Hello, Friends!

In yesterday's Theater Through the Ages class, we were discussing how theatres have physically changed over time, and how elaborate they became. Look up the Bolshoi Theatre! I found a theatre architecture database and will admit that I spent a little time down that rabbit hole. But, isn't that what OLLI is all about? Something that sounds interesting, we look it up on the internet or go to the library to find a book on it (remember when we did that?) and before we know it, down the rabbit hole we go. I love that. Now I know just enough about theatre architecture to be dangerous, where to go for more info and that I have an interest in the subject, which I didn't even realize until yesterday!

Speaking of peaking your interest, the OKC History class begins on 10/15. You can still enroll in it. We are headed to the NY Historical Society for the next two sessions of the museum class. We will see their exhibits on Women Who March and Presidents of the United States.

Unfortunately, the instructor for the LGBTQ Life in America course is ill and has to postpone. We hope to offer it in a future term.

Yes, it’s a cat in a spacesuit. It reminded me of the Bowy song, "Ground Control to Major Tom" and that General Thomas P. Stafford is from Weatherford, OK. His mother came to Oklahoma in a covered wagon and lived to see her son go into space. Something big to think about.

Kindly,
Robbin, OLLI Director
World Class Museums & Collections
Fridays, 1:00pm-2:30pm, began 9/25, Enroll here.

10/9 New York Historical Society with Stephanie Nigito. Discover the evolution of the presidency and executive branch and how presidents have interpreted and fulfilled their leadership role with exhibition highlights from Meet the Presidents. Highlights include the actual Bible used during George Washington’s inauguration in 1789 and a student scrapbook from 1962 chronicling John F. Kennedy’s leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

10/16 New York Historical Society with Dr. Anna Danziger Halperin. Discover 200 years of women’s activism and celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage and the 19th Amendment with exhibition highlights from Women March. Led by curators from the Center for Women’s History, this interactive presentation uses photographs, campaign posters, and historic footage to uncover the stories of women throughout the centuries who organized and marched to end slavery, win the vote and protect reproductive rights, among other important issues.

10/23 Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Will Rogers was America’s most beloved celebrity and still holds a special place in our hearts. Learn about Will’s experience being raised in Indian Territory, his desire for humor and to just be a cowboy, his rise to stardom and national and international fame, and his continued legacy. Tad Jones, Executive Director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore will reintroduce you to Will Rogers and his influence on American history.

10/30 Texas Fashion Collection. The College of Visual Art & Design at the Univ. of North Texas is home to a unique repository documenting high fashion and style. Through research and programming, this 20,000-piece collection spanning 250 years and 5 continents, bridges academic and popular understandings of fashion history. Annette Becker, fashion history scholar and director of the Collection gives us a behind-the-scenes look.

11/6 TBA

11/13 Where to next? Learn how to access museums around the world, online programming and resources for research and pleasure in this tour of discovery.
The universe is expanding. So is our understanding of ourselves and our place in it.

Our mission here at OLLI is to advance the concept of learning as an enjoyable lifelong endeavor. We welcome everyone who lives for the thrill of discovery, who is restless with curiosity and finds satisfaction in the pursuit of the big and the small mysteries of this marvelous universe.

Many OLLI members who weren't part of the program when it started don't know our origin. In 2005, a group of Stillwater folks with ties to Oklahoma State applied to the Bernard Osher Foundation for grant money to expand their lifelong learning pilot program. This group of volunteers had been holding classes on a shoestring budget for about 60 participants when they heard about the Osher Foundation’s commitment to create a culture of lifelong learning throughout the U.S. Established in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and community leader, the Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts.

To their delight and (they later admitted) great surprise, the Stillwater lifelong learners received a generous renewable grant, and OLLI@OSU was born. We are now part of a network 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) spanning the entire U.S. Through their continued support, we lean into this endeavor with courses, workshops, lectures, travel and special events. We have a full time director and several part time staffers, but volunteers are still the heart and soul of our program, as they have been from the very beginning.

Now you, too, are an OLLI insider except for one other thing that you might not know: It's pronounced OLLI. Rhymes with Molly. For more on OLLI’s mission and a link to a map of OLLIs in cities across the U.S., take a side trip to the Osher National Resource Center, sign up for their nifty monthly newsletter, but then come right back here and learn something new.
The Citizen Scientist

Last week in the TED Circles course, we watched a stunning video on 3D mapping of galaxies, black holes and stars in which theoretical astrophysicist Juna Kollmeier wowed us with the enormousness and beauty of the universe. During her talk she mentioned the contributions of a citizen scientist--a school teacher in the Netherlands--who discovered a rare type of object which is now the subject of major study. Citizen scientist projects give non-scientists the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to science. As Kollmeier pointed out, anyone can be a citizen scientist or researcher or serve in any number of capacities. That started us wondering where one would look for this sort of opportunity. Here are a few jumping off points if you're looking to make a contribution to the world's knowledge base:

At CitizenScience.gov you'll find a listing of government agencies looking for your help in a wide range of studies. Open the link and then click on Catalog, then click on Projects, which will open a page listing dozens of projects. For example, if you click on the Stellar Watch project, you'll learn that biologists with NOAA Fisheries have set up cameras in the Aleutian Islands. The cameras are taking hundreds of thousands of photos of sea lions. The biologists need your help to sort out which images contain sea lions with readable markings. Biologists will review the chosen photos to help save this endangered population.

The Library of Congress By the People invites you to work with historical documents on a number of topics or "campaigns". You can transcribe documents, tag them with keywords or review and edit transcriptions.

At the Smithsonian Institution's Citizen Scientist site you can get out and do things or stay at your computer and become a Digital Volunteer. You'll find fascinating links such as Invader ID which tracks changes in coastal environments or the American Gardens Mystery Project, a photo sleuthing challenge.

More sites to explore:

National Geographic
Zooniverse.org
Wikipedia List of Citizen Scientist Projects
Events Calendar

These events are free for OLLI members and $10 each for non-members. Registration is not required for Coffee Talks. Use the links below. Register here for everything else.

10/8 3 pm  Brain Health & Cognitive Screening with Sherri Norton, MA, CCC-SLP  
(Repeat of 9/28 program) Explore the latest developments in changes associated with the aging brain and preregister for a cognitive screening.

10/8 5:30 pm  Concert: Monica Taylor & Travis Fite perform folk, bluegrass and Red Dirt

10/14 5:30 pm  Coffee Talk - Zoom Link

10/29 5:30 pm  Concert: Miss Brown to You with Louise Goldberg & Mary Reynolds, piano & guitar

11/2 11 am  Coffee Talk - Zoom Link

11/3 All Day  Election Day  VOTE

11/3 9 am  Women of the Third Reich with Anette Isaacs

11/4 9 am  400 Years of Poetry with Matt Vaughn

11/4 3 pm  Oklahoma History with Elizabeth Bass (Pt. 1-Topic TBA)

11/5 11 am  The Reverse Underground Railroad with Richard Bell

11/5 9 am  Family History at Your Fingertips with Chad Williams & Jan Davis

11/6 3 pm  Watercolor Painting Demonstration with Fatemeh Kian

11/9 11 am  Under Her Wings Was the Universe with sculptor romy owens

11/10 9 am  Genealogical Research Using Fire Insurance Maps with Laura Martin

11/10 11 am  The Wonderful, Wacky Windsors (Pt. 1) with Christianne Chase

11/11 9 am  Art History with Jena Kodesh (Topic TBA)

11/11 3 pm  Oklahoma History with Elizabeth Bass (Pt. 2-Topic TBA)

11/12 9 am  Coffee Talk - Zoom Link

11/12 11 am  Chilocco Through the Years with Sarah Milligan

11/13 11 am  The Wonderful, Wacky Windsors (Pt. 2) with Christianne Chase

11/13 3 pm  Art History with Jena Kodesh (Topic TBA)