

Editor's pick:

Oh, the things Anne Doyle learned about Greenville on Judith Bainbridge's

Bonus

Bus

Tour!

pg 4

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman - where active minds play

OLLILife

Long live learning



Linda Hosek wanted opportunities to fine tune her photography skills. She found them at OLLI and credits Alan Weinberg, Steve Singer, Jeff Sarvis — and other talented instructors — for inspiring her towards her goals. Read Hosek's story on page 6.

MAY 2019 - Issue #8

Next deadline: August 16, 2019

OLLI VOLUNTEERS ENJOY SPECIAL APPRECIATION EVENT IN THEIR HONOR

Approximately 800 OLLI folks volunteer for activities that keep our membership educated, informed, engaged, inspired and happy. We even have a volunteer committee to honor our volunteers. (Thank you Kathy Roed and your Volunteer volunteers!) Recently, Roed and committee threw an appreciation party on the Herring patio complete with get-acquainted games, yummy food and drinks, prizes, and lovely "V" stickers for our name tags. OLLI President May Welborn brought greetings



Volunteer Committee chair Kathy Roed

and thanks to this special group.

Photo: volunteer instructor Margaret Manning with

CAN YOU SPELL O-L-L-I-P-R-I-D-E?

Diana, Walter, Pam, Michael CAST THEIR SPELL

Walter Hinton says he saw "the spelling bee play" at the Peace Center. Diana Miel saw it too. Pam Stevenson seems to recall an elementary school spell off, and Michael Kilgore, asked if he'd ever done a spelling bee before,



said, "Never!" Thus armed, the OLLI Follies set forth on a March evening to test their — choose one: metal, mettle, mehtal — against teams from Quest Brewing (one of the ultimate winners), Michelin, *Greenville Journal*, and a dozen other Greenville teams hoping to spell their way to victory and also raise money for the Greenville Literacy Association.

The OLLI team soared through the opening four rounds. As other teams began to miss the occasional word and had to "buy" themselves back into the game, the Follies remained strong contenders through much of the evening. At the end, they could proclaim themselves among the top layer of spellers in this cerebral event. Go team OLLI! (photo: Walter, Michael, Diana, Pam)

(Want to spell test your friends on a few words? Try bellicose, umlaut, milieu, corpuscle and gynarchy.)

What's *your* favorite spelling word? Send FEEDBACK to sue.renault@gmail.com



Dear Bernie & Cindy,

Let's say I might know someone — as the weather gets warmer and warmer — who will occasionally have a glass of white wine with *lunch*. This person that I might possibly know likes them all: light, full, sweet, bold, snappy...anything cold and white. Do you have some recommendations for this person's warm weather pleasure?

See page 12 for B & C's answer

OLLIvoices



On the last day of spring classes, OLLI line dancers and friends performed in the Herring Center for classmates

OLLI Council met May 17, 2019. Watch OLLI Notes for OLLI's next Curriculum Committee meeting.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS:

Council members expressed thanks to outgoing Council President May Welborn and welcome to incoming president Sally Bornmueller.

Numbers: OLLI now has 2,489 members, 92 of whom were brand new as of spring registration. There are 9,429 "class seats filled."

The **Curriculum Committee co-chairs** Cindy Brothers and Lance Renault will be seeking two volunteers to "shadow" them during 2020 in preparation for assuming CC leadership the following year. At least one of these co-chairs should have Google Drive experience.

OLLI's Outreach Committee has arranged an "offsite" soup/cooking class this summer at Bethel Missionary Church in Greenville's West End. Six OLLI members and six church members will take this class.

OLLI's **Fall Catalog will** have a new "interest check box" for members to indicate interest in serving as Bonus Event coordinators.

SAVE THE DATE for a Furman Football Tailgate on September 28, 2019, when Furman plays Mercer University.

Striving for the best: Several council members will attend the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement in July at UNC Wilmington to exchange and explore ideas for OLLI excellence.

ASK Nancy:

Nancy, What's the status of OLLI's registration tests and research?



Andrew Carnegie: "No man becomes rich unless he enriches the lives of others."

Dear OLLI Members,

Last fall, OLLI's Finance and Administration Committee, led by VP for Finance and Administration Ron Eldridge, commissioned an ad hoc committee to look at our entire registration process. Members of the committee have talked with other OLLI programs, asked good questions to understand our system fully, and researched the capabilities of our online registration provider.

One result of their work was a test during spring registration, when eight courses were filled by lottery rather than first come first served. Package owners did not receive priority. The test courses were computer and art courses that typically fill very quickly and carry long waiting lists. Member reactions were mixed, although there was a large number of very happy people who gained access to a course they had never been able to take before. Overall, I'd call the test a success because we learned a lot about how a lottery might work.

The next step was to conduct focus groups. A trained facilitator ran three separate groups, made up of a cross section of OLLI members: package owners, single-course purchasers, those who participated in the lottery test, and those who did not. We gathered good information through these groups. As of this writing, results are still being compiled. You will see a more detailed report soon.

It's important for OLLI members to know that no decisions have been made. The committee continues to work very deliberately to explore options and make recommendations that will be in the best interest of our program. I appreciate this hard work and dedication to OLLI and will continue to report to our membership as new information emerges.

Please contact me if you have questions: **NANCY**, nancy.kennedy2767@furman.edu

OLLI, yeah!

HONOR SYSTEM: Without looking it up, complete this 4-line musical verse sung by Jimmy Buffet. No prize for the winner, just HIGH PRAISE:

Pour me somethin' tall an' strong/ Make it a "Hurricane" before I go/ It's only half-past twelve but I don't care/
(last verse... what are the words?) sue.renault@gmail.com

HIGH PRAISE! Morley Jensen identified the Mystery Photo (March *OLLILife*): cheese rounds soaking in brine. TA-DAH!

We FEEDBACK! Thanks for your comments about our March, 2019, issue.

Cutest/sweetest person you'd want to meet after reading the March newsletter: Simonne Lindemann, DV ~ Dorian Dickey (WHEN DOES SHE SLEEP?????????) DV (again) ~ Latest *OLLILife* has a nice balance of stories, well-written and edited, PK ~ Keeps getting better, KB ~ The latest issue of *OLLILife* is Spectacular. Grandpa E ~ (Grandpa E also loved Bernie and Cindy's description of wine blends). "What did I know?" he says.



You didn't notice you weren't carrying your handy brown book bag/ computer holder when you left the building?

Lost and Found is in the OLLI work room at the

far end of the OLLI Office. Need water? Probably nobody would notice a missing glass or two.

YOU COULD DO IT IF YOU HAD TO

Less than 10 percent of victims survive sudden cardiac arrests (American Heart Association). Prompt response can significantly improve survival.

"After calling 911, which should always be the first response to SCA, the combination of CPR, and the use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) can increase survival rates to 38 percent."

***OLLI's AED is located in the lobby behind the desk on the wall in plain sight. As you walk in the front door you can see it on the wall in front of you.**

(*Info bit from Molly Fitzpatrick)

SAVE THE DATES for StraightTalk 2019

Mark your calendar now for Furman's Riley Institute and OLLI's *StraightTalk* series Thursday evenings August 29, September 5, and September 12 from 6:30 to 8 pm in Younts Conference Center.

StraightTalk is always a powerful platform for notable speakers and panels to explore challenging issues of our times such as "fake news," immigration, civil rights and — this year — the Rise of Nationalism. Tickets are \$25 for OLLI members for the series (\$35 for non-members) and \$15 for individual nights for everyone. Tickets sell quickly, so watch OLLINotes for news about our 2019 speakers and about ticket availability.

NUMBERS:

- OLLI offered 118 courses in spring of 2019;
- 10 religion courses (our largest religion course offering yet);
- 26 arts, culture, music;
- more than 20 health, fitness and exercise;
- about 20 practical arts and hobbies; and more.
- 96 people serve on OLLI's Curriculum Committee (13 subcommittees)

Staff and guests

Thank you, *OLLILife* staff:

Bernie and Cindy Showman, wine blog; Gary and Judy Aten, OLLI interviews; Jim Hammond, OLLI all around; Marie Eldridge, member profiles; Diana Miel, special assignments, OLLI/ Furman connections, book reviews; Lori Dillon, restaurant/ food reviews; Betty Jo Shaw, SIGs; Anne Doyle, Bonus Events; Barbara Leimsieder, Tributes Editor; Kathleen Allen, Travel Editor; Carole Eisen, proofreader; Molly Fitzpatrick, Infobits.

Thanks, guest contributors:

Lynne Nachman, Mary Kay Kantz, Sherm Rounsville, Lance Renault, Tim Baiden **and readers who contributed FEEDBACK.**

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Your next issue of *OLLILife* won't be until "back-to-school week" in September. That does not mean we're taking the summer off. If you have a poem, personal essay, or lifestyle tips for the general good, send us an inquiry about submission guidelines. Deadline for September issue is August 16: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

*Have a happy summer!*

## LOVE THE MUG... doubled!

Thanks Sarah Knight for bringing your *mugs* to OLLI and saving \$\$\$ and resources.



Photo by Diana Miel

# OLLIGIGS

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Jeanne Louise Calment**, 21 February 21, 1875 – August 4, 1997, was a French supercentenarian from Arles, and the oldest human whose age was well-documented, with a reputed lifespan of 122 years and 164 days. Her longevity attracted media attention and medical studies of her health and lifestyle. (info from Wikipedia)

Woody Allen: "Eternity is a long time, especially towards the end."

## BONUS BUZZ by Anne Doyle and traveler comments

### OLLI MEMBERS LEARN 1000 NEW THINGS\* WHILE BUS-TOURING GREENVILLE WITH HISTORIAN JUDITH BAINBRIDGE

**BONUS TRIP, April 12** - For two hours straight, we drove all — and I mean *all* — over Greenville. We saw old mill after old mill, rode from Sans Souci to downtown and around again, weaving our massive bus through tiny mill village roads. All the while historian/raconteur Judith Bainbridge regaled us with a narrative history of old Greenville and its neighborhoods, and I collected ten pages of notes!

From my notes: Duke Power built First Citizens Bank to look like Furman; Christ Church Episcopal was nicknamed the "Snap Bean Church," opening only when snap beans were ripe; the Post Office renamed New Buncombe Road Poinsett Highway to end the confusion with Old Buncombe Road; Vardry McBee lived where the Greenville Water System is now; McBee Avenue is the only 'Avenue' in Greenville; Smoke on the Water in the West End used to be a cotton storage warehouse; and Whitehall in our first suburb, Earle Street, was first on the National Registry.

Learn more: Bainbridge's Greenville history columns appear every two weeks in *The Greenville News*.

PHOTO: Mattoon Presbyterian Church In the heart of the historic Hampton-Pinckney district, is the the oldest African American Presbyterian church in the city. It was built by former slaves in 1887 and has a small congregation to this day.



\*a rough estimate

## Betty Jo visits OLLI's Bowling SIG... "These folks have fun!"

The Bowling SIG is an example of a group of strangers meeting through OLLI, finding they have an interest in common, and turning that interest into an opportunity to make new friends and have fun.

For many of the current members, the bowling class at OLLI with Mike Halloran as instructor was the catalyst. Others, like Dave and Sally Sclar, joined OLLI to bowl.

There are now over 30 members — some husbands and wives — who form new three-person teams each term through a lottery process and compete with handicaps.



Bowlers meet Monday afternoons at Bowlero on South Pleasantburg Drive and often go out for a bite together afterwards. They end each term with a celebration, often at someone's home. In the words of Bill Kaiser, one of the SIG members, "It's not

about bowling, it's about fun," and they do seem to have that!

The Bowling SIG welcomes new members at the beginning of each term. To learn more, contact Mike Halloran: [mikehallo2u@gmail.com](mailto:mikehallo2u@gmail.com).

Photo: Mike Smith — ready to strike!

**DO YOU WANT BETTY JO TO VISIT YOUR SIG?**

Let us know: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

# OLLI adventures

**GIVE US A BIG SMILE...** The World Happiness Report (Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia) released 2019 findings of happiest countries in the world. USA ranks #19 behind cheerful folks in Belgium, Israel, Australia, Canada, #1 happy place, Finland, and 13 other happy countries.

(OL Editor: Clearly, they did not interview our OLLI family who would have pushed USA to the top!)

After an online vote in 2011, Toyota announced the official plural of Prius was Prii. (Screenshot at Greenville Ted Talk)

## OLLI FOLKS MARK DAY OF HAPPINESS WITH VIDEOS, WITTY BANTER, AND THE "F" WORD

by Mary Kay Kantz

About that April 4<sup>th</sup> roomful of people laughing, singing along, and wishing they'd kept up their tap dance lessons? Those were OLLI folks celebrating the UN International Day of Happiness, one group among many observing the day in more than 160 countries.

OLLI instructor Jim Nicholson entertained us with his signature skill of mixing wonderfully nostalgic video clips with witty banter to bring it all to life. His title "The 'F' Word But Not That One" meant "Fred." We reveled in watching Freddie Mercury, Freds Flintstone, Mertz, Rogers, the incredible Astaire and more, plus 60s Brit rockers "Doing the Freddie." (Check YouTube if you don't remember that one!)

Throughout the spring term, OLLI's "Wall of Happiness," an international favorite way to mark this day, was a great main-hall stopping place to catch a smile for the day.

OLLI's Community Volunteering SIG sponsored our Day of Happiness events, this year's theme being "Sharing Happiness." For information about this SIG, contact Tom Nowlin: [thomasonowlin@gmail.com](mailto:thomasonowlin@gmail.com)

### OLLI members and staff caught in acts of happiness



Photo by Marie Eldridge

## BILTMORE BONUS TRIP: A ROOF-TOP EXPERIENCE

by Kathleen Allen

In March, forty-one OLLI members toured the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, to wrap up OLLI's *Read and Explore* experience. This year's book was *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan.

*The Last Castle* is an historical narrative describing the characters involved in building the largest private home constructed in Americas. The Biltmore Estate becomes a central character in this story of Gilded Age excess and the family who envisioned its impact on this Appalachian region in North Carolina. Visiting the estate brought closure to this epic tale of American royalty and the nation's largest home.

We were able to chose between two specialty tours: Art Treasures of the Biltmore House and Inside the Architecture/Engineering/Construction of Biltmore. After lunch in the Biltmore Stables restaurant, we were free to roam the beautiful grounds, gardens, and house where a special exhibit of period costumes reflected the Vanderbilt family clothing of the era.

Next, we gathered for the tours. Judy and Gary Aten were especially pleased. "Ten years ago there was no architectural tour," said Judy. "Gary and I toured Biltmore and wished there'd been a way to get up on the roof. On this tour, our wish was granted."

Sue and Lance Renault also participated in this trip. Lance said, "We've made visits to the Biltmore Estate before, but now, having gone through the *Read and Explore* program using the book *The Last Castle*, the visit put everything into context...we even got up on the roof!"

Seems like the roof was the place to be (see photo).

At the end of the day, we boarded our homeward bus, worn out but still chattering about our wonderful new discoveries at "the last castle."



Up on the roof top: wish granted!

Jessica Justice photo

## Dana Thorpe and the Upcountry History Museum – Furman University

by Gary and Judy Aten



Dana L. Thorpe became the Upcountry History Museum's chief executive officer in February 2012 following a national search by Furman

University. Thorpe's extensive background and degrees made her the right choice to implement changes Furman envisioned for the museum. Since her arrival, the museum's relationship with Furman has altered. Furman is now the museum's sponsor, and the museum is no longer part of one of its departments. Today the museum charts its own direction with input and financial support from Furman.

Under Thorpe's direction, the museum's image has changed. Previously it would go days without visitors and was considered a site to rent instead of visit. Now that the museum connects the Upcountry's history with the nation's and examines the region's partnership with the nation as a whole, attendance has increased 70 percent. It has spent over a million dollars on capital improvements to provide a wider range of special exhibitions and programs.

With Thorpe's insight and connections, the museum is now affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution. As a result, the Upcountry Museum now displays eight engaging special exhibitions a year in its four changing galleries.

Furman continues its strong working relationship with the museum. Thorpe appreciates their input and looks forward to their continuing sponsorship.

**Thank you, Gary and Judy.** With this article, Gary and Judy are retiring — *again* — from the OLLI newsletter business. They've introduced us to many wonderful folks with their OLLI-Furman "profiles." Want to say "Thanks"? Send FEEDBACK: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

# OLLICenterstage

SHOWCASE for MEMBER TALENTS and EXPERIENCES

## LINDA HOSEK NAILS HER LIST!

From her undergraduate days in Chicago (Democratic convention, protest marches) to her experiences as a young journalist (circling an erupting Mount St. Helens in a small plane) and traveling correspondent (covering a coup in Fiji to overthrow the elected government), Linda Hosek has followed an adventurous path.



When she prepared to retire and leave the Washington, DC area, she had high expectations: she wanted an active photography community, full of art to feed her love of images and story telling; a beautiful place; access to outdoors; and someplace warm. Research, relatives, and chance directed her to Greenville, where she arrived about a year ago. She bought a home in "Annandale Estates" near Furman and by summer was taking evening walks around the Furman lake and attending lakeside concerts. "I did not land downtown, as I'd thought I might," she says, "but now, the entire Furman campus is my backyard."

A month after settling into her new home, she walked into the Herring Center and enrolled in her first *nature* photo class. (She'd been a photographer most of her adult life, but primarily doing news narrative and documentary photos. Learning nature photography was now at the top of her new "to do" list). The result was a happy immersion into OLLI photography opportunities: outdoor field trips, exhibitions at OLLI's Baiden and Crabtree Galleries, and exploring creative techniques for enhancing her work. To date she has taken *eight* photography classes and built new skills with instructors Jeff Sarvis, Bob Spaulding and John Bryant; Bob Howell, Greg Peters; Ali van den Broek and Gordon Dohm; Bruce Schlein, and Alan Weinberg, who invited her to serve on OLLI's Curriculum Committee. (*Nice work, Alan!*) She is enthusiastic in her praise of her OLLI mentors and classmates and especially enjoyed *Lightroom to Photoshop* with Steve Singer. "He was always willing to help," she says.

Besides the OLLI connections, Hosek became affiliated soon after her arrival with The Southeast Center for Photography in downtown Greenville and has been in two of their gallery shows. She looks forward to their Second Saturday gatherings each month to visit with other area photographers and continue to excel at her craft. Additionally, her *Waterfall* photo was accepted by the Blue Ridge Art Center's annual photography show where she was awarded third place.

"Arriving in Greenville," says Hosek, "is like arriving at a place with a life in progress; all I had to do was to show up for it."

Accompanying photo is Hosek's *Feral Fungus* which appeared in OLLI's Crabtree Gallery. Interview by Sue Renault.

Diana's OLLI♥Furman column this month is about Furman's **Bridges to a Brighter Future** for area high school students of promise and about her new friend Erik.

Twenty-six Greenville County high school students have been invited to participate in Bridges to a Brighter Future at Furman University, a program whose mission is to give students the tools and support they need to overcome barriers, graduate from high school and enroll in college. The new class marks the 22nd year of the educational outreach program.

Since the program was launched in 1997, nearly 500 Greenville County students, including the newest class, have participated in Bridges to a Brighter Future. "Bridges students have demonstrated both academic and leadership potential by ninth grade, yet they face financial barriers or personal circumstances that prevent them from achieving what they are truly capable of," said Carrie Silver, director of Bridges to a Brighter Future. "Here, students participate in life-changing experiences that help them discover how to build the self-confidence and resiliency they need to succeed in life."

The 26 students were chosen this year from a pool of 103 applicants. To be considered for the program, high school freshman candidates must be nominated by teachers and counselors, and then they must complete written applications and participate in interviews.

Once selected, students take part in a comprehensive, year-round program, which includes three components. Through Saturday College, students receive tutoring and community-focused activities throughout the academic year. For three consecutive summers, students attend Bridges Foundations, a four-week residential program on the Furman campus that provides students with academic and personal support. And finally, Crossing the Bridge focuses on assisting students with the college enrollment process and the transition from high school to college. In all, the Bridges program includes more than seven years of support.

The new class will join 50 students already in the high school component of the program, bringing the total to 76 current Bridges students.

## DIANA MEETS ERIK

Seeking a personal insight into Bridges, I met with Erik Ortiz, an engaging 20-year-old Furman junior, to hear his memories and reflections. Looking back over his four years in high school in the Bridges program, continuing as a Bridges counselor to high schoolers in the program and as an administrative intern planning the program for them, Erik's perspective is unique. The most significant event he recalls in his program was a talent show in which he overcame his fear of presenting himself in public by singing and harmonizing. Erik, articulate and poised, credits the support that adult male mentors, college-student counselors, and the tightly-knit Bridges community have given him for his success in overcoming family adversity. Emily O'Brien, Fellow for Social Justice and Community Engaged Learning, and the Center for Inclusive Community at Furman has helped him find his career direction in the health field as a neuropsychologist.

## Furman Students Serve Peace Corps

(from *Greenville News*, Anna Lee)

The *Greenville News* recently reported, "More 2018 Peace Corps volunteers graduated from Furman University than most other schools its size, per newly released Peace Corps rankings."

Says reporter, Anna Lee, "Furman is ranked number 15 among small-sized schools with fewer than 5000 undergraduates enrolled." Furman spokesman Vince Moore reports that ten alumni currently volunteer in countries around the world.

"This is the first year Furman has ranked among the top 20 small-size schools," Moore says. "Since the Peace Corps founding in 1961, over 130 Furman graduates have served abroad."

According to Furman President Elizabeth Davis, "Our students develop a passion for serving others during their time on campus, and many of them choose to continue on that path after graduation."



## ***DON'T LEAVE YOUR LIFE STORY A BLANK PAGE***

by James T. Hammond

Recently I was asked to write the obituary of a friend of more than 50 years, and I was struck by how much of the fabric of his life I did not know. He had been our coach when I was in high school. He married my cousin and was a devoted member of the church where I grew up. But it surprised me the amount of scratching around necessary to write a coherent life story.

It made me resolve to write my own obituary, to spare my family the need to scratch for details, and to leave them a record of what I thought was important about my life.

Then my old friend James R. Hagerty, the obituary writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, published an article on April 19, 2019, about doing the same thing. I had to admit that I still hadn't done my own work. Bob and I worked together at *The Wall Street Journal*/Europe in the 1980s, and we've stayed in touch since.

As my children have matured into thirty somethings, I've often been surprised at gaps in their knowledge about me and their mother, life events that we've often talked about, but perhaps not since they were very young. Life happens and their early childhood memories get overwritten by their own life experiences. And sometimes they actually seem interested in a family life that took us to live in Hong Kong, Belgium and North Carolina, in addition to their formative years in Columbia, S.C. Both their mother and I have had eventful lives, and it doesn't strike me as hubris that they might want to look back one day and know about the major peaks and valleys along the way.

So I resolve that I won't leave our lives as blank pages. I believe it is a precious gift to ensure that the people we love most will know the sorrows and the joys of our lives. Anyone who has watched the PBS show *Finding Your Roots* has witnessed the thrill people experience when previously unknown relations fill the holes in their family story. Lives are shaped by all the sadness and triumphs of our years, and a real life story needs enough of all those influences to understand how a family came to its present state. Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. certainly pulls no punches with his guests as he unearths past personal and familial stories.

I am an enthusiastic genealogist and I have learned myriad family stories that were lost to most of my generation, but which my training as a newspaper journalist has brought to light. I have learned, for example, that two of my ancestors were hanged by the British colonial authorities, a century apart, both for resisting British rule. I learned that I have family connections to the famous and the infamous. And I've learned that several of my ancestors were among first generation of settlers at Jamestown, Virginia. I've also learned, because I wanted to know, that I am the descendant of slave owners. Such knowledge may shake some people, but it shows how our ancestors helped shape this country, for better or worse.

So spend some time and write your own story. Your grandchildren will thank you.

OLLILife readers: anyone else out there have tips for preplanning obits, ceremonies, memorials? Send FEEDBACK: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com) or just a note on this subject to Jim.

*“800 tablet-like monuments etched with the names of lynching victims from each county, 4,400 in all...”*

## OLLI TRAVELERS COME FACE TO FACE WITH BRUTALITY OF SLAVERY

special report by Marie Eldridge

Inspiring and disturbing. I think the 12 OLLI members who were part of the two-day Civil Rights trip to Montgomery, Alabama, would describe what we saw and heard this way.

From the steps of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where MLK served for six years, we could see the state capitol steps he was not allowed to climb when he addressed thousands of Selma-to-Montgomery marchers. At the Legacy Museum, built on the site of a former slave warehouse, displays and videos brought us face to face with the brutal reality of slavery.

The beautiful hilltop setting of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice stands in stark contrast to the injustice portrayed. There, 800 tablet-like monuments, one for each U.S. county where a documented lynching took place, are suspended overhead. Each tablet is

etched with the names of victims from each county, 4,400 in all. It is a peaceful yet chilling scene.



For me, the words of Bryan Stevenson, whose Equal Justice Initiative is responsible for the museum and the memorial, reflect what our group felt in Montgomery. “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done,” he said “I think there’s something redemptive and reparatory and restorative waiting for us if we commit ourselves to truth and reconciliation.”

Photo taken at National Memorial for Peace and Justice shows monuments to South Carolina lynching victims.

Did you do the Civil Rights trip to Montgomery? Want to share your sentiments and reflections? Tell us: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

## OLLiisMe! BY MARIE ELDRIDGE

### Trapeze artist, elephant rider...

For six years, OLLI member Belinda Debelli’s life was a three-ring circus — literally. In 1973, the Greenville native, lifelong dancer and performer, former Miss Greenville, and Clemson student secretly auditioned as a dancer for Ringling Brothers Circus – and was hired. “I wanted to showcase my talents on a larger scale,” Belinda says. “My parents were not totally happy, but in time they became proud of me.”



Trained by a professional trapeze artist, Belinda performed aerial ballet and stunts on the web (rope). She also rode the lead Ringling elephant, Lucy, and danced in

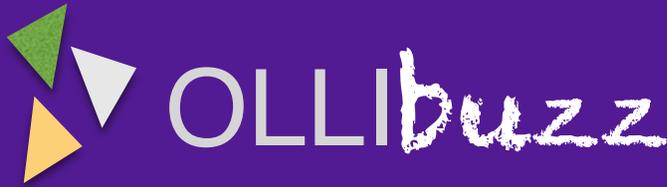
the show’s production numbers. And when the circus arrived in a new location, she often did interviews with local media.

When not performing, Belinda adjusted to life on the road. She lived in a small room on the circus train, took care of daily routines like cooking and laundry, learned to live and work with all types of people, and explored new locations coast to coast.

“It was an eye-opening, learning experience for me, and I loved it,” said Belinda. “It enabled me to see the beauty of this country and Canada and meet many wonderful people. For that I’m very grateful.”

What an amazing and varied student body we OLLI folks are. Do you know another OLLiisMe person of interest we should meet? Tell us: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)





**OLLILife Food Writer, Lori Dillon wants to know: Where does OLLI eat? Make Lori happy; tell us your favorite foodie hangout in Greater Greenville: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)**

The Vatican Bank is the world's only bank that allows ATM users to make transactions in Latin. (screen shot at Greenville TED talks)

## BOOK CLUB with Diana Miel

### The House of Broken Angels

by Luis Alberto Urrea

Urrea's novel, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2018, explores what it means to be Mexican-American in America.

The story takes place over a weekend in Southern California. Big Angel, riddled with cancer, and mourning the sudden death of his mother the day before his party, has planned a monumental birthday bash for himself as a leave-taking of his patriarchy and his life. The past, his and his family's, in Mexico and the U.S. comes to life. His colorful, outspoken, vibrant, passionate extended family, dead and alive, fill the weekend and his home and yard with their memories, love, despair, regrets, posturing, loyalty, jealousies, vulnerabilities and bravado.

A rich story of an emotionally alive and conflicted family is told with wonderful imagery and compassion. The tale was in turns moving and funny. I fell in love with Big Angel, and I cried when the story ended. This is not a tear-jerker. It's the story of people who come across as human and familiar despite their culture and their experiences being outside of my life.

That's the value of fiction well written. We live for a while in another's shoes.

OLLI columnist Diana Miel



## LORI LOVES PITA HOUSE! Lori Dillon's food review

If you like Middle Eastern food, you have to try The Pita House on South Pleasantburg Drive. This small restaurant was started by three brothers who immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. They wanted to open a restaurant featuring food from their home country of Lebanon. Their real estate agent told them that Greenville was not ready for Middle Eastern food, and their choice of location behind a clothing store was not a good one.

Thirty years later they are still in business at the same location and have made the clothing store into a restaurant and market. In the beginning it was slow going. They all held other jobs and did not take a salary for the first four years. All of the families worked in the restaurant to make it unique. They imported a special pita oven to bake their own pita bread daily in the restaurant and also to sell to the public. They are so committed to this production they've bought a second oven and have it in storage as a backup if the present one breaks down.

The Pita House can be quite hectic at mealtimes. Customers order at the counter then wait for staff to bring out the food. The wait is forgotten, though, once you taste the food! The falafel, hummus and pita bread are some of the best in Greenville. If you want more protein, try the broiled lamb, chicken, and beef plates flavored in the Middle Eastern style.

The deli offers a variety of spices, olives, olive oil, and pita bread for reasonable prices. Their sumac spice is interesting. It has a lemony taste and is good on salads and vegetable dishes. (No, it is not the poison variety.) They also sell hookahs, if you desire to own one.

The restaurant is open Monday-Saturday from 11am to 9pm. **Be sure to bring cash** as they do not accept credit cards. The owner says it's one way to keep prices moderate.

Thanks, Lori. I LOVE this restaurant. I also go there to buy their incredibly delicious olives. Perfect for party snacks.



# OLLIClass

Sherm's Funny Bone...SHERM ROUNSVILLE likes to share a good laugh: A second grader came home from school and announced, "Grandma, guess what. We learned how to make babies today." Grandma tried to keep cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's easy," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'." (Circulated on social media; origin uncertain)



Joan Miro - "I try to apply colors like words that shape poems, like notes that shape music."

## We asked frequent-flyer Lynne Nachman to unpack some travel tips

Traveling by plane this summer? Wondering what to take with you? Here's what works for me. For starters I put everything into a carry-on case and never check a bag. I have a small Longchamp backpack (photo) for toiletries, phone cables, reading materials and other small essentials. Also a small purse which can be put into the backpack.



I follow the black pants rule with assorted tops. Added to the usual items are a *boudoir pillow*, small umbrella, packable straw hat (Orvis has a great one), lightweight rain jacket, packable quilted jacket (folds into its own pouch), long scarf or serape for cold airplanes, empty water bottle to fill after TSA and saline nasal spray (important for airborne germs). No

hair dryer. Most places have them, even the monastery in Venice where I spent a week several years ago.

Most of all, arrive at the airport early, relax and enjoy the trip! Lynne

## Then we asked her about Spoleto (she's been more than 30 times)

Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, SC, will be 43 this year. It begins Memorial Day weekend and runs 17 days. I've attended most of them, and they get better and better. My favorite part is the chamber music at the historic Dock Street Theatre. Host Geoff Nuthall gives amusing and informative introductions to an eclectic program of talented musicians.

My sister Joan and I have enjoyed renown dance groups, opera, wonderful jazz outdoors at the College of Charleston Cistern under the live oaks, and much more. Of course, we love just being in Charleston during the festival.

Piccolo Spoleto features *local* artists' performances. Watch for their schedule. Joan's favorite is the juried craft show on the weekends and the art show at Frances Marion Square. We never know when we might see the Atlanta Feed and Seed Band doing their thing (in their pajamas) on the steps of the custom house. Also, the Charleston Symphony does an open air concert near the Cooper River; bring your own chair.

During Spoleto, Charleston comes alive! Bring a hat and comfortable shoes, and dress for hot weather. Be sure you have reservations at any of the wonderful restaurants. Most things are within walking distance, and tickets are available at many venues. For more information go online to [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or contact me: [lnach316@bellsouth.net](mailto:lnach316@bellsouth.net)

## Letter from the Editor:

### Cheers to our OLLI Classmates

In April, ground was broken for a Greenville project called Church Street Place at Poe Mill, a 35-bed building for people with a mental illness who are chronically homeless. According to *The Greenville News*, "About 500 people in Greenville and surrounding communities have been identified as chronically homeless."

Church Street Place is the fulfillment of efforts by multiple Greenville organizations, among which are SEARCHlight Initiative/ senior citizens; Poe Mill Campaign and United Housing Connections. Volunteering with these agencies are OLLI members Jim Carroll (Poe Mill); William Kaiser (SEARCHlight); Jim Hammond (UHC); and others. Many volunteers learned about these housing campaigns from OLLI classes, SIGs, and special events.

**OLLILife** sends its **HIGH PRAISE** to these local organizations and to our OLLI classmates who are making a difference in the lives of people in need. Well done!

(Summarized from *The Greenville News*, April 8, 2019)

**Note from the editor:** My friend Ed, who has neither a shawl nor a small purse, noticed that Lynne's tips — though quite practical in many respects — were skewed to women travelers. Ed says, "I have tips for guys." How could I miss an opportunity to say, "Next issue, Ed...you're on!" So stay tuned for our September **OLLILife** to read Ed's travel tips. In the meantime, let us know if you have some tips of your very own, packing or something else: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com).

## OLLI remembers

Barbara Leimsieder, Tributes Editor



### JOHN PIPER TRIBUTE by Tim Baiden

We have recently lost one of the stalwarts of OLLI.

John Piper died April 2, 2019. John, and his wife,

Ethel, originally joined FULIR in 1996, one of our earliest members. His keen intellect, wit and curiosity made its mark, and he soon took on a leadership role culminating in becoming President in 2002-3. He was an avid supporter for our 'new home' vision and made substantial contributions to the building we enjoy today.

## OLLI Members Enjoy a Walk in the Park

In April, OLLI members enjoyed a bonus-event walk-about at Greenville's 32-acre downtown treasure: Falls Park. The tour began in Pedrick's Garden (bottom photo), named in honor of Pedrick Lowery, one of the principal fundraisers for Falls Park, meandered past the shady Sanctuary, then past the Governor's School, through the Spring Garden, along the trails of old riverside mills, back across the "land bridge," and finally across the iconic 345 foot Liberty Bridge supported by a single suspension cable and looking as though it is floating on air.

Approximately a million visitors explore the park each year, enjoying the colorful displays of an estimated 35,000 plants which go into and out of the gardens seasonally. (The ducks and squirrels also like the plants.)



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613-1511

**OLLILife** is published four times a year: January, March, May, and September. **OLLILife** editor is Sue Renault. We Love Feedback: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com) **DEADLINE FOR SEPT. ISSUE IS AUGUST 16 OR SOONER.** Perhaps you'd like to contribute to **OLLILife**. Contact us: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)



### IT'S BETTER TO DO SOMETHING THAN NOTHING...

**The American Heart Association recommends that everyone — untrained bystanders and medical personnel alike — begin CPR with chest compressions on someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.**

According to AHA, It's far better to do something than to do nothing at all if you're fearful that your knowledge or abilities aren't 100 percent complete. Remember, the difference between your doing something and doing nothing could be someone's life.

And from the American Red Cross:

Push hard, push fast. Place your hands, one on top of the other, in the middle of the chest. Use your body weight to help you administer compressions that are at least 2 inches deep and delivered at a rate of at least 100 compressions per minute.

**OLLILife** joins the OLLI administration and volunteer committee in saying *Thanks* to the hundreds of volunteers who make OLLI@Furman a thoroughly delightful experience. Pictured here are **OLLILife**

volunteer contributors Jim Hammond and Diana Miel at April's Appreciation Celebration.



**DEADLINE FOR SEPT. ISSUE: August 16 or sooner. We fill up fast.**



Wine questions? Ask Cindy and Bernie Showman.

**BERNIE AND CINDY ANSWER:** Riesling is a great warm weather wine. It usually has floral aromas and flavors of peach, pear and tropical fruit. This versatile wine is made in sweet, semi-sweet or dry styles. The best known regions for Riesling are Germany, Alsace, the Finger Lakes in New York and the State of Washington. A popular sweet choice is "Kung Fu Girl" (\$10.29 at Total Wine) and a low-cost dry choice is "Pacific Rim Dry Riesling" (\$9.99 at Total Wine). Both wines pair nicely with a lighter summer lunch.

For more Bernie advice online: [www.scwinejoe.blogspot.com](http://www.scwinejoe.blogspot.com)

Readers: Give Bernie's recommendation a try and let us know what you think: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)