

THIS MONTH AT OLLI DECEMBER 2017

The turkey has passed through its various stages; huge turkey dinner, sandwiches complete with stuffing and cranberry sauce, turkey a la king, turkey soup, finally and thankfully turkey carcass in the garbage. The fall term at OLLI is finished but the work for the next term is just beginning. Your council will be meeting on December 4 to work on details for the spring term. Near December 9 the catalogs for the spring term will be showing up in mailboxes. On December 13 the various Delaware OLLI councils will meet at the Wilmington campus. And the work goes on.

We the membership of OLLI are a group of people who love learning. Many of us give of our time to make OLLI a success. We enjoy interacting with others in sometimes spirited discussions. We can disagree without becoming disagreeable. We come from different walks of life, with differing educational levels, and yet at OLLI all can play on a level field because that is just who we are. Here there is no hierarchy nor any dragons to slay. For one membership fee we can take all of the classes our schedules allow. Not only can we take classes we love, we can also teach classes we love. It is good to periodically go online and look at what is being offered at the other OLLI locations. Maybe you or someone you know would like to teach one of those classes here. The point is, we are in charge. Anna Moshier and our local team; Diana, Paula, Joe, and Wayne are here to help us succeed. They will help us and keep us within the U of D guidelines, but we can do this. Over the years there have been many classes that aren't taught in a traditional college setting. How about woodworking, or perhaps a class on contract bridge?

How about this for a timely topic? There was a class in Wilmington this past term called, "Fake News, Group Think, and Con Men". Our own Bob Heifetz taught a course in the Connecticut public school system called "The Bible as Literature". He brought that course to the Dover OLLI and it was a hit. A class by that title taught by a different instructor was offered in the Wilmington OLLI in the fall term. The OLLI branches are not in competition with each other, we share with each other. We believe that all of us are smarter than one of us. We are lifelong learners, and as such we are curious about many things. Curious people tend to be critical thinkers. Whatever the other labels we may wear, the badge of critical thinker should be worn with pride. During this time when some seem to be trying to Make America Hate Again, it is nice to have our sanctuary of civility here at OLLI.

What useful things have we learned this year?
Anger improves nothing but the arch in a cat's back.
Hate does little to the hated but it consumes the hater.
Civility is the first step to progress.

May we all have a blessed and happy holiday season.