

# The OLLI Insider

News For Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH

Est. in 1993 as the Academy for Lifetime Learning, Inc. at UAH

P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807 256-824-6959 www.uah.edu/pcs/olli Email: OLLI@uah.edu April 2014

## OLLI Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, May 22 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Early Works Museum in downtown Huntsville  
Guest Speaker **Bruce Walker**, nationally known storyteller



\$15 OLLI Members, \$25 Guests  
Purchase tickets in the OLLI office, Wilson Hall 151 or online at [www.uah.edu/pcs/OLLI](http://www.uah.edu/pcs/OLLI)

**Catered by Bubba:** Salad, Lemon Pepper Chicken  
Bowtie Pasta, Sautéed Vegetables and Grilled Portobello Mushrooms with Pesto  
Green Beans, Roasted New Potatoes  
Caramel Chocolate Brownie Rolls, Iced Tea/Water

Election of OLLI Board Members for the next year will occur at the conclusion of the evening. Biographies of the Board Nominees are on page 3. Come join your friends, meet new members, enjoy an evening of entertainment, and vote for new Board Members.

### OLLI Spring Term

#### Registration Began March 10; Classes Start April 14, 2014

Have you registered for Spring Classes? You can check out all of the classes online by going to [www.uah.edu/pcs/olli](http://www.uah.edu/pcs/olli) and clicking on the course guide. Be sure to note the course descriptions for twenty-five (25!) new classes as well your old-time favorites.

#### New Spring Term Courses:

A New Earth	Black Holes Explained
Breath Centered Yoga	Classic Cars
Contributing to Our Well Being	Daily Life in the Ancient World, Part I
Elder Law	Featuring Huntsville Authors
Floral Arrangements	Friday Focus – Five New Speakers
German I	Great Decisions
Growing Fresh Produce at Home	How Economic Forces Impact Your Life
Huntsville: History, Legends, and Rumors	Introduction to Perspectives, Composition, and Pencil
Meet Huntsville's Artists	Oh! The Places You'll Go!
Organizing Your Life 101	Sketching
The Ancient Cultures of South America	The Ardennes Offensive: Battle of the Bulge
The Best Years Ever: A 20-Year Lifestyle Roadmap	World's Greatest Paintings, Part I
Understanding the World's Greatest Structures: Science and Innovation from Antiquity to Modernity, Part I	

Remember you can register online, by telephone and in person. Your catalog has all the details. Choose your classes, and come join us for the spring term.

# President's Message

## Why I'm an OLLI member



Jerri McLain,  
OLLI President

Six years ago, I'd just finished a 4 year project and was considering a new direction. I actually can't remember where I heard about OLLI at UAH, but the idea appealed to me, and I proceeded to find out how to join.

I read the catalog, completed the membership application, paid my money, and began choosing the classes I wanted.

Having opportunities to take classes was key to my joining. I would not have become a member had there not been classes. I have registered for classes every term since I joined in 2008.

EVERY class I have taken has been rewarding.

The range of what I think about on a daily basis has been greatly broadened and enriched by virtue of the material presented to me in class and through my interactions with other OLLI members.

The number of people that I know [people I want to know] has increased dramatically. The sharing of life's experiences has caused me to weigh and review my own, has given me insight into new perspectives, new gratitude, new understandings.

What I've found when I've attended meetings with other OLLIs is a warm familiarity, maybe it's the commonality of age or stage in life, but it's there to be enjoyed and from which lessons are taken away.

Yes, I'm one of those OLLI members happy and proud to have found a place that's a perfect fit.

If you've had an OLLI experience you'd like to share, please email me with what you think: [mclainblue@gmail.com](mailto:mclainblue@gmail.com).

### In Memoriam: Florence Murphy

Florence Murphy, born on December 20, 1919 in Akron, Ohio passed away on January 23, 2014.



Florence was a founding member of the Academy for Lifetime Learning which is the predecessor of OLLI. She was a member of the Steering Committee in 1993 that crafted the concepts for how the Academy for Lifetime Learning would operate. She was a member of the first Academy Board of Directors in 1993-1994.

In addition to teaching many craft classes she assisted her husband Ralph in leading industrial tours and entertaining OLLI members at social events with his magic.

Florence showed her love for OLLI and young people, by being a generous supporter of our OLLI scholarship fund.

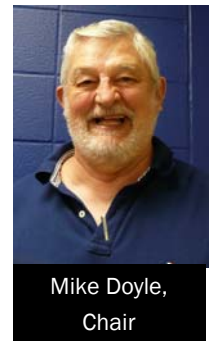
Florence continued to be an active member of OLLI until shortly before her passing.

We will miss her.

Submitted by Sue Chatham

## Curriculum

### New Courses



Mike Doyle,  
Chair

This Spring Term we have 25 new courses. However, I would be willing to bet that there are some of you saying, I wish that they would offer.... You need to tell us your desires; you are our best source of ideas for new courses.

When you suggest a course it would help if you have an instructor in mind for the course or offer to teach it yourself. If you have an interest in a subject, knowledge about the subject and a willingness to present a class, then volunteer to teach. It is a very rewarding experience.

We also appreciate feedback about courses that we may have offered in the past that you would be interested in. This information gives us data to help schedule courses for the future.

Tell us what you want and then volunteer to help make it happen.

# Nominees Biographies to the Board of Directors 2014-2017



**Bob Darnall** grew up in New Jersey and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), where he played football and lacrosse. He received postgraduate degrees from RPI and University of MA Lowell. Bob worked for Raytheon Company in Bedford, MA for a decade developing missile systems for surface-to-air and air-to-air defense systems before moving to Huntsville in 1978 to support Raytheon Business Development. Though Bob officially retired in 2010, he continues to serve as Treasurer on the Board of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of National Defense Industrial Association, and is Finance Chair for the planning committee for the Space & Missile Defense Conference.

Bob joined OLLI in 2013 and has participated in classes each term. He was elected to the OLLI Board of Directors in February 2014 to complete the term of George Leach. He is also active on the Social and Administrative and Finance Committees. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville, and a volunteer for a number of local charities. Bob enjoys volleyball, bridge and travel especially spending quality time at the lake with wife Nancy, and daughter Bri, and frequent visits with out-of-state family.

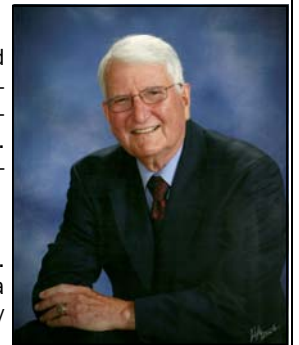
**Nancy Barnett Darnall** is a Fayetteville, TN native and moved to Huntsville in 1983 after completing an MBA program at Wake Forest University. She worked in various supervisory positions in private business and education prior to devoting her energies to volunteer projects and motherhood. She served as officer and board member for three local 501c(3) organizations and has been active with her church and Huntsville City Schools.

Nancy completed Leadership Huntsville-Madison Co. Class 16 in 2004. Since joining OLLI, she has immersed herself in taking classes and recruiting new members. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Cultural Committee and enjoys researching and planning out-of-town cultural ventures. Other interests are travel and projects with husband, Bob, and children/grandchildren at home or out of town, photography, bicycling, and water sports.



**Dick Fisher** graduated at the top of his engineering class at Georgia Institute of Technology and received M.S.E.E. and Ph.D. degrees from UCLA. He was employed in the aerospace industry for 15 years with an emphasis in sophisticated sensing and signal processing before joining the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC). During his career, Dick was a member of several senior advisory boards including: The U. S. Army Science Board, The Ballistic Missile Defense Advisory Board, and the Independent Science and Engineering Board.

Dick retired from USASMDC as Executive Director of the Army's R&D program for space and missile defense. After joining OLLI he taught and continues to teach high-tech and space science courses and has served as a facilitator for OLLI hiking and classroom courses. He is active in his church, Master Gardeners, and Rotary International.



**Phil Gwynn** retired after 36 years from Teledyne Brown Engineering (TBE) providing technical and project management of complex systems development for defense, aerospace and commercial applications. He led the effort from concept and design through integration and operations of the Missile Defense Agency's Hardware-In-The-Loop ground test beds from the 1991 - 2008 at TBE. In 2001, he became the Technical Director for TBE's Systems Division.

After retiring in 2011, Phil joined OLLI and has served as a class facilitator, class audio/visual support and office volunteer. He supports a variety of civic and charitable volunteer organizations. His hobbies include managing investments, hiking, travel, coin collecting and best of all - taking OLLI courses.

# Nominees Biographies for the Board of Directors 2014-2017 – Continued

**Gratia Dunham Mahony** was born in Madison, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin where she majored in US history. She is currently a professional genealogist teaching and researching family history for others. She is also compiling a genealogy of each of the several Dunham families who came to America.

Gratia has taught various classes for OLLI and is the Chair of the Wednesday Bonus program and Vice-Chair of the Curriculum Committee. She currently serves on the OLLI Board of Directors filling the unexpired term of a previous director. She led the effort to bring Terry Kay to Huntsville as the fourth in the series of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speakers, sponsored an author's workshop and led the Winter Term course on Kay's books. Gratia enjoys travel and gardening and family in the area.

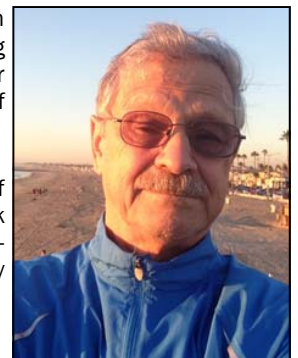


**Peggy McClure** recently returned to Huntsville from Birmingham and immediately involved herself with a swirl of activities in Huntsville, including OLLI. As a previous resident she taught in Huntsville High School. Peggy's first career was in secondary education, teaching in AL, WA state and Germany. In the interim, Peggy earned a J.D. degree and served as legal counsel with U S Steel for 18 years, heading the Law Department in Birmingham. Most recently, she served as an ordained minister in the capacity of Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Trussville, AL and Executive Director of Community Grief Support Service in Birmingham.

Peggy's civic-mindedness and leadership qualities have been shared with significant cultural, educational, and governmental organizations, in executive roles, too numerous to list here. She is involved in the Rotary Club of Huntsville and is actively pursuing OLLI classes and special events. Having traveled extensively, she is looking forward to the upcoming OLLI trip to Alaska, and always enjoying time with family and grandchildren – a full life!

**Kenneth Rex** attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and holds a Ph. D. in Physics and Astronomy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was Assistant Professor at State University of New York before joining Lockheed Martin, and later Raytheon, supporting systems engineering and development of DoD programs for 28 years. Ken and his wife moved to Green Mountain in Huntsville in 2005 where they have enjoyed out of doors activities especially hiking and biking opportunities in the region.

After retiring from Raytheon, Ken joined OLLI initially taking classes, but soon became an instructor for some of our most challenging courses in the astrophysical realm. To date, he has taught four classes dealing with dark energy/matter and physics of time. He is also a member of City of Huntsville "Bicycling Advocacy Safety Committee;" is the Community Affairs Officer with Spring City Cycling Club; and leads a group of retirees on weekly bicycle rides when weather permits.



## New DVD's in the OLLI Video Library

Cathy Bailey has been busy adding 4 new DVD series to the OLLI Video Library.

They are:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Secrets of Mental Math    | 2. Secrets of Sleep Science                     |
| 3. The Inexplicable Universe | 4. What are the Chances? Probability Made Clear |

The Video Library is located in the OLLI office in Wilson Hall. To check out the videos fill in your name and date on the front of the envelope that the video is in. Please remember to return the videos when you have finished viewing them so that other OLLI members can have the same opportunity.

**Scholarship Committee Welcomes New Members**



Nancy Darnall Bonnie Pearson

The OLLI Scholarship Committee welcomes their newest members, Nancy Darnall and Bonnie Pearson. They have already demonstrated their interest by participating in a brainstorming session, which generated many avenues which can be pursued. We look forward to their inputs as we continue to grow the OLLI Scholarship.

Submitted by Pat Lindberg

**In Memoriam: Pat Passmore**

Fifteen year OLLI member Pat Passmore passed away unexpectedly March 5<sup>th</sup> at age 73, following complications from surgery. Pat is remembered as an active OLLI committee volunteer, facilitator and student. Recently, Pat scaled back her participation in order to assist her son Scott, who has had mobility challenges from birth.

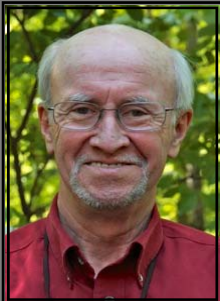
Education and healthcare were two focuses for Pat's life. In 1987, she and Scott were the first mother-son duo to earn degrees from UAH. Pat is best remembered for her huge smile, enthusiastic greetings and ready laugh.

Ron, Pat's husband of 52 years, hopes to be able to return to OLLI classes at some point.

Submitted by Mary Galbreath



**Special Events Upcoming**



Bill McAllister,  
Chair

**Alaska Tour Update**

The OLLI Alaska trip June 19 to July 1, 2014 is getting closer. Everyone on the trip is very excited and looking forward to having a great time.

The Alaska tour is full at this time.

*Popcorn and a Movie*

**Charlie Wilson's War**

June 6, 2014 10:00 a.m. Wilson Hall, UAH

Join us for a drama directed by Mike Nichols, and based on Texas congressman Charlie Wilson's covert dealings in Afghanistan, where his efforts to assist rebels in their war with the Soviets have some unforeseen and long-reaching effects.

**UAH Engineering Student Prototyping Facility Tour**

4/17/2014, UAH Engineering | 3 - 4 p.m.

Reserve your space now for a tour of one of the largest engineering student prototyping facilities in the country, the UAH Engineering Student Prototyping Facility on April 17. Space is limited.

Please contact Mable Gordon, [mablegordon44@gmail.com](mailto:mablegordon44@gmail.com) for reservations.

**Tour of the National Weather Service Office**

5/20/2014, 320A Sparkman Drive | 10:00 am

We rely on the capabilities of our National Weather Service Office to provide accurate weather forecasting to help us plan our daily lives. But, did you know that other weather-service goals include forecasting services to support healthy communities and ecosystems? Learn all about it when we tour the National Weather Service Office in May.

Space is limited. Please contact Mable Gordon, [mablegordon44@gmail.com](mailto:mablegordon44@gmail.com) for reservations.

# Cultural Committee Upcoming Events



Jane McBride,  
Chairperson

## OLLI Members' Works on Display

The Huntsville Photographic Society selected 50 works from thirty photographers for its Huntsville Photographic Society's 2013 Members' Showcase at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Several OLLI members' photographs are featured in this exhibit. The exhibition is in the Prozan Gallery of the museum until August 3, 2014.

The Art of Nature 2014, Sanctuary Artists is the title of the exhibition on the third floor East and West Gallery of Lowe Mill. This exhibit features local artists, some of whom are OLLI members, and it is open until May 3, 2014.

## The "Met" HD Live on Screen Mosart's Cosi fan tutte

Experience the Metropolitan Opera's Peabody and Emmy Award-winning series *The Met: Live in HD* in Huntsville at **Hollywood 18 Cinema**. Join OLLI opera lovers to see Huntsville's own Susanna Phillips, starring as Fiordiligi in Mosart's *Cosi fan tutti*—his beloved opera about testing the ties of love. Behind the curtain interviews give an unprecedented look at what goes into the staging of an opera.

Meet in the lobby of Hollywood 18 near Joe Davis Stadium at 11:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Concert airs at 11:55 p.m. Contact Jane McBride [janemcbride@knology.net](mailto:janemcbride@knology.net) if you have questions.



Susanna Phillips

## SAVE THE DATE !! Thursday, June 5, 2014

Join OLLI friends on a day-trip to Florence, Alabama, to visit the Rosenbaum House—the only Frank Lloyd Wright structure in the Southeast open to the public. Admission is \$5 per person for our guided tour.

The Rosenbaum House was designed by Wright in 1939 in his "Usonian" style for Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum and occupied by that family until 1999. It was purchased by the city of Florence and meticulously preserved as a museum – an architectural gem.

Carpools will leave from the front of Wilson Hall at 9:30 am on June 5 heading to Florence. Our tour begins at 11 am and will last approximately 1 hour. Afterwards you may choose where to have lunch from a number of delightful restaurants not far from the house—a listing of restaurants will be emailed ahead of time to participants.

Following lunch, you and your carpool may choose to visit the W.C. Handy Birthplace and Museum in Florence (\$2 admission fee), the Helen Keller Birthplace "Ivy Green" in Tuscumbia (\$5 admission fee), or other area attractions. Again, the choice is yours to make.

The Friday Focus will be hearing about the Rosenbaum House on Friday, May 8, so this trip is a chance to see this house in person. Please contact Sheila Scruggs at [sheilascruggs2@gmail.com](mailto:sheilascruggs2@gmail.com) to sign up and note if you will take your car.

### Other Popular Florence Attractions

Carmike Regency Square 12  
University of North Alabama  
W. C. Handy Birthplace, Museum & Library  
Children's Museum of the Shoals  
Blackberry Trail Golf Course  
Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge

Deibert Park  
Pope's Tavern  
Pickwick Lake  
McFarland Park  
Indian Mound & Museum  
River Heritage Park



*Cultural Committee Upcoming Events-Continued*

**Alabama's Biodiversity: Inspiring a New Century of Discovery  
A Tribute to Dr. Edward O Wilson**

April 23 | Wednesday | UA Tuscaloosa | 7:00 p.m.

More than 20 Alabama conservation and biodiversity organizations and the University of Alabama's College of Arts and Sciences will sponsor a fun-filled, informative night to honor Alabama native son, Pulitzer Prize winning author, and internationally recognized naturalist, Dr. Edward O. Wilson on April 23, 2014. Are you interested in traveling by chartered bus to Tuscaloosa to attend this event? Please contact Jane McBride at [janemcbride@knology.net](mailto:janemcbride@knology.net) if you can assist in planning this trip.

**Past Events**



**Alabama Department Of Forensic Sciences**

Special Event - February 27, 2014

Our tour was held on February 27 following the cancellation of an earlier date due to the snow storm. Fifteen members were in attendance. Mrs.

Dodd, the lab director gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Forensic Department and the Huntsville Lab. She spent time answering questions and shared with us some of her experiences such as testifying in court and crime scene investigation.

During the tour of the labs, we saw the equipment used to analyze DNA samples and to identify drug samples. We all gained a better appreciation for the demands and the responsibility of the work that is done in a forensic Lab.

Submitted by Mable Gordon



**UAH Theatre Department Play Anything Goes**

Cultural Event - March 13, 2014

**What a delightful evening** was Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> when OLLI hosted a members' dinner and theatre outing. With a hint of spring in the air, a group of 35+ friends met in the banquet room at Ol' Heidelberg for a scrumptious continental meal. We had reserved seats at Chan Auditorium to see the hit musical Anything Goes, produced by the UAH Theatre Department.

The audience was wowed by the exceptional talents of local actors in this madcap comedy set on a New York to London Ocean Liner. And we were thrilled to experience some of the most popular music that Cole Porter ever produced, such songs as "Anything Goes," "You're the Top" and "I Get a Kick Out of You."



Submitted by Jane McBride  
Pictures by Bill McAllister



# Past Events-Continued

## Winter Term Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Social Event - March 21, 2014 - BBQ by Smokey's



Leah Black  
Social Chair

Leah Black's social committee had a wonderful teacher appreciation event for the Winter OLLI term. The flowers provided by Nan Case were gorgeous-bringing color and spring into the hall at Trinity Methodist Church. The food catered by Smokey's BBQ was delicious. Entertainment was provided by OLLI members who are magicians, Bob Ward, Harold Carey and Waymon Krugh. Dr. Karen Clanton, director of PCS, presented book bags to teachers and members of the curriculum committee as a thank you for the contributions that they make to the OLLI program. OLLI President Jerri McLain kept the meeting running smoothly and asked all teachers present to come forward and introduce themselves to the membership. It was a great event. Plan to join us on May 22 for our Annual Meeting. Watch your enews for details.



Flowers by  
Nan Case



Magic by Harold Carey



### Teacher Retiring

After teaching classes for OLLI for 20 years, George Thurlow announced his retirement. He taught a variety of subjects in the scientific area. He will be missed as a teacher but plans to stay active as a member. See you in classes George.



Dr. Karen Clanton presents book bags to OLLI teachers in appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the OLLI program.

In picture left to right - Bob Robertson, Dr. Clanton, Vanitha Singh and Betty Carlton.

### Winner of Membership Contest Drawing



Geri Howard

Sue Chatham

OLLI sponsored a membership contest during the 2014 Winter Term. Each time a person brought in a new member their name was entered into a drawing for a free tuition for the Spring Term. The drawing was held at the Winter Teacher Appreciation Social on March 21. There were 34 members who brought in new members during the Winter Term. Jerri McLain, the President of OLLI drew Geri Howard's name. Gerri was excited and stated that she will use the tuition to its fullest benefit.



## Classroom & Lounge Maintenance Alert

OLLI members need to become more assertive in tidying up the areas we use. These areas only have limited UAH custodial service.

There are three things that merit attention:

1. First - Coffee. If a coffee warmer is on, indicated by a red light on the coffee makers (in room 152c by a black switch flipped up on the warmer ) it should be turned off when there is no coffee carafe on it. After turning off the warmer, empty the carafe if it is obvious that no one is going to drink the remaining coffee. Rinse the emptied carafe and the empty coffee packet holders in the machines.

2. Second - It would be helpful if everyone straightens the tables and chairs after class ends. Neatly line up the table and position the chairs behind them.

3. Third - White Boards should be erased, except for announcements about upcoming events. Erasing them with the erasers does not completely clean them. They occasionally need cleaning with liquid cleaner and paper towels (do not use the erasers with the liquid, doing so leaves a smudge.)

Although, the Classroom Facilitator has firstline responsibility for making sure the rooms are left in order, he or she will certainly appreciate any assisting hands. Please remember that OLLI is a completely volunteer organization and no one gets paid for doing anything. We all need to pitch in and do our share.

Here is the standard to follow: ***The classrooms should be in better order when we leave than when we arrive.***

Submitted by Hugh Nicholson

## Thank you from the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speaker Series Committee

The Speaker Series, organized to celebrate OLLI's 20<sup>th</sup> year, concluded in March with speaker Terry Kay. The series has presented 4 speakers starting in the Fall of 2013. The success of the series is due to the hard work of the Committee, the support of PCS and the support and participation of OLLI members. I cannot name everyone who has helped but would like to recognize the committee members; Jerri McLain, Gratia Mahony, Mike Doyle, Bill McAllister, Jane McBride, Linda McAllister, Maxine Doherty and Dr. Karen Clanton. The PCS staff was great in its support of our series. Leah Black and her social committee never failed to help with the food and Nan Case outdid herself on centerpieces for the tables and flowers for the stage. Lorrie White updated our OLLI video for each presentation. The PR committee made sure that our speakers were advertised throughout the community. There are many others who helped. If you made one phone call, met people at the door, put up one sign, washed one dish, or took care of one of the many, many details involved then you deserve a pat on the back. We could not have done it without you. Above all, OLLI members showed their support by attending the events.

Thanks again!  
Sue Chatham, Chair

**OLLI Needs YOU to help with the OLLI Insider Newsletter !!**  
**2 positions open**

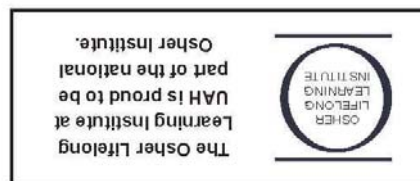
One: If you have general knowledge of Microsoft Word and/or Publisher and would like to volunteer to layout the OLLI newsletter, please contact Sue Chatham at [chatham@knology.net](mailto:chatham@knology.net) or (256-684-7950). Tutorials in Publisher software will be available if needed.

Second: Ron Brock delivers the OLLI Insider monthly from the printer to the post office for mailing. He needs a substitute when he is unavailable. This requires about 1-1/2 hours per month. Contact Ron at 256-348-5681, if you can help.

**Are you interested in the Turkish Language and/or Culture?**

A new OLLI Member Interest Group for those interested in a Turkish language study group is being organized by Bill Holman. Please contact Bill at [hlmnbill@knology.net](mailto:hlmnbill@knology.net) or 256-882-9109 for more information.

**Important Notice: Inputs for the May newsletter are due by April 18, 2014.**  
 Please send articles and ideas to Sue Chatham and Lorrie White, Co-editor, at [OLLInewsletter@msn.com](mailto:OLLInewsletter@msn.com).  
 Please understand that due to cost and space constraints, articles may be edited for length.



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