

OLLILife

Long live learning!



Mary Roberts and Stephen Dreyfus made us laugh at their antics in Plaza Suites. See p. 7 for more.

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Proofreader Carole Eisen won't stan, for ths.

For years, Carole Eisen could not read a book for pleasure. “When I tried, I would start editing it,” she said. Since joining OLLI in 2002, she signs up for *Let's Read and Talk* each year and loves it.

Why the change? If you haven't guessed, Carole worked as a professional proofreader and editor. She retired from a government contractor, where she edited defense and airplane systems documents. “It was not fascinating stuff,” she said.

Now Carole proofreads — and reads — for enjoyment. She started with the course brochure, recruited by Sarah Fletcher when the organization was called FULIR. Later, Gary Aten, editor of the OLLI newsletter *Gray Matters*, asked Carole to help with that publication. Sue Renault became editor, the name changed to *OLLILife*, and Carole continued proofreading.

Carole began her career as a teacher, then stayed home to raise three children. Her husband died when the children were young. When Carole's neighbor asked to hire her as a proofreader for his small technical publications business, she accepted the offer. “I did not have a technical background, but I learned a lot,” she said. Carole would work in the evening, after her children's bedtime. Later, when her children attended school, she took proofreading jobs at small technical

publication companies. This led to a career as a technical editor.

When Carole moved from Long Island, New York, to Greenville in 2000, the only people she knew were her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. “OLLI has been a gift,” she said. “I have made so many great friends there.”

And Carole also thinks she has become a better learner. “I hated history classes in college,” she said. “At OLLI, I continue to enroll in history and political science classes and really enjoy the way they are taught. I even enrolled in physics.”

As for proofreading, Carole plans to continue as long as she is needed. “It's fun and it makes me feel useful,” she said.

Thanks, Marie Eldridge, for interviewing Carole Eisen and to Nancy Fitzer for taking her mom's photo. And thanks, Carole, for making us all look good. Editor



OLLivoices

Jim and Sally share
Tips and Tricks for
achieving curriculum
goals

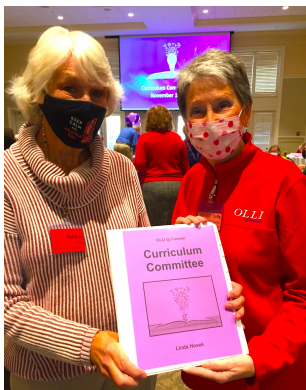


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: "Curriculum business ... WOW!"

Dear *OLLILife* readers,

In November I attended OLLI's *Curriculum Committee Rally*, and I can only say "Wow!" This is the team that finds our instructors, supports them as they develop their classes, and, *especially important*, equips committee volunteers with databases, instructional materials and all the resources they'll need to turn great ideas into classrooms of happy learners.

I am sure that many of the more than 45 volunteers who gathered around the tables at the Younts building arrived



with butterflies and trepidation. Yes, they'd volunteered; they'd been assigned to a committee such as photography or arts or religion; they were eager to help. But — we've all been there — many were scratching their heads and

batting away the voices that said, "You don't know what you're doing."

And that's where the leaders of this event excelled. Referencing large, clear visuals above and beautifully efficient how-to notebooks at the tables, they took us page-by-page and step-by-step through each process: how to recruit, how to support, how to thank, how to use Google Drive, where to find addresses, whom to call. At the end of this session, confidence abounded. Every volunteer had a clearer idea of the curriculum mission and how they would help to achieve it. If there were such a thing as the *OLLILife* prize for terrific "business" meetings, I'd have to give kudos to Curriculum Committee co-chairs Jim Nicholson and Sally Bornmueller and their talented team.

by Sue Renault, *OLLILife* Editor

Photo on left: Betty Jo Shaw, left, chair of Current Events and Business; Sally Bornmueller, Curriculum Committee co-chair

Nancy invites you to take a road trip together

Let's All Read

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

Just a few weeks ago, we launched our sixth year of OLLI's *Read and Explore*.

As an enthusiastic reader, myself, few things give me more pleasure than this read-together activity and the wide variety of discussions, films, and guest speakers that will expand our literary travels. Some of these have dates still to be determined; others are ready to put on your calendars now. (See page five for the list of events).

I'd like to give special thanks to this year's Read and Explore with OLLI Committee: Judy Aten, Gary Aten, Barbara Younce, Donna Barksdale, Ellyn Bache, Betty Jo Shaw, and Mary Foley.

While *West with Giraffes* is a work of fiction, it is based on real events. Learn more about the giraffes at San Diego Zoo100. sdzwa.org I believe you're going to enjoy this journey.

Nancy Kennedy, OLLI Director

OLLILife words & wines

A giraffe's neck has the same number of vertebrae (seven) as the human neck, just with each one being up to 25cm long.

CRINGEWORTHY

COMPLIMENTS

Thomas Chatburn, OLLI member since 2015, enjoys a clever turn of phrase whether among friends in Arthur McMaster's poetry groups or from such wise-crackers as Oscar Wilde or Mark Twain. Nice fellow that he is, Chatburn shared a few:

- "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." *Billy Wilder*
- "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." *William Faulkner about Ernest Hemingway*
- "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." *Paul Keating*
- "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" *Mark Twain*
- "Some people cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." *Oscar Wilde*

SAVE THE DATE

Chautauqua performance featuring "Julia Child," Feb. 12, 3 pm. Julia will visit the Herring Center and cook up some fun.



Bernie and Cindy Showman have been helping *OLLILife* readers discover terrific wines ever since our first issue in 2017. We asked them: "How did you learn so much?"

"It all started with Mickey Mouse," Bernie told us.

"After an early retirement in 2000, we moved to Florida, about 100 miles from Disney World. We had no knowledge about wine, and when we drank wine, it was Berringer White Zinfandel. A friend recommended getting Florida Resident Disney Passes and attending the Epcot Food and Wine Festival. At that time, the festival lasted six to eight weeks and included free wine seminars with tastings presented by wineries from all over the world. The presenter was often the owner or winemaker. We attended the festival as often as we could for nine years, and each day we would attend three or four seminars. We began to learn wine regions and grape varieties. We now are branching out and trying new wines. We researched our new wines online and began hosting wine tastings for our friends."

What's on B & C's table tonight?

"Lately, we have been enjoying Kunde Merlot from the Sonoma Valley. This is a smooth, dark fruit-flavored Merlot that Total Wine sells for \$17.99."



SENIOR JOURNAL: What have you learned along the way to 70? 80? 90? 100?

Lynne Nachman learned that when it comes to moving, there's still more to learn:

MOVING at 80

This marks the twentieth move in our 60-year marriage. Most of our contemporaries are doing the opposite.

It sounded like a good idea a year ago when we discovered seven cottages being built in an arts neighborhood nearby. We'd been living in a condo in a converted cotton mill for 12 years, the longest we've ever lived in one place.

This was new construction; we had to pick out every doorknob, faucet, and tile. We added a screened porch and made provisions for an elevator "just in case." Hardwoods on the second floor were extra and so was the "tankless water heater," which I love. **Staying on budget wasn't easy.**

Downsize challenge: I donated designer clothes to Savannah College of Art and Design, riding clothes and tack to a friend. My children's books and games went to an after-school program. Then I invited my daughter and granddaughters to pick things they wanted from my closet. They were delighted with the vintage handbags and costume jewelry. My leather gloves went to the Warehouse Theatre. Baby clothes went to the history museum. Books went to the library and everything else to the Red Ribbon Store.

The movers filled their truck and left us *still* inundated with stuff.

At 10 am we sold our condo, and at 11 am we walked across the street and bought the house.

I would not recommend this to anyone We were able to sell a sofa, sofa bed, two leopard chairs, a large oriental rug and warehouse shelves. One of our neighbors bought our dining table and eight chairs, and we still filled a truck. **Our books and framed photos seemed to multiply.**

Lessons learned:

The moving scene has changed. No more cheery AT&T sales rep to help you with your phone (my husband wanted a land line). Now you need Wi-Fi and cable, though truth is you could probably live without both.

You've got to watch for scams. We posted a dining table, chairs, and a four-poster bed on Craig's List. I got a response which was too good to be true. The buyer would send a check for the total plus freight. The check came special delivery, postmarked Las Vegas. It was an "official" check from an Indian bank

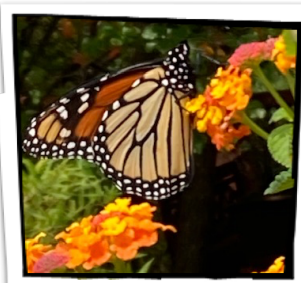
And he had a Texas area code.

Buyer Beware.

Interested in writing for OLLILife?

If you are a writer, journalist, book reviewer or simply an OLLI friend with experiences to share, contact OLLILife editor, sue.renault@gmail.com to get on the Submissions Roster. Our submissions are mostly 300 words or less.

OLLI BONUS EVENT FANS STROLL BRADSHAW'S



PICTURE PERFECT GARDENS

If you're a fan of gardens, you absolutely

should take advantage of any opportunity to see Bill and Dee Bradshaw's garden. Their one-acre property on Paris Mountain includes a Japanese garden, unending paths wandering amid their myriad plants, trees, waterfalls, koi pond, and, during our visit, a few monarch butterflies.

Using his photos of flowers in the garden to illustrate various photo techniques, Bill showed us how to frame our subject, how to discover a different perspective, and how to take advantage of the unique lighting presented by various weather conditions.

If you are on Instagram, visit "gardenclouds" to see some gorgeous photos.

Photo and reporting by Anne Doyle, OLLILife BONUS EVENT contributor

Want to Travel? BJ says, "Shop Around."

If travel is at the top of your retirement bucket list, the pandemic has probably created a significant interruption to your plans.

While health safety is still a concern, many of us want to visit new places while we're healthy enough to enjoy them. I have two pieces of advice:

1. Select the places you really want to go and trips that will fulfill your desires for adventure, discovery and joy.
2. Then ask all your questions up front to satisfy health safety concerns regarding vaccination/testing requirements and other protocols for yourself and fellow travelers. There are options in the travel industry. *Shop around to find the right fit.*

BJ Shaw has been an OLLILife contributor since 2018 when she and OLLILife editor Sue Renault shared a memorable OLLI trip with Chumley Cope to Northern England, even hiking alongside Hadrian's Wall. Now, that was a trip!

MORE READ AND EXPLORE

(a continuation of R&E news from page 2)

*Join Judy Aten (Date TBD) to talk about the film, **Second Hand Lions**. (View the film on your own);

*Learn from the Giraffe Keeper at Greenville Zoo, Tuesday, February 8, 3 pm, via Zoom;

*Learn about Horatio's Drive — the first person to travel across the US by motorcar in 1903; (Date TBD);

*View Ken Burn's documentary on The Dust Bowl on your own, then join Betty Jo Shaw for discussion; Feb. 15;

*Visit with author Lynda Rutledge, Date March 1.





“In 2012, Elizabeth and I traveled to Normandy and discovered the tragic tale of Jean Louis du Mesnil de St. Pierre.” James Hammond

In 2012, Elizabeth and I traveled to Normandy and stayed for five days in a 500-year-old chateau near Pointe du Hoc, the cliffs scaled by American soldiers in the opening hours of the D-Day invasion in 1944. We had a room on the third floor, from which we could see La Manche, or the English Channel. In October, the weather could be angry, and we had at least one thrilling night with the wind whistling around the turrets of the old castle.

The breakfast room had a dusty pile of French coffee table books, including one about the castles in the region we were visiting. Elizabeth, who'd spent several years translating French-language dispatches into English for *Agence France-Presse*, was reading about the Chateau Du St. Pierre, where we were staying. The story of the fortress-style farmhouse caught her attention when it mentioned that a previous owner, Jean Louis du Mesnil de St. Pierre, had forsaken his Norman castle to settle in Caroline du Sud. Jean Louis was a Huguenot, the French Protestant movement that spawned a wave of migration to the Southeastern colonies of North America in the mid to late 18th century. We know them from the names of our streets – and our friends. I am a descendant of Huguenots who settled initially in Virginia and later migrated to the Upstate region of South Carolina.

The coffee table book, written in French, described a tragic tale of Jean Louis's efforts to help establish a colony, New Bordeaux, on the Savannah River.

He is credited by accounts of early wine-making as the first to successfully grow grapes and produce wine in South Carolina at the New Bordeaux colony he helped settle. He spent much time trying to raise capital, even traveling to London to seek investment in his venture. Ironically, since Jean Louis came from a region famous for its apple cider liquors, known as Calvados, this settler and leader of a Huguenot colony in America wanted to establish a grape-growing culture more well known

in regions like Bordeaux. But his efforts to raise capital were largely rejected. Henry Laurens writes in his papers about Jean Louis and his venture, suggesting it would likely not be a good investment.

New Bordeaux ultimately did not succeed. Founded initially in 1763, it was in part a victim of the Revolutionary War. According to the excellent UC-Davis history of wine-making in America, Jean Louis joined the South Carolina patriots in the war

and was, according to a contemporary note, made "Lieutenant to a Small Fort in the back country where he lives upon his pay of £ 30-a year." He was killed on an expedition against the Indians, and that "untimely end," as a later memorialist wrote, "overturned the establishment in its infancy."

New Bordeaux, never very flourishing, dwindled to the crossroads that it now is, where a marker records the site of the old Huguenot church. The UC-Davis history contains a richly detailed chapter on the Huguenot wine-makers in South Carolina.



Elizabeth and James Hammond, world travelers

FAN MAIL * Who came from the farthest to attend Don Cockrill's Cold War class? What made Molly laugh?

Rita's Chickadee



It was Barbara Yonce:

“The Zoom link worked perfectly, and I was able to access Don’s class while sailing between Rhodes and Crete,” she wrote. “It was great to view the class while traveling,” says Barbara. “Am I the most “distant” learner?”

Yes, Barbara, we have it on good authority.

Who had you laughing out loud?

Molly Fitzpatrick writes:

This past October the **OLLI Players SIG** performed Neil Simon’s *Plaza Suite*, three vignettes about people staying in suite 719 at the Plaza Hotel in the 60s.

I couldn't have laughed more if it was on Broadway

The actors and staff were terrific, and who knew room 110 of the Herring Center could be converted to a hotel suite? About 65 theater lovers attended with just a few empty seats. **OLLI** provided wine at intermission on the patio.

I am hoping for future performances from this group. If you see these folks, tell them you heard the show was a hit: director Francine Hachem; actors MJ Mauer, High Owens, John Hanson, Karen Scales, Brian Garrison, Gayl Board-Rein, Mary Robert, Stephen Dreyfus, Marilyn Bracy, Suzanne Case; and Production Staff Williams Burns, Marvin Brinn, Karen Bacharach, Suzanne Case, Marilyn Bracy; and OLLI support Heidi Wright and Nancy Kennedy.

BRAVO! Encore, encore!

What does Rita Shepherd love about OLLI's Open Studio SIG?

The meeting room, of course...roomy enough to spread out at the work tables and close enough to embrace warm conversations and supportive critiques “Everyone shares what they know. They are so *kind*,” she says. “And our SIG founder and mentor Paula Winiski provides wonderful leadership.”

Rita began painting years ago when she was a pharmacist with Rite Aid and scheduled to work several twelve-hour days, which also allowed some extra full days off. That’s when she began OLLI (FULIR) classes in Plyer Hall, beginning a love affair with OLLI, which she now calls “one of the best parts of my retirement.”

Rita and other SIG artists were recently featured in an exhibit at Herring Center’s Baiden Gallery. Rita contributed her chickadee watercolor that usually hangs in her kitchen, along with a painting done by her mother, who also took up painting during retirement. Rita continues to use the very same palette her mother used, adding sweet memories with each stroke of her brush.

Thanks for sharing your SIG story, Rita!

by Sue Renault, *OLLILife* Editor: sue.renault@gmail.com



OLLI Director, Nancy Kennedy, says Fall Term went well, and we look forward to growth in Winter Term

Wow! We finished up an historic OLLI Fall Term, offering courses in-person, on Zoom, and hybrid. That was a first, and it went well. Thank you to all of you, our members, for demonstrating your faith in the program, and to our instructors who once again volunteered to teach in unusual circumstances.

I receive questions frequently about our membership numbers. Here's a quick rundown. In the "before times" (before the pandemic), we had about 2,600 members. Last year, when we were fully on Zoom, we had 1,302 members. This fall, we had about 1,475 members and have gained more during winter registration. We are on the way back to our pre-pandemic numbers.

So, what's next? I hope we will continue to welcome members back as well as gain members brand-new to the program. You can help by sharing your OLLI experience with friends and neighbors. We've known for a long time that our members are our very best advertising tool, and I'm asking you now to prove that once again.

I look forward to getting closer and closer to the way things were, while hanging on to the silver linings we gained during the pandemic. Zoom is never going away. We are now able to reach new members who are not able to get to the Herring Center, and are able to offer more courses to members who live far from campus and aren't able to travel here as often. That's a win for sure!



Kathleen Allen says, "Thanks to David Schutzman, Marcie Thaler, Stephen Singer, Dan Derwin and Seth Harrison for picking up the baton and leading two successful sections of Nature and Landscape Photography this fall. As always, the images reflect the beauty that surrounds us in the Upstate." *OLLILife* says, "Thanks, Kathleen, for submitting these beautiful photos by Bill Johnston and Chris Yaroch."



OLLI Remembers

Gaile Lowrance Patrick passed away September 26, 2021. She was 82 years old and known for her numerous charitable activities and service to our community. A former OLLI member, she loved learning.

Editor's Note: "COVID" has interrupted *OLLILife's* efforts to stay informed, in a timely manner, about the passing of our classmates. We will devote our March issue to remembering those who passed away during 2021 and first term of 2022.

If you are aware of a deceased classmate who should be recognized at that time, please contact the editor: sue.renault@gmail.com