

INSIDER

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



ADVENTURE AND HISTORY

OLLI members are exploring the world and looking back at past events. Read inside about nature hikes, an art expedition, a genealogist, and an upcoming census release that can help you learn about your own family. Also see how the United States' enemy in the Vietnam War once tried to become our ally. And there's more.

VIỆT-NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA
CHÍNH PHỦ LÂM THỜI
BỘ NGOẠI GIAO
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HANOI FEBRUARY 28 1946

TELEGRAM

PRESIDENT HOCHIMINH VIETNAM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HANOI
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WASHINGTON D.C.

1950 Census

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY - EARLY MARCH 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.

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 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 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

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

Bonus: Right Around the Corner: Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering

Join us to learn about the school that opened in 2018 and now has a new building under construction close to campus! Discover the history of the school, the talents and curriculum of their students and faculty, and their fascinating integrative approach to learning. Learn how the support from the community, local company sponsors, and others is helping to grow the school's mission.

Presented by Aaron Brazelton, Director of Admissions and Advancement at Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering

Feb 18 | Fri | 11:00 am | [In-Person](#)
Coffee Chats: Bingo

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

Presented by OLLI Program Coordinator

Feb 25 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Changes in the Lives of Everyday Americans 1860-1960

One frequently hears comments about our current amazing technological improvements. Walk through a house that was constructed and occupied in 1960 and you'll note a few changes from the house you live in today. In contrast, consider the common house of 1860. Many homes were rudimentary log cabins and even sod houses. Water was carried from a nearby creek or a well. Discover even more changes that have occurred from 1860 to 1960 in the regular American household and how the world and technology had an influence on them.

Presented by Ron Klein, Retired Professor of History and Geopolitics

Mar 4 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)
Bonus: Exploring Beautiful Borneo

A land of orangutans, monkeys, crocodiles, and vividly colored birds, Borneo is one of the last remaining tropical jungles in Southeast Asia. But this paradise is disappearing fast as agriculture clears and burns the forests. Join an avid traveler for a trip to Borneo. Discover remote rivers and hike through the lush, wildlife-rich jungle - and also climb Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Malaysia.

Presented by Tom Ress, World Traveler and Prolific Writer

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

FROM THE EDITOR

STUDENT OR TEACHER? HOW ABOUT BOTH?



In the time it took to drive from Cullman to Decatur, my former students taught me another lesson.

Patrice (my wife), Atticus (our dog) and I were returning from south Alabama recently when an editor at a news organization emailed me, asking whether I knew a job applicant. I did not. He and I had

been at Troy University at the same time, but I taught journalism and that wasn't his major. I could not recall him working for the student media.

When Patrice took over the driving at Cullman, I texted three former students. They swung into action. By the time we stopped for gas at Hartselle, all three had replied and one had consulted someone else to refresh her memory.

They had stalked the job applicant on Facebook and learned that he was a friend of another former student. This ex-student was my Facebook friend, too, so I texted him. It turned out that he had supervised the applicant during a previous job.

He gave a favorable recommendation, which I emailed to the editor along with the name of another professor who might know the applicant. This information, too, came from the Facebook research done by my former students.

It was enough to make me want to qualify the stern advice I always gave in reporting classes: The best way to get fast information is to make a phone call or personal visit; don't rely on texting or email. And I realized that I could have found the same information myself on Facebook if I had just thought to do so.

Years ago, I handed one of these same students some information on paper, expecting her to jot down notes. Instead, she whipped out her phone and shot a photo. I thought, "Why didn't I think of that?!"

Students also helped me to learn more about the software that I was teaching, such as sound and video editing programs and social media. Some of them were broadcast majors and/or computer wizards; my background was in print technology that went back to metal type, supplemented by self-taught computer skills.

In all these cases, I had the tools (smartphone, computer, Facebook, software) at hand but hadn't thought of certain helpful ways to use them until the students showed me.

I am not the first teacher to learn from students. I'll bet some of our OLLI members have done so. When Hudson Baggett gave up a professor's job at Samford University in

1966 to become editor of The Alabama Baptist newspaper, he wrote an editorial expressing gratitude to, among others, "the many students who have taught me."

Isn't that what college is about? Students and teachers learn from one another. The word "college" comes from old French, middle English and Latin. The Latin word "collegium" can be translated as "partnership." That's college. That's OLLI.

Our small *Insider* team and our wealth of contributors offer content this month on a variety of subjects.

Cliff Lanham explains how the upcoming release of 1950 census data offers rich opportunities for genealogical research for those born at midcentury (us). Who is Cliff? Well, you can read all about him in Glen Adams' "People of OLLI" article.

The Vietnam War was a major event for all of us, especially those like Cliff who served in that war. John Mason begins a monthly series on military history with an article about the iconic 1968 photo of a Saigon street execution and how North Vietnam's strongman, Ho Chi Minh, sought to be a U.S. ally decades earlier. As our vice president of curriculum, John writes in another article about the value of learning languages.

The next time a politician mentions critical race theory, you can reflect on Delois Smith's explanation of it in a bonus session, from which we have details and photos.

The new year has begun, but the old pandemic continues. Put these events in perspective with commentary by Jill Stewart and Richard Brooks.

Read Chris Stuhlinger's information about nature hikes, bird watching and a basketball game organized by the events committee. And Betty Koval writes about travel opportunities, asking for your ideas. We have photos from a trip to a Van Gogh exhibit in Birmingham.

OLLI members give their memories of Eleanor Carter, a former board member.

Other subjects this month include UAH's interim president, Dr. Charles Karr, and a diversity award received by Fathia Hardy, director of outreach and support services and interim OLLI program manager.

There are reminders to nominate members for Volunteer of the Year and to enter the annual photo contest, and a calendar for OLLI Shorts, 20-minute lunchtime classes from OLLI at the University of South Dakota, which you can watch most days in February.

Steve Stewart
Chair, Public Relations Committee

FROM THE PRESIDENT

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON



It has never failed to amaze me how our world or local circumstances can turn upside down between the time I write this column each month and the time the *OLLI Insider* issue is finally released. Another month, another change in the pandemic, leading to another adjustment in our hopeful, well-laid plans. Trying to

maintain any equilibrium in our lives and routines has become an almost daily challenge.

In 2020, about six months into the pandemic, some of you may have seen science writer Tara Haelle's article "Your Surge Capacity is Depleted — It's Why You Feel Awful." Surge capacity is defined as that collection of adaptive systems — mental and physical — that humans draw on for short-term survival in acutely stressful situations, such as natural disasters.

However, natural disasters occur in a short period even if recovery is long. Pandemics are different — the disaster itself stretches out indefinitely. Most of us depleted our initial surge capacity months ago, and we have struggled to find, and continue finding, creative ways to renew it as each new COVID variant takes our recovery backward.

On another note, though, I have noticed that my house is cleaner and more orderly, sweet-smelling, and free of dust and clutter than it has ever been in my life! I suspect that I am not alone in this experience. Most likely, besides having lots of extra time at home, our (my) need to create an orderly and pleasant home environment is driven by our (my) need to have real control over at least some things in the world when so many other things are completely beyond our control.

As I write this, OLLI's winter term classes will be starting in a little over a week. It has been a long two-month break. The countdown is on, and I am eager for all the opportunities OLLI gives us, both virtual and in person. I will be there — vaxxed, boosted, in a KN95 mask (the things I can control) — ready to see friends, learn, and think about new things beyond the daily headlines.

Who knows? Maybe with the new distractions of those thought-provoking OLLI classes, I will stop picking up the pieces of lint off my floor!

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

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

Include when/where the photo was taken, your name, phone number and email. Osher.uah.edu/OLLIPhotoContest

LEARN TO SPEAK A LANGUAGE, OR SHARE YOURS



Bonne Saint-Valentin! Alles gute zum Valentinstag! Feliz Dia de San Valentin! Buon San Valentino! Felix dies valentines! And, of course, Happy Valentine's Day!

Now, before those of you who are native speakers of the languages above deluge the editors of the *Insider*, complaining about these translations, let me admit that I got them off the Translator app on my phone. I have no reason to believe they may actually be idiomatically correct. But — as you might guess — they do bring me to the point of this month's column: the importance of foreign languages.

The website "Lead with Languages" this month had an article telling us the "Top Ten Reasons to Learn Languages." They were, in order, (1) to connect, (2) to advance your career, (3) to feed your brain, (4) to deepen your connection with other cultures, (5) to see the world, (6) to go to the source, (7) to become a polyglot, (8) to boost your confidence, (9) to strengthen your decision making, and (10) to gain perspective. OK, most of us probably don't have a career we need to advance anymore, but the others certainly apply. In fact, they are almost all the same reasons for which we became members of OLLI.

In addition to the languages I tried so hard to use in the greeting, our Foreign Languages discipline has access to a nearly endless spectrum of languages from which we can choose.

Arabic or Mandarin Chinese interest you? We have offered those. How about instruction in Russian or even some of the Southeastern Asian languages? And if taking an entire class on a particular language seems too daunting, how about an option for a course that presents a guest speaker each week from Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan or China, or any other country really, to introduce the language and culture of their respective countries?

In short, every term, we work hard to offer you a wide number and variety of foreign language options from which to choose. And for the 10 reasons listed above, I would encourage you all to try one or two. Perhaps some of you

are even fluent in a different tongue, and would like to share that language and culture with us?

Now, I'll be the first to admit that learning a new language is hard. It takes constant repetition and practice. Not to mention, getting a feel for pronunciation is made much more difficult behind an N95 mask.

But even in the simple act of trying, we exercise our brains and prove to ourselves that we can do anything we choose to. And even if you don't become fluent overnight, at least you'll be able to walk into Rosie's and order a *cerveza*! With that simple act, you have just broadened your horizons.

So I encourage you: Take the plunge and sign up for a foreign language. You'll enjoy the challenge!

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

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

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Winter 2022 has started, but there are still courses that begin in February and March. Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn a new skill, to learn how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, or explore the craft of various hymns. Term tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration).



WAYS TO AVOID THE ER

2/2 – 3/2 • W • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 5 sessions • Live Virtual • J. Ellinger, RN • \$30

Back by popular request! Did you know many ER visits are avoidable? Learn the top reasons people over 50 visit emergency departments and discover ways to keep your health in check to avoid them. As a Registered Nurse with ER, ICU, and office experience, your instructor will share real-life examples of ways her patients have ended up in the ER—and how they haven't. As she says, "Health is the new wealth!"



SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

2/3 – 2/24 • Th • 10:30 am – noon • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • Y. Nuckels • \$25

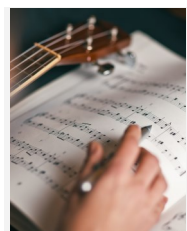
Have fun while learning one of the most used languages in the world! Join us to learn the basics of this beautiful language. Emphasis on everyday greetings and phrases, pronunciation of alphabet, numbers, days of the week, months, and some basic grammar.



LET'S GET COOKING WITH PLANTS!

2/17 – 3/10 • Th • 10:30 – 11:30 am • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • F. Hardy • \$25

NEW! Plant-based foods are now in approximately 53% of U.S. households. Join us as we make a plant-based living work for your daily lifestyle and overcome the biggest obstacles to a healthy change. Each session will provide plant-based recipes. Participants will enjoy cooking on-site with the instructor's guidance and tasting the dishes prepared. Participants will also be encouraged to sign up to lead a cooking demonstration. Come for the fun and the food!



THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE HYMNS

3/7-3/10 • M-Th • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • D. Clements • \$25

NEW! Explore the craft involved in various hymns that have allowed them to pass the test of time. This course will involve possible group singing and ample opportunity for discussion punctuated by occasional impassioned pontification from the instructor.

Save 20%

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

WELCOME, INTERIM PRESIDENT KARR



In the fall, I provided OLLI members news regarding UAH's ninth president, Dr. Darren Dawson, who had plans to retire at the end of 2021. His successor has been named, and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Charles L. "Chuck" Karr as our 10th president.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Karr to the UAH family. We hope to have him meet with OLLI soon so we can show him our vibrant community of lifelong learners and make him a part of the OLLI at UAH family.

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

Dr. Karr joined UAH on Dec. 1 and has been busy meeting with campus departments and learning about the university. Karr comes to UAH from The University of Alabama (UA in Tuscaloosa), where he was the dean of the College of Engineering.

He is a native of Gulf Breeze, Florida, and a three-time UA graduate. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in engineering mechanics. Dr. Karr spent seven years as a research engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Mines before joining UA's faculty full time. He has received numerous recognitions for his teaching and leadership achievements.

Members can learn more about President Karr and his accomplishments on the [UAH website](#).



Dr. Charles L. Karr

HARDY RECEIVES DIVERSITY AWARD

Fathia Hardy received this 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Award from UAH's Minority Graduate Student Association "in recognition of your consistent contribution to the community and all of your efforts towards diversity, equity and inclusion." Hardy is director of outreach and support services for the College of Professional Studies and interim OLLI program manager. Christopher Smith, UAH senior program coordinator for diversity initiatives, presented the award during the Jan. 14 meeting of OLLI's Board of Directors.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINATE FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Last month's newsletter had an article about the Volunteer of the Year (VoY) program. This is just a little reminder to start listening to the facilitator announcements, reading the weekly *eNews* and watching OLLI emails to start the nomination process.

Your nominations are the first step in selecting this year's VoY, who will receive the award at the OLLI annual dinner in May.

All members of OLLI are invited to participate by nominating those who you feel are deserving of the award. It could be one of our instructors, class facilitators, committee/board members, office workers/ambassadors or Member Interest Group (MIGs) leaders, or someone you know who serves behind the scenes. You can nominate more than one person.

If they volunteered any time during spring, summer or fall 2021 or winter 2022, they're eligible. If you want to nominate someone but you know they've already been nominated by someone else, do it anyway. To narrow down the final four or five, we'll be looking at the number of nominations each person got.

We hope to open the nomination window on Feb. 18 and have it remain open until March 16, giving everyone plenty of time to put some thought into the process.

The forms will be available online and will ask for each nominee's name and a list of volunteer categories (e.g., instructor, facilitator, etc.), as well as any other activities, which you'll need to explain (example: behind the scenes putting together a trip to xyz). There will be a place for comments to let the nomination committee know why you feel the person you're nominating is deserving of the award.

We are also asking for your name and email in case additional information is required. Hard-copy forms will not be used.

Remember, the VoY will be announced at the annual dinner, and the recipient will receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the OLLI board president and a small trophy. His or her name will be added to the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office, and the winner will receive a registration certificate for the fall 2022 term.

Please take time to nominate someone you feel should be named 2021's Volunteer of the Year.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair



Liz Kocir was OLLI's Volunteer of the Year for 2020-21. In the left photo, she is at a Kiwanis Club meeting where she made a presentation about OLLI. In the right photo (left to right), Liz is with Dori Anthony and Linda McAllister at the Lowe House.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE

CROATIA, NORTHEASTERN U.S. — OR WHERE?



We are past the “Happy new year” stage, and hopefully most of the brutally chilling cold of early January is behind us as well. I should be telling you, “Happy Valentine’s.”

Now, let’s think *travel* — right now, all I can think of is tropical warm breezes, and it helps to ward off

the chill as I write this. Mind over matter, right? For now, it is working pretty well, with the heat giving me some respite from the 34 degrees outside.

At the last gathering for the winter term open house, I took a poll of everyone who came by the table interested in travel. The top results were two somewhat different trips:

1. A river cruise in Croatia
2. Northeastern United States — possibly to see the Acadia National Park and tour farther north into Canada

These two were the most popular on the list. I have, just today, asked travel companies to send me possibilities for both for the summer of 2023.

I will gather the travel committee, and we will discuss this and see what the possibilities are for us to look further into developing one or both of these trips.



Scenes from Croatia. A river cruise in that country at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe is one group journey of interest to OLLI members.
(Photos by Fathia Hardy)

You know this is a very good time to encourage others to join OLLI to travel with us if you know of someone who loves to travel but is not a member of OLLI at UAH, please let them know. What better way to reconnect with friends and family for either of these trips?

Or perhaps you would like to see us travel to another destination. Please feel free to contact me at bbkoyal13@gmail.com or phone me at 602.980.9699. This committee cannot do this without your participation. We need the member input and comments to have a successful travel program.

I also want to remind you that there is still room for you to go see Alaska in a most wonderful way plus meeting and mingling with our fellow OLLI members from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Please do come join us. You may contact either myself or Chris Stuhlinger at cstuhlinger@gmail.com. We have room for a few more to go along with us.

Thanks. I look forward to seeing you on campus and putting all this COVID behind us.

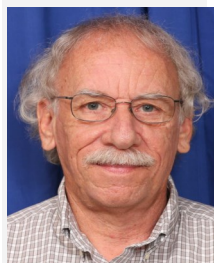
Happy wandering!

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair



EVENTS COMMITTEE

HIKING, BIRD SPOTTING AND BASKETBALL



The OLLI events committee (all two of us) has been working hard to schedule several events for the coming months. We are trying to return to a more “normal” offering of interesting events for OLLI members, and hope to achieve that soon.

Below is a review of the committee’s first event for 2022 — the hike at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, which was well-attended — followed by two February upcoming events. Watch future *Insider* issues, *eNews*, the OLLI website, and facilitator announcements for more event listings.

If you have suggestions for an event, or would like to join the events committee, please contact Chris Stuhlinger (cstuhlinger@gmail.com).

REVIEW — Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary hike (Saturday, Jan. 15)

Despite threatening skies, about 20 hikers attended Saturday’s nature walk/hike at Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary. The rain held off, and the group enjoyed a wonderful morning trek through the woods and fields to view a beaver dam in Hidden Springs Creek, mallard ducks in Jobala Pond, interesting trees and evidence of recent flooding along the Flint River, and a small Indian shell mound (a midden) in a beech forest.

Narratives along the way were provided by hike co-leaders Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger, along with special guest Marian Moore Lewis, who authored a book about the sanctuary titled “Southern Sanctuary: A Naturalist’s Walk through the Seasons.”

Upcoming events

1. 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 Highway 67, Point Mallard Parkway, in southeast Decatur about 3 miles northwest of I-65 Exit 334). See [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Point+Mallard+Parkway,+Decatur,+GA+30034/@33.751,84.281,15z): tinyurl.com/visitor-center.

Join Steve Jones and Chris Stuhlinger for a morning of spotting sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, 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 canceled if there is inclement weather); parts of the trail may be muddy. Bring your binoculars.

Sign up for this hike [online](#).

2. UAH Chargers basketball, Saturday, Feb. 26; women’s team at 2 p.m., men’s team at 4 p.m.

Don’t miss this opportunity to cheer on the UAH Chargers basketball teams versus Delta State at Spragins Hall gymnasium on the UAH campus. OLLI members may attend the games for free (thanks to Janet Reville for arranging this), but you must sign in at the OLLI table at the door and display your OLLI name badge.

No pre-registration is required. Free parking will be available in the lots across from Roberts Hall.

Coming soon: details for Saturday, April 2 — an afternoon at UAH Charger Park: softball, baseball and lacrosse.

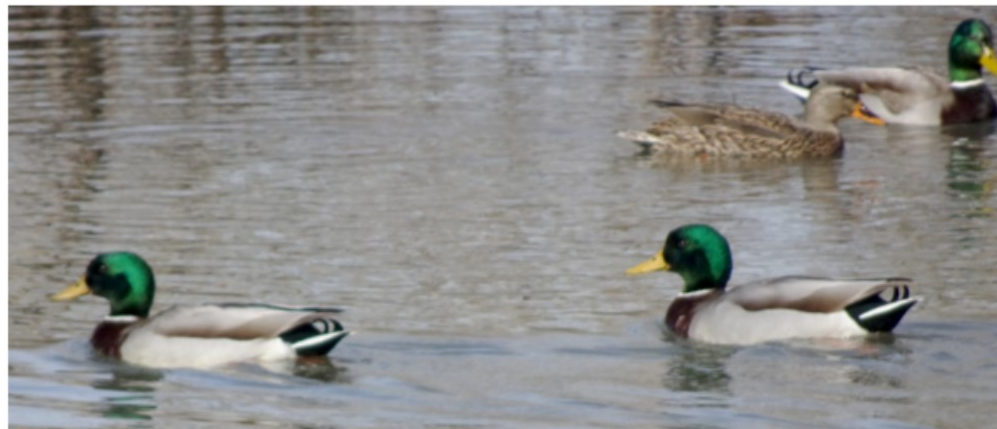
Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



About 20 hikers saw Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary on Jan. 15. More photos from this hike, as well as pictures from Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, are on the next two pages. Wheeler is the next hiking and bird-spotting opportunity on Feb. 4.
(Photo by Jill Stewart)

SANCTUARY: WOODS, STREAMS AND WILDLIFE

The Jan. 15 hike in Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary included the Flint River riparian area (top left), comments from author Marian Moore Lewis, a beaver dam (lower left) and Jobala Pond. The ducks on the pond were photographed two days earlier.



(photos by Glen Adams and Chris Stuhlinger)

SIGHTS TO SEE IN WHEELER WILDLIFE REFUGE

You may see scenes like these if you join OLLI's bird-spotting and hiking expedition Feb. 4 in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Sandhill cranes are at the top and bottom right. In the middle left photo, an endangered whooping crane (white) is surrounded by Sandhill cranes. The cypress trail boardwalk provides access over the water to part of the refuge.



(photos by Chris Stuhlinger)

MILITARY HISTORY, GENEALOGY ARE AMONG ARMY VETERAN LANHAM'S MANY INTERESTS

The name Cliff Lanham evokes, for many OLLI members, Vietnam.

Cliff, who served three tours there during the war, returned to Vietnam in 2019 and visited several of the areas where he had been stationed. He gave an OLLI presentation on his trip and wrote an article on it for the *Insider*. (You can read his article at tinyurl.com/Lanham-Vietnam.)

Cliff is the subject of this month's People of OLLI.

Cliff grew up in Altus, a small town in the southwest corner of Oklahoma. His father, O.S., was the first Lanham in 278 years to not make his living farming, opting instead for careers in business and aviation. In 1955, O.S. moved the family to Dothan, Alabama, where he became an instructor at the Army's aviation school.

Cliff attended college at Jacksonville State University (then called Jacksonville State Teachers College), graduating with a B.S. in education and a commission in the Army infantry. While at Jacksonville, he met and married his wife, Cynthia Jones. They have been married more than 60 years. They have three grown children.

Thus began a 26-year Army career.

"I entered the National Guard at age 16," said Cliff. "My wife and I served all over the world, accompanied with and without family. We spent eight years in Germany and England. I also spent time in Panama and then the three tours of Vietnam."

"My first two tours were with the 1st and 4th Battalions of the Vietnam Army's 25th Division. I was the senior adviser. My job was training and providing artillery and air support. On my last tour, I was responsible for helping remove Army equipment from Vietnam as the United States phased out our mission there."

Cliff retired from the Army in 1985 and opened a commercial printing company in Chesapeake, Virginia.

"The business world was certainly a new challenge," said Cliff. "Profit and loss was the name of the game. I hired good people, we met our goals, survived and grew. I was bought out in my eighth year. The price was right!"

Cliff returned to college and earned advanced degrees in chemistry and physics, which led to teaching in the Virginia Beach school system for 15 years. He has earned four masters' degrees over the years.



Cliff Lanham (the one wearing glasses) and his adviser team somewhere in War Zone C near Sour Tri, east of Tay Ninh III Corps, South Vietnam, 1968.

When he retired in 2003, the family moved to Madison.

"We immediately got involved in community activities such as the Boy Scouts," said Cliff. "Overall, I have spent 39 years as a boy and adult in Boy Scouts." Cliff and his wife are also active in their church and Madison's newcomer organization.

Along the way, Cliff became interested in genealogy. "Genealogy crept into my life by way of my father way before I retired from the military," said Cliff. "Dad started Lanham family research years ago. Back then before computers, 99% of research was through travel and library microfilm. My dad asked me to drive with him doing boots-on-the-ground research."

Cliff continued his father's research and has now written four books on the Lanham family. The latest is "Thomas and Patience 1757-1840 and their 17 children, 2021."

"If COVID ever dies, I plan to return to the road for more research," said Cliff.

Cliff shares his genealogy expertise in an article in this *Insider* on how to access information being released in April by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Cliff found OLLI in 2010. He has been an instructor in military history and genealogy and a member of the board of directors. For three years, he coordinated the history, government and genealogy curriculum.

"OLLI allowed me to meet a vast array of fantastic people, ideas and cultural differences," said Cliff. "OLLI has been an adventure for me."

Thanks, Cliff, for all you do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams

FIND YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY IN 1950 CENSUS, AVAILABLE SOON

The 1950 U.S. census will be released about mid-April 2022. Yes! In only four months, you may be able to find your name and family data as taken 72 years ago. If you recall, the census is released only after 72 years.

Many OLLI genealogy students will be able to see their name and family data for the first time. A few of you, including myself, will be seeing our family data for the second time. What I mean is that your and my data was posted in the 1940 census. OK! I am old as dirt.

When the census is released in April, find your family data by looking at the state, county and township in which you were born. Search for your family surname along the left side of the form. Surprise! There you are, born to Mr. and Mrs. (your surname).

Use the following guide to extract (mine) data:

1. Study each column on the census sheet. Make a copy of this data, including headers and footers of your data sheet.
2. Extract *all* info from every column. Make a copy.

3. Study the handwriting of the enumerator. Check spelling and data carefully for correctness. Do you know the enumerator?

4. Your data may be split between two pages. Search the previous and next pages of your census.

5. Look for and extract every family of your surname ancestor. Check two pages before and two pages after your family position on the census. Some family members may be in another township.

6. Look at neighbors above and around your surname. You may remember your neighbors or have heard stories about them. You can use this data for stepping stones to future research.

7. Extract and record *all* data you think you might use. Back up your computer file monthly!

Please let the OLLI staff know when you would like a basic and/or an intermediate class in genealogy research. John Mason is a great point of contact; he is the vice president for Curriculum.

By Cliff Lanham



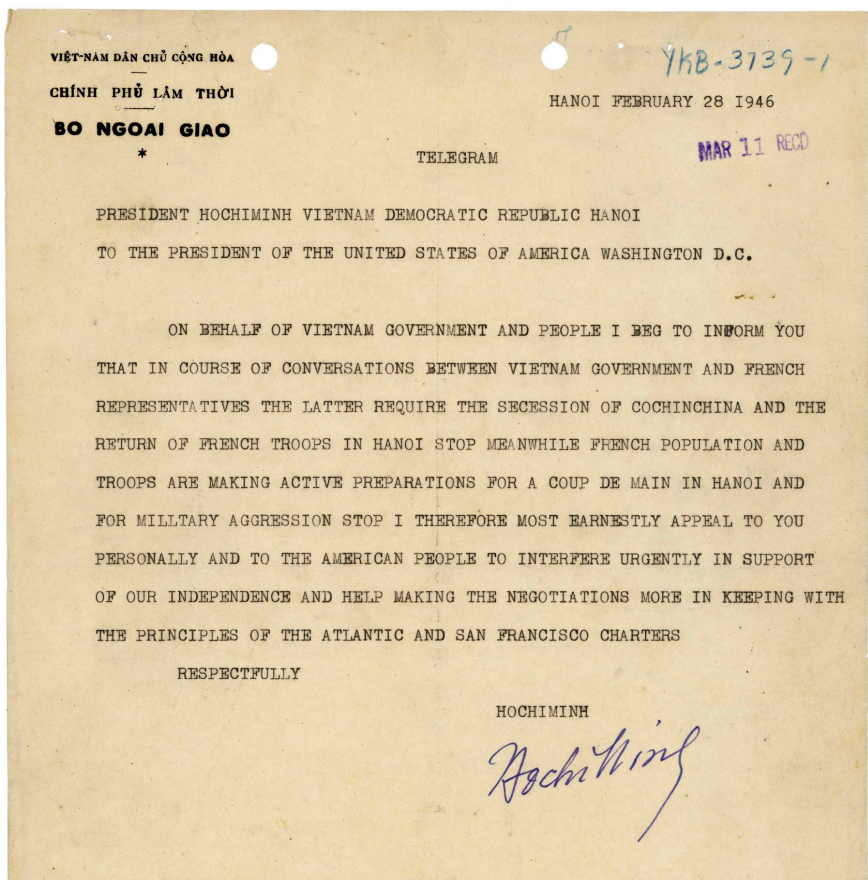
Cliff with friends during a family Christmas gathering.

A photograph of a 'PORTFOLIO CONTROL LABEL' for the 'SEVENTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1950'. The form includes fields for State, County, Incorporated place, Unincorporated place, and Division of county (M. C. D.). It also has a section for 'SECTION I—FOR FIELD OFFICE USE ONLY' with a table for 'OPERATION' and 'DATE COMPLETED'. The table has columns for 'OPERATION', 'DATE COMPLETED', and 'NUMBER'. The operations listed are: Payroll count, Verification of payroll count, Final count, Verification of final count, and Portfolio prepared for shipment. The 'FINAL FIELD COUNTS' section includes fields for Population, ECR's, Infant, Agriculture, Landlord-tenant, and Total persons.

A portfolio control label for the 17th U.S. Census, conducted in 1950. (Source: National Archives and Records Administration)

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

Ho Chi Minh's telegram to
U.S. President Harry Truman.
(Source: National Archives and
Records Administration)



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

This is the first in what I hope to be a monthly series of Paul Harvey "Rest of the Story"–like vignettes in military history.

Each month, I'll pick out some key but perhaps little-known event that happened that month in history, tell you the story, and then tell you the story behind the story.

History is so much more than just a survey of dates and places; and often, it's the deeper dives into the back stories that are the most interesting. This is what I hope this column will provide, and I hope you'll enjoy them! — John Mason

February: The execution of Nguyễn Văn Lém and the Vietnamese experience

Thanks to technology, the war in Vietnam was the first to be brought nightly, live and in color, to every household in America.

War is inherently a brutal business, and I'm sure that those who have served in combat will agree that it's probably something best left unshared. But we watched. And that nightly dose of brutality turned America against both the war and the military that fought it.

On Feb. 1, 1968, Nguyễn Văn Lém, a Viet Cong captain, was summarily executed in Saigon during the Tet Offensive by South Vietnamese Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan. It was shown live on TV, and millions of us watched in disbelief — and yes, in shame. That photograph and film became famous images in contemporary American journalism, and the photo won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for spot news photography. (You can see the photo at tinyurl.com/vietnam-execution.)

(continued on the next page)

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY (CONT.)

But perhaps as much as anything else, they played a large role in America's fast-declining support for the war. As so often is the case, and as pointed out by a friend of mine who was there and by historian Max Hastings in 2018, there was more.

As it turns out, Capt. Lém, captured in civilian clothes, had just viciously murdered a South Vietnamese lieutenant colonel, his wife, their six children, and the officer's 80-year-old mother in the brutal style typified by this particular war. Though we were incensed by the photo, our outrage at the execution might have been lessened had we known the whole story.

The execution reportedly was illegal under Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) law and was certainly morally reprehensible, but under the circumstances, Loan's spontaneous act might well be forgiven. Nevertheless, publication of this picture was just more than we as a country were ready to accept.

But there's another side to the war in Vietnam that we might not all know. And had *that* story played out differently, *this* story might never have happened. And that's the story behind the story.

At the end of World War I, as the Allies were busily partitioning up the world per their own individual national ambitions, a young Vietnamese nationalist, 29-year-old Ho Chi Minh, approached the American delegation at the Paris Peace Conference requesting assistance in throwing off the yoke of colonialism that had long controlled his country.

He was sure America would understand. But he got no satisfaction. So he bided his time.

During World War II, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) enlisted "Old Man Ho" (after he had helped a downed U.S. pilot reach safety) to broadcast radio reports

on weather and Japanese troop movements to U.S. intelligence operatives stationed in China. Later, his Viet Minh guerrillas joined forces with an OSS team carrying out operations behind enemy lines. Ho's drive and demeanor made a powerful positive impression on the Americans with whom he worked.

Press forward to 1945. Ho Chi Minh — now the Vietnamese communist leader — seized an opportunity to escape decades of French rule. The very day Japan

surrendered to the Allies, Ho declared Vietnam's independence in front of a crowd of exhilarated Vietnamese.

In a deliberate appeal for American support, he opened his speech with these words: "All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Crickets.

In 1946, Ho again sought American intervention in the telegram pictured here, which he sent to President Harry S. Truman.

But when France went to war to recolonize Vietnam in 1945, the U.S. government needed its ally's cooperation to contain the spread of communism in Europe, and it adopted a neutral policy toward the conflict. Finally, in 1950 Truman authorized direct financial and military assistance to the French. Ho then turned to Russia. And the rest, as they say, is history.

And so, it leaves one to wonder. Ho's request to the U.S. is not dissimilar to another request made only a century and a half earlier when a nascent United States, also seeking to throw off the yoke of colonialism, appealed — somewhat ironically — to France for assistance. That begs the following questions: What if they had refused that request? And in 1946, what if we had not?

Suggested reading:

<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/remembering-vietnam-online-exhibit-episodes-1-4>

Patti, Archimedes. Why Viet Nam? Prelude to America's Albatross (Univ. of California Press, 1980). ISBN 978-0-52004-156-1.

Hastings, Max. Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy 1945-1975 (William Collins, 2018). ISBN 978-0062405678

New York Times, June 30, 1971, Page 16. "US Ignored Ho Chi Minh's Pleas for Aid, Monitor Article Says." <https://www.nytimes.com/1971/06/30/archives/us-ignored-ho-chi-minh-pleas-for-aid-monitor-article-says.html>

By John Mason

NOTHING NEW IN NEW YEAR, BUT ME AND YOU



An astute observer of human history, Ecclesiastes, wrote, “**What has been, will be; what has been done, will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun.**”

The news media provides a smorgasbord of social ills and tragedy. Each broadcast or news organization scans the vast selection, choosing some to

highlight for the endless appetite of the viewing public. But none of this is new. The devastation, the destruction, the deprivation of today are just a replication of the devastation, destruction, deprivation of yesterday.

Remember this: “**History is like the ocean. Forever changing, yet always the same.**” The particulars change, but the substance remains the same.

The terrorists of today were the pirates of the last century. The nuclear weapon of today was gunpowder of the first millennium. The corruption of today’s leaders is a small reflection of the murdering mischief of the Caesars. The immorality of today’s politicians pales in comparison to that of previous years. “**There is nothing new under the sun.**”

President Harry Truman’s favorite saying holds true: “**The only thing new is the history we’ve forgotten.**”

The question then arises: If the world does not change, why should we? Why attempt good deeds? Why look for hope? Why seek the positive? Should we ever say “Happy New Year” if Jan. 1 is not a new beginning?

There is nothing new, *but me and you*. Though the world around us changes little, the world *within* us can experience renewal and hope for living. Throughout history, there has always been a community of individuals who in the midst of darkness reflect light, in the midst of destruction work for good, in the midst of decay find renewal, amid the charred remains of human history seek the power to stand up with newness of life and renewal of hope. They are the ones who believe “**it is better to strike a match, than to curse the darkness.**”

These are the people like *Job*, who in a world of personal suffering refused to give up hope. These are the people like *Socrates*, who in a society of ignorance taught the virtue of education. These are the people like *Gandhi*, who in a century of violence pursued nonviolence. These are the people like *Noah*, who endured laughter and ridicule yet continued building the ark that would float above the sea of destruction.

Are we not called to do the same? Are we not called to persevere in times of suffering, to seek education amid ignorance, to pursue nonviolence in the midst of war, to look for a providential hand at work even when others turn on us? Are we not called to build our life like an ark, filled with hope, peace, love and faith that will float above the sea of daily destruction?

To achieve this, it takes personal discipline. Author Scott Peck defines *discipline* as “**delayed gratification.**” Discipline is not just “doing without.” It is delaying present gratification for a more meaningful future gratification. A disciplined life is one that seeks long-term satisfaction at the sacrifice of short-term desire.

There is nothing new, but me and you. There is nothing new in this old world, but the newness, renewal, and hope we experience and share in a disciplined life with one another. There is nothing new, but me and you.

By Richard H. Brooks
OLLI Member, Teacher and Minister

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

Critical Race Theory, also known as CRT, is an academic concept taught in university sociology classes and law schools, not in K-12 schools.

It is a method of analysis based on the idea that **racism is a social construct** that is embedded in many aspects of our lives, including in legal systems and policies.



Delois Smith



About 46 OLLI members gathered on Zoom and 16 on campus to hear a presentation on CRT by Delois H. Smith.

COMMENTATORS, POLITICIANS MISREPRESENT CRT, SPEAKER SAYS

“Critical race theory” has become a political “rallying point,” but CRT, as defined by academic scholars, is not the same thing that conservative critics are describing, Delois H. Smith told OLLI members Jan. 14.

Smith — a former UAH vice president and chief diversity officer who is now a licensed professional counselor in Orange Park, Florida — spoke via Zoom to about 46 people online and 16 on campus. The topic of her bonus session was the “Definition, History, Timeline, and Social Impact” of CRT.

Many states are banning CRT from public school classrooms, and it is an issue in current Alabama political races. CRT controversies around the U.S. have led to a principal being forced to resign, parents suing a school board, threats of violence and book bans.

“The CRT controversy has little connection to existing curriculums” in kindergarten through the 12th grade, Smith said. CRT has been studied in university sociology classes and law schools since law professors began writing about it in the 1970s.

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COMMENTATORS, POLITICIANS MISREPRESENT CRT, SPEAKER SAYS (CONT.)

Academic CRT addresses discriminatory racial laws and policies in such domains as work, housing, education, voting rights, health, health care, the wealth gap and the criminal justice system, she said. It is about racism embedded into law and society against Blacks and other people of color. Thus, CRT raises awareness about the need to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion by “changing those systems, not just individual people’s hearts and minds.”

She said that CRT has been wrongly portrayed to mean teaching divisive concepts in K-12, teaching students to hate America, and teaching that the United States is inherently racist and evil. CRT does not teach that whites are racist just because they are white or that people today are responsible for what someone did in the past, she said.

“CRT does not tell people what to think,” she said. “It’s a framework for attempts to explain why, 60 years after the civil rights movement,” Black children are more likely than whites to be disciplined in school, live in poverty, do poorly on standardized tests, and have poorly funded schools.

Smith urged listeners to rely on scientific methods, critical thinking and deductive reasoning when coming to conclusions.

Scientific methods include observation, questioning, research, forming hypotheses, testing, analyzing data, evaluating its validity and reliability, peer review and professional publications.

Critical thinking bases decisions on observation, experience, reflection, reasoning and communication. Deductive reasoning starts with a general hypothesis to reach a logical conclusion about a specific situation.

“Now, what you see happening around CRT is what is called inductive reasoning,” she said. “Inductive reasoning is where you make a broad generalization from one or two facts or one or two pieces of information. And basically,

there is a paucity, a very little bit of data, but a huge general conclusion is drawn from limited data.”

Many people obtain information from sources that don’t use the scientific method, sources such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, she said.

“It makes it harder to discern what’s true and false if you are only getting your information from social media.”

A half-century after scholars began discussing CRT, it gained political prominence in 2020 after commentator Tucker Carlson interviewed conservative activist Christopher F. Rufo on Fox News, Smith said.

Rufo (purposely and erroneously, according to Smith) linked diversity, equity and inclusion to CRT and said that CRT “has become, in essence, the default ideology of the federal bureaucracy and is now being weaponized against the American people.” He said the U.S. president should do something.

In September 2020, then-President Donald Trump banned government training on diversity, equity and inclusion. President Joe Biden reversed Trump’s decision on Jan. 20, 2021, Biden’s first day in office.

“Christopher Rufo and others have written many, many articles connecting social CRT with academic CRT, and he decided it would be a good rallying point in the political arena,” Smith said.

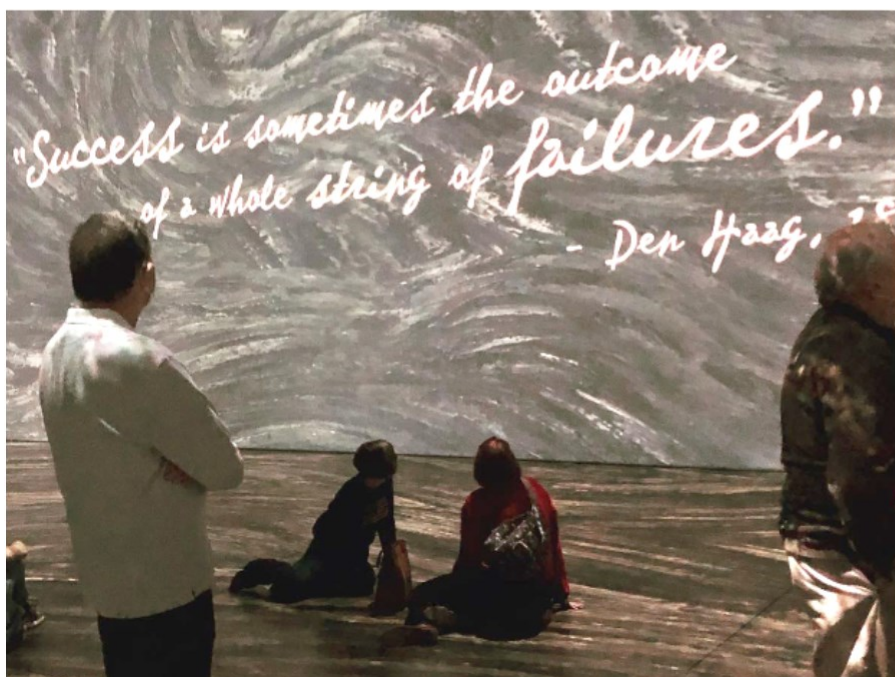
Smith noted that in March 2021, Rufo tweeted that “the goal is to have the public read something crazy in the newspaper” and think immediately of CRT.

Smith’s advice: “Be critical thinkers. Do more true research. Read more. ... Do not allow someone to tell you what to think. Our goal is to teach our children how to think, not what to think.”

By Steve Stewart

GETTING IMMERSED IN VAN GOGH'S ART

OLLI members visited the traveling exhibit "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience" in Birmingham on Dec. 1. The exhibit presents 300 of Vincent van Gogh's artworks packaged with music and the artist's dreams, thoughts and words. Van Gogh (1853-1890) was a Dutch post-Impressionist painter who became one of the most famous figures in Western art after his death.



IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR CARTER, PAST BOARD MEMBER

Eleanor Henderson Carter, a former OLLI board member, passed away Dec. 7, 2021, in Huntsville. She was 81.

She was born in Birmingham and graduated from Ensley High School. She was an honor graduate of the University of Montevallo with a degree in retail economics.

Having taught at Ensley, Eleanor moved to Huntsville with her husband, Robert Carter. She worked as administrative assistant to the president of SPACO, then as executive secretary and assistant to the vice president for advancement at UAH, where she retired.

She enjoyed working in support of the Huntsville Museum of Art, especially the wine-tasting fundraiser. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert Carter.

Memories from OLLI members:

Eleanor's legendary wit made a lasting impression on me when she chaired the OLLI bonuses, e.g., peppering her opening 'housekeeping' remarks with such phrases as "Set your electronic devices to *Stun*." At OLLI, Eleanor was a dedicated worker involved in a spectrum of activities; and she was passionate and forthright in delivering recommendations to the board and committees — just the kind of member/leader/volunteer that made OLLI the outstanding program it is today.

—Jane McBride

Eleanor was very experienced in the OLLI organization and how it works. While I was on the OLLI board, she was always very helpful as an adviser. Her smile and wonderful, outgoing personality will be missed.

—Bob Goodwin

Eleanor was a dynamite leader — always full of laughter and ideas.

—Linda McAllister

One wonderful memory I have of Eleanor is that she was a progressive thinker. I remember that when the ideas about social media were emerging, Eleanor campaigned quickly for OLLI to embrace Twitter and Facebook to get more info about OLLI distributed. Her innovative ideas were a benefit to the program.

—Maxine Doherty

Eleanor served on the OLLI Board of Directors in several positions. Her contributions to OLLI during those years are still having positive effects on our program today. She served on the board when I was president of OLLI and was always willing to go the extra step to help OLLI continue to grow and be successful.

—Sue Chatham

By Sue Chatham



Eleanor & Bob Carter

THE LAST WORD



OLLI at the University of South Dakota is offering “OLLI Shorts” free to OLLI at UAH members. OLLI Shorts are 20-minute lunchtime classes almost every weekday in February. This year they’re introducing a segment called “How’s the Weather In ...” where they’ll be asking four questions to people in different parts of the U.S. Join on Zoom to learn about these places and more. Also included are a class on how to make Irish soda bread, a new way to think about recycling, beginning genealogy, love poems, South Dakota turtles, crafts and innovations.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
February, 2022		1 How's the Weather in Hawai'i?	2 GotSneakers? A New Way to Look at Recycling	3 How's the Weather in Sedona, AZ?	4 Heart Healthy Recipe from American Heart Association	5
	7 Irish Soda Bread Making Class	8 How's the Weather in Greenville, SC?	9 Beginning Genealogy	10 How's the Weather in Pennsylvania?	11 How's the Weather in Reno, NV?	12
	14 Love Poems with Darla Biel	15 How's the Weather in El Paso, TX?	16 Laser Cut Fashion Decor	17 Craft Time: Cactus Rock Gardens	18 Discovery on Tap: Sneak into Science!	19
	21	22 The Story Behind the Song: The Sound of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel	23 Scams: What I Do Know and What I Don't Know	24 Craft Time: Paper Hyacinths	25 South Dakota Turtles	26
	28					

Classes start at 12:30 p.m. (Alabama time).

Zoom link for OLLI Shorts:

<https://usd.zoom.us/j/97196881034>.