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What a joy to know that this year will bring new or renewed friendships and engagement in lifelong learning at OLLI@Furman!*  Stop by the office to pick up a copy of the Winter edition of **OLLI*Life.*** Our Editor Jean Hess and her contributors deserve a round of applause for this wonderful issue!  **You may still register for Winter24 courses!**Take a look at the OLLI@Furman Winter24 Brochure**,**available to view on our website [**HERE**](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=b7b512baeb&e=2b19719a99) and find your next great course to take this winter. Please take note of the changes to the course brochure provided on the website. If you have any questions, please call the OLLI Office.  **Making Payment for Classes?** \*\*If you see have a balance on your account and would like to pay for it using your credit card, you can log into your account and then click on “My Account,” which is at the top of the page.  A box of several choices will open.  Select “Make a Payment,” and then choose “Credit or Debit card” on the payment choice, and proceed through the screens to complete the transaction\*\*  **If you need to drop a class,**please contact the OLLI Office. There is a $10 fee to drop, unless you are replacing with another class.  The last day to drop for a refund is Friday, January 19.  **ZOOM Classes:**If you are registered for a Zoom class, or the Zoom section of a hybrid class, you should receive an email with the Zoom link from one of our staff members the day before that class begins.  We hope you’ll find a way to **save your links,** as each class uses the same link throughout the term. If you can’t locate a link when it’s time for class, call the OLLI office and someone will be happy to help.  We encourage all OLLI members to wear a name tag with a clip at the upper shoulder level or with a lanyard ($3 in the OLLI Office). If you have requested a new name tag or you are a new member, stop by the front desk and check the name tag baskets. There are many unclaimed name tags ready for pickup.  If you are a returning member, we hope you can find your name tag to wear to class, but we are glad make a new one if needed. If you need a name tag, please make a request in the OLLI Office.  **OLLI Parking Passes for the 23/24** **calendar year are available** to pick up in the OLLI office. Remember there is no additional charge for the parking pass and it allows you to park in special designated areas on Furman University's campus. Parking forms are available online [HERE](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=6821d65cd2&e=2b19719a99) or in the OLLI office.   There is ROOM for YOU in the following **Friday Bonus Events**on **January 12!**If you would like to signup, please call the OLLI office at 864.294.2998.  *My Wife Mumbles* - 7 spots *The Four Agreements* - 2 spots *Intro to Radio Controlled Sailboat Racing* - 7 spots  ***Come Along and Travel with OLLI!***  **OLLI travelers will have marvelous opportunities to explore in 2024.  Spots are filling fast; don't miss your chance to experience these adventures!**  ***Exploring South Carolina: Georgetown***  **March 12 – 14, 2024**  Let’s explore South Carolina! We’ll travel by comfortable coach from Furman to the S.C. Low Country. We’ll spend two nights in the best location in Georgetown:t he brand new George Hotel, positioned between fun and quaint Front Street, and the Harborwalk, bordering the scenic Sampit River. It’s a great place for casual  (or serious) walking/ exploration of lovely Spaish-moss-draped residential neighborhoods, theboutiques that line Front Street, or the lovely river scene  Georgetown-colonial South Carolina’s third oldest enclave; named for King George II of England – is at the confluence of five rivers.. sort of. (we’ll do our counting on location!) That abundance of fresh water created the perfect conditions for the development of plantation-scale rice production, which continued until the Civil War. We’ll trace the legacy of the lost world of the enslaved and the “big house”families.  And we’ll see its “progression” into a post-Civil War system of freed communities and the “new landlords” (early 20th century); and into a remarkable, livable, sun- and water-splashed version of today’s South Carolina  ***OLLI @Furman Goes to Washington*** **April 29 – May 3**  Pack your walking shoes, your journal, and some of that good ole’ southern hospitality – we’re going to Washington, D.C.! Join a smallish group of OLLI members to explore sites and stories spilling from Capitol Hill and the National Mall, down the broad Potomac. We’ll spend four nights in a comfortable uptown hotel – not far from the White House – equipped with curiosity and a metro pass. We’ll explore DC’s classical architecture, learn about its origins and evolution while pursuing nationally important stories – often folded into the city’s monuments and memorials, and national museums. This will be a lovely adventure into Washington’s cosmopolitanism, identity, and functionality (… sure, laugh if you want). Free time to explore on your own will abound. We’ll strive for the perfect blend of group activities (timed group visits to the White House, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, for example) and individual choice (like which mall sites you want to visit during a free afternoon).  **Registration for these travel adventures is open in the OLLI office. Please stop by or call 864.294.2997 to register or for more information. Details can be found in the Winter Brochure or by contacting**[Heidi Wright](mailto:heidi.wright@furman.edu)**with questions.**  ***OLLI Happenings***  The **Winter 24 Baiden Art Display** submission call is OPEN! Our Winter show theme will be a prelude to the Spring Production of the OLLI Players who will be presenting***Steel Magnolias***in March, 2024.Some themes that run through the play include friendship, resilience, laughter, tears, pink and blush, spring in the South, the southern experience, and of course, Magnolias. You are welcome to add to the list! **Submissions will be accepted between January 4 - 11, 2024.** The Winter 24 display will run from Friday, January 12 - March 4, 2024.  An organizational meeting for a proposed **Stamp Collecting** Special Interest Group (SIG) will be on **Wednesday, January 17 @ 12:30 p.m. in Room 111** of the Herring Center. If interested or if you have any questions please email Lynn Duncan at [echoes92@charter.net](mailto:echoes92@charter.net)  **OLLI@Habitat SIG** **is** looking for volunteers who are willing to seriously commit to working on doors and trim on **January 27, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m** in the Nicholtown area. Note: No experience is required, as you'll learn on the job. Please contact to [Janet Aguilar](mailto:janetag1944@gmail.com) if you would like to participate and note your interest in working a half or full day.   Do you love to sing? The **OLLI Singers SIG** was formed to bring together those of who do! **This winter term Singers will meet on Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 at the Herring Center** to learn great Broadway show tunes and preparing for a performance at ShalomFest on April 7, as well as an OLLI Herring Center mini-concert in the Spring.  The OLLI Singers will sing other kinds of music in addition to show tunes, depending on the interests of the group. Our main goal is to have fun singing as a chorus! All you need is good pitch, and either some ability to read music or to pick up relatively quickly by ear.  **Please email Laura Becker at**[LLB330@gmail.com](mailto:LLB330@gmail.com)**if you are interested** in participating in The OLLI Singers (or accompanying the group on piano).  ***Save the Date !*** **"Celebrate Your State" Food Swap Potluck Luncheon** **Friday, January 26 from 1-3 pm**  Get ready to dive into a scrumptious journey across the heartland of flavors at the “Celebrate Your State Food Swap” potluck hosted by the OLLI social committee. It’s a food extravaganza that promises to whisk you away on a delectable adventure through the diverse tapestry of American cuisine. OLLI members will bring a favorite dish to share representing their home state (or any state they have lived in). More details will follow, but be thinking about what culinary tradition you want to bring to share. Let’s celebrate the rich and varied foods we grew up with.  ***Read and Explore with OLLI***  If you haven't picked up your copy of our big read for this winter, stop by the OLLI office. We will be sharing supporting events soon, including a viewing of *“October Sky,”* the film version of our book. We’ll learn about the development of NASA, enjoy book chats with fellow OLLI members, and more.  Watch your inbox for more information.  ***Rocket Boys***  by Homer Hickam  It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying.  Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickam nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. The introspective son of the mine superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood forever, Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its men alive.As the boys began to light up the tarry skies with their flaming projectiles and dreams of glory, Coalwood, and the Hickams, would never be the same. With the grace of a natural storyteller, NASA engineer Homer Hickam paints a warm, vivid portrait of the harsh West Virginia mining town of his youth, evoking a time of innocence and promise, when anything was possible. Lush and lyrical, Rocket Boys is a uniquely American memoir: A powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the end of the 1950s, of a mother’s love and a father’s fears, and of growing up and getting out.  **Please return your copy after reading so other members can enjoy it.**  The book is also available on Amazon (new paperback 9.99, used copies beginning at .99) and other online locations. There are 3 copies in the Greenville County library system plus audiobook. It’s available in Kindle as well as audiobook. You can also order a copy through your favorite local bookseller.  ***Furman Features*** **Climate Change Lecture Opportunity January 17 5:30-6:30 p.m.,** Watkins Room, Trone Student Center, Furman University. Exacerbated floods, heatwaves, wildfires and other physical changes in our natural world are endangering our health and safety. Why is it happening and what can we expect in the future?  Join a one-hour discussion of the basic science of climate change and how it is compromising the essentials of good health. During this non-partisan, science-based presentation, we’ll also discuss how we can innovate, mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.    Kathleen Biggins, resident and founder of nationally recognized C-Change Conversations, will lead the discussion. This event is sponsored by The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, **OLLI**, and the Biology and Earth and Environmental Science departments. For more information, contact Erikah Haavie at [erikah.haavie@furman.edu](mailto:erikah.haavie@furman.edu).  ***What's Happening in the Upstate***  World Affairs Council Upstate will present  ***Aiding or Eroding: The Influence of New Technologies on Democracy***  Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at Noon. Within the last decade, dozens of new technologies have emerged. The rise of these technologies has created a growing concern about global threats to democracy. What are the challenges that these technologies, particularly generative AI, present to democracies in the 21st century? How do these developments affect democracy? Why is democractic backsliding becoming more prevalent? How can democracies become more resilient? This event seeks to provide insight on these questions?  ***Beyond the Headlines****,* a World Affairs Council Upstate event, is a Lunch and Learn speaker series designed to present fact-based information on the most pressing global issues of today. **Attend for FREE or choose one option of lunch for $14.**This is a LIVE In-Person EVENT Presentations generally run from 12:00-1:30 with plenty of time after the presentation for a lively discussion &  to ask the speaker your specific questions. **Where: Kroc Center, 424 Westfield St., Greenville SC.**  [Register HERE.](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=f5e8714a79&e=2b19719a99)  **Greenville Symphony Orchestra**has two exciting events this month!  Visit the GSO website [HERE](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=1062aedd22&e=2b19719a99)for information and tickets.  ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert***at the Peace Center, Saturday, January 13, 1 pm and 7 pm performances, Sunday, January 14, 3pm  ***Peace Center Concert, Tales of Transformation***featuring Conductor Janna Hymes and cellist Joshua Roman. Saturday, January 20, 7:30 pm and Sunday, January 21, 3 pm.  The**Greenville Chautauqua Society**will share a *Charles Dickens Talk*led by Larry Bounds on **Tuesday, January 23, 7 – 8:30 pm.** This FREE event is a discussion, not an in-character performance. Hughes Main Library and Online. Find more information at this link [historycomesalive.org](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=edbdee48b1&e=2b19719a99)  **OLLI Photographers Take NOTE!** Last year left a lasting impression and GVLToday wants to commemorate it in the best way — through the inaugural **GVLtoday Picture of the Year contest.** Here’s everything you need to know to participate. Photo submissions are open today through Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 11:59 p.m. You are allowed to submit up to five photos, but each must have been taken by you during 2023. To sweeten the pot, anyone who submits a photo will receive 20% discount to use in our online marketplace, [Six & Main](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=503165a983&e=2b19719a99). Photo submissions must include a visual element that directly connects to Greenville. Examples include a photo from a local sporting event, music performance, festival, or other 2023 happening; a picture taken at a local park; or a shot that highlights a landmark in our city. Photos that do not include a local element will not be considered. Additionally, photos that include nudity or offensive language or visuals will not be accepted. Finalists will be announced in the newsletter on Tuesday, Jan. 23, and GVLToday readers will have the chance to vote for GVLtoday’s 2023 Picture of the Year. The winner will be announced on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and will receive a $25 gift card to use at Six & Main. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Submit Photos HERE**](https://furman.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af3c4f8f7dbdb371355240f24&id=2bf039362a&e=2b19719a99) | | |
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