Mission Statement

OLLI, a member-volunteer organization, offers non-credit academic classes and stimulating programs, along with social opportunities for retired and semi-retired men and women. Members use their talents, experiences, and skills creatively in shared intellectual and cultural pursuits. We strive to respect diversity of thought in a relaxed, supportive academic environment, exploring new interests, discovering and developing latent abilities, and contributing to the immediate and broader communities.

About the Osher Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of the Bernard Osher Foundation, the network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the United States is meeting the needs of older learners who want to participate simply for the joy of learning and personal fulfillment. To date there are more than 117 OLLI programs in the United States from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska.

Welcome to OLLI South at DU...

*Where curiosity never retires.*
Dear Friends,

Enclosed is the Spring 2018 curriculum information for OLLI South. The 8-week spring term begins the week of April 2nd, and ends May 25th. OLLI brings together mature adults with a passion for continued learning and intellectual growth in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere to study and learn. All classes are held in classrooms at Valley View Christian Church, 11004 Wildfield Lane, Littleton (South Santa Fe Drive & Titan Parkway). We hope you find several classes interesting and plan to join us for eight weeks of learning, discussion and fun!

Members also can access the class catalog and register online by going to the OLLI South website at www.universitycollege.du.edu/ollisouth. Visiting the website gives you the advantage of viewing classes at all OLLI sites — Central, West, South, East, & OLLI-on-Campus. (Don’t forget, your membership dues allow you to take as many courses as you like at any of the sites.)

All OLLI South classes must have at least ten participants enrolled for the class to be offered. If there are fewer than ten participants, members will be notified two weeks prior to class beginning that the class is in jeopardy. If within one week of starting classes, the class number has not reached ten, the class will be cancelled entirely. Please do not purchase the recommended course books until the week before class begins. We cannot refund book purchases if a course has been cancelled. Membership and materials fees will be refunded if a class does not make minimum enrollment.

OLLI South continues to grow steadily, and we sincerely appreciate your support and commitment! Please share your Class Catalog with friends and neighbors who may want to participate in OLLI.

If you have questions or want additional information, call (720) 339-1379, or email Jenny at ollisouth@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Jenny Fortenberry
Jenny Fortenberry, OLLI South Manager
OLLI Policy Statement

In the spirit of fostering understanding, all OLLI members are encouraged to share opinions and ideas. OLLI class participants do not attempt to “convert” others because there is a mutual respect for each member’s experiences, ideas, value systems and beliefs. The true focus of an OLLI class is the critical examination of issues and opinions. All participants’ points of view carry equal weight. Consensus is not a goal.

We encourage participants with all points of view to attend and become engaged through discussion and civil debate.

Membership Fee Information

Fee Structure: $130 per term for unlimited classes

Membership fee includes the following benefits:
- Participation in classes at Central, West, South, East, & OLLI-on-Campus (Enrollment in classes is limited based on classroom size and facilitator preferences.)
- Special member price for “The Summer Seminars of OLLI”
- OLLI Newsletter (three editions per academic term)
- Notice of un-advertised DU events (many at no cost)
- Invitations to annual social events
- Lamont School of Music – All OLLI members get the senior/group rate for Ode to Nature or the Spring Opera
- University of Denver Library (Anderson Academic Commons) borrowing privileges, see www.portfolio.edu.ed/olli for details
- ENRICHMENT PROGRAM – Our sister organization offers classes at the University of Denver. The classes are led by professors and staff and are held during the evening hours. The members of OLLI at DU enjoy a 20% discount on most courses (some exclusions do apply) when they register with the code OLLIW17. To review the course offerings please go to http://universitycollege.du.edu/enrichment or visit the 2211 South Josephine Street office and pick up a catalog in the front reception area
- DU Athletics – Purchase one full-price ticket and get one free ticket to any men’s or women’s basketball game, based on availability
- Coors Fitness Center $25 per month membership for 12 months. Sign up only in the fall term. Ruth Brown, Associate Director of Recreation, 2201 E. Asbury Ave., Room 4515, Denver, CO 80208, 303-871-4694, rbrown8@du.edu. Check with OLLI before heading to the Coors Center.

Refund Policy

Per term: Full refund of $130 if requested no later than 10 days into the term. Please contact Jenny Fortenberry at ollisouth@gmail.com to request a refund. Unless a class is cancelled, there will be no refunds for interActive classes or materials fees.
In response to OLLI at DU members’ strong desire for internationally focused classes and educational travel, WorldView was designed to bring both to OLLI. Each year we focus on a different country, providing classes and interactive activities throughout the academic year. We top off the year with an adventure relating to that country.

The 2018-2019 academic year will highlight China. Throughout the year you may find various classes related to China at our OLLI sites. In addition, there will be programs designed to bring an up-close and personal look at this intriguing country, from its history and politics to its culture and beauty. The year will culminate with a custom designed trip to China.

If you have Chinese connections or would like to facilitate a class or presentation on China, please share your ideas with your Site Manager or the Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee members are listed in the back of this publication.
## Course Title by Topic for Spring 2018

### Economics
- **Unexpected Economics, Part 2**  
  Ira Rifkin/Stan Folker

### History
- **After Lewis and Clark: The Indian Wars of the 19th Century**  
  Charles Holt
- **Art & Social Revolution in 20th Century Mexico**  
  Abe Grinberg
- **The Cold War: A New History**  
  Hank Zeile
- **History’s Greatest Voyages of Exploration**  
  Alan Folkestad
- **The Progressive Era: Antidote to Gilded Age Excesses**  
  Anne Christner
- **Red Dawn: The Russian Civil War & The Birth of the USSR**  
  Wayne Cassell
- **Victorian Slum House/1900 House**  
  Mary Morris/Tony Morgan

### Literature & Writing
- **The “A-Ha” Moments: Remembering & Writing Your Life Stories**  
  Connie Shoemaker
- **Best American Short Stories Through the Decades**  
  Judith Vlasin
- **Cries for Freedom, Voices of Diversity**  
  Sally Walling
- **Glorify vs Horrify: Understanding WWI Through Literature & Culture**  
  Patricia Paul
- **Great Authors of the British Isles: Early Novelists**  
  Jerry Wischmeyer
- **Shakespeare’s Tempest: “400 Years in the Making”**  
  Sheila Jones

### Philosophy, Spirituality & Culture
- **Buddhist Psychology: Addressing the Challenges & Stresses in Our Lives**  
  Gretchen Groth
- **Nietzsche Unveiled: Kubrick’s Movie, Strauss’s Music, Nietzsche’s Thoughts**  
  Terry Ortlieb
- **Patriarchs, Prophets and Kings**  
  Jim Rairdon
- **Understanding Why Islam and Christianity are Different**  
  Ed Struzeski
- **Wanna Make a Bet? Pascal’s Argument for Faith in God**  
  Steve Hoemann
- **What is This Thing Called Existentialism?**  
  Terry Ortlieb

### Political Science / Current Events
- **Great Decisions**  
  Chuck Laskey/Bill Gernert
- **The Healing of America**  
  Gary Wyngarden
- **Racism in America**  
  Janet Kester
- **Roundtable: An In-Depth Discussion of Current Events**  
  Bayard Breeding/Paul Mauro
- **TED Talks**  
  Barbara Pond/Sarah Burk
Course Title by Topic for Spring 2018

Science & Technology
Animals 101 & Denver Zoo Field Trip Paula Mitchell
Big Data: Are You a Data Point or a Human Being? Ronald Knox
The Fascinating World of Robotics Pat Smith
Music and Math Dan Pond

Visual and Performing Arts
Film Shorts: Here and There, Then and Now Judith Vlasin
Folktales and the Power and Joy of Storytelling Natalie Conklin
Hollywood 2016-2017: One Step Forward.....? Sally Walling

WELLaware
Mental Health First Aid Anne Bennett/Barbara Bronson
Old World & New World: The Influences of Mexican Cooking in America Sue Bramley/Anne Bennett
See the Trees….and the Forest Cindy DeMoss

interActive Learning
Beginner Yoga De Swiger
Beginning Birdwatching with the Audubon Society Dick Anderson/Cynthia Kristensen
The Great Game of Bridge—Advanced Defense II Wilt Cooper
The Great Game of Bridge—Intermediate Play Wilt Cooper
Mah Jongg for Beginners Joyce Rovetta/Pat Smith
Splashing Into Watercolor Rosemarie Lohnert
Walking Classroom: The High Line Canal Chris Englert

Please register online at www.portfolio.du.edu/ollisouth
Best American Short Stories Through the Decades

Facilitator: Judith Vlasin, Senior Facilitator

Sometimes great authors do their best work in short form and some of their stories become culturally important. This class will include one or two classic American short stories written during each decade from the Forties to the present (one decade per week). We’ll read the stories in chronological order, having some interesting dialogue about the U.S. societal influences likely to have affected their content. These stories will present such authors as F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Cheever, Raymond Carver, Joyce Carol Oates, William Faulkner, Alice Munro, Sherman Alexie, Eudora Welty, Richard Ford, Flannery O’Connor — in short, some of America’s best and most interesting writers, past and present. Our weekly discussions will center mainly on the content of the stories but will also touch on techniques used and some info about the authors. Perhaps these stories, put together, will allow us to glimpse our country and the world in new ways. At any rate, these short stories will entertain us as we share our opinions, thoughts and discoveries about them.

Books/Materials: Handouts emailed by facilitator
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, videos
Class Size: Maximum of 25
Materials Fee: None

Judith Vlasin, Senior Facilitator, retired six years ago after teaching Film, Literature and Composition to high school students for 42 years. She is now an entrenched OLLI fan, taking and facilitating classes at Central, South and West.
The Great Game of Bridge – Intermediate Play

Facilitator: Wilt Cooper

Bridge is the world’s most popular card game. It is a great way to exercise the mind with communication, visualization, probabilities, math, and socialization. The game of bridge dates back to the 16th century when Europeans were playing triumph. Triumph evolved into whist in the 1700’s and was made internationally famous by Edmond Hoyle. With the introduction of the bidding (or auction) concept in the late 19th century, whist evolved into auction bridge. Ely Culbertson in the 1930s, then Charles Goren in the 1950s popularized the game of bridge even further. It is played by nearly 40 million people just in North America with international tournaments annually.

This class is for intermediate bridge players who want to enhance their bidding, declarer play, and defensive techniques with a better grasp of current bidding techniques and common bidding conventions. The focus will be on the 2 over 1 bidding system, which is now the most popular bidding approach for competitive players. This approach simplifies a few areas of Standard American bidding and makes reaching games and slams easier. As always, practice hands will be played and discussed with insight on declarer play and defense, as well as bidding.

Prerequisite: Preferably completion of the four previous OLLI courses – “Bidding,” “Play of the Hand,” “Defense,” and “Common Conventions,” or instructor approval based on bridge playing experience with current standard techniques.

Books/Materials: We will be using 2 over 1 Game Force by Audrey Grant and Eric Rodwell. It is recommended to purchase.

Class Type: Lecture and bridge hand play.

Class Fee: Members $60; Guests $100

Class Size: Minimum of 8, maximum of 20

Wilt Cooper is a retired Aerospace Engineer from Lockheed Martin and an active competitive bridge player. He has played the game of bridge since college, learning more each step of the way. Wilt has earned a Bronze Life Master in bridge, is teacher accredited by the ACBL, and has taught the game for several years. Because he is so passionate about the game, he wants to share the bridge experience with everyone.
The United States spends more than 17% of GDP on healthcare expenditures. This is 50% higher than the next highest country and almost double the average of the OECD (developed) countries. That might even be okay if we were getting what we pay for, but we’re not. Life expectancy in the U.S. ranks 31st in the world, just below Cyprus, Chile, and Costa Rica. A baby born in the U.S. is nearly three times as likely to die during her first year of life as one born in Finland or Japan. That same American baby is about twice as likely to die in her first year as a Spanish or Korean one. “The Healing of America” will explore why we are spending so much money on healthcare and getting so little for our buck.

We will have a close look at the healthcare systems of other countries to see what they are doing differently and what we can learn from them. Every other developed country has universal health coverage. Should healthcare be a right in America? Is it moral to allow people to die from curable diseases for lack of health coverage in the richest country in the world? Was “Obamacare” a big mistake or a step in the right direction? Would any of the “repeal and replace” options be an improvement or would they be a step backwards?

Based on the book *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid among other sources, this course will examine moral and structural issues of American healthcare against a global backdrop and will arrive at a path forward.

**Book/Materials:** *The Healing of America*, by T.R. Reid is highly recommended

**Class Type:** Lecture, class discussion and debate, videos

**Class Size:** Limited to 35

**Materials Fee:** None

*Gary Wyngarden* has a BA from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Loyola University. He spent his career in the healthcare industry including tenure as CEO of a $2 billion company. In retirement he is active with the Douglas/Elbert Task Force, the Castle Rock Unitarian Community, Indivisible Douglas County, and ... OLLI!
Monday 9:30 - 11:30

interActive Learning

 Splashing Into Watercolor

Facilitator: Rosie Lohnert  
6 wks, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7

This class is for anyone who ever wanted to try WATERCOLORS. If you just need a refresher course or have taken this class before, Rosie will help you refine your skills by giving you more challenges. In this class you will learn the basic techniques such as wet-on-wet, graded washes, textures. Color theory, composition and design will also be addressed. You will get hooked on the magic of watercolor. One thing is for certain, after this class you will see things around you from a different point of view. Each week you will proudly take home your own creation. The class is a wonderful learning experience, with challenges and lots of fun. It will keep your intellect on overdrive for a few hours.

Class Type: Interactive  
Class Size: Limited to 12 participants, members only, no guests.  
Materials Fee: $15 to cover the cost of quality watercolor paper and quality paint. Fee to be paid to the facilitator on the first day of class!

Rosie Lohnert is a seasoned OLLI Interactive facilitator who will be leading her seventh SPLASH INTO WATERCOLOR class at OLLI SOUTH. Rosie is a hobby watercolorist. She is a signature member of the Colorado Watercolor Society, the Western Slope Watercolor Society, and an active member of the Parker Artist Guild. Her work, mainly abstracts, has been shown at juried local, state, national and international exhibitions. She loves this medium and is happy to share her enthusiasm and skills with the OLLI members.
Monday 11:45 - 12:45

interActive Learning

Beginner Yoga

Facilitator: De Swiger

Note: 1-hour, 11:45-12:45

Are you new to yoga or wanting to get back in the practice? Yoga is a beautiful way to exercise your mind & body and improve your overall health and well-being. This class is perfect for people who have little or no experience with yoga. Learn the basics of yoga (postures, breathing, relaxation) at a pace that is not overwhelming, and in a safe and encouraging environment. The focus is on alignment, form, slow flow, balance, flexibility and finding “your yoga.”

Benefits are:

- Increased flexibility and range of movement,
- Improved balance
- Increased muscle strength
- Reduce stress
- Lower blood pressure,
- Improved sleep
- Improved overall well-being

Materials: Bring your own mat and water! If you want to relax even more, pillows and blankets acceptable

Class Type: Interactive. Members should be able to get down and up from the floor.

Class Size: Limited to 25

Class Fee: $40.00 for members, $50.00 for guests

De Swiger is retired from the Defense Department and has been practicing yoga for many years. De was certified as a yoga instructor in 2006 and group fitness instructor in 1995. She currently teaches several classes for 24-Hour Fitness.
Monday 12:30 - 3:30

Great Authors of the British Isles – Early Novelists

Facilitator: Jerry Wischmeyer, Diamond Facilitator

Note: 3-hour class, 12:30-3:30

As English spreads across the globe, becoming the language of the internet, understanding the extraordinary body of British literature has become evermore vital in the 21st century. This course will include video vignettes of 60 major authors, their insights, themes and impact on history, dating from the dawn of England’s literary tradition through the late 20th century.

I will begin each class by showing one of the short video programs, in the following order:

- “Beowulf to Shakespeare”
- “The Renaissance Writers”
- “Augustan and Romantic Poets”
- “Early Novelists”
- “Children’s Literature”
- “The Genre Innovators”
- “20th Century Poets and Playwrights”
- “20th Century Novelists”

After a brief class discussion period, I will turn to the primary focus of the course, the early novelists and the English novel tradition.

Each week I will feature one author. I cannot include all the worthy early innovators of the English novel, but through handouts, class member presentations, discussion and a film adaptation of a major novel, class members can enjoy a literary masterpiece by a renowned and influential author of his or her era.

The films will be: Dangerous Journey, adapted from John Bunyan’s The Pilgrim’s Progress; Tom Jones (1963), adapted from Henry Fielding’s The History of Tom Jones; Jane Austen’s Sense and Sensibility (1995 version); Sir Walter Scott’s Ivanhoe (1952); Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist (director David Lean’s 1948 version); Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre (2010 BBC version); Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights (1939 version or the class may choose the 1998 Masterpiece Theatre version); Robert Louis Stevenson’s Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1932 version with insightful overlaying commentary).

Books/Materials: Handouts will be emailed by facilitator
Class Type: Lecture, class discussion, DVDs
Class Size: Unlimited
Materials Fee: None

Jerry Wischmeyer, Diamond Facilitator, is a frequent facilitator who enjoys offering courses featuring literature, history and film.
Monday 1:00 - 3:00

Film Shorts: Here and There, Then and Now

Facilitator: Judith Vlasin, Senior Facilitator

This class combines fun with learning as we watch and discuss short films from other countries and our own. We’ll have interesting dialogue as we examine the films’ messages and cultural slants, expressing our opinions about the entertainment value, themes, and worth of each. Some films will have won Oscars in their categories, some remain obscure, some are from the past and some are as modern as 2017.

If you love short films, or want to learn more about this under-appreciated genre, this is a class for you. We’ll have time to watch several films per class and will, after viewing each, discuss for as long as we like. You will leave this entertaining course with a new appreciation of this often-overlooked film genre and with a new knowledge of films from other cultures.

NOTE: This class is a repeat of the first of four OLLI Film Shorts courses. It was first presented at OLLI South in 2014.

Book/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVD and videos
Class Size: Limited to 25
Materials Fee: None

Judith Vlasin, Senior Facilitator, retired six years ago after teaching Film, Literature and Composition to high school students for 42 years. She is now an entrenched OLLI fan, taking and facilitating classes at Central, South and West.
History’s Greatest Voyages of Exploration

Facilitators: Alan Folkestad, Master Facilitator

Throughout history, one of the deepest human impulses has been the drive to explore, encounter, and reveal the unknown. In this unique course, you will join a quest to study the greatest explorers of world history and spotlight their complex motivations, including religious impulses, pursuit of commerce, desire for conquest, and drive for scientific knowledge. In their process of discovery, explorers have bound together the world we know today.

Key themes of this course include the fact that one journey can produce a cascade of others, even if the initial venture ends in failure; the range of ways in which unknown peoples are encountered, including through friendship or violence; the multiplicity of motives at work in explorers; and the reality that the drive to discover is at the core of human identity.

Books/Materials: Handouts provided by facilitators. Required reading History’s Greatest Voyages of Exploration will be provided by OLLI

Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVDs

Class Size: Limited to 30

Materials Fee: None

Alan Folkestad, Master Facilitator, has been a student of history throughout his life. At the University of Minnesota he majored in Political Science and earned a MPA degree from Texas Christian University. This is the 20th class Alan has facilitated.
Mah Jongg for Beginners

Facilitators: Joyce Rovetta and Pat Smith

Mah Jongg is a tile-based game from China that was popularized in the U.S. in the 1920s. The game is played with 152 tiles and typically four players. In this class, we will learn the tiles, choosing table positions, Mah Jongg hands, rules, scoring, and then practice playing several games.

No special equipment required, but we will be using a good sense of fun and a book by Elaine Sandberg. We will be learning American Mah Jongg.

Experience playing Mah Jongg is NOT required. Expect a good brain workout every time you play!

Class Type: Instruction, interactive
Class Size: Limited to 20
Materials Fee: None

Joyce Rovetta has been playing Mah Jongg for many years and is an enthusiastic teacher.

Pat Smith is an experienced OLLI facilitator and avid player of Mah Jongg. She first took a course at OLLI from Joyce and has been playing ever since. Pat retired several years ago from a career as an IT executive and is now an entrenched OLLI fan.
After Lewis and Clark – The Indian Wars of the 19th Century

Facilitator: Charles Holt, Master Facilitator

Over four centuries (1492-1890) several million Europeans and their descendants undertook to enforce their ways upon the people of the New World. From the moment that Europeans landed on America’s shores, they engaged in bloody conflict with the natives they encountered. Tensions and hostilities bred in the colonial wars with the Spanish, English, French, and Dutch would lead inevitably to the later Indian wars throughout the 19th century.

From 1802-1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark journeyed through the newly acquired expanse of America known as the Louisiana purchase to the Pacific Ocean. They encountered lands, rivers, wilderness, and peoples new to Americans of the East. The news of their exploration generated keen interest in the young nation. After Lewis and Clark, other explorers traveled the western half of the continent, and the trails they discovered opened it up for future settlement.

Fierce conflicts raged as warriors defended Native American lands and ways of life. We will re-examine these extraordinary tales—from legendary clashes like the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Custer’s last stand, and wounded knee to lesser-known conflicts like the Sand Creek Massacre, Beecher Island and the Modoc war. All lay bare the bloody struggle between Native Americans and the European migration westward. We will also examine the warfare between the tribes themselves and examine the American concept of “manifest destiny.” The wars of conquest between native American tribes form part of this epic story as does (most poignantly), the wars for mere survival, with native Americans literally running for their lives.

Books/Materials: Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An Indian History Of The American West, by Dee Brown. The book is highly recommended for full enjoyment of this class. Facilitator will also email handouts.

Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVDs
Class Size: No limit
Materials Fee: None

Charlie Holt, Master Facilitator, is a retired engineer who has spent more than 28 years in R&D management for several international organizations. Charlie is an avid reader and has a strong interest in science & technology and the impact on culture, as well as history and diplomacy with a focus on the personalities shaping history.
Folktales and the Power and Joy of Storytelling

Facilitator: Natalie Conklin

Storytelling is a performance art, both artistic and cultural. We can learn so much about people and history through the oral telling and retelling of humorous and compelling stories in the form of folktales, lore, myths, fables, fairytales, legends and songs from around the world.

What are your favorites?... “Sleeping Beauty,” “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “The Little Red Hen”? Or, maybe you like the American tall tales and folk songs.

Did you know that Cinderella has well over a thousand different versions around the world?

In this class we will discuss:

• the importance of storytelling and the joy derived from it
• the history behind some of the world’s favorite tales
• the key concepts of different kinds of stories
• the difference between oral stories and written texts
• how everyone can become a better reader and listener of stories
• the characteristics of effective storytelling

Let your inner child come out of you, sit back and enjoy listening to a story being read to you. Also, be ready to discuss the characteristics and cultural importance of folklore.

Books/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVDs, videos, possible guest storyteller
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Natalie Conklin has enjoyed taking classes and facilitating at OLLI South since retiring four years ago. Natalie has spent her career as an elementary teacher, a special reading teacher and a media specialist. Reading, storytelling and listening to stories can bring great insight and joy. This is what she hopes to bring to the class.
This course is designed to give historical context to the Bible. The Bible is not a book, but in fact is a library of many books, with many authors. It is written in many literary styles, and was written over an extended period of time.

The Bible is also a work of the Ancient Middle East, and having a knowledge of the events going on around the periods covered in the Bible, can help the reader of the Bible understand some of what is written. For example, why did a king (Pharaoh) come to power in Egypt that did not know Joseph (Exodus 1:8)? Stay tuned for a potential answer in Week Three.

Books/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion
Class Size: No limit
Materials Fee: None

James (Jim) Rairdon is a Professor at National American University, and an adjunct instructor at Colorado Christian University. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, specializing in the Middle East from The Ohio State University, a Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University, a Doctorate of Management from Colorado Technical University.
TED Talks

Facilitators: Barbara Pond and Sarah Burk

TED is a nonprofit institution devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. It started in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. The goal of TED is to foster the spread of great ideas. It aims to provide a platform for the world’s smartest thinkers, greatest visionaries and most inspiring teachers, so that millions of people can gain a better understanding and a desire to help create a better future.

TED Talks are videos of the best talks and performances from TED conferences and events where the world’s leading thinkers and doers can give the talk of their lives, usually in 18 to 25 minutes. The best talks and performances from TED are free online as Ted Talks (http://www.ted.com/talks). There are more than 2,000 TED Talks ranging from persuasive to ingenious to jaw dropping. The primary objective of this class is for the facilitators to select the categories of topics that best prompt discussion amongst the class participants with the objective of educating, entertaining and awakening in all of us new ways of thinking. Maybe some will be inspired to take action. Participants will have the opportunity to select one of their favorite Ted Talks to stream for all, then acting as a guest facilitator with the objective of prompting discussion and eliciting comments from their fellow OLLI participants.

Books/Materials: None
Class Type: Discussion, videos
Class Size: Maximum of 25
Materials Fee: None

Barbara Pond has spent more than 40 years working in education as a math teacher, college professor, consultant, and conference speaker. Now retired, Barb enjoys facilitating OLLI classes. Her interests include quilting, reading, traveling, playing MahJongg, time with friends and caring for her grandson. She loves learning and values all the wonderful opportunities that Olli offers to expand and grow.

Sarah Burk has spent 46 years in elementary education, special education, and at the university level. She has held various positions over the course of her careers. Upon retiring she enjoys travel, knitting, reading, membership in various groups, mentoring and spending time with her grandgirls. She is always open to new adventures and new learning.
Have you ever thought economics was just another dismal science? Every day, many of the decisions we make are economic ones. From daily purchases to the political choices we make, economics plays a role. In part two of this course we will examine how and why these decisions are made. How do the ideas of fairness, risk and uncertainty, herd mentality, and the avalanche of information shape our choices.

Addiction, obesity, natural disasters, and politics are in the news daily. How are these topics related to economics? Finally we will discuss the pursuit of happiness. Is it really the pursuit of wealth? Come join us in a friendly and spirited class discussion and find out!

Books/Materials: Optional, *Unexpected Economics* by Professor Timothy Taylor

Class Type: Lecture, class discussion, DVDs

Class Size: Limited to 35

Materials Fee: None

*Ira Rifkin, Master Facilitator,* is a physician who has been in private practice in metro Denver as well as on the staff of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2009. He has had a lifelong interest in economics, political science, and history. He currently serves on the Curriculum Committee.

*Stan Folker* is an Auburn University engineering graduate. He is a former U.S. Naval aviator and retired as a captain for Continental Airlines. After leaving the airlines, he worked as a financial consultant for AXA Equitable. He has had a long-time interest in economics, history, art, and music. He currently serves on the OLLI South Economics subcommittee.
Big Data: Are You a Data Point or a Human Being?

Facilitator: Ronald (Ron) Knox  
7 wks, Apr 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22

Big Data has, is and will continue to influence modern America and the world. Data collection has been a part of human activity and history for a long time. You will gain an understanding of who, what, why and when data is collected for use in Big Data. Come with a desire to learn, no computer knowledge, analytics, design and/or technology skills are required to attend the sessions.

We will explore when humans began to collect and develop an interest in data. We will identify various motives for the collection of data and their use. Big Data has more applications than checking the road traffic, stock trades for the day, retail sales during the holiday seasons, etc. We will touch upon some applications and miss others altogether. The objective is to provide you with an understanding of Big Data.

We will explore these questions:

- What is data?
- What makes it big?
- What machines began to process data?
- What has it done to big business, science, and society?
- What has it done to democracy?
- Is it Big Brother?
- Are we data points or human beings?


Class Type: Lecture and discussion
Class Size: No Limit
Material Fees: None

Ronald Knox has enjoyed a career of more than 40 years managing the development of software and data systems for the banking, telecommunications, military aerospace contractors, government, electronics, computer and utilities industries. He has also completed software and data systems for Arrow Electronics, Honeywell Test Instruments Division, Citicorp Diners Club, AT&T Telecommunications Installation and Repair, Information Handling Services and McDonnell Douglas Systems Integration.
Buddhist Psychology: Addressing the Challenges and Stresses in Our Lives

Facilitator: Gretchen Groth

Buddhism, a 2500 year old spiritual path, continues to be relevant to this world’s challenges as evidenced by it being one of the growing spiritual traditions within this and other Western countries. Mindfulness, a meditation practice grounded in Buddhism, has almost become a household word. This class will present some of the basic tenets of Buddhism such as the nature of mind, the freedom arising from non-attachment, and the Four Immeasurables (loving-kindness, equanimity, compassion, and empathetic joy). We will explore how they apply to or can inform our everyday challenges and stresses.

We will sample various meditation forms such as mindfulness, compassion and mantra.

Book/Materials: Handouts will be provided by facilitator
Class Type: Lecture, class discussion, experiential activities
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Gretchen Ann Groth, Ph.D., has been a Tibetan Buddhist within the Nyingma school for many years. Her teacher, His Holiness Shenphen Dawa Rinpoche, appointed her as a lama, Lama Pema Chokyi and she is the meditation teacher with Yeshe Nyingpo Denver. She has been a national Organization Development and Diversity consultant and currently teaches Psychology at Metropolitan State University of Denver.
In 1950 international communism seemed everywhere on the offensive: Stalin was at the height of his power; all of Eastern Europe was securely in the Soviet camp; America’s monopoly on nuclear weapons was a thing of the past; and Mao’s forces had assumed control over the world’s most populous country. Two superpowers, bristling with nuclear weapons, stared unblinking across an ideological divide, and the rest of the world trembled. Forty years later the Berlin wall came down and then, virtually overnight, the Soviet Union was no more. The cold war was over.

The West triumphed politically and economically over its ideological enemies but John Lewis Gaddis tells us that there was nothing inevitable about the Cold War’s happy ending. How did this happen? How did fear become hope? Beginning with end of World War II, we will treat the strategic dynamics that drove the age with portraits of its major personalities and examine crucial events such as the Marshall Plan, the Korean War, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis, “MAD” and the development of nuclear weapons, Détente, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the disintegration of the USSR in 1991.

**Book/Materials:** None  
**Class Type:** Lecture, class discussion, DVDs and videos  
**Class Size:** Limited to 35  
**Materials Fee:** None

_Henriks (Hank) Zeile, Master Facilitator, is a graduate of United States Merchant Marine Academy, Union University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is retired nuclear engineer who worked in various engineering, and management assignments at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory and Morrison Knudsen Corporation. In 1995 he and his wife Arija moved to Colorado to be close to their three children._
Shakespeare’s Tempest: “400 Years in the Making”

Facilitator: Sheila Jones

Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* was magical then; it’s magical now — 401 years after the playwright’s final exit. When Shakespeare wrote this play in the early 17th Century, it was simultaneously both one of his most classical plays and one of his most groundbreaking.

Fast forward 400 years to the Royal Shakespeare Company’s 2016-2017 production of this play to witness the wizardry that transforms traditional live theater through the magic of real-time digital technology. Experience the most elaborate use of Intel’s motion capture technology ever utilized in live theater, as the RSC and Imaginarium work together to create a live action character avatar of Ariel. Then re-imagine the play as a contemporary novel by award-winning author Margaret Atwood.

In this class we will explore the enchantment of Shakespeare’s characters, the play’s themes, and its intriguing dichotomies — all still highly relevant in 21st century America — through the filters of what The New York Times called the “eye-popping” RSC production and Atwood’s nuanced retelling of the play that The Guardian described as “a magical eulogy to Shakespeare, leading the reader through a fantastical reworking of the original but infusing it with ironic nods to contemporary culture....”

This will be Shakespeare like you have never experienced it before. Come, let the magic of the theater cast its spell on you with one of Shakespeare’s greatest plays.

**Book/Materials:** *Hag-Seed*, by Margaret Atwood, is required reading for this class.

**Class Type:** Class participation, DVDs and videos

**Class Size:** Limited to 25

**Materials Fee:** None

*Sheila Jones* enjoys exploring literature and probing critical issues of today’s complex world, while sharing the fun with others through OLLI. Sheila has twice received Colorado’s Boettcher Teacher Recognition Award. In 2001 she was named the CHSPA Teacher of the Year and has been honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards from CHSPA and the national Journalism Education Association.
Animals 101 & Denver Zoo Field Trip

Facilitator: Paula Mitchell

5 wks, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2

Have you ever wondered why some fish and squirrels can fly but some birds with wings cannot? During this five-week course, we will explore vertebrate animals like never before, taking apart their lifecycles, understanding their adaptations, and examining their unique behaviors. Using videos, power point, and the facilitator’s own pictures and information, the class will travel globally, learning about the unbelievable diversity of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. We will also explore the various habitats and biomes where animals live to understand the difference between tundra, grassland, and desert biomes. This class will help you remember the way animals are classified and why this is important.

Intriguing questions we will answer…...Why do mammals have hair but reptiles have scales? Why are there so many different types of birds’ beaks and feet, and what are they used for? Why do catfish have mouths underneath and tuna have lunate tails? All this will be explored as we discuss a different animal category each week and conclude by exploring our own backyard…Colorado animals and their habitats.

Week Five will put it all together visually, by taking a fun-filled field trip to the Denver Zoo. This is optional and will be led by the facilitator. Denver Zoo admission fee is: $17 for adults or $14 for seniors 65 or older.

Book/Materials: Handouts will be emailed by facilitator
Class Type: Lecture, videos, field trip
Class Size: Limited to 25
Materials Fee: Denver Zoo admission fee of $17 for adults, or $14 for seniors

Paula Mitchell has been a volunteer docent at the Denver Zoo for 15 years. She currently serves on the OLLI South Advisory Council and organizes the Lunch & Learns. She has presented at South, Central, and West’s various programs. Her past experience is with wine…having written two editions of Exploring Colorado Wineries guidebook and conducting hundreds of wine-related presentations.
Art and Social Revolution in 20th Century Mexico

Facilitator: Abraham (Abe) Grinberg, Senior Facilitator

The mural work of Orozco, Rivera and Siqueiros and Frida’s Kahlo ‘surrealist’ paintings spans five decades from the early 1920s to the early 1970s. During that time, Mexico went through an enormous transformation from a mostly rural, semi-literate revolutionary nationalist society to a developed, largely industrialized and modern country. The way the work of these artists reflected changing realities in Mexico and its people, and how in turn the people perceived the art throughout those changing decades feeds into the wider question concerning the function art can have within a modern secular society.

The purpose of the course is to learn about the history of the Mexican Revolution and the 20th century when these artists produced magnificent pieces of art. It also gives us the opportunity to explore the subject through the work that captures the socio-political and cultural changes occurring in Mexico after the 1910 revolution. This art played a central role in the political, cultural and social life of Mexico.

Members interested in the “World View” trip to Mexico City (August 25-September 3, 2018) will benefit from the materials covered in this class.

Book/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVDs and videos
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Abraham Grinberg (Abe), Senior Facilitator, is a retired physician born and raised in Mexico who has facilitated courses at OLLI related to psychology, human behavior, socio-political problems and political science and art history in Latin-America. This time he has decided to address the topic of “Art and Revolution in 20th Century Mexico”.

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30
Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30

Mental Health First Aid

Facilitators: Anne Bennett, Master Facilitator, and Barbara Bronson

4 wks, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25

Did you know that you are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack? Learn how to help a friend, family member, OLLI member or neighbor in need.

“Mental Health First Aid” will introduce you to risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses, build an understanding of their impact and provide an overview of common supports, such as professional, peer, social and self-help care.

The program will address such issues as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, bipolar disorder, eating disorders and schizophrenia. A five-step action plan, ALGEE, will be taught to help participants support someone who may be developing mental illness or emotional crisis. This program is not meant to diagnose or provide therapy, but rather to connect to help by providing concrete local, state and national tools and resources. Join us for this fascinating course on mental health.

Book/Materials: A workbook will be provided by facilitator

Class Type: Lecture, discussion, interactive

Class Size: Limited to 25

Materials Fee: None

Anne Bennett, Master Facilitator, has a background in public health and nutrition. She believes that the whole person is important when looking at health. Mental health is a key component to overall health. She is excited to offer this course in mental health.

Barbara Bronson is a registered nurse with a Master’s degree in Counseling and Psychology. Barbara has more than 25 years of experience working with families and is committed to promoting mental health awareness in Colorado. She is a national as well as local speaker on mental health.
Music and mathematics are marvelously interrelated. When we listen to music, the sounds from vibrating strings or columns of air can be modelled and described by mathematics. When the sound gets to our ears, a complex process takes place between the ear and the brain which can also be described by mathematics. The class will look at music composition which suggests that it can also be described mathematically. The class will also investigate how the availability of music today is basically digital in the form of MP3 files or CDs and that math is used to enhance the listening experience.

Does music soothe the savage beast? Math does not allow us to come to a conclusive answer. The objective of this class is not to turn us into mathematicians but rather to enjoy the music we hear in a different and wonderful way.

**Book/Materials:** None  
**Class Type:** Lecture, discussion, DVDs  
**Class Size:** Limited to 25  
**Materials Fee:** None

Dan Pond has facilitated several OLLI courses connected to science, mathematics and physics. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and is retired following a 43-year career in the aerospace industry.
Old World and New World: Influences of Mexican Cooking in America

Facilitator: Sue Bramley and Anne Bennett, Master Facilitator

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30

4 wks, May 2, 9, 16, 23
Optional Field trip TBA

Colorado and Mexico share a strong common bond, and that’s food! In this class we’ll learn about that connection through the cucinas and ingredients of Mexico — the mole, the chiles, the tortillas…the list goes on and on! For those of you going on any of OLLI’s Mexico trips, this will be a food primer, if you will. Anne Bennett will give you the history of the food of Mexico, the ingredients and how it’s become one of the most beloved cuisines of the world.

But how do we do Mexican in America? Needless to say, we’ve given it our own spin. Two of the most well-known are Tex–Mex & New Mex–Mex. Enter, Sue Bramley. She’s been fascinated with Tex–Mex since she got her first packet of taco seasoning mix! Chili con carne, beef tacos, cheddar cheese and cumin can be mixed up into a fabulous dish, but it ain’t from Mexico! We’ll discuss the differences, the similarities, the cross overs and where it’s all headed.

Through lectures, chefs on both sides of the border, tastings and discussion, you’ll understand what’s what and where it’s from. Come prepared to talk about your favorites, be it chilaquiles, tacos al pastor on one side or queso, refries or steak fajitas on the other, you’ll walk away with a good understanding of the two cuisines and recipes for them all. You may even get your hands dirty and learn to fold the perfect burrito!

Book/Materials: Handouts will be emailed by facilitators
Class Type: Lecture, demonstration, discussion, DVD and videos, guest speakers, field trip
Class Size: Limited to 25
Materials Fee: $20.00 for food tastings (Fee paid to facilitator at first class)

Sue Bramley has been channeling her inner Julia Child since the early 1980s. While staying home with her small children, she launched a successful catering business till she went back to work planning trade shows and events for an international cable television programming provider. Ergo, a keen interest in food and culture which she shares in all her classes.

Anne Bennett, Senior Facilitator, is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has a passion for cooking and eating a variety of American and ethnic foods. Growing up on a farm in Montana, she has cooked since she was five years old. She believes everyone can and should be cooking easy, nutritious and delicious foods.
Racism in America

Facilitator: Janet Kester

Does racism really have a presence in the United States? If so, how is it manifested? What is our part in it? If racism is no longer a major factor, why do we hear so much about systemic racism and hidden racism? What does that look like?

We will discuss the history of racism in the United States and touch on the history of “class,” since they are integrally related. Through a combination of articles, videos and speakers, we will learn about varying perceptions of racism in our nation. After all, it is through our own experiences and perceptions that our reality and our opinions are formed. And our reality is our reality. Our neighbors’ reality is their reality. Different experiences have created wildly different opinions and conclusions about racism in our nation today. Let’s look at those conclusions and see how they were formed.

Book/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, videos
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

While Janet Kester obtained degrees from the University of Florida and the University of Georgia in the 60s during the intense Civil Rights Movement, events led her to a lifelong passion for social justice in general and racism in particular. She has helped to facilitate classes for OLLI South in horticulture therapy and in caregiving.
Have you ever heard that trees can “talk” to each other or been advised to take a “forest bath”? Sound crazy?

In this class we’ll take a close look at the social life of forest trees: how they communicate both above and below ground to warn each other of dangers, nurture their young, and increase their prospects for survival. In fact scientists have discovered a vast underground network of roots and soil fungi busily sharing information and food to prolong the lives of trees in the forest.

We’ll also drop back and take a wider look at forests and their effects on us. Can a walk in the woods actually lower our blood pressure, provide calm, and boost our immunity? Can we get the same effect from a trip to the mall? We’ll examine some of the research on these effects.

Can’t see the forest for the trees? We’ll discover new ways to see both. We won’t pretend to be botanists but will learn scientific insights along the way.

**Book/Materials:** *The Hidden Life of Trees*, by Peter Wohlleben, is recommended, but not required

**Class Type:** Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, DVD and videos

**Class Size:** No limit

**Materials Fee:** None

*Cindy DeMoss* has a BA in psychology and an MA in journalism. She held desk jobs in publishing and public information for most of her career, but since retirement she can more often be found outdoors -- walking, gardening, and enjoying the Colorado sun.
In our media-saturated society it appears that huge strides have been made by television, advertising and marketing on the pathway to inclusiveness. It’s easy to find diversity on the small screens that rule our lives. And it would appear that even Hollywood might have gotten the message! 2016-2017 has proven to be a banner year for writers, actors, producers, and directors of color. Is it possible that Hollywood has made a real attempt to cross the “Racial Divide”? Have artists of diverse backgrounds made a real impression on American cinema, or has the last year been an anomaly? What is our responsibility as active minded engaged citizens of the world in respect to easing the racial tensions of our society?

As we grapple with these perennial questions we will view and discuss portions of or the entirety of the following new films from Hollywood, released in 2016-2017: “Loving,” “Mudbound,” “Coco,” “I Am Not Your Negro,” “Hidden Figures,” “Wind River,” “Get Out,” “Columbus,” “13th,” “Moonlight,” “Ferdinand,” “Marshall,” “Fences.” Because of the adult nature of these films there may be language and / or ideas that some may find offensive.

This is a participatory class based on class discussion and home assignments when applicable. Each week we will evaluate a film using the elements of great cinema as our guide. We will also study the structure of a documentary and learn how to evaluate this cinematic form. If you love great relevant movies that speak to us today, please join me with an open mind and an open heart!

**Book/Materials:** None  
**Class Type:** Lecture, discussion, DVD and video  
**Class Size:** Limited to 25  
**Materials Fee:** None

*Sally Walling* is a retired Language Arts teacher who loves to read great books, have meaningful discussions and see, on the big screen, as many amazing movies as possible!
Wednesday 1:00 - 3:00

Glorify Versus Horrify:
Understanding the First World War
Through Literature and Culture

Facilitator: Patricia Paul, Senior Facilitator

As the end of “the Great War” nears its centennial, what do we know about the combatants? Why did a wealthy continent with an intellectual culture decide to gamble it all on the uncertainty of warfare? What stake did Americans have in this European conflict? How did the typical soldier persevere in the fight and keep faith in the cause? In the end what caused values to shift from the glorification of sacrifice to the disillusionment of the Lost Generation?

In our search for answers to these and other questions, we will start by analyzing artifacts of popular culture used to overcome U.S. isolationism and excite participation in the war effort. Then we will focus on two novels, both WWI love stories, raising questions about life, love, war, and death: Ernest Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms (excerpt and film) and Jonathan Hull’s contemporary, often-comic Losing Julia. We will gain additional perspectives from the soldier poets Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, and Isaac Rosenberg as well as the memoirists Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves while we investigate the effect of the war on the visual arts and movies including American, British, French, and German film.

This class will appeal to readers who enjoy thought-provoking discussions and want to understand the effect of WWI on literature and the arts. Join us to learn more about “the war to end all wars,” not from the distance of history books, but from the stories of the soldiers themselves and the culture surrounding them!

Books/Materials: Losing Julia by Jonathan Hull (346 pp) and A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway (we will only read Part III which is 60 pp.). Additional short readings will be provided by the facilitator.

Class type: Reading, discussion, facilitator presentations, art slides and video

Class Size: Limited to 25

Materials Fee: None

Patricia Paul, Senior Facilitator, taught literature to students from sixth grade to university level on four continents. Involved with OLLI South since the organizing committee, she has served as Chair of the Literature and Writing Subcommittee. She has found visits to WWI battle sites, including Verdun in France and the Isonzo River valley in Italy (now Slovenia), especially moving.
Great Decisions

Facilitator: Charles (Chuck) Laskey, Senior Facilitator, and Bill Gernert

Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Foreign Policy Association Briefing Book, providing background information and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year and serves as the focal text for discussion groups across the country. The briefings are enhanced in class by DVDs on each issue prepared for PBS. Class participants are encouraged to seek out additional understanding through the various media channels and readings. Facilitation is made for individual participation in a National Opinion Ballot related to impressions gained on each issue, contributive to understanding of National Public Opinion on U.S Foreign Affairs Policy.

The topics for 2018 are:

- The waning of Pax Americana?
- Russia’s foreign policy
- China and America: the new geopolitical equation
- Media and foreign policy
- Turkey: a partner in crisis
- U.S. global engagement and the military
- South Africa’s fragile democracy
- Global health: progress and challenges

Book/Materials: Great Decisions - Foreign Policy Association, 2018 Edition, is required for class

Class Type: Discussion, DVDs

Class Size: Limited to 25

Materials Fee: $35 for the required publication

Charles (Chuck) Laskey, Senior Facilitator, is a Denver University alumnus with a degree in International Relations. He retired from 32 years’ career service in multi-disciplinary humanitarian and development programming assistance, and for more than 30 years was living/working abroad in the Middle East, Africa & Asia, along with short term assignments and personal travel worldwide. Chuck has facilitated ten previous “Great Decisions” sessions.

Bill Gernert is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel with 22 years of service. His career included base commander and on staff of Secretary of the Air Force and three tours in the Pentagon. Academic credentials include BA from Wesleyan, MBA from Wharton School and graduation from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has facilitated “Great Decisions” for three previous OLLI sessions.
We will explore the relationship between Nietzsche’s main themes of the superman, eternal recurrence, revaluation of all values, god is dead, promises, and the will to power, as well as Richard Strauss’s “Also Sprach Zarathustra” music and Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” movie (which starts with Strauss’s music and ends with the superman [super-child].)

**Book/Materials:** Handouts will be provided by facilitator

**Class Type:** Lecture, discussion

**Class Size:** Limited to 25

**Materials Fee:** None

_Terry Ortlieb is a semi-retired entrepreneur who sold his technology consulting company to Oracle. His formal education was in philosophy and he has maintained a strong interest in existential philosophy as well as the philosophy of science and history. He believes that the discussion associated with representing philosophical thought through music and cinema can lead to a very exciting class._
In Fall, 2017, I offered a course at OLLI South on the Gilded Age, claiming that the period in the last third of the 19th Century was a turning point in U.S. history. Actually, the Gilded Age was only Part I of this turning point. Part II – the focus of this course on the Progressive Era – will demonstrate a swing of the pendulum in the opposite direction. The Progressive-led direction of the pendulum characterized a big shift in U.S. public sentiment about what direction people felt their country should be headed.

The period between 1900 and 1920 marked a time when Progressives fought back against extremely unequal wealth, environmental degradation, limited life chances of immigrants and the urban poor, and the incredible power over the economy and government by a few unelected wealthy plutocrats. Instead of leaving outcomes exclusively to “the market,” Progressives believed in studying and analyzing social and economic problems, proposing solutions, and then audaciously demanding that government intervene to right the wrongs being targeted!

Both the unbridled industrial growth that occurred within the laissez-faire environment of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era’s successful calls for government intervention to help level the playing field were revolutionary in our history. Significantly, the swings between the two positions have continued to the present.

Theodore Roosevelt will loom large in this course, as will a number of other familiar reformers and muckraking journalists who played a part as antidotes to Gilded Age excesses.

Please note: Participants need not have taken the previous course on the Gilded Age to enroll.

Book/Materials: Handouts will be emailed by facilitator
Class Type: Discussion, DVDs
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Anne Marshall Christner, Master Facilitator, has a long interest in social and economic change – how it comes about, who benefits, what are the outcomes? She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, and will bring that perspective to this course.
The “A-Ha” Moments: Remembering and Writing Your Life Stories

Facilitator: Connie Shoemaker

Whether you’re just beginning a life story project or already have one in progress, this class will help you to uncover memories and put them into well-written stories. The first hour will focus on exercises that stimulate retrieval of memories in addition to discussion and practice in the craft of writing memoir. You’ll learn how to create scenes, find the big ideas, develop character and dialogue, improve description, use metaphor, and more.

During the second hour, you may share short journal assignments in a writing circle to receive encouragement and suggestions from other participants. Discovery of those “a-ha moments” in your life story will be a bonus for participating in this class.


Class Type: Interactive, including writing

Class Size: Limited to 25

Materials Fee: None

Connie Shoemaker is co-founder of Spring International Language Center. She has authored five books related to international education and a poetry book published during her four years in Cairo, Egypt. Her memoir, The Good Daughter, was published in 2015. At present, she is completing a book that focuses on the life stories of two Muslim women in America.
The Fascinating World of Robotics

Facilitator: Pat Smith

7 wks, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17

How exactly do robots work? What does it take to build a robot that can, for a period of time, perform tasks and make decisions with little human input? What are the most revolutionary robots at work today? How do we balance the technological benefits of robots with the potential risks they pose to pre-existing ways of life?

There are concerns about the increasing use of robots and their role in society. Robots are blamed for rising unemployment as they replace workers in increasing numbers of functions. The use of robots in military combat raises ethical concerns. The possibilities of robot autonomy and potential repercussions have been addressed in fiction and may be a realistic concern in the future.

This course will draw heavily from The Great Courses lectures on Robotics by Professor John Long and will be supplemented by relevant and fascinating TED talks.

Book/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, guest speakers
DVDs and videos
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Pat Smith previously taught this class, as well as a class on Artificial Intelligence. She retired after a career as an executive in Information Technology in banking, pharmaceuticals and non-profits.
Bridge is the world’s most popular card game. It is a great way to exercise the mind with communication, visualization, probabilities, math, and socialization. The game of bridge dates back to the 16th century when Europeans were playing triumph. Triumph evolved into whist in the 1700s and was made internationally famous by Edmond Hoyle. With the introduction of the bidding (or auction) concept in the late 19th century, whist evolved into auction bridge. Ely Culbertson in the 1930s, then Charles Goren in the 1950s popularized the game of bridge even further. It is played by nearly 40 million people just in North America with international tournaments annually.

This class is for experienced bridge players who want to enhance their defensive techniques. This is a follow-on to the winter session on advanced defender techniques with emphasis on counting defensive and declarer tricks, signaling, unblocking, forcing defense, destroying declarer’s communication, and defending deceptively.

**Prerequisite:** Preferably completion of the Winter Advanced Defense class, or instructor approval based on bridge playing experience with current standard techniques.

**Books/Materials:** *25 Ways to be a Better Defender* by Barbara Seagram and David Bird

**Class Type:** Lecture and bridge hand play

**Class Fee:** Members $60; Guests $100

**Class Size:** Minimum of 8, maximum of 20

Wilt Cooper is a retired Aerospace Engineer from Lockheed Martin and an active competitive bridge player. He has played the game of bridge since college, learning more each step of the way. Wilt has earned a Bronze Life Master in bridge, is teacher accredited by the ACBL, and has taught the game for several years. Because he is so passionate about the game, he wants to share the bridge experience with everyone.
Thursday 9:30-11:30

Red Dawn: The Russian Civil War and The Birth of the USSR

Facilitator: Wayne Cassell

On November 11, 1918 the guns fell silent on the Western Front. For Western Europe and America, the fighting was over. But the end of The Great War did not bring peace to Eastern Europe. The years 1917-1923 brought revolution and civil war as a host of nationalistic, ethnic, and political interests vied for freedom and sovereignty. In Russia millions died and millions more were displaced as one tyrannical government was replaced by an equally totalitarian government and system. The repercussions of these events impact us to this day.

The class starts with a brief history of the rise of Marxism and the reign of Nicholas II, focusing on 1916 and the WWI in the east. This is followed by the Russian Revolution, Russian Civil War and other civil wars, the Russo-Polish War 1920, and the death of Lenin.

Book/Materials: Handouts emailed by facilitator
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVD and videos, guest speaker
Class Size: Limited to 25
Materials Fee: None

Wayne Cassell is a former U.S. Army armor officer in Germany during the late 1970s. During the 1980s he was a tactical training consultant for the army before moving to Colorado and becoming a technical illustrator. An avid amateur military historian, he finds his passion for history is useful in his hobbies which include building models and playing strategy war games.
Based on a NEH seminar “Faith, Reason, and the Meaning of Life” at Notre Dame, this course will guide participants through a selection of Pascal’s arguments for the existence of God and the needed wager we must all make (betting on God no matter what the odds) for the salvation of our souls.

Participants will be asked to read and discuss certain portions of the *Pensees*, Pascal’s collection of thoughts about man’s wretchedness, man’s indifference to his plight, the struggle between reason and imagination, etc.

**Book/Materials:** Blais Pascal’s *Pensees*, Penguin Classic, is required

**Class Type:** Lecture, class discussion

**Class Size:** Limited to 25

**Materials Fee:** None

*Steve Hoemann* is a retired English teacher with 47 years of experience. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Northern Iowa and has been the fortunate recipient of three NEH summer sessions for teachers.
Thursday 1:00 - 3:00

Cries for Freedom, Voices of Diversity

Facilitator: Sally Walling

Dolores Huerta, Red Cloud, Langston Hughes, Lin Manuel Miranda, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Gary Soto, Sojourner Truth, Colson Whitehead, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin — are you familiar with these famous writers and poets? These are just a few of the voices of diversity we will study as we increase our knowledge and understanding of the literature of many Americans who may or may not be familiar to you.

Through the forms of short story, essay, poetry, drama and film we will try to really listen to the voices of the past and present in our search for answers to the issues confronting our country today. We will be reading and discussing Colson Whitehead’s novel, *The Underground Railroad*, as part of our journey. This will be a participatory, discussion-based class.

Because of the themes of the novel and literature to be studied there may be words and/or images that some may find offensive. Please come to class with an open heart and an open mind.

“Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die,
Life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.” — Langston Hughes

Book/Materials: *The Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead is required

Class Type: Lecture, class discussion, DVD and videos

Class Size: Limited to 25

Materials Fee: None

*Sally Walling* is a retired Language Arts teacher with a lifelong passion for movies and literature. She has discovered that taking and facilitating classes for adults through OLLI is the most rewarding experience of her golden years!
Roundtable — An In-depth Discussion of Current Events

Facilitator: Bayard Breeding and Paul Mauro, Senior Facilitator

Every day through the media we are informed on current events affecting our lives, often with only short descriptions that can leave us with an incomplete understanding.

In this course you will have the opportunity to explore through in-depth discussion of current events and come to a better understanding of them. The facilitators will send links to articles or materials for discussion. In the past we have looked at health care, domestic terrorism, education and more. The class will be asked to suggest topics to discuss.

Book/Materials: Articles suggested by facilitators
Class Type: Lecture, discussion, DVD
Class Size: Limited to 35
Materials Fee: None

Bayard Breeding has facilitated three OLLI courses in the past. His main interests are food, politics and current events.

Paul Mauro, Senior Facilitator, joined OLLI Denver in 2012, after participating in OLLI in Prescott, AZ for many years. He spent his career with large-scale, highly specialized computer systems, starting in the era of big mainframe computers in the 60s. He has led many different OLLI classes including Cybersecurity, TEDTalks, Supreme Court, and Media Ethics.
Thursday 1:00-3:00

Understanding Why Islam and Christianity Are Different

Facilitator: Ed Struzeski

Muslims and Christians have had great difficulties over the centuries. Especially since 9/11, emotions have been running high. In the U.S. there are five to seven or more million Muslims, and worldwide 2.4 billion Christians, and almost two billion Muslims. There is the need for both sides to come together. What is meant by the Qur’an, Shariah, jihad, fatwas, hadiths?

This is a basic course on better understanding Islam, differences and similarities from Christianity—mainly from the perspective of Muslims. We will explore Islam’s challenge to Christian Theology, Jesus in the Qur’an and the Bible, biography of Muhammad in Mecca and Medina, the hadiths and Shariah law, Christianity under Islam, Christian arguments for their religion, Thomas Aquinas, and Evangelical Protestantism and the Catholic Church dealing with Islam. We should try to understand Islam from the “inside.” U.S. politics and the media continue to paint a bleak picture of Muslims. Each class will present two lectures from a “Now You Know Media” video series on “Christian and Islamic Theology” given by Professor Gabriel Said Reynolds, Dept. of Theology at Notre Dame University.

Some of the issues for class discussion may include:

• Does origin of Islamic violence lie in politics and economics rather than religion?
• What is the balance between terrorism ascribed to Islam in comparison to collateral damage claimed by the U.S.?
• What are the real reasons why Muslim countries have failed to keep up with the West?
• What is the role of democracy vs. other approaches in the Muslim world?
• Major events in history that have caused Islam to distrust and fear the West? Colonialism, Wahhabism, U.S. interference in the Middle East are some of these.
• How can we agree on how to disagree, and seek common ground?


Class Type: DVD lectures, facilitator presentation, group discussion

Class Size: No limit

Materials Fee: None

Ed Struzeski is a retired civil, chemical and environmental engineer who was a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, various federal agencies, EPA, and consulting engineering firms. He has been an avid reader with special interest in history, religion and indigenous people. He is on various committees and groups, and been with OLLI South for more than three years.
Thursday 1:00-3:00

**Victorian Slum House/1900 House: Experiments in Living History**

**Facilitators:** Mary Morris and Tony Morgan

Continuing our exploration of the past using period houses as time machines (Colonial House, Manor House), we will make two more excursions: The Victorian Slum House and The 1900 House.

Victorian Slum House takes viewers back to the British slums of the 1800s, where a group of modern-day families, couples and individuals recreate life in London’s East End between 1860-1900. Faced with the virtually impossible task of earning enough money to pay the rent and put food on the table, the participants experience first-hand the tough living and working conditions endured by the millions who made up the urban poor in Victorian Britain. We follow participants as they move into an 1860s tenement made up of sparse rooms, a shared water pump and outhouses, where they seek to make a living by matchbox making, wood turning and the rag trade. We also observe the social changes that occur as the end of the 19th century nears. It’s an eye-opening experience for the participants as they each confront the harsh realities of the past and together lay the groundwork for welfare reform in the 20th century.

The 1900 House, in South-East London, was originally built in the 1890s. To make it a 1900 house, all modern elements were removed, including electricity, insulation, indoor toilet, and central heating. Period fixtures such as a cast-iron oven and fireplaces were installed. Then a middle class family, the Bowlers, moved in, trying to live as late Victorians in 1900 for three months. The Bowler family is a likable family: nine-year-old Joe is a computer games addict, teenage Kathryn is a club hopper, and preteen twins Hilary and Ruth are still young enough to be the most mature people in the family. Add mother Joyce, a school inspector on hiatus, and father Paul, a Royal Marine.

We will view video chapters each week, followed by discussion of the issues and questions that arise from the re-enactors’ experience.

**Book/Materials:** None

**Class Type:** Discussion, DVD/videos

**Class Size:** No limit

**Materials Fee:** None

*Mary Morris* is a former policy analyst at the RAND Corporation and a former adjunct professor at the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. She is fortunate to have co-facilitated classes with Tony Morgan!

*Tony Morgan* is a retired Air Force Officer and Engineer. He looks to historical precedent to provide insights into the present across a broad spectrum of experience. He has really enjoyed co-facilitating the “Time Machine” series of courses with Mary Morris.
What is This Thing Called Existentialism?

Facilitator: Terry Ortlieb

We will discover and discuss how and why the unique inquiry termed existentialism brought philosophy out of the university and back into the world.

This will be an existential adventure and learning experience for those who have zero to extensive knowledge of philosophy.

Book/Materials: Existentialism for Beginners - by David Cogswell
Class Type: Lecture, discussion
Class Size: Limited to 25
Materials Fee: None

Terry Ortlieb is a semi-retired entrepreneur who sold his technology consulting company to Oracle. His formal education was in Philosophy and he has maintained a strong interest in the philosophy of science and history. He believes that all of the attendees, along with himself will come away with a clearer understanding and appreciation of existentialism.
**Friday 9:30-11:30**

**interActive Learning**

**Beginning Birdwatching**
**With the Audubon Society**

**Facilitator:** Dick Anderson and Cynthia Kristensen
- 4 wks, May 4 - Introductory class held in classroom
- May 11, 18, 25 - Field trips
- Locations TBD based on spring bird activity
- Locations will be shared during the introductory class

New to birding in Colorado? Wonder where to begin? Let Audubon Master Birders help you learn about bird identification through sight, sound, and habitat, as well as choices for binoculars, scopes and field guides. Instruction takes place on field trips to the best birding spots in the Denver metro area. Learn to develop a practiced eye and ear. Meet new friends and change the way you spend time outdoors!

**Book/Materials:** None
**Class Type:** Field trips
**Class Size:** Limited to 15
**Materials Fee:** Class fee $40.00 for members and guests

**Dick Anderson** is a returning OLLI instructor, as well as a long-time Master Birder with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver. He currently volunteers with our exciting and engaging school programs, public programs, and at the Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield.

**Cynthia Kristensen** is a current Audubon Master Birder who will be graduating with the 2018 class.
Friday 9:30-11:30
interActive Learning

High Line Canal Walking Classroom:
From Waterton Canyon to Green Valley
A 71-mile adventure over two semesters

Facilitator: Chris Englert

The High Line Canal runs through the mosaic of Denver from just south of Denver International Airport to Waterton Canyon in Littleton. Meandering through rural to suburban to urban and back, this 140-year old treasure invites a 71-mile walking adventure rooted in the wild history of water rights and access in Denver. During this walking class, we will pick up where we left off from the Winter 2018 class at mile marker 29.

The longest segment on the southern half is just over seven miles long. We will walk from Mile Marker 1 to 29. We’ll start in Waterton Canyon ending halfway on our 71-mile adventure.

The first meeting will be held in the classroom where we will discuss logistics, an overview of the High Line, and introduce the High Line Canal Conservancy. The remaining meetings will begin at trailheads. Class members may participate in as many segments as they like during the term.

Books/Materials: Students are strongly encouraged to read two books: A Ditch in Time by Patti Limerick and Thunder Tree by Mike Pyle. Both are available on Amazon, new and used.

Class Type: Lecture, walking required
Class Fee: $50 per participant: $80 for guests
Class Size: Minimum of 20, maximum of 25

Chris Englert, the Walking Traveler and Denver’s Urban Hiker, believes walking is the platform for life. Chris volunteered into wander lusting at age five, and she’s since traveled all 50 U.S. states and 51 countries. Chris shares her love of walking while traveling via blogs, books and presentations. A natural storyteller, she invites you along as she explores the world, one walk at a time. Chris is the author of the book titled Denver’s Best Urban Hikes.
Who Are the Facilitators?

They are people….just like you!

At the heart of OLLI are our facilitators and curriculum. OLLI is successful because every term we have an intriguing curriculum and a “faculty” of dedicated people volunteering their time to make it happen.

The majority of OLLI facilitators have never taught a class in their lives. They all find many different ways to organize a class based on the topic and their style – some prepare discussion questions from the text they have chosen; some prefer using lecture tapes and building a discussion around them; others have members of the class give reports; and many invite guest lecturers.

How can you find out about becoming a facilitator?

It is quite easy. You may begin by simply indicating your interest to anyone on the Curriculum Committee or Jenny Fortenberry. They will be delighted to answer your questions and offer suggestions.

2017-2018 OLLI South Advisory Council

Bob Armstrong, Financial Liaison
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Kay Bowman
Jenny Fortenberry
Stuart Gentry
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Sally Walling, Curriculum Committee Chairwoman
# 2017-2018 OLLI South Curriculum Committee

## Curriculum Committee

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Directions to OLLI South

Valley View Christian Church
11004 Wildfield Lane
Littleton, CO 80125

South Santa Fe Drive (Hwy 85) to Titan Parkway (approximately 4 miles south of C470 or 10 miles north of Castle Rock). Turn east, and then left on Wildfield Lane and follow the road up to the church on the hill.

All OLLI South classes are held at:
Valley View Christian Church
11004 Wildfield Lane
Littleton, CO 80125

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at DU (OLLI)
2211 South Josephine Street
Denver, CO 80208
(303) 871-3090

Go online to learn more about OLLI: www.portfolio.du.edu/ollisouth