [Jewish Perspectives on God](#)

01/27 [Ever Wonder How Your Real Estate is Actually Valued?](#)

02/09 [Book Nerds Unite!](#)

You may register for any course with available seats [online](#) until seven days before the course start date. After that, until the course begins, you may register by calling the OLLI Office at (603) 862-OLLI (6554). Don't wait – 60 members registered so far! But there's still room for YOU!

Learning for the Fun of It!

Director's Notes

Reaching Out and Engaging With You

Submitted by Toniann Leavitt, Program Director

Note: All underlined blue words or phrases are clickable links.

A New Year of Curiosity, Community and Gratitude

As we welcome 2026, I would like to wish each of you a very happy and healthy new year. January always brings a sense of fresh beginnings, and at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of New Hampshire, we are excited to begin another wonderful year of lifelong learning, shared discovery and meaningful connection.

The new year also brings several important updates and new opportunities for our learning community.

- ✓ Please note that OLLI at UNH has a **new mailing address: 1 Leavitt Lane, Durham, NH 03824**. If you are mailing in your registration form and check please ensure you are utilizing this new address so we receive it on time!
- ✓ We also remind you that our phone number is now **603-862-OLLI (6554)**. This number connects you directly with our office for membership renewal, registration questions and general assistance.
- ✓ Beginning in Spring 2026, courses that were previously held at NHTI will relocate to the UNH-Manchester campus. This move allows us to continue strengthening the in-person learning experience while deepening our connection to the UNH community. We look forward to having more Capital Region members attending courses at this UNH campus!
- ✓ By the end of January our website will launch a refreshed look. The updated site is designed to be easier to navigate, making it simpler to find information, explore offerings and register for OLLI courses. We can't wait for you to see it.

Another exciting update — believe it or not, our Spring catalog is fresh off the press as of yesterday! It is headed to the UNH Mail House to be processed and should begin arriving in your mailbox within the next

two weeks. Be sure to keep an eye out for it and start circling the courses that catch your interest.

Spring is an especially wonderful time to try something new. Thanks to the incredible work of our volunteer curriculum committees, we will offer more than 140 engaging educational opportunities this semester. Whether you are exploring a new subject, revisiting a long-time interest, or simply learning for the joy of being with peers, there is truly something for everyone.

As we begin this new year, I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many donors who supported OLLI at UNH through our Fall Annual Campaign. Your generosity plays a vital role in sustaining the programs and opportunities enjoyed by all members of our learning community. If you would like to make a gift in the new year, you may do so by clicking [here](#) or by mailing a check to **OLLI at UNH, 1 Leavitt Lane, Durham, NH 03824**. Your continued support allows us to provide accessible, high-quality programming and enriching experiences for lifelong learners across the state.

The start of a new year is also a perfect time to bring a friend to OLLI. If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might enjoy learning, connecting, and staying curious, we invite you to introduce them to our community as we begin 2026 together.

Finally, a reminder that the OLLI office reopens on January 5 at 8:30 a.m. If you are ready to renew your membership or would like to confirm your membership status, please give us a call at 603-862-OLLI (6554) or email OLLI.office@unh.edu. We are always happy to hear from you.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant learning community. I look forward to another inspiring year with you — in classrooms, on Zoom, and through the many connections that make OLLI at UNH so special.

Warmly,
Toniann Leavitt
Director, OLLI at UNH

Looking Back at December

MWV Holiday Party, Classes and More . . .



Left and above, Santa Ted Slader, whether in an official capacity or not, was a presence among the presents as members gathered for fun and Yankee Swapping.



Left and below, new presenter John Peterman got OLLI members in Manchester and the Seacoast singing along during "Fascinating Stories Behind the Most Popular Christmas Songs"



Above, former US Ambassador to Belize George Bruno has officially "retired" from presenting for OLLI after 15 years! Once again, he shared extensive knowledge about immigration policies and procedures in Manchester.



*NH storyteller Rebecca Rule (left) gathers and tells stories. In her latest book *New Hampshire Trivia*, she explores this rocky old place with tricky and not-so-tricky questions about its history, geography, natural and man-made wonders, sports, accomplished people, arts and entertainment, superlatives, and even the strange and unexpected and shared her findings with members on the Seacoast.*

At right, holly jolly OLLI folks joined other nonprofits in wishing Concord a happy holiday through Concord Area TV (CATV). [Click here](#) to watch the brief promotion.



More Looking Back at December

Capital Region H-OLLI-Day Party



So many choices – delicious food, fancy and flavorful desserts, trivia questions to answer and gifts to open . . . and trade.

Yankee Swap #1 pictured at right, Mary Farrell, attending her first H-OLLI-Day party, SAID she loved her llama wool knit cap for her new grandnephew and the cardinal box it came in. At the end of the swap, #1 got to trade her original prize for any gift and Mary slow-walked around every table, gently threatening everyone who thought their gift had survived all the earlier thievery. And then, with a mischievous grin, she declared that she LOVED her gift and wouldn't think of trading!

At right, one creative gift-giver attached an original poem to his/her gift expressing all that OLLI represents.

O is for the outings we explore
L is for the lectures we adore
L is for the learning, ongoing life long learning
I is interest groups that all can join and so much more and

Olli is all that you would like to do
Olli is more than just a course or two
Halfway pointers help us take it
With our volunteers we'll make it

Olli was made for me and you

SIG (Shared Interest Groups) News

All Things Wool SIG

Tuesday, January 6 -- 1:00-3:00 p.m.

UNH Professional Development and Training Center
230 Commerce Way, Portsmouth

The All Things Wool SIG has got off to a rather slow start this Fall. Unfortunately, only one person plus the leader has attended each monthly meeting. The group will meet again on January 6 at 1:00 p.m.



If you knit, crochet, rug hook, felt, spin, do wool applique or braid rugs consider joining this SIG. It was created as a social outlet for OLLI members and friends to explore the crafts associated with wool. Email Sandy at sandy_oneill@comcast.net if you will be attending this meeting or if you would like to be added to the email list.

Future meeting dates are as follows: 02/10, 03/10, 04/07, 05/05, 06/02. All meetings are from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Add the dates to your calendars. Come join us!

Seacoast Hiking Walking SIG

Monday, January 5 -- 10:00 a.m.

Powder Major's Forest, Madbury

The Seacoast Hiking/Walking SIG will explore the Powder Major's Forest. The trails are located in Madbury/Durham/Lee, with parking for the trail head at Tibbett's Field on Route 155 in Madbury. Click here for directions: [Powder Major's Forest, 25 Lee Rd, Madbury, NH 03823, US - MapQuest.](#)

The Powder Major's Forest offers a variety of hiking experiences, with trails suitable for all age and skill levels. The Powder Major's Forest Loop is a 2.3 mile loop that is considered easy and takes about 48 minutes to complete.

The forest features a mile of frontage on the Oyster River. The area is rich in wildlife habitat, with four distinct types of wetland areas. The Powder Major's Forest and Farm is rich in Revolutionary History. If you are interested in this hike, be sure that you are on the Seacoast Hiking SIG email list. Sandy will walk the trails a couple of days before the hike and will report conditions to the group so each person can decide about participation.

To be added to the email list or to register your interest in this hike, contact Sandy O'Neill at sandy_oneill@comcast.net.

Virtual Happy Hour



Tuesday January 13, 6:00 p.m.
on Zoom

Theme: Leftover Champagne

Email Dennis McGivern
(dmcgivern52@gmail.com) for a
Zoom link.

Creative Writing

Friday, January 2
Thursday, January 15
Thursday, January 29
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For a Zoom link, contact Pam Otis
at lakesregion@comcast.net

A sample of topics covered recently
included a writing based on Jean
Stimmell's work and memories of
each member's first best friend.

Something for Everyone in Mt. Washington Valley

Boredom does not have a
home in the North Country!

Wednesday, January 14
Candlepin Bowling

Friday, January 23
Munch Bunch

Date TBD
Snowshoe/Spikes Winter
Hiking



All OLLI Book Clubs welcome members from any region

Capital Region Chapter Chats

Submitted by Mary Davies & Peg Fargo

The next meeting of Chapter Chats will be January 25 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. As a special treat this meeting will feature a conversation with author Marie Bostwick.

Marie Bostwick has written 24 books, many of which have been translated into 14 languages. Although her work has appeared on the New York Times and USA Today's bestseller list, her own bio says, "Marie is the published author of a bunch of books. No kidding, a bunch. Like twenty! She continues to be amazed by this. So does her high-school English teacher."

Writing is her work and her passion although she finds time for family and friends as well as to read, cook and participate in every fiber craft imaginable. She loves to travel, especially when it includes the opportunity to speak at libraries, bookstores, clubs and community events.

The Concord Book Club invites all OLLI members to join this exuberant author on Zoom on Monday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. when she will talk about her latest book, *Book Club for Troublesome Women*.

Bostwick paints the 1960's and 70's era with vivid authenticity as the story's four book club members read Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique* and a shared discussion becomes a quiet revolution.

Reading the book before this event is not required – you'll just enjoy listening to her! For a Zoom link to this event email pegfargo7762@outlook.com.

Book selections through March:

February 23 - *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

March 30 - *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

Chapter Chats meetings are usually on the last Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. There's never a requirement to finish or even read the book before the meetings; you can simply enjoy the discussion. OLLI readers everywhere are welcome to join us by Zoom.



Fresh Reads - Seacoast

Submitted by John Russell

January's Fresh Reads choice is *Life on a Little-Known Planet* by Elizabeth Kolbert. An intrepid reporter and a skillful translator of scientific ideas, Kolbert expertly captures the wonders of nature and paints vivid portraits of the researchers and concerned citizens working to preserve them.

She takes readers all around the globe, from an island in Denmark that's succeeded in going carbon neutral, to a community in Florida that voted to give rights to waterways, to the Greenland ice sheet, which is melting in a way that has implications for everyone. We meet a biologist who believes we can talk to whales, an entomologist racing to find rare caterpillars before they disappear, and a climatologist who's considered the "father of global warming," amongst other scientists at the forefront of environmental protection.

Life on a Little-Known Planet is a collection of Elizabeth Kolbert's most influential and thought-provoking essays which deepen our understanding of the world we are in danger of losing.

Please join us on Monday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m. by Zoom. To receive a Zoom invitation, please contact John Russell at russelljohnt@comcast.net.



Manchester Book Club

Submitted by Mike Baker

The Manchester Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins. Contact SIG leader Mike Baker at mbmikebaker0@gmail.com for information about the Manchester Book Club and a Zoom link for this meeting.



SIGs (Shared Interest Groups)

What Are They?

A member benefit – you participate for free with other OLLI members who share your interest. All OLLI SIGs welcome members from any region. Nonmembers may attend up to three SIG meetings but must join OLLI to continue.

People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day.

Capital Region

Movie Club

Meets every Monday 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Zoom. Watch a member-chosen movie every week and discuss it at the SIG meeting.

Contact: Marty Bender (mbender@tds.net).

Creative Writing

Meets every other Thursday (Friday, 1/2, 1/15, 1/29) 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Prompted writing assignments are shared for group feedback.

Contact: Pam Otis (lakesregion@comcast.net).

Lunch Bunch

Meets to enjoy a lunch together – no set schedule. On hiatus until February.

Contact: Jean Russell (j6russ@aol.com) to get on the mailing list.

Ice Cream

Meets weekly during the summer to explore ice cream shops in the Capital Region. (on hiatus).

Contact: Jacki Fogarty (jfogarty228@aol.com).

Seacoast

Favorite Local Hiking Trails SIG

Meets monthly at 10:00 a.m. to hike (rain or shine) or snowshoe. Next hike is 1/5.

Contact: Sandy O'Neill (sandy_oneill@comcast.net).

All Things Wool SIG

Meets monthly at 1:00 p.m. to work on wool crafts. Next meeting 1/6.

Contact: Sandy O'Neill (sandy_oneill@comcast.net).

Public Policy SIG

Meets on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. to discuss domestic and international policy; diverse perspectives welcome!

Contact: Tessa McDonnell (tessamcd@comcast.net).

Greater Manchester

Happy Hour

Meets monthly on a Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Zoom to share drinks and desserts, discuss wine and spirits and enjoy a themed virtual get-together whose motto is "Zoom responsibly." Next meeting 1/13 – Leftover Champagne.

Contact: Dennis McGivern (dmcgivern52@gmail.com).

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. Share observations and experiences on all things AI.

Contact: Jim Isaak (OLLI@jimisaak.com).

Lunch Bunch

No set schedule. Get on a mailing list for information.

Contact: Mike Baker (mbmikebaker0@gmail.com).

Mt. Washington Valley

Hiking/Walking

Meets in the fall and spring; no set schedule; get on a mailing list for information.

Contact: John Rozek (eajohninnh@yahoo.com).

Snowshoeing

Meets in winter; no set schedule; get on a mailing list for information.

Contact: Betsy Gemmecke (betsygemmecke@gmail.com).

Candlepin Bowling

Saco Valley Sports Center at 1:00 p.m. on selected days. Next meeting 1/14.

Contact: Barb Butler (barbara.butler@yahoo.com).

Munch Bunch

Meets to enjoy a meal together generally on the fourth Thursday of the month. Next meeting 1/23.

Contact: Diane Rozek (owlsandeagles317@gmail.com).

Ice Cream Trail

Meets in the summer to visit specialty ice cream shops in the MWV area. (on hiatus)

Contact: Cindy Graham (graham02171@gmail.com).

Try out a SIG this month! They're fun and there's no commitment.

Got an idea for a SIG? Contact your learning region's Central Committee.



Chair's Chat

Submitted by Su Bennett, Chair, Leadership Council

*"Please don't have a nice day.
Have a day that matters.
Have a day that's true.
Have a day that's direct.
Have a day that's honest.
A nice day? Mm-mmm, you'll be miserable.
Have a day that means something."*

This wisdom is from the character, Harriet, in the movie, *The Last Word* (2017) starring Shirley MacLaine as Harriet and Amanda Seyfried as Anne Sherman. Here, Harriet encourages living a purposeful life, not just an easy or pleasant one.

Harriet's philosophy really changed my thoughts about this phrase we say, automatically, without really thinking about it.

So I challenge each of you to have a day that means something - try an OLLI class that isn't what you typically sign up for, join one of our many SIGs, ask your Class Assistant how you, too, can volunteer as a CA, or call any of the people you see in the Outlook, including me, about how you can get more involved. Come, join us!

Ahh, yes, the monthly riddle -
Q. What does every New Year have in store for us?
A. Another 365 days! Enjoy!

Leadership Council meetings are generally held on the Zoom platform on the fourth Monday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to noon, giving members the opportunity to observe our governance structure firsthand.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 26. All members are welcome.

Contact John Russell, at russelljohnnt@comcast.net for information or a Zoom link.

A Few Final Words

Catalog Updates

Believe it or not, before the first pages rolled off the presses, there were changes to the Spring Catalog. Note these changes:

Cancelled: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn: The Rebel Girl, Democracy & Revolution to Educate

Date change: Do We Really Know What We Know? A Philosophical Exploration 6/4 & 6/11

Membership Renewal

January is a good time to renew your membership ahead of Spring registration **IF IT EXPIRES** January 31.

To check it, **log into your account**. On the Student Home page **click Student Profile** and **scroll down to Membership Information**. If the **Expiry Date is January 31, 2026**, you need to renew. Otherwise, take no further action.

[Click here](#) to purchase your membership renewal.

January Calendar

Meetings are by Zoom unless otherwise noted.

NOTE: Dates and contact information of SIG meetings (including Book Clubs) are now found on the SIG and Book Club pages.

Capital Region

Monday, January 12 Capital Region Central Committee – 10:00 a.m. (Jean Russell, contact)
Friday, January 16 Capital Region Curriculum Committee – 1:00 p.m. (Donna Frost, contact)
Wednesday, January 21 Capital Region Spring Preview – 1:30 p.m., Tad's Place (Donna Frost & Jacki Fogarty, contacts)

Greater Manchester Region

Friday, January 9 Manchester Curriculum Committee – 1:00 p.m. (Jim Mahoney, contact)
Friday, January 23 Manchester Spring Coming Attractions – 12:30 p.m., UNH-Manchester

Mt. Washington Valley Region

Wednesday, January 14 MWV Central Committee – 10:30 a.m., UNH Extension Services (Cindy Graham, contact)
Tuesday, January 20 MWV Spring Preview and Open House – 1:00 p.m., Mt. Washington Observatory Offices (Cindy Graham, contact)

Seacoast Region

Thursday, January 8 Tour the Seacoast – 11:30 a.m., The Airfield Café, North Hampton (Pat Nicolino, contact)
Wednesday, January 21 Seacoast Spring Preview – 10:00 a.m., St. John's United Methodist Church (John Russell, contact)

Statewide Meetings and Events

Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2 – office closed
Tuesday, January 6 Curriculum Council Meeting – 1:30 p.m. (Tori Berube, contact)
Monday, January 19 office closed
Monday, January 26 Leadership Council – 10:00 a.m. (John Russell, contact)

Looking Ahead

Monday, February 2 Spring Term Course Registration – 9:00 a.m.

Directory of Contacts' Email Addresses and Directory of Class and Event Locations
– Click here or scroll down to the next page.



OLLI at the University of New Hampshire

1 Leavitt Drive, Durham NH 03824

(603) 862-OLLI (6554)

olli.office@unh.edu

unh.edu/OLLI

[OLLI National Resource Center](#)

*Learning regions: Capital Region, Greater Manchester,
Mt. Washington Valley & the Seacoast*

The *Outlook* is published monthly and sent to all current OLLI members. OLLI members are invited to submit articles of interest to the general membership. Articles, pictures and comments may be emailed to *Outlook* at OLLIOutlook@aol.com. Thank you.

Jacki G. Fogarty, Editor

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OLLI Class & Event Locations

City Wide Community Center
14 Canterbury Road, Concord

**Mt. Washington Observatory
Offices (MWOO)**
2779 White Mountain Highway,
North Conway

UNH Manchester
88 Commercial Street, Manchester
Remember your parking pass

**Professional Development &
Training (PD&T)**
230 Commerce Way, Portsmouth



The function of education... is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.
-Martin Luther King Jr.

OLLI at UNH is a department within the
Office of Online & Continuing Education.

OLLI Office Contact Information

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