



# OLLI Life



## Learning, Laughter, Friendships

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman



Special Interest Groups



Lunch & Learning

January 2023

**YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES HERE**



Issue #16

### Katie Irsik - OLLI Student Worker

By Judy and Gary Aten

Katie is one of this year's new student workers. She's an excellent addition to the OLLI office. Her Environmental Science major keeps her busy. Her favorite class involved GIS (Geographic Information System). Katie hopes to utilize that knowledge in her future employment. She described the subject of the thesis she's writing about, soundscape ecology and how noise affects bird activities. We could tell she loves what she's studying. We were grateful for the explanation because the title, "A Multifactor Assessment for Determining Impacts of Anthrophonic Noise Across Rural Landscapes in Upstate South Carolina," was beyond us.



She is currently a member of the Furman Dance Company, performing at a variety of events, including football and basketball games. Since the team practices four or more times a week, Katie has a very full calendar.

When you see her lugging heavy coffee containers, or helping confused OLLI members, she'll be smiling.

### Yamiko Sumaisi - OLLI Student Worker

By Judy and Gary Aten

Yamiko comes to us from Zambia in South-Central Africa. When we asked Yamiko about his name, he said that his father had a name picked out long before Yamiko was born. After his mother had a difficult delivery, they decided to name their newborn Yamiko, as that name means "Praise God."

After finishing his course of schooling in Zambia, where English is the main language in the schools, he received a scholarship to an International Baccalaureate school in Singapore. An advisor at the school helped him receive scholarships from United World College and Furman. With that financial aid, Yamiko enrolled this year as a Furman Freshman.



Everything is not academics with Yamiko. He is a "winger" on the Furman rugby team, and can fill you in on terms like "scrums and tries." He also plays intramural soccer, so he keeps busy with games and practice times.

He greets OLLI members with an infectious smile when they ask for his help. We hope Yamiko will be with OLLI as long as he attends Furman.

**Editor's Note:** According to Ellen Jovin, the "Grammar Guru" and author of *Rebel With a Clause*, (note the **CLAUSE**, not **CAUSE**, in the title), plenty of people still put two spaces after a period because they were taught to do that when people still typed on typewriters. But, the convention in books, magazines and newspapers is one space after a period.

Do you still prefer two spaces as it may be easier to read? But, says Jovin, "Don't let your typing habits date you."

What do OLLI Life Newsletter readers think? Let me know your thoughts and which method you prefer or use yourself, at [jean.hess66@gmail.com](mailto:jean.hess66@gmail.com)

## Julie Larson loves OLLI and golfing buddies

My husband, Brent, and I moved to Greenville County in 2010 and I have been looking for ladies who golf.

When the fall catalogue for OLLI arrived in our mailbox in 2019, I was thrilled to see a course for golfing at Furman University. I signed up and crossed my fingers that my name would be drawn to attend this course. (OLLI had the lottery in effect at that time.)

When I received the email confirming I was in the class, I got out my golf clubs and started organizing them!

The first day of class we were assigned to one of three groups to rotate practice pitching, putting and driving. Much to my disappointment, I was in an all-male group. I asked the instructor if I could be placed in another group with women. The next class I asked if any of the women were interested in meeting to golf together after the class ended. I got a list of emails and organized the first outing.

Who would have known at that time that COVID-19 was about to change life for months? We had already started meeting and playing golf when the epidemic took us by surprise. Golfing together outside with Joan Vande Velde, Linda and Nick Hollingshad, Elaine Granger, Sue Wagner and Gail Sturtevant was a wonderful way to get out of the house, get some exercise, and share our thoughts and some laughter with each other.

We are still golfing together three years later! I think I speak for all of us in saying thank you to OLLI and Furman University for offering this class. We hope you offer it again! We welcome any women who would like to join us.

Contact Julie Larson  
[julie.mathpro@gmail.com](mailto:julie.mathpro@gmail.com)

L to R: Gail Sturtevant, Sue Wagner, Julie Larson, Joan Vande Velde



Julie Larson,  
 Elaine Granger,  
 Joan Vande Velde



## Open Studios SIG by Betty Jo Shaw

Open Studios is a SIG (Special Interest Group) that encourages creativity on a large scale but with individual tastes. Artistically oriented people meet in the Large Craft Room in the Herring Center to work on their own projects in a friendly, nurturing environment. Several years ago, some people found there were fewer art classes at OLLI because the instructors had moved on to other things, but they still wanted some structure to their individual creative efforts. Paula Winiski is the contact person for the group that meets weekly with usually 8-10 people, though not always the same ones.



Darien Michael  
 Acrylics

Members range from former art teachers to an individual who began oil painting in high school and is taking it up again, to another lady who wants to challenge herself. They use various media and techniques in their art, and in the words of one member, "we do our own thing and enjoy people." How very "OLLI" is that? For more information about Open Studios, contact Paula at [pwiniski@bellsouth.net](mailto:pwiniski@bellsouth.net).



Carmela Reither  
 Water colors

## Open Studios SIG Plein Art



## News From OLLI Director Nancy Kennedy

This fall, OLLI started a new experiment, offering classes at two continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) in the Greenville area. We offered 1 course at The Woodlands at Furman and 3 at Rolling Green Village.

Courses at these locations are open to all OLLI members, not just residents of the CCRCs. Pricing is the same, and members may choose to take one class at the CCRC and another at the Herring Center or on Zoom. Having these satellite classrooms allows us to provide more courses and reach more people, so we are grateful to The Woodlands and Rolling Green Village for welcoming us to their facilities!

The Woodlands Fall class was The Lewis and Clark Expedition, taught by Gary Aten. Forty-nine members were enrolled in the class; about half were Woodlands residents. For the Winter Term, Tony Nedved is offering his class, Albert Einstein and His Theories for Non-Scientists. There's been a good response so far, and seats are still available!

At Rolling Green, we offered 3 courses in the fall term. One had to be canceled due to low enrollment, but many members enjoyed the other two. Introduction to Islam,

taught by Akif Aydin, had 21 enrolled and Words and Music, offered by Jim Nicholson, had 27.



A larger percentage of students in these courses (75-80%) are residents of Rolling Green, but courses there have given us a great advantage for members or prospective members who live on Greenville's east side. Many can travel to Rolling Green in just a few minutes versus a longer drive to Furman. We are offering three courses at Rolling Green this winter: Words and Music II with Jim Nicholson, Get Connected with Your iPhone with Bill Vicary, and M&Ms of Washington DC with Sally and Alan

Bornmueller. All three have good enrollments, although we still have room for more. If you live near Rolling Green, or know someone who does, this is a great opportunity for a nearby course!

We will continue this trial through the spring term and then evaluate to determine whether we will continue. Just as the pandemic taught us that we can offer Zoom courses and reach more people, offering courses at these offsite locations allows us to expand the program.

Have you taken a course at one of these locations? I'd love to hear what you thought!

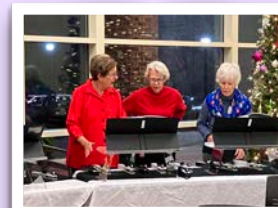
## OLLI Cocoa & Carols featuring OLLI Handchimes SIG



It was a delightful evening listening to Christmas carols performed by members of the OLLI handchimes SIG. And who knew? Nancy Kennedy is a whiz on the handchimes?



There were many delicious treats to enjoy, with the hot chocolate.



Gratitude and thanks to Anne Coble and Betsy MacCarthy for their assistance with this Newsletter.



## Falls Park Garden Tour - OLLI Bonus Event 10/21/2022



Greg Burris, who manages a staff of 4 at Falls Park, led a group of OLLI members on a garden tour of Greenville's Falls Park.

Partnerships in 1967 between the city, Furman University and the Carolina Foothills Garden Club created the 32-acre park. Now the "jewel of downtown Greenville," the land was previously used by textile mills. \$13.5 million from Hospitality Tax revenue was spent to renovate the park which presently generates \$70-80 million in economic growth.

Deep within the interior of the park are paths along Vardry Creek that make up the Sanctuary Garden, which is populated with hickory, beech, and tulip poplar trees. Further along, Greg pointed out a 175-year-old beech tree, also called the "Reach Tree," due to the vertical pattern of large roots which are above ground, next to the road.

The city of Greenville plants 20,000 annuals in fall and spring. We witnessed the "Pansy Patrol" staff prepping the beds with 10-10-10 fertilizer, then applying slow-release fertilizer to feed the plants through the winter. In the spring, park plantings will include lantana, ornamental peppers, erysimum, and multicolored winter flowers.

For detailed information about the Falls Park, visit [www.greenville.gov](http://www.greenville.gov).

Thank you to Anne Doyle for submitting this article and photo.

## Upcountry History Museum Tour- OLLI Bonus Event 10/28/2022

Wynn Herbert, docent, gave our OLLI group a fast-paced history of the Upcountry, at the Upcountry History Museum (UHM). Highlights included information on the Irishman Richard Pearis, who traded with the Cherokee Indians, receiving 100,000 acres in the upcountry county of Greenville. His plantation was on the present site of the Grand Bohemian Lodge. He was a Loyalist, resulting in his plantation being burned and his slaves sold. He never returned, though his name still lives on Paris Mountain.

Millionaire Vardry McBee, thought of as the father of Greenville, financed a railroad from Columbia and gave land to build churches and schools, including Furman University's original location downtown.

The first hotel, Mansion House, located where the Poinsett Hotel is now, was opened by Col. William Toner of Charleston. The hotel included the only sofa in town, carpet, a ballroom and a bar. Tourists were attracted by the mountain air that was "healthier" than that in the coastal regions.

The Museum's Textile Room holds artifacts of Greenville's booming textile industry. In the 1790s, the city transitioned from farming to textiles, opening 15 mills, one of which, Camperdown Mill, employed 1000. There was water for power, available cotton, steady paychecks and a baseball team, which included Shoeless Joe Jackson, who started working at the mill at the age of 6 or 7. (circa 1890) The

museum also welcomed the traveling exhibit "Wild Things: The Art of Maurice Sendak." Sendak is most widely known for his beloved 1963 children's book "Where the Wild Things Are."



Max, the protagonist of the story, sails to the land of Wild Things.



This sculpture is Max's arrival at the island of the Wild Things.

"Kids don't know about best sellers. They go for what they enjoy. They aren't star chasers and they don't suck up. It's why I like them."

- Maurice Sendak

Thank you to Anne Doyle for submitting this article and photos.

# Living with bears in Upstate South Carolina



By James T. Hammond, OLLI member and life-long newspaper journalist, now retired.

My first up-close encounter with a black bear happened a couple of years ago. My son Thomas and I were standing in the family garden when a yearling bear crossed the public road, ambled through my mother's front yard, and disappeared into the woods behind the house. Frank Erk, a neighbor and OLLI member, had a much closer sighting this summer: a black bear swimming across Lake Robinson. When I was growing up on Groce Meadow Road north of Greer in the 1950s, there were no bears there. Today they are commonly sighted by residents. Lt. Amy Staton, a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, recently shared her decades of experience with members of Friends of Lake Robinson. The animals are extending their range, coming out of the nearby mountains, she said. Bear sightings are likely to increase, as natural habitat is lost to new housing tracts, she said. "They are everywhere," she added.

State conservation biologists estimate the state's black bear population at about 1,100, with about 900 of the animals in the Upstate counties, Staton said, adding that she thinks the estimate may be low.

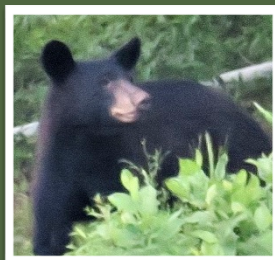
The growing population of bears will come into contact with the growing population of people, Staton said, and residents must change their habits as well. Staton's comments already have caused me to remove my bird feeders and a salt block for the deer. There's plenty of natural food in the forest.

"We need to learn how to live together," Staton told the Lake Robinson residents. And sightings are possible year round. "Our bears don't hibernate," Staton said.

Sightings may become more common in May, June and July, a time of year when mother bears are driving their yearling cubs away to fend for themselves.

So, Staton advises Upstate residents to clean up any food sources around the house, give bears a wide berth, and learn to live with them. They are here to stay.

Thank you to Frank Erk for submitting these charming photos



## Thank you Vito, for hosting breakfast, for OLLI members, at the Furman Dining Hall on October 13th.

OLLI members enjoyed custom-made omelets prepared on the Mongolian Grill, danish, fruits, yogurt, make-your-own waffles, bagels, sausage, bacon, eggs and more.



Vito Fiore  
Chair, Social  
Committee



It was a great turn-out and a wonderful time to meet and socialize with other OLLI members and have a wonderful meal, with so many choices. Another OLLI membership benefit!





# OLLiver goes to Scotland and Ireland with Linda Burns



Oliver, staying dry (in purse), with Scottish tour guide Roderick, and Linda Burns at Commando Monument, Spean Bridge.

Linda, thank you for sharing your photos.



Galway Bay on the west coast of Ireland



Stone Celtic Cross at Clonmacnoise, Ireland



St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. Site of Elizabeth II's funeral



Bee hive huts on Skellig Island of St. Michael's, County Kerry, Ireland



Cliffs of Moher, Ireland - breeding site for over 30,000 birds



Monastic ruins - Chapel built in 544 AD by St. Ciran in Ireland

# Maggie and Sue's Adventures in Paris

Margaret Clark (OLLI past president) and Sue Renault (past OLLILife editor and now OLLI Life contributor), had a great time in Paris and maintained a busy itinerary. Included were a stroll through the Latin Quarter, the Rodin Museum and gardens, Monet's Garden, Le Marais canal district, Les Deux Margots, the Paris café, a Batobus Cruise along the Seine, watching the river for les invalides, Musee d'Orsay, Notre Dame and other iconic sights.



Sue, on left, and Maggie at Monet's Garden



Viewing the amazing stained glass windows at Sainte-Chapelle cannot be rushed.

So Many cheeses!!  
Sue mentions that they had a wonderful time "tasting" with their eyes, nose, cheeks and tongues. We swished the cheese in our mouths just as we'd savor a good Bordeaux before the final swallow.  
They sampled: Clacbitou - goat cheese, ossau irate - sheep cheese, gruyère (crystals from amino acids) 24 months, epoisse - made by monks, and morbier (evening and morning cheese) and others.

### From The New York Times, April 16, 2019

*“With the flames extinguished, the smoke clear and a new sun risen over Paris, the French got a heartening confirmation on Tuesday: The Cathedral of Notre-Dame still stands.*

*It is scorched, battered and missing its spire and much of its roof, but the 800-year-old Gothic masterwork that symbolized both a place and a culture is a monument to be repaired, not mourned.*

*Indeed, even as firefighters scoured the ashes and debris for any lingering embers, and investigators worked to determine the cause of the blaze, the French authorities were putting in motion an international fund-raising drive to reconstruct the landmark.”*



One of the most poignant experiences of their trip was their walk-about around the mural-decked wooden fences that enclose the restoration work going on at Notre Dame. Almost immediately, the world replied to this tragedy. They sent their tools and craftsmen, and masons and money. They sent crews to repair crumbled stones and ancient musical instruments. Hand-in-hand their artists committed to tell a forever story of abundant hearts. The murals around the building today are testament to the *millions* of creative efforts to fund and restore. The efforts of our world neighbors to sustain a dream of hope and restoration fills our spirits.

### Best food on the trip!

Every day the chef at Les Papilla's goes to the market and returns to his small kitchen with armloads of fresh and seasonal produce. Every day he puts on his creative-chef hat and designs a Market Menu. *Voila*, your dinner is on the stove. The owner arrives at your table with a chalk board; every guest will have exactly the same four courses, the same market-fresh delicacies.

No special orders (everything is special). The owner describes the tantalizing ingredients and how they are sautéed, smoked, infused or stewed. He repeats this recitation to every guest who arrives. “Our first taste is magical, buttery, delicate and convincing. We have never tasted anything as good,” claims Sue.

Thank you, Sue and Maggie, for sharing your photos and memories with OLLI Life readers.

Secretary Dick  
Riley, Ambassador  
David Wilkins and  
Representative  
Chandra Dillard



presented the  
Order of the  
Palmetto to  
Mable Owens Clarke  
of Liberia, SC at a  
special ceremony, on  
Nov. 17th at Furman.

This is South  
Carolina's highest  
civilian award granted  
by Governor  
McMaster.

Mrs. Clarke was  
honored with this  
award for her lifetime  
of service, and  
commitment to  
community building.  
Read more about  
Mable Owens Clarke  
in a [recent Post and  
Courier article](#).

Thank you Mable for  
your service and for  
all the wonderful Fish  
Fries over the years.

*Sometimes we  
meet a person along life's way*



*and walk  
together  
if only  
for  
a little  
while . . .*

*and it makes  
all the difference*

*Author Unknown*

# OLLI Remembers



**Ron Bryson, 77, died on 9/12/2022**

Ron began as a Core Performance Trainer and Opera and Classical Composers Instructor at OLLI in 2013 and since that time he had taught 58 classes. He left his home at 7am to beat the traffic and be at OLLI to warm up at 8am for the 9am class. Then his classical and music classes followed. Ron was dedicated to enriching the lives of others and continued to strive to getting back to teaching. He will be greatly missed by many.

*Tribute by Dave Kral*



**Bob Thorn, 81, died on 8/30/2022**

Bob Thorn was passionate about history—the South, the Civil War and even art. He took classes about these at FULIR, then OLLI. He was an avid hiker, and had mastered many area trails. His hiking friends have established the Bob Thorn Fund at Conestee Nature Preserve, and a plaque in his memory can be found at the East Bay observation deck. The photo shows Bob on a hike perusing a birthday card painted by Jeanne Blinkoff.

*Tribute by Martha Severens*

**Rich Pouliot, 77, died on 9/21/2022**



Rich was a bigger than life personality who always had a big smile and never met a stranger. He served many times as Class Liaison and was an At Large member of the OLLI Council from 2015 to 2018. He loved making calls to new members inviting them to meet him at the New Member Orientation so he could introduce them to OLLI. Rich was a much loved member of the OLLI High Country Hikers where his enthusiasm encouraged us all.

*Tribute by Steve Davis*



**Dant Goepper, 76, died on 11/28/2022**

Dant was a part of OLLI for over 20 years. He was a commanding presence in the classroom and loved the dialogue and debate with his students. Many former students and clients have offered special memories and reflections that pay tribute to his wit, knowledge, and passion for teaching the joys and challenges of personal finance to adult learners.

*Tribute by Robby Flink*



**Rev. John Rush, 83, died 10/15/2022**

After retirement as a UMC Minister, John enrolled in the OLLI program. He was OLLI's most enthusiastic supporter in Greer and recommended the program to many. John possessed intellectual curiosity, a thirst for life long learning, and a love for people. He was a supportive classmate who was noted for his dry wit and class contributions. We gratefully acknowledge the passing of our friend and colleague and remember him fondly.

*Tribute by Marion Waters*

**Estelle Ross, 94, died on 9/28/2022**

A native New Yorker, Estelle was an avid reader and member of book clubs. She started attending classes at OLLI 20 years ago. Her favorite classes were on Political Science, the Arts and Women's History. Her two granddaughters both attended Furman University and she would meet them at the student center as often as possible.

*Tribute by Natalina Ferlauto*

**Lee Marinelli - Tribute by Ray Roback**

Lee became interested in photography and took courses in photography at OLLI to improve his skills. This is where I met Lee in one of my classes. He lived near me and as such became closer friends while we went out both eating and shooting photography. Lee was an easygoing individual, calm, educated, mannered, meticulous to detail and an avid reader. He was a good friend and companion and is missed.

## OLLI would also like to acknowledge the passing of:

**Lamar Fleming - 83, 8/14/2022**

**Skip Swearingen - 83, 9/12/2022**

**Emily Melton - 78, 8/23/2022**

**Joan Burns - 76, 9/25/2022**

