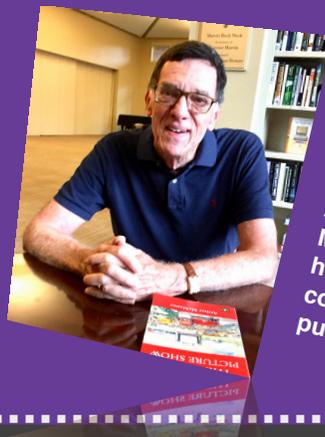


OLLILife

Long live learning!



SOMETHING GOOD during COVID:
 OLLI member and instructor Arthur McMaster had his latest poetry collection published. See

September 2021 - first print edition since the beginning of COVID in March, 2020

OLLILife begins fifth year, and classes return to Herring Center!

In September, 2017, **OLLILife** launched its first newsletter. Gary and Judy Aten, who'd ably produced **Gray Matters** for nine years, hung up their news hats. **OLLILife's** first issue carried a photo of members watching the solar eclipse.

In September, 2018, a special **OLLILife** supplement commemorated OLLI's 25th anniversary. Our 95-year-old classmate Paul Schaaf (now deceased) was taking 15 OLLI classes that year, as usual.

September, 2019, OLLI president Sally Bornmueller reported that 1851 members signed up for fall classes (226 *brand new*). **OLLILife** wine bloggers Bernie and Cindy Showman told us that sparkling wine made with Pinot Noir and/or Chardonnay grapes from California is a good alternative to expensive Champagne.

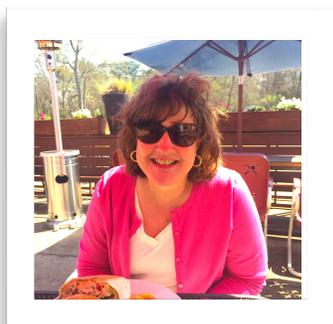
September, 2020, we broadcast our first **OLLILife LIVE!** We "Zoomed" from our kitchens and bedrooms and learned to find the mute button. **OLLILife's** veteran news commentator James Hammond wrote a memoir

about responding to the polio virus in the 1950s, recalling his fourth-grade class lined up in the hallway to receive their Salk polio vaccinations. (James has been an **OLLILife** reporter since January, 2018.)

September, 2021, we're back to printed **OLLILife!** Our new course brochure identifies *IP* classes (in person), *Zoom* classes, and *Hybrid* classes. We're back with caution to the Herring Center and in-person fellowship that Zoom screens can never replace. **OLLILife** reporter Anne Doyle reports on the bonus event she took to a Table Rock tea farm, outside and in person (see page 3).

What's been happening in your life for the past five years? Share a memory with us:

sue.renault@gmail.com



Did you know that OLLI @ Furman is one of 125 OLLIs across the country? We are one of the largest and most successful. Learn more about OLLI's history and about Bernard Osher, for whom we are named: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. See page 2.

Nancy Kennedy, OLLI Director



Ask Nancy: Why are we called OLLI?

OLLI stands for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. We have that name thanks to a gift from The Bernard Osher Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, which was started in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and

community leader.

This article first appeared in our January, 2020, edition and has been updated to acknowledge The Osher Foundation's vital role in helping OLLI @ Furman transition during "the pandemic" from in-house classes to "virtual" (Zoom) learning.

OLLI @ Furman University is one of 125 OLLIs across the country. All have received endowment gifts from The Osher Foundation of \$1 - \$2 million. The Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts in at least one

institution in every state. There are four in South Carolina: Furman, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, and USC-Beaufort. Furman's program became an OLLI in 2008 and received its first \$1 million gift in 2009. We received our second (and final) \$1 million in 2011. These funds reside in Furman's endowment, and our program receives a distribution from them each year to support and enhance our OLLI. The Osher Foundation also endowed the Osher

Institutes National Resource Center which serves all 125 OLLI programs. As part of the Osher Institute network, OLLI @ Furman benefits from conferences held every 18 months, monthly webinars for staff and volunteer leaders, and connections with other OLLI directors and volunteers. This was especially important over the last 18 months, as OLLI leaders freely shared their experiences in moving courses to online platforms. Our staff and volunteers benefitted in many ways from materials shared by other OLLIs. Our success with Zoom classes over the past year is directly related to the training, advice, and written materials shared with us by many other OLLIs.

I am grateful for Mr. Osher's generosity, which has helped make OLLI @ Furman one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in the country.

As of September 3, 2021, the number of students enrolled in fall classes is 1,371.

John and Rita Shepherd recall **SOMETHING GOOD!**

reported by
Marie Eldridge, *OLLILife* reporter since 2018

***OLLILife* asked members: Did anything good come out of this dreary season of social spacing and shutdowns (aka COVID)? John and Rita Shepherd tell us their story.**

It was wonderful to have Zoom so we could access and enjoy our OLLI classes whether at home or out of town. We also enjoyed being able to access other OLLI programs across the country. The pause also gave us time to more fully reflect on the positive things around us, like the beauty of nature, walking with friends, raising our own vegetables, and to focus and appreciate the simpler things of life.

OLLi adventures travel and tea



Jennifer Lorch, co-founder of Table Rock Tea Company tells OLLI visitors what a tea is and what it is not! (see Anne's report).



BJ'S TRAVEL TIPS

BETTY JO SHAW,
OLLILife REPORTER
SINCE 2018, LOVES TO
TRAVEL

The U.S. and the world are finally opening up again, and the travelers among us are anxious to get back out there as soon as possible.

However, it is important to remember that things are not yet "normal" for all kinds of reasons. A few hints may be helpful.

One tip is to maintain a large measure of patience. As a result of pent-up demand as well as some continuing restrictions, reservations for all the places and times you want may not be available. Be flexible and have alternatives in mind.

A second hint is especially important if you've got international travel in mind. Per national news outlets, it will take a lot longer to get new or renewal passports processed. In the past, a normal wait was 4-6 weeks; it is now 18-24 weeks. Delays are primarily because processing requires government employees to be in the office which hasn't been possible until recently. Plan way ahead to avoid frustration or disappointment.

In issues to come, we'll share more tips for travel in the post-pandemic world. BJ

Stop a moment, word sharks, to enjoy some famous oxymorons from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet:

"O heavy lightness, serious vanity
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health,
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!
This love feel I, that feel no love in this."

ANNE DOYLE,
OLLILife
REPORTER SINCE
2019, LOVES
BONUS EVENTS



Whether you're an OLLI newcomer or OLLI veteran, you are sure to find a bonus presentation that will catch your fancy.

The one I attended in July suited me to a "tea." From that experience, I have a newsflash for you: ALL tea comes from the Camellia Sinensis tree, or it is simply not tea, but a *tisane*, made from herbs.

On July 2, OLLI members toured the Table Rock Tea Company, located at the base of Table Rock Mountain, learning not only this, but also other interesting facts about how artisan teas are grown and harvested.

Jennifer Lorch, co-founder with her husband Steve of Table Rock Tea Company, narrated our tour. Steve and Jennifer grow "premium, small-batch tea crafted with the best of both traditional and modern methods," including Kenyan Black Tea, Cold Harvest Green Tea, Yaupon Tea, Dark Oolong Tea, and Yellow Silk Road Corn Silk Caffeine-Free Tea.

Jennifer and Steve have a "Lazarus story." "2017/18 was our harshest winter on record for 100 years," says Jennifer. "All but 14 tea plants died. The tea company was devastated and ready to close.

"Now, this green field is a reminder that God had other plans," she told us.

To learn more about Table Rock Tea Company and Steve and Jennifer's mission, visit www.tablerocktea.com

Sue, Jana, Helen, Anne, Susan recall
SOMETHING GOOD!

reported by
BJ Shaw, *OLLILife* reporter since 2018

BJ interviewed friends for *OLLILife's* **SOMETHING GOOD** reports. Here's what she learned: Sue Miller discovered she was able to reach out to family and friends who needed "a hug." Jana Kelley discovered that by wearing a mask she didn't get sick as often as usual. Helen Schiller discovered she was able to save more money. Anne Briskey became a master of doing research on the Internet in order to find things she needed, and Susan Cooper became a master of "paint by number."

Thanks, BJ, for getting our SOMETHING GOOD! survey off to a wonderful start.

Margaret Clark recalls
SOMETHING GOOD!

reported by
Sue Renault, *OLLILife* editor since 2017

Margaret Clark, OLLI president 2016-2017, has a brother, sister-in-law, nieces, nephews, and new generations of playful toddlers among her extended family in England. In pre-COVID days they caught up with one another by FaceTime, posts and texts. She also has dear old school chums from her schoolgirl days who, before COVID, shared reunions and excursions. Ask her about the best thing to come out of the COVID experience, and she'll say, "Zooming." Like many of the other OLLI members we interviewed, Margaret has a quick smile when she thinks about her new "Zoom" skills and the vastly improved connections Zoom has made in her trans-Atlantic visits with family and friends. Better Zooming has resulted in better remote visits, a gift for her entire family in these times of deferred travel and postponed "live" get-togethers. Yeah for Zooming.

OLLI member/instructor
Arthur McMaster has a
newly published poetry
collection. His OLLI
students aren't surprised.

During COVID, about a dozen aspiring OLLI poets passed their work around regularly via email attachments in an effort to improve their craft and encourage one another.

They were led in their efforts by Arthur McMaster who started them off on their new poems each month with a poetry "prompt": they were to write in a particular style or with a special theme in mind. They were to experiment with a variety of poetry forms and formats. McMaster often contributed a poem of his own for the group's enjoyment and critique.

It came as no surprise, then, when they learned their much-published "coach" had a new collection of his work selected for publication in December by Revival Press in Ireland. The title of McMaster's collection is ***The Whole Picture Show***. He presented it locally last month at *As the Page Turns* book store in Traveler's Rest.

Online reviewer Sydney Wade says ***The Whole Picture Show*** is like sitting at the table after a good meal, with brandies, music in the background... artfully constructed in a variety of forms, with an ear always carefully attuned to the music of the story. McMaster's OLLI poet friends already knew that.

Arthur McMaster can be reached at
awmcwrites@gmail.com



FAN MAIL! Bernie and Cindy Showman have been OLLILife reporters since issue #1 in 2017.
OLLILife ORIGINALS!

Lance Renault is a fan of Bernie and Cindy Showman, **OLLILife's**

wine bloggers. Lance recently explored some of the Yadkin Valley, NC, wineries Bernie has talked about.

Lance wrote:

Thanks again, Bernie and Cindy, for the tips on wineries in the Yadkin Valley. I was amazed at how many wineries and vineyards there are in North Carolina. We picked up the NC Wine Guide 2020-2021 (<https://www.ncwine.org/wineries>), which gave us a good overview of the wineries.

We visited Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Winery, Shelton Vineyards, Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery, and Piccione Vineyards. Raffaldini and Shelton were our favorites by far, and we brought back some bottles for further enjoyment. We had a great dinner last night at Southern on Main in Elkin.

Bernie responded:

I am really glad you enjoyed the wineries. There are over 40 wineries and vineyards in the Yadkin Valley. Shelton was one of the first wineries in the Yadkin Valley, and their first vines date to the late 1990s. The Shelton Brothers were successful in the construction business. Tobacco farms and small dairy farms were failing, and the Sheltons saw wineries as a way to save the economy of the area. The Sheltons contributed money to establish a viticulture program at the local community college, and their current winemaker as well as the owner of Sanders Ridge are graduates of that program.

A few years ago, we spent the night in Elkin. We could not find a decent place to eat. Lately, I have seen instagram posts on Southern on Main and it looked interesting. It sounds like you recommend it.



Bernie and Cindy recall SOMETHING GOOD!

reported by
Sue Renault, **OLLILife** Editor since 2017

We asked Bernie and Cindy why some wines are hard to find at our local wine shops.

“This may be due to the *three-tier system*: winery, distributor and vendor,” they explained. “South Carolina and most other states have laws that require stores and restaurants to buy all wine from state-licensed distributors. The distributors only carry wines that can be easily sold to retailers.

One way around this situation is for the consumer to buy wine directly from a domestic winery. During the peak pandemic outbreak, Cindy and I wanted to limit our shopping to food and necessities. We took this opportunity to order cases of wine from wineries in Oregon, California and North Carolina. We enjoyed some terrific small production wines that are only available from the wineries. Most wineries provide no-cost shipping when you order a full case. A small drawback is that an adult must be present to receive the delivery, so you might have to wait all day for the UPS truck.

Another Bernie and Cindy reader is James Hammond, **OLLILife** reporter and explorer of Carolina histories and byways. Check out James’s article on page 7.

What's up, Bob McGrath?

by Marie Eldridge



During his career with Best Buy, Bob McGrath visited major cities across the U.S. Yet he chose Greenville for his retirement because it was a smaller city and had so much to offer. And OLLI was the icing on the cake. “When I moved here from Minnesota, the program gave me a purpose and

enabled me to meet people,” Bob said, “and my experiences have only grown better.”

As OLLI’s current president, Bob sees an opportunity to thank OLLI and return what it has given him. He plans to work with the OLLI staff and members to keep improving an already great product. “We need to be flexible during a time of flux, bring back people safely following COVID, and continue to enhance the curriculum and attract new members and teachers,” he says.

While the coming year may present some different challenges, Bob is confident that OLLI will continue to flourish. Why? “OLLI is special,” he said. “The camaraderie between staff and members is unique. That combination ensures that OLLI will continue to improve and grow and to be an enjoyable place to learn.”

OLLI COUNCIL NEWS

Thanks to members who currently serve on OLLI Council:

Bob McGrath - President

Kathy Roed - VP of Membership & President Elect

Don Hubble - VP of Administration & Finance

Committee Chairs

Jim Nicholson and Sally Bornmueller - Curriculum

Lana Parke - Instructor Support

David Johnson - Long-range Planning

Sue Renault - **OLLILife** Newsletter

Vito Fiore - Social

Ted Sauvain - Travel

Susan Herring - Volunteers

At-Large Members

Marie Eldridge

Molly Fitzpatrick

Paulette Payne

Marian Purdue

Justin Smith

Mary Beth Steck

Dear OL readers, look for **two themes** that recur on our pages and tell our stories of pandemic survival and resilience. The first is *Zooming*; many of you told us this new technique for gathering with family, friends and classmates was the number-one benefit to arise from COVID isolation. The second is *Wine*: many of you added local day-trips to otherwise stay-at-home lifestyles. “We visited area vineyards and sampled their wine, and we learned to taste fruits, berries, and oak.” Thanks for sharing your experiences and for reading **OLLILife**.

Sue Renault, editor, and the **OLLILife** staff.

Winemakers are making our part of the Piedmont a more interesting place to work and play

by James Hammond



“In 1963, I drove a school bus along Scenic Highway 11 in Northern Greenville County. It was rural and isolated, referred to by its Civil War era nickname, the “Dark Corner.”

I grew up nine miles from Highway 11 and returned five years ago to live on the farm where I grew up. The Highway 11 corridor has become a gateway to new day-trip destinations: bed & breakfast and fine-dining opportunities, horse farms, a tea plantation, a unique lavender farm and most of all vineyards and wineries.

A few years ago, a California transplant, Russ Gardiner, purchased 100 acres on Highway 11 and began planting grape vines. He’s built a production house and tasting room and named the place Eagle Mountain Vineyards and Winery. He offers wine, box lunches and live music and is currently selling California wine with the Eagle Mountain label.

This fall, he’ll truck flash-frozen grapes from California to be made into wine in his new facility. He’s probably 2-4 years away from making wine with grapes grown at Eagle Mountain.

Gardiner expects to break ground in the coming weeks on a second building including a dining venue. He’s promoting a wine club that will offer members first choice for wine-tasting and dining events. Gardiner’s vision includes a 1,000-seat

amphitheater beside a mountain creek, a sculpture garden and walking trails.

Gardiner’s Eagle Mountain Vineyards and Winery will be the first such destination winery in the Highway 11 corridor and a welcome addition to the burgeoning wine-making industry that is spreading out of the nearby North Carolina cluster. Others established in Greenville County include Cityscape

Winery in Pelzer and Wellborn Winery on Mush Creek Road near Tigerville.

The North Carolina grape and wine industry ranks 10th in the nation, and boasts more than 129 wineries, a number that has more than doubled since 2005. The industry creates a \$1.3 billion economy and supports 7,600 jobs.

One of South Carolina’s most serious is Victoria Valley Vineyards off Highway 11, near Table Rock State Park in Pickens County.

Overmountain Vineyard in NC near Mountainbrook Vineyards produces several varieties of wine, and provides a tasting venue, fire pit and seating where visitors can bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with wine purchased onsite.

These new winemakers create a tourism attraction for people drawn to the Upstate. Highway 11 defines a Greenville-Spartanburg metropolis of more than 1 million people prone to scour the Greenville County escarpment for interesting day trips.

I’ll leave the evaluation of their products to our wine reviewers, Bernie and Cindy. But it’s safe to say these winemakers, many of them university educated in their craft, are making our part of the Piedmont a more interesting place to live, work and play.

Linda Hosek recalls SOMETHING GOOD!

reported by
Kathleen Allen *OLLILife* reporter since 2017

Linda Hosek has been an OLLI member for three years, photography sub-committee co-chair, and a Senior Leaders Greenville participant.

“My two older brothers, Ron and Jim, and I have been close,” she says, “but we mostly had infrequent phone calls. “It was always great to chat, but we never made a regular date and rarely talked as a threesome.



“The pandemic changed that, making it unsafe to travel. The months apart started to pile up and there was no way to predict when travel could begin.

“And then Zoom started showing up everywhere: for classes, birthday parties, meetings, family dinners. We decided to give it a try and it worked fine. We talked about a ton of stuff, from childhood memories to recipes to events of the week. Time flew by.

“So we set up another chat a week later. And a week after that. Pretty soon it was clear we would have a standing date: 4 p.m. Sundays.

“It has been fun, sweet and meaningful. As the little sister, I can still get teased on Zoom.

“And I think we share one thing in common: We all look forward to the next call.”

Linda and her brothers live far apart. Jim lives in Los Angeles and Ithaca, NY. Ron lives in Atlanta.

Zooming with her brothers each Sunday has been a lifeline to her family during this pandemic and, due to distance, will remain a valuable means of communication for years to come.

Remembering OLLI friends

From the Editor:

We regret we've been unable to write memorial tributes to members who passed away during 2020 and 2021. Beginning with this issue, and moving forward, we will acknowledge recent deaths by listing names as we become aware of them. In this issue we sadly report the passing on July 15, 2021, of longtime OLLI member Gloria Larkin. She was 80 years old. Gloria was a talented musician who contributed to and supported many OLLI music events. Sue Renault, editor



When *OLLILife* editor, Sue Renault, realized that *three* of her reporters were interested in wineries of the Carolinas, she set off on the difficult task of due diligence.

Were these backroads explorers really on to something *educational*? Worthy of our high editorial standards? In this photo at North Carolina's picturesque Parker-Binns Vineyards in Columbus, Sue conducts serious research.

Want to write for *OLLILife*?

Contact

Sue Renault, editor

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