



OLLI Life

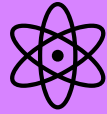


Learning, Laughter, Friendships

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman



Special Interest Groups



Lunch & Learning

September 2022

YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES HERE



Issue #15

Soapstone Church Fish Fry

150 OLLI members had a rare treat recently when Mable Owens Clarke invited us to her legendary Soapstone Church Fish Fry in Liberia,



Mable Clarke

Proceeds from fish fries kept it alive. Ms Clarke has retired but returned for this event, where she led a tour to the historic cemetery and announced the establishment of the Soapstone Church Endowment. Go to <https://www.soapstonechurch.com/supporting-soapstone> for details.



S.C. The church was burned down by segregationists in the 1960s, but the Owens/Clarke family rebuilt it.



Article by Don Lineback
Thank you

*Photos by
Linda Hosek
and
Bob Spalding
Thank you!*

News From Nancy

Welcome back! And, wow, this fall I feel like I'm offering a full welcome back, as many aspects of our program feel a lot more like they used to.



Courses: Number of courses (120) for the Fall Term.

Membership: Our numbers are increasing. As I write this, we have 1,586 members, a definite increase over the past two years and we are approaching the strong registration numbers we enjoyed before the pandemic.



OLLI is traveling again. We had a great group enjoy a trip to Iceland in July, and my husband and I got to tag along (see the photo of us hiking through the middle of a glacier). This trip was a great example of why OLLI travel is special. Dr. Suresh Muthukrishnan, Professor of Earth, Environmental and Sustainability Sciences here at Furman, led the trip of 22 OLLI members. Not only did we see all of the amazing sights in Iceland, we had an expert along with us to explain what we were seeing.

And while we are "back" in many ways, some of the silver linings of the pandemic remain with us. We continue to offer Zoom and hybrid courses, which are popular with and appreciated by many of our members.

Finally, as always, we are looking for new courses and programming to keep OLLI strong. I am grateful to you, our members, for the ideas you bring and the volunteer time you commit to this effort!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Nancy Kennedy, Director

Dave's Unexpected Hidden Talents

" We have all heard about the differences between the left and right hemispheres of the brain. My profession was as a radiation therapy physicist, so I was used to thinking about math, science, facts, etc. . . all left brain

activities for most of my adult life. I never had an inclination or desire to do anything remotely artistic . . . until OLLI. For some reason, I just decided to take a course that was completely out of my comfort zone, so I signed up for the acrylic painting course. And to my amazement, I discovered I had a right brain, too! So I took a drawing course next, and then the carving course. What I find interesting about painting is not that they are artistically noteworthy, but that they are something that I have created that is unique to me. When you think about it, how many chances do you have to leave something in the world or give to someone that no one else has ever done?



So the takeaway lesson is that OLLI is there to give you an opportunity to find out that you are capable of doing things that you never would have dreamed possible and that are 180 degrees different from your pre-OLLI life.

I hope my story will encourage others to go out of their safe space and find talents they never even thought existed. It is amazing how a single OLLI instructor can change someone's life."

By Dave Knox, OLLI member since 2013 and Beginning Poker instructor at OLLI.

Thank you!



A Rather Obscure Celebration by Jean Hess, editor

August 13th was (and forever will be) INTERNATIONAL LEFT-HANDERS DAY. How exciting!! But with only 10% of the population being left-handed, we don't get much recognition for our uniqueness or struggles.

Scientists are engaged in trying to understand why some people are-left handed. Is it in the DNA, or genome? Is it inherited or not? Is it the result of a traumatic birth or being dropped on one's head as an infant or toddler? It's been a mystery for years with no firm answers in sight, just theories.

Lefties also tend to be left-footed. We always want to start a sequence of steps with our left foot (think line dancing, aerobics and zumba) and you can see how that might create a jam up. Don't let that discourage you lefties out there from taking these classes however. There is an extra benefit for us, to exercise our brains at the same time, by remembering to always start with our right foot.

More men than women are left-handed and the majority of lefties would not change to being right-handed if given the opportunity. We appreciate being special.

OLLI's Talented Student Worker - Jenna Justice

This summer I had the opportunity to attend SongFest, an annual festival that is dedicated to the study and performance of classical art song. Based in San Francisco, we attendees had the pleasure of living and working in the newly constructed San Francisco Conservatory of Music facility. The site was a perfect location for SongFest, enveloped in the arts and politics of the eccentric city.



Jenna Justice

Not only is San Francisco the home of SongFest, but it is also home to the founders of the Osher Lifelong Learning Program, Bernard and Barbro Osher. Dedicated to the improvement of quality of life through the support of higher education and the arts, the Oshers are renowned for their advocacy of the arts, specifically the artistic community of San Francisco. In fact, SFCM's 200-seat recital hall, which features floor-to-ceiling views of the surrounding city, is named in honor of Barbro Osher. I had the joy of performing on a masterclass in the hall, and it was oddly comforting to be performing in a space dedicated to honoring the Oshers' artistic passion. While I learned a lot about myself as

an emerging artist in a city over two thousand miles from my desk at the Herring Center, I found the presence of the name and what it stood for to kindle thoughts of home and the people of OLLI @ Furman.

Thank you to:

Sue Renault for 5 years of superb OLLI Life Newsletters. And also for helping me get this, my first issue, out. I'm looking forward to going forward and hope to produce issues with many interesting articles (with your help and support of course). Please let me know any comments, suggestions or ideas for future issues. jean.hess66@gmail.com

Thanks also to: Lynda Fredsell and Sue Renault for proofreading this issue.

Contributors: Dave Knox, Don Lineback, Jenna Justice. Photos: Soapstone photos from Linda Hosek and Bob Spalding

If you know a Furman student who would be interested in a part-time student worker position in the OLLI office, please ask them to get in touch with Nancy Kennedy at nancy.kennedy2767@furman.edu or 864-294-2979

OLLI Remembers



Evelyn Earle, 97, died July 5, 2022.

The Furman OLLI family mourns the loss of one of our long-time members. Those fortunate enough to have known Evelyn will miss her keen wit, enthusiasm, and genuine interest in each person she met.

Her joie de vivre and notice of the obscure bits of nature celebrated in her poetry remained undiminished. The family requests that memorials be made to the OLLI program she so loved.

Tribute by Allen Stevenson



Patrick McCarthy, 75, passed away June 27, 2022. Patrick was an Army Veteran having served in Vietnam and earning the Bronze Star. He had a passion for expanding his mind in the varied aspects of philosophy in classes at OLLI and particularly enjoyed classes

such as Big Questions. He loved the fellowship and competitiveness of pickleball. He will be missed by colleagues and friends.

Tribute by Kevin McMurtrey

Martha Moran, 95, passed away July 25, 2022.

Martha was a wonderfully strong and independent woman who loved her dogs, gardening, reading, crossword puzzles and observing nature. She was a longtime and enthusiastic participant in OLLI at Furman University. She was adored by her grandchildren who loved hearing stories of her early life and were inspired by her independent spirit.



From Martha's, Palmetto Mortuary Notice



Marjorie Halladay, 83, passed away August 8, 2022.

Marjorie volunteered in the OLLI office for more than 10 years. She never met a stranger and immediately made visitors feel welcome. She would

regularly call us on her way in to see if we wanted anything from McDonalds where she stopped for her large iced coffee and happy meal. Everyone was immediately drawn to her Scottish accent.

Tribute by OLLI staff

Geri Warren, 72, died June 25, 2022.

Geri was a member of Senior Leaders Greenville, Class 6. She enjoyed each monthly session and the interaction with new friends, but like everyone else, was disappointed when Covid demanded virtual classes instead of in person. Geri loved taking history classes at OLLI and enrolled in many of the Friday bonus classes.

Geri was a kind, loving and dependable friend to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed!

Tribute by Cheryl Cotner



Col. Walter "Bud" Sanders, 85, died July 13, 2022. Bud hiked with the Waterfalls and Wildflowers hikers for a long time. We all enjoyed having him along and he was

a great storyteller. He once told about how Nancy made him quit flying and sell his plane. One time he needed to sit down and wait on the group to finish. Everyone we met as we came back down the trail told us they had talked with the gentleman waiting on us and how interesting he was. Bud will truly be missed by the hiking group and others who knew him.

Tribute by Jeff Richards



Thomas Bryan, 91, passed away on May, 26 2022. Tom was a 25-year, much decorated retired Army Veteran. He was also the professor of Military Science at Furman. Tom was a member of OLLI since the summer of 2015. He took a variety of classes at OLLI but particularly enjoyed history and music related classes. He enjoyed a full schedule of classes and will be missed by friends and colleagues.

From Thomas McAfee F.H. and OLLI staff