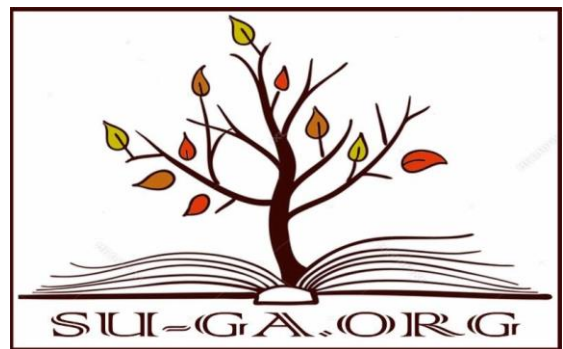


SUGA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



(OPEN ON LAPTOP OR DESKTOP FOR BEST QUALITY)

[Newsletter Writer/Editor: Bonnie Hoyt](#)

A NOTE FROM YOUR SUGA PRESIDENT

Roads and bridges. Water and sewer. Internet and wifi. Infrastructure. We take these things for granted but we notice when they do not work.

SI IGA has its infrastructure—curriculum and finance among other committees. Each is necessary for SI IGA to function and operate. We only notice when they do not work. Fortunately, the curriculum committee (Ann Levine, chair) and the finance committee (Art Slavin, chair) function very well and both work to assure SI IGA's present and future. We keep SI IGA's expenses low because of the many members who volunteer consistently and tirelessly on the many jobs that need to be done. And we have a capable executive director, Bill Reeson, who keeps things functioning smoothly with a lot of behind-the-scenes work.

The curriculum committee plans SI IGA classes by selecting course subjects, by finding volunteer instructors and by preparing schedules, usually a couple of quarters in advance.

The finance committee keeps track of SI IGA income and expenses and advises the Board about current fees and costs and future needs.

Without these committees and their leadership, SI IGA would not function.

Because SI IGA is such a good deal—with an \$200 annual fee for as many in-person or virtual classes as you want to take along with access to the SI IGA video library—we should make it available to more people.

And because we pro-rate our fees by the semester, now is the perfect time to introduce a friend or acquaintance who may like SI IGA: invite them to a class as a guest, and if they like it, invite them to join for our pro-rated fee of \$100 for 2023 Summer and Fall. And if you are feeling particularly generous, what a nice gift a SI IGA membership would make for someone special! They will thank you and SI IGA will thank you.

Norman Slawsky

SPRING AT SUGA WAS A HIT!

Spring at SUGA has been a resounding success. Members have loved the many and varied programs that have been offered both in person at Rehoboth Baptist Church and online with Zoom. Members had a choice of attending four out of eight in-person programs weekly with time to visit with friends and meet new people during the complimentary half-hour coffee break between classes. Those who prefer to learn from the comfort of their own homes could watch four Zoom programs in real time. All members have the option of watching many of the Zoom presentations at ~~their leisure using links sent to their email addresses.~~ That adds up to hours and hours of fun and learning, even if you never change out of your PJs.



Dr Paul Bhasin

STANDING OVATION FOR THE DEKALB SYMPHONY

One of the biggest hits of the in-person classes during Spring semester was “The Orchestra—Beyond 101.” Moderated by SUGA member **Rosemary Woolfitt**, the series featured presentations by seven musicians and the Music Director/Conductor of the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra. What a delight it was to meet the players, learn the history of their instruments, listen to their playing, and watch videos demonstrating the way the instruments join together in the beautiful ensemble we call

the “Symphony.” **Conductor Dr. Paul Bhasin** and all seven of the players presented programs that included basic info for those who could not tell a trumpet from a trombone while also answering questions from those who know music well.

After the first class, which featured **Jonathan Urizar**, DSO Concertmaster/Principal Violin, SUGA members already were asking Rosemary Woolfitt to “orchestrate” another eight-week program including instruments not on the list for this series!

Maestro Bhasin answered the age-old question, “So what does the conductor do, anyway?” It turns out the answer to that question is a lot more complicated than newcomers or even seasoned symphony enthusiasts might guess.

Principal Oboe **Rebecca Testerman** told us about the modern oboe’s ancestors, now rarely played. Principal Cellist **Alana BennettGarcia** detailed the role of the cello through musical history while Principal Double Bassist Stephen Ward pointed out that his instrument is related to the cello but didn’t get more than a supporting role in the symphony until much later.

DSO Principal Flute Kathy Farmer clearly is in love with the flute, having broken up with the piano in junior high school! Her passion was evident in her presentation at SUGA. The same can be said of Percussionist/Timpanist Lisa Morris, who moved on from the piano to play percussion in her high school marching band and eventually married another percussionist, DSO Principal Percussionist **Joel Morris**. Principal Trumpet **Paul Poovey** brought and demonstrated various types of trumpets and told us about the development of various valve mechanisms.

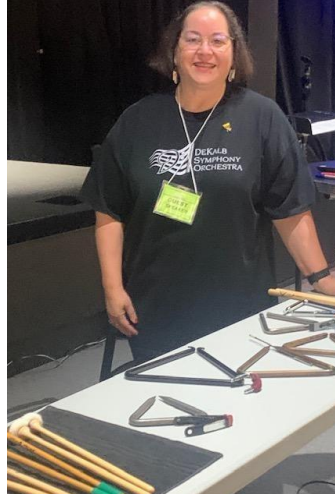
This program was a prime example of the effort of SUGA organizers, the DSO, and supporters of the Arts in Georgia to pull together a fabulous offering at little cost to SUGA.

Those who attended the program received a booklet featuring the bios of the eight presenters as well as a Resource Guide prepared by **Eric Zhang**, a student research intern at Emory, which included detailed information on the orchestra sections. The project was supported by Georgia Humanities in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

The orchestra is presenting a free concert, “A Night at the Movies,” scheduled for June 20 at First Baptist Church of Decatur. The DSO’s final subscription concert of the season “DSO Pops” will be July 25.



Stephen Ward



Lisa Morris



Alana Bennett-Garcia



Kathy Farmer

Above: L - Stephen Ward R - Lisa Morris
Below: L - Alana Bennett-Garcia R - Kathy Farmer

GETTING TO KNOW WHO(M)?

Another surprisingly popular program this Spring was “Inside SUGA: Interviews.” Organizers for this program are already planning for eight more sessions in the upcoming year. Judy Plecko, Art Slavin, and Ann Levine took turns asking sixteen SUGA members about their life stories, pet peeves, favorite activities, youthful crushes, what famous people they have met, and so on. The numbers of occupations SUGA folks have held was impressive, but we found out they weren’t all born lawyers, businesspeople, or architects! Some started pretty low on the

ladder of success! Here's some of what you missed if you didn't attend.



Judy Plecko & Norman Slawsky



Art Slavin & Boerge Deist



George Brown & Ann Levine



John Allensworth & Art Slavin



George Wieder



Roy Sobelson & Judy Plecko



Art Slavin & Carol Bevier



Stanley Daniels



Madeline Griffin & Ann Levine

DID YOU KNOW...???

June Lester met Queen Elizabeth in 1999 in Oxford while the queen was on a “walkabout.”

Madeline Griffin was the first female Juvenile Court Judge in DeKalb County. (Update: She just became a new grandmother to a baby girl.)

George Weider loves thrift shopping and donates back to non-profits.

John Allensworth had to get permission from parents to marry his

childhood sweetheart.

Larry Pinson was born in a schoolhouse.

Chuck Hill is a native DeKalb country boy and today lives a short distance from the family home where he grew up.

Bill Beeson worked as a soda jerk, and is married to Gretchen Turner.

Before he became an attorney, **Norman Slawsky** was a high school math teacher.

Corol Bevier owned and ran a hotel in Central America for years.

Stanley Daniels played a major role in the design of Colony Square.

Roy Sobelson used to read the Oxford English Dictionary with his grandmother. Ever since, he has been passionate about words. There's a word for someone like that: Logophile.

Dave Marcus is passionate about baseball, Baseball, and BASEBALL.

Boerge Deist's first job was as a sailor on boats traveling up and down the Rhine. He was only sixteen! Quite the adventurer, he motorcycled to the four corners of the USA on trips over the course of three years.

George Brown enjoys trying variations on the hamburger when he travels around the world. "Burger with Beets," anyone? But at home he loves sitting on the porch with a morning cup of coffee or an evening martini.

Joy Glucksman would choose Sandra Bullock If she had to cast an actress to play herself in a movie.

Gisela McClellan was an engineer at Lockheed when there were very few women working there.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Few of us ever expected to meet with the **Georgia Bureau of Investigation** in person, but we did. Those who attended "An Overview of the GBI" met with Special Agent **Liz Bigham** and seven other agents discussing their on-going work on matters of urgent importance, from gang activity to active shooters, from human trafficking to domestic terrorism, and more.

Attendees of **Dr. John Allensworth's** "Geographical Trips: Eight Themes in Cultural and Political Geography" enjoyed journeying with him both in the U. S. and around the world.

Equally enjoyable was **Timothy Gelinas'** presentation of "The Unseen Israel — Part 1" which featured less-often-seen sites of spiritual relevance in Northern Israel.

Thanks to Anne MacDougal and **Larry Pinson** for music and learning through their classes on "West Side Story and Its Creators" and "Gilbert and Sullivan." Nobody left those classes feeling down!

Finally, "Great Decisions 2023" led once again by **George Brown** did not disappoint as it featured insights on key international issues which can really make heads spin.



ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

Not to be outdone by the in-person instructors, our online **Zoom classes** featured many popular instructors and interesting, informative, and important topics. Many of the Zoom classes are available online to SUGA members.

POTPOURRI

George Weider presented "Potpourri," a collection of 8 stand-alone classes. The collection featured fascinating topics ranging from the "History of English Music" (Jonathan Robinson live from Salisbury, England), "Meet the Honeybee," (Master Beekeeper Linda Tillman), and "A Conversation with (multi-talented) Park Ranger Jonah McDonald."

Also included were classes on issues of timely importance such as "Background of the Second Amendment" (Attorney **James Deichert**) and "Advocating for Our Transgender Community" (**Ann Miller & Jeff Graham**).

Since SUGA is for seniors, many welcomed the advice of SUGA member **Arnold Berry, MD**, in "So You're Going to Have Surgery: What

Do You Need to Know?” while others are grateful to **Roy Sobelson** for explaining the “ins and outs” of the iPhone so they can impress their grand-

children!

Finally, members caught a glimpse into the future thanks to a presentation on the “Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC),” discussing issues such as transportation, water management, public services for the elderly or disabled, and public safety.

SHORT PLAY PRESENTATIONS

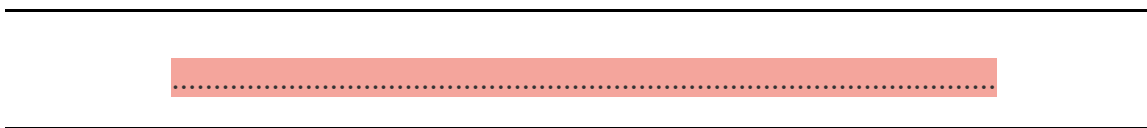
Hosted by **Daniel Guyton**, playwright, screenwriter, actor, and professor, SUGA members enjoyed Zoom readings of stage plays followed by “talkback” with the cast and writer.

RESEARCH IS IMPROVING HEALTH WORLDWIDE

If you missed the Zoom course featuring researchers from the Emory National Primate Center explaining how research from Alzheimer’s to Zika is working toward better health for you and your family, you can catch up by watching the programs that were recorded online.

AMERICAN WAR IN VIETNAM

The ever-popular **Sal DePasquale** once again took to the Zoom podium to educate us on a war that few people understood at the time and many still do not. Sal’s presentations are always well-researched and informative. This one was no different. Watch Sal once, and you’ll be hooked.





SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE THIS SUMMER

Music, literature, science, art, the past, or the present: Pick one or more to broaden your mind this summer at **SUGA**.

IN-PERSON CLASSES

Norman Slawsky will be leading “**Current Events 2023**” featuring speakers on climate change and teacher retirement. Also speaking will be a local TV reporter discussing the news media and a representative of the International Refugee Committee (IRC) with a report on the Atlanta refugee community. Two of the sessions will be class discussions of other timely issues.

Learn to see with an artist’s eyes as **Betsy Alexander** teaches “**Draw from Life.**” Whether you are a beginner or want to improve your drawing, this will be a great class for you. You’ll need a sketchbook and pencils.

You won’t want to miss “**The Origins of Rock and Roll (Part 1)**” led by musician **Tom Dell**. You’ll go back in time by watching and hearing audio-video files of music through 1959. What memories will roll into your mind?

Led by **David McCowen**, “**Six Days That Unexpectedly Changed America**” includes six documentaries on less well-known events that were nonetheless pivotal moments in our history. Discussion will follow after each film.

ZOOM CLASSES

“**The Heart is a Lonely Hunter: A Study of the Novel**” will be led by **Bonnie Hoyt**. Some of us thought that in the 21st century we

might no longer have to deal with racism, inequality, and injustice in the U.S. We were wrong. That's why a blockbuster book published in 1940 by 23-year-old Southern writer Carson McCullers is still relevant today. **"Understanding the Weather and Climate of Georgia"** "If you don't like the weather, wait a minute," is an old saying that seems to get truer every day. **Dr. Zachary Handlos** from GA Tech, reveals the mysteries of weather, including how to read a weather map and which weather "events" most impact Georgia.

REQUEST FROM OUR CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

One of our most popular interactive courses is **BIOGRAPHIES**. This year the topic is expanded to include an account of the life or history of something (such as an animal, a coin, a location or a building). Each week, two thirty-minute biographies (or one hour-long biography) of famous, infamous, or just plain interesting people or other things are presented by our members. We are looking for those of you who would like to join us with your chosen biography as part of the class we plan to offer this fall. This will be a live class at RBC for eight weeks beginning mid-September.

Kay Collins is heading up this class and would love to hear from you. Please contact her or **Art Slavin**, either in person or at kayjcollins@bellsouth.net or arthur.slavin@att.net. Thanks for your support.

ART'S CORNER

The Genius of Steven Wright***
(Think about it.)



- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, But she left me before we met.

12 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?

13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
- 19 - I intend to live forever ... So far, so good.
- 20 - If Barbie is so popu, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.
- 25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- 34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- 35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

***Steven Wright is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, and film producer. He is known for his distinctly lethargic voice and slow, deadpan delivery of ironic, philosophical, and sometimes nonsensical jokes. (WIKIPEDIA)

SUGA FIELD TRIPS

From time to time, SUGA organizes field trips for the further enrichment of its students. Below, we would like to share some of what has been experienced.

May 18, 2023

The Legacy Museum & National Memorial for Peace and Justice

A group of participants left from the Atlanta area, and met up with additional participants in Montgomery, AL, to visit The Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and broke bread at Pannie-George's Kitchen.

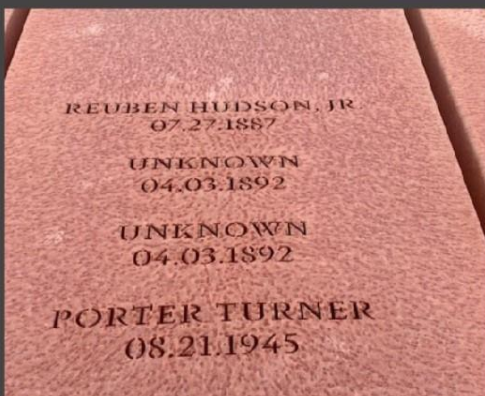
Field Trips:
Not just for kids!



www.su-ga.org/field-trips

SUGA Field Trip
May 18, 2023

- The Legacy Museum
- National Memorial for Peace and Justice
- Pannie-George's Kitchen



Field Trip article submitted by Lauren Wood-Viscardi

BOOK CLUB 2023

SELECTIONS COMING UP

July 12

The Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Grace Katz

August 16 Homegoing by Yea Gyasi
September 20 The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
November 1 The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

Contact **Kay Collins** if you are interested in leading a discussion
or have any questions, or you can email SUGA at:

SugaAtlanta@gmail.com

WEBSITE

DONATION

Senior University of Greater Atlanta, Inc
A Non-Profit 501C3 Organization
Our 44th year!
Sugaatlanta@gmail.com

