



AT THE
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ANNUAL FUND DRIVE: WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

By Greg Mitsoff

Our members have contributed \$18,315 toward the OLLI@UGA Annual Fund drive goal of \$20,000. "We're very grateful to our donors, whose gifts enable OLLI to continue offering a wonderful program of classes, social events and travel opportunities," says Carol Kurtz, co-chair of the Fund Development Committee.

Carol notes that, while program activities and membership fees generate 60 percent of our revenue and the annual distribution from the Osher Endowment Fund accounts for 30 percent, OLLI@UGA depends on member donations to make up the remaining 10 percent, which amounts to \$20,000.

Were it not for donations, reaching a balanced budget would necessitate withdrawing funds from our reserve savings account, the purpose of which is to cover unexpected income shortfalls such as the losses we experienced during the COVID pandemic. Donations help avoid using reserve savings for standard operations, thus ensuring those funds are available for financial emergencies.

Like all OLLI projects, the Annual Fund drive is a team effort. Executive Director Tim Meehan, the Fund Development Committee, and the Marketing and Communications Committee all work together very closely to make the initiative a success.

We start with a campaign plan developed by the Marketing and Communications Committee, led by Patricia Diken.

The tried-and-true campaign plan identifies the target audience, sets forth a timeline, and details the

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APRIL SHOWERS AND FLOWERS

By Susan Carley



Greater Dixter House and Gardens in Northiam, England

April showers bring May flowers ... AND the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show in London, England! Whether you're a flower lover, someone who enjoys history and ancient castles, a pub crawler or an afternoon tea aficionado, OLLI@UGA's visit to Southern England this May has something for you.

Our trip begins in London with a private coach tour of the city including its most famous sites and an outing to Kew Gardens. Your evenings are free so you might consider catching a show in London's West End or a backstage tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theater.

If history and architecture rank high on your list of "must-sees," you're certain to enjoy a visit to 13th century Hever Castle, home of Ann Boleyn and in more recent years, American millionaire William Waldorf Astor. The castle contains the Tudor-period furnished bedroom of Henry VIII, who gave it to Anne of Cleves as part of their divorce settlement.

Our trip also includes two nights in the charming city of Bath, known for both its Roman-era bath complex

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tim Meehan

I enjoyed the snow last month – London didn't get as much snow as you'd think (I've had the same number of snow days here as I did in London). The London children especially enjoyed snowball fights and creating snowmen. What I found interesting about the snowmen is that they continued to stand long after the rest of the snow had melted.

In some ways, that is very much like being a member of OLLI. We can sprinkle the ground in wonderful and edifying ways, but it is only when we crunch together to form something longer lasting that we can have a longer-lasting impact.

We're very lucky to have so many volunteers covering so many parts of our organization, but we're always looking for members who bring to OLLI their life experiences. In January, we had a meeting of the Curriculum Committee to start looking at recruiting for Fall 2025. It was wonderful to have new faces around the table to

help bring new classes and presenters to our members. Thank you to all who were able to help with this brainstorming.

We believe that there is a good fit for you somewhere within this organization. Whether you're on a committee or not, you can recruit classes, help organize events or help manage a SIG. Swing by the office to find out more about where you can get involved. For volunteer descriptions, please check out our website: https://olli.uga.edu/olli_about/volunteer/.

Obviously, snowmen don't last forever, but they can be a powerful reminder that by working together, concentrating the work, we can build something wonderful among us.

APRIL SHOWERS

Continued from page 1

and its role in Georgian period architecture and literature. Author Jane Austen lived here and set some of her best-known works in Bath. The Pump Room, Assembly Rooms, and Jane Austen Museum are on the list of sites we'll visit during our stay.

The next phase of our trip is the university town of Oxford, home of the world's oldest English-language institution of learning. Here we'll visit WWI-era allotment gardens and have a personal guided tour of UGA's Oxford Campus.

On our stay in the Oxford area, we'll tour the stately Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace has been the film location for more than 27 productions since 2000, among the most recent *Bridgerton* and Joaquin Phoenix's *Napoleon*.

Our 10-day England visit concludes in London and, for ticket holders, the Chelsea Flower Show. Two days of free time are available for any number of visitor activities from the British Museum and Tower of London to enjoyment of the city's best fish and chips and most historic public houses.

Act now to claim one of the few remaining spots on this fabulous trip. To register, visit olli.uga.edu/travel or point your phone camera at the QR code at the right.



REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS



**Mardi Gras
Social
MARCH 4**



**Hindu Temple
in Lilburn
APRIL 2 (DAY TRIP)**



WELCOME TO THE NEW OLLI@UGA ONLINE STORE!

By Malcolm Richardson

Need to upgrade your sagging OLLI@UGA pullover? Time to replace that once-handsome OLLI@UGA tote with the big grease spot from that leaky paper bag of Italian subs? New to OLLI@UGA and want to show your membership in the town's elite senior organization? Or just want some game-day Bulldog colors and a UGA-related display logo? Just go to olli.uga.edu/swag and your dreams will be fulfilled, without leaving home.

While the popular OLLI@UGA online store for OLLI@UGA-related outerwear previously was available only twice a year for about a month, the new swag store is always open, like your friends at Amazon. You can order a variety of pullovers, bags, and other items directly from the site at any time. In addition to the new easy ordering, all products will ship directly to your chosen address, no more trekking over to River's Crossing to pick up your purchases. Convenient!

Ordering is super simple. Click on the "Purchase OLLI Merchandise" block on the olli.uga.edu home page. Your new garments will be custom produced and shipped directly to the address you enter at check-out. You'll receive an order acknowledgment that will include a link to track your order – be sure to save the email for reference! Shipping will be added at check out. Production time is approximately 10 days, with

three to seven days economy shipping. And no minimum order requirement!

OLLI@UGA swag includes (at the moment) the popular tote bags and stainless-steel tumbler for drinks. Clothing items include men's and women's short-sleeve polo shirts and the long-sleeve French Terry Bomber zip-up jacket. Unisex clothes include short-sleeve crew t-shirts and long-sleeve crew pull-overs. All come with the handsome OLLI@UGA logo prominently but tastefully displayed. There's even a leatherette journal book to keep notes from your OLLI classes, your life story, or your grocery list.

A detailed size chart, much more precise than you usually find online, is available for each garment. Please reference these carefully to ensure your order is the proper size. If you're unsure, order one size up for a better fit. And please be as exact about sizing as you can: these garments will be custom printed, so they're not returnable or exchangeable. Naturally, replacements for damaged goods will be provided in the same color and size.

The items in the online store are our most consistent best sellers. More items may be available online at a later date if there are enough requests.

Go to olli.uga.edu > "Purchase OLLI Merchandise"



Joesi Sifontes, OLLI Polo Shirt



Greg Mitsoff, OLLI French Terry Bomber Jacket



Joan Williams, OLLI Long Sleeve Crew Shirt

Photos/H. Hayes



OLLI Fest
(P. Dixen)



Solo Seniors SIG
(L. McElroy)



Cartersville Trip
(T. Meehan)

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James Oglethorpe Lunch and Learn
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Ellijay Wine Trip
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2025 OLLI Showcase
(P. Dixen)



Flash Mob Coffee SIG
(C. Snyder)



Get On Board SIG
(M. Horton Caricofe)



Holiday Luncheon
(C. Snyder)

HIT THE WATER WITH SPLASHDOWN!

By Gary Whiting

Do you enjoy being on the water with friends? Consider joining the Splashdown SIG! This active outdoors group organizes monthly kayak or canoe paddling activities around Athens and North Georgia.

Originally founded by OLLI@UGA member Jack Hagerman before the pandemic, the group has provided members with opportunities to paddle on Lake Chapman at Sandy Creek Park; Lake Rutledge at Hard Labor Creek State Park; the Broad River; Bear Creek Reservoir; the Chestatee, Tugaloo, and Oconee rivers; as well as the Okefenokee Swamp.

Under the stewardship of SIG leader Gary Whiting, this group emphasizes a safe and fun experience on area waters. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to try their hand at paddling a kayak on placid lakes before venturing out to more challenging rivers. Gary says the group does not attempt any class II whitewater, but will occasionally venture out in gentle rapids and shoals on local rivers like the Chestatee or Upper Broad.

A SIG favorite is Longnose Falls, a lesser-known paradise literally off the grid near Lake Hartwell. Splashdown has visited this hidden gem four times, most recently with 22 members in attendance. The group launched on the Tugaloo River, about an hour and a half from Athens. Paddlers crossed Lake Hartwell to the South Carolina side and meandered up Longnose Creek to reach the base of a tumbling 40-foot waterfall. This is quite the adventure and makes for wonderful memories!

Most recently, 13 members of the SIG traveled to the Okefenokee Swamp. With an overnight stay in Waycross and orientation dinner the night before, they ventured out into the well-marked swamp trails for a six-mile voyage through the marsh to a canoe platform for lunch. Radio and GPS-tracking communications helped ensure everyone remained accounted for and returned safely.

If you own a kayak, the group also conducts shuttle trips through the national forest from the ramp at Oconee River Campground to Dyar's Pasture. Members use a caravan of pickups to shuttle boats and members for this six-mile voyage downstream to Lake Oconee in Greensboro.

For those members who don't own a boat, the SIG



Photo/G. Whiting

also strives to find venues that offer rentals in season. Outfitters offer rental kayaks, canoes, paddles, and safety gear to make the adventure more accessible.

To join the SIG from OLLI COMM, click Shared Interest Groups in the OLLI main menu (<https://olli.uga.edu/>), scroll down to find "Splashdown", then click "Request Access" to join the fun!

OLLI GIVING

Continued from page 1

communications approach for each messaging vehicle, including the *OLLI Times* newsletter, the OLLI@UGA website, Facebook, Instagram, and email.

Tim kicks off the campaign with an email notifying all members of the fund drive and asking everyone to make a gift to OLLI@UGA. The Fund Development Committee provides input to the campaign plan, helps draft the communications, tracks progress, and writes thank-you notes to everyone who donates to the fund drive.

We're just \$1,685 from our goal of \$20,000. Please consider a donation to help meet our goal. Your gift will help increase the number of classes we offer, expand our travel opportunities, enhance advertising and promotion initiatives to attract new members, and continue extending our activities to the UGA Gwinnett Campus.

For more information or to make a donation, go to olli.uga.edu and click "Give" in the top right corner.

OLLI SPONSOR: Trumps Catering

By *Martha McFerron*

Trumps Catering in Athens is a familiar venue for OLLI@UGA events. The small business began as a popular neighborhood bistro-type restaurant on Athens's east side before growing into a catering company that has served the Northeast Georgia area for more than 38 years. Trumps specializes in University of Georgia and corporate events as well as bridal luncheons, rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions, and can provide everything from a barbecue buffet to a five-course dinner.

Trumps is known for its personalized presentation, delicious menu offerings and excellent customer service. It is a complete catering company that works with recommended vendors such as cake bakers, DJs, florists, live entertainment, photographers, and wedding coordinators to ensure a perfectly planned event. Brunch, dessert, dinner, hors d'oeuvres, luncheons, and themed menus are available as well as bar, beverage, wine, boxed lunch, and holiday options.

The Trumps ballroom, located at 2026 S. Milledge Ave., Suite B in Athens, provides a large-capacity banquet room, a built-in dance floor, sound system, wireless internet, and ample parking. Additionally, the catering organization works at these neighboring venues: Aberdeen, Antique Acres, Barn South, Boutier Winery, Camp Kiwanis, Commerce Civic Center, The Corry House, The Engine Room, The Farm at High Shoals, Farmhouse Inn – Madison, Founders Memorial Garden, Georgia Museum of Art, Gillen House, Grant Hill Farms, Hidden Estate, Heartwood Acres, Hotel Indigo, John Oliver Michael House, Koury Farms, Live Wire Athens, Lyndon House Museum, Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, McDaniel Tichenor House, The Sixty Two, Smithonia Farm, Sparrow Grove Manor, Taylor-Grady House at Landmark Commons, The State Botanical Garden Day Chapel, Terrace Room and Conservatory, The Thompson House, Towers Monroe, Variety Works, Vintage Oaks Farm, Wayfarer Music Hall, White Fox Cottage, 9 Oaks Farm, 2425 Warehouse, 1051 Baxter, and 255 Milledge.

OLLI@UGA members will have opportunity to celebrate Mardi Gras at Trumps on Tuesday, March 4th. It will be a fun way to celebrate Fat Tuesday right here in Athens. The festival feast will feature a Trumps catered lunch with traditional King Cake for dessert. The deadline to register is February 25th.

To plan your event contact Trumps at 706-546-1320 or trumpscatering.com.



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