



MEET LJUBA KAVERINA

by Paul Simon

For visiting scholar **Ljuba Kaverina**, Colorado and the United States present a startling contrast to life in Russia.

For one thing, “people here are interested in each other’s lives,” she said, unlike back home. “For me, this is like a balm on my soul.”

For another thing, people here are readers; not so in Russia. In fact, the author of five novels about the lives of Russian people living in difficult historical times writes as much for herself as for other members of her generation. She believes writing keeps her brain in shape and also that chronicling the forgotten dreams of her generation is essential.

A 1971 graduate of Leningrad State University, Ljuba has taught French, Russian and history at Leningrad High School and guided tourists in St. Petersburg and Moscow. She also was an interpreter for American businessmen who came to Russia to share their expertise in business under the USAID program and she taught Russian to European CEOs in joint-venture companies.

It was her work through the USAID program that ultimately led to her current role as OLLI at DU’s first visiting scholar. She met current OLLI members **Bill and Sharon Elfenbein** 20 years ago when they were USAID volunteers helping businesses get started in Russia, and it was the Elfenbeins who introduced

Ljuba to OLLI Executive Director **Vonnie Wheeler**.

Last year Ljuba lectured at St. George University in St. George, Utah, on Russia through the eyes of four generations of Russia women. That is the same theme for her presentations OLLI at DU, where she leads Spring Term classes Tuesdays and Wednesday at OLLI Central and a third class Fridays at OLLI South.

OLLI members have been generous in their hospitality. Ljuba enjoys people who can organize groups and activities and she likes being active herself. When people smile and say hello to her in passing, it’s another reminder that is the exception in Russia. “It’s amazing: we don’t do that,” she says.

In fact, when a woman in Denver said she is planning a two-week trip to Russia and asked what she should do, Ljuba advised against smiling at other people and to dress in ways to avoid being noticed.

She observes that when Joseph Stalin died and Nikita Khrushchev rose to power, there was a period in which those in her generation dared to dream of new lives, of building a new country. Five years later, the dreams died. “It all stopped for us when Russia tanks invaded Czechoslovakia (in 1968),” she says. “That was the end of it.”

She feels privileged to have known people in her community in Leningrad, where she felt the university was “a cradle where ideas were born and nurtured. She had the skills to write, and she has, blending in her books some fiction and some elements based on facts about the lives of others that were told to her in great detail.

Her books recount a time period leading up to about a year before the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Ukraine in 1986. Her next book, she says, will be a sort of epilogue 30 years later.

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

By now you have received the word of my up-coming retirement the middle of September.

OLLI is a gathering of people like no other. Our slogan says it all, “Curiosity Never Retires.” Most of us walk through the door with a “why?” “how?” “what?” and “when?” on our minds and are ready to quench our thirst by listening and talking to others. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be in the company of such inspiring, inquisitive and enthusiastic learners for over 20 years.

I appreciate the OLLI leaders immensely who have shared my vision and enthusiasm for possibilities over the

years. When introducing a new program, a new idea, they have always had the “let’s give it a try” attitude allowing us to complement our quest for knowledge in new and exciting directions. It thrills me to read the OLLI *WELLaware* calendars each month envisioning so many members on mountain trails and walking paths. And, it doesn’t surprise me to see how quickly and enthusiastically OLLI members embraced *WorldView* and this year’s focus on Russia.

With so many OLLI leaders with an eye to the future, OLLI will continue to be a leader in lifelong learning for years and years to come and I look forward to sitting in the classroom soaking up the privilege of being in the same room as these very special people. — **Vonnie Wheeler, Executive Director**

THE 2016 OLLI SUMMER SEMINARS: A STIMULATING EXPERIENCE AND AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDTRIP VIA CANOES

OLLI's 2016 Summer Seminars begin June 2 and again feature a wide variety of stimulating and controversial topics presented by renowned academic lecturers as well as community experts in a variety of fields.

- June 2** **"The Outsiders: The Year Voter Anger Upended the Establishment"**
Floyd Ciruli, Director of the Crossley Center for Public Opinion, at the University of Denver
- June 16** **"Heeer's Dusty: Life in the TV and Newspaper World"**
Dusty Saunders, Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News writer-columnist for over 50 yrs.
- June 30** **"Global warming Demystified: Science, Consequences and Solutions
(How Conservatives and Liberals Can Agree)"**
Dr. Jeffrey Bennet, Astrophysicist, University of Colorado
- July 14** **"The EU and its Discontents"**
Professor, Lisa Conant, Political Science Department, University of Denver
- July 28** **"Robots in the Modern Age: Where We Are, Where We're Headed"**
Brian Hostetler, educator and family programs coordinator, Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- August 11** **"Imagine A World Without Aging"**
Dr. Randall Kuhn, Director Global Health Affairs Program at the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
- August 25** **"Citizenship and Civility in A Political Year"**
Professor Buie Sewell, Daniels College of Business, University of Denver
- September 1** **"No More Manning: The Denver Broncos and a New Season"**
Mark Kiszla, Sports Columnist, The Denver Post

The seminars will be held at the Central Christian Church, 3689 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver (South Cherry Creek Drive, between University Blvd. and Colorado Blvd) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members' cost is \$10 per lecture, \$20 for guests. OLLI members may bring adult children to any lecture without charge. (Registrations via brochure mailed to all OLLI members)

SUMMER SEMINAR FIELD TRIP

(back by popular demand following the geological canoe trip two years ago)

Our exciting three-day archaeological trip will take us through the Escalante and Dominguez Canyons by canoe in the company of the Archaeologist, **Lucy Bambrey**. We will camp for two nights along the way. The cost: \$425 per person. Trip size is limited. All meals included. Camping gear is available for rent if needed. Adult children of OLLI members are invited to adventure with their parents. For complete details, go to <http://www.centennialcanoe.com> and search OLLI at DU. Or call 720 283 0553.

NEXT OLLI CENTRAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

If you enjoy meeting and working with others as well as taking a lead in coordinating volunteer activities, OLLI Central would like to talk with you. We are seeking "a great match" to serve as Volunteer Coordinator. This is an ideal opportunity for a newcomer to Denver to work with our wonderful volunteers and volunteer chairs or for any OLLI member to contribute to our growing program. Our volunteers serve as classroom assistants, greeters at the start of each term and in various roles at our special events. To learn more, please contact OLLI Central Manager **Paul Simon** at paul.simon@du.edu or 303-300-9940.

SPRING HOT TOPIC LUNCHEON

Our Hidden Children: *The Rise of Human Trafficking in Colorado*

Friday, April 29, 2016
11:30AM to 1:30PM

Lone Tree Arts Center
10075 Commons St
Lone Tree

Human trafficking is a crime of severe control of one person by another through force, fraud or coercion in exchange for some kind of labor or sex service.

Join us as **Cara Morlan**, Arapahoe County District Attorney, addresses what being involved in a life of pimping and prostitution entails for children who are trafficked, provides insight into the behavior and mind-set of the offenders who traffic them, details local law enforcement efforts to combat this problem, and explains the challenges faced in court by prosecutors who dare to hold these offenders accountable.

This event is open to all OLLI members and their guests.

Cost \$20 per person

Box lunches with assorted sandwiches will be served.

Make check payable to: OLLI

Mail to:
2211 South Josephine St.
Denver, CO 80208

WORLDVIEW: OUR FIRST FOCUS ON RUSSIA

by *Vonnie Wheeler, Director*

What an enlightening, fun, celebration ... our exploration of Russia! We have delved into its history, customs, politics and people.



OLLI members dining at the National Restaurant as part of the winter Speaker Series on Russia were treated to member **Thelma Teitelbaum** singing one of her Russian favorites, *Otchi Chornya*.

OLLI Central offered a Speakers Series class in the winter term that featured: a review of the development of U.S. and Russian business partnerships presented by the U.S. Consulate General in Colorado; an intimate story of growing up in Russia by a young mother now living in Colorado; an overview of establishing the judicial system after the breakup of the Soviet Union; a look at Russian composers; and a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church. The series culminated with a dinner at the National Restaurant where we enjoyed an authentic, Russian-prepared meal accompanied by Russian musicians.

OLLI South offered the following classes: *Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy: The Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis; Russia in All of its Glory; Russia, From Tzar Nicholas to Putin; St. Petersburg: Monarchs and Palaces*. OLLI South members also gathered for a Friday afternoon movie, *Anastasia* followed by a happy hour featuring Russian Mules, Beef Stroganoff and Russian Cake

OLLI West's WorldView spotlight on Russia began during the Fall 2015 session with the class, *Introduction to Nuclear Energy*, featuring prominent Russian scientists. During the Winter term the following classes took place: *The Cold War - A New History; Catherine II of Russia - What Made Her Great? and Surprising Trends in War and Peace: Have We Learned Anything?* The Russian spotlight continues in West's Spring 2016 term with these classes: *Scientists Who Influenced us; Learn Chess* that centers on a game at the heart of Russian culture; and *The Siege of Leningrad; Two Tales, Two Voices* that focuses on the longest and costliest battle of WWII. And finally, *Russia's War: 1924 - 1953*.

During the spring term we welcomed our first "visiting scholar" from St. Petersburg, **Ljuba Kaverina**. Ljuba is spending six weeks with us teaching three classes on "*The History of Russian as seen through three generations of Russian Women*."

Ljuba is a house guest of **Bill and Sharon Elfenbein**. They met years ago when Bill was an advisor in U.S./Russian business ventures and Ljuba served as the interpreter for visiting U.S. business people. It was Bill who first had the idea of inviting Ljuba to be our guest and instructor.

Numerous OLLI members are welcoming Ljuba in their homes and hosting dinner gatherings for her as well as taking her on excursions throughout the metro area. OLLI will honor Ljuba at a reception in May, just prior to her return trip home. Just as she thought she had seen the last of us a group of adventurous OLLI members will be traveling to St. Petersburg for an eight-day tour of her beautiful city.

All in all, our first WorldView focus has gone beyond our initial expectations ... all due to the interest and enthusiasm of OLLI members.



OLLI members enjoying snowshoeing excursions lead by **Dick Passoth** on alternating Fridays during the winter term take in a breathtaking view in the mountains.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We are just completing another record-breaking year ... more facilitators presenting more enticing classes resulting in increased membership. I applaud the members of our outstanding Curriculum Committee who have worked endless hours creating these opportunities for the benefit of all of us. I also want to recognize those behind the scenes who ensure our registrations are treated equally and all of the necessary equipment is at hand for each facilitator. Thank you!

It can be difficult sometimes to be wait-listed for a class that is especially interesting, but we do want those waiting to get into a class of choice to know how much we appreciate your understanding regarding the limitations placed upon us regarding classroom capacity. In a perfect world the OLLI office and class facilitators would like to say, "Come on in." But because we are under contract with our facilities to abide by space capacity we cannot do that. Thank you again for your understanding and support of our primary goal of providing opportunities for those of us over 50 to pursue our quest for knowledge.

A parting thought: As much as we'd like to accommodate all requests, it's not possible. We ask that members placed on a wait list avoid "just showing up" for a class in the hope of slipping in. By honoring the registration process, our members respect one another and our facilitators who give us their time and talent.

— **Paul Simon, OLLI Central Manager**

PROTECTION TIPS FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Those attending the Feb. 11 Midday Morsels presentation by Maro Casparian, director of consumer fraud for the Denver District Attorney's Office, Reduce Your ID Theft Risk, heard variable tips about warding off consumer fraud, financial scams and identify theft. Here are some of the DA's tips:

Reduce Your ID Theft Risk

- Mail bills to be paid at the Post Office, not in your mailbox
- Have paychecks, benefit and pension checks direct-deposited to your account
- Ask your bank or credit union to receive your box of new checks, rather than have them mailed to you at home
- Call your bank and credit card customer service and ask to "opt out" of ALL marketing programs, including "convenience" check mailings
- Carry sensitive information in a close-fitting pouch or in your front pocket, not in your purse or wallet
- Don't carry your checkbook in public. Carry only the checks you need
- If possible, remove anything from your wallet containing your Social Security number
- Do not keep your purse, briefcase, checkbook, registration, insurance card or other identifying information in your car. Carry them in a secure manner on your person.
- Keep your financial and tax records in locked files in your home or office.
- Request a free copy of your credit report once a year
- Don't respond to emails asking for personal data. The message may include fancy graphics and an authentic-looking email address, but that can be faked
- Call the Credit Card Opt Out Line to reduce the number of credit card solicitations you receive (1-888-567-8688).
- Shred pre-approved credit card offers, convenience checks and any document containing sensitive information.
- Notify the credit reporting agencies of the death of a relative or friend to block the misuse of the deceased person's credit.
- Use a secure browser to guard the security of online transactions. Make sure your browser has up-to-date encryption capabilities by using the latest version available.

OLLI ACROSS THE COUNTRY

by Nancy Murray, OLLI West

During a recent discussion regarding the OLLI fee increase taking place next fall, the question was asked, “What do other OLLI programs charge?” The person most qualified to answer inquiries about other OLLI programs is **Steve Thaxton**, Executive Director of the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at Northwestern University.

I posed the fee and other questions to Steve and his reply was, “The answers are complicated.” He then shared the following information.

Currently, there are 119 OLLI programs across the country with a total of 152,000 members. All the programs share a name and a level of endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation, but are otherwise very unique. Some of the programs were in existence (such as our predecessor—VIVA!) and became a part of OLLI through a generous contribution from the Foundation, while others applied to the Foundation and were started with grant funding. The Foundation’s hope was to have at least one program in every state plus the District of Columbia. The Foundation has endowed \$1 million-\$2 million to the various universities for their OLLI programs. A minimum 5% return is expected from the investment, which is to be used to fund a portion of their OLLI program budgets.

The unifying principal is for each program to do what works best for its members and location.

The programs range in size from 534 members at Brandeis University to almost 14,000 members at Florida Atlantic University. The University of Delaware is the next largest with 3,690 members. OLLI at DU holds third place with 2,520 members at last count, followed closely by Coastal Carolina University, University of Dayton, Carnegie Mellon, University of North Carolina-Asheville and Rutgers University.

All of the programs charge members dues, which can range widely in price, from under \$10 to hundreds



Members of OLLI Central’s new OLLI Chorale class rehearse their “California Dreamin’” (The Mamas and Papas) with instructor Robyn Yamada.

of dollars. Some programs have a package price which includes the dues and class fees, while others charge by the course. Class sessions at the different locations can range from a single session to 14 weeks.

Several programs have active or adjunct faculty as their facilitators while others use members and guest speakers. Northwestern University’s program is based on discussion groups which are led by a coordinator but where the topics are divided up and the members take turns leading the group.

Some OLLI programs—including the University of North Carolina-Asheville and Furman University—have their own buildings which were built with money raised through their own capital campaigns. Many programs have access to space on their campuses while others rent in the community. The University of Minnesota is one of the larger urban programs with 20-30 different locations across the Twin Cities.

To sum it up, Steve shared a quote he’s heard from a number of people- “To know one OLLI is to know one OLLI.”

To locate and learn more about other OLLI programs, check out The National Resource Center website (<http://nrc.northwestern.edu/>). It includes a map of all the programs with links to their websites (<http://nrc.northwestern.edu/find-an-olli-near-you/>) and a copy of the monthly newsletter with information about what’s happening at various programs, including community outreach and travel opportunities. The course catalogs from the individual OLLI websites can also be great resources for new class ideas.

HEADS UP ...

from the OLLI Central Advisory Council: A.C. Announces 2016-17 Slate

The nine-member Advisory Council oversees OLLI Central’s strategic planning, budget and finance, marketing, facilities, special events and other organizational matters. AC members are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms. The Council recognizes and appreciates the service of outgoing AC members Art Strasburger, Julie DeTemple, and Sandy Nearpass. The 2015-17 slate is proposed by the AC Nominating Committee and presented to the membership via this newsletter.

The following have been presented for three-year terms on the Council: Sydney Meyers, Glenn Cooper and Ginger O’Neil.

Any member may nominate additional candidates by emailing the Nominating Committee, via Paul Simon (paul.simon@du.edu) prior to June 1, 2016. If additional nominations are received, an email ballot will be distributed. If no additional nominations are received, the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee will be deemed elected.

— **Anita Leitner**, OLLI Central Advisory Council President

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- **David Kaslow**, who is leading *Great Orchestras, Great Music Making* for OLLI at Central Christian Church on Monday, May 2, played for 18 years in such orchestras as New York City's Little Orchestra Society, the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra and Washington, D.C.'s National Symphony Orchestra. He also taught horn, chamber music, and music theory for 30 years at Denver University's Lamont School of Music. There still are openings for the May 2 class and for a similar class May 6 at OLLI West. Call Debbie Loftin at 303-871-3090 to register.
- A farewell reception for visiting Russian scholar **Ljuba Kaverina** with her OLLI students will take place May 6 from 4-6 p.m. at the Wellshire Event Center, 3333 S. Colorado Blvd.,

Denver. If you are in one of Ljuba's classes, come join us as we salute her for her Spring Term contributions to OLLI at DU.

- OLLI Central has a brand-new OLLI Chorale! Led by choir and musical theatre expert **Robyn Yamada** from the Denver Center for Performing Arts, this first-time Interactive class on Friday mornings is off to a rousing start in learning and performing popular tunes and favorites. Given the interest, this may become a year-round activity with opportunities to perform for others.
- OLLI dog lovers are invited to join in our "Dog Lovers Walks" at Washington Park at 10 a.m. beginning Friday, April 22 and continuing weekly at Wash Park and eventually perhaps other locations every Friday. Meet April 22 in front of the Recreation Center at 701 S. Franklin St., Denver. – **Pam Murdoch**

A LEARNING ADVENTURE IN VAIL, CO

The University of Denver's OLLI and Enrichment Programs have collaborated on an exciting, week-long "Learning for the Joy of Learning" program, September 11 - September 16, in Vail, CO. The program, developed in conjunction with the Vail Center, consists of 12 eclectic sessions presented by popular DU professors. The week of learning is complemented by an outdoor adventure day, special presentations and daily camaraderie with other intellectually curious adults. For full details and reservations go to www.vailcentre.org/du-eo/.

REMEMBERING CHARLES RAY

OLLI member Charles Clark Ray of Denver passed away on Friday, March 25 at age 81.

He was a man who valued education (Dartmouth '56) and swam on his college swim team - a ritual he continued for the remainder of his life. He enjoyed a love of flying, beginning first in the Navy as a Naval aviator, and later as a private aircraft flying enthusiast. He was remembered for his witty and humorous observations on life and his genuine interest in and ability to relate to people of all backgrounds.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 28

Midday Morsels. "Exploring Colorado Wineries."
Central Christian Church. 11:45 – 12:45.

APRIL 29

Hot Topic Lunch, OLLI South
"Our Hidden Children: The Rise of Human Trafficking in Colorado"

MAY 20

Spring Term ends

FEBRUARY 22

Spring Term Registration Begins

MAY 6

Farewell dinner for Ljuba Kaverina

MAY 31

OLLI Facilitator Dinner

JUNE 22

OLLI WorldView St. Petersburg Trip

JULY 18

Fall Term Curriculum Catalog posted

SEPTEMBER 19

Fall Term Begins



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**"THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING OLLI
IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING"**

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