

celebrating  
25 years

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman - where active minds play

# OLLILife

Long live learning!

JANUARY 2018 - Issue #2: LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN



Elvera  
Hawkins  
celebrates  
four years at  
OLLI

## Hop Aboard OLLILife



Old friends Shirley (1998), Jean (1993), Joy (2002) and Dick (2002) are serving together on the 25th Anniversary committee. These folks are serious about having fun. (*What? You want to serve too?*)  
Contact: sally.bornmueller@gmail.com

### WHO'S GOT THE BEST MUG? See page 3 for the winner.

- May Welborn - Refugee Memories p. 9
- **Alan and Sally Bornmueller plan 25th anniversary FUN, p. 4**
- How do you hold the steering wheel? p. 5
- Barbara Ziegler can Tangle! p. 7
- Jim Hammond's Greenville reflections p. 8
- How John T celebrates birthdays, p. 10
- **AND OTHER AWESOME STUFF**

## OLLI, how you've grown!

Yes. I had 62 members in 1993; now I have more than 2000; 115 classes each term. Blush.

My name was FULIR (Furman University Learning in Retirement); Sarah Fletcher raised me until I was 15, along with amazing volunteers, members, and Furman friends.

*Here? In the beautiful Herring Center?*

No. First in Furman Hall: one classroom, seven courses. Next, Plyler Hall: *two basement classrooms*. When REN-O-VA-TION loomed its ugly head at Plyler; we started singing, "***If I only had a home.***" Furman trustees set aside a plot of land while we cooled our heels in a six-wide portable, our "trailer home."

In 2008, we changed our name from FULIR to OLLI after receiving support from the Osher Foundation. Osher ultimately made a \$2 million endowment gift to enhance our program.

In 2010, Furman grads, Sarah and Gordon Herring, made a BIG gift; our dream house had a name: The Herring Center for Continuing Education. OLLI members raised more than \$3 million to build the building, and other Furman donors put us over the top.

We began singing a different tune: ***BIG HOME, really BIG HOME. 23,000 square feet. Going to the BIG HOME.*** And we did. **2012: Home Sweet Herring Home!**

**DISCLOSURE: This isn't the whole story.** Watch for more as OLLI celebrates 25 wonderful years of learning at Furman.



Hey, Bernie! It's our 25th anniversary, and we want to celebrate with something HAPPY. What do you suggest?

OLLI MEMBER, BERNIE SHOWMAN has spent YEARS studying wine. *He knows happy.* See the Bernie Blog on last page.

# OLLivoices



**IT'S HISTORY:**  
Dr. Sarah Fletcher was FULIR'S first Director, 1993 -2008

## COUNCIL BRIEFS — Next Council meeting is March 9, 2018.

THE OLLI Council met December 1, 2017. Here are some notes, names, and numbers:

\*OLLI is offering 117 winter classes and 37 Bonus/Travel events. More than 1650 members are enrolled in classes for the winter term. (150 are new to OLLI.) Membership for 2017-2018 is more than 2100.

\*Thank you, Nancy Gammons, for ten years dedicated leadership on the History sub-committee. Welcome Roger Wheeler and Tim Henry, new co-chairs.

\*Sonya Hammond announced new co-chairs for OLLI's Curriculum Committee: Lance Renault and Cindy Brothers.

\*Steve Wetherby: "Finances are in good shape."

\*Deadline for March **OLLILife** content is February 9. Tell **OLLILife** what YOU are celebrating in 2018: sue.renault@gmail.com

\*Outreach Committee is exploring ideas to broaden class appeal to more diverse populations. Michael Murphy heads this group.

\*Social Committee: Watch for details about Chautauqua performance Saturday, Feb. 3 and Golf Scramble at Furman, March 13.

\*OLLI TRAVEL is exploring the idea of a "civil rights" visit to Atlanta this year (50 years since MLK assassination).

## ASK Nancy: What were YOU doing 25 years ago?



Dear OLLI friends,

Nineteen ninety-three: I was a newlywed living at West Point, NY, as an Army wife and working in marketing for the American Ski Association (I can't even ski!).

Learning in Retirement was something that hadn't even been heard of at Furman.

But things would soon change with the hiring of Sarah Fletcher in spring of that year. By fall, Furman University Learning in Retirement (FULIR) was born. It opened in September with seven courses...and you know the rest of the story.

We will celebrate "the rest of the story" throughout 2018 with our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities. Sally and Alan Bornmueller are leading a fabulous committee that is already planning various events and observances throughout the year, **beginning with champagne and cake at Back to OLLI on January 11** and culminating

**with a gala event in late fall.** (Look at page 4 to see some of the proposed activities, and please consider signing up to help). I hope to see all of you as we celebrate 25 years and look forward to the next 25!

Sincerely, Nancy Kennedy, OLLI Director (What were you doing in 1993? Send us a photo.)



Bells class Instructor Howard Thompson leads students up the bell tower. (story p. 9)

# OLLI, yeah!



Estonia to Greenville: Read May Welborn's story on page 9

APRIL, 2003, Director's Report asks, "Is it feasible for FULIR to consider fundraising for a building or wing?"

## If I were a bell, I'd be RINGING...

Thank you, readers, for your wonderful feedback. We loved launching **OLLILife**, and we're glad you loved it too: Barbara Z loved "the Cheerleader credit given to Lance," Judy B said it looks super; Kitty O said, "Wonderful" and Jim S wants us to inform OLLI members about Furman (page 9); Janet A says, "nice and upbeat," and Helen S sent thanks to all who made it possible. Kathleen A: very interesting; Jeffery L liked the pictures (wasn't that *your* picture on page 3); Dave G, a former editor, knows "what a big job it is getting a publication out." Diana M. says, "It's fun." Judith Z says, "educational and entertaining." Lance let out a cheer. Please continue to send us your feedback: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com), and if you see an **OLLILife** contributor (their names are on the back page) give them a high five. And perhaps some cookies. Editor

### HOP ABOARD OLLILife one year? five? 20? 40? 65?

Sobriety, a special friend, joined OLLI, moved to Greenville, took up painting... tell us what you will celebrate in 2018: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

We'll add your name to our **OLLILifers** list!

### When the screen goes blank,

and the sound goes mute, and frustration never seems to end...you've got a friend, yeh-eh, you've got a friend, you've got a friend.



### PEN & INK 1 by Jim Hayes

On the first day they took us in And gave us paper, pencil and pen.

We were newbies, and not all that smart

But with a desire to learn this new art.

This "art" being fascinating Pen & Ink Where you draw little squiggles and practice and think

About values, perspective, stippling & scumbling, So we opened our blue boxes – went looking & fumbling

To make a drawing, though not award-winning, Still important as a modest beginning.

Yes, they took us in, our mentors Jeff and Gail; They did their job and did it well.

They were patient and tried their hardest, And likely created some future artists.

To both of you, our teachers superb, We express our emotions in a single word:

"Thanks!"



### MERGED!

From Patrick Hicks' committee report:

**The Current Events Committee** is the team that brought you *2015 World in Crisis?*; *China, 2016; America and the World*; *Great Decisions*, which uses materials produced by the Foreign Policy Association, and more.

This spring, Current Events will merge with OLLI's **Business, Economics and Finance Committee**. This committee has historically presented classes on investments, personal finance, and business-related topics. Together they will explore exciting new ideas for classes. Watch for your spring catalog.

Interested in serving on this committee? Contact Sonya Hammond; [ollisonya@gmail.com](mailto:ollisonya@gmail.com)



### LOVE THE MUG!

Congratulations, George Fletcher, January winner of **OLLILife's** campaign to conserve resources, and to runner up, Helen Smith.

Send us YOUR MUG SHOT. Winner gets an OLLI mug! [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)





THANK YOU, Sally and Alan Bornmueller, co-chairs for FULIR and OLLI's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Watch *OLLILife* and *OLLI Notes* for birthday news and events. Let the party begin.



# OLLI@twenty-five

In its first ten years, FULIR grew from 50 to 350 members.

## 2018:WHAT WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

- Celebrating 40 years of marriage to the same man. Muriel Hill-Rowley
- On November 9, 2018, my husband and I will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Twenty-five years ago we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Athens, Greece where we were living at the time. We took about 16 of our dear friends out to eat at a lovely restaurant. Jean Andersen
- I will celebrate 40 years since becoming an American citizen on March 15,1978. Natalina Ferlauto
- 28 years in Greenville and 27 shared with great "new" friends, G&M. from S&L
- Happy 19th birthday to "Rescue cat" Sadie, our lovely Himalayan. Nancy
- Cathy Sanchez and Gary Reed - 5 years in Greenville
- Bobett Button - 15 years back from the Peace Corps in Africa
- Audrey Pasin Sheets - 10 years in recovery

What will you celebrate this year? Join our contributor list; send your feedback:  
[sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNERS seek helpers to move Cookbooks, Trivia Nights, History Presentations and more from planning stage to CELEBRATION READINESS!

The following activities — not necessarily a final list — are under consideration for OLLI's 2018 anniversary fun. Perhaps you'd like to join one of these committees (contact: [sally.bornmueller@gmail.com](mailto:sally.bornmueller@gmail.com)):

\*Gala Event (Fall, 2018);

\*History: 25th Anniversary course; Oral Histories; Lunch & Learn and bonus events; FULIR/OLLI history;

\*Adult beverages: Beer Fest (Gary Aten & Bill Davis); and Wine Tasting;

\*OLLI Treats: 25 organized activities for tasty sharing at the coffee station;

\*Trivia Night;

\*High Tea at Cherrydale House;

\*Open House for families and SIG presentations;

\*Olympiad: Inside, board and card games; Outside, Bike, Hike, Walk events;

\*Furman Lakeside Concert together;

\*Scavenger Hunt around Furman Campus;

\*Greenville Drive Game;

\*Publicity, Recognitions, News, Facebook, Stories;

\*OLLI cookbook

*"We welcome suggestions to work on other possible events, as well! Many of the SIGs (Special Interest Groups) have already begun planning travel, photography, and knitting projects to commemorate our special landmark."* Sally and Alan



**FULIR PRESIDENTS with Sarah:** Jack Barton, 1995; Harry Holland, 1994; Jean Kral, 1997; Roy Greene, 1993; Sarah Fletcher, Director 1993 - 2008; Gordon Burnett, 1996

HOP ABOARD OLLI LIFE

GET YOUR BIRTHDAY BUZZ: Volunteer for an ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.

CONTACT THE BORNMUELLERS:  
[sally.bornmueller@gmail.com](mailto:sally.bornmueller@gmail.com)

# OLLI adventures

OLLiver wants to be like Molly and Janet



## Driving at 10 and 2? MEND YOUR WAYS TODAY!

Safe driving experts advise: Move your hands down the steering wheel to the 9 and 3 positions, or even (AAA) to 8 and 4.

Why the change? Airbags!

According to the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, "... steering wheel airbags are designed to deploy upward to protect your head and chest.

"That means the higher up the wheel your hands are, the more likely they are to be directly over the plastic cover when it opens — that is, when **superhot nitrogen gas flashes** and inflates the bag at 150 to 250 mph."

"Among the injuries the NHTSA reports from improper placement of the hands when an airbag deploys are amputations of fingers or entire hands..." Severe injuries are also caused when hands (too high on the steering wheel) are driven back into your face.

**YOU DON'T WANT THAT!**

## OLLI FITNESS

We all know exercise is good for our bodies and our brains. If you are starting the new year with **FITNESS RESOLUTIONS**, look no further than OLLI. Here's a list of activities that are currently available or usually



available in classes, bonus trips, Special Interest Groups, and among OLLI friends:

- ★ Tai Chi
- ★ Hiking
- ★ Aquasize
- ★ Kayaking
- ★ Zumba
- ★ Fencing
- ★ Urban/Wilderness Survival
- ★ Tae Kwando
- ★ Dancing
- ★ Pickleball
- ★ Cycling
- ★ Yoga and Chair yoga
- ★ Fitness classes
- ★ Bowling
- ★ Qi Gong
- ★ Hiking

Do you get your fitness kick at an OLLI class or "SIG"? Other? Tell us about it. Send us your feedback: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

## Travels with OLLI

Last year, Linda Kelly and Linda Russ rolled out their **New York, New York** class and delighted students with photos, history, special guests and "virtual tours" of the city's most iconic landmarks. By the end of the class, members were imagining a *real tour*.



The OLLI Travel Committee took the challenge, and in November, 21 members, staff, and Chumley/Caroline Cope set off for five days in "The Big Apple." They experienced bustling Grand Central Station, the majesty of the Chrysler building, the spectacular Morgan Library and Museum, Brooklyn Bridge, Broadway (Gerald Schoenfeld Theater's performance of "Come from Away"), and more. Brooklyn to Manhattan, tenements to Victorian mansions, they relished New York, New York. (Top photo: Linda Russ, Susan Rae, Helen Smith)

Special thanks to Explore Up Close Travel, the OLLI Travel Committee, Heidi Wright, and Susan Rae for organizing this memorable trip.

OLLI travelers and friends LOVE Times Square



## the Gary & Judy report

Meet our new student workers



Freshman Morgan Reynolds (right) is a graduate of Brashier Charter H.S. near

her family home on a former dairy farm in the Piedmont area. She's not an animal person like her 12-year-old sister, or a pilot with her own plane like her 20-year-old brother. She is blazing her own path. The college credits Morgan earned in high school put her well ahead of the average freshman, and should prepare her to study law. She is a member of the Heller Service Corps, the Pre-law Society, and is looking forward to playing club sports.

Morgan also helps with an OLLI technology class. She is used to being busy; in high school she played sports and participated in Miss South Carolina for three years. Originally she preferred USC, but proximity to home and scholarships brought her to Furman.

continued on page 7

# OLLICenterstage

OLLICenterstage showcases talents of OLLI members. Many readers are already fans of Judith Isler whose poetry appeared in *Gray Matters*. Welcome, Judith, to *OLLILife*.

## Recollections

I like to press my best moments —  
like faintly fragrant roses --  
between the pages of my days  
so I might revisit them at my leisure.

But it is the memories themselves  
that decide when  
to slip back into my mind,  
to remind me  
that things have been better  
and worse;  
that I have often smiled  
and always survived.

Judith Isler

## MEET THE JAM ON PICKERS!

by Cindy Lee

Guitar pickers Don Raza, Bob Shannon, Mike Sullivan, Dan Scieszka and Bob Moore share their musical skills and love of guitar during meetings of their recently formed **Special Interest Group (SIG)**. The pickers credit the OLLI Program, including instructors Dianne Sutton and Jann Howell's three levels of guitar classes, for their group.

Blending diverse genres such as country, folk, rock, blues, and jazz, the group has jammed together regularly since meeting at OLLI. These lifelong strumming enthusiasts share their guitar glee as they hone chords together. (cont. on next page)

### The Jam On Pickers:

Bob Sullivan  
Don Koza  
Mike Sullivan  
Dan Scieszka  
Bob Moore ...

**They love their SIG!**



# OLLICenterstage

Gary & Judy

(con't from page 6)

**Isabelle Watkins** (left, page 6 photo) is a junior majoring in psychology who comes from Shreveport, LA. She also has an older brother and a younger sister. She applied to 11 colleges, unsure of where she wanted to go. A Furman visit made up her mind. This year she moved into North Village. Although having her own room is a big plus, there is a minus - her friends are more spread out, which is a challenge for someone who considers being part of the campus community important. Isabelle is a member of the Chi Omega sorority and participates in the campus Catholic ministry. She studied abroad this past summer in South Africa, visiting three countries where she studied global health, poverty and child development, as well as geology. The culmination of her experience was a two-week bush camping trip.

What is Barbara Ziegler celebrating in 2018?  
Almost three years of ZENTANGLE fun at OLLI!  
(What are YOU celebrating?)

Barbara Ziegler took her first Zentangle® class from certified instructor Pam Stevenson in 2016. Like most beginners, she worked diligently over her 3-1/2 inch paper “tiles,” filling one small space after another with lines and swirls to create graceful intertwining shapes.

“Learning to design these repetitive patterns leads to *unlimited* possibilities. It’s up to you and your imagination,” says Barb. “No limits.” She uses the Zentangle techniques to create greeting cards, wedding mementos, and personalized gifts for family and friends. Barb has even become a teacher, herself, introducing her six-year-old granddaughter Maddie to the playful art of “tangling.” Maddie is learning the Zentangle mantra from NanaB: “Anything is Possible — One Stroke at a Time!”

When Barbara is not holding a drawing pen, she’s apt to be holding garden shears (Master Gardner) or knitting needles (Enthusiastic Knitter), poring through interesting cookbooks (Terrific Cook), traveling with friends (Ready-to-Go), and loving her learning at OLLI (Happy Student). Celebrate, Barb!



## PICKERS (CONT. FROM PAGE 6)

The **Jam on Pickers** say their musical magic is based on helping each other and sharing tunes. When they play, the group sits in a circle so each member contributes equally. It’s a sort of “jamming etiquette.”

Bob Shannon sums up the group’s progression by saying, “You don’t know what you don’t know until you jam with others who do know.”

Do you belong to a terrific SIG? Tell us about it:  
[sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

## HOP ABOARD OLLILIFE

If you like our poetry, let us know. If you drank Bernie’s wine, tell us. If you’re going to read Diana’s book, shout out.  
[sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

Join our contributor list!

WHAT'S NEW, JIM? IN GREENVILLE? IN THE REGION? IN THE HEADLINES? IN YOUR HEAD? READ ANYTHING INTERESTING? TELL US ABOUT IT. WHAT'S AT THE TOP OF YOUR MIND? WHAT MAKES YOU EXCITED? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT DO YOU KNOW, JIM? WHAT'S UP?

# What's it all about, OLLI?

JIM HAMMOND LEFT GREENVILLE IN 1979 WHEN MAIN STREET WAS "A HOLLOW SHELL." HE'S BACK NOW, AND HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, GREENVILLE?

by James T. Hammond

Pelzer, a former textile mill village, is getting a new look from developers. Just 16 miles from Greenville, on the Anderson County side of the Saluda River, the community prospered with the mill built in 1882. It was the first electrified town in South Carolina, powered by the mill's turbines.

The river crossing had been known as Wilson's Ferry. My third great grandfather John Wilson owned the land and represented the district in Congress. He's buried under the village water tower.

The town has been slow to recover from the mass mill closings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1950, Pelzer had a population of 2,692; by 2010 just 89 people lived in the village.

Other Upstate villages have fared better. Growth in Simpsonville is driven by the region's manufacturing renaissance. Travelers Rest has prospered with the wildly popular Swamp Rabbit Trail. Easley and Pickens want to reproduce that model by converting a rail line into a recreational trail.

When I left Greenville in 1979, Main Street was a hollow shell. Retailers including Belk and J.C. Penney moved to suburban malls. Furman University left a gaping hole in the heart of the city with its move to the suburbs. But visionaries were working to breathe new life into the small Southern town that once touted itself as the Textile Capital of the World.

What a difference 40 years have made. We are entering a third generation of civic leaders who daily have made it their mission to make Greenville's urban core a place where people want to live, work, play, and raise families.



Greenville County's population in 2010 was 451,225, according to the U.S. Census. By 2015, that number was estimated to have grown to 474,903, and to 498,766 in 2016.

Local officials estimate that on average 22 people moved to Greenville County daily in 2016. The city is getting about 11 of those new residents per day. The Greenville News reported that the 5.8% growth rate makes the city the fourth fastest growing in the nation. My life choice is that, on balance, change is good. You who read this are part of this change. The region I find today is infinitely better than the city I left in 1979. How about you? Are you happy with this rapidly evolving place we call home?

Reach James T. Hammond at [JTHammond@gmail.com](mailto:JTHammond@gmail.com).

**OLLILife** welcomes James T. Hammond, who has observed the world from near (**Greenville News**) and far (**Editor on the desk of the Asian Wall Street Journal**). Although "Jim" retired recently, he confesses that conversations with new friends sometimes sound more like interviews. Once a journalist, always a journalist. Jim's "beat" will be Greenville and the region. [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

by Diana Miel

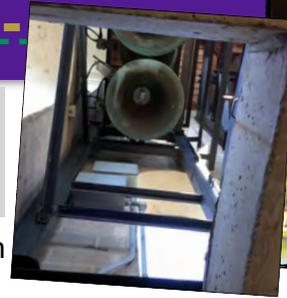
*Furman's iconic bell tower floats above Swan Lake, its carillon marking the quarter hours, heard throughout the campus and beyond. Legend has it that if you kiss under the bell tower, you will marry your sweetheart.*

As an undergraduate, Howard Thompson was among the very first "carillonners" to play in Furman's iconic bell tower. Thompson, who went on to have a career as a carillonneur and music director at St. Albans in Texas, taught an OLLI class during the fall and introduced students to the mechanics and history of Furman's beloved landmark.

The tower, according to Howard, is an exact replica of the original, constructed in 1854 at what was the men's campus in downtown Greenville. It has three levels: the bell chamber, the uppermost, houses 48 bells, which are played electronically; the clock

level, which housed the clavier (the "keyboard"), is empty now; the lowest level is the only one generally accessible to visitors (Thompson's class was an exception in September when they were permitted to climb to the bell chamber. Above the lower level, they will tell you, is a precipitous climb and a tight squeeze.)

The clavier and the clappers for the bells are missing along with 12 bells of the original installation. Thompson's dream is that one day the bells could be restored and played again.



## OLLISME!

May Welborn's Journey by Marie Eldridge

May Welborn's journey from Estonia to South Carolina began when she was three months old. Uncomfortable with Russia's planned liberation of Estonia at the end of WW II, her parents immigrated to Sweden. With children aged 15, 13, 11 and May, they traveled by horse cart at night to board a fishing boat in Parnu with hundreds of others (photo). In Sweden, May's parents found work. Her brother and one sister attended school. Her older sister cared for May, but studied lessons her brother brought home.

Later, to avoid repatriation by the Russians to Estonia, May's father agreed to raise sugar beets in Canada. After a long ocean voyage and train ride, the family arrived at a displaced persons' camp. "I remember barracks surrounded by barbed wire," May says.

Her father's education, technical skills and English-speaking ability earned him a job in a carpet factory, rising to machine designer. "Some people resented us speaking Estonian rather than English," says May.

Eventually May's father, hired by W.R. Grace, relocated the family to Massachusetts and finally to South Carolina. A college graduate, May was a school counselor in the Greenville County schools for 37 years. "I never thought of myself as a refugee until I found some old photos," May said. "We always felt a little different in our reactions and ideas, but having a supportive, hard-working family made the transition easier."

NOTE: MAY is OLLI's president-elect and will become OLLI president in May. She volunteers regularly in the OLLI office.

DIANA MIEL is new Special Assignments reporter for **OLLILife**. In this capacity, Diana may be contacting you to respond to OLLILife MUG campaign, birthday memories, reader survey questions and other issues, along with her writing and photography.

# OLLIBuzz

## GOOD READING by Diana Miel

**Being Mortal (Medicine and What Matters in the End)**  
by Atul Gawande, is heartbreaking and frightening because its subjects are you and I.

Unless our end comes quickly in an accident or catastrophic medical event, the likely outcome for those of us living in our culture now is "...waning days spent in treatments that addle the brain and sap our bodies for a sliver's chance of benefit, regimented in anonymous routines cut off from what matters in life."

But as grim as this book sounds, it's worth the time and discomfort. Gawande is an excellent storyteller and an accomplished writer. He relates how his own grandfather, a farmer in India, lived to be 110 years old and independent, with the assistance of extended family. Gawande describes the evolution of treatment of the aged and infirm from that centuries-old model, through the stages of the impoverished aging in poor houses, up to the present medicalized existence in nursing homes, assisted living/continuing care facilities and ICUs. Hospice care, believes Gawande, is an example of the triumph of humane, personalized care over having life controlled by the imperatives of medicine, technology and strangers. The irony of hospice care, according to numerous studies, is that many people live much longer than expected.

Gawande, himself a surgeon, faults other doctors, and himself, for not being willing or able to discuss end of life issues with patients, whether the elderly or terminally ill. Doctors are trained to fix you, he says, not listen, not to ask what makes your life worth living in the last days.

If for no other reason than to be prompted to consider what makes our own life worth living, this is a worthwhile book. If it prompts sharing that information with those close to you, even better.

**OLLI readers, want to weigh in? Send feedback:**

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

How did you celebrate your birthday, John Thompson?



On his 84th birthday on October 25 John Thompson did 84 chin-ups, 84 pushups, and rode his bike 84 miles, a pattern he began on his 80th birthday.

He says he was not an athlete when he was younger, though he took up boxing in the Navy and cross country while at USC. He has always worked to maintain his strength and endurance by working out at the YMCA, running and cycling.

Thompson takes satisfaction in his accomplishments, but the point to him is to inspire "old people" (said with a smile) not to sit back and do nothing. Look for John in Great Decisions and Economics

**HOP ABOARD OLLILife:** Send us your FEEDBACK or MUG PHOTO or tell us about an OLLI member we should write about or what you will celebrate in 2018: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Allen Stevenson and Diana Manley both received Honorable Mentions in the WOW (Women on Writing) Summer 2017 Contest (open to women *and* men). WOW is an online, flash fiction contest with a 750-word limit. Allen and Diana are members of Judith Chandler's writing class at OLLI.

# OLLIClass

OLLI member Claudia Geagan loves a writing challenge. We invited her to tackle a big question: "What is the Good Life?"

## What is The Good Life?

*...The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return. Nature Boy, lyrics by Eden Ahbez.*

Nat King Cole first recorded that song in 1948. It's haunting, but not the sort of lyric that seems

terribly original. It seems more basic, gut level, a vibration of life itself. Not a line that Ahbez could have invented in 1948.

Does such a line scare you? It scares me. I think even in our advanced years we don't dare to love too fully no matter how wise or experienced we think we are. It makes us too vulnerable. Not only do we fear loving, we fear being loved. What if one believes in that, accepts love, allows himself to believe he is lovable, allows herself to be changed chemically, emotionally, intellectually to morph deep inside into a new creation, and then that love leaves? Who are we after the loss? We are so afraid of the loss of love, we find it hard to accept the gain.

To love is the bravest, most mature, most rare phenomenon on earth. It makes us intensely human. We are conceived in the rich swamp of the womb, connected for nine months to a mother whose heart beats for us.

Then we are abruptly separated and left to fend for ourselves. Most of us learn to create and protect our families, build our houses, write our stories, and if we are lucky, before we pass back into the swamp, we learn the most important thing it takes to have a good life, *just to love and be loved in return.*

Want to comment on Claudia's essay or give us your own take on the Good Life? Send **FEEDBACK:** [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)



As a child, Val Jean Blanco could not swing a bat; she could not ride a bike. She wasn't destined to be a dancer (that was her sister's talent); and, she confesses, "I was chubby."

## ZUMBA!

She loved music, though, and often sang for neighbors in the Washington, DC neighborhood where she grew up. She didn't resist eight years ago when her daughter invited her to a Zumba class, an aerobic fitness program inspired by Latin music and dance.



She loved it, and three years ago, she became accredited as an instructor.

Val is now in her second year of teaching ZUMBA Gold at OLLI. "We move every part of the body," she says. "Great fun and great fitness."

# OLLIREMEMBERS \* Barbara Leimsieder, Tributes Editor



## Jenifer McDermott tribute by Nancy Story

Jenifer McDermott was an early member of FULIR then OLLI. She taught classes in mythologist Joseph Campbell, whose philosophy was, "Follow your bliss." Her theatrical background and artistry with words made her a unique contributor both stand alone and in support of others. Jenifer died on September 1, 2017 at the age of 81.

## Douglas Long tribute by Alan Bornmueller

Doug Long was an avid OLLI hiker. He was always there in the Thursday hiking group with a smile and a good story. He was one of the three founding members of the group that instigated the "adult beverage" hour after our hikes to talk about all that we had experienced that day. Doug died on October 5, 2017 at 64.



## Barbara Rusch tribute by Dianne Tartaro

Barb Rusch was a longtime member of OLLI. She was an enthusiastic student and learner, particularly in history and English literature. She loved music and the OLLI special events. She served on Council, helped in the office and was active in two Special Interest Groups, Mah Jongg and Travel. Barb died at 81 on September 12, 2017.



## Niles Ray tribute by Margaret Clark

Niles loved OLLI and took pride in the program. He often shared stories with his family about his classes and sent them books and articles related to his classes. Niles met each person with genuine graciousness and kindness. He died October 10, 2017, one week shy of 82.



## George Schwartz tribute by Dudley Tower

George Schwartz was new to OLLI as a student and graduate of the Dynamic Aging Program. Classmates recall he was "kind and thoughtful with a mix of certainty, boldness and humility, honest and authentic." George died October 10, 2017.

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's** editor is Sue Renault. Tributes editor is Barbara Leimsieder. Special Assignments: Diana Miel. We love FEEDBACK.

## OLLILifer HONOR ROLL: ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED one way or another to OLLILife!

writers, editors, proofreaders, poets, photographers, photo subjects, interviewers and interviewees, Feedbacks & celebrations, MUG SHOT winners, lovable advisors  
**Sept, 2017**  
Marcee Nelson  
Diana Manley  
Lori Dillon  
Lynda Fredsell  
Allen Stevenson

Jeffery Leimsieder  
Scott Withrow  
Gail Jones  
Claude Banks  
James O'Donnell  
MaryMcGee  
Margaret Clark  
Fred Kiemle  
George Hammond  
Josiah Baker  
Lance Renault  
Judith Bolton  
Greg Peters  
Katie Roark  
Heather Collins  
Blaine DeSantis  
Sherm Rounsville  
Dave Gallemore  
Kathleen Allen

OLLI hikers  
OLLI staff  
**Jan, 2018**  
Barbara Ziegler  
Diana Miel  
Claudie Gaegan  
Marie Eldridge  
James Hammond  
George Fletcher  
Helen Smith  
Judith Isler  
Morgan Reynolds  
Isabelle Watkins  
HowardThompson  
Tony Medved & friends  
Jean Anderson  
Judy Brooks

Jim Smeaton  
Natiaina Ferlauto  
Janet Aguilar  
Helen Schiller  
Kitty Olson  
Kathleen Allen\*\*  
Jeffery Leimsieder\*\*  
Alan Bornmueller  
Nancy Story  
Val Blanco & class  
Gary & Judy Aten\*\*  
Cathy Sanchez/  
Gary Reed  
Barbara Leimsieder\*\*  
Nancy Kennedy\*\*

Bernie and Cindy Showman\*\*  
Cynthia Lee  
Nancy Pasin Sheets  
Bobett Button  
Dianne Tartaro  
Dudley Tower  
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Bob Moore  
Susan Rae  
Heidi,Pam,Sally  
Diana Manley\*\*  
Allen Stevenson\*\*  
Margaret Clark\*\*  
Patrick Hicks  
Barbara Mallon

Jim Hayes  
Carole Eisen  
**\*\* OLLI members who contributed to two issues of OLLILife**

### HOP ABOARD OLLILife:

*What were you doing at 25? Tell us about it. Add a photo if you have one: sue.renault@gmail.com*

**MARCH OLLILife DEADLINES:** "Regular" features, Feb. 9. Council news, March 9

## THE BERNIE BLOG



Let's toast with a glass of sparkling wine from the Prosecco wine region of Northern Italy. Prosecco refers to nine provinces from Venice to the border with Slovenia where the primary wine grape is known as Glera. Most Prosecco imported to the U.S. is sparkling wine and it has become a popular low-priced substitute for Champagne. There are many fine inexpensive choices, but I recommend the Kirkland Asolo Prosecco Superior from Costco (\$ 6.99) or Conegiano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superior from Trader Joe's (\$9.99). Cheers! (See Bernie's advice online: [www.scwinejoe.blogspot.com](http://www.scwinejoe.blogspot.com))