

March 2024

THE OLLI INSIDER

News for OLLI members at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



HISTORY, ART, POLITICS, MUSIC, MONKEYS AND HOW THINGS WORK

From left: Top row, John Davis speaks on counterintelligence; Karin and Bill Confer tour Los Angeles art; Linda McAllister explains how OLLI works. Second row, Miss Baker, the space monkey who knew some future OLLI members; Mike Ball mixes political insights with guitar music; Chris Reed explains emergency management. Third row: "To Kill a Mockingbird" actors and the Broadway Theatre League's Wil Elrick visit an OLLI reception.

[Osher.uah.edu](https://osher.uah.edu)

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Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at UAH

LIBRARIES CAME EARLY TO LIFELONG LEARNING



Some of us might quibble with Carl Elliott's description of a man in his 80s as "old," but we can share Elliott's appreciation of libraries and lifelong learning.

Elliott (1913-1999), a congressman from north Alabama remembered for the National Defense Education Act and other good deeds, was riding a bookmobile through Winston County in 1955.

"I remember one old fellow hobbling up to meet us at a place called Poplar Springs," Elliott wrote. "He was well into his eighties, wearing a hearing aid and leaning on a cane.

"He came up and said he wanted a book on space. 'I'll be dead and gone before this outer space business amounts to anything,' he said, 'but it seems to be comin' and I guess I need to know a little somethin' about it.'

"That old boy walked away just as serious as could be, with a book on space travel tucked under his arm."

You can find that story in Elliott's excellent and inspiring memoir, "The Cost of Courage: The Journey of an American Congressman." And you can borrow that book from the north wing of the UAH library, second floor.

As the result of a reorganization a year or so ago, the library is now OLLI's mother ship in the university hierarchy. It's a good fit. The library supports OLLI's quest for facts, truth, health and entertainment in many ways, not the least of which is giving our members library privileges. If you want to learn more, take the library tour at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29. Sign up at tinyurl.com/OLLI-library-tour-2024.

Our UAH library is named for M. Louis Salmon Jr. (1923-1993), a lawyer, civic and business leader, and chair of the UAH Foundation. He "appreciated the importance and value of a commitment of life-long learning — learning substantially supported by the critically important resources of libraries," said Ray Jones, foundation chairman at the time of Salmon's death. The quote comes from our library's website.

Salmon was a candidate for attorney general of Alabama in 1958. Today we need public officials who value libraries and will let the librarians and educators run the libraries, shielding them from political interference. The same goes for state archives and other institutions that preserve our history and our access to information.

Some people want libraries to support only their opinions and their versions of the facts. But we have libraries so that we'll know as many facts as possible and can form good opinions based on them.

Millennia before OLLI existed, libraries were supporting lifelong learning. Libraries go back more than 4,500 years,



A man in his 80s met a congressman traveling in a bookmobile and checked out a book about space travel in 1955. (Illustration by Susan Lucille Davis)

according to Wikipedia. Sounds right, but I really should verify that information in the library.

Inside The Insider: While I was researching a story for this edition, the concept of bravery impressed me. In the space program, there are brave monkeys and brave people. OLLI people are providing valuable background information for the play "Space Monkeys: The Adventures of Baker & Able."

Glen Adams profiles Rebekah Frank and Pam Tejes, who enlighten their class members and us about the benefits of yoga.

Bob Carroll invites you to teach for OLLI, sharing what life has taught you. For example, he learned from working on the railroad. If you don't think you are ready for a larger role in OLLI as a leader, teacher or other volunteer, consider what Abraham Lincoln said about himself, as quoted by John Mason in his president's column.

Rising membership and class enrollment have prompted efforts to find more classroom space, Clay Williams reports.

John's military history column explores the history and moral implications of bombs dropped during World War II, killing civilians as well as combatants.

Nancy Darnall and Jane McBride write about the ongoing celebration of the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH. Sue Chatham writes another chapter of that history.

Chris Stuhlinger previews seven events scheduled in March, April and May. In this month's travel column by Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein, OLLI travelers tell what they saw and learned in Los Angeles in January.

We have one more week to submit nominations for Volunteer of the Year, Irene Garoppo notes. And Leah Black reminds us that the deadline to enter the annual photo contest is a month away.

Steve Stewart
Editor, The OLLI Insider

‘AND — HERE I AM!’



First, let me thank all the attendees of our “Inside OLLI” presentation Feb. 9. A lot of good information was passed out, lunch was superb, and I believe that a good time was had by all. Our purpose was to inform the membership, especially those new to the family, of all OLLI at UAH has to offer. There’s a lot, and all one has to do is “dip their toe” in the pond.

My real intent today, though, was to talk about how important our Board of Directors is to delivering all those benefits we so enjoy.

We’re all volunteers at OLLI. And so, as in the homily that says, “It takes a village to raise a child,” it also takes all of us to “raise a program.” Our board *is* our village.

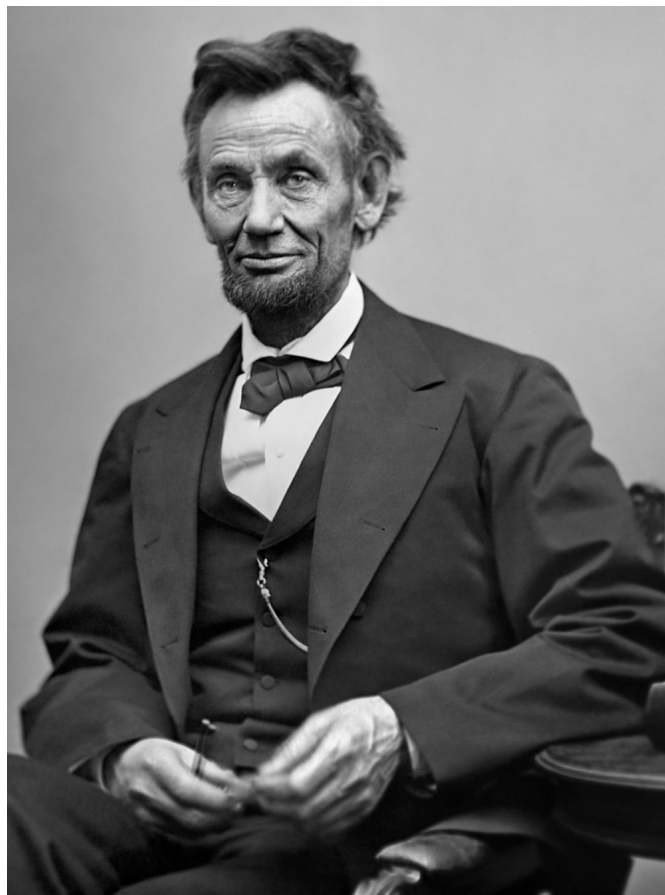
Volunteering to take on responsibilities beyond our daily toil is not a decision to be taken lightly. We have our own lives, after all, and there are just so many hours in the day, yada, yada, yada. But to harken back to last month’s column, once we take that first step on our own, personal hero’s journey, we nearly always find the rewards far outstrip our early trepidations.

When I first joined OLLI, like many others, I initially only came to a class or two each term, and then went straight home afterward, never stopping to spend time meeting and talking to and with my peers. After a couple of terms, I was asked to be a facilitator. I will tell you that at that point in my life, speaking in front of people was most assuredly *not* one of my favorite things! But that one small step out of my comfort zone has made all the difference in the world in my life today. Because without it, I would never have met you, the people who make my life special. And as for where am I today, well, I’ll let Abraham Lincoln tell you a story. (The following is based mostly on an account by journalist and author Noah Brooks.)

An old acquaintance of the President visited him in the White House. Lincoln desired to give him a place [in his administration]. Thus encouraged, the visitor, who was an honest man, but wholly inexperienced in public affairs or business, asked for a high office, Superintendent of the Mint.

The President was aghast, and said, “Good gracious! Why didn’t he ask to be Secretary of the Treasury and have done with it?”

Afterward, he said, “Well, now, I never thought Mr. _____ had anything more than average ability, when we were young men together. But, then, I suppose he thought the same thing about me, and — here I am!”



When considering a friend’s surprising request for a high office, President Abraham Lincoln reflected on his own rise to power, which the friend might have considered unlikely. (Alexander Gardner photo via Wikimedia Commons)

Now, by the time you read this, nominations for next year’s board will be closed and ballots will be shortly forthcoming. Don’t let that stop you from joining in, though. You can now make a difference by voting. Moreover, you can still volunteer to be a part of the organization. I encourage you to find your niche.

Yes, here I am, and here you could be also — or in any other place within our organization to which you aspire to be. So jump in the pool! Volunteer! You’ll love the experience and the family you come to know.

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

John Mason
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

CALENDAR

MARCH - APRIL 2024

March 1 | Fri | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: Space City USA
Wilson Hall

Explore the ill-fated history of Huntsville's prospective theme park, Space City USA. From initial fundraising and planning in 1959 to bankruptcy and liquidation in 1967, the study uses archival resources held by UAH and private collectors to place the Space City story in the context of Huntsville's rise to prominence and the growing pains of a nascent space-related tourism industry.

Presented by Drew Adan, archivist at M. Louis Salmon Library at UAH

Sign-up required. Free for OLLI members

March 22 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: Therapy Dog Training
Wilson Hall

Learn what it takes for your pet to be trained as a Therapy Animal. How are animals trained to deal with differently abled people, medical equipment, unusual sounds, smells and sights and how can you become involved in this rewarding volunteer opportunity?

Presented by Mary Graham, certified professional pet dog trainer, and Lyndsay Coats, Executive Director of Therapy Partners

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

March 29 | Fri | 10:30 am - 3:00 pm | [In-Person](#)

Event: OLLI Art Festival
Chan Auditorium

Join us for the OLLI Art Festival, a free, daylong event that begins with an Artists Forum in Chan Auditorium (Business Administration Building), where a panel of three accomplished artists (Katrina Weber, Jahni Moore, and Jennifer Stottle Taylor) will present examples of their art, share their journeys as artists and the path of their careers. Afterward, refreshments will be served in Wilson Hall, and guests can view a special art exhibit from OLLI members and instructors. This Art Festival is a part of OLLI's Anniversary Celebration of 30 years of lifelong learning.

Sign-up is required.

Free for OLLI members and Open to the Public

April 5 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: The Albert Einstein 1905 Papers
Wilson Hall

In 1905, 26-year-old Albert Einstein published four revolutionary papers that changed our understanding of space and time, energy and matter. Each of these contributions will be discussed in the context of the scientific thought of the time, with emphasis on how these ideas remain relevant today.

Presented by Dr. Jim Beaupre, OLLI Member with Ph.D in theoretical physics.

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

April 19 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)

Bonus: Introduction to Contra Dancing
Wilson Hall

Learn the history and development of contra dance, a form of folk dancing made up of long lines of couples. Then join your fellow OLLI members in dancing to live or recorded music. (Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.)

Sign-up is required. Free for OLLI members

**KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST
EVENTS AT
[OSHER.UAH.EDU/OLLIEVENTS](https://osher.uah.edu/ollievents)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MORE 30TH-ANNIVERSARY EVENTS COMING



It seems like just yesterday our committee was looking at the various ways we could celebrate 30 years of lifelong learning at UAH, and now we are winding down.

We started with a committee of seven and the task of creating multiple, memorable events to celebrate the vital program we all love and enjoy.

The key ingredients of interesting activities, energized membership, gracious volunteers, and delicious food have made every event a hit.

As our ambitions grew, so did our committee. And then we engage more volunteers to make everything happen to plan. I could never thank you all enough.

Many of you attended the kickoff with OLLI Alabama Day back in August. We opened the James Webb Space Telescope bonus to the public. In January, Inside OLLI shared the behind-the-scenes operation of our program as well as how our 501(c)(3) works with the university.

Well, there are a few more events up our sleeves:

- The OLLI Art Festival is March 29 and is bracketed with an exhibit in the Wilson Hall Art Gallery March 18-April 4. OLLI members and instructors produced every item on display.
- On May 14, at Baron's Bluff at Burritt on the Mountain, join us for dinner overlooking the city. If we are lucky, we will be treated to a spectacular sunset. Shane Adkins, who played his guitar for us during a bonus last year, will be a featured entertainer. Our new and returning Board of Directors as well as our wonderful staff will be there with us.
- Our final event will be a picnic, with details coming soon.

Thank you all for your continued support of OLLI. We are fortunate to have an excellent program, which works so well because you do.

We appreciate the volunteers who rise to every occasion and answer our many calls. If you wish to become more involved, tell any board member or complete the volunteer form available in the office.

Nancy Barnett Darnall
Chair of 30th Anniversary Committee



An exhibit in the Wilson Hall Art Gallery (across the hall from the OLLI lounge) will take place March 18-April 4. Additional art will be exhibited in the hallway on March 29, the day of the OLLI Art Festival.

MARCH 4 IS DEADLINE FOR ART SUBMISSIONS



The deadline for submitting artworks for our Wilson Hall Art Gallery Exhibit was Feb. 14. We had great responses from over two dozen artists!

There is still time to enter your art for the Wilson Hall Hallway Exhibit for the day of the OLLI Art Festival on March 29. Please notify Jean Krieger, lead of the Art Studio Member Interest Group, at

ArtistsStudiomig2@gmail.com by March 4 with your name and the kind of art you will set up in Wilson Hall if you are interested in showing your creativity to our guests.

If you are able, be available to speak about your special art with the visitors.

The OLLI Art Festival is *the* spring event for celebrating the 30th anniversary of lifelong learning at UAH.

Please join the festivities, beginning with an artist forum in Chan Auditorium with a panel of well-known artists — Katrina Weber, Jahni Moore and Jennifer Stottle Taylor — who will present examples of their art, share their personal journeys as artists, and discuss their careers as full-time artists. Steve Johnson, senior anchor at WHNT, Channel 19, will be the panel moderator.

Afterward, all guests are invited to Wilson Hall for refreshments and viewing artworks created by OLLI members and OLLI instructors in hallway exhibits and a showcase exhibit in the Wilson Hall Art Gallery. The event is free and open to the public. Please register at tinyurl.com/olli-art-fest24.

Jane Alford McBride
Chair, OLLI Art Festival

MULTIPLE EVENTS IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY



A variety of events are scheduled for March, April and May. Make plans to attend the event(s) of your choice, but keep in mind that attendance at most events is limited. Remember that event registration will open about one month (four to six weeks) prior to each event.

Recap of recent event

Emergency Management Agency — On Friday, Jan. 26, OLLI members visited the Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency and received a briefing from Chris Reed, the emergency management officer. It was enlightening to learn how the various city and county responders and providers work together, who's responsible for making which decisions, and the technology that makes emergency responses as timely and accurate as possible. Many of us were amazed at the minimal square footage physically occupied by the EMA. So much great work in such a small space! (Report submitted by Michelle Laverty.)

OLLI Events for March, April and May

(NOTE: All events require pre-registration and a completed waiver/release form.)

Additional event details will be emailed to registered members a few days before each event date. Each attendee must have a valid OLLI membership.

- 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. Over 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 is \$20 per person — pay at the door. Attendance is limited to 50 registrants.
- Friday, March 29 — **UAH Salmon Library and Archives** (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.
- Saturday, April 6 — **Jules J. Berta Vineyards & Winery** (Albertville), 10:30 a.m. to noon. Tour the vineyard at this recent Alabama Winery of the Year and learn about the varieties of grapes grown for making hand-crafted wines. The tour is free, but afterward tour participants are encouraged to purchase a wine tasting flight (\$12-14), wood-fired pizza (\$14-24), or charcuterie (\$20+). Attendance is limited to 30 participants.
- Saturday, April 20 — **Brown Bear LLC canoe and kayak paddle trip** (Huntsville), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose a canoe or kayak to paddle a 5-mile section of the Flint River northeast of Huntsville. Both single and double boats are available. We will meet at Brown Bear (Winchester Road at the Flint River, about 6 miles northeast of Alabama A&M University) and ride north to Oscar Patterson Road, where we will begin our paddle adventure back downriver to the Brown Bear facility. The cost estimate is \$40 per person. Paddle date is dependent on sufficient river water levels and good weather. April 27 is the backup date. More details will be available later. Attendance is limited to the first 20 registrants.
- Friday, April 26 — **Falls Mill** (Belvidere, Tennessee), 10:30 a.m. to noon. We will tour Falls Mill, which consists of a water-powered mill (built in 1873) and now contains the Museum of Power and Industry Inc. The mill building is four stories tall and is filled with antique machinery, etc., powered by the 32-foot waterwheel. Admission cost at the door is \$7 (\$6 for seniors). Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy on the scenic mill grounds after our tour. Falls Mill is about 35 miles north-east of Huntsville. Attendance is limited to 25 participants.

(continued on the next page)

MULTIPLE EVENTS IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, CONT

- Friday, May 3 — **Yellowhammer Brewing** (Campus 805, Huntsville), 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Join us for a brewery tour for OLLI members only. We'll meet at Yellowhammer, one of the original Alabama craft breweries. Yellowhammer Brewing was opened in West Huntsville in 2010 by four men who wanted to bring good, traditional beer to Alabama. Five years later, they relocated to a larger facility at Campus 805. OLLI members will pay

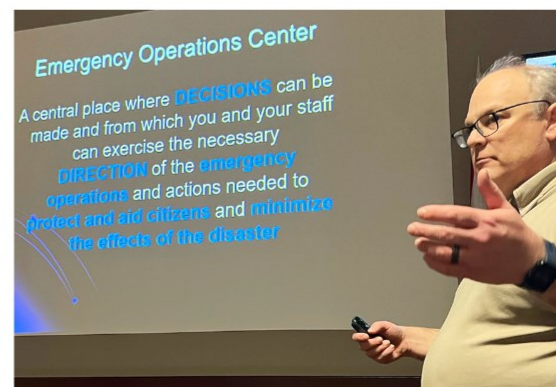
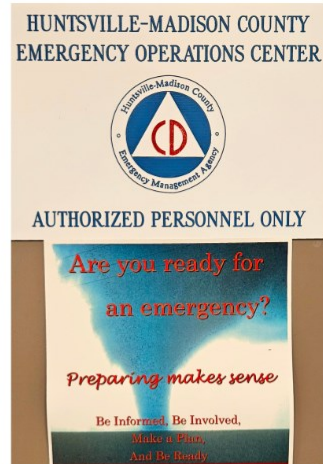
the \$10 tour fee upon arrival — we're all about supporting local crafts, especially local beer. In 2012, according to the Brewers Association, Alabama ranked 49th with 10 craft breweries in the state (including Yellowhammer). By 2022, Huntsville had 10 breweries of its own. OLLI member participation is limited to 20 participants.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



Coming events: Kayaking and canoeing on the Flint River, a winery, a 19th-century mill, a brewery, a quilt show, a natural-science museum, and the UAH library (shown during a previous OLLI tour).
(Photos by Chris Stuhlinger and from venue websites and event sponsors)

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON EMA TOUR JAN. 26



(Photos by Patricia Haag and Helen Crawford)

RAILROADING — NEWTON'S LAWS APPLIED



Some decades ago, when I was young, fit and newlywed — a time I sometimes referred to as the “dark ages” — I was employed as a switchman for the former L&N Railroad for almost four years.

I often tell people that it was the best job I ever had: union wages and lots of time-and-a-half or double-time made

for hefty paychecks. I can recount dozens of stories from working in Tilford yard Atlanta, a massive staging yard, or the Atlanta-to-Chattanooga main line, one of the busiest main lines east of the Mississippi, or the little Dalton yard, five tracks wide as the service hub for local industries. But that is not the purpose of this writing.

You see, railroading is the ultimate application of Isaac Newton's laws of motion and gravity, which I learned on the job, but, more importantly, that I plentifully used as illustrations when a decade later I became a classroom teacher of high school physics. Here are some examples:

Friction. Both a helper and a hindrance. Think about it. If the locomotive(s) are pulling a milelong or more train of freight cars, the rolling friction needs to be as little as possible. Over time, many technological improvements have been made in the axle bearings of rail cars. Have you ever seen the pickup truck commercials showing one pulling a rail car? Madison Avenue propaganda. Likewise, the YouTube videos of ironmen harnessed and pulling a rail car.

But need to stop that train just moving along at 5 mph? Uh-oh! That's a lot of momentum, and a lot of friction is required. Trains, even short ones, cannot “stop on a dime”! Remember that the next time you consider trying to beat a train to the crossing. I was once on board a locomotive pulling five loaded cars out of Dalton yard when someone went around the lowered crossing arms, and we T-boned the car. By the time we had come to a stop we had traveled to the next street crossing, or about 200 yards, pushing said vehicle all the way with us!

Gravity. Atlanta to Chattanooga is an uphill, 120-mile climb. Our locomotive manifest was usually four locomotives. One needed quite a bit of horsepower to work that tonnage up in elevation, which continues to increase over the Cumberland Plateau to destination points in the Midwest. Back in the day, yardmasters had to hand-calculate the horsepower needed. Now it is done by computer, and modern diesel locomotives are much more efficient.

Acceleration. Newton found that acceleration was a ratio determined by applied force (horsepower) divided by mass. The heavier the train, the more applied force needed to go



Acceleration versus friction: A train can't stop on a dime — or in time to avoid a deadly collision with a car. Don't try to beat a train to a crossing.

(Microsoft Copilot image generator)

from zero to 50. But the reverse is also true. Need to stop the train? All that momentum needs to be converted to heat energy from friction. A layman refers to that as “braking,” but to us nerds, it is “negative acceleration.” Once again, don't try and beat a train. The rule of thumb is at 50 mph it requires the length of the train to come to a stop. In other words, a milelong train will require one mile to stop, and if your vehicle is impacted by that lead locomotive, when it does come to halt the last rail car will be at the impact location!

As you can tell, I had a lot of fun creating railroad physics scenarios with velocities, masses, accelerations and friction numbers to engage my pupils. My advanced-placement physics students dreaded getting a quiz with a railroad problem! In their eyes, I had suddenly grown devil's horns.

One of the most interesting concepts provided by railroading is the design of rail-truck wheels. The outer rim of the wheel is not flat like one would imagine. Also, the distance between the wheel flanges on the inside of the wheel is less than the distance between the rails. The two facts combine to allow a rail car to go through a curved portion of the track and keep rolling friction at near zero. Explanation: As a rail car travels through a curve, the outermost wheel must travel more distance than the inside wheel. If those steel wheels were flat (recall that they are connected to a solid axle) they both would be rotating at the same radial velocity.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

RAILROADING — NEWTON'S LAWS APPLIED, CONT

Uh-oh, lots of friction! But with a slightly angled outer rim, the rim surface closest to the flange (inner wheel) will rotate a greater distance than the outer portion. When the car enters the curve, inertia carries the car outward from the center of the curve and the outer wheel flange keeps the wheel from going off the rail. At the same instance, the wheel is now rolling at a greater diameter than the inside wheel, but that is OK since the outer wheel must cover a greater distance.

So, what does this have to do with OLLI at UAH, Bob? Well, I am probably speaking to the choir, but every vocational experience we have had in our lives carries over to lifelong learning. Your and my experiences in education and vocation or avocation are to be shared with our community. In my example, I shared it in the school classroom.

OLLI and other similar organizations provide the opportunity to share in our retirement years and to glean knowledge that satisfies our curiosity and yearning to know.

Thanks for your support in our mission. Take advantage of our diverse course selection. And if you have knowledge to share from your past vocations and experiences, propose a course — we would love to have you on the other side of the podium!

Veni, vidi, vici.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

5 NOMINATED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Five members were nominated during February to fill vacancies on the OLLI Board of Directors for the 2024 election cycle. Board members serve three-year terms.

Nominees are Randy Boyette, Danny Drake, Phil Graham, Marsha Langlois, and David Sayre.

See the weekly *eNews* beginning March 1 for a link to the ballot and candidate biographies. All OLLI members are eligible and strongly encouraged to vote during the three-week election period, which will conclude March 22.

The new board members will be seated in May.

Jill Stewart, immediate past president of the board, chairs the Nominations Task Force.

GROWING PAINS



Our spring 2024 semester continues at a record pace! A few courses have already concluded, but we have additional courses that do not begin until after spring break. Register now before they fill up.

A total of 420 members have registered (as of mid-February) for at least one course, which beats last spring's numbers by nearly 100.

This growth, however, puts a strain on existing resources.

OLLI has three main classrooms to host its courses, and they hold approximately 35, 25 and 15 students, respectively. With a growing membership, this has led to some overcrowded classes and having to close registration for classes due to space issues. We are aware of these issues and are working on finding additional classroom space on campus to meet our growing needs.

We also have some technical issues with sound and volume. We are working on adding microphones and speakers to our classrooms to help our students hear their instructors better.

So, again, I want everyone to know we hear your concerns and are working on them. On a positive note, these are great problems to have — OLLI is growing!

And there is other positive news. I hope everyone has noticed the new chairs in the OLLI lounge and the new whiteboard upon entering Wilson Hall where we place announcements and classroom locations. We also recently purchased some digital billboards around town to publicize OLLI.

Please check out our new tutorial videos on the website about Google Classroom and Zoom. Our next planned training video will be on how to register online.

The 30th-anniversary celebration continues. We had a great turnout for our Inside OLLI program, and the March 29 Art Festival should be a fantastic event you will not want to miss. A summer picnic will round out the celebration.



(Illustration by Susan Lucille Davis)

Planning for the summer is in full swing. There will be plenty of exciting events, courses and field trips to look forward to. Summer term occurs in June and July, and registration will begin in late April.

Reminder: OLLI follows the Huntsville school district in regard to closing for weather. Check local media broadcasts for announcements and updates.

Reminder: UAH spring break is March 11-15. OLLI offices and UAH will be closed all week. There will be no classes or member interest group activities during that time.

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

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.



CHRISTMAS IN APRIL?

3/18 - 4/8 • M • 10:30 - Noon • 4 sessions • In Person • B. Carroll • \$25

There are many theories pertaining to the actual date of the birth of Jesus. What if we look at the biblical story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke through the eyeglasses of Babylonian astrology and modern astronomy software? Could we pinpoint an accurate date? The course will introduce several concepts from ancient astrology that alerted the Magi from the East and then nullify any astronomical event other than the retrograde motion of an observed planet.



HAWAIIAN DANCING FOR BEGINNERS

3/18 - 4/22 • M • 3:15 - 4:45 pm • 6 sessions • In Person • S. Chatham • \$30

If you love Hawaiian music, like to dance and exercise all at the same time, this is the course for you. The basic steps of Hawaiian Dance will be introduced and choreographies including these steps will be taught. In addition, demonstration of Tahitian, Moire, comedy and instrument numbers will be introduced.



STAIRWELL SAFETY

3/21 - 4/11 • Th • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 4 sessions • In Person • S. Harper • \$25

This course provides an overview of the importance of stairway safety, a brief review on relevant research, tips to avoid trips, and insight into next steps in stairway safety research.



BREATH-CENTERED YOGA

3/21 - 4/11 • Th • 4:15 - 5:15 pm • 4 sessions • In Person • R. Frank • \$25

Explore a breath-centered yoga practice appropriate for beginners and experienced practitioners. Exercises focus on creating a connection between the movement of the body and the breath. All props are provided, but members are encouraged to bring their own yoga mat or towel. Wear comfortable clothing.

Save 20%

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

DEADLINE IS NEAR FOR 2024 PHOTO CONTEST



It's getting close to "crunch time," but I'm not talking about tasty snacks on bonus Fridays. This crunch time refers to how close it is to the last day to enter the OLLI photo contest for 2024.

The deadline for submissions is April 1. If you have any photos that were taken after April 1, 2023, and that fit the Reflection subject, dust them off and submit them soon. It would be greatly appreciated if submissions would arrive before the last hour of the last day.

You may submit up to three photographs to the contest. Information about the requirements is available in the spring course catalog and online.

It has always been amazing to see the excellent photos taken by our OLLI members. A slide show is often made and shown at the OLLI annual dinner, as well as the announcement and display of the winning pictures and the awarding of the prizes. The winning photographs will be hung outside the OLLI volunteer office.

It is a pleasure to be able to provide the, hopefully, yummy treats to add to the great Friday bonus events. Sharing food and enjoying social interaction with other OLLI members is a great part of the value of membership in this organization. New members can feel welcome and comfortable and even find a new friend or two.



tinyurl.com/olli-photo-contest

If you have any suggestions on ways to add to this experience, please feel free to let me know. Member Services is here to make OLLI a great place to be.

Be sure to check out the member interest groups, and don't forget to explore the DVD library in the volunteer office, which is 151 Wilson Hall.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair



Winners of the 2023 OLLI photo contest are displayed on the wall between the volunteer office and one of OLLI's classrooms, Room 152 of Wilson Hall.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

HIKING & BIKING MIG PLANS MARCH BIKE RIDE

OLLI members are invited to join the new Hiking & Biking Member Interest Group. Activities will include hikes, nature walks and bike rides in the greater Huntsville area.

Those who join will receive details about planned activities. About 90 members have already joined the MIG. If you are also interested in joining, sign up at forms.gle/6M5BoaWX9Z4TLugE9 and agree to the blanket release/waiver form. You must have a valid OLLI membership to participate in MIG activities.

Next MIG activity

- Saturday, March 23 — **Bike ride** at Big Cove/Flint River Greenways, 10 a.m. to noon. BYOB (bring your own bike) and pedal along an easy, relatively flat, scenic paved route along Big Cove Creek to Hays Preserve, and then along the Flint River Greenway to southeast Old Highway 431. Ride length is about 3.5 miles one way (7 miles round trip). Additional nearby bike routes are optional. The registration link for this bike ride will soon be sent to all who have joined this MIG. Bike ride details will be sent out two or three days prior to this activity to all who registered.

Future Hiking & Biking MIG activities will be announced and listed in the monthly *Insider* newsletter and via email to everyone who has joined the MIG.



Join the Hiking & Biking MIG, and enjoy nature with other OLLI members.

Here is a tentative MIG schedule for the remainder of spring semester:

- April 13 — **Hike**, Bethel Spring Nature Preserve (alternate: Monte Sano State Park)
- May 4 — **Nature walk**, Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary (east entrance)

See you on the trail!

Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Jones

CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH TAI CHI



Members of OLLI's Tai Chi MIG were invited to join the Tai Chi Group from LearningQUEST for a joint performance at the 2024 Lunar New Year celebration sponsored by the Huntsville Chinese Association on Feb. 10 at Chan Auditorium on the UAH campus. More than 300 people attended. Luyao Ren, an international taijiquan coach, led the performance. OLLI participants were Mary Ann Maher, Betsy Mackay and Jerry Pang. The Tai Chi MIG is planning to do more communitywide events, especially as the weather gets warmer. (Photos by Luni Family Photography)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

ONE WEEK LEFT TO NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER



Just a brief reminder: You still have time to submit nominations for the Volunteer of the Year (VoY) Award.

The window is open for another week, so don't let time get away from you. The deadline is March 8.

The process is super easy. Use the following VoY nomination link (also available from the eNews or the OLLI web-

site): tinyurl.com/olli-voy-2324.

You'll get a form that asks for your email, nominee and reason for nomination. The form also has a place for your name and phone number, but that is totally optional. Remember, you can nominate as many people as you want — we all know there are plenty of deserving candidates.

This year's award covers the period from spring 2023 through early spring 2024, so you have a whole year's worth of volunteers to consider. The recipient will be announced at this year's annual dinner in May.

Thanks in advance for all nominations.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair



Whose name will be next on this plaque in the OLLI volunteer office (151 Wilson Hall)?
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

TRIP REPORTS FROM LOS ANGELES TRAVELERS



Wow! We've got testimonials from OLLI travelers who went on Road Scholar's "Collectors and Their Collections" tour in mid-January. Sharing with you their reports of this trip:

In the words of **Nancy Darnall**: "When 11 OLLI members made their reservations for Road Scholar's January 2024 Los Angeles Art Museum Experience, not one of us thought what we might miss — *the* weather event of 2024! So, in addition to our visits to four of greater LA's best museums, we found ourselves enjoying pleasant weather while wondering if the pipes back home had frozen or whether we could get back in our garages!"

Nancy said that "we had a fabulous coach driver who maneuvered through LA traffic like the pro she is. Always on time and in the best place, Tasha took great care of us."

She said that the OLLI group — Pam Blackwell, Laurie and Kevin Call, Karin and Bill Confer, Nancy and Bob Darnall, Vanitha Singh, Mary Ann Stasiak, and Debbie and Larry West — had a wonderful time, and fellow travelers were engaging and friendly. "From Washington and Oregon to Alabama and Connecticut, we came together to enjoy art in some of the most exquisite galleries in North America."

At the Los Angeles County Museum of Art that is adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits, a special exhibit, "The World Made Wondrous: The Dutch Collector's Cabinet and the Politics of Possession," was in the Resnick Center. The Dutch Cabinet re-creates a fictional collection representing the historical practices of 17th-century Europeans.

Nancy noted that the exhibit included over 300 items, including globes, paintings, prints, gems, taxidermy and sculptures. The exhibit features dramatic artworks that question the hierarchy of art ownership, colonialism, and the agendas of the collectors. Artist Sithabile Mlotshwa's work "Phoenix of the Dutch Republic" brings the conflicts of history into detail with the contrasts of the splendor and riches of Dutch colonialism versus the cost and suffering of colonized peoples. Such collections were the precursors to the American and European museums we know today. The Broad Contemporary Art Museum is the primary building in that venue.

At the LaBrea Tar Pit on the Martin Luther King holiday, the buildings were closed but "some of us wandered over to gaze at the ooze," Nancy said. "Some pits still bubble: Any wildlife that touches the tar is stuck and remains a part of the tar pits forever."



While north Alabama was iced in, OLLI travelers were enjoying art attractions in Los Angeles. You can find their memories in this article and their pictures on the page that follows.

The Getty Center featured a hanging shell-design installation and three photography exhibits, as well as its own permanent collections of fine furniture, sculpture, paintings and porcelains.

"Of course, the Getty is its own spectacle with fabulous views, lovely gardens and plantings, and several dining options," Nancy said. "All this with free admission; visitors pay only for parking, food, beverages and purchases in the gift shop."

The Huntington, often known as The Huntington Library, is home to the famed library, but also includes over a dozen themed gardens such as the lush Chinese and Japanese gardens and a jungle garden; the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art; and the Huntington Art Gallery. Perhaps their most famous items are The Blue Boy and Pinkie. "The Huntington also has one of the more spectacular gift shops on the itinerary," Nancy added.

The Norton Simon Museum is a smaller museum with European and American paintings, sculptures and furniture. Nancy described the chess set and the Basel Mural as "stunning."

Debbie West commented that her favorite way to travel is with friends who are courteous, interesting and on time, and she was not disappointed. She said the Westin Hotel downtown was an enormous architectural wonder in and of itself, and the rooms all had stunning views of the city and hills.

(continued on the next page)

TRIP REPORTS FROM LOS ANGELES, CONT

"Los Angeles is America's art hub, and the January OLLI Road Scholar trip there was superb!" Debbie said. Scholarly professor-guides gave "outstanding" presentations about the collections at the Getty, the Norton Simon, Huntington gardens, galleries and Library with fascinating information about the eccentric collectors themselves. Debbie, who is an artist and art historian, said Road Scholar provided an extraordinary "good value" experience.

"While Huntsville labored under a foul winter storm," she said, "we in California experienced perfect January weather, like mild springtime." It was shocking to arrive home with ice causing so many problems, but the travelers had plenty of memories to keep them warm.

Karin Confer said Road Scholar provided the best way to experience four incredible art museums in such a sprawling city. The instructors knew their respective museums intimately, answered all questions thoroughly and were very engaging, she said. The coach transportation, given the traffic in LA, was the ideal way to travel to the various museums, and the tour leader was a local herself and had an extensive background in art and art history. She informed the group about each area and the various parts of LA.

"Our fellow travelers were all friendly, interesting and pleasant travel- and art-loving companions," Karin said. "That's two for two Road Scholar trips (Philadelphia being the other) that have been great!"

Bill Confer added that one distinct impression was "how thankful I was that I could just get on a bus (with a very kind driver) to visit four impressive museums, as I watched the traffic swirl by out my window. No fuss, no bother! Our guide was informative and lively; yet we had ample time to see things in the museum on our own as well. Our hotel was centrally located in LA, and the rooms were great. Well worth it. Downside: Long flight and smog."

Pam Blackwell, who travels extensively, said that this was her first trip with Road Scholar and she recommends the company highly. They are "a great option if you enjoy having a location researched, scheduled, deluxe accommoda-

tions, and excellent transportation provided," she said. "Every day had a speaker who explained where we were going, how the museums got started, how people who collected the art and started museums got their money, and key items of interest to look for at each location."

Pam contributed a photo of the Chinese Garden and noted that The Huntington Botanical Gardens has the largest Chinese garden outside China.

Spaces available on two 2024 trips

- Grand Circle Travel for OLLI's "Ireland in Depth" trip. See tinyurl.com/olli-ireland-in-depth.
- Nanda Travels trip to Iceland. See tinyurl.com/olli-iceland-fire-lights.

Upcoming travel opportunities

Debbie West's advice to the OLLI community: "It's time we all started working on our bucket lists with people who love to travel and ultimately become extraordinary friends. A special thanks to Jane McBride, Ed Bernstein and the whole OLLI Travel Committee for making opportunities happen. Way to go!"

You can bet there is a committee working hard on figuring out our next destinations. A trip to Pittsburgh is in the works for late spring 2025. Watch announcements in your eNews. Other trips are in the early research phase.

Remember to make your wishes known to the Travel Committee. We really need interested travelers to step up and agree to be researchers and coordinators of trips for 2025-26. Join in the planning and the fun!

Contact Jane and Ed at olli.info@uah.edu, and tell us where *you* want to go.

Happy trails!

Jane McBride and Ed Bernstein
Travel Committee Co-Chairs

OLLI TRAVELERS' PHOTOS FROM L.A. ART TOUR



(Photos provided by Nancy Darnall, Pam Blackwell and Debbie West)

2 TEACHERS HELP OLLI FRIENDS LEARN YOGA

As OLLI members age, we start to have problems with strength, flexibility and anxiety. OLLI provides the antidote: yoga. And it also provides two dedicated practitioners of yoga to lead us to better physical and mental health.

Rebekah Frank has taught yoga at OLLI for nine years and Pam Tejes for seven. Their classes are so popular that they are usually wait-listed. They are the subject of this month's *Insider* profile.

Rebekah is a Huntsville girl. Her father started here as a computer-aided designer, but shifted to software development and eventually started his own company. She and her two brothers worked for the family business growing up.

"My father is someone who loves to experiment," said Rebekah, "so growing up, we did all kinds of 'unusual' things, from making our own cheese to designing and creating a zeppelin out of balsa wood. It was never boring at our house!"

Rebekah earned a degree at UAH in foreign language and international trade.

"I learned Russian!" she said. "My goal was to be an interpreter for the FBI or CIA. I love to travel, and so learning a different language and being able to live abroad was something that I always wanted." Unfortunately, she graduated in the midst of a recession and no jobs were available.

For a time she worked at various Huntsville cafes, but eventually she rejoined the family business and is now a project manager. She returned to UAH and earned an MBA last year.

And yoga? "My path to yoga was pretty straightforward," Rebekah said. "I was a dancer growing up and loved to move my body. In college I needed elective credits, and yoga seemed a perfect fit. Over the course of that semester, I fell in love with yoga and the

way that it helped calm my mind as well as stretch my body."

After taking yoga courses for several years, Rebekah decided to earn a 200-hour teaching certificate.

"That was a transformative moment for me," Rebekah said. "I enjoyed it so much that I followed up with a 500-hour certification. I have now been teaching for 10 years. I love teaching yoga to all, but I have a special place in my heart for working with people who find themselves in bigger bodies or have physical challenges that mean

a 'traditional' practice may not be for them.

"I firmly believe yoga is for everybody and every body. Yoga helps you connect with your breath and your body. The benefits of yoga are many, but the one that resonates with me is how it helps you observe the subtler aspects in both your body movement and your life. Oftentimes, we do not take the time to slow down and listen to what our body or mind is trying to tell us. Yoga offers the space to get quiet and let that voice get louder!"

(continued on the next page)



Rebekah Frank (top photos) and Pam Tejes (bottom photos, with husband Chris) teach yoga for OLLI.

2 TEACHERS HELP OLLI FRIENDS LEARN YOGA, CONT

Pam grew up in Elgin, a suburb of Chicago, one of three sisters. Her father is a mechanical engineer and her mother a homemaker.

"As a child, I loved sports — swimming, tennis, badminton and volleyball — and I also enjoyed reading and crafts," said Pam.

After high school, Pam set off to Loyola University Chicago to major in biology.

"I have always had an interest in organisms and systems as well as health," she said. "I took a liking to 'macro' topics, such as ecology and social and psychobiology, how things work together.

"I am not sure I had a career goal, but I enjoy research. I went on to get an M.S. in library and information science. That's why now I work in the library software industry, and that is what brought me to Huntsville from Chicago. I moved here to work for Sirsi, a library software company."

After leaving Sirsi, Pam worked for UAH in the IT Department, then for ProQuest. She is now a project manager for ProQuest in software implementation.

She and her husband, Chris, have two cats, Spider Monkey and Loki.

So why her devotion to yoga?

"My favorite question," said Pam. "I took my first yoga classes in college and then dabbled in yoga through the years. Then yoga found me at a very stressful time in my life. I realized I could go to yoga class and be so focused and immersed in what I was doing that I would not even think about my problems and I could really relax.

"I had time between jobs to enroll in yoga teacher training. I wasn't sure at that point I would teach, but I wanted to know more and deepen my own practice. But the more I learned, the more I wanted to share yoga with others. So I began to teach. I then wanted to know even more, so I enrolled in advanced 300-hour training.

"I have been teaching since 2014. I started with flow-based classes but have transitioned to more alignment-based classes that focus on the actions of the body and energetic 'feelings' in poses.

"Yoga changed my life — period! Not the poses, but the philosophy and learning that postures, breath work and meditation can change our fundamental outlook on life. Yoga is bigger than us. We learn to approach things with equanimity, then we come even-keeled in our responses. We can find

moments of deep and profound quiet and peace when our minds are undisturbed by outer chaos."

What have they valued about teaching at OLLI?

"OLLI has been a joy," said Rebekah. "I have students I consider friends. It is always such a happy moment to walk into class and see those familiar faces. One of my favorite things at OLLI has been working with individuals who are ready to find the unique things that work for their body."

"I love the OLLI community," said Pam. "I have treasured the people I've met and continue to meet. I like that it's a community of people who are involved and want to continue learning."

For more about Rebekah's classes, go to bighappyyoga.com. For Pam's, see flourishthesoul.com.

Thank you, Rebekah and Pam, for all you do for OLLI.

Namaste.

By Glen Adams

Note: Although Pam's yoga class for the spring will be ending soon, there is still time to join Rebekah's Breath Centered Yoga class that starts March 21.

OLLI LIFE

HIGHWAY ADVERTISING



OLLI bought electronic billboards around Huntsville to advertise its services to "adults 50 and better." Irene Garoppo photographed one of the billboards on U.S. 72 westbound, just west of Jeff Road. Justin Clay, OLLI's marketing and design specialist, designed them.



THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY



The left photo shows the Schweinfurt–Regensburg raid on Aug. 17, 1943. At right, a Boeing B-17 “Flying Fortress” drops bombs over Emden, Germany, on Oct. 2 of the same year. (Photos from Wikimedia via the National WWII Museum, and from the U.S. Air Force)

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

March: Off we go, into the ... killing fields?

I’ve been watching the new Hanks/Spielberg joint “Masters of the Air,” and it’s from there that I found the basis for our study this month. By the way, if you haven’t seen the series, it is well worth the watch.

The British armed forces were drawn down and nearly exhausted in 1940, having survived the Battle of France and — against the odds and expectations — defeated the Germans in the air wars over Britain. But their survival had come with a cost. Their losses were so severe, in fact, that Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared, “We were an almost unarmed people.” Churchill still believed the war could be won because, he told his son Randolph, “I shall drag the United States in.”

And he did.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Adolf Hitler, in what many historians consider his biggest military blunder of the war, foolishly and for no apparent reason declared war on the United States on Dec. 11.

Our response didn’t occur overnight, but, again as Winston Churchill once famously observed, “Americans will always do the right thing, only after they have tried everything else.” And so, in May 1942, Brig. Gen. Ira C. Eaker led an advance echelon of the U.S. 8th Air Force to England.

The vast majority of the 8th Air Force’s B-17 bombers were ordered to Africa on Aug. 20 to become the newly formed 12th Air Force and assist in the coming fights in Africa, Sicily and Italy. But now under Eaker’s command, the other bombers of the 8th remained, ready to cooperate with England. Of his force, Eaker said, “We are bombing Germany now with less than a hundred heavies.” Not until May was he finally able to put missions of 150 bombers into the air.

(John T. Correll’s article “The Allied Rift on Strategic Bombing” is a source for this article. It appeared in *Air & Space Forces Magazine* on May 4, 2022.)

The British and Americans disagreed on almost everything about the coming Combined Bomber Offensive (CBO), scheduled to begin on June 10, 1943. Of those disagreements, perhaps the

most divisive was the tactic of daylight precision bombing versus nighttime area bombing.

It’s worth noting that the British by this time had had going on four years to learn their trade. In fact, they had initially sought to use daylight precision bombing as early as September 1939, only to call it off in early 1942 due to the heavy losses to anti-aircraft and German fighter plane fire. So in February 1942, they switched to nighttime area bombing. In so doing, they began to concentrate on urban areas rather than trying to hit specific targets.

Having suffered indiscriminate bombing for some eight months during the now-ended Blitz, the British probably held little sympathy for their German counterparts. In fact, if the so-called “de-housing” paper sent to Churchill from his scientific adviser Lord Cherwell in March 1942 is to be believed, their revised goal would be to attack 58 large German cities where “the great majority of their inhabitants (about one-third of the German population) would be turned out of house and home. ... There seems to be little doubt that this would break the spirit of the people.”

(continued on the next page)

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

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

In his book “Bomber Command,” British historian Max Hastings said that “from beginning to the end of the war, ministers prevaricated — indeed, lied flatly, again and again — about the nature of the bomber offensive.”

While Churchill’s fingerprints are difficult to find on the de-housing policy, he did slowly come to wonder about it. After the attack on Dresden in 1945, he said that “it seems to me that the moment has come when the question of bombing of German cities *simply for the sake of increasing the terror*, though under other pretexts, should be reviewed” (italics mine).

In September 1939 after Germany’s invasion of Poland, President Roosevelt issued an appeal to the major belligerents (Britain, France, Germany and Poland) to confine their air raids to military targets, and “under no circumstances undertake bombardment from the air of civilian populations in unfortified cities.” Interestingly, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which address the codes of wartime conduct on land and at sea, were adopted before the rise of air power. Those conventions had not been updated to include aerial warfare before the out-

break of World War II, so there was no general agreement on how to interpret their application.

Following Roosevelt’s lead, the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) commanders were reluctant to bomb enemy cities and towns indiscriminately, and so they adopted the strategy of taking on the Luftwaffe head on, in larger and larger air raids by mutually defending bombers, flying over Germany, Austria and France at high altitudes during the daytime. They quickly learned, however, that formations of unescorted bombers were no match for German fighters, which inflicted a deadly toll.

By 1943, there were 303 bombers, each with a crew of 10, in the 8th AAF. Statistics available on March 4, 1943, show that only about 25% of 8th Air Force bomber crewmen completed their 25-mission tours — the other 75% were killed, severely wounded or captured. Finally, toward the end of that year, the 8th halted air operations over Germany until a long-range fighter could be found.

Nevertheless, the sheer tonnage of explosive delivered by day and by night (estimated at around 1.5 million

tons) was eventually sufficient to cause widespread damage and forced Germany to divert military resources to counter it. But did it do what its planners intended?

A number of historians have argued that bombing had a limited effect on morale; indeed, some say that although it was designed to “break the enemy’s will,” the opposite often happened. In the words of the British Bombing Survey Unit (BBSU), “The essential premise behind the policy of treating towns as unit targets for area attack, namely that the German economic system was fully extended, was false.” And, as the Americans found out over Schweinfurt and other places, precision or no, daylight bombing was “suicide.” Some 79,000 airmen were killed, wounded or captured proving it.

This poses an interesting conundrum. Are the so-called “laws of warfare” realistically nothing more than a contradiction in terms? War is the most brutal, uncivilized thing humans do to each other. Why do we continually try to salve our consciences by trying to justify it?

By John Mason

OLLI LIFE

YOU AND SMOKEY CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES



After a recent session of “Nature and Wellness in Alabama State Parks,” taught by Renee Raney and Steve Jones, OLLI members called attention to Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday on the lawn of Wilson Hall. Smokey has been campaigning against human-caused wildfires since Aug. 9, 1944 — said to be the longest-running public service announcement campaign in U.S. history. The federal Forest Service is holding a yearlong celebration. (Photo by Renee Raney)

FREE BREAKFAST WITH FRIENDS IN THE LOUNGE

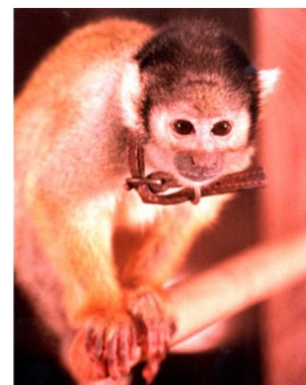
Free weekly Early Bird breakfasts sponsored by the Social Committee started Feb. 5 and will continue through March 4. They begin at 7:45 in the OLLI lounge and continue through the morning while food lasts.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)



Clockwise from top left: Rick Storey with Miss Baker and her second husband, Norman (it's not clear which monkey is which in this photo); Miss Baker; Chris Stuhlinger, Rick Storey, Heidi Collier, Georg von Tiesenhausen, Stephen Tyler Davis and Joanna White with Davis' dog Tucci; Stuhlinger with a lunar rover. White is vice president for production on the Fantasy Playhouse board. (Photos shot or provided by the people pictured, Allison Creel, Joanna White, and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency via Wikimedia Commons)



OLLI PEOPLE HELP PRODUCE 'SPACE MONKEYS'

Some OLLI members and friends are personally acquainted with the U.S. space program and with one of the title characters of "Space Monkeys: The Adventures of Baker & Able."

They are advising the producers of the original stage play, which will debut in Huntsville on May 9-12. Some of them helped care for Miss Baker while working at what is now the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy will present the play at the Von Braun Center. Stephen Tyler Davis, the writer and director, said the advisory group was "incredibly essential."

Davis is also the artistic director for Fantasy Playhouse.

"I just had a fun idea," he said, "and then, sitting down with all the experts, it was overwhelming and a little scary. But the bar had been set. I wasn't just writing a play anymore; I was writing a story." He wants it to be "a really beautiful theatrical message that's inspirational and universal."

The advisers include Chris Stuhlinger, Rainer Klauss, Georg von Tiesenhausen, Rick Storey and Heidi Collier. Fathia Hardy, secretary of Fantasy Playhouse's board, is the "connector," Davis said. She is now director of UAH's Office of Professional and Continuing Education but

formerly supervised OLLI's UAH staff. She said OLLI members will be invited to community night for the play on May 8.

When Fantasy Playhouse started working on the play, "I immediately thought of Chris Stuhlinger's class we did a couple of years ago about the rocket team families," Hardy said. These were the families of German scientists who moved to Huntsville to help launch the U.S. space program. Stuhlinger, a child in one of those families, prepared a "phenomenal space-race timeline" from the mid-1940s to the 1969 moon landing, Davis said.

Miss Baker (1957-1984) was a squirrel monkey. She and female rhesus macaque Able were the first two animals launched into space by the U.S. who safely returned. As the play's blurb says, "two brave monkeys [led] the charge for space exploration."

Their flight was May 28, 1959. Able died four days later during surgery to remove electrodes. Miss Baker lived at a medical center in Pensacola, Florida, until 1971. Then she was a popular attraction at the Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, receiving hundreds of letters from schoolchildren. Miss Baker became the oldest living squirrel monkey. Visitors still leave bananas on her grave at the center.

(continued on the next page)

OLLI PEOPLE HELP PRODUCE 'SPACE MONKEYS', CONT

"My interaction with her was occasionally putting her and husband George into their nighttime quarters, which were cages in back of the Plexiglas display case," Rick Storey said. "They immediately sprang into their apartments when we'd spray a little water on the glass from the inside. ... I recall one of our fellow guides had an episode with Miss Baker during the daily cage exchange where she got tangled in his hair and didn't want to let go."

Chris Stuhlinger said he also occasionally had the duty of putting away Miss Baker and Big George for the night.

"Sometimes Miss Baker would jump around and protest the evening transfer," Stuhlinger said.

Davis said you might find Chris (called Hans), Rainer and Heidi in the play. The cast is all local people, including about 30 children dressed as monkeys. Rehearsals will start after spring break. Tomas Gorrio, a local artist, wrote the original theme song.

"My dream is that grandparents are bringing their kids," talking with them about history, legacy, bravery and science in Huntsville, Davis said. "I hope that the car rides home after 'Space Monkeys' are rich with fruitful conversation."

Fantasy Playhouse is collaborating with the Space & Rocket Center. The Boeing Co. is the title sponsor. Information and tickets are at fantasyplayhouse.org.

By Steve Stewart

OLLI LIFE

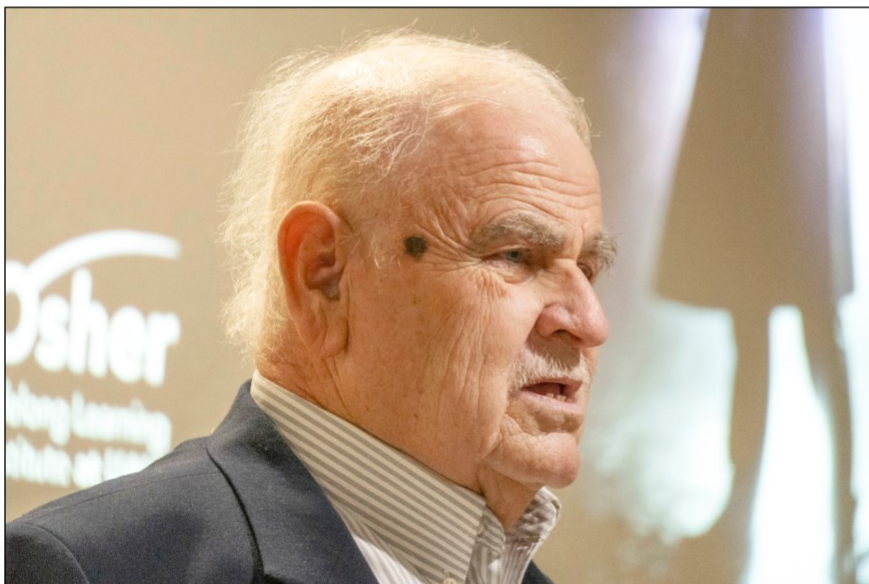
JAPANESE DINING



The Dine Out Member Interest Group met for food and socializing at Aki Japanese Restaurant on Feb. 22. (Photo provided by Sandra Dabrowski)

THE SECRET WORLD: COLD WAR INTELLIGENCE

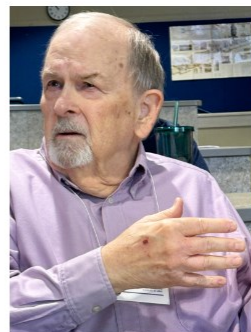
John Davis, a retired U.S. counterintelligence officer, and wife Jane presented stories of Cold War intrigue during a bonus on Feb. 2.



(Photos by Ken Hines, Steve Stewart and Glen Adams)

‘INSIDE OLLI’: TAKING A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD

Members learned how OLLI works and were invited to participate in leadership during Inside OLLI on Feb. 9. The three-hour program, which included lunch, was part of the 30th-anniversary celebration of UAH lifelong learning.



(Photos by Steve Stewart)

PICKING, POLITICS AND HOMEMADE SOUPS

Mike Ball — a former state trooper, Alabama Bureau of Investigation agent, and legislator — shared music and memories during a Feb. 16 bonus about “Picking, Politicking, and Pontificating (How an Ex-Cop Legalized Cannabis While Fighting Corruption).” Afterward, OLLI members shared homemade soups during the annual Souper Bowl.



CONVERSATIONS ON 'TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD'

Actors Dorcas Sowunmi and Joey LaBrasca joined OLLI members for a reception before the Feb. 18 matinee of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the Von Braun Center. She portrayed the wife of defendant Tom Robinson; he was a bailiff. Wil Elrick, marketing and creative services director for the Broadway Theatre League, brought them to the reception. The play is Aaron Sorkin's adaptation from Harper Lee's novel. Richard Thomas played lawyer Atticus Finch.



REGIONAL MEETING, MARKETING ON FACEBOOK



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

Exciting happenings continue, one of which is hosting the Southern

Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement for the first time on the UAH campus.

2016 — The OLLI Ambassadors volunteer program was started to help the College of Professional and Continuing Studies in all they were doing to help OLLI run smoothly. The first Ambassadors were Dori Anthony, Wilson Coats, Linda and John Dimmock, and Linda Lowe.

Feb. 17, 2017 — Eighty-five OLLI members participated in the first Inside OLLI seminar, which showed members how OLLI operated and who was responsible for making our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute the best it can be.

September 2017 — Rebecca Duke was introduced as the new OLLI director.

Oct. 4, 2017 — A reception was held at the Huntsville Botanical Garden in honor of Maxine Doherty on her retirement as the OLLI program manager. This reception also was an introduction of Rebecca Duke, the new director for OLLI at UAH.

October 2017 — The Tai Chi Member Interest Group was first announced to OLLI members.

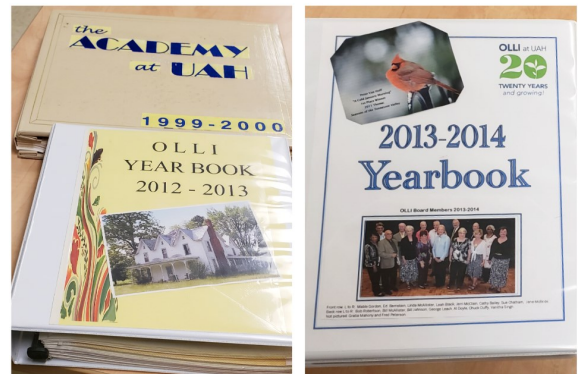
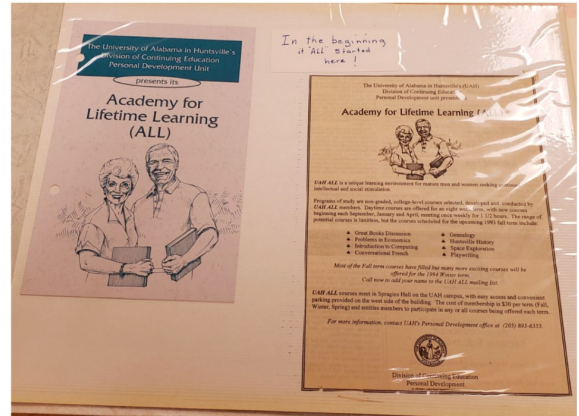
2017 — Zoned parking came to campus.

February 2018 — Gratia Mahony, the OLLI president, reminded members that OLLI had a Facebook page for them to enjoy. She urged them to post photos of OLLI activities on their personal Facebook pages, tagging the OLLI at UAH page so the photos would be shared there. OLLI was moving into the modern world.

May 2018 — This was the last month that *The OLLI Insider* was bulk-mailed to members. Members could access an electronic version on the OLLI at UAH website or in the weekly eNews.

August 2018 — Start of the celebration of the 25th year of lifelong learning programs at UAH.

Aug. 1-3, 2018 — OLLI at UAH and UAH teamed up to host the 10th consecutive meeting of the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement (SRCLR) for the first time. The conference brought together approximately



You'll find OLLI history in several scrapbooks available in the OLLI lounge, including these.
(Photos by Sue Chatham)

200 participants from not only the Southeast Region, but also Pennsylvania, Delaware, Nevada, Utah, Texas, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio.

Aug. 3, 2018 — Rebecca Duke resigned as director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

August 2018 — Alice Sammon became full-time with CPCS with new responsibilities as the OLLI program coordinator.

September 2018 — Alissa McKinnon joined the UAH staff as the new OLLI program manager.

Sept. 14, 2018 — At the 25th-anniversary reception at the UAH Lowe House, the inaugural volunteer recognition presentation was given to Sue Chatham with the OLLI at UAH Legacy Volunteer Award.

The information and pictures here came from past newsletters located on the OLLI website.

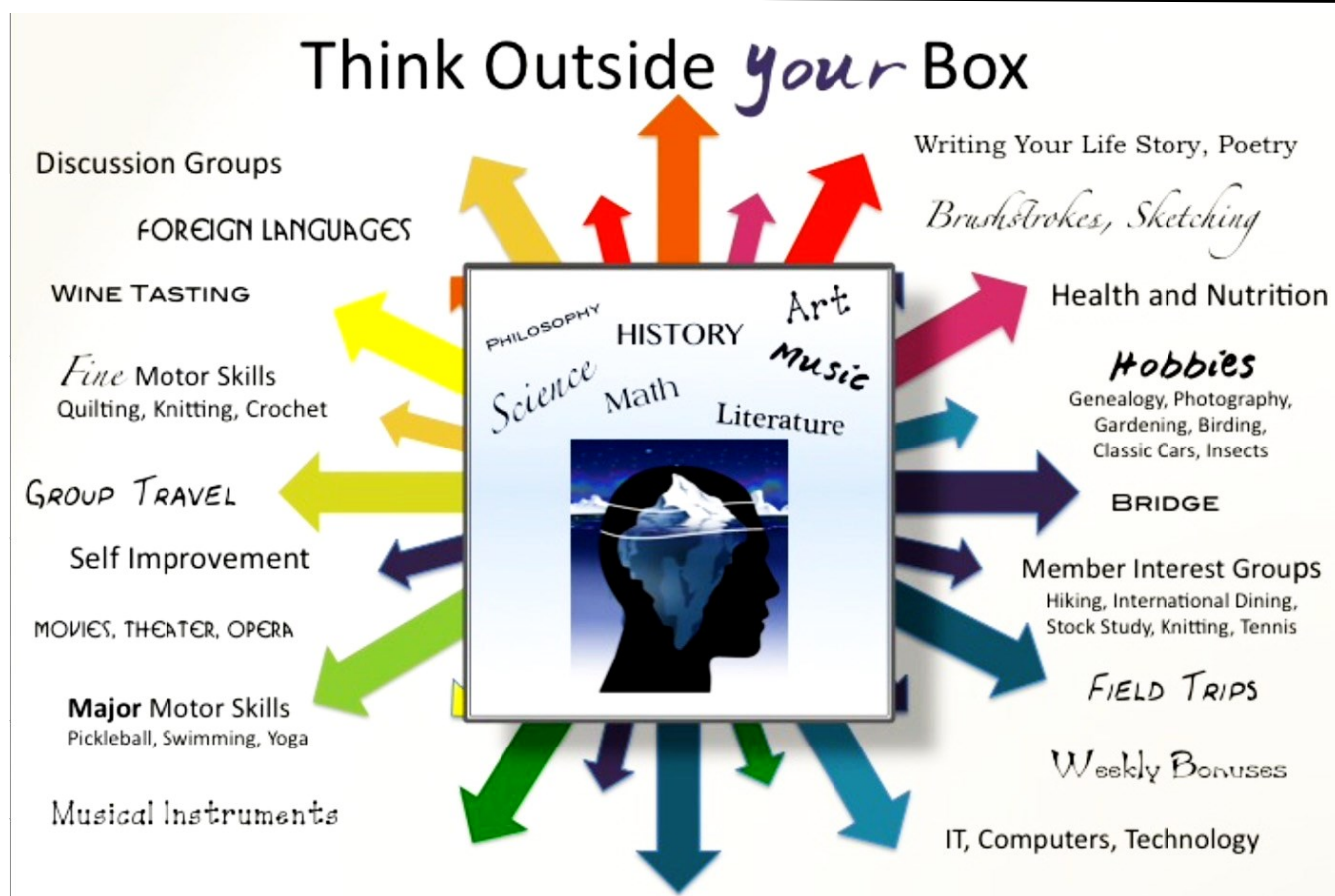
The journey continues ...

By Sue Chatham

THE LAST WORD



OLLI past presidents — (from left) Chuck Duffy (2010-13), Cindy Spratley (2009-10), Bob Ward (2006-07), Jim Lindberg (2002-04), Jerri McLain (2013-15), Sue Chatham (2007-09), Hugh Nicholson (2005-06), Gratia Mahony (2017-19) and Bob Darnall (2015-17) — honored OLLI Program Manager Maxine Doherty (center photo) during her retirement ceremony Oct. 4, 2017, at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Sue Chatham (right photo) received the Legacy Volunteer Award on Sept. 14, 2018, as OLLI began recognizing outstanding volunteers annually.



Jerry Pang put together this graphic for the February 2017 newsletter that shows what OLLI is about.