



200 Jefferson Ave. Ste. 707
Memphis, TN 38103



Honorariums and Memorials

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

Honorariums

In honor of Peggy Anthony

Kini Kedigh Plumlee

In honor of Meryl Klein

Lynn Meyer

Peggy Seessel

Ellen Klyce

In honor of Julie Mill's birthday

Dr. and Mrs. J. Tom Morris

Memorials

In memory of MPD officer Sean Bolton

Michael Escamilla

In memory of Michael Cloud

Michael Escamilla

Terrie Kirksey

Meryl Klein

In memory of Joan Cook

Terrie Kirksey and Lisa Piefer

In memory of Billy Moten

Lane Moten

Honor your loved ones with a gift to Creative Aging.



Our Mission

Creative Aging improves quality of life for Mid-South seniors by stimulating minds, creativity, and sense of self through arts programs that engage, educate, and entertain.

Special thanks to the following for helping bring the arts to life where seniors live and gather.





WINTER 2016 Newsletter

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Creative Aging

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New Senior Arts Series Kicks Off March 30 at Theatre Memphis

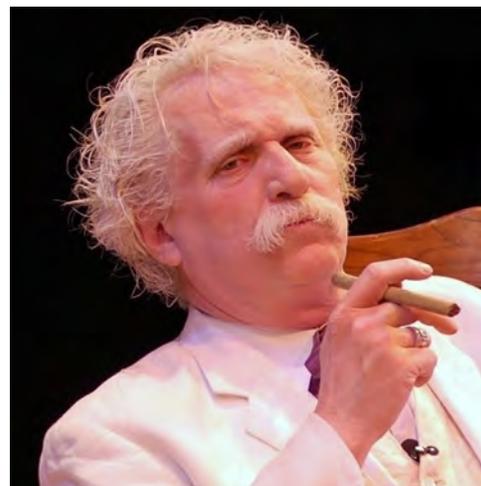
Creative Aging is pleased to announce the kick off of an exciting new series of performances designed for all seniors and their guests. The Senior Arts Series (SAS) is a program of five live concerts that each include Creative Aging musicians performing with local artists and art groups, including dance and theatre, to complement a musical theme. The first program, "Celebrate the Mississippi River and Southern Experience," will feature Memphis actor Ron Jewell performing his "Mark Twain at Large" monologue with blues music by Joyce Cobb and the Boscós Trio on March 30.

"We hope to expand the audience of Creative Aging and reach seniors we are not already touching," said Rhonda Causie, Senior Arts Series director. "Through these programs we will connect with seniors who live independently in a variety of circumstances. Some would rather not drive at night; some may not have the financial means for expensive tickets; and others may just be looking for new social activities."

All programs will be presented on the Main Stage of Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. Following each performance there will be refreshments and time for the audience to socialize. Tickets are only \$5 each and can be purchased (cash or check only) at the door.

Be sure to save these dates – May 11, July 13, September 14 and November 2 for the remaining four SAS concerts.

"These programs are designed to appeal to a wide senior audience, yet anyone interested



Ron Jewell (Mark Twain)



Joyce Cobb

is welcome to attend," said Causie. "Senior engagement and activities like these are known to promote health and well-being."

For sponsorship opportunities or information on any of the five performances, contact Rhonda Causie at (901) 338-7291 or rcausie@creativeagingmidSouth.org.

Senior Fun Day is Back

Creative Aging presents the 4th annual Senior Fun Day on Thursday, April 21 at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, 6560 Poplar Avenue. This year's event, from 1 to 3 p.m. is sure to be another great success – just like our first three Fun Days. Attendees can play games, enjoy waterless manicures provided by future professionals from Paul Mitchell the School, delight in some fabulous Baskin Robbins ice cream served compliments of Airline Market & Deli, and of course, win door prizes. It really is a lot of fun!

A variety of familiar and new board games as well as mahjong, dominoes and chess sets will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to also bring their own favorite games to play. All ages are welcome to come and enjoy the fun!



Tickets are \$5 (cash or check only) and may be purchased at the door. Proceeds from Senior Fun Day will help Creative Aging fulfill its mission of improving the quality of life for Mid-South seniors by providing them with access to quality arts experiences.

Senior Fun day is made possible by support from Apple Grove, Cigna-HealthSpring, Connect Hearing, The Gardens of Germantown and Senior Care Management Solutions.

Volunteer Spotlight: Gail George and Sarah DiNicolantonio



Gail George

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and in honor of those who lend a hand to support our efforts, we tip our hats to two special Creative Aging volunteers. Gail George and Sarah DiNicolantonio have played active roles in helping us for several years and have dedicated their time and resources to support creative arts programs for our community's seniors.

When Gail received a call from a friend to assist Creative Aging with strategic planning, she immediately went to our website and was inspired by our mission. "I had parents in a senior living community and knew the importance of arts enrichment in their lives," said Gail, whose mother and mother-in-law had Alzheimer's. "Almost anyone can get enthusiastic about helping sick children; it's the elderly population that is often overlooked."



Sarah DiNicolantonio

Gail agreed to take up our cause. That was three years ago and she's still serving in an advisory capacity for our organization.

Her professional background in human resources, organizational development and training was soon put to work. As a co-chair for "A Vintage Evening: Celebrating 10 Years of Creative Aging," she planned, organized and hosted a table for the fundraising event alongside others she helped recruit to the cause.

Originally from Georgia, Gail worked in Washington, D.C., before moving to Memphis 25 years ago when her husband, Ray, made a job change. She owned her own consulting practice here until she retired. The couple has a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and "Lilli," an 11-pound Havanese dog. Gail is also very involved in Decorative Arts Trust at Memphis Brooks Museum, is a supporter and past board chair for Planned Parenthood and serves on the Family Partner's Council at Methodist University Hospital. She and her husband are both research subjects in the Memory and Aging Project at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"The thing that convinced me to get involved with Creative Aging was hearing the stories about the difference creative arts make in the lives of seniors," said Gail. "I am very interested in how the arts help the elderly access their memories."

Sarah got involved with Creative Aging a couple of years ago and serves as a volunteer ambassador. She frequently visits Covenant Dove Rehab and Page Robbins Adult Day Center to welcome Creative Aging Entertainers, help guests find seating, meets with the Activity Directors and provides feedback on the programs. "I love that Creative Aging gives seniors enrichment in their later years," she says.

Sarah and her husband, Joe, are Florida natives and University of Florida "Gator" graduates where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Occupational Therapy. She worked as a generalist in acute care hospitals and is a certified hand therapist who has worked in orthopedics. They transferred to Memphis from Chattanooga for Joe's position at Regions Bank nearly 10 years ago. They have two sons, Chris, a freshman at Appalachian State in Boone, North Carolina, and Eric, a senior at St. George's Independent School. She loves to travel and recently taught herself to unicycle by watching You Tube videos.

A voracious reader, Sarah is a member of three book clubs and is passionate about education and literacy. When she's not volunteering for Creative Aging, you'll find her tutoring students at St. George's Memphis campus and planning an annual event which she co-founded for her sorority alumni association. "Literacy is Key: A Book and Author Event," is presented annually by Kappa Kappa Gamma and in six years has raised \$100,000 for local literacy education programs.

"It's a treat for me to attend Creative Aging programs," Sarah said. "The musicians are immensely talented and entertaining. Yet what really touches me is when they reach out to the audience and ask for their memories of a particular song. I love seeing the audience get up on their feet and spontaneously dance with a care giver or another program attendee. When they allow themselves to feel their joy, it makes me very happy."

Back by popular demand!

Our very popular Artists' Showcase returns this year on Saturday, October 8 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Jack Robinson Gallery on Huling at Front Street. Plan to join us for live entertainment, a fabulous dinner, silent auction and a cash bar. Complimentary valet parking provided. Tickets are \$75.00 and more information will be coming soon.

Sponsor a Creative Aging Event!

Are you interested in sponsoring a Creative Aging event? We have many sponsorship opportunities and levels available, each with a variety of perks and acknowledgments.

Sponsorships start at just \$50 (ticket sponsorship for the Senior Arts Series) and go all the way up to \$15,000 to be the Season Presenter for the entire Senior Arts Series. Senior Fun Day sponsorships start at just \$100 for individuals or \$200 for businesses.

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, please contact Meryl Klein at (901) 272-3434 or mklein@creativeagingmidsouth.org.

Artist Spotlight: Irving Evans



Irving Evans

Irving Evans is a master of the ivories who has been playing piano professionally since age 14. At 88-years young, he is often older than the folks he is performing for at nursing homes and retirement communities served by Creative Aging. He says it's performing that "keeps me going."

This multi-talented Memphis-born keyboardist has played with the likes of comedian and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Founder Danny Thomas, singer and actress Shirley Jones, Jimmy "Mr. Chicago" (Demopolous) Damon, one of Chicago's best-known nightlife crooners, and jazz piano with Charlie Rich. Additionally, Irving has performed for The Lawrence Welk Show, The Martin and Rossi Show and "Brother" Dave Gardner, and he made a record with Sammy Davis, Jr.

"I have played with some of the greats," said Irving, noting his favorite was Sammy Davis, Jr. Yet today, it is Memphis seniors whom he enjoys entertaining. "I not only play but I sing and tell jokes," he said. "When I can make seniors happy and have a good time, that's what I love doing most."

Irving was destined to be a musician. His mother was a singer and performer and his father, Nate Evans, was an accomplished violinist and bandleader who performed at the Grand Opera House that later became the Orpheum Theatre.

Irving started piano lessons at age 9 and by 13 he was training to become a concert pianist under Myron Meyers at Southwestern College at Memphis (now Rhodes). Out of the blue he got a call from Colie Stoltz, a trumpet player and band leader with a 16-piece orchestra. It was 1941.

"His piano player got sick and he called me to substitute for him," said Irving. "I was only 14 years old. He wanted to know if I read music. Of course I did. So, my first job was at the Casino Ballroom that was at the Mid-South Fairgrounds. I played for him that night and when I got through he told me I played one heck of a good piano. Then he asked if I would consider going with him. I had to ask my father."

Irving took the job knowing he would have to give up his dream of playing concert piano, and he never looked back.

His professional music career took off and Irving performed with many orchestras in and around Memphis. By age 17 he had joined the Ray Robbins orchestra and was performing at the Peabody Hotel. With the orchestra he traveled the circuit including Chicago to Philadelphia and on occasion played under his father's baton with the pit orchestra at the Orpheum which at that time was a vaudeville theatre. This enabled him to meet Bob Hope and Danny Kaye. Additionally, his father's ownership of the W.C. Handy Theatre on Park near Airways (opened in 1946 and demolished in 2012) was the showcase for famous African American entertainers. "Being the son of one of the owners I got to meet and often perform with the musicians booked at the Theatre," Irving said. Among them were music celebrities W.C. Handy, Count Basie, Dizzie Gillespie, Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong and Lionel Hampton, who gave Irving private vibraphone lessons every afternoon at his room at the Lorraine Motel during Hampton's two-week performance at the Handy Theatre.

During World War II, he entertained servicemen at USOs around the country. In the 1950s and 1960s, he was musical director for Front Street Theatre. He performed with Danny Thomas when Thomas was raising money to build St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He served as backup pianist for the Liberace show and played for Shirley Jones, Robert Goulet and Marguerite Piazza.

From 1963 to 1971, his quartet played five nights a week at the Summit Club. In 1996, 25 years later, he returned to play again with "The Irving Evans Trio Plus One," featuring Debbie Kines.

Now in his 74th year of performing professionally, Irving continues to play and entertain Creative Aging audiences. "I just enjoy making people happy."

Updates

Creative Aging's Valentine's Day Cards



Thanks to everyone who chose to honor a loved one by sending them a Valentine's Day card that was hand made by the Creative Aging staff. We mailed 85 cards, each with a special message from the sender to the recipient. And remember, we will also send Veterans Day cards in November.

Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest



Dive Shop owner and Creative Aging Board member Randy Wright presents Three Little Pigs team trophy to Ashley and Lily Bomar.

The 2015 Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest was our biggest yet! Early on Saturday afternoon, October 24, a crowd gathered to watch the carving and listen to the Double D Band, one of Creative Aging's most requested performing duos. The carving lasted about one hour. Guests watched with fascination from the pool deck and through live video feed, provided by Best Buy - Wolfchase. Hanna Nelson, who won the Cigna-HealthSpring costume contest as a mermaid, swam with the divers while Ashley Bomar, manager of Three Little Pigs BBQ and winner of the corporate fundraising challenge, cheered for her team with excitement and enthusiasm. Father and son team

Russ and Jake Tilton took home first prize and everyone had a great time!

The crowd enjoyed a cookout provided by Synergy Home Care and Riddle & Buehler BBQ, and scrumptious desserts generously donated by some of Creative Aging's member communities: Alzheimer's Day Services, Apple Grove, Belmont Village, Frayser-Raleigh Senior Center, Kirby Pines, and Trezevant Manor. Thanks also to Airline Market & Deli, Andrew Kozak with the Channel 5 Storm Tracker, Pepsi-Memphis and Shelby County 911.

Thank you to our event sponsors, Senior Care Management Solutions and Cigna-HealthSpring!