



Senior Scholars Newsletter

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Charlotte, NC 28274

Welcome back to the 2010-11 Senior Scholar academic year. Hope you all had a good summer.

Wade Alley has lined up some great speakers for September. Plan to come early to visit before the 10 o'clock program begins. Stay afterward for the discussion upstairs.

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

President

Ralph Meyer
(704)-366-8633

*Vice President/
Curriculum*
Wade Alley

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Phil Garfinkle

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Newsletter Co-Editors

Harvey Cohen  **Alice Thrasher**

September 2010 Program Information

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

Sept. 14

A Great Decisions Program

Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution will be presented by **Dr. Cynthia Combs**, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Combs teaches courses on political violence, defense and national security and international law.

U.S. campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that military force alone cannot ensure peace in all conflicts. How can the U.S. successfully integrate the tools of peacebuilding into its statecraft? At what point do poverty, disease and climate change threaten national security? What role can non-governmental actors play in supporting government-led efforts?

Sept. 21

Transcending the Tragic will be presented by **Dr. Richard Tedeschi**, professor of psychology at UNC-Charlotte. Dr. Tedeschi will review what we have learned from people who have reported personal growth and transcendence in the aftermath of major life traumas such as combat, life-threatening illness, bereavement, and natural disasters. Members will also have an opportunity to participate in ongoing research into this phenomenon.

Sept. 28

Cape Horn and Square-Rigged Sailing Ships will be presented by **Bill Parish**, who retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after spending time on the seas south of Cape Horn. He will discuss the complexity and danger of sail-handling on a square-rigged

sailing ship and give us a personal view. He will also talk about the history of square-riggers sailing around Cape Horn – the most dangerous era in man's seafaring.

Oct. 5

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art president and CEO **John Boyer** will present a program on the new museum and its collection. The Bechtler is dedicated to the celebration and analysis of the strongest aspects of mid-century modernism as reflected in the holdings of the Bechtler Collection. The collection presented includes works by the most important and influential artists of the mid-20th century, including Miró, Giacometti, Picasso, Calder, Hepworth, Nicholson, Warhol, Tinguely, Ernst, Le Corbusier, Chillida and many others. Only a handful of these artworks have been on public view in the United States. Until now, the collection was privately held by the Bechtler family of Switzerland.

Oct.14



Senior Scholar Gene Zhiss has arranged lunch and a tour of the Bechtler Museum. The subject of the tour will be: *"The Artists Closest to the Bechtler Family."* Gene will provide details at our September meeting.

Connect with Culture

Want an easy way to keep up with cultural events in Charlotte? Check out www.CharlotteCultureGuide.com where you can search for arts, science, history and heritage events. The site is a project of the Arts & Science Council.

While you are on the Website, sign up for CulturePicks!, a weekly e-mail highlighting upcoming arts and cultural events.

If your interests exceed your budget, the Arts & Science Council offers a "Connect with Culture" card that can stretch your entertainment dollars. The donor benefit card provides buy-one-get-one free offers at area cultural organizations.

Here's how it works:

1. Make a contribution of \$50 or more to the Arts & Science Council's Annual Fund Drive and you will receive the "Connect with Culture" card. If you make the contribution now, you will get a donor card that is valid through June 20, 2011. You can donate at www.ArtsAndScience.org or call 704-333-2272.

2. Present your card at participating organizations to receive many buy-one-get-one-free offers. Currently, the card cannot be used for on-line purchases. Some restrictions for dates and times of the offer may apply. Offers are not to be combined with any other coupons, discounts or specials and are subject to availability.



The "Connect with Culture" card offers include:

Charlotte Symphony – *Buy-one-get-one-free* single ticket for the Friday night Classics or Pops concerts.

Levine Museum of the New South - *Buy-one-get-one-free* admission. Excludes special programs and specially ticketed events

Opera Carolina - *Buy-one-get-one-free* single tickets to main stage performances. Excludes Grand Tier Circle and Boxes

Children's Theatre of Charlotte - *Buy-one-get-one-free* single ticket for the Friday night performances during the 2010-2011 season up to two free tickets per production.

"We are happy to provide this benefit to our donors who contribute \$50 or more to ASC," says ASC Communications Director Krista Terrell. "Donations to ASC help us support the cultural community and the Connect with Culture card provides a gateway for residents to explore the cultural offerings in the community."

For a full list of the arts and cultural organizations that honor the Connect with Culture card and to see details of each offer, visit CharlotteCultureGuide.com.

For information, call the Arts & Science Council at 704-333-2ASC (2272)

New Members

In order to protect the privacy of new members, only their names will be listed in the newsletter. The address, phone number and email address of all members will be printed in our yearly member directory unless otherwise informed.

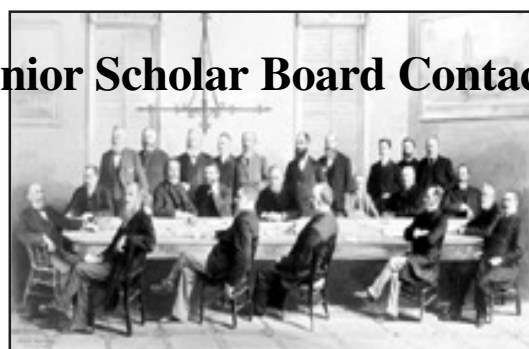
ACHOR, Karen

DREHER, Richard

KASLER, Barbara

LINEBERGER, Warren

Senior Scholar Board Contacts



President Ralph Meyer can be reached at ralphm@aol.com or (704) 366-8633.

If you have news for the newsletter, contact Alice Thrasher at awthrash@yahoo.com or at (910) 261-5965.

For membership information, contact Walt Donham at waltdon@windstream.net or (704) 841-7150.

For program information, contact Wade Alley at amflyer9@aol.com or (704) 364-7830.

Second vice-president Jim Renger is chairman of the technical services committee. Contact him at rengerj@bellsouth.net or (704) 362-3010.

For Website questions, contact Phil Garfinkle at sscholars@yahoo.com. He is publicity chairman and maintains the Senior Scholar Website at www.seniorscholars.net.

Other board members include recording secretary Martha Meyer, corresponding secretary Betsy Garfinkle, treasurer Anna Lee Townsend, past presidents Andy Kalnik and Bob Rothkopf. At large members for 2008-2010 are Denton Albertson, Bob Hanes and Joe Mayhew. At-large members for 2009-2011 are Nancy Faires, Eileen Griggs and Mary Rothkopf. The members for 2010-2012 are John Andrews, Pat Collins and Gene Zhiss

Guidance to Make Life Easier

(For Those Around You)

Gene Zhiss's mother, Lillian Zhiss, passed away in June in Delray Beach, Fla. She was 96.

Gene shares the aged clipping of rules below that his mother kept in her wallet. "My sister found it when she was going through my mom's belongings," he said.

Prayer for the Aged

"Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will someday be old.

"Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every occasion.

"Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

"Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point.

"I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience.

"But seal my lips on my own aches and pains - they are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

"Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

"Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

"Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all - but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end."

Author Unknown

"Yes, she did adhere to these rules," Gene said. "She was the last surviving of six sisters, lived independently until she was 90 and spent the last 6 years in a home in West Palm Beach."

Gene said his mother was an avid reader and loved crossword puzzles. "She loved going to museums and traveled to Europe and Asia with my dad."

Lillian Zhiss had a great sense of humor, too. "She won a silver cup for acrobatic dancing when she was 16 and won a second for winning a wheelchair race when she was 94," Gene said. Lillian Zhiss's comment was: "Now I have two."

Gold Mining in the Charlotte Region:

Free History Program Set for Sept. 12



Long before Charlotte became a banking center, the region was known for its gold mines. Reed Gold Mine near Locust, in nearby Cabarrus County, is the site of the first documented gold find in the United States, according to state history officials.

If you'd like to find out more about North Carolina's gold mining glory days, mark your calendar for a free event on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m. at The Duke Mansion, 400 Hermitage Road, in Myers Park.

Mike Sullivan, who is a citizen historian, has been researching gold mines for many years and will share his discovery with the audience. The program will also include conversations with some families that owned – and own – gold mines.

From the discovery of 17-pound chunk of gold in a stream on John Reed's farm in 1799, gold mining spread gradually to nearby counties and eventually into other southern states. During its peak years gold mining was second only to farming in the number of North Carolinians it employed.

The estimated value of gold recovered reached over one million dollars a year, according to the Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site Website. North Carolina led the nation in gold production until 1848, when it was eclipsed by the great rush to California.

Sullivan discovered a community mural of the history of gold mining, which had been languishing in a school basement. The mural will be on display for the meeting, according to Pat Martin at The Duke Mansion. Dr. Tom Hanchett, Levine Museum of the New South historian, will host the program, which is part of the Explore History! Series co-sponsored by The Duke Mansion and the Levine Museum. For more information, call The Duke Mansion at (704) 714-4448.

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Meet the Members

By Alice Thrasher

Names: Ralph Meyer, Senior Scholars president, and Martha Meyer, recording secretary.

Date joined Senior Scholars: 2006

Residence: Moved to Charlotte in mid-1990 from Milwaukee, Wis. Live in the Woodbridge neighborhood, off Carmel Road.

Birth Places: Ralph was born in Washington, D.C.; Martha in Aberdeen, Md.

Family: Married in 1969; daughter, Anne Meyer, and son-in-law, Elio Abbondanzieri, live in Boston

What they like best about Charlotte: “It’s got a good arts community and it’s accessible,” Ralph said. “We can be downtown in 20 minutes. Bigger cities might have more things to do, but it’s harder to get to them.”

What they like best about Senior Scholars: Ralph likes the people. “And I like to learn new things,” he said. Martha likes the programs. “And we’ve made a lot of friends through it,” she said.

Hobbies: Traveling; reading; going to concerts, the opera and plays; walking in the neighborhood. Ralph does woodwork and serves as a volunteer with the AARP Tax Aide program every year. Martha likes to cook and crochet.

Occupations: Both retired from Carolinas Medical Center in 2005. Ralph was Director, Biology Division, Orthopaedic Research Laboratory, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and was Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Martha is a chemist. She ran their research lab and collaborated with Ralph in their research with assorted bone diseases for more than 30 years. They specialized in a childhood bone disease called X-linked hypophosphatemia. That’s a form of rickets that does not respond to Vitamin D, they say.

You might say the chemistry was right when zoology graduate student Ralph Meyer met his future wife, Martha Hodge, at the University of Maryland.

“Ralph kept his mice in the basement of the chemistry building and I was a student taking chemistry classes and working on an honors project there,” Martha said. They both earned degrees from the University of Maryland.

Ralph earned a bachelor’s in zoology in 1965 and a doctorate in zoology and endocrinology in 1969. Martha earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1969 and later earned a master’s degree in physical chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

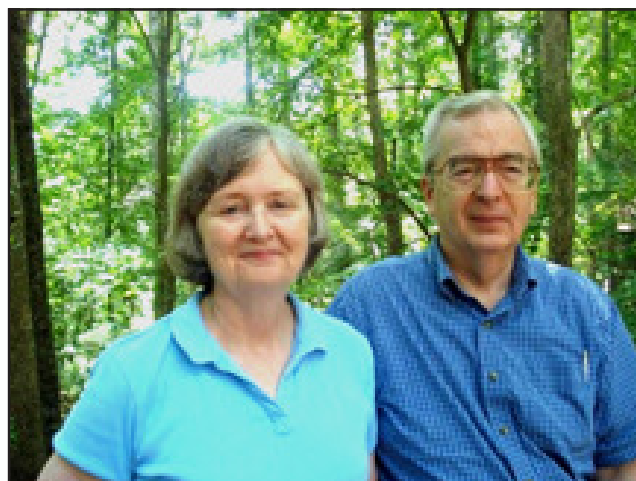
The couple got married in 1969. They have lived in Houston, Chapel Hill, New York City, Milwaukee and Charlotte. Along the way Ralph did research and taught at New York University and Marquette University before settling in Charlotte. They became a professional team, first at NYU, collaborating in their bone research.

“I was the fellow writing lectures, getting the grants, writing the manuscripts and filling out the government forms,” Ralph said. He wrote or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in scholarly journals.

“I was the one having the fun in the lab, doing the science,” Martha said.

Last year Ralph and Martha celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in Russia. They cruised from St. Petersburg to Moscow and took six relatives to help them celebrate.

Earlier this year the couple took an independent tour of Italy by train. They like to take science-based trips arranged



through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Trips have included ones to China to see dinosaur fossils, to Antarctica, to Egypt, and to the Galapagos Islands. They traveled to Tanzania to visit the Serengeti Plains.

They have signed up for a Smithsonian trip to Guatemala to see the Mayan ruins next January and a trip led by a paleontologist out west. They plan to go to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park.

Ralph and Martha travel to Charleston to take in concerts during the springtime Spoleto Festival and to the North Carolina mountains for the Brevard Music Festival in the summer.

They get season tickets to the Charlotte Symphony, Carolina Opera, Actors Theatre and Charlotte Concerts. They support the First Tuesday Chamber Music series in uptown Charlotte.

Ralph and Martha continue to serve as collaborators with Senior Scholars. Ralph said Senior Scholars has been a great way to meet new people during retirement. He is following the tradition of opening the program with a touch of humor.

“Finding a joke is harder than finding a speaker,” he said, “Unless you’re Andy.” Andy Kalnik is a past president of Senior Scholars.



NORTH CAROLINA EXPLORER

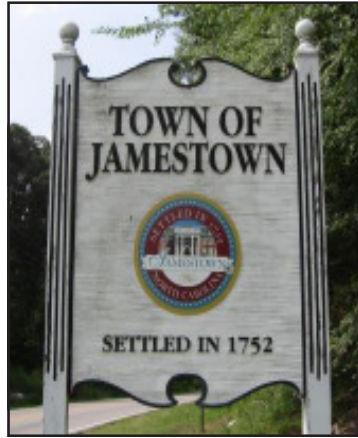


Jamestown

Guilford County, NC

By Tara Verna

Historical landmarks abound in Jamestown, located a short drive from High Point and Greensboro. From the oldest continuously operating cotton mill in the U.S., to the first medical school in North Carolina, history buffs can sink their teeth into some rich fare. Start your exploration by visiting Mendenhall Plantation, the centerpiece of Jamestown’s Historic District, for an intriguing look back at this town’s Quaker roots.



Mendenhall Plantation

Richard Mendenhall, a Quaker, built Mendenhall Plantation circa 1811. Originally from Pennsylvania, the Mendenhalls settled here in the mid-1700s. Jamestown was established in 1762 and named after one of its first settlers—Richard’s grandfather James. Richard and his wife Mary Peg raised seven children in the main plantation house. As Quakers, they led simple lives, and did not believe in holding slaves. In fact, during the Civil War, many Quakers aided fleeing slaves. They also believed in education for all—including women and slaves—a highly unusual view at the time. The Mendenhall Plantation complex, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, consists of an 1811 house, Pennsylvania Bank Barn, a springhouse, a museum, Mason-Lindsay House or Old Medical School, and the Old Mendenhall School House. The plantation also includes a rare, false-bottomed wagon—the only one left in North Carolina used during the days of the

Underground Railroad—as well as an Indian village and nature trails.

The Madison-Lindsay House, built in 1817, was the first medical school in North Carolina. In 1985, it was relocated to the Mendenhall Plantation. The house includes Dr. Madison-Lindsay’s restored examining room and office that contain a variety of 19th-century medicines and torturous-looking instruments. At one time, the garden outside the house contained more than 40 medicinal herbs. “It’s not anything earth-shattering in a large historical sense, but we’re proud of the little bit of history that is ours,” said Tom Netsel, Mendenhall Plantation volunteer and Jamestown resident.

Other historical highlights

The most prominent building in Jamestown, the “Old School,” is now the Jamestown Public Library, located on West Main Street. The Oakdale Cotton Mill, which began operating after the Civil War, is a National Register Historic District. It is the oldest continuously operating cotton mill in the United States. On the property is the Oakdale School House, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1912 or 1913 by cotton mill officials.

The Madison-Lindsay House, built in 1817, was home to a series of medical schools. In 1985, it was relocated to Mendenhall Plantation.

If you’d like to visit Jamestown’s historical landmarks, download a map online:

www.jamestown-nc.us/downloads/historical_markers_map.pdf

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