



# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



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## COMING UP...

### Spring 2012 Classes

Session I: Feb. 27 – March 23  
 Add-On I: March 26 – 30  
 Session II: April 2 – 27  
 Add-On II: April 30 – May 4

### Walk-In Registration

Monday, February 6  
 (11 am – 3 pm) Room #151

### Random Drawing for Class Placement

Friday, February 10  
 (Register on-line or in-person before this date to optimize chances of getting into limited enrollment classes.)

### OLLI Annual Meeting and Lunch Social

Friday, March 30

## Fall Endowment Drive

**T**hank you OLLI members! Your generosity not just matched but more than tripled the OLLI board challenge of \$2,680, yielding \$9,120 for our OLLI endowment. And as the stock market improves so will the interest on our endowment as we strive to keep the membership costs as low as possible. Thanks for making our Fall Endowment Drive a success. — Ron Inouye, Board Member

### OLLI Endowment

The Osher Lifelong Learning Endowment was initiated in December 2008 with a most generous gift of \$1,000,000 from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The endowment is managed by the University of Alaska Foundation. It is divided into the Principal, which is invested, and a Spendable Account, for immediate use. All donations to OLLI go to the UA Foundation and are designated for either long-term investment (Principal) or immediate use (Spendable).

The value of the Principal on June 30 was \$1,203,154, with most of the increase coming from investment income. Since then OLLI members have contributed over \$10,000 to the Principal!

### OLLI Finances 2011

<b>Income: \$83,029</b>	
\$43,230	Membership and course fees
\$26,352	Earnings from Osher Endowment
\$9,875	Donations to Spendable Account
\$3,572	Excursion income
<b>Expenses: \$116,000 (approx.)</b>	
The largest expense is for personnel, with a total of approximately \$91,000 (\$67,000 in salaries, and \$24,000 in benefits). The second largest expense, approximately \$10,000, is for copying and printing.	
<b>Deficit: \$33,000 (approx.)</b>	
This will be covered with savings from previous years, but does cause serious concern.	

**Future?** Due to the state of the economy, earnings from our endowment are not as high as had been hoped. So we may have to consider higher membership fees in the future. In the meantime we hope that OLLI members will continue to donate both financially and with their volunteer services.

### Looking for Office Volunteers

Easy and rewarding! A chance to meet interesting people and help OLLI at the same time. Answer the phone, take a message, look up information, sell a parking pass, check the coffee pots...once a week for two hours. Our great office assistant Dorothy Throop has Mondays off, so we are recruiting volunteer members to help at the front desk.

## Donations and Volunteers Help OLLI Finances

## Sylvia Burns is Keen on Memories

*That's why she volunteered to be OLLI's Archivist and Historian*

By Mary Ann Nickles



As a retired librarian Sylvia Burns knows her way around libraries — but she is the first to admit that she has virtually no *archival* experience. Other than a course in graduate school and the few times she has used archives as a researcher, she

considers herself an *innocent*. But she does know where to go to find the answers. When asked to head up a committee to establish an archival file for OLLI, she willingly volunteered.

OLLI is special for Sylvia. Had it been any other organization, she says there would have been no temptation to volunteer — but the chance to gather materials that show what a dynamic, exciting being OLLI is, and how it evolved from an idea in Barbara Lando's mind to become a major part in the lives of so many Fairbanks seniors — made Sylvia step forward to help.

After looking at the office files, Sylvia determined that the project seems to divide itself naturally into three sections:

- The paper part will involve sending to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library Archives documents, publications, and published material taken from the office files.

- The photo part will mainly involve the 'trip files'. There will be a file made for each of the 60 trips taken since 2001 and will include a few color photos from the trip, along with other documents such as participant lists, itineraries, etc.
- The interviewing part will consist of interviews with Barbara, the organizing committee, some of the board members, and other OLLI members. Interviews will bring out the creative process that went on and some of the behind-the-scenes discussions that may not be in the paper files.

Sylvia feels strongly that it is the photos and the interviews that will add life to the OLLI archives. Current and retired library staff have been most helpful in providing guidance and suggestions. Mary Ann Nickles and Dorothy Stella are assisting with organizing and copying, and Dorothy Throop is always there with answers.

**The Archive Committee is still looking for volunteers who will coordinate the interviewing part of the project, and others who are comfortable with photo selection and placement for archival printing.** Sylvia would appreciate anyone who would like to help with this project to let the OLLI office know of your interest.

### Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Mailing address:**

Osher Lifelong Learning  
Institute  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
PO Box 758100  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-8100

**Office:**

Room #159  
University Park Building  
1000 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**Telephone:** 474-6607

**Fax:** 474-6652

**E-mail:** UAF-OLLI@alaska.edu

**Website:** www.uaf.edu/olli

**Photo Credits:**

Roger Burns  
Barbara Lando  
Dick Levey  
Cynthia Steiner  
Dan Swift

**Program Director:**

Barbara Lando, Ph.D.

**Associate Director:**

Cynthia Steiner

**Office Assistant:**

Dorothy Throop

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# Winter Lecture Series

**First Fridays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm • Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center  
Open to the public – bring a friend**

December 2, 2011

## **Athabascan Beadwork and Traditional Design**

by Dixie Alexander

A presentation of 40 years of traditional and contemporary beadwork. Dixie will discuss what it takes to create and complete traditional native garments. The Grande Finale of the talk will be the modeling of finished traditional Athabascan clothing.

*Dixie Alexander was born in Fort Yukon and raised with her 12 Gwich'in brothers and sisters. Her artwork can be found in the Smithsonian Museum. You may recognize her from the Riverboat Discovery where she worked for 20 years sharing her rich Athabascan history and lifestyle with Fairbanks visitors. She is currently the cultural program coordinator for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.*

January 6, 2012

## **Challenging Traditions: Innovative Native Artists from Southeast Alaska**

by Aldona Jonaitis

Native artists from Southeast Alaska as well as from British Columbia have created outstanding works based on canons developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the past few decades several innovative carvers, weavers, painters, and photographers have broken away from what they consider the restraints of those traditions and have developed unique and original artworks that address the complex situation of Native life and art in the 21st century. This illustrated lecture will present the works by innovators such as Tanis S'eiltin, Lary McNeil,

Stephen Jackson, Da-ka-heen Mehner, Clarissa Hudson, Donald Varnell and Nicholas Galanin, demonstrating their connections to and rebellions against their artistic heritage.

*Over the past 25 years Aldona Jonaitis has written eight books on various aspects of the Native art made by the coastal people of Washington, British Columbia, and the Alaska panhandle. She was Director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North from 1993 to 2009.*

February 3, 2012

## **Balloons of War: The Alaska Territorial Guard and the Japanese Balloon Bomb Attack of WWII**

by Ross Coen

Toward the end of the Second World War, Japan launched 9,000 hydrogen balloons armed with incendiary devices in one of the more unusual offensive campaigns in history. The balloons traveled on the upper stratospheric winds known today as the jet stream and reached North America in four to six days. About 50 of those balloons landed in Alaska and were recovered by the Alaska Territorial Guard, an all-volunteer defense force comprised primarily of Alaska Natives. This is one of the most curious and forgotten campaigns of World War II.

*Ross Coen is a local historian who writes about political and environmental history of Alaska and the circumpolar North. His articles have appeared in numerous publications and his forthcoming book about Prudhoe Bay oil development will be published by University of Alaska Press in Spring 2012. Ross has lived in Alaska since 1995.*

## Preview of Spring Classes



There's more to wine than tasting! In addition to another Mastering Wine class with Kathy Lavelle, there will be an opportunity to study the "Anthropology" of wine with UAF Anthropology Professor Kara Hoover.

Other returning courses and/or instructors include *Shakespeare* with Susan Stitham; *Flannery O'Connor* with

Frank Soos; *Robert Browning "What's a Heaven For"* with Joe Dupras; conversation courses in Spanish and French; art classes with Sue Cole; computer-based courses with Orion Lawlor (*Digital Photos*) and Lynne Lott (*Social Media Basics*); philosophy with Walter Benesch; and *Israel and the Middle East* with Gerry Berman.

That's just for starters! New instructors are still being recruited, and there will be some interesting new topics.

**The Spring Schedule will be available in late January.**

## OLLI SUMMER 2011 EXCURSION

# KODIAK, ALASKA ALUTIIQ CULTURE TOUR

By Carol Nielsen, with photos by Roger Burns

OLLI's first trip to Kodiak Island was a great success! The 13-member group met each other in Kodiak on Monday evening, June 27. Alutiiq Museum Executive Director Dr. Sven Haakanson, Jr., his wife, and Exhibits Coordinator Jill Lipka introduced themselves and had dinner with us.

The following morning we enjoyed a tour of the museum exhibits as well as the behind-the-scenes areas with Sven, Jill, and Marnie Leist, who has the job of organizing, documenting, and registering the museum's over 250,000 items! Next, the group walked right across the street to the Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral, and Father Innocent discussed the present church as well as the interesting history of Russian Orthodoxy in Alaska (including the transport of saintly remains by helicopter!). In the afternoon, we drove out to the impressive Koniag Native Corporation building for series of fascinating lectures.

Wednesday found us touring the Kodiak road system with Patrick Saltonstall, the museum's archeological expert and an avid outdoorsman. We took several brief hikes to a number of ancient house and village sites that would not have been obvious to an untrained observer.



Coral Chenoff of Koniag Native Corporation shows the huge variety of natural objects (plants, animals, fish) that have been brilliantly turned into hundreds of practical household and beautiful clothing uses, in the traditional Alutiiq culture.

By lunchtime we had reached the south end of the road system and the Kodiak Rocket Launch Complex. We hiked down a long hill to "Fossil Beach", where small and large marine fossils were eroding directly out of the cliff face. After lunch at a riverside picnic site, we drove to the northern end of the road system. This was the site of Fort Abercrombie, now a park overlooking the northern approach to Kodiak harbor.



Hans and Carol Nielsen help Herman Squartsoff gather edible seaweed for the group to taste.

Thursday morning we arose early (remember the tides!) for a dockside breakfast and skiff ride over to Woody Island with our guide Herman Squartsoff, of Ouzinkie. We explored the intertidal zone and hiked around historical parts of the island, which had a larger population than the city of Kodiak during the mid-1800s. It was fascinating to discover that the Russian American Commercial Company had an ice industry up and running on Woody Island by 1852 that provided ice to California during the Gold Rush. The

first road in Alaska, as well as the first iron rail track (for ice transport), were built on Woody Island.

All in all, it was a wonderful trip. We very much appreciated the friendly and knowledgeable museum people, especially Jill Lipka, who was our main guide. They obviously had made every effort to assure OLLI of an educational as well as a very fun visit.



Art Robson, Vera Peters, Hans Nielsen, Joan Robson, Carol Nielsen, Tena Yurkovich, Dorothy Stella, Sylvia Burns, Roger Burns, Mary Ann Nickles, Linda Pearson, Fred Distad, and Linda Distad.

## Planning for Summer 2012!!

*Some confirmed, some tentative...more to come*

(tentative) June 3 – 7

### **Centennial Celebration: Katmai National Park**

June 6<sup>th</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eruption of Novarupta, the most powerful volcanic eruption of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. With the guidance of a geologist/volcanologist, study and visit the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. With an experienced archeologist learn about the earliest appearance of Native people in the area and the artifacts that appear each year. And there's a 99.9% probability that you will see some giant Katmai bears in the wild. Stay at Brooks Lodge and enjoy gourmet meals.

June 28 – July 2

### **NEW! Interior Alaskan Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Field School**

Fly fishing is equal parts meditation, art, and science. Join expert fly fishermen Shann Jones and Scott Murdock for a hands-on exploration of the fly tackle, fly tying materials, fly fishing in regional water, and the science that makes it all possible. Short indoor lectures will be accompanied by stream-side instruction and hands-on fly tying sessions. Depending on weather and water conditions, you will be fishing on Delta-Clearwater River, Tangle Lakes, Tangle River, and/or other waters in between. Learn how to use a fly rod to place a fly with pinpoint accuracy, and learn where the fish live and how best to catch them. From the end of a line, study the interplay of water hydraulics, stream ecology, etymology, and their combined effects on fish habitat. From the end of the bobbin, experience the creative art of fly design. Accommodations and meals at Black Rapids Lodge.

*Cost of \$1,345 per person includes 4 nights lodging (double occupancy), all meals, guide fees, and all field supplies. Transportation from Fairbanks is not included.*

July 2 – 6

### **NEW! Denali with Your Grandchild!**

Bring your grandchild to Denali National Park and enjoy an exploration of the subarctic with expert resident naturalists. Walk the Savage River Trail and take plaster track casts along the river's edge. Learn how wolf tracking is done using radio telemetry. Use wild plants to make homemade ice cream. Search for wildlife and enjoy

outstanding scenery on a day-long trip to Eielson Visitor Center. Optional activities such as a raft trip can be planned for the final day – before you head home. The program is coordinated by the Denali Education Center. Rooms and meals are at their quiet wooded campus on the banks of the Nenana River. Accommodations are in two-room cabins, each with two bedrooms and one bath. Rooms shared by grandparents and grandkids. Recommended age of grandchildren is 8 – 12. The program includes walking up to 3 miles on gravel and dirt trails, with the possibility of more challenging hikes for grandkids.

*Cost of \$925/adult and \$775/child includes 4 nights accommodations, all meals, educational activities, transportation into and around the park, and gratuities. Transportation from Fairbanks is not included. Deposit of \$150/person is needed before March 1, 2012*

July 18 - 25

### **Copper River Float Trip**

Combine a wilderness raft trip with a study of the Copper River watershed. Spend the first night in Chitina, then begin a 6 day voyage down the river to Cordova. After a night in Cordova, take the ferry back to Valdez and van shuttle back to Chitina. Top of the line camping and rafting equipment are provided to ensure a safe and comfortable journey.

*Cost of \$1,925 includes rafts and equipment, guides, transportation from Cordova to Chitina, hotel accommodations in Chitina and Cordova, and meals. Transportation from Fairbanks is not included.*



OLLI's first "Intergenerational" summer excursion took OLLI members Dan and Ann Swift, Anne Paul, and Carol DeVoe, and their grandchildren, to a fish camp in Kotzebue.

# OLLI Special Interest Groups

**Please contact the OLLI office at 474-6607 or UAF-OLLI@alaska.edu if you want to be included in any of these activities led by OLLI members.**

## Book Club

Meets: 7 times a year on Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Location: Noel Wien Library

Discussion Leader: Georgine Olson

### **February 21, 2012 — *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

Set in Mississippi in the early 1960s, this first novel is a tale of blacks and whites living in a segregated South. A century after Emancipation, black maids raised white children and ran households but were paid poorly. Miss Skeeter, a naïve young white aspiring writer, wants to create a series of interviews with local black maids. Tension pervades the events related by these memorable women. (Historical Fiction / Domestic Fiction; 2009)

### **March 20, 2012 — *Cleopatra: a Life* by Stacy Schiff**

This brings to life Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt. Her palace shimmered with onyx, garnets, and gold, but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Living less than forty years, she reshaped the contours of the ancient world. Returning to classical sources, Schiff separates fact from fiction. Rich in detail, epic in scope, this is a deeply original reconstruction of a dazzling life. (Non-Fiction / Biography; 2010)

### **April 17, 2012 — *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez**

Alvarez draws from the history of her native Dominican Republic in this novel about the Mirabel sisters, who were instrumental in the formation of an underground resistance movement against the dictator, Trujillo. She portrays the sisters as they grow from girls into women and follows their

paths from school, boys, marriage, and children to even greater life-and-death concerns. (Historical Fiction; 1995)

## Pictionary

This group meets monthly on Thursday afternoons. The December meeting will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. If interested call Barbara Rondine at 456-2462.

## Skeezers (Cross-Country Skiing)

Enjoy a relaxed, non-competitive skiing experience, all levels welcome, ski at your own rate. Meet at Ballaine Lake on Monday mornings at 11 am, beginning Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Carol DeVoe has agreed to be coordinator. Carol's cut off temperature is -10 degrees.

## Let's Travel

This group was formed to exchange ideas and tour information or to contact one another when we need a travel companion. It is a great way to share travel discounts, travel tours and other travel information. Most contact is by email. Leader is Marcia Boyette.

The **Hiking Club** and **Tennis Anyone?** will resume in the spring.

**Be sure to contact us if you want to be included in any of these activities or if you have an idea for a new special interest group.**

## How many OLLIs are there?

There are over 500 lifelong learning programs, but only 117 of them are OLLIs. "Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes" receive financial support from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which selects them for their quality and sustainability.

Other lifelong learning programs have a variety of names. For example, in Arizona, you can find CALL (Central Arizona Lifelong Learners), NAILS (New

Adventures in Learning for Seniors), and more. In Alaska there is also OLÉ (Opportunities for Lifelong Education) in Anchorage.

To find other lifelong learning programs, try National Resource Center of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (117 OLLIs) at <http://usm.maine.edu/olli/national/> and Elderhostel Institute Network (over 400 institutes) at [www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp](http://www.roadscholar.org/ein/intro.asp).

## OLLI Donors, January 1 – November 1, 2011

A special thank you to all of our members who donate so generously to OLLI!

### Benefactor (Donation of \$1000+)

Barbara Lando

### Patron (\$500–\$999)

Cindy Bergeson  
Donna Dinsmore  
Ron Inouye  
Stan Justice  
Joy Morrison  
Mary Ann Nickles

### Donor (\$250–\$499)

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Dorothy Thompson  
Pat A Turner  
Kathy Vaupel  
Marilyn Whitehead  
Christina Yurkovich  
Jane Zimmerman

### Friends (\$25–\$99)

Kristina Ahlnäs  
Karol Alderman  
Bernice Aragon  
Karen Baker  
Maggie Billington  
Anne Birkholz  
Lizabeth Buckalew  
Barbara Clark  
Deborah Coccia  
Manning  
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Caroline Traxler from D.A. McGilvary

Dr. Koji Kawasaki from Ginny Kawasaki

Gene Yurkovich from Christina Yurkovich

Harry Jenkins from Frank McGilvary

Marilyn Whitehead from Donna Krier

Pat Johnson from Shirley Gordon

Robert Henderson from Margaret Henderson

Will Bergeson from Cindy Bergeson



(Above) OLLI students in the "Trapping in Alaska" class, taught by Randy Zarnke. (Right) Learning the secrets of sourdough in the "Start Your Starters" class.





**University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
 PO Box 758100  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

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## A Health Club for Your Mind!

UAF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers opportunities for lifelong learning for older adults. Members come from all backgrounds. They share the common bonds of intellectual curiosity and the experience of their generation. Classes begin in February at the UAF University Park Building.

## Winter and Spring, 2011 – 2012

- Dec. 2 . . . . . Lecture: *Athabascan Beadwork & Design*
- Jan. 6 . . . . . Lecture: *Innovative Native Artists*
- Feb. 3 . . . . . Lecture: *Japanese Balloon Bomb Attack of WWII*
- Feb. 6 . . . . . Registration Open House
- Feb. 21 . . . . . Book Club
- Feb. 27 – May 4 . . Spring Classes
- Mar. 20 . . . . . Book Club
- Mar. 30 . . . . . Annual Meeting & Lunch Social
- Apr. 17. . . . . Book Club



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[www.uaf.edu/olli/](http://www.uaf.edu/olli/)