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“The mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.”

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

Clued in Cruciverbalist: Steve Weyer

By Judi Drais

Where do crossword creators come up with crosswordese—those bizarre, obscure words that stump us ordinary humans? Steve Weyer, OLLI instructor and this puzzle’s creator, explains, “I learned by solving puzzles, puzzles, puzzles. For this one, the name OLLI suggested a theme of similar-looking-sounding words: Ls and vowels. Some were obvious. I used an online dictionary to add more.”

His crossword fascination has persisted for more than a decade. For him, a word brain teaser brings a challenge different from math and logic puzzles. “I became more immersed when I decided to create and sell a crossword application in 2002.”

Steve’s background includes more than 40 years’ career experience with computer software, including research and development for Stanford University, Xerox, Atari, HP and Apple. Steve and his wife retired to Ashland in 2006, where he enjoys an active life of hiking, rock climbing, theater, improv comedy, reading and volunteering.

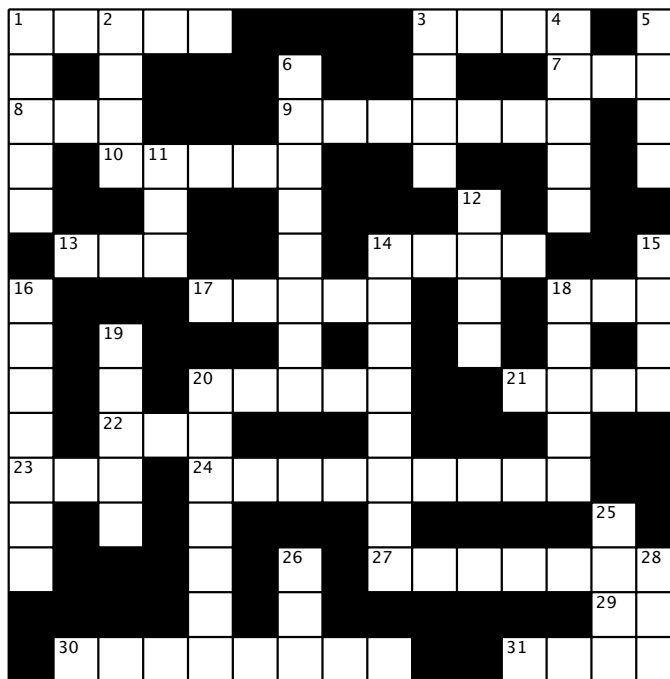
Presently, Steve teaches an OLLI class about e-books, and will repeat his crosswords class in the spring term. Read more about Steve, his crosswords, a music program, class descriptions and other unrelated gems on his Web site: <http://communiccrossings.com.oli>.

*P.S. Steve says using Google to help solve a puzzle is **not** cheating. (Puzzle solution is on page 9.)*

An OLLI Olio: Ooh La La Steve Weyer

ACROSS

1. Suffix for a field of knowledge
3. Capital on a fjord
7. Online acronym for yuks
8. Palm leaf in Indian writing paper
9. Southern campus town
10. Quarterly Medford issues event
13. Wise bird, it’s said
14. Our newsletter
17. Large SOU auditorium
18. Viscous liquid
20. Our original 1993 name
21. Oil of ____ (cosmetic)
22. Medford building (acronym)
23. Soccer or bullfight cheer
24. The “l” in OLLI
27. Italian astronomer
29. Chicago’s st.
30. 1st “L”
31. Paris airport



Theme hint/spoiler: most short words begin with “O”, contain “L” and vowels (mostly)

DOWN

1. Alley Oop’s girlfriend (with only 2 Os, Twi’lek dancer for Jabba)
2. Norwegian king
3. Earthenware pot; ____ podrida (Spanish stew)
4. 50’s song
5. Margarine

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. ____ Center: campus complex 11. Popeye’s girlfriend Olive ____ 12. Like lama in Nash poem; title of Scott Turow memoir 14. 2nd “L” 15. “ ____ (twice) oxen free” (kid’s game catchphrase) 16. Northern campus town | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Stan Laurel’s comedy partner, familiarly 19. “O” namesake donor 20. ____ Works hosts OLLI classes 25. French eye, e.g., trompe l’ ____ 26. Spanish eye 28. “It’s the water” former WA brew, familiarly |
|--|---|