

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

# OLLI TIMES

at The University of Georgia

## ANNUAL MEETING MAY 16

The OLLI@UGA Annual Meeting and Social will be held on Friday, May 16, at Central Presbyterian Church. The business meeting begins at 1:30 p.m., followed by catered social time. On the agenda for the business meeting are a report from President Jay Shinn on OLLI's progress over the past year and committee reports.

Two matters will require votes by a quorum of the membership. The first is the approval of a minor change to the Bylaws updating the description of office of the Vice President (see page 7). The second item is the election of officers for 2014-15 (one-year terms) and five Board of Directors members (two-year terms). The nominees for officers are:

- President-elect – Betty Jean Craig
- Vice-President – Margaret Anderson
- Treasurer – John Songster
- Secretary – Cheryl Copeland

The nominees for the Board of Directors are:

- Randall Abney
- Carol Kurtz
- Richard Lynch
- June Mazur
- Les Shindelman

Tom Kenyon, the current president-elect, will assume the office of President. Biographies and pictures of the nominees are on pages 6 to 7.



President-elect Tom Kenyon will be OLLI's 2014-15 President. *Photo by Larry Petroff.*

Also at the meeting the Carol Fisher award will be presented to an outstanding OLLI member or members. Past recipients have been Roland Brooks, Jeani Goodwin, Olga Gray, Kathy Gratzek, Chuck Murphy, Janet Stratton, and John Rudy. Carol Fisher, a retired faculty member in the College of Education, was an active and influential member of LIR throughout its early years, serving as vice president in 1999 and 2000. The Award was named in recognition of all she had done for the organization. In addition, at her death in 2010, Carol left a generous legacy to the organization.

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### “CHAMPAGNE AND ROSES” — VOLUNTEER AND PRESENTER APPRECIATION EVENT



The OLLI@UGA Volunteer and Presenter Appreciation Event “Roses and Champagne.....a Toast” was held Friday, April 11, 2014 in the Terrace Room

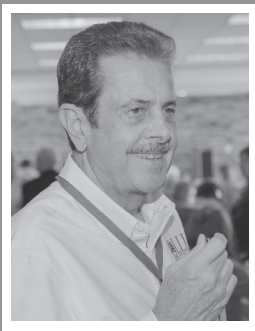
of the Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters, at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia. Under the leadership of Rich Cary, the Hospitality Committee hosted a wonderful event. Trumps Catering offered a very spring-like menu of light desserts, fruit and beverages—including champagne. A centerpiece of long-stemmed roses was on every table, enough roses for each person to take one home.

The event recognized the OLLI@UGA volunteers and class presenters, who contributed so much to OLLI's highly successful program year. President and emcee Jay Shinn came to the podium to



Lief Carter checks out his table's champagne. *Photo by Pat McAlexander.*

Continued on page 3



Jay Shinn, President

Friends-

Always, always so much to report on. Our semester is humming along, with the fall projecting over one hundred classes. As I write this, our Travel Study program has a group in Cuba, with more exciting adventures already planned. The SIGs are wonderfully active. The social side is alive and well. We've just had a grand event celebrating and thanking our volunteers and our class instructors.

On the admin side, the CRAM (Course Registration and Association Management) team has decided on a software package to bring to the Board for approval. The member experience will be pleasing and efficient, and our leadership's ability to do the job of seeing to the intellectual, social, and cultural needs of the membership will be moved miles ahead.

The big news for now is our OLLI@UGA Annual Meeting of the Membership, to be held on May 16. At this meeting your leadership will report on the state of our OLLI, and we will elect the leadership – officers and Board members – for the next term, which begins July 1. The slate is in this issue, as is a proposed Bylaws update which needs membership approval. Please put this important meeting on your calendar. And try to find the spot where you can volunteer your talents and energies. It is not only important to our OLLI, but it is downright enjoyable.

All that brings me to this: As of July 1 our fine President-Elect, Tom Kenyon, will become President. I have offered Tom this space for the June OLLI Times so that he may introduce himself as he begins his term. I remain on the job and fully engaged as your President until June 30, but this is the last of these OLLI Times articles from me as your President. Please give Tom the same extraordinary spirit and support you have shown me.

Although all beneficial activities deserve our good consideration, many, by the nature of what they do, earn our respect and admiration. The right of intellectual freedom and the wonder of open investigation are celebrated here. To share the company of such interesting and engaging people as we have in OLLI@UGA is a pearl of great price. I offer heartfelt thanks to those with whom I have worked. Your generosity and good spirit in sharing your gifts has been my gift. It has been my honor to be of service to you and to our OLLI. I wish you all good things.

See you in class, Jay

THE OLLI TIMES

Editor: Pat McAlexander  
 Consultants: Katy Crapo, Jay Shinn, Jen Williams  
 Advertising: Randall Abney  
 Graphic Designer: Haylee Silverthorne

OLLI Times deadlines: June issue (to be mailed week of June 18): Monday, June 2.

The OLLI Times is published six times a year, in September, November, January/February, March, April, and June, with news about OLLI, its members, and OLLI events. Send photos, notices, and articles to patmcalex@gmail.com.

Having the Time of Our Lives With  
**OLLI @ UGA**

**River's Crossing**  
**850 College Station Road**  
**Athens, GA 30602-4811**  
**706.542.7715**  
**www.oli.uga.edu**  
**oli@uga.edu**

**OLLI Staff**

Katy Crapo: Executive Director  
 Zu Reuter: Administrative Associate  
 Shelley Magruder: Office Assistant  
 Amy Munnell: Social Media Coordinator  
 Sara Williamson: Bookkeeper

**OLLI Officers 2013-2014**

Jay Shinn: President  
 Tom Kenyon: President-Elect  
 Margaret Anderson: Vice President  
 Carolyn Abney: Secretary  
 John Songster: Acting Treasurer

**OLLI Board of Directors**

Randall Abney	Joseph Harris
Rich Cary	Richard Lynch
Cheryl Copeland	Jill Read
Betty Jean Craige	Don Schneider
Helen Epps	Nancy Songster

**OLLI Committee Chairs**

Curriculum: Betty Jean Craige  
 Finance: Richard Bouldin  
 Fund Development: Tom Kenyon  
 Historian: William Loughner  
 Hospitality: Lee Albright  
 Information Technology: Les Shindelman  
 Long Range Planning: Richard Lynch  
 Marketing Development: Randall Abney  
 Membership: Helen Epps  
 Nominating: Tom Kenyon  
 Publications: Pat McAlexander  
 Registration: Nancy Canolty  
 Special Interest Groups: Carolyn Abney  
 Travel Study: Joan Zitzelman  
 Volunteer Coordinator: Sandy Clark



# OLLI SHORTS

## Margaret Agner, Robert Clements, Dortha Jacobson, and Erika Lewis



A sculpture by Robert Clements has been installed at ACC Library as part of Athens-Clarke-County's public art project. Photo by Pat McAlexander.

had works accepted in the Lyndon House Art Center's 39th Juried Exhibition, which ran from March 9 to May 3. (If there are other OLLI members who had works accepted, let us know!) Robert Clements' "Thomas' Orchard" won the exhibition's David Dwinell Award of Excellence in Visual Arts.

**Vince Masters** was one of three Athens area World War II veterans honored on April 3 with the French Legion of Honor medal bestowed by the French Consul General of

France. Masters served as lead pilot and operations officer for the 551st Squadron of the 8th Army Air Corps; then he became commanding officer for a scouting force of P-51 fighter planes

which scouted targets for bombing raids and weather conditions. He flew 28 bombing missions, and 25 fighter scout missions.

**Katy Crapo** gave the keynote address at the 2014 UGA reception honoring new retirees on April 24.

**Hubert McAlexander** has been honored with an endowment gift creating the Hubert H. McAlexander chair of English at the University of Mississippi. The gift was given by Dr. McAlexander's lifelong friend Lester Glenn "Ruff" Fant III and his wife Susan.

**Connie Crawley**, a senior public service associate and extension nutrition and health specialist, received \$15,000 in continuing support for the Cooking for Lifetime Cancer Cooking Schools which, working in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Georgia Department of Health, present cooking lessons combined with cancer prevention messages for women across the state.

**The OLLI Tag Sale** scheduled for May 31 has been postponed. The Fund Development Committee thanks to all those who volunteered to work this event.

## Continued from the front page

Ken Sherman's rendering of "Hail to the Chief." Lee Albright, Ann Crowley, Sandy Clark, and Tom Kenyon gave brief presentations, and Betty Jean Craige did a "dramatic reading" of the names of ALL the volunteers and presenters. The theme of the program was clear: OLLI appreciates these people!

Volunteering builds relationships and a sense of giving back while giving an insider's knowledge of OLLI@UGA. Volunteers also provide valuable input for leadership and staff. To find a way to help OLLI that is right for you, contact Sandy Clark at [slbclark@bellsouth.net](mailto:slbclark@bellsouth.net).

And if you are interested in sharing your expertise on a subject, consider another kind of volunteering: being a presenter i.e., offering an OLLI class. Class teachers say OLLIs are some of the best students they have ever had! And there are no papers to grade. Find course proposal forms on OLLI@UGA's website ([olli.uga.edu](mailto:olli.uga.edu)) under "Forms." If you are interested in something less formal than a class, consider offering a "Brown Bag Lunch" talk—and indicate this preference on the proposal form.

# OLLI Art Fair



Carol McKay at her White Rabbit jewelry stall.  
*Photo by Pat McAlexander.*



Elizabeth Barton at her quilt/watercolor stall.  
*Photo by Chuck Murphy.*



John and Jane Amos sold jigsaw puzzles and stuffed animals.  
*Photo by Pat McAlexander.*



Fairgoers admire photographs at the Picture This! table.  
*Photo by Bill Flatt.*



Square dancing swirls.  
*Photo by Chuck Murphy.*

# March 22, 2014



OLLI square dancers Elizabeth Barton and Andy Seila.

*Photo by Pat McAlexander.*



Gay McCommons reading from August: Osage County. *Photo by Larry Petroff.*



Joe Mauldin giving his harmonica presentation. *Photo by Larry Petroff.*



Chip McDaniel and Marihope Troutman. *Photo by Bill Flatt.*

## QUOTES ON THE FAIR

You [the three co-chairs, Elizabeth Barton, Pat McAlexander, John Weber] did an amazing job with the Fair. I admire you for being able to pull together such an event. –Alexis Winger

There was such great electricity in Central Pres! –Katy Crapo

Gay [McCommons, who gave the drama presentation] was wonderful! –Jane Marston, visitor

I'm now the owner of a gorgeous Margaret Agner creation, purple/blue jacket sort of thing, beautifully "flowy" handpainted silk. I tried it on, and Margaret let me wear it during the Art Fair (I think she actually said "model it"). Just could not resist bringing it home with me. –Helen Epps

[The Fair] was great... I love shows in which I know most of the exhibitors and even "customers"...like a party. The square dancers...said [dancing] was so much fun. –Margaret Agner

It was a great day! A lot of fun, socializing, entertaining and making a little money while doing it! What could be better? –Sandy Ellis

### **And from Elizabeth Barton, Pat McAlexander, and John Weber, Fair co-chairs:**

We thank the following: Talmage Terrace for providing delicious refreshments at the Fair; Bill Loughner who helped with PA setup for Gay McCommons's dramatic readings and Joe Mauldin's harmonica playing; Chip McDaniel for her keyboard music and song; Lew Frazar, Sandy Clark, Larry Dendy and all who helped us with clean up; Southern Mutual Insurance Company, for letting OLLI use their parking lot next door to the Church during the Fair; Elizabeth Motes, the secretary at Central Presbyterian, for her cheerfulness and efficiency; and professional square dance caller Richard Smith, who came from Gainesville with all his equipment. (By the way, square dancing lessons are available if you're interested! Contact [evs1422@windstream.net](mailto:evs1422@windstream.net) for more info.)

We three will not organize an Art Fair next year. If OLLI wants to continue the tradition, we suggest having the Fair on alternate years. We hope for new ideas and new organizers so as to make it fresh and new every time it's held.

# Biographies of Nominees

## OFFICERS



### **President-elect: Betty Jean Craige**

Dr. Betty Jean Craige is Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature and Director Emerita of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts at the University of Georgia. Betty Jean is a teacher, scholar, translator, and writer. She has published seventeen books in the fields of literature, politics, art, and

history of ideas. Her most recent book is *Conversations with Cosmo: At Home with an African Grey Parrot*. For two years she wrote a Sunday column about animals, "Cosmo Talks," in the Athens Banner Herald. Betty Jean's murder mystery, *We All Live Downstream*, will be published in 2015 by Black Opal Books.



### **Vice President: Margaret Anderson**

Margaret Anderson grew up in Kentucky, graduated from Agnes Scott College in 1962 with a B.S. in Mathematics and then earned an M.S. in Mathematics from Hunter College of the City University of New York. Margaret and her family spent two years in the army, several years in New Haven,

Connecticut, and moved to Athens in 1972. Margaret earned her Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Georgia's Department of Statistics and Computer Science. She taught statistics and computer courses in the Terry College of Business before becoming Assistant to the Director of what is now the Center for Teaching and Learning. Margaret retired in 2004 and joined Learning in Retirement, now OLLI. She is former chair of OLLI's Information Technology Committee and continues to serve on the IT Committee. She is currently Vice President of OLLI.



### **Treasurer: John Songster**

John Songster is a happily married four-times grandfather who happened upon Athens after a serious search and some strong past-life associations. OLLI has added tremendous enjoyment along with complications to retired life. John was a military pilot and a corporate technical

manager and executive, experiences which have allowed him to cope with the complications. He has served OLLI in nearly every volunteer and elective capacity since joining in 2005. For

the past three years he has been treasurer, starting his tenure by shaping the structure and integrity of the OLLI financial systems and processes. Member growth has led to the need for considerably more resources and financial management sophistication. In seeking the treasurer's office for another term he hopes to help OLLI establish a secure, sustainable future.

### **Secretary: Cheryl Copeland**



Cheryl Copeland is completing a term on the OLLI Board of Directors. She received a B.A. from Albion College in Albion, Michigan and an M.S. degree from Boston University. She worked 19 years as Director of Micropublications and Advertising for a micropublishing company, marketing and selling rare books on microfilm to research

libraries around the world. She served two years as Recording Secretary of the Massachusetts Federation of Business and Professional Women, as well as three years as the Public Relations chair. Since moving to Georgia in 2010, she has served as Secretary of the Advisory Committee for the Cottages at Creekside in Bogart, as Secretary for the OLLI Board of Directors on four occasions in the absence of the Corporate Secretary, and as a member of the Marketing Development Committee.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **Randall Abney**

Randall Abney graduated from the University of Georgia in 1968 with a B.B.A. degree, specializing in Marketing and Management. His working career included starting 14 businesses, one of which helped invent the technology for Pay Per View for Cable TV and Satellite. He and his wife, Carolyn, ran

the international division of the company from London and Amsterdam, traveling to 102 countries over an eight-year period. He retired in 1998 for 61 days from that business, then moved to Florence, Italy where he and his wife Carolyn were two of the six original partners in SmARTiens Corporation, an intellectual property company specializing in commercializing broad patents in the photography business. Their most successful product, the Hylan System, won the 2009 Academy Award for Technical Achievement. Randall and Carolyn moved to Athens in July 2008 and joined Learning in Retirement. Randall has served as the

# Biographies of Nominees

Marketing Development Chair for four years and has been a board member of OLLI@UGA for three years. He teaches two classes for OLLI@UGA--one on Olive Oil and one on Balsamic Vinegar.



## **Carol Kurtz**

Carol Kurtz has been a resident of Athens for 38 years and a new OLLI Curriculum Committee member. She earned her B.S. degree from George Peabody College of Education (now of Vanderbilt University) and her M. Ed. from Boston College. She is a retired educator who has been a

community volunteer since junior high school. Carol has served as a member, president, or chair of the Northeast Georgia Girl Scout Council, Athens Area Cancer Auxiliary, Jeannette Rankin Foundation, Athens Chapter of Hadassah, Athens Clarke Heritage Foundation, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Athens Community Council on Aging. Carol has also served Congregation Children of Israel as president, as a teacher and administrator for the Sunday School, and as Sisterhood president.



## **Richard Lynch**

Richard Lynch has been an Athens resident since August of 1989. Richard is Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia. He was Director of the School of Leadership and Lifelong Learning and co-director of the Occupational Research Group in the College of Education prior to his retirement.

In 1996-1997 he orchestrated the renovation of the River's Crossing building, which now houses OLLI@UGA. He has been an OLLI member for many years. He is now completing a two-year term on the OLLI Board of Directors. He chairs the Long Range Planning Committee and previously chaired the Financial Options Committee, a group that reviewed and analyzed financial options to support the operations and services of OLLI. He also served on the Membership and Marketing Committees, has

taken many classes, traveled with OLLI, and participated in the ACCA senior leadership academy.



## **June Mazur**

June Mazur is a native of Atlanta. She graduated from Emory with B.A. in English. After one year of teaching high school English she had a 35-year career as a lead flight attendant with Delta Airlines. She returned to Georgia six years ago and decided to live in Athens primarily because

of Learning in Retirement, now OLLI@UGA. June loves the OLLI classes, trips, gatherings and members. She has volunteered as an OLLI Angel, a facilitator, and as a member of the registration committee. June is also active in community theatre, serves as a volunteer usher at the Fox Theatre, and is training to be a volunteer Athens Host. This year she was chosen as a contestant for Ms. Senior Athens.



## **Les Shindelman**

Les Shindelman is a recently retired management consultant. Les was a Partner with Coopers & Lybrand (now PWC) and Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). His primary expertise is Operations Strategy, Business Process Management and Information Technology. Some of his

former clients include International Paper, Alcoa, Roche, Merck, H.J. Heinz, American Greetings, Coca-Cola, Southern Company, Quaker State, Motorola, AT&T, Verizon Wireless, Chicago Tribune and DHL. He has served as a member of several university advisory boards – Vanderbilt University Operations Roundtable, Miami University College of Applied Science and Duquesne University MIS Division. Les is currently OLLI@UGA's IT Committee Chair. He is leading the project to select and implement a new Association Management System.

## **PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE**

A proposed change to the OLLI@UGA Bylaws Article Eight: Officers, to update the office of Vice President:

**Current Article 8.7.** The Vice President shall coordinate and support the programs and activities of the organization, to include Curriculum, Travel Study, and Special Interest Groups. Should both the President and the President-Elect be unavailable for a meeting, the Vice President shall preside.

**Proposed New Article 8.7.** The Vice President shall coordinate and support the programs and activities of the organization in cooperation with the President. Should both the President and the President-Elect be unavailable for a meeting, the Vice President shall preside.

# OLLI HELPS WITH UGA STEM GRANTS

Thanks in part to support from OLLI, three faculty members at the University of Georgia have received one of five grants awarded nationally from the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Volunteer Program. They are Drs. Julie Luft in science education, David Knauff in horticulture, and Chuck Kutal in chemistry. Starting this fall, these three will be coordinating the Athens version of the AAAS National STEM Volunteer Program, which will bring scientists and engineers into local K-12 classrooms to help teachers make connections between concepts and practice, guide students' in developing critical thinking skills, and spark students' interest in science by making it relevant and connected to careers.

While the proposal was being written, David Knauff had contacted OLLI through John Rudy about the idea of networking through OLLI to identify current and retired STEM professionals in the Athens area with an interest in volunteering. That networking plan was an important part of the successful grant proposal.

If you are in the field of science, technology, engineering, or math and would be interested in helping with this program, please contact David Knauff at [dknauff@uga.edu](mailto:dknauff@uga.edu).

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEACH A CLASS FOR OLLI?

If so, go to OLLI@UGA's website ([olli.uga.edu](http://olli.uga.edu)) and click on "Forms." Scroll down to the Course Proposal form, complete it online, and email to [olli@uga.edu](mailto:olli@uga.edu).

If you have further questions, contact Betty Jean Craige, Curriculum Committee Chair, at [bjcraige@uga.edu](mailto:bjcraige@uga.edu).

TEACH  
for OLLI!

# STEPS TO A NEW PERSPECTIVE

by Tom Wittenberg

Tom teaches tai chi classes for OLLI@UGA. His next classes: Intro Tai Chi Easy: Sept 17, 19, 24, 26; Oct 1, 3, 8, 10. Intermediate Tai Chi Easy: Oct 29, 31; Nov 5, 7, 12, 14. Location is Central Presbyterian Church. This essay was originally published July 17, 2013 in a newsletter of NAMASTA (North American Studio Alliance), an organization of body workers and instructors of yoga and tai chi.

Some seniors would have you believe that the signs of infirmity creep over a person so gradually that they are hardly noticeable. These people point to diminished hearing and eyesight as examples. At 35 years old they heard and saw everything just fine, but now at 60 they can definitely notice the difference: witness their eyeglasses and hearing aids.



Tom Wittenberg. Photo by Larry Petroff.

Not me. I can tell you exactly when my knees began to give me trouble. One day, I could walk on the flat, cobblestone streets, and up and down slight inclines with no problem. But on the very next day—Thursday, April 11, just before noon, to be exact—I experienced a sudden drop in energy level and a definite discomfort. I was in China on a study tour to practice Tai Chi and to learn more about Daoism. We had landed in

Shanghai two days earlier and were now headquartered in the West Lake district of the gorgeous city of Hangzhou. The program included visiting temples sacred to Daoism and Buddhism.

It was on the way to the Baopu Daoist temple that I caved in. All those steps! Temples, alas, are not situated at the foot of mountains. Oh, no. They're all built on mountain tops, and to really see them you need a cable car or a funicular, or be prepared to climb and climb and climb, in one case to climb 700 steps up a path aptly named the Stairway to Heaven.

So I can peg the beginning of my rebelling knees quite precisely. One thing you learn in Tai Chi is to pay attention...to yourself, to your breathing, to your movement... and above all to stay in your comfort zone. As a result of my visit to the Baopu temple, I paid close attention to future climbs, and I refrained from those with too many stairs.

I also learned to accept help from colleagues as we ascended and descended all those stairs. For example, I leaned on Henderson, half my age but twice my heft, and I got elbow support from Kelley, who cast a protective eye my way from time to time. My new status caused a shift in perspective, in that I now saw myself as a helpee, not a helper. Only later did I realize that it's not an either/or situation. I can be a helper and also accept help from others when necessary.

As for the knees, well, I consider the experience at Baopu temple a wake-up call, a timely warning that my shelf life is getting short. Happily there was no lasting impairment and no modification necessary in Tai Chi practice. But the incident brought home how suddenly...in just one day!... the body can change and how grateful I am for the assistance of others.



# OLLI TRAVEL

## PAST TRIPS:

### **COSTA RICA March 24-April 1.**

OLLIs spent nine days in Costa Rica: San Jose, Arenal, Monteverde, UGA's Costa Rica campus, and Samara Beach.



OLLIs at the Costa Rican volcano at Arenal. Photo by Sandy Ellis.



OLLI's guide in Costa Rica reflecting by a reflecting pool. Photo by Jeff Engel.



Helen Epps buying a whistle from a local Costa Rican as Jeff Engel looks on. Photo by Sandy Ellis.

### **CUBA April 8-16.**

Twenty-five OLLIs went on this trip, some of whom met regularly with Becky Ford in February and March to learn some basic Spanish. We were unable to get an article in this issue—but we will have photos and a story on their trip in the June OLLI Times.

## UPCOMING TRIP:

**EVITA (STILL AVAILABLE).** Saturday, June 7 is the date to join your friends for a matinee performance of Evita. The Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical tells the story of Eva Peron's rise to First Lady of Argentina. The relaxing journey by motor coach to the Fox will begin at 10 a.m. The trip will start at Jack Turner Sports Complex, 2230 South Milledge Avenue. Arrival near the Fox will allow time to enjoy lunch at the restaurant of your choice before the 2:00 performance. Your tour leaders can make lunch suggestions for anyone not familiar with restaurants near the Fox.

The cost of \$91.00 includes theatre tickets, transportation, gratuity for our driver and snacks on the bus. After the show you can expect to be back in Athens at approximately 6 p.m. Get your tickets NOW by registering at the OLLI website, either curriculum offerings or the travel study web posting, or by mail or telephone at 706-542-7715. Registration deadline is Monday, May 12.

If you have any questions, email Pete Pellegrini at [ju1974@gmail.com](mailto:ju1974@gmail.com).

## POSSIBILITIES FOR FALL:

- Phantom of the Opera –a Saturday, October 25 matinee performance
- Trip to Georgia Aquarium, to be linked to a fall class by Dr. Jim Porter; there will be a behind-the-scenes special tour of the Aquarium.
- Beer breweries in Athens area
- Tour of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta



# OLLI BLOGGERS

A **blog**, a truncation of the expression **web log**, is a personal website on which an individual records opinions, personal narratives, links to other sites, photos, music, or links to other sites on a regular basis. Blogs emerged and grew in popularity in the late 1990s. The movie *Julie and Julia*, portraying Julie Powell creating her 2002 blog on cooking all the recipes in Child's first book, illustrates how a personal blog can grow in popularity, be read by many people, and in this case, ultimately evolve into a book and movie. A number of members of OLLI@UGA currently write blogs. Four of them are Warren Flick, Chip McDaniel, Amy Munnell, and (though his medium makes it not, strictly speaking, a blog), Mark Freeman.



Warren Flick. Photo by Chuck Murphy.

**Warren Flick's** "Later Living" (<http://www.laterlivingblog.com>) is a blog by a person in retirement about issues in retirement (finances, family, social life, travel, relationships). The posts are usually illustrated with photographs. Some examples are "What To Do When a Friend is Dying" (ideas about helping friends through the final transition), "The Mysteries of Old Love," and "Alzheimer's Ravages

Old Love "...One recent post, "Who Are We?," strikes a parallel between our efforts to preserve landscapes and one man's fight to keep his memories. Here's an excerpt from the beginning and then the end:

**"Warren, isn't it? You're Warren, right?" asked John. "Yes, how are you doing, John?"**

**"Ahhh, today is a good day for me. My memory is mostly here," he said as he continued to get dressed. John is in his early 60s. We were in the locker room at the Y. John had swum, showered, and was almost ready to head out. Months ago he mentioned that a neurologist had recommended more exercise to combat the onslaught of memory loss. That was as much as he wanted to share. He was matter-of-fact yet unhappy about his memory, and he seemed aware that he was in a long-term, losing battle. So everyday he comes to the Y and fights his destiny.... Many people fight to preserve historical places against further development and change. Places and things as they are, as they have been, give us**

**a sense of identity. We want to keep what we were because it's key to who we are. It's similar for John and his battle with memory. Memories identify him in relation to family, friends and others, to past times and various places. How else can he know himself? No wonder he's fighting.**



Chip McDaniel. Photo by C. McDaniel.

**Chip McDaniels'** blog, "Blue Tomato Journal" ([bluetomatojournal.blogspot.com](http://bluetomatojournal.blogspot.com)) combines creative writing—poetry, journal sketches, musings, and memoirs—with photos and sometimes original music from her keyboard. For example, here is a poem that was embedded in her latest posting (April 9), "The Plum Tree Blooms Again":

*Amor fati*

**Love your fate**

**— even if you didn't get what you wanted  
— even if you didn't want what you got,  
— even if your plans were thwarted  
and ended in dead end streets  
— even if hope was overrated  
— even if the prison bars  
were of your own making.**

**Love it because**

**the sun will be there every day  
—even when you can't see it.**

**Love it because just living itself  
is beautiful,  
in some strange mad way.**

Some of Chip's other blog topics are "Was Sisyphus Happy?" "If I Were a Bird," "Chicken Salad Days," and "Remembering Marvin Hamlisch." You also might want to check out her youtube channel for songs and music: <http://www.youtube.com/janamedrova>.

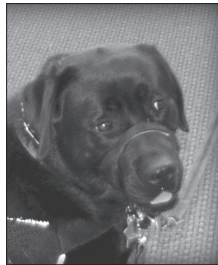
MaGee is **Amy Munnell's** service dog. Her blog, "MaGee & Me: the start of a beautiful friendship," (<http://mageenme.tumblr.com>) began shortly after Amy received her training packet from



Amy Munnell

Canine Partners for Life and was gone for three weeks of training with her new dog. It served first as a way to keep her family and friends informed, but it has become part diary, including descriptions of life with her family, and part forum to educate about and promote life with a service dog. Photos and videos of MaGee playing figure heavily in the website (Jan. 19, 20, 29) and give it “mommy-blog” feel. This excerpt describes a family event with MaGee:

**Yesterday MaGee & Me and my aide Rebecca went to Loganville, GA to support my brother Matt at his fundraising event for the Muscular Dystrophy Association: Run Matt Run! He is a manager of a Kroger store and he runs as many laps as he can around his store’s parking lot. He did 14 laps, about 4 miles, and raised over \$900. This year a local high school cross country team ran with him. MaGee and Rebecca did a lap this year. When she wasn’t running, MaGee hung out under her Aunt Emily’s umbrella with a bowl of water. We met some interesting folks like . . . a little boy who really wanted to “pet your dog, please.” He settled for a high five. “That’s cool!” And a man loading groceries in his car who shouted [to MaGee], “You take good care of Mama now, y’hear boy?!” repeatedly. He did eventually ask if she was a he or a she and corrected his instructions accordingly.**



MaGee

Amy writes, “We’d love for you to join us on our journey through this life.”



Mark Freeman reading one of the books he’s written.

Photo by Larry Petroff.

Technically **Mark Freeman** is not a blogger—rather than maintaining a website, he emails out columns—but otherwise he is so much like one that we are including him in this article. When he lived in New York State, Mark wrote “The Washington County Curmudgeon” for an upstate daily. (Webster’s defines a “curmudgeon” as a man of mature

years who comments negatively but wittily on the foibles of mankind and the events of the day. Freeman says that a “mature woman” can also be one!) When Mark moved to Athens five years ago, a number of his readers asked him to continue. Changing his nom de plume to “The Damyankee Curmudgeon,” he furnished those who wished with weekly comments by email. Mark’s columns range widely from recollections of interesting characters he has met to progressive politics to what’s good and bad in Southern life and cuisine. Here is an excerpt from one of them:

**. . .My mother was born in 1895 and my father in 1890, which makes them, not Victorian, but perhaps Edwardian. When I was about two, they took a . . . series of pictures, showing me, stark naked, slowly standing up as I emerged from a pail of water. As you might guess, I was incredibly embarrassed when I was perhaps ten and the album containing these pictures was passed around to family members at a get-together. My aunts were fairly staid, but no one ever said anything about the photos except “Oh, how adorably cute!” That album is still in the possession of my family. Technically, I suppose it’s my property. Lately, I’ve been wondering: “Can a man be arrested and jailed for possessing ‘kiddy-porn’ if he has pictures of a naked two-year-old, posed, some would say, provocatively, if the pictures are of himself?”**

It could happen, Mark suggests, in light of current laws. He also cites an example of parents who lost custody of their children for over a month for taking such photos. (Luckily Mark has not been arrested and his parents lived before such laws existed.) Mark’s weekly email columns are available without charge to OLLI members upon request. Contact him at [crmdgeon@bellsouth.net](mailto:crmdgeon@bellsouth.net).

# Some More Photos



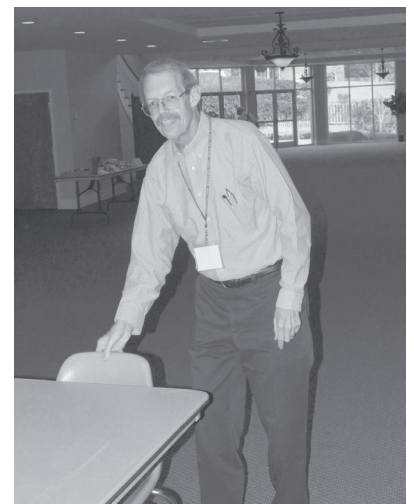
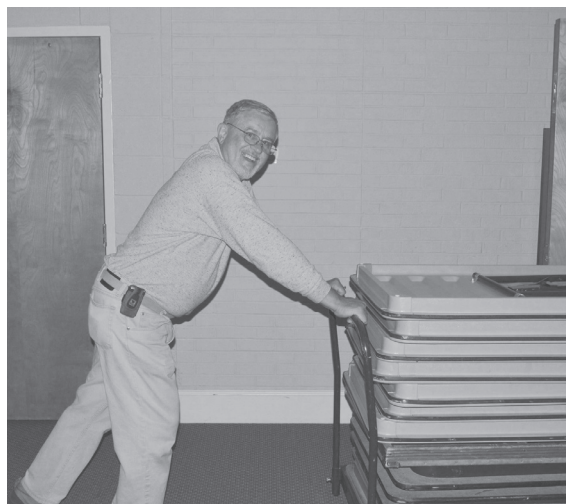
Cribbage SIG meeting at the Kumquat Mae Café in Watkinsville. Left to right: Frank Stancil, Victor Gagliano, Linda Kundell, Jack Hagerman, Jim Kundell, Don Downie. *Photo by Lorraine Downie.*



Margaret Agner and her “wearable art” at the OLLI Art Fair. *Photo by Larry Petroff.*



Flying monkey in Costa Rica; note baby on her back. *Photo by Jeff Engel.*



After the OLLI Art Fair, Volunteers Larry Dendy and Sandy Clark put away chairs; Lew Frazer puts away tables. *Photos by Pat McAlexander.*

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