

January 2024

# THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



## DANCING INTO THE NEW YEAR AMONG FRIENDS



*Clockwise from bottom left: Dance teacher Traci Romine, the subject of this month's profile; high fashion and fun at the holiday party (two photos); Betty Koval, whose article inside details the joys and rewards of serving in OLLI leadership; board elections are coming up; a "new" Game Day in the lounge — but the history article says such things have been done before in our 30 years together.*



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# A VOYAGE FROM THE OLD WORLD TO THE NEW



Christopher Columbus' voyages of discovery were never like ours.

As Columbus had done 531 years earlier, we sailed across the Atlantic from Spain to the Caribbean, taking advantage of centuries of progress but making our own discoveries.

Patrice and I joined Andy and Amelia Powell — longtime friends

and fellow members of OLLI at UAH — for a two-week cruise that started near Rome, crossed the Mediterranean, stopped in Spain and the Azores, and docked in Fort Lauderdale.

In an auditorium/theater that could have held several of Columbus' primitive ships, we listened to lectures that could have been an OLLI course. (Gray hair and hearing aids told me that most everyone in the audience could have been an OLLI member, too.)

The professor educated us about Europeans who explored the New World and traded spices, cotton, sugar, tobacco, coffee and other commodities. They "discovered" lands already populated by civilized people, whom they displaced, exploited, murdered and sometimes enslaved, often with the blessing of supposedly superior European religions.

Columbus did not have the internet. But we stayed in touch with home and watched Alabama kill Georgia's chance for a national football championship while reviving its own chance.

That game thrilled Andy and Amelia (but not UGA graduates Steve and Patrice), and Andy's Bama hat provoked conversations with strangers in the ship's restaurants and nightclubs.

Andy and Amelia met Sean K. Hopkins, 33, who was a Troy University student while I was teaching there and may be the most famous person on our cruise. Sean graduated in 2014. We don't recall meeting each other on campus, but he knows my niece, who was a fellow theater student.

@seankhopkins is a social media influencer on TikTok. Among other things, he takes back-to-back cruises and reports adventures to his 113,800 followers. One of his live video feeds can attract more viewers than our ship's 2,500 to 3,000 passengers. (His review of the ship's art is at [tinyurl.com/cruise-art](https://tinyurl.com/cruise-art).) He makes money from sponsors who want to reach those followers.

Social media influencers weren't a thing when I was 29 and placed a sticker on my typewriter that said, "Trust someone over 30." Now I trust young people to bring me up to date.



Somewhere in the Atlantic or the Caribbean, OLLI members Amelia and Andy Powell converse with social media influencer Sean K. Hopkins, a graduate of Troy University in Alabama. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

Happy new year, and may wanderlust and curiosity open new worlds for you.

**Inside *The Insider*:** Helen Crawford shot two pages of holiday party photos. Some partiers may have learned to dance from Traci Romine, as Glen Adams notes in his profile of her.

Bob Carroll and Clay Williams address many subjects, including the nearly 70 courses offered in spring semester, which starts this month. (See the course guide and registration information at [tinyurl.com/olli-spring2024](https://tinyurl.com/olli-spring2024).)

Nancy Darnall addresses the ongoing 30th-anniversary celebration, including Inside OLLI on Feb. 9 and the OLLI Art Festival starting March 29. You'll see a picture inside from Game Day, a weekly event that started Dec. 6. We thought it was the *first* Game Day, but Sue Chatham's historical article says the first one was 10 years ago. At least, the folks back then *thought* it was the first.

John Mason, Jill Stewart and Betty Koval invite you to help run OLLI and describe benefits to you and to the organization. Chris Stuhlinger says he's looking for someone to replace him as events chair, but in the meantime his committee is offering a rich variety of events in the next few months. Chris and Steve Jones give an update on the new member interest group for hikers and bikers.

In John's history column, he describes the controversial U.S. diplomacy that preceded the Korean War.

Irene Garoppo invites you to nominate a Volunteer of the Year. Leah Black seeks entries for the photo contest and helpers to conduct it. Marilynn Szecholda notes that open house on Jan. 5 will offer snacks in the lounge as well as course information and talk with teachers.

**Steve Stewart**  
Editor, The OLLI Insider

### UNCLE JOHN SAYS, 'I WANT YOU FOR OLLI!'



As we start into a New Year, I'd like to steer a slightly different tack from my usual articles and talk about one of the aspects of being an OLLI member that is often overlooked: volunteerism.

In his 2000 book "Bowling Alone," Robert Putnam tells us that volunteering has decreased dramatically across America since the 1960s, and that volunteer organizations are be-

coming more and more the product of small groups of individuals who band together to keep organizations alive and thriving.

Those groups' determination is to be admired, for they are often the difference between success and failure. But the situation is also problematic because of adverse perceptions but, more importantly, because the lack of new ideas and energy is the prescription for an organization's slow demise.

All organizations need a never-ceasing infusion of new blood in order to grow, ours included. And so, like our Uncle Sam, I'm calling on you to get involved.

So let's talk about how and maybe, at the same time, dispel some of the barriers perceived to stand in the way.

I have heard it said that new members may not know where to get information on our operation. Or that impenetrable cliques abound, insisting on running things their way. Or that the websites are not friendly. Or that ... Or that ...

Think back. What was it like when you first went to meet your partner's family? Or when you started your new job? Or when you moved to a new town or new church? New beginnings are always hard. And just as I'm sure happened to you in those situations, getting involved with OLLI is no different. Let me tell you my story.

Much like, I imagine, many of you, I came to OLLI newly retired and looking for something to challenge my senses. I really didn't know anyone in the organization, and for a while didn't necessarily feel included.

But you know what? Inclusion is a two-way street. Sometimes, one has to reach out in order to be pulled in.

And that's what I did: first volunteering to teach a Civil War class, then moving on to being a facilitator, and so forth. And you know what? Once I determined to put some skin in the game, the tables opened up. I made new friends, found new interests, and almost overnight, felt like I'd been part of the family forever.

The result? Well, I couldn't wait to get more involved. You, too, can have the same experience. You just have to hold out your hand.

Now, that being said, OLLI can do a better job of grasping that metaphorical hand and facilitating your inclusion. You've pointed out some areas in which we can improve, and I take addressing those areas as my charge. So let me tell you some of the things currently in the hopper that will, I believe, shortly improve our communication.

First, we're putting together a new-member information packet and program to be instituted, especially at events like our semi-annual open houses. We're preparing information packages with things like the member handbook, term catalogs, the latest *OLLI Insider*, pictures of all board members along with the committees they chair or participate in and a description of what those committees do, campus maps, and anything else that might be of use to a new person.

In addition to those packets, we are planning a number of informational briefings for the entire membership in the coming months.

First, be on the lookout for Jill Stewart's article in this issue of *The Insider* on how to become a member of the Board of Directors and the upcoming elections process.

Next, by now you should have the spring course guide (catalog). There is a wealth of information in that document, so please make sure you have one. Everyone will get one via email, and they are freely available in Wilson Hall and at [tinyurl.com/olli-spring2024](http://tinyurl.com/olli-spring2024).

Mark your calendar for Friday, Jan. 5, from 10 a.m. till noon, for the spring open house to be held in Wilson Hall. It's a great time to reunite with old friends, make some new ones, and find out all about the spring course offerings and other opportunities that await you.

And finally — you still have your calendar out, don't you? — jot down Friday, Feb. 9, for a presentation called "Inside OLLI" to be held from 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 168. This interactive presentation will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about OLLI, how it works, and how *you* can be a part of it.

So you see, we're listening to you and doing everything we can to make our association with you simple, educational and, most importantly, fun. And I can promise you that we will continue to do that as time goes by. Interested? Then why not become a part of the team?

And with that, I'll bid you adieu. Till next time ...

**John Mason**  
**President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**



## CALENDAR

### JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

Jan 5 | Fri | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | In-Person

**Event: OLLI at UAH Spring Open House**  
Wilson Hall Lobby

OLLI members, family, friends, and the community are invited to join us to kick off the Spring 2024 semester. The open house is an opportunity to learn more about OLLI at UAH and discover upcoming courses, bonuses, events, and so much more.

*Presented by Curriculum Committee and the OLLI staff.*

Jan 19 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

**Bonus: Ancient Egypt and the Nile**  
Wilson Hall

Come and immerse yourself in ancient Egyptian culture. Discover incredible sites such as the Pyramids of Giza, Abu Simbel, the Valley of the Kings, and King Tut's tomb on this photographic journey through Egypt. See all this and more as you sail down the historic Nile River on a dahabiyah, a traditional Nile River boat.

*Presented by Tom Ress, avid adventure traveler.*  
*Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members.*

Jan 24 | Wed | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | [In-Person](#)

**Event: New Member Spring Social**  
Wilson Hall

Enjoy tasty treats and meet other new members of OLLI. Learn more about OLLI with a Q&A with staff and veteran members. Open to any OLLI member who has joined in the last year.

*Presented by the OLLI board and the OLLI staff.*  
*Sign-up required. OLLI membership required.*

**Spring Semester starts  
the week of January 29.**

Feb 2 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

**Bonus: "Rainy Street Stories" & "Around the Corner"**  
Wilson Hall

Learn about military intrigue during the Cold War drawn from personal experiences. The presenter's books, *Rainy Street Stories* and *Around the Corner*, describe what our nation expected of our Army counterintelligence soldiers in the secret world of the Cold War and its bitter aftermath. Hear stories of an Army counterintelligence officer as they worked and lived during these tumultuous times.

*Presented by John Davis, a retired former U.S. counterintelligence officer.*

*Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members.*

Feb 9 | Fri | 10:30 am - 1:30 pm | [In-Person](#)

**Event: Inside OLLI**  
Wilson Hall

In celebration of thirty years of lifelong learning, get a detailed view of the inner workings of OLLI. Learn about the organization, its history, functions, and how you can get more involved. This event is geared towards those interested in getting more involved in OLLI. Lunch is provided. FREE.

*Presented by OLLI board and OLLI staff.*  
*Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members*

Feb 16 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

**Bonus: "Picking, Politicking, and Pontificating"**  
**(How an Ex-Cop Legalized Cannabis While Fighting Corruption)**  
Wilson Hall

Hear the story of how childhood trauma helped prepare the presenter for a lifetime of public service. These tragic circumstances transformed him from a homeless teenager to a marine, state trooper, investigator, politician, and ultimately, a storyteller/philosopher/musician who provides an entertaining insider's perspective of the corruption that permeates the world of partisan politics.

*Presented by Mike Ball, a former Alabama State Trooper, agent of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and member of the Alabama House of Representatives.*  
*Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members.*

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## EVENTS COMMITTEE

# WANTED: EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



Happy new year!

The beginning of the new year provides us with opportunities for both renewal and change. I made the decision several months ago that

spring semester 2024 will be my last as chair of the OLLI Events Committee.

I believe that a nonprofit, volunteer organization such as ours, especially when there are many members, should rotate leadership positions every few years to give others the opportunity to serve. I think now is a good time for someone else to take over as committee chair, especially since I will be heading up the new Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group.

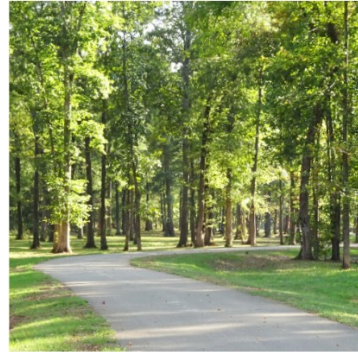
The new chair will hopefully come on in time to oversee the planning of summer events, which is usually due by early March. I plan to oversee the spring events and then stay on as a committee member for at least a while.

Our committee has planned and organized more than 60 events since I became chair in 2021. Many thanks go to committee member Michelle Laverty for her many contributions over the past couple of years, and I appreciate Nancy Noever and Bob Carroll joining the committee recently and helping with events planning for this spring.

If you are interested in becoming chair, or if you know someone who might be interested, please tell me or board President John Mason. You can reach us through [olli.info@uah.edu](mailto:olli.info@uah.edu).

This committee chairperson does not have to be a Board of Directors member, just an OLLI member. This is a great opportunity for someone to provide a valuable and rewarding service to fellow OLLI members!

Many thanks to all who voted at the OLLI holiday party in early December for their preferred events to be offered in 2024. The top four vote totals were



Locations of four coming events sponsored by the Events Committee: Emergency Management Agency, Jan. 26; Dynetics, Feb. 23; Elgie's Walk Greenway, Feb. 24; and UAH Salmon Library and Archives, March 29. Other events will include the Fanfare Quilt Show on March 16 and a tour of Cook Museum of Natural Science on March 22. (Photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

for the Von Braun Observatory & Planetarium, HudsonAlpha, the Historic Decatur Union Depot, and the Downtown Secret Art Trail.

Voters also listed suggestions for events they'd like to see, several of which were already planned this spring semester. Some suggestions were for events beyond the one-hour driving limit from Huntsville. These survey results will help guide the committee's planning for summer and fall.

Listed below are the events scheduled for January, February and March 2024. Note that OLLI staff have now decided to stagger the release of event signup links, which will be available one month prior to each event on the OLLI website and *eNews*.

### OLLI events for January, February and March 2024

Check the OLLI website ([tinyurl.com/olli-bonuses-events](https://tinyurl.com/olli-bonuses-events)) for event signup

links to be released about one month prior to each event. All events require pre-registration and a completed waiver/release form.

- Friday, Jan. 26 — **Emergency Management Agency tour** (downtown Huntsville), 2 to 3 p.m. The Huntsville-Madison County EMA is a city-county government agency serving the population that visits, works and lives in Madison County. Learn how the agency provides emergency preparedness for natural, manmade and health hazards and how the hazards' effects can be mitigated. Attendance is limited to 30 registrants.

*(continued on the next page)*

# WANTED: EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON, CONT

- Friday, Feb. 23 — **Dynetics tour** (Cummings Research Park East, Huntsville), 10 to 11 a.m. Dynetics was founded by Dr. Steve Gilbert and Guntersville native Herschel Matheny in 1974. It was one of several newly organized local enterprises located in the city of Huntsville's zoned research park district (now known as Cummings Research Park East). Some of you may have been students of Dr. Gilbert at either UAH or his "professional development" luncheons in the Teledyne Brown Engineering cafeteria. Dynetics has grown to be a leading provider of advanced, mission-critical services and solutions to the U.S. government. Their tagline is "Designing and building modern solutions from seafloor to space." Attendance is limited to 25 registrants.
- Saturday, Feb. 24 — **Nature walk at Elgie's Walk Greenway** (south Huntsville), 10 a.m. to noon. Enjoy a leisurely nature walk on this greenway between Bell Mountain Park and Grissom High School. The 2-mile paved walking trail leads through fields and woods and has an optional loop around a lake. This greenway will become part of the 70-mile Singing River Trail between Huntsville and Decatur. (This event is also listed as a Hiking & Biking MIG activity.)
- Friday, March 15, or Saturday, March 16 — **Fanfare Quilt Show** (Von Braun Center, South Hall, Huntsville), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday or 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. OLLI members will have the opportunity to view the Fanfare Quilt Show from the perspective of co-chairs Kari Hawk and Cheryl Heeth as they educate us on what makes a show-worthy quilt and why a particular quilt received a certain award. We will also learn what it takes to put on a show of this magnitude. The Fanfare is a quilt show presented every other year by the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville. More than 200 quilts of all sizes and techniques will be displayed, including bed quilts, wall hangings, miniature quilts, art quilts and wool quilts. NOTE: You must choose one of these two tours to attend. OLLI members will pay the \$10 entrance fee at the door. Friday's tour will last past show closing hours. Saturday's tour will begin before the show opens. This tour will take approximately one hour of standing or walking on concrete. Each tour is limited to 20 registrants.
- Friday, March 22 — **Cook Museum of Natural Science** (Decatur), 2 to 4 p.m. Tour the Cook Museum (self-guided) in Decatur to explore, interact with, and learn about nature. See a variety of live animals, and discover amazing exhibits about rivers and streams, caves, oceans, forests, insects and more. Admission price depends on our group size. We need a minimum of 15 people for the \$17 group rate with a single group transaction (pay Chris); otherwise, it's \$20 per person (pay at the door). Attendance is limited to 50 registrants.
- Friday, March 29 — **UAH Salmon Library and Archives tour** (UAH campus), 2:30 to 4 p.m. Access to UAH library services is an important perk of being an OLLI member. Join library staff as they highlight the library's key services, especially the archives and special collections. The library is much more than a place to check out books. Learn about computer stations, a multimedia lab, specialty printers, and more resources available to students and OLLI members. Attendance is limited to 25 registrants.

**Chris Stuhlinger**  
Events Committee Chair



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## UKULELES, HIKING AND A RETURN TO ICELAND



Happy New Year! 2024 — bring it on!

Personally, I am very excited about what I will learn and experience this coming year!

First off is the upcoming class “Beginning Ukulele.” For almost six decades, I have picked guitar and mandolin, starting in the late 1960s

playing in the stereotypical “garage band.” It was indeed such, as we practiced in the garage of my good friend Kent Hardy, who played trumpet.

We fashioned ourselves after the then-popular band Chicago, and likewise had a brass section. Known as The Russian Draft, we actually fared pretty well playing gigs at area high school dances over our two-year existence. I bought a mandolin (with electric pickup, woo-hoo!) and taught myself, and TRD added Rod Stewart’s “Maggie May” to our repertoire.

High school graduations and heading off to college dissolved the band, but what memories were left behind.

But a ukulele is an instrument I have never learned to chord. Mandolin and guitar tuning and chording mirror one another; however, a ukulele is tuned totally differently, including a string out of sequence — think “my dog has fleas.”

My son gifted me a ukulele three years ago, and I have halfheartedly attempted some songs. Thus, when I saw the course offering in the first draft of the spring semester courses, I jumped for joy (well, figuratively, not literally). I am looking forward to the spring Teacher Appreciation banquet, where with ukulele I will serenade one and all!

I am delighted that OLLI at UAH has transferred the hiking/biking category from events to a member interest group category. Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones have done a superb job of organizing these activities in the past; thank you, guys! Now we will have a group that can focus on such activities and more routinely schedule them.

I will become a participant of said team, as I love hiking the Huntsville surrounds whether it’s a strenuous hike on Monte Sano or a leisurely walk at Ditto Landing. Because I am a hike leader for the Land Trust and have become familiar with their preserves, I look forward to participating in the MIG and expanding my familiarization of surrounding trails.

By the way, the new MIG is going to need a leader or co-leaders! Here’s your chance to volunteer within OLLI. Let the leadership know if interested.



Bob Carroll shot this photo in Reykjavic, Iceland, on June 3, 2007. He’s looking forward to going back to Iceland next year with OLLI.

I am taking a sabbatical from teaching my science “trilogy” this spring. It will be revived bigger and better next fall. Meantime, I am going to visit your classes and enjoy getting to know members and instructors all the more.

As a retired secondary teacher, I recall the “uh-oh” feeling I would get when an administrator or peer would show up at the beginning of the class to do an evaluation. I would immediately shift into “horse and pony show” mode and make sure I covered each of the seven or eight PDs (performance dimensions) of the evaluation form. The pen and clipboard held by the evaluator had an uncanny way of bringing unwarranted fear.

Don’t worry if you are an instructor and I take notes when I visit. My desire is to capture the positives from the classroom. I jokingly say that this will not go in your permanent record!

Kudos to our Travel Committee for lining up some great tours. Deb and I have committed to the Iceland trip next September and are soooooo looking forward to the pilgrimage.

Sixteen years ago, we traveled to Germany to be with our then-college-aged son for Christmas vacation. We flew Icelandair to Berlin but had a six-hour layover in Reykjavik, where we were able to spend some time walking around the city. (Icelandair marketing is smart. Spend a short time on the island, and you’ll want to come back. We did!)

(continued on the next page)

### SNACKS WITH TEACHERS DURING OPEN HOUSE



As the wind howls and snow drifts in heaps under my window (I must be dreaming), January is here with OLLI classes and interesting events.

Open house on Friday, Jan. 5, from 10 to noon is a chance to meet our instructors, sign up for classes, and greet friends you haven't seen since last term. It's always so much fun to hear about the new classes and plan

what I want to take during the spring term. I can join friends in the lounge for an array of delicious snacks provided by the Social Committee.

At the "Souper Bowl" in February, we will be repeating a favorite event. Members will bring slow cookers filled with their special soups to share in the lounge. The date is Feb. 16 after the Friday bonus. Look for the signup page in the eNews as the time nears.

During the term, be sure to come to the Early Bird breakfasts, which will be planned on the day that has the most members signed up for classes. We always have casseroles, pastries and fruit for sampling starting at 7:45. Meet in the lounge, and enjoy good food and conversation.



Open house this month will be a social as well as a learning opportunity, as was this fall semester open house on Aug. 11, 2023. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

Also during the term, the Social Committee and the Member Services Committee provide refreshments after each Friday bonus.

Be sure to come and enjoy everything OLLI has to offer in the new term. You'll be happy you did!

**Marilynn Szecholda**  
*Chair, Social Committee*

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### UKULELES, HIKING AND A RETURN TO ICELAND, CONT.

This 2024 trip will check off a box on the ol' bucket list, and I have two objectives: (1) see the aurora borealis and (2) see the beautiful scenery through the lens of my camera. For the latter, I have pre-ordered a newly designed camera backpack. Now I'll have eight months to decide which gear to pack. Decisions, decisions!

Sign up for classes, everyone! We need to add to Clay Williams' stress level as he figures out where we'll accommodate the classes — so many people, so little time! We love you, Clay!

Oh, and be thinking about *teaching*. Yes, you, teaching a class and sharing your knowledge. It won't be long before the committee will be asking for proposals.

Veni, vidi, vici.

**Bob Carroll**  
*Vice President of Curriculum*  
*OLLI at UAH Board of Directors*



# BETTER REST UP NOW!



We hope everyone enjoyed the winter break and is well-rested because the 2024 spring semester looks guaranteed to keep you busy during the first part of the year.

Nearly 70 courses await you for the 13 weeks of spring. We offer a nice combination of courses that are offered either in person, online, or live virtual where you can do both. And as usual, we present many fan favorites such as Writing Your Life Story, Socrates Cafe, Yoga, Tai Chi, and of course classes in beer and wine.

We are truly excited, however, about all the new ones that are sure to fascinate and engage you. Just a sampling of the new courses set to debut this spring includes Alabama in the Supreme Court, An Introduction to J.R.R. Tolkien, Birds and Birding in North Alabama, Living in the Apple Ecosystem, and Improve Your Creativity.

But, as we say, OLLI is much more than taking classes. There are numerous events and tours, bonus presentations on various Fridays, and member interest groups (MIGs). This spring, we offer a new MIG called Hiking & Biking that I know outdoor enthusiasts will want to join.

We continue our celebration of 30 years of lifelong learning with a few special events. Inside OLLI will take place on Feb. 9 and offers an insider's view of what OLLI is all about; this is perfect for those wanting to get more involved. March 29 features an OLLI Art Festival, where you can get your creative juices flowing with fascinating artwork and engaging speakers.

Spring open house will be Friday, Jan. 5, from 10 a.m. to noon — the perfect time to meet instructors and the board and to learn all about what the new semester has to offer. We hope you make plans to attend.

Registration is already well underway, so do not hesitate to sign up for the courses and events that interest you most. With membership climbing, courses and events fill up. So don't miss out. Register *today!*

So rest up now because there is no time later on as OLLI moves full steam ahead in the spring.

**Clay Williams**  
**OLLI at UAH Program Manager**



Rest while you can, and contemplate OLLI opportunities ahead.  
(Art by Microsoft Bing Image Creator)

## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

It is time to register for Spring 2024 courses. Tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://oshers.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration).



### THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY — A HISTORY FOCUSING ON GREAT THEMES

2/5 - 3/18 • M • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 6 sessions • Live Virtual • P. Flowers • \$30

Explore the inception of photography as a recognized art form from its beginnings to its current position. The course will focus on the great themes and some of the master photographers and their creations.



### THE DREADED SPANISH SUBJUNCTIVE!

1/30 - 3/26 • Tu • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 8 sessions • In Person • J. Uithoven • \$35

Spanish uses the subjunctive mood for several purposes, the two most important of which are the imposition of will and a statement involving uncertainty. Mastering all uses of the subjunctive is a significant undertaking, so this course will be limited to present subjunctive noun clauses. These are the most common use in everyday life and, conveniently, the easiest to learn. Join us to start your journey to subjunctive mastery. (It is highly recommended to already be comfortable and conversant using Spanish in the present tense.)



### IMPROVE YOUR CREATIVITY — ANY MEDIUM OF ART

1/31 - 3/6 • W • 3:15 - 4:45 pm • 6 sessions • In Person-Off Campus • J. Taylor • \$30

It's time to get creative and think outside of the box as we create art! Course will use several different types of exercises to develop and improve your creative skills. We welcome any medium and any discipline.



### SOCIOLOGY AND EVERYDAY LIFE

2/1 - 3/7 • Th • 10:30 am - Noon • 6 sessions • In Person • S. Keiser • \$30

Survey the characteristics of social life and processes of social interaction. Investigate how society's culture and social organization shape actions and influence everyday life. Explore the connections between society and all aspects of social life, such as family, work, social inequality and politics. Better understand the world around you by developing a "sociological imagination."

## Save 20%

*When you register for 4 or more term courses at once.*



### CONTRIBUTE PHOTOS OR YOUR TIME TO CONTEST



Just a few words to wish everyone a very happy new year and express hope that the year brings days of joy and good health to all.

Don't forget the OLLI photo contest. Time is getting shorter to shoot that interesting picture to submit.

More help in running the photo contest is needed, so let us know if you are interested.

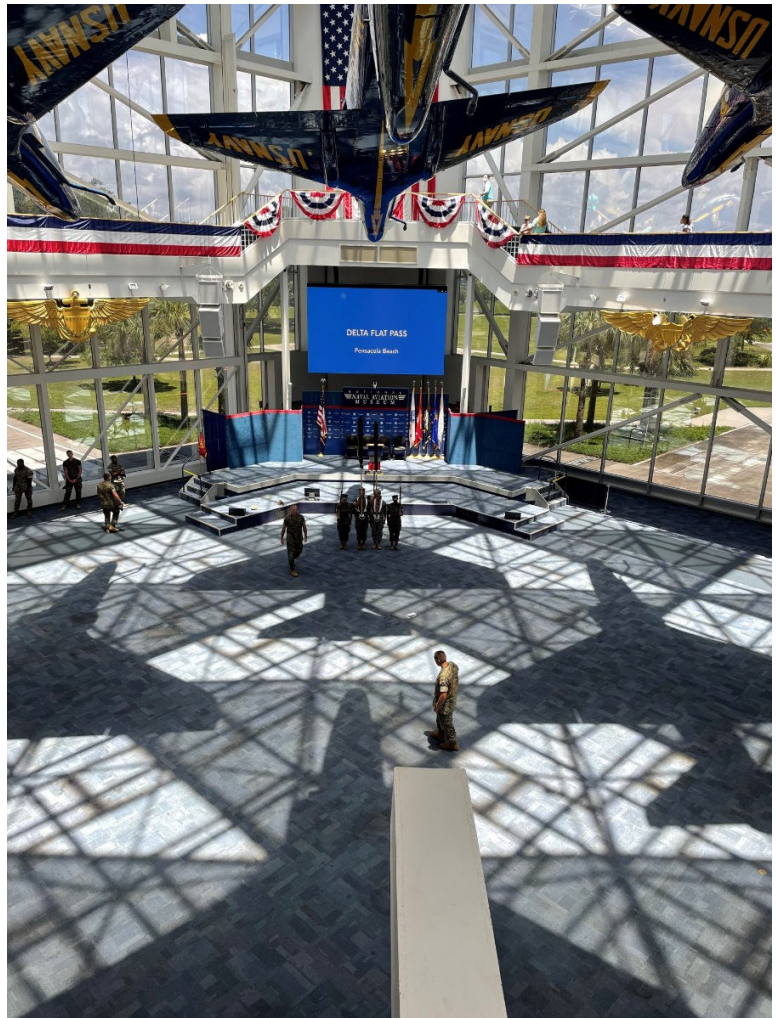
Can't wait to see OLLI friends again? Remember the member interest groups for Bridge, Tai Chi, Mah-Jongg and Art Studio are still meeting.

Classes will be starting toward the end of the month, and soon there will be bonus sessions and tasty snacks, coffee, and chances to get together with friends in the OLLI lounge again.

We will be looking forward to seeing you soon.

**Leah Black**  
**Member Services Committee Chair**

"Flight, Light, and Shadow" by Sue Farbman won the 2023 photo contest.



## MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

### NATURE WALK WILL INAUGURATE HIKING MIG

We are excited to offer the new Hiking & Biking MIG (Member Interest Group) for OLLI members. Activities will include hikes, nature walks and bike rides in the greater Huntsville area.

We plan to offer three to six MIG activities per semester. MIGs usually operate somewhat independently, so members should sign up to “join” this MIG to receive regular updates and announcements/registration links for upcoming events. Many of you have already joined this MIG, so we really appreciate the great interest!

Join the MIG: [forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9](https://forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9).

As mentioned in the December newsletter, we have received approval from UAH to allow members of the Hiking & Biking MIG to agree to the waiver/release form one time (preferably when they join the MIG) to cover only hiking, nature walk and biking MIG activities as long as their OLLI membership is valid (which will be verified).

#### Next MIG activity

- Saturday, Feb. 24 — **Nature walk at Elgie’s Walk Greenway** (south Huntsville), 10 a.m. to noon. Enjoy a leisurely nature walk on this greenway between Bell Mountain Park and Grissom High School. The 2-mile



paved walking trail leads through fields and woods and has an optional loop around a lake. This greenway will become part of the 70-mile Singing River Trail between Huntsville and Decatur. (This event is also listed as an event to help with the transition.) Sign up for the Feb. 24 nature walk: [forms.gle/rLuWfFXwzj6CFJfy6](https://forms.gle/rLuWfFXwzj6CFJfy6). Details will be sent out two or three days prior to this walk to all who signed up.

See you on the trail!

**Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones**

## WEEKLY GAME DAYS IN THE LOUNGE



The first recent Game Day in the OLLI lounge was Dec. 6. Come to 152D Wilson Hall at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in January bring your favorite games for afternoon fun and friends. (Photo by John Mason)



## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### WHO'S YOUR CHOICE FOR VOLUNTEER OF YEAR?



Welcome back from the weeks of holidays — hope everyone had an enjoyable break. It's that time of year again — time to think about this year's Volunteer of the Year award.

The Volunteer of the Year (VoY) is an annual award based on nominations from the OLLI membership. This year's award covers the period from spring 2023 through early spring 2024.

We're still taking classes using many different avenues — in person, Zoom, a mixture of both, and of course Alabama Shares. We have members serving in many capacities as committee members, instructors, facilitators, board members and bonus presenters.

We are looking at OLLI at UAH members who are visible in our daily business (instructors, facilitators, office workers) as well as those who work diligently behind the scenes (office ambassadors, committee members, snack providers).

If they volunteered anytime during this past year, March 2023 through February 2024, they're eligible. Because of the new term structure (a year or so ago, OLLI reduced the number of semesters), there can be some overlap of those volunteers who work during the spring.

Candidates are selected based on nominations received from the OLLI membership at large. You can nominate any volunteer you'd like as long as they're a UAH OLLI member, and you can submit as many different nominations as you'd like.

If you want to nominate someone but you think they've already been nominated by someone else, do it anyway. Every year, it seems as though someone is mentioned in passing, yet the individual wasn't nominated — so be sure to think about all the volunteers and nominate if you think someone is deserving of this honor.

The request for nominations will be posted in the weekly *eNews* and mentioned by class facilitators. There will be a link in the *eNews* for your convenience. All nominations will be electronic; manual nominations will not be accepted.

This year's VoY nomination window will open on or about Feb. 12 and will remain open until March 8. Nominees will be validated by a small committee for eligibility, and a winner will be recommended to the Board of Directors for final selection.

The winner will be announced and presentations made during the OLLI annual meeting/dinner. If for some reason we are unable to host an annual dinner, the winner will be announced via the *eNews* and in the summer newsletter.

The recipient will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the OLLI board president, a small trophy/memento, and a registration certificate for the following fall term. Their name will be placed on the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office.

Be sure to start thinking today about whom you may want to nominate, and watch for the notice in the *eNews*. We invite everyone to stop by the office and view the plaque that shows past winners.

**Irene Garoppo**  
**Volunteer Support Committee Chair**

Marilynn Szecholda (left) receives last year's Volunteer of the Year award from Irene Garoppo during the annual dinner held April 27, 2023.  
(Photo by Philip Flowers)



# BOARD ELECTIONS: YOUR TIME TO SHINE



Have you noticed that our refrigerator doors can say a lot about us? Among the invitations, appointment cards and family pics attached to mine, there sits a small card with a favorite quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead:

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

While I know that Dr. Mead was likely referring to grand societal and political changes sparked by a few inspired individuals, I have also found that "thoughtful, committed" members of any organization have the same power to provide positive, creative and forward-thinking leadership to advance the worthy purposes of the group. The organization I have in mind here is — OLLI at UAH.

Just as surely as the new year follows the old one, the election cycle for your OLLI Board of Directors starts again this month. And with it comes *your* (yes, I mean *you*) opportunity to consider lending your time and talents to serve this organization that enriches all our lives. So please read on to learn how this works.

OLLI is governed by a volunteer board of directors, elected by the full membership. Board members are elected for a three-year term and *may* serve up to two consecutive terms, but then must rotate off for an interval. This means that approximately one-third of our board membership changes every election cycle.

That cycle started recently with the formation of the Nominating Committee. Our Nominating Committee is co-chaired by the past president of OLLI and a representative of our host UAH department, the Louis Salmon Library. In addition, there are three other OLLI volunteer representatives, including at least one current board member and one member at large.

Beginning this month, we will seek and encourage people in our membership who have an interest in serving OLLI as board members. Nomination forms will be provided online. Individuals may nominate themselves, or others may nominate an individual with the nominee's permission. The committee will review and ensure that the candidates meet the requirements for board candidacy — primarily being an OLLI member for at least one year.

A ballot with all the candidates will be made available for a three-week voting period in March. Following the election, winners will be contacted and invited to the April board meeting to meet the existing board members. They will be formally inducted at the May meeting to begin their three-year commitments.

Also at that meeting, the newly seated board will have its first important responsibility: electing the members of the Executive Board. This includes a president, vice president of curriculum, vice president of administration and finance, secretary and treasurer of the organization.

What do we expect of our board members? First, that each will honor the three-year commitment of time and talents to the organization. Next, we ask that they choose two of our standing committees to serve most actively. Committees are the real workhorses that keep OLLI vibrant and flourishing.

But why, you might ask, is this important to you? Because *you* are our reason for existence. And so, by volunteering, your ideas and actions infuse new life and direction into your program.

Yes, it's an awesome responsibility, but think how proud you'll be when you can say, "I helped build that!" And all that's needed for that to happen is for you to volunteer.

Please feel free to ask any board member about any details or questions you may have. We're saving you a chair.

**Jill Stewart**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**



Put your name up for consideration. The actual ballot will be online. (Art generated largely by Microsoft Bing Image Creator)



## WHAT SERVING ON OLLI'S BOARD MEANS TO ME



There is a date looming in my future: May 2025. That is when my six years of service (two terms) on the OLLI at UAH Board of Directors will end.

It will be a sad day for me because I will step away from being a part of a group of people who make things happen at OLLI — the engine of the organization with the guidance

and help of our wonderful staff.

I know many of you think, “No, *never!*” when someone approaches you to ask if you will consider serving on the OLLI board. I am asking you to reconsider that first thought because I want to ask you these few questions about being a member of OLLI at UAH:

- How many wonderful new friends have you made by going to OLLI?
- What new learning opportunities have you experienced and what knowledge have you gained by the wonderful courses offered? Thanks to Bob Carroll and the Curriculum Committee's hard work and diligence, we have so many to choose from.
- Have you taken a course in a skill (such as drawing or knitting because these are the ones I have tried) and found a new hobby or just something fun to dabble in? Hey, have you even met authors you may never have heard of (I am kind of partial to this class)?
- Have you always wanted to learn another language, perhaps to learn about the solar system (I knew so little) or the history of every war? Have you wanted to trace your genealogy or learn more about photography, using your cellphone camera, or Shakespeare (I'll bet you remember very little from high school or college)? What about the opera or art history?
- What about going to events around Huntsville and seeing venues in depth rather than just passing by? Thanks to Chris Stuhlinger, we have had various opportunities.
- What about the travel? This is where you truly make and meet people who often become great friends or like family.
- Have you tried one of the member interest groups (MIGs) — Let's Play Bridge, Tai Chi, Mah-Jongg, Dining Out, Artist Studio (a recent addition), and our most recent MIG, Hiking & Biking?

I am so pleased that so many people enjoy coming together with such a variety of interests. For instance, the Artist Studio members bring a variety of art projects to work on and socialize together. How great is that? *Community* is what we are all about. What is your community at OLLI?



Betty and Bill Koval hike with other OLLI at UAH members in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Aug. 13, 2022. Betty is in front, and Bill is wearing the hat. Betty was OLLI's travel chair.

(Photo by Steve Stewart)

The Socials — Marilyn Szecholda and her committee — have supplied us with many opportunities to get together, including the holiday party, annual dinner and countless bonus socials. She is often assisted by Leah Black (Member Services chair) in making sure there is plenty of coffee in the lounge.

We have the best courses led by the best instructors because we have inquisitive people who like to learn and ask lots of questions. This does not just happen — people make this happen. It all begins with the Board of Directors.

Well, actually, it all begins with our fantastic staff, for without them we would have nothing. I know I mentioned this before, but it bears repeating. The staff cannot be everywhere all the time, so that is where our volunteers come into play. And that begins with the board.

As a board member, you serve a three-year term (two terms maximum). You are asked whether you will chair a committee and serve on at least two committees. If you chair a committee, you are automatically on the Administration and Finance Committee because you need to be in on the budget planning for your committee. See, there you go, easy-peasy!

(continued on the next page)



## WHAT SERVING ON OLLI'S BOARD MEANS TO ME, CONT

Serving on a committee is such fun. Oh now, don't get me wrong, it does involve a bit of effort. I mean, what doesn't require work if you want good things to happen? Seriously now, you are all intelligent folks who have worked in some prestigious careers — you know the drill about input versus output. *You get it!*

I had the honor of being Travel Committee chair. I admit that most of my tenure was during the pandemic, but we did manage a few trips after the end of that nightmare. The co-chairs of that committee now, Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein, are excellent, and we are in good hands. Four or five trips are in the offing for 2024.

I have moved to another avenue of helping, and that is procuring interesting bonus speakers. I have some hard acts to follow, but Glen Adams has been such a great help. I don't think there is anyone he does not know. I hope we have done a good job so far and will continue to have topics interesting and entertaining to each of you.

For the past few years, it has been my honor to serve as secretary for the board. This also means I am part of the Executive Committee. I am telling you: Yes, at times it can feel like work, but — and this is what gives me pause — I *believe* I am a part of something so wonderful for seasoned adults, and if my itty-bitty cog keeps this great big machine turning, then all the better.

I have always said, when someone tries to make whatever little bit I do sound more important than it really is, "I am just a little cog, hopefully making this machine run smoothly." I *love* feeling like I am contributing to OLLI, whether leading a class, bringing a dish to a Souper Bowl for the bonus, doing minutes each month, attending classes, or just sitting in the lounge and listening to everyone laugh and talk like a big family.

Bill and I have both said this is the best thing we could have ever done since retirement. We both volunteer with a couple of things in Decatur, where we live — yes, we do drive over *lots* for OLLI things. Many of our friends in Decatur think us mad for driving over so much, but they are the ones missing out.

The OLLI experience is many things to many people, but it also takes many people to make it happen. Thanks to all who help make it successful. I also recognize our demographic: Some people are just not physically able to do more than attend classes, and that is a value unto itself.

*But*, if you can at all give a little more of yourself and your time, please do reconsider that "no" answer and run for the board. Make things happen, and I promise you will make closer friends and some even will become like family. There is a bond between people who work closely, and

here at OLLI it is a mutual love of learning and socializing.

Remember this adage: *You get out of something only what you put in.*

I truly hope I have encouraged someone by the experiences I have had serving on the board. I still have a year and a half to proudly serve. Hopefully, I will meet new people who will become friends also. I understand we have five or six board openings. You can fill one of them. I look forward to working with you.

A special thanks to all those who got us where we are today. We stand on the shoulders of some fine individuals who dedicated many years to make this OLLI thing something to build upon, and we continue to offer our demographic such a variety of classes, events, travel, MIGs and bonuses. Many have passed on, but several are still here cheering us on.

*Thank you* for the first 30 years, and may we make you proud by continuing what you started and passing it on to future retirees who may enjoy the community called OLLI.

**Betty Koval**  
**Secretary, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**

**Did you know that at age 70.5, you are eligible to make a distribution from your IRA directly to support OLLI?**

Benefits include:

- Your distribution will not be taxed.
- You may give up to \$100,000 annually or \$200,000 for a married couple!
- At age 73, your distribution will offset the Required Minimum Distribution.
- You can direct the gift to the area of your choice.
- The distribution could lower your tax bracket.



[uahlegacy.org/#getintouch](http://uahlegacy.org/#getintouch)

## A TRAVEL AGENDA FOR ALL SEASONS



Nancy Darnall is OLLI's coordinator for this Road Scholar trip and may be reached at [olli.info@uah.edu](mailto:olli.info@uah.edu). If you are interested in learning more, click [tinyurl.com/olli-ca-art](https://tinyurl.com/olli-ca-art).



OLLI travelers will enjoy adventures in every season in 2024.

**In January** a dozen or so OLLI members will be touring museums and gardens of southern California.

**In March** a large cadre of OLLI folks will enjoy touring Georgia's delightful barrier islands during OLLI's spring break. The trip is at capacity now, but Road Scholar maintains a wait list if you are interested. See contact information at [tinyurl.com/olli-ga-islands](https://tinyurl.com/olli-ga-islands).

**In July** we are teamed with Grand Circle Travel for OLLI's "Ireland in Depth" trip. There are spaces available, and we encourage you to look into this adventure in cool and friendly Ireland with pre- and post-trips to extend the fun. See [tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth](https://tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth). You may also contact Linda McAllister through [olli.info@uah.edu](mailto:olli.info@uah.edu).

**In September** OLLI travelers (30 maximum) are looking forward to an adventure of a lifetime and most likely experiencing a display of the aurora borealis. Please read Bob Carroll's account of his first trip to Iceland and his excitement

about this upcoming trip in this issue of *The OLLI Insider*. See trip details at [tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights](https://tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights). If you would like more information about this trip, and/or the link to the Nov. 1 webinar recording, please contact Chris Stuhlinger through [olli.info@uah.edu](mailto:olli.info@uah.edu).

### Planning to travel in 2025?

This is the time to be thinking of travel options for a year from now. We have a pretty firm commitment for a trip in late spring or early summer with OLLI members traveling to Pittsburgh. Michelle Lavery is coordinating that trip. Watch for future articles in this section of *The Insider*.

Other suggestions for travel destinations include Great Lakes; short educational trips to nearby locations; South and Central America; Portugal; Road Scholar's "Essential Arkansas"; and cities such as Houston, San Antonio and Santa Fe. What a smorgasbord of ideas for your wanderlust! These are projects your OLLI Travel Committee will be working on, *so help us out!* Let us know what you have on your bucket list. Contact Jane and Ed through [olli.info@uah.edu](mailto:olli.info@uah.edu).

As always, we welcome your inputs; and if you're so inclined, become a member of the OLLI Travel Committee. Tell us about your favorite travel adventures — you may become a star reporter for *The OLLI Insider*.

**Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein**  
**Travel Committee Co-Chairs**



Iceland is one of four destinations for OLLI tours this year.



## TRACI ROMINE: SHALL WE DANCE?

If at the recent OLLI Christmas party several OLLI members seemed particularly adept on the dance floor, it may be due to Traci Romine.

Traci has taught dance classes at OLLI since 2018 and is a professional dance instructor. Traci is this month's *Insider* profile.

Traci was born in West Berlin, where her father was serving in the Army. But she grew up in Chestertown, Maryland, with her parents and a younger sister. Her father was director of dining services at Chestertown's Washington College.

Dancing has always been part of her life.

"I have always loved dancing," said Traci. "I took formal classes in tap, ballet, pointe and baton from age 3 until high school." In high school, she also performed and was an assistant director in school productions.

But what may be most remarkable about her early life is that beginning in high school, she was her church's Sunday school superintendent for 10 years and was the youngest member of the church council.

Traci attended Washington College and worked for several years in local retail, food and insurance businesses.

Then in 2002 her life took a major turn.

"I was about to become an aunt for the first time," Traci recalled. "My sister had moved to Huntsville with her husband. My parents were moving to be with the grandbaby. I was ready for a life change, so I moved, too — which I now realize was God's plan.

"In 2003, I answered an ad for a ballroom dance instructor — no experience needed — at Kinesthetic Cue Dance Club. I was 29 years old and had found my calling."

She soon found more than that. In 2005, she married James, who was one of her students. (James is a machinery programmer.)



Traci Romine with husband James (top right) and teaching dance students in her studio.

"Our mutual interest in ballroom dancing turned into a business opportunity in 2007 when we opened Madison Ballroom Dance Studio," said Traci. "Unfortunately, we had to close in 2020 because of COVID, but with a lot of hard work we were able to build a new studio and reopen in January 2023.

"We have complementary skills, which creates a strong studio. I teach and manage the studio, while James works behind the scenes and keeps the place standing."

Traci teaches ballroom and rhythm styles ranging from waltz to cha-cha to tango to swing. She gives both private lessons and group classes. She herself trains with national and international dance champions who visit her studio. (Anyone interested in dance lessons can contact Traci at [dance@madisonballroom.com](mailto:dance@madisonballroom.com) or 256-461-1900.)

"Ballroom dancing has been life-changing for me," said Traci. "I met my husband ballroom dancing. I have watched my grandparents jitterbug,

and I treasure my dance with my grandfather at my wedding.

"I have made wonderful friends from diverse backgrounds through dance. Sharing the love of dance has enriched my relationships and created great memories."

And then came OLLI.

"I was surprised by such a great opportunity," said Traci. "Would I be interested in teaching at OLLI? Yes! I have taught classes every term since 2018, except for the two COVID years. I have taught a wide variety of dances from swing to cha-cha to foxtrot to line dancing.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed helping with OLLI because of the people. The members are enthusiastic, active, inspiring and fun. I'm honored to have many repeat students."

Traci will teach two courses during spring semester: "Let's Swing Dance" and "Let's Waltz."

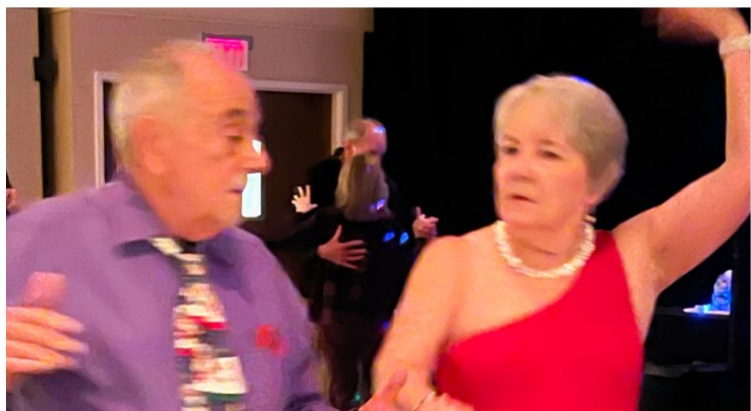
Thanks, Traci, for all you do for OLLI.

**By Glen Adams**



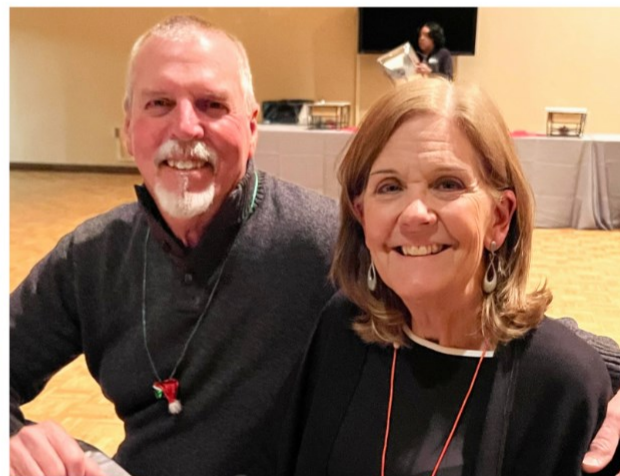
## HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, HIGH FASHION

At OLLI's annual holiday party Dec. 7 in the Conference Training Center, DJ Ted Cannon provided music and John Mason, president of the Board of Directors, set a fashion benchmark by wearing his kilt.





## OLLI MEMBERS CUT LOOSE AT HOLIDAY PARTY



(Photos by Helen Crawford)



## THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

# DID YOU KNOW ...? AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY

### January: Dean Acheson sets a disastrous path

In a speech to the National Press Club on Jan. 12, 1950, Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson capped off the chain of events in what is considered among the most important and controversial U.S. policy statements in the early history of the Cold War in East Asia.

In it, he defined the American “defensive perimeter” in the Pacific as a line running through Japan, the Ryukyus and the Philippines — a line denying the guarantee of U.S. military protection to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan.

Less than six months later, North Korea launched a military offensive across the 38th parallel that nearly succeeded in imposing communist rule over the entire peninsula.

Acheson had two primary motivating factors for giving the speech.

First, the Truman administration was trying to implement a new China policy after the victory of the communists in the Chinese Civil War. By late 1949, President Harry Truman and Acheson had decided that the People's Republic of China (PRC) would launch an invasion of Taiwan, and the president was determined to remain uninvolved, explaining that while the United States would continue economic aid to Taiwan, U.S. military aid and advice would cease.

Such an approach, Truman insisted, proved that the United States had no predatory designs on Chinese territory and sought no specific privileges or military bases.

His second goal was to build support for U.S. policy in South Korea. Since the fall of 1947, the United States had been pursuing a policy there that sought to eliminate its commitment to military protection, but without ensuring communist conquest of the ROK as a result of either internal political subversion or external military invasion.

This explains the U.S. decision to postpone withdrawal of its occupation forces until late June 1949, defying objections from our own military.

Just three months earlier, Truman had approved National Security Council (NSC) Paper 8/2, which outlined steps for the creation of a South Korea that would achieve the economic, military and political strength necessary to provide for its own survival with American financial aid and diplomatic support. A key provision of that plan was a three-year program of economic assistance that required congressional approval.

But Congress refused to pass the Korean aid bill, forcing the administration to settle for a continuation of temporary economic assistance to South Korea until Feb. 15, 1950.



A map of Southeast Asia in 1950 showing the China-Korea-Taiwan sphere of influence. (Edited from a Library of Congress map)

Economic deterioration in the ROK in the fall of 1949 further reduced prospects for approval of a long-term aid package.

So Acheson went to the Press Club seeking to build support for passage of the Korean aid bill by demonstrating that this U.S. policy in Korea would have a better outcome than that which had taken place in China. Unfortunately, scholars focused their attention instead on assessing Acheson's reference to the U.S. “defensive perimeter” and ignored the remainder of the speech.

In fact, outlining the U.S. “defensive perimeter” was meant as an attempt to persuade South Korea not to unilaterally resort to military aggression against the North to achieve reunification. It was perhaps too subtle an attempt to caution the South Koreans that the United States would not absolutely guarantee their military security.

*(continued on the next page)*



### DID YOU KNOW ...? AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY, CONT

It didn't help that Gen. Douglas MacArthur — perhaps with growing presidential aspirations — had in March 1949 placed South Korea outside the same “defensive perimeter” that Acheson defined in his speech. He also wanted to redeploy U.S. forces then in Korea back to Japan — something that was far outside his authority.

The “Cold War” (a term coined by George Orwell in the essay “You and the Atom Bomb,” published Oct. 19, 1945) was by now in full swing, and America was trying to find its way in assuming the role of world superpower. The end result was a document known as NSC-68, titled “United States Objectives and Programs for National Security,” on April 7, 1950.

This document was based on the theory that the decline of the Western European powers and Japan following World War II had left the United States and the Soviet Union as the world's two dominant powers. It argued that the Soviet Union was “animated by a new fanatic faith” antithetical to that of the United States, and was driven “to impose its absolute authority over the rest of the world.”

Furthermore, the document concluded that “violent and nonviolent” conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union had become “endemic.” It hadn't helped that these same Soviets had recently allied with another major communist faction in the PRC.

North Korea's invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, ended any chance of finding out whether this policy would have succeeded because it justified the militarization of U.S. policy in East Asia. Three days later, Sen. Robert A. Taft, R-Ohio, used the Press Club speech to hold both Truman and Acheson responsible for the events leading to war in Korea, accusing them of pursuing a “bungling and inconsistent foreign policy” that had provided “basic encouragement to the North Korean aggression.” For at least the next three

decades, that interpretation would become conspicuous in accounts explaining the Korean War.

Taft's spin wasn't the only one. Presidential candidate Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower encouraged public acceptance of Acheson's responsibility for the Korean War during the fall of 1952 when in a speech in Cincinnati he attributed North Korea's attack directly to the Press Club speech.

Still today, more than 70 years after the start of the Korean War, countless South Koreans still hold Acheson responsible for igniting this fratricidal conflict. The United States, they bitterly maintain, committed an act of betrayal toward Korea ranking with President Theodore Roosevelt's approval of the Taft-Katsura Agreement in 1905 and Truman's agreement to divide the peninsula 40 years later at the end of World War II.

So words *do* matter! Especially words of a diplomatic or governmental nature. So maybe historians, rather than politicians and diplomats, should be employed to prepare, disseminate and dissect these types of documents in the future.

At least they understand that not knowing history dooms one to repeat its mistakes. I'm not sure we can say the same about our governmental functionaries.

**By John Mason**



President Harry Truman (left) and Secretary of State Dean Acheson in 1950.  
(Photo by Abbie Rowe, National Archives and Records Administration)

### SPEAKERS HELPED CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY



*This is the fourth of several historical articles by Sue Chatham, who joined UAH's Academy for Lifetime Learning 29 years ago, about a year after its founding, and remains an active OLLI member. The Academy later became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.*

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) continued its growth with a speakers program for the 20th-year

celebration in 2013.

In March 2013, the OLLI Scholarship Fund reached its goal of \$50,000. Committee Chair Pat Linberg, with committee members Bob Robertson, Linda McAllister, Eleanor Carter and George Leach, went to work speaking at OLLI gatherings, staffing a scholarship table at OLLI events, gathering data about the scholarship's past performance, and giving reports as the contributions total grew. Almost 400 OLLI members made contributions to reach this goal.

On July 23, 2013, David Blazeovich, senior program officer (at that time) for The Bernard Osher Foundation, visited OLLI at UAHuntsville. This was the first time that an Osher Foundation official had visited here.

In August 2013, the OLLI 2014 Calendar was finished and for sale. The calendar featured lovely winning photos from the OLLI photo contest. Lorrie White did a beautiful job putting it together. There is one in the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall) if you would like to see it.

On Aug. 12, 2013, the first event of the 20-year celebration speakers series featured Dr. Michael Goldfarb. His topic was "What Is Possible with Robotics: Improving the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities." As you might expect, food and beverages were served after each of the speaker events. **"We love to eat."**

On Aug. 20, 2013, the first Game Day was held for OLLI.

On Nov. 8, 2013, the second event in the speakers series featured Nancy Rohr, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Dennis Madsen, talking about the past, present and future of Huntsville respectively.

On Jan. 21, 2014, the third speaker was Dr. Doug Phillips, the creator and host of the public television series "Discovering Alabama." Dr. Phillips and the TV program (which originated in 1984) are ready resources for environmental education for Alabama teachers and citizens.

On March 19, 2014, the fourth speaker was award-winning Southern novelist Terry Kay, discussing some of his novels. His stories illustrate the change that came to the South from rural electrification through the civil rights movement.

On May 22, 2014, storyteller Bruce Walker was keynote speaker at the annual meeting.

From June 20 to July 1, 2014, OLLI members returned to Alaska on a tour coordinated by Bill McAllister.

There are Academy/OLLI scrapbooks in the lounge. Information and the pictures came from the newsletters found in the scrapbooks.

The journey continues ...

**By Sue Chatham**

**(See related photo and info on the next page)**



OLLI at UAH members toured Alaska in 2014.



### SPEAKERS HELPED CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY, CONT



Faces from OLLI's past: (from left) Doug Phillips; Dennis Madsen, Nancy Rohr and Tommy Battle; Joe Berry, David Blazeovich and Gratia Mahony; Terry Kay; Michael Goldfarb.

## Historic and fascinating facts about Huntsville

In the October 2013 *OLLI Insider*, the historical or surprising facts below were intended to whet appetites and curiosity in preparation for the 20th-anniversary speakers series on the present, past and future of Huntsville. They were submitted by *OLLI Insider* associate editor Mable Gordon.

- Huntsville is home to the largest collection of pre-Civil War homes.
- John Ditto established Ditto Landing as a trading post and ferry service in 1802.
- The 25th Alabama Battalion surrendered to Union troops on May 11, 1865, on their beloved Monte Sano Mountain.
- Big Spring froze over in 1898.
- Alex Haley, author of "Roots," spent his early years in Normal, Alabama. His father was an agriculture instructor at Alabama A&M College, as it was then named.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed an audience at Oakwood College on March 19, 1962. He concluded the speech with the now-legendary ending "from every mountain side ... thank God almighty, we are free at last." The dean of the School of Religion, Dr. Mervyn A. Wren, shared his personal recording of the speech with WAAY-TV (ABC). This trip was Dr. King's lone visit to north Alabama, and the speech was given 17 months before the 1963 historic March on Washington.
- Huntsville: "Watercress Capital of the World." Frank Dennis started the Dennis WaterCress Co. in Alabama 10 years after the Civil War. He chose north Alabama because he could grow and ship watercress from December to May. From the early 1900s to the 1960s, over 2 million bunches of watercress were harvested in the Huntsville area.
- In 1974, the area on South Memorial Parkway between Bob Wallace and Governors Drive was heavily flooded. Because of the standing water, The Huntsville Times had to print the evening edition in blue ink. The flood had destroyed their supply of black ink, and blue ink was all they had left.



### COMING UP: INSIDE OLLI SEMINAR, ART FESTIVAL



OLLI gets better and better. As chair of the 30th Anniversary Committee, I see the energy, the vision and the hard work that go into our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. I have long believed that the secret of a successful project and a successful committee lies in the members' dedication and creativity to accomplish their goals.

You saw it at the OLLI Alabama/OLLI at UAH birthday party in August and again at the presentation and reception for the James Webb Space Telescope bonus. We have still more on the calendar to share our members' strengths and abilities as well as to help our more recent members know our program even better.

Coming up from our committee are Inside OLLI on Feb. 9 and the OLLI Art Festival, which kicks off March 29.

Linda McAllister provided a wonderful overview in the December *OLLI Insider* of the Inside OLLI Seminar scheduled for Friday, Feb. 9. This approximately three-hour event will involve presentations from OLLI staff, the Board of Directors, and other OLLI members. Learn how decisions are made to keep our program successful and dynamic. Lunch is included. Registration is necessary via the OLLI website.

OLLI is hosting an Art Festival on March 29, 2024, as part of the 30th-anniversary celebration. The Art Festival is an all-day event and will begin with an artists forum in Chan Auditorium, where a panel of three local artists will present examples of their art, sharing their personal journeys as artists and the paths of their careers.

Afterward, refreshments will be served in Wilson Hall, where guests will be able to view a special art show of OLLI members' and instructors' creations. This event will be open to the public.

In support of the Art Festival, OLLI's 30th Anniversary



Attendees at an Inside OLLI event in 2017. Another one will take place Feb. 9.

Committee invites OLLI members and instructors (past and present), to enter their expressions of art.

Artwork can be any media, including but not limited to painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, textiles, mixed media, etc. Artwork selected will be on display in the Wilson Hall Art Gallery between March 18 and April 4, 2024.

We are looking to showcase the talents of the entirety of the OLLI community and to spotlight the results of our coursework that has enriched our organization and our lives.

Jane McBride chairs the OLLI Art Festival.

More activities and events are coming throughout the spring and early summer as we continue to celebrate OLLI at UAH. Thirty years and counting!

**Nancy Barnett Darnall**  
**Vice President for Administration and Finance**  
**OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**