



AT THE
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DAY TRIPPING: Leave the driving and planning to OLLI

By Tracy Coley



The Savoy Automobile Museum, Cartersville (Photo/Savoy Auto. Museum)

Do you want to travel to places in Georgia but don't want to go by yourself? OLLI is planning affordable in-state trips that allow you to sit back and enjoy the ride with friends while we do the planning and navigating.

Our first trip this spring is the **Cartersville: Motors and Molecules Trip** on March 20, perfect for those who are curious about science, enjoy reminiscing about cars from their youth, or learning about women racers. You'll see:

- **The Savoy Automobile Museum.** Open since December 2021, the museum celebrates the history of the automobile industry. Exhibits include "Rolling Sculptures—European Art Deco," 1920s European-designed automobiles; "Wooden Wonders," Woodie wagons with vintage wooden boats; and "Women Racers and Their Cars," an exhibit in honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. Also see a curated collection of original automobile-themed artwork.

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OLLI PILOTS EXPANSION TO UGA GWINNETT CAMPUS

By Roger Allen

Tim Meehan, OLLI Executive Director, announced that OLLI will offer classes this year at the UGA Gwinnett Campus in Lawrenceville as part of a pilot program to serve members and potential members in Gwinnett County.

"Our mission at OLLI is to support the mental and physical health of members by offering lifelong learning and social contact," Tim says. "We have members in Dacula, Lawrenceville and Snellville who will be able to attend OLLI classes and access the UGA Library without driving to Athens. It's another way to engage people in Gwinnett County and serve them better."

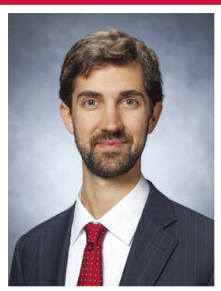
He notes that the UGA Gwinnett Campus presents an ideal opportunity because it is part of UGA, and has plenty of free parking, meeting space, and information technology.

The Gwinnett expansion pilot program initially will offer five on-site classes and some Zoom classes. For those attending classes in person at that campus, the OLLI membership fee will be waived during the five-month pilot program but there still will be a charge for classes. Gwinnett County residents who attend classes in Athens and on Zoom, take travel-study trips, and participate in Shared Interest Groups must still pay the membership fee.

Information about the expansion was sent to Gwinnett members who are on the OLLI contact list, and an open house was held earlier this month. OLLI is also publicizing the expansion within its existing framework, using flyers, publications, personal contacts, public service announcements and the UGA Alumni Association.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

Although you will read this in February, it still feels like we are at the start of 2024. The first month of the year is, of course, named after the Roman god Janus, god of doors, gates, and time. Janus is often shown on coins with two faces—one looking back and one looking forward.

Looking back, we have had to say a sad farewell to Jeanne Davis-Blair, who has returned to California to be closer to her family. She served as chair of the Hospitality Committee (through the year of the pandemic, no less) and more recently of the Travel Study Committee as we restarted travel. She was a great supporter of OLLI, and we will miss her work and her perspective.

Looking forward, we are pleased to welcome Lisa Myers as co-chair of the Curriculum Committee. Lisa recently moved to Athens from Texas, and it is great to see a new member getting involved with OLLI activities. The work of all our committees is hard, but the rewards are always greater than the effort, and most of the meetings I attend are even fun. UGA does not provide us with any programming (though they do provide us with River's Crossing), so every catalog, trip, and social event is put together by our volunteers. Though we have an appreciation event for them in June, we can never thank all the volunteers for everything they do. If you have wanted to see something in the class catalog, or would like to take a trip to an unknown part of Georgia, why not join us to help plan the programming for Fall 2024?

We have great trips coming up (see the article by Tracy Coley on page 1), as well as social events in April and June. Please do join us for any of these events. They're a great way to get to know fellow OLLI members, both new and longer-standing. I look forward to seeing you at classes around River's Crossing throughout 2024.

SOCRATES CAFÉ SIG:

Food for Thought in an Open, Engaging Atmosphere

By Cher Snyder

What is Socrates Café all about? Join us and find out!

OLLI's newest SIG takes on the big questions of human existence and challenges us to dig into them for an hour. Fascinated by the Socrates Café class offered fall semester by Dr. Nathan Gilmour, fellow OLLI member Elizabeth Kraft invited him to facilitate a Shared Interest Group by the same name—and he said yes! If you check out his website at nathangilmour.com, you'll see what an amazing person Nathan is, and how his interests and experience uniquely qualify him to lead us through the thorniest, most challenging topics with enthusiastic grace and aplomb.

We meet the second Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at River's Crossing. All are invited to submit a what, how, or why question about any topic likely to spark discussion, and Nathan selects a gem to kick off our exchange. Using a variation on the Socratic method developed by Christopher Phillips, Nathan reflects and redirects our comments, helping us refine, reframe, and reconsider our ideas. No matter the topic, the conversation is lively, thought-provoking, upbeat, and stimulating.

To sign up for Socrates Café, visit **OLLICOMM** (go to olli.uga.edu and click on **Members Login**). Once logged in, click **Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)** in the menu to the left. Then scroll down the list of SIGs, find and hover over **Socrates Café**, and click **Join Us**. See you there!



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Nominate candidates for:

- Board of Directors
- Treasurer
- President-Elect

Go to:

▶ olli.uga.edu/nominations

DAY TRIPPING

Continued from page 1

- **The Tellus Science Museum.** A Smithsonian Affiliate, the 120,000-square-foot museum features four main galleries: The Weinman Mineral Gallery, The Fossil Gallery, Science in Motion, and The Solar House. Tellus also has a 120-seat digital planetarium and an observatory with a state-of-the-art 20-inch telescope. USA Today named Tellus the #3 science museum in the U.S. in 2021.
- **Lunch at the Swheat Market Deli** in historic Cartersville.

Group travel provides an added value to your experience. Everything is planned for you, giving you peace of mind and time to enjoy the trip. Relax in a luxury coach with provided snacks and connect with friends with similar interests without the stress of filling up the gas tank, navigating busy interstate traffic, or deciding on lunch. Our OLLI day trips often provide a behind-the-scenes tour, like our February 2023 Atlanta Civil Rights Tour.

If you're interested in traveling outside of Georgia, consider these upcoming trips:

- **Landscapes and Lighthouses of Maine,** August 10-16, 2024. The trip is organized by Premier World Discovery, which doesn't require a minimum number of participants. Highlights include a Boston city tour featuring Fenway Park, Casco Bay cruise and



The Weinman Mineral Gallery at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville features more than 50 cases with a variety of gems, gold, and some of Georgia's most prized minerals. (Photo/Tellus Sci. Museum)

lobster clambake, and luxury coach tour to Portland, Kennebunkport, York, Boothbay Harbor, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

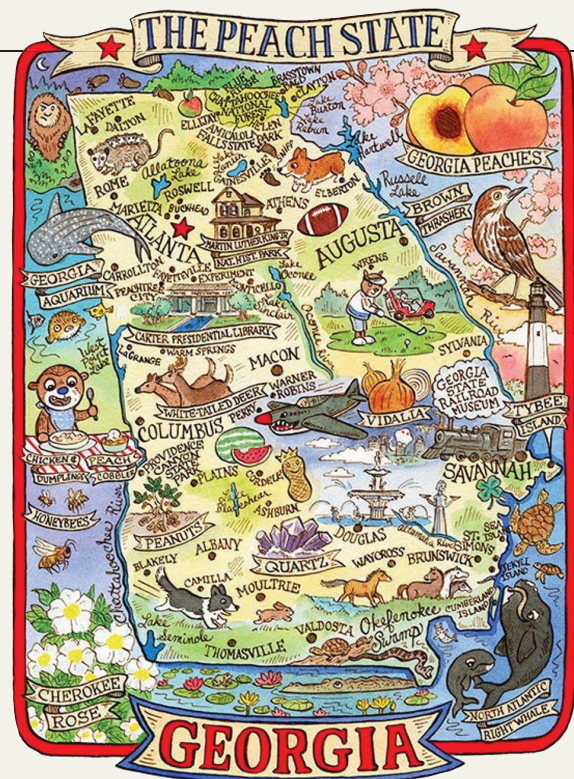
- **Band of Brothers: The Battlefields of D-Day and the Cultural Sites of Normandy,** led by Col. (Ret.) Larry Saul, September 13-22, 2024. The trip is organized by Go Ahead Tours. Visit memorials, trenches, and museums to learn about the important role American forces played in D-Day's outcome. The trip is entirely by private luxury coach.

For more information on all these trips and to register, go to olli.uga.edu/travel.

TRIP SUGGESTIONS!

The Travel Study Committee is considering potential in-state trips for the fall that members and their friends would enjoy, including the Ettowah Indian Mounds and the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, another Dahlongega wine tour, and Callaway Gardens. But we want to know where YOU would like to go!

- ▶ **Do you have a day-trip suggestion that you'd enjoy with your friends? Send an email to olli@uga.edu and let our Travel Study Committee know where you'd be interested in going!**



(Photo/Etsy.com/Sepialupus)



Mahjong SIG
(P. Dixen)



OLLI Fest
(T. Meehan)



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(G. Whiting)

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: SHELLY MAGRUDER

By Ann Allen

Building relationships and trust are priorities for Shelly Magruder as she works with clients to satisfy their wide-ranging real estate needs. "Loving homes and land and understanding the sales process are certainly important but I believe that market knowledge, being a trusted adviser, and remaining calm during a complicated process are priorities, especially in today's ever-changing environment," she explains. "These are traits that come naturally to me and ones that I continue to develop."

Prior to becoming a realtor, Shelly spent 10 years as an OLLI staff member, daily interacting with members in a multi-faceted position. She gained valuable knowledge of the Athens community and fine-tuned her people, problem-solving, and communications expertise, especially related to people age 50+.

Shelly has owned vacation and long-term rental property, giving her experience in both income-producing and residential properties. Being a UGA graduate and Athens resident for 40 years further enhances her knowledge of this area.

Coldwell Banker Upchurch Realty has been serving the Athens community and surrounding area for more than 60 years. The firm's more than 100 agents have a wealth of experience in all areas of real estate including residential sales and services, residential subdivisions, referrals and relocation, new construction, commercial sales and leasing, industrial property, farms and land, and site analysis and design.

Thank you, Shelly, for being a sponsor of OLLI@UGA.

You may contact Shelly by phone at 706-614-3391 or by email at shellym.realtor@gmail.com.



Shelly Magruder and her "business partner" Baxter. A former OLLI staff member, Shelly is a licensed real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Upchurch Realty. (Photo/S. Magruder)

SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES HAVE STARTED

You're going to LOVE learning at OLLI this spring! "Astronomy for the Layperson," "Sunken Treasure: Coral Reefs and Climate Change," "Agatha Christie and Her Murderous Drugs," and "10 Elvis Presley Songs and the Stories Behind Them" are just some of the classes offered this semester. Sign up now before the seats fill! Go to olli.uga.edu/catalog.

Website shortcut:
Scan the QR code
with your phone to
go directly to the
catalog.



OLLI EXPANSION

Continued from page 1

"Classes will be member-run," Tim says. "Following the anticipated success of the pilot program, we will have a single point of contact between OLLI offices in Gwinnett and Athens." A successful pilot program would be about 200 new members, he says.



UGA Gwinnett Campus Lobby (Photo/UGA Marketing & Communications)

BOOK DISCUSSION SIG

By Cher Snyder

Founded in 1999, the Book Discussion SIG is among OLLI's longest-running Shared Interest Groups. Its first leader, Marilyn Osterkamp, was succeeded in 2005 by Diana Cerwonka; Cheryl Copeland has led the group since 2017.

Twice a year, Cheryl researches and compiles a list of thirty-two books including true crime documentaries, memoirs, biographies, histories, science, and other works of nonfiction, as well as novels, mysteries, and other types of fiction. Members review the list and vote for six books that will be the subject of discussion in upcoming monthly meetings. Selections from the last vote will be discussed on the following dates:

- March 14 "Billion Dollar Whale: The Man Who Fooled Wall Street" by Bradley Hope and Tom Wright (2018, non-fiction)
- April 11 "The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts" by Joshua Hammer (2017, history)
- May 9 "Tracy Flick Can't Win: A Novel" by Tom Perrota (2022, comic novel)

The next vote will take place at the May 9 meeting. Cheryl notes, "Because the group often reads books we might not otherwise read on our own, we're always learning new things about the world, ourselves, and others."

She loves to engage each member to ensure that everyone participates in the conversation. Cheryl and her fellow SIG members invite you to join their lively discussions at 3:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the 4th floor multipurpose room at Wesley Woods of Athens.



The Book Discussion SIG meets monthly to discuss a book decided upon by the group to read. (Photo/P. Dixen)



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