

OLLI Authors



Ann Karson grew up in South Africa, attended the University of Cape Town and trained as a social worker. She became an activist against apartheid and was restricted, which resulted in her leaving the country in 1966. She then did a post-graduate diploma in psychiatric social work at the London School of Economics, and worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital. In London, she met her American husband, who was then teaching in Minnesota.

Ann was a clinical social worker in psychiatry in Minnesota and Connecticut. She came to Asheville in 1992, and travelled with her lecturer husband, often teaching psychiatric workshops or lecturing on cruise ships. Both taught at OLLI too. After his death in 2008, she became more active at OLLI, teaching and serving on Committees. Then, with others, she started an Asheville Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, which currently takes much of her time.

Ann has experimented with writing verse since childhood, but only became serious in about 1995, when she attended a poetry writing class at the College for Seniors. Since then, she has been a member of poetry and prose writing groups, mostly writing poetry. She published a few poems in literary journals in the nineties and intends to produce a book in the next year or so.