



The Tides...

Breaking News from
Lifelong Learning



Fall 2016

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Lewes/Ocean View

From the Chair



Fall is always a wonderful, beautiful time of year. Most of us enjoy a bonus many do not have – our return to Osher for fall classes. This fall there are 571 members registered, a new record and a continuation of our steady growth. The first semester that I was Program Coordinator, spring, 1995, there were 155 members. Between Renee and me, we knew everyone.

We now offer more courses than ever before – over 100 – and an excellent selection of courses it is. Lee and I “OD’ed”, and I guess others did too. In the last issue I encouraged going to class occasionally at Ocean View, pointing out that a morning class followed by lunch at a local restaurant would make for a pleasant outing. Well, I took my own advice. Barbara Stephanic’s Wednesday morning European Art class was well worth the trip. But then, we also signed up for Jon Newsom’s Jazz class at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Another excellent class. But the logistics! I live near the Fred Thomas Building. Lee lives in Rehoboth about a mile west of Big Fish. Before I left to pick her up, I would go to Lloyd’s for some chicken salad, set the table, and put a loaf of bread, a knife and a table-spoon on the table. I would then pick her up and we would enjoy the scenic ride to O.V. We would slip out of class a little early, hurry home, visit the powder room, slather chicken salad on the bread and eat very quickly. Then we would have a brisk walk to class. I still urge people to enjoy O.V. classes, but not the way I did.

Although our larger size opens more and more course choices, it carries with it the risk of short changing the collegial atmosphere we have always enjoyed. More people attended the Homecoming Picnic than ever before, but we have not seen a similar growth at the end-of-semester luncheons. We need to work at preserving intimacy in the face of growth. My closest friends are ones I made here and I feel sure that many share that experience.

One thing that would really help is wearing name tags. Now, if I am in a doctor’s waiting room, I don’t care about knowing anyone’s name. If I am in a class with you, I do want to get to know you. Name tags are a great icebreaker. Wear them every week because it takes most of us a few conversations to remember names.

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From the Chair Continued

Interaction at school is key but this is enhanced by the end-of- semester luncheons, the picnic, and other social functions. The architect and manager of these for the past 20 years, Bernie Fiegel, is stepping down at the end of this calendar year. His is a sizeable and largely thankless portfolio: researching venues, sparring with vendors, recruiting assistants and tending to the many details that must be fretted about if the event is to be fun for everyone else. A huge thanks to Bernie, and to his wife Dolores, who works with him throughout. She is a master of details like no other!

I am so happy that Paul Collins and Denise Bridgens have agreed to take on the luncheon functions. This couple, who have been members for five years, have always been enthusiastic participants in many activities. Paul has been an instructor for a number of years. I have enjoyed his courses on crime novels. We have also been fortunate that the incredibly busy Connie Benko, who returned as a member after a hiatus of several years, will take over the picnic and Orientation Day receptions.

I encourage newer members to volunteer and I urge committee chairs to use those members who indicated on the registration form a willingness to help. Help, participate, lead! Someday you will be like Bernie, Dolores, me and many others of us – overextended and too busy, but in love with the amazing organization of which we are a part, and, indeed, one we helped create.

See you at the fall luncheon!

Bill

Check out Our Member Portal

The Member Portal contains up to date news as well as links to registration, course resources, and lots of other information. From the home page click the Member Portal button to direct to the new site.

Distance Learning Courses Offered

Take advantage of the Distance learning courses offered through OLLI Wilmington to OLLI Lewes/Ocean View members. They have graciously shared this additional curriculum for the benefit of our members. [Here is the link for distance learning.](#)

<http://tinyurl.com/qz27cder>

Calendar of Events

- Oct 20 — Garden clean up - 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
- Nov 8 — Election day—no classes
- Nov 16 — Last day of classes
- Nov 23-25 — Thanksgiving holiday - office closed
- Nov 30 — Fall Luncheon

YOUR NEWSLETTER

The Tides is published quarterly, with special editions as appropriate. If anyone has information, news, pictures or items of interest to share, the Council wants to hear from you. Please contact Lynn Kroesen at Lkroesen2@gmail.com or the Lifelong Learning office in Lewes.

Clybourne Park at the REP

The Travel Committee has arranged the first outing to the University of Delaware's Resident Ensemble Players presentation of **Clybourne Park** on Sunday, December 4. Bruce Norris's razor-sharp satire won both the Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for its insightful and entertaining examination of race, real estate, and role-reversal. In 1959 a white community tries to stop the sale of a home in their community to an African-American family. Fast-forward to 2009: in the exact same house that is now in a predominately African-American neighborhood, a white family wants to move in. Don't miss what the *Washington Post* deemed "one of the funniest, feistiest evenings in years."

The bus will leave the Lowes parking lot at 11:30 on Sunday, Dec. 4 and will return directly after the play. Cost of ticket and transportation is \$50 for Osher members and \$60 for non-members. Payment must be made by November 4. Payment may be made in person at the Osher office in Lewes or by calling the Osher office at 302-645-4111.

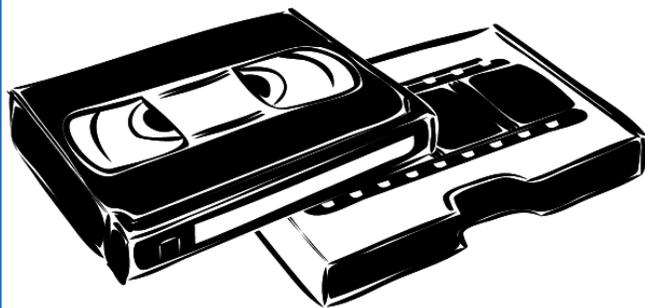
Submitted by Mary Folan, Travel Co-Chair



Library Notes

I appreciate the donations made to the OSHER Library during the summer. If they fit into our nonfiction collection they are cataloged and shelved. Fiction books are placed on the Swap Shelf in the hallway. Items that are duplicates or not needed are taken to the Lewes Public Library for their book sales. Many thanks to the following donors: AnnLyn Martin, Joan Mansberger, Judy and George Palmer, Ann Kiefer, Bob Duncan, Carol DeCatur, Ellie Menser, Joyce Pepper, Joe Lavenia, and Jon Newsom.

We have a problem with outmoded technology on the shelves. The library has over a hundred videotapes, and none of them have been checked out during the years that I have been a volunteer.



Therefore I am placing them on the empty shelves adjacent to the biographies. If anyone has a working videotape player and would like to take them, please do so. If you leave the sign out card in the orange box on the file cabinet, I will be able to remove the titles from the computer and the shelf list.

Submitted by: Ruth Barnett, Librarian

Web Address:

www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/lewes

Diaries, Letters & Artifacts Tell Peace Corps Experience



Instructor Phil Fretz with soapstone mask

Photo by Lynn Kroesen

Just a few months after graduation from Haverford College, Philip Fretz was living in a small, remote West African city amid insect invasions, deadly snakes and coups. He had become an early recruit to the Peace Corps, founded in 1961. He was the first volunteer to be sent to teach English at the Kenema Technical Institute in Sierra Leone, a former British colony that had been left in stark poverty and underdevelopment when colonialism ended.

Instructor Phil takes his class on his Peace Corp journey through the diaries he had kept, sporadically, during 1967 to 1969, the letters he wrote home to his parents while in Africa and the artifacts he collected. The class has heard about the hardships of traveling in a country with few roads, the culinary aspects, the hot humid climate and the pain he felt watching his students struggle amid poverty and tribalism.

Instructor Uses Family Letters to Tell Civil War Story



Instructor Bill Hicks shows Civil War gun to class members.

Osher/Lewes instructor, Bill Hicks, is a retired elementary school teacher and a history buff. His love of history was the motivation for extensive research into his and his wife's families, tracing some of them back to the Civil War era. His research discovered the family of James and Ellen Blackburn and their six sons who lived in the early 1860s in Philadelphia, PA. Bill became heir to many of the original letters, documents, pictures and artifacts from this family and used these treasures to tell

the story of **The Civil War through the Eyes of One Family.**

The course looked at McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of 1862 and the very personal story of how the Blackburn's were affected by these battles. Four of the Blackburn sons enlisted in the Union Army. One was rejected because of his age, one was injured, one served only 90 days and one was killed in battle.



Guest speaker Penny O'Mullan displays her Civil War era flag.

Photos by Lynn Kroesen

Osher Members Tour Heritage Trail by Trolley



Preparing to board the trolley. Photo by July Malewski

The Discover Slower Lower Delaware walking tour class recently had a unique experience—the first time ever trolley tour of the Bethany Beach Heritage Trail. They were hosted by Carol Olmstead, Chairman of the Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee and accompanied by Julie Malewski, the Events Director/ Media Coordinator, Town of Bethany Beach and Cliff, our very capable trolley driver.

The class learned historic facts about each historic cottage, some still occupied by descendants of the original Pittsburgh Six. The facades of each cottage remain the same as its pre-1930 construction. The Dinker Cottage will soon be moved to a new location and become the Bethany Beach museum. The tour included a stop at the small and very attractive

park at the terminus of the 1.5 mile shallow Loop Canal. The canal was built in 1910 to allow canal boats to off load passengers and supplies to the isolated town of Bethany Beach and to continue back to the Assawoman Canal for the return trip to Dewey, Rehoboth, and Lewes.

The morning ended with many in the class walking the boardwalk and viewing the “Gone, but not forgotten” plaques commemorating four cherished local sites destroyed by storms gone by.

Submitted by: Maureen Sherlock and Agnes Brien, Instructors

Osher Members Visit Grounds for Sculpture

Our visit to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey on Friday, October 14th was certainly a treat for all who attended. The Grounds were founded by John Seward Johnson II, sculptor and son of Robert Wood Johnson, co-founder of Johnson & Johnson. The gardens opened in 1992 with Johnson's series of sculptures based on landscapes and characters from impressionists paintings (Manet, Caillabotte, Matisse, Munch, Renoir, VanGogh to name a few) and now contains over 250 sculptures by many well-known artists.



Upon arriving at the entrance gate of the Grounds, we were greeted by a family of statues welcoming us. The weather was ideal for our outdoor tour of the many statues constructed of metals, stone, wood, textiles, etc. created by many individual sculptors, including Mr. Johnson. Some of us were able to find at least one of the "Secret Gardens" behind a closed door and sat in the hammock for a rest.

Certainly another trip would be necessary to view more of the many objects and any additional ones that will be added in the future. Lunch was enjoyed at The Rat's, VanGogh Café or the Peacock Café.

Submitted by Joan Sciorra, Travel Co-Chair

Photo by AnnLyn Martin

Beautiful Day for 18th Annual Homecoming Picnic!

Salty Brine's Seaside Chat



AHOY, Osher shipmates! After the June, 2016, summer session the OLLI Queen went into to dry dock for some spiffing up including bright work polishing, especially the ship's bell, new sails, and new paint in the UDel color scheme of blue and gold; bottom line it was ship shape and ready to weigh anchor and set sail for Cape Henlopen State Park to attend the Osher 18th Annual Homecoming Picnic on Wednesday, October 12, 2016...we lowered the gangway at 0800 for members and guests to come aboard, and about 150 OLLI members crossed onto the Queen; weighed anchor at 1000, right on schedule, with an azure sky overhead, plenty of sun, a light breeze, fairly calm seas, and the temp about 60 degrees; dropped anchor at 1030, lowered the gangway and disembarked the members for their trek to the pavilion, and once there, all the workers bees scattered to their assigned stations...

Before we go any further let's give a tip of Salty's cap to UDel maintenance personnel who moved the heavy tables into place, using a flat, four wheel hydraulic unit with two 4"x"4s on top, it's placed under the center of the heavy tables, and they are HEAVY, jacked up several inches,

then wheeled to its position, lowered, and the maintenance crew finish the positioning as directed, an ingenious way of moving the heavy tables; to those manning the registration table; to Dolores and Joan's crew who covered tables plus directing members where to place their food, on to the prep crew who cut red/yellow peppers into four-sides square, sliced onions, zucchini, tomatoes, and those

who painstakingly removed the gills from the Portobello mushrooms, plus those setting up the condiments; on to the grill where our grill masters were putting up with smoke, the heat, the rush of members barking out what they wanted, "one not too done burger, " one well-done burger," "two zucchini," "one red, one orange, no make that two yellow peppers," "three cheese burgers" "two dogs, no buns," "are the Portobello's ready" and so on and so on, and never once complaining; the clean-up crew, collecting a leftover tote bag, a knife here, a bowl there, a spoon over there, etc., and last but not least to the twofigs (aka Bernie and Dolores) who have orchestrated all 18 Homecoming picnics from 1998 to 2016, a job well done by all, because we couldn't put on a fun-loving, member friendly, organized, and sometimes dis-organized picnic without all your help...**thank you, thank you, thank you!**



The groaning boards were loaded with soo many delicious goodies too numerous to name, but deviled eggs are gaining momentum, and OLLI members, all but guaranteed, that two tables of desserts would satisfy the "sweet tooth" of everyone in attendance; any leftover desserts go back to school for the next

Picnic continued from page 4

morning “sugar fix,” the other leftovers go to needy causes, this time to Casa San Francisco in Milton...some said it was the best picnic ever. Why? Maybe because of the beautiful day, or the fun and animated conversations going on everywhere, members catching up with each other, all enjoying the many delicious foods including desserts, having a fun time, and kibitzing with fellow members throughout the picnic festivities...sounds like all good reasons for having a “good” time to Salty!!!...

The picnic started to wind down with the English Country dance class dancing three dances led by our callers Carol [West] and Ted [Mason] followed by no-other than the incomparable Roo Brown and the “Elder Moments” entertaining all – what can be said about them that hasn’t already been said...maybe just continue on, and on, and on...a great way to end the 18th...

>>>Salty says...shipmates mark your calendar for the OLLI Holiday Luncheon, Instructors’ Recognition, on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at the Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach at the boardwalk and Atlantic ocean...and arts and crafts members start thinking about what you’re going to display?

Contributing writer – Cera Belum



Photos by Jay Wheeler & Lynn Kroesen



Fall Semester Off to a Great Start

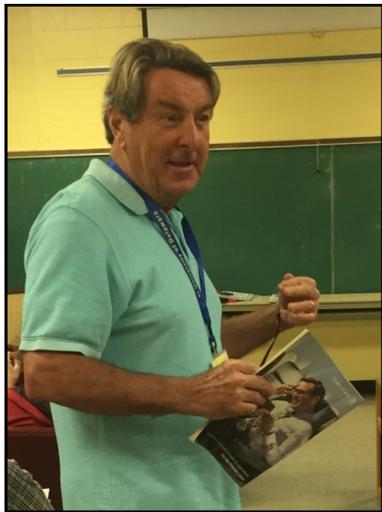


Above: **Mah Jongg for Beginners**, Paulette Criaris instructor.

Photos by: John Lafferty, Lynn Kroesen, Dolores Fiegel, Bill Hicks



Above right: Joan Mansperger, **Native Trees of Delaware**



Left: Tom Devaney, **One Minute to Midnight: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Below: Mark Davis, guest speaker **Peace Corps in Africa**. Served with Phil Fretz in Sierra Leone.



Left: Phil Wescott instructs **Drawing Fundamentals for Aspiring Artists**



Fall Semester Off to a Great Start



Above: Discover Slower Lower Delaware, Agnes Brien & Maureen Sherlock instructors.



Kitchen Kapers XXIX instructors Bernie and Dolores Fiegel

*Sonia Hunt instructs
Techniques in Watercolor*



Dick Kauffman Receives Certificate of Appreciation

Dick Kauffman, a retired Lutheran minister and a generally warm, nice gentleman, has been an instructor at Osher for many years. He also has led a discussion group at Cadbury, which includes several present or former Osher members. As he did in the classroom, Dick focused the group on thinking through important philosophic and ethical issues. Dick and his wife, Carrie, now have health issues that have prompted a desire to relocate near their daughter. Their move only awaits an opening at their next adult care facility.

Beloved by many, especially members of his discussion group, he was presented with a plaque that reflects the esteem in which he is held.

A special thanks to Bernie Gilmore for suggesting the presentation. We had not done so in the past, but now I can think of a number of times I wish we did. We will do this in the future. Thank you Dick for inspiring us.

Submitted by Bill Sharkey, Council Chair



L-R: Dick Kauffman & Bill Sharkey

In Remembrance of



Robert Ellsworth Carlton, 79, of Rehoboth Beach, and formerly of Rockville, Md., passed away Saturday, July 9, 2016, at Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C. Bob retired after 39 years in federal civil service with the Department of the Navy as a general engineer, civil engineer

and nuclear engineer. He received many honors and awards during his career. Bob's education included a B.S. in civil engineering from Tufts University.

Bob enjoyed photography, fishing, attending classes at Osher Lifelong Learning and especially playing golf.

Bob will be greatly missed by his spouse of 33 years, Patricia (Paletsky) Carlton; two stepchildren, his granddaughters, and a sister.

Memorial services were held Monday, August 22, at St. Edmond Catholic Church in Rehoboth Beach.



John M. McMeekin, 79, of Lewes, passed away peacefully Saturday, August 27, 2016, at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in the Bronx, N.Y.

Mr. McMeekin retired after 30 years as a Delaware educator, teacher and assistant

principal. He was a member of the National Education Association, a member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, Osher Lifelong Learning, the Masons, American Legion Post 28, and Cancer in Common. He was a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, having served during the Korean War. He was a devoted husband; father, grandfather, brother and friend, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Audrey M. (Schwerthoffer) McMeekin; two sons, four grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.

A memorial service was held Thursday, September 1, at Epworth UMC in Rehoboth Beach Church.