



THE ORICL ORACLE

November 2019

A Biennial Newsletter of the Oak Ridge
Institute for Continued Learning

ORICL Instructor and Volunteer of the Year Awards Announced



Allison Ensor

Recruited by a colleague who was familiar with ORICL, **Allison Ensor** taught his first ORICL class in the Winter/Spring term of 2013. The subject was Mark Twain, on which Ensor is an expert.

As a professor of English at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK) for more than 40 years, Ensor was also highly qualified to bring other literary topics to ORICL. Since his first class in 2013, Ensor has taught eight more courses, three on the American short story, one on the

contemporary Appalachian novel, and one on the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, as well as others on Mark Twain.

He says, "In teaching [for ORICL], I now had the opportunity to talk about literary subjects of interest to me with students who seemed interested in what I had to say and who were often eager to share their own reactions or to ask questions. There were no papers to grade, no quizzes to be given, and no final grades to be assigned. I could simply teach. It was very pleasing to be able to choose my subjects and to say how many sessions I wanted to give to them. As ORICL says, the coming together of those who like to teach and those who like to learn is a very rewarding thing."

A native of Cookeville, Ensor received his B.A. from Tennessee Tech, his M. A. from UTK, and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. His works on Twain include a book on Twain's use of the Bible and a Norton Critical Edition of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. In addition, Ensor has written several entries for the *Mark Twain Encyclopedia* and has twice lectured at the Center for Mark Twain Studies in Elmira, NY. He has read four papers at the international conferences on Twain that are held at the Center every four years.

Reeva Abraham has been a part of ORICL since its inception more than 20 years ago. She says, "I went to the first ORICL meeting sometime in the mid-90s and was very excited by the idea of a continuing education organization for people like me. No homework, no tests! My husband, Marvin, and I signed up for multiple classes the first year and every year thereafter. It became a part of our lives."



Reeva Abraham

But Abraham did not just sign up for classes, she volunteered as well. In fact, through the years, she has filled many roles: She served on one of the early ORICL boards of directors and completed a six-year stint later. With Bill Arnold, she organized the first ORICL trip committee and was in charge of some of the initial ORICL trips, the first of which was to Rugby, Tennessee. In addition, she was in charge of finding speakers for the annual meetings.

Perhaps her greatest contribution has been the time she has spent volunteering in the ORICL office. She has done this from the very beginning, and still shows up once a month to take care of the office on Fridays when ORICL's staff members are gone. She has helped with many other tasks including volunteer luncheons, catalog mailings, and whatever is needed.

The ORICL Board of Directors solicits nominations for the awards and convenes an ad hoc committee to make selections. The awards will be conferred at the next Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on December 4.

**Volunteers are always needed and
are always appreciated!**

ORICL Offers a Yearly Educational Lecture Series

In addition to offering dozens of interesting classes and stimulating field trips every term, ORICL also presents a lecture series each year designed to bring specialized topics to its membership and the general public. Lectures are generally offered on a weekday afternoon and are held in the City Room, A-111 of the Coffey-McNally Building on the Oak Ridge Campus of Roane State Community College, ORICL's esteemed partner. A reception with light refreshments usually precedes the lecture to allow attendees to meet and interact with the speaker. In 2019, the ORICL Lecture Series presented the following talks:

- **Shirley Raines**, former president of the University of Memphis, "An Uncommon Journey: Leadership Lessons from a Preschool Teacher Who Became a University President," January 31, 2019
- **Robert Booker**, local Civil Rights historian and News Sentinel columnist, "100 Years of the Civil Rights Movement," May 23, 2019
- **Benita Albert**, award-winning Oak Ridge High School educator, "SPECIAL (Students, Parents, Educators: A Community's Incredible Alliance with Learning)," August 27, 2019

Watch for ORICL emails and newspaper publicity announcing presentations in the 2020 ORICL Lecture Series.



Speakers Benita Albert (top, at left) and Robert Booker (bottom, at right) interact with audience members after their presentations.



During the Winter/Spring 2019 term, ORICL members enjoyed *Hands On Sushi Making* under the capable tutelage of Eun-Sook Kim. The students not only received expert instruction on the art of sushi-making, but they got to eat the results! *Photo by Linda Holmes*

Now Hear This!!!

ORICL has purchased a new system to facilitate hearing commentary that is spoken on trips and in some classes. A microphone on the person speaking broadcasts to any smart phone capable of connecting to WiFi. The listener can hear the commentary via wired ear buds, Bluetooth ear piece, or Bluetooth hearing aids. The experience is similar to listening to an audiobook via smart phone. Members were enthusiastic when the system was debuted on the "Convicts and Coal" trip in September. Participants with Bluetooth compatible hearing aids were particularly enthusiastic about the enhancement in clarity they experienced with the AudioFetch transmitter paired with their personal phones. In order to use the system, members should download the free app AudioFetch from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android). *Submitted by Lee Smalley and Becky Rushton.* Thanks to Lee Smalley and Jim Rushton, the board members who researched audio systems and identified AudioFetch as a viable option.

Member Donations Provide ORICL with Additional Operating Funds

Thanks to these members who contributed to ORICL above the required membership fee. Donations were recorded so far this calendar year.

Sustaining Members (\$25 over the membership fee)

Adler-Jasny, Marty	Halbert, Melvyn	Smith, Betsy
Bangham, Jean	Juneau, Lynn	Streets, Elane
Barry, Sandra	Juneau, Clarence	Sullivan, Irene
Bowles, Laura	Krause, Carolyn	Swenson, Marjorie
Cox, Patty	Krause, Herb	Tennery, Victor
Crutcher, Judy	Landau, Barbara	Wankerl, Miriam
Cutler, Gayla	Rosenberg, Judy	Ward, Richard
Denny, Alfred	Rutkowski, Robert	Wiffen, Bill
Dory, Margaret	Skipper, Margie	Wry, Susan
Ferrell, Barbara	Slankas, Maggie	Yust, Carole
Flanagan, Jane	Smith, Katherine	

In addition, there were seven anonymous donors in this category.

Sponsoring Members(\$50 or more over the membership fee)

Bagguley, Bob	Gove, Ruth	Reister, Willa
Barnes, Nita	Hardin, Nancy	Ricks, Phillip
Basford, Jim	Hiserote, Janie	Robbins, Dan
Basford, Nancy	Knoke, Elsie	Roop, Dick
Battle, Connie	Martin, Murray	Rosenthal, Murray
Bookhart, Thomas	Mason, David	Rosenthal, Mimi
Crowe, Charles	McGrory, Thelma	Rushton, Jim
Darling, Chuck	McGrory, Joe	Smalley, Lee
Dresner, Blanche	McKenney, Priscilla	Stumbo, Philip
Dresner, Larry	Moss, Kay	Thomason, Baxter
Dunlap, Louise	Moss, Robert	Thompson, James
Edwards, Diane	Nephew, Marese	Walsh, Ann
Fowler, Ron	Nestor, Margaret	Walsh, George
Gat, Ruth	Olsen, David	
Gat, Uri	Olson, Wanda	

In addition, there were three anonymous donors in this category.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A Fond Farewell to Jane Williams

Jane Williams, who has co-taught *Shakespeare Out Loud* with Nancy Burwell since 2012, is moving away from the area. While the class will go on under Nancy's capable leadership, we want to acknowledge Jane's contribution to ORICL and wish her well in her new home. Many of the participants in that class keep coming back – a testimony to Jane's skill in helping to keep the course relevant and engaging. Thanks, Jane!

ORICL Board Members

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Murray Martin, Curriculum
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ORICL is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization in partnership with Roane State Community College.

A Student's Perspective: Hands-On ORICL Art Classes

One of the many perks of ORICL is the wide variety of classes offered. For example, ORICL offers large lecture courses on many subjects (history, science, music, travel to name a few) and medium-sized classes where you can sit at a desk and take notes, learning about a variety of topics. On the other hand, a few small classes offer a hands-on experience with individual attention, teaching a new skill or the opportunity to brush up on an old one.

Two such classes offered this term, taught by Candace McManus, were Fundamentals of Drawing and Let's Paint – Watercolor. The drawing class was comprised of beginners. Drawing basic shapes and shading them allowed us to draw most anything we wanted. If we took time to draw during the week, assistance was provided for improvement. We drew shapes, fruit, landscapes, and the final session was on gray paper – what fun! The painting class was a mix of those who had taken a watercolor class last year, with a few beginners mixed in. In addition to learning a new skill, it was also great fun to look at the work of others to see how everyone interpreted and executed the assignments differently. It was amazing to see the progress made by all the students after just 4 weeks. It was also easy to meet new people with the small class size. If you haven't taken a small, hands-on class before, I encourage you to give it a try!

Submitted by Laura Bowles

Photos at right, top to bottom: Students in Fundamentals of Drawing; Artwork from the Fundamentals of Drawing class; Students in the Watercolors class. *Photos by Laura Bowles*



ORICL CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER THROUGH APRIL

Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Holidays – ORICL Closed
Dec 3	Winter/Spring Catalogs Mailed
Dec 4	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Dec 6	Fall Classes End
Dec 9	Winter/Spring Online Registration Opens
Dec 16-Jan 1	Holidays – ORICL Office Closed
Jan 15	1 st Summer Curriculum Committee meeting
Jan 20	Holiday – RSCC and ORICL Office Closed
Jan 21-22	Winter/Spring Scheduled Pick-Up; those not picked up will be mailed Jan 23
Jan 28	Instructor/Class Assistant Meeting
Feb 3	Winter/Spring Classes Begin
Feb 5	2 nd Summer Curriculum Committee meeting
Mar 9-13	Spring Break, No ORICL Evening Classes
Apr 10	Holiday – RSCC and ORICL Office Closed

Treasurer's Report

ORICL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt organization, with a fiscal year beginning August 1 and ending July 31. Anticipated membership fees account for 83% of total income and anticipated investment income accounts for an additional 15% of total income. Employee anticipated salaries account for 64% of total expenses, while catalogs and registration anticipated expenses account for 16% of total expenses, and anticipated publicity accounts for 9% of total expenses. Since the FY2020 expenses are projected to outpace income, the board is currently considering options for achieving a balanced budget.

Submitted by Trygve Myhre, Treasurer