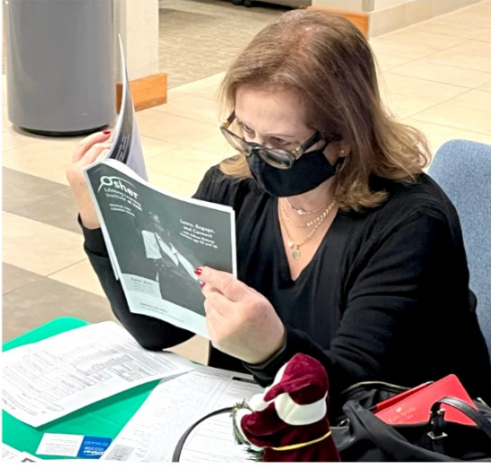




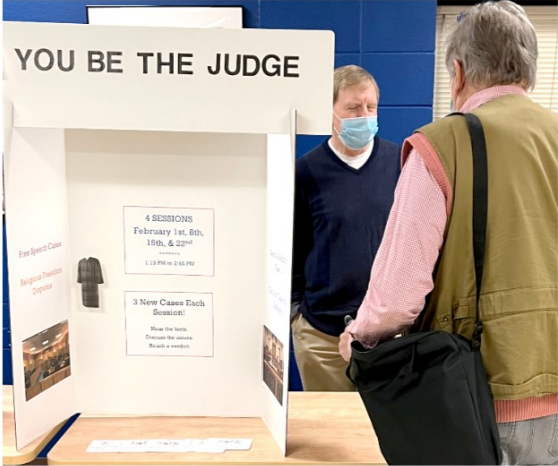
# INSIDER

News for the members of OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville



## IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR WINTER CLASSES

About 70 members and nonmembers attended open house in Wilson Hall on Dec. 10 — a time to meet teachers, learn about classes offered for the winter term, and socialize. Online “OLLI Alabama Shares” courses from The University of Alabama and Auburn University will start Jan. 18; OLLI at UAH courses will begin Jan. 24. See more photos from the open house on Pages 16 and 17.



# CALENDAR

## JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 2022

Sign up for each event by clicking "Online/In Person." All bonuses/events with online option are through Zoom video conferencing. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting invitation one business day prior. There is a limited capacity for in-person events.

**Jan 14 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)**

**Bonus: A Critical Explanation and Discussion of CRT**

Critical Race Theory (CRT) came into use in the early 1970s developed by Harvard law professor, Dr. Derrick Bell. Dr. Bell and other legal scholars used the phrase as a takeoff on "critical legal theory" a branch of legal scholarship taught in law schools across the country. In the current social and political climates, the theory has been misconstrued, misunderstood, miscommunicated, and applied in unintended genres. Join us to learn the historical beginning of the theory, what CRT is and is not, its original intent, current use, and its application across social, political, and educational arenas.

*Presented by Delois H. Smith, Licensed Professional Counselor*

This instructor will be presenting this bonus online and will not attend in person. However members can still attend either online or in-person.

**Jan 15 | Sat | 9:00 - 11:30 am | [In-Person](#)**

**Event: Hike at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary**

Join us for a hike through the 375-acre Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary near the Flint River and discover these unique wild habitats situated among the many nearby subdivisions. The level walking trail will lead us through bottomland hardwood woodland and retired agricultural fields, by small ponds and swamps, and along the Flint River's riparian area. Look for birds and the occasional deer.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather (hike will be cancelled if inclement weather); parts of the trail may be muddy.

*Meet at the Taylor Road Entrance (gravel lot about 2 miles south of Hampton Cove Walmart). Taylor & Terry Drake Rd, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763*

*Hike led by Steve Jones, Bill Heslip, and Chris Stuhlinger*

**Jan 28 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)**

**Bonus: Wonders Under the Sea Across The World**

Dive down into the oceans of the world with a published underwater photographer as they share the magical, mysterious, and surprising sea life from their perspective. Discover what it takes to capture images, and learn about some of the most unique creatures beneath the surface through a combination of photography, marine biology, world geography, and a bit of storytelling.

*Presented by Lila Harris, Published Underwater Photographer*

**Feb 4 | Fri | 9:30 am - Noon | [In-Person](#)**

**Event: Bird Spotting and Hiking at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge**

Join us for a morning of spotting sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, Canada geese, ducks, and numerous other waterfowl species at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Activities will include a visit to the Observation Building overlooking the nearby wetlands and short hikes on the Cypress Boardwalk and nearby loop trail. The refuge attracts thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather (hike will be cancelled if inclement weather); parts of the trail may be muddy.

*Meet at the Refuge Visitor's Center Parking Lot (entrance off Highway 67, Point Mallard Parkway in southeast Decatur, about 3 miles northwest of I-65 exit 334)*

*Hike led by Steve Jones, Bill Heslip, and Chris Stuhlinger*

**Feb 4 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)**

**Coffee Chats: Scattergories**

Bring on your creative side as you name objects within a set of categories in a short period of time.

*Presented by OLLI Program Coordinator*

## COVID'S SILVER LINING: ONLINE CLASSES



Welcome to Year 4 of COVID-19.

I'm counting from 2019, the year the virus started (that's where the "19" comes from). For OLLI at UAH, our COVID adventure is approaching the two-year mark. The last big in-person event before the virus's rude interruption was on Friday the 13th in March 2020.

Regarding the virus, it's not a happy new year. I'm tired of people getting sick and dying, tired of hardships, tired of masking and social-distancing, tired of services and businesses being disrupted, tired of events being called off, tired of worrying whether I will infect someone else or they will infect me, tired of pandemic politics.

I'm tired of being prudent, but I must be. As the great Yogi Berra supposedly said, "It ain't over till it's over."

This cloud, however, has the proverbial silver lining. COVID has brought at least one change to OLLI that I hope will be permanent: online classes (not to mention online social events).

The round-trip drive to campus from my house in Decatur is more than an hour. Without online and blended classes, I would be taking fewer classes and limiting selections to one or two weekdays. Now I can pick a few on-campus classes that meet the same day plus several online classes that meet throughout the week.

I have attended classes while in south Alabama and other distant locations. I can "attend" on my cellphone while walking or driving. OLLI programs at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) and Auburn University offer internet classes that are as convenient to attend as our own.

Virtual classes have yet another advantage, explained colorfully by a woman in a newspaper story that made its way onto Jay Leno's comedy show. She said the shopping at a store called Dollar Palace was convenient and casual.

"I don't have to get all dressed up like I'm going to Wal-Mart or something," she said.

OLLI's winter term will start this month. Come to classes at UAH, or let the classes come to you.

This January *Insider* includes several perspectives on the old year, the new year and the pandemic. We have remembrances of two OLLI teachers, Lois Dreher and Bob Robertson, and a reflection on friendships formed at OLLI.

You may discover perks of OLLI membership that you have not used. There is a feature on Irene Garoppo, who is one of our most active and valuable volunteers. There are invitations to nominate members for Volunteer of the Year and for service on our Board of Directors.

Other topics include in-person adventure and travel opportunities, from local woods and wildlife to Alaska to wherever else we want to go; how OLLI classes can help you keep new year's resolutions; and how our scholarships benefit deserving UAH students while raising OLLI's profile in the community.

I appreciate all our contributors and readers and invite all of you to submit content, story ideas, comments and constructive criticism. The 17th of each month is the deadline for submissions; the address is [OLLINewsletter@uah.edu](mailto:OLLINewsletter@uah.edu).

**Steve Stewart**  
**Chair, Public Relations Committee**





## OLLI —THE RESOLUTION SOLUTION



Every January, it seems lists of recommended New Year's resolutions show up in newsfeeds, magazines, talk shows, etc. It is hard enough to commit to any resolutions or personal goals, even in a year without the daily uncertainties of a global pandemic, much less in years like the last two.

But here in 2022 I found a list of "8 healthy New Year's resolutions for older adults" at the same time I was perusing the OLLI winter term course guide. And it seemed like a possible action plan for each resolution was right there on our schedule. What do you think?

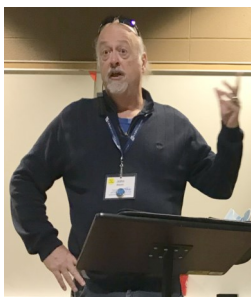
- 1. Eat more nutrient-dense foods.** We need fewer calories as we age but just as many nutrients. To help your efforts to improve your diet, sign up for classes like "Let's Get Cooking with Plants" with instructor Fathia Hardy or Rexanne Warfel's "Grandma's Ladle: Cooking from Home!" for recipes for warming and nutritious soups. Learn to be a savvy food shopper in "Mysteries of the Supermarket."
- 2. Try a variety of physical activities.** Enroll in one of the four tai chi or yoga classes or even "Let's Dance Cha-Cha." You might even take advantage of the OLLI member benefit of access to the UAH Fitness Center. (While you're at it, you may also want to register for "Ways to Avoid the ER"!)
- 3. Think positively.** A positive attitude is linked to handling stress better, faster and better recovery from injury or disability, and lower risk of chronic disease and memory loss. Perhaps you can find resources in courses like "Human Flourishing" or "Wisdom in the Old Testament" or even "Pros and Cons of Aging."
- 4. Stimulate your mind.** Literally all OLLI courses are options for this one. Lifelong learning helps build our cognitive reserve and the brain's resilience to cope with stress and challenges. Take a foreign language, explore the science or history classes, share ideas in "Socrates Café" or "TED Talks." Challenge your brain to learn something new.
- 5. Help other people.** Many of us volunteer in local community service organizations — a very rewarding experience. But don't forget the opportunities to help within OLLI. Volunteer to be a classroom facilitator, or join one of the many committees to help arrange events and social activities, develop curriculum, or engage in public outreach for OLLI, among others.
- 6. Stay connected and make new friends.** This is an automatic benefit of being in OLLI. You can add to your connections by joining a MIG (Member Interest Group) like bridge, mah-jongg, tennis, dining out, etc. Make attending social events or Friday Bonus programs part of your routine, and enjoy the snacks with friends, too.
- 7. Engage in the arts.** So many options here. Sign up for "Art for the Fun of It," "Behind the Scenes," "Intro to Bollywood Movies," "Chinese Art History" or "Seven Principles of Painting." Other courses explore photography and music, and several help your writing of poetry, memoirs and life stories.
- 8. Share a good laugh.** Heaven knows we need more endorphins these days! Join others in the OLLI lounge for a cup of coffee or tea, and swap your best jokes and stories. Good laughs are also to be found during the Friday Coffee Chats in games like bingo, Scattergories and trivia. Oh, the answers that some folks make up ...!

Wishing us all a happy and healthy 2022.

**Jill Stewart**  
**President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**

# CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

## WE ARE STRONG. WE ARE ONE. WE ARE FAMILY.



The coming of the new year is always a time for reflection and then for rededication. That's appropriate.

We should all think about the year just gone by because it has shaped us into those persons we are today.

And we should rededicate. No, not some resolution that we'll forget nearly as soon as the thing is made. Those things are, as a famous philosopher has said, "rat poison." Instead, let's focus on what we *can* do, not what we *might* do. And together, we can do a *lot!*

So what lessons did the last year teach us?

First, in memory of the many friends we lost this year, it should teach us to value our friends and the ones that they loved and that we love, and to tell them every day how much they mean to us.

So one thing I learned (reaffirmed?) is this: All of you are my OLLI family. I lost far too many of you this year who will always remain with me. I thank them for all they've done, and will miss them greatly, as I know many of you will.

And to my OLLI family, I will also always think about you and remember you. You helped make me — us — what we are.

I talk to many of you every day. And every day, I realize what a fantastic bunch you are! So let's all remember those who are gone, celebrating that we had the time to spend together. But even more, let's rejoice that we still have each other. It's a treasure.

Next, we began our recovery. Remember how happy we were about getting back to campus in September? True, we didn't get all the way back, but nevertheless, every step is a victory. We had classes together, an open house, a teacher appreciation day — all times we may have wondered whether we'd ever celebrate again. We will!

So what did 2021's difficulties teach us? That we are strong. We are one. We are family. And that in spite of what life throws at us, together we will survive and continue, stronger and better than before. We have done just that. We have come through. We have overcome!

And the successes will continue.

We just had a very successful winter open house leading to a brand-new term full of brand-new experiences and brand-new renewals of purpose and of camaraderie.

Have you taken a look at the breadth of classes available beginning this month? You should. There is definitely something there for everybody — and I'll bet that if you're like me, the only problem you'll encounter is trying to decide between the multiple great offerings in every individual time slot. (Generally, I flip a coin, but that's just me!)

So let me encourage you that if you haven't registered yet, or if due to health or other concerns you've let your membership lapse, *now* is the time to return. Jump in! Take a course. Or two! Rededicate yourself to enjoying your life and sharing it with your friends again. We can't wait to see you.

Let's put the past behind us, remembering and being thankful for the good and, importantly, saying goodbye to the bad. Both taught us lessons to be remembered and applied. Let's rededicate ourselves to those lessons, coming back bigger and stronger. Let's rededicate ourselves to making us better and let's enjoy each other every day. It's what family does.

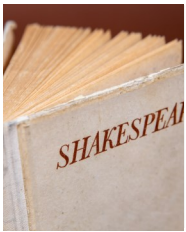
We at the OLLI Curriculum Committee will do just that. I can promise you that we will continue to work to provide you with the best instructors and the best variety of educational experiences available. Because that's what you deserve.

And with that, I'll bid you adieu. Stay safe. Oh. And happy new year! Till next time ...

**John Mason**  
**VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**

# COURSE SPOTLIGHT

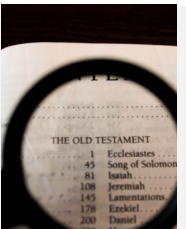
Winter 2022 will start on Jan. 24! Course start dates and lengths vary throughout the term. Term tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration). We hope you can join us virtually or in person this winter!



## POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP FOR FUN

1/26 – 3/2 • W • 3:15 – 4:45 pm • 6 sessions • Campus • Dr. M. Morpew • \$35

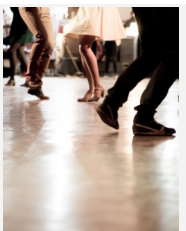
Poetry writing is a wonderful adventure, allowing writers to indulge in wild loops of imagination and satisfy some of their deepest yearnings for pattern, mystery, and coherence in their lives. Those already writing poems will learn to do so more skillfully, while those not yet writing can get started. Learn about poetic forms and traditions, write poems, and "studio" your work. Gain a deeper understanding and love of poetry!



## WISDOM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1/27 – 2/24 • Th • 3:15 – 4:45 pm • 5 sessions • Live Virtual • B. Gudeman • \$30

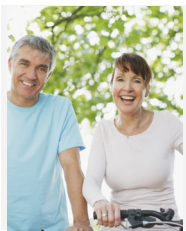
**NEW!** Dive into the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament, including the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. Look at the form, authorship, canonization, historical significance, and content of these books as well as how they functioned within Israelite society. Then, discuss what they may mean for us today, as well as the challenges and difficulties found within the text.



## LET'S DANCE CHA CHA!

2/17 – 3/10 • Th • 5:15 – 6:15 pm • 4 sessions • Campus • T. Romine • \$25

It is never too late to dance! Learn several steps to "cha cha cha" to a variety of music. Discover the character of this rhythmic and lively Latin dance. Have fun with ballroom dancing no matter what your level of dance experience is. No partner is needed.



## PROS AND CONS OF AGING

1/28 – 2/25 • F • 8:30 - 10:00 am • 5 sessions • Campus • K. Sieja • \$30

**NEW!** Let's look into this inevitable aging process with a sense of humor while ensuring we do all the things necessary for a safe trip through the rest of our lives. Discuss healthy aspects of how to age gracefully, both physically and mentally, with tips on how to check all the blocks without stress and anxiety.

**Save 20%**

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

# FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## OLLI SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT UAH STUDENTS



As members of OLLI at UAH, we are lucky enough to have the campus of UAH as our “base of operations.” The university supports us in many ways, both tangible and intangible. The OLLI at UAH Scholarship was established to show our support for the students of UAH.

The OLLI at UAH Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 through donations from OLLI members at the time. A few fundraisers have been held over the years, but the majority of the fund still comes from individual members.

The donations are held by UAH as an endowment fund, so the principal is never touched. However, as the principal grows from our donations, our scholarship amounts can also grow and expand.

Each year, UAH selects a student (or two, depending on the amount) to receive our scholarship. The criteria were established jointly with UAH and OLLI members, and scholarships have been awarded continually since the 2006-07 school year. The scholarship provides support for a deserving UAH student by assisting with tuition, books, housing or related fees.

The scholarship is presented at the annual scholarship event for UAH, allowing all attendees to hear and see our name and organization information. OLLI at UAH is recognized as an important part of the UAH campus through our annual scholarship.

If you are able, please consider donating to this important and worthy part of the OLLI at UAH legacy.

To donate online, visit [Osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI](https://Osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI), or you can call 256.UAH.GIVE (256.824.4483) and specify the OLLI at UAH Scholarship Fund for your donation. You can also mail a check to UAH Office of Development, SKH Third Floor, 301 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35899.

**Janet Reville**  
**Fund Development Committee Chair**

### OLLI Scholarship Fund

Your generous donations assist in covering higher education costs for deserving UAH undergraduate students and help provide a path to a bright future.

**Donate Online Today at:** [Osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI](https://Osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI)



# TRAVEL COMMITTEE

## WOW! IT IS 2022 — HAPPY NEW YEAR!



I am believing with all my heart this will be a good year for each of us. Call me Pollyanna, but I am tired of the doom and gloom of despair and much prefer the light and bright of *hope!*

Any of you who know me, know I am usually smiling. It just makes one feel better to smile and say

something nice to someone else — we never know how that may change that person's whole attitude! For 2022, let us all spread joy and smile more.

Recently, on an outing with some friends, we were enjoying a wonderful day and it made me think of all the times I have traveled with OLLI friends.

If you want to learn about new places, visit old places and learn something new or even experience the adventure of travel with like-minded people, *please* suggest a place or places to the OLLI Travel Committee. It takes planning to make these trips happen, but they will never happen without the input from those who want to *wander* this planet. One of my favorite sayings is "All who wander are not lost."

I am making a shameless plea for you to sign up for the Alaska trip. If you heard Chris Stuhlinger's presentation about the trip in August 2022, you would be *running* to your computer, looking up that registration information, and signing up to travel with those of us already planning our flights.

This will be an extraordinary trip because we have a well-seasoned Alaska traveler leading the group. Chris is the point of contact and has meticulously detailed a wonderful trip with the help of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Summer Sessions.

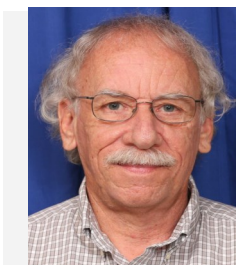
This is not just an opportunity to travel and see Alaska but an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know other OLLI members. What better way to make new friends?

We still need other trips to work on. *Please suggest some.*

I do hope this will be a healthy and prosperous new year for you all.

**Betty Koval**  
**Travel Committee Chair**

## OLLI MEMBERS' ALASKA TOUR: SIGN UP NOW



Are you ready for an Alaskan adventure?

Spaces are still available for OLLI members' 12-day tour of south-central Alaska, organized by the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Summer Sessions. But our group is growing and the limit is 25 people,

so reserve your spot now. Trip dates are Aug. 12-23, 2022.

We will visit Fairbanks, Chena Hot Springs, Nenana, Denali National Park, Talkeetna, Anchorage and Seward. Among the highlights are Creamer's Field Wildlife Refuge, a riverboat tour on the Chena River, the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, the University of Alaska's Museum of the North, wildlife scouting in Denali National Park, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, a scenic railroad trip from Anchorage to

Seward, Exit Glacier, and a boat tour through Kenai Fjords National Park. For maps of the areas we will be visiting, see the following page.

The cost is \$4,500 per person, with a \$1,300 single supplement. All lodging and meals are included, as well as transportation in Alaska by bus/motor coach, railroad and boat. Airfare to Alaska is not included.

This trip will be exclusive to Alabama OLLI members.

Get details from OLLI at UAH member Chris Stuhlinger at [cstuhlinger@gmail.com](mailto:cstuhlinger@gmail.com) or Travel Committee Chair Betty Koval at [bbkoyal13@gmail.com](mailto:bbkoyal13@gmail.com).

**Chris Stuhlinger**  
**Point of Contact for Trip**



# TRAVEL COMMITTEE

## OLLI MEMBERS' ALASKA TOUR MAPS

The stars indicate main destinations for the upcoming trip to south-central Alaska. (Map credit: U.S. Geological Survey)



**Alaska Trip 2022**

Trip starts Fairbanks Aug. 12  
Trip ends Anchorage Aug. 23

**Overnight stops**  
Fairbanks (4 nights)  
Denali Park (2 nights)  
Anchorage (3 nights)  
Seward (2 nights)

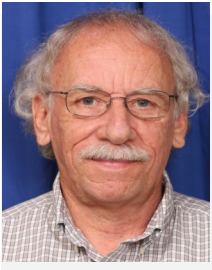
**Intermediate stops**  
Chena Hot Springs  
Nenana  
Talkeetna  
Portage Glacier  
Girdwood

**Transportation**  
Riverboat Discovery (Fairbanks)  
School bus (Denali NP)  
Railroad (Anchorage-Seward)  
Boat (Kenai Fjords NP Seward)  
Motorcoach (remainder of tour)

(Map courtesy of Bell's Travel Guides, [www.bellsalaska.com](http://www.bellsalaska.com))

# EVENTS COMMITTEE

## EVENTS COMMITTEE PLANS HIKES, SEEKS IDEAS



Many of you have probably been wondering about the status of the OLLI Events Committee and the scheduling of events and activities. Event planning was put on hold for a while due to the pandemic, and the committee membership is also going through some changes. But two upcoming events have been scheduled — see below.

Right now we have only two committee members, and we will soon be working to resume the regular scheduling of events.

The purpose of the committee is to “provide community-related activities to the general OLLI membership.” These activities should encourage group participation, and may include cultural and sporting events, tours of local companies or industries, and science or nature activities.

Although local events are preferred, a destination near Huntsville can be considered. Sufficient approval and planning time is required to implement each event. Some events or activities may require advance sign-up and/or payment.

Upcoming events:

1. **Hike at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary**, Saturday, Jan. 15, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Meet at the Taylor Road entrance (gravel lot about 2 miles south of Hampton Cove Walmart). You can find it on [Google Maps](#).

Join Steve Jones, Bill Heslip and Chris Stuhlinger for a hike through the 375-acre sanctuary near the Flint River, and discover these unique wild habitats situated among the many nearby subdivisions. The level walking trail will lead us through bottomland hardwood woodlands and retired agricultural fields, by small ponds and swamps, and along the Flint River’s riparian area. Look for birds and the occasional deer.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. The hike will be canceled if there is inclement weather; parts of the trail may be muddy.

Sign up for this hike at <https://forms.gle/FPMQUdWa9YLrbLuX6>.

2. **Bird-spotting and hiking at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge**, Friday, Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Meet at the refuge Visitors’ Center parking lot (entrance off Alabama Highway 67, Point Mallard Parkway, in southeast Decatur and about 3 miles northwest of I-65 Exit 334). [Google Maps](#).

Join Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger for a morning of spotting sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, Canada geese, ducks, and numerous other waterfowl species at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Activities will include a visit to the Observation Building overlooking the nearby wetlands and short hikes on the Cypress Boardwalk and nearby loop trail. The refuge attracts thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. The hike will be canceled if there is inclement weather; parts of the trail may be muddy.

Sign up for this hike at <https://forms.gle/ftpi5G1UcPfwQv4A9>.

If you have suggestions for an event, or would like to join the Events Committee, please contact Chris Stuhlinger ([cstuhlinger@gmail.com](mailto:cstuhlinger@gmail.com)). We hope to see you soon!

**Chris Stuhlinger**  
**Events Committee Chair**



Whooping Cranes  
at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.  
(photo taken by the late Bill McAllister)

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## TIME OF RENEWAL: ELECTING BOARD MEMBERS



Happy new year! Your OLLI has completed 2021 and is opening the door of a new year. With that new year come opportunities for you to become even more involved in your OLLI. You ask, "How do I do that?" I have an answer:

OLLI is operated by a board of its members, elected by its

membership. I like to think of it as a rejuvenation process. Let me tell you a little bit about it and how it works.

OLLI board members are elected in a three-year term and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Then, they must rotate off for at least one year. What that means is that about one-third of our board membership changes each election cycle. It is time for that election cycle to start. Let me tell you how the process works.

The election process begins this month with the formation of a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is co-chaired by the past president of OLLI and a representative of the College of Professional Studies. If the past president is not available, a representative is appointed by the current president to fulfill that role. In addition to these members of the committee, a representative from the current board is selected, along with a volunteer from our membership at large.

After the formation of the Nominating Committee is completed, the real work begins.

We solicit from our membership people who have an interest in serving OLLI as board members. Nomination forms are made available. Individuals may nominate themselves, or others may nominate an individual, with the nominee's permission. The nominations are reviewed by the committee to make sure they meet the requirements for board candidacy.

Those nominations result in an election that occurs in March. The winners of the election are contacted and invited to the April board meeting as guests to meet the existing board members. At the May board meeting, the newly elected members are inducted into the board, beginning their three-year service commitment.

This newly seated board has an awesome responsibility at that point: They have to elect the members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board consists of a president, vice president of curriculum, vice president of administration and finance, secretary and treasurer of the organization.

This newly elected team meets in June for training and committee selection. Committees are the workhorses that make OLLI successful.

What do we expect of our board members? We ask each to serve out their complete three-year term. We are, however, a volunteer organization, so occasionally a board member may not be able to complete their term. For that reason, we have built flexibility into the mandatory number of board members we must maintain.

Each board member is asked to serve on two of our standing committees. At that June meeting, the new members will decide where their skills can best be supplied for the organization.

So, what does all this mean for you? It means we need you to volunteer to serve.

Please consider dedicating three years of service to your OLLI to keep it vibrant and alive. It can be only as successful as the vision and action of the leadership. We need you to step up and be a leader, a board member.

I have written this article early in the year to give you a little time to think about where you might serve. Feel free to ask any of our existing board members about any details and questions you may have. We want and need you to be a part of OLLI leadership.

**David Styers**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**OLLI at UAH Board of Directors**



# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

## NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER FOR 2022 AWARD



Back on campus. How exciting! As we get over the stress of the holiday season, it's time to start thinking of our Volunteer of the Year.

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 2021 through winter 2022. With us having hybrid classes, and so many people still Zooming, several volunteers are out of sight or behind the scenes. We have members serving on committees, as instructors and facilitators, as board members and as bonus presenters in our pool of so many volunteers.

If they volunteered any time during spring, summer or fall 2021 or winter 2022, they're eligible. In case you're wondering, spring 2022 is too late for the nomination process and will be included in next year's group.

Candidates are selected based on nominations received from the OLLI membership at large. You can nominate any volunteer you'd like as long as they're 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 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 automated form. All nominations will be electronic. The form is simple. 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. If we are able to have the OLLI annual meeting in May, the winner will be announced and presentations made. If for some reason we are unable to hold an annual dinner, the winner will be announced via weekly *eNews* and the summer newsletter.

The 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. The winner's name 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**

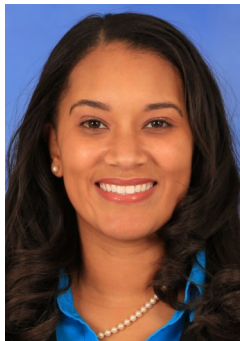
## OLLI AT UAH CONTENDER FOR NONPROFIT AWARD

OLLI at UAH was one of 16 contenders for the Nonprofit of the Year award, given Dec. 1 by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber as one of its Small Business Awards. OLLI representatives attending the awards ceremony at the Von Braun Center were (from left) Fathia Hardy, director of outreach and support services; Jill Stewart, board president; and Alice Sammon, program coordinator. An unknown party nominated OLLI for the award. Chambers from Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and Canada judged the competition. The nonprofit winner was Kids to Love Foundation.





## CPS UPDATE



Dear OLLI members,

What a year 2021 was! I recently read an article that talked about how many people are still trying to process 2020, let alone 2021, and here we are two years later, beginning a new year in 2022!

My hope is that as an organization, we continue to grow and sustain our quality lifelong learning programs to the greater Huntsville community. I'm confident that by working as a team, we will accomplish this in 2022 and beyond.

Last month we challenged each member to "join us in gratitude" by creating a gratitude jar. I was excited to make my jar and be intentional about reflecting on what I'm grateful for each day. Sometimes the hustle and bustle of the day or negative things going on around the world can discourage us; however, this activity helps add positivity to my day.

I was so excited to see many members provide the gift of lifelong learning this holiday season in the form of a gift membership. This initiative, coupled with our OLLI Ambassadors performing membership renewal calls, helped push our membership over 600.

We have been working hard to increase membership over the last several months. We are that much closer to our goal of 750 members for the academic year and 1,000 in the next two academic years. If you know of a former colleague, family member, or close friend looking for something different in the new year, tell them about OLLI at UAH. I'm sure they will find something that piques their interest.

As we look forward to the next few months, our Fund Development Committee hopes to raise \$25,000 for the OLLI at UAH Support Fund by the end of the academic year. You can check out their progress or donate by visiting [Osher.uah.edu/GivingTuesday](https://Osher.uah.edu/GivingTuesday).

Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of OLLI at UAH. I'm looking forward to an exciting new year with numerous possibilities.

**Fathia Hardy**  
**Director of Outreach and Support Services**  
**UAH College of Professional Studies**

Fathia Hardy's gratitude jar prompts intentional daily reflections on what to be thankful for.



# MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

## MANY EXTRAS COME WITH OLLI MEMBERSHIP



Membership in OLLI at UAH comes with many perks.

Of course, there is the opportunity to sign up for many informative and exciting courses and socialize with interesting and fun people, but there are also some extras that come with being in OLLI at UAH.

There are free bonus lectures, social events, an annual photo contest, a great library of DVDs on many subjects that you can check out and enjoy at your leisure, and organized trips to nearby locations or places far away.

The Member Services Committee also oversees the OLLI MIGs, or Member Interest Groups. Often our members get really interested in learning new skills or activities and would like to continue to participate with others outside regular class time. Such a group can apply to form a Member Interest Group.

We are excited to have just formed a new MIG for mah jongg. If you are interested and have some experience, please contact me. Another MIG that is currently very active is the bridge MIG.

Being a part of UAH adds even more to your OLLI membership. OLLI members have the use of the UAH library, get discounts for UAH athletic events, can eat at the many places for food on campus, and can attend lectures and cultural events offered by the university.

Just a reminder: You have until April 1, 2022, to enter the photo contest.

Make this year special, and be a part of OLLI at UAH!

**Leah Black**  
**OLLI at UAH Member Services Committee Chair**

### OLLI Member Interest Groups (MIGs) The Perfect Complement to Classes

OLLI MIGs share a mutual interest and meet outside the typical classroom. Members decide when and where to meet.

#### Dining Out

Contact: Dabros1@comcast.net

#### Let's Play Bridge

Contact: bnmacham68@gmail.com

#### Mah Jongg

Contact: wftedrow@aol.com

#### Tennis for All

Contact: juaeckert@gmail.com

Questions: [OLLI.info@uah.edu](mailto:OLLI.info@uah.edu)

**OLLI Membership is Required.**



## IRENE GAROPPO: ACTIVE VOLUNTEER, SUPPORTER OF OTHERS WHO SERVE



The subject of this month's *Insider* profile is a very familiar face to OLLI members. Irene Garoppo has volunteered in the OLLI office for years and is often the first person we go to with questions.

Irene was born in Philadelphia and lived there until her parents moved here when she was in the third grade.

"My dad was from Philly, but my mom was a Hazel Green native," said Irene. "They met while he was an MP at Redstone (Arsenal). Mom was a factory worker, then went into department store sales after factory work became a thing of the past here. Dad had several careers, mostly blue collar."

Irene grew up loving reading and anything having to do with numbers. That fondness for math came in handy when she began her career.

At 18 she went to work for the Army Missile Command as a clerk-typist, usually the lowest rung on the job ladder. She climbed that ladder through budget technician, budget assistant and many rungs of budget analyst and then topped out as a supervisor and a command subject matter expert.

By the time she retired at 55, she was responsible for a nearly \$40 million budget in an organization of almost 2,000 people.

How did Irene discover OLLI? "After retirement, I knew I had to get involved in something," said Irene. "I received a UAH catalog, and there was an ad for OLLI. It sounded like exactly what I was looking for."

Irene joined OLLI in 2014. By her second semester, she was volunteering in the office, and by the third she was facilitating classes. She has taught two classes: "Alabama in the Movies, Part II" (Val Seaquist taught the first one) and "The Rat Pack," in which she shared her knowledge of Frank Sinatra and his gang. She has also served on the OLLI Board of Directors.

Presently, she is the chair of the Volunteer Support Committee, which is responsible for staffing the volunteer office and for the annual Volunteer of the Year award.

What has OLLI meant to Irene?

"Beyond the fact it has allowed me to take fun classes," said Irene, "it has also allowed me to meet many people, some of whom have become close friends and almost like family. OLLI helped get me through my mother's illness and death last year. The OLLI family has been there for me through thick and thin. I hope I've returned that same support to those who have needed it."

Irene's extended family consists of three nephews, one niece, and their children and grandchildren, ranging in age from 46 to 5 months.

Thanks, Irene, for all you do for OLLI.

**By Glen Adams**

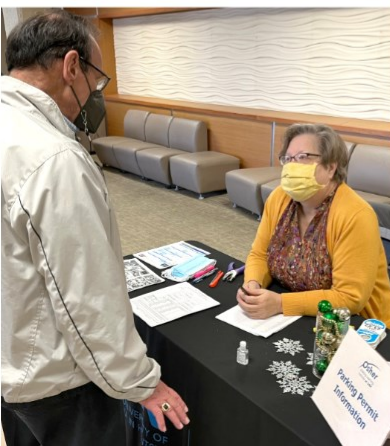
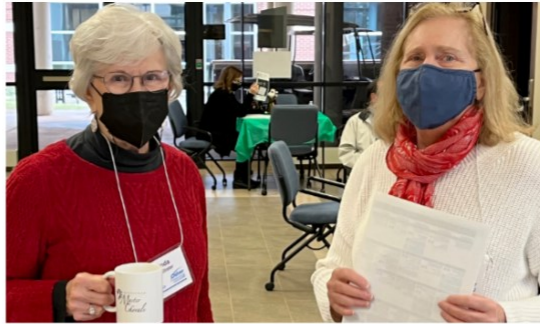


Irene, with Betty Koval, welcoming OLLI members to the Fall Term Open House.



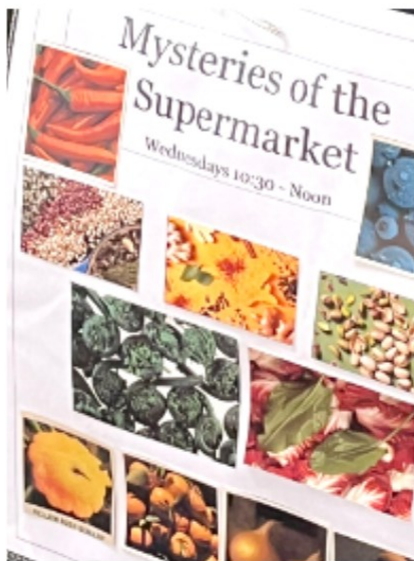
## OLLI OPEN HOUSE WAS HELD ON DEC. 10

OLLI members registered for Winter Term courses, met instructors for the term and visited with friends.





## OLLI OPEN HOUSE DEC. 10, CONT.





## MEMBERS PLAY ONLINE HOLIDAY TRIVIA DEC. 15

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS



18. The song "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Christmas?  
a. True  
b. False

Answer: False: When the ditty was first printed by a Boston music publishing house in 1857, it was released under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh." When it was reissued two years later, the song had the more familiar title of "Jingle Bells." Although "Jingle Bells" is now a Yuletide staple, there is no mention of Christmas or any other holiday in the song. Some accounts even claim the composer, James Lord Pierpont, wrote it as a drinking song while in a tavern.

19. Which song is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year?  
a. Silent Night  
b. Now the Day is Over  
c. Jingle Bell Rock  
d. Auld Lang Syne  
e. Ce Leis

Answer: Auld Lang Syne is a poem written Robert Burns in 1788 and is based on an older Scottish folk song. In 1799, it was set to a traditional tune, which has since become standard. The title means "old long since" or more easily "for the sake of old times".

20. According to IMDb, what is the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time?  
Answer: Home Alone (1990) , followed by How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) and Polar Express (2004).





### SURVEY TIME

1. Colored lights on tree/house or white lights?
2. When do you hang up your holiday decorations? Before Thanksgiving Day?
3. Do you have more than one Christmas tree in the house?
4. Real tree or fake tree?
5. Favorite holiday movie?

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS – HISTORY & DATES

1. When did Hallmark introduce its first Christmas cards?  
a. 1910  
b. 1915  
c. 1920
2. When did the United States issue the first Christmas postage stamp?  
a. 1955  
b. 1933  
c. 1962
3. When was Christmas declared a federal holiday in the United States?  
a. 1789  
b. 1812  
c. 1870



# IN MEMORIAM

## IN MEMORY OF TWO OLLI TEACHERS: BOB ROBERTSON & LOIS DREHER



### **Bob Robertson**

Robert “Bob” Stafford Robertson passed away after a brief illness on Nov. 26, 2021. He was born Dec. 12, 1936, to Rose Catherine Reynolds Robertson and Stafford Frances Robertson. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Mae Unruh, whom he married Sept. 11, 1966; two children, Catherine Sue Twesten (Ray) and Robert Stoddard Robertson (Kimeron); and four grandchildren.

Bob served in the U.S. Army for 22 years, including two tours in Vietnam. After his retirement from the armed services, he attended law school and worked at Legal Services in Huntsville for more than a decade.

He taught courses at OLLI for several years after his retirement from the law. He will be sorely missed. In honor of his efforts to educate others, donations can be made to OLLI.

### **Memories from OLLI members:**

Bob, generously and with a giving spirit, brought his knowledge of the law to the classroom, to us, so that we could make the best, informed decisions. He was gentle and compassionate, qualities that melded into his instruction. Teaching for OLLI was meaningful for him. We'll miss him.

—Peggy McClure and Jerri McLain

Bob Roberts was the epitome of an OLLI instructor and member. He was thorough in his preparation, used a variety of resources and teaching techniques, took time to hear questions and comments as he crafted careful and thoughtful responses. As a member, he was fully involved. He engaged people wherever he was.

—Nancy Darnall

Bob did a fantastic job of instructing on aspects of the law while I was the discipline chair from about 2014 through 2019. Bob enjoyed teaching and providing legal advice and rulings from the state and federal court systems. He enjoyed teaching so much that he would teach two to three classes per year. Bob enjoyed the OLLI program immensely.

—Cliff Lanham

Bob Robertson's life has been one of service — to his family, his country and his fellow man. In the U.S. Army, he served his country in both Vietnam and Germany. After earning his law degree, he provided free legal service to indigents in our community. His contributions to the OLLI program continued his desire to serve his fellow man. Bob focused the classes he taught on his love for our democratic process and the privileges we enjoy as citizens.

—Maxine Doherty

# IN MEMORIAM

## IN MEMORY OF TWO OLLI TEACHERS: BOB ROBERTSON & LOIS DREHER, CONT.

### Lois Dreher

Lois Rae Dreher, 78, of Huntsville passed away Nov. 21, 2021.

Lois was a member of the Church of the Nativity, volunteered for Meals on Wheels for many years, and was a violinist in the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

Survivors include her husband, Percy Dreher; sons, Bradly Horner, Erik Horner (Tracy), David Dreher (Denise) and Mark Dreher (Anna); five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Lois taught classes at OLLI for many years. She will be missed by many.

#### Memories from OLLI members:

Lois started teaching for OLLI before I joined back in 2015. She always taught strictly from Great Courses DVDs that she owned herself; her main area of interest was Central and South America, though she covered the classical civilizations, too (ancient Greece and Rome). She had a dedicated following at OLLI, though she never went on a dig [an archaeological dig]. She was planning to offer her last course (and then retire from teaching) in the spring 2020 OLLI term, which was subsequently canceled because of the pandemic.

—Birgit Stensby

Since I joined the wonderful OLLI collective at UAH in 2017, I have taken many classes taught by Lois Dreher in archaeology and studies of ancient peoples. Lois made each class a fun and fascinating interactive learning experience and encouraged subject discussion. I will miss her bright smile, her laughter and her wit. OLLI won't be the same without Lois.

—Brenda Eubanks

I enjoyed Lois's friendship very much. She was warm and accepting. In her classes, she encouraged discussion and considered all points of view. We shared an enjoyment of Shakespeare. I will miss her.

—Dannye Drake

#### By Sue Chatham

Lois Dreher  
with Casey & Frosty





# THE LAST WORD

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2022

## *Discover the Rocket City* 2022 Photo Contest

- Photos must be taken April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022
- Photographer must be a current OLLI member
- Gentle photo editing permitted but keep the original photo
- Submit named photo in a standard digital .jpg format  
Recommend at least 2 MP final pixel size

**Submit entries to: [olliphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:olliphotocontest@gmail.com)**

Include when/where the photo was taken, your name, phone number and email. [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest](http://Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest)

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