

THE OLLI

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

INSIDER

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE



Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute **at UAH**

Wilson Hall Room 113, Huntsville, AL 35899 | 256.824.6183 | OLLI.info@uah.edu | Osher.uah.edu

JANUARY 2021 - FEBRUARY 2021

Sign up for each event by clicking “online”. All bonuses/events are through Zoom videoconferencing. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting invitation one business day prior. There is a limited capacity per event.

Jan 5-19 | Tues | 4:00 pm | \$35 | [Online](#)

Special Course: Shake and Pour - Learning Mixology

Join us to learn the essential elements behind making different cocktails using vodka, rum, and whiskey from your own home. This course will teach you new skills to be used now and for years to come. Once you've mastered your bartending skills, you will make any drink imaginable.

Members will receive recipes for each cocktail and an ingredient list prior to each session.

Register [online](#) for the three session course for \$35.

Taught by Talina Acklin, Licensed ABC Mixologist

Jan 8 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)

Bonus: The Current and Future Impact of the Opioid Epidemic

Discover the history and current state of our nation's and local community's struggles with the opioid epidemic.

Learn about the prescription drugs that are commonly abused, as well as signs and symptoms of abuse. Review how state legislation has changed, and the programs developed to curb the problem of over-prescribing doctors and doctor shopping. Explore different resources and tips on how to help someone who struggles with a substance use disorder.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Karren Crowson, Mike Woods and Officer Teresa Taylor-Duncan.

Jan 13 | Wed | 1:00 pm | [Online](#)

Conversation on Racism and Bias

Discuss and exchange ideas, experiences, and resources on eliminating racial inequality in a welcoming environment. Sign up [online](#) for the Zoom discussion.

Hosted by Nancy Darnall, OLLI at UAH Member

Jan 15 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)

Bonus: The Art of the Panel Cartoon

Look into contemporary cartoon examples derived mainly from the treasure trove of urbane humor, The New Yorker magazine. Learn the differences on the one-panel from comic strips, comic books, and animation. Explore the history of its roots in illustration and caricature, and how cartoons were able to proliferate with improvements in reproduction and syndications. The division of one-panels between mainly political/editorial cartoons and mainly humorous cartoons will be discussed.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Dr. Bill Confer, Retired Clinical Psychologist

Jan 29 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)

Bonus: Revolutionary War - General Daniel Morgan

Delve into the life and times of Daniel Morgan, from whom Morgan County, AL is named after. He was a Revolutionary War General, Hero of Quebec, Saratoga and Cowpens, and winner of one of seven gold medals authorized by the continental Congress. He is recognized by military historians as the only tactical genius on both sides of the Revolutionary War. Learn more about the man who seized the opportunity.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Bob Anderson, Retired Boeing Engineer and Amateur Revolutionary War Historian

Feb 5 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)

Coffee Chats: Bingo

Join us to play the game of chance. Game cards will be provided to each member prior to the event.

Sign up [online](#) for the coffee chats using Zoom.

Presented by Ale Pacheco, OLLI Program Manager

Feb 12 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online](#)

Bonus: Art Against the Odds - Programming During a Pandemic

Travel back in time to the incredible days of March 2020 and find out what was happening behind the scenes when the Huntsville Art Museum's doors closed to the public. Since reopening in late May, learn how the institution has been adapting to the unfolding realities of the pandemic, including how the continuing health crisis has shaped the exhibition program and created new programming initiatives going forward.

Sign up [online](#) for the bonus using Zoom.

Presented by Peter Baldaia and David Reyes

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

2021— WHAT'S NEW?



As the editor of *The OLLI Insider*, I work with a team that is constantly looking for ways to improve the quality and content of the publication. It is not an easy task, but I am very fortunate to work with creative and talented people who kick around ideas and make changes that are for the betterment

of the publication.

That is why I am pleased to announce that the “Member Spotlight” section has been changed to “People of OLLI” beginning with this issue.

This section will recognize and highlight all those who contribute to the success of our program, whether they are members, instructors, behind-the-scenes individuals, etc.

If you know of someone who fits this criterion, please let us know by sending an email to OLLINewsletter@uah.edu

Speaking of people who do so much for OLLI, check out Irene Garoppo’s article seeking nominations for Volunteer of the Year and Legacy awards. Irene explains, in detail, what these awards are and how to nominate a member.

There is also a new slate of courses, beginning January 19th. Check out the course guide to determine what class you would like to take, and register online.

The Nominating Committee continues its efforts to seek members who wish to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2021-24 term. Serving on the board gives you the opportunity to meet new people and help shape the future of OLLI.

While we look forward to 2021 and what new things it will bring to OLLI, it can’t happen without funding. Recently, members were sent letters to donate to the OLLI Support Fund. I encourage every member to donate to keep our program financially sound and continue its efforts to provide great courses and other activities to our growing community.

Happy New Year, OLLI!

Elizabeth Kocir
PR Committee Chair



FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRIDE IN THE PAST, FAITH IN THE FUTURE THE BEST IS YET TO COME



The title above is the slogan that was utilized by a company that I once worked for, prior to the advent of ISO 9000, which shifted the focus of organizations to be more explicit about customers and quality. I do believe this slogan is very appropriate for us as we begin 2021.

2020 has been a monumental year for our OLLI. We had a great winter term, but then we were faced with the realities of a virus that had its greatest impact upon people of our demographics.

Your OLLI board made the tough decision, supported by the College of Professional Studies, to cancel our spring term. Our CPS staff and Curriculum Committee figured out how to convert our OLLI to the online experience of Zoom, and it has worked exceptionally well.

Our future has gotten brighter. The anticipated vaccines are now becoming available, and our demographics will be some of the early people to receive it. We are currently planning our spring term on Zoom. The new vaccines will hopefully allow the university to open back up and have OLLI members back as well. Only time will tell whether that is possible.

Just keep in mind that our university will make that decision based upon our safety as a community. We will simply have to be patient to see how this process unfolds. I am extremely optimistic that we will be gathering for coffee in Wilson Hall 152D at some point. I ask you to join me in this optimism. We need good vibes coming to us during this time.

We are moving forward into this year with our normal business processes. We will have new elections and the selection of new board members to replace those who are rotating off. The new board will elect executive officers and begin planning for the 2021-22 OLLI year.

Our dynamic organization has a bright future with your support and embrace.

Our OLLI is now sharing courses with other OLLI organizations in Auburn, Tuscaloosa and Montgomery.

Your Public Relations Committee has set up an editorial board that has, with support from CPS, taken our newsletter to a much higher level. They also are in the process of moving more actively into social media to get the word of OLLI out there.

Our Curriculum committee and discipline chairs are planning courses that we will all enjoy. Our Social & Events, Member Services and Volunteer Support committees are chomping at the bit to move forward.

We are poised for great things as OLLI at UAH, and I thank each of you for supporting our OLLI. The best is truly yet to come.

David Styers
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors



RENEW YOUR OLLI AT UAH MEMBERSHIP

**CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE
ONLINE COURSES, BONUSES
AND SOCIAL EVENTS!**

Three ways to renew:



**ONLINE AT
OSHER.UAH.EDU**

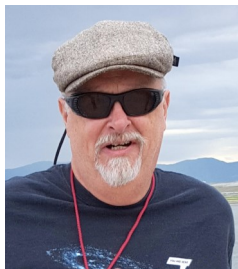


**PHONE US AT
256.824.6010**



**MAIL
REGISTRATION
FORM FOUND
ONLINE**

OUR ONLINE COURSES ARE TOO GOOD TO MISS



The holidays have come and gone, and we at OLLI sit at the beginning of a brand-new year — ready to grow, ready to learn, and ready, hopefully, to zoom back to campus at some point.

I hope that if any of you were on Santa's naughty list, you got

pardoned in time for his arrival, and that he brought you everything you wanted. I've already got next year's letter ready, and it has only one wish: that we all can spend the holidays next year with our families!

As you are reading this, the start of the winter term (January 19th) is right on the horizon, and we have a great slate of more than 40 courses ready to go. Plus, there are a couple of special courses in early January to help get you warmed up for the main event. To find more information on winter term courses please visit Osher.uah.edu/OLLICatalog

I hope you have already enrolled. And, if you're like me, you either had or will have a hard time choosing. I can't wait.

But we at curriculum are not resting on our laurels. We are already working on the spring term, which will begin April 5th. I can tell you that our discipline chairs have done a great job lining up another promising term. I believe you'll be pleased.

Having said all of that, I want to talk about the learning environment that nearly all educational institutions are currently being forced to endure, and that's presenting their programs via virtual learning.

Folks, we are suffering under one of the greatest pandemics in over a century, and even though vaccines have just recently been approved, it will be at least six months until the majority of our citizens can be vaccinated, and who knows how much longer for the immunities to take effect?

So, what I'm trying to lead you to is that we will not be returning to campus for in-person anytime soon. It's for our safety, and that should be appreciated. But even so, we're not going to abandon our goals of lifelong learning! And so, learning via the Zoom platform will be a fact of life

— not only for the duration of the pandemic, but afterward as well. Like it or not, Zoom is the educational wave of the future.

So my question is, why are we so hesitant to embrace this new modality? I know that everybody reading this newsletter has a computer or an iPad or a smartphone. And if you have one of those, you can use Zoom.

It's simply a matter of downloading the free app from your favorite online app store and then joining in. It's easy to install, and it's easy to use. And even if you're not necessarily "computer friendly," we can make it easy for you by providing tutorials on setting it up, tuning in to programs, presenting programs, and every other possible nuance you might encounter. This is the future, and we need to embrace it.

We look at this as an exciting opportunity, and really want to get all our members and even their friends and families involved.

We are a community committed to learning, and I just don't believe that any of us will let something as simple as logging on to an online classroom get in our way.

And with that, I shall bid you adieu for this month. Till next time ...

John Mason

VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

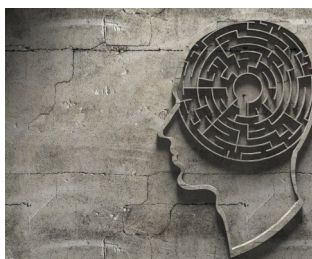
Winter 2021 will start on January 19th! Course start dates and lengths vary throughout the term. They will either meet once a week, twice a week or be workshop style. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration). We hope you can join us virtually in the winter!



Beginning Spanish

1/25-3/1 • M • 1:00 - 2:30 pm • 6 sessions • Dr. T Miller • \$35

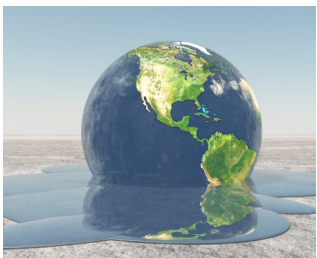
Let's start at the very beginning! Have fun while you learn one of the most used languages in the world. Pick up skills that will enable you to begin and continue a study aimed at becoming proficient as a traveler or basic communicator in casual settings. Work on your pronunciation, listening, simple but useful phrases and sentences, and some basic grammar.



What is Reality? Perspectives from Science and Psychology

1/26-2/16 • T • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 4 sessions • Dr. Rex & Dr. Confer • \$25

How does the universe work? How does the mind work in an attempt to comprehend our increasing understanding of the universe, despite the complexity of the universe and the limitations of our brain? Join us to discover the answers to these complementary and intertwining questions by placing the timeline of scientific discovery in perspective while understanding how our mind creates a version of the reality we inhabit.



Climate and Global Change

1/26-2/16 • T • 3:00 - 4:30 pm • 4 sessions • C Carr • \$25

Have you ever heard people mention climate change and not really understand what they mean? Have you heard the meteorologists on the news mention El Nino or the polar vortex and think they are speaking another language? If so, then this course is for you! Explore different meteorology topics on a global and continental scale ranging from global warming, ocean and atmospheric currents, paleoclimate, and so much more.



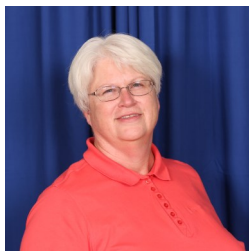
If You Could Read My Mind: Gordon Lightfoot

1/29-2/19 • F • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 4 sessions • N Darnall • \$25

Explore the music of Canadian National Treasure singer, songwriter and guitarist Gordon Lightfoot through videos, songs, and more! Revisit the soundtrack of the 1960s and 1970s that Lightfoot is credited with helping define the folk-rock movement.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR ANOTHER TO SERVE



We're looking for a few talented and conscientious volunteer board members to lead and strengthen our program.

If you can contribute your time, ideas, and/or leadership skills for just a few hours each month, OLLI at UAH is asking for your self-

nomination to our Board of Directors.

The nominations will be individually considered by the Nomination Task Force, then submitted to the OLLI membership in March for election for the 2021-24 term.

The OLLI Board of Directors (BOD) is dedicated to ensuring an exceptional experience for all members. It oversees the committees responsible for developing and maintaining the OLLI program, including curriculum, social and educational activities throughout the year.

During the three-year term, each board member is expected to serve on at least two OLLI committees, as well as attending a monthly BOD meeting (currently held via Zoom).

A candidate must have been an active member for at least one year prior and have participated in at least two terms of courses.

If you would like to be considered, or know someone you think would make an excellent candidate, please fill out a nomination application form [HERE](#). Nominations will close on February 19, 2021.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Janet Reville (jrev1988@gmail.com), Nomination Task Force Committee chairperson.

Janet Reville
Nomination Task Force Chair



OLLI Board of Directors 2019

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINATE VOLUNTEERS FOR 2 AWARDS



Despite the virus, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Even though we haven't been on campus, we still have volunteers. It's time to start thinking not only of our Volunteer of the Year, but also nominations for the Legacy Volunteer Award. Both are explained below.

The Volunteer of the Year (VoY) is an annual award based on nominations from the OLLI membership. This year's award covers the period from spring 2020 through winter 2021.

Not being on campus has a lot of our volunteers out of sight; but remember, we still have committees, instructors, facilitators, board members and bonus presenters among those still in the limelight. If they volunteered anytime during spring, summer or fall 2020 or winter 2021, they're eligible. In case you're wondering, spring 2021 is too late for the nomination process and will be included in next year's group.

The Legacy Award is for those members who go above and beyond, not just for one or two terms, but over multiple terms/years. The Legacy Award has had one recipient — Sue Chatham — and is given every three years. This will be the second time it's been awarded.

So, as you're thinking about volunteers for the VoY, also think about those whom you constantly see helping wherever and whenever needed. The only restriction for the Legacy is that the nominated person cannot be a current board member.

Candidates for both awards are selected based on nominations received by the OLLI membership at large. You can nominate any volunteer you'd like, as long as they're an OLLI member, and you can submit as many different nominations as you'd like. If you want to nominate someone but you think they've already been nominated by someone else, do it anyway.

The request for nominations for both awards will be posted in the weekly *eNews* and mentioned by class facilitators for the two weeks before the window opens. A day before the window opens, an email will be sent to

all OLLI members with a link to the form online. There will be a single form for both awards, with instructions on how to indicate for which award you're nominating. Manual nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations will be accepted from mid-February to mid-March. Nominees will be validated for eligibility and narrowed down to a list of five finalists, from whom a "winner" will be selected. The winners will be announced in the month of May. Each recipient will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the OLLI board president, a small trophy, and a registration certificate for the following fall term. Their names will be placed on the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office.

More information will be included in next month's newsletter. Be sure to start thinking today about whom you may want to nominate.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair



Rexanne Warfel—Volunteer of the Year 2019-2020



Sue Chatham—Legacy Award Recipient

BARBARA STAGGS LOVES PHOTOS AND TEACHING

If OLLI members are better photographers than the average American, the reason can be summed up in two words: Barbara Staggs.

Barbara has been teaching students how to take better pictures since the '90s, back in the days when teachers were still using slides. Since then, she has conducted at least 15 photography classes and helped roughly 300 OLLI members focus on better photography. She has also given several Friday talks on her various photo trips, most recently on Death Valley and on the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.

Barbara grew up in Quincy, Illinois, where her father owned a grocery store and restaurants. Before marriage, her mother had been a classical violinist.

Barbara attended Saint Louis University, majoring in psychology and minoring in elementary education. She had hoped to major in special education, but the school had no program for that.

Barbara married right out of college and moved to Owego, New York, where her husband began working as an engineer for IBM. Within a couple of years, they were transferred to Huntsville for his job in the IBM Federal Systems Division.

Barbara waited until her three children had gone off to grade school before resuming her dream of teaching special education. "I enrolled at UAH to get a master's in development learning after reading about this new program UAH was starting," Barbara said. "I still had the bug to teach students with learning disabilities. After completing my degree, I taught kindergarten through second-grade students with learning disabilities at Blossomwood and then at Weatherly for 25 years."

When did the photo bug bite?

"During this time, my husband, Willie Staggs, and I traveled extensively to Europe and other places, usually for hiking trips.

"He was the photographer in the family. But it seemed that I was always asking him to photograph this or that, move a little to the left, move in closer. He finally told me I needed to get my own camera. So I got a basic camera and learned to use all the controls. I also read photography

articles and books.

"When I decided I wasn't getting enough of what I liked on my 36 frames per roll of film, I decided to take classes. The first class was in Glacier National Park. That really helped me jump to the next level. Of course, I still was only pleased with a few of the shots, but that was because I was learning to think more critically."

The work paid off. After Barbara joined the Huntsville Photographic Society in 1994, she three times won the President's Award for most total points in a competition year, the latest being 2019. She has reached the rank of master of photography.

Several of her pictures have been published in magazines. Every year that the Huntsville Museum of Art has featured the society's pictures, Barbara has had at least one chosen. In 2019 she had five, and one is currently on display at the museum.

Willie retired in 1998 so that they would have more time to travel, camp and hike. After he passed in 2012, Barbara had to find new ways to travel. "I started joining photography workshops. My most memorable was in 2018. I chose it because it went to beautiful Calf Creek Falls at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, where my husband and I camped years ago. It was advertised as hikes of five miles, some of which used rope assistance.

I figured I would be the oldest in the group, so I started training on Monte Sano. Of course, I couldn't train for elevations of up to 10,000 feet. I also knew I would be hiking through streams for up to two miles."



Barbara Staggs

BARBARA STAGGS LOVES PHOTOS AND TEACHING CONTINUED

"All went well on the trip until we descended into a canyon. Our guide fastened a rope to one of the few trees and encouraged us to hold onto the rope and lower ourselves backwards into the canyon. So down I went. I kept saying: 'What have you done? You shouldn't be doing this.'"

"We emerged safely into a beautiful canyon. Then, of course, coming back we had to pull ourselves up the hill with a rope. I managed to stand and walk upright to the top. When we were all back up, I told the group how old I was — I was the oldest by at least 10 years. They toasted me!"

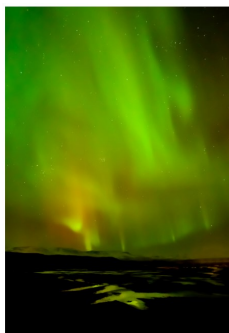
When Barbara began her OLLI teaching career, she used the same methods used in the courses she had taken: "I remembered my first photo workshop where our instructor critiqued our images. That seemed to be the best way to learn and teach, so I incorporated that in my lessons. It is satisfying to see my students grow. Teaching enriches me as well by making me focus on the basics."

As would be expected, Barbara's three children have not sat on their hands:

- Middle son Mike is a planetary physicist at Cal Tech. He discovered the dwarf planet Eris, which caused Pluto to lose its planet status. He and his wife have a 15-year-old daughter, Lilah.
- Oldest son Andy is a computer software engineer and lives with his wife in Bellingham, Washington.
- Daughter Cammy and husband live in Huntersville, North Carolina, and she works for a firm that builds custom machinery for industry. Her 19-year-old son, Sam, is studying math and physics at North Carolina State University.

Join Barbara this winter in her course: *Composing Great Photos: Beyond the Basics*. Find more information on the [OLLI Course Guide](#).

Written by Glen Adams



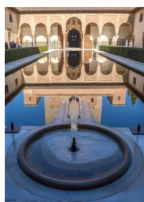
Aurora, Iceland



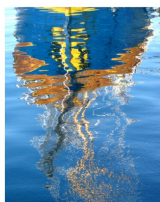
Grand Tetons



Old Master



Alhambra,
Granada, Spain



Croatia



Baja California



Barbara Staggs in Utah
Photographed by a fellow climber

Photos by Barbara Staggs

COVID-19 QUARANTINE STORY: A HOME FACE-LIFT AND ONLINE RECONNECTIONS

Being a substitute teacher, I found it very difficult to decide to sit the school year out. I absolutely love my job, so it was bittersweet.

With the time on my hands, I have given my home a face-lift: new gutters, replaced carpet with hardwood, privacy fence and deck stained, and also interior painting.

For fun, I have reconnected with my OLLI friends by enrolling in the virtual classes and bonus activities. I'm a frequent visitor to the Madison library for curbside service (which I love!).

To help relieve the stress of isolation, I walk outside as often as the weather allows. Now, I spend time in my Christmas onesies watching the Christmas movies.

But the *most* important thing I have done during this pandemic is to practice recommended COVID-19 protocol. You won't catch me without a mask (or two).

Stay safe!

By Rachel Howard



Rachel Howard enjoying watching Christmas movies during quarantine.



Before and after pictures of Rachel's floor renovation

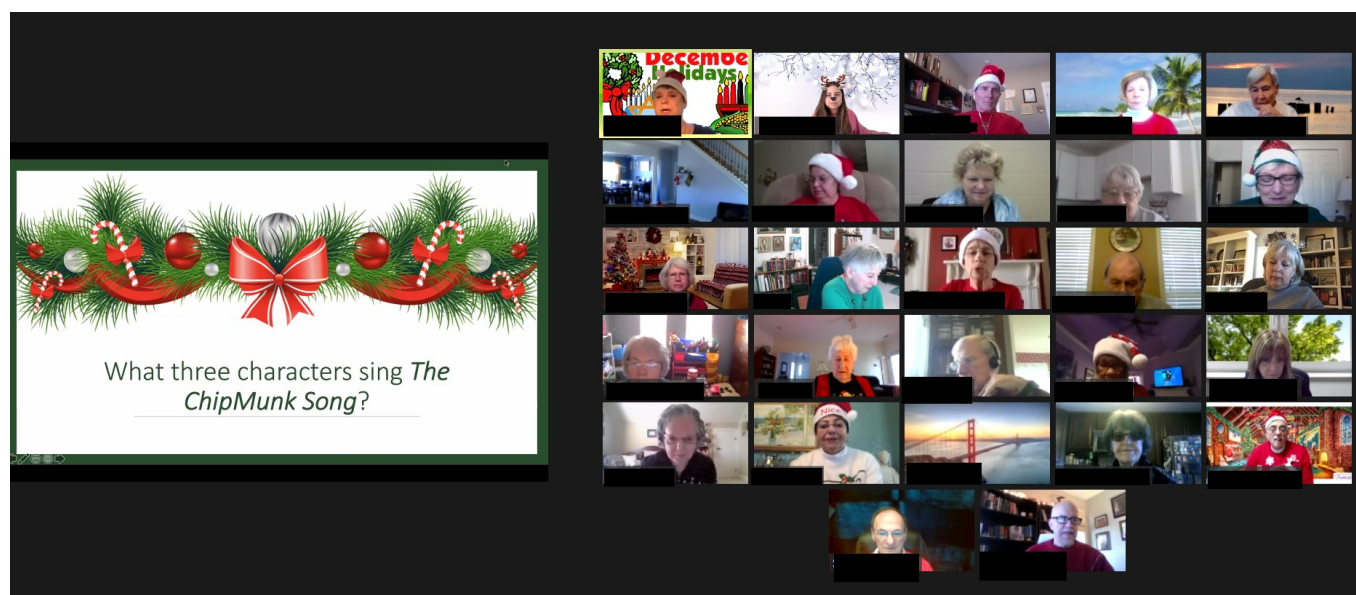
OLLI WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Thank you to all of the members who attended our virtual open house on December 16th. We hope everyone had a great time and learned more about the great courses OLLI at UAH will be offering starting in January. Find more information on our course offerings at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLI/Catalog](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLI/Catalog)



OLLI HOLIDAY GATHERING

We hope our members had a wonderful Holiday season! We want to thank the ones who attended our first virtual holiday gathering. Big shout out to the Social Committee for planning such a fun event with trivia, line dancing, learning about children's books, and a fun video from members. Stay active with OLLI and learn more about our social events at Osher.uah.edu/OLLIEvents



THE LAST WORD

Virtual Bonus:

THE CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPACT OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

presented by Karren Crowson, Mike Woods and Officer Teresa Taylor-Duncan

1/8/2021 | F | 11:00 am

Click on the image to register.

Conversations on Racism and Bias

1/13/21 | W | 1:00 pm



Click on the image to register.

VIRTUAL BONUS:

THE ART OF THE PANEL CARTOON

presented by Dr. Bill Confer

1/15/21 | F
11:00 am



Click on the image to register.



Virtual Bonus:

Revolutionary War-General Daniel Morgan

presented by Bob Anderson

1/29/21 | F | 11:00 am

Click on the image to register.