

THIS MONTH AT OLLI OCTOBER 2018

by Joe Bailey



Can you believe it? The term is half over and things have been running smoothly. What few problems we have had have been corrected or are being worked on. Word is, the church is happy with us and we are happy with the facility. We are working on the internet issues. Some of us are taking classes in Lewes and some people have come from Lewes up here for classes. The first five Thursday speakers have been very informative. The Tuesday noontime speaker series because it is not printed in the catalog has the flexibility to adjust to particular needs.

As we all know OLLI is learning made fun and this week on Wednesday October 10 we just had fun at the Homecoming Picnic in Cape Henlopen State Park. And speaking of fun, if you have been around OLLI for a while you may have noticed the same group of people that hang out and eat lunch together. I came across them one day last week in a room playing Trivial Pursuit. There is nothing like Trivial Pursuit to help a person realize they can still learn. Not only did I learn a few interesting facts; I also learned what a ball lost in tall weeds must feel like.

For a couple of years Rob Lathey taught a class called "Who's Afraid of Controversial Issues?" I enjoy controversy so I thought the class would be fun. The problem of course was that OLLI is top heavy with liberal thinkers. Also Rob wanted to steer clear of politics and possibly religion. Combine that with the fact that we could only get one admitted conservative in the class and after about fifteen classes the fire started to dim and it was a shame because Rob did a good job and he had a good idea.

This year along came Erv and Larry with a plan to remake the class and call it Controversial Issues. Larry said that his fear for the class was that due to too many liberals it might be boring. I don't know whether they were neophytes or just nuts but like a rib roast tossed into a lions den they heaved a slab of partisan politics on the floor and jumped back. There were twenty five people in the class and some spirited discussion took place. No objects or furniture were thrown. There were passionate arguments and statements. People treated each other with respect. It was obvious that people were willing to listen to learn not just waiting for their chance to talk. And here is the best part. On week two all but one of the people from week one showed up. The one who didn't had a previous appointment.

It is very refreshing hearing different points of view. Larry does a good job as master at arms and they both weigh in from time to time when we need clarification. This is a five week class which seems like the right length. It is always good to leave them wanting more. There is one week left and like the rest of the class that keeps coming back, I can't wait.

Since 2003 Connie and I have visited over thirty countries, and in every country the people are very interested in our government and how our political system works. Only in the country where it matters most do people seem to care the least. Perhaps 2018 is the year it changes. The eighteen to forty five year olds are the future of this country. A lot has changed in the past one hundred fifty years. Maybe a democracy would be better than a democratic republic. Maybe it is the duty of our generation to impress upon the future leaders just how important their role is in the world's future.

November 6th is just around the corner. Don't forget to vote. It is a precious right.

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