



**BRADLEY
UNIVERSITY**

OLLI Online

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



OLLI Online Registration is OPEN | SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

WHAT IS OLLI ONLINE?

OLLI is an acronym for The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University, an organization of more than 1,200 members who are at least 50 years old and who want to stay vital and active as they reach and enjoy retirement. One of the best ways to do that is to keep learning, and OLLI offers many options to do so.

OLLI Online provides many virtual learning experiences delivered via Zoom, a free and easy to use video conferencing software. Meeting “live” via Zoom allows learning to continue from the comfort and safety of our own homes until we can meet in person again. Please review our current program options so you can pick what best fits your learning preferences and interests:

- **Introduction to Zoom** sessions help our members learn how to use the software on their computers, tablets, or smart phones. Led by a volunteer OLLI instructor and offered free of charge to all, our goal is to help you feel comfortable with the technology so you’ll enjoy your experience with OLLI Online.
- **OLLI Virtual Classes** are lecture-based courses during which the instructor delivers the learning material with the opportunity for participants to ask questions either during or after the presentation. OLLI Virtual Classes have been offered monthly since May up through October and will begin again in January; they meet at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. for one hour.
- **OLLI Virtual Study Groups** are participation-based; the facilitator delivers core learning material, but all participants learn by sharing. OLLI Virtual Study Groups usually have an expectation of reading, watching a video, or other independent study outside of each session. Each group starts at various times throughout each month, and usually meet for 1.5 hours to 2 hours for four to six weeks. Seats are usually limited to 15 to 25 participants so that everyone has an opportunity to actively participate.

- **OLLI Virtual Learning Trips** to restaurants and area attractions are opportunities to get behind-the-scenes looks at local businesses. Some include a curbside meal pick-up, followed by a virtual presentation by the chef / owner the next day.
- **OLLI Virtual Originals** are exclusive talks with local leaders and businesses from the community and beyond. These one-hour sessions are a great way to keep informed about specific topics, governmental updates, or business organizations.
- **OLLI Virtual Happy Hour** is a free social time hosted by an OLLI volunteer twice a month. Each happy hour has a theme, but it’s not necessary to share – just pop in and enjoy!

REGISTER TODAY

OLLI Online is open for registration now – visit our website to sign up for our November/December programs:

Bradley.edu/olli

Once you’ve registered we’ll send you a confirmation email and direct links to each program prior to its start date.

If you need assistance, please email staff at olli@bradley.edu or call (309) 677-3900. We’ll be happy to assist you.

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OLLI Online will feature new programs each month. Registrations will be accepted for most of our programs up to 24 hours before the start time. We’ll produce an online brochure each month. You can find the brochure on our website, Bradley.edu/olli, and we’ll also include links in our twice-weekly email newsletter.

A LETTER FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION

As we head into November, the Thanksgiving holiday commemorates a heritage of community spirit and a story of gratitude. The Continuing Education staff wants to take this time to sincerely thank each and every one of our volunteers for the selfless giving of their time and talents that make our OLLI program the best in the nation.

Since the start of our virtual programming in late March, we've received more than 3,000 registrations for our wide array of online programs. This was only possible because our volunteers have met in online committees to select programs, taught other members how to use Zoom, hosted events, made phone calls to check in on our members, taught classes, facilitated study groups, reached out to presenters, suggested programs, shared information with a friend about OLLI, and so much more.

The hours they have spent to help our learning community thrive is countless, but the return is priceless. As much as we want to meet in person, and are anxious to resume our normal programs, we are thankful for what we have been able to do because of your support.

Be sure to check out our last page, where we recognize our list of volunteers - they get the job done!



We'd like to show our gratitude to our volunteers, members, and the community by offering three free OLLI Virtual Originals this holiday season:

1. **Zooming into the Holidays with Judy Helm, page 4**
2. **Singing into the Holidays with Bryan Blanks, page 4**
3. **Update on the Hilltop with Jon Neidy, page 5**

Thank you from all of us!





Roberta Koscielski, Deputy Director of Peoria Public Library, shares her experiences via Zoom during an OLLI Conversation.

“TRAVEL” *Beyond Peoria*

1. Travel with OLLI to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Craig McGrogan, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Tuesday, December 1, 4:30 p.m.

\$20 per person

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to dive the truly magnificent Great Barrier Reef in Australia? Join OLLI as we go to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium in Townsville, North Queensland. During this unique live experience we will head under water and, with the latest technology, experience the delicate marine ecosystem and habitats of the world’s largest living coral reef aquarium. There is a minimum of 15 participants for this session, due to prepaid costs.

2. Travel with OLLI to the New York Times with Reid Epstein An Inside Look at the Most Bizarre Presidential Campaign in our Lifetimes Thursday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.

\$10 per person

Reid J. Epstein, a *New York Times* political reporter and Peoria native, along with a colleague (to be confirmed after the election) will take us through the last year covering the presidential campaign from his home in Washington, D.C. This is the fourth presidential campaign Reid has covered, but the first time he – or anyone – has done it remotely. He will share the challenges inherent for a national political reporter in this year of COVID, and share how these unusual times shaped and influenced the presidential campaign.

VIRTUAL ORIGINALS

1. Zooming into the Holidays

Judy Helm, Ed.D

Thursday, November 5, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

FREE

Holidays are times of fun, relaxation, and renewal with friends and family. They brighten our bleak winters. We are beginning to realize that this pandemic year will be different. Join Judy Harris Helm, educational consultant and Olli member, to learn ways you can use those OLLI-developed Zoom skills to connect and maintain holiday traditions. What makes the holidays so special for you? Gathering with family and friends? Holiday food? Playing games? Having good conversations? Practicing your faith? If you can’t do that in person, you can do a lot of it over Zoom. Dr. Helm will provide specific examples and tips on using Zoom to gather when you can’t really gather safely.

2. Holiday Baking with Father Dominic, “The Bread Monk”

Father Dominic Garramone, OSB

Friday, November 20, 3:00 p.m.

\$10 per person

Father Dominic Garramone, Order of Saint Benedict (OSB) monk and former host of the beloved PBS cooking show, *Breaking Bread with Father Dominic*, takes you through baking for the holidays that will delight your family and friends. Father Dominic says he got his culinary education “between my mother’s kitchen, PBS, and the public library” and when not baking or teaching he can usually be found in the abbey’s herb garden.

3. Singing Through the Holidays

Bryan Blanks and the Peoria Area Performing Arts Studio
Thursday, December 10, 4:00 p.m.

FREE

We all miss live performances, which are few and far between right now, but the pandemic has not stopped the Peoria Area Performing Arts Studio (PAPAS). Led by director Dedra Kaiser and assistant director Bryan Blanks, PAPAS provides a range of classes, workshops and productions to more than 200 students each year. They teach everything from vocal music and show choir, to acting and Broadway dance. Join OLLI as we have a conversation with Bryan Blanks (formerly with OLLI!) who will talk about this new venture and even give us a behind-the-scenes peek during a rehearsal with their premier A Capella group, who have been working on a repertoire of Renaissance period music and Christmas Carols.



Catherine Lawless takes the opportunity to “kiss” a real reindeer, on our OLLI trip several years ago to Hardy’s Reindeer Ranch.

4. Memento Mori: The Personification of Death
Dean Cantu, Associate Dean and Director of Education, Counseling, and Leadership, Bradley University

Friday, December 11, 12:00 p.m.

\$10 per person

Death is everywhere. Join Dr. Dean Cantu, Associate Dean and Director of Education, Counseling, and Leadership at Bradley University, as he shares his research on this fascinating subject. Have you noticed how different personifications of death can be found nearly anywhere you look? And more importantly, what can these perceptions of death teach us about our life. Dr. Cantu, who has given a TEDx talk, has also been featured on the national podcast *Death by Design*, relative to his research on the personification of death in history and popular culture.

5. Update on the Hilltop

Dr. Jon Neidy, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Executive Director Smith Career Center
Thursday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.

FREE

Don’t miss your chance to catch up with Dr. Jon Neidy, former Director of OLLI. He left Continuing Education in 2013 to become the Executive Director of the Smith Career Center. In 2016, he was named Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, and is now Dr. Neidy (he earned his Ph.D in 2019). We’ll spend time with Jon, learning about his new roles and his perspective on campus happenings on the Hilltop.



Unique travel experiences brought to you by:



SAVE THE DATES

OLLI at Bradley is excited to announce our partnership with the Peoria Riverfront Museum to bring you a new online experience: “Virtual Voyages.”

This season you’ll want to “travel” with us as we experience *Autumn in the East*, featuring exclusive, live, behind-the-scenes private tours with renowned experts.

You won’t want to miss this first-ever experience with OLLI and the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

Watch your weekly OLLI email for more details, but mark your calendars now:

**Wednesday, November 11:
 The Smithsonian Institution**

**Wednesday, November 18:
 Shelburne Museum**

**Wednesday, December 2:
 Colonial Williamsburg**

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS

Study Groups offer an opportunity to investigate a topic in depth. Most study groups typically meet once a week for four to six weeks.

1. Now Booking II

**Mondays, November 2, November 16,
November 30, December 14**

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

We are back with another installment of “Now Booking,” the study group that invites you to join us in reading and discussing a different book (300 pages or less) every other week with titles selected by four different facilitators. We meet via Zoom starting on November 2nd and finish up December 14, just in time for you to get ready for the holidays. All books are available from online booksellers, local bookstores, or public libraries.

- On **November 2**, Jane Hense will lead a discussion on *Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott, which considers the effects of a lie told to hide a painful truth.
- On **November 16**, Gary Nelson will take us through the beautifully written *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean – no fishing experience necessary.
- On **November 30**, Dotty Drake introduces us to *Simon the Fiddler*, a new tale based on factual post-Civil War history, by Paulette Jiles.
- On **December 14**, Keith Butterfield takes us on a “non-fiction escape” in *438 Days: An Extraordinary True Story of Survival at Sea* by Jonathan Franklin.

\$25 – facilitated by Keith Butterfield, Dotty Drake, Jane Hense, and Gary Nelson, avid readers and frequent OLLI study group facilitators.

2. Let's Get Jazzed

**Thursdays, November 12 – December 10
(skip November 26)**

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Jazz up your life with this fun, interactive study group facilitated by Mary Jo Papich, a passionate and enthusiastic arts advocate. We'll take a journey through the past 100 years of America's music and discuss how it mirrored the history of our great country. From traditional jazz and blues to big band, bebop and today's jazz, you will see and hear the music and makers of the music in the comfort of your own home. This group will get your toes tappin' and fingers snappin'!

\$25 – facilitated by Mary Jo Papich, former music educator/administrator of Peoria Public Schools and Jazz AllStars and founder of the international Jazz Education Network.



Del and Dot Bertschy take time to smell the flowers in Portland's beautiful rose garden during a past OLLI trip.

3. Dreaming of a White Christmas (and BB Guns): Songs, Movies, and Traditions of the Holidays

Tuesdays, November 17 – December 8

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join OLLI for a fact- and fun-filled journey into the iconographic songs, books, and movies that came to symbolize late-20th century Christmas holiday celebrations. We'll learn about the creation and far-reaching influence of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, the most popular song of all time. We'll explore why Charles Dickens wrote his classic short story, *A Christmas Carol*, and how it changed Christmas traditions in the mid-1800s. We'll also revisit the holiday as celebrated by a Midwestern family in the Depression era by reading (and viewing) Jean Shepard's nostalgic, *A Christmas Story*. Recommended movies can be rented cheaply through streaming services or borrowed from local libraries, and the three required books are readily available in Ebook or print format.

November 17: Randy Wilson. Read *White Christmas: The Story of an American Song* by Jody Rosen (190 pgs) and view *White Christmas* (1954). We'll also discuss favorite songs and carols.

November 24: Gary Nelson. Read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (78 pgs) and view your favorite version of *A Christmas Carol* or *The Man who Invented Christmas* (2017). We'll also discuss holiday traditions.

December 1: All Facilitators. View *It's a Wonderful Life*. We'll also discuss other favorite holiday films, memories, as well as a potpourri of related topics.

December 8: Pat Pritchard. Read *The Christmas Story: The Book that Inspired the Hilarious Classic Film* by Jean Shepard (130 pgs) and view *A Christmas Story* (1983). We'll also discuss our most memorable ornaments and decorations.

\$25 – facilitated by Gary Nelson, Pat Pritchard, and Randy Wilson

VIRTUAL TRIPS

This November and December we bring you letterpress holiday notecards, dinners, and treats lined up from area restaurants and, of course, a virtual visit behind-the-scenes with the owners or chefs.

OLLI will take care of all the details. We'll even help with curbside pickup and bring the meal, treats, and holiday cards directly to your car at the designated time. The next day, the business/restaurant will host a private virtual presentation, available only to those who have registered for the event. During the presentation, the owner and/or chef will discuss the meal preparation, how the business is handling our region's reopening rules, and what it was like during the state's stay-at-home order.

Your fee includes meal/treats/holiday cards, gratuities, and online virtual visit. Please check your email for any updated information on menus and pickup times.

1. 2 Chez with Todd Hohulin, owner and chef

Wednesday, November 4: pickup from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 5: virtual presentation at 1:00 p.m.
Menu: Chicken piccata (chicken sauteed with caper in lemon butter beurre blanc) with Yukon mashed potato and sauteed vegetables, salad with house balsamic tomato vinaigrette, and a hazelnut creme brulee for dessert.
\$30 per person

2. Trefzgers Bakery with Jeff & Martha Huebner

Wednesday, November 11: pickup from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 12: virtual presentation at 1:00 p.m.
\$20 per person
Includes: A dozen cookies (six thumbprint and six butter cookies)

3. Jonah's Seafood House with Tate Ralph

Wednesday, November 18: pickup from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 19: virtual presentation at 1:00 p.m.
Menu: Choice of grilled cod entree with red beans and rice, mixed greens with balsamic vinaigrette, and dinner bread OR crab cake sandwich with coleslaw and potato wedges.
\$30 per person

4. Peoria Art Guild with Peggy West, Printmaking Artist in Residence

Wednesday, December 2: pickup from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 3: virtual presentation at 10:00 a.m.
Includes: Package of six letterpress holiday notecards
\$25 per person

5. Great Harvest Bread Company with Craig Janssen

Wednesday, December 9: pick up from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10: virtual presentation at 10:00 a.m.
Includes: Selection of baked goods
\$20 per person



An OLLI member enjoys the view at Wildlife Prairie Park, transformed into a winter wonderland during last year's visit.

IN PERSON TRIP

CHECK IT OUT

Walking Tour of Peoria Courthouse Memorials with Bernie Drake
Friday, November 6, 1:00 p.m.
\$15 per person

Join OLLI for an in-person walking tour highlighting the Veterans Memorial monuments near the Peoria Courthouse Plaza, concluding at the GAR Hall. Bernie Drake, past OLLI president, former President of the Peoria Historical Society, and frequent instructor will lead this outdoor, active (Level 4) tour to gain an appreciation for the history, art, and architecture. Masks (please bring your own) and social distancing will be required during the entire event. Lunch and transportation will not be provided. Meet us there!

FREE VIRTUAL HAPPY HOURS



We all know it's incredibly important to stay connected, but we can't interact in person as much anymore. Thanks to technology, however, we can still hang out and have a virtual happy hour. Each OLLI Happy

Hour has a themed discussion, it's a great way to meet and connect with other OLLI members in a relaxed setting, theme, even if you prefer not to share on a particular topic, it's a great time to learn new things.

1. Movies, Movies, and More Movies! Tuesday, November 10, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

As the weather turns colder, many of us enjoy watching movies online. Join us to share your latest favorite show and where you stream it (Netflix, Amazon, Hulu). Or do you use a DVD player? With the holiday season right around the corner, there might be some movies discussed you can add to your repertoire. This will be a fun, relaxed social time to share about the movies we love.

2. Favorite Thanksgiving Tradition or Recipe Tuesday, November 24, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Is there a certain food or salad that must be part of the menu for Thanksgiving dinner? Do you always go to the same location for your meal? We want to hear your traditions. Feel free to bring any recipes to share. Pictures are welcome too, via screen sharing on Zoom.

3. Books and Coffee Chat Friday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.

Join us for this fun, informal books and coffee chat. Jennifer Bass, former OLLI President, will lead a group discussion on *The Gift of the Magi*, a short story by O. Henry. First published in 1905, this sentimental story with a lesson about gift giving is a popular holiday story. Even if you don't read the story, join us for conversation and camaraderie.

4. Christmas Traditions, Nostalgia, and Songs Tuesday, December 15, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Do the holidays bring out the nostalgia of days past? Are there certain songs that you play every December? We want to hear from you, what's your favorite? Is it egg nog, a glass of wine, or something stronger? Come to Happy Hour and share your Christmas traditions.

FREE ZOOM TRAINING

OLLI Online uses Zoom, a popular video conferencing software, because it's so easy to use and allow individuals to meet "face-to-face" when meeting in person isn't possible.

You may access Zoom on a PC, Mac, tablet, or smart phone. OLLI has had great success in assisting our members get used to this new way to meet. Please register for one of our four free upcoming training sessions:

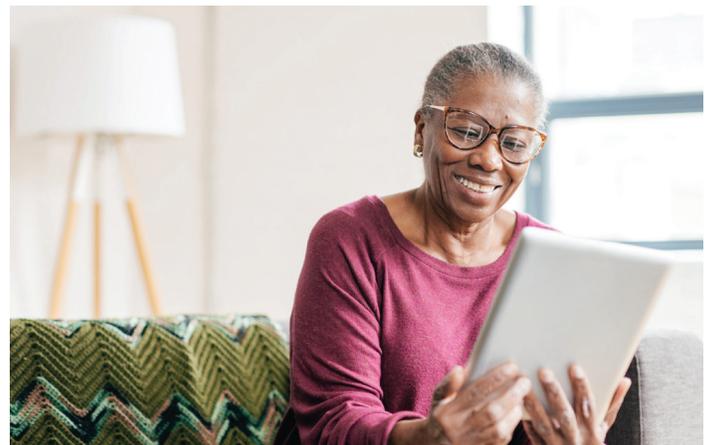
Thursday, November 5, at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m.

If you would like Zoom training, but can't find a time that works let us know. Contact olli@bradley.edu and we will schedule a personal training session for you.



OLLI VOLUNTEERS - THEY GET THE JOB DONE!

OLLI volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization – thank you all very much!

Officers 2020 - 2021

President

John Amdall

Vice President

Diane Rock

Past President

Jane Hense

Secretary

Bob Balagna

Treasurer

Wayne Goetz

Committees and Volunteers

Class, Happy Hour, and Zoom Hosts

John Amdall
Sharon Amdall
Jan Busche
Ralph Dalton
Greg Peine
Diane Rock
Bob Yonker

Curriculum Committee

Rick Burritt, Chair
Tim Bailey, Chair
John Amdall
Sharon Amdall
Laurie Bailey
Tim Bailey
Bob Balagna
Jennifer Bass
Keith Butterfield
Deb Clay
Ralph Dalton
Bernie Drake
Joe Emanuel
Duffy Armstrong Farrell

Roger French
Rick Gentry
Tom Gross
Rae Anne Hamp
Deb Helmick
Jane Hense
Rich Henz
Bev Ketel
Lee Maki
Janene Mattingly
Janet McGrath
Gary Nelson
Greg Peine
Vicki Phillips
York Phillips
Mac Pogue
Diane Rock
Don Samford
Mary Jane Sterling
Larry Trollope
Ken Zika

Learning Trip/Originals Committee via Zoom

Dave Allan, Chair
John Amdall
Sharon Amdall
Bob Balagna
Jennifer Bass
Barb Drake
Bernie Drake
Rae Anne Hamp
Joe Ernst
Lynn Highfill
Lee Maki
Bonnie Martin
Mary McCarty
York Phillips
Mac Pogue
Christie Robnett
Gloria Smith-Duryea
Larry Trollope

Membership Development Committee

Debbie Lewellyn, Chair
John Amdall
Bob Balagna
Jennifer Bass
Keith Butterfield
Ralph Dalton
John Dust
Barb Ekstrum
Shelley Epstein
Joe Ernst
Roger French
Judi Gentry
Rick Gentry
Wayne Goetz
Jane Hense
Bob Lowe
Gary Nelson
York Phillips
Mac Pogue
Diane Rock
Larry Trollope

Study Group Committee via Zoom

Gary Nelson, Chair
Phyllis Baylor
Becky Carlson
Ralph Dalton
Bob Dohle
Barb Ekstrum
Jane Hense
Randy Huber
Bev Ketel
Debbie Lewellyn
Bob Lowe
Lee Maki
Janene Mattingly
Dick McDonnell
Patricia Melaik
Doug McCarty
Miriam Olson
Rob Parks
Greg Peine
Vicki Phillips
York Phillips
Mac Pogue

Pat Pritchard
Calista Reed
Catriona Rittenhouse
Diane Rock
Don Samford
Sue Stuedemann
Bob Yonker

Continuing Education Staff

Michelle Riggio
Int. Exec. Director
Catherine Lawless
Int. Assoc. Director
Christy Haeffele
Int. Program Director
Gwen Howarter
Program Coordinator
Diana Klein
Program Coordinator
Bonnie Davis
Administrative Support
Debbie Finnegan
Administrative Support

JOIN US FOR THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Curriculum Committee:

Monday, November 9 at 12:00 p.m.

Study Group Committee:

Thursday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m.

Learning Trips/Originals Committee:

Tuesday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR PROGRAM CHAIRS



Dave Allan
Learning Trip Chair
salqueen@comcast.net



Rick Burritt
Fall and Spring Curriculum Chair
rick.burritt@gmail.com

Gary Nelson
Study Group Chair
garynelson1018@gmail.com



Tim Bailey
Winter Curriculum Chair
TJB_21@yahoo.com

Debbie Lewellyn
Membership Development Chair
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CONNECT WITH OLLI!



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