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**EARLIER DEADLINE FOR E-NEWS ARTICLES NEXT WEEK.** We will publish on Thu, Jul 2, due to the OLLI holiday on Fri, Jul 3. Deadline for articles/notices is 7pm next TUESDAY.

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**HABITS OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

*From the executive director*



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

**JUST FOR KICKS, I GOOGLED "LIFELONG LEARNING"** recently and discovered an interesting article entitled "15 Steps to Lifelong Learning" by Scott H. Young. I think you'll recognize all of these items in most OLLI members:

1. **Always have a book.** It doesn't matter if it takes you a year or a week to read a book. Always strive to have a book that you are reading through, and take it with you so you can read it when you have time. Just by shaving off a few minutes in-between activities in my day I can read about a book per week. That's at least 50 each year.
2. **Keep a "To-Learn" List.** We all have to-do lists. These are the tasks we need to accomplish. Try to also have a "to-learn" list. On it you can write ideas for new areas of study. Maybe you would like to take up a new language, learn a skill or read the collective works of Shakespeare. Whatever motivates you, write it down.
3. **Get More Intellectual Friends.** Start spending more time with people who think. Not just people who are smart. But people who actually invest much of their time in learning new skills. Their habits will rub off on you. Even better, they will probably share some of their knowledge with you.
4. **Guided Thinking.** Albert Einstein once said, "Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking." Simply studying the wisdom of others isn't enough, you have to think through ideas yourself. Spend time journaling, meditating or contemplating over ideas you have learned.
5. **Put it Into Practice.** Skill based learning is useless if it isn't applied. Reading a book on C++ isn't the same thing as writing a program. Studying painting isn't the same as picking up a brush. If your knowledge can be applied, put it into practice.
6. **Teach Others.** You learn what you teach. If you have an outlet of communicating ideas to others, you are more likely to solidify that learning. Start a blog, mentor someone or even discuss ideas with a friend.
7. **Clean Your Input.** Some forms of learning are easy to digest, but often lack substance. I make a point of regularly cleaning out my feed reader for blogs I subscribe to. Great blogs can be a powerful source of new ideas. But every few months I realize I'm collecting posts from blogs that I am simply skimming. Every few months, purify your input to save time and focus on what counts.
8. **Learn in Groups.** Lifelong learning doesn't mean condemning yourself to a stack of dusty textbooks. Join organizations that teach skills. Workshops and group learning events can make educating yourself a fun, social experience.
9. **Unlearn Assumptions.** You can't add water to a full cup. I always try to maintain a distance away from any idea. Too many convictions simply mean too few paths for new ideas. Actively seek out information that contradicts your world view.
10. **Find Jobs that Encourage Learning.** Pick a career that encourages continual learning. If you are in a job that doesn't have much intellectual freedom, consider switching to one that does. Don't spend 40 hours of your week in a job that doesn't challenge you.
11. **Start a Project.** Set out to do something you don't know how. Forced learning in this way can be fun and challenging. If you don't know anything about computers, try building one. If you consider yourself a horrible artist, try a painting.
12. **Follow Your Intuition.** Lifelong learning is like wandering through the wilderness. You

can't be sure what to expect and there isn't always an end goal in mind. Letting your intuition guide you can make self-education more enjoyable. Most of our lives have been broken down to completely logical decisions, that making choices on a whim has been stamped out.

13. **The Morning Fifteen.** Use the first 15 minutes of your morning as a period for education. If you find yourself too groggy, you might want to wait a short time. Just don't put it off later in the day where urgent activities will push it out of the way.
14. **Reap the Rewards.** Learn information you can use. Understanding the basics of programming allows me to handle projects that other people would require outside help. Meeting a situation that makes use of your educational efforts can be a source of pride.
15. **Make it a Priority.** Few external forces are going to persuade you to learn. The desire has to come from within. Once you decide you want to make lifelong learning a habit, it is up to you to make it a priority in your life.

## WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

*Silent Auction event hosted by Doris Bloch*



**AS AN OLLI SILENT AUCTION OFFERING,** Doris Bloch recently hosted a Wine and Cheese party that was attended by 14 delighted guests, some of

whom can be seen in the above collage of photos taken by Doris. Silent Auction proceeds benefited the Friends of OLLI.

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### SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR E-NEWS

*Some guidelines*

**MANY OF YOU OCCASIONALLY EMAIL PHOTOS** to me for possible publication in *OLLI E-News*. Your photos are always welcome but here are some guidelines to consider when submitting photos.

- **Send ONLY the best, NOT all of your photos.** Usually only one photo or very few photos can be published to accompany a given article or notice, so use your best judgment in selecting which one(s) to email.
- **Resize the photo(s) to a smaller size if you know how.** Your digital camera takes high-resolution photos but it's not necessary to send high-resolution photos for E-News. Just follow the below steps to send a smaller version of your photo. *If you do not know how to come up with a smaller version of your photo, don't worry, just send it.*
  - If your photo or email program can send a smaller version of your photo (typically, this might be 640x480 pixels for posting on the Web), please do that.
  - Or if you have a photo program that allows you to resize a photo, please resize it (be sure to click "Maintain Proportions") to a smaller size (ideally, 560 pixels wide -- the largest size normally published in E-News), save that smaller photo with a new filename, then email the smaller version.

If you have any questions about any of the above, do not hesitate to contact me.

-- [Rod Zumbro](#), OLLI E-News Editor

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## ELEGANT AUCTION BRUNCH AT THE YOUNGS

*First of two brunches*



Left to right: Dick Hart, Barbara & Tom Kyriakakis, Willie & Dick Young, Ave & Jane Tombes.  
Photo by Jayne Hart.

**DICK YOUNG AND HIS WIFE, WILLY**, served the first of their two auction brunches last Saturday at their lovely home. They received rave reviews for their efforts from the appreciative guests. The highlight of the morning was the Master Chef's delicious, individually prepared-to-order "Julia Childs omelets." It was a sumptuous culinary and wonderful social experience. Thanks, Dick and Willie!

Submitted by Jayne Hart.

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## DIRTY KNEE CLUB'S SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDS OF OLLI

*Garden makeover for top three bidders*



By [John Woods](#), Development Committee Chair



Left to right, Jack Underhill, Emily Cato, Brian Martin, Diane Wagner, Bill Ackerman, Valerie Braybrooke. Photo by Gordon Canyock.

ABOVE IS A THREE-PHOTO [SLIDESHOW](#) (9 SECONDS PER IMAGE) BY THE EDITOR.

**THE DIRTY KNEE CLUB OFFERED ONE "GARDEN MAKEOVER"** for the Silent Auction but three of the final bids were found to be very close. Landscaping Committee Chair Valerie Braybrooke polled Dirty Knee Club members, who agreed to do garden makeovers for the top three winning bidders -- Emily Cato, Marion Grabowski and Mary Kornreich. Valerie planned and coordinated the makeovers, and then the teams worked four to five hours at each site on different days this month to complete the jobs.

This was not "Martha Stewart gardening" but *real gardening* done "Dirty Knee Club style," with lots of laughter and joking along the way. The work included felling and elevating trees; clearing brush, brambles and English ivy; removing bushes and trees; transplanting and planting; and pruning. Several unexpected tasks were identified and completed, such as removing a rotted wooden step and replacing it with a new one, showing that the Dirty Knee Club does what needs to be done no matter the circumstances.

Dirty Knee Club members who worked the Silent Auction bids under Valerie's leadership were Bill Ackerman, Barbara Allen, Beverly George, Sandy Mitchell, Sylvia Myers, Sarah Psitos, Judy Riekse, Jack Underhill and Diane Wagner. Two honorary members, Brian Martin and Tely Psitos, assisted for the benefit of the Silent Auction. We thank all of these volunteers who worked so

hard on this effort. The Dirty Knee Club's special efforts to donate its services for three garden makeovers rather than just the winning bid added roughly \$1,000 to the Friends of OLLI!

The 2009 Silent Auction contributed a total of \$6,914 to the Friends of OLLI Fund. This is greatly appreciated as contributions to the Fund are down this year but the needs are great. I encourage other OLLI committees, clubs and groups to dream up ways like the Landscaping Committee did to generate money for the Friends of OLLI.

## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

*How to contact OLLI*

**HERE IS A READY REFERENCE** on how to contact OLLI. For email addresses and phone numbers not listed below, please consult the online Membership Directory (log in to [Member Portal](#)).

- President: Emmett Fenlon ([email](#))
- Executive Director: [Thom Clement](#), phone 703-503-7866
- [OLLI Office](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Tallwood Administrator/OLLI Registrar: [Maria Buczek](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Board members: See [Organization page](#) (to send an email to the entire Board, send it to the [office](#) or the *OLLI E-News editor*, and your message will be forwarded to all members of the Board)
- Committee chairs, resource-group chairs: See [Organization page](#)
- Suggestions: [Online suggestion box](#)
- Letters to the editor or letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (etiquette matters): *OLLI E-News Editor* [Rod Zumbro](#), phone 703-569-2750

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

*Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks*

**T**HE FOLLOWING LIST covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see [Upcoming Non-Class Events](#) to view the real-time OLLI online calendar used by the office). *Note: Board, committee, resource-group and 'membership-type' meetings/events below are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at all Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except during executive sessions).*

Fri Jun 26	9:30am	Recorder Consort - TA-2
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	9:30am	Photography Club - TA-3
	<b>10am</b>	<b>New Member Coffee - TA-1</b>
	10:30am	Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascades Library
	11am	Homer Group - Social Room Annex
Mon Jun 29	10am	Bridge Club - TA-3
Tue Jun 30	11:30am	Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Church
Wed Jul 1	10am	LA Cycling Club - Lake Anne
<b>Thu Jul 2</b>		<b>OLLI E-News released one day early</b>
<b>Fri Jul 3</b>		<b>OLLI Closed for July 4th Holiday</b>
Mon Jul 6	10am	Bridge Club - TA-3
Tue Jul 7	11:30am	Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Church
Fri Jul 10	10am	Recorder Consort - TA-2
	10am	Travel Club - TA-1
	11am	Homer Group - Social Room Annex

About *OLLI E-News* and the member/volunteers who produce it



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Barbara Kyriakakis  
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**Review Team:** Gordon Canyock, Michael Coyne, Barbara Kyriakakis, John West, Susanne Zumbro

**Database Manager:** Barbara Kyriakakis; **Photo Editor:** Michael Coyne

- **About this newsletter.** OLLI's weekly newsletter, *OLLI E-News*, is emailed to current OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).
- **Submissions.** We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter.

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