

The FCAAE Insider

? Spring is Here!! ?



From the Executive Director

Happy Spring! It's been a gray winter and I'm ready to feel revitalized by sun, warmer temperatures, and color.

If you are too, look no further than FCAAE to help you get motivated and have fun. Join our friendly, active, and energizing classes however it's best for you, online or in-person.

The board and I are refreshed after a lively winter of planning. We are excited about our spring courses with their focus on helping you increase your energy, explore creative outlets, and get fit in both mind and body. Some classes began in early March but there are still lots of new spring classes waiting for you!

Remember, *we exist for you!* Your input is valuable. Click the button below to share future class ideas... or...tell us what you would like to teach! As our feature article shows, any passion can become a great class because *"There's always 'one more thing' to learn!"* — Steve Jobs

Sue Goodwin, Executive Director

[Tell Us What You'd Like](#)



**Fox Chapel Area
Adult Education**
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

FCAAE is *solely dedicated* to providing a wide range of adult learning opportunities. It is not an additional thing we do...it is **WHAT** we do.

We exist to inspire adults of all backgrounds to embrace lifelong learning as a pathway to personal growth and vibrant communities.

Quotes of the Quarter

"Once again, I am awed by the classes offered, the variety, and the teachers..." Connie M.

"FCAAE is a wonderful program. A true asset to our community." Sharon G.

Instructor Highlight Walt McGhee Teaches Bagpipes!

A Journey From Student to Teacher: Learning to Bagpipe

"I always liked the sound of bagpipes," says Walt McGhee when asked why he started learning to play. But even more he goes on, "I am also a proud 11th generation Scottish American." Walt's family emigrated from Scotland to the American

Colonies in 1653...a perfect incentive to try his hand at bagpiping.

In September 2017 **FCAAE** offered a class in bagpiping. On a whim, Walt took the class. He now says, "...the instrument took hold of me and soon became a way of life". And now that he's retired, it's playing an even larger part.

It has taken a fair amount of time and focus to get to where he is now, seven years later. "The bagpipe is a rather complicated instrument." says Walt McGhee. He continues, "There are 4 reeds inside of the Great Highland bagpipe, so one could argue its like playing 4 instruments at once!"



And Walt's persistence has certainly paid off. He says that he has been "very fortunate to be able to play with the **Carnegie Mellon University Pipes & Drums**. Performing involves a lot of memorization. I've been "well over my skis" since the beginning and probably started performing too early. This experience has put me on an accelerated learning curve." Walt also competes with the **EUSPBA** (Eastern US Pipe Band Association). Pipers are judged and progress from Grade 5 (beginner) to Grade 1 (expert) and eventually to the professional level of Open Piper. Walt is a Grade 4 and is hoping to advance to Grade 3 in the fall. Good Luck, Walt!!

When asked about his biggest challenge with bagpiping, Walt admits: "For me it has been trying to keep up with the (CMU) band. I am surrounded by very good pipers. In one sense, it is helpful because it forces me to improve...The actual playing of the instrument brings me happiness and a sense of accomplishment."

Walt shares a tip to all aspiring bagpipers: "The key is to enjoy the journey and of course practice, practice, practice. Surprisingly, Pittsburgh is full of very good pipers and instructors. We're lucky in that regard."

- **The Pittsburgh Piping Society**
- **Eastern US Pipe Band Association**
- **The History of Bagpipes**, by the Scotia Pipers

And we're lucky to have Walt McGhee teaching **Bagpipes for Beginners**, starting April 2 for six weeks.

Guess The Decade!

A fun look at past classes offered by FCAAE
(answers below)

Civil Defense: Radiation

Foreign Language: Farsi

Microwave Cooking: Easter Meal

Slimnastics for Women

Football and the Weekend Widow

Chickens In Your Backyard

Charm and Personal Improvement

Jazz Exercise

Thank you to all who donate, support, register, and teach for FCAAE. We would not exist without you!

Answers: 1962. 2008. 1986. 1970. 1984.

1981. 2015. 1965. 1996. 1992.



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