

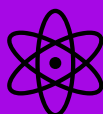


# OLLI Life



## Learning, Laughter, Friendships

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman



Sept. 2023

YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES HERE



Issue 19



### Meet Alex Fagan

Alex Fagan is OLLI's new Program Coordinator for Curriculum. Alex has a Secondary Education Degree from Clemson, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of Southern California.

After teaching Human Geography and History at Greenville High School for twelve years, he moved from the classroom to administration.

Alex was familiar with OLLI and was pleased when he was offered the Program Coordinator position.

Alex grew up in Irmo, SC. His wife, Kate, is a gifted painter, and the youth minister at the First Presbyterian Church. Furman purchased one of Kate's paintings which is now hanging on the wall on the Herring Center's lower level. The Fagans have two children: a three-year-old daughter and a four-month-old son.

Alex has traveled to sixteen countries, as well as the American West. He enjoys playing golf, reading non-fiction, and taking photos.

Drop by the office and welcome Alex to OLLI.

Thank you Gary & Judy Aten for this interview!



### Meet Meadow Knapp

Please welcome OLLI's newest student worker, Meadow, a returning junior at Furman this semester.

Meadow was born in Atlantic City, NJ, but has lived in Greenville since middle school. Her long-term goal is to become a Librarian and work in the Greenville area.

Meadow attended Furman for two years before transferring to the University of South Carolina. She has returned to Furman for an environment more conducive to her studies.

In her spare time (if there is any), she enjoys reading, crocheting, and baking. Her first crocheting project was a 30-foot-long scarf. That will come in handy as she states that she is always cold.

This is Meadow's first job, and she declares that working in the OLLI office is great. Whenever she mentions OLLI, she breaks into a wide smile. Drop by the office and say hello to Meadow. It's worth it just to see that smile.

Thank you Gary & Judy Aten for this interview!

## A message from OLLI Council President, Kathy Roed

As your new OLLI President, and on behalf of the OLLI Council, I would like to welcome new and returning members to OLLI for the Fall term. This is an especially exciting year for OLLI@Furman because it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our program! As with all special anniversaries, we will be celebrating *in style* with a gala at



Greenville's TD Convention Center on December 5th. Be sure to mark your calendar and be on the lookout for more information on what promises to be a great evening for all OLLI members! I know you are as enthusiastic as I am to take advantage of all that our OLLI@Furman program has to offer. We are an active and thriving community of learners! In the next two years as OLLI President, I will work closely with Doug Dorman, our new OLLI VP, the OLLI Council, and our many volunteer committee members to ensure that you have an exceptional OLLI@Furman experience.

What is the "OLLI@Furman Experience," you're wondering? It's an opportunity for members to enroll in a wide variety of classes

given by knowledgeable and dedicated instructors, to attend interesting bonus events, to learn new skills, and to socialize with other members. Be sure to read Jessica's *OLLI Notes* each week. They will keep you apprised of announcements regarding current and upcoming opportunities to engage with your OLLI classmates at various events at the Herring Center and other venues on and off the Furman University campus.

I encourage you to take full advantage of *all* the benefits of your membership. Check out *Tuesday's Lunch and Learns*. No need to sign up! Just come and enjoy some very interesting topics at lunchtime. *Special Interest Groups* (SIGs) continue to offer a chance to pursue your specific interests with other like-minded OLLI members. Our *Mystery* and *Rogue Reader* book clubs always welcome new members interested in discussing great books. Finally, opportunities to volunteer abound and can genuinely enrich your OLLI@Furman experience.

I wish you a beautiful fall season of learning and fun!

Kathy

- Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
- As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.
- Calm: What you are usually urged to remain around the time the third engine on the aircraft has failed.

## Nancy Kennedy, OLLI Director, answers some of your survey questions.

Last fall, many of you responded to the Osher National Survey. We are one of 14 OLLI programs that participate in this survey every other year. I appreciate your taking the time to answer, as we use the data and responses to improve our program.



I have been reviewing the open-response answers and have found several questions. It seems appropriate to use this space to answer those questions.

1. **Courses sometimes fill quickly. Is it possible to offer a second section of popular courses?** Maybe. Because our instructors are all volunteers, we can't require them to offer another section of a popular course. We also have to consider room availability, and whether those on the waiting list can take the course at a different time. So, it's complicated. However, we have had instructors generously offer a second section and it's always appreciated by the class members.
2. **I see several comments about poor sound quality in class, and instructors not using the provided microphones.** We ask ALL instructors to use the microphones. "My voice carries" is not an appropriate response; if a class member has a hearing problem, the voice does not carry to them. If you are in a class and the instructor is not using the microphone, I'm happy to address this with them. Just come by the office to let me know.
3. **Is a Nationwide OLLI membership possible?** In short, the answer is no. The

joke at OLLI conferences is that "if you've seen one OLLI, you've seen one OLLI." Each program exists independently at its host university. There are different pricing models, different term lengths, different course lengths, and different types of course offerings. Some programs pay their instructors, while many others, Furman included, benefit from volunteer instructors. For these reasons and many more, establishing a national membership fee is problematic. The Osher National Resource Center IS piloting a program that allows multiple OLLIs to offer the same Zoom courses to their members. We are not yet part of that program, but may one day have a chance to try it out.

4. **Two people lamented the distance they live from campus and wished courses were available closer to home.** I hope these writers (and all of you!) know that we are offering courses at Rolling Green Village, a retirement community on Greenville's eastside. These courses are open to any OLLI member, and are a nice option for people who don't want to drive 30 minutes to Furman.

And, of course, there were more questions and comments. I'll continue to find ways to respond to them, and I hope if you have concerns or questions you'll let someone know. The OLLI staff, as well as our volunteer leaders serving on OLLI Council, are always happy to speak with you.

I hope you enjoy the Fall Term. Stop by my office to tell me what you like and what opportunities for improvement you see.

Nancy

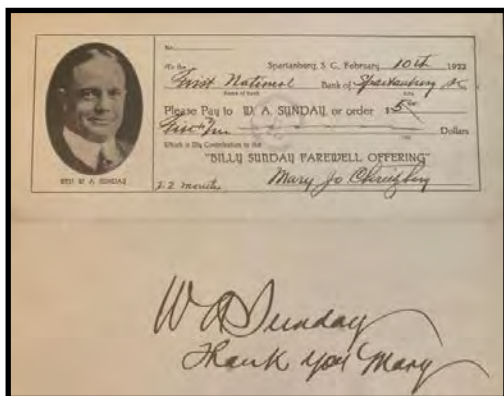


# Inherited Surprises and Treasures

When Momma died in 2016, I volunteered to be the repository of her “papers.” These papers included a multitude of photos, clippings, diplomas, and historical books, as well as her detailed genealogical research into our ancestors on both sides of her family. I purchased the most enormous binder I could find to replace hers, as hers was wrapped with a belt to keep it together.

I also inherited Granddaddy’s stamp collection from an aunt. Among those materials were hidden bills of sale. I didn’t need to be on “Finding Your Roots” to realize that my ancestors owned individuals. Slaves. This was disturbing to say the least, and I felt I needed to find the proper place for these documents.

One day over the summer, while studying the Kirby family tree, I realized that since most of these ancestors were Spartanburg natives, I needed to contact the Archives of the Spartanburg County Public Library instead of the Greenville County Library or Upcountry History Museum. So, I made an appointment



*Billy Sunday revival meeting,  
1922*

with the Collections Manager and gathered a small assortment of materials, including the bills of sale, and a signed and dated receipt

from a Billy Sunday Farewell Offering from a revival meeting in 1922.

These documents were so well received that I volunteered to gather more materials for another visit. The bills of sale were also enthusiastically received, since the names and dates listed would assist local African Americans in researching their own genealogy. Little did I know.



I have now gathered two boxes of photo album binders, historical books, and my Garden Club President Granny’s detailed garden plan, all ready for my second visit to the archives.

I may hold on to some items, but at least I’ll know that long after I’m gone, these donated materials will be secure and may be of value to others.

**Thank you Anne Doyle for this heartfelt article with a peek into your family’s history.**

## OLLI volunteers see the fruition of the homeless housing project.

By James T. Hammond

Jim Carroll (OLLI member) was looking for a public service project several years ago when he heard the Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore make a presentation about the dire need for new housing to shelter Greenville's homeless population.



Moved to action by the Triune Mercy Center director, Carroll recruited an informal group of OLLI members to develop a plan to help the homeless and to raise the money to pay for that outreach to the poorest among us. His cadre of volunteers varied over the years, from a dozen people to several dozen. They saw their project slammed with the COVID epidemic, the resulting inflation and supply chain issues, and the increased difficulty of reaching out to potential donors.

The plan that emerged from the OLLI group called for a facility with 36 one-bedroom apartments, plus a center where mental health and other services for the homeless could be delivered. Originally estimated to cost less than \$4 million, the chaotic economy caused the cost to balloon to almost \$10 million. But Carroll's band of OLLI members were undaunted. They worked patiently through the COVID lockdown, determined not to give up. Carroll's volunteers became a keystone piece as it turned out in raising money from private donors.

Tom Faulkner, a veteran campaigner in Upstate efforts to provide affordable housing, pitched in to



provide liaison with local and state government resources and major non-profit organizations. From Faulkner's perspective, Carroll's group's input, passion, and leadership was

“huge,” and necessary to see the project through to completion. Faulkner helped bring resources from the S.C. State Housing Authority, the Greenville Housing Fund, and the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority to the table. GCRA initially pledged \$280,000, for example, then increased its contribution by \$225,000 when costs exploded during COVID.

The project, known as Church Street Place, will be owned and operated by United Housing Connections, a non-profit organization with experience serving Greenville's homeless population. The project is taking physical form under construction at 50 Church Street in the Poe

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Mill neighborhood (not to be confused with the Church Street thoroughfare in downtown Greenville.)

According to the Greenville housing alliance, in 2019, more than 3,600 men, women, and children experienced homelessness. The region's multifaceted outreach to the homeless population aims to meet their immediate needs for food, shelter, and health care. Eventually, the agencies seek to move them into permanent housing, address their mental and other health needs, and in the best cases, help them find work and become self-sustaining.

Jim Carroll says his group's work is not finished. Once construction is completed on Church Street Place, his group aims to resume fund-raising to help outfit the center with furniture and other goods necessary for its operation.

Carroll's group started with a group presentation at OLLI to recruit new volunteers. "This would not be happening without the OLLI group," Carroll said. His group is a demonstration of the impact a dedicated group of volunteers can have on the lives

of the most desperate members of our society.

"We started with a bonus event at OLLI," Carroll said. "About 60 people showed up. Then about 20 signed up to put their shoulder to the wheel."

For more information or to join this amazing group, contact Jim Carroll at [carrjp@charter.net](mailto:carrjp@charter.net)

**Update from Jim Carroll:** "We have been coasting for a while and decided to turn our attention to another community project. We're currently partnered with First Steps and exploring the area of early childhood education and what we might do to help with an increase and/or expansion of child daycare centers of which there is a dire dearth having negative social and economic consequences."

(James T. Hammond is an OLLI member and serves on the board of the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority.)

Thank you Jim for submitting this informative article and highlighting this remarkable group.



Oh, what fun we had!



Whether we were (quite loudly) mimicking animal sounds in a procession around the room, reciting lines, or doing improv, everyone had an exciting afternoon.

The summer Acting and Performing Class, led by Francine Hachem with assistance from Gayl Board Rein, was more fun than any of us ever imagined.



All students felt that they were very much supported and were able to grow in confidence from this experience. We were encouraged and complimented every step of the way.

Because it was a summer class, it was just four short weeks long, and we were all saddened when it was over.

Come step out of your comfort zone and give it a try! You will have fun.

## A Gathering of Lifelong Learning Programs



The Clemson University OLLI Program hosted the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement at its Madren Conference Center from July 17-19. Over 200 participants from OLLIs all over the southeast United States enjoyed informative and inspirational sessions, including Cultivating Greater Community and Belonging for Lifelong Learners, Constantly Moving Forward with Student Participation and Growth, and The Pillars of Lifelong Learning Institute Sustainability.

Representing OLLI at Furman were Nancy Kennedy, Heidi Wright, Pam Roberson, Mary Beth Steck, Gayle Brown, Marian Purdue, Alex Fagan, John Bissell, Tony Caruso, Doug Dorman, Grady Jordan, and Erick Ayers.

Comradery was high as we shared ideas and wishes for our programs.

We're excited about presenting this experience and knowledge to the OLLI Council and finding new ways to enhance our program.

Thank you Gayle Brown for sharing this recap of the conference with OLLI Life readers.



### What is sustainability, and how can you help?

On pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter, you will find a copy of the Sustainability Brochure developed by the Sustainability 101 Class (Winter 2023). It explains what sustainability is and how you can help by playing your part in protecting the Upstate's natural environment. Help spread the word!



# OLLI Travels to Ireland

by Walter and Carol Hinton

From Monasterboice in the east to Mizen Head in the west, the 12-day OLLI tour of Ireland gave 24 OLLI members an in-depth look at Ireland in prehistoric, medieval, and modern times.

Arriving in Dublin on June 12, we were picked up by our driver, Paddy, in our tour bus.

Right away we started with the ancient - a visit to the Fourknocks passage tomb in County Meath. Rising in a farmer's field, the 2,500 to 3,000-year-old tomb contains burial chambers surmounted by carved megaliths. Later, we visited the Drombeg Stone Circle in County Cork in the west, 17 large stones aligning with the sun on the winter solstice.



*Drombeg Stone Circle, erected around the 2nd century BC*



*OLLI group at Rock of Cashel*

County Tipperary, a limestone outcropping rising high above the surrounding plain. Legend has it that St. Patrick converted the king at the Rock in the fifth century.

We also visited Jerpoint Abbey in County Kilkenny, established in 1180 by the Cistercian order, which eschewed elaborate designs and stained glass. Our final stop at an early Christian site was Clonmacnoise alongside the River Shannon. It is the ruin of a monastery founded in 544. It was a

major center of faith, learning, and commerce for centuries. Later, we toured Glendalough, a monastic village founded by St. Kevin in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It includes ruined churches and a 30-meter round tower. Perhaps the most historic location we toured was the Rock of Cashel in

major center of faith, learning, and commerce for centuries.

We visited castles, including Trim Castle by the River Boyne in Trim, County Meath. It was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to symbolize the then-new Anglo-Norman ascendancy over Ireland.



*Kilkenny Castle*

This British ascendancy endured for 800 years until the time of Irish independence. In the city of Kilkenny, we toured the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Kilkenny Castle owned for many centuries by a Norman family who ruled the surrounding area.

A leading figure in the Irish War of Independence was Michael Collins. We made a special visit to the Michael Collins Centre in County Cork, containing many artifacts associated with Collins, where we heard a presentation about Collins' life and the controversy over his killing on a nearby road in 1922.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to Garinish Island, a 57-acre preserve off Glengarriff, County Cork.



*Mizen Head*

The island is warmed by currents from the Gulfstream. A planted perimeter of tall trees keeps cold breezes away from the surface, allowing specimen plants and trees to thrive in exquisite gardens and throughout

the island. Also spectacular was Mizen Head, a rocky promontory at the extreme southwestern corner of Ireland.

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During the trip, the group stayed in classic local hotels.

Dining highlights included Kyteler's, a restaurant and pub in Kilkenny, with folk music in the evenings.

Man Friday restaurant in



Kinsale was also memorable. The dinners at Seaview House, our hotel in Ballylickey, were quite good as well. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we returned to Dublin for an overnight stay and our homecoming the following day.



Celtic High Cross at Clonmacnoise

Many thanks to Walter and Carol Hinton for sharing details and photos of this spectacular OLLI trip.



Pepper harvest was non-stop, and is still going strong.

Do you have any overachievers in your garden? This year has seen a bumper crop of peppers for us. Red ones, orange and yellow ones, small snack-size (not hot) mini-red ones — you name it; they're out there.

Here's one dish we really enjoy: Stir-fry sliced peppers until tender-crisp, add canned or fresh diced tomatoes, a can of black or red kidney beans, and some seasoning. We use lots of turmeric, salt and pepper, and whatever else strikes our fancy. I use canned tomatoes with green chilis for an extra zing. Put the concoction on a tomato and basil wrap, add sliced pepper jack cheese, and heat through in the microwave until the cheese melts. YUM!

Another great option is stuffed peppers. We've made traditional stuffed peppers with Spanish rice and taco-flavored stuffed peppers for variety.

So, what else can you do when you have a freezer full of meals prepared with peppers, and you've given them away to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers? You get out the handy dandy food



Dehydrated pepper strips

dehydrator and make nice, crunchy, chewy, nutritious little nibbles that are just perfect for between-meal snacking.

We've never done a winter garden and would appreciate hearing from readers about what and when to plant this fall.

Please send ideas to to [jean.hess66@gmail.com](mailto:jean.hess66@gmail.com)

All suggestions are welcome.

If you have a story to tell, please consider writing an article for the OLLI Life Newsletter. We love articles from 200 to 300 words and they can be of anything that is of interest to you. Perhaps you have a story to tell about doing your genealogy, or have read a fabulous book that you would like to mention. If you enjoy a particular hobby/craft, have a favorite hiking trail, or have found a special bird watching location, we would love to read about it. (No worries about grammar — we have fabulous proofreaders.) Just send in your articles!

Jean Hess, Editor, OLLI Life Newsletter  
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Thank you to the OLLI, September 2023, proofreaders Steven Brandt — Lynda Fredsell, for making us all look good in print!



# OLLI Remembers



Bob Peden, died on May 17, 2023, at 71.

Bob was my brother-in-law for almost 45 years. He was a "gentle" man and as fine a man as I have known.

Bob was a proud Furman alum, and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, serving in Korea, Iraq (Desert Storm), and Somalia.

Bob enjoyed OLLI and the friends he made there, until he was unable to attend.

Bob Peden was the consummate husband, father, grandfather and friend.

*Thank you Chip Martin for this thoughtful tribute.*



Dwight Donald, died on May 6, 2023, at 64.

OLLI members who knew Dwight were deeply saddened by his sudden passing.

Dwight's extraordinary gift for expression through his poetry and short stories moved all those who were fortunate enough to share a visit, a round of golf or a class with him.

A graduate of SC State University, his eloquence about family, nature and events in his native state always seemed to hit the mark.

His volume of poetry "Annular" is available in the OLLI Book Nook or through Amazon.

*Thank you Allen Stevenson for this thoughtful tribute.*



Dick Lambrecht, died on May 24, 2023, at 93.

Dick enjoyed many music and history classes at OLLI. He had been an engineer at Kemet Corp and sang with the Greenville Chorale.

Dick and his wife Margaret had seven children, 21 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

He loved classical music and was a talented baritone. He enjoyed traveling and building hit-and-miss engines from scratch.

*Thank you Connie Irby for this thoughtful tribute.*



Cantey DuBose, died on May 10, 2023, at 96.

Cantey was a Presbyterian minister for 35 years and a self-taught artist. He taught pen and ink drawing to countless FULIR/ OLLI members for years. He served as President of FULIR and offered his pen and ink work to FULIR fundraising auctions.

Cantey was also interested in the Gullah-Geechee language of the Carolina and Georgia Sea Islands and gave a presentation on the ancient language of enslaved Africans.

Cantey and his wife Liz continued to attend classes together until just a few years ago. He was beloved by everyone.

*Thank you Natalina Ferlauto for this thoughtful tribute.*



# A **SMALL** GUIDE TO CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE IN THE CHALLENGES OF **CLIMATE WARMING**

## IN MY TRAVEL



- Consolidate errands + appointments
- Consider switching to electric cars
- Explore carbon offsets for flights
- Walk to nearby locations
- Bring your own containers for leftovers at restaurants

## IN MY HOME



- Try Meatless Mondays
- Use appliances off peak
- Be water wise
- Use non-toxic cleaners
- Learn from where your energy comes from

## IN MY COMMUNITY



- Encourage city/ county to do recycling
- Support activism organisations
- Write letters to newspapers
- Speak at local schools
- Advocate at your HOA
- Use your voice and your vote

## IN MY PURCHASES



- Buy less/ buy natural fibers
- Avoid single use plastics
- Make a list and stick to it
- Bring reuseable bags
- Buy local when possible
- Consider consignment / thrift stores

## QUICK FACTS



- Americans are < 5% of the world population but use 17% of energy
- One fourth of all GHG emissions come from food, of which up to 80% is from raising animals
- Turn off your ignition if you're waiting for more than 10 seconds because restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idle

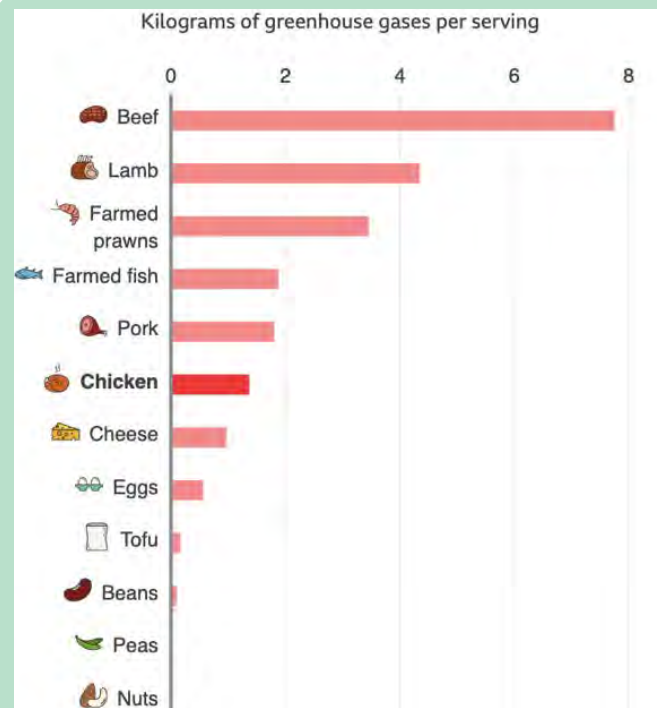
## THE GREATEST IMPACT TO SAVING THE PLANET IS

### BEING VEGAN

#### OTHER GREAT IMPACTS

- Support environmental non-profits (Upstate Forever, Sierra Club, etc)
- Learn how your bank is financing dirty energy
- Don't drive two days a week

## HOW CAN IT BE TRUE?



## WHAT IS GREENWASHING

Greenwashing is the process of providing misleading information to make people believe a company is doing more to protect the environment than it really is.

#### Greenwashing:

- takes attention away from real environmental threats
- helps brands to increase sales by deception
- takes advantage of people's goodwill

#### How to identify greenwashing in your purchases:

- Bypass the packaging and read the labels
- Look for proof of green practices (USDA, Non-GMO Verified)
- Do your research
- Watch out for phrases like non-toxic, eco-friendly, green, organic, etc

**42%** of companies sustainability credentials are *exaggerated, false, or deceptive*