

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

FALL/WINTER ISSUE, 2011

OUR WONDERFUL PROGRAMS

Del Sisson is the new chair of our great curriculum committee where the diverse array of programs we experience each Tuesday is generated.

When Del discovered CCR about 8 years ago, her husband Bob and she were brand new to Charleston. She had just retired from a long, rewarding, but very full teaching career. Says Del, "The new wonder of having time to spend as I chose was exhilarating! I felt charged to fill this time with the worthwhile and the pleasurable. CCR was clearly a piece I selected to add to my life, and it's the same choice most of us in CCR have made. We've chosen to explore issues and consider new ideas or points of view, examine the past and imagine the future."

She observes that, " The

members of the curriculum committee begin with this same hunger for knowledge but take it a step further: they actively seek out stimulating and worthwhile experiences to bring back to the membership as a whole! The committee reflects a range of professions, experiences, interests and regions of this country as well as places beyond its borders. The committee is somewhat fluid. Its stead and creative core is enriched as new members join in its work. This influx is vital as long-serving members find they must step down."

"The pursuit of programs," says Sisson, "begins with one's own interests, curiosities and passions. The unique eclecticism of our lecture series reflects this diversity. Yet the programs also reflect the



committee's attention to issues that are of interest or significance, whether locally, nationally or internationally."

Del observed that members of the committee invariably note a common phenomenon. They become alert to new program possibilities, no matter where they are. "It becomes impossible," says Del, "to read the paper, a book or magazine, hear a speaker, or even go to the market without thinking of possibilities. And Charleston itself is such a wealth of resources for possible programs! "

Learning is a lifetime journey. Growing older merely adds experience to knowledge and wisdom to curiosity. C.E. Lawrence

Nationally founded in the 1980's, CCR was founded in Charleston in 1993. Where ever it is located, CCR focuses on the proven ideas that the skills, insights, life experiences, and educational background of retirees are important assets to make their post-career years vital for living creatively and fully. CCR members work together to design their programs, select their roles in the group, and be participants in groups and projects of their own choice. The key objectives of CCR are to offer stimulating and meaningful ways to broaden personal perspectives, to continue to develop potential through involvement in the process of learning, and to share individual expertise with peers. CCR members are involved in a learning adventure in their retirement that improves the quality of their lives.

Judy Murdoch: Editor

CCR Book Club-

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm at the Main Library on Calhoun Street in Charleston.

Book Selections

January 4 The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot

February 8 Cutting for Stone Abraham Verghese

March 7 Manhunt James Swanson

April 4 The Buddha In the Attic Julie Otsuk

Information: Jan Harman 573-1810 or Sally Flynn 724-3458



GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Our president, Pat Gander, is an experienced teacher who knows how to get a group's attention. Pat had a 37-year-career teaching Spanish in New Jersey, Indiana and South Carolina. She attended Ripon College in Wisconsin and pursued graduate work at Rutgers in New Jersey. Pat perfected her Spanish skills with study in Alicante, Spain. She has also traveled in the Spanish-speaking countries in Central and South America.

Pat notes:

"It hardly seems possible that it is time for another message from ME! Welcome to anyone who is new to CCR this semester. Welcome back to our continuing members. The curriculum committee works hard to provide us two great speakers each week—on a variety of topics. Thanks to Del Sisson and all of the members of her committee. My recurring nightmare, however, is not that we'll all arrive and have no

speaker, but that we and the speaker will arrive and no one will know how to hook up the computer and the sound! Only as president have I really realized that this is a member driven organization. If no one learns how to set up the audio, we can't hear. If no one learns how to set up the computer, there is nothing to look at. We love your attendance. We love your dues. We NEED your assistance."

**WE LOVE YOUR
ATTENDANCE. WE
LOVE YOUR DUES.
WE NEED YOUR
ASSISTANCE.**

CCR STUDY GROUPS

Traditionally, each study group takes a more in-depth look at one topic for 4 weeks. The cost has been \$10.00 for CCR members and \$20.00 for non CCR members for each four week session. The groups have met at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on either a Wednesday or a Thursday from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

This semester, Jan Harmon, who facilitates the groups, has had responsibility for her 99 year old mother who lives in Missouri. So the groups have "been on hold" for the past semester. Jan hopes to begin them again this Winter-Spring semester. She is also considering changes such as offering a group this semester in the morning

Jan was Executive Director of Lexington Planned

Parenthood in Lexington, KY for thirty years. She has been active in the areas of teen pregnancy and women's reproductive rights. Prior to moving to this area, she lived in Charlotte, NC and Newman, Ga.

Jan had been coming to this area on vacations, specifically Edisto Beach, since the early 70's. When the Charleston area became home, she and Kevin decided to move to West Ashley.

Jan and Kevin moved to Charleston in 2003 when Kevin accepted a teaching position with Charlestowne Montessori. Jan joined CCR that year. Jan works part-time with a small, private company, Little Picasso, teaching preschoolers about art.

Jan said, "I have two sons, two stepchildren, one

grandchild and a wonderful Springer Spaniel named Misty!"

Jan is looking for helpers. If you are a new or a prior member who would like to serve on the committee please call or email her. She says, "I will get back to you immediately!"

So consider working with this wonderful woman on this committee. Contact Jan at janharman@netzero.net or call her at 573-1810.

**WE NEED YOU TO KEEP
THE STUDY GROUPS
ACTIVE!**

**CONSIDER CALLING JAN
AND GETTING
INFORMATION ABOUT
HOW YOU CAN HELP.**

TRIPS AND TOURS

Dave Clark, a member of CCR for 7 years, is a native of Boise, Idaho. He worked for IBM and spent 20 years in the Idaho Army National Guard. Dave has lived in Charleston for 12 years.

How does he plan all these wonderful trips and tours? Dave says that he talks to members about what they want to do. New ideas are always coming up as people change their minds as to what they want. He watches the newspaper for upcoming events. He checks to see what

other organizations are doing.

Then the longer process starts. It takes up to 4 months to schedule an event with an organization. The event is announced up to 3 months prior to the event. A sign up roster is put out at least two months before an event. Money is collected a month before the event. If needed, a bus has to be confirmed. And a back-up plan is always important if there are circumstances such as a lunch place closing for

business just before a trip.

Dave has two trips planned for next semester. One, March 8, is to the Lexington, SC Museum. This museum includes 36 historic structures on 7 acres. It offers a unique view of our state from 1770 to the start of the Civil War.

The second, April 12, is a trip to Bull's Island. A boat will take members to the island. Then a tractor-pulled wagon will take members around the island. Box lunch included.

**THERE ARE NO
FOREIGN
LANDS. IT IS
THE TRAVELER
ONLY WHO IS
FOREIGN.**

**ROBERT LOUIS
STEVENSON**

ROAD SCHOLAR/ELDERSHOTEL OPPORTUNITIES

Claire Robinson is the coordinator of this program at the College of Charleston. The program provides high quality, affordable, educational programs for older adults.

You can learn more about the programs by visiting the website at www.elderhostel.org. Claire can be contacted by phone at 843-953-5488. She has alerted CCR of two proposed programs for the Winter/Spring 2012 semester.

I. Charleston, SC **Program: April 1, 2012** **to April 6, 2012.**

Highlights include a historic walking tour of the city, a visit to the Rivers Communication Museum, a

concert, a tour focusing on the architecture of Charleston, a tour of either the Charleston Museum, the Manigault House or the Heyward Washington House, a lecture on Southern cuisine, a tour of Boone Hall, a walking tour of urban gardens, a lecture on Charleston Black History with a van tour related to the lecture, and will conclude with a lecture on the "Charleston Renaissance."

II. Cuba Today: People and Society; April or May-June

This is an 8 night and 9 day tour to Cuba. The program will delve into the history and heritage of Cuba. Participants will meet members of several local Cuban communities to discuss Cuba today, and to

explore Cuban landmarks that are significant to its cultural heritage.

Participants will meet with a Catholic priest and a sociology professor to discuss the state of religion, family and society in Cuba today. The director of a local art school will talk about art education in Cuba. Finally, practitioners of Santeria, a unique Cuban religion, will meet with participants. A musical and dance performance influenced by Santerian beliefs will be presented.

Interested? Contact Nancy Merz-Nordstrom, Director of the Elderhostel Institute Network at:

nancy.merz-norstrom@roadscholar.org.



**TRAVEL IS
FATAL TO
PREJUDICE,
BIGOTRY AND
NARROW-
MINDEDNESS.**

MARK TWAIN

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

**317 Education Building
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424**

**For Information Contact
Claire Robinson**

(843) 953-5488

Email: robinsonc@cofc.edu

Meetings Held Tuesdays 1 pm

At

St. Joseph's Family Life Center

**1695 Raoul Wallenberg
Boulevard**

**Charleston, South Carolina
29407**

Mailing Address

MEMBERSHIP

Karen and Stan Whitman are the co-chairpersons of our membership committee. They moved to Charleston in 2004 and have enjoyed being members of CCR for the past 4 years.

Stan is from California, born and raised in Los Angeles. He earned a BA degree at UCLA and an MD degree at the University of California at Irvine. Stan practiced medicine in Los Angeles in Family Practice and also in Industrial Medicine for 46 years.

Karen is a native of Denmark. She moved to Los Angeles in 1965. There she

met Stan. She is a graduate of the UCLA Landscape Architectural School and practiced in Los Angeles before retiring and moving to Charleston.

In the Fall semester of 2011, Stan and Karen signed up 30 new members. At this time, CCR has a total membership of 169. Ask your friends to attend a meeting at no cost. If they are then interested, ask them to join.

The cost of membership is \$30.00 for either the Fall or Winter/Spring series of lectures or \$50.00 for both series.

Stan and Karen remind

potential members that for the cost more is offered than just the weekly lectures:

*Refreshments are offered at each of the Tuesday lecture meetings.

* CCR offers a series of study groups, book groups, trips and tours.

* In addition, as CCR is sponsored by the College of Charleston, members can attend classes at reduced cost and use the college library.

*And there are opportunities to attend Roads Scholars (Elderhostel) programs at the college.



To join, send your name, address, phone number, email and a check for \$30 to the

Center for Creative Retirement,

C/O Claire Robinson,
317 Education Building,
66 George Street,
Charleston, SC ,29424.

Or come to a meeting, see if you like it, and if so, sign up.