

GRAY MATTERS

JUNE 2024

OLDER ADULTS ACTIVE & ENGAGED



Students and Open University instructor, Jim Brown, look at artwork at the VMFA.

SEEING MODERN ART FOR THE FIRST TIME

This spring quarter, The Shepherd's Center's Open University offered a course which was much different than its traditional offering. Its premise was that art appreciation is best introduced with real art instead of images shown on a screen.

Richmond provides a rich environment for the arts in general and the visual arts are no exception. Contemporary art forms are frequently misunderstood and judged lacking because their content is not readily recognizable. This course sought to

overcome that misunderstanding by first providing two initial lectures on ways of seeing and understanding Visual Arts drawn from Phenomenological research methodology. This provided a framework for viewing a work of art for the first time. Then, over the next six weeks, the class visited local galleries and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) to be introduced to specific contemporary works of art. Those visits precipitated discussions that were

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TOP NEWS

- NEW OPEN UNIVERSITY ART APPRECIATION CLASS
- CHURCH HILL FOOD TOUR A SUCCESS!
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Modern Art, continued

created by the participants themselves. All that was needed from the participants was to bring a mind that was open to challenging ideas.

The course was taught by Dr. Jim Brown, a retired university professor with degrees in education, psychology, and the fine arts. The class was small with five or six people regularly attending, which facilitated good discussion.

One attendee commented: “Dr. Brown was very easy going, interesting, knowledgeable and challenging. He let us move at our own personal speed, feeling comfortable making our own statements.”

Another thought that a bonus was an “introductions to three galleries I had never visited before, taking advantage of Richmond’s rich resources.”

Dr. Brown hopes to do a similar course sometime during the next year of Open University, using the same techniques of observation with more traditional paintings and sculpture, mostly utilizing works at the VMFA.

It promises to be another really engaging class!



CHURCH HILL FOOD TOUR A SUCCESS

Just last Friday, June 7, The Center conducted the first of our Summer Events. Coordinated and led by long time Shepherd's Center volunteer, Mary Maiden, a group of 17 members met in Patrick Henry Park on Church Hill for a food tour.

Tour guide, Sarah, from Discover Richmond Food Tours, explained that the group would be walking in Richmond's oldest neighborhood and stopping to sample food and snacks at four establishments, while sharing some history and stories about the area along the way.



The first stop was “2nd Bottle Wine,” where two imported wines were sampled. Then on to the “Liberty Public House” for a delicious chicken sandwich. By the way, the “Liberty Public House” was once the “East End Theatre” – the first theatre to be air-conditioned in Richmond.

“The Proper Pie” was the next stop. There the group was given bags of small pies filled with barbecue, which were eaten in the shade back at Patrick Henry Park.

The tour ended with a stop at “Sub Rosa” for delicious pastries and bread which were baked in wood fired ovens.

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FOOD TOUR, CONTINUED

Shepherd's Center board member and lunch lecturer, Peter Goodman, was a participant and gave this review:

“The Church Hill Food Tour arranged by Mary Maiden was an overwhelming success! The conviviality of Shepherd's Center members joining in the wine and food at the four different establishments in Church Hill was a most enjoyable and ‘fulfilling’ experience. At one stop on the tour, we ate outside in Patrick Henry Park under the trees and solved the problems of the world.”

The cost for participants was \$50 which was the fee charged by Discover Richmond Food Tours. Peter added, “It is admirable that the Center did not use the tour as an approach to add to the treasury.”



This was the first of four summer events the committee has scheduled.

On June 19, the Center will show “The Lion in Winter” in our new multipurpose room, with historian and Open University instructor, David Routt, present to provide commentary. (Please note this event is full!).

On July 9, there will be a tour of Agecroft House and Gardens, with a boxed lunch provided.

And on August 5, there will be a library guided tour of the Indigenous Peoples’ exhibit at The Library of Virginia.

Keep your eyes on your email for more information.



NEW EVENTS COMMITTEE OFF TO A RUNNING START

The Center's recently formed Events committee has been busy laying plans and successfully gathering people together!

They started in May with a tour of the Maggie Walker House followed by lunch at Buna Kurs Ethiopian Cafe (pictures top right, bottom left).

Interest has been high with events filling quickly. Though these events are for members only, members may bring up to 2 guests.

Upcoming events are listed to the right, with more being planned for the future. Hope to see you there!



UPCOMING EVENTS*

July

Agecroft Hall:
tour and boxed lunch

August

Library of Virginia: Indigenous
Perspectives Exhibition

September

Jackson Ward walking tour

October

Pizza & Ice Cream bus tour

November

Virginia War Memorial tour

*details and registration TBA



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Do you feel like The Shepherd's Center enriches your life? If you had the chance, would you tell people about it? If so, then you are the perfect person to be on the Speakers Bureau.

The Speakers Bureau is comprised of a team of volunteers whose purpose is to increase community awareness of the Center's programs and services. It makes presentations to local organizations, churches, and other venues.

These presentations are vital because they attract new members, volunteers, students, instructors, lunch speakers, donors....(you get the picture).

Presentations are approximately an hour long and are given by a small group of 2 - 3 volunteers. Each person speaks briefly about their personal experience with the Center, and there is time for a general Q&A session. Ideally, these would be held once or twice a month.

Currently we are in need of volunteers to speak about their experiences with the Center - be it driving, teaching, committee work, etc. - and we are also need of volunteers to seek out venues and schedule presentations.

There is lots of fun Shepherd's Center merch (brochures, magnets, hats) for a display table, and there is a Power Point slideshow ready to go. All that's missing is the "who," the "when," and the "where!"

Are you ready to talk up the Center? Call Julie Adams-Buchanan, executive director, at 804-355-7282, or email her at jadams@tscor.org.



You can speak well if your tongue
can deliver the message of your
heart.

— John Ford —

"Volunteers are the beating heart of the Center. Give volunteering some thought. You're sure to make a difference and you'll definitely meet some interesting people along the way!"

Peter Pettit, TSCOR Board President



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www.facebook.com/ShepCenterRVA/



The Shepherd's Center of Richmond

Encouraging older adults to remain active and independent through lifelong learning and volunteer service to their peers.

Made by, for, and about older adults.

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