

CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

WINTER/SPRING 2018



Meet Sharryn Clark: Historian Submitted by Deirdre Goldbogen



In 2008, Sharryn Clark volunteered as our Center for Creative Retirement Historian. She arrived with extensive experience as a volunteer archivist at St. Matthew Lutheran Church and as a family genealogist. Over the years she has diligently collected records from CCR's senior outings, dinner events, board meetings, minutes, and financials. She included member obituaries to provide insight to our membership and made an extra effort to identify members in all group pictures. Her duties as historian came to a critical point in 2009 when home storage of CCR papers was no longer doable! But thanks to Sharryn's inquiries and the helpful Special Collections staff, our records now have a proper and protected home in the College of Charleston Addlestone Library. In the fall of 2016 Harlan Green, Head of Special Collections, arranged for permanent storage of CCR records in Special Collections.

While our records are not currently indexed for online use, they have been inventoried and stored in sturdy boxes labelled by year beginning in 1990. The records are accessible by contacting Mary Jo Fairchild, Archivist in Special Collections. During a recent tour Mary Jo introduced me to the Library's Special Collections. It is home for some very rare and special items held in a special climate controlled room- original Audubon watercolors, an original Medieval text and early South Carolina texts. There is high tech security and protection from water, humidity, and fire –including a device that removes all the oxygen in the room (you do not want to be in there!) to stop fires and save collections from water damage.

Many of our early records and papers highlight how CCR grew from an idea to a reality. There are records from the 1990's identifying those who worked to establish a community for Charleston seniors modeled after early Elderhostel programs. John McConnell, a local retired Marine and attorney, was mentioned as instrumental in establishing interest in a senior group for our area.

Sharryn shared some of her own personal history... "I was raised on a dairy farm in southern Idaho. I retired to Mount Pleasant, eighteen years ago. My husband David worked for IBM so we moved several times; Seattle, Washington, Boise, Idaho and Dallas Texas. I worked several jobs to pay for our kids high school and college tuition. I joined CCR after reading an article in the local newspaper. I enjoy the opportunity to meet new people and pick up knowledge on countless subjects. The group has grown considerably with many new faces from many areas of the country. I read current events, history, politics. I recently completed 'The Arms of Krupp 1587-1968 by William Manchester'. Family genealogy has been a hobby for 45+ years. I have verified research to 1609 on one family line. "

Even in this age of global internet access, digitized texts and cloud storage, it is still strangely satisfying to hold an antique leather book, a handwritten letter, or a document from another era. So a big thank you to our Historian and the wonderful staff in Special Collections for helping us keep our records and CCR history intact.



50 Blank Spaces

Submitted by Catherine Langlois

Isn't it a bit like receiving a present when you pick up a new CCR Program and have your first look at what lectures and speakers will be coming next semester? You get to glance over the Monday programs and plan ahead for those afternoon topics or speakers that you don't want to miss. Or, you may not want to miss a thing and look forward to trying everything on the menu. You might wonder how it happens that a Monday program can be as diverse as hearing from the mayor, or newspaper columnist, or an author, or an astronomy professor, or an organic honey farmer.

It happens in the Curriculum Committee chaired by Del Sisson. Members meet every few weeks and begin with 50 blank spaces – every Monday from September to December and from January to May. Conversations start – as to who had just heard a speaker about cotton; visited a museum; read a great book and heard the author speak; noticed a special article in a local paper. Members talk of politics/history/poetry/engineering/music. New and interesting courses at the College are discussed. The imagining begins.

From that lively, and usually very humorous conversation, the members divvy up the Mondays and take responsibility to find speakers and arrange interesting presentations. Del keeps the group focused over the months with regular updates. And it is amazing to watch those 50 blank spaces fill with such a wide range of topics and diverse speakers.

The members' ideas reflect their varied backgrounds and interests, providing a rich diversity of programs. Some members have served for many years and have a sense of what has worked in the past and which speaker should return. Other members are new to the committee and bring a fresh look at topics and new contacts within the community. Del notes that it is informative, and enjoyable, to participate in the conversations and interests that are shared in the committee meetings.

According to Wendy Fish, being a member of the Curriculum Committee actually pushes her to do more – to see more – to read more – to go more – in the Charleston area. There is always the thought that a lecture or show or book that she has experienced would also be a great topic for CCR as well. And, when the Committee hears about something good, there is always someone who wants to follow up and organize a presentation for everyone to hear.

This is a really fun committee! There is work to do, but it is also rewarding when our members tell us who was a great presenter – what topic was so interesting – when can we hear from that speaker again - loved learning about cotton/Koran/Charleston architecture/South Africa/cavalry charges.

The Curriculum Committee welcomes – indeed, encourages - new members and new ideas. Because CCR is made up of interesting people from all over the world, with backgrounds and vocations that intrigue, every CCR member can be assured that our 50 blank spaces become 50 intriguing lectures.



Trips & Tours

Submitted by Judy Murdoch With Help Of Various Photographers!



Sewee Center Red Wolf Sanctuary is home for four endangered red wolves. Wolfman Rob, our guide, explained that in 2013 a male and female pair was brought to the center. Six pups were sired at the Sewee Center in 2014. One male remains at the center and he is paired with a female for breeding. In the wild, red wolves often become life long mates. Two to six pups are born sometime in April or May. Pups are born with their eyes closed and are dependent on their mother. Small family groups form as the pups usually stay with the parent wolves until they reach breeding maturity at age two or three. The red wolf was said to be one of the most endangered species of animals in the world today and was nearly extinct ten years ago. Only about 200 remain alive today. Captive breeding and care programs such as this are helping red wolf recovery.



The Citadel, this year celebrating its 175th anniversary, began in 1843 with 20 military cadets. Only six would graduate as the school was known for military discipline and rigorous academics. In 1861 cadets fired the first shots of the Civil War when they fired on a ship trying to resupply the Union forces at Fort Sumter. According to an article in the Post and Courier, all of the members of the class of 1917 and 1918 entered military service. During WWII many, especially those in the class of 1944, enlisted to fight. Many of the members of the class of 1967 fought in the Vietnam War. The first black cadet was admitted in September 1966. It was 1993 before the first woman, Shannon Faulkner, waged a legal battle to become the first woman to join the Corps of Cadets. She withdrew. In 1996 a US Supreme Court ruling said all -male, state -supported military schools could lose public money. Four women were admitted and Nancy Mace became the first female graduate. Today women make up about 9% of the Corps and African-Americans represent about 10%. About one-third of graduates now go into the military and the rest enter civilian careers. Famous graduates include Joe Riley (former mayor of Charleston), Fritz Hollings (SC governor and US Senate), and the novelist Pat Conroy.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

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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**

Mondays at 1:00 pm

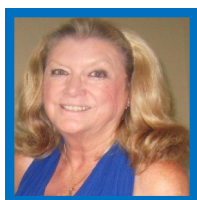
College Charleston North

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 Spring 2018

Submitted by Fred Rosenberg

This has been a wonderful year for CCR. Our membership is over 250, up from 200 last year. Our weekly attendance averages over 110. Our move to Mondays did not have an adverse affect in our total members, and we have not been bumped from our regular meeting room as agreed to with the Dean. Our success is the product of the contribution of so many members that it is not possible to individually mention without possibly unintentionally omitting someone.

Our Trips & Tours committee continues its excellent offerings of diverse trips to sometimes surprising places in the greater Charleston area. Our social committee continues its fine efforts to provide us with a pleasant repast between presentations, especially in the face of our larger meetings. Our communications & outreach committee continues its professional grade newsletters. Our curriculum committee continues to arrange an excellent selection of presentations, the cornerstone of our offerings. A new events calendar was added to our website that includes abstracts for future presentations as well as announcements of other outside events of possible interest to CCR members.

CCR's budget is in fine shape without any need to increase dues. Our treasurer does an outstanding job of both properly handling our money and also reimbursing member costs extremely quickly.

The CCR Board voted to increase the amount of our gerontology scholarship to \$5,000 and to name it in honor of Fred Feldman, our previous board member, curriculum committee member, and most of all a proud member of our scholarship committee.

Our most exciting new offering is our own lifelong learning institute lead by Diana Barth, chair of our new lifelong learning committee. Many other colleges and universities typically have very large LLIs. We started small, with six six-week courses in February and March. There will also be a four-week session in June, and hopefully a larger offering in the Fall. The Charleston Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL) is looking for facilitators for more classes. No teaching experience is necessary, just expertise in an area of interest to other members.

The strength of CCR is that it is a member run organization. We need your help to continue our fine programs. If you see something that needs to be done jump in. If you are not a committee member, I recommend that you become one. CCR depends upon its volunteers for all of its activities, plus it is a great way to meet and interact with some very interesting people.

Fred Rosenberg

President, CCR



