January 2011 Program Information

All programs begin 10:00 a.m. at Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Road

Senior Scholars is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide stimulating educational and topical programs for its membership.

President
Wade Alley
704) 364-7830

Vice President/ Curriculum
Jim Renger

Second Vice President
Jerry Thrasher

Treasurer
Anna Lee Townsend

Recording Secretary
Martha Meyer

Corresponding Secretary
Betsy Garfinkle

Publicity/Web Site Manager
Phil Garfinkle

Immediate Past President
Ralph Meyer

Newsletter Editor
Alice Thrasher

Jan. 11

Queens University political science professor Mark Kelso will speak on the midterm elections, focusing on their impact on Congress and how policies may change as a result. He will also discuss how the relationship between Congress and the President will be influenced.

Dr. Kelso received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and is chairman of the Queens Political Science Department.

Jan. 18

Poet and Davidson College professor emeritus Tony Abbott will present a talk on “What Poetry Does.”

He will talk about his poetry, read from it and reflect on why and how poetry can be a valuable part of our lives.

Dr. Abbott is a native of San Francisco. He is a graduate of Princeton University and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Jan. 25

Fact, Fiction and Fantasy: The Enduring Legend of King Arthur will be presented by Queens University English professor Richard Goode.

Dr. Goode is an expert on Shakespeare, films and the role of the media in a democracy and is a recipient of the Carnegie Institute’s North Carolina Professor of the Year. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas.

Feb. 1

Dr. Bill Ringle, chair of the Davidson College Department of Anthropology, will share thoughts from his personal archaeological work on the ancient Maya residing in the Puuc Hills of northern Yucatan. The program is entitled "Kings of the Hills."

Dr. Ringle earned his Ph.D. from Tulane University and has done fieldwork in the Maya area since 1980. He is a former co-director of the Ek Balam Project and now is co-director of the Bolonchen Regional Archaeological Project.
Message from Incoming President Wade Alley

I am looking forward to serving as your president for the 2011 Senior Scholars year. We will have 40 plus educational programs, several field trips and luncheons and our annual trip to Wildacres. I encourage you to take advantage of these offerings.

Your Senior Scholars is governed by a board of directors of over 20 members. We have nine standing committees that do the work of Senior Scholars. I encourage each of you to get involved to the extent you can with the committees. You will find that you will benefit the most. See you on Jan. 11.

Committee Chairmen for 2011

Curriculum - Jim Renger - Lines up speakers each week
Arrangements and Social - Eileen Griggs - Arranges coffee and plans two or three luncheons per year
Wildacres - Ralph Meyer - Makes all arrangements for mountain retreat at Wildacres conference center
Membership - Mary Rothkopf, George Rosser, Walt Donham- Sign up new members, maintain rosters
Publicity/Web site - Phil Garfinkle - Maintains Web site, sends e-announcements about events and speakers
Nominating - Nancy Faires and Bob Hanes - Recruits members to serve on committees and hold offices
Newsletter - Alice Thrasher
Field Trip - Gene Zhiss - Plans several trips a year
Technical Services - Bob Rothkopf - Assists at meetings
Meet the Members

Names: Betsy and Phil Garfinkle. Betsy will be corresponding secretary of Senior Scholars for a third term this year. Phil will continue as publicity chairman/Web site manager for the third year.

Date joined Senior Scholars: 2004

Birthplaces: Betsy was born in Cleveland and lived in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Phil was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Queens County and Long Island.

Residence: Providence Plantation. Betsy moved to Charlotte from Shaker Heights in 1975 to pursue her teaching career. Phil moved to Charlotte from Arlington Heights, Ill., a Chicago suburb, in 1997, for a job with the former information technology company, SSA Southeast.

Family: Betsy and Phil were married in 2006. She was a widow with two children. Son Mark Lewis lives in Brooklyn. Daughter Karen Lewis lives in San Francisco. Phil was a widower and has two daughters and three grandchildren. Daughter Lisa Rothenberg lives in New Jersey and daughter Michele Morgan lives in Maryland.

What they like best about Charlotte: “I like the friendly people,” Phil said. “Many are very polite, and I like that.” Betsy likes the friendliness of the people, as well. “And I like the weather and that I met Phil here.”

Hobbies: Phil spends time maintaining the Senior Scholars Web site, sending e-mail messages to members and doing other publicity jobs. He serves as a tax aide each year with AARP. Betsy likes to bake and has belonged to a book club for the last seven years.

They both like to travel. Betsy circumnavigated the globe in 1992; her 26-day trip by air began and ended in Washington, D.C. Stops included France, Norway, Denmark, Thailand and China.

Phil earned trips for sales performance over the years to Tahiti, the United Kingdom, Hawaii, China, Hong Kong and other sites.

Occupations: Phil retired in 2002 after a career of more than 30 years in sales and training for various information technology companies. He graduated from City College of New York with a degree in business administration.

Betsy graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She taught third grade in Ohio, fourth grade in North Carolina and gifted classes in West Virginia, for more than 30 total years. She taught at Charlotte Country Day for six years and was teaching at Old Providence Elementary when she retired in 2004.

What they like best about Senior Scholars: “I think it is a wonderful group of very real people interested in expanding their knowledge and keeping up with what’s happening in the world,” Phil said.

“I love Wildacres,” Betsy said. “And I like the social aspect and the varied programs.”
**Time to Pay Dues for 2011**

If you didn’t pay your annual $10 membership dues already, it’s time for renewal. Dues paid in November and December will carry over for the entire year in 2011, said Mary Rothkopf of the membership committee. For any questions about membership and dues, contact Mary at (704) 364-3317 or mimimary@carolina.rr.com.

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**Senior Scholars Field Trips**

Field trip committee chairman Gene Zhiss is looking for feedback from members for possible sites to visit this winter and spring. Two suggestions have been the new Mint Museum Uptown and the Levine Museum of the New South, he said.

No firm plans are dates have been made yet. Gene said about 45 people participated in the field trip to the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in October. The visit included guided tours and lunch. Contact Gene at ejzhiss@carolina.rr.com if you have any suggestions about trips or arrangements.

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**Luncheons set for March, June**

Eileen Griggs, chairman of the arrangements and social committee, has begun plans for two special luncheons for members during the spring semester. The first luncheon is scheduled for March 15 and the end of the year celebration is set for June 7. Both catered events will be in Heaton Hall.

Eileen invites anyone interest in joining her committee to contact her at egriggs@carolina.rr.com or (704) 362-1662.

In addition to help in setting up Heaton Hall for the luncheons, Eileen is looking for men and women who can take turns helping with the setup and takedown of the coffee service at the weekly meetings. It only takes a few minutes if others pitch in to help.

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**Farewell From 2010 Senior Scholars President Ralph Meyer**

It has been a pleasure to have served Senior Scholars as president during 2010. We have had great success as measured by increasing membership and increasing attendance at our Tuesday meetings. This has been made possible by the many people who have served on the board and curriculum committee effectively and quietly. My enduring thanks go to all who have helped. They have made my job easy.

Wade Alley has been most effective in chairing the curriculum committee and assembling a program for our meetings this year as first vice president. It is with comfort that I turn over the presidency to him knowing that we will continue to prosper under his leadership.

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**Wildacres 2011**

Mark your calendars; reserve the dates. The Senior Scholars annual trip to the Wildacres Retreat Conference Center (www.wildacres.org) will be May 16 to May 19. This will be a three-night, four-day meeting at the Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, NC, in the mountains adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We will have four sessions with a featured speaker, live entertainment, and a free afternoon to explore the area. Please plan on joining us for our annual adventure. The weather there in May is delightful, and the scenery is spectacular. — Ralph Meyer, 2011 Wildacres Committee chairman
So, really, what are you reading? Let’s make a list of favorite books as the cozy winter months approach. A review or just the names of your favorites will be great.
Contact us at efgiggs@carolina.rr.com or by phone, (704) 362-1662 for Eileen or (704) 333-7239 for Harold. Even better, just talk to us on Tuesdays.

“The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot is the fascinating story of the donor of the first cells which would live forever in culture. The famed HeLa cells were used to develop the polio vaccine and were the basis for decades of health research. In very human terms, the author recounts Henrietta’s journey as well as the family’s attempt to understand and accept her legacy. – Martha Meyer

Did I like “Homer & Langley” by E.L. Doctorow? Well, I’ve read it twice and if you want to borrow my copy, you’ll have to leave a deposit. This is a novel in which one might fairly say is simply not believable, except it is based on the lives of two real people and is “essentially” a true story. – George Rosser

“The Crusades” by Thomas Asbridge
What to do with travel souvenirs?
The viscous flow of humanity that trudged the land bridge to the Middle East in answer to Pope Urban II’s sermon of 1065 to free Jerusalem from the Turks brought back the Holy Relics. From this, the great Gothic cathedrals and pilgrimage shrines were constructed. The ebb and flow of wins and losses made necessary Crusades II, III, IV, and VI.
To keep a popular history with so many details flowing as a narrative is a monumental task. This book gets my admiration and recommendation. – Harold Smyre

“Pack of Thieves” by Richard Z. Chesnoff
This story can bring tears to the heart as you read how Hitler plundered the Jews throughout Europe and committed the greatest theft in history. Chesnoff explains why it has taken more than fifty years to even begin to come to terms with the massive pillage and plunder of the Holocaust victims and their family members. – Charlene Shea

Historical fiction writer Ken Follett, masterfully weaves people, politics, and religion into history. “Pillars of the Earth,” his most popular book so far, takes place in the 12th century with Tom the Builder determined to build a magnificent cathedral. Fictional Kingsbridge is so like Salisbury, England, I want to go back and see it with new eyes.
His sequel, “World Without End” takes place 200 years later. You soon see why the title is so apt. “Fall of Giants” coming up! – Eileen Griggs
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