’ROUND, ’ROUND, GET AROUND, WE GET AROUND

Clockwise from top left: Alabama Music Hall of Fame; Tom Borcher’s new book; Legacy Award winner Linda McAllister (center); Green Mountain Nature Preserve; Shakespeare teacher Susan Hazen Guthrie with thank-you gifts; annual meeting; Paulette (center) and Ed Bernstein after presenting a bonus; Chattanooga and Chickamauga; Aldridge Creek Greenway
During the Cold War, Patrice and I joined newspaper people visiting Washington from around the United States. That’s how I wound up in the Soviet embassy.

Our hosts were polite and friendly, feeding us hors d’oeuvres and probably vodka. Then we sat down for a Q&A.

Maybe our group member from Kansas was emboldened by the libations or just by the chance to fire a tough question at the perfect target.

“When I get back to Kansas,” this editor told the man presiding, “I will write and print anything I damn well please about what I saw in Washington. Sir, can you give me an example of a journalist in the Soviet Union who has the same freedom?”

In reply, the embassy guy drew on his diplomatic skills as well as his sense of humor.

“In the Soviet Union,” he said with a smile, “we don’t allow journalists to print more than they know.”

We laughed, but he had identified a crucial difference between the U.S. and the USSR. Here, we are free to print or speak what we think we know — whether we really know it or not.

I’m not saying it’s right or smart to play loose with facts. There may be negative consequences. But we are at liberty to make our own mistakes or be foolish.

We should avoid saying or writing more than we know. But the only way to achieve that goal is to dig for facts and evaluate them with fairness and common sense based on knowledge and experience.

Continuing education and hanging around with smart, well-informed, curious people — like those at OLLI — help us know what we are talking about.

This is our first Insider since May, and it contains scores of photos of our annual meeting, hikes, tours, a Shakespeare performance, eating and socializing — as well as the pictures that won our photo contest.

Jill Stewart comments on the connection shared by 125 OLLIs and 156,000 members. John Mason’s curriculum column highlights some of the 60 courses on our fall schedule. Clay Williams says you can win a prize by referring a friend to OLLI.

Chris Stuhlinger discusses recent and future events. Marilynn Szecholda reports on her social committee’s breakfasts and other coming attractions. Betty Koval writes about trips to Philadelphia and Canada. Leah Black informs us on the next photo contest and additional projects of her member services committee.

Glen Adams writes about Tom Borcher, our “You Be the Judge” teacher, who just published a book. Irene Garoppo tells why Linda McAllister received OLLI’s Legacy Award and Janet Reville is the Volunteer of the Year. OLLI friends remember former board member Terry Greenwood, who died July 14.

In John’s military history column, he explains how the cost of war brought on income taxes and Alabama became first in the nation for something other than football.

We have accounts of a program on religious tolerance and Irv Lubliner’s lecture about his mother’s horrible Holocaust experiences. He edited a book of her writings. Surrendering to death in one of Hitler’s concentration camps “would have been a futile gesture and an easy way out,” she wrote.

Steve Stewart
Public Relations Committee Chair
All of us probably have our own stories about what led us to discover OLLI at UAH and the various benefits we have experienced since becoming members.

One benefit that sets OLLI apart from other programs for seasoned adults is our connection to the nationwide network of 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes and the array of shared resources available to us through the Bernard Osher Foundation and our National Resource Center (NRC).

In April, Fathia Hardy and I, as the OLLI at UAH staff and volunteer representatives, headed to Broomfield, Colorado, for the 2022 Osher Institutes National Conference. We joined colleagues from every state and the District of Columbia, representing OLLIs at 28 private and 97 public colleges and universities.

Even Bernard Osher himself — very spirited at age 95 — was on hand to offer his wisdom and support. He is a businessman and philanthropist who founded the foundation that bears his name. OLLI is one of its programs.

The conference sessions, table discussions and social interactions were great opportunities to share challenges, successes, and ideas for future programming and collaboration.

Not surprisingly, the pandemic and its fallout for OLLIs was an underlying theme of many of these conversations. Prior to the conference, the NRC had convened a geographically diverse group of OLLI directors and asked them to collaboratively reflect on how Institutes might best navigate the complex factors of a pandemic environment over the next three to five years.

This group focused on six contextual areas, each critical to the sustainability of an Osher Institute. Here at UAH, we also aim to be guided by these key contextual areas as we strive to be a strong OLLI in complex times:

1. Membership re-growth
2. Curriculum and online modalities
3. Host university integration/relationship
4. Diversity, equity, inclusion
5. Member and volunteer engagement
6. Financial and organizational capacity/structure

OLLI at UAH was featured in the final session of the national conference, titled “Working Across OLLIs: The Spirit of Collaboration.”

Speakers described a variety of strategic partnerships among regional Osher Institutes to strengthen programming, marketing and social opportunities, among others. Many of these partnerships sprang up in the last two years. Our Alabama Shares collaboration with the OLLIs at Auburn University and The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was featured as a premier example of how Institutes can expand and diversify their term course offerings by sharing selected courses online with partner OLLIs in their states or regions.

We have benefited from our OLLI connections in other ways as well. Since 2020, we have offered unique courses and bonus presentations from instructors and lecturers associated with other OLLIs across the country. And this month, a group of our members traveling to Alaska will meet up with OLLI members at the University of Alaska as they explore that state.

As seasoned adults who seek enrichment in our lives, over 156,000 OLLI members nationwide share a certain comradery. Collectively we know that curiosity never retires.

Jill Stewart
President, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors
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.

**Aug 5 | Fri | 10:00 am - noon | In-Person**

*Event: Fall Open House*

Come to campus to register for our fall term! Join in person to see fellow OLLI members while learning more about our upcoming courses, bonuses, and events.

*Presented by OLLI Curriculum Committee*

**Aug 22 | Mon | 11:00 am - 2 pm | In-Person**

*Event: OLLI Alabama Day*

Celebrate the third annual OLLI Alabama day by visiting The University of Alabama to meet other OLLI members from across the state and learn about exciting AL Shares offerings and other great benefits of the OLLI program.

Special entertainment by author and speaker Sean Dietrich, “Sean of the South.”

Pre-registration is required. Waiver must be completed for each person using UAH transportation.

Sign up [online](#).

*Presented by OLLI at UAH & the University of Alabama,*

**Aug 25 | Thu | 7:00 am - 6:00 pm | In-Person**

*Field Trip: The Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement: Montgomery*

In 1955, one brave woman changed the course of history. Trace her footsteps and the others who followed for an unforgettable experience where Civil Rights became more than a dream, it became a reality! We will start our journey at the Rosa Parks Museum and follow up with stops at the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and finally end at the Civil Rights Memorial & Center.

Transportation and admission to museums are provided with the field trip fee. Masks may be required during transportation and at various museums and other destinations. Cost of meals and souvenirs not included.

Sign up [online](#). Cost: $109 | Register by Aug 11

*Presented by OLLI at UAH*

**Aug 26 | Fri | 11:00 am | Online/In-Person**

*Bonus: Parkinson’s Programs in Huntsville aka Rock Steady Boxing and More*

Learn how the innovative program “Rock Steady Boxing” started over six years ago when the presenter’s husband was diagnosed with Parkinson’s. Since its creation, over 500 people have been referred to the program by local and regional neurologists, and it has led to other multiple programs of exercise, education, wellness, and support to those with Parkinson’s and their families.

Sign up [online](#).

*Presented by Carolyn Rhodes, Director of Parkinson’s Programs at the Huntsville Madison County Senior Center*

**Sept 7 | Wed | 2:00 pm or Sept 8 | Thu | 10:00 am | Online**

*Free Google Classroom Training*

To learn more about how to navigate Google Classroom, join one of our training sessions using Zoom.

Sign up at [Osher.uah.edu/GoogleClassroom](http://Osher.uah.edu/GoogleClassroom)

**Sept 16 | Fri | 11:00 am | Online/In-Person**

*Bonus: Fantasy Playhouse Children’s Theatre and Academy Presents SENIOR STARS!*

Join us in a preview of one of Huntsville’s newest programs, perfect for those ages 55+ looking to hone their craft or learn something new! In this preview, attendees will learn a song, do a little dancing, and read some scenes from famous plays and musicals!

Sign up [online](#).

*Presented by Jacinda Swinehart, Education Coordinator at Fantasy Playhouse, and a professional actress, singer, director, and choreographer.*
Summer term is already coming to a close, and OLLI members participated in a variety of interesting activities during June and July. We have one August event scheduled: a visit to the local National Weather Service office on Aug. 5 (registration deadline was July 29).

The events committee has planned several events for fall (see below). Check the OLLI website, the course guide, and the weekly eNews for additional events and information.

If you have questions about a scheduled event, have suggestions for a new event, or would like to join the events committee, please contact Chris Stuhlinger through the OLLI office.

Recap of selected recent events

Second Saturday hike at Richard Martin Trail in Elkmont — Our group hiked on June 11 to the Sulphur Creek Trestle Civil War battle site to relive this event in history. Sulphur Creek is the site of Alabama’s bloodiest Civil War conflict in 1864. The trail follows the route of a former rail line (Rails to Trails).

Huntsville Museum of Art — This docent-led tour highlighted an outstanding selection of 19th-century masterworks (paintings and sculptures) from the Dahesh Museum of Art (New York City).

Trash Pandas baseball game — OLLI members watched the Rocket City Trash Pandas defeat the Birmingham Barons 7-2 on July 22 at Toyota Field in Madison. The Trash Pandas had 11 hits, including a home run. This was the Trash Pandas’ first win after seven straight losses.

Watch for more details about these fall term events:

- **Saturday, Sept. 10 — Cold Spring Nature Trail hike**, 10 a.m.-noon, Monte Sano Nature Preserve (register at forms.gle/XhCmGtZH4MOpNjre6)
- **Friday, Sept. 23 — The Orion Amphitheater tour**, 11 a.m.-noon, Mid-City, Huntsville (register at forms.gle/MhFmUFTLq4iKhRgC7)
- **Friday, Oct. 7 — Cathedral Caverns tour**, 2-3:30 p.m., Cathedral Caverns State Park near Grant
- **Saturday, Oct. 8 — Flint Creek Nature Trail hike**, 2-4 p.m., Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur
- **Friday, Oct. 21 — Downtown Huntsville Secret Art Trail**, 2-4 p.m., BeeZr Gastropub + Social Exchange, North Side Square, Huntsville
- **Saturday, Oct. 29 — Big Cove Creek/Flint River Greenways bike ride**, 10 a.m.-noon, Hampton Cove
- **Saturday, Nov. 12 — Beaverdam Boardwalk/Blackwell Swamp hike**, 10 a.m.-noon, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Huntsville Airport
- **Friday, Nov. 18 — Burritt on the Mountain tour**, 1:15-3:15 p.m., Burritt Drive, south end of Monte Sano
- **Friday, Dec. 2 — U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum tour**, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Alex McAllister Drive in John Hunt Park, Huntsville

Chris Stuhlinger
Events Committee Chair
OK, for all of you out there who have been waiting with bated breath for this column to reappear and pull you out of the summer doldrums, guess what? We’re baaacck!

So let’s get ready to get back to class, shall we? I, for one, have broken out my huarache sandals, puka beads, and Hawaiian flowery shirts and am getting ready to be in student mode once again. (To really fit in, I thought ever so briefly about putting my hair in dreads, but as my son pointed out — and rather rudely, I thought — one has to have hair to do that. He’s just like his mother!)

You will be receiving this month’s issue of The Insider just in time for the fall open house event scheduled for Friday, Aug. 5, beginning at 10 a.m. in Wilson Hall. I am excited about this semester’s event.

We have 60, count ’em, 60, classes on the schedule — 54 of ours and six from Auburn University and The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) via the OLLI Alabama Shares program. As I look through the schedule, I see a lot of somethings for everybody.

Want to get in touch with your inner Zen? Well, there are two yoga, three tai chi, and this year, even a Qigong Secrets Revealed class available. For those of us unfamiliar with the latter, qigong, pronounced “chi gong,” was developed in China thousands of years ago as part of traditional Chinese medicine. It involves using exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being.

There are history classes to help us decide whether we Want to be a General, and then putting us into the command chair for trips to the American Revolution and along the Road to Pearl Harbor, and even a chance to see how sometimes things go wrong, in a study of Military Blunders.

Want to learn to paint? To write? To find your ancestors? To dance, to play bridge, or to speak a foreign language? Well, this is your chance.

And if the stress of choosing just starts to wear you down, you can learn how to relax with a bevy of classes meant to soothe the soul. Discover How Unwarranted Beliefs Affect your Psychological Reality. Did you know that science and faith just may not actually be diametrically opposed? Like nature?

Then how about a guided walk through Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, learning about the flora and fauna that populate North Alabama. And when the day is through, learn how to Shake, Pour and Enjoy by sampling some Beers around the World.

Finally, at your request, we are bringing Dr. Delois Smith back to expand on her bonus discussion of race in America with a full-blown class on the Importance of Multicultural Inclusion in American History.

This country was born out of the melding of innumerable cultures and peoples, and each left its own indelible mark on our collective psyche. There are those who might wrongly want to “sanitize” that history. That isn’t the answer. The answer is to learn, and this course will give us a solid step forward in that direction.

So I encourage you all to join us on Aug. 5 and experience all we have to offer. Plus, you’ll get to see your old friends and maybe even make some new ones. All in all, it will be a great way to kick-start a new OLLI year.

That being said, I can’t wait to see you there! And with that, I’ll bid you adieu. Till next time …

John Mason
VP of Curriculum, OLLI at UAH Board of Directors
Fall 2022 is underway and OLLI is offering an exciting mixture of courses. Tuition is $20 plus the per-course fee. You can register for courses at Osher.uah.edu/OLLIRegistration.

**THE ROAD TO PEARL HARBOR**
9/12 – 10/17 • M • 10:30 am – noon • 6 sessions • Online • T. Lee • $35

This course looks at that fateful day in December 1941 when the Japanese attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Learn about the economic/political events which led to the attack. The course will also examine the various conspiracy theories which still continue to circulate today. For instance, why did the attack come as a surprise to the U.S. Military? Did our leaders know about the attack and let it happen? What did they know and when did they know it? This course will be recorded.

**SOCRATES CAFE**
9/13 – 10/18 • Tu • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 6 sessions • Live Virtual • S. Stewart • $35

Here is your chance to discuss hot topics in a forum setting. In each class, members select a question to discuss that does not have a yes or no answer. What's on your mind — today's news or a timeless topic of general interest? Challenge yourself to think about it, talk about it, and listen to others from all walks of life, nationalities, religions, political opinions, and genders. Everyone and all points of view are welcome.

**FIRESIDE CHAT WITH AUTHORS**
9/14 – 10/19 • W • 1:15 - 2:45 pm • 6 sessions • Live Virtual • B. Koval • $35

Ever want to know the WHY and HOW a book came about? This is your chance — we will discuss the back story with authors about their books. They will also speak about their writing experiences and answer your questions. Please note this is a NOT a "how-to" class on writing; we will strictly be talking and enjoying the author's story behind the published book. This course will be recorded.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTICULTURALISM IN AMERICA**
10/24 – 11/14 • M • 10:30 am – Noon • 4 sessions • Live Virtual • D. Smith • $25

This course focuses on the different peoples who make up the United States and how through their interactions, the nation continues to grow as a result of this diversity. This growth through change has not always been easy and there have been difficulties. Discussions include the detrimental, residual effects on groups such as Native Americans who were forcefully removed from their homeland and African Americans through the institutions of slavery and Jim Crow segregation. The course will explore how these historical policies and current day practices provide challenges for examining the past, handling the present, and preparing for the future. This course will be recorded.
This fall is an exciting time at OLLI. As we continue to recover from the pandemic and learn to adapt to an ever-changing world, OLLI is moving ahead in rebuilding our membership and expanding our offerings.

We encourage all our members to promote OLLI and help spread the word about our benefits. Membership recovery is an important issue to us, and we are implementing several tasks to increase our numbers.

For example, August sees the launch of our “Refer a Friend” program, where current OLLI members who refer new members are entered into a monthly drawing to earn free tuition and a one-course gift certificate. Contact the OLLI office for more information.

In regard to programs, we are proud to announce our fall course guide is here and we are featuring the most courses since COVID entered our vocabulary in March 2020.

Besides our usual offerings in topics such as history, foreign languages, exercise and literature, several other exciting courses should pique your interests. Beer tasting, cocktail making, multiculturalism, photography, music, physics and quantum mechanics, cooking and even Bollywood show that we truly have something for everyone. The fall semester runs from Sept. 12 to Nov. 18.

The fall will also feature a great host of bonus programs on Fridays, covering topics such as Ukraine and Russia, aging, music and travel. A plethora of special events is also on the schedule, including hikes and bike rides and tours of Burritt on the Mountain, Cathedral Caverns and the new Orion Amphitheater. Our fall open house on Aug. 5 is a great time to learn in detail all the great happenings going on at OLLI.

We hope everyone participates in our “Better with Age: Alabama’s Creative Aging Initiative,” where we are offering three courses for free due to a grant provided by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in partnership with E.A. Michaelson Philanthropy. Check out Osher.uah.edu/BetterWithAge for more details.

Also mark your calendars for the third annual OLLI Alabama Day on Aug. 22, where we will celebrate OLLI at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) with entertainment by Sean Dietrich, also known as “Sean of the South.” More details are available on the OLLI website and our weekly emails. We hope to see everyone soon, and remember: Never Stop Learning!

Clay Williams
OLLI at UAH Program Manager

SPEAKER: GO BEYOND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Lameh Fananapazir, a retired cardiovascular doctor and religious enthusiast, spoke on Zoom to OLLI members during a bonus session May 20 about “Going beyond Religious and Social Tolerance.” He said religions share the same divine attributes but differ in their social teachings. “I think the best criteria of becoming more spiritual is how much your spirituality, your faith, actually helps you get on with people,” he said. “Do you see every human being as a member of your family, devoid of any prejudice, ignorance? Do you love them? Do you appreciate them? Do you see in the faith of everyone a reflection of God’s glory, or do you see the devil?”
As I write this, I am thinking of all I need to pack and then unpack for our trip to Alaska this month. Packing — oh, how I hate that part of the trip!

I am guessing a few of you also take more than necessary on any given trip. I am learning to be more concise in the packing process, yet a few extra items always find their way into the luggage.

Now for news of future trips:

1. **An art trip to Philadelphia, May 21-26, 2023** — Barnes Museum, local art displays and various locations of historic and artistic interest.

2. **The Canadian Maritimes: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island** — Watch for information as we make arrangements for this trip.

One item I need to emphasize is that we can use travel as another tool to increase our membership. If you know of anyone who would like to travel with OLLI at UAH on any trip, please show them how to become a member at only $25 per year. That is a bargain. Perhaps buy them their first year as a gift, and hope they continue as a member.

I hope each of you will encourage others to join for the activities and events we sponsor and hope these entice them to enroll in one or more of the wonderful classes available.

I hope you are traveling and enjoying the summer. Some of us are even taking a few OLLI classes this summer. We have enjoyed them and the day trips to Chickamauga/Chattanooga and Tuscumbia/Florence. We had so much fun meeting new people and getting to know them — this is what it is all about.

I believe our traveling with OLLI at UAH has improved our lives immensely due to the friendships we have made and continue to make. I am only disappointed that those of us traveling to Alaska will not be back in time to go on the Montgomery day trip on Aug. 25.

There will be more trip information to come in the weekly eNews and monthly issues of The Insider. We will also have information in the OLLI office.

Do not forget to stop by the travel table at the fall term open house on Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. We will have information on the upcoming trips.

All who wander are not lost.

Safe and happy travels,

_Betty Koval_  
Travel Committee Chair
Fall semester is right around the corner, and the social committee has some fun events in the planning stages.

Aug. 5 is the fall semester open house. Join us in the lounge for food and fellowship as we get together to renew friendships and meet new members.

As classes begin in the fall, we will be offering our OLLI Early Bird breakfasts. This is a great time to come early and enjoy a bite to eat before class. The breakfasts will be held on the day when the most members have 8:30 classes.

We are planning a holiday party, as well as an exciting new contest called OLLI Souper Bowl to be held in January. Members will enter their tastiest soup recipes to be sampled and judged.

Teacher Appreciation Day is also an event near the end of the fall semester to come and enjoy goodies in the lounge. We have a good time just being together again on campus.

Information about dates and times of these events will be listed in the eNews and The Insider. Also, we can always use help providing light snacks at the OLLI Early Bird breakfasts. And if you would like to become a member of the social committee, please contact me.

Marilynn Szecholda
Social Committee Chair
The fall semester will be soon upon us with exciting new classes and a chance to get together with new and old OLLI friends. Hopefully, the summer has been filled with some fun activities and not too much sun.

The member services committee will soon be getting back to providing coffee and goodies in the lounge to add to the good talks with friends and fascinating new classes.

The OLLI DVD library has been flooded with many new items. Rick Heeth has been more than busy getting them cataloged so OLLI members can check out and enjoy them. I’ve seen John Mason helping Rick out, as John is vice president of curriculum, and the DVDs are sure to suggest some new class topics or help instructors add extras to their classes.

Along with classes, the bonus sessions will also start again, and that means yummy snacks before they begin. This is a great time to have a bite and chat with friends before the session begins. Sometimes, the chats and snacks continue afterward, too.

Our committee also oversees the OLLI MIGs (member interest groups). Bridge, mah-jongg and our newest MIG, tai chi, have been active even over the summer. Dining out will resume after classes begin. If you are interested in the tennis MIG, please let us know so that can become active again, too.

Member services also is responsible for the annual photo contest. We had many excellent entries. If you came to the annual meeting in May, you got to see the winners and the entries, but the finalists are now displayed on the wall outside the OLLI office. They are:

- First place, Philip Flowers, “Rocket City Traffic”
- Second place, Joan May, “Courthouse Pillar and New Growth”
- Third place, Thea Coats, “Time for Reflection at the Botanical Garden”
- Honorable mention, Robert Reville, “Taken at Redstone Arsenal”

The annual photo contest has been a popular activity, and it is always amazing to see the variety and quality of photos submitted by our members.

Harriett Somerville has offered her expertise to coordinate the photo contest this year. The topic for the 2023 OLLI photo contest is “Light and Shadow.” Please see the information and requirements for entries to the contest in this newsletter or on the OLLI website.

Another function of the member services committee is, on occasion, to provide assistance to members who need help with tuition or membership fees due to a temporary hardship.

We are looking for new members to our committee, so if you would like to help in any way, please let us know. We would love to have your help, and you would enjoy being involved in making OLLI so special.

Leah Black  
Member Services Committee Chair

Philip Flowers receives a gift certificate for winning first place in the 2022 photo contest from Fathia Hardy, director of outreach and support services, during the annual meeting May 17. The certificate entitles him to one free OLLI course registration.  
(Photo by Steve Stewart)

**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.
2022 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS —
THEME: ‘DISCOVER THE ROCKET CITY’

First place: Philip Flowers, “Rocket City Traffic”

Second place: Joan May, “Courthouse Pillar and New Growth”

Third place: Thea Coats, “Time for Reflection at the Botanical Garden”

Honorable mention: Robert Reville, “Taken at Redstone Arsenal”
The OLLI Insider

August: The Civil War was taxing, but Alabama came out No. 1!

We’ve heard it all of our lives. Whenever anything is ranked on a state-by-state basis, we all know where our state will likely fall, right? And who among us when discussing some national rating or another has not at some time said, “Thank God for Mississippi”? Sorry, Clay.

Well, guess what? On Aug. 10, 1909, Alabama made history by being the first in the nation. And no, I’m not talking about football. What did we do, you might ask? Well, that, my friends, is the rest of the story.

Remember a couple of years ago when tariffs sprang into the news? Instead of serving one of the three primary functions for which they are intended — i.e., to provide revenue, to protect domestic industries, and to remedy trade distortions — tariffs suddenly became purely punitive in nature as a wrongheaded implement to try and affect foreign policy. But at one time, they were a mainstay of our economy.

In fact, one of the first acts signed into law by the first Congress was the Tariff Act of 1789, which was intended to perform two purposes: (1) to promote trade, and (2) to raise revenue for the federal government.

Notably, Alexander Hamilton was a strong proponent of the legislation, viewing it as necessary to protect the burgeoning American manufacturing sector from foreign competition and to promote industrial growth over the long term. The law was not without controversy, but it eventually grew to be an important source of revenue for the federal government.

Heated debates over the tariff schedule heavily influenced American economic policy before the Civil War. As an object of national political discussion, they occupied a distant secondary place behind only slavery. Yet tariff arguments continuously attracted the attention of Congress from its first meeting in 1789 until the Secession Winter session of 1860-61.

The last great antebellum tariff battle, the Morrill Tariff of 1861, concluded only two days before the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, and largely defined the dimensions of American international trade policy for the next 50 years. The recurring prominence of the issue is directly evidenced by its central importance to the federal government’s revenue system. On the eve of the war in 1860, tariffs brought in $53,188,000, or almost 98% of the federal government’s total tax receipts.

The onset of Civil War changed all that. Fighting a war is extremely costly, and Congress quickly realized that they would need a lot more revenue than they were then receiving to be successful. So in 1862, they passed the Internal Revenue Act, which created the Bureau of Internal Revenue, a predecessor to the modern-day Internal Revenue Service.

(continued on the next page)
Signed into law by Lincoln on July 1, 1862, the act also introduced the United States’ first progressive income tax with the intent of raising millions of dollars for the Union. The Bureau of Internal Revenue placed excise taxes on everything from tobacco to jewelry, and, as you might guess, it wasn’t one of Congress’ greatest hits.

This income tax reflected the taxpayers’ “ability to pay” by separating citizens into multiple categories and taxing them accordingly:

1. For U.S. residents whose annual incomes were less than $600, no tax was collected.
2. For U.S. residents whose annual incomes were greater than $600 and less than $10,000, 3% of total income was demanded in tax.
3. For U.S. residents whose annual incomes were greater than $10,000, 5% of total income was demanded in tax. The 5% tax rate also applied to the entire U.S.-source income over $600 of U.S. citizens who resided abroad, regardless of their income, unless they worked for the United States government.

The act also stated that to assure timely collection, income tax would be “withheld at the source.”

In the long term, the Revenue Act of 1862 was only partially successful. The excise taxes remained in force, though the majority of the revenue was eventually generated through the taxes on liquor and tobacco. The progressive nature of the income tax remained, but the rates established in 1862 did not produce enough revenue to support war expenditures and were increased with the Revenue Act of 1864. Following the end of the Civil War, the income tax did not have substantial support and was repealed in 1872.

In 1894, Congress tried again, passing the Wilson-Gorman tariff, which established a tax rate of 2% for annual income over $4,000. But it was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1895. Still, they persisted.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the need for an income tax enjoyed renewed support and, on July 2, 1909, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, granting Congress the power to tax personal income. The new system collected the income tax at the source, as is done today, where taxes are initially withheld before the income reaches the recipient.

In 1914 the Bureau of Internal Revenue released the first income tax form, called Form 1040. This remains the main income tax form, and it has been modified and re-issued almost every year since.

And that is how Alabama became No. 1!

You see, when an amendment to the Constitution is proposed and approved by a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate archivist submits the proposed amendment to the states for their consideration by sending a letter of notification to each governor. The governors then formally submit the amendment to their state legislatures or each state calls for a convention, depending on what Congress has specified. Once the amendment is ratified by three-fourths of the states, it becomes part of the Constitution.

Braxton Bragg Comer served as the 33rd governor of Alabama from 1907 to 1911. In mid-July 1909, as per his duty, he submitted the proposed 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to the Alabama Legislature for consideration. And on Aug. 10, 1909, that body became the first state in the Union (by nearly six months ) to ratify it.

Ratification (by the requisite 36 states) was completed on Feb. 3, 1913, when Delaware voted its approval. Ultimately, 42 of the 48 states then existing would do the same. On Feb. 25, 1913, Secretary of State Philander Knox proclaimed that the amendment had been ratified by three-fourths of the states and so had become part of the Constitution. And we’ve grumbled mightily on April 15 ever since.

And now you know how, in that brief, shining moment, Alabama became No. 1. Yea us! I think …

By John Mason
“You Be the Judge.”

That command is the title of one of OLLI’s most popular courses, which is taught by Tom Borcher, the subject of this month’s Insider profile.

Tom, a lifelong lawyer, presents three cases in his class each week and asks the students to render a verdict. But more about that later.

Tom grew up in Maryland and Florida, where his father, Charles, worked in the defense industry. (His father was part of the team monitoring the first atomic bomb tests in the Bikini Islands after World War II.) His mother, Florida (yes, that was her name), was a homemaker.

In high school, Tom became interested in debate and public speaking contests. He continued those interests when he went to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he also became part of the anti-war movement and participated in one of the protest marches in Washington during Richard Nixon’s presidency.

After three years in college, his life took a sharp turn off the usual career path.

“I dropped out of UT and began what I called my ‘hippie phase,’ ” Tom recalled. “I boxed up all my possessions, put them in storage, and with just a backpack on my shoulders spent a couple of months hitchhiking across the U.S. After that adventure, I settled down in Atlanta.”

Tom first worked as a janitor in a motel chain and eventually became manager of one of its motels. Tiring of being on call 24 hours a day, he took a job as a loan officer for a small loan company. It was then he discovered that in Georgia he could go to law school with only three years of college. (This is no longer true.)

He went to law school at night while working at the loan office by day. The loan company’s attorney hired him as a law clerk and after he passed the bar kept him on as an attorney.

After three years, he moved to Los Angeles, where he practiced law for 35 years.

“I was a trial lawyer during my entire legal career,” Tom said. “I represented injured clients in civil cases seeking damages for the injuries they sustained. This was all ‘contingency fee’ work. I didn’t get paid until I won the case and received payment from the insurance companies.”

In 2014 Tom retired to Huntsville, where his sister and a brother live. He discovered OLLI and soon became a frequent instructor. The three courses he has taught thus far are:

- “Alligators in the East Room and Other White House Tales.”
  “This was the first OLLI course I taught,” Tom said. “I consider myself an amateur White House historian. I have an extensive book collection on White House history. I will be repeating this class in the spring 2023 term.”

- “Bogart, Nixon and the Supreme Court.” This program is based on a true story about a family held hostage in their own home. Their story was turned into a book, a movie (starring Humphrey Bogart), a Broadway play and a Life magazine article. The family sued Life, claiming it misrepresented the facts of the hostage scenario and invaded their privacy. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where Richard Nixon argued their case. This course will be repeated as a fall 2022 Friday bonus.

- And, of course, “You Be the Judge,” in which the class is given the facts and law involved in actual cases. They discuss the case, reach a verdict and then compare their verdict with the actual verdict.

“You Be the Judge” has led to Tom’s publishing a new book titled “Justice in Your Court.” It’s a collection of 50 real-life cases where the reader gets an opportunity to decide the verdict before learning the actual verdict.

“I attempted to transfer to the written page the fun and hopefully educational aspect of the live class,” Tom said. “Only two cases in the book were used in my classes. All the rest are brand new disputes.”

He book is available at Amazon.com and Xlibris.com. If you would like to purchase a signed copy, email Tom at tborcher@ymail.com with your request.

What has Tom enjoyed about teaching at OLLI?

“I love the give-and-take of the live presentations,” he said. “I am always amazed by the thoughtful questions that participants come up with. Most of the time they raise at least one issue that I hadn’t thought about.”

Tom describes his immediate family as his parrot, Jack.

Thanks, Tom, for all you do for OLLI.

By Glen Adams
CELEBRATING OLLI, LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

The OLLI annual meeting over dinner on May 17 was a chance to catch up with friends, recognize those who kept OLLI running during the COVID pandemic, and talk about the future. OLLI Reader's Theatre course participants provided entertainment.

(Photos by Philip Flowers and Steve Stewart)
Congratulations! After not having an annual dinner for the past two years, we are finally back on track, which means this year we presented the 2022 Volunteer of the Year award in person.

In February, we asked members to think about the various volunteers and to nominate someone they felt was worthy of the VoY honor. We had several nominations, even though we weren’t on campus full time and in contact with our volunteers on a daily basis. Thanks to all who thought this through and submitted a nomination.

Even though all were outstanding, we had to narrow it down to one. I’m proud to announce that Janet Reville has been named the 2022 OLLI Volunteer of the Year.

Janet has been involved with every aspect of the organization for several years. Janet was a military wife, and after her husband, Bob, retired from the Air Force, they settled in North Alabama. One of the first things Janet did was research for the availability of a learning resource for seniors — even though she wasn’t quite a senior yet.

She discovered OLLI, and the rest, as they say, is history. Janet joined OLLI about 13 years ago and immediately jumped in. Over the years, she has served as an instructor teaching us how to organize our lives, a facilitator for the many classes she has taken, a member of several committees and chair of some of those, and a board member, where she served as treasurer.

She coordinated events for OLLI members to get together and have fun; some I can think of are eating opportunities (always popular), a painting party and sporting events. When the fund development chair was vacated, Janet readily volunteered and took on that task/challenge. She has worked in the volunteer office as well as UAH’s OLLI staff offices.

Whenever a void is identified, Janet is one of the first members to jump in and try to help. She is now the newly elected chair of the administration and finance (A&F) committee, making her also a vice president of the OLLI board.

She has gone above and beyond in forging a relationship between us seniors and the UAH athletes. She has put together many opportunities for OLLI members to attend UAH athletic events — basketball, hockey (when we had an active team), baseball, softball and lacrosse.

As we are slowly moving back to a new normal and returning to campus for many events, please remember to congratulate Janet and thank her for all she has done for our organization.

Again, congratulations!

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair
In 2018, the OLLI board of directors announced the presentation of the first OLLI Legacy Volunteer Award, which would reward and publicize the efforts of the volunteers who make our organization functional, rewarding and fun. Sue Chatham received the first such award.

The prestige of this award is that it isn’t presented annually. The Legacy Volunteer Award would be given to an individual who had made significant volunteer contributions to the organization throughout the course of his or her membership. It is designed to recognize a long-term OLLI member who has given time and talent to make our program thrive.

Last year, the board again determined that we had a volunteer who was worthy of this recognition. The second Legacy Award was determined during 2021, but due to COVID and no annual meeting, it was not presented. Now we’re trying to play catch-up.

This year, the Legacy Award was presented to Linda McAllister during the 2022 annual meeting on May 17. Trust me, this has been a hard secret to keep for over a year. Linda was caught totally by surprise.

Linda has been an OLLI member about 15 years. A retired schoolteacher, she has brought her many skills and talents to the organization, serving as a classroom facilitator, an instructor and a member of several committees, including being chair of the curriculum committee — not an easy task.

When her late husband, Bill, decided to teach a birding course, Linda graciously offered her home as the classroom because of the wildlife in their backyard. As a retired public-school teacher, she has an extensive background in music and has brought that to our classrooms, not only as an instructor but through the use of her many contacts whom she “persuaded” to teach many classes and present weekly bonus material.

Linda served multiple years on the board and ended her last term as vice president for curriculum. She remains an active OLLI volunteer, serving as an instructor and facilitator — and will hopefully return to leadership positions of the organization she so fully supports.

Her next 15 years may add even more to her long list of volunteer accomplishments! Linda is, and has always been, a true ambassador for the OLLI program, publicizing the organization to anyone who will listen, and even to some who don’t.

OLLI at UAH is lucky to have Linda as one of its members and congratulates her on receiving the second Legacy Volunteer Award.

Irene Garoppo
Volunteer Support Committee Chair

Linda McAllister (center) at the 2022 annual meeting with UAH’s Fathia Hardy (left) and Jill Stewart, OLLI board chair. (Photo by Philip Flowers)
During a bonus session May 6, OLLI members Ed and Paulette Bernstein reported on a 12-day trip taken by OLLI members in the summer of 2021. They visited 21 attractions, including six national parks, a state park, a national recreation area and a national monument, learning the history of Native Americans and early settlers.

(Photos by Ed Bernstein and Steve Stewart)
SHAKESPEAREAN ROMANCE AND ICE CREAM

Members of the Reader’s Theatre presented “A Romantic Reading with Sprinkles on Top” — a Shakespeare performance that was followed by ice cream provided by the social committee — on May 20.

(Photos by Steve Stewart)
Irving Lubliner said he wished he had asked his mother more questions about the Holocaust, which she lived through.

His mother was Felicia Bornstein Lubliner (1922-1974), whose memories he compiled and edited into a book, “Only Hope: A Survivor’s Stories of the Holocaust,” published in 2019 after he retired as a university professor.

Irv Lubliner talked about the book, the Holocaust and his parents during an OLLI bonus presentation via Zoom on April 29.

Both his mother and his father, Abram, were imprisoned in Nazi Germany’s concentration camps in Poland during World War II, including the camp at Auschwitz. They survived harsh treatment, forced labor and near-starvation while millions of Jews and other victims were murdered. They married after the war and eventually settled in Oakland, California.

“My parents tried very hard to give my brother and I the most normal American-kid upbringing that they could,” he said. “They did not want us to grow up fearful that we would have an experience anything like what they had.”

His mother wrote about the Holocaust and gave lectures and interviews. “I should have spoken up and asked some questions” before she died, he said, but he did not want to cause her more pain. He found her writings and audiotapes later.

The book is available at onlyhopebook.com, as well as other booksellers.

In the book, his mother writes about why she wanted to live through her horrible experiences:

> “Dying makes sense if one has a cause to die for. We had no such cause. We had a great cause to live.

> “By my own death, I could not possibly have saved anybody, nor accomplished anything. It would have been a futile gesture and an easy way out, and it would have proved that deep in my heart I believed that Auschwitz is forever. It would have meant admitting to myself that this screaming, insane world around me represented the universe.

> “I chose to live. For every hour lived at Auschwitz was a victory, and if I had lost in the end, I would be marching to meet death along with the others without tears, without dramatic outbursts, but in a silence that shrieked its mute protest into the unheeding heavens and a deaf world.”

Irv Lubliner said that “people being passive” allowed the Holocaust to happen.

> “We need to stand up for those that we see being mistreated, stand up to propaganda that we recognize is harming people; we need to not accept blindly what any politician does, even our favorite politicians,” he said. “People who supported [Adolf] Hitler initially chose to follow him not because he wanted to kill Jews … They aligned with the Nazi Party because they felt like Hitler had the best plan for bringing Germany economic success.”

He warned against the attitude that “he’s my guy or she’s my candidate, and whatever he or she does is fine with me.” He added, “We need to realize that not everything anybody does is perfect, and we need to evaluate all their actions even if we supported them at one point.”

By Steve Stewart
TERRY GREENWOOD: PAST BOARD MEMBER

Terry Flack Greenwood, 82, of Huntsville, who served on the OLLI at UAH board of directors from 2015 to 2019, died July 14, 2022.

He was active in OLLI for six years. OLLI helped him “redefine himself” as more than just a retired engineer, said his widow, Jean.

“He just rediscovered that he was a lot more than that,” she said. “It was not companionship but comradery. He made some good friends there and thoroughly enjoyed his experience with OLLI.”

She said that together they enjoyed psychologist Bill Confer’s courses, and Terry took several World War II courses. He was especially interested in fighter planes.

“He was really an enthusiastic student for anything that had to do with World War II, and he took all kinds of classes — whatever applied to him,” she said.

Terry’s work during two terms on the OLLI board included curriculum and events planning.

Born in Asheville, North Carolina, on July 18, 1939, Terry earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1961. He married Alma Barnes and moved to Los Angeles, obtaining his master’s in mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California.

He moved to Huntsville and worked for Brown Engineering before joining NASA. In 1969 he received his Ph.D. in thermodynamics from the University of Texas at Austin. He returned to Huntsville and lived here for the rest of his life. He taught mechanical engineering as adjunct faculty at UAH and retired from NASA in 2010.

In 1976 he married Jean Colwell Wrubel. He had a daughter and a stepson.

Memories from OLLI members:

Terry Greenwood served OLLI with distinction. He was attentive to what was needed, was sincere and effective in showing his helpfulness, made good suggestions, and brought intelligence to the issue at hand. His presence was assuring. We'll miss him.

— Jerri McLain

Terry was always a kind and willing person to know at OLLI.

— Linda McAllister

I never once ran into Terry, at board meetings, in the halls or wherever, that he didn’t have a big smile and welcoming comment.

— Jane Alford McBride

By Steve Stewart
OLLI members from the spring 2022 class “Native Plants” took a hike on Chapman Mountain that included instructor Susan Webb. Jim Chamberlain, a class member, organized the hike.
The events committee organized a hike May 14 through the Green Mountain Nature Preserve of the Land Trust of North Alabama.

(Photos by Glen Adams, Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Stewart)
This bicycle ride and hike were organized by the OLLI events committee. The ride on April 30 was along the Aldridge Creek Greenway from Mountain Gap Road to Ditto Landing. On June 11, an OLLI group hiked Richard Martin Trail from Elkmont south to the Sulphur Creek Trestle Civil War battle site. For more information about this trail, see member Steve Jones’ Great Blue Heron website at stevejonesgbh.com.
Val Seaquist led a spring course touring the small gardens of Huntsville families — gardens that offer serenity, pleasure and beauty with low maintenance in small spaces. Seaquist expressed thanks to “the seven gracious and generous hosts and hostesses.”

Photos by Glen Adams, Chris Stuhlinger and Steve Stewart)
HELEN KELLER, MUSIC AND MASTERWORKS

A class visit to “Tuscumbia: The Soul of the Shoals” on July 13 included Ivy Green, the childhood home of Helen Keller; and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. In the two bottom photos, OLLI members toured “Beauty, Passion and Bliss,” containing 19th-century masterworks from the Dahesh Museum of Art in New York, on June 17 at the Huntsville Museum of Art.

(Photos by Clay Williams, Candace Bean and Chris Stuhlinger)
An OLLI summer class took a day trip to Chattanooga on June 30, starting at Chickamauga National Battlefield and ending at Lookout Mountain, where a "Battle above the Clouds" took place.

(Photos by Glen Adams and Clay Williams)
FALL OPEN HOUSE