

THIS MONTH AT OLLI JUNE/JULY 2019

I suppose in many ways I am a cultural desert. I have always enjoyed reading good writing, but could never understand why my English teachers insisted on ruining it by analyzing what was going on in the mind of the writer. It was years later that I began to understand what they were trying to do. I like music, except most of what is available on a standard AM/FM car radio. When I was working, I had a nice sound system in my van. I could listen to opera (I like the music better than the play, usually). I am a jazz fan; also, Bluegrass and country if it is prior to 1960.

Thanks to the efforts of Deb and John Roberts, and George Christensen, and no doubt others we had a sample of Opera Delaware March 7 at OLLI. Connie and I decided we wanted to go see Scalia/Ginsberg, the opera at The Grand in Wilmington. Hannah McLennan joined and we decided to make an evening of it and go to dinner. We selected Mrs. Robino's on Union St. Mrs. Robino's is more of an institution than a fine dining restaurant. There are a number of spots to eat in the Little Italy section of Wilmington. We wanted locally owned, with homemade pasta, and where the regulars are treated like family. Our dinners were good, and they called the cheap jug red, Chianti. Nowhere in Sorrento could that stuff pass for Chianti. It actually didn't taste bad and it did give us a chuckle.

The Opera was fun. I was impressed by the quality of the singing, and we all sort of know the story of the characters. I struck up a conversation with the couple next to me at intermission. He has played in bands here and abroad. His wife wanted to make a note of something I said and asked to borrow his pen. He handed her a fountain pen. Since I have long believed I should have lived in the nineteenth century I thought I had found a kindred spirit and blurted out, "Wow you must be an anachronism."

To which he quickly replied, "You have no idea in how many ways."

In addition to good conversation in the car both ways we had the added adventure of the new downtown parking building at 9th Street between Orange and Shipley, but that is another story.

In my years at OLLI I have met many nice and interesting people. We all like to keep learning and socializing. It is not surprising that we have many common interests. Those of you who have come from larger cities miss the variety of good privately-owned restaurants. So do many of us. Those of us who grew up here remember fine "white tablecloth" establishments; The Dinner Bell Inn, The Blue Coat Inn, Alexanders, and The Village Inn come to mind. We have Cool Springs which has good food but is weak on atmosphere.

My brother was fond of saying "Ya gotta eat", followed promptly by his suggestion of where. Here is my suggestion. Find a friend, a neighbor, or anyone you like and sign up for the OLLI twofor. I know; Lewes is too far to drive. It isn't really, just forty or forty-five minutes from Dover. It seems even shorter with someone to talk to. Take a class or two and go to lunch. Lewes has

many good locally owned restaurants. After lunch stroll the shops on Second St. At the end of Second St. there is a nice little ice cream shop. You deserve it after all your hard work in class. Ya gotta eat.

One final note. Those fine people who make sure we all have coffee have asked for the summer off and they deserve it. They will be back in the fall with new hours. Coffee will not be available after 1 PM. While it is almost inevitable that some coffee will be spilled; it is possible to spill none. Please use the provided lids to prevent slop overs. Please be mindful of where you place the cup if it is not in your hand. A coffee cup on the floor seems to attract feet. In the event of a spill, please wipe it up and tell Bob the maintenance man whose office is just outside the OLLI office. He is a pleasant man and understands that accidents do happen.