The Architecture of Literacy

By Nancy Wardwell

The first completely bookless public library already exists in San Antonio, Texas. It has been open since 2013.

Many of us have spent countless hours of our childhood, later as students, then scholars, in public and academic libraries – with the books, maps, other documents and activities they provide. A completely digital, bookless library defies imagination!

Benjamin Franklin played a role in the development of the first public library in 1790. He obtained and donated a collection of books to the residents of a town in Massachusetts – stipulating that it must be free and open to the public. The citizens were so grateful that they named the town for him – Franklin, MA.

Most 19th Century libraries were by subscription, private, attached to schools, or special collections. The first tax-supported library was established in Peterborough, New Hampshire in 1833, and it wasn’t until after the American Civil War that public libraries began to spread.

The public libraries that appeared around the world did so with the support of wealthy benefactors. One such was Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish businessman and philanthropist who donated much of his wealth to the foundation of public libraries in North America as well as the world. Between 1900 and 1917 the Carnegie Corporation constructed more than 1700 libraries in the United States alone. The recipient communities had to insure the foundation of taxes that would maintain the library as a free, public, lending library.

Carnegie believed in helping those who helped themselves, and he was interested in providing the means for citizens to improve themselves.

Around the world, a total of 2509 Carnegie libraries were built between 1883 and 1929. Many still function as public libraries. Others were the foundations that grew into large library systems. The Columbus Metropolitan Library system, one of the nation’s best and most-used libraries, started with a 1901 Carnegie building on Grant Avenue.

In Ohio alone 104 public Carnegie libraries were built, and seven academic libraries were built at seven institutions. Fifty-nine of the original buildings are still standing and operating as libraries. Thirty-four buildings are still standing but used as museums or other purposes.

The architecture of almost every Carnegie library is unique. Some were designed by the great architects of the day, others by favorite local architects. Each building was architecturally different but at the same time recognizable as a Carnegie library. Design characteristics were specified in the grant from the Carnegie Corporation. The construction was masonry, one or two stories. The building almost always had front steps leading up to an arched central entrance. The first-floor windows were set high, and inside there were large open spaces, a readily accessible reference desk, and usually, in the basement were spaces for lectures and community meetings.

Of course, collecting material for this article relied heavily on digital sources. Go ahead – use Wikipedia to investigate more about Andrew Carnegie and libraries in general – and do find The Architecture of Literacy, online, by Mary B. Dierickx.
FROM: The President

Really Big Shoes

Over the past year, your immediate past president, Shirley McCoy (2016-17), guided your OSURA ship through the most complicated, potentially treacherous sea in its over three-plus decade history; and many of you probably never noticed anything but the usual “smooth sail”.

We all owe Shirley a deep heart-felt THANK YOU for getting us through the worst of these waters.

In September 2015, OSURA was informed by the Office of Human Resources that the OSURA base of operations (financial, clerical and staff support) would no longer reside in the OSU Office of Human Resources. Budgetary considerations were offered as one explanation for this decision. This eviction resulted in the loss of a 50% (functionally more than 75%) clerical-administrative position (occupied by the rather awesome Ms. Diana Lantz), $40,000 university support for our educational programs, gratis meeting rooms and many other aspects of this Camelot-like relationship; which parenthetically was put into place by the former President Gordon Gee, who saw that both the University and the OSU retirees would benefit from this arrangement.

It was obvious that few departments or centers on campus could support the vast programs and goals of the now-orphaned OSURA and its more than 3000 members. The OSU Alumni Association (AA) became the prime candidate to house OSURA, largely because of its size (larger than OSURA), staff with experience through other OSU Societies, physical plant with meeting rooms (Longaberger House), and a relatively secure fiscal base. In return, OSURA adds a sizable number of members (although not all are OSU alumni) to the OSU AA base, and the AA can now serve as an avenue for OSURA members to render their gift-giving to the University.

Jerry Newsom, president of OSURA in 2015-16, assembled a “Transition Team” of key members of OSURA (e.g., President, Treasurer, Vice President) who met regularly with the key players of Human Resources and the AA to work out the logistics and details of matching up these two complex organizations. The transition was a gradual one, starting in early 2016 and continuing beyond the present time. Mr. Craig Little of the AA was/is also an invaluable liaison during this entire process.

Shirley McCoy took over the Presidency of OSURA in July, 2016 and guided us through this transition period. This enormous task went much smoother than I or anyone else on the OSURA Executive Board ever expected, and Shirley was the reason it went unnoticed by most OSURA members. Shirley initiated operations with a comprehensive “transition document”, used by the Board and all committees, to move activities to the AA and thus, continue all functions in the new home. Shirley went well beyond this document to unravel the seemingly endless details of this transition. As VP, I had a front-row seat during many of her activities, interactions, and problem-solving ventures.

There are few on the OSURA Board or amongst members who could have done a better job than Shirley Fields McCoy and for this, we are most grateful. But goodness, these are huge shoes to fill.

For the honor of following in Shirley McCoy’s footsteps, I remain sincerely yours,

Carl V. Leier
President, Executive Board
Short North Stage Ticket Discounts

Tickets for the 2017-18 Short North Stage season are offered to OSURA members and their guests at a discount of $10.00 per ticket for selected Sunday 3 p.m. matinees. (Sept. 10; Oct. 29; Dec. 10; Feb. 4; April 8; June 3).

To see a description of the plays and order tickets go to: shortnorthstage.org or call 614-725-4042. Use the discount code OSURA.

Performances are at the historic Garden Theatre at 1187 North High Street.

Clarification for Life Membership

The OSURA webpage has indicated that the payment plan for lifetime membership has to be completed within a 12-month period.

CORRECTION: We are now a part of the OSU Alumni Association and they require the payment to be received in a single calendar year. (That was to satisfy the IRS, so the donation for the year shows $500.)
**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**September 5** (Tuesday)
Benefits Committee

**Time/Place:** 9:15 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**September 12** (Tuesday)
Board Meeting

**Time/Place:** 9 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**September 25** (Monday)
Travel and Cultural Arts Committee

**Time/Place:** 10 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**September**

**Lunch Bunch**
No program this month. See you October 19th for another fine presentation.

**Arrangers:** Rai Goerler and Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

**September 13** (Wednesday)

**Book Club**
*The General vs. the President: Mac Arthur and Truman at the Brink of Nuclear War*, by H.W. Brands. Lincoln fired McClellan for inaction; Truman fired MacArthur for reckless action. Each President made certain the U.S. Constitution was upheld with civilian rule over the military being a core principle.

**Time/Place:** 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill of Arlington Party House, Lafayette Drive. Call Lee Hill (614-459-4743) for directions.

**Arranger:** Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

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**Calendar of Events**

**September 14** (Thursday)

**Photo Society**
Program: Members’ Theme Presentations – Recent Best 8 Images. Limit images to 8. Send digital files in a Power Point file (alternately in .jpg 96 or 72 dot/inch format) to jhuston1@columbus.rr.com or mail files on a new CD to arrive 3 days before the meeting (J. Huston, 4095 Fenwick Rd., Columbus OH 43220), or bring prints (at least 8”x10”) to the meeting.

**Dues:** $10 is due at this time; make check to: OSU Photo Society, mail to Martha Warren, Sec./Treas., 3502 Wenwood Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026; or bring to the meeting.

**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6 p.m., dinner; 7 p.m., program; OSU Faculty Club.

**You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by September 11.**

**September 16** (Saturday)

**Walking/Hiking Group**

**Challenge Level:** 2-4

Everyone welcome. Join us on the trails at Highbanks Metro Park.

**Time/Place:** Please arrive by 10:30 a.m. at the Nature Center

**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

**September 26** (Tuesday)

**Tertulia Breakfast**
Join fellow OSURA members and friends for breakfast and conversation.

**Time/Place:** 8 a.m., OSU Faculty Club

**Cost:** on your own

**Arranger:** Jerry Dare (Tertulia Breakfast SIG)

**September 27** (Wednesday)

**Bridge Group**
Join us; new members always welcomed. Come enjoy the fellowship, and have fun playing a good game of bridge at the same time.

**Time/Place:** 1 p.m., Friendship Village of Dublin, North CR

**Arranger:** Steve Miller (Bridge Group SIG)

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**September 28** (Thursday)

**Dinner Series:**
**Searching for Neutrinos**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Come for a fascinating discussion by John Bescom of the effort to understand neutrinos, the most abundant matter particles in the universe. They have almost no mass or interactions, but blaze forth from the sun and supernova explosions. What role do they play in the universe’s evolution? New experiments are seeking answers.

**Time/Place:** 5 p.m., social hour (cash bar), followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m.; OSU Faculty Club

**Cost:** $23 (service charge included)

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 25

**Arranger:** Howard Gauthier (Dinner Series SIG)

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**September 2-10**

**The “Magnificent” Canadian Rockies**

**REGISTRATION CLOSED**

Depart: September 2 (Saturday)
Return: September 10 (Sunday)

**Arranger:** Alabelle Zghoul (Travel Committee)

**September 12-16** (Tues. - Sat.)

**Stratford Festival**

**REGISTRATION CLOSED**

Meet by: 7:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 12th back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road

**Return:** approximately 5 p.m. Saturday, September 16

**Arrangers:** Odette Blum and Marilyn Blackwell (Cultural Arts Committee)

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**September 20** (Wednesday)

**2017 OSURA Annual Fall Conference**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Time/Place:** 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Fawcett Event Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road

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**CHALLENGE LEVELS**

1. **Light** – may include a few stairs.
2. **Moderate** – may include a few sets of stairs.
3. **Moderate +** – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
4. **High** – may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.
**September 27** (Wednesday)  
**OSU Gallery Hop**  
Short North  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Visit three top Short North galleries—Hammond-Harkins Gallery, Sherrine Gallerie, and Studios on High. Enjoy refreshments and learn about the galleries and their current exhibits. This is an encore event, so register soon!  
**Meet by:** 11 a.m. at Hammond-Harkins Gallery, 641 N. High Street  
**Return:** Hop will end at approximately 1 p.m.  
**Cost:** $5; Includes light refreshments at each gallery, including a light lunch of cold meats, cheese, and wine; with coffee/tea and cookies afterwards.  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 22.  
**Arranger:** Les Benedict  
(Cultural Arts Committee)  

**October 18** (Wednesday)  
**Rare Books and Manuscripts at OSU: Exhibit of the Reformation and a Tour**  
Thompson Library (OSU Main Campus)  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Curator Eric Johnson will guide us through a new exhibit, “Publish or Perish.” It commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He will also talk about the missions and collections of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department.  
**Meet by:** 1:30 p.m., Thompson Library  
**Return:** approx. 3 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com or call 614-292-2281 by October 13  
**Arranger:** Raimund Goerler  
(Cultural Arts Committee)  

**October 20** (Friday)  
**BalletMet – Parallel Connection**  
Senior Dress Rehearsal  
**Challenge Level 1**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
James Kudelka, William Forsythe, Merce Cunningham, and Ohad Naharin choreograph a collection of dances sponsored by BalletMet, the OSU Department of Dance and the Wexner Center for the Arts. OSU dance students and BalletMet will perform the pieces. Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281. Credit card preferred. If by check, it must arrive by October 16. Tickets will be held at Will Call.  
**Time/Place:** performance begins at 11 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Doors open between 10 and 10:15 a.m., Mershon Auditorium  
**Cost:** $19 (admission ticket)  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** October 13  
**Arranger:** Les Benedict  
(Cultural Arts Committee)  

**October 30 & 31** (Mon. & Tues.)  
**Berea, KY Tour**  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Visitberea.com. Visit KY Artisan Center for shopping and lunch on your own. Enjoy a guided tour of Berea with two stops: a mystery dinner theatre and overnight stay at Boone Tavern. Optional Berea College Artist demonstrations or $40 craft class.  
**Meet by:** 7:15 a.m., Monday, October 30th back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** approx. 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 31st  
**Cost:** $196.50 double; $260.50 single  
Cost includes motor coach transportation, buffet lunch, admission, snacks and tips; optional $40 take-home craft  
**Registration/Payment Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 26.  
**Arrangers:** Pat James and Alabelle Zghoul  
(Travel Committee)  

**November 17** (Friday)  
**La Comedia Dinner Theater—*Timeless Memories of Christmas***  
Springboro, OH  
**Challenge Level 1**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Instead of “White Christmas” La Comedia Dinner Theatre will be presenting “Timeless Memories of Christmas”. Included as always is their wonderful La Comedia’s buffet. lacomedia.com  
**Meet by:** 9 a.m. back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $74; includes motor coach transportation, buffet lunch, admission, snacks and tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 17  
**Arrangers:** Sandy Nicholson and Jessica Pritchard  
(Travel Committee)  

**December 8** (Friday)  
**Christmas at Malabar Farm**  
Lucas, OH  
**Challenge Level 1**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Tour Malabar Farm (malabarfarm.org). Learn about Louis Bromfield’s life before and after his arrival to Pleasant Valley in 1939. See where Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall spent the night during their honeymoon. Experience the beautiful Christmas light that flows through the country home.  
**Meet by:** 3:45 p.m., back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** approx. 9:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $58; includes admission, Der Dutchman Buffet dinner, motor coach transportation, and tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by December 6  
**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Alabelle Zghoul  
(Travel Committee)
FROM: The Benefits Committee

Report from OPERS

By Michele Hobbs

• As of the end of March 2017 total assets were 91.6 billion dollars.
• 50-Year Actuarial Projections of Base Retirement Benefits

GRS, OPERS actuarial consultant, annually prepares two projection reports – the 50-Year Projection of Base Retirement Benefits (pension report) and the 50-Year Projection of Retiree Health and Medicare Benefits (health care report). These reports project liabilities, assets and cash flows for a 50-year period beginning January 1, 2017. The projections are based on the same census data, financial information and actuarial assumptions used in the annual actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2016. Like the pension valuation report, the pension projection report assumes a 7.50% long-term actuarial rate of return and all other economic and demographic assumptions adopted following the 2011–2015 Experience Study. The baseline projection assumes a stable active population (no active population growth) throughout the projection period. The pension projection report shows the projection of the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) at each year in the future and, at several measurement dates, the number of years required to amortize that liability. In addition to the baseline projection that assumes 7.50% market return on assets in 2017 and no future active population growth, the pension projection report includes projections 2 under several alternative market return scenarios and population growth scenarios.

Report from STRS

By Jerry Newsom

STRS is under a legislated mandate to show that the pension fund meets two requirements: the ratio of assets to liabilities must be at least 70%, and the system is projected to have pensions fully funded within 30 years. When I first saw these criteria, my first reaction was that you’d want the assets to liabilities ratio to be 100%, but like many things it’s not that simple. Assets really are just the sum of all past income (including appreciation and return on investments) minus all past expenditures (mostly payouts for pensions). Liabilities are found by actuarially estimating all future pension payments for current and future retirees. So we’re counting past income, past expenditures, and future expenditures. What’s missing is future income; there’s no slot for this in the assets to liability ratio. If that ratio ever reaches 100%, you will have a good bit more money than you’d need to meet your obligations. Future income is included, however, in the projections of how long it will be until future pensions are fully funded, so to me that’s a more important number to watch. With the loss of cost of living adjustments in STRS pensions, the system now barely meets the requirement.

In Memoriam

Beverly Brown
July 21 | 85

Rhea M. Carter
July 14 | Physics, 88

Keith DeVoe
July 18 | Obstetrics and Gynecology, 87

Francis E. Hazard
July 3 | Marion Campus, 88

Cicily Ann Horan
July 25 | Architecture and OSURA, 86

Clayton A. Perkins
August 6 | 78

Shirley Riley
July 24 | Dentistry, 67

Patricia A. Roesch
December 2, 2016 | OSURA, 86

Francis L. Warner
August 5 | Wexner Medical Center, 93

Nichols Vorys
July 10 | Obstetrics and Gynecology, 92
MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:
Gisela Vitt

“And that was fun” was Gisela Vitt’s mantra during the interview for this Spotlight. She grew up in Berlin, Germany, and came to the United States at age 25 to pursue her graduate studies, intending to return to Germany for a teaching position. Instead, upon attaining the Ph.D. degree at Washington University in St. Louis in 1964, she accepted the offer from The Ohio State University. She taught and did research in German language, literature, and culture before becoming chair of the department in 1987. Her greatest joy is teaching all levels of students from their first course in German through attainment of their doctorate degrees. And that was fun.

She knew about OSURA before she retired and joined soon afterward. Her first service was four or five years on the Cultural Arts Committee and one of the fun activities was taking groups to the Ohio Theater for opera performances. The greatest challenge here was getting the people back on the bus, as it could be parked “around the corner” and the attendees needed directions to find it. She thinks the OSURA newsletter is much better and more comprehensive. Gisela enjoys reading and spends a lot of time doing that in retirement, so she has been a member of the OSURA Book Club for many years. She has served on the Membership Committee and the Executive Board. She finds OSURA offers good times, good friends, and a variety of things to do. And that is fun.

Beyond OSURA Gisela tutors individuals in German. She has taught English as a Second Language through the Columbus Literacy Council as well as Ohio Dominican University. (English is her second language and she knows the problems.) She teaches adults one-on-one; her students have included a Russian, Korean, and Chinese. And that is fun.

Her major volunteer “job” has been and still is being a docent at the Wexner Center. She enjoys giving tours tremendously because the exhibits are unique and change every three or four months. It is never boring with this variety and change and that is fun.

She travels a good deal and in the 1990s she was frequently a guest-lecturer on trips to German-speaking countries sponsored by the OSU Alumni Association. She would give lectures on the locations being visited; that requires a good deal of preparation on the sites and events, making this a wonderful transition from teaching to being retired and that is fun.

Talking with Gisela in this interview was interesting and fun.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

To Your Health

Time for a Flu Shot? Yep!

Key Facts You Should Know About The Flu

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. The flu season occurs in the fall and winter with the peak occurring between November and March.

People who have the flu often feel some or all of the following:

• Fever (though not everyone does) or feeling feverish/chills
• Sore throat
• Runny or stuffy nose
• Muscle or body aches
• Headaches
• Fatigue
• Some people may experience vomiting or diarrhea

Most experts believe flu viruses are spread by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of getting sick with seasonal flu and spreading it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through your community.

The first and most important step in preventing flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes and frequent hand washing) to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like the flu.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Di$count$ for OSU Retirees

OSU Retirees are eligible for a variety of discounts! Check out the list on our website:

osura.alumni.osu.edu

You are encouraged to carry and show your BuckID. If you need one, or need it replaced, check “Discounts” on the Retiree website.