To all Shepherd’s Center volunteers and members, before you do anything else - that means right now - put Thursday, September 9, on your calendar for the Annual Volunteer Celebration! This is all about food, fun and fellowship.

Because our April 2020 Volunteer Celebration had to be postponed, we’ve made plans for this rescheduled event to be the most enjoyable celebration yet. It will be held from 12:00 - 2:30 at Deep Run Park, shelters 4 and 5, in western Henrico, 9900 Ridgefield Parkway. There will be a brief welcome from board president, Bernie Henderson and executive director, Julie Adams-Buchanan, followed by time to eat and visit.

Lunch will be provided by Carytown Burgers and Fries food truck (free!) and music will be performed by Becca Longhenry’s group, Classical Revolution RVA. (You may remember Ms. Longhenry from one of last spring’s Open University lunch presentations.)

Invitations go out in August, but plan now to attend. You don’t want to miss this highlight event!

COVID-19 Updates

Members of the TSCOR COVID-19 task force met Friday, July 30, 2021, to review TSCOR’s current policies regarding the pandemic. They are as follows:

Open University:
- fall session meets in person on Mondays and Wednesdays
- meets virtually via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- all classes will be moved online if necessary
- cake no longer provided; prepackaged snacks and bottled water will be available for purchase
- the fall tuition deal will be offered this year: $150 (includes $25 membership and one year tuition)

Client Services - rides for seniors to medical appointments:
- all previously established driver/client protocols remain in effect and unchanged: masking, no-contact transportation, clients ride in back seat on passenger side, adequate ventilation, drivers remain outside the facility
- client’s vaccination status is noted in Ride Scheduler as staff is made aware of it
- existing clients can schedule rides up to 2 times per month
- new clients are not accepted at this time
- the Friendly Caller program has been suspended

TSCOR Office:
- remains closed to the general public
- staff continues to work remotely

Annual Volunteer Celebration:
- this event, cancelled in the spring of 2020, is now rescheduled for Thursday, September 9
- held outdoors for increased safety and comfort of attendees

The task force meets again Tuesday, August 24, to review the situation and assess how best to move forward. All protocols are subject to revision, depending on future circumstances. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the staff at 355-7282.

SAVE THE DATES!

Open University
Fall Session:
Sept 20 - Nov 11

Annual Volunteer Celebration
Thursday, Sept 9
Julie could you plug in? Where could you serve TSCOR very well. Your passions and talents are amazing volunteer teams.

Let me be honest here. If we do not increase the number of volunteers to help create and manage what TSCOR offers, and participants to be involved in them, our Center will suffer. Please don’t let that happen. There are plenty of areas where you are needed to help TSCOR keep older adults active and engaged. That’s what we are all about! We have a time-tested model that can be molded to facilitate the needs of older adults today. I’ve said it before and I’ll keep reminding you that this is your organization. What do you want it to be?

Please think about offering your unique perspective by joining our amazing volunteer teams. Your passions and talents could serve TSCOR very well. What would you like to see happen? Where could you plug in?

Julie Adams-Buchanan, executive director

From the Executive Director

This past year, TSCOR transitioned into the unknown in formerly unimaginable ways, and we did it together. It was truly wonderful to witness the Zoom comfort level steadily increase among our people and to see how our volunteer drivers became friendly callers so that no one would feel isolated. It was remarkable to find everyone adjusting in order to stay connected.

Now that we are slowly emerging into the new normal, doesn’t it seem to be the perfect time to refresh TSCOR? Wouldn’t you like to assist with a fresh look at things? New volunteers bring new eyes to the mix, which is vital in an organization like TSCOR. We don’t want to become complacent and settle for the status quo. We have to adapt continually to the changing times so that we remain relevant to our target population, which is different from the generation before.

Retirement is not the same as it used to be. People retire later, or several different times, making that pool a bit smaller. We have to look for different pools to fish in because continuing to attract more volunteers and participants is essential to our Center’s future.

What, if anything, would you like to see change in the future? What could be a better explanation than Mr. Jefferson’s words for the commitment to lifelong learning that members of The Shepherd’s Center demonstrate by attending our courses and speaker series?

Whenever I prepare a course to teach, I learn much more than time would ever permit me to include in a course. Even when I teach a course that I have taught before, I enjoy finding new information about the subject. Sometimes I even discover new information that contradicts what I thought was a fact up until that time, and that is absolutely fine.

Shepherd’s Center scholars attend our sessions because they want to learn new things and their intellectual inquisitiveness gifts them with an insatiable receptivity to accept new perspectives and even to recognize occasionally that what they conscientiously considered to be true might require reconsideration. That is the fascinating nexus between an open mind and a changing world.

What a dull and boring life it must be for those who fear or choose to close their minds to new information and new

From the President

An unforgettable horrible year has blossomed into a beautiful spring and inviting summer. We have learned many things that we did not even imagine a year ago. We would do well to forget quickly some of those things, but many are worth remembering. One thing worth remembering is that unexpected free time has given us the opportunity to read, think, reconsider long-held “truths,” focus on new perspectives and discover new “truths.”

For many years, I have kept a manila folder of quotes that I found thought-provoking, at least at the time that I put them in that folder. During some downtime last year, I pulled out that well-worn folder, not to add to it, but to read what had accumulated. A quote from Thomas Jefferson in 1816, when he was 73 years old, spoke to me:

“...it is not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths are discovered and manner and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as a civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.”

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Bernie Henderson

For many years, I have kept a manila folder of quotes that I found thought-provoking, at least at the time that I put them in that folder. During some downtime last year, I pulled out that well-worn folder, not to add to it, but to read what had accumulated. A quote from Thomas Jefferson in 1816, when he was 73 years old, spoke to me about the purpose for The Shepherd’s Center and the need to maintain an openness to new perspectives. I wrote a guest article on this that The Richmond Times-Dispatch printed. I want to share the gist of that article with you.

Thomas Jefferson said, “I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths are discovered and manner and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as a civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.”

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perspectives; who dismiss anything different and intellectually insist upon trying to “wear still the coat which fitted him [or her] as a boy [or girl]."

Personally, as a history enthusiast, I am excited to see so many things in a different light, a new perspective, than I saw them before. For instance, as a son of Virginia and the South, so much of the history I was taught in the 1950s and 1960s did not provide the same information and the same emphasis as we now have. There are so many new things to learn about the different cultures, communities and conditions of the past that I never heard about during my school years. To the extent that these new things cause me to reconsider and reevaluate opinions and perspectives, that is truly intriguing. History is not threatened, obscured or discarded when we find facts that cause us to change the way we once thought. Learning new lessons in history is not erasing it, it is enhancing it.

Whether it is history or any other subject, learning has a marvelous immortality and there is always something new. That’s why The Shepherd’s Center’s lifelong learning opportunities are so valuable; each course nourishes, invigorates and challenges our never-ceasing quest for fresh perspectives and new ideas.

I am proud to serve as President of an organization comprised of persons who actively pursue the “progress of the human mind.” Thank you for this opportunity!

Bernie Henderson, President, The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond

2021 - 2022 Board of Directors

July 1st marks a new fiscal year and a new roster of board members. The members for the 2021-2022 year are listed below. Please join us in welcoming new board members Kindall Bundy and Cynthia Rice. Other changes to note: cycling off the board is Ruth Blevins; Sally Youngs steps down from her role as treasurer; Hal Costley assumes the additional role of treasurer.

Welcome to all our board members! We look forward to doing the good work of carrying out our mission together. Thank you for your service!

Board Officers:
Bernie Henderson, president
Stephanie Churchill, vice president/president-elect
Hal Costley, immediate past president
Pam Atwood, secretary
Hal Costley, treasurer

Board Members:
Kindall Bundy, Betty Ann Dillon, Jim Evans, Peter Goodman, John Gordon, Ralph Graner, Art Gunlicks, Carol Harris, Mary Maiden, Carol Parke, Cynthia Rice, Janet Simmons, Susie Willshire

Meet John Countryman: Lifelong Learning Coordinator

Many of you already know me, but for those who don’t (and those who do!) my name is John Countryman, and I’m your new Open University Lifelong Learning Coordinator. I’ve been teaching for all three lifelong learning organizations in the area since 2018. For TSCOR, I’ve taught courses on theatre and religion, the Irish Literary Revival, The Voyage of St. Brendan, and Irish Mythology. I love interdisciplinary studies and I enjoy integrating the arts into every course I offer.

My first career was as a theatre professor. Among other institutions, I taught at the University of Richmond, where I also served on the faculty of the Virginia Governor’s School for the Humanities summer program for 20 years. And one of my proudest moments was performing at the Kennedy Center in a UR theatre production directed by my colleague Jack Welsh in 1985.

My first experience teaching older adults was many years ago with the former Elderhostel program while on the faculty of Berry College in Georgia. When I retired from higher education after 38 years, I returned to grad school and earned a master’s in gerontology at

(Continued next page)
Lifelong Learning Coordinator
John Countryman,
continuing success.

I’m a member of the Inside-Out Playback Theatre Company of Harrisonburg and facilitate Guided Autobiography courses online. I’ve earned certifications in Intergenerational Programming and Practice, Reminiscence and Life Review, and various forms of personal coaching.

I’m originally from Vermont; I grew up on Shaw Mountain where I learned to ski and shear sheep! My dad was a biology professor, my mother was an artist, and I have three brothers who still live in Vermont. I love to travel, read historical fiction and memoir, and I’ve written poetry, personal essays, and drama. I’ve been with my partner Ruthy for 48 years, and my daughter Sarah was both born and married here in Richmond.

We first came here in 1980 and although we ventured elsewhere, you’d have to say we’ve never really left! I look forward to serving TSCOR in this new capacity and to getting to know all of you better. TSCOR is a vital resource in the community for our growing elder population and I’m grateful to be able to play a part in its continuing success.

John Countryman,
Lifelong Learning Coordinator

An interpretation of the OU logo with a Celtic Tree of Life. Welcome aboard, John!

A Major Change: Sally Youngs Steps Down

The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond’s devoted treasurer since 2003 has hung up her (figurative) abacus. Sally Youngs had faithfully kept our books and kept us on a financially even keel since that time, ably and over countless hours placing at our service her skills as a Certified Public Accountant. Simultaneously, she was a valued and trusted member of TSCOR’s Board.

When Sally retired from her profession in 2000 and was seeking meaningful volunteer activities, she began as a TSCOR driver and Open University student and was promptly and eagerly brought aboard when she volunteered to assist with accounts. TSCOR has managed to keep Sally’s green eyeshades on for us that whole time until now, but at her request her terms as treasurer and as board member ended June 30, 2021. Her successor as treasurer from July 1 has been TSCOR immediate past president Hal Costley.

Sally gracefully acknowledged that she is “grateful to TSCOR for letting me do those spreadsheets” and that she really enjoys having worked with “all the remarkable people who are volunteers and Board members.”

The TSCOR Board on May 19, 2021 unanimously acknowledged Sally’s many and varied contributions and uniquely named her Treasurer Emerita of TSCOR effective July 1, 2021.

Ralph H. Graner, board member

Office Manager Leaves TSCOR: Paula Grimes Retires

During the past several years, as I served in the roles of finance chair and board president, one of the highlights was working with office manager, Paula Grimes. So it is with deep sadness that I announce her decision to retire. Her time with TSCOR will end August 31.

Paula’s dedication to TSCOR’s mission led her to manage the financial needs, client services, and office affairs with creativity and determination. She accomplished these diverse tasks in a professional and detailed manner. Every goal was attacked with patient determination. Whether it was donor tracking, financial management or ride scheduling, Paula learned and implemented the intricacies of each program - and the computer software required - for TSCOR’s benefit. Her awareness of clients and their individual needs enhanced their relationship with our mission.

I am sure the board of directors, Shepherd’s Center members, clients and staff will join me in appreciating the excellent service Paula has demonstrated during her time with us.

Paula’s welcome greeting each time I come into the office will be missed, but I wish for her a fun, active, and wonderful retirement.

Hal Costley
Immediate past president, treasurer

P
Pursues excellence in a detailed manner.

A
Accepts every challenge with analytical skill.

U
Upholds the mission of the Shepherd’s Center.

L
Likes and brings about order and efficiency.

A
Adapts situations to promote positive growth for TSCOR.
The spring Open University virtual lunch speaker series was launched on April 5 with Classical Revolution RVA’s Becca Longhenry. Once Longhenry began answering chat questions, she warmed to her audience and detailed how Classical Revolution RVA integrates classical music with Richmond’s music scene by taking it into local bars, restaurants, cafes, and galleries. With “Classical Music for the People” as a tagline, Classical Revolution RVA is part of the Classical Revolution umbrella organization of more than thirty chapters worldwide. Longhenry graced the audience with a short Celtic violin piece played impromptu and live. In an April virtual lunch event, Robert Wadsworth oriented Open University attendees to the hammered dulcimer, and music again soothed our pandemic-fatigued souls.

A television star brought Open University a lunch talk in May. Jaime Ebanks, senior move and downsizing expert, left the Open University and opened the audience with two messages. Firstly, you need not wait for a move to downsize your possessions. Secondly, RVA senior move professionals can be hired to help, regardless of one’s situation, as her use of case studies illustrated. Ebanks is part of Matt Paxton’s Legacy List crew. In this PBS show, nominated for a daytime Emmy for outstanding lifestyle series, downsizing and cleaning expert and host Paxton and his team help families downsize and unearth objects with memories that the families want to keep, i.e., legacy items.

The Open University lunch speaker series also included RVA Mise En Place cooking school’s owner and chef Christine Wansleben and her talk of her culinary and restaurant work in New York City entertained the virtual audience. She hardly touched on the RVA food scene, so expect a second chef talk in the future. Wansleben thought of the event as a kind of kitchen coffee chat, and the audience felt that intimacy.

In fact, many of the virtual lunch events did seem personal and immediate, as though the speaker was a hand’s length away, talking specifically to each of us.

The twenty spring 2021 lunch speakers all found fans among the Open University audience and bridged members’ isolation. Whereas virtual events do not allow for actual direct in-person involvement, the Open University spring lunch speakers did come into members’ homes to share and connect. Thanks to all.

Send your experiences as lunch speaker event attendees to Administrative and Media Coordinator Brenna Dennis at bdennis@tscor.org or comment on The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond’s social media. Find us on Facebook at “ShepCenterRVA.”

Rosie Shomaker, Open University student

An inquiry by TSCOR volunteer and OU student, Rosie Shomaker, revealed that Chesterfield Towne Center was reaching out to local non-profits by offering free advertising in empty storefront windows. TSCOR was invited to install a display. We’re hoping that “mall walkers” and shoppers will see it and share news of TSCOR with their mom, grandpa, neighbor and others.

Do you know about AmazonSmile? It’s a program offered by Amazon that enables you to donate 0.5% from every purchase to your favorite charity – at no cost to you.

It’s easy to do. On your first visit to AmazonSmile you’ll be asked to select the charitable organization you wish to receive donations. Once you select The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond, they’ll remember your choice every time you shop.

AmazonSmile

Smile. It increases your face value!

Exploring Richmond’s Treasures

Open University students can learn more about Richmond's canals and islands at the Falls, when Kathryn Whittington speaks at lunch on Monday, October 18, at 12:30 at St. Luke Lutheran. One of TSCOR’s favorite lecturers, Kathy is passionate about Richmond’s history, and both her love and her meticulous research show in her presentations. Here is what Kathy says about her forthcoming lecture: "The James River and Kanawha Canal and the Haxall Mill Race once powered many of Richmond's 19th and 20th century industries. On our virtual tour, we'll visit these industries of the past and see the public artworks that commemorate these sites today. Industries were also housed on several of Richmond's islands. Witness the transformation of these islands that are, today, part of the James River Park system, The Canal Walk, the Virginia Capital Trail, and the Low Line Green and Gardens." Mark your calendars!

Buongiorno!

You love to travel in Italy, but you can't speak a word of the language? Nessun problema!

The Shepherd's Center is offering for the first time a course in beginning Italian. Vivacious teacher Jackie McMillian, just back from a trip to Italy this summer, will be teaching the course on Mondays at 9:45 at St. Luke Lutheran.

Vieni!
(Y’all come!)

Send your experiences as lunch speaker event attendees to Administrative and Media Coordinator Brenna Dennis at bdennis@tscor.org or comment on The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond’s social media. Find us on Facebook at “ShepCenterRVA.”

Rosie Shomaker, Open University student
During the pandemic, many “heroes work here” signs went up at hospitals, grocery stores, post offices and schools. Well, TSCOR has heroes, too. And they’re volunteers.

Every volunteer is valued - they're what makes TSCOR exist. And if it takes a village to raise a child, it absolutely takes a team of volunteers to preserve a non-profit during a pandemic.

Volunteers were deeply pained to have to choose between safety and service. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the hardest days of the pandemic, many of you went above and beyond to ensure our programs and services - and those who benefit from them - were sustained until a safe path emerged.

So while all of our volunteers are good as gold, here’s an added nod of appreciation to some of those above - and - beyond, can’t-stop-me-now, hero-volunteers.

The COVID-19 task force: Stephanie Churchill, Jim Evans, John Gordon, Grayson Miller and Carol Parke; the client services committee: Hal Costley, Barbara Goehle, Carol Parke, Peter Pettit and Jan Simmons; the education committee: Gene Anderson, Fred Beck, Hal Costley, Betty Ann Dillon, Rita Gold, John Gordon, Art Gunlicks, Carol Harris, Rosie Shomaker and Susie Wiltshire; the finance committee: Stephanie Churchill, Hal Costley, Carol Warner and Sally Youngs; and the travel committee, who provided us with an opportunity to get out of the house: Ruth Blevins, Dot Canipe, Mickey Duggan, Jim Evans, Marie Henderson and Mary Maiden.

We’d also like to shine the spotlight on the drivers that bravely kept driving during the worst of the pandemic. (All of our drivers wanted to be able to continue driving. While TSCOR put safety protocols in place, it was up to the drivers whether or not to continue. This was by far the scariest and hardest choice faced by any of our volunteers.) Some of our most active drivers were: Colleen Bahr, Jack Blackwell, Paula Butz, Barbara Goehle, Paula Kupstas, Daymond LaMarr, Golde Morenfeld, Suzanne Palmedo, Sally Quigley and Jan Simmons.

And then there were the drivers-turned-friendly-callers who gave Ma Bell a run for her money (over 400 calls in all). Some of our most frequent callers were: Beth Blair, Leah Blachman, Melinda Davis, Kathleen Fulton, Nancye Herring, Jill Miller, Golde Morenfeld, Mary Palmer, Ruth Wilson and Jan Simmons, who helped maintain the ad hoc friendly caller program.

A nod also goes to these individuals for some (Continued next page)
additional hero work on the side as Open University Zoom room teacher assistants: Stephanie Churchill, Jamie Coomer, Hal Costley and Ken Hoen.

We’re not completely in the clear from the pandemic yet, but TSCOR remains standing now because of the dedicated and caring work of our volunteer heroes.

Well done, everyone. Your capes are in the mail.

Brenna Dennis, Administrative and media coordinator

Stay in Touch with TSCOR

The staff often gets questions such as, “Why haven’t I heard from TSCOR in a while?” and “How do I know when travel is planning their next trip?” or, the most frequently asked question, “When does the next OU schedule come out?”

Have you ever wanted answers to these or other questions? The best way to know what’s going on with TSCOR is to sign up on our website to receive News & Updates.

We are increasingly relying on email to communicate with our members. This saves on operating costs and helps the environment. But we do not want to lose touch with you.

To receive the latest news, please visit our newly redesigned website at tscor.org and scroll all the way down to the very bottom of the page. Enter your email address in the “Sign up to get News & Updates” section. You’ll receive the Open University schedule and TSCOR newsletter; info about travel and volunteer opportunities; membership renewals, invitations to celebrations; announcements about special events, and OU weather closings and schedule changes.

If you’ve already signed up but you’re not receiving emails, be sure to check your spam and junk folders.

For those of you who don’t have easy access to the internet, or those of you who prefer snail mail, or even those who just plain don’t like computers (all of the above?), don’t worry! We’re working on ways to keep you in the loop, too.

Whether you like an email or a stamp, everyone is an important and valued part of TSCOR and we want to stay in touch with you!

So if you can, don’t miss out - sign up! (And check those spam folders!)

tscor.org

In Memoriam

Fay French
Joe Griffin
Fran Hamilton
Jean Heath
Sadie Kennedy
Bob Mayfield
Shirley Norman-Regal
Anita Oleksak
Dorothy Pauley
Stan Pauley
Marty Poole
Jim Rothrock
Ellen Schumarof
Rick Simms
Chrys Surratt
Mary Thomas

Remembering Sadie Kennedy

Sadie Kennedy at the 2018 Annual Volunteer Celebration

We fondly remember Sadie Kennedy, a longtime volunteer and sustainer of TSCOR, who died in May just two months before her 100th birthday. When Julie and I visited Sadie a few years ago, she recalled with pleasure her 30-year involvement with TSCOR.

Sadie volunteered as a driver from 1988 until 2005, served on the Board of Directors and attended Open University faithfully. She said that TSCOR greatly enriched and was central to her life.

Julie likes to tell the story about how Sadie arranged for a new volunteer driver to come to the Open University to sign up. To Julie’s surprise, he looked exactly like Abraham Lincoln (he also volunteered at elementary schools as the president). Julie was initially stunned, but afterwards told everyone that with Sadie’s help, she recruited President Lincoln!

Sadie was always on the lookout for new drivers and students. Her involvement and loyal support continually enriched the lives of others. We will miss her spirit and infectious enthusiasm.

Don Lecky, development committee
Julie Adams-Buchanan, executive director

Donors

Individuals:
♦ General: $5,516
♦ Estates: 30,910
♦ Clients: $1,496
♦ Memorials: $1,595
♦ In Honor: $251
♦ Stock: $1,270
♦ Annual Appeal Total: $28,168
♦ Matching Gift: $400
♦ Anonymous: $10,070

Groups:
♦ Bushnell Family Fund, The Community Foundation
♦ Cathy’s Foundation
♦ Charitable Adult Rides & services, Inc.
♦ Grace Baptist Church
♦ Nathaniel Bacon Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
♦ Network for Good
♦ St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, Inc.
♦ The Woodward Foundation, Inc.

Grants:
♦ ITN America
♦ Shepherd’s Center of America
♦ St. Mary Catholic Church

Car Donations Now Accepted

After a former office volunteer passed away, we discovered she left her car to TSCOR in her will. We signed up with CARS - a company that manages the sales of donated vehicles for organizations - and in the process we not only received funds for TSCOR, we established another donation option for those wishing to support the organization.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Julie Adams-Buchanan. 355-7282
The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond: Older adults remaining active and independent through enrichment programs and volunteer service to their peers.

Older adults.
Active and engaged.
TSCOR

Take a class.
Volunteer.
Serve your peers.

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond is committed to racial and ethnic diversity in its services, membership and leadership. The Diversity Committee works in concert with other TSCOR committees to add diversity in each area of TSCOR activity.

Find us on the web!
tscor.org

facebook:
ShepCenterRVA

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