



Honor, Remember, Inspire

February is traditionally celebrated across our nation as Black History Month.

Oxford Seniors has committed our organization to be a welcoming and open community focal point. Our Board of Trustees has formalized that commitment in our non-discrimination policy, included on page 3 of every issue of this newsletter.

One of our most visible annual events resulting from that promise has been Soul Celebration, a dinner and program with a speaker educating the guests about important aspects of impact made by African Americans in our country's development.

Last year, we introduced Soul Salute, an address without a sit-down dinner. Our guest speaker was Dr. Yvette Harris of Miami's Psychology Department. This was a "lite" version of Soul Celebration that we intended to offer in even-numbered years with a full Soul Celebration each odd-

numbered year.

In prior Soul Celebrations we've had enactors (one of whom was our current board member Barb Cox and another member, Dr. Angela Davis) portraying the lives of famous African American women; Board member Bob Coley shared information about the important roles blacks play in our military, including members of his own family going back several generations. We've also witnessed the release of white doves in flight as an



indication of peace among all people, the inspiration of 2017 Celebration Chair Patricia Ellis. Delores (Dee Dee) Coles has developed the décor theme for the past few years, and personally decorated the

Continued on page 15

HOURS OF OPERATION
MON-FRI. | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
SAT. & SUN. | CLOSED

Check Out What's Inside!

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FEBRUARY | TOP OF THE HILL CAFÉ

All meals include a 1/2 pint of 1% low fat milk and 1 teaspoon of margarine. Available Monday thru Friday **(once the center has reopened)**. \$2.50 suggested donation for adults 60 or older. Alternate meals are available with a 24 hour notice.

Please call 523-8100 to reserve or cancel a meal before 9:00am.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5
4 oz Beef Fritter 1/2 c Green Beans 1/2 c Oven Browned Potatoes 1 - 2oz Corn bread 1/2 c Pears 1/2 c Pudding Dt: 1/2 c Sugar Free Pudding	3oz Grilled Chicken Breast on a Whole Wheat Bun with Lite Mayonnaise 1/2 c Garden Peas 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1/2 c Fruit Cup	1 c Homemade Beef, Tomato, Macaroni Casserole 1/2 c Vegetable Medley 1 Dinner Roll 1/2 c Peaches 1/2 c Chocolate Pudding Dt: 1/2 c Sugar Free Pudding	2 oz LS Beef BBQ on a Bun 1/2 c Mixed Vegetables 1/2 c Coleslaw 1 Piece Fresh Fruit in Season 1 Fudge Brownie Dt: 6 Vanilla Wafers	1 c LS Homemade Chicken and Noodles 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1/2 c LS Broccoli 1/2 c Applesauce 2 Cookies Dt: 1 Pkg Graham Crackers
8	9	10	11	12
3 oz LS Pot Roast w/Gravy 1/2 c LS Whipped Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c Broccoli 1 Dinner Roll 1 Piece Fresh Fruit in Season 1 Fudge Brownie Dt: 6 Vanilla Wafers	3 oz Bourbon Chicken 1/2 c Vegetable Fried Rice 1/2 c Japanese Stir Fry Vegetable 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1 Fortune Cookie	3 oz Breaded Pork Tenderloin on a Whole Wheat Bun with Lite Mayonnaise 1/2 c Mixed Vegetables Lettuce, Tomatoes and Onion 1/2 c Fruited Gelatin Salad Dt: 1/2 c Sugar Free Fruited Gelatin Salad	1 c Beef Quesadilla Casserole with 2T Sour Cream & 1/4c Homemade Salsa 1/2 c Green Beans 1 - 2 oz Corn bread 1/2 c Peaches 2 Cookies Dt: 1 Pkg Graham Crackers	1 c Homemade Chicken Pot Pie 1/2 c Corn 1 Dinner Roll 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1/2 c Hot Spiced Apple Slices
15	16	17	18	19
3 oz Pulled Chicken Breast on a Whole Wheat Bun with Lite Mayonnaise Lettuce, Tomatoes and Onion 1/2 c Baked Beans 1/2 c Fruit Crisp w/Topping Dt: 1/2 c Peaches	1 c Homemade Beef Stew 1/2 c Corn 1 - 2oz Corn bread 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1/2 c Mandarin Oranges 3 Graham Crackers	4 oz LS Spaghetti Sauce/Meatballs 1/2 c Spaghetti Noodles Parmesan cheese packet 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1 Dinner Roll 1 Piece Fresh Fruit in Season 1/2 c Pudding Dt: 1/2 c Sugar Free Pudding	3 oz LS Roast Turkey w/Gravy 1/2 c Dressing 1/2 c Sweet Potatoes 1/2 c Vegetable Medley 1/2 c Pineapple Chunks	3 oz Homemade Meatloaf & Gravy 1/2 c LS Whipped Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c Carrots 1 Dinner Roll 1 Piece Fresh Fruit in Season 1 Fudge Brownie Dt: 6 Vanilla Wafers
22	23	24	25	26
1 c Beef & Noodles 1/2 c Garden Peas 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1 Dinner Roll 1/2 c Chilled Pineapple 1/2 c Pudding Dt: 1/2 c Sugar Free Pudding	3 oz Hamburger on a Whole Wheat Bun w/Lite Mayonnaise Lettuce, Tomatoes and Onion 1/2 c Scalloped Potatoes 1/2 c Broccoli 1 Piece Fresh Fruit in Season	3 oz Salisbury Steak/Gravy 1/2 c LS Whipped Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c Carrots 1 Slice of Bread 1/2 c Applesauce 1 Fudge Brownie Dt: 1 Pkg Graham Crackers	3 oz Chicken Parmesan 1/2 c Noodles & 1/2 c LS Sauce 1 c Tossed Salad w/Dressing 1 Dinner Roll 1/2 c Fruit Crisp w/Topping Dt: 1/2 c Peaches	3 oz Pulled Pork w/Gravy 1/2 c Sweet Potato Pudding 1/2 c Green Beans 1 - 2oz Corn bread 1/2 c Fruited Ambrosia Salad 2 Sugar Cookies Dt: 1 Pkg Graham Crackers



Congregate Lunch remains dependent on the reopening of the Senior Center

DIRECTORY

MISSION STATEMENT

Oxford Seniors is Dedicated to Serving Seniors and Strengthening Community.

Oxford Seniors is a non-profit organization funded by:

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio

Butler County United Way

Butler County Elderly Services Program

City of Oxford

Oxford Community Foundation

Oxford Kiwanis Club

Molyneaux Foundation

Oxford Masonic Lodge #67

Other organizations and citizens of Oxford and Surrounding communities

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Dues \$25

Memberships are available for those 50 years and older at the Senior Center's Office.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, income or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by Oxford Seniors. Additional information on Oxford Seniors non-discrimination obligations can be obtained by contacting the Executive Director at (513) 523-8100.

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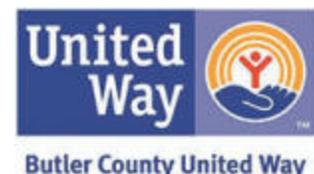
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Shanna Cianchetti, STNA

Marcia Schlichter,
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Kendra Peck,
Aide/Driver



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Hello for February 2021.

Let me be blunt: I really dislike February. Looking back, I especially remember 1962 when I was a few months into age 10. On Valentine's Day, my father was in the hospital; rules at that time were that children were not allowed to visit.

As a musician, Dad had exposed me to many different types of music during my life to that point. My Mom gave me an RCA 33 1/3 recording of the Nutcracker Suite that my father somehow acquired to send to me. A few days later, on February 20, John Glenn circled the earth three times. He was an Ohio guy, and we were all proud. Dad sent a message from the hospital, via Mom, that it was a day that I should remember. Early on the morning of the 22nd, I was awakened by my best friend Steve Thacker's parents, Freda and Detmer, our next-door neighbors. As they were ushering me out the back door to spend the rest of the night at their home, my Mom arrived to tell me that my Father had just passed away from the lung cancer he had been fighting.

The next year on the 22nd, my canary died. It had been a gift for my 11th birthday. Four years later, when I was 15, my terrific Granny Sieling passed away on that same date. Those three events shaped me from those young ages. I determined never to smoke when dad passed, and except for a month during my senior year at college, I didn't. Each one made me stronger and more aware of the realities of living.

After I married, Jan and I always had rough times in our relationship in February...I was worried because the charge cards were high after Christmas, and the weather made my commuting... whether to Cincinnati or Hamilton...a real challenge in the bad weather. Jan, a runner, had many challenges keeping up her daily outdoor exercise. The gray, cold days took their toll on us, and we were short-tempered. Looking back now after 43 years, we laugh at how often we started planning to divorce in February!

I'm noticing that all days seem to be going past more quickly as I've aged. With February being our shortest month, it will be behind us again soon enough.

This year February will end on a bright note for me as **Oxford Seniors and Community Adult Day Service are both set to reopen on Monday, March 1.** We'll still have guidelines, limits in numbers and safety precautions, but we'll be OPEN. I promise.

Have a good February. We look forward to seeing you!

All my best,



Steve Schnabl
Executive Director



Weather Alert!

During the winter months, please check Channels 5, 9 or 12 for closure information. Generally, we *will be closed* due to weather conditions when Talawanda schools are closed.

If schools are not in session, the decision to close is up to the Executive Director and that information will be shared with channels 5, 9 and 12. We will call individuals who have signed up for meals or rides any day we cancel.

If the schools are on a 1 or 2 hour delay, it will not affect our operation. The center will have normal business hours.

Continued on page 13

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES

Winter is the perfect time for soup. Many soups are simple to make, and broth based soups help to keep us hydrated in these colder months. Here is a recipe for vegetable soup that can be made with little effort and easy to find ingredients. The ingredients are flexible so you can use what you have on hand!

Easy Vegetable Soup Recipe

Vegetables: Use what you have on hand. You can use fresh, frozen, or canned.

Green Beans

Carrots

Spinach

Celery

Potatoes

Tomatoes

Corn

Beans (any type will work!)

Broth: Beef, chicken or vegetable broth

Tomato or V-8 Juice

Optional Seasonings:

Oregano, Garlic, Basil, Black Pepper

Simmer ingredients together until vegetables are cooked. This won't take long if you are using frozen or canned veggies. Add more or less broth to suit your tastes. Avoid adding salt until the end, especially if using canned vegetables.



February Craft Kit: Valentine's Day Door Banner

This kit will include everything you need to create a decorative banner for your door, mantle, or other area of your home. Call the center to arrange no-contact pick up.



Songbirds

We'll be back, hopefully, soon. I suppose we'll all need a vaccine by then but in the meantime, keep the faith and keep singing "Don't Stop" and "Joy to the World".

John Bercaw

oxford seniors
community adult
day service

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Oxford Seniors is grateful to these governmental sources for supporting our organization with special CARES Act funding while we continued to operate essential services during the pandemic.

Butler County Elderly Services Program
Butler County Health Department
Butler County, Ohio
City of Oxford, Ohio
Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Office of Budget and Management
Ohio Department of Medicaid
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Small Business Administration PPP



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

WELCOME!

Shirley Johnson
Gladys Phillips
Albert Phillips



Harry & Patricia Burge 02/05

Ed Yamauchi	2/1	Judy Schiller	2/16
Anna Jones	2/2	Anne Hutchinson	2/18
Jack Fryman	2/3	Doris Franklin	2/19
Barb Eshbaugh	2/5	Pat Lanni	2/20
Ruth Felblinger	2/5	Maureen Rushton	2/20
Margaret Witmer	2/6	Danny Baker	2/21
Mike Farmer	2/6	Anne Davis	2/22
Diana Cox	2/9	Don Davis	2/23
Edna Southard	2/9	John Bercaw	2/23
Susan Srivastava	2/12	Kim Ogle	2/23
Bill Opanashuk	2/12	Ken Scaggs	2/24
Mary Vincent	2/13	Rich Bement	2/25
Susan Amrhein	2/13	Jan Zoellner	2/25
Lee Hamill	2/14	Mary Jean Priest	2/26
Bob Ratterman	2/15	Norma Pennock	2/26
Sharon Ihrig	2/15	Helen Niehaus	2/28



Dear Jeanne - Congratulations on your well- deserved **Oxford Citizen of the Year Award for 2020!!**

YOU'VE been HONORED and WE, here at Oxford Seniors, are BLESSED that you are in our world! Weekly, from Monday through Friday, you're here at the center, supervising the staff who provide the many, diverse, services that enrich the lives of our more than 500 members.

These services range from vital to 'just for fun.' From transportation to medical appointments to arranging for Monday evening supper and a movie events (when the center re-opens). From editing the newsletter to backing up Jennifer Marcum in the Meals on Wheels program.

How you manage all of this, and the countless interruptions you patiently handle (never seeming to mind) - it's a wonderful mystery! And we are hugely grateful.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

OUTREACH & MARKETING



Public Utilities
Commission

Recently we assisted a client who had received a disconnect notice from Duke Energy. They paid their bill, but did not call Duke to request that their electric service be restored! So it was only after we called on their behalf (over a month later) was their electric turned back on. If you have utility issues, please consider contacting the Ohio Public Utility Commission Office. <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/help-center>



Ohioans with a household income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the HEAP ~ Home Energy Assistance Program.

For 2020-2021, the income levels are: www.development.ohio.gov/is/is_heap.htm
Applications available at Oxford Seniors.

Size of Household

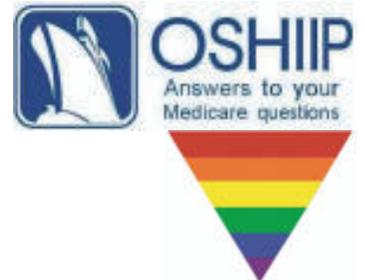
1	up to \$21,857
2	up to \$28,592
3	up to \$37,327

Hello! Welcome to February! We are excited about our Miami interns this semester. We welcome back Kathryn Carder for her second semester of her Social Work Internship as well as three Kinesiology major/Gerontology minor students who will be completing their Capstone class with Oxford Seniors- developing exercise programs-both in person and virtual for when we open back in person at the center in March!

We can provide the following services:

OSHIIP Counseling

- Medicare & Rx Plans, Medicaid, OPERS, STRS, SERS, Ohio Police & Fire, and other insurance plans
- Benefits and eligibility checks and application assistance - SNAP, Senior food boxes, etc.
- Assistance with housing and utility issues
- Are you turning 65 in 2021? If so, you may need to sign up for Medicare. Call Sabrina Jewell, OSHIIP Counselor for an appointment today. 513-523-8100



Oxford Area PFLAG

Join us on Monday, February 8th at 7 p.m. for a Zoom discussion with Jason Bracken, a PhD candidate in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology at Miami University. He is a member of Oxford's City Council, as well as the Environmental, Housing Advisory, and Planning commissions. He is also a board member for The Family Resource Center and The Interfaith Center. Jason will facilitate a discussion: **Neither Sex nor Gender are Binary**. Email us at oxfordareapflag@gmail.com to be sent a Zoom link.



Please check our Facebook Page for updates.

www.Oxfordareapflag.org

OUTREACH & MARKETING



Oxford Seniors/Miami Affiliation Update

This Spring Semester, Oxford Seniors is partnering with Scripps Gerontology to host a Capstone Internship for three Miami Seniors-please welcome them!



I am Sarah Baker and am currently an undergraduate student in the Kinesiology Program with a minor in Gerontology. After graduation in May, I will be going to Midwestern University to receive my Doctorate of Physical Therapy. I am really passionate about learning how I can assist people in maintaining, enhancing or recovering their mobility throughout their life through rehabilitation.

During my J-term Study Abroad last year I greatly enjoyed visiting Barcelona! I have been teaching exercise at Oxford Seniors since October, 2018. I am looking forward to seeing my senior friends again when the senior center opens in March!



My name is Lauren Von Bampus and I am from Winfield, Illinois. I am currently a senior at Miami University majoring in kinesiology with a minor in gerontology. After graduation in May, I will be attending Northwestern University for their Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

I am looking forward to the work we will be doing this semester!



Hello everyone! My name is Jennifer Jaszek, I am a senior Kinesiology major and Gerontology minor at Miami of Ohio, from Powell, OH. At Miami, I am a part of the Pre-PT/OT club, the Paw4ACause club, and I am now a general member of my social sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. Outside of lecture, I enjoy playing intramural soccer and cooking with my housemates. In the fall, I will be attending Dayton University's Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program where I am excited to see my future career as a Physical Therapist begin!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS



Grief Support Update

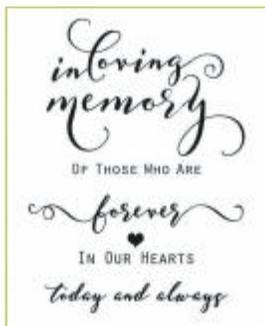
We had a great discussion about how we handled the holidays. Kim Ogle has offered to continue to facilitate a monthly virtual grief group. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 10 at 2 pm. Please email Sabrina Jewell at sjewell@oxfordsenior.org for the Zoom link to be sent to you.

Our discussion will include answering these open-ended statements.

1. In order to heal, I need...
2. The loss has changed the way...
3. I'm learning to...
4. I feel the loss mostly when...
5. I am able to find joy when I...

Please consider participating in this survey to help us plan for future meetings.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJJD7LV>



2020 was a difficult time for all members and staff at Oxford Seniors. Our hearts are saddened at the loss of many of our dear friends during the past year.

Donations By: Richard & Dana Vaughn, Steve Schnabl & Jan Elzey



In Memory of: Jean Schindler
Donations By: Jerry & Deb Schindler, Don Schindler, Randy & Kathy Schindler, Jimmie & Jenny Catron, Laurie Rubritius, Kevin McKeenan & Nancy Miracle, Flores Amo Garden Club, Charles Crain, Linda Carlson, Carol Kabakoff, Mike & Judy Pankion, David & Laura Brooks, Rob & Nancy Wile, Edward & Sue Jones, Nancy Sturgeon, Rory Uhler

In Memory of: Alfrieda Stafford
Donation By: Jane Flueckiger, Irene Young, Murstein Line Dancers

In Memory of: Ida Mae Lemmons
Donations By: Anne & Mike Brewer, James & Dorothy Swartz, Mickey Preston, Carolyn Walker

In Memory of: Eunice Vanderbrink
Donations By: Kathleen Ray, Mark & Kris Gilson

In Memory of: Paul Schiller
Donation By: Linda Davis

In Memory of: Linda Brown
Donation By: Linda Davis

In Memory of: Judy Davis
Donation By: Linda Davis

In Memory of: Virginia "Gracie" Walker
Donation By: Tony Terrell

Thank you for your kind donations made in memory of members and friends we've recently lost. This list represents memorial donations received December 19, 2020 through January 27, 2021. Donations received after that date will be listed in next month's newsletter.

REOPENING PLANS



We can't wait to see you!! We're excited to commit to reopening March 1st but we need to move forward with caution, following the guidelines put in place by the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Department of Health. These include

monitoring/tracking temperatures and other possible symptoms of anyone entering the facility. Once inside, we expect you to maintain the 6 foot social distancing. We will be limiting the number of participants in the building at any one time and cleaning spaces between activities.

Our tentative schedule will offer one program/activity in the morning, Congregate Lunch and one program/activity in the afternoon. All activities will take place in the great room.

For example only:

Monday: 9:00-11:00am Morning Activity
 11:45am-1:15pm Congregate Lunch
 2:00pm-4:00pm Afternoon Activity

You must pre-register by calling the office at 523-8100 for everything, at least one day in advance. But to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate, you cannot register more than 2 days in advance for any one activity at this time. We will not be permitting walk-ins.

Everyone will enter through the doors near the flagpole and exit through the doors near the kitchen.

In addition to these activities, there will be some one on one appointments occurring simultaneously for insurance counseling and tax-aid. These appointments will take place in the library.



Here's 12 things to consider as we get closer to closing the door on one of the hardest years of our lifetime.

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.

Copied from a friend's wall. I'm not this clever!

2021 AARP FOUNDATION TAX PREP



BIG CHANGES THIS YEAR!

Due to COVID-19, taxpayers will bring their tax documents to a first appointment, where they are received and checked by a volunteer, after which the taxpayer leaves. The return is prepared and quality reviewed. The taxpayer comes back for a second appointment to review return in person, sign Form 8879, and depart with their completed return and their tax documents. Appointments will be limited.

These are the steps that will be followed at Oxford Seniors this year:

- Our lead volunteer will put together a packet that the taxpayer will need to pick up and complete. It will contain: The Intake form; A list of tax forms that the taxpayer may have received (they will need to indicate what forms they did receive); A form to list medical expenses; The yearly Oxford appointment guideline sheet; and, potentially some additional items. Please stop by Oxford Seniors during business hours. The building is closed to the public, so please knock on the doors near the office/flagpole and a staff member will assist you. **Packets are expected to be available mid-February.**
- The taxpayer will: Complete the required packet forms; Include the tax forms they have received and last year's tax return; and, **Schedule the first drop-off appointment. These appointments are tentatively set for Tuesdays, beginning March 2nd. The schedule will be available by mid-February.**
- At the drop-off appointment the will review the taxpayer's packet, check their required photo IDs (license for example) and verify their social security number(s) from their SS card. Neither the photo IDs nor the SS cards will be retained.
- **After returns are processed and reviewed, the team will call the taxpayer and arrange a second pick-up appointment.** This will be within 14 days of the drop-off appointment. At this appointment the return will be reviewed with the taxpayer and the taxpayer will sign the Form 8879. All taxpayer documents and their 2020 tax return will be returned to the taxpayer.

We are so pleased to have AARP Tax Prep Volunteers help you this year!

If you have any questions, please call the office at 513-523-8100 and ask for Jeanne.

ECOLOGY CLUB



Ecology Updates for our Community –

#5 tubs added to Rumpke Recycling

Rumpke has recently announced that it will now accept #5 tubs for recycling - #5 tubs include plastic tubs, yogurt containers and fruit cups. Below is the list of all acceptable recyclable items.

- Plastic bottles, jugs, and **#5 tubs**
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans and lids
- Paperboard (like cereal boxes)
- Cardboard
- Office paper
- Envelopes and junk mail
- Newspapers, magazines and inserts
- Telephone books and catalogs
- Cartons

Solarize Oxford: Opportunity to Purchase Bulk-Rate Solar

For interested homeowners, businesses, churches, or non-profits, there is an opportunity to join residents in the Village of Silverton for bulk purchasing for solar panels. People need to contact the website prolightingsolar.com and send in their Duke energy bill for a free estimate. We are hoping to get all the sign ups by the beginning of March. Solar panels that are part of this bulk-purchase opportunity are made in America by unionized workers.

This effort to go solar is also being studied for our local government operations. Oxford City Council approved a feasibility study to evaluate all city owned buildings and properties for the ability to include solar panels/arrays.

Source: OPC Caring for Creation Newsletter, January 2021 at https://opccaringforcreation.substack.com/p/oxford-sustainability-january-2020?r=7w4kp&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&utm_source=copy

Oxford Climate Action Steering Committee

Oxford Climate Action Steering Committee will meet quarterly during 2021. The committee is currently working to assure that an upcoming Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventory survey will move forward. It also is working to coordinate the efforts of the City with Miami University's Presidents Climate Leadership Commitments, an initiative similar to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in which the City of Oxford is enrolled. Additional information about the Oxford's Climate Action can be viewed at <https://www.cityofoxford.org/news/2020/09/climate-action-efforts>.



Oxford Seniors Ecology Club

Our group mission is to: *collaboratively learn about environmental issues; advocate as a group in support of the environment, and promote environmental education among seniors and for all community members.* Contact Joan Potter-Sommer through Oxford Seniors at 513-523-8100.

OXFORD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER



Introducing the Oxford Community Arts Center's New Executive Director.

On January 1, 2021, the Oxford Community Arts Center (OCAC) Board of Directors and staff welcomed their new Executive Director, Heidi E. Schiller. Ms. Schiller succeeds OCAC's first Executive Director, Caroline Lehman-Croswell, who retired in late 2020. Ms. Schiller will lead the OCAC as it adapts and evolves to meet the needs of individuals and families in our community.

The Board gratefully acknowledges that under Caroline's leadership, the community has built OCAC from an idea into one of the area's essential organizations. OCAC will continue

moving forward on its earlier plans to improve OCAC's accessibility, digital capabilities, and use of our outdoor setting.

Board President, Kimberly K. Peterka, noted, "We are excited to welcome Heidi as we build on our past successes and find fresh ways to be relevant for changing audiences and circumstances. She brings a wealth of relevant experience and commitment to ensuring the arts for our community. The Board was also impressed with her strong interest in preserving our historic building. We look forward to OCAC's future under her leadership."

Ms. Schiller brings a depth of leadership capabilities guiding artistic and administrative teams from her long-time role at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. There she worked with community organizations and businesses, guided the management of the venue, and led the artistic/program planning and grant-writing capabilities. Her dedication to community-focused collaborations, partnerships, programming will expand OCAC's ability to welcome a multi-generational audience.

The Oxford Community Arts Center plans for a series of virtual "Meet and Greet" welcome sessions so community members will have a chance to get to know Ms. Schiller. Please check the website www.oxarts.org for announcements and details, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube.



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E-mail: info@oxarts.org

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTINUED

Great Hall. Geneva Byrd's twins Karen Gibson (along with husband Rodney) and Sharon Wireback sang and the Gibson's chaired the event another year.

Then came the pandemic...only a few weeks after Soul Salute last year.

Sadly, we will not host Soul Celebration in 2021, but this article is an attempt to honor our diversity commitment in print by focusing on some of our most active African American members.

Former Oxford Seniors Board President Jean Dockery is our current Matriarch of the Soul Celebration. An avid student of her African American heritage, she has frequently shared books, dolls and other items to visually portray the similarities in all our lives. She is also one of the biggest cheerleaders for Oxford Seniors, passionately telling people of the important impact that we make on developing friendships, helping people navigate health insurance minefields, and generally "being there" for older adults.

Linda Davis is one of our volunteer dispatchers. She enjoys many of the activities and lunches at the center. Recently she relocated to an apartment very near the center.

Thyra Stigall has an infectious laugh and a wit that won't quit. She never misses Bingo. She and her friend, the late Pat Roll, enjoyed getting together to watch wrestling.

Paula Smith has often shared her beautiful singing voice at our special events, and sometimes spontaneously. Paula has served on our board's Marketing Committee, sharing her experience in the advertising and publicity fields.

Bev Carter was a committed member of our Pool Players team, helping them battle the Hamilton Team on a weekly basis. Bev recently moved several states south to live near family. Garry Dean Wilkins has been a frequent visitor and volunteer photographer since moving back to Oxford several years ago after having worked

on both coasts...New York City and California during his career. Garry (or Dean or Garry Dean) is also now working as the part-time caretaker of the Tollgate Center, helping us prepare for the re-opening and the ongoing re-sanitizing that will be required between activities.

Mentioned earlier are current members of our Board of Trustees Barbara Cox and Bob Coley who help create policy and oversee the organization's stability.

Phil Wilkins, Vernice Turner, Veo Thomas and Lottie Brown were regular center attendees; all passed. The list is no doubt longer, but lack of specific mention is not an indication of disrespect...just one of aging memory.

Oxford is more diverse than only having African American residents. Hispanics, Asians, Middle Easterners and those of varying religious beliefs are our neighbors. However, those other groups are less represented in our membership, but not in our interest.

Oxford as a community also recognizes the importance of Black History in our community. Meredith Taylor, Marketing & Communications Manager of Enjoy Oxford (formerly the Oxford Visitors Bureau) and Valerie Elliott of the Smith Library of Regional History at Lane Library collaborated to create the self-guided Oxford, Ohio Black History Tour. It features such places as Lewis Place (the home of the Miami President, and thought to have had a secret space use to hide those using the Underground Railroad), the burial site of world-famous mid-Twentieth Century jazz musician Maurice Rocco (born and raised here as Maurice Rockhold), and the Western College campus, site of the 1960's Freedom Summer training for Civil Rights advocacy.

Copies of the guide are available at Oxford Seniors, at the Enjoy Oxford office or online at their website, EnjoyOxford.org/BlackHistoryOxfordOH.

Please take a moment on your own to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month 2021.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Need a Meal?

We've got one for you!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Holy Trinity— Drive thru service on the **4th Wednesdays of the month** (Feb 24 and March 24): 5:-00 -6:00 PM No reservations are needed!

Holy Trinity is located at 25 East Walnut Meals are distributed in the alley behind the church off Poplar Street.

For more information call the church office at 513-523-7559 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Oxford United Methodist Church— offering drive thru service the **1st Wednesday of the month** (Feb 3rd and March 3rd) from 5:30-6:00pm. Dry pantry items are distributed to families as well as dinners for those in need. Meals are first come first served. No reservations required.

OUMC is located at 14 N. Poplar Street. Meals are distributed in the alley between the church and Yum-yum Restaurant/Corner Bar.

For more information, call the church office at 513-523-5115



The Oxford Farmers Market Uptown is open YEAR ROUND. Right now their winter hours are Saturdays 10 am - 12 pm.

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Join Virtual OMA!



Older adults are invited to meet weekly with Miami University students to discuss art and music, and to create original drawings, stories and poetry. Older adults (living with and without dementia) will meet with the same three students every week for 45 minutes throughout the entire semester (2/8/21 to 5/7/21). No art background or preparation necessary. The students will come prepared for every session. Must be able to do Zoom. *If you cannot commit to weekly attendance, please sign up as an alternate.*

The program was well received last semester, as one elder participant wrote, *"I am so grateful for the opportunity to interact with students and engage in enjoyable activities. The ability to meet through Zoom has been an excellent tether during the pandemic."*

There are 5 available time slots. Space is limited so sign up soon! Participation is FREE.

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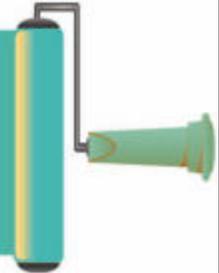
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a division of Oxford Seniors

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(STAFF LISTING ON PAGE 3)



With the departure of Debbie Curry, we are actively interviewing for a new director and anticipate that person starting in February. We are thankful, in the meantime, to have Chris Quimby serving as our Interim Director. Chris, along with her team, Stacy Lay and Shanna Cianchetti, have been instrumental in preparing the space as well as reaching out to clients, their families and care managers as our reopening date approaches.



Monday, March 1st!

We've been very busy getting ready to welcome you back! The staff is being tested for COVID every 2 weeks and we're happy to report that everyone remains negative at this time! We also received our first dose vaccination with the 2nd dose scheduled to be administered in February. Clients who plan to return will have to follow guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Department of Health, including a mask requirement.

We've made safety enhancements to the space as well. We've installed UV air cleansers in the air ducts, hands free faucets in the bathrooms (1), the living room is set up to allow for social distancing (2), and we've established an isolation area for anyone that may be come symptomatic while at the center(3) to name a few.



COVID 19 AFFECTS ON ADS

The Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Department of Health have issued a directive, or temporary regulation, that applies to every Adult Day Service (ADS) program in the state. Community Adult Day Service has no option except to follow those regulations.

Our staff and participants must have a negative COVID test result to attend. Families will be advised how to get testing before the first day their family member comes. Then, nasal swab testing will occur at the Day Service every two weeks, with Oxford Seniors sending the tests via overnight messenger to a State-funded lab that returns results within 48 hours. Each attendee will have a personal on-line account to check those results, and Oxford Seniors' staff will see all results.

If there is a positive result, the Adult Day Service staff will communicate with the participant's family about next steps. If the situation warrants, other clients will also be notified of their potential exposure, but the privacy of the individual test results will always be honored. In some instances, the ADS may need to request participants to quarantine or the center may need to close for a short period.

Oxford Seniors and Community Adult Day Service urge all participants and anyone with whom they live to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please report that to staff at ADS. The State may eventually end the bi-weekly testing if everyone at the ADS is vaccinated.

IN OUR THOUGHTS



**Beth Keiser
Maurine Saylor
Pat Schick
Jean Schindler
Marilyn Sherman
Alfrieda Stafford
Eunice Vanderbrink
Marlene Vaughn**

And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me
Forever in my heart
By: Unknown Author

Below is a list of current member(s) who may be in the hospital or nursing facilities. Cards and/or visits would lift their spirits and many times encourage healing.

Ann Baxter, Judie
Woolum, Rebecca
Shoupe
The Knolls of Oxford
6727 Contreras Rd.
Oxford, OH 45056

Susan Osborn
Bradford Place
1302 Millville Ave.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Carolyn Bentley
Mallard Cove
Senior Living
1419 Mallard Cove Dr. Rm
5212
Sharonville, OH 45246

Adele Flower
2200 Welcome Place Unit
#411
Columbus, OH 43209

Nelly Bly Cogan, Peter
Dahoda, Phyllis Gibson,
Jan Reinhart, Jane
Strippel, Janie Weinrich,
Dorothy Avery, Gil
Gordon
Woodland Country
Manor
4166 Somerville Rd
Somerville, OH 45064

John & Jean Woodruff,
David Dunn
Oxford Healthcare Center
6099 Fairfield Rd. Oxford,
OH 45056

Greg McBee
W. Chester Asstd. Living
7047 Hamilton Mason Rd.
Unit 206
West Chester, OH 45069



Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support group meets twice a month: the second and fourth Thursdays. We meet in the conference room at the Oxford Senior Center at 1:15 pm.

If you also want to have lunch at the Senior Center, call the Oxford Seniors 9:00 am to make a lunch reservation. Lunch is served around 12:15 pm. 513-523-8100.

What is a Caregiver Support Group?

- It is a safe haven for sharing true feelings (that won't be shared outside the meeting)
- Every member understands the trials and the joys of caregiving
- A place to make new friends
- Information about resources and coping mechanisms
- Advice on what lies ahead
- Help dealing with family members

If you are a caregiver and want some support, you are invited to attend the second and fourth Thursday of each month. For more information call Patricia Willeke 513.523.3321. Or email at willekpa@miamioh.edu.



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March 1st

***Due to ongoing Covid restrictions, our activities will be limited.
Advanced registration will be required.
Call the office at least one day ahead of time to sign up.**