

OLLI NEWSLETTER

March 2020

www.usm.maine.edu/olli

Profile

Pat Davidson Reef

*Sharing Passions at
OLLI and Beyond*

As she marks her 20th year of teaching at OLLI, the arc of Pat Davidson Reef's career just keeps extending. She's an established author and journalist, has been an educator of young people, and is sought out here at OLLI as she shares her lifelong interest in classic films. Yet the list of her accomplishments keeps growing: Pat Reef has a new book coming out this April.

The first publications are intimate looks at well-known Maine artists—*Dahlov Ipcar: Artist* (2016) and *Bernard Langlais Revisited* (2019). There will be a third visual biography for children: *David Driskell, Artist, Educator and Author*. Driskell is a leading authority on African American art and an artist in his own right; he is a nationally known scholar whose Maine connection is a home and studio that he uses as a retreat in order to work privately.

Each of her books reflects Pat's desire to encourage pre-teenagers to get to know some creators of art—beginning with the output of their childhood imagination—and to realize one doesn't have to be a grownup to be an artist. As she researches the work of an artist, Pat looks for examples that show growth of style and that are the most significant to share with her audience, both young and adult.

Working on these books (with “lots of revising,” she says) followed Pat Reef's retirement from many years' teaching English, the Humanities, and Art History at Catherine McAuley High School. Before that she was at Mildred L. Day School for five years, teaching and heading the Title I program there. More re-

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

[Hint: Click on these to
jump to their page.]

- [An OLLI Library Plea\(se\)](#)
- [News from the Board](#)
- [It's all in the small talk!](#)
- [Volunteers for Raffle & Book Sale](#)
- [Reflection Submissions Needed](#)
- [Sage Begins in March](#)
- [Sampling Wine Cultures](#)
- [Snowshoeing in March](#)
- [Success for the Dinner Sale](#)
- [Dining Out](#)



Pat Davidson Reef

(Continued from page 1)

cently she has taught at the American Institute for Creative Education. Pat received a B.S. in Speech/English and Journalism from Emerson College in Boston and received a Master of Arts degree in Education from USM. She has been a member of the Maine State Arts and Humanities Commission and has written many articles on the arts, often reviewing museum exhibits for the *Sun Journal* in Lewiston and the *Biddeford Journal Tribune*. Pat Reef now begins a new chapter: she will be writing book reviews for the Maine Senior College Network's monthly newsletter.

It should be no surprise that the offerings of the Senior College, established on the campus of USM Portland in 1997, spoke to her own desire to explore. Pat joined by taking a Global Spirituality course with Rabbi Harry Sky, and since then she has been, as student and instructor, part of the institution for lifelong learning (now OLLI), that Rabbi Sky co-founded with Terry Foster.

It was Harry Sky who urged Pat to "go for it, don't hesitate" when she proposed a course on films. She remarks that she has learned along the way from experience, research, and feedback from students from all walks of life, and that she continues to make discoveries while viewing favorite films. "I love the OLLI community, a sturdy bunch interested in sharing ideas, a place that has given meaning to my life and allowed me to keep growing in a relaxed atmosphere."

Pat Reef has been a witness to the growth of OLLI from the original small group of Senior College students who met only on Fridays in Payson Smith Hall. She was there to see the launch of *Reflections*, our own journal of art and literature. Some OLLI members are now working on a special anniversary edition this fall to celebrate *Reflections'* first 20 years. The OLLI archives have proven to be an invaluable record of the contributions of so many OLLI members, through works of art, opinion, memoir, and fantasy. Looking through decades of *Reflections*, we find Pat Davidson Reef's essays there, including, in the very first issue, "Living with Art." Her essays are yet another affirmation of the importance of art in her life, and in ours.

—Elsa van Bergen

An OLLI Library Plea(se)

(actually two)

The library on the first floor of Wishcamper is not only a place for classes and meetings and respite. It offers shelves of books OLLI members may sign out for a month or two. There seem to be a number of such volumes that have been visiting our homes for quite a while.

Please check if you have an overdue OLLI book (there is an OLLI stamp on the first page) and bring it to the return box for others to enjoy. There's no fine. Thanks!

Occasional shelving tasks are an easy way to volunteer a little of your time to help OLLI. **Would you be willing to join the small OLLI Library team?**

For more information, please contact Elsa van Bergen, ejvanbergen2@gmail.com

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OLLI members are invited to attend Advisory Board meetings. Check with the Chair for time and place, or if you wish to address the Board.

WEB SITES

Maine Senior College Network
www.maineseniorcollege.org
 OLLI National Resource Center
www.osher.net
 OLLI at USM
www.usm.maine.edu/olli

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OLLI NEWSLETTER

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 OLLI Office, via our e-mail.

**Deadline for the April
 issue is March 15.**

News from the Board

When the OLLI Spring Catalog arrived a few weeks ago, I was struck once again by the diversity of courses and workshops, as well as the number of members who are willing to share their interests, expertise, and time. This spring 67 volunteers are offering over 70 classes and workshops. OLLI members can choose from a wide range of history and literature classes or learn more about science and the environment. We can watch and discuss a wide range of movies, learn more about music, and discuss topics in our volatile current events. Some classes will keep us active—dancing, or walking around Portland. Others will help us hone our skills in photography and other arts, as well as improve our lives through reducing stress and making wise decisions. We can learn—or improve—our French or Chinese. What an amazing array of choices and a constant reminder of the depth of expertise and experience that characterize our membership!

If you are interested in learning more about teaching a course or workshop at OLLI, visit the **OLLI Faculty Information** page on the OLLI website (<https://usm.maine.edu/olli/information-olli-faculty>). This page contains links to a Welcome message, The Faculty Handbook, and a Course Proposal form that you can fill out online.

—Sue Jennings, jensusa10@gmail.com

It's all in the small talk!

Have you ever been surprised when you ask someone a question you think is nice and you get a negative reaction? “Where do you come from?” you may have asked a student with an unfamiliar accent—in your mind, you were simply trying to connect with them. However from their perspective you may be marking them out as “other” and perhaps questioning their legal status or right to be studying on this campus. How can we learn to interact in more productive and mutually satisfying ways?

The *Wrinkle in Time* program in early March will explore big issues in American history and current affairs. Ibram Kendi’s book *How to Be an Antiracist* outlines how actions and speech on an everyday level can reinforce or challenge racism. In that way, the program will bridge the gap between big cultural trends and how we move through the world each day. If we become aware of our place in a society where accepted norms are being challenged, we may understand the inadvertent ways that we express thoughts that others consider biased or offensive.

(Continued on page 4)

It's all in the small talk!

(Continued from page 3)

This awareness moves us to step back and think carefully about how we interact with one another—between OLLI members, between us and students at USM, and in our communities. President Glenn Cummings invites us to share in a new level of self-awareness in our communications: listening rather than talking, showing empathy for people new to us, and resisting tendencies to unwittingly patronize or offend others. The goal of this self-reflection is to be kinder and more thoughtful, so our interactions are meaningful and have the sort of impact we want on making our world better.

The organizers of *Wrinkle in Time* know that the program will spawn new conversations and tackle new topics, including racism, sexism, ageism, and the ways of expressing openness to others. We will plan a series of brown-bag lunches tackling these topics and thinking about specific techniques we can use to ensure that we project the care, concern, and enthusiasm we feel in conversations. We will share news about these programs and look forward to sharing ideas through the spring session. If you are experienced in facilitating discussions on these topics or are interested in learning how to move the conversations forward, please contact Donna Anderson (donna.anderson@maine.edu) to talk about participating in training and workshops on this relevant and important issue.

Volunteers Needed!

Help raise OLLI Scholarship Funds at these FUN events!!

RAFFLE

April 13–17; April 20–24

Sell Raffle tickets in Wishcamper lobby before and after classes

25 different time slots available.

Your time commitment is up to you!

Contact Karen Day at
kday0718@gmail.com

20 volunteers needed!!

BOOK SALE

May 1–2

Sort books during the weeks of
April 13-17; April 20-24; April 27-30.

Assist in the operation of the Book Sale

May 1, noon to 5:00 p.m.

May 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Your time commitment is up to you!

Contact Steve Piker at
pikersteven@gmail.com

25 volunteers needed!!

Reflections

Call for Submissions

We Need You!



Reflections covers from 2001 to 2019
The bottom right corner will be filled in with the 2020 cover.

The *Reflections* team is seeking OLLI members' creative work to be part of the 2020 arts and literature publication, which will be a special expanded anniversary edition. Selections will be chosen using a blind submission process; no one will know whose work is being considered.

Please submit your written work, both prose and poetry and your artwork and photography including images of your 3-dimensional objects and handcrafts.

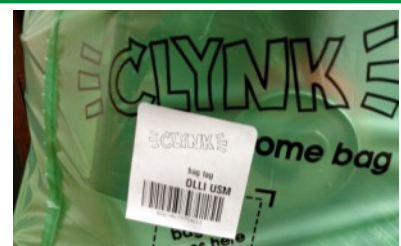
All you need to know about submitting your work is located on the OLLI website. Click the link below.

<https://usm.maine.edu/olli/olli-reflections-magazine>

You can find a simpler version of the procedure in the February OLLI Newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/OLLI-Feb-News>

**Remember to pick up a CLYNK bag
at the office for your deposit
bottles and cans!
Proceeds benefit OLLI.**



SAGE Begins in March

OLLI's Donna Anderson, Luke's Lobster, & Greater Portland Landmarks

March 17. OLLI Director Donna Anderson will kick off the spring lecture series with her talk, “Steps on the Journey of Lifelong Learning: From Academia to Museums and Back Again.” Donna believes that the OLLI experience is all about journeys: the circuitous paths we take during our career, the bumpy road we travel with family, the unexpected side excursions that send us wandering through adventures. She will share her journey through 12 meaningful experiences that led her to OLLI. Many of those experiences were exhibitions or educational programs developed over 30 years in the museum field in New Jersey, New York, and Maine. Donna will also include her thoughts about OLLI's future and both challenges and opportunities that will be a part of the path ahead.



Donna Anderson

March 24. For a few years it looked as if Luke Holden, the son and grandson of Maine lobstermen, would pursue a different path in life. Luke graduated from high school here, went off to Washington to major in finance at Georgetown University, graduated, and then took a position on Wall Street. After a couple of years, feeling a bit homesick as well as exasperated because he and his friends couldn't get a decent Maine lobster roll in Manhattan, Luke produced a business plan for a side project that would address both issues. So in 2009 he opened a Maine lobster shack in a tiny storefront in the East Village. Ten years later, Luke's Lobsters are found in cities throughout the U.S. as well as in Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore. Luke and Jeff Holden, his dad and business partner, will share their story of “Entrepreneurial Passion & Seafood Shacks, the Luke's Lobster Tale.”



Luke and Jeff Holden

March 31. In 1961, Portland's historic Union Train Station on St. John Street was demolished to make way for a strip mall, and that was not a popular decision. Greater Portland Landmarks was founded three years later in response to the Urban Renewal movement that often seemed oblivious to historic treasures like Union Station. Sarah Hansen, Executive Director, and Julie Larry, Director of Advocacy for Landmarks, will discuss Landmarks' role in “Preserving & Revitalizing Greater Portland's Remarkable Legacy of Historic Buildings.” Their leadership increases the public's connection to our built environment by providing educational publications, programs, historical tours, the Old House Trade Show, and stewardship of the Portland Observatory.



Sarah Hansen and Julie Larry

Each of the March lectures is in Hannaford Hall from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Subscriptions for the spring SAGE lectures can still be purchased for \$50 both online and at the door at the March lectures. Walk-in admission for each lecture is \$10 at the door.

Sampling Wine Cultures

A strange thing has happened with the OLLI Wine Club. Instead of merely sampling wine, we are sampling wine cultures. Last fall, because of Fabiana de Savino's travel commitments, we needed to transition from our familiar Paciarino to Pizzarino, the pizzeria across the street, with ties to Paciarino. Even though I knew that Pizzarino had a charismatic wine-loving manager, I was dubious of this change partly because I usually drink inexpensive Chianti with pizza. Boy, was I wrong!

Our tastings with Mauro Stoppani, the owner of Pizzarino, have turned out to be more fun and enlightening than we could have imagined. He is an inspired wine selector and unsurpassed teacher of wine. We usually start with outrageously tasty slices of thin, unleavened bread slathered in olive oil and herbs, followed by two courses—risotto, salad, pizza, and so forth. When Mauro serves us his yummy pizza, he avoids acidic toppings that can slant the taste buds' response to wine.

With each of the two courses, we have two wines Mauro chooses to educate and entertain us—most complement the food (a procedure called “pairing”), but he sometimes pours a good wine that is not, in his opinion, well-matched to the food. We vote whether we like each pairing or not. Mauro encourages us to speak our minds honestly. He helps us better understand that not only do we each enjoy different kinds of wine and food experiences and tastes, but we each have divergent taste buds that idiosyncratically affect our appreciation of wine. In other words, we all learn to trust our reactions, making the experience of drinking wine more fun than ever.

There are numerous ways to experience the cultural delights of wine. You could choose Small-Group Wine Trips to the Willamette Valley, Oregon (a superb US wine region), for about \$6,000 per person. You could take a wine cruise on Casco Bay for about \$90 per person. And, of course, some of Portland's many excellent restaurants offer wine dinners that typically cost \$80 to \$120 per person.

Our goal at the OLLI Wine Club is to pare down the cost without skimping on our enjoyment and learning. The consensus of our group is that at just \$40 per person, we have achieved that balance. The credit for this success is entirely due to Mauro. His secret is that he loves food and wine and sharing them with people. One person said after our last tasting that he wished he could invite Mauro to a dinner party at his house to plan the food and wine and serve as master of ceremonies. Another veteran of wine tastings said he learns more from Mauro's observations than from most other “wine experts.”

To join us, please contact me, Jack Lynch, the SIG organizer for the Wine Club, at jlynch001@maine.rr.com. I will put you on a list to receive e-mail announcements. The group meets more or less monthly in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Advance registration is required so Mauro can plan the ordering of food and wine. Please feel free to participate whether you are a wine enthusiast or a complete novice. [On the Web: <https://pizzarino.us/>]

—Jack Lynch



Snowshoeing in March

The Walking club will finish the season with two snowshoe outings. The first is **Wednesday, March 11**, at the Riverside Golf Course in Portland. If there is no snow we will walk around it and enjoy the scenery along the Presumpscot River. We can meet to carpool at Back Cove at 9:50 a.m. if you want to hitch a ride. Or you can meet us at the golf course, where there is plenty of parking. On the Web: <https://www.riversidegolfcourseme.com/>

On **Monday, March 23**, we will try a new area, the Hawkes Preserve in Gorham. We will meet at Back Cove at 9:50 am to carpool. On the Web: <https://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trails/trail/hawkes-property>

For both outings, watch the weather. If it is not conducive to outdoor activity, we may have to cancel. If the footing is bad, we may also change our plans. Some of us may eat in the area after the walk; so don't bring your lunch. If you have questions, call Rae Garcelon at 846-3304 or e-mail me at raegarcelon@gmail.com.

Success for the Dinner Sale

The “What’s for Dinner Tonight?” sale was a huge success! Over \$800 for the OLLI Scholarship Fund was raised by the fun event. Thanks to all, cooks and customers!

Stay tuned for the “Old-Fashioned Bake Sale” in early April.

Dining Out: Time for a Treat

The end of winter (we hope it will be!) calls for a little splurge, and we have just the place.

Our choice for March lunch is ISA Bistro in Portland. Its house-made, farm-sourced menu changes with the seasons. On the Web: <http://isaportlandme.com/>

This brick-walled place is run by wife and husband owners with experience in Maine, Washington D.C., and New York City, cooking French and Italian cuisine.

A number of items feature housemade pasta and—interestingly—rabbit is available. Only a few restaurants in Portland serve rabbit.

The restaurant has a parking lot, and their nearby neighbor is the treasured Back Bay Grill.

Seating for groups is limited, so you need to reserve as soon as possible.

When: Friday, March 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Isa Bistro, 79 Portland St, Portland, 808-8533, info@isaportlandme.com

Reservations: Call or write Barbara Bardack 829-1240, bravalascale@gmail.com

