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COMMITTEE CHAIRS HIGHLIGHT FUN TIMES AND TEAMWORK

By Ann Allen

OLLI Times recently checked in with our busy committee chairs: Jeanne Blair-Davis, Travel; Carol Coman, Finance; Patricia Dixen, Marketing and Communications; Angela Greene, Curriculum; Terry Kaley, Hospitality; and Dawn Torcivia, Membership. Here are some excerpts from that conversation.

Why did you accept the chair position?

Patricia: I was already part of the Marketing Committee and thought it would be interesting. Also, my background had been in marketing, and I missed it.

Terry: I am a social person and thought it would be fun to work with Hospitality.

Is the position what you thought it would be?

Dawn: I had been on the Membership Committee and felt comfortable becoming chairperson. I was familiar with the responsibilities and knew that others would be there to support me.

Carol: Yes, I was already an experienced member of Finance; becoming chair was an opportunity to contribute even more to OLLI.

The OLLI committees juggle many moving parts. Any particular surprises or challenges?

Jeanne: The Travel Committee has experienced a major restart (after being in a two-year limbo due to COVID-19). A challenge is integrating the new members with the pre-pandemic members in a more structured group.

Angela: The biggest challenge is finding Curriculum Committee folks who have the skills and enthusiasm to recruit OLLI class presenters.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Mamie Mierzwak



Mamie Mierzwak

We have a lot going on as we move into 2023! Our spring term has started, so take a look at the class catalog and sign up for some of the many interesting classes offered. Please also consider attending one of our social events or travel study trips. You can join a Shared Interest Group (SIG) or a committee—just

log into OLLI COMM to see the current list. If you are a new member, sign up for a New Member Orientation where you will learn about the benefits available to you as an OLLI member! You can find information about all of these activities on our website at olli.uga.edu

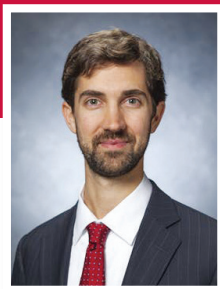
These membership benefits are possible thanks to the great work done by our committees, SIG leaders and OLLI staff. We cannot function without them! This month, our Nominating Committee started accepting nominations for the following leadership positions that will become vacant as of June 30:

- President
- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Board Members

Please consider serving in one of these important leadership roles and help shape the future of OLLI@UGA!

In the past, we heard concerns from members about the time commitment required for these positions. This year, we streamlined the responsibilities of officers and board members to help members feel more comfortable about volunteering. We will keep

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Tim Meehan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My dad says that raising kids was a joyous responsibility. It was great to see him for both my graduation from the UGA master's in public administration program, and for the last class of our series on cricket. I hope you all had a chance to spend time with the important people in your life over the holidays, whether they are near or far.

Growing up, I'm sure that I did not do everything right, and even though I felt more or less the same, I changed every day, so each morning I would present a different challenge to my parents. OLLI is very much like that. Although it would seem to resemble itself very closely each and every day, the small changes eventually turn into big differences, and the organization that it was a couple of years ago is not the same as it is today.

As an organization, we are constantly growing and changing, often quickly but more often incrementally. No particular point or target is our destination, but each destination is a new beginning. We now have well over 1,000 members, our travel program has a

good selection of varied offerings and we can welcome more members to our social events. But the work—the joyous responsibility—never stops.

One of the new initiatives we are working on is a Volunteer of the Quarter, recognizing committee members who are committed to their roles. You will have seen them recognized on OLLI COMM, and we thank them for their work. We will continue to celebrate those who take responsibility for work undertaken in OLLI throughout the year.

And we should never forget that it should be joyous as well—if it is not fun, then we are not doing something right. Some days will be harder than others, but I still get a boost from hearing members leaving a good class or chatting about a successful SIG meeting on OLLI COMM.

I hope your journey with OLLI has been, and will continue to be, wonderful, and help feed your curiosity, and it is all of our joyous responsibility to continue to build so that we have something for everyone.

SUSTENANCE FOR THE MIND AND BODY

By Angela Greene

OLLI at UGA's spring Lunch & Learn presentations will give you both, with a good mix of conviviality and fun as well. The seven Lunch & Learn programs at Trumps Catering cover a wide range of subjects including history, current events, the natural world, and art in its variety of forms.

Here are some of the offerings that may catch your eye:

- *Georgia O'Keefe: The Abstraction of Place*
- *Ghosts of Athens and Beyond: History and Haunting of North Georgia*
- *What's Up at the Supreme Court: A Summary of Pending Cases and Why They Are Important*



Lunch & Learn at Trumps Catering

A complete list of Lunch & Learn programs with dates, descriptions, and presenter information can be found online and in the spring class catalog. All will be on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. at Trumps. The structure of Lunch & Learn programs allows time for socializing with old friends and an opportunity to meet new friends. So please come and have a lovely meal with other OLLI members and learn something new and interesting from our outstanding presenters.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: BOOM MAGAZINE

By Greg Mitsoff

BOOM Magazine publishes wonderful articles about local events and activities of interest to OLLI@UGA members and other Athens-area residents in the 50-plus age range. BOOM is a steadfast corporate sponsor of OLLI@UGA, and OLLI ads featured in the magazine and the annual BOOM Directory help attract new members.

“In 2016, I realized there was a niche in Athens for a publication for the growing senior population. That’s when I launched BoomAthens: For Us at 50 Plus,” says Betsy Bean, editor-in-chief and publisher. Betsy changed the name to BOOM Magazine in 2020, and she continues her mission “to create a community of readers by sharing the truths of the Boomer experience, then and now.”

Betsy adds, “We Boomers have created or encountered all of the major rights movements of the 20th century—civil rights, women’s rights, gay rights. And we have stories to tell about how we’ve lived our individual lives in the midst of profound change.”



OUR STORIES. THEN & NOW.



Betsy Bean is the founder, publisher and editor-in-chief of Boom Magazine, an Athens-based publication that features profiles and articles about the people, events and activities of interest to those 50 and over. Boom Magazine was recognized in 2022 by the North American Mature Publishers Association for excellence in feature reporting, editorial content and design.

Open an issue of BOOM Magazine and you’re sure to find stories on these topics and many others, often written by OLLI members, including Rosemary Woodel, Scott Mason, and Tracy Coley, who until recently served as editor and digital content creator for the publication.

Pick up a print edition of BOOM Magazine or visit the website at <https://boomathens.com>.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Continued from page 1

Zoom meetings in place for the officers and board members, so volunteers can continue to travel and join meetings from anywhere!

If you are interested in serving, or if you have any questions about the process or responsibilities associated with these positions, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members via email or OLLI COMM:

Cher Snyder - cher.snyder.phd@gmail.com
Patricia Dixen - patricia.dixen@yahoo.com
Margaret Pruiett - marybryp@yahoo.com
Laura Carter - laurawilliamsccarter@gmail.com
Mamie Mierzwak - mmmierzwak@gmail.com

Thank you for being part of OLLI@UGA!



**Day Trip to Gibbs Gardens
Sign Up: olli.uga.edu/travel**

© Gibbs Gardens



Otis Redding Class
(C. Jones)



Happy Tools Make Happy Gardeners Class
(P. Dixen)



Practice Science of Wine Tasting Class
(A. Black)



Happy Hi
(C. Te)



Urban Landscape Photography Class
(P. Dixen)



UGA Veterina
(C. Sny)

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OLLI Staff
(A. Black)



Writers SIG
(A. Black)



Wine Tasting Tour
(C. Snyder)



Writers Tour Class
(A. Black)



Wesley Woods Festival of Trees
(J.D. Fite)

YOU'LL FIND IT ON OLLI COMM

By Patricia Dixen

In addition to accessing all of OLLI's Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) and committees on OLLI COMM, you'll also find a variety of other articles and information on this platform. The stories of members featured in "Member Spotlights" are fascinating and engaging. Here are excerpts from three of the stories written by Roger Allen:

Robin Slaughter

In 1999, wanderlust and "itchy feet" kicked in again. Robin and her husband Scott shut down the boat maintenance business, left Port Aransas, and sailed in the western Caribbean near Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. They later sailed to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and worked winters in tropical paradise. Using her nursing experience, Robin worked for a veterinarian, while living on their sailboat. In the

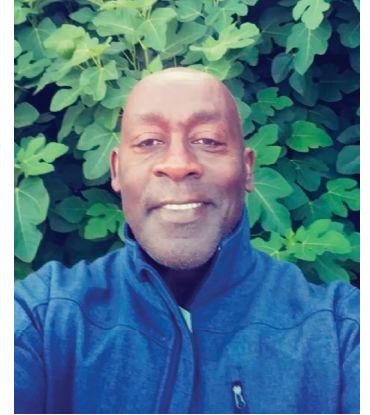


Robin Slaughter

summers they caught the wind south to Venezuela, well below the hurricane storms. "We spent 12 years on that sailboat!" Robin says laughing.

Dwight Acey

After a few temporary jobs, he found a career as a probation officer in Oakland. "I enjoyed my career and the weather," he says. Dwight worked in downtown Oakland where most houses had bars on the windows. So Dwight bought a home up north in wine country and rode the commuter train to work for 1.5 hours each way. His job enabled him to help people on a daily basis. Some had minor offenses and would turn to crime to make ends meet. He showed them how to access job training, child care, education and other services that usually kept them out of future trouble. When he found evidence of violent behavior, he would send them back to jail or



Dwight Acey

OLLI COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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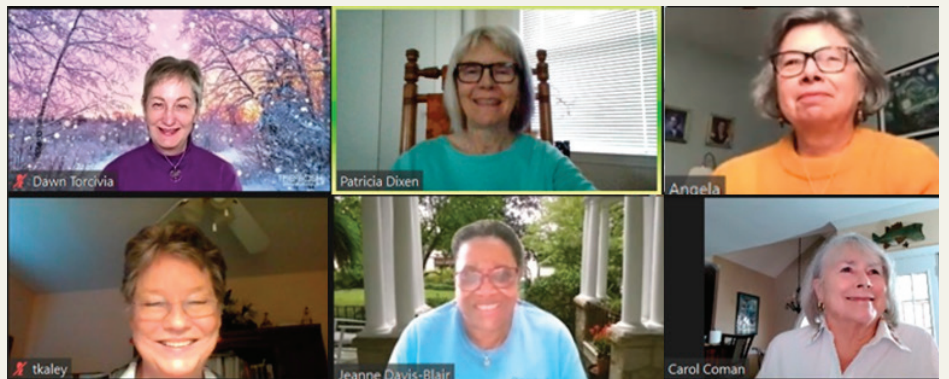
It involves networking and reaching out to people and being persistent.

How does your committee work fit in with what else you have going on in your life?

Jeanne: It doesn't require a lot of time on my part because all the trips are planned and carried out by our energetic committee individuals.

Patricia: I select when I'd like to work on OLLI marketing activities, and it varies by week. Except for a monthly committee meeting and quarterly chair meeting, everything else can be pretty fluid.

Dawn: Most of my work occurs in the week before our meeting.



OLLI Committee Chairs

What do you enjoy most about being a committee chair?

Carol: It has been a real pleasure to meet people and make friends through OLLI. I didn't know anyone when I moved to Athens. The Finance Committee members are a joy to work with and generous with their time.

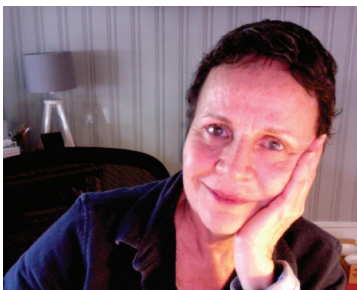
Terry: Volunteering for OLLI has many rewards; I enjoy all the events that we coordinate.

prison. Fortunately, with intervention there were few re-offenders.

Melinda Robins and Roz Rathburn

Melinda Robins, a Connecticut native, moved to Athens from Boston.

A year later she was paddling along in her kayak with the OLLI Splashdown SIG and introduced herself to the woman next to her. “Where are you from?” she asked. She was pleasantly surprised when Roz Rathburn replied, “Connecticut.” A few minutes later, Melinda and Roz found out they had both graduated from the same high school in Trumbull, Connecticut, and they were in the same graduating class. They had not known each other back in the day because the high school had a large enrollment, but they enjoyed remembering classmates and teachers during the next few kayaking sessions. Melinda and Roz shared a home town, but they followed two very different paths after leaving Trumbull.



Melinda Robins



Roz Rathburn

On OLLI COMM you’ll also find the list of members who are celebrating birthdays each month. And it’s always interesting to see the names of new members who have joined OLLI that month and see who you might already know.

If you haven’t yet signed up for OLLI COMM, simply email OLLI staff at olli@uga.edu requesting an invitation to join. Then follow the directions in the email they send you.

Thank you OLLI partner and sponsors for your continued support.

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