REQUIEM FOR A TRAILER
Sally Adkins

When our OLLI trailer is dismantled
and lying in some far-off field,
its wood and metal,
its spines of doorways,
its spans of window glass
will not lie alone.
In-between, over, and under
will be all that made its being
so warm and worthwhile...
chunks of chuckles,
mounds of mischief,
 gyrating generosity,
 wisps of wisdom,
 masses of mirth,
 endless energy and enthusiasm
 all enervated by the still-beating
 bits of hearts and the prevailing air
 of goodness.
There is no goodbye;
there are only good memories.
Do you have a favorite area of interest in OLLI courses? Do you tend to always look for a particular segment in the catalog to pick your courses? Then you are a great candidate for that Curriculum Committee subcommittee. You already have one of the prime requirements, interest in the general topic area. We need people who have a desire to contribute. You need not have experience, only interest in an area. Then we'll help you develop the skills to identify potential instructors and topics from local newspapers, the web, OLLI members, and other known sources. All you really need is the desire, a phone, and a computer with email.

The gratification you will achieve when your first course becomes listed in the new course brochure is very rewarding. You not only get the personal satisfaction, but you also contribute to the expansion of course offerings in your area of interest while gaining personal contact with instructors.

So why not give me a call, and we'll set you up in the proper committee, or stop by Susan Rae's office at OLLI and talk to her about your area of interest.

Best of all, it’s a lot of fun.                Jim Baker   Curriculum Committee Chair
Home Office Phone:  864-895-5945
Home Office Email:  jmbaker125@charter.net

USEFUL WEBSITES
Elaine Brummett

From the Readers Digest:
Part of Consumers Union. You can submit info on bad deals, poor service, and faulty products for the site’s staff to follow up on. Consumerist.com

Review, research, and shop for cars, electronics, etc. All rated with a 5-star system. Epinions.com

Interesting research. For example, the more young male monkeys interacted with their mothers, the higher their later reproductive success. Livescience.com

You can play free online games, read funny jokes, learn about cholesterol, high blood pressure, how to give up smoking, and much more. Readersdigest.com
BOOK BUDDIES
Connie Kane-Maguire

At left: Susan Recknagel reads with her first grade book buddy, Kayleigh, in the Book Garden at Duncan Chapel.

“The girls were delightful and made great progress this year.” "...this worthwhile program; as with most volunteering, I have received more than I gave." "...want you to know that I enjoyed book buddies.” "I look forward to helping again in the fall." "Had a great experience, love every minute.” "I really enjoyed this and hope to be with you next year.”

These are excerpts from a few unsolicited comments by some of our incredibly faithful OLLI Book Buddies, who read with students at Duncan Chapel Elementary School. Thanks to them, and to all of our loyal volunteers!

The following is the full list of OLLI members (and friends) who volunteered for the Book Buddy program during spring term: BONNIE ARRINGTON (friend of CKM, reads with two students), GARY ATEN (reads with two students), JOAN AUSTIN (reads with two students), JEAN BRIDGER (reads with two students), ELAINE BRUMMETT, BOB COLLETT (reads with two students), LYDIA COLLETT (reads with two students), LYNDA FREDSELL (reads with two students), ORELL FRITZ (reads with two students), LINDA GILKINSON (reads with two students), MARGARET HOWLAND (reads with two students), CONNIE KANE-MAGUIRE (DC BB coordinator), MARY ANN KELLY (friend of Judy Leonard, reads with two students), CLAUDIA KESSACK (reads with two students), NANCY LEDONNE, JUDY LEONARD (DC BB associate coordinator, reads with two students), ROB MARGOLIN (husband of OLLI member, reads with two students), SANDY MCILVAINE (reads with two students), PHOEBE MICHAELS (friend of CKM, reads with two students), LARRY ORLOFF (reads with two students), ANNE O’ROURKE (friend of Joan Austin, reads with two students), JEANNE PETERSON (reads with two students), SUSAN RECKNAGEL (reads with two students), SUE RENAUT (reads with two students), KATHY SAUVAIN, BOB SCHERER (reads with two students), DIANE SCHNEIDER (reads with two students), PAT TYSON (friend of Lynda Fredsell, reads with two students), and PAUL ZIEMER (reads with two students).

Book Buddy volunteers read with each student for one half-hour per week; children are selected for the program because they have no one who is able to read to them at home (in English), and usually they do not read at grade level. The Book Buddy can read to the child, read with the child, or listen to the child read to them - depending on the student’s age and ability. The objective is to show the child that reading is fun and worth the effort to learn. Please consider joining the OLLI Book Buddy team next fall, when the new academic year begins at Duncan Chapel.
August 25, 2011 will go down as a significant date in the history of OLLI @ Furman. That was the date of the groundbreaking for a “Home of Our Own,” the Herring Center. From that date until now, many of us have watched the progress being made on the building and have gotten a little more excited each time we drive by and see major changes taking place. If you have been by recently, you can see that the building will, indeed, be an impressive structure on Furman’s campus. Construction is on schedule, and we will be attending classes in the Herring Center next fall. If you’re interested, photographs of the building’s progress over time have been taken on a regular basis and are available for viewing in the OLLI Office.

The Herring Center will be the most technically advanced building on campus, which, in turn, will provide many benefits to our membership. One of the benefits will be a state-of-the-art Hearing Loop that will provide assistance to those in our membership who have impaired hearing and rely on the use of hearing aids. The purchase of this new technology has been approved by the Council, and it will be installed in the Crabtree Room and two additional classrooms.

In my last message, I mentioned that a “brick naming project” was to begin. A member could purchase a brick with their name, or the name of someone that they would like to honor, for $100. In order to convert the budgeted concrete patio to a brick patio, only 200 bricks would need to be sold. I am happy to report that, at this time, our members have purchased over 300 bricks. This not only provides funds for the improvement to the patio, but the extra monies will be used for further enhancements and to purchase additional patio furniture.

As we come to the close of this year, I would like to thank the Council for its support and the excellent work that it has done this year. In addition, the committee chairs and their members have ensured that all OLLI students enjoy outstanding classes, fun and interesting activities, and interactions with other students. Our instructors deserve many thanks as well. Their willingness to volunteer provides us with many excellent learning opportunities. As always, thanks to Lucy and her staff for leading us through another year of OLLI @ Furman. All of these groups are certainly responsible for making OLLI @ Furman one of the premier OLLI programs in the country.

P.S. Can you tell that I absolutely LOVE OLLI @ Furman?
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Barbara Leimsieder

The Membership Committee continued to call each new member each term to welcome them to OLLI. A subcommittee designed a new member orientation that was well received and, by providing the general information that every new member needs, smoothed his or her transition to the OLLI family.

The committee also continued to deliver brochures each term and appreciated those OLLI members who picked up a supply and delivered them to other locations. The group continued to focus on the new building and areas that need special attention so that the move will be smooth and effortless for members.

Other areas of responsibility included course evaluations, planning for the next member survey, monitoring of the web page, and maintenance of the bulletin boards in the OLLI Office.

HERRING CENTER PROGRESS
April 28 - Photo by Bob Howell
SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Nancy Kennedy

The Social Committee has enjoyed a successful year. The committee was reformatted over the summer and set out to plan a wide variety of events that would appeal to a cross-section of OLLI members. Instead of the entire committee planning and implementing events, each event was headed up by someone different (sometimes along with a small subcommittee). This plan has worked well, and many OLLI members have enjoyed events throughout this past year, from monthly breakfasts to sporting events (football, basketball, and baseball), movies to contradance, and theater to dinner out.

We are beginning plans for social events for fall 2012. If you have ideas or suggestions, please call or email Nancy Kennedy at the OLLI Office.

In addition, OLLI now boasts eleven active Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Rogue Readers, Mystery Readers, Out and About Singles, Latin, Acoustic String Instruments, Bridge, Mah Jongg, Meditation, Serious Photography, OLLI Consort, and Coffee & Conversation. New SIGs can start at any time; see Nancy Kennedy or the OLLI website for more information.

OLLi members attend breakfast at Tommy’s Ham House on April 25.
The OLLI ReSource Committee comprised of Gladys Spiak, Judy Lineback, Marge Snyder, and Lucy Woodhouse are pleased to announce the recipients of the first OLLI ReSource grant cycle. We received 13 applications for requests totaling almost $25,000. The committee had $10,000 allocated to distribute.

These grants are intended to enable OLLI members to go beyond their regular participation in OLLI courses and to provide an incentive for them to pursue individual passions. The ReSource grants are not intended to provide current instructors with funds to continue in their current studies, but rather to push all members to go beyond their comfort zones, address those passions within, and find new ways to share information with our community of learners.

As a result, and in this spirit, the following grants were awarded:

- Gilbert Knight: Astrobiology Science, $1,200
- Martha Muncrief: Nag Hammadi Scriptures, $1,300
- Michael Broder: 1812! Growth of a Nation, $2,000
- Carole McAfee: Gullah Roots, $1,500
- Mei Li Trapasso: Discovering Healthy Chinese Cuisine through China Travels, $1,500
- Sherm Rounsville: Diversity Leadership Initiative with the Riley Institute, $1,500
- DanaRae Pomeroy-Link: Transitioning to Self-Publishing, $1,000

These members, some current instructors, others retired, are all committed to pursuing a new passion and then bringing that knowledge back to the members of OLLI @ Furman. We are inspired by their innovation and look forward to the classes and opportunities their experiences will bring to the membership. We encourage all members to look within themselves to find those lifelong learning passions as yet undeveloped and apply in future grant cycles.
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Karl sedlarz

OLLI enjoys secure and stable finances!

Through April 30, 2012, OLLI had Income, mainly from tuition and membership fees, of $210,500. Expenses were about $178,000, of which about $126,000, or 71%, reflect the expenses for our staff. Other major expense items are printing ($11,500), software maintenance ($9,000), and instructor honorariums ($8,700).

The difference between income and expenses is about $32,560. Most of this amount will be used for OLLI's obligation to Furman University to cover the occupancy costs provided by the university for heating, A/C, security, administrative services, and so on. This will require $31,777, leaving just about $800.

With two months to go in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012, it is estimated that OLLI will need about another $26-30,000. This amount will be covered by some of the earnings that are credited to OLLI from the earnings of the Osher Endowment and some additional income from our summer program. All in all, OLLI is financially secure, and there is a good probability that the current tuition/fee structure can be continued without increases. Have a nice summer!

MARTIN'S THURSDAY “HIKERS” @ GRITS AND GROCERY

The Thursday Hiking Group packed it in (we could say, “turned chicken”) during a downpour in the mountains, and had lunch at Grits and Grocery after visiting the Belton Museum.
The trailer stands, a monument to all
who come to learn some new exciting facts
or relearn old familiar skills. Older
fingers ply their crafts unused for years
while homes and families used up all our time.

But time has also grown our OLLI group.
Our poor old trailer’s full to bursting out
with love of knowledge yearning for more room
to grow. We learn we must move on. It’s time
to leave behind our dear old trailer. Switch
off the lights and shut the doors once more;
abandon dust and rust and tiny rooms
for brighter classes, bigger rooms, and chairs
our older bottoms can appreciate.
It’s true we’ll fondly miss the crowded shell;
the building waits for us to love it too.
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**SUMMER CONFERENCE ABOUT SOUTH CAROLINA**
Lucy Woodhouse

OLLI @ Furman and the Riley Institute at Furman present:

**Two South Carolinas:**
Disparities in Education, Justice, Healthcare and Economics
Tuesdays, July 17 – August 7
6–8 p.m., Younts Conference Center
Registration begins June 14

Experts and academicians will look at topics at the national and state levels that are hot debates for our November presidential and Congressional elections. Our speakers will define the issues, give the current dynamics of policies in place that affect our state, discuss the consequences of those policies, and provide discussion opportunities toward solutions for our state during the four-week series. Be sure to join us!

**TRIBUTE**

**Ethel McCreary**
Written by Mary Thomas

Ethel McCreary died on April 13, 2012, after a brief illness. She had taught at Christ Church Episcopal School. Ethel will be especially missed by OLLI members from Rogue Readers and Beginning Bridge. I met Ethel at Beginning Bridge. She was full of life and loved being with people. We played every week with class members Bill and Lynn and even started our own "bridge club" playing at our homes. We took the next class and all became "accomplished" bridge players. Ethel was considering playing duplicate. We will miss her smiling face, positive outlook on life, and wonderful personality. She was a great friend!
SUMMER ART SHOW - LAST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Dates of Exhibition:  
June 18 - July 27  
Set up: June 13 - 15  
Breakdown: July 30 & 31

Date of Reception:  
June 17, 3 - 5 p.m., Roe Art Building

Delivery of Work
Arts/crafts must be submitted between May 1 and May 15. Pieces to be displayed will be chosen by June 1. For all pieces not chosen, the artist will be notified by email, and the piece will need to be picked up by June 10; if art is not picked up by June 15, OLLI retains the rights to that work for display or donation.

Exhibition Requirements
No more than two 2-D (framed) pieces that are no larger than 32"X 26", or two 3-D (sculpture, wood carving, basket) pieces that weigh no more than 15 lbs. All works that are submitted must have been produced within the past three (3) years using skills and talents developed and enhanced through OLLI instruction. Artist must be a current OLLI member.

PLEASE NOTE: All artists, whose work is accepted for the show, must serve on one of four ad hoc committees: 1. Setup (June 13 - 15); 2. Takedown (July 30 & 31); 3. Reception (June 17); 4. Publicity (first two weeks of June).

If you are interested in selling your piece, transactions will be strictly between you and the prospective buyer. Displayed artwork must be picked up by August 3. If not, OLLI retains the rights to that work for display or donation.

THE GREAT COOKIE HANDOUT

Several OLLI members baked dozens of cookies and handed them out to Furman students on April 24. This was our way of thanking the students for sharing their campus with us. A few of the participants are shown at left, along with a strangely dressed senior you may have seen around the OLLI office. The cookies were all gone in about 40 minutes, and were greatly appreciated by the students.
THE OLLI TRAILER
Shirley Schneider

A trailer is a tag-along, not independent at all,
Goes along through all four seasons
Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter,
Making life easier for all involved.

Then along comes a brain-making change,
Time to stifle the trailer denoted
And replace it with permanent housing
So it no longer can be toted.

But it’s part of the the life of OLLI,
Broken hearts would occur from its loss,
Let us leave its remains on the premises,
And enjoy fully the great tag-along.

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS BY THE EDITOR
Gary Aten

Pictures of and poems about the present OLLI building, and the information about and the photo of the Herring Center construction progress by Bob Howell highlight the fact that this fall we will begin occupying the new Herring Center for Continuing Education. We will begin taking classes, conducting meetings, doing business, and meeting friends in this great new place. What else will we do there? In 2006, when we moved into the OLLI trailer, we had no idea of the growth and the changes that would lead us to where we are today. I hope that six years from now we are again saying, “Wow, I never thought that would happen.” Join the many OLLI volunteers and help make the changes that keep us fresh.

Speaking of volunteering, Gray Matters needs you. Submit your poem, article, or photo so we can share it with the rest of OLLI to: garyaten@bellsouth.net or call me at 864-294-6371. Thanks to Carole Eisen for proofreading this edition. Thanks to Nancy Kennedy for loading the issues on the OLLI website and for coordinating the hard copy printing. Thanks also to our summer vacation planners Althea Aroun and Lois Faire.

Judy and I would like to thank you for all of the nice comments about the World War II special edition of Gray Matters we have received. It was really a labor of love for us. Meeting the veterans and the homefront people highlighted in the edition was an honor, as was being able to share their experiences. If you have not had a chance to read these stories, they are on the OLLI website under “News from OLLI,” then “Gray Matters,” and then “WW II.”