

# COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

## CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

SPRING/FALL ISSUE, 2013

### CCR FROM THE BEGINNING

Contributed by Ron Zigli

Why research the history of the Center for Creative Retirement of the College of Charleston? According to Ron Zigli, "History is fleeting. If you don't capture it much of it may be lost for all time." So Ron decided to take on the task. In compiling this report he contacted many people but gave special credit to Sharryn Clark and Claire Robinson. The following is Ron's report on the "History of CCR."

The Center for Creative Retirement grew out of the College of Charleston's efforts to affiliate with the Elderhostel Institute. The first workshop to prepare an outline for that affiliation was conducted on April 30, 1990. This resulted in a visit by the director of the Elderhostel Institute Network in 1991 to meet with the then director of the Office of Professional and Community Services of the College of Charleston. In October of 1992 an informational workshop at the University of South Carolina Beaufort was conducted by the director of the Elderhostel Institute Network. By December of that year, John McConnell had been designated as the contact person for the official application for affiliation (with Elderhostel). At this point, the focus by McConnell and others began to shift from affiliation with Elderhostel to establishment of a Creative Retirement Center.

On August 16, 1993, an organizational meeting for the formation of a Creative Retirement Center was held in North Charleston. John McConnell, the leader, was joined by 67 retired people from

the Charleston area. All came in response to an invitation from the College of Charleston. The agenda was to discuss the formulation of plans for a local "Creative Retirement Center" based on the Elderhostel model of continuous learning for senior citizens. Of the 67 attending, 28 men and women volunteered to become a steering committee to address the dual tasks of creating programs and increasing membership. The first 'class' met in October, 1993. Attendance was low for that first meeting, but participation steadily improved for the nine classes held the winter/spring semester of 1993-1994. At the September 21, 1994 meeting, "Rules and Procedures" were adopted and the group was officially named the "Center for Creative Retirement". By the first meeting in January 1995, officers and directors had been elected, committees organized, chairpersons named and membership defined. In 1995, Claire Robinson, who was hired to direct the college's Elderhostel programs, also allocated some time to work with the CCR.

( Claire Robinson & Sharryn Clark)

Since its inception, many individuals have volunteered to serve in a variety of ways. Some in elected positions, others on numerous committees, and still others performing a myriad of tasks to keep CCR viable. The list of all those individuals is formidable and beyond the scope of this abbreviated history. See though how many former presidents you can name. The list will be found later in this issue.

### The Learning In Retirement Movement

Elderhostel was begun in 1975 by Marty Knowlton, world traveler and former educator, and David Bianco, then Director of Residential Life at the University of New Hampshire. Knowlton had returned from a four year walking trip throughout Europe, during which he stayed at youth hostels. Seeing Europeans in their 60s and older playing an active role in their community they wondered why Americans did not have similar opportunities after retirement. Why not give them continued opportunities to learn? Bianco said, "We should not be having youth hostel. It ought to be an elder hostel!" In 1975, five colleges in New Hampshire offered the first Elderhostel to 220 participants. By 1980, there were programs in all states and more than 20,000 participants. By 2008 more than 60% of colleges offered waivers for older adults to attend classes.

Judy Murdoch : Editor





## THE MARTY MOSELEY SCHOLARSHIP

Contributed by Del Sisson

The scholarship awarded by the Center for Creative Retirement this spring will be named **The Marty Moseley Scholarship** to honor the remarkable Charlestonian who enriched our organization so wholeheartedly.

When he joined CCR about seven years ago, Marty was a man on a mission. Although he had been able to live symptom-free of the polio he contracted as a youngster, the symptoms continued an ominous return. The spunky Irishman looked them straight in the eye and said, "Not without a fight, you won't!" Marty's life's work was centered on learning and empowerment. He was fresh from his work in the creation of the James Island Senior Center. Now he found his way straight to CCR's curriculum committee.

Invariably Marty was the first to arrive at curriculum committee meetings despite his heavy walking braces. His wisdom and wry wit percolated through meetings. He was not only a wealth of ideas for stimulating programs, he apparently knew personally every important member of the Charleston community! Suggest a worthwhile topic and Marty not only had a contact but would, "get on it this afternoon." Rosters of past programs sparkle with ideas that were Marty's. They reflect his broad interests, his probing intelligence, his perseverance, his passion for social justice, his respect for integrity and his lifelong accumulation of friends.

With what better inspiration could the Center for Creative Retirement send this year's scholarship recipient on toward her life's work?



Dear Center for Creative Retirement  
 I am writing to say thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the Gerontology award for the 2012-2013 year! I can't explain to you how much I appreciate it! I am very passionate about gerontology and my future in the field! I look forward to meeting you and thanking you in person in the near future!

Sincerely,

Lauren Deasy

Lines From A Grateful President

I, as so often these days, cannot believe that the year is drawing to a close. It has been a great year at CCR, with great programs, study groups and trips. I am so impressed by the number of people who work so hard to make it all happen.

I want to thank the curriculum committee under Del’s leadership for the varied and stimulating programs we have all enjoyed this year. It is a monumental task to put a year’s program together. Membership has praised the variety and interest level of the programs and the enthusiasm of the speakers.

I want to thank Judy for the weekly reminders of the programs and the newsletters which keep us informed and help us to know one another better. Thanks to Louis for helping with publicity.

I’d especially like to thank Edith and her crew for the weekly spread and the luncheons. There is a lot of work that goes into that table full of goodies and drinks and we all appreciate it. That social time is a valuable part of our program. Edith will retire , but she and her crew will be long remembered for all they have done for us.

Thanks to Ron for keeping the lunch program going. It’s great for people to be able to gather in a social time and get to know one another better. Ron and Cathy make great hosts for this program.

Thanks also to Fred and Louis for their work each week. The speakers’ programs are greatly enhanced by the support for projecting their power points, etc.

Thank you also to David Clark and those who help him set up the sound system. We value that amplification. David’s work with trips and his committee who help put them together add a great deal to the CCR experience.

Thanks also to Stan and Karen who keep the membership lists and welcome us every week. They maintain accurate and up to date lists, but most importantly they engage us as we come through the door and make us feel welcome.

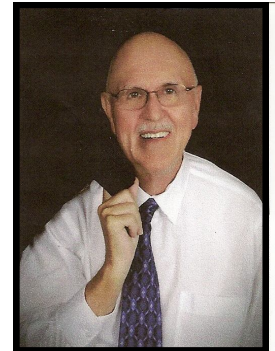
Our financial stability is well monitored and handled by Val. My thanks for a treasurer who keeps and reports our finances with such professionalism; it makes my job with the board much easier.

Our study groups this year have been well attended and interesting. Thanks to Jan for all she does to put the programs together and keep them going.

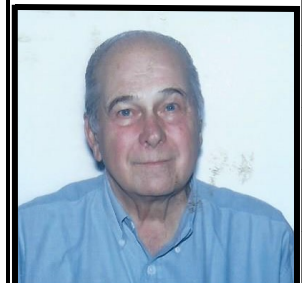
Thanks also, to Sally for providing a Reading Group program that allows for those who want to get together and explore a book they are reading. It is a great enhancement to our programs.

Finally, I want to thank my Board for all their support and involvement in the Center for Creative Retirement. Each of them has contributed time and effort to make us better.

As the year draws to a close, I thank all of you for your support and I remind all our members that there is always a job waiting. We continue to succeed because our members step up and get involved. I invite and welcome you to join us as we work and play together to make CCR, a great experience for the membership.



David Barnard



Ron Zigli

Past Presidents CCR

- John McConnell 1994/5,1995/96    Unknown 1996/1997    Jean Hayden 1997/98,1998/99  
 Robert Stancik 1999/2000    Gail Schultz 2000/01, 2001/02    Nora McMorrow 2002/03  
 Emy Swan 2003/04,2004/05    Sharryn Clark 2005/06,2006/07    Ron Zigli 2007/08  
 Malcolm Hale 2008/09,2009/10    Pat Gander 2010/11, 2011/12



# COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

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## Members Charleston Area Senior Citizens



Thank you - from Meals on Wheels of Charleston!

Center for Creative Retirement - you're the best!

Thank you  
So much!!

CCR member Jan Harman wrote and submitted a proposal to the CCR Board to provide funds to help seniors who are less fortunate monetarily. In the past CCR groups had participated at the Charleston Area Senior Citizens Center which serves the downtown Charleston peninsula area. Jan observed the needs of many of the seniors. The CCR Board agreed with Jan and made a \$500 grant to the Charleston Area Senior Citizen Center. These funds will help provide money for over the counter medications which many of the seniors find difficult to afford. It will also provide, in conjunction with Home Depot, for basic housing repairs. The center also serves meals and provides emergency food for many seniors in their homes. The happiness and thanks of the seniors is expressed in this photo of thanks. Great idea, Jan.