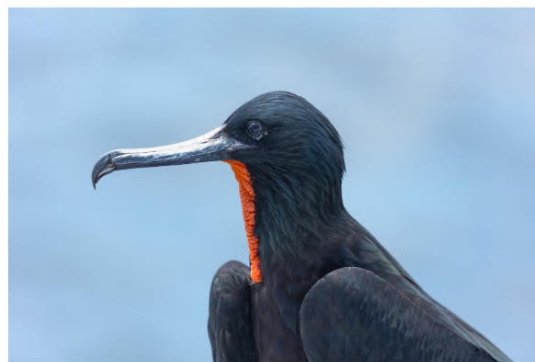


THE OLLI INSIDER

JANUARY 2023 ISSUE

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



ADVENTURES OF 2022 SET THE STAGE FOR 2023



Clockwise from top left: Enjoying OLLI's first holiday party since 2019; statue of fictional boxer Rocky Balboa in Philadelphia, an OLLI travel destination in 2023; a magnificent frigatebird — one of the wildlife photos Tom Ress shared while reporting on his trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands; Sue Chatham (this month's profile subject) with Charlie Ross and a tranquilized bear; touring the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum.



[Osher.uah.edu](https://osher.uah.edu)

OLLI at The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Wilson Hall Room 111, Huntsville, AL 35899
256.824.6183 | OLLI.info@uah.edu

Osher
Lifelong Learning
Institute at UAH

CONSENSUS ISN'T THE SAME THING AS FACT



You would be amazed at the gravity and precision of the subjects discussed in newsrooms — such as how to spell “butt-head.”

I won’t say where and don’t remember why, but at one newspaper where I worked, we consulted one another for 10 minutes or so about whether the

word was hyphenated. This was before the internet.

Finally, someone looked it up. I think the authority was the title of the TV show “Beavis and Butt-head.” The word was not in the dictionary.

Newsrooms possess reference works such as The Associated Press Stylebook and The World Almanac and Book of Facts that are supposed to save time and eliminate indecision. Unfortunately, journalists and other people sometimes shop for consensus rather than digging for facts.

The New York Times used to publish an occasional critique for its writers and editors called “Winners & Sinners.” A regular section was “You could look it up.” Today, we might say, “You could Google it” or “You could ask Siri.” But you still have to make sure the sources are reliable.

In life as in journalism, better information usually results in better decisions. Look it up, and if you really want to understand it, study it — maybe by taking an OLLI course.

Inside *The Insider*: OLLI will soon move under the administrative umbrella of the Louis Salmon Library instead of the College of Professional Studies. The physical location — Wilson Hall — won’t change in the foreseeable future, but Fathia Hardy will no longer be our director. She *will* be an OLLI member, and I’m confident she will remain one of our biggest boosters and helpers.

Fathia explains the transition in her article this month. Jill Stewart expresses appreciation for Fathia while commenting on the transition and OLLI’s almost 30 years of accomplishments.

Glen Adams profiles Sue Chatham, who was in OLLI before it was OLLI. As Glen mentions, Sue puts *The Insider* together. She is also a big part of our institutional memory.

Chris Stuhlinger tells dates and places for 11 events that



If only we’d had Siri a few decades ago.

his committee has already planned for the new year. Marilynn Szecholda describes food and fellowship opportunities, and Leah Black encourages you to take part in member interest groups. Irene Garoppo invites you to nominate someone for Volunteer of the Year.

Richard Brooks encourages us to embrace opportunities despite naysaying, and Janet Reville gives tips about keeping new year’s resolutions.

“Bucket lists only grow longer, and travel feeds my soul,” Nancy Darnall writes. Betty Koval previews Philadelphia, which is the next OLLI group travel destination.

In his military history column, John Mason describes enemy soldiers mingling in Europe to share an interlude of Christmas brotherhood in 1914 during World War I.

John’s curriculum column (some of which he told me not to read) raises the possibility that computers will take over writing and lesson planning from humans. I’d say this won’t happen, but I remember when smug newspaper people swore a computer would never replace a newspaper because you couldn’t carry a computer to the restroom. None of us thought we’d be reading news on compact wireless computers called phones and tablets.

Steve Stewart
Public Relations Committee Chair

AFTER AULD LANG SYNE



As a kid with a January birthday and an interest in the stories of Greek and Roman mythology, I remember being both intrigued and disturbed by the images of the Roman god Janus, who symbolized my birth month.

There was just something about that man with one head and two faces — one looking behind to the past and the other looking forward to the future. The books said he was the “god of transitions.” I wasn’t sure why transitions needed to look creepy.

Here at the beginning of anno Domini 2023, I’ve been thinking about ol’ buddy Janus. In recent meetings and discussions at OLLI, we have been doing a lot of reflecting about how far we have come as a learning community and envisioning what the next year(s) can look like for us. Janus and his dual perspectives suggest that the lessons of our past can help us see better the opportunities in our future.

In 2022, we here in the greater Huntsville community saw our city recognized as the No. 1 Best Place to Live in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Mayor Tommy Battle, in his year-end State of the City address, repeatedly emphasized quality of life as central to the reasons why this honor came to Huntsville.

In previous proclamations, the mayor has pointed to OLLI at UAH: “... throughout the years, the vitality, growth, and strength of this organization has been credited with enhancing the quality of life in Huntsville and surrounding areas ... OLLI takes its place among the notable reasons for Huntsville being an ideal place to live, to learn, and to grow.”

It is good to know we have played our part.

Transitions by definition mean change. In her *Insider* column this month, Fathia Hardy — our director and university liaison — describes recent changes in the UAH organizational structure, which will move oversight of OLLI later this year to the Salmon Library and Director David Moore.

Obviously, this change will be bittersweet for all of us. Fathia has been a committed and enthusiastic advocate for this program for many years. She promises to remain involved with OLLI as a member as her role changes in



The Roman god Janus, from whom January got its name, represented transitions.

the university. And we are getting to know David Moore better, as he already has been joining us for board meetings and other OLLI events. We look forward to his leadership and the opportunities available to us through the Salmon Library.

Moreover, 2023 will mark another milestone for our program. This year we will celebrate 30 years as a lifelong learning community in Huntsville, and the first OLLI affiliate in the state. Our 30th Anniversary Committee is planning a series of special events starting next August, so stay tuned.

Come to think about it, 30 years ago my focus was on the future opportunities that would be available to my almost-3-year-old, preteen, and young teenager. Apparently, that same year, someone in Huntsville was envisioning a future opportunity for me. And here we are.

After auld lang syne, it’s 2023. Let’s do this!

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors

CALENDAR

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

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

Bonus: The Year Before the Rockets Came: A Snapshot of Huntsville in November, 1949

The November 4, 1948, announcement that the Army Missile Research and Development Team would be transferring from El Paso, Texas, to Huntsville, Alabama, set in motion developments that would transform Huntsville forever. This presentation provides a snapshot of what Huntsville was like on that momentous day and answers questions such as: What were the hopes of the Huntsvillians? Why were the textile mills surrounding Huntsville no longer the economic engine driving the city's future? How and where did people shop, eat and play? Come learn about a city perched on the edge of profound changes.

Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by David Lilly, longtime Huntsville Madison Public Library Reference Department/Special Collections employee.

Feb 3 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: An Alaskan Adventure

Experience Alaska's natural wonders and beauty and gain an insight into its culture through an exciting photographic journey from the OLLI Alaskan trip in August 2022. Highlights of their 12-day tour include the cities of Fairbanks and Anchorage, the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, the Museum of the North, Chena Hot Springs, Denali National Park, the Alaska Railroad, Exit Glacier and Kenai Fjords National Park.

Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Chris Stuhlinger, Betty Koval, and Steve Stewart, longtime OLLI members.

Feb 17 | Fri | 11:00 am | [Online/In-Person](#)

Bonus: Highlighting Selfless Stewardship of Nature in Madison County

This presentation chronicles the making of two extraordinary videos on the Wells Memorial Trail on Monte Sano and the Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary. The first is a memorial to the Wells family and their gift of land to the Alabama State Park System. The second explores the 375-acre Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, enabled by a 300-acre gift of land to the City of Huntsville from philanthropist and nature-enthusiast Margaret Anne Goldsmith.

Join your OLLI friends for light refreshments served before and after the event.

Sign up [online](#).

Presented by Dr. Steve Jones, OLLI Member/Nature Enthusiast, and Bill Heslip, former TV and Media Employee

**Note: Spring Semester Classes
start January 30.**

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

A NEW YEAR, A NEW SEMESTER OF EVENTS



Happy new year! 2022 seemed to whiz by. Now it's already 2023, and we have a variety of interesting events planned for spring semester.

Below is a preview of the events offered for the coming months. Please mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow OLLI members as we continue to learn, explore and have fun

together!

Details for each month's events, including registration links, will follow in future *Insider* issues. Remember to register in advance and agree to the waiver/release form.

Recap of recent event

- **U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum** — OLLI members experienced a fascinating Dec. 2 tour through the museum, guided by a very knowledgeable war veteran. The museum — housed in a former hangar at the site of the old Huntsville airport in what is now John Hunt Park — is packed with a large collection of memorabilia, artifacts and military equipment ranging from the American Revolutionary War through Desert Storm. Included is the world's oldest jeep, the Ford Pygmy, which bears Serial No. 1.

Upcoming events

- Friday, Feb. 3 — **Bonus event: An Alaskan Adventure!** 11 a.m., Wilson Hall. Highlights of the August 2022 group tour.
- Friday, Feb. 10 — **Tour of Martin Stamping and Stove Factory, aka The Stovehouse,** 2:45 p.m. Participation is limited to the first 25 registrants.
- Saturday, Feb. 11 — **Hike/nature walk at Blevins Gap Nature Preserve,** 10 a.m. Trail length is about 2 miles each way.
- Saturday, Feb. 25 — **UAH Chargers — women's and men's basketball,** 2 p.m. women's, 4 p.m. men's; versus Valdosta State.
- Saturday, March 4 — **Hike/nature walk at Harvest Square Nature Preserve,** 10 a.m., trail length 1 to 2 miles, guests are welcome.

- Friday, March 24 — **Huntsville Museum of Art** "Encounters" by John Cleaveland Jr., 1:30 p.m., docent-led tour, guests are welcome.
- Saturday, April 1 — **Bike Ride at Richard Martin Trail,** 10 a.m., about 6 miles each way.
- Friday, April 7 — **Hubert Family Farms tour,** 3 p.m., additional fee to pick your own tulip bouquet.
- Saturday, April 15 — **OLLI Day at Charger Park,** 1 p.m. men's baseball, 4 p.m. women's lacrosse, TBD softball.
- Friday, April 21 — **Tour of the UAH Salmon Library and Archives,** 10:30 a.m. Learn about library services. Limit of 25 registrants.
- Friday, May 5 — **The Orion Amphitheater tour,** 2:30 p.m. Participation is limited to the first 30 registrants.

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair



This Ford Pygmy, which bears Serial No. 1 and is thought to be the world's oldest military jeep, is in the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum. OLLI members visited the museum Dec. 2.

VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM TOUR, DEC. 2



(Photos by Helen Crawford and Chris Stuhlinger)

WILL ROBOTS WRITE PAPERS, PLAN COURSES?



So you all know that I am always on the lookout for new courses and new topics. Well, I read an article in *The Guardian* this week that got me thinking about the future of education, and since it's a new year, I decided this would be a good place to talk about it. Resolved to learn more, so to speak.

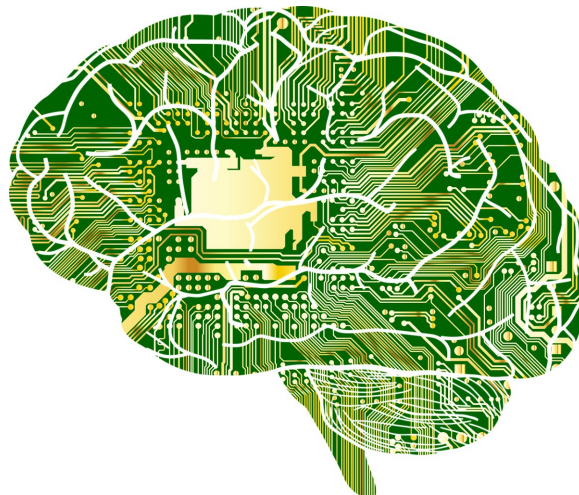
I've mentioned it here before: Change is coming, and it's unstoppable. We will have to learn to live with and adapt to it, or we'll be left behind. Today's issue is virtual learning. But what comes tomorrow?

How many of you have ever written a regular column (like this one, or the daily editorial columns in the major newspapers)? OK. Then how many of you have, at least once in your life, written a college paper? If you have, you know it's hard work, and I think that any of our *Insider's* regular columnists can attest to this.

Well, now it appears that artificial intelligence may have found a new niche. According to *The Guardian*, "A research business co-founded by Elon Musk ... developed [a program] to create content with a human language structure better than any of its predecessors. Natural language processing has been developing swiftly in the past couple years, enabling computers to generate text that feels, in many cases, contextually appropriate and passably organic." And that begs the question: Has manual writing become passé?

But for our purposes, the question is better stated as "How can we leverage this technology in research, and even in class preparation?" Having the computer generate a lesson plan may be relatively simple, but can we integrate artificial context into constructing a slide-based teaching program? (As I think about it, I wonder if apps like Babble aren't already doing something similar with foreign-language programs.) The possibilities are endless, but also problematic.

This presents a huge challenge for college, and I suppose high school and all other, educators. If students can download an app that will, once a topic and some key terms have been identified, have their iPad do their paper while they work on improving their Snapchat profile, what exactly are they learning?



Artificial intelligence raises intriguing possibilities for assisting people— or perhaps taking over what they do.

Again, per *The Guardian*, "Overall, the instructor evaluations suggested that writing ... was able to mimic human writing in areas of grammar, syntax, and word frequency, although the papers felt somewhat technical. As you might expect, the time it took the AI to complete the assignments was dramatically less than that required by human participants. The average time between assignment and completion for humans was three days, while the average time between assignment and completion for GPT-3 [text generators] was between 3 and 20 minutes."

Those of us who teach know how long it takes to develop a new course; think if we could do it in, say, half an hour. The possibilities of offerings could increase exponentially. And so, going back to my original theme, here lie changes that can revolutionize education.

The downside, of course, is that we stand the chance to lose another critical skill: the ability to write. Our public schools have already quit teaching cursive writing and are even toning down their English curricula; now could they just do away with writing altogether? That is scary. Luckily, we at OLLI have courses like "Writing Your Life Story" and others that can help us in this regard. But then again, most of us already had the basic skill set.

(continued on the next page)



WILL ROBOTS WRITE PAPERS?, CONT.

More importantly (Steve: You need to skip this paragraph!), think of the benefits programs like this afford those of us who write daily, weekly or monthly columns for a living. So, just saying, I could initialize the app and type in “Lifelong learning, new ideas,” and poof: three minutes later, my column’s done and I can go back to bed. What a country!

In seriousness, though, we don’t know how all of this works, how it might change our lives, or how to get on board with it. We have an information technology program in the Curriculum Committee that could be a great place to start this learning process. Perhaps like starting a New Year with new resolutions, we should resolve to learn more about how technology will continue to change, and improve, our lives.

And so, as I’m wont to do, I now wonder if those of you with programming, computer, or any other technical skills out there might be willing to prepare a class — or even a series — on the subject. I think something on the lines of “Living with AI” might be interesting.

Call me.

So, being one who likes to lead from the front, I considered trying this app for my monthly columns here. But then, when it dawned on me that the computer-generated version would likely be sooooo much better than anything I could ever do manually, I promptly scrapped the idea with a hearty snort of disdain. Egos, after all, can be very fragile things.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT STUDYING ENGINEERING

The winner of this year’s OLLI at UAH Scholarship is Robert Mobley, who is a freshman working toward a degree in electrical engineering.

“Thank you so much for providing me with this amazing gift,” said Robert. “I can’t thank you enough for the help this scholarship will provide. I will use this to help pay for tuition.

“In my spare time, I enjoy playing sports, working out and hanging out. In the future, I plan to get my master’s degree and work at Redstone Arsenal. Again, thank you so much for this amazing opportunity.”

The OLLI at UAH Scholarship was established in 2005 through donations from OLLI members. The donations are held by UAH as an endowment fund, which means the principal is never touched. As the principal grows through donations, so can the scholarship amount.

The scholarship has been awarded annually since 2006. It provides support for a deserving UAH student by assisting with tuition, books, housing and related costs.

If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, go to [Osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI](https://osher.uah.edu/DonateOLLI) or call (256) 824-4483 and specify the OLLI at UAH Scholarship Fund.

By Glen Adams

NEW YEAR WITH NEW LEADERSHIP



Every new year brings a wealth of innovative opportunities. This is no different for OLLI or UAH. In the past year, we welcomed a new university president, Dr. Chuck Karr; provost, Dr. David Puleo; and OLLI program manager, Clay Williams.

The university also experienced several organizational changes, and OLLI now has an excellent opportunity to excel under new leadership.

During this academic year, the College of Professional Studies is undergoing an organizational transition, where the units within the college will be aligned with other departments on campus. The transition plan was carefully thought out from feedback received from stakeholders with the intention for each unit to be supported.

With the university's goal to best support the program, OLLI at UAH will be positioned organizationally under the [Louis Salmon Library](#) by the end of the 2022-23 academic year. For the foreseeable future, Wilson Hall will still be home for our program.

We recognize and appreciate the dedication, support, and positive impact of our OLLI members throughout our UAH campus. OLLI is a priority for UAH, and we believe the new organizational structure helps continue our support for its mission in our community.

Included with the transition, I will no longer serve as your director and university liaison. [David Moore](#), director of the library, will provide leadership and oversight of OLLI into its 30th year of lifelong learning at UAH.

Clay Williams and Alice Sammon will remain fully committed to OLLI. Mr. Moore and his incredible staff are very excited to welcome our members to their Salmon Library family. They have so many wonderful resources available to the membership already, and they are looking forward to expanding those soon.

I will remain at UAH in a new capacity, working with our professional and continuing education team under Dr. Jason Greene's leadership in the College of Business. Please rest assured that during this transition, I will make myself fully available as a resource to Mr. Moore and thereafter as needed and with Dr. Greene's support. We all want to make this transition as smooth as possible for Mr. Moore, our staff and our membership.

OLLI has been one of the highlights of my nine-year career at UAH. I have developed amazing relationships and learned so much from many of you. Although I am sad I won't be overseeing the program moving forward, I am extremely excited to continue supporting the program as a member.

I look forward to seeing you all in classes, field trips, and maybe a trip abroad. Thank you for embracing me over the years and putting up with my out-of-the-box ideas. This isn't goodbye, but see you later in a new capacity!

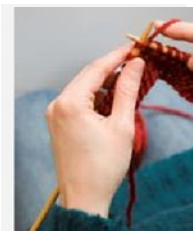
Fathia Hardy
Director of Outreach and Support Services
College of Professional Studies



As a UAH administrator and teacher, Fathia Hardy has been involved in every aspect of OLLI. She will continue to support OLLI through the coming transition and will be an OLLI member.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Spring 2023 will be underway soon. There is still time to register for courses. Tuition is \$20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at [Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration](https://osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration).



LEARN TO KNIT

1/30 – 11/14 • M • 1:15 – 2:45 pm • 6 sessions • In Person • M. Lavery • \$30

Learn the various stitches, techniques, tools, and materials common with the art of knitting. Attendees will make sampler squares, which will be joined to form an afghan. Finished products can be enjoyed at home or donated.



CREATIVE WRITING: FLASH FICTION

2/1 – 3/8 • W • 8:30 – 10:00 am • 6 sessions • In Person • M. Smith • \$30

Explore aspects of creative writing on stories less than 1,000 words known as Flash Fiction. Students will learn the elements of any good story, beginning with the three-act structure and the elements of plot, character, setting, and dialogue. Participants will have the opportunity to write and share their own flash stories with the class.



INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

2/1 – 3/29 • W • 3:15 – 4:45 pm • 8 sessions • Live Virtual • B. Johnson • \$35

Explore early inventions that dramatically altered the development of the world. Using DVDs and instructor-led discussion, learn how these creations, dating from ancient times to the 1500s, were used to stimulate trade, fight wars, and create empires.



STRESS REDUCTION THROUGH MINDFULNESS: GOOD MEDICINE FOR CHANGING TIMES

2/2 – 2/23 • Th • 3:15 – 4:45 pm • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • T. Fandre • \$25

Everyone's trying to manage lives filled with ever-increasing uncertainty, distraction and stress. Left unchecked, toxic stress will lead to mental, emotional and physical breakdown. This introductory course will teach you techniques of mindful stress reduction that can reduce stress and promote greater peace of mind, compassion and joy. These techniques include formal and informal meditation (or mind training), breathing techniques, gentle stretching and mindful self-compassion.

Save 20%

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

OLLI VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023



Welcome back from all the hustle and bustle of the holidays. I hope everyone is ready to jump back into OLLI. Taking classes is what we all usually think about, but it will soon be time to name our next 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

2022 through early spring 2023.

We're still taking classes using many different avenues — in person, Zoom, a mixture of both, and of course Alabama Shares. We have members serving in many capacities as committee members, instructors and facilitators, board members and bonus presenters.

We are looking at local/UAH OLLI members who are visible in our daily business (instructors, facilitators, office workers), as well as those who work diligently behind the scenes (office ambassadors, committee members, snack providers).

If they volunteered any time during this past year, March 2022 through February 2023, they're eligible. Because of the new term structure, there can be some overlap of those volunteers who work during the spring.

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 a UAH 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. Every year, it seems as though someone is mentioned in passing, yet the individual wasn't nominated — so be sure to think about all the volunteers and nominate if you think someone is deserving of this honor.

The request for nominations will be posted in the weekly *eNews* and mentioned by class facilitators. There will be a link in the *eNews* for your convenience. All nominations will be electronic; manual nominations will not be accepted.

This year's VoY nomination window will open on or about Feb. 17 and will remain open until March 17. Nominees will be validated by a small committee for eligibility, and a winner will be recommended to the Board of Directors for

final selection. The winner will be announced and presentations made during the OLLI annual meeting/dinner in late April. If for some reason we are unable to host an annual dinner, the winner will be announced via the weekly *eNews* and in the summer newsletter.

The recipient will receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the OLLI board president, a small trophy/memento, and a registration certificate for the following fall term. The winner's name will be placed on the volunteer plaque in the volunteer office.

Be sure to start thinking today about whom you may want to nominate and watch for the notice in the *eNews*. We invite everyone to stop by the office and view the plaque that shows past winners.

Irene Garoppo



Volunteers of the Year are listed on this plaque in the volunteer office in Wilson Hall.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

MARVELING AT THE ART OF PHILADELPHIA



Happy new year! Wow — last year flew by quickly!

Here we are, and it is a brand-new year full of all sorts of opportunities for — *anything!* Bill and I plan to do a bit more traveling this year and cover a few of the last remaining lower 48

states neither of us have visited before. Some we have touched down in and flown in and out of but never really visited, so this is the time for us to do what we have been putting off or have had to put off due to COVID shutdowns.

I want to talk a bit about our upcoming Philadelphia art trip and my experience being on my own for three days touring the Philadelphia area. There is so much history, art and food in this city.

Bill had a four-day commitment at the Convention Center, so I bought a hop-on, hop-off trolley pass for the duration. The first morning I rode the entire route, and as it turned out one of the stops was only a short walk from our hotel. While we toured, I noted the places I wanted to visit and marveled at the murals all around the city. I had a map and details of all the stops. I found it easy to walk around all the areas I visited.

I went to the Barnes Foundation and Rodin Museum that afternoon. The artwork is just fantastic at the Barnes, and at the Rodin I was able to listen to the docent as he led a group of schoolchildren on a field trip.

The docent saw me photographing the “The Gates of Hell” inspired by Dante’s “Divine Comedy.” He whispered to me, “You have no idea how many brides and grooms *must* have their photographs in front of these doors and do not even know what they represent.” It turns out that Auguste Rodin worked on the piece for some 37 years for a Paris Museum that never came to fruition. How lucky for us to be able to see this at a museum here instead of Paris, France? We shared a little laugh.

Docents are just the nicest people, especially when they see a lone person reading about the pieces and then walking ever so slowly around them studying the intricacies of the masters’ works. I admit I spent more time at this small museum than I had planned. I walked the grounds and watched the plein air painters do their wonderful renditions of the views.

I spent the *entire* next day at the Philadelphia Museum of Art — absolutely one of the best days I have ever spent in a museum. The one exhibit I found just amazing was one of ancient through modern weaponry. The horse and rider in armor — with the rider covered in all that, I was amazed at how strong both man and horse must have been. I could see myself falling or getting knocked off the horse and being like a turtle on its back trying to get up.

Thank goodness I was born in a different time. *And* thank goodness I can see it up close and in person from another time. Museums are just full of this, and it never ceases to amaze me what one can learn through art. I know I have learned so much by taking Debbie West’s art classes.

The next day I spent wandering around the historic venues and walking a lot. What a historic city of founding fathers! Benjamin Franklin was the primary figure, but there were so many historic buildings: Independence Hall, Independence National Historical Park, President’s House Site, Christ Church Burial Ground, Old City Hall, Old North Church, Eastern State Penitentiary (Al Capone was incarcerated there), and so many more.

Oh, one more item to see: Chinatown’s Chinese Friendship Gate! This is put together like a puzzle without any nails — all fitted together, each piece doing its part to hold another. Check out the brochures in the OLLI lounge or the volunteer office.

On our last day, I visited the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Reading Terminal Market. It contains 75 local stalls crammed into 75,000 square feet of a cultural melting pot of Pennsylvania Dutch to Thai cuisine. Do make it a point to stop in, if for nothing but an ice cream. I can attest there is any kind of food there you could want.

Email olli.info@uah.edu for information on these two trips:

- **The World of Art:** The Barnes Foundation, Murals, and More by Road Scholar — May 21-26, 2023, in Philadelphia.
- **The Canadian Maritimes:** Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island by Grand Circle Travel — Aug. 17-29, 2023.

(continued on the next page)

MARVELING AT THE ART, CONT

I haven't been to the eastern side of Canada yet, but those who have tell me it is just beautiful. Check out the brochures in the lounge or the volunteer office.

Let's make this the year to travel and learn more. I want to make up for time lost these past few years and see and experience more of these United States.

It is sometimes easier to be an armchair traveler with all the programs on our television sets, but to stand in front of one of the great masterpieces of art or on a part of our natural landscape can be an awe-inspiring experience.

Get up, get out and *experience* this world! Bring your experiences back to OLLI and share with all of us. I look forward to hearing of all your adventures.

All who wander are not lost.

Betty Koval
Travel Committee Chair



Betty Koval in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art: Rodin's "The Gates of Hell"; a statue of the fictional boxer Rocky Balboa; the Chinese Friendship Gate.



HOW TO ACHIEVE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



With every new year come a mixed sense of hope for the future and a bit of nostalgia for the past.

Resolutions are made, new ideas are generated, and personal changes are welcomed. Many of these are tossed aside as the year passes. But with a bit of determination and organization, maybe you can be part of the minority to keep those resolutions!

Organization is the key to most any of your resolutions — from weight loss to travel to less clutter in your home. By looking at the desired goal as an aggregate of smaller tasks, we are more likely to achieve at least a portion of the desired outcome.

We've all read and heard over the years that setting goals is important to change our behaviors — but long-term, palpable goals are often elusive and difficult to define.

When it comes to resolutions, some of the common ones I hear from fellow seasoned adults are:

- "I'm going to downsize this year."
- "I'm going to organize my..." (house, garage, guest room, kitchen).
- "I'm going to get rid of ..." (old files, adult kids' stuff, unused clothes).

Since a resolution is just another term for a goal, it should be treated as such: realistic, achievable, definable and measurable. A resolution "to downsize" does not fit these criteria. However, "organize my garage" may be a set goal, but it will definitely need to be pared down and separated into smaller tasks.

Most likely, any and all of your organization goals will include some version of "I'm going to get rid of ..." That part of the process is most often the most stressful and difficult step.

There are many useful forms of advice on organization and downsizing your belongings, from books and internet sources galore, but the most important advice to remember is this: You are the catalyst, and only your efforts can achieve your goal. You can read and listen (and even teach) all the tricks and tips of the process, but until you actually do the necessary work, nothing will be accomplished.

The best tool for accomplishing any goal, but specifically organizing, is a calendar. Set a date and a time you are going to clean out that junk drawer.

What weekend do you have available to pull out the old linens from the closet? Do you need to schedule a friend or family member to help? Write it down — just as you would an appointment with a doctor.

Completing small tasks toward a larger goal keeps us motivated and moving forward — and motivation is what we all need!

By Janet Reville

If you want to accomplish your resolutions, get organized and break big tasks into smaller ones.



SUE CHATHAM GOES WAY BACK WITH OLLI

To say Sue Chatham is an OLLI veteran is a gross understatement.

When she started taking classes at OLLI more than 20 years ago, it was called The Academy of Lifetime Learning. Since then, Sue has held a variety of OLLI jobs, including president. And today she is the reason we can read *The Insider* each month. She lays out each issue and makes it ready for the internet.

Sue — a true daughter of the Old South — is the subject of this month's profile.

"I was born in my grandmother's house outside of Meridian, Mississippi," said Sue. "My father was a night watchman at Gibson's discount store, and my mother worked at a small grocery store. But one of them was always home with the kids. There were three kids 10 years older than me and two younger."

A bookworm as a girl, Sue was valedictorian of her high school class.

"My high school counselor helped get a grant and loan for my first semester at Mississippi State," said Sue. "The plan was for me to get on the co-op program at Mississippi State to have the funds to continue."

"I ended up as a co-op in the Marshall Space Flight Center's Space Sciences Lab. That is probably the event that had the most impact on my life. I was able to complete my degree in math with only \$300 debt. The job paid enough to cover all my living expenses when I worked and my college expenses when I was in school."

Sue started with NASA in 1969 and has stayed in Huntsville ever since. She met her first husband here and switched to UAH. At the time of her graduation, NASA was not hiring, but because of her work with contractors during her co-op days she was able to find a job with SAI (now Science Applications International Corp.). She worked for them 13 years and for TRW Inc. (an aerospace, defense, semiconductor and computer company) for one year.

At that point, she began working for Charlie Ross as a programmer. Work led to a partnership that has lasted 40 years.

And they have not sat around: "Since meeting Charlie, I have hiked the Grand Canyon, the Yosemite hut-to-hut trail and Tennessee's Mount LeConte multiple times," said Sue. "I have skied most of the resorts out West, traveled in Europe, and been on cruises. Most weeks I play tennis."

Sue also fell in love with dancing 50 years ago. "In the '70s, I started Middle Eastern dancing, then in the 2010s I started Hawaiian dancing," said Sue. "Currently I belong to a group which performs for retirement communities and senior centers."

Even when OLLI was The Academy of Lifetime Learning, Sue was involved with what became *The Insider*. She also was elected to the board and became treasurer. She served as president from 2007 to 2009 and then was the membership chair. And she put the catalog together for many years, served on the events and social committees, and taught and took classes.

"I love OLLI," said Sue. "It continues to evolve and grow ... Because of the events that led me to Huntsville and later OLLI, I have been places, seen things and met some of the most interesting people. Many have become close friends. I feel so fortunate to be where I am."

Thanks, Sue, for the many, many things you do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams



Sue and Charlie at the 2015 OLLI holiday party; hiking Mount LeConte; with a tranquilized bear on LeConte. Workers had placed a tracer on the bear and were trying to dissuade it from venturing near campers.



MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENJOY A MEMBER INTEREST GROUP



Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed the holidays and has taken the opportunity to look over the classes and activities for the spring term. There will be more great bonus events and more chances to enjoy snacks and chatting with OLLI friends.

Any members with tai chi class experience or curiosity are welcome to the Friday morning MIG sessions from 9 to 10 a.m. in the lobby of Wilson Hall.

I hope some of you have been taking pictures to enter in the annual photo contest. You have until April 1, 2023, to get them in. See details on Page 24.

Leah Black
Member Services Committee Chair

Member interest groups will be meeting in January at their regular times. You may want to check to be sure whether there are any schedule changes.

HIKING AND A FESTIVAL AT WILDLIFE REFUGE

Steve Jones, one of the teachers of a fall-semester course about Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, posted his comments and photos from an OLLI hike through part of the refuge.

Class members and other OLLI members participated in the Oct. 8 hike of the Flint Creek Trail in southeast Decatur. Steve's account is on his Great Blue Heron blog at tinyurl.com/olli-flint-creek.

"I enjoy leading these hikes," Steve wrote. "Our OLLI members are mostly retirees, eager to learn and enthusiastic nature enthusiasts." A retired forester and university administrator, he commented on the forest, curious tree forms, poison ivy, and a strawberry bush known as hearts-a-bustin'.

The refuge and the Princess Theatre in downtown Decatur will host about a dozen events Jan. 13-15 during the annual Festival of the Cranes. Details are at tinyurl.com/cranes-fest23.



OLLI members on a footbridge during their hike of the Flint Creek Trail on Oct. 8.
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

By Steve Stewart

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP CONTINUE INTO 2023



What a way to end dear old 2022! The holiday party was so welcome after two years of delayed holiday gatherings due to “you know what”! We had a good time with friends, a tasty dinner, and dancing to DJ Ted Cannon’s music. Thanks to everyone who helped put this fun event together.

We can now look forward to 2023. Open house is on Jan. 6. Meet the

teachers and stop by the lounge for refreshments and conversations with OLLI members.

Weekly breakfasts in the lounge will begin again on Tuesday, Feb. 7. So all you early birds join us for food and fellowship before your 8:30 classes and all through your later morning classes.

Something special is on the calendar for Friday, Feb. 17, after the bonus. We’re calling it “Souper Bowl.” A luncheon of homemade soups will be offered. Sign up in the *eNews* in 2023 to bring your favorite soup to share.

Sign up for classes, and see you in 2023!

Marilynn Szecholda
Social Committee Chair

Weekly breakfast and conversation in the OLLI lounge, 152D Wilson Hall, will resume Feb. 7.





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

January: The Christmas Truce, December 1914

During a state visit to Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were assassinated by Bosnian Serb student Gavrilo Princip. The result was World War I — a conflagration that ultimately resulted in somewhere around 40 million casualties and virtually destroyed at least a generation of Europeans.

That the war resulted from the murder of the heir to a crumbling empire by a likely domestic terrorist group sponsored by a state that most Europeans considered something on the order of a “red-headed stepchild” is really the height of irony. Even Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph wasn’t terribly concerned. “A higher power has re-established the order which I, alas, could not preserve,” he said on learning of the murder.

Serbsians wanted more equality in the empire to which they were a part, and unknown to them, Franz Ferdinand was sympathetic. It was well-known in Austro-Hungarian political and court circles that, in fact, he planned to change the “Dualism of Austro-Hungary” into a Trialism of Austria, Hungary, and the Southern Slavs — essentially giving the Serbs the same separate powers and autonomies that had been enjoyed by the Hungarians since 1867.

Another irony is that had Austro-Hungary mobilized its armies and declared war on Serbia, while there might have been some diplomatic gnashing of teeth, it is likely that Europe would not have batted an eye. Alas, it was not to be.

Instead of taking action, Austro-Hungary dithered for some 25 days until finally issuing the demand of an apology from the Serbs. When that apology proved insufficient, ancient alliances began to snap into effect and countries with widely different national and international ambitions began to choose sides.

The world divided up into a situation that found Germany and Austro-Hungary on one side of the divide and Russia, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and, of course, Serbia on the other.

As those national militaristic ambitions began to coalesce, all sense of diplomacy and reason across the hierarchies of the European continent began to break down. And a war

that could have been — *should* have been — averted became inevitable.

Diplomats across the continent scrambled to find a way out of an unthinkable situation. But on the other side of government, European military establishments, backed by each country’s leading industrialists, began flexing their hegemonic muscles. History tells us who won that debate.

And so, at midnight, Aug. 4, 1914, with the time for answering ultimatums expired, England, France and Russia found themselves at war with Germany. Why, we might ask? Because the greatest minds in all of these great nation-states simply couldn’t find any other way to resolve their problems.

That’s how it is with war. Old men beat their chests, and young men die. And therein lies the basis for the rest of the story. For perhaps, young men understand war’s futility better than do their leaders.

By late December 1914, this war in Europe had ground down to a bloody stalemate. Each side had tried to flank the other, and both had failed. Battles such as Mulhausen and the Ardennes, the Marne, and the First Battle of Ypres had, in almost four months, cost both sides between 1,375,000 and 1,500,000 men. And now, nearly impenetrable fortified trenches ran the length of Europe from the Channel to the Swiss border.

But the soldiers understood. At Christmas 1914, an event occurred that was not repeated again during the First World War: An unofficial, spontaneous truce took place along some parts of the Western Front, often started with a ceasefire as Christmas Day approached.

For Colin Wilson of the Grenadier Guards, the truce also started with carols. This was then followed by an invitation from the German troops opposite.

We heard a German singing Holy Night of course in German, naturally. Then after he’d finished singing there were all sorts of Christmas greetings being shouted across no man’s land at us. These Germans shouted out, “What about you singing Holy Night?” Well we had a go but of course we weren’t very good at that. Anyway they said, “Meet us and come over in no man’s land.” Well after a time we were allowed — a limited number of us — our officers allowed a limited number of us to go into no man’s land.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT MILITARY HISTORY, CONT.

J. Reid of the 6th Gordon Highlanders also took part in the truce:

When we were on the line at Sailly, Christmas 1914, there was a bit of a truce there you know and the Germans stopped firing, we stopped firing. And we came out of the line and they came out of the line. And we were swapping tins of bully for their tins of meat and the padre was out having a talk with them, they were burying any dead that was there and we were burying any dead — this carried on for about a couple of days.

What had happened stunned the world and made history. Enemy soldiers began to climb nervously out of their trenches, and to meet in the barbed-wire-filled “no man’s land” that separated the armies. Normally, the British and Germans communicated across no man’s land with streaking bullets and only occasional gentlemanly allowances to collect the dead unmolested. But now, there were handshakes and words of kindness. The soldiers traded songs, tobacco and wine, and even a soccer game or two, joining in a spontaneous holiday party in the cold night.

British machine gunner Bruce Bairnsfather, later a prominent cartoonist, wrote about it in his memoirs: “Here they were—the actual, practical soldiers of the German army. There was not an atom of hate on either side.”

The soldiers knew, but not everyone was pleased. One young German wrote: “Such a thing should not happen in

wartime. Have you no German sense of honor left?” That 25-year-old soldier’s name was Adolf Hitler.

Commanders didn’t care for it, either. They realized that this kind of fraternization could well lead to soldiers refusing to fight in this futility of trench warfare. That could never be allowed. Some accounts of the Christmas Truce hold that soldiers were punished for fraternization, and top command issued orders that it should never happen again.

But the soldiers who crossed the trenches on Christmas Day were not a movement to end the war; rather, they were a symbol that among so much destruction, no amount of hatred or bitterness could overcome their common humanity.

They also knew that when the truce was ended, they would return to their lines and once again join in senseless slaughter because ... well, maybe only because their countries had told them to. For what reason, I doubt many understood.

The soldiers know. So just maybe, when international tensions rise to a boiling point and diplomacy bows to money and common sense, maybe we should ask the common soldiers. And maybe they could give us the answer.

By John Mason



On Jan. 9, 1915, The Illustrated London News published this illustration of the Christmas truce. British and German soldiers were arm in arm, exchanging headgear—“fraternizing on the field of battle at the season of peace and goodwill,” the paper reported. A German officer was photographing a group of foes and friends.

THE WONDER OF TRAVEL

As a child, I dreamt of travel, all the places I would go: New York City, Chicago, Florida white sand beaches, maybe even Hawaii.

My parents were the final generation of generations of farmers. In the late 1940s they made the move from rural to small-town America, pursuing more stable and predictable income in factories. They did this to achieve their dreams: to own a home off the family farm, to have more. We never discussed more “what,” but my childhood and adulthood are a testament to what “more” I derived from their relocation.

Early on, around 1956 or '57, we began our annual week (July 4 when the factories shut down for vacation) in Daytona Beach, Florida. This was our trek each year, leaving home about 10 on Friday night and arriving in Daytona around 10 a.m. on Saturday. The idea was that Dad and Mom could drive while my brother and I slept.

Daytona Beach held all our needs and wishes: a broad white sand beach, a carnival of rides at the Boardwalk, a jewelry auction (not always what it seemed), restaurants, and shopping in the adjacent town. Daytona Beach set the family bar against which I have always compared other beaches.

One year we went to Panama City. The beach had dunes and vegetation; my parents didn't like it. Another year a state trooper stopped us for speeding. Instead of a ticket, we got a tour of New Ormond Beach. Again, the beach was wrong, with very little development (motels) and no boardwalk.

But off we drove to Florida every year. Until 1964. We went to Washington, D.C., and New York City, the site of the 1964 World's Fair. You know, the one where the Epcot globe debuted—that same globe that lives in Walt Disney World now.

By now, the idea of travel was planted firmly in my dreams.

I have been extremely fortunate to travel far beyond my wildest dreams. Yes, New York City, Chicago, Florida and Hawaii were checked off the childhood dream list. Along the way, “bucket list” made its way into the mainstream vocabulary. It wasn't restricted to places but also goals, activities and events.

Most of us have at one time or another added items to a bucket list—maybe attend a performance, learn a new subject, visit a special museum or racetrack, take a grandchild to the zoo. The options are endless.



Nancy Barnett Darnall has fulfilled many childhood travel dreams, but her bucket list keeps

But travel! Travel changes the traveler. However rich and varied our lives may be at home, new vistas reveal new facts,

challenges and opportunities. There are countless travel quotes, but among my favorites are these:

- “I am not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world.” — Mary Anne Radmacher
- “Everything I was I carry with me; everything I will be lies waiting on the road ahead.” — Ma Jian
- “There ain't no journey what don't change you some.” — David Mitchell, “Cloud Atlas”
- “There is a kind of magicness about going far away and then coming back all changed.” — Kate Douglas Wiggin, “New Chronicles of Rebecca”

There is no way to transmit the joy of seeing new worlds, whether it is the world of a big city, the world of the shore by an ocean, the world of cultures different from our own. The experience of meeting folks with different realities, cultures, religions, languages and customs leaves us speechless. When we regain our tongues, we have new words.

The wonder of travel is the way it changes us. We go to see something different; we return different ourselves.

Now that the pandemic has receded and the world has reopened, we have opportunities to travel again. Check into the OLLI trips for next year. The details are elsewhere in this newsletter. Or plan your own travels.

Of two things I am certain: Bucket lists only grow longer, and travel feeds my soul. Over the coming months, I plan to share a few of my experiences in *The OLLI Insider*. Perhaps you will do the same.

By Nancy Barnett Darnall

CHANGE CAN BE, IN 2023



Happy new year! The change that can be, in 2023, is the change within you and me.

“What has been, will be; what has been done, will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun,” wrote Ecclesiastes 2,000 years ago. In our complex and changing world, how can we be

excited and happy for this new year?

It begins with understanding that the change we desire is not “out there” but is “in here,” not in the thousand voices from the morning news shows, but in our hearts and minds that continue to grow and glow. What we look for, we see. What we seek, we find. Our focus determines the outcome, as Ben Franklin’s autobiography reminds us.

In the 1720s, the young 17-year-old indentured escapee Benjamin Franklin of Boston opened his print business in Philadelphia. Old Samuel Mickle came by one morning.

“Is this your shop?” asked Mickle. After an affirmative answer, Mickle continued: “Young Franklin, I feel very sorry for you, as you will surely lose in this venture. This city is half bankrupt and sinking fast. All that you see being built here will soon be in ruin.”

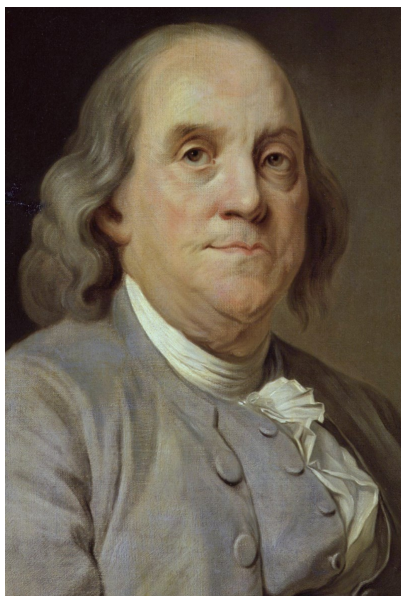
Fortunately, Ben Franklin did not heed the old man’s dire prediction. Instead, he worked to build a successful business producing such notable publications as “Poor Richard’s Almanac.”

Franklin became a civic leader, organizing the first volunteer fire department, public library and civic club while helping to build a great nation on a new ideal of representative democracy. To the contrary, old man Mickle never lived to see the blessed opportunity that lay before him.

I suspect when he met his maker, Mickle’s first question was “God, why did you allow so many things to go wrong?” to which a reply came: “Why did you not appreciate so many things that went right?”

OLLI points us toward becoming *better*, not *bitter*! Plenty of people will cheer us on to become bitter. Or we can become better with effort and a constant emphasis on what positive opportunities lie ahead. With eyes of faith and hearts of gratitude, let us continue our walk into a happy new year.

By Richard H. Brooks

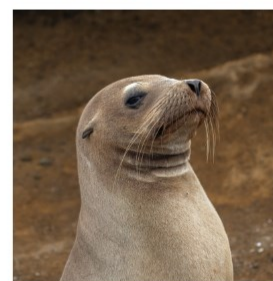
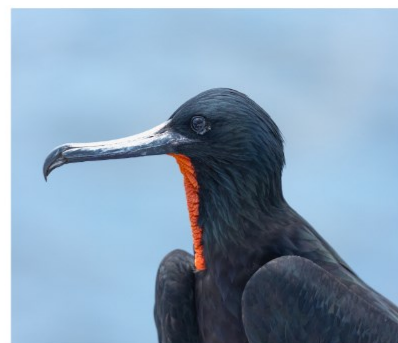
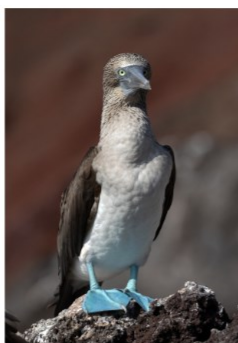


Benjamin Franklin concentrated on becoming better, not bitter.



WILDLIFE OF ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS

Traveler, writer and photographer Tom Ress described his visit to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in a bonus session Dec. 9, showing pictures of scenery and wildlife. Seeing the islands' unique species of birds, reptiles and mammals helped Charles Darwin develop his theory of evolution.



(Photos by Tom Ress, Glen Adams and Steve Stewart)

AFTER 3 YEARS, IT'S TIME TO PARTY AGAIN

OLLI's annual holiday party returned Dec. 15 after cancellations in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID pandemic. Members enjoyed food, conversation, door prizes, music and dancing in the Conference Training Center on the UAH campus.



(Photos by Nancy Darnall, Marsha Langlois and Steve Stewart)

CHRISTMAS TREE PROMOTES OLLI AT NORTH HUNTSVILLE LIBRARY

OLLI members Nancy and Bob Darnall bought and decorated a Christmas tree that promotes OLLI at the North Huntsville Public Library. You can see this tree, along with those from other nonprofit organizations, at 3011 Sparkman Drive, Suite A.



Photo Contest

LIGHT & SHADOW

Showcase your mastery of light
and shadow in photographs.

2023 OLLI PHOTO CONTEST

- The topic for this year is "Light and Shadow."
- Photos must be taken from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.
- The photographer must be a current OLLI member.
- Gentle photo editing is permitted, but keep the original photo.
- Submit the named photo in a standard digital jpg format — at least a 2MP final pixel size is recommended.
- Photographers may submit photos anytime until the April 1, 2023, deadline.
- Submit photos to OLLIPhotoContest@uah.edu.