Meet Gwen and Dayle Fish
Submitter Deirdre Goldbogen

Creative work is... a gift to the world and every being in it. Don’t cheat us of your contribution. Give us what you’ve got.” -Steven Pressfield

This ‘dynamic duo’ has heard the call and each has definitely not shorted CCR of any contributions! Our Center for Creative Retirement has a decades long history of organizing programs and outstanding speaker presentations which can be attributed solely to the hard work of all its members. To bring these terrific programs to fruition we can look to CCR’s active committees (12!). Remember any member may join!

Gwen Fish currently serves on the Executive Board (2018-2020) and the Curriculum Committee which develops the schedule of speakers for each year. She has also been very active planning and presenting CALL workshops. I had the pleasure of attending one of her ‘painting with acrylics’ workshop and it was great fun. This term Gwen is sharing another of her talents leading a Writer’s Workshop. As a speaker, she presented members an eyeopening presentation on the future of the species of grey wolves on Isle Royale, Michigan. CCR members are indeed recipients of her knowledge, her smiles and her dedication.

In addition, a new peer to peer, short term workshop program called The Charleston Academy for Life-long Learning or CALL has been added to our ‘keep active’ options for all interested seniors! A really wonderful opportunity for seniors to share some or skills or interest that they have gathered over their life experiences.

At Monday meetings, you will find Dayle Fish at the membership desk as you enter our meeting room in the Lowcountry Graduate Center. If you have any questions on becoming a member he is the go to person. His official title is Second Vice President for Membership and he keeps track of all our member information. He will help you out -even if you just need a new name badge! He is also on the Executive Committee -where those decisions most beneficial to CCR are finalized. Dayle has a big interest in Civil War history, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. So this term, he is leading a Great Books workshop on Mr. Lincoln -The Life of Abraham Lincoln. Dayle retired from the U.S. Navy as Master Chief Petty Officer. He also worked many years for Northrup Grumman Corporation. I have no doubt that Dayle will help keep the CCR in ship shape.
Where Are We Going? Long Range Planning
Submitted by Catherine Langlois

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING, YOU MIGHT END UP SOMEPLACE ELSE.” Yogi Berra

Who would think a baseball player could inspire the work of the reorganized Long Term Planning Committee for CCR? Our membership is increasing at a wonderfully successful rate and we are filling the conference room almost every week. So, on the direction of President Fred Rosenberg, we have to ask ourselves where do we go from here. In simple numbers, membership has increased (from 175 to 300) over the last five years since we moved into the North Campus conference room. The geographic distribution of our membership has also changed with the move to North Campus. The largest number of members (by zip code) reside in Mt. Pleasant, West/East Ashley, Daniel Island, Summerville, James Island, and downtown Charleston, with members residing in 20 other zip codes! The Long Term Planning Committee will be preparing a questionnaire for membership in the next few months. In the meantime, we ask that y’all start to think about ---

WHAT CCR will be (should be) looking like in the next few years;

WHERE CCR can accommodate full attendance and social gatherings;

HOW CCR can continue to increase membership and participation in lectures, trips, and continuing education programs, yet retain its social and personal character;

WHEN CCR needs to make changes to accommodate our success and future.

Committee members are Ray Stewart, Anne Fortson, Diana Barth, Catherine Langlois Wylonis, and Del Sisson. Ray and his wife Sherry joined in 2017 as they relocated to the Lowcountry. As Ray says, keeping CCR "live" is as important as assuring the programs broaden and deepen our thinking. Anne has been a member for over 10 years and points out the importance of the kindred spirit of CCR members and of relationships we can share and cherish. Diana has been a guiding member since 2017 for our CALL program and sees the future in a vibrant life-long learning center. Catherine, as a member since 2015, sees the challenge in getting more members to participate in leadership, committee work, and presenting new and innovative programs. Del Sisson was delighted to find CCR after she arrived in 2003 and, as serving as the chair of the Curriculum Committee, she wants to maintain a fresh flow of stimulating ideas. Please speak with any of us about your ideas so that we work together to continue the purpose of CCR - to sponsor and support programs for the creative retirement of its members through continuing education and social opportunities.
CCR is celebrating its 25th anniversary! From a small group with a big idea we have grown into a very successful organization. We have all our member-volunteers to thank for all of our programs and services.

However, our own success is also our biggest challenge. Three years ago our year-end membership was 200. Two years ago it was 250. Last year’s was 300. Each year we have provided more seats in our meeting room, first by removing the tables we used to have throughout the room, and now expanding into the full three section configuration. At this rate we will run out of our current space in a year or two. (Note that we typically have about 50% of our members at any meeting in our 200-person capacity room).

We used to have a Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) whose sole job was to find a suitable meeting space. Once we moved into our then brand-new North Campus facility, the LRPC disbanded. I have now resurrected the committee to advise how to meet our space requirements. The Long-Range Planning Committee will identify and present possible solutions, and associated issues, to the CCR Board. The only conditions the board imposed were that we do not want to limit membership or webcast our meetings.

We look at this as an opportunity to expand and evolve our offerings to retirees in the Charleston area.

Fred Rosenberg
President, CCR
Our Charleston Academy for Lifelong Learning, is already looking forward to Winter Term. We’re looking at a new course by physics professor John Preston, focusing on mathematics for everyone. Ready to think with numbers, everyone?

Both past and new presenters are also thinking about topics such as the development of China; a look at sailing by a local expert; a non-partisan look at the operation of the electoral college, another Reader's Theatre, a continuation of this term’s Take Me Out to the Ball Game, or maybe even an expanded look at the reality behind the movie The Monuments Men. Our new catalog should be finalized and disseminated before December's end.

On Monday, February 3, we will be presenting the final Winter Term line-up to the CCR membership. Six-week classes will begin on Tuesday 2/28 and run through Friday, 3/27. If a subject matter only lends itself to fewer, or more than, six weeks, we can accommodate those!

Center for Creative Retirement members are a wonderful fount of knowledge and experience. We'll be sending out Class Submission Forms via email soon. If you or a friend has a subject they’d love to share, or if you have a request for a specific topic, email the CALL Committee at CAforLife-longLearning@gmail.com.

Diana Barth, CALL Committee Chairman