

THE OLLI

News for the members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH

INSIDER

MARCH 2020 ISSUE



Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute **at UAH**

MARCH - APRIL 2020

March 6 | Fri | 11:30 am | Faith Presbyterian Church

Event: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Join us as we show appreciation to our Winter term instructors for sharing their time, talent, and efforts while teaching for OLLI. Winter instructors eat gratis and a \$2 donation is requested from all other attendees. Please note a new location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Dr, Huntsville, AL 35802.

March 10 | Tues | 5:30 pm | Char

Event: Dine Out MIG - Char

Come and join the Dine Out MIG for a new dining experience: Char. A southern-style modern steakhouse offering USDA Prime and Choice cuts of meat, fresh seafood, home-style sides to share, and a selection of classic cocktails, wine and bourbon. OLLI members will meet at Char, 931 Bob Wallace Ave SW, Suite 201, Huntsville, AL 35801. Sign up [online](#) or contact

POC: Sandra Dabrowski, dabros1@comcast.net

March 13 | Fri | 11:00 am | WIL 168

Weekly Bonus: Independent Media-What is it?

Today, with the Internet, we live with a glut of information. How do we know what is fact and what is opinion in all that we see, hear, and read? We will attempt to demystify the process of staying truly informed by finding news sources that are based on fact rather than what is now termed "infotainment".

Presented by Jennifer Humiston

March 20 | Fri | 10:30 am | WIL 152

Popcorn and a Movie: Amazing Grace

The idealist William Wilberforce maneuvers his way through Parliament, endeavoring to end the British transatlantic slave trade.

March 24 | Tues | 11:00 am | Civil Axe Huntsville

Event: Civil Axe Throwing

Whether you want to channel your inner lumberjack or try out a fun hobby, axe throwing is a unique sport that's taking North Alabama by storm. Axe throwing is easy to learn and everything is designed with your safety in mind. OLLI members receive a discounted entrance fee of \$15. Located at Campus 805, 2620 Clinton Ave W., Suite B room 210, Huntsville, AL 35801. Sign up [online](#).

March 27 | Fri | 10:00 am | Wilson Hall

Event: Spring Term Open House

Register for courses, update parking passes, enjoy refreshments, socialize, meet instructors, learn about Member Interest Groups and Travel with OLLI. For new members there will be a brief New Member Orientation and Tour. In addition, OLLI will be collecting socks for the homeless if you would like to participate.

POC: Linda McAllister, wmca@hiwaay.net

April 4 | Sat | 11:00 am | Harrison Brothers Hardware

Event: Historic Downtown Huntsville Tour

Take a walking tour while learning about the history of many iconic building and houses in down Huntsville. OLLI members will meet at Harrison Brothers Hardware located at 124 Southside Square, Huntsville, AL 35801. Sign up [online](#).

April 9 | Thurs | 10:00 am | Alabama Supercomputer Authority Center

Event: Alabama Supercomputer Authority Center Tour

Visit this state-funded corporation that has the purpose of acquiring, developing, administering and operating a statewide supercomputer and related telecommunication systems. OLLI members will meet at 686 Discovery Dr. NW, Huntsville, AL 35806.

Sign up [online](#).

April 17 | Fri | 11:00 am | WIL 168

Weekly Bonus: Remembering Redstone: How the Army Changed Huntsville

Throughout the years, a living legend of Redstone Arsenal shared information about the truly special role the Army had played in Huntsville's history with a TV Morning News Anchor, but their time on TV was not enough to share it all. Engage and participate in their reunion and be part of one of the most interesting conversations about the Rocket City.

Presented by Mike Baker, Redstone Historian and Steve Johnson, WHNT Reporter

THE OLLI ENEWS VS. THE OLLI INSIDER

From time to time, members ask: What is the difference between the *OLLI eNews* and the *OLLI Insider*. Aren't they the same?

The *OLLI eNews* is sent only to OLLI members every Friday. It serves as an abbreviated version of the events that are occurring immediately, such as courses, social activities and committee meetings. It is designed to keep members abreast of what is happening on a weekly basis. Assembling of the *OLLI eNews* content and distribution are done through the College of Professional and Continuing Studies (CPCS).

The *OLLI Insider* is a monthly publication that is sent to all OLLI members the first of the month, but is also made available on our website and our Facebook page. It is distributed 10 times a year, August through May. This publication is an in-depth look into the activities of OLLI at UAH. It summarizes what has occurred during the month and what to look for in coming months. Content includes articles, pictures, ads, a calendar of events, and much more.

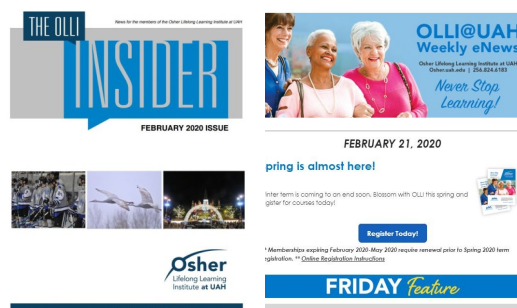
Four valuable goals of the *OLLI Insider*:

- Allows members to learn and share information and experiences about OLLI.
- Serves as a historical and public record of OLLI activities and achievements.
- Is a valuable part of OLLI at UAH membership benefits.
- Content is developed and coordinated by a team of OLLI volunteers!

The Insider Editorial Team consists of OLLI members who volunteer their time and work hard to publish the Insider each month. The team includes an editor, a copy editor, a computer developer, and a reporter who does feature articles. Articles and pictures are also submitted by OLLI officers, committee chairs, members of CPCS, and OLLI members themselves.

The *OLLI Insider* is your publication. If you have ideas for articles, have questions about the *Insider*, or would like to serve on the Editorial Staff, please submit to OLLINewsletter@uah.edu.

Elizabeth Kocir
Editor *OLLI Insider*



The OLLI Insider vs. eNews

WHAT DOES OLLI MEAN TO YOU?

We are looking for members to share their testimony!

Please send us a 100 word or less testimony to OLLI.info@uah.edu.



The OLLI Insider article submission deadline is the 17th of each month for the following month.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH OLLI



It is early Sunday morning, and I am sitting here in my den and thinking about my personal OLLI experience.

It is, perhaps, an appropriate time to think back over my OLLI journey. I came to OLLI in the Winter Term four years ago. My first term, I took Flora Boardman's "Beginner Spanish," Craig Rhinehart's "50 Geological Wonders of the World," Nancy Darnall and Danyne Drakes' "Segregation in the South" and Sam Tumminelo's "Socrates Café."

At that point, I fell in love with OLLI. It was a community of people who enjoyed learning and who were willing to explore other people's thoughts and share their experiences.

It also allowed me to explore areas that as an engineer I had never experienced. I read "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Go Set a Watchman" under Nancy and Danyne. At the time, I was 63 years old and had read neither book, though one had only recently been published. I learned a lot about how and why people believed the things that they embraced through civil discussion in Sam's class.

In truth, I became so excited about OLLI that I signed up for six courses the next term — and found out I was a lightweight, as several were taking 15 courses. I became a disciple of OLLI and told all my friends about it.

In my four years, I have learned many things that have impacted me. From Jim Beaupre's cosmology course, I experienced an awakening to the reality of what the Big Bang really meant, and it was not what I had thought.

More importantly, I was awakened to the concept of time and time relativity. When Jim told us that we were essentially looking seven minutes into the past when we turned our faces up to the sun, something that I knew intrinsically took on a new understanding in my mind. When Charlie Ross talked with us about gravitational waves as an alternative to inflation theories of cosmology, I understood that we are always on a frontier of learning.

Recently, I have turned my learning into other areas, such as by taking our bridge series. I had never played bridge, but have come to understand the complicated game that it actually is — much more complicated than the rook, rummy and spades I grew up with.

Finally, I am taking Phil Graham and Cliff Lanham's genealogy class. Through their tutelage, I have discovered my grandfather and great-grandfather's history and burial sites. I have found unknown relatives who died at birth and who were never mentioned in my family.

OLLI has been a miracle in my retirement experience. I thank each and every one of you who have taken time to help me with your knowledge, friendship and growth in this OLLI experience.

David Styers

President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

AN UPBEAT WINTER TERM



We are experiencing an upbeat Winter Term at OLLI in spite of the unpredictable weather with what feels like too many dreary, wet days.

Thankfully, OLLI offers a ray of sunshine as we experience socialization and learning in a nonthreatening environment. Many

of us are enjoying challenging course presentations and hearty discussions, or we are having fun with creative, hands-on courses, or we are trying to improve our health through numerous exercise-based courses.

Our program offers something for everyone, and our teachers are among our most amazing volunteers. Plan to come to honor them at our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on **Friday, March 6, at 11:30 am** at Faith Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Maybe you would like to stretch beyond your comfort zone when you register for Spring Term courses. The course guide of tantalizing courses has been available for several weeks.

You may want to continue learning with a favorite teacher or continue in a writing, history or language class that is ongoing. But just for the fun of it, you may want to try something completely different. After all, this is the springtime of our lives, so why not do what we want to do rather than follow the rules that dictate *should do* or *ought to do*?

Our Spring Term Open House will be on **Friday, March 27, 10 am to noon** in Wilson Hall. This is the perfect occasion for bringing a guest to OLLI.

In addition to our usual opportunities to register for courses, update parking passes, enjoy refreshments and socialize, you can also meet some instructors and learn about Member Interest Groups and Travel with OLLI.

But there is more. Because many new members come to Open House, we want to offer a brief New Member Orientation and Tour.

And there is even more. Our generous community service project of packing bags for the homeless was so successful in December that we voted to give everyone an opportunity to participate this time. Of course, this is optional, but if you would like to participate, we will be collecting socks for the homeless at our Open House.

So mark your calendars now and plan to see us at Open House on **March 27th at 10 am!**

Linda McAllister
VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



Jennifer Ellinger—Instructor of Blue Zones : Improving Quality and Longevity

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

MANY EVENTS COMING UP



Hopefully, many of you have been enjoying the OLLI Early Birds breakfast on Tuesday morning while visiting with other members before starting your 8:45 class.

Your Social Committee plans to continue the meals during the spring term, although the day may change,

depending on class loads and the desire to support other morning classes.

Our winter Teacher Appreciation Luncheon has been scheduled for **11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 6, at Faith Presbyterian Church**. These luncheons are always a good opportunity to thank the instructors who help make our OLLI program great. We will be having a St. Patrick's day theme and instructors will eat for free. A \$2 donation is requested from all other attendees.

This year the Social Committee has decided to have a Roaring 20's party and talent show. We know there are OLLI members with many different talents, and we want to encourage them to sign up to showcase them at this event. If you want to participate please contact Nancy Darnall at nbd51@icloud.com.

Whether it is singing, dancing, juggling, or just sitting and enjoying the entertainment and food, make sure you plan to attend. It will be held at the speakeasy at Campus 805 on **Monday, April 20, starting at 5:30 p.m.** Also, start marking your calendars for the Annual Dinner on **May 20 at 6 pm**.

The Social Committee is always considering additional functions. If you have ideas for other social functions and/or are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Bob Darnall at darnall45@icloud.com or 256.508.6033.

Bob Darnall

Social Committee Chair



OLLI AT UAH ANNUAL DINNER

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 | \$20 Per Person

Social at 6:00 pm | Dinner at 6:30pm


UAH Student Services Building, Room 112

Join us to celebrate and recognize all the hard work of our volunteers and members, while we bring the year to a close.

RSVP online, or in the OLLI volunteer office, WIL 151, by Thursday, May 14, 2020.
For more information, contact 256.824.6183 or OLLI.info@uah.edu



\$20 PER PERSON — FRIENDS & FAMILY INVITED!



ROARING 20s CABARET SHOWCASE

April 20 | 5:30 pm | Campus 805 Speakeasy

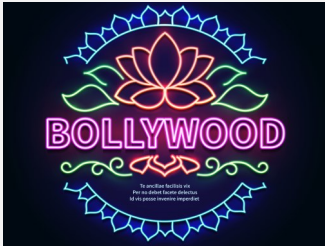
\$25

Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres and share your talent in the OLLI Showcase at our 20s Cabaret. For more information, email Nbd51@icloud.com

Get your tickets today at Osher.uah.edu/OLLITickets!

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

SPRING TERM IS HERE



Intro to Bollywood Movies | T | 3:00—4:30 pm

Back by popular demand with all NEW titles! Bollywood is the center of Hindi language films throughout the world. In this class we'll take a look at Indian culture through the lens of several Bollywood movies. Don't worry, there'll be English subtitles! Learn about some of the big stars and major themes of this genre. If you liked the musicals of the 50's and 60's, come give Bollywood a try.

Norwegian Hardanger Made Easy | Th | 10:30 am—noon

Through hardanger embroidery learn how to stitch kloster blocks, cut in the blocks, fill with picots and eyelet stitches, and also work on drawn stitching. A simple greeting card will be your start to hardanger. Hardanger is generally worked white on white or cream on cream, but in this course, you will get to add color to your work!



Smart Devices at Home and on the Go | Th | 5:15—6:45 pm

Alexa who? Siri who? Find out about the latest home and on the go smart devices and how they can make your life easier and more productive. Join this informative and interactive course to discover how smart devices work and their implementation in everyday life. It seems like everything you own can connect to the internet these days - from fitness trackers, light bulbs, and TV's to even refrigerators. This is all possible thanks to smart devices. There is a \$15 lab fee for this class.

Social Security-Understanding Your Benefits | Th | 5:15—6:45 pm

Expand your knowledge of Medicare to understand the complexities of the details of the various Medicare-related products. Learn when is the right time to claim your benefits, and how to maximize your income from Social Security . Discover how these factors will affect your retirement and estate.



Steady for Life Balance | F | 8:45—9:45 am

Improve your balance through new key exercises with the international award-winning program Steady for Life. Emphasize body awareness including inner ear and vision; ankle, leg and hip strength; coordination and flexibility. This course is open to all members including those with limited mobility. Find your inner balance and strengthen your body! There is a \$15 lab fee for this class.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAPPING AND THE SCIENCE OF BEER

Brimmer Sherman teaches one of the most popular courses in OLLI. But how can you miss it when the course is all about beer? And what better man to lead students through the maze of microbrews than someone who works at a brewery and brews his own beer at home?

Brimmer (that's an old family name from the Boston area) grew up in Denver and earned an aerospace engineering degree from the University of Colorado. After postgraduate work in neuroscience at the University of California at Irvine, he spent time in several engineering jobs and even built houses in New Mexico for two years.

But eventually he found his way into computer mapping, and that became his career. He moved to Huntsville in 1984 to work for Intergraph and stayed there until he retired in 2014. And that's when he became serious about beer!

"I had always been attracted to imports," he said. "In 2010, Alabama passed the gourmet beer bill, which let microbreweries brew stronger beers. I was intrigued by breweries, so I started going to the different taprooms and volunteering to help.

"Yellowhammer (Brewing) put me on their bottling line and eventually started paying me. I'm still doing that, and I also give tours with tastings of Yellowhammer on Saturdays."

Brimmer even invented two beers for Yellowhammer: **Poppy's Porter** and **Interrogative**.

His work with beer didn't stop with Yellowhammer.

"Tim Miller (who is an OLLI member) does home brewing, and he taught me how to make my own. So I've been brewing my own beer for four years now."

The first OLLI course that Brimmer taught was not about beer — it was a long way from beer. The 2016 class was "Cultural and Human Geography," which was based on his background in computer mapping. "But OLLI had a course on wines, so I thought, why the heck couldn't we have one on beer?" Thus was born "Appreciating the Art of Craft Beer."

This term marks his fifth course on beer. The class meets on Mondays at Below the Radar, which has 25 different beers.

"In a typical class, we have five samples of beers. I talk about the different styles of beers, what's involved in making beer, the nuances of beer, and how to taste beer. Over the course of

a semester, students will sample 35 beers. They discover beers they really like that they never would have known about otherwise."

Fortunately, you won't have to wait long for Brimmer's next class. It's scheduled to begin April 13th.

Submitted by Glen Adams



Brimmer Sherman

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

2020 OLLI PHOTO CONTEST

For 12 years now, OLLI has sponsored a photo contest for its members. Over the years, we have seen photos from many talented amateur photographers. With a different theme, every year is a new challenge.

This year's theme is "Things That Can Fly." There are so many possibilities: birds, butterflies and other insects, bats, even flying squirrels; planes, helicopters, rockets, blimps, balloons, kites. The list goes on and on. Someone even asked me, "How about time?" My response was: If you can figure out a way to photograph it, enter it.

One thing I have learned from entering photo competitions is that many things are left up to the judges to interpret. Whether "time flies" fits into the theme would be up to them.

Someone else asked whether the subject had to actually be flying. The rules don't state that, so that is another thing that will be interpreted by the judges.

Here are the rules for the 2020 OLLI Photo Contest:

1. Theme: "Things That Can Fly"
2. Photographer must be an OLLI member.
3. Each entrant may submit up to three photos.
4. Photos must be taken between **April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020**. Photos must not have identifying/copyright marks.
5. Cropping and gentle photo editing are permitted. Do not remove anything from or add anything to the photo. Keep the original photo.
6. Photos must be submitted in digital jpg/jpeg format.
7. We recommend at least 2 MB final size.
8. Name your photos and email them as attachments.

Prizes:

First place — tuition for OLLI Fall 2020 Term (value \$99)

Second place — one-year OLLI membership plus \$25 gift certificate (value \$50)

Third place — one-year OLLI membership (value \$25)

Submit to olliphotocontest@gmail.com. Include your name, phone number and email address. Give some information about the photo, where you took it and the date.

Submission deadline: **April 1, 2020**. Questions? Contact Debbie Tromblee at olliphotocontest@gmail.com.

Submitted by Debbie Tromblee
Contest Coordinator

OLLI 2020 Photo Contest Things That Can Fly

Deadline:
April 1, 2020
Submit up to
3 entries!

- Photos must be taken Apr 1, 2019–Mar 31, 2020
- Photographer must be an OLLI Member
- Gentle editing permitted, but keep original
- No identifying/copyright marks on photo
- Submit named photo via digital jpg format
- Recommend at least 2 MB final size

Submit entries:

olliphotocontest@gmail.com

Include where/when photo was taken,
your name, phone number, and e-mail.

Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest



CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE - PART 3

Here we go, the last segment of the Christmas on the Danube saga. Parts 1 and 2 talked about the visit, the ship, the crew. Now, a bit about the OLLI folks who were on the cruise.

There were 14 in our group, including one couple who joined us from California. I think I can safely say all of us enjoyed everything we experienced. The destinations were fabulous, the Christmas markets were spectacular, but the experiences on the ship were outstanding. We danced, we sang, and we ate and ate and ate. The meals were spectacular, as you can see in the pictures.

Our first comedic obstacle was the required life-jacket drill. Imagine 125 people sitting around the lounge trying to figure out how to put on life jackets, then putting them on so that they looked like an army of little orange things. *Then*, the cruise started.

We went through umpteen locks, and on the second or third day we had a speaker. One of the things they warned us not to do was to reach out and touch the lock walls. A day or two too late — been there, done that.

The first couple of nights were a little casual in the lounge. One night, there was a “private” party for those passengers who were parts of groups such as ours. There was a group of OLLI members from Penn State who joined us for this party, along with a couple of other groups. We felt special to have our own section of the lounge with appetizers and drinks.

Breakfast was always a buffet, lunch was a small buffet along with menu selections, but dinner — formal all the way. I can’t even describe how luscious the food was, and the presentations were beautiful. No hamburgers and hot dogs for this group.

The passengers got into the lounge action with karaoke on one night and a dance contest on another. I can tell you that Sue F. can really tear up a dance floor. We had a list of dances and had to predict which ones we thought would be the most popular based on number of people on the dance floor.

The results? No. 1 was “YMCA” — I mean, who can ignore the dance when the first notes of that song are played? Almost everyone hit the small dance floor. No. 2? The “Chicken Dance,” a favorite of mine that is played at a *lot* of weddings. Third was “The Twist.” You should have seen all us “seniors”

twisting the hips.

Another great night was karaoke. The passengers were divided into four groups for the cruise to make it easier to maneuver through the various tourist spots with a guide for each group. On karaoke night, each group was scheduled to do one song to kick things off. Then individuals and smaller groups stepped up to perform.

As the crowd started drifting out of the lounge, people got more adventuresome. You know our group: We like to have fun. So as the crowd dwindled, a few of us — Val S., Rainer K. and yours truly — stayed behind and belted out a few. First time for some people.

I heard a lot of good singing, some not so good. Amazing what a few drinks will do to some people (not us).

Remember the guy on “American Idol” several years ago? I think he must have been on that ship. Of course, he was with another group. Our small group was great! I’m sure if a talent scout had been there, you would be seeing us on TV.

We got close with the crew. There were only 40 of them, making it a little easier. We got some special attention from the wait staff, who even offered to reserve a table for us one night. That was a no-no, but we got the approval for it to be done.

One afternoon, I was in the lounge, Val was relaxing in our cabin, and I was going to take some hot chocolate and cookies for the two of us to enjoy. I asked the bartender for a tray, and he offered to just take everything for me. Imagine Val’s surprise when I walked in and told her a man was coming to our room. See? Special.

As I said at the beginning, everyone enjoyed the trip. If you ever have the opportunity to take this river cruise, I highly recommend it. And remember, what happens on the ship, doesn’t necessarily always stay on the ship.

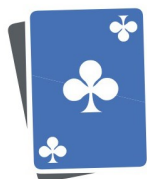
I hope you’ve enjoyed these articles. Looking forward to our next trip.

Irene Garoppo
igaroppo@knology.net

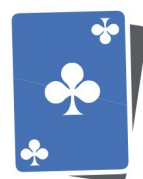
DANUBE - PART 3 PICTURES



BRIDGE BULLETIN FEATURED OLLI MEMBERS



Club News



OLLI classes are fertile ground for Huntsville club

By Susan Bridges | Huntsville DBC

Many new players have come to the Huntsville (AL) Duplicate Bridge Club from OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. OLLI participants pay \$99 per semester and take a variety of courses, ranging from radio astronomy to pickleball. Three members of the bridge club teach two or three bridge classes each semester based on the Audrey Grant book series. In fall 2019, Will Kirkpatrick taught Absolute Beginners Bridge, and Bob Darnall taught Building Bridge Skills. Joy Hall also teaches Defensive Bridge and has helped Bob teach two courses on conventions. Over the last four years, more than 200 players have participated in these classes, some



more than once. The students also enjoy a Friday afternoon rubber bridge game at UAH.

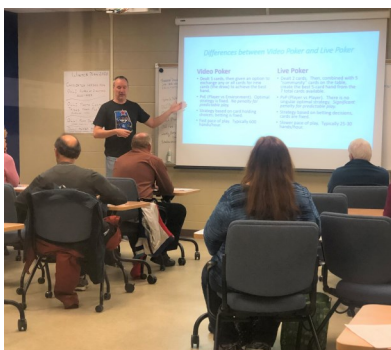
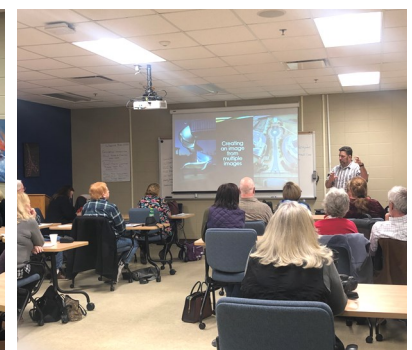
Darnall and one of his students, Donna Bolander, organized a small limited duplicate game at the bridge center that met simultaneously with a higher limited game. As the students gained confidence, they started moving to the regular limited game. Most of these new players joined our six-month mentor-mentee program based on ACBL guidelines, and now many play in both limited and open games.



Bob Darnall, Will Kirkpatrick and Joy Hall, OLLI at UAH's bridge instructors, were featured in [American Contract Bridge League](#) (ACBL) **Bridge Bulletin** in February. Together, with other OLLI members, the instructors share their love for the game in the Huntsville community and in OLLI by having taught more than 200 members. They also enjoy participating at OLLI's Membership Interest Group: Let's Play Bridge!, which meets every Friday afternoon during term.

Come see these instructors in action this Spring in a variety of bridge courses. Visit [Osher.uah.edu/catalog](https://osher.uah.edu/catalog) to find more information. Learn more about OLLI's involvement with the ACBL in [Club News](#)

FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES WINTER TERM



THE LAST WORD



CHAR
RESTAURANT

JOIN THE DINE OUT MIG AT

CHAR RESTAURANT

03/10/20 | TUES | 5:30 PM

931 BOB WALLACE AVE SW SUITE 201
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

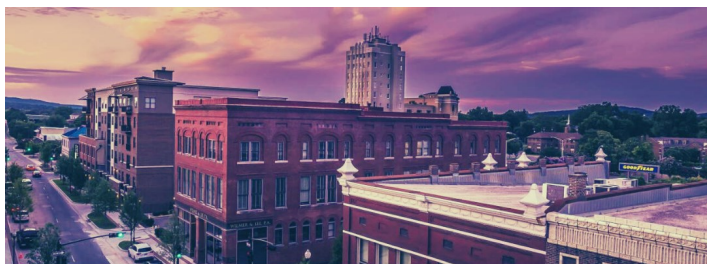


JOIN OLLI FOR A MORNING OF FUN
WHILE LEARNING THIS EXCITING
AND SAFE SPORT.

3/24/20 | T | 11:00 AM

2620 CLINTON AVE W SUITE B ROOM 210,
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801
ENTRANCE FEE IS \$15.

Click on the image
to register



Historic Downtown Huntsville Tour

4/4/20 | Sat | 11:00 am

Meet at Harrison Brothers Hardware

Click on the image to register.



Alabama Supercomputer Authority Center Tour

4/9/20 | Th | 10:00 am

686 Discovery Dr NW
Huntsville, AL 35806

Click on image to register.

