

# AUM

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

**WINTER 2026**



**reINVENT  
RETIREMENT!**

[www.aum.edu/OLLI](http://www.aum.edu/OLLI)

# AUM

AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
AT MONTGOMERY

CONTINUING EDUCATION

# About OLLI at AUM

Research on aging stresses the importance of keeping your body and mind moving to slow the growth of diseases of all kinds. That is where OLLI at Auburn University at Montgomery plays an instrumental part. The **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)** is part of a national network of 120 institutes connected to major colleges or universities across the country. The program is now serving more than 100,000 senior adults each year who want to remain lifelong learners.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Auburn University at Montgomery is a membership program designed especially for retirees/senior adults. Membership benefits include:

- AUM library borrowing privileges
- Invitation to attend AUM OLLI lunch presentations and bonus opportunities
- Eligibility to join the AUM Wellness Center at a discounted rate
- Free admission to AUM athletic events
- Opportunity to attend OLLI at AUM field trips
- Free admission to Theatre AUM productions
- Discount on single tickets at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival
- Free AUM OLLI ID card

**Fees:**

Membership Fees per year: \$40.00

Course Fees per term: \$50.00

Summer Mini-term Fee: \$25.00

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[WWW.AUM.EDU/OLLI](http://WWW.AUM.EDU/OLLI)



# Winter Class Schedule

January 26 – March 13, 2026

MONDAY		
10:00-11:30 AM	12:45-2:15 PM	2:30-4:00 PM
Pain Management with Tai Chi, Ruth DeRamus and Elaine Ward	Writing Workshop, Writing (and Printing) Your Favorite Family Memories Nancy Grisham Anderson	Making Jewelry with Beads, Albert and Sue Medina
Backyard Garden Series, Master Gardeners in the Central Alabama Region	Intelligence in the 21st Century, William Dean	Game Time
Consciousness Exploration, Gary Kennington	Game Time	

TUESDAY			
9:00 AM -Indefinite	10:00-11:30 AM	12:45-2:15 PM	2:30-4:00 PM
Intermediate Hiking, Dottie Blair	Brain Bowl, Lynda Smitherman	Zentangle in the Round, Suzie Smith and Muffin Hand	Connections 2, Jim Barber and Herb Shivers
	Torn Paper Art, Muffin Hand		Introduction to Modern Bridge, Dale Baskett

WEDNESDAY		
10:00-11:30 AM	12:45-2:15 PM	2:30-4:00 PM
Let's Visit Italy!, Maria Luisa Ardon	Mah Jongg for Beginners, Dorothy Andrews, Vicky Benton, and Jackie Armstrong	Intermediate Mah Jongg, Dorothy Andrews, Vicky Benton, and Jackie Armstrong
		American Classical Music, Mark Benson
		The American Revolution, Daniel Haulman

THURSDAY		
10:00-11:30 AM	12:45-2:15 PM	2:30-4:00 PM
Bunco, Lynda Smitherman		

Registration for Winter 2026 Term - Friday, December 5, 2025  
online at [www.aum.edu/olli](http://www.aum.edu/olli) or in-person at  
75 Techna Center Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117

# AUBURN OLLI SHARES (ZOOM ONLY)

(Note that dates and times of classes are not the same as AUM OLLI)  
Courses offered in collaboration with other Osher  
Lifelong Learning Institutes across Alabama, featuring  
shared instruction and discussion via Zoom.

## Russia-Ukraine: Forward to the Past

**Instructor:** Jay West

**January 20 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays 9:00 - 10:30 AM Zoom Only**

This course examines the historical and geopolitical roots of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, exploring how past events shape the present and influence the future. Through an analysis of political dynamics, historical narratives, and global responses, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the ongoing crisis. Discussions will address key moments in Russian and Ukrainian history, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the complex relationship between these two nations. By drawing connections between past and present, the course provides insight into the broader implications of the conflict on global affairs.

**About the Instructor:** Jay West holds a Ph.D. in Russian History from Princeton University and has over 39 years of teaching experience at Trinity College and Middlebury College. He is a frequent instructor for OLLI programs, offering in-depth courses on Russian and European history.

## English History: Before the Tudors

**Instructor:** Joseph Kicklighter

**January 20 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM Zoom Only**

This course examines English history in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century following the Plantagenet dynasty, spotlighting the rise and struggles of the Lancastrian and Yorkist dynasties. Special attention will be given to King Henry V and his pivotal role in the Hundred Years' War, along with an exploration of Richard III—both the historical figure and the myths surrounding him. The course brings to life a dramatic era of English political intrigue, warfare, and royal power struggles that set the stage for the Tudor dynasty.

**About the Instructor:** Joseph Kicklighter, Ph.D., is a retired Professor of Medieval History from

Auburn University. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the South and obtained his Ph.D. from Emory University. Since 2015, he has also been teaching for OLLI.

## The Instruments of Folk and Roots Music

**Instructor:** Mike Reinke

**January 20 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 PM Zoom Only**

Discover the origins and evolution of American folk and roots music, with special attention to African-American folk traditions and their commercial separation from Anglo-American folk music. This course also explores the folk music of Alabama, the structure and composition of traditional folk, roots, and blues music, and the lasting cultural impact of influential musicians.

**About the Instructor:** Mike Reinke, Ph.D., is a retired Auburn University faculty member who taught in the School of Pharmacy for 22 years and received several teaching awards. He has been teaching in the OLLI at Auburn program since 2016.

## Local Naturalists

**Coordinator:** Gary Wagoner

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**

**Mondays, 2:00-3:30 PM Zoom Only**

A team of seven local naturalists will guide this multi-disciplinary course, exploring topics such as botany, ichthyology, ornithology, geology, and ecology. Each instructor will share their unique expertise and personal observations, offering insights into the remarkable natural diversity of our region. This course provides a deep dive into the natural world through the eyes of those who have spent years studying and appreciating the environment around us.

**About the Coordinator:** Gary Wagoner is a local artist and naturalist who has taught numerous OLLI courses on Alabama's environment and geology.

# Bonus Opportunities

## (Please Register)

### Volunteering for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (Two-week mini-workshop)

The 2026 Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is being hosted by Auburn University at Montgomery and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival the week of February 02 - 07, 2026. The theatre program needs help - preparing, hosting, and other duties. To help out, AUM OLLI is creating this two-week course: the first week will be devoted to creating a schedule for the volunteer assignments and getting a parking pass (bring your OLLI schedule so you do not conflict with a course for which you have registered); the second week will be devoted to carrying out the volunteer assignments. The course will not meet after the festival concludes.

**Week One:** January 26, Monday, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
at the Center for Lifelong Learning

**Week Two:** February 02 - 07, miscellaneous times at Theatre AUM and ASF

**Instructors:** Val Winkelman and Faith Roberts

### AUM OLLI Book Discussion Group

Readers gather to discuss a designated book. Sometimes discussions and references carry over from one session to another, but OLLI members may attend any one or all of the sessions.

Winter reading list:

February 03 - Harper Lee, *Land of Sweet Forever*  
February 17 - Susan Heywood, *Wavewalker*  
March 03 - Donna Everhart, *The Saints of Swallow Hill*

**First and Third Tuesdays of each month during the Winter Term, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Discussion Leader:** Nancy Grisham Anderson

### Selma - Dallas County Book Group

Readers gather at the Selma - Dallas County Library to discuss a designated book. Sometimes discussions and references carry over from one session to another, but OLLI members may attend any one or all of the sessions.

January 13 - Lamar Alexander, *Six Months*  
February 10 - Susan Heywood, *Wavewalker*  
March 10 - Donna Everhart, *The Saints of Swallow Hill*

**Second Tuesday of each month during the Winter Term, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Discussion Leader:** Nancy Grisham Anderson

# Lunch Presentations

## (Please Register)

### How to Enroll and Pay Online for AUM OLLI

Come learn how to enroll and pay online for your OLLI courses. This presentation will prepare you for registration.

**Tuesday, December 02, 2025**  
**11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Kelly Davis, Coordinator, Continuing Education

### AUM Student Nominees for Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Theatre AUM students connected with the productions of *The Birdz* and *Blood at the Root* were nominated for awards and will be preparing for the conference the week of February 02-07. The lunch presentation period will be available to these nominees to rehearse their performances and presentations with an AUM OLLI audience.

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**  
**11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Theatre AUM Professors

# Lunch Presentations

## (Please Register)

### Engaging the Past at Your Museum of Alabama

The 2025 renovations at the Museum of Alabama are growing the museum's ability to tell engaging stories about the past in Smithsonian-quality exhibitions. Improvements coming online include "Alabama Military Stories," a gallery exploring the themes of service, community, and legacy through the experiences of Alabamians in uniform, veterans, their families, and their communities. An all-new Children's Gallery will feature opportunities for young children and their caregivers to explore the past together and to build connections over what makes Alabama special. Updated Native American content will enrich visitors' knowledge of early Alabama and the ongoing vitality of Native people today.

**Monday, February 09, 2026**

**11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Steve Murray

Director, Alabama Department of Archives and History

### Communication Self-Protection or How Not to Get Duped: Critical Thinking for the Modern Consumer of Information, Goods, and Services

Applying the principles of critical thinking and argumentation, this interactive lunch presentation will discuss some of the most common techniques that take advantage of communication consumers, buyers, and citizens.

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

**11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Benita Dilley

### Engineering Updates, Part 1

San Francisco's Leaning and Sinking Condo Tower - a brief review of engineering errors, construction errors, city approval errors/malfeasance, and legal resulting frenzy. There will be an update on the current status of the 58-story Millennium Tower and the various repair methods that have been proposed, attempted, abandoned, and revised. The settling began (was discovered) some time in 2015.

The Oroville Dam Overtopping, Washout, and Repair - a brief review of failed engineering, construction, and maintenance that resulted in a catastrophic failure causing over 180,000 people to be evacuated. This will be followed by a complete update on the repair work and methods used to repair the dam. Also, the upwardly spiraling and escalating costs involved in repair will be addressed. The event occurred at approximately 9:52 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, 2017.

Part 2 (in spring term) will cover the FIU-Sweetwater University City Pedestrian Bridge collapse in Miami and the Baltimore iconic Francis Scott Key Bridge collision in the spring of 2024.

**Wednesday, March 04, 2026**

**11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Jim Barber

### Art with a Purpose: Changing the Course, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show *Creating, Mentoring, Healing, and Sharing Hope with Others*

Art can be a game-changer for people on parole, as well as those incarcerated, often providing a springboard for positive change. The creative art classes impact their mental wellbeing, confidence, and sense of community. Art allows them to have positive ways to express their thoughts and feelings without having to verbalize each emotion. Some of the creative pieces will be displayed, and the genesis of the creative process discussed.

**Date & Time: TBA**

**Speakers:** Jill Kelley and Laura Hughes,  
Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles

# Field Trips

## (Please Register)

### AUM OLLI Goes to Basketball Games

AUM OLLI has scheduled a Saturday afternoon at the AUM Physical Education Complex to attend a double-header of women's and men's basketball games. The women's game begins at 2:00 p.m. followed at 4:00 p.m. by the men's game, with supper served between the games (about 3:45 p.m.). With convenient parking, OLLI members have free admission, complimentary courtside with chair-back seating, and supper.

**Deadline for registration:** February 10, 2026.

This is a good time for OLLI members to get sports-minded relatives and friends involved in the AUM OLLI program.

**Fee for supper (non-refundable):** \$12.00

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**

**2:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

AUM Physical Education Complex

### Changing the Course, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show *A night of food, music, beverages, and creative art*

Art can be a game-changer for people on parole, often providing a springboard for positive change. The creative art classes impact their mental wellbeing, confidence, and sense of community. Art allows them to have

positive ways to express their thoughts and feelings.

**Location:** Alabama Department of Archives and History  
624 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104

**Date:** TBA

**Time:** 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

### The Museum of Alabama - Alabama Department of Archives and History

The Museum of Alabama, located at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery, is the only destination where you can explore Alabama's story from prehistory to the present. The group will start the field trip at 12:30 at the Center for Lifelong Learning for lunch together. We will load the bus at 1:30 to travel to the Alabama Department of Archives and History to tour The Museum of Alabama (see the lunch presentation for February 09 given by Steve Murray, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History). We will return to the Center about 3:30 p.m.

**Deadline for registration:** February 23, 2026.

**Limited enrollment:** 40

**Field trip fee (includes bus and lunch - nonrefundable):** \$20.00

**Friday, February 27, 2026**

**12:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

# Class Descriptions

## (Please Register)

### Pain Management with Tai Chi

This course is designed using specific adaptive moves that have been developed over centuries to deal with pain relief. Individuals will engage in standing and sitting adaptive activities. Please wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes and bring two-pound weights or water bottles. The class improves balance, posture, strength, flexibility, circulation, and calmness.

**Limited enrollment:** 15 participants

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**

**Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructors:** Ruth DeRamus and Elaine Ward



# Class Descriptions

## (Please Register)

### Backyard Garden Series

Each week will be a different speaker on a different garden topic from butterflies, vegetables, herbs, pruning, and more.

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructors:** Master Gardeners in the Central Alabama Region

### Consciousness Exploration

Consciousness, at its simplest, is awareness of states of objects either internal to one's self or in one's external environment. However, its nature has led to millennia of explanations, analyses, and debates among philosophers, scientists, and theologians.

Robert Monroe (1915 - 1995) was an American broadcasting executive who became known for his ideas about altered state of consciousness. He is credited with popularizing the term "out of body experience." He created the Monroe Institute, dedicated to the exploration of human consciousness. In 1978, the U. S. military evaluated the Monroe Institute and began sending officers for training for out of body experiences. This is related to our government's "remote viewing" program designed to obtain data on various enemy threats.

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Gary Kennington

### Writing Workshop: Writing (and Printing) Your Favorite Family Memories

Are there family stories you need to preserve and share with members of your family? Get started on collecting your family stories. Illustrate them with family pictures and print them for Christmas gifts or other special occasions. Participate in this informal writing workshop to start your collection.

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Nancy Grisham Anderson

### Intelligence in the 21st Century

This course examines the role of U.S. intelligence in the global war on terror from 2001 until 2020. It looks at attempted intelligence reforms and the creation of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Intelligence failures such as the failure to find weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq will be discussed. The challenges of combatting terrorism and insurgency will be discussed. The role of intelligence and Irregular Warfare will be examined. There will be a discussion of the creation of fusion intelligence cells that will be analyzed. The role of new technology and drones will be examined. Successes and failures of Western intelligence will be analyzed. There will be an analysis of the shift from counterterrorism to great power competition. The challenges of Russia, Iran, and North Korea will be examined. Finally, the course will look at the future of intelligence and the role of domestic politics.

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.**

**Instructor:** William Dean

### Game Time

AUM OLLI members who register for this "course" will have access to Room 220 on Mondays from 12:45 to 4:00 p.m. to play any game of their choosing - Bridge, Mah Jongg, Monopoly, Scrabble, Canasta, Chess, or any other. Members are responsible for organizing their own group (all participants must be AUM OLLI members and must be registered for the "course"), and they must bring their own game equipment. The card tables will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Limited enrollment:** 24 participants

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 12:45 - 4:00 p.m.**



# Class Descriptions

(Please Register)



## Making Jewelry with Beads

This is an introductory course in the basics of designing bead necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Participants will learn about selecting beads, basic bead thread knotting, attaching clasps, and other basic jewelry elements. Participants must bring to the first class a bath towel, ruler, and scissors. The class materials fee covers bracelet, necklace, and earring kits.

**Limited enrollment: 15**

**Materials fee:** \$20 to be paid to the instructors on the first day of class

**January 26 - March 09, 2026**  
**Mondays, 2:30 - 4:00 pm**

**Instructors:** Albert and Sue Medina

## Intermediate Hiking

Participants meet at the Center for Lifelong Learning parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays to carpool to hikes. They can also meet at the trailhead at 9:45 a.m. if they don't want to carpool. Hikes are 2.5 to 4 miles, and all are around the Lake Martin area. Participants must bring at least one, preferably two, hiking poles, plenty of water, and a light snack like fruit or nuts. Hiking shoes/boots are preferred but not required. We stop for lunch on the way home (also not required). Everyone should be back in Montgomery around 2:00 p.m., if all goes well.

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**  
**Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. - Indefinite**

**Instructor:** Dottie Blair



## Brain Bowl

We all know that we must exercise our bodies to keep in shape, but exercising our brains is just as important. Join this happy group of thinkers and guessers in Brain Bowl, the OLLI (and easier) version of Jeopardy, and start exercising those brain cells. In Brain Bowl, you'll discover that you know more than you thought, AND you'll learn lots of new information along the way.

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**  
**Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Lynda Smitherman

# Class Descriptions

(Please Register)

## Torn Paper Art

We will use small torn pieces of colored paper to create art. The colored paper is torn from magazines.

**Limited enrollment: 12**

**Materials fee:** \$10.00 to be paid to the instructor on the first day of the class

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Muffin Hand

## Zentangle in the Round

Students will learn drawing patterns appropriate for the round paper tiles known as zendalas. Prior zentangle classes are helpful.

**Limited enrollment: 15**

**Materials fee:** \$20.00 (cash) to be paid to the instructor on the first day of the class

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.**

**Instructors:** Suzie Smith, CZT, and Muffin Hand

## Connections 2

This course continues the course begun in the Spring 2025 Term. "Connections" is a BBC science education television series created, written, and presented by British science historian James Burke. This course will cover most of Season 2, which will be finished in the Spring Term. The series of presentations discusses the history of science and invention, and demonstrates how various discoveries, scientific achievements, and historical world events were built from one another, and how, in a sort of ripple effect, modern technology and things we take for granted while living our lives today evolved from a very modest beginning hundreds or thousands of years ago.

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 2:30- 4:00 p.m.**

**Instructors:** Jim Barber and Herb Shivers



## Introduction to Modern Bridge

This is a beginning course in contract bridge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century designed to allow participants to play with any partner and in any type of bridge game, such as home style, Chicago, Duplicate, and On-Line. Basic foundations of the game from hand evaluations, auctions, and play techniques will be the focus of the course as they apply to all styles of the game. It is designed as a starter course but can also help those who wish a basic refresher for the game of bridge.

**January 27 - March 10, 2026**

**Tuesdays, 2:30- 4:00 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Dale Baskett

## Let's Visit Italy!

Come with me and experience a beautiful and historical vicarious trip visiting some of my favorite cities of my country!

**January 28 - March 11, 2026**

**Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Maria Luisa Ardon

# Class Descriptions

## (Please Register)

### Mah Jongg for Beginners

Mah Jongg is an ancient Chinese game played with beautiful tiles that were originally made of ivory. It is similar to gin rummy, but much more involved. Both skill and luck are involved, and while it takes a little time to learn, it is a delightful game that most people truly enjoy once they've played it! In order to be successful at Mah Jongg, attendance in all classes is strongly encouraged.

**Limited enrollment:** 12 participants

**January 28 - March 11, 2026**

**Wednesdays, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.**

**Instructors:** Dorothy Andrews, Vicky Benton, and Jackie Armstrong

### Intermediate Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg is an ancient Chinese game played with beautiful tiles that were originally made of ivory. It is similar to gin rummy but much more involved. Both skill and luck are involved, and while it takes a little time to learn, it is a delightful game that most people truly enjoy once they've played it! This course is designed for participants who are advanced beginners and are ready to play from the National Mah Jongg League card. Students must provide their own card. This course builds upon each session, so attendance is strongly encouraged.

**Limited enrollment:** 21 participants

**January 28 - March 11, 2026**

**Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Instructors:** Dorothy Andrews, Vicky Benton, and Jackie Armstrong

### American Classical Music

This music appreciation course focuses on American contributions to the classical music tradition. While the institutions able to support classical music did not exist in America until the late 19th century, American musicians are now equal practitioners in the international classical music world. Composers to be covered include Charles Ives, Amy Beach, George Gershwin, John Cage, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, John Williams, John Adams, Philip Glass, and other late 20th- and early 21st-century composers.

**January 28 - March 11, 2026**

**Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Mark Benson

### The American Revolution

This course focuses on the origins of the United States, covering the period from 1763 to 1800. It includes events leading up to the war for independence, the Continental Congresses, the battles in New England, the middle colonies, the southern colonies, the war at sea and on the frontier, and the peace agreement. It also examines the Articles of Confederation and the "Critical Period," which led to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It will conclude with discussions of the first presidential administrations. The course will focus on key individuals, key battles, and key documents in the creation of a new nation.

**January 28 - March 11, 2026**

**Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Daniel Haulman

### Bunco

Bunco is a fast-moving social dice game played by millions. It's such a great game because it is easy to play and is almost entirely based on luck. The only skill required is the ability to roll three dice at a time and observe the numbers. Laughter and joy are guaranteed! Come and give it a try; you're bound to be hooked.

**Minimum enrollment:** 12 participants

**Maximum enrollment:** 24 participants

**January 29 - March 12, 2026**

**Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor:** Lynda Smitherman



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