

From: **Oxford Newcomers and Friends** newcomers@oxfordms.com   
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To: rosie@oxfordms.com



# OXFORD NEWCOMERS *and Friends*



What do walking and pickleball have in common? They are both likely to soon be new ONC&F activity groups! An outdoor walking group and a pickleball league for beginners and others are getting organized -- two more good reasons to pay your ONC&F 2022 dues! Details on dues and all February activities can be found below.

And a big valentine to both Nancy Muller

([maytarie@att.net](mailto:maytarie@att.net)) and Karen Travillo ([kht29@aol.com](mailto:kht29@aol.com)), who will be sharing monthly newsletter duties until a new Communications Chair is in place.

## ONC&F FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE: ONC&F members and first-time visitors who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (at least two weeks past your final shot) are welcome to attend in-person ONC&F events and gatherings.**

Thursday, Feb 3, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Friday, Feb 4, 9:00 am, **Women's Coffee**, Panera

Monday, Feb 7, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Tuesday, Feb 8, 11:30 am, **Ladies Who Lunch**, El Charro Cosina & Cantina

Tuesday, Feb 8, 1:00 pm, **Mary Poole Bridge Club**, OU-Methodist

Tuesday, Feb 8, 2:00 pm, **Better Read than Dead**, 214 Olde Castle Loop

Wednesday, Feb 9, 10:00 am, **Educational Program**, Zoom

Thursday, Feb 10, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

*Monday, Feb 14, **Valentine's Day***

Monday, Feb 14, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Thursday, Feb 17, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Thursday, Feb 17, 1:00 pm, **Needlers**, Coach Howell Activity Center

Thursday, Feb 17, 2:00 pm, **Book Club One**, Zoom

Friday, Feb 18, 9:00 am, **Women's Coffee**, Panera

Monday, Feb 21, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

Monday, Feb 21, 4:00 pm, **Reading Faulkner**, Zoom  
Monday, Feb 21, 5:00 pm, **5 O'Clock Off the Square**, Kings  
Tuesday, Feb 22, 1:00 pm, **Mary Poole Bridge Club**, OU-Methodist  
Tuesday, Feb 22, 11:30 am, **Lunch Bunch**, Fergndan's Pizza  
Thursday, Feb 24, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon  
Monday, Feb 28, 7:00 am, **Men's Breakfast**, The Beacon

*Questions? See below for program details and contact information.*

**2022 DUES ARE DUE:** Roses are red, violets are blue -- and we will be, too, if you don't pay your dues. The ONC&F membership year runs January to December, and 2022 dues of \$20 per person are due now. As a reminder, no one who paid membership dues in 2020 was asked to pay dues last year. We are cautiously optimistic that 2022 will soon support gathering with ONC&F friends on a regular basis. Click [here](#) for the link to the renewal form and information on where to send it and your check. If you have questions, please reach out to Membership Chair Nellanne Davis: (662) 380-5672 or [nellanned@aol.com](mailto:nellanned@aol.com)

#### **VACANCY: ONC&F COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

If you love knowing what's happening before anyone else, have three or four hours a month for volunteering, and enjoy word play, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for! We'll teach you everything you need to know, and you'll be ready to let your creative literary juices flow for ONC&F! Contact ONC&F President Jonell McGivern at [jonell52@att.net](mailto:jonell52@att.net)

**5 O'CLOCK ON (OR OFF) THE SQUARE** is when ONC&F members meet to mix and mingle over adult beverages of choice. The cocktail hour offers a great opportunity to say hello to old friends and meet new ones. On Monday, February 21st, we'll be gathering at King's Steak House, 1007 College Hill Rd. You might want to stay for King's Monday night steak special, when \$30 gets you an 8 oz filet or 16 oz ribeye or sirloin and a side, plus \$1 raw oysters! Send questions or suggestions to ONC&F social director Bonnie Siebert, [bonnie1017@aol.com](mailto:bonnie1017@aol.com)

**BETTER READ THAN DEAD** (NOTE NEW MEETING DATE) will meet at the home of Nancy Muller (214 Olde Castle Loop-Windsor Falls) on February 8th at 2:00 pm. The book for discussion will be *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious. She yearns for a pursuit worthy of her life, but finds no outlet for her considerable talents. When she meets eighteen-year-old Jesus. each is drawn to and enriched by the other's spiritual and philosophical

ideas. Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her. For those who plan ahead, the March book will be *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. All are welcome! If you would like to join in, just email chair Nancy Muller at [maytarie@att.net](mailto:maytarie@att.net). Or just show up!

**BOOK CLUB ONE:** February's book selection is *The Return: Fathers, Sons, and the Land in Between* by Hisham Matar. This Pulitzer Prize winning memoir recounts the author's quest for information about his father's mysterious death twenty-two years before in his native Libya. Book Club One will meet on Zoom on Thursday, February 17th (our customary third Thursday of the month) at 2:00 pm. Click [HERE](#) to join us, or go to <https://Zoom.us> and enter Meeting ID: 680 808 8404. All Newcomers and friends are welcome! Chair: Debra Guyton, [debraguyton@bellsouth.net](mailto:debraguyton@bellsouth.net), (251) 490-6690.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:** Please join us on Wednesday, February 9th via Zoom to learn about the significant results of the 2020 decennial census and its local implications. Dr. Anne Elizabeth Marie Cafer, UM Assistant Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Population Studies and the State Data Center for Mississippi, will present *Demographic Change in Lafayette County and Mississippi*, followed by a Q&A session. Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting, or go to <https://Zoom.us>, enter Meeting ID: 848 0216 8527, and when prompted, Passcode: 255400 Questions? Contact chair Don Mason, [dmason222@gmail.com](mailto:dmason222@gmail.com)

**LADIES WHO LUNCH** is a group of ONC&F ladies who meet the second Tuesday of each month at varied local restaurants in and around Oxford. Join us on Tuesday, February 8th at 11:30 am at El Charro Cosina & Cantina, 669 Sisk Ave, by Oxford Commons. An RSVP text is appreciated but not mandatory; please send to Nena Mutersbaugh, (918) 906-8811

**LUNCH BUNCH** will gather on Tuesday, February 22nd at 11:30 am at Fergndan's Pizza, 176 MS-30. Lunch Bunch is for singles and couples -- a fun time to visit with other ONC&F members over your midday meal. All are always welcome! Questions? Contact Buck Ladner, [ladner2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ladner2003@yahoo.com) or (662) 801-1371

**MARY POOLE BRIDGE CLUB** meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (February 8th and 22nd) in room 214 at OUUMC. All skill levels are encouraged, we love to guide new players! Please contact Carol Rawlings in advance at (731) 610-0251 or [marypoolebridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:marypoolebridgeclub@gmail.com), so she can make sure everyone has a seat at a table.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men gather for breakfast every Monday and Thursday at 7:00 am at The Beacon, 1200 N. Lamar Blvd. Come when you can. All are welcome. Join us for fun and great fellowship. Questions? Contact Buck Ladner, [ladner2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ladner2003@yahoo.com) or (662) 801-1371

**NEEDLERS** will meet at the home of Nancy Muller (214 Olde Castle Loop - Windsor Falls) on February 17th at 1:00 pm. Bring your knitting needles or your stitching needles and come have fun with a group of passionate ladies. We are always open to new members. Contact Nancy Muller, [maytarie@att.net](mailto:maytarie@att.net) for more information.

**OXWINE** will resume in March! If you'd like to host during the spring or early summer, or have questions, please contact Michelle Harvey, [mmautheharvey@att.net](mailto:mmautheharvey@att.net) -- and stay tuned for details!

**READING FAULKNER** will meet at 4:00 pm on Monday, February 21st via Zoom. We will be discussing the 3rd and 4th sections of *The Collected Stories*, "The Wilderness" and "The Wasteland." To join the Zoom meeting, click [HERE](#) or go to <https://Zoom.us> and enter Meeting ID: 680 808 8404. To join the group or for more information, please contact Dianne Fergusson at (662) 236-4670 or [sdsferg@bellsouth.net](mailto:sdsferg@bellsouth.net)

**WOMEN'S COFFEE:** Please join us for coffee, friendship and lots of conversation on the first and third Fridays in February (February 4th and February 18th) at 9:00 am at Panera Bread, 1902 Jackson Avenue. Hope you will join us...we miss you when you are absent. Chair: Nellanne Davis, (318) 447-0038 or [nellanned@aol.com](mailto:nellanned@aol.com)

### **FEBRUARY GARDENING TIP**

.....At this time last month, I had Encore azaleas and forsythia blooming, and irises full of buds! The good news is January's weather has been much more typical, AND I saved my iris buds and was delighted to see them bloom inside! Hopefully, as we progress through February the weather will continue in a more typical fashion, and we'll see temperatures begin to moderate toward the end of the month.

.....My husband and I enjoy getting out at this time of year to tackle a large-scale cleanup of our property. Some chores we'll be undertaking include trimming tree limbs and picking up any fallen branches, and trimming all of our ornamental grasses. We have a very steep slope on one side of our house, and it has been an ongoing problem. Our long-term goal is to cover it with trees and miscanthus grass to stabilize the soil, make it more attractive and cut down on the maintenance it requires. To this end, we will be splitting and transplanting more miscanthus grass and planting more trees. The slope also has several areas that have eroded. We had a beautiful dry creek put in two years ago, and will add two smaller ones this year. Not only do they correct the

drainage issue, but they also beautify the area.

.....February is an excellent time to plant trees, and in honor of this, we celebrate Arbor Day. Lafayette County will continue their traditional tree give away on February 15th. It will take place at the MSU extension office parking lot (arena if raining) at 70 Buddy East Parkway from 8 AM until trees are gone. This year they will be giving away bald cypress, persimmon, crepe myrtle, white oak, pecan, swamp chestnut oak, Nuttall oak, red and sugar maple and a variety of fruit trees.

.....During February, we will also see the first signs of spring appear with the blooming of saucer magnolias, camellia, spirea, quince, loropetalum, Winter Jasmine and Forsythia. Flowers such as hellebores, snowdrops, hyacinths, crocus, and early daffodils also begin to emerge as the earth starts to warm.

.....If you enjoy winter annuals, it's a good time to plant pansies, nasturtiums, English daisies, calendulas, and sweet William. After February 15th, it's a good time to plant new roses or move old ones; top-dress the roses with organic fertilizer under a thick layer of mulch. This month is also a good time to prune evergreen shrubs, *but not flowering shrubs*, unless you're only removing dead or damaged wood. The exception to this is hydrangeas. If your variety blooms on new wood, prune them during the last week of February.

.....For those of you who have a cold frame or greenhouse, and enjoy vegetable gardening, this is a good time to start cold weather vegetables including broccoli, cauliflower, onion sets, English peas, kale, carrots, collards, beets, Chinese cabbage, and radishes. It's also time to plant asparagus in prepared beds. Asparagus crowns are typically only available one time a year, in early spring, so if you're interested, plan ahead! Beds for asparagus need to be in full sun, weed-free, and should have plenty of room for the plants to grow. Although they do not spread much in the first two years, once established, they will fill in quickly. Beds need to be about 4-5' wide. It's recommended to dig a trench 12" deep, and space plants 18" apart. Before planting, add a shovel of compost and a cup of organic fertilizer for each plant. When putting in the plants, shape a small mound at the bottom of each hole, drape the plant roots down around it and cover the plant. The crown should be about 6" below the soil.

.....For bird lovers, I'm already seeing Eastern bluebirds, and they can begin nesting as early as February. If you have nesting boxes, it's time to remove old nesting material and clean the boxes with a solution of 9 parts water and 1 part bleach. You can also use a putty knife to scrape and remove dried waste. Once again, if you have nandinas, please remove all berries. They are deadly to gorge feeders such as Cedar Waxwings.

*Happy Gardening,  
Karen Travillo,  
Master Gardener Lafayette County*

\*Lafayette County Master Gardeners are always available for home consults to help with any gardening problems you may encounter. This is a free service, and you can access it by calling the MSU extension office (602) 324-4454.



and you can access it by calling the MSU extension office (662) 234-4451

\*Mark your calendars for the Master Gardener Spring Lecture Series to be held at the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library. Dates and subjects -- March 3 (Spring Florals), April 7 (Organic Gardening), and May 12 (Beekeeping).

SIGN UP FOR THE

# MASTER GARDENER

**ONLINE** *training*

SELF-PACED AND COMPLETELY ONLINE!

Register online at  
**msuext.ms/mg**  
from  
**February 1-28.**

1. Master Gardener Course,  
MG volunteer option: **\$125**
2. Home Gardening Course,  
non-MG-volunteer option: **\$200**
3. Individual classes\*: **\$25 per class**  
\*available year-round

Courses open on **March 15** and must be completed by **May 15.**



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### Oxford Newcomers and Friends Executive Committee 2022

President: Jonell McGivern, [jonell52@att.net](mailto:jonell52@att.net)

Vice President: VACANT

Communications: VACANT

Educational Programs: Don Mason, [dmason222@gmail.com](mailto:dmason222@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President: Judy Owen, [ophieandme920@gmail.com](mailto:ophieandme920@gmail.com)

Membership: Nellanne Davis, [nellanned@aol.com](mailto:nellanned@aol.com)  
Social Director: Bonnie Siebert, [bonnie1017@aol.com](mailto:bonnie1017@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Richard Muller, [frotscher60@att.net](mailto:frotscher60@att.net)

Updates to share? Send to ONC&F Communications Chair  
Michelle Harvey, [mmautheharvey@att.net](mailto:mmautheharvey@att.net)

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