

OLLI Friends, How has the COVID-19 Pandemic impacted your life? What are you doing to stay healthy and happy?

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman

# OLLILife

## Sheltering-in-Place special edition

Member Chatter during OLLI's Pandemic Shutdown

"The future is not something we enter. The future is something we create."

Leonard I. Sweet

April 2020 - OLLILife Sheltering-in-Place edition, Issue #3

What are you up to? Send us a note: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)

### Bernie likes Gary's idea about supporting local businesses. "Let's support local wineries too," says OLLILife's wine guy.

Thousands of small, mostly family-owned wineries [in this area] depend on sales made directly to consumers. Since these wineries cannot attract customers for tastings due to the pandemic, much of their income is lost. Gary Aten [*Sheltering in Place* issue #2] had a great idea about using stimulus checks to support local businesses. This is an excellent time to try some different wines and support local wineries, as well.

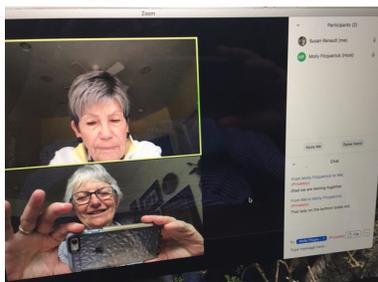
Some of the wineries have closed until they can reopen their tasting rooms. Others such as Burntshirt Vineyards in Hendersonville are offering takeout sales. If you order ahead, they will bring it to your car or set your wine outside for your pickup. Many wineries will ship wine directly to you, with some offering free or discounted shipping and some even offering discounts on the wine. Shelton Vineyards, in the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina, is offering a 20% discount on six bottles of wine with free shipping.

By Bernie Showman

### OLLI POETS GATHER BY EMAIL FOR INSPIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP DURING PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN

A year ago, a gaggle of promising poets came together for OLLI's *Nine Prompts, Nine Poems* course with poetry professor and *Emrys Journal* poetry editor, Arthur McMaster. Their chemistry was warm as they read poems selected by their instructor — then spun off their own verses, inspired by style, theme, setting, and word power of the professional prompt. Poetry spilled from their hearts and a growing sense of family emerged: Connie the Encourager, Emmie quite classical, Bill into Haiku, Tom the mad scientist, yours truly, flora and fauna beat ... and many others. Their leader could be depended upon for solid and clever responses to *every prompt*. When the course ended, the group kept in touch by email and continued to share creations, albeit with laissez-faire sense of regularity. When word came out that we'd all be Sheltering in Place for another month, though, McMaster offered his students another mini Prompts Class, this time by email, "while we are in the glue for a month or two." Here's hoping that from troubled times will spring words to touch our spirits and to celebrate a band of buddies who believe in the sustaining power of friendship. And poetry. *By SSR, editor*

*OLLILife* readers: Anybody else gathering for instruction or friendship by email these days? Or by ZOOM? Tell us about your e-class or experience: [sue.renault@gmail.com](mailto:sue.renault@gmail.com)



### What are you doing, Molly Fitzpatrick and Sue Renault?

Molly is teaching Sue (online) how to host a ZOOM gathering. "It's a ZOOM-meets-ZOOM world," says Renault. "Sheltering in place is a perfect time to learn a new skill."

What's your new skill?

### OLLILife reader learns secret to inner peace: FINISH THINGS!

Regarding these times, the doc says; focus on inner peace. Finish things we start; we need more calm in our lives. I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a butl of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scripturns, an a box of chocletz. Yu haf no idr how (bad word) fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all An telum u luvum. And two hash yer wands, safe day avrybobby!

# OLLIVOICES

ADD YOUR VOICE TO UPCOMING ISSUES OF *OLLILife's* SHELTERING-IN-PLACE EDITIONS. INFORM US OR AMUSE US!

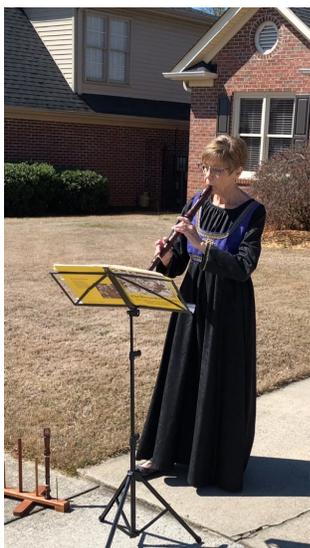
Thanks, Bernie Showman, Paul Kantz, and other OLLI voices, for sharing reflections of time spent Sheltering in Place

## Sheltering in Place: Things NOT to do:

Lexi is an 8 week-old German Shepherd. I bought Lexi as a surprise for my wife but it turns out she is allergic to dogs so we are now looking to find her a new home. She is 73 years old, and an attractive and caring woman who drives, is a great cook and keeps a clean house.

### What's Sharon Howell doing?

"Since the OLLI CONSORT couldn't be together for the grand celebration of the American Recorder Society's *Play the Recorder Day*, I decided on my own plan. I put on my Renaissance dress and played my recorder in front of our house. Of course Bob thought I was crazy, but a few neighbors enjoyed it. Miss seeing you!"



### What's Lance Renault doing?

Living room mechanic, Lance Renault, checks "Inflate bike tires" off the Shelter-in-Place to-do list.

What's on your list?

So far, Greenville and Travelers Rest have kept stretches of Swamp Rabbit Trail open (except for parts that run through closed Falls Park). Great news for all who walk, hike, and bike this scenic stretch...home to hawks and robins, squirrels, chip monks, deer, vultures, woodchucks, heron, rabbits, turkeys, poetry smiles, and peace.

## Light Your Day

In *OLLILife's Sheltering in Place, issue #2*, Gary Aten offered suggestions for spending "stimulus checks" and helping others. Below, Paul Kantz picks up the conversation with some ideas of his own. Kantz is an experienced fundraiser who calls giving to others, "a deep experience that lightens your day."

### If you're in a position to donate, Paul Kantz has ideas for you

\* In our community there are many nonprofits trying to fill the needs of struggling residents. United Way of Greenville has vetted groups such as Project Host, Mill Village Farms, Meals on Wheels, Harvest Hope, United Ministries, Safe Harbor, and Miracle Hill. These organizations desperately need additional funding, Check out their websites.

\* To put a human face on your giving, consider cash gifts to people who help you directly: mail and package delivery personnel, home service helpers (house cleaners, gardeners, handymen/women), health care personnel you know, your auto mechanic, your favorite grocery cashier and/or packer.

\* Some OLLI members are in a position to donate refunds for OLLI's spring term tuition and affirm appreciation for OLLI staff and programs.

## Finding the Good...What do you think of?

Diana Miel's Mindfulness Group was invited to respond to the prompt, "Finding the Good." She wrote:

*The first thing I think of is the cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his Songs of Comfort, which is online. He started the movement by playing Dvorak's Going Home on the cello, and over the past few days, musicians both professional and amateur, have posted pieces of all kinds of music, as offerings to the common good, comfort and entertainment. I am so touched by Ma's sense of humanity.*

Editor says, "Thanks for your thoughts, Diana. Thanks also to you and your neighbors who are sewing face masks for local health servers." Bravo!