



OLLI Life

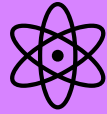


Learning, Laughter, Friendships

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman



**Special
Interest
Groups**



**Lunch &
Learning**

May 2023

YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES HERE



Issue #18

Arsenic and Old Lace receives a 5 star review

"Let's not exaggerate! At some time there may have been a funnier murder charade than *Arsenic and Old Lace*... but the supposition is purely academic. Joseph Kesselring has written one so funny none of us will ever forget it." (N.Y. Times, August, 1941).

Some eighty years later, those attending the OLLI Players recent production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* would surely agree.

Set in 1940s Brooklyn the dysfunctional Brewster family is determined to commit murder and create mayhem.

Directed by the inimitable Francine Hachem, whose uncanny talent for casting characters and coaching her actors to excel is laudable. Amy Taylor kindly assisted as stage manager.



The Brewster sisters were a chilling blend of poisonous intent and prim propriety.

Meanwhile, the Brewster brothers - Teddy, Mortimer and Jonathan - were hugely entertaining while running the gamut of crazy, zany and sinister.

Mortimer's fiancée, Elaine, was both delightful and charming with a perfect New York accent. Her father, Reverend Harper, played a most convincing "man of the cloth."



Francine Hachem director and Gayl Board Rein as Elaine

The set and costuming showed remarkable attention to detail. Libby Dasbach made many of the costumes by hand, including a stunning velvet cocoon coat from an original pattern by Paul Poiret. It was immaculate work.

Dr. Einstein was hilarious and had us in stitches as Jonathan's drunken sidekick. Her German accent was second to none.

The period style wallpaper, art, and antiques added to the show's carefully curated ambience.

Joan Huck played two different roles smoothly and nailed Weatherspoon's English accent. Joan proves the OLLI Players are a multi talented group indeed as she also produced posters and programs for the show.

Karen Bacharach and I enjoyed helping out wherever we were needed.

The three shows sold out completely, so get your tickets early next time for whatever delights the OLLI Players have up their sleeves.

Police Officers Rooney, Brophy, Klein and O'Hara (excellent Irish accent) provided a marvelous foil to the wicked Brewsters.

Written by Susan Sharpe.



Thank you Susan for sharing this wonderful experience with OLLI Members who may not have been able to attend the performances of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

If you are interested in joining this fun SIG group, they always need actors, carpenters, designers, stage managers, and many other roles of the theater. Contact Mary Robert at mary.robert51@icloud.com or Francine Hachem at fhachem@aol.com

Long-time OLLI Office Volunteer is taking a step back.



Jan Johnson has spent seven rewarding years volunteering in the OLLI Office on Monday mornings. From answering phone calls from members with questions, to cancelling Friday Bonus Events, to making happy calls to members who clear wait lists, she's been eager to help, always with a smile. The best part, Jan says, is working with the amazing OLLI staff. "It has been a pleasure to spend Monday mornings with them." Jan will continue to help out as a sub when needed, pending her busy retirement schedule.

News From OLLI Director Nancy Kennedy



In April, 14 other OLLI directors and I attended a symposium at the Osher National Resource Center. We were invited to talk about collaborations at our OLLIs and develop guidelines for all OLLI programs (there are 125!) for use when building collaborations at their colleges and in their communities.

I am always energized after spending time with fellow OLLI directors, and I'm grateful for the support provided by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC). Mr. Osher wisely provided funding to endow the NRC so that it will be able to continue to provide conferences, webinars, staff support, and referrals to OLLI directors, key volunteers, and staff. However, when I received the information to apply for the symposium, one of the questions they asked was for us to talk about collaborations between **our** OLLI and other groups. My first thought was that we didn't have any, but then I thought about it more and realized that almost everything we do is a collaboration.

We collaborate with other departments at Furman to bring new programming to OLLI and to provide intergenerational learning opportunities for OLLI members and undergraduate students. The Straight Talk summer lecture series is a prime example. OLLI partners with the Riley Institute on campus each year to present this series. (Watch for more

information about this summer's series which will examine "Our Fragile Democracy.")

We collaborate with community groups to bring new courses and special events to our membership. For many years, members of the Greenville Chorale's Herring Chamber Ensemble have offered a holiday concert at the Herring Center. They also offer discounted concert tickets to OLLI members.

In March, I attended the Metropolitan Arts Council's annual meeting to accept, on behalf of OLLI@Furman, MAC's Business and the Arts Partnership Award. (see photo) We are grateful for the honor, and for being nominated by The Greenville Chorale.



These are just a few examples. What other collaborations can we develop to enrich our program? I'd love to hear your ideas!

For comments, suggestions or article submissions for the OLLI Life Newsletter, please contact Jean Hess, at jean.hess66@gmail.com or 352-231-2827

NOTES FROM THE EDGE OF LIFE

Dear Noah,
We could have sworn you said the ark wasn't leaving till 5.
Sincerely,
Unicorns

The Making of a Friday Bonus Event



Scheduling dynamic bonus events each term begins with a dynamic, insightful and creative subcommittee. Team members use their expertise to contact individuals and organizations who have the opportunity to provide a unique source of knowledge or whose influence in the upstate enhances the energetic spirit within Furman-OLLI and Greenville community.

Like the proverbial “snowball effect,” the more successful we become, the more publicity which, in turn, generates more course offerings. Subsequently, each term we’re able to offer 35-40 programs and generally have a waitlist of these programs that must be postponed until a later semester. Having reached capacity for the fall term this April, we are now scheduling for winter and spring 2024. Can it get any better?!

Logistically, coordinating the time/date for each course on the scheduling grid can be a juggling act. There are phone calls, emails, texts and the inevitable cancellations. Some presenters have specific time restraints. Subsequently reshuffling of courses is a continuous process. Nonetheless, the system functions very efficiently with the omnipresent support of the OLLI staff!

The scheduling grid is generally completed several weeks prior to the deadline for the course brochure. What follows is a myriad of

reviews to ensure correctness of course placement for times, dates, directions to off

campus sites, cost to participants, and needs of the presenter.

Inevitably, once the course brochure has been published, a few problems arise: (1) course facilitators have a change of plans, (2) a few classes don’t enroll a minimum number of members, and (3) most regrettably, given all this work, is the frequent number of no-shows. This is especially discouraging when people are waitlisted for the course, the instructor has prepared for an expected number of people in the classroom, and now there are empty seats. No-shows place a burden on so many volunteers who have diligently worked to make this happen.

Editors Note: Gregory Bechtel humbly states that “I seemed to have been plucked out of nowhere to lead this subcommittee . . .” but, Gregory is not new to working with other committees and already has a reputation as a hard worker and being very dependable. Thank you Gregory for all you do to enhance the OLLI experience for the members.

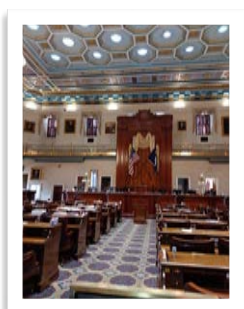
Post Pandemic Jigsaw Puzzle Glut
So many to choose from . . . Visit the OLLLI Book Nook and choose one that speaks to you!



Off to Columbia, SC with OLLI !

Nine eager OLLI members boarded a bus at 8:30 in the morning, on April 24 for a two-day trip to explore Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. It is a two-hour ride from Furman straight down I-26.

Our first stop in Columbia was the Capitol Building. The original Capitol was in Charles Town in the 1700s but it was moved to Columbia around 1786. This location made it easier for people all over the state to reach the Capitol.



Our knowledgeable guide pointed out the working of the Senate and the House. She explained the seating of the delegates and how bills were discussed and passed. Each chamber had portraits of former governors and other important political figures. A large statue of John Calhoun stands in the lobby. Governor Henry McMaster and Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (from Travelers Rest) have offices in the capitol building.

We explored the Capitol grounds with its 28 statues honoring patriots from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. There are also statues of politicians, and a statue of the symbols of South Carolina - the Palmetto Tree and Crescent Moon.

A bit more bus touring and then checking into the Cambria Hotel. Time to relax before going to dinner at The Blue Marlin Restaurant, a short walk from the hotel. It was an excellent meal in a lovely setting and everyone enjoyed the evening.

On Tuesday we visited the South Carolina Governor's Mansion. It had been newly redecorated and was so beautiful. We were

treated to a visit from the Governor's English Bulldog, Mack. He followed us through the house and had his picture taken many times.

After lunch in West Columbia, our next stop was the South Carolina History and Archives Center where we saw several ancient documents that are kept in special refrigerated cabinets. One document was from the 1600s and hand printed on calf skin! The Archives have over 45,000 documents safely stored in a brick building so they can never be lost in a fire.



One more stop at the Trinity Episcopal Church. It is the oldest surviving sanctuary in Columbia. The cornerstone was laid in March 1814 and the building is in the Gothic Revival style. It was saved from the burning of Columbia as were many



homes. The people of Columbia gathered here to sign the papers of secession starting the Civil War. Our guide had so much to share.

Time to head back to Furman. The two days went by quickly and we all enjoyed everything that we saw and did. We

covered just the first few pages of the history book on SC's capital.

There is much more to see in Columbia and many reasons to return!

Thank you Suzie Eihl for this informative article and pictures from OLLI's trip to Columbia.

What'd You Bring to the Antique Fest?

On Friday, April 21, between 150 and 200 OLLI folks showed off their prized possessions, some of which were worth thousands! Our speakers were well



received, informing members about ceramics around the world, how to share the value of their antiques, how to care for furniture, and evaluate the safety of vintage lighting. The expert appraisers were kept busy all day with people wanting to find out if they had a prize!

Some of the highlights included a life-size cutout of Ronald Reagan, a tall metal vase that had been converted into a lamp, a colorful majolica parrot that was one of a pair, many pieces of heirloom china, and a variety of old books. Project Host and Ji-Roz food trucks, in the parking lot, were kept busy, as were members of the Social Committee, who were monitoring speakers and appraisers to make sure everyone had a chance to enjoy a lunch break.



If you'd like to patronize the shops of the appraisers who participated, visit The Rock House, where you'll find Keith McCurry, Mary Lawson from The Polished Antique, and Tim Cox from J.A.H. Antiques-Designs-Estate Sales. Also participating were Trey Sherman, from Greystone Antiques; Jerry Anderson from Angel's Book Shoppe; Chris Honnen from Broken Oak Restoration; and Nik Franks from Noble Nostalgia.

Thank you Anne Doyle for sharing this fun day with OLLI Life readers.

Happy Retirement Susan

Have fun with those adorable grandbabies.



Where does time go? When I first began my part-time job at OLLI in 2010, who would have thought I would be sitting here writing about retirement after 13 years?

OLLI and its members have been such a big part of my life. Will I miss it? Of course. I will miss the job, but more so the people. I have made so many new friends that I couldn't begin to list them.

I want to thank each of you for your time and friendship. And I hope it has been as much fun for you as it has for me.

For my co-workers - there is not enough room here to talk about what our team has meant to me.

But my grandchildren are calling and Lolli will answer – every time. So it is time to hop off the OLLI merry-go-round that I hope flourishes and get busy crossing off the 14 Major League Baseball stadiums remaining on our bucket list.

*Susan Rae
Associate Director
OLLI @ Furman*

Star Trek

From whence inspiration comes.

Bill Bradshaw and I are teaching a class called "Challenging Issues From the Star Trek Universe II." On Thursday, March 30, I was reviewing with the class, an episode of Star Trek The Next Generation entitled "The Inner Light." This episode is reputed to be Patrick Stewart's favorite because he was removed from his role as captain of the Enterprise and thrust into the society of a long dead civilization. His own son was featured as the adult son of his character in this episode. The episode explores family and village life on the planet Katan and its role in the formation of a person's identity and character. Additionally, this life actually is virtual and exists only in the mind of the captain. It is an attempt by this long dead people to reach into the future with a glimpse of who they were and the value that their lost civilization contained. When he returns to his life on the Enterprise, a single token of the lost people is retained in the "Resiken Flute" that he spent a virtual lifetime mastering. With the skill he mastered, Picard plays a haunting melody that reminds him of those he loved, so long gone. During the class conversation William (Bill) Burns wrote the following poem:

*What we Were
How We Lived
To Fully Know Our Hope
In the Depths of Our Despair
The Flute is the Song of Our
Civilization*

William Burns (March 30, 2023)

Thank you William for sharing this lovely poem and John Myers (instructor) for submitting this article.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception



Many members participated in the afternoon get-together, as an appreciation of OLLI volunteers



There was something for everyone on this buffet



Could not get enough of these cookies

OLLI at Furman thrives on member involvement and is led by a volunteer council. OLLI encourages everyone to be a part of the OLLI community by volunteering in some capacity within the program.

There is a description of many different opportunities for volunteering in the OLLI catalogue or contact Heidi Wright at heidi.wright@furman.edu or 864-294-2997
Thank you!

Many thanks to Lynda Fredsell for her assistance in proofreading this issue of OLLI Life.

You help us all look good!

The 30th Anniversary Celebration Committee: SAVE THE DATE

This is the thirtieth year for OLLI at Furman. This academic year 2,154 OLLI members have enjoyed learning and socializing through OLLI. The 30th Committee is planning a very memorable evening to celebrate this important milestone year. **Thirty & Thriving** is the motto and the evening event is being referred to as *The 30th*.

The 30th will be held for all OLLI members on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, in the Ballroom, at the Greenville Convention Center. The evening will include a reception, delicious sit down dinner, cocktails, music, entertainment, and prizes.

There were 535 people in attendance in 2018 at the 25th celebration. The planning

committee is anticipating 600 or more people to attend in 2023.

Please save the date and come celebrate The 30th with OLLI friends and staff.

The 30th Celebration Committee:

Cheryl Cotner, Doug Dorman, Chip Downing, Naomi Downing, Doug Harper, Susan Herring, Eileen McCarthy, Marian Purdue, Marge Scieszka, Deb Willingham.

Thank you Cheryl for sending this SAVE THE DATE message. We look forward to The 30th Celebration!



OLLI Remembers



When the death of Gordon Herring was announced, there was a sense of sadness throughout the OLLI@Furman community. Many remember during the fundraising for our building we were at an impasse and not sure how to proceed. In stepped Gordon with a gift and challenge to the membership and, as a result, we have an outstanding facility for our program. When Gordon visited or took a class at OLLI you could see his smile and know he was pleased with the results of his generous contribution.

His generosity to OLLI and to Furman has been such a wonderful gift. However, Gordon's greatest gifts were his compassion for others and how he treated everyone as an equal and a friend. He will be remembered and missed. It has been our privilege and honor that he smiled down on us in a time of great need. OLLI will be forever grateful to him.



Thank you Bob Howell
for this tribute to Mr. Herring