Meet Barbara & Dick Reinish

by Tricia Forbes

We in OLLI are fortunate to enjoy a fountain of interesting people who enrich our lives. Today we introduce one such couple of regard, Barbara and Dick Reinish, who moved to Denver in July 2011.

Dick was raised in Chicago. Barbara grew up in Detroit and raised her three children in Aspen before moving to Chicago to marry Dick in 1991.

Both attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where they initially met.

Dick received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the University of Michigan and a J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law. Barbara received a B.A. degree in English and her teaching certificate for grades 7-12.

Dick worked for the U.S. Department of Justice for three years. The following years were spent at three law firms practicing antitrust law and commercial litigation. Dick served nine years as a director of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Before retiring Barbara spent eight years as the Director of OLLI at Northwestern University. She currently volunteers reading at Carson Elementary and at Denver Health doing Healing Touch for cancer patients.

Dick has facilitated more than fifteen OLLI classes, including Current Events, Socially Aware Documentary Films and Is America in a Constant State of War? All of his Current Events classes have been co-facilitated with Sidney Myers. Dick also serves as a member of the OLLI Advisory Council.

Barbara co-facilitated with Kathleen O’Brien in Five Thinkers Explore the Connection between Aging and Spiritual Growth, and Exploring Stress Reduction, Resiliency and Wholeness in Aging. This semester she is co-facilitating with Ginger O’Neil for “Contemporary Influential Visionaries.”

This interesting, involved couple have a full range of hobbies and other interests as well. Dick is involved with politics, serving as Director of Voter Protection for the Colorado Democratic Party during 2011 and serving at the Obama Headquarters in Chicago.

Dick is also interested in reading, hiking, cross-country skiing, and the University of Michigan football (Go Blue!)

Barbara loves bead crochet jewelry, cross-country skiing, cooking, pilates and tai chi.

OLLI salutes this wonderful couple for their involvement in and with life with a capital L.
OLLI Central’s New Manager
Paul Simon

New OLLI Central Manager Paul Simon admits he wasn’t aware of OLLI until a friend told him of the program last August. But he’s making up time quickly since coming aboard in November. For that matter, Paul has discovered to his delight that many of his friends are members of OLLI.

The OLLI role calls extensively upon many of Paul’s professional and volunteer experiences, including his 21 years as an editor and bureau chief with the Associated Press news cooperative in Los Angeles, Dallas and Omaha. He also was an editor at the Denver Post from 2003-2007 in and around working with online startups and other Web-based businesses as editor or content manager.

Paul is active in Optimist International, a respected service organization for which he has served as president of the Monaco South Optimist Club, as a Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District lieutenant governor, and currently as the district governor-elect. He also served the past five years as Volunteer Chair and Fundraising Chair for the Optimist Brain Bowl, a series of statewide events in which middle-grade students face off in Jeopardy-like knowledge competition.

Paul is a past president of the Colorado Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and also the Jewish Business Association of Denver. A former marathoner, he captains a team in the Colorado Senior Volleyball Association and enjoys playing on a City Park tennis team in USTA competition.

Paul has two grown children, one living in Denver and the other in Berlin. He and his wife, Debbie Reinberg, own a menagerie of cats and dogs who rule their southeast Denver home.

Focus on Russia

All three OLLI sites are in the midst of this year’s WorldView focus on Russia. From history to the arts members are immersing themselves in classes and activities that provide a broad, insightful look at this incredible, but often controversial country.

During the spring term OLLI will welcome its first “visiting scholar” from St. Petersburg. Lubja Kaverina, a professor and author, will present a six-week class, “Russian History as Seen through the eyes of Three Generations of Women.” Lubja will stay in member’s homes and will participate in many of the OLLI activities that will take place during her stay with us. We encourage OLLI members to reach out to Lubja and perhaps have her to dinner with a group of friends. She speaks fluent English, having been an interpreter for many American business men and women. Let Vonnie -- vwheel@comcast.net -- know if you would like to host Lubja during the spring term.

OLLI in St. Petersburg Russia: Registration Deadline Approaching

Our year-long WorldView study of Russia will culminate in a 10-day educational trip to St. Petersburg, June 22 – July 2. There are still a few places left for those thinking about joining other adventuresome OLLI members for this memorable trip. For information please contact Debbie in the OLLI Office, 303-871-3090 or debra.loftin@du.edu.

U.S. Foreign Policy Topic of International Symposium by Florence Welch, OLLI South

OLLI at DU’s 2015 international symposium, "Beyond 2016 American Global Strategy in a Changing World" was a great success. In attendance were 180 enthusiastic Central, West and South OLLI members.

The morning presentation was "America's Post War Foreign Policy", presented by Ambassador Christopher Hill (Currently Dean, Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.) He presented historical facts that have led to the rise of the Islamic state and the current situation in the Ukraine with Russia. Following Ambassador Hill's talk OLLI members had a delicious luncheon and time for socializing. In the afternoon, "The 2016 Presidential Contest and Its Impact on American Foreign Policy" was presented by Floyd Ciruli, Director of the Crossley center for International Research at the University of Denver. Mr. Ciruli discussed the 2016 presidential candidates and other world leaders’ political views, positions on foreign policies and their current political statistical status. Overall the symposium was a great success; everyone left well informed, well fed and well socialized.
Chancellor Chopp Address OLLI Members

by Paul Simon

OLLI members learned firsthand about the University of Denver’s draft strategic plan when Chancellor Rebecca Chopp spoke to them at OLLI’s 20th Anniversary Luncheon at the Wellshire Inn in Denver.

Nearly 150 OLLI Central, South and West members listened Oct. 16 to Ms. Chopp describe her vision and plan for the University of Denver. The plan’s strategic initiatives include increased financial support for students; teaching students the skills to navigate their lives and career; assisting students in learning, living and leading in the community; and providing a multi-faceted environment that encourages students to live and work with individuals of all backgrounds.

Among other goals, the plan envisions such specific initiatives as creating an Institute for Social Policy Research as well as a Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology.

More information and the draft plan is available at www.imagine.du.edu.

Remembering Len Taigman by Ted Couch

It was my good fortune to be counted among Len’s friends. There was nothing exclusive about that because Len’s friends were legion. Yet, in his quiet way, he made each of us feel special. He was teacher, mentor, scholar. Most of all, he was a learner, curious about everything, but had no time for the pretentious and superficial. That just wasn’t his style.

Len was president of VIVA, the forerunner of today’s OLLI, in its early years. He was the best class facilitator VIVA/OLLI ever had. He set the standard for facilitators and active membership. He inspired scores of us to care about lifetime learning and about the lives of each other. He didn’t talk a lot, but when he spoke we all listened. We knew we were about to hear something worth hearing.

Spring Classes Break Record!

The Curriculum Committee is proud to announce that for its spring term, we are offering more classes (60+) than ever before. Thanks to our stellar facilitators and growing membership, we are working hard to assure that our members have both choice and availability when they participate.

We know many members are frustrated when we have waiting lists for classes. Our OLLI model is the small class discussion, and numbers are held to under 30. When there are waiting lists, we do everything possible to try and offer those classes again in the near future.

It should also be noted that we offer a number of unlimited classes that will be identified on the Catalog Topic List. When registering, remember not to make an unlimited class your first choice, as it is likely you will be admitted. And please note the most important thing: register as early as possible!

The spring term offers new and thought-provoking classes in all of our subject areas. Think of the fun of Take Me Out to the Ball Game, or the comic depth of a Faulkner class. Or, explore the questions raised in Faith and Reason or The First Amendment. We are also presenting an exciting new Speakers Series on Alternative Medicine, as well as a Russian Lecture Series by our Vising Scholar, Ljuba Kaverina. These are only a few examples of the wonderful collection of classes we hope will attract your participation. And always remember that the excellent classes at South and West are always open to OLLI Central’s members.

The Curriculum Committee thanks all those facilitators who are presenting classes in both winter and spring. You are the heart and soul of OLLI; your ideas, creativity and hard work remain the fundamentals of our great program.

—Nancy Cain, Curriculum Chair
**Winter Hot Topics Luncheon**

**How Fast the Middle East Changes—
A Journalist’s Personal Perspective**

Who can talk with authority about the Middle East? A diplomat whose shoes are as shiny when he leaves a foreign outpost as they were when he landed? A politician whose only contacts overseas were chosen to make him a happy man when he heads home? A pundit who never leaves home? No. You want someone who has had “boots on the ground.” And gotten them muddy while he was there. That is how veteran news foreign correspondent **Greg Dobbs** has spent his life. Join your OLLI at DU colleagues to learn more about what is really happening in the Middle East.

**Greg Dobbs** is a professional speaker, the author of two books, and a journalist for 45 years, spending most of his time as a correspondent— including more than two decades as a foreign and war correspondent— for two American television networks. From his news coverage in more than 80 countries around the world (as well as coverage of the U.S. space program), Greg brings an informed perspective that breathes life and realism to both current and historical events. He is the winner of three Emmy awards, and now writes regular op-ed columns for The Denver Post.

The event will be held on Friday, February 19, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at The Vista at Applewood Golf Course, 14001 West 32nd Avenue in Golden Cost is $20/per person –make checks payable to OLLI and mail to 2211 So Josephine St, Denver, CO 80208. No tickets are issued – your reservation check must be received by Friday, February 5, 2016.

The information presented is intended for educational purposes only. OLLI at DU takes no position on the views expressed.

---

**Join the New OLLI Chorale**

Here is your opportunity to sing in a choir, in an ongoing chorale group that will meet once a week. Taught by singing teacher, choir and musical theatre expert **Robyn Yamada**, this fun-filled OLLI Chorale welcomes people of all ability, who love to sing, and who would prefer to do it with many voices together! We will focus on contemporary and classic favorites and show tunes and build our repertoire as our experience grows. This class will be great fun for all!

The chorale class will take place from 10-12 on Friday mornings from April 1st to May 28th.

Robyn, our instructor, attended the University of Northern Colorado as a piano performance major. A seasoned performer, she has appeared in multiple theatre productions including Guys and Dolls, She Loves Me, Grease, West Side Story, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, and Singin’ In The Rain. In addition to teaching and performing at the Denver Center for Performing Arts (DCPA), she is the staff pianist for the Grammy Award-winning Cherry Creek High School vocal music department. She has been an accompanist, performer, instructor and arranger for more than 20 years. Robyn is a voice, piano, music theory and composition instructor.

---

**Paul Simon**, OLLI's Central Manager, explains to a customer the characteristics of a particular tree at the Monaco South Optimist Club Christmas tree lot. The Monaco South Club has operated the tree lot near Monaco and Evans in Denver every December for more than 35 years, with proceeds funding dozens of club projects for youth and the community. Paul is a past president of the club and a tree lot volunteer every December.
Summer Seminar Early Opportunity  (back by popular demand)

An Archaeological Canoe Trip down the Gunnison River

As a part of OLLI’s Summer Seminars we have arranged another educational canoe trip on the Gunnison River. This time the focus is on Archaeology led by Lucy Bambrey who holds a Master’s Degree in Archaeology from the University of Denver.

This is a private trip for OLLI members scheduled for June 24 – 26, 2016. Cost of the adventure is $425 per person which includes: all meals (delicious!), professional canoe guides and equipment, and archaeology expertise both on the river and hiking the canyons. A preseason rate if paid by April 15, 2016 is $392. The trip is limited so if you want to go and receive the special discount, make your reservation early by sending your check to the OLLI office, 2211 S. Josephine St. 80208. Be sure and note “canoe trip” on your check.

Manager’s Message

What a delight! My first three months as OLLI Central Manager were filled with one pretty cool (can I still use that word?) experience after another, not the least being the opportunity to meet so many OLLI volunteers and other members.

It’s inspiring to interact with a community of lifelong learners so committed to expanding their knowledge. Of course, the commitment of the facilitators, committee members and volunteers who make this program go is just as impressive.

I’ve always been a strong proponent of “use it or lose it,” although that usually comes within the context of staying active. It’s so clear that OLLI incorporates both “body and mind” in all that it does.

It also is clear that a growing OLLI requires attention to careful planning that accommodates that growth in an orderly manner. It is impressive to see your Advisory Council and Curriculum Committee work so tirelessly on your behalf to provide valuable strategic thinking and tactical prowess. It really does take a village.

Are there a few pebbles on our happy road? Of course – with growth comes challenges. They are manageable, and I am looking forward to greater opportunities for our members as we offer a record number of courses for the Spring Term.

— Paul Simon, OLLI Central Manager

HEADS UP... from the OLLI Central Advisory Council

Mark your calendar for the first Midday Morsels lunch program on Thursday, Jan. 28. We will learn from geriatric care specialist Debbie Reinberg how to navigate the eldercare maze that can be so daunting.

Debbie will share her expertise in helping families faced with confusing, contentious or overwhelming choices for a loved one. She will discuss resources for those with physical ailments or cognitive issues, how to ensure the health and safety of loves ones, and how to identify and resolve conflict among family members.

Longtime Denver resident Debbie is the owner of ELDEResources, a company providing geriatric care assessment and management, advocacy, mediation and guardianship services.

The Midday Morsels program at Central Christian Church from 11:45 – 12:45 is open to OLLI members who may bring one guest each. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch as well. No reservations are required, but parking and space is limited and participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Next up in Midday Morsels is a Feb. 11 presentation on identity theft called “Outfoxing the Predators: Preventing Fraud and Exploitation. The speaker will be Maro Casparian, Director of Consumer Fraud for the Denver District Attorney’s Office. She will talk common frauds & scams and how to spot them and also the types of identity theft and how to protect yourself against it. — Paul Simon

OLLI Scholarships

OLLI scholarships are available for those in need. Please call the OLLI office at 303-871-3090 for more information.
DID YOU KNOW THAT...

• FOX31 News did an excellent segment on OLLI at DU? you may view it at this link: http://kdvr.com/2015/10/18/curiosity-never-retires-for-an-inquisitive-growing-group-of-seniors/

• If you would like to view the video presentation “Einstein, Bohr and Grandmothers” that was shown at Central’s “Mid Day Morsels” and South’s “Lunch and Learn” you may borrow the video from either the Central library or from Jenny Fortenberry at OLLI South.

• OLLI was recognized recently in a New York Times article? In case you missed it, here is the link: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/02/your-money/older-students-learn-for-the-sake-of-learning.html?src=me&_r=1

• OLLI Central origami facilitator Mark Burger has created the East Denver Origami Society comprised of OLLI members who have taken his course.

OLLI Central Inaugurates New Member Orientation

About 60 new members were welcome to OLLI Central in a Jan. 7 “Freshman Orientation” that went over so we plan for this to be a regular event. Even the Voodoo Doughnuts were a hit!

Advisory Council member Bonnie Payne and Dick Reinish joined other council and Curriculum Committee members in welcoming the new members and helping them feel at home. Payne and Reinish presented a PowerPoint program that explained the program’s origin and structure and addressed common questions that frequently arise from newcomers.

The meeting was light-hearted at times, even incorporating a bit of humor. The first name Bonnie drew from a bucket to award a free term membership was that of Vonnie Wheeler, our executive director. Of course, this was a setup by OLLI Central Manager Paul Simon and when the laughter died down, new member Susan Everett’s name was drawn and she was declared the winner.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 28
Midday Morsels. Eldercare Resources: Help for families faced with confusing, contentious or overwhelming choices for a loved one. Central Christian Church. 11:45 – 12:45.

February 8
Spring Catalog Posted

February 11
Midday Morsels. Outfoxing the Predators: Preventing Fraud and Exploitation. Central Christian Church. 11:45 – 12:45.

February 19
Hot Topic Lunch, How Fast the Middle East Changes – A Journalist’s Personal Perspective

March 10
End of Winter Term

March 28–May 20
Spring Term

June 22
OLLI WorldView St. Petersburg Trip