

CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

FALL/WINTER 2017



Cuba en el Horizonte Submitted by Catherine Langlois



Cuba is only 90 miles away from our country, yet Americans have been cut off from its life, culture and experiences for decades. It was only since 2014 that small steps began toward diplomatic contact, open tourism, economic transition and cultural exchange. Our CCR member Sylvia Gamboa has spent these three years in creating the first interdisciplinary program about Cuba being offered at the College for the 2018 spring semester. From January to April, all things Cuban are for the learning and experiencing – courses, events, exhibitions, website perspectives, and a finale on April 7, 2018 at the Sottile that brings together artists, musicians, dancers and singers. And on January 22, CCR will be the first to hear lectures by CofC art curator Mark Sloan on Cuban Artist Roberto Diago and by Prof. Cathy Holmes on Ernest Hemingway in Cuba.

Sylvia was asked to “volunteer” to create this interdisciplinary program as her work experience and past planning of interdisciplinary programs at the College on The Vietnam War, The Jazz Age, and The Age of Mozart were so successful. She and her husband Joe have travelled to Cuba and had a decades old interest in the island. Joe, in fact, was an Ensign just graduated from US Naval Academy and stationed on a ship offshore Cuba as the Missile Crisis of 1962 unfolded.

Sylvia has recruited professors in Business, English, History, Political Science, Theater, Music, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Historic Preservation. They will present courses ranging from the Life of Che Guevara,; Laws relating to Guantanamo Bay Prison; Managing Global Tourism; Film, Fiction and the Cuban Revolution; Music of Cuba; Historic Preservation - just to name a few. In addition to the course work, the Program includes an art exhibit at the Halsey Institute, a theater production, a Cuban film festival, conversations with authors and artists, and a lecture on the Cuban economy. In December, Sylvia will have a website up and running – [www. cubaonthehorizon.cofc.edu](http://www.cubaonthehorizon.cofc.edu)- that lists all events and coursework, and presents essays and perspectives about Cuba from religion, to organic farming, to old cars, to the arts, music and dance, to the Mariel boat lift, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Sylvia thrives in this challenge, and loves the whole idea that professors, friends, artists, authors, and the entire Charleston community have come together to teach, learn, share and present this fascinating world of Cuba. As Sylvia says, something special is happening! Don't miss a thing! Begin at our January 22 CCR lectures and end at the April 7 Finale at the Sottile and you, too, will see Cuba on the Horizon.

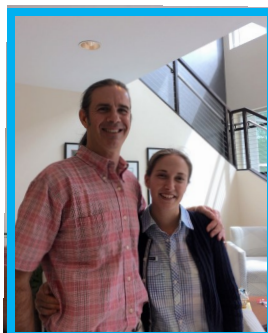
Meet The Butlers

Submitted by Deirdre Goldbogen

This fall we welcomed back Christina and Nic Butler, well known to both Charleston and CCR for their engaging historical presentations. Nic is a native South Carolinian and a research historian with Charleston Public Library. Christina hails from Ohio, graduate of CofC and teaches at American College of Building Arts. Presenting historical lectures throughout the community is a big part of their lives. They do call themselves 'history nerds' as they love to research, write and visit historic sites. They both find time for preservation and woodworking projects and have recently built a wooden boat-ready for a seaworthy test! In addition to her teaching and lecture work, Christina manages a preservation business, Butler Preservation. All this and they still find time for their dog called Bertram Wooster or 'Bertie'.

Our first presentation was Tracing the Roots of 'The Charleston' with Dr. Nic Butler. What are the 'roots' of the popular music and dance called 'The Charleston'? Can Charleston of yesteryear claim rights to its beginnings? To answer this query, CCR members and friends were treated to a trip back in time with a delightful ride on a 'Time Machine'. With Dr. Butler, Historical Researcher as our guide, we were whisked back to the Charleston of the 1920's. and viewed an intriguing multimedia presentation skillfully gleaned from our historical archives. We listened to the first recordings of the tune known as the 'The Charleston' played by African American pianist James P. Johnson. We viewed the recordings of the silent moving images of African American dance movements (jig or the wing anyone?) that morphed into the dance movements of The Charleston. We read original local newsprints of the era (intrigue, gossip, who was first?). We read the words of the Charleston tune written by Cecil Mack, that was to become part of the first African American musical. On our trip through the archives, it became clear that many cultural events from our past formed the beginnings of what we know as The Charleston. I would guess most present at the talk have some fun memories sharing the infectious music and dance of The Charleston. Surely after this trip back in history, we could call The Charleston a happy event that grew out of a mix of our cultures-and then went viral! We humans can do some amazing things together. Our thanks to Dr. Nic Butler for the ride back in time to reconnect and reflect on our shared history.

Our second speaker, Professor Christina Butler, presented her research on "Life in the Yard: Behind the Scenes of the Big Houses in the Lowcountry." Professor Butler teaches at the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston and shares in the responsibility of educating our next generation on our cultural history and the story behind of the big houses of Charleston. Her presentation took us on visual tour of the architecture of the big houses of Charleston - our 'urban plantations' from the Colonial to the Antebellum era. She presented archival maps, land plots, and drawings, old news articles detailing the details of building. All this from a time when an urban big house 'backyard' was built for show as well as function with livestock, a cook house, outhouse, cisterns and slave dwellings all on site. She reminded us that initially these structures were built to reflect both the social and economic needs in the 1800s. Today we might visit these same structures as museums, restaurants, or wine cellars repurposed to serve our social and economic needs today! I think of Charleston as a very 'walkable city' that has kept a close watch on its history. It is wonderful that Professor Butler through her research, teaching and community presentations, continues this eye on history for us all.



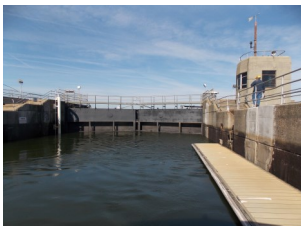
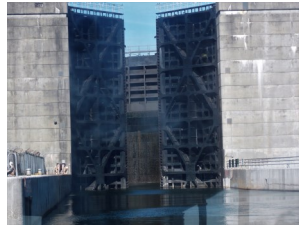
Santee Locks

Submitted by Judy Murdoch



The Santee Cooper Locks in Pinopolis, SC was completed in 1941. At one time it was considered an engineering masterpiece, the world's tallest single-lift lock. Originally, planners had decided to build a number of locks, each with a 10' drop. The single-lift lock was built to help connect Charleston to Columbia by waterway. It had to handle elevation changes. At full stage the Lake Moultrie water level is 75 feet above sea level even though only 30 miles upstream from the ocean. Our tour boat picked us up at Gilligan's in Moncks Corner. We continued up the Cooper River and Trail Race Canal until reaching the lock. Tension set in as we waited to see if weather conditions would permit us to enter the lock. Sometimes the winds are too strong to open the gates into the lake. Suddenly, the doors to the lock began to slowly open. We were good to go! We entered into the lock chamber and tied off to the side to a float called a camel. The gates began to close behind us. When fully closed, 6 million gallons of water from the lake began to enter the chamber and raise our boat the elevation of 75 feet. It took less than 20 minutes. After a brief tour of the lake we returned to the lock chamber and dropped 75' (or 8 stories) as the 6 million gallons of water were drained into the Trail Race Canal. We returned (after a brief tour of the water in the other direction) to Gilligan's where many of our 30 CCR members enjoyed lunch.

There is no fee to use the lock. Only motor-powered boats are allowed in the lock. Boats must be 10 feet in length and no longer than 150 feet. The lock operator decides the maximum number of boats allowed in the lock at one time. All boaters must remain seated and floatation devices have to be available during the locking procedure. The lock does not operate during rough-weather conditions or thunderstorms. Occasionally, the lock is out of service for maintenance. Boaters are encouraged to call in advance to 843-899-LOCK (5625).



COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

College of Charleston

North Campus

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For information on the web:

sps.cofc.edu/personal-enrichment/center-for-creative-retirement

Or visit our blog at

Blogs.CofC.edu/CCR

Meetings held from September to
May

Beginning Fall

Mondays at 1:00 pm

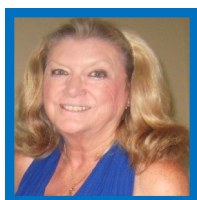
College Charleston North

Visit for no fee for two meetings.

Two semesters: \$50

(September -May)

One semester: \$30 (Jan.- May) or
(September-December)



Judy Murdoch:
Newsletter Editor

CCR President's Report Fall 2017

Submitted by Fred Rosenberg

After more than twenty years, CCR moved its regular meetings from Tuesday to Monday afternoons in order to ensure access to our big meeting room. It is unfortunate that we lost some members due to prior commitments. However, our membership and weekly attendance continues to grow. It is an honor to be the president of an organization whose two biggest problems are its popularity and large fiscal reserves. We should all have such problems! Our other issue is the turnover in leadership. We are losing a few committee heads and are looking for a new president to replace me after three terms. If you think that you would be a good president, please let me know.

We have started an exciting initiative to develop a still to be named peer-to-peer lifelong learning program similar to that offered in other colleges and universities. I wish everyone has a very happy holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year.

A Message About That Exciting Initiative

In 2013, just prior to moving to the low country, new CCR member Diana Barth was part of a vibrant organization, The Cape Cod Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL). That program, which still meets at Cape Cod Community College in Hyannis, MA, had been started by a small group of older adults some 25 years before. By the time Diana became a member, that lifelong learning academy had grown to some 1,000 retirees. Diana took several courses led by her peers before volunteering to teach a course on the poetry of William Butler Yeats. The academy, she said, was where she went to learn something new, discuss the issues of the day, and make lifelong friends. Looking around at all of the knowledge and talent exhibited by her Charleston area peers, Diana wanted to be a part of a similar program here. A retired attorney whose background included teaching English and newspaper reporting, Diana put together a

proposal for a CCR lifelong learning institute and, happily, the board of the Center for Creative Retirement had an interest in heading in that direction. The lifelong learning program will be in addition to all of the current CCR offerings.

As envisioned, the institute will start small. Members of CCR and the greater Charleston area who have a passion and knowledge to share about a particular subject will volunteer to facilitate a six-week course on their chosen subject. Once a week for six weeks, those course facilitators will provide materials, lead a discussion, bring in experts, and otherwise share their knowledge during an hour-and-a-half class. Beginning next spring, CCR members who choose to join the lifelong learning institute will be able to attend a variety of such courses, all taught by their peers. A One-Day Academy is planned for January 29 to give CCR members a taste of the courses that will be offered in the spring (from February 18 to March 31). An as-yet-to-be-determined fee (over and above joining CCR) will be charged to CCR Lifelong Learning participants. A committee has been formed and, on November 13, began to identify members who have an interest in presenting a course. Details on becoming a lifelong learning member, registering for courses, and submitting course proposals will all be forthcoming. If you want to be on the ground floor and help implement this exciting new direction for CCR, email Diana at dianabarth09@gmail.com.

