



The Shepherd's Center of Richmond is a non-profit, non-denominational, service and education organization for persons 50 and older. Its mission is to encourage members to remain active and independent through enrichment programs and volunteer service to their peers.



SAVE THE DATES!

Travel with TSCOR:

- **United States Army Women's Museum**
April 24
 - **Jack Welsh Broadway Celebration Tour**
May 1 - 4
 - **Culinary Tour of Annapolis**
June 6
- See inside for details.

Open University Fall Session 2018:
September 17 through November 8

Gray Matters

Newsletter of The Shepherd's Center of Richmond Spring 2018



Beloved and frequently-used sheep garland made exclusively for TSCOR by volunteer, Sue McLain.

From the Executive Director

Learning doesn't happen just at the OU, it happens all around our Center. I've been with TSCOR for a decade now, and I have learned so much from our volunteers in leadership positions. I was especially grateful for their wisdom, as I took on the position of executive director. The majority of what I know was taught to me as I worked with gifted and talented volunteers through the years. I wouldn't be where I am now without all of them. Their experience guides and forms the work we do every day, and I am continually bowled over by their dedication and generosity. If you have not participated "behind the scenes," consider the possibilities; they are endless, and you, too, have something to teach or learn.

Present at our recent functions is a handmade garland of sheep. It is much-loved, with some sheep missing one or both eyes, but they are all strung together as a whole. The garland makes me think of TSCOR and how those with "both eyes" are connected to those with "missing eyes," guiding each other along the way. Together, all the bases are covered. Like providing a ride, lending a hand, sharing knowledge, traveling as a flock, and collectively working to make a difference. In this way, each of us is part of a unique community, encouraging and enjoying each other during life's journey. Isn't that how it should be? I think so, and I'm grateful we're all in this together!

- Julie Adams-Buchanan
Executive Director

Tending the Flock

A good shepherd has to be aware of the needs of the flock and try to address those needs. Julie Adams-Buchanan, our executive shepherd, notes in "From the Executive Director" how we need to work together to make a difference in the community we serve.

Many of the opportunities TSCOR offers require a relatively small time commitment and have tremendous flexibility for those with busy schedules.

These are the highest priority needs calling for your valuable involvement:

1. **Driving clients**, improving our mission of taking people to medical appointments.
2. **Serving on committees** that oversee and carry out our services. They include:
 - * Client Services: Supervising our driving and personal service programs
 - * Education: Planning the Open University programs
 - * Public Relations: Reaching out to the community to share our commitment to seniors
 - * Development: Assisting in attracting the funds needed to maintain our services
 - * Travel: Determining the destinations and logistics of our trips.
3. **Speaking Advocates**: Talking to groups interested in our services and programs, or securing places to speak, such as civic organizations and churches.
4. **Volunteering in the office** to schedule transportation and assist with administrative duties.

To be a more active part of the TSCOR flock, all you need to do is call the office at 355-7282 and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

- Hal Costley
President, Board of Directors

Travel with TSCOR



On **April 24** we travel to the **United States Army Women's Museum** in Fort Lee, the only museum in the world dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and contributions of women to the U.S. Army. This trip includes a visit to City Point in Hopewell for a tour of General Grant's headquarters

during the Civil War's siege of Petersburg. Lunch will be at the historic Half Way House Restaurant.

There are a few reservations still available for the **Jack Welsh Broadway Celebration Tour** to New York City on **May 1- 4**. This theater tour includes four Broadway plays as well as a guided tour of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, and Ellis Island National Immigration Museum on Ellis Island.

On **June 6** we travel to Annapolis, Maryland for a **Culinary Tour of Annapolis**. This includes a stop at the Ram's Head Tavern & Brewery for Maryland-inspired cream of crab soup, as well as a guided riding tour of Annapolis, lunch at a popular downtown restaurant, and dessert at historic William Paca House & Gardens. There also will be time to explore specialty shops in downtown Annapolis.

For more information visit www.tscor.org, call Paula Grimes at 355-7282, or Mary Maiden, travel chair, at 272-8636.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Ruth Blevins



What is your professional or personal background? I spent most of my career working in the field of Information Technology. When I retired, I was a Program Manager involved in Cyber Security.

What do you do for TSCOR? In addition to serving on the Board, I am on the Travel and Hospitality committees. I also help serve coffee and cake at Open University on Thursdays.

What do you like most about volunteering? I like to stay active. Volunteering allows me to give back, make a difference and focus on others. It helps me appreciate how blessed I am, and I want to share that.

What are your hobbies, passions or other interests? I enjoy gardening, reading, travel and learning new things.

Recently Ruth also chaired an ad-hoc Policy Committee revising TSCOR's Personnel Policies and Procedures. Thanks go out to the entire ad-hoc Policy Committee, which includes Carol Parke, John Gordon and Ralph Graner. Ruth and her committee members are wonderful examples of how volunteers share their varied talents and "participate behind the scenes." (For more on this idea, see "From the Executive Director" and "Tending the Flock" on page 1.)

All Things Open University

Observing Easter Holidays

Please note classes begin Easter Monday, April 2, and "Lunch and Life" begins Wednesday, April 11, one week after the start of the spring session.

Lunch, Please! With a Piece of Cake, of Course.

Lunch at OU is not a snack, it's an event. Dine in the company of friends, have a piece of cake and settle in for the lunch speaker. But would it be as enjoyable without the cake? Many thanks to those who donated cakes during the fall and winter sessions. Remember, you can't have your cake unless you donate it, too!

Fall 2018 Open University begins Monday, September 17, and runs through Thursday, November 8. We hope to see you there!



Scenes from the Open University.
Photo credit: Susan Brown

A volunteer shares her experience of driving:

"I'm new at retirement and just started driving for The Shepherd's Center late last year. I've had great experiences driving our clients to their appointments! It is fun to meet new people, and the conversations with them about their lives have been fascinating and eye opening. Everyone has a story to tell. I had always thought that being able to help by taking people to their medical or other appointments would be a wonderful way to give back. And now, here I am. I'm enjoying it immensely!"

- Janet Simmons

TSCOR Funding News

Many thanks to all who contributed to TSCOR's annual fund last year. As our annual fund continues its growth, your gifts ensure that TSCOR can provide and deliver programs and services to the hundreds we serve each day.

Now, take a moment to think in the long term. According to Giving USA's *Annual Report on Philanthropy of the year 2015*, \$31.76 billion was given to charity by bequest in 2015, up 2.1% from the prior year, and accounted for 9% of total charitable giving nationwide.

While it's easy to write a check to a charity, these checks may not have the long-term sustainability of a deferred bequest. In today's marketplace, there are a number of long-term strategies for you to consider in your estate plans that could benefit the sustainability of TSCOR in the future:

- Outright gifts of appreciated securities. If you have to sell the stock, you are required to pay capital gains tax. Giving it to charity eliminates your tax, allows the charity to sell the stock, and avoids the taxation.
- Consider naming your charitable beneficiaries on your life insurance policies.
- Retirement accounts such as IRAs can be taxable upon distribution—but having the retirement account payments sent to charities is tax-free.
- List the beneficiaries in your will as a bequest.
- Create a charitable trust (this action requires the assistance of an estate attorney). We can assist you in the plan. Call our office for more information.

Thank you for what you do today *and* in the future to ensure TSCOR's services for older adults!

- *Jackson Harrill*

Co-chair, development committee

Client's Corner

We regularly hear from clients how TSCOR positively improves their quality of life. Here are a few heartfelt comments we would like to share:

"I can only say thank you, thank you, to your organization and your wonderful volunteers, that have given me the gift of feeling still a little independent without my car."

"Thank you and your volunteer drivers for your excellent and caring assistance."

"I am 86 and have no family in the area. I could not drive because of a broken wrist. I am frightened of riding in a taxi. I appreciate the Center's service."

"My driver is awesome!"

Get Ready for the Membership Deal!

Membership runs July 1 through June 30, concurrent with our fiscal year. Membership is \$25 per person. This year, for every new member you recruit, we'll reduce your membership fee by \$5.00.* Reach out to your friends and invite them to take advantage of one of the best deals offered to older adults in RVA.

* Applies to 2019-20 membership.

Annual Volunteer Celebration Invitations

Be on the lookout for the arrival of your invitation - via email or snail mail - to the Annual Volunteer Celebration on Friday, April 27. Of course, all volunteers are invited, but we occasionally have befuddled members inquiring as to why they received an invitation. Our answer: "An invitation to the Annual Volunteer Celebration is a benefit of membership." So keep your eyes open and your schedule free as we look forward to celebrating our volunteers!

Recent In-Kind Donations

- Janet Sauer for donating stamps
- Ken Hoen for donating a power cord to the OU
- Anne Harrison for donating stamps
- First Baptist Church for providing meeting space
- Lou Gorr for donating an iPad Mini

Thank You to Our Recent Donors

Individuals

- ♦ **General:** \$2,686
- ♦ **Memorials:** \$400
- ♦ **Annual Appeal:** \$10,285

Groups

- | | |
|--|--|
| ♦ Aging in Community - Friends | ♦ Lakeside United Methodist Church |
| ♦ First Unitarian Universalist Church | ♦ Mary Ball Blackwell Fund of the Community Foundation |
| ♦ Grace Baptist Church | ♦ The Payne Family Gift Fund |
| ♦ International Club of Richmond | ♦ St. Matthew's Episcopal Church - Outreach |
| ♦ Lakeside United Methodist Church Fellowship - Crusader Class | ♦ The Tri Club Woman's Club |

In Memoriam

Robert Alstrum
Helen Friedman
Emmett Graybill
Susan Pastore
Homer Rudolf



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We would like to thank St. Mary Catholic Church
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of Richmond and the Lunch and Life program.



Find us on the web:

www.TSCOR.org

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Shepherd's Center of Richmond

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