Dear Bernie & Cindy, Please give me something wonderful to drink with my ROBUST cheese and crackers on cold winter evenings. Thanks, Cheesehead

See page 12 for The Bernie Blog
The Council began with **expressions of appreciation** for all who contributed to a fun-filled 25th anniversary celebration and the November celebration gala.

**Curriculum Committee:** 116 classes are scheduled for this semester, also eight Lunch and Learn events and 38 Friday Bonus Events. CC is seeking a new chair for its Computers and Technology subcommittee (Contact Cindy Brothers, cindybrothers205@gmail.com), also a co-chair for Cooking subcommittee. CC, with input from the Outreach Committee, will focus on issues of diversity, social justice, and non-white participation.

Ron Eldridge, VP for Finance and Administration, reported that efforts are ongoing to improve OLLI's course registration procedures and make them easier to manage and fair for all. His committee has interviewed other OLLIs about their methods for dealing with waiting lists and equitable assignment of classes.

**Long Range Planning:** Doug Frazier has joined the LRP Committee to serve with Greg Peters and Marcee Nelson. According to LRP, OLLI@Furman is projected to continue its brisk growth in the next five years as it has in the last five. LRP focuses on ways to achieve class spaces and instructional hours needed to support this growth.

**OLLILife editor Sue Renault** will encourage more readers to access our newsletter online. Deadline for the March issue is February 10. Space fills up fast.

Kathy Roed reports the Volunteer Committee has a cadre of enthusiastic OLLI members and looks forward to supporting the work of council committees.

**Interesting numbers:** There are 122 OLLI institutes in the United States and 170,000 OLLI members in these programs.

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**ASK Nancy:**

Tell us about the National OSHER Conference

*A birthday party without cake is just a meeting.* - Julia Child

Dear OLLI Members,

In October, OLLI Council President May Welborn and I attended the Osher Institutes National Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. A highlight of the conference was speaking to Bernard Osher, the man who has made such a difference for so many senior adults across the United States.

Elizabeth Blackburn, a Nobel laureate and author of *The Telomere Effect: A Revolutionary Approach to Living Younger, Healthier, Longer*, was one of the plenary speakers. Google her to find her TED talk. She is an engaging presenter and makes science easy to understand. (You have more control over aging than you might think!)

May and I came home full of ideas to share with all of you and knowing that our OLLI members, volunteers, and instructors are THE BEST. We had fun bragging on all of you, so thank you for all you do! Nancy (nancy.kennedy2767@furman.edu).

Photo: Mary Bitterman, President, Osher Foundation; Bernard Osher, Treasurer, Osher Foundation; me (feeling so pleased to be with these inspiring folks); May Welborn, President, OLLI Council
We❤FEEDBACK! Thanks for your comments about our September, 2018, issue. OLLILife captures the essence of OLLI at Furman ....a dynamic, multifaceted, life-oriented organization of contributing, learning, and active seniors. SR ** Love your overview of our fantastic (Northern England) trip! ME** Thanks for all the time and effort you all devote to this.....it's well worth it! GP ** I especially appreciate your Anniversary Memories insert edition. Thanks, JK** Thanks (Diana) for writing about diversity. We need to be talking more about this. EF

Hi Cindy and Bernie, We saw your article in OLLILife and totally agree about Whole Cluster Pinot Noir. We had it for the first time at a dinner party and it was love at first taste. My friend buys it by the case and now I do too. We bought ours at Total Wine but will give Greens a try. We met the Vicks on our OLLI trip to the Chihuly exhibit and they brought up your names and your blog. We even discussed the Whole Cluster! Will look forward to more of your recommendations. Mike and Marion Westfall

Religion professor urges OLLI members: think globally

October, 2018 - Dr. David Rutledge, Furman Professor of Religion Emeritus, spoke to OLLI members on “Extending the Boundaries of Our Caring: the Challenge of Global Ethics.” He asked the audience to consider care for our neighbors, for the vastly growing numbers of refugee people, for all parts of creation within our world. He suggested that consumerism and planned obsolescence of products creates many of our human and environmental problems and that fighting the urge to continually buy more for simple convenience is a way we can all help solve some difficult issues.

Dr. Rutledge’s talk was in celebration of Global Ethics Day, an annual project of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. OLLI@Furman was one of 155 educational and professional organizations on six continents to participate in the event. The Outreach Committee of OLLI Council sponsored the presentation.

PHOTO: David Rutledge (center) with OLLI members Seth Harrison and Janet Aguilar

Thank you, OLLILife staff:

Bernie and Cindy Showman, wine blog; Gary and Judy Aten, OLLI interviews; Jim Hammond, OLLI all around; Marie Eldridge, member profiles; Diana Miel, OLLI/Furman connections, book reviews; Lori Dillon, restaurant/food reviews; Betty Jo Shaw, SIGS; Anne Doyle, bonus events; Barbara Leimsieder, Tributes Editor; Kathleen Allen, Travel Editor; Carole Eisen, Judy Aten, and Barbara Leimsieder, proofreaders.

Thanks, guest contributors:

Pat Hansen, photo and article; George Fletcher photo; Joe Deehan, essay/poetry; Janet Aguilar, travel feature; Mary Kay Kantz, Global Ethics report (with photo by Mary Lou Jones; Lynne Blitstein - Tributes and others: Joe Thaler, Dan Klimek, Cassidi Dozier, Jane Clarke

❤And special readers who contribute FEEDBACK.

LOVE THE MUG!

Thanks, Morley Jensen, for bringing your mug to OLLI and saving resources and $$$.

Thanks, StraightTalk: "Whit Ayres (Republican, high profile consultant, author) and Peter Hart (Democrat, pollster, trend shaper) at the final StraightTalk lecture (October) proved that partisan heavyweights can engage in civil - even playful - political discussion. Thank you OLLI and Furman. Well done! srenault, OLLILife editor
ANNE’S BONUS PICKS
by Anne Doyle

OLLI MEMBERS VISIT THE MORGUE

Perhaps it’s having watched Dr. Mallard on NCIS that made me eager to register for the OLLI Friday Bonus Event, “A Tour with the County Coroner.” Images of Ducky’s TV facility with multiple tables were replaced with one single table on which were performed 354 autopsies in 2017. The deputies also pointed out that autopsy results can take 6-8 weeks, rather than less than an hour!

Deputy Coroners Jim Donnelly (in photo) and Gary Sessions informed our group of the varied law enforcement qualifications of the staff, as well as their responsibilities, the most important of which is acting on behalf of the deceased, ensuring the remains are properly cared for.

If this fascinating event is repeated, don’t miss it!

What's been your favorite Bonus Event?
Let us know: sue.renault@gmail.com

OLLIgigs

“Reality leaves a lot to the imagination.” John Lennon

BETTY JO KNOWS SIGS
by Betty Jo Shaw

Out and About Singles: Fun and Friendship

When I joined OLLI, Out and About Singles was one of seven established SIGs. It sounded like an interesting way to meet people outside the classroom, so I decided to attend a planning meeting.

Susan Cooper and Janet Taylor made me feel welcome. This SIG has something to meet everyone’s interests: movies, plays, shopping trips, local cultural events, progressive rummy and everyone’s favorite, eating at a variety of restaurants. Susan Cooper and Carolyn Rice are now the main organizers, but anyone who has an idea can put together an event. There might be five or 25 participants, but the group always represents a rewarding way for singles to get “out and about” for great fun.

Out and About SIG friends enjoy a game of progressive rummy. To learn more about this group, contact Susan Cooper smc66pa12@gmail.com.
Photo by Heidi Wright

Special Interest Groups are now an important part of OLLI activities.

But not always.
They began through the efforts of Joy Eaton when she was an At Large member of the Council. OLLI was operating out of a trailer (pre 2012) and classes took place throughout Furman’s campus, providing little opportunity to meet or interact other than in a class.

Joy researched other OLLIs to find a process we could emulate. She started with three SIGs and the only requirement was, and still is, that the purpose would not compete with classes. After about three years, with a bit of arm twisting, the concept caught on. There are now about 30 SIGs to choose from.
“If you get a chance to visit South Africa, do it!” Janet Aguilar

South Africa is about twice the size of Texas and amazing in terms of history, geography, topography, natural beauty, culture and more. My trip was 21 days and barely touched the surface of things to do and see and learn.

The impetus for my trip was a six-day vacation package to Zula Nyala, a private game reserve in the KwaZuluNatal region. I added more days and more days until the trip’s length tripled, from Cape Town, to the wine country, to the Garden Route, to the Drakensberg Mountains, to Durban and finally Zula Nyala. This trip gave me an appreciation for a very different culture and increased my awareness of how insular we Americans can be.

Here are my travel tips for South Africa: use a currency exchange app on your phone. Especially helpful when the disparity is as much as R200 = $13.80 (or multiply in your head by seven and moved the decimal one place to the right).

Tipping is appreciated everywhere for everybody. Make sure you have plenty of local currency. Online guides can help you with amounts.

If I were to do this trip again, I would invest in a nice camera with a lens for capturing closeup photos of far-away animals.

OLLI PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOOT BONEYARD BEACH by Kathleen Allen

Halloween, 2018 found 20 adventurers hitting the beach at sunrise on Bull Island, SC. Their objective was not candy or treats, but the “bones” of Boneyard Beach. Cape Romain is closed from dusk to dawn. Very few people get to witness the sunrise in this primitive setting. This was a rare and special moment, standing on a pristine shoreline within a National Wildlife Refuge, viewing the bones of an old growth forest, partially subsumed by the sea.

Returning to Awendaw, SC, after capturing Boneyard Beach, OLLI members enjoyed a well-deserved breakfast and further opportunities to shoot in the low country. No trees were harmed in this expedition! But much fun was had by all!
Joe Thaler (known by old colleagues as Joe, the Creative Guy) has gone to the head of the class. After years in art direction, graphic design, illustration and — in retirement at OLLI — Gail Jones’s Pen and Ink classes 1 and 2, Joe has become a teacher. Timing is everything. “I was toying with the idea of teaching,” he says, “when Gail announced her pending retirement, I volunteered to lead our class,” says Joe. “I’d done my on-the-job training and I was ready.”

While art is one of his first loves, the toys in a Cherrydale warehouse keep him occupied as well: a 1962 TR3A, bought in 1966; a 2000 BMW 23M coupe; three BMW motorcycles; one boat; three kayaks and other “special interest cars.” (Joe met his wife Marcie at a BMW Motorcycle Club meeting). It is no surprise that Joe and Marcie’s “bucket list” includes sky-diving, four-wheeling, white water rafting, and training for a half marathon walk/jog event. Also, no surprise, he has run four marathons.

Joe joined OLLI three years ago. His work has been displayed in our Herring Center Baiden Gallery and on the photo wall in the Crabtree Room. He is a member of the bowling SIG.

The daughter of a missionary pastor and third grade teacher, she is the middle child of five. Cassidi had never heard of Furman until her parents brought her to tour the campus. After comparing Furman to her other choices, she decided one was too large, the other too small, and one was for women only, which she didn’t feel fit her. When she also considered the beautiful campus and the friendly people she met here she chose Furman.

A member of APO co-ed service fraternity, Cassidi enjoys volunteering and participating in Furman’s life. She is a part of Wesley Campus Ministry, Young Life, and Heller Service Corps. Her beautiful braids take her loving mother eight hours to complete, a task usually involving conversations and movie viewings. She is enjoying her time with our OLLI program, so stop in, say hello, and make her welcome.

Do you know someone we should feature for CenterStage? Give us your recommendation: sue.renault@gmail.com
Performances by the Centre Stage Singers left every guest imagining in their own hearts they, too, could do love duets that would reach the back seats at Carnegie Hall.

Founding director, Sarah Fletcher, gave a celebratory overview of FULIR’s path towards OLLI and its beautiful Herring Center; Nancy Kennedy announced that OLLI’s Faculty Enrichment Fund has surpassed $61,000; Liz Sieman, on behalf of Furman University President Elizabeth Davis, said, “OLLI members are an essential part of Furman. We love seeing you here and we benefit from you as mentors”; Steve Thaxton, Executive Director, Osher Institutes National Resource Center, called OLLI@Furman, “one of the best OLLI Institutes.” Master of Ceremonies Bob Dotson stitched it all together with his warm supporting commentary.

Dotson’s final words, (more accurately, he confessed, his wife’s words) sent us on our way reflecting this joyful passage: “Don’t count the candles,” he said. “Count the memories.”

Gala guests rose from their seats, satisfied to put a “Mission Accomplished” stamp upon the evening, when from outside the banquet room, as the doors were pulled wide, came the rousing sounds of Furman’s Basketball Pep Band, loud horns blaring to greet their surprised champions — the FULIR/OLLI Family at 25 — and stop them dead in their tracks to savor the crashing sounds of triumph. Yea, team!

LET US KNOW:
Did you attend the Gala? What’s your favorite memory? Send FEEDBACK to sue.renault@gmail.com
In 1971, fresh out of the Navy and armed with a VA loan, I bought my first home, a modest downtown bungalow two blocks from Earle and Main streets, for $12,900.

Today, Greenville County values that home at $203,000, reflecting the stunning rise in home values in the city. A price of $12,900 adjusted for inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index would be just $79,000 today.

As land prices soar in neighborhoods traditionally occupied by people with modest incomes, many people are pushed out of these communities as their homes are razed and new condominiums and apartments take their place.

A 2018 housing study showed the widening gap between the need for affordable housing in the county, compared with the supply. The study concluded that 9,500 homes are needed to meet the housing needs of the population whose incomes are at the lower end of the spectrum.

Home ownership is a gateway to lives. According to a 2016 home ownership study by Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County:

- 96% agreed that their family life felt more stable;
- 95% stated they felt better about themselves since becoming a Habitat homeowner;
- 92% felt more positive about their future.

Non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity and Homes of Hope make significant contributions to housing for low-income people. Rebuild Upstate marshals volunteers to help homeowners, who can’t afford necessary repairs, to stay in their homes.

But as necessary as philanthropy is to supplement affordable housing, nothing has the power to change lives in the working class population like local government. Both Greenville City and Greenville County, working with the smaller cities, have had programs to address the housing shortfalls for decades. Lessons have been learned about housing “projects” that have long-term negative consequences, and new strategies have been adapted. Today’s local government efforts aim to enable home ownership when possible, and to make county and city housing opportunities part of the overall community rather than apart from it.

Recently, the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority hired former city manager John Castille to head this agency, which manages a multi-million-dollar program to build affordable homes and provide shelter for the homeless. Castille told the GCRA board, “We’ve talked about hitting the ground running, about being more aggressive than we have been.”

County Council expects the GCRA to up its game in response to the glaring need for more affordable homes. Council has earmarked $1 million a year for the next five years to build homes, to add to the GCRA’s annual revenue of $8 million to $10 million.

But here’s a sobering fact: with “affordable” homes today in the range of $100,000 to $150,000, that $1 million will build just 8 or 9 homes a year. It is a daunting prospect for those seeking affordable homes.

Recently, County Council appointed me to the GCRA board, an opportunity to have a voice in local policy that can improve housing opportunities. I’ll serve alongside about a dozen other citizen volunteers who also believe everyone deserves a roof over their heads. And I’ll be soliciting ideas. Don’t be shy; share your thoughts about improving the lives of our fellow citizens with more housing opportunities. jthammond46@gmail.com

TELL THE EDITOR: I find Jim’s article thoughtful and timely. How about you? sue.renault@gmail.com, editor
OLLI is Me!

Archery Dan Hits His Target

OLLI member Dan Klimek knows how to hit his target. A longtime archer, he holds a Level 3 certificate from the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY. The certification, which involves hours of professional instruction and training, helped him hone skills he has used for decades.

Dan’s love of archery began in Boy Scouts. It blossomed in the 1970s, when he and his wife moved to Cranberry Township in Pennsylvania, an archery mecca. “I joined three of 10 archery ranges in the area,” he said. “I had a knack for the sport.”

Dan’s coaching career began at Boy and Girl Scout camps, where he taught up to 300 children a day. He has coached people from age six to 95, and also produced two videos that teach proper techniques and safety.

A Greenville resident for two years, Dan continues to coach and give lessons using a small indoor range and a 40-yard outdoor range at his home. He also appears at birthday parties and group or team events and more. “I continue doing it because I still enjoy it,” he said.
The theme of the first section of The Righteous Mind... is our misconception about how we form opinions. We like to think we arrive at political and religious views through our intellects, reaching conclusions based on information and on reasoning. Haidt, a moral psychologist, says we have first an intuitive response to situations and then use our reasoning to explain our conclusions to ourselves and others. Intuition comes first, based on our emotions; moral reasoning is a skill we humans evolved to serve our social agendas and to defend the teams we belong to.

In the second part, Haidt describes secular Western morality as concerned with fairness and justice, ignoring other powerful moral intuitions such as those related to liberty, loyalty, authority, and sanctity.

The third part of this book is summed up in the third principle of moral psychology, “Morality binds and blinds.” People bind themselves into political and religious teams which share moral narratives, but simultaneously become blind to alternative moral worlds.

My own take? I still believe it will take the threat of a common enemy to bring us together.
From accounting to poetry is a transition I never would have predicted.

I was a CPA… a finance guy. After retirement, golf was my primary pastime.

In 2010 I did write a humorous golf poem that went semi-viral in my community. Based on positive feedback, I decided to take a poetry-writing class at OLLI taught by the late Sally Adkins. Sally was a wonderful instructor from whom I learned a great deal about imagery and structure and the joy that can be found in writing poetry. A second class taught by Sally firmly planted the seeds of writing in me. In the years since, I’ve written over 300 poems. Some of my poems have been published locally and some as far away as Dublin, Ireland. In 2017, I published a book of my Irish poetry titled Your Ancestors’ Land. I followed that up in 2018 with the publication of Solar Reflection, a poetry collection. A lot has happened since that first creative writing class. While I still play golf, writing is now a greater priority. Sally once said, “Poets see things differently.” I’ve come to understand what she meant. It is no exaggeration to say that Sally Adkins, through OLLI, changed my life.

At Furman Lake by Joe Deehan

Wind-driven ripples race across the water, giggling with mirth, dancing on their toes. Spirit driven, they capture the sun’s sparkle, tickling the ducks they carry afloat.

The ripples’ lives are brief – In such a hurry, they reach the other side and disappear as mist of angels, ascending into the clouds.

Ducks sound their cantankerous call.

Darkness descends, as the shadow of night’s uncertainty begins.

Ducks huddle by the bank.

Stars appear and cast their twinkling light below.


Want to comment on Joe’s essay or tell us about how OLLI has changed your life?
Send FEEDBACK: sue.renault@gmail.com
Dear Cheesehead: A good wine and cheese pairing is one where the wine enhances the cheese and the cheese enhances the wine. Some interesting wines to pair with cheese are called Super Tuscans. These are wines from Tuscany that blend Sangiovese with non-indigenous grapes such as Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon or Syrah. A great, low priced Super Tuscan is Vitiano Rosso ($9.99 at Total Wine), which is an equally divided blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

For more Bernie advice online: www.scwinejoe.blogspot.com

To send us FEEDBACK: sue.renault@gmail.com