

## **THIS MONTH AT OLLI MARCH 2018**

by Joe Bailey

The days of the Spring term are winding down to a precious few. When we were kids it took forever for summer vacation to arrive. Now we can be thrilled that we only have to wait two more months after classes end until we can start the June session. Fifty years ago I could never imagine that I would have ever written that last sentence except in a work of fiction.

The noontime speakers series has really taken off this year. Thank you Ronnie Grady for this and the great job you and your team do with course development. I was sorry I had to miss the talk on the Redding family. I spoke to several who were in it and Don Blakey got rave reviews for his presentation of this family who made major contributions to the Delaware education system and to Louis who was a Civil Rights pioneer.

Don't miss the offerings for March:

March 1, Mary Wilcox- Opera Delaware Spring Season featuring Puccini

March 8, Dr. Bill Flayhart-The American Line; History of the American Steamship Company

March 15, Pat Ryan-An Overview of Irish History

March 22, Terry McGinty-The Irish Society of Delmarva

March 29, The Chalkboard Syndrome; a panel discussion led by Doug Miller

I have no proof, just a gut feeling that about thirty percent of our members are retired teachers. It used to be said by people who didn't know any better that teachers went into the profession because they only had to work six hours a day, nine months a year, and got their summers off. If this were true it would seem to make no sense that a teacher would want to dedicate any of their valuable retirement time to either teaching or learning. Those who taught and those who married teachers know the facts. Teachers are lifelong learners. At OLLI we have teachers who were professionals as well as teachers who want to impart their knowledge. Teaching is a labor of love. If you are taking a class that is taught using slides or reproductions of art, typed or hand drawn pages, handouts, supplies of any kind; someone put all of that together for you. All of our instructors know that we are grateful for what they do. All that they expect from us is to contribute to class discussions, treat each other with civility, and not be a disruption in class. Knowing that you are appreciated is nice, hearing it is even better.

As you know by now we are facing some financial challenges. When I worked for Xerox they said, "There are no challenges, only pockets of opportunity." We have a pocket of opportunity and Rosemary Engle and her Special Events Team have provided a partial solution. They have arranged for our end of term luncheon to be held at Champions Club. This is a very nice 55 Plus community. The residents make perfect OLLI members and I am sure they see us as perfect potential residents. On Friday March 23 we need all hands on deck to make friends. We need members and Rosemary can introduce us to some of her neighbors. A lot of us became members because someone told us about OLLI. We have a good time here and have made good friends. We have no tests and no homework. If we each set a goal of bringing in one new member each year we will have one of the lowest sales targets anywhere and a guarantee of no commissions, therefore, no added tax burden.

Important Dates:

Thursday March 15, 2018 Hair the Musical Experience, 2:30 to 4:30p.m.

Thursday April 19, 2018 Trip to National Aquarium in Baltimore