

THIS MONTH AT OLLI  
MAY/JUNE 2018  
Joe Bailey

Just before starting this I was reading the latest OLLI Newsletter. In there is a poem by Ann Kemmerle congratulating George and Peggy on their marriage and a short piece by Ann Happoldt tracing her roots. In the past two weeks both of these ladies have died. To my knowledge neither death was expected. My mother used to say, "Death comes to us all." And so it does. We all know how life's book ends we just don't always know when we are on the last page.

Both of these ladies were lifelong learners who shared their knowledge with others. OLLI members seem to have a natural curiosity that keeps us learning. Curiosity is a wonderful thing but it is not a gift given to everyone. I once had a neighbor who worked on an assembly line building cars. Many times he told me that when he retired he was going to sleep until eight every morning and not do anything but relax all day. That is just what he did, plus eating massive amounts of carbohydrates. At age seventy and weighing four hundred fifty pounds he fell and could not get up. He spent the next ten years in bed. He was not disabled. He could have benefited from physical therapy. He seemed not just content but happy to lie in bed eating and watching television. After ten years of this his heart quit. It is nice to be able to do what you want in retirement, but ten years of television, tastykakes, naming spiders, and watching cracks form in the walls is a bridge too far for me.

Most of us have reached an age when pain free days are more of a memory than a fact, but we press on because there is something else we want to do or learn. OLLI gives us a place to do that. The Spring term is over and the June term is coming with many interesting classes available. I was walking in with Ed Christian to drop off my registration and saw that he was there for the same reason. I had signed up for six classes and I think he had signed up for seven. This whole OLLI thing has become something of an addiction. My wife tells me that she is no longer willing to pass up on last minute travel deals because it interferes with some class I want to take. I think that means travel is going to have the higher priority. Darn it! OLLI is fun and cheaper.

If you haven't signed up yet, do it today. Recruit a few friends to attend with you. The ocean is too cold for swimming in June. Use June to learn something interesting to talk about in July and August. We are all in sales. If you have ever tried to talk someone into doing something you wanted them to do you were making a sales pitch. Ask a friend to sign up for a June class with you. Word of mouth advertising is the key to our success.

I end with a request for prayers and/or good thoughts for the Kemmerle and Happoldt families. Thank you for the gifts you have given us over the years.