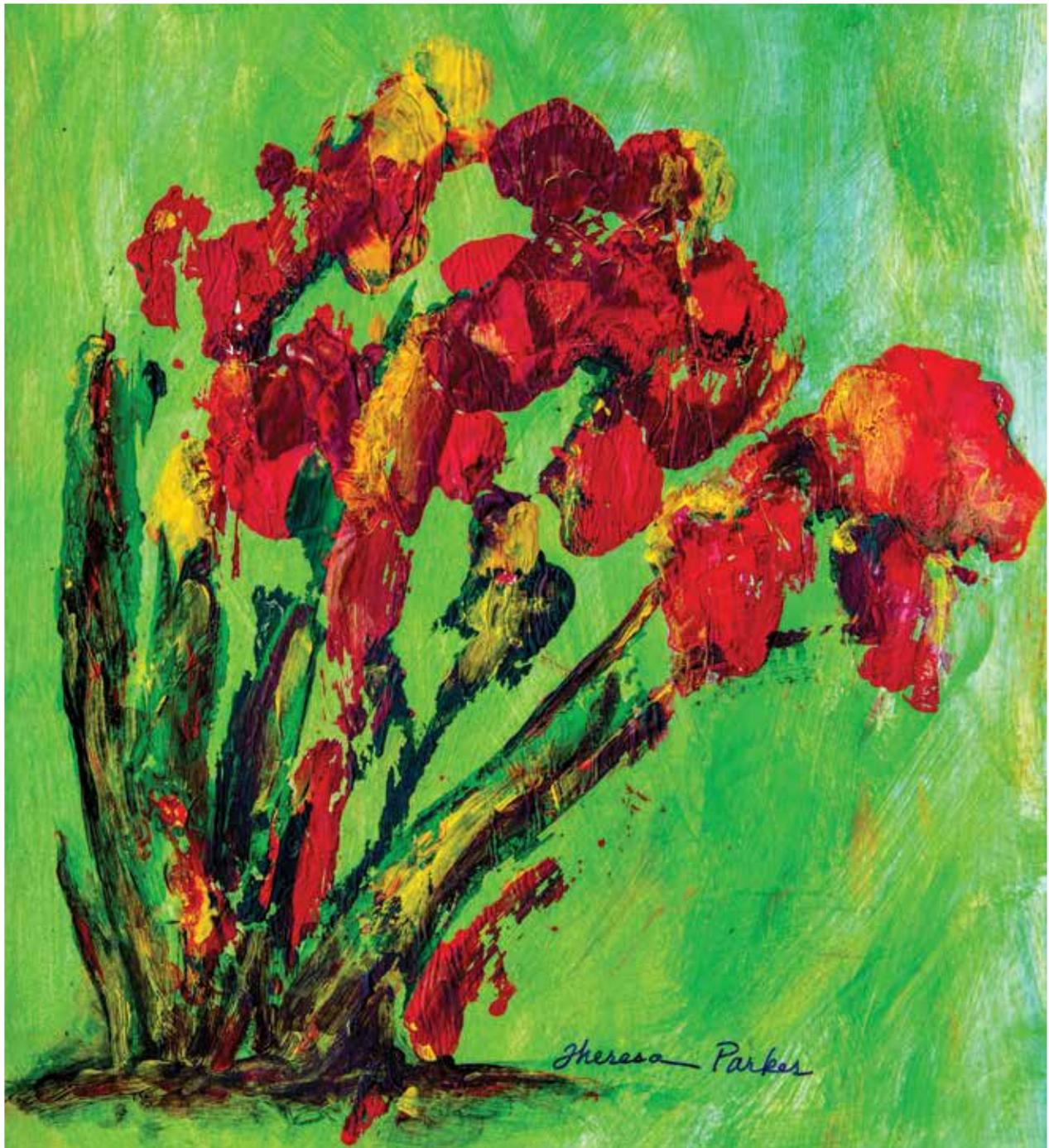




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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE  
PECK HOUSE, 3601 PEARL STREET, HATTIESBURG, MS 39401  
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# OLLI *Expressions* 2018 SPRING ISSUE



# OLLI's Leaders

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE *By Brett Harris*

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As I'm writing this note, a rainstorm is brewing outside the window. The clouds are dark, and the forecast is threatening every Easter egg hunt from Jackson to the Coast. In the midst of it all, I can see flowers blooming all around the Peck House grounds. While I enjoyed the snow Mother Nature brought to south Mississippi, I am thrilled for the new life that's popping up all around us, even in the midst of a rainstorm.

I've had numerous conversations with members this year about the storms of their lives – diagnoses of disease, losses of loved ones, recognition of physical limitations. The list goes on. It can feel as if the storms are coming no matter where we look to the horizon. Some may be closer than others. Some may be stirring in darker, heavier clouds than others. Nevertheless, we cannot avoid the storms.

If we're lucky, however, the view we have isn't consumed by the storms. Maybe there are flowers blooming in sight. Maybe there's a relaxing stream running nearby. Maybe there's a standoff between two honking geese over a plot of grass or a slow-motion turtle fight in Bear Creek Bayou that just makes you laugh.

I don't know what's in view for you, but what I see out the window today is, in some way, a metaphor for OLLI. Life throws a lot at us, often when we least expect it. In the midst of it all, though, there are pieces that bring us joy, images



Brett Harris with Diane Jeske and Tay Baucum

and experiences that remind us of the new life popping up all around us. I hope OLLI is such a place for you.

In these pages you'll read about some of the new life your fellow OLLI members have experienced this semester. You may have experienced it, too. If you know anyone whose life is stormy right now, I hope you'll tell them about OLLI and the new life we see here every semester. It may be just the place they need to find and, if nothing else, they might get to enjoy a good goose standoff now and then.

## PRESIDENT'S POST *By Betty Dettre*

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As my presidency approaches its final days, I look back at how fast the time went by due to the professionalism of Brett Harris, the OLLI Advisory Board, committee chairs and the staff.

During my presidency, I came to realize just how much Brett and the staff do to create the impression that OLLI practically runs itself. Not true! The illusion is created by Brett's

numerous meetings with various offices of Southern Miss to deal with issues as they come up, and his foresight in dealing with future issues, such as budgeting, maintenance of our buildings and grounds, and expansion. This helps ensure that OLLI fulfills its obligations with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in order to continue our affiliation with them. He also coordinates with local civic groups on activities that will promote OLLI. And in his spare time, he searches for and writes grants for OLLI.

My sincere thanks go to Brett, program coordinator Tay Baucum, Diane Jeske, student helpers, Advisory Board, committee chairs, and all of the other volunteers. And I thank all of the OLLI members for their enthusiasm and effort to make OLLI such a wonderful place to be. OLLI would not exist without you.

# COULD REMODELING YOUR BODY BE ANY MORE FUN?

By Carolyn Rothery

Home repair shows knock out walls and install new floors to achieve a modern, sleek look in old houses. OLLI fitness classes knock out stiff joints and weak muscles to achieve strong, healthy bodies in senior citizens. Trimmer waistlines and smaller clothes beat new draperies any day.

Health-conscious OLLI participants say, “Bring it on,” with Tai Chi, Nia Dance, Yoga, Zumba dance moves, and Fitness for Wellness and Injury Prevention. OLLI will even work on your brain with aerobics to keep your brain fit and sharp. Want to walk? What better place than our garden path with blooms, butterflies, birds and buff bodies zipping by?

A little Google research promised that exercise can build strength and muscle, help with cardio endurance, change decreased range of motion to flexibility, and improve balance to help us avoid injuries from falls and keep us independent and mobile. Want to feel sexy? Get moving. Need help with



OLLI's active Zumba class

high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis, osteoporosis, heart disease, waste around the waist, diabetes and depression? Say, “Thanks, OLLI. Sign me up! I want to get moving and have some fun while I’m doing it.”

Now, just a few words of caution. Check with your doctor before you set out to remodel your body. Let your physician outline any precautions you need to take, such as adjusting medications, or if a physical condition, such as osteoporosis, must limit your bending and twisting. Start slowly and work up to more repetitions and to advanced or challenging moves. Stay hydrated while

you work out. Stop if something hurts other than muscles that have been in retirement.

As much as we love our classes, be sure to take advantage of good weather with biking, tennis, swimming, hiking, dancing and walking. Take a deep breath and enjoy the honeysuckle while you enjoy your makeover. How sweet it is!

## VIETNAM: AT WAR AND IN PEACE By Nanci Youngblood

He had already completed six Ironman Triathlons on six continents in his 60s — that’s age not decades — and had written to tell about it! So why would Dr. John Pendergrass want to go back to a country where he had served as a flight surgeon in the Vietnam War? His latest book, *Racing Back to Vietnam*, tells why. It outlines his experiences and encounters during that revisit, which he shared with OLLI members in a seminar.

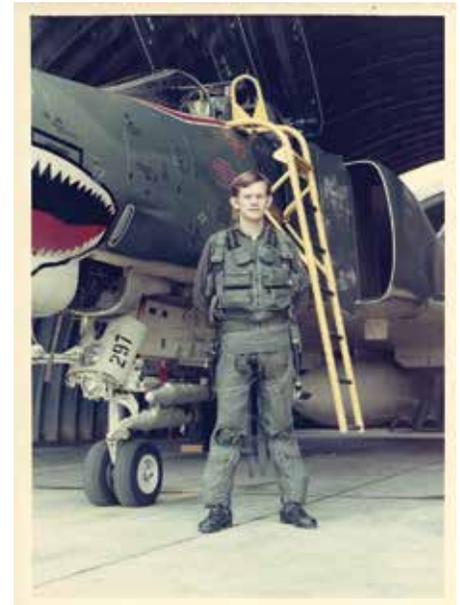
Dr. Pendergrass found it interesting in his conversations with Vietnamese citizens, through an interpreter, that most of the people he encountered hardly knew of the war — either because they were too young to remember or had been born since the war ended. The ones who were older and did remember expressed gratitude that the United States had attempted to thwart a communist takeover of South Vietnam. Surprisingly he found a thriving economy based on capitalistic theory and practice in spite of the fact that Vietnam is indeed a communist nation.

In attempting to visit sites of major battles, from which he had assisted wounded soldiers, he discovered many locations could not be found. Foliage had covered over the sites and the memories. In Hanoi, he visited preserved remnants of prisoner-of-war camps, including parts of the “Hanoi Hilton,” where John McCain was a POW. The Vietnamese people he talked to seemed to bear no resentment toward the United States. The predominant negative feelings now, he said, are a

fear and dread of China.

At least four members in the seminar had served in Vietnam — one as a Red Cross volunteer, one as a member of the state department, and two as combat soldiers. Dr. Pendergrass asked them to share their experiences serving, and then asked the rest of us to share our impressions of the war then and now.

Having a seminar by an actual participant in that war was relevant and well-received in light of recent reminders of the Vietnam War by the movie, *The Post*, and Ken Burns’ series on the war, which Dr. Pendergrass said he had watched three times.



U.S. Air Force Flight Surgeon  
John Pendergrass, 1971

# OLLI *Learns and Plays*

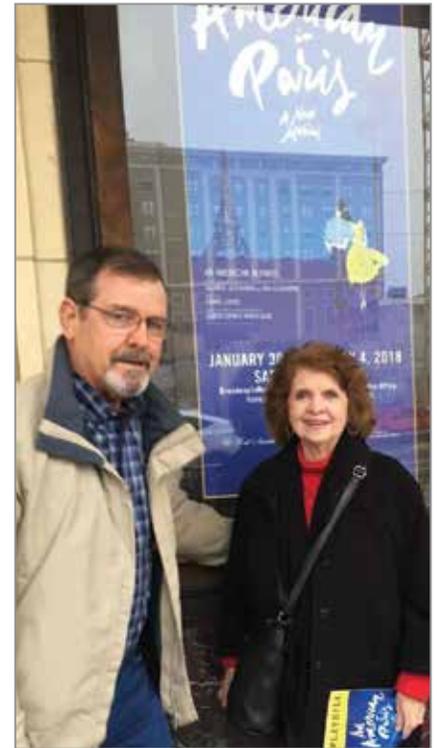
## AN AMERICAN IN PARIS *By Annie Richerson*

OLLI members traveled to New Orleans for the off-Broadway production of *An American in Paris*. Thirty-seven members, led by Tay Baucum, spent the morning browsing shops in the French Quarter and sampling food and drink specialties. A number of restaurants, such as Tujaque's, Muriel's and Tableau, provided lunch and music venues.

Members went to the Saenger Theatre to view the matinee performance of the Broadway in New Orleans series of *An American in Paris*. The production, with orchestral composition by George Gershwin, is a musical play inspired by the 1951 Academy Award-winning film. "OLLI provided a flawless day trip to New Orleans to see a fabulous production. The most stressful part of the day was deciding what delicious meal to order from the French Quarter restaurant of your choice. This was a totally wonderful experience, and how can you beat a Gershwin?" remarked Ann Shoemake.

The audience was entertained with music, dance, costumes, set designs, and a ballet sequence referencing French painters. The play, set in Paris immediately following World War II as the city struggled for normalcy, featured the principal characters of Jerry Mulligan, an American soldier remaining in Paris to pursue his art; Adam Hochberg, an American composer creating a ballet; Henri Baurel, a wealthy Parisian balancing family expectations; and Lise Dassin, a beautiful

dancer hiding a mysterious past. The plot developed as the three men, yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war, fell in love with the young dancer. The musical score and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin included the songs "I Got Rhythm," "But Not for Me," "Stairway to Paradise" and "They Can't Take That Away." Charlotte Hill summed up the experience by saying, "The play was a delight in music, dancing and backlighting. Tay did a marvelous job of organizing the trip."



Dave McCown and Jacqueline Polk at the Saenger Theater

## OBJECTIVE JOURNALISM: DOES IT EXIST? *By Carolyn Rothery*

The days of newsmen Edward R. Murrow, David Brinkley and Walter Cronkite are long gone. We listened, we believed, and we trusted. Whether or not objective journalism exists in the modern era was the subject of a lively discussion of a recent seminar, "Objective Journalism: Does It Exist?"

Three professors from the Southern Miss School of Mass Communication and Journalism stirred our thinking about impacts and influence of bias in the world of journalism.



Brett Harris, Christopher Campbell, Loren Coleman and Cheryl Jenkins

The panel included professor and author, Dr. Christopher Campbell; assistant professor, Dr. Loren Coleman; and associate professor and graduate coordinator, Dr. Cheryl Jenkins. OLLI Director Brett Harris served as moderator.

Part of the discussion and questions centered on the five corporations that now own almost all media outlets. The question arose about whether they are more driven by profits at the expense of fair and accurate, balanced news. Those five companies choose which revenue-generating ads to run. Sometimes the ads can be so cleverly constructed they may be mistaken for news. Public radio and public television were offered as more balanced sources because they are not profit-driven.

The panel was of the opinion that the depth of investigative journalism, especially in smaller, local markets, suffers due to the complexity of issues and the need for profits. *ProPublica* and *Atlantic Magazine* are often relied on by some multimedia outlets and newspapers seeking investigative reporting, they said.

Our panelists encouraged us to get information from a variety of sources and to look at a story for the journalist's biases and framework of knowledge. We, as consumers, have a responsibility to examine facts for ourselves, especially in social media.

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## MISSISSIPPI'S MIGHTY TRAILBLAZER: EVELYN GANDY *By Mary Nagurney*

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Seminar facilitator Jennifer Ingram Johnson described Evelyn Gandy as a woman of Mississippi firsts: first female president of the Ole Miss Law School student body, first woman elected to statewide office (as state treasurer), and first female lieutenant governor. The list of firsts goes on and on.

Born in 1920, the same year women won the right to vote, Gandy entered the political world early. At age 28, she represented Forrest County in the Mississippi House of Representatives. One of the most significant pieces of legislation she advocated as a young officeholder was the establishment of a four-year medical school. Students were attending a two-year program of medical education at Ole Miss but then had to transfer to out-of-state medical schools. Often they did not return to Mississippi. Because Gandy and many other young members of the coalition trying to pass the bill were Ole Miss Law School graduates, they were very familiar with the problem.

Johnson read Gandy's account of attempts to pass the bill: "It had been previously introduced and died an ugly death." The vote was going to be very close, possibly a tie.

"One strong supporter of the four-year medical school was hospitalized in Jackson," remembered Gandy. "This was Rep. Zelma Price. When she learned how close the vote was going to be, she arranged for an ambulance to bring her to the floor of the House of Representatives or to the entrance of the House, close enough for her to be in a position to vote. When the roll call on the passage of the bill was completed, we had won by one vote, which we all said was the vote of Rep. Zelma Price from a stretcher at the door of the House."

Mississippi's constitution gives a great deal of power to the office of lieutenant governor. Gandy used that power

aggressively and wisely from 1976-80.

Under her guidance, the legislature enacted 16th section land reform, financially benefitting Mississippi schools. Before the reform act, 16th section lands were often leased for pennies an acre. Guidelines now require that schools receive full appraised value.



Jennifer Johnson, Facilitator

Relying on a coalition known as the "Gandy Boys," she successfully championed mental health and criminal justice reform, ethics legislation, and unprecedented funding for public education, junior colleges and universities. She had long been a supporter of education. Her 1947 campaign platform, when she was running for the House of Representatives, included full support for the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and "a fair and just share of appropriations for Mississippi Southern College in Hattiesburg."

Johnson had a personal view of the life of Evelyn Gandy. Her father, Carroll Ingram, was one of the "Gandy Boys," and after Gandy's days of public service were over, she practiced law with him. Johnson is working on a biography of Gandy, which will hopefully be published in 2020, the 100th anniversary of her birth.

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## HUMAN GENETICS *By Carolyn Crosby*

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OLLI's own Dr. Aleta Sullivan facilitated this fascinating class on "Human Genetics." She used her wonderful teaching techniques to capture the minds of students. Basic instruction on the history of genetic research; definitions of terms, such as nucleotides, chromatins and centrioles; and the workings, configurations and replication of DNA laid the foundation for the class.

Dr. Sullivan's instruction on how DNA is constructed, relaxes, tightens and eventually passes on necessary information to originate and maintain a being was cemented with her students by the use of hands-on techniques. The class fashioned a DNA helix (with great effort) and formulated the replication process for necessary proteins. Mercy was granted when the replication list was a short one and not one that required hundreds of combinations.

Through this instruction, the miracle that, most of the time, the combinations in our bodies are correct and produce the results we all take for granted became apparent. This heightened



Dr. Aleta Sullivan with Shirley Glabb and Betty Dettre

awareness of the ongoing process within each of us generated new respect for the life we carry in each cell. Demonstrations of how certain combinations produce particular results, both detrimental and phenomenal, and provide the world with such variety proffered the participants the knowledge of why we are each so unique, yet so like our forbearers.

This class is highly recommended when it is retaught. The information gleaned is invaluable.

## AN ELEGANT BREAKFAST AT THE WHITE HOUSE

By Helen Ceraldo

In my 32 years as a military wife, you can bet I have heard some funny stories. The following situation floored my husband Bob, and he never ceased to laugh when he repeated it to his family.

During the Cuban missile crisis, Bob was working very long hours in the Pentagon. He was a top-notch logistician and was constantly in need of tactical planning in the War Room. He had little sleep since he was on call at any hour, as the supply and demand of critical materials became more crucial with the threat of war with the Soviet Union.

One morning in the early hours, he was summoned to an important conference with President Kennedy at the White House. Having had no breakfast, President Kennedy was ordering something for himself and politely asked Bob if he could order something for him, as well. Bob, trying to be polite and to save time, simply told him to order whatever he was ordering for himself. "I'll have what you're having, Mr. President," he said.

It took a while for the breakfast to arrive. When it came, it was on a large tray covered by two silver domes. Bob was expecting eggs Benedict with hollandaise sauce or Belgian waffles or some other type of gourmet breakfast. The waiter lifted each dome with a flourish. Underneath each dome was a Clark bar and a bottle of Coca-Cola. Bob did all he could to disguise his surprise. He and Kennedy ate the Clark bars and drank their Cokes and went on with the meeting.

Apparently, that was a normal breakfast, or perhaps a pre-breakfast snack, for President Kennedy during stressful times.

We laughed about that many times and many of the other crazy things that happened during Bob's 32 years of service. Sadly, he is no longer here to relay these funny stories first-hand, but we still talk about them and are able to laugh again.



Helen Ciraldo

## TURTLE LOVE

By Nick Adams

I came upon the turtle  
While walking in the yard,  
Almost stepping on him or her.  
He or she receded into its shell  
And I backed away, giving clearance  
To his or her destination.  
It took a while.  
The next day I saw two turtles  
Lumbering along, one going one way  
And the second going another.  
I granted them permanent right-of-way,  
As if they were ambulances  
With four flat tires.  
Traffic in the yard moved smoothly.  
Then they disappeared for weeks.  
I feared they'd become  
Someone's turtle soup.  
But this morning I almost stepped  
On a baby turtle.  
Ah,  
Now I know where  
Those two have been.



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Do you have a life story, anecdote, poem or joke to share? Send it to *OLLI Expressions*.

We'll try to find a place for it in the next issue. Limit your submission to 400 words or less (poems to 21 lines or less). This issue has contributions from three new writers.

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## YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD... *By Nanci Youngblood*

Bucket list item: Jump out of an airplane at age 75!  
Are you kidding?

No, here's how it went: 1) Find the tiny St. Tammany Airport (with GPS aid). 2) Complete a FIVE PAGE waiver releasing the tandem jumper professional, the airport, parish or state of Louisiana from liability for any injury or death that could occur during the dive. 3) Watch a sobering video by the inventor of the equipment, indicating that every precaution had been made in the manufacture, but accidents could still happen. 4) Suit up in "flight" gear of heavy long pants with padded seat and an array of straps and clamps by which I would be securely tethered to Josh, my own (very cute, young) professional diver. 5) Listen to a brief outline of the procedure and be asked enough questions to satisfy Josh that I intended to follow through with the dive. 6) Say "farewell" to gathered family. 7) Kiss Bill! 8) Crowd into a tiny airplane — five of us sitting toe-to-toe with only the female pilot having a real seat. 9) Ascend 10,000 feet! 10) When door opens, place feet on a tiny ledge in a 100-mile-an-hour wind — the hardest part of the jump. 11) At Josh's notice, begin a delightful free fall!

Suddenly we were flying. In spite of a previous warning to keep my mouth closed during the free fall, I forgot! The video shows me saying, "Oh wow! Oh wow!" The free fall was AMAZING — maybe the best part of the dive. Then suddenly there was the jerk of the opening parachute and then the incredible peace and quiet of floating in space above the clouds. We could see Lake Pontchartrain, string-like highways, forests and small hamlets, and in the distance, the tiny landing field — our final destination. Except for a slightly



Nanci Youngblood in free fall with diver Josh

queasy stomach, the descent was absolutely awesome!

Close to the ground, Josh said we would land on our bottom side (glad for the padded pants) instead of standing — that, I think, in deference to my age. Soon we were on the ground sliding to a halt! I did it, or rather, we did it! Josh congratulated me; I thanked him and gave him a hug. Mission accomplished!

Am I glad I did it? You bet! Would I do it again? Probably. But next time, I might take a Dramamine prior to the jump. What a trip!

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## GONE HOME *By L.J. Hallberg*

The first time I heard the Reverend Dr. Billy Graham preach in the flesh was in the late 1960s at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky. It was some type of Baptist youth rally, but a few of us Methodist preachers-in-the-making managed to sneak in an unguarded door. A few years later, I heard him speak again at Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh. I was there for one of his Schools of Evangelism. Young preachers—I was one then—were given scholarships to enable them to attend. During a break in the school, I saw Graham, almost up close and personal (50 yards or so away), surrounded by his associates and towering over them.

My brother-in-law Newt, along with his wife Becky, were once invited to the Grahams' home. It was a beautiful mountainside house but nowhere near mansion status. At the time, Newt was the academic dean at Montreat-Anderson College. They were struck by how down-to-earth Billy and Ruth Graham were—no airs of importance, no veneers of sanctimony, just good folks to spend part of an afternoon with.

Many will remember Graham as the crusading evangelist with a face and physique perfect for the golden age of television, or friend of both Democrat and Republican presidents, or founder of a worldwide organization that ministered to millions. Others will remember his refusal to allow segregated seating at his crusades at a time before civil rights became popular. Others will remember the man who, amid slick TV preachers, teamed with World Vision to found the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability to help non-profit Christian ministries maintain financial integrity.

Billy Graham was a simple country boy, who walked with kings and Presidents while maintaining a genuine sense of humility. He was buried in his native North Carolina. His casket was handmade by inmates at Louisiana's infamous Angola prison. In days following his death, billboards sprang up across the country bearing the face of Billy Graham and the simple words: GONE HOME.

# OLLI *Gulf Park Activities*

## OLLI MEMBERS GET SOCIAL AT SPRING KICKOFF *By Dave Reed*

The OLLI Gulf Park Campus Spring Kickoff was held at the Fleming Education Center and provided members and guests a great opportunity to network, socialize and learn.



Anne and Kent Petruccelli

Current members were able to reconnect with each other after the break between semesters and to meet and greet prospective new members. This proved successful, as OLLI Gulf Park signed up eight new members during the event.

In the South, we often meet to eat, and the kickoff was no exception. Many OLLI members

volunteered their time and efforts to provide their favorite finger food or special dessert for the event. These tasty homemade treats, combined with the friendly atmosphere, made members and guests feel at ease, contributing to the success of this semester's event.

In addition to social aspects of the meeting, OLLI members had a wonderful opportunity to learn. The featured guest speaker, Dan Ellis, showed the first hour of the film *Old Spanish Trail*. The film depicted the history of development of transportation from Mobile to New Orleans and was a prelude to the class, "Old Spanish Trail Gulf Coast." Members Kent and Anna Purcell stated, "It was a very interesting and informative presentation, and we are looking forward to attending the next part."

Member Betty Adams said, "Our spring social was a huge success. So nice to see our members gather, anticipating upcoming classes. Great time to reconnect and share new ideas. Thanks to all who provided goodies for us." Thank you, Maryann, for another job well done, and a special thanks to Dianne Dewees, who organized the event. Let the fun begin!

## LIFE IN THE LONGLEAF PINE *By Pamela Dupuy*

On a cool, clear winter day, several OLLI members gathered outside Saucier at the Harrison Experimental Forest for a seminar on "Life in the Longleaf Pine." U.S. Forest Service biologist Ed Moody shared his knowledge, expertise and love of longleaf pines, as well as the flora and fauna found nearby. Following an informative discussion, the class then went on a site visit within the Desoto National Forest, where longleaf pines were observed in their natural setting. Moody and his assistant explained the specific traits of longleaf pines and compared them to loblolly and slash pines.

The duo also pointed out several nests belonging to the red-cockaded woodpecker, a protected species that often dwells in these tall, thin, towering trees. Moody extolled the virtues of longleaf pines and how the Forest Service manages what's left of the Southern pine forests that once covered Southeastern states from Texas to Maryland. With 90% of the original forests removed through industry and urbanization, he noted the importance of preserving this valuable resource, along with the animals and plants that depend on it.

In addition to the red-cockaded woodpecker, Moody showed OLLI members a burrow of a gopher tortoise, which is also an endangered species living in the longleaf pine ecosystem. These tortoises are slow to reproduce and are threatened by habitat fragmentation and degradation, as well as by predators. The Forest Service is working with the Nature Conservancy at Camp Shelby on a "head-start" incubation program to help



OLLI members hiking in the Desoto National Forest

ensure the gopher tortoise eggs go safely to the hatchling stage and are then released in the DeSoto National Forest.

All in all, everyone who attended the seminar felt it was a wonderful investment of time and energy. This off-site program was truly appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended.

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## DINNER AT THE WHITE PILLARS, BILOXI, MS By Bettie Lindley-Meek

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Chef Austin Sumrall and his wife Tresse have brought the “farm-to-table” dining experience to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Chef Austin sources the highest quality and freshest local ingredients for his dishes. These proud Mississippians have chosen everything from serving dishes to the hand-crafted tables to the bathroom soaps, with Southern hospitality in mind.

The bar and lounge in the White Pillars, the WP, has its own menu of small bites. It also features seasonal cocktails, local Mississippi-crafted beers, and an extensive selection of bourbon and wine. The bar itself is the oldest known on the Coast and was originally in Chicago’s Blackstone Hotel.

Between the years 1901 and 1905, Dr. Hyman McMacken Folkes and his wife Teresa Lopez designed their home, formerly known as Gunston Hall and now home to White Pillars. The architectural style is Neoclassical Revival. The fireplace in the west downstairs room is made of rosewood, while the fireplace in the main room downstairs is constructed of ballast stones left on the shores of the Gulf Coast by European ships in the 1800s.

In the 1950s, the front lawn was sold and developed. In 1968, the property was purchased by the Mladinich family and converted from multi-residential units into the White Pillars



Gulf Park members enjoy dinner

Restaurant and Lounge. This family added a New Orleans-style enclosed courtyard, which became the patio garden room of the White Pillars Restaurant, opened in 1969 after Hurricane Camille. The original structure was kept intact, and seven dining rooms were created. The carriage house and formal garden were converted into a lounge. The doors on the east wall of the lounge came from Ursuline Convent in New Orleans and are over 150 years old.

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## MEET THE FACILITATOR By Carol Lewando

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One of the most prolific facilitators for OLLI on the Gulf Park campus is Jon Caridad. When asked how his journey with OLLI began, Caridad says he was teaching a class as a volunteer at a local library when someone in the class introduced him to OLLI, and the rest is history. He not only became a member, but has been a class facilitator almost every semester since his introduction to OLLI three years ago. He also serves as an at-large member of the OLLI Advisory Board.

Caridad, a retired Episcopal priest, received his degree in English at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, before his studies at General Theological Seminary in New York City and his subsequent ordination. During his time in New York, he talked about meeting and spending time with Madeleine L’Engle, the author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

In addition to his work and pastoral assignments as an Episcopal priest, both in South Carolina and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, he spent many years in education abroad and in the United States. One of the most interesting educational assignments he had was as administrator of the American Community Schools in London, England. He stated that many of his students were expatriates with wealthy parents seeking asylum for their children away from countries with political and economic unrest. Some students were American and Canadian with parents living abroad, who desired to have

their children educated in a setting that would meet American standards. He served locally as headmaster of Coast Episcopal School in Long Beach and rector of Saint Peter by the Sea Episcopal Church in Gulfport.

The classes Caridad facilitates at OLLI, in any given term, range from topics in history, such as ancient cultures, to topics in religion, including a study of the Psalms and modern Judaism. He says he enjoys the discipline of preparing for classes and feels, in sharing information, that he learns much from his interesting students, as well.

In addition to his involvement with OLLI, Caridad enjoys participation in community organizations: the Pass Christian Theatre Project, Gulfport Little Theatre and DARE. He is affiliated with The Nourishing Place and First Christian Church in Gulfport, where he counsels and preaches. OLLI is indeed fortunate to have him as a member, as well as a frequent facilitator.



Jon Caridad

# History Old and New

## HISTORY REMINDS US... by Lola Norris

History reminds us to remember and to celebrate what has come before. And that is just what Ellie Forsyth emphasized as she stood next to her award-winning exhibit from the 2017 National History Day competition. “I love history,” she said, and that was the basis for the extraordinary seminar she recently presented at OLLI.

A 10th-grader at Sacred Heart High School, and the youngest presenter ever at OLLI, Ellie represented the state of Mississippi in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland, last summer. Earlier in the year, she placed first in senior exhibits in the Mississippi History Day competition with her project, “Betty Ford: Taking a Stand for Others.” This is her second year to win first place in the state competition. As part of the national recognition, her exhibit board, including a portrait of Betty Ford that she painted, and her process paper were on display at the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington, D.C.

National History Day was founded in 1974. Students choose to participate independently, as the competition is not school-related. Ellie explained that students select their own topics that conform to a theme set by the organization, research the topics, then prepare projects that can be submitted among five categories: (1) history paper plus bibliography, (2) documentary, (3) interactive website, (4) performance, or (5) exhibit board with process paper. Ellie chose the latter.

“It is an experience like no other,” Ellie said. “It takes you beyond what is learned in the classroom and teaches you how



Ellie Forsyth with exhibit from National History Day competition

but few are remembered for a defining project or program.” Betty Ford was someone who stepped out and took a stand on behalf of women and women’s issues at a time when women were rarely seen beyond their traditional roles. She was visible and vocal in her advocacy for research on breast cancer, equal opportunities for women in the workplace, and equal pay for their work, and for those afflicted by alcoholism and drug addiction. “These,” said Ellie, “are but three of the many efforts on behalf of women that Mrs. Ford promoted during and after her years as First Lady of the United States.”

At College Park, Ellie was among the best and brightest from around the world. Each year, nearly 3,000 students in grades 6-12, along with their families and teachers, gather at the University of Maryland for the week-long National History Day event. These groups come from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea and South Asia.

## CRAFT YOUR OWN HATTIESBURG ADVENTURE

The secret is out—Hattiesburg is rich in both history and entertainment, and a trip led by Visit Hattiesburg’s Kristen Brock made believers of Gulf Park and Hattiesburg OLLI members.

Tours of Oddfellows Gallery and Open Studio on Front Street highlighted both the thriving downtown arts community and the beauty and character preserved in the historic buildings. Painting pottery at Main Street Books was fun and provided a souvenir of the day.

A stop by Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the site where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke just two weeks before his death, served as an introduction to the 1964 Freedom Summer Trail. The audio driving tour chronicles the important role Hattiesburg played in the civil rights era.

Super busy Katie Dixon served the OLLI group healthy and flavorful tomato soup and strawberry spinach salad at her Birdhouse Café. The former *MasterChef* contestant had just returned from judging the World Food Championships and is



slated to appear on *Food Network Star* premiering June 10.

It became quickly apparent that one day isn’t enough for exploring Hattiesburg. Visithburg.org makes planning future trips easy with “Craft Your Own Hattiesburg Adventure,” found by clicking on the Things to Do tab.

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## TREASURE HUNTING FOR OLD BOOKS by Bonnie Moore

Jerry Shepherd is a book lover who hunts for collectible and rare books. He began the “Treasure Hunting for Old Books” seminar by showing his own signed first edition of



Jane Jones, Martha Polk and Shirley Brown with Jerry Shepherd

John Grisham’s *A Time to Kill*, which sold for \$18.95 in 1989. On the first printing of 5,000 books, Grisham bought 2,000 copies and sold them from his car. He would make introductions

in person, then sign his book “to my new friend.” Shepherd proudly showed his favorite book, *The Descendant*, by Ellen Glasgow. Like so many authors who couldn’t get published, when she did, it was stipulated that her name not be printed as the author because she was unknown. Eventually she won a Pulitzer Prize.

Raised in Laurel, Shepherd discussed some of his early outings to the Lauren Rogers Museum Library, visits to antebellum houses, where books were piled in every room, from inside the kitchen entry throughout the house. On one such outing, he purchased three first edition William Faulkner novels!

With his experience and knowledge, he noted more than once that Hattiesburg and surrounding areas have an abundance of first edition, rare and valuable books — a wealth of books (including children’s) and history in front of our noses. For example, *Killer Angels*, by Michael Shaara, a story about four days at Gettysburg and written in Hattiesburg, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1974 and sold for \$2,500!

Shepherd told a story about searching for a college annual for an elderly lady who was in a nursing home. He finally located her yearbook and delivered it to her — coincidentally, on her 101st birthday!

An accomplished bibliophile and owner of Main Street Books in downtown Hattiesburg, Shepherd shared his expertise for finding authentic books at estate and yard sales. He uses such criteria as these, among others:

- Condition is everything to the buyer.
- The factor of supply and demand is what makes a book rare.
- An author’s signature is relatively easy to forge.
- Be aware of why people collect.
- The Internet affects the consumer collector’s ability to locate and get information on any book. There is a vast amount of information and several good websites, such as the Advanced Book Exchange (ABE).

Several old books were brought to the seminar. Condition was poor on many, but Shepherd found a few, though fragile, that were worth more research for historical or rare value.

Shepherd was a great speaker and storyteller and welcomes visitors to his bookstore with their “treasures.”

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## GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING by Robin Clark

“Global Response to Human Trafficking” was the subject of an informative and troubling seminar presented at OLLI by Dora Harbin and Haile Ponewski. Human trafficking is the modern equivalent of slavery and is the second-largest and fastest-growing crime in the world today, only behind drugs. It is estimated that there are over 20 million victims globally. Human trafficking is for two main purposes, sex and labor. Victims are sometime taken forcibly, but many are young and are tricked into running away from home by promises of employment, love, romance, documents to enter western countries, or a better life. The age of the victims can vary widely, but the preferred or target age is 12 to 14 years.

Once the victims are taken from their families or support group, they are isolated and forced into working low-paying, manual labor jobs and surrendering their earnings to their captors. Or they may be forced into illegal activities, such as drug dealing or prostitution. About 25% of girls and 17% of boys are sexually abused. Though millions of people are involved in



Dora Harbin and Haile Ponewski

global human trafficking, less than 2,000 offenders are prosecuted annually.

Human trafficking is a worldwide problem, and like drugs, it is fueled by supply and demand. It is not limited to third-world countries. It is a problem in the United States and right here in Mississippi.

Dora Harbin is a member of Advocates for Freedom (AFF), a non-profit organization trying to combat human trafficking. Since being chartered in Mississippi in 2011, the AFF has worked to raise public awareness and train first-responders, social workers, school administrators, medical professionals and others on signs of psychological and physical abuse, which could indicate a person is a victim of human trafficking. They have also established a hotline, where anyone can report suspected trafficking. To aid easy recall, the number is shown as 888.3737.888.

Global human trafficking is a huge legal and moral issue for all of us. If you would like to learn more, please contact Advocates for Freedom at [advocatesforfreedom.org](http://advocatesforfreedom.org).



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## What You Said About...



**Mary Peddicord** said, "I took 'The Novels of Will Campbell' because I met him at a conference and have several of his books, including a signed copy of his *Forty Acres and a Goat*. It was new to me to learn of Campbell's involvement in the civil rights movement."



**Paul Charbonneau** remarked, "The 'Italian Renaissance' class has been a real time travel! The only way I can describe Dr. Kendrick is — he is a true Renaissance man with a marvelous recall and delivery. I have taken Dr. Kendrick's classes over the years and look forward to his new offerings."



**Jim Dryden** attended "Vinyl: Everything Old is New Again" and said, "I'm reliving this. I grew up in the '60s and '70s with vinyl. I was reminded that when listening to vinyl, you practice conscious listening. Just sit and listen."

## ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

### Spring Flowers

By Theresa Parker

The painting on the cover is acrylic on paper by OLLI member Theresa Parker and is the product of an unusual technique. "I put some random strokes of paint on a piece of glass," said Theresa, "then pressed a sheet of drawing paper onto it. When I peeled the art paper away, I had an abstract image that seemed to resemble a bunch of flowers." So she developed it to create the strong image we see here.