



Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year was a dandy for OSURA, highlighted as it was by the 25th Anniversary Celebration. It will be a hard act to follow this year. One wag suggested that because that party went so well we should have a 26th Anniversary Celebration this year. That didn't sell. Even so, it should be a good year. Coping with Change comes September 25 with the keynote address by Herb Asher on the media and the presidential selection process. It will also have a general session on senior citizen fraud and identity theft plus concurrent sessions on useful topics. The Holiday Buffet and the annual Tax Seminar will come in the winter. New this year, an estate planning seminar is being planned for next spring. That may be quite important because, depending on the outcome of this fall's elections, the federal death tax may take a huge jump in 2011. If so, retirees with even modest nest eggs could be significantly affected. June will bring the Summer Picnic and the Annual Meeting.

Meanwhile the Special Interests Groups, the Lunch Bunch, and the Tertulia Breakfast will continue providing social and intellectual stimulation for their participants, while the Travel, Social and Cultural Arts Committees will offer their usual menu of events. Ongoing, but less public, are the OSURA pension and benefit vigilantes, the newsletter publisher, and the quiet, caring work of the Friendship Committee members.

Volunteers do it all, but volunteers move on, and OSURA needs new volunteers every year. My focus today is on the Social, Travel, and especially the Cultural Arts Committee because it is currently in most need of new members. Cultural Arts sponsors smaller trips, many just one day, which are devoted to the arts, theater, music, and other cultural experiences. Each trip requires two co-hosts whose duty is to make the arrangements, often a bus, sometimes a meal, tickets, or a presenter. Then they guide the tour. Every new committee member is paired with a veteran at first. The handbook makes everything easier with its explicit directions, hints, forms and such for guidance.

The responsibilities are minor, the rewards are bountiful. I started with OSURA on Cultural Arts because of some arm twisting by a friend. Despite some initial misgivings I quickly realized I enjoyed being part of a team that did good things. Because of that team people on the trips have the opportunity to enjoy something they would not have had otherwise, and they appreciate it. The bimonthly meetings were not a burden, rather, at them I met new people with lots of ideas and enthusiasm. Moreover, deep into music myself, I had black holes in other arts, and the exposure to them was broadening.

So, the message is, if you have interests and knowledge of one or more of the art forms, and especially if you are acquainted with the local and regional scene, think of joining Cultural Arts. I guarantee you will find that experience rewarding. If your interest is in a different direction, then consider the Travel or Social Committees for perhaps different but equally rewarding experiences. The names of the chairs are on the next page of the newsletter. Call today to explore, they will be pleased to hear from you.

Did you pay your dues yet? If not, you still can, although you missed the deadline for inclusion in the Directory. Even if you do not partake of OSURA activities, it is still to your advantage to support your primary watchdog over your pension and benefits. It is especially important for you new retirees to stay informed because you will be subject to the political winds of change longer than we older folks. The nominal OSURA dues may be the best financial investment you will ever make.

Also, keep your Handbook in a safe and ready place. Remember it when you have questions or need information about benefits, resources, opportunities, or other things you may want to know as a retiree.

- Thomas G. Wilke

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OSURA News

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Friendship-

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Membership-

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Odette Blum

Social-

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Campus Campaign-

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Bucks for Charity-

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Richard M. Hill

Ohio Council of Higher Education

Retirees-

Louis P. DiOrio and

Thomas A. Willke

Staff Compensation and

Benefits Committee-

Eleanor C. Conlon

Historian

Fern E. Hunt

Office Manager

Judith A. McMahon

RETIREMENT HANDBOOK

The revised *Retirement Handbook* was mailed to all OSURA members last month. The OSU Office of Human Resources and the Retirees Association worked together on this publication. The handbook is a resource to help retirees and soon-to-be retirees connect with many new opportunities and information that is necessary for a fulfilling retirement. Included are sections dealing with University Benefits after Retirement and Post-retirement Resources. It is a valuable resource for you as well as for family members if you are unable to function. We suggest you keep it handy so you will refer to it from time to time, but also in a place where your beneficiaries can find it easily.

The *Retirement Handbook* is posted on the OSURA Web Site, hr.osu.edu/osura, click on "Links" You will find it under "Publications."

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Over \$3 billion in OPERS pensions are distributed to Ohio residents annually, contributing a significant and positive impact on the economy. When health care payments are added to that, the figure jumps to \$4.4 billion.

Sixty-seven percent of all OPERS pension payments comes from investment income. According to current estimates, OPERS has about 27 years worth of funding for health care benefits.

OPERS is investigating the possibilities of economies in cooperative purchasing with the three other retirement systems (State Teachers, School Employees, and Fire and Police).

Michael J. Nehf assumed his duties as executive director of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio on July 1. He is the former director of the Employees Retirement System of Georgia.

HIGHLIGHTING THE LUNCH BUNCH

The monthly Lunch Bunch program has been a popular OSURA activity for quite a few years. Over a year ago monthly speakers were added to the "lunch and conversation" part, and this has attracted many OSURA members. A wide variety of topics have been introduced by University speakers (Rich Hollingsworth, Ellen Tressel, Barbie Tootle), our own OSURA members (Joan Leitzel, Dick Hill, Al Kuhn, Jim Tootle, Tom Minnick), OSU faculty members sharing their expertise (about the Middle East and Alzheimer's), and speakers on other topics (e.g., Abraham Lincoln impersonator).

July's speaker was Murray Ebner who shared his experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Mr. Ebner showed a documentary about his return trip to Poland and Auschwitz with his family at the age of 78. Mr. Ebner was 13 when he and his family were taken to concentration camps. His entire family was killed and only five men in a town of 4,000 survived. Mr. Ebner shared his life after the war, including wandering after his release and living in many orphanages before coming to the United States. He shared many documents about his life as a survivor, including restitution checks for "forced slave labor" that he receives every month from Germany and from the Swiss firm for whom he worked while laboring in the camp.

If you have not attended a Lunch Bunch meeting, we invite you to join us on the third Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at Damon's Restaurant on Olentangy River Road. Our speaker next month will be our own Dick Hill who will talk on "So Your Wine-Server Wears an Eye-Patch." Please join us!

Please let the OSURA office know BEFORE you move, go out of town, so database can be updated..

Calendar

See "Description of Events" later in this newsletter for details.

- Aug 3..... Wooster Light Opera, depart from Fawcett Center, 8:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Aug 8..... Rosemary Clooney House Museum and Historic Augusta, Kentucky, depart at 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – CLOSED
- Aug 12..... Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House
- Aug 21..... Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Aug 26..... Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Aug 27..... Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- Sept 10-11 Focusing on Ford, depart September 10 from Fawcett Center, 7:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 8 Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens – depart 6:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 10 *Dracula*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal – depart 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 22 Holmes County Amish Brown Egg Tour, depart from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 24-Nov 2..... Celebrations in Mexico, depart from Columbus International Airport – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 30..... Columbus Cultural Arts Tour, carpool from Fawcett Center, 11:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Nov 12..... Winter Festival of Lights (Oglebay, West Virginia), depart from Fawcett Center, 9:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Nov 19..... Objects of Wonder from The Ohio State University (Columbus Museum of Art), carpool from Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Nov 30-Dec 6 Branson Christmas, depart 7:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Dec 12 La Comedia Dinner Theatre (Springboro, Ohio), depart from Fawcett Center, 8:45 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Apr 23-May 4..... France Magnifique, depart from Columbus International Airport – REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Notes:

- Bold font indicates that the event is new and listed for the first time.
- Arrive at the Fawcett Center 15 minutes earlier than the time of departure listed.
- Call the OSURA office if interested in an event for which registration is closed to see if space is available.

RESERVATIONS:

For those events marked "Registration Required":

- Call OSURA office (614-292-2916) and leave detailed message for Judi McMahon; you will receive a return call regarding your reservation request/status.
- PAYMENT is due in the office ONE WEEK after CONFIRMATION to keep reservation.
- Make check payable to OSURA (please write event date(s) and name(s) on check).
- Mail to Suite 300, 1590 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43201-2190.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN EVENT!
Some fill quickly and you may be closed out if you delay.

Book Club is on vacation until September 17; **Photo Society**, likewise, until October 9.

University News

From OSU Today

Personnel changes include:

- Barbara Ludwig, interim director of the Office of Continuing Education, is taking over for Tony Basil, who retired June 30 after 30 years with the University. Ludwig most recently was interim senior associate dean in the College of Education and Human Ecology. Continuing Education is central to President E. Gordon Gee's commitment to communities, one of his six strategic goals.
- Jonathan D. Hook, associate vice president and chief investment officer at Baylor University since 2001, has been named vice president and chief investment officer for Ohio State. In this newly created position, Hook will manage the University's \$2.2 billion long-term investment pool that includes a \$1.5 billion gifted endowment.
- Thomas P. O'Hara, managing editor of *The Plain Dealer* will join Ohio State's School of Communication to lead *The Lantern*.

Effective July 1, Ohio State's Office of Student Affairs became the Office of Student Life. The change aligns the office's name with its primary goal of supporting and positively affecting the lives of students during their entire university experience.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program has received final approval and the program will enroll its first class in autumn 2008. The degree offers an enhanced level of preparation for experienced nurses holding a Master's degree to prepare for nursing practice environments of the future.

The offices of Fees and Deposits, Student Loan Services and Accounts Receivable have merged to become the Office of the University Bursar, which bills and collects tuition, fees, campus housing, and other University-related charges.

OSU Extension is providing leadership to create a new resource tool enabling Ohio businesses to tap into the \$38 billion Ohio tourism industry. The Ohio Tourism Toolbox, a Web-based site, is being developed to assist industry professionals and community leaders in improving economic development, enhancing industry connections and growing Ohio tourism economic impacts. The resource tool is the result of a partnership with OSU Extension, the Ohio Sea Grant College Program, the Ohio Tourism Division of the Department of Development, and the Ohio Travel Association.

Ohio State's expanding health sciences campus will monitor its "green" performance thanks to a unique partnership with the Center for Resilience in the College of Engineering and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The OSU Medical Center has made a commitment to incorporate sustainable technologies, including energy conservation, into a \$1 billion master plan for campus expansion. The EPA's National Risk Management Research Laboratory has provided funding to enable the medical center to track non-financial benefits such as greenhouse gas reduction, research productivity, and community well being.

The Cartoon Research Library received the International Museum of Cartoon Art collection. The union of these two institutions will create the largest collection of original cartoon art in the world.

"Summertime," a collection of paintings by novelist and OSU emeritus professor of English Ernest Lockridge, is on display through August 31 at OSU's Faculty Club, in Colleagues Restaurant (downstairs.) "Lockridge has mastered the elements of composition and color ... These paintings are on fire, smoldering," writes Liz James in *Artscene*.

The President's Council on Women has delivered its report to President E. Gordon Gee. He had asked the Council to draw up a list of the barriers women face in the workplace at OSU and the specific things he could do as president to help break down those barriers. The Council's report concluded the two main barriers facing women are the overall climate or culture issues that women must overcome and work-family issues that disproportionately affect women — namely childcare. The Council made two major recommendations: (1) a series of University-wide forums to enhance understanding of the ways the University's culture affects women, and (2) a study of the various options to increase availability of childcare.

The University Photo Archives has created two new online Web galleries, the Bradford Lantern Slides and Centennial Image Galleries. The Bradford Lantern Slides Gallery is a selection of hand-colored glass slides, created by former OSU professor and University architect Joseph Bradford, that depict life in the early years of the University. The Centennial Image Gallery has been expanded by adding images from the 1970s, '80s and '90s. (*OSURA members: Can you find yourself in these images?*)

Even More Information

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

We congratulate our colleagues who retired from The Ohio State University in June 2008.

Anderson, Ruth E., Cancer Hospital and Research Institute * **Blanchard**, Jimmy J., University Hospitals East * **Bourne**, Sarah A., Obstetrics and Gynecology * **Calhoun**, Nancy L., Student Financial Aid * **Carr**, Nancy A., University Hospitals * **Crocetti**, Dianne M., Dentistry-Primary Care * **Durkalski**, Jeannette T., Environmental and Natural Resources * **Fausnaugh**, Alix N., University Hospitals * **Gardner**, Edward J., Research * **Hatem**, Sharon M., Nursing * **Haynes**, Betty J., University Health Systems * **Higgins**, Craig S., Lima Campus * **Hood**, Linda J., Ross Heart Hospital * **Johnson**, Charles R., Transportation and Parking * **Johnson**, Douglas R., University Mail Services * **Keer**, Frederick A., Facilities Utilities * **Latham**, Beverly A., Law Academic * **Meyer**, Arline J., History of Art * **Meyers**, Dianne, University Hospitals * **Peart**, Matthew H., Agricultural Technical Institute * **Reed**, John A., Cancer Hospital and Research Institute * **Reighart**, Penelope A., Education and Human Ecology * **Roberts**, Kaye E., University Hospitals * **Sauris**, Janice L., OARDC * **Scales**, Donald V., Facilities Building Services * **Schmittgen**, Mark C., Agriculture * **Shanks**, Sammy J., Facilities Roads and Grounds * **Smith**, Kenneth F., Food Services * **Smith**, Elizabeth J., University Hospitals * **Sommers**, Jeanne P., Cancer Hospital and Research Institute * **Sutherly**, Bonnie S., OSUE County Operations * **Vargas**, Manuel J., Facilities Maintenance * **Walchesky**, Candyce L., University Hospitals * **White**, Deborah J., Technology Partnerships * **Wiehe**, Margaret L., OSUE County Operations * **Wilburn**, Nancy J., Ross Heart Hospital

Help welcome our colleagues to retirement and OSURA. Call those you know, encourage them to return their OSURA membership applications, and invite them to attend an OSURA event with you.

LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Ohio

- H.B. 270 intended to curb the practice of public employees retiring from their jobs and returning to the same position after a relatively short amount of time is opposed strongly by school boards and administrators. They argue that it "flies in the face of local control of schools and is detrimental to the advancement of younger teachers, as it discourages retirement."

Other States

Although these pieces of legislation do not affect Ohio public employees, they could set precedents for Ohio legislators or other groups to promote similar legislation. This may impact our current public pension systems in unknown ways which at this time are speculative.

- Florida Retirement Funds: The governor of Florida recently signed into law a bill that will dedicate up to 1.5 percent of the Florida State Retirement System's trust fund to technology and growth investments. These economically targeted investments have been estimated to provide nearly \$2 billion for high-tech industries in the state. Florida's \$130 billion retirement system is one of the largest public pension systems in the country.
- California Assembly (equivalent to Ohio's House of Representatives) has approved a bill allowing private sector access to CalPERS. This bill is aimed at the six million California employees who do not have access to retirement plans at their workplaces.

AETNA FITNESS NETWORK

Effective October 1, 2008, OPERS retirees participating in the Aetna Medicare Open Plan will have access to a FREE membership at all fitness facilities within the newly enhanced Aetna Fitness Network. Aetna has added a number of fitness centers in Ohio to the Network. The additions include select YMCA locations and other facilities that have been added by request. Aetna will continue to pursue adding fitness facilities to the Aetna Fitness Network by request.

To take advantage of this free fitness center membership, simply present your Aetna Medicare Open Plan ID card at a participating facility after October 1, 2008, and the staff will assist you with establishing a membership. OPERS retirees outside of Ohio will continue to access the current Forever Fit network.

If you have any questions about participating fitness centers in your area or would like to nominate a facility, please contact Aetna Member Services 1-866-282-0631.

DISCOUNTS FOR OSU RETIREES

Some companies include OSU retirees in the discounts they offer to Ohio State faculty, staff, and students. Refer to the OSURA web site (hr.osu.edu/osura, click on "Discounts") for a list. The OSURA Benefits Committee is interested in knowing if you have you taken advantage of any and what your experience was.

More University News



Spotlight on: OSU URBAN ARTS SPACE IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

Ohio State's College of the Arts has a new, permanent presence in the heart of Columbus – the OSU Urban Arts Space, which opened last winter in the historic Lazarus building downtown. Its 10,000 square feet of exhibition and alternative performance space has been a long-time dream of the college and the University, and serves as a “professional launching pad” for students, according to Karen Bell, former dean of the college and newly named associate vice president for arts outreach at the University.

Contributing to the revitalization of downtown Columbus, the OSU Urban Arts Space creates a venue for student, alumni, faculty, and visiting artists' creative work, and a space for educational programming for the University and broader Columbus community. In addition to ongoing exhibitions, the space offers free lunch-time and after-work programs including gallery talks and tours.

Summer exhibitions include *Ways of Knowing Water*, evoking the presence and power of water in central Ohio, and *What Time Is This Place*, in which a group of Ohio artists uses the space as their studio-in-situ. Upcoming fall exhibitions include a show honoring the work of professor emeritus Sid Chafetz, a retrospective of the work of professor Alan Crockett who retires from OSU this year, and a comprehensive exhibition of the work of Department of Art faculty.

For details, go to the web, arts.osu.edu/uas, or call the OSU Urban Art Space, 614-292-8861. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with late hours until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

N MEMORIAM

We honor and thank our colleagues for their service and the many contributions that made our university a finer place.

BAKER, Sandra K., June 22,
Medical Center-Radiology, age 59
CASON, Willa M. (Tally), June 23,
Medical Center-Dietetics, age 78
DAVIS, Marsha G. June 6, Geodetic Science, age 50
FITTRO, Dewey, June 13
HODGES, John R., June 4,
Medical Center Board, age 83
KEITH, Helen Quenichet, July 1
KISH, Martha Burgess, April 4,
Accounts Payable and OSURA, age 90
KLOHR, Paul R., June 3, Education, age 90
LEWIS, Marianna K. June 9, Education, age 85
MANSON, Ted, June 1,
Players and Players Club, age 81
MOULTON, Edward “Ned” Quentin, June 29,
Board of Trustees and Civil Engineering, age 81
MULBARGER, Virginia Cly, June 4, age 90
PRITCHARD, Marilyn Martha, June 17, age 71
REAVES, Walter Lee, May 31,
Facilities Building Services and OSURA
SAENGER, Ruth Rose, June 1, Engineering, age 84
SANDERS, Ray W., June 9, Agriculture, age 85
SMITH, Frank Sterling, “Pete”, June 19, Art, age 91
STANG, John McNaugher, June 10, Cardiology, age 61
STULL, Lorren L., June 24,
Educational Theory and Practice and OSURA
WENAR, Charles, June 19, Psychology, age 85
YOUNG, JR., Paul Edward Jr., June 23,
Architecture and OSURA, age 76

When you know of the death of an OSU retiree or employee or spouse of an OSU retiree/employee, please contact the OSURA office – 614-292-2916.

Do you have a Health Care or Retirement Benefits Question? Get the right answer in THREE EASY STEPS:

1. Define your question (write it out clearly and concisely, preferably in one sentence).
2. Determine your best source for the answer:
 - a. Check for information in your copy of the *Retirement Handbook* (prepared by OSU Human Resources and OSURA)
 - b. Phone your pension fund Call Center. Most questions can be answered here:
STRS-OH: 1-888-227-7877
OPERS: 1-800-222-7377
 - c. Consult other relevant sources (such as Social Security, Medicare, OSU/Office of Human Resources/Benefits Services, AARP). The phone number of each is listed in the above handbook.
3. Take notes and review them. If more information is needed or if your question is complex, call for an appointment with a retirement counselor:

Web sites are also available at both retirement systems and can be reached through links on the OSURA web site or accessed directly: STRS-Ohio, www.strsoh.org; OPERS, www.opers.org.

Description of Events

See Pages 10 and 11 in the OSURA Directory or the OSURA web site for "Travel and Event Policies and Procedures."

- **Procedure for Reservations:** See Page 3 of this newsletter.
- **Challenge Levels:**
 - 1 – Minimal walking/standing, may include a few stairs
 - 2 – Moderate walking/standing, could include a few sets of stairs
 - 3 – Moderate walking/standing, includes climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain
 - 4 – Lots of walking/standing, includes climbing stairs or hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure

Note: Most trips will allow travelers to remain on the bus, if desired. Disabled persons should refer to Page 10 in the OSURA Directory for information on assistance.
- **Events Marked with *:** Participants must sign Disclaimer on Event Roster on the day of the event.
- **Registration Closes:** This is the deadline for reservations because it is the date vendors must be paid in full for the event.
- **Refund Deadline:** Reservations must be cancelled by this date to receive a refund of payment/deposit; cancellations after this date will be reviewed by the arranger and the OSURA office for refund decisions.

AUGUST 3 (SUNDAY) * **WOOSTER LIGHT OPERA**

Challenge Level 1

This is the U.S. premiere of *The Czarevitch*, an operetta in three acts by Bela Jenbach and Heinz Reichert with music by Franz Lehar.

Depart: 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$94 (bus transportation, opera ticket, brunch at Wooster Inn, snack, bus driver tip)

Refund Deadline: July 18

Arrangers: Tom Hubbard and Ruth Conone (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

AUGUST 8 (FRIDAY) * **ROSEMARY CLOONEY HOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY**

Challenge Level 2

EVENT FULL

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:30 p.m.

Refund Deadline: June 24

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Barb Preston (*Travel Committee*)

AUGUST 21 (THURSDAY) **LUNCH BUNCH**

Our speaker for August will be our own Dick Hill. He will talk on "So, Your Wine-Server Is Wearing an Eye-Patch." He will also share "...some of the curious relationships that champagne has had historically with national economics, political trends, and the human condition in general." (A sample will be available for those who imbibe.)

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

AUGUST 26 (TUESDAY) **TERTULIA BREAKFAST**

A group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month for breakfast and conversation. Why not join them?

Time and Place: 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

AUGUST 27 (WEDNESDAY) **BRIDGE GROUP**

You are cordially welcome to join this group for a good game of Bridge.

Time and Place: 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village Dublin, North CR

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber

SEPTEMBER 10-11 * **FOCUSING ON FORD**

Challenge Level 2

Tour the River Rouge Ford Assembly Plant in Dearborn, have dinner at the Edsel Ford Mansion in Grosse Pointe, and tour the Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. The Henry Ford is the complex formerly known as the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. There will be lots of history to be remembered as well as new knowledge to acquire.

Depart: 7:00 a.m., September 10, from Fawcett Center

Return: 7:00 p.m., September 11

Cost: \$186, double occupancy; \$249 single occupancy; \$162, triple; \$151, quad (bus transportation, lodging, one dinner, one breakfast, admissions to three events)

Refund Deadline: July 20

Arrangers: JoAnn and Richard Rueger (*Travel Committee*)

OCTOBER 8 (WEDNESDAY) ***CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD AND STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS***Challenge Level 2*

Enjoy spectacular fall foliage on the Akron Adventurer train from Rockside Station through the Cuyahoga Valley to the Stan Hywet historic house museum and country estate. (Don't forget your camera!) We will be conducted on a private tour of the house, savor a box lunch from the Mustard Seed Market, and have time to stroll the gardens, conservatory, and butterfly aviary before boarding the train for the return journey.

Depart: 6:00 a.m. from the Fawcett CenterReturn: 6:00 p.m.Cost: \$60 (bus and train fare, admission to Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, box lunch, snacks, tips)Refund Deadline: September 8Arrangers: Hazel Benson, Sylvia Jackson, Linda Price (*Travel Committee*)**OCTOBER 10 (FRIDAY) *****DRACULA, BALLEMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL***Challenge Level 1*

Unable to live, unwilling to die, Dracula dwells between two realms, cloaked in contradiction. A story of forbidden passion, immortal beings, and love that transcends time is beautifully brought to the stage in this BalletMet favorite.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool)Return: 1:00 p.m.Cost: \$12 (ticket and compensation for gas and parking for drivers with three or more passengers)Refund Deadline: October 3Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)**OCTOBER 22 (WEDNESDAY) *****HOLMES COUNTY AMISH BROWN EGG TOUR***Challenge Level 3*

Our annual trip to Mt. Hope, Ohio, on their weekly auction/flea market day includes a side trip to Ashery Bulk Foods and Heini's Cheese, full Amish farm buffet at Mrs. Yoder's, ice cream at Ashery; afternoon tour of Behalt, colorful 265 ft. mural-in-the-round depicting Amish and Mennonite heritage in the world's largest Amish community, video, tour of Amish school, pioneer farm.

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett CenterReturn: 6:00 p.m.Cost: \$42 (deluxe motorcoach, admission, Amish farm buffet, dozen brown eggs per household, ice cream cone, gratuities)Refund Deadline: Noon October 15Arranger: Jim Portman (*Social Committee*)**OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 2 * CELEBRATIONS IN MEXICO***Challenge Level 3*

A study tour to Mexico at the most exciting time of the year, Days of the Dead. Visit two studio homes, (Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera), the Saturday Bazaar, and cultural and historic sites in Mexico City. Oaxaca is the center of a large indigenous area, and home to museums and archeological ruins. Also visit small villages, each known for its distinctive art or craft. Tour the mountain-top archeological site of Monte Alban and observe Days of the Dead cemetery and family home celebrations.

Depart: TBA October 24 from Columbus International AirportReturn: TBA November 2Cost: \$2,695 double occupancy; \$350 single supplement (round trip air fare from Columbus, lodging, admission fees, 22 meals, ...) Deposit of \$800 per person; **final payment due August 22**Registration: **As available through****September 15****← NOTE CHANGE**Arranger: Vivian B. Harvey and Carol Baker (*Travel Committee*)**OCTOBER 30 (THURSDAY) *****COLUMBUS CULTURAL ARTS TOUR***Challenge Level 1*

We will join a weekly event, Conversations and Coffee. Several Cultural Arts faculty will discuss their art work. Box lunches will be served. There will be a tour of the classes after the noon Coffee and Conversation. This tour will give you an overview of the Cultural Arts Center and its classes which are available to any, from beginners to advanced.

Depart: 11:00 a.m. carpool from Fawcett CenterReturn: 2:30 p.m.Cost: \$9 (members carpool, free admission, box lunch)Arrangers: Tom Hubbard and Tom Sweeney (*Cultural Arts Committee*)**NOVEMBER 12 (WEDNESDAY) *****WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS (OGLEBAY, WEST VIRGINIA)***Challenge Level 2*

Your Oglebay step-on-guide will explain the highlights and history of Oglebay as we explore the beautiful lights dancing to your favorite Christmas carols. Have a delicious buffet meal at Wilson Lodge overlooking the hillside lights display. Enjoy the miniature train and laser light show at the winter fantasy. You'll also have time to browse in Oglebay's famous specialty shops.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett CenterReturn: 11:30 p.m.

Cost: \$78 (round trip deluxe motorcoach; tour of Oglebay Institutes Mansion Museum, the Glass Museum and Artisan Center; admission to Winter Fantasy at the Good Zoo; guided tour of the Festival of Lights; dinner buffet)

Refund Deadline: October 12

Arrangers: Barbara Preston and Ruth Conone
(*Travel Committee*)

NOVEMBER 19 (WEDNESDAY) *
OBJECTS OF WONDER FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY (COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART)

Challenge Level 2

Objects of Wonder takes its cue from the age-old cabinet of curiosities, which displayed an astonishing range of objects from the scientific to the artistic. The exhibition brings to light the surprising treasures held in the University's vast collections, ranging from matchboxes to Marilyn, pigeons to paintings, cartoons to costumes. Every artifact in this show tells a unique story. Experienced together, these objects inspire unexpected connections.

Depart: 11:30 a.m., carpool from Fawcett Center

Return: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$27 (admission, docent fees, box lunch)

Registration Deadline: October 10 (early deadline because of docent scheduling)

Refund Deadline: November 5

Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6 *
BRANSON CHRISTMAS

Challenge Level 2

Start the Christmas season in Branson, Missouri, with their wonderful Christmas shows: See nine shows, *Yakov Smirnoff, Mickey Gilley, Dalena Ditto, The Platters, Jim Stafford, Shoji Tabuchi, Roy Rogers, Tony Orlando & the Lennon Sisters, and the Branson Belle*.

Eat great meals. Find time for shopping.

Depart: 7:00 a.m. November 30 from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m., December 6

Cost: \$954 double occupancy; \$1152, single (bus transportation, lodging, breakfasts, 4 dinners, shows, snacks)

Refund Deadline: **August 1**

Arrangers: Richard and JoAnn Rueger (*Travel Committee*)

DECEMBER 12 (FRIDAY) *
LA COMEDIA DINNER THEATRE

Challenge Level 2

Treat yourself to a delicious buffet lunch at La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, Ohio. Then enjoy a touching musical version of the story of the real Santa Claus, *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Depart: 8:45 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$58 (motorcoach transportation, buffet lunch, theatre ticket)

Registration Closes: October 17

Refund Deadline: October 17

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Gladys Murray (*Travel Committee*)

APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2009 *

FRANCE MAGNIFIQUE

Challenge Level 3

Bask in the rich culture and romance of fascinating France. On this special tour you will explore captivating Paris, picturesque Provence, and the fun-filled French Riviera. Highlights of this 12-day tour include Paris, Seine River Cruise, Parisian Cabaret Dinner, Omaha Beach, Amboise, Winery Tour, TGV Train, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Nice, and Monaco. Full itinerary available from the OSURA office. **To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 7, 1:30 p.m., in the Whetstone Branch Library meeting room, 3909 North High Street.**

To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 7, 1:30 p.m., in the Whetstone Branch Library meeting room, 3909 North High Street.

Depart: TBA April 23 from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA May 4

Cost: \$3,949, double; \$4,749, single; \$3,919, triple (round trip air from Columbus, 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners, sightseeing per itinerary) \$450 deposit with confirmation; final payment February 1

Registration closes: October 16

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Barb Preston (*Travel Committee*)

SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD

The following event is in the planning stages – preparations are not far enough along to accept reservations, but it is listed here so you can pencil it in your calendar. When all details are in place (cost, times, content, ...), it will be listed in the OSURA Calendar on Page 3 of the newsletter; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

- September 25, Coping with Change (Marie Taris and Diane Selby, Arrangers)
- April 2, Estate Planning Seminar (Diane Selby, Arranger)

DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATIONS, PAYMENTS, REFUNDS

Some OSURA events reach the maximum spaces very quickly. Sometimes others are cancelled because the minimum number has not been reached.

Vendors require payments a certain period of time prior to an event which plays into the decision as to whether or not an event is a "go" or if a refund of payment or deposit can be made.



RETIREES ASSOCIATION
OSURA

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COMING SOON: COPING WITH CHANGE XI **Thursday, September 25, 2008**

The annual Coping with Change Conference will be held at the Fawcett Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Herb Asher, professor emeritus, Department of Political Science, OSU, will be the keynote speaker on "The Mainstream Media and the Presidential Selection Process."

The general session in the morning will be on "Identity Theft"; then after lunch, participants may select from one of these programs: Saving and Investing Later in Life; Nutrition for Healthy Aging; Universal Design: Flexible Solutions to Staying in Your Home Longer; Stretching and Strengthening; Home Protection: Strategies to Keep your Home Safe.

The annual update on health care issues will conclude the day with representatives from State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) and the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) providing information to help recipients make good choices for coverage in 2009.

Registration materials will be mailed to all members in a few weeks, but hold the date and watch your mail box.